Abstract

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Sustainable agriculture alleviating poverty

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Abstract

The impacts of climate change and global warming are becoming increasingly well known and harder felt: flooding and droughts causing food shortages, loss of homes, disease and more. While the above is well recognized, precious little is being accomplished by many governments to mitigate the impacts felt by the poorest in society.

Well-designed agricultural schemes have been shown to aid in both providing climate resilience and in removing carbon and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. For example, tree planting schemes have been seen to improve precipitation and lower local temperatures while historically tree cover was believed to be waste of good land.

This speaker believes that employing ecologically balanced mixed land use strategies (agroforestry, silvopasture, co-cropping etc.), a balance can be struck between the need to mitigate climate change and the needs of agriculture.

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Biography

Neil trained in avian ecology at the University of Birmingham and has spent more than 18 years in horticulture and horticultural design. In early 2009 he founded VEpower Limited, trading in FAME biodiesel. Late in 2010 he exited VEpower and founded Clean Development Projects Limited (CDP) which was later bought by a global Plc. CDP had the mission of developing clean energy and sustainable biofuel agriculture in which Neil takes the lead. The company has previously been tasked with designing small to landscape scale projects on 6 continents, many pro bono. Recent focus has been on cellulosic and ligninic feedstock cultivation with agricultural climate resilience and poverty alleviation.

