

Perceptions of Silvopasture Systems in Northeastern Argentina

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It is necessary to understand farmers' perceptions and expectations of technologies in order to design appropriate extension programs and policy tools, and to improve technologies. Previous research has shown that silvopasture systems, which combine forestry and livestock-raising, could benefit farmers, but adoption has only been moderate, implying that farmers' perceptions of the system may not be well-understood by researchers and extension agents. In the subtropical northeastern provinces of Misiones and Corrientes, Argentina, silvopasture systems with plantation tree species have been adopted to a moderate extent by farmers of a wide range of scales. Silvopasture adopters of varying scales in northeastern Argentina were surveyed to investigate their perceptions of the advantages and disadvantages provided by the system. Large-scale farmers perceived the most important advantages to be improved microclimate while small-scale farmers appreciated the diversified cash flow. The most important perceived disadvantages were competition between trees and forage species, and the complex management that the system requires. These perceptions differed somewhat from farmers' initial expectations of the system, before adoption. In general, adopters indicated that they would probably continue or expand silvopasture plots, with or without further policy intervention.

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