

# PRIVATE AND SOCIAL PROFITABILITY OF MAJOR LAND USE SYSTEMS IN LOWLAND SUMATRA - INDONESIA & MAE CHAEM WATERSHED - NORTH THAILAND

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World Agroforestry Centre  
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES

This research involves scientists from FORDA, CASER, LATIN and Lampung University in Indonesia and from the Royal Forest Department, Chiang Mai University and the national planning agency, NESDB, in Thailand.

## Policy Questions

1. How profitable are agroforestry and other major land use systems in ASB benchmark areas from a private perspective?
2. What is the social profitability of the major land use systems?
3. What causes differences between private profitability (financial incentives to invest) and social profitability (comparative advantage) of these systems?
4. How do the major land use systems differ regarding labor requirements and contribution to household food security?

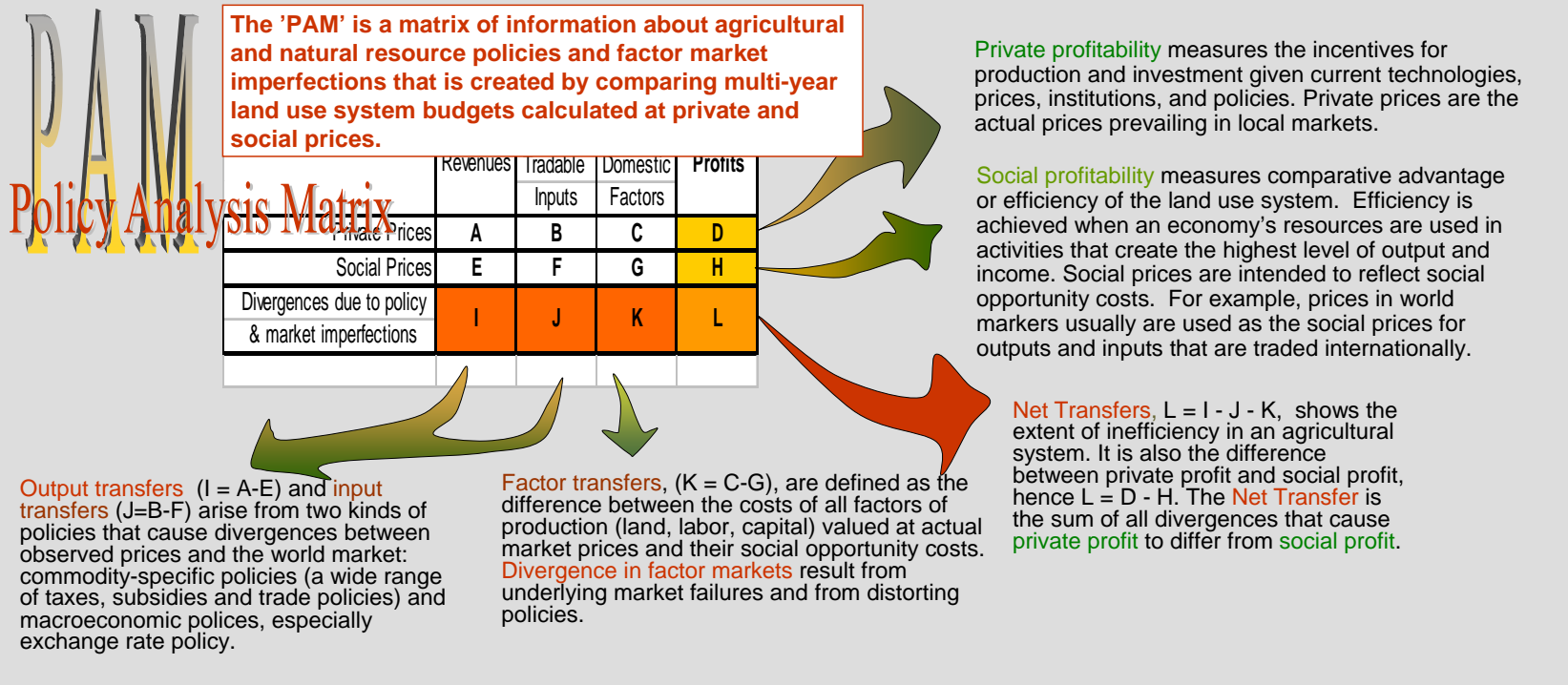
