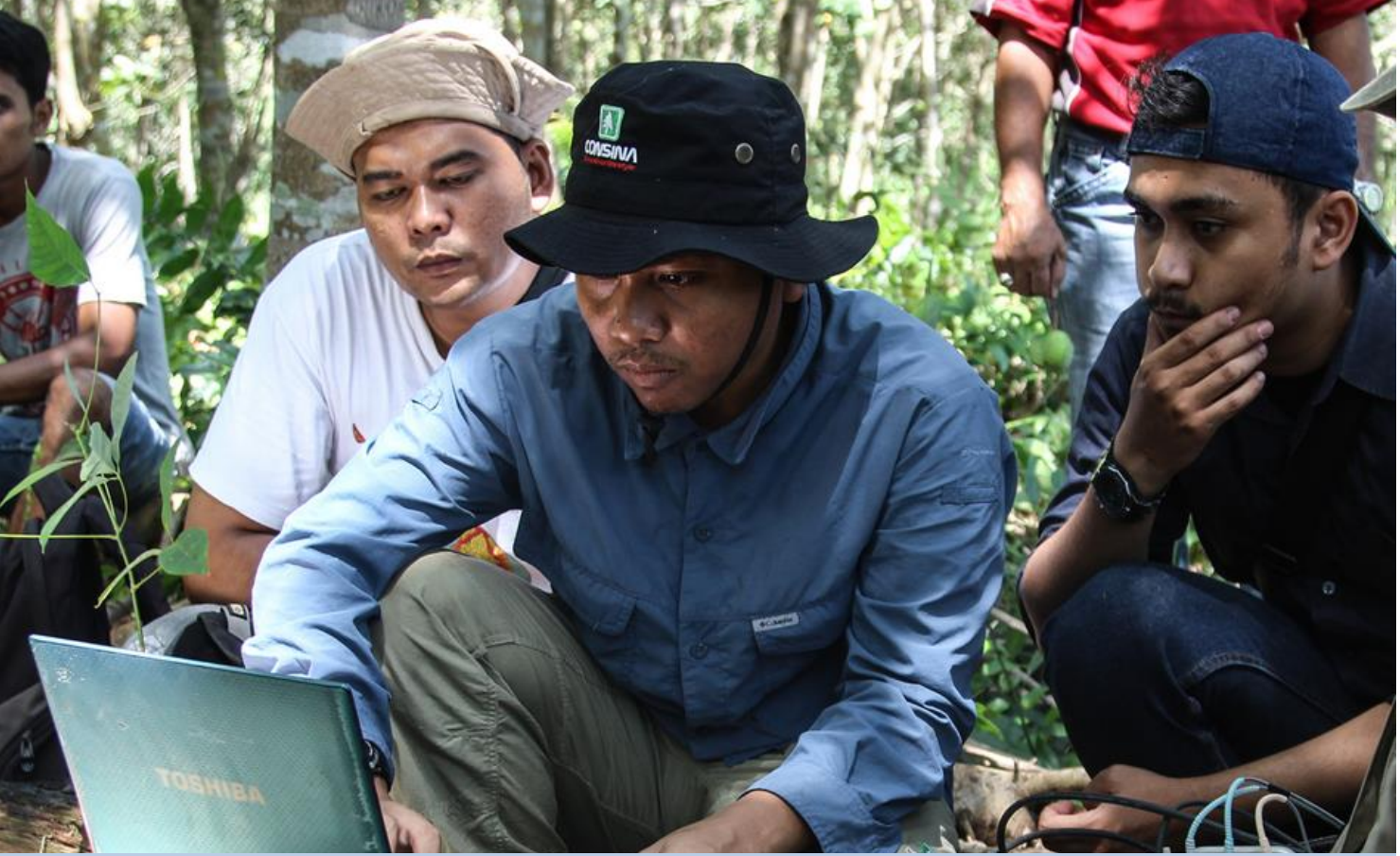

Environmental impacts of agricultural intensification:
Update on SPIA call for EoIs

