



Social and Environmental Trade-Offs in African Agriculture

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to share with you the latest news and blogs from the Sentinel project website. To find out more, visit www.sentinel-gcrf.org or click on the links below.

Recruitment

Research Consultant - Agricultural expansion and food/forest trade-offs in sub-Saharan Africa

Job Ref: IIED_RC_004021

Location: Remote

Function: Natural Resources Group

Salary: Rate: £107 to £123 per day according to qualifications and experience

Hours: Full Time

Type: Temporary Contract

Notes: Full Time

URL: IIED Agricultural Expansion Consultant.pdf

More details

Ref: IIED_RC_004021

Location: Remote. The consultant should be based in Europe (including the UK) or Africa.

Function: Natural Resources Group

Rate: £107 to £123 per day according to qualifications and experience

Status: part-time (180 to 200 hours over 12 months)

Start date: open to applications from 12 April 2021

Type: Fixed Term Contract, Local Hire (http://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-as-a-local-hire-for-international-workers)

Job Opportunity

[We're Hiring! - Research Consultant - Agricultural expansion and food/forest trade offs in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

IIED, the lead organisation of the Sentinel project, is currently hiring for a research consultant to conduct qualitative research on drivers of smallholder-led agricultural expansion.

Click [here](#) to find out more information and how to apply. The deadline for applications is **20 April 2021**.

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A Systematic Review of Drivers and Constraints on Agricultural Expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa

Nugun P. Jellison^{1,2}, Elizabeth J. Z. Robinson³, Abbie S. A. Chapman⁴, Dora Neina⁵, Adam J. M. Devenish⁶, June Y. T. Po⁷ and Barbara Adolph⁸

Abstract: Understanding the dynamics of agricultural expansion, their drivers, and interactions is critical for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem-services provision, and the future sustainability of agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). However, there is limited understanding of the drivers of agricultural expansion. A systematic review of the drivers of agricultural expansion was conducted from 1970 to 2020 using Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus and Google Scholar. Two researchers screened the papers separately based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Fifteen papers were included in the final systematic review. The paper proposed expansion patterns in a conceptual framework and identified processes and underlying drivers. Population, economic and government policies were found to be key underlying drivers of agricultural expansion. The proximate drivers include economic opportunities such as agriculture mechanisation and cash-crop production, and more troubling trends such as soil fertility decline and climate change and variability. This paper further explores the constraints that have been found to slow down agricultural expansion, including among land institutions and good governance.

Keywords: agricultural expansion; drivers; Sub-Saharan Africa; conservation; constraints

Received: 10 February 2021
Accepted: 19 March 2021
Published: 17 March 2021

Journal Article

[A Systematic Review of Drivers and Constraints on Agricultural Expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Nugun Patrick Jellison, Elizabeth Robinson, Abbie Chapman, Dora Neina, Adam Devenish, June Po, and Barbara Adolph

Understanding the dynamics of agricultural expansion, their drivers, and interactions is critical for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem-services provision, and the future sustainability of agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). However, there is limited understanding of the drivers of agricultural expansion. A systematic review of the literature on the drivers of agricultural expansion was conducted from 1970 to 2020 using Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus and Google Scholar.



Blog

[RUFORUM-Sentinel PhD students share their progress and personal reflections](#)

David Ekepu

As part of its capacity strengthening strategy, Sentinel has awarded small research grants to 25 PhD candidates in sub-Saharan Africa to carry out novel, relevant research at the agricultural/environment nexus. These are focused mainly (but not exclusively) on PhD projects in our three focal countries of Ethiopia, Ghana and Zambia.

Through a series of blogs published on the RUFORUM website, the PhD students are sharing their personal reflections on their PhD journeys to date, and highlight progress, experiences and challenges they have faced along the way. We invite you to get to know the students by reading their stories:

Sentinel is an interdisciplinary research project seeking to address the challenge of achieving 'zero hunger' in sub-Saharan Africa, while at the same time reducing inequalities and conserving ecosystems.



This email is from International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 235 High Holborn, Holborn, London WC1V 7LE

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