## Research Objective

**Produce comparable economic analyses of the most important land use systems in two ASB benchmark areas:**

- the lowlands of Sumatra in Indonesia
- Mae Chaem watershed in Northern Thailand.

**To assure comparability across sites and systems, a course was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 1-14 June 1997.**

## Methodology



## Major Land Use Systems in Lowlands of Sumatra

### Large-scale land use systems

#### Large-scale logging



Photos by T. Tomich

Transmigration project : continuous annual crops (cassava and maize) degrading to *imperata cylindrica* grasslands

Large scale alternatives

Large-scale estates for oil palm or industrial timber

### Small-scale land use systems

Forest extraction of NTFPs and small-scale timber



Photo by M. Sirait

Photo by T. Tomich

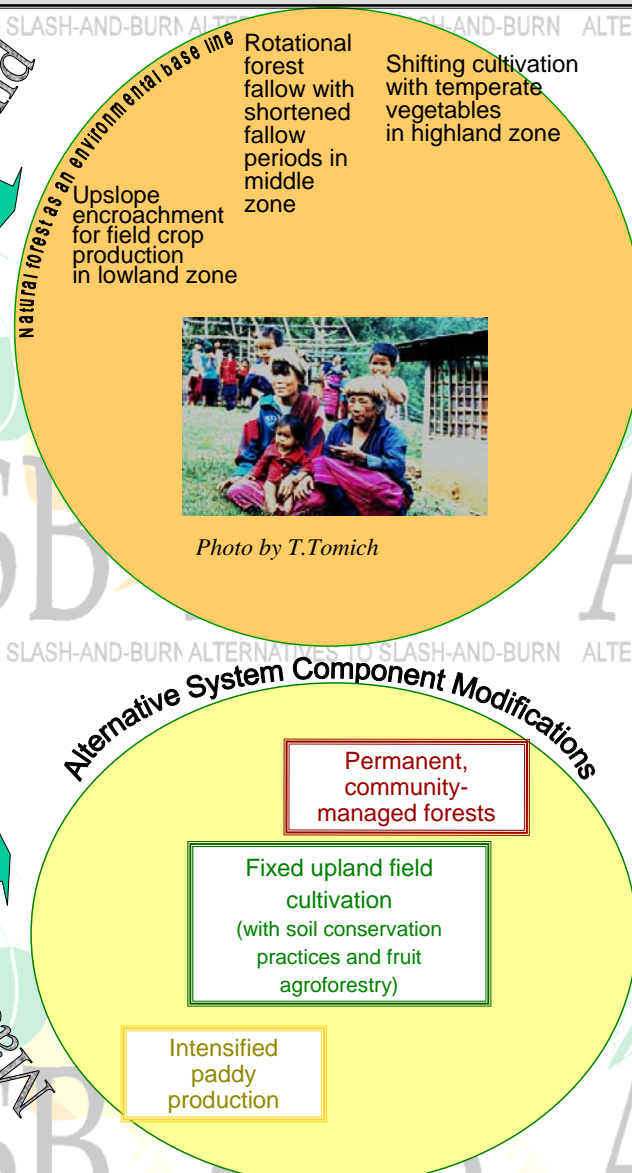
Shifting cultivation of upland rice with bush fallow rotation

Small scale alternatives

Smallholder agroforestry: rubber agroforests ... or monoculture?

POSSIBLE 'BEST BET' ALTERNATIVES

Mae Chaem Watershed, Northern Thailand



Funded by :  
• The Asian Development Bank