

Managing Fallows for the Generation of Products and Services from Woody Biomass: An Emerging Option for Resource Poor Farmers on the Agricultural Frontier in Tropical America.

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In addition to the function of fallows in regenerating soil fertility for subsequent cultivation, fallows are a source of timber and non-timber forest products used on-farm or marketed by their owners. With the declining availability of forest products, the market value of this resource has increased. The value of this function of woody fallows can be further increased through the management and enrichment of fallows. Research undertaken since 1996 on sites in the humid tropics in Peru, Brazil and Nicaragua has identified opportunities for the management of woody fallows for the generation of timber and non-timber forest products as well as environmental services. The research has also identified previously untapped existing and potential markets for products and services coming from wood fallows and permitted farmers to generate income from them.

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