

## Introduction

Deforestation in Peru and particularly in the Amazon has been constantly growing at an average annual rate of 118,080 ha/year during the period 2001-2014 (MINAM, 2010; Marapi, 2013; MINAM, 2016), with agriculture and livestock expansion counting for more than 90% of it (MINAM, 2016). In this sense, 77% of the deforestation occurred in small units of less than 5 ha (PNCB, 2015 cited by MINAM, 2016).

Agroforestry concession is an important policy instrument to combat deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon. It authorizes small and medium farmers to access in a sustainable way to forest and natural resources, in forest production or protection areas that present some degree of disturbance. The Forestry and Wildlife Law N°29763 (FWL) and its Regulations have established activities to support agroforestry systems and forest plantations in the context of agroforestry concessions. As the uptake of agroforestry concessions depends on farmers' decisions, incentive systems have to be adjusted to fit local sustainable production systems and farmers' preferences.

## Objectives

This study aimed to identify and assess policy options that function as incentives for the effective implementation of agroforestry concessions according to their objectives as specified in the FWL and its Regulations.

It was carried out in the communities of Marisol, La Primavera, Nueva Esperanza and Gran Pajatén, in the province of Mariscal Cáceres, San Martín department.

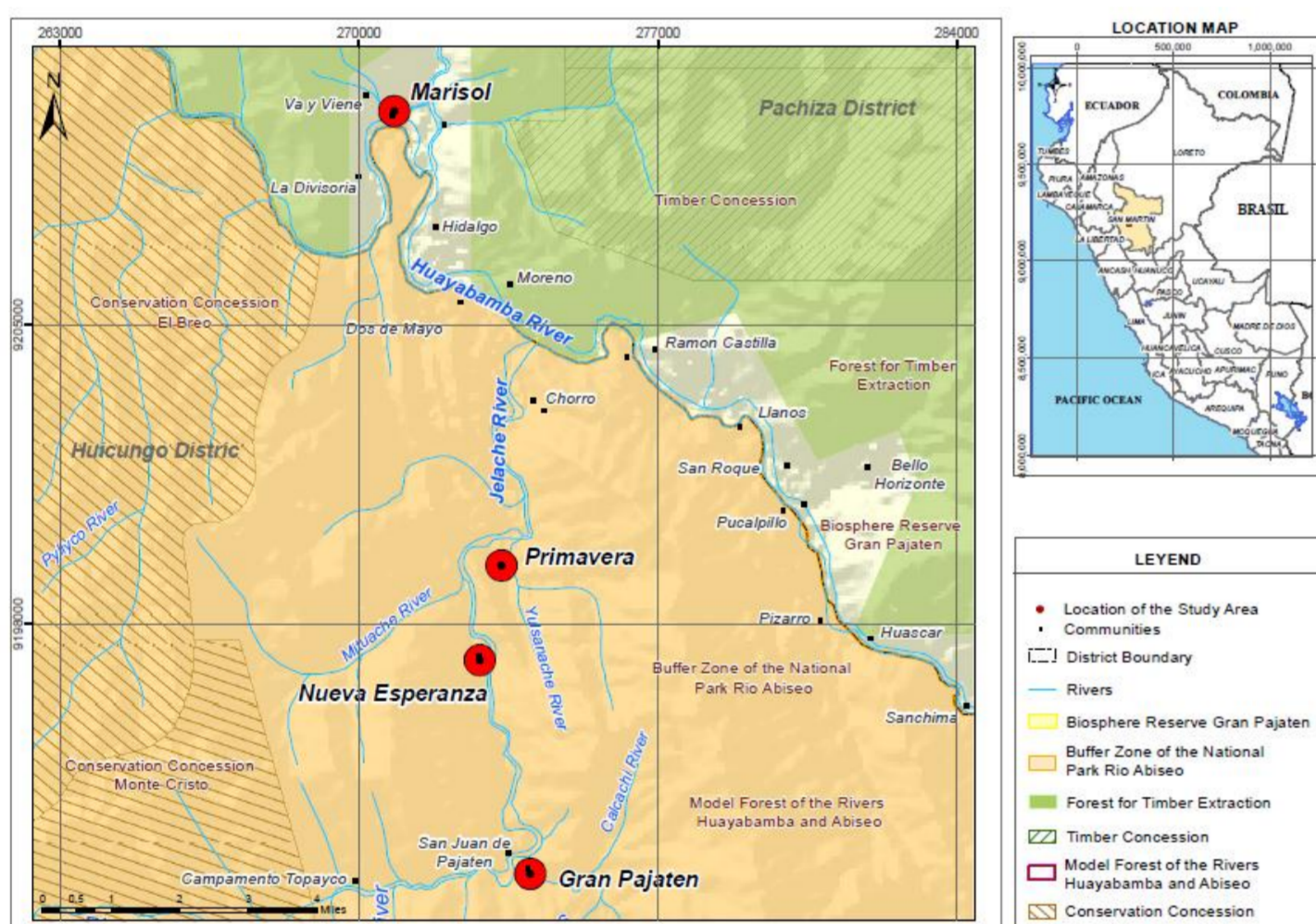


Figure 1. Location of the study area. Source: Map elaborated by Ramos, M., Expert of SERFOR (2016)

## Methodology

A mixed method approach was applied based on literature review, key informant interviews, discussion meetings and workshops. 86 key stakeholders at the national, regional/local, and farm level provided crucial information through these methods. A SWOT analysis was applied in order to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of agroforestry concessions as well as strategic actions for its implementation.

The assessment of the identified incentives was analytical, based on the interpretation of the key stakeholder's opinions and reinforced by the literature review. Furthermore, some tools and techniques of the Rapid Rural Appraisal were used to obtain and analyze information and opinions from the selected communities and farmers (Schoonmaker, 2009).

## Results

The application of interviews allowed to identify 19 incentives, which can be grouped as follows: research and extension services, administrative procedures, infrastructure and basic services, market development and financial mechanisms.

There are important differences between the political levels. Institutional stakeholders at the national and regional/local levels, are more concerned in facilitating the process of access to agroforestry concessions. In contrast, the proposed incentives by farmers respond to the current needs and limitations on what they have in their daily basis.



Figure 2. Meeting with authorities and farmers of the Community of Marisol.

