

Trees on Farms for Biodiversity



Gambling and Scrambling: How much for Biodiversity on Farms?

Option 1: Companion Tree A

- Timber
- Producing mulch and controlling erosion
- Fast-growing
- Tree seedling 500 USH
- Light, mottled shade
- Short (< 5 m)

Option 2: Companion Tree B

- Fruits
- Buffering temperature and conserving soil moisture
- Medium-growing
- Tree seedling 1,000 USH
- Dense shade
- Tall (> 5 m)

Are farmers willing to take a financial risk by investing in trees that can boost their incomes? How long are they prepared to wait for those gains? And which attributes of trees do they value the most?

Behavioral experiments in Uganda reveal farmers are willing to change their practices to increase biodiversity if given the right incentives.

Option 3: None of the Trees

13		7			
Option A	Option B	Tree Species A		Tree Species B	
<p>Today</p> <p>6,000 USH</p>	<p>In 3 months</p> <p>12,000 USH</p>	<p>4,000 USH</p> <p>good rains</p> <p>1, 2, 3</p>	<p>1,000 USH</p> <p>bad/no rains</p> <p>4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</p>	<p>15,000 USH</p> <p>good rains</p> <p>1</p>	<p>500 USH</p> <p>bad/no rains</p> <p>2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</p>

Which option would you choose?

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