

How to Ensure Environmental Sustainability and Food Security through the Use of Payments for Environmental Services in Developing Countries

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Abstract : This research paper demonstrates how payments for environmental services (PES) can be an effective mechanism to combat food insecurity and reduce environmental degradation in developing countries. The paper begins by discussing how environmental services affect each one of the pillars of food security: availability, access, and utilization of food. However, due to numerous global environmental challenges, a new pillar of food security based on environmental sustainability is proposed and discussed. An argument is then made that PES can usefully combat food insecurity. It can provide an extra income to those who take on environmental service and help them to have a better access to food. In order to be successful in addressing food insecurity, PES schemes should target on the poor and redress issues that can prevent their effectiveness. Finally, the research presents a case study that discusses how several developing countries addressed problems and successfully developed PES programs.

Keywords : environmental sustainability, food security, nutrition, payments for environmental services

Conference Title : ICGFS 2016 : International Conference on Global Food Security

Conference Location : Miami, United States

Conference Dates : March 24-25, 2016