

Future plans of the project "Capoeira" (ENV 25)

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After the 1st phase of the project SHIFT *Capoeira* (short for "Secondary forests and fallow vegetation in the Eastern Amazon region: Function and Management") had conducted mainly basic studies taking off at vegetation analyses and moving to agronomic and plant nutritional questions the 2nd phase is currently developing concrete alternative technologies for sustainable crop production. The basic idea is to move to slash and mulch based agriculture, recognizing the importance of the regularly recurring secondary vegetation for sufficiently long periods to recuperate prior losses. The enrichment of the secondary vegetation may be a tool to accelerate the fallow periods leading to an intensification of land use.

Future activities should seek for spatial expansion in order to get the feed-back of a critical number of farmers. Hence, a first idea of the possible impact of the developed technologies at community level will be possible. Accompanying agro-socio-economic studies will become increasingly important. Farmers participation will be mandatory.

Introducing the suggested slash and mulch alternative on a large scale will allow to study regional fluxes such as nutrient- and particle dynamics on watershed levels. To achieve this goal the development of the bush chopper, currently being tested on site, will have to be pursued to maturity. Furthermore, apart from serving the project, the machine will eventually be produced by Brazilian enterprises on the basis of plans to be well developed, yet by the project. This is how a continued utilization of the implement by the small holders of the region can be guaranteed.

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