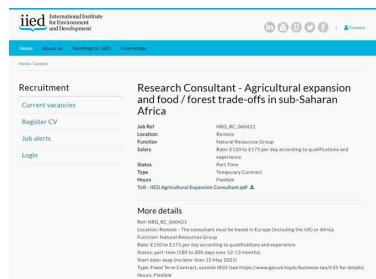


Social and Environmental Trade-Offs in African Agriculture

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.



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**.



Journal Article

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

Nugun Patrick Jellason^{1,2}, Elizabeth J. P. Robinson^{3,4}, Abbie S. Chapman^{2,5}, Dora Neina³, Adam J. M. Devenish², June V. T. Po⁶ and Barbara Adolph²

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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. This paper presents a systematic review of the literature on the drivers and interactions of agricultural expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The paper highlights 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 additional databases were used to identify relevant articles and reports. A total of 1,100 articles and reports were included in the final systematic review. The paper proposed expansion pathways in a conceptual framework. The paper also identified constraints to agricultural expansion. The proximate drivers include economic opportunities such as agricultural mechanisation and cash-crop production, and environmental factors such as population growth and climate change and variability. The paper further explores the constraints that have been found to slow down agricultural expansion, including strong land institutions and good governance.

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

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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. Two additional databases were used to identify relevant articles and reports. A total of 1,100 articles and reports were included in the final systematic review. The paper proposed expansion pathways in a conceptual framework. The paper also identified constraints to agricultural expansion. The proximate drivers include economic opportunities such as agricultural mechanisation and cash-crop production, and environmental factors such as population growth and climate change and variability. The paper further explores the constraints that have been found to slow down agricultural expansion, including strong land institutions and good governance.



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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