

# Analysing the influence of livelihood strategies on the dynamics of forests in the Brazilian Amazon settlements

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## Background

- 100,000's of families have been settled in the Brazilian Amazon within the frame of the Agrarian Reform Program (ARP);
- The premise of the ARP is that settlers should assure their livelihood security and promote environmental sustainability at the same time;
- The establishment of the settlements has been pointed out as cause of (strong) deforestation;
- Livelihood strategies adopted by settlers might be influencing the dynamics of forests (deforestation AND reforestation).

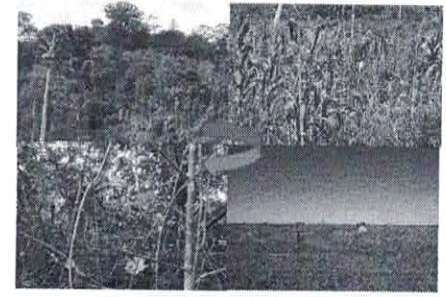


Figure 1. Dynamics of forests placed in the study area

## Objective

To analyse the relation between livelihood strategies and dynamics of forests in the Brazilian Amazon settlements.

## Materials and Methods

- Combination of remote sensing and fieldwork data (open-ended recorded interviews, census data, workshops) / 42 households / 5 settlements;
- Three livelihood strategy clusters were compared with dynamics of forests at household level from 1985 to 2010 (repeated-measures design).

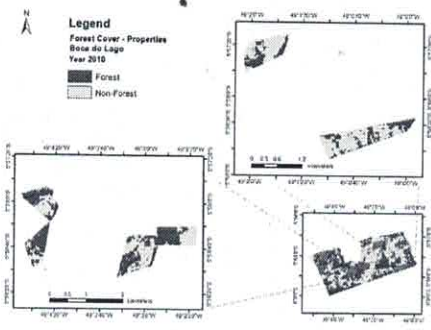


Figure 2. Remote sensing analysis



Figure 3. Livestock-oriented cluster

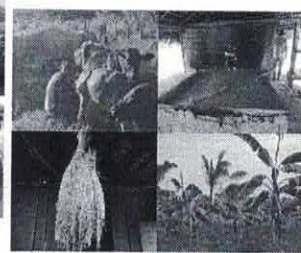


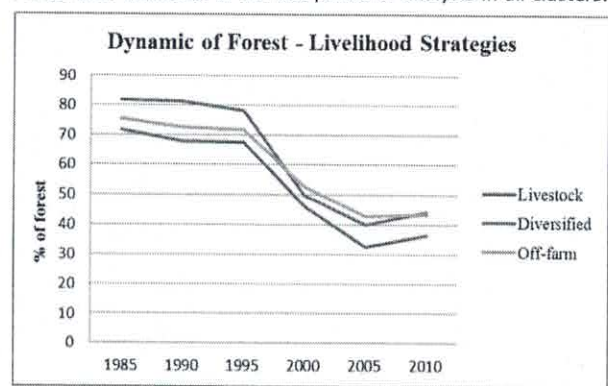
Figure 4. Diversified-oriented cluster



Figure 5. Off-farm-oriented cluster

## Results

- Different livelihood strategies presented similar dynamics of forests;
- Forest area increased in the last period of analysis in all clusters.



## Conclusions

- Dynamics of forests have not been directly related to livelihood strategies;
- Historical land-use change trajectories and the ARP policies have played an important role in the dynamics of forests;
- Off-farm-oriented settlers keep "cleaned" areas to increase their income;
- Land successions have been observed in off-farm cluster.

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### Confirmation of attendance

**1<sup>st</sup> Conference on  
Forests for People  
May 22-24, 2012, Alpbach/Austria**

<b>Name of Participant:</b>	Fabio Homero Diniz
<b>Institution:</b>	Wageningen University
<b>Conference Fee:</b>	Euro 245,- Early Registration Fee Student (excl. Dinner) Euro 12,- Excursion 1 "Environmental Education" Euro 12,- Excursion 2 "Land Use"
<b>Poster Presentation:</b>	Analysing the influence of livelihood strategies on deforestation at the Brazilian Amazon settlement frontier

Hereby, we confirm your participation in our conference and the receipt of your payment.  
We thank you for your attendance.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Ulrike Pröbstl'.

Ulrike Pröbstl