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REGISTRATION FEE

Registration: EUR 150
Early-bird registration (reduced): EUR 120

The fee includes:

Conference materials, refreshments, lunch for three days, a welcome cocktail and a reception dinner. Post-symposium excursions will be offered at additional costs. Please note that the organizers cannot provide funding for conference fees, travel costs and accommodation of participants.

DATES AND DEADLINES

Abstract submission (oral/poster: 1-2 pages)	15 Nov. 2007
Notification of abstract acceptance	15 Dec. 2007
End of early-bird registration	31 Dec. 2007
End of registration	01 Mar. 2008
Deadline for final paper submission	10 Mar. 2008

CONTACT

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Call for Papers

International Symposium

Interdependencies between upland and lowland agriculture and resource management

1-4 April 2008
Stuttgart, Germany

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The Uplands Program

Research for Sustainable Land Use and Rural Development
in Mountainous Regions of Southeast Asia

BACKGROUND

Upland areas are important sources of water, energy and biodiversity and provide a wide range of agricultural and forest products. They are characterized by a high degree of ethnic, cultural and ecological diversity. The uplands provide an array of livelihood opportunities for their inhabitants and are of significant importance not only for the global ecosystem, but also for the economy of lowland regions. The population of upland areas tends to be politically and socially marginalized by their lowland peers. While upland communities provide important ecological services, such as freshwater for irrigation and consumption, they are often left uncompensated for these services and, moreover, tend to be blamed by the dominant lowland societies for natural disasters, such as floods and landslides, erosion and excessive water use and pollution. Resource and commodity outflows from the uplands often drastically exceed the inflows of goods and services. Upland-lowland interdependencies are primarily characterized by differences in resource endowments and the patterns of trade, labor market linkages, institutional dependencies and governance structures generated by these variations. The technological innovation potential in agriculture is generally considered much higher in the lowlands than in upland regions which tend to suffer from difficult ecological conditions, an underinvestment in human capacities, infrastructural disadvantages, weak institutions, political dependencies, and unfavorable terms of trade.

OBJECTIVE

An improved understanding of the linkages and interdependencies between upland and lowland agriculture and resource management is crucial for improving livelihood opportunities of both upland and lowland dwellers and for striving towards ecosystem integrity and sustainability of watershed services. The objective of the symposium is therefore to bring together scholars and practitioners who share innovative methods of studying upland-lowland linkages, present multidisciplinary and integrated research outcomes and discuss successful policy measures and development approaches that consider upland-lowland interdependencies.

THEMES

- These themes are still tentative. We particularly encourage the submission of interdisciplinary and comparative contributions -

Land Use Change and Natural Resource Flows between Upland and Lowland Environments

- Hydrological linkages between upstream and downstream areas
- Erosion processes, movement of alluvial sediments and agrochemicals
- Interdependencies of land use and environmental services
- Modeling land use changes, resource flows and landscape dynamics
- Effects of climate change on upland and lowland agriculture and ecosystems

Innovation Processes and Knowledge Transfers in Upland and Lowland Regions

- Research and development in upland and lowland regions - priorities and impact
- Water, soil and energy - resources saving technologies in rural areas
- High-intensity vs. low-intensity crop production and animal husbandry systems
- Innovations in high-value crop production and processing
- Participatory approaches in knowledge transfer

Economic Linkages, Institutional Arrangements and Trade Flows between Upland and Lowland Regions

- Competitiveness of mountain regions vs. lowland areas
- Rewards for environmental services of upland communities
- Political economy approaches towards upland and lowland interactions
- Strengths and weaknesses of institutions in upland and lowland regions
- Migration and labor market linkages

Social and Cultural Interdependencies between Upland and Lowland Communities

- Complementarity, competition and conflicts in resource use
- Social and political marginalization of upland people
- Effects of upland-lowland migration patterns on resource management
- Social interactions in multi-stakeholder watershed and river basin networks