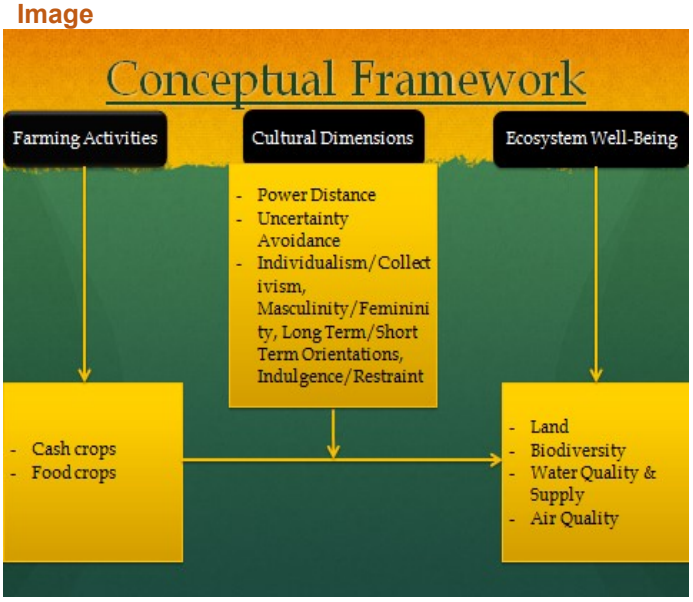
The Upshot of Farming Activities on the Ecosystem Well-being: A Case of the Equatorial Forest

Raphael O Ebanda, University of Nairobi, Kenya
Ratemo W Michieka, PhD, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Abstract

The local communities of the Sub-Saharan Africa are embedded with their traditional agricultural practices which play some significant roles in the conservation of the environment. Farming activities influence the conservation of the natural resources; contributing to the depletion of the ecosystem. Despite the richness of the equatorial forest, crop productivity has been declining in the Sub-Saharan Africa. The objective of this paper is to determine the relationship between farming activities and ecosystem well-being. The paper presents typical agricultural practices in Central and East Africa, with ways and methods of conserving the biodiversity. Local practices of agriculture are assessed in four communities of the Central and East Africa, and suitable indicators are used to determine the state of the equatorial forest. The findings of the ethnographic assessment revealed a significant correlation between farming activities and ecosystem well-being. Agriculture is carried out at subsistence and commercial levels, and each category has got various impacts on the land, biodiversity, water quality and supply, and air quality. A few cash and food crops are selected to highlight the well-being of the equatorial forest. Crops fail due to poor farming practices posing direct challenges to soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and poverty. The results show a significant contribution of the impacts of farming on the degradation of the forest. Both cultural and ecological issues are important in designing inputs to help farmers sustain the ecosystem.

Image





Biography

Raphael Ebanda is a PhD student in Agricultural Resource Management at the University of Nairobi, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. His Thesis research focuses on defining the dynamic model of culture and environment. He is conducting ethnographic assessments in the Sub-Saharan Africa using the tool of Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions. The aim is to establish a clear understanding approach to the model of Culture/Environment, in order to prevent humans from becoming a wave of big mass extinction. Besides the research activities, Raphael Ebanda is a tutorial fellow at the University of Nairobi, teaching Environmental Management and Communication Skills.

Email: rafa.eba@gmail.com Contact No: +254 723 458 195

Notes/Comments: