Growing Bird-Friendly Coffee and Cocoa Certification

Environmental and Economic Impacts to livelihoods

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For Bird-friendly coffee and cocoa certification requirements promote biodiversity.

However, the choice of a favourable production system matters (Laura, 2017): Sun-grown Vs Shade grown coffee production system
Even with increased biodiversity, it is expected that farmers make trade-offs between environmental services and productivity/income.

Hagger et al. (2017): productivity was negatively correlated with carbon stocks and tree diversity compared to pre-certification state.

- Is the price premium for certification able to compensate farms for such reduced carbon stock?
- Does certification mitigate such trade-off?
- What about farmers’ welfare and env’t benefits of conservation?
BF certification and coffee/ cocoa agroforests for species biodiversity

- With the world experiencing land use shift due to population pressures on natural biodiversity (assumed to be a home of 70% species (18M ha of tropical forest is lost/year (Laura, 2017)).

- Shade-grown coffee and cocoa can provide the alternative by creating the micro-climate mimicking the tropical forest condition for the continuation of ecological process while serving farmers’ immediate needs.

- Shade-grown coffee/ cocoa can be habitats for birds, mammals, arthropods and amphibians/ biodiversity hotspots.
BF Certification and habitat connectivity

- Shade-grown coffee and cocoa act as biological corridors for connectivity between tropic forests and arable land.
- Birds and pollinators utilize shade coffee and cocoa as stopping points within their migratory paths.
- Such plantations act as biodiversity hotspots and biological corridors for birds, bats, bees, etc...
BF Certification and other ecosystem services

- **Ecosystem services**: natural environmental functions that provide positive benefits to people (Laura, 2017). Below are the expected benefits:

  - Production of timber, firewood & fruits
  - Conservation of biodiversity
  - Nutrient cycling
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Microclimate control
  - Reduced weed growth
  - Other crops & animals
  - Improved coffee bean quality
  - Erosion control
  - Water regulation
  - Nitrogen fixation
BF Certification and Climate Change

- Planting bad-friendly coffee and cocoa is key to mitigation and resilience to climate change:
  - tree cover tends to protect soil moisture and creates micro-climates.
  - Water storage and conservation.
  - insects and wildlife diversity breeds stability in an agro-ecological system.
  - Carbon sequestration and reducing global warming.
  - Trees integrated in coffee/cocoa farms can play a key role in carbon markets.
- Soil conservation
- Alternative sources of livelihoods to ensure resilience
Bird-friendly certification and net income? Economic impacts

- Hagger et al. (2017) indicates farms under all certifications (Fairtrade, Utz Certified, etc) had better environmental and economic characteristics than noncertified for most indicators:
  - Certified farmers received higher premium prices
  - They had high tree biodiversity
  - Had higher net income
Other economic benefits of BF Certification

- Allows farmers to negotiate a better price above the market price. Unlike Fair Trade, there is no minimum price set in BF Certification.

- Diversification: the shadow economy. such agro-ecological system harbors a variety of plant-derived goods and services making farmers less susceptible to price drops in the global market.

- The production system requires fewer or no chemical use and shade production increase productivity in the long run.

- Coffee and cocoa grown under shade has proved to have a long life span compared to that under sun or light shade, hence long term income benefit.

- There is high potential for eco-tourism and eco-technology with BF coffee and cocoa certification: a form of tourism that involves visiting natural places that conserve the env’t
Suggestions to increase economic impact of BF certification

- Offer higher premiums to cover the higher associated cost.
- Promote local and global involvements through other support organizations to ensure sustainability such as NGOs, conservation and aid groups.
- Rewards for ecosystems services offered by farmers in BFC e.g. selling carbon sequestration services and reduce carbon price volatility and inaccessibility.
- Building relationships and synergies within all the players in the value chain.
- Conduct proper research prior to certification.
- Offer subsidiary support such as eco-tourism, eco-technology, credit and extension educ. to implement food security programs such as backyard/ kitchen farming etc...
The end: Any comments?