

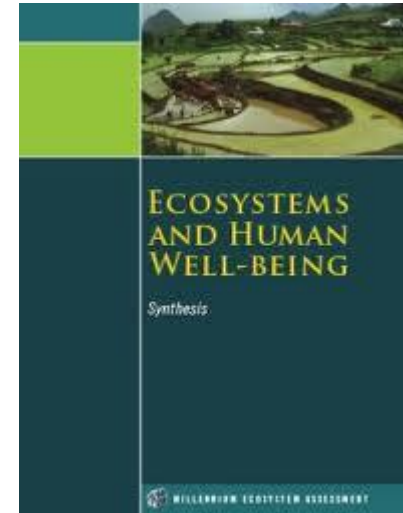
Broadening the Debate

The context

Maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystems is one of the essential requirements for a building a global green economy as envisioned by the Rio+20 Outcome Document. The benefits people obtain from ecosystem services have previously been well documented in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) report in 2005.

> <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf>

Payments for Environmental Services (PES) is one of the best known and most widely documented policy instruments to encourage the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources in agriculture. A classic PES scheme consists of a mediator (often the driver of the initiative) who facilitates an voluntary agreement between a buyer and a seller of a particular environmental service and helps ensure its compliance through monitoring, reporting and verification.



Towards a broad definition of Payments for Environmental Services (PES)

This project discusses the numerous limitations of classic PES schemes when applied to agriculture from a practical and theoretical perspective. It also illustrates how the PES concept emerged in the historical context, and how it has evolved in recent years moving from a rather narrow to a more broad definition that also includes aspects of the landscape and territorial approach that focus more strongly on other social and economic benefits (e.g. food security through agricultural productivity increases, rural employment and income generation, community cohesion) generated through local entrepreneurship and innovation. In this context, the project links the debate on ecosystem services (MEA 2005) with the debate on innovation

> <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Science-complete.pdf>