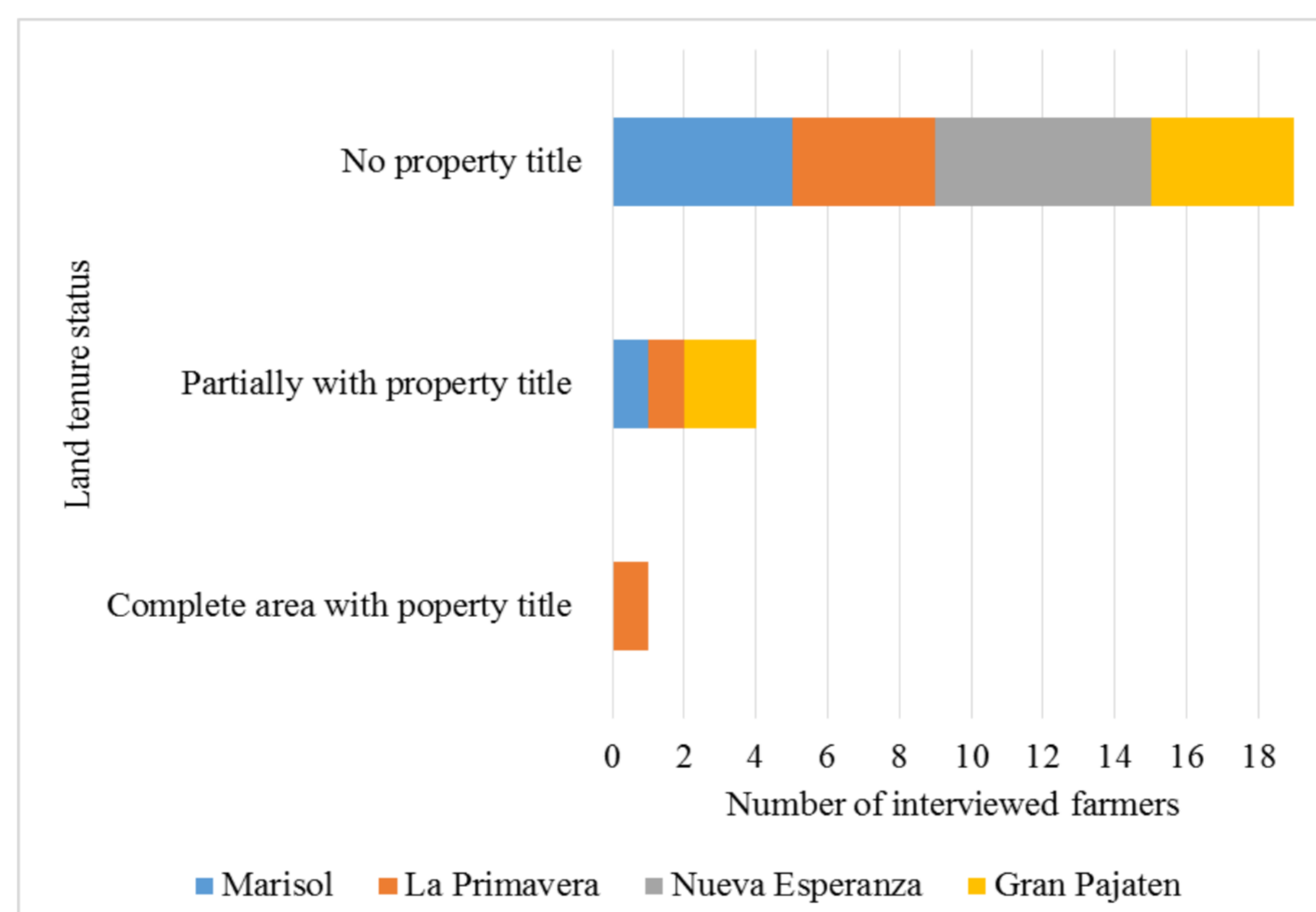


Figure 3. Land tenure status of the interviewed farmers in each community

Table 1. SWOT analysis of agroforestry concessions

Strengths	Weaknesses
Land tenure security	Delayed process
Motivation for conservation	Lack of a strategy
Long term investments	Limited capabilities
Long term sustainability	Lack of funds
	Lack of information
	Scope of implementation
Opportunities	Threats
Amount of potential users	Migration
Governance models	Change of government
Political interest	Limited interventions
Regulatory framework	Inaccurate information
Public investment	Mistrust among farmers
Financial mechanisms	Lack of an integral approach
Experiences in agroforestry	Limited access to credits
Market strategies	Limited market access

Table 2. Comparison of the proposed incentives by key stakeholder levels

Key stakeholders		
National Level	Regional and local level	Farm level
1. Administrative facilities for agroforestry concessions	1. Administrative facilities for agroforestry concessions	1. Technical assistance for sustainable management
2. Special benefits for farmers that apply good practices	2. Technical assistance for sustainable management	2. Capacity building for sustainable management
3. Research on products diversification, and access to information	3. Capacity building for sustainable management	3. Market development for prioritized products
4. Availability and accessibility to credits	4. Special benefits for farmers that apply good practices	4. Improvement of existing roads
5. Technical assistance for sustainable management	5. Availability and accessibility to credits	5. Access to basic services
6. Capacity building for sustainable management	6. Development of commercial infrastructure	6. Support for reforestation

## Conclusions

Taking into account the growing market in agroforestry products, agroforestry concessions offer strong potential for sustainable development in Peru and other tropical countries. However, as the study shows, implementation depends on institutional setting, policy environment and social, economic and environmental conditions of farmers and communities.

Further studies are necessary to explore similarities and differences for a successful implementation in other parts of Peru and other countries.

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