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“Global food security and food safety:
The role of universities”

Model Projects for Food Security and Subsistence Sovereignty in Rural Areas of South East Asia

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Abstract

The very subsistence of the majority of rural households in the tropical areas of South East Asia are under an increasing threat either by nature or by economic reorientations.

Natural parameters are changing rapidly by climatic change impacts and these challenges are aggravated by global economical developments beyond the control of the rural people.

By applied research efforts between partner universities model projects could be developed which are presently disseminated by either non-governmental channels or by governmental adaptation mechanisms.

One of these model projects is the so-called „ Rainforestation Farming „ technology which is combining food security for the rural poor with environmental rehabilitation and biodiversity protection. This technology is based on the hypothesis that the nearer an agricultural system is to the local physical and local conditions of the environment the more sustainable is this farming system”. This model has been developed to enable the rehabilitation of former rainforest areas by reforestation efforts using local fruit and timber tree species only and refocusing the open sun-demanding agriculture into a more shade-tolerating agriculture. By these means protective measures for the threatened landscapes can be supported, the vulnerability of the rural subsistence is reduced , because the diversity of plants on the single farms is improved and an option for high quality products like e.g. spices for the global market can be achieved.

The various aspects of challenges either from nature or from the globalisation of the economy are discussed showing various applications of the Rainforestation Farming Technology in different rural areas and ethnical groups in South East Asia.

Keywords: Appropriate rural development, rainforestation Farming, South East Asia, Subsistence security