



Social and Environmental Trade-Offs in African Agriculture

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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
Status: Full Time
Type: Temporary Contract
Hours: Full Time
Tel: IIED Agricultural Expansion Consultant.pdf_A

More details
Ref: IIED_RC_004021
Location: Remote. The consultant shall 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 1800 to 2000 hours over 12 months
Start date: open to applications from 15 April 2021
Type: Fixed Term Contract, Local Hire (http://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-as-a-temporary-hire-for-detail)
Hours: Flexible

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**.

land **MDPI**

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

Nugun P. Jellison ^{1,†}, Elizabeth J. Z. Robinson ^{2,†}, Abbie S. A. Chapman ^{3,†}, Dora Neina ⁴, Adam J. M. Devenish ⁵, June Y. T. Po ⁶ and Barbara Adolph ^{7,†}

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

1. Introduction
Population growth and rising incomes are generating ever greater demands on agriculture to supply food, fuel, fibre, and animal feed [1,2]. As the global population is projected to reach approximately 10 billion by 2050, of which around 2 billion will be in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) it is likely that these demands will only increase further, putting pressure on the natural environment [3–5]. The intensification of agricultural practices and agricultural expansion have both contributed to meeting these increasing demands [6–12]. Agricultural expansion, defined as the conversion of natural vegetation to land-use for agriculture [1], that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s has resulted in an increase in the area under food production in SSA and increased opportunities for income-generation and food security [8]. However, this expansion may also threaten a wider array of provisioning and regulating ecosystem services that are provided by areas of natural vegetation [1,13–15]. Given the increasing pressure on agricultural land and the impacts of agricultural expansion on biodiversity and ecosystem services, a better understanding of the drivers of agricultural

Journal Article

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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.



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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