

# Shifting cultivation, Livelihood and food security: new and old challenges for indigenous peoples in Asia

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**FOREST** AND **FARM** FACILITY



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# Forests, trees and farming communities *together* form productive multi-functional landscape mosaics



- Ensuring essential **ecological functions** and services
- Increasing **food security** and improving nutrition
- Improve **livelihoods** -providing a range of products for subsistence and markets
- Increase **resilience** and adaptation to climate change

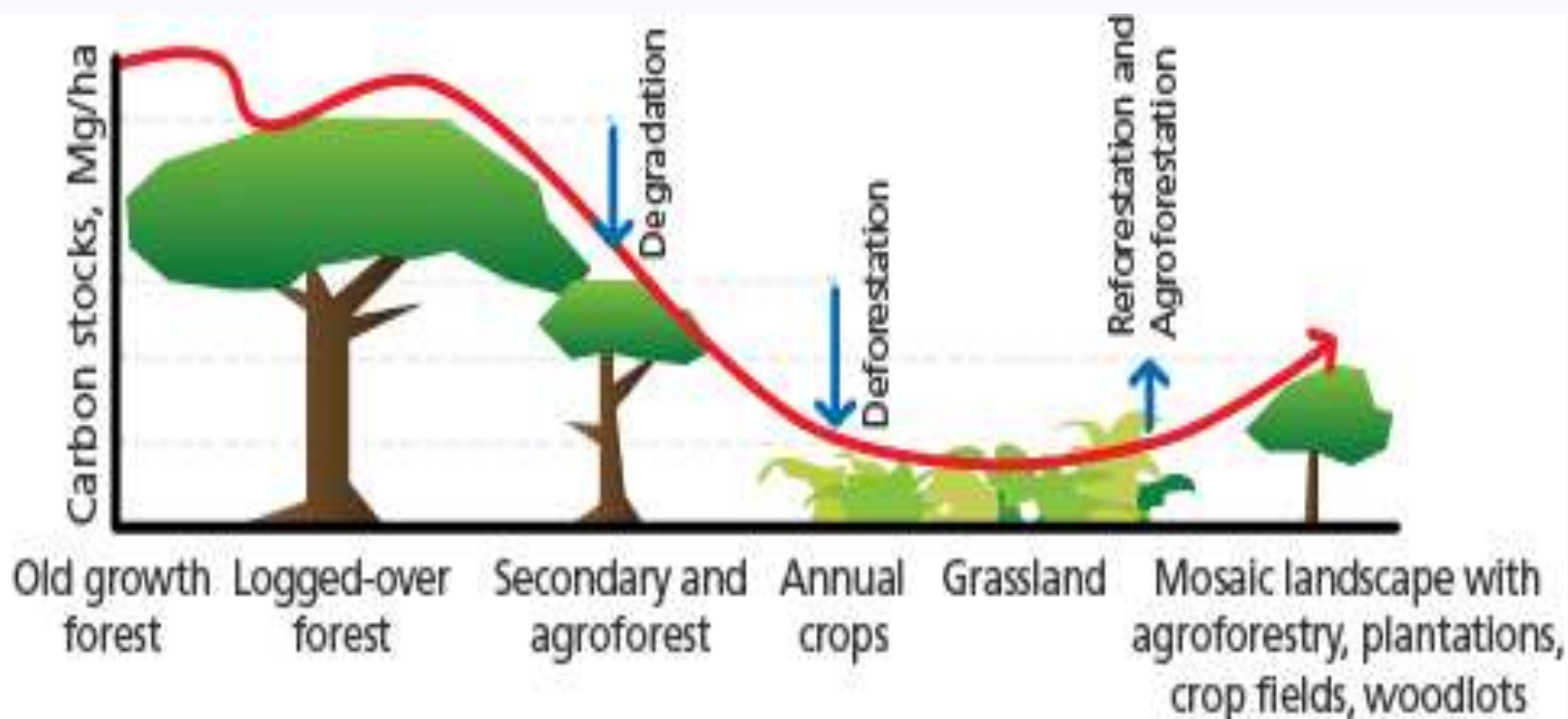
# People depend on **both** forests and farms



This farming couple in Pang Awh village, Chin, Myanmar grow over 40 forest and farm products

- Indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, tribals and other forest dependent people are **also** farmers (often the poorest)
- They are important producers of **both** food and forest products
- Increasing evidence shows they are often the **best landscape managers**
- **Shifting cultivation** is an important livelihood and lands use system for millions in Asia

# Farms and forests – a shifting land use mosaic– *increases sustainability at a landscape level*



# Shifting cultivation –blurring the distinctions between forest and farm in time and space

- Traditional rotational farming and landscape management system- still vital for millions
- Long vilified –esp. by foresters
- Studies show a much more balanced and complicated reality
- Shifting Cultivation Livelihood and food security: New and Old Challenges for Indigenous Peoples in Asia –FAO, IWGIA and AIPP.



# *An evolving system –responding to many new pressures:*

- Population increases
- Privatization of land
- Disregard for community land use governance
- Government policies, laws & regulations
- Displacement & migration
- Integration into market economy
- Shifts in social and cultural values



# ***Still viable with the right enabling conditions and farmer led adaptations***

- Community tenure security
- Minimum fallow period
- Improving productivity - a mix of rotational and permanent crops, agroforestry systems with improved soil fertility
- Diversification and a “dual economy” approach
- Improve access to markets, information, credit, services



# *Recommendations for policy and follow up*

- Strengthening policy
- Awareness raising on positives and negatives of many alternative approaches.
- Protect bio cultural diversity and TK & IPR
- Research on shifting cultivation and innovative improvements
- Support traditional governance and new forms of FF producer organizations
- Improve access to support services, technical information, business development, value addition and social safety nets.
- Shift to landscape/territorial management
- Engagement in cross sectoral platforms.





# Community based forestry and forest and farm producer organizations transform landscapes and rural economies

“It is time for a change in consciousness - It is a fact that agriculture and forestry can no longer be treated in isolation. Linking the two is imperative for socio economic development in the 21st century.” Dr. Evelyn Nguleka, President World Farmers Organization