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MELIA CoP, Amsterdam, Oct 3rd 2019

CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment

emLab UC SANTA BARBARA

Outline

- Motivation for call for EoIs
- Collaboration with EmLab
- Process of call

CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment

Motivation: Relevant CGIAR investment 2017-2022

In the current business cycle (2017-2022), there is…

USD 5.3 billion funding requested total

USD 1.2 billion of which is mapped to “result areas” of

- natural resource / ecosystem services (15%)
- climate change- related outcomes (7%)

⇒ Both historically and currently an important part of CGIAR agenda

CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment

Motivation: CGIAR research at different scales

Forestry example

Country-level N = 1 (or very few)	**Policy research on pulp and paper industry** Research examines impact of current / proposed future policy regime Output is set of policy recommendations
Meso-level N = few	**"Landscape approaches"** Research takes place among a group of stakeholders concerned with, or responsible for, deforestation Facilitation / brokering / monitoring / assessment
Farm-level N = many	**Agroforestry practices** *Faidherbia albida AKA* "Fertilizer trees" Fixes N and sheds its leaves in the rainy season Practices / principles for management studied and then extended

Motivation: State of the evidence base

- Low level of coverage
- Mixed evidence where it exists

- Some positive impacts in individual studies
  - Yields / HH income / food consumption
  - Water savings and other input costs
  - Tree cover

- Starting to see application of rigorous, innovative methodologies
  - Land use, tree / forest cover changes using remote sensing

- Limited documentation of environmental outcomes
- Limited evidence of scale – 'project mode'
- Dearth of synthesized evidence on impact
- Attribution of CGIAR role – challenging

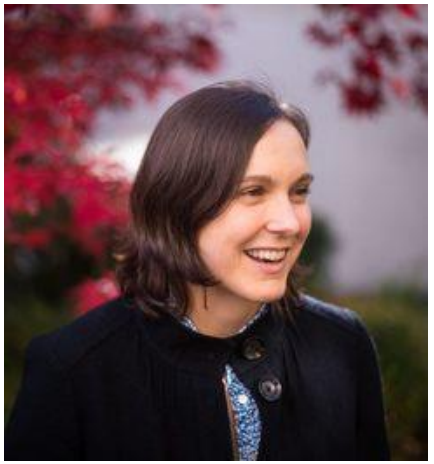
Collaboration with EmLab

- Environmental Market Solutions Lab (emLab) is an interdisciplinary research center comprising faculty from across different fields (fisheries, forestry, ecology, economics) at University of California Santa Barbara

- Feb 2019 – Initial meeting to scope out ideas for joint call

- May 2019 – Agreement on call for EoI text and process

- SPIA collaboration led by Professor Kelsey Jack (appointed as SPIA Activity Leader, Summer 2019)



Collaboration with EmLab

Core features of EoIs:

- **causal** empirical evidence
- relationship between agricultural innovations and environmental externalities
- credible **measurement** of environmental indicators
- direct partnership with CGIAR centers / research programs, or focus on innovations that can be traced back to the CGIAR

Nice to have:

- evidence that helps us understand how factors (e.g. property rights, ecosystems) enhance or mitigate environmental externalities
- consider solutions to decrease negative environmental externalities or increase positive environmental externalities
- goal of commissioning set of studies amenable to coherent synthesis **but** pursuit of this goal will not come at the expense of proposal quality

Process of the call

May 31 2019	**Call for EoIs issued** Track 1 – For submissions by complete teams Track 2 – For researchers looking for match-making
Aug 31 2019	**Call window closed** Track 1 – 19 submissions Track 2 – 6 submissions
	emLab and SPIA review processes ongoing
Fall-Winter 2019-2020	**Process ahead** Expect to pass 10 through to full proposal stage Series of online virtual meetings in Fall to discuss with proponents before full proposal submission External review of full proposals Aiming for portfolio of 4 – 6 studies funded by Spring 2020