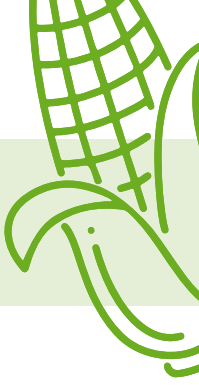


Theme 1

Food, Forests, and Farmers *Finding Sustainable Pathways for the Future*



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ABSTRACT

GM Corn and Landslides: A Case Study in the Philippine Highlands

by Ludovic Bequet

Improved seeds varieties have led to an increase in agricultural production as well as to a change in agricultural practices and input use. While some of these new practices can be more environmentally sustainable, others may lead to a higher level of environmental degradation. In a case study using an original survey method of farming households in the Upper Pulangi region of Bukidnon, I find that landslides are more likely to occur on plots planted in herbicide-tolerant corn. This effect is not driven by the physical characteristics of the farms. Instead, more aggressive weed control via broad-spectrum herbicide appears as a likely mechanism. The resulting loss of income offsets, on average, the gain from the improved productivity.

About the Author

Ludovic Bequet is a PhD candidate and teaching assistant at the Economics Department of the University of Namur, Belgium. At present, he is in his last year of studies where he mainly focuses on the analysis of the corn farming and intra-household dynamics in the Philippines. In his thesis, he uses empirical approaches to address the issues at the nexus between development, environmental and agricultural economics.