

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Ensuring that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability

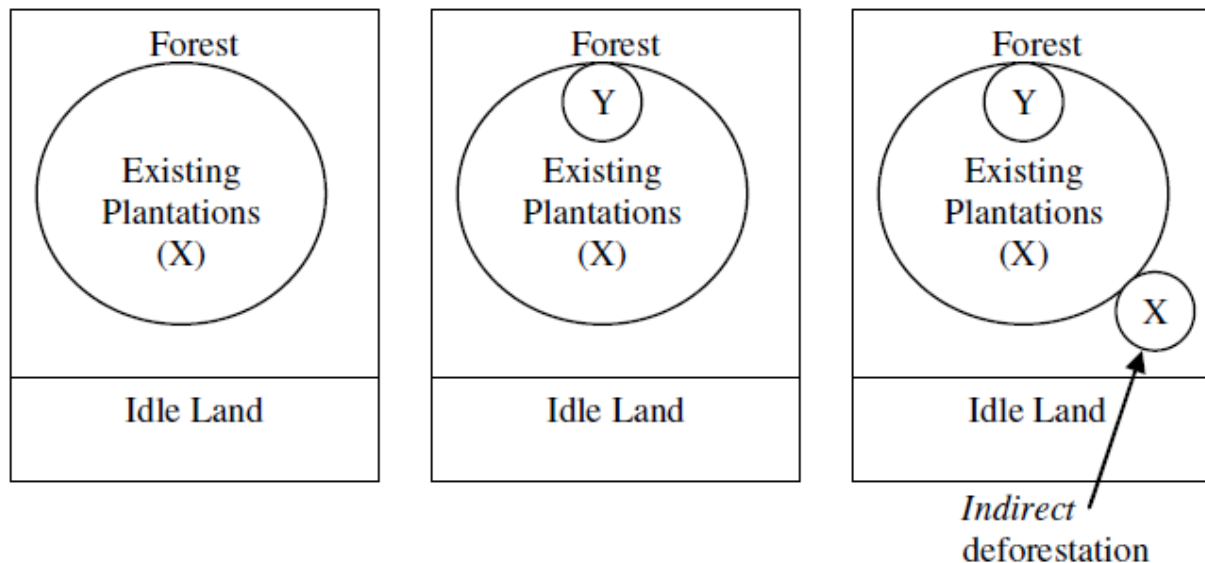


annie@ecocity.org.za

<http://EnergyCenter.epfl.ch/Biofuels>

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How to measure Indirect impacts?



Indirect impacts are a result of market mechanisms, which covers all aspects, local, national and international

Indirect impacts can be hard to measure

- Displacement effects can act across national borders.
- If prices rise for one commodity, then farmers may grow more of that commodity, which can mean a reduction in the production of another crop /commodity
- When the feedstock of a local crop is shifted across to bioenergy, there is generally a requirement to import more of the replaced crop, this puts pressure on production of the crop elsewhere (eg in EU rapeseed used for biodiesel and thus palm oil imported for cooking oil)
- Local food price impacts can be easier to measure and account for, but often a particular operation can have large impacts on local food prices within its foodshed e.g. processing plants

What are the impacts you measure?

- Calorie intake is a key aspect to measure, but also food demand may change (affordability)
- Nutrition is more specific as you may find people change what they eat in response to food prices
- Livelihood impacts are critical, loss of ability to grow food for subsistence, loss of land that provides medicines, building materials, wood, loss of access to water, improved livelihoods, job creation, income generation.
- Food production – can be positive or negative, can have local specific impacts

Problem: How do you know the impacts are coming from any one particular biofuel operation?

Gender impacts

- It is critical to isolate gender specific impacts, particularly in developing countries.
- Women tend to give children food when it is less available
- Women are the ones who generally grow food for the home, so any impact on their ability to do this is critical
- Income levels may not compensate for all food needs that were previously provided by subsistence agriculture
- Men may not give their income to the household or may have multiple households they support