Exploring linkages between agricultural sectors and agroecological practices: how cash crop-led development affects small-scale irrigated dry season production

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Introduction

The recent decline in oil prices has raised concern about the future of oil-dependent economies in the region. The focus has shifted from the production of cash crops to non-cash crops, which are considered more sustainable and environmentally friendly. However, the transition to non-cash crops is not without challenges. Smallholder farmers often lack the necessary resources to transition to non-cash crops, and there is a need for policy interventions to support them. The study aims to explore the linkages between agricultural sectors and agroecological practices, focusing on the effects of cash crop-led development on small-scale irrigated dry season production.

Methods and Research Setting

The study was conducted in the Uruquía region of Paraguay, where smallholder farmers are the main producers of non-cash crops. The research involved the collection of primary data through interviews and focus group discussions with farmers and stakeholders. The data were analyzed using qualitative research methods.

Results

1. Introduction to the study area
2. The evolution of agricultural production in the region
3. The impact of non-cash crops on smallholder farmers
4. The role of policy interventions in supporting smallholder farmers

Conclusions

The study highlights the importance of policy interventions in supporting smallholder farmers in transitioning to non-cash crops. The findings suggest that policy interventions should focus on providing access to resources such as water, finance, and technical support. The study also emphasizes the need for further research to understand the linkages between agricultural sectors and agroecological practices.

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Literature Cited

[Include a list of references]

Figure 1: Uruquía region in Paraguay

Figure 2: The impact of non-cash crops on smallholder farmers

Figure 3: Policy interventions to support smallholder farmers

Figure 4: The linkages between agricultural sectors and agroecological practices