

Interdisciplinary exchanges: natural resource management research in the 21st century

HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF SHEFFIELD, NEWCASTLE AND LEEDS

Welcome to the second edition of the Interdisciplinary Exchanges Newsletter. Following on from the success of our first seminar in January, this newsletter aims to introduce the next workshop within this ESRC funded seminar series on 'Interdisciplinary exchanges: natural resource management in the 21st century'. *Our aim is to stimulate prior discussion and feedback so that the agenda for each seminar session is set by the participants.* We will also continue to produce a summary after each meeting to provide a brief record of discussions.

Food security, poverty and biodiversity

In this newsletter we encourage you to think about food security and how this relates to both issues of poverty and biodiversity.

Widespread malnutrition, increasing human population and the continued expansion of agricultural land are often framed as forcing a trade-off between "conserving nature" and "feeding the hungry". Land-use change research to date has

established the importance of factors such as "infrastructure and roads, governance and institutions, household life cycles, labour availability, tenure and social obligations, and crop prices", but has rarely included direct study of the connections amongst agriculture, governmental policies, deforestation, and hunger. Subsistence farmers and local communities in developing countries represent a signifi-

cant portion of the most impoverished and malnourished people, who also produce a disproportionate amount of domestically consumed food in those countries.

This seminar will focus on rural livelihood decisions and identify pathways to link food policy, hunger and farmer livelihoods to land-use change and biodiversity.

Location and time

- 10am on 30th April 2014
- The Research Beehive, Old Library, Room 2.21
- University of Newcastle

Confirmed Speakers

- Tim Benton (Leeds)
- Jahi Chappell (US Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy)

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Workshops in the series

Community-based natural resource management (Jan 2014, Sheffield)

Food security, poverty and biodiversity (April 2014, Newcastle)

Local adaptations to climate change (Leeds, September 2014)

Payment for Ecosystem Services (Leeds, November 2014)

Natural resources and environmental conflicts (Sheffield, March 2015)

Final review and strategic planning (Location tbc, July 2015)



What policy and regulatory mechanisms will make food ethical for both people and wildlife?

“Assuming that they could be implemented properly, which would do the least harm to biodiversity: land sharing or land sparing?”



“Despite a significant growth in food production over the past half-century, one of the most important challenges facing society today is how to feed an expected population of some nine billion by the middle of the 21st century ”



Moving the debates forward: implications for policy and livelihoods

Theme 1: Land-Sparing and Land-Sharing in Practice

1) How have land-sharing initiatives increased resilience for local communities? Under what scenarios can it be used as an effective rural development strategy without compromising yields?

2) How have land-sparing approaches prevented the expansion of the agricultural frontier in tropical landscapes? Have land-sparing policies been successful in mitigating the expansion of agro-business in the global south?

Theme 2: Food Security Policies in Practice

1) How are food security policies influencing agricultural production and agricultural change?

2) How will economic development in the global south influence sustainable supply chains and certification schemes

Resources and reading

Fischer J et al (2014) Land sparing versus land sharing: moving forwards, *Conservation Letters* 1-9.

Charles H et al (2010) Food security: The challenge of feeding 9 billion people, *Science*, 327, 812.

<https://feedingninebillion.com>

www.foodsecurity.ac.uk



“An emerging theme in the discourse on developing-world agriculture is that of ‘food sovereignty’; the principle that farmers should themselves be able to define their own food production systems”

Please tell us about other themes and questions that you think are relevant to your work on land sparing/sharing and food security. We will use them to structure the workshop later this month. Please email feedback to either Chasca Twyman (C.Twyman@shef.ac.uk) or Johan Oldekop (joldekop@umich.edu)