



The Uplands Program

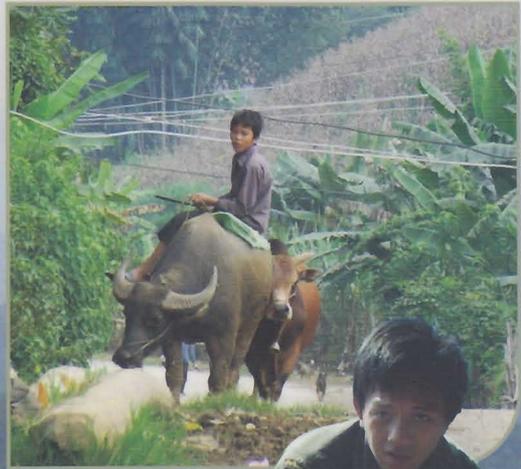
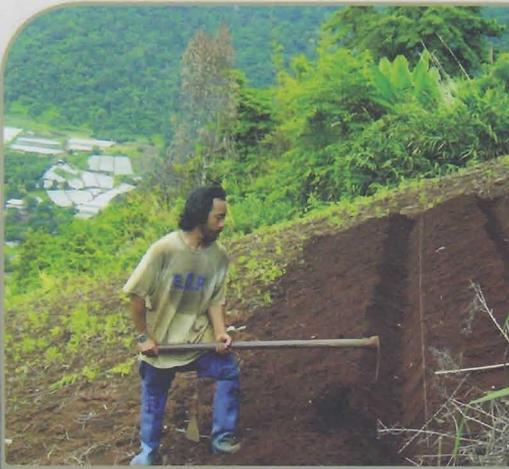
UNIVERSITÄT HOHENHEIM



# International Scientific Conference on Sustainable Land Use and Rural Development in Mountain Areas

University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany,  
16-18 April 2012

## Program and Abstracts



# About the Conference

Mountain areas are typically diverse in climates, resources, and people. Mountain areas also provide important ecological functions such as supplying water and conserving biodiversity, economic functions such as supplying food and attracting tourists, and social functions in being the home people, often belonging to ethnic minorities with distinct culture and traditions. The particular challenge for mountain areas is to find a sustainable balance between these ecological, economic, and social functions while taking into account the diversity in opportunities and constraints.

The aim of this conference is to share knowledge, lessons and experiences from across the globe as related to sustainable mountain development. Each country has its unique challenges and opportunities in mountain development, but there are also similarities in problems as well as possible solutions, which we will try to identify through this conference.

## Focus

- The conference has a global focus but with particular emphasis on mountain development in low-income countries.
- The focus is on sharing scientific knowledge that cuts across scientific disciplines and combines insights from the social and natural sciences.
- Particular emphasis is put on studies that discuss how policies and innovations can contribute to sustainable mountain development.

## Organizing committee

Gerhard Clemens, Holger Fröhlich, Franz Heidhues, Thomas Hilger, Alwin Keil, Joachim Müller, Pepijn Schreinemachers, Karl Stahr (chair) and Anne Valle Zárate (University of Hohenheim); Nguyen Van Dinh (Hanoi University of Agriculture); Theera Visitpanich and Daruni Naphrom (Chiang Mai University); and Chakrit Potchanasin (Kasetsart University).

## Scientific program committee

Michael Ahlheim, Thomas Berger, Rigina Birner, Georg Cadisch, Franz Heidhues, Joachim Müller, Joachim Sauerborn, Karl Stahr, Anne Valle Zárate and Manfred Zeller (University of Hohenheim); Andreas Neef (Kyoto University); Tran Duc Vien (Hanoi University of Agriculture), Vu Chi Cuong (National Institute of Animal Husbandry), Nguyen The Dang (Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry); Martin F. Price (Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College, UK) Linus Opara (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Godart van Lynden (ISRIC - Wageningen, The Netherlands)

# The Uplands Program

The Uplands Program (SFB 564) is a long-term research collaboration between University of Hohenheim and seven universities and research institutes in Thailand and Vietnam. The program, which started in the year 2000, aims to make a scientific contribution to the conservation of natural resources and the improvement of living conditions of the rural population in mountainous regions of Southeast Asia. These contributions are interdisciplinary in nature and include technical innovations, systems models, and capacity building of local stakeholders. In pursuit of its objective, the program builds on three main concepts:

Using an **interdisciplinary approach**, scientists of various expertise - such as from animal science, food technology, horticulture, hydrology, crop production, soil science, and social science - work together in common research areas and on common research topics.

Using a **systems approach**, scientists study the complex relationships between agro-ecosystems, people, and innovations by integrating the domains of agronomic and technical, biophysical and ecological and socioeconomic and institutional knowledge. In this way, research treats ecological, economic, and social sustainability as inseparable aspects of sustainable development.

Active **participation of stakeholders** - including farmers, extension workers, government officers, and the private sector - in all stages of the research ensures that research addresses relevant issues and that stakeholders can make use of it. Knowledge and innovation partnerships connect researchers with stakeholders in an iterative communication process.

The scientific contributions of the Uplands Program include: **innovations**, such as improved irrigation methods, fruit production, drying and processing technologies, methods of soil and water conservation, and improved livestock systems; **systems modeling** to increase our understanding of decision-making and natural resource flows in mountainous systems and to a priori evaluate through scenarios the possible impact of developed innovations. **Capacity building** including the **transfer of knowledge and innovations** to stakeholders, the promotion of interdisciplinary research approaches at partner universities, and the **training of young scientists**.

For more information visit <https://sfb564.uni-hohenheim.de>