# Do Agroforestry Systems Have the Potential to Contribute to Peacebuilding Within a Post-agreement Scenario? A Case Study of Caquetá and Cesar, Colombia

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## Abstract

Agroforestry Systems, the integration of trees within farming systems, have proven to be sustainable practices that encourage the efficient use of natural resources and improve soil conditions in areas where degradation has increased as a result of agricultural frontier expansion, unsustainable use of forest resources, and conflicts over land use. In 2016, a peace agreement between the national government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was signed producing, as a result, new opportunities and challenges for the implementation of such systems. These systems could have a significant role in peacebuilding processes since they have the potential to secure the provision of ecosystem services as well as socio-ecological resilience to climatic, political and market shocks and stress. However, a challenge has been an increase in deforestation rates (up to 40 % in 2017) in areas where the guerrilla used to be present. In this sense, our study aims to answer two questions: (1) what are the opportunities and challenges to implementing agroforestry systems in a post-agreement scenario at the institutional and community level in the regions of Caquetá and Cesar? and (2) have agroforestry systems the potential to contribute to peacebuilding in these regions? To do so, we use quantitative and qualitative data derived from a literature review and semi-structured interviews with agroforestry and peacebuilding experts from different governmental and non-governmental institutions in Caquetá and Cesar. These interviews were based on ScalA-PB, a tool which includes an assessment of the peacebuilding potential of sustainable agricultural practices before the implementation of a project. Our results could show the conditions to implement agroforestry systems in a post-agreement scenario and their role in addressing root causes of conflict, enhancing social cohesion among communities, and building institutions and capacities to manage conflicts.

**Keywords:** Agroforestry systems, Colombia, peacebuilding, resilience

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