

Agricultural development and global environmental issues¹

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Abstract

The main issue of agricultural development, i.e., how to achieve food security and poverty reduction in developing countries, has been increasingly linked with the global environmental issues. First, a main cause of deforestation is found to be the expansion of farmland by poor small farmers to increase food production. Second, tree planting and reforestation for carbon sequestration is carried out by small farmers in many developing countries. Third, the extraction of biofuels from maize, sugarcane, and rapeseeds, among other things, has significant implications for food security in poor countries. Fourth, it is expected that climate change will result in large production losses in agriculture. This study argues that improving agricultural productivity in low income countries in the face of global climate change is indispensable to achieve the twin-objectives of reducing carbon emission and the incidence of food insecurity and poverty.

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