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Abstract Session 8.1 – Agroforestry and policy frameworks: incentives and governance mechanisms in sub-Saharan Africa.

Agroforestry (AF) is an integral part of the sub-Saharan (SSA) smallholders' portfolio of activities and assets. Yet, the AF production process is chaotic and poorly governed. Consequently, its contribution remains marginal to the overall livelihood of many smallholder farmers of SSA. Nevertheless, designing proper governance mechanisms that outline the (dis)incentives of AF investments is worthy, given its multiple benefits. Policy frameworks are also needed that drive the focus of AF production from a mere natural resources management and sideline activity to a more business oriented production system. A recent field study also confirmed the existence of conflicts, at community level, to the ever expansion of economically viable AF woodlots due to competition with food production and related adverse effects. Hence, guidelines that enhance the contribution of AF, minimize the current chaotic AF contexts, and manage its adverse effects need to be explicitly stated and incorporated to guide future efforts in this regard. By employing thematic analytical methods, this paper explores AF related governance mechanisms in SSA, both from literature and field insights.

Keywords: agroforestry-business, food security, job creation, product innovation