



Where are we going? – Agroforestry Through the Looking Glass

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Abstract

After 40 years it seems surprising that policy makers still don't see agroforestry as the appropriate farming system for mainstream agriculture in the tropics and sub-tropics. It's not that we haven't made progress through our research. So, why has recognition been so slow? Reflecting on my experience of agroforestry over the last 25 years, I think we have difficulty communicating what is an intricate, multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary subject that can be delivered using hundreds of different species in infinitely variable configurations across a wide range of geographies. This makes it extremely hard to explain to people who come from very different backgrounds; often with very different mindsets and viewpoints. I will try to offer some guidance by examining some principles.