

Deforestation and Land Cover Change at Household Level: Evidences from the Brazilian Amazon

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Deforestation is a major process of environmental change requiring both policy intervention and world attention, but much analysis has been done at highly aggregate levels, revealing little of the actual phenomena. Consequently, research addressing household demographic characteristic and using remotely sensed data in the Brazilian Amazon is scarce. This paper presents an analysis of deforestation at the level of individual properties belonging to small farmers, undertaken by overlaying a property boundary grid in a GIS. Using survey data combined with remotely sensed data (Landsat TM), we test the relative importance of demographic structure and market access in explaining patterns of forest clearance occurring on the properties. We also consider the temporal dynamics of deforestation events in relation the household economy. We conclude the paper with policy implications.

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