Socioeconomic attributes of trees
and tree planting practices

by

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Bibliography
Socioeconomic Attributes of Trees and Tree Planting Practices began with a request that the Community Forestry Unit look at the socioeconomic effects of specific tree species. But that is not a subject that can be universally addressed. In one place a specific tree species will live, in another it will not; in one region there is undergrowth beneath it, in another there is not; in one area women farmers may want trees that offer one product, in the same area men farmers may want a different function to be played by the trees. The issue is not that some trees are universally helpful or harmful; certain species are simultaneously perceived to be miraculous by some and bad, even evil, by others.

In looking at forestry projects it is quite apparent that some are popular with farmers because the planted managed trees are useful to them are placed in a situation that suits the local land-use patterns, and require a management regime that is compatible with the labour requirements of the entire production system for the men, women or children who must fulfill them. Yet it is equally obvious that many projects have been designed without adequately looking at the function the trees are to play in the rural economy and at the distribution of costs and benefits the tree and its location will yield.

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