



Incentives for Ecosystem Services (IES)



Incentives for Ecosystem Services (IES) are packages that aim to support farmers in the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that will benefit the environment.



Agricultural practices play a critical role for the environment. Likewise, the environment plays a vital role for the whole planet. The use and adoption of practices that preserve, support and benefit all the 'services' provided by the environment, such as clean air and water, biodiversity, healthy soils and pollination etc., is essential if we are serious about the sustainable use of natural resources.

What we do:

We promote the development of efficient Incentives for Ecosystem Services (IES) packages through:

- Case studies analysis: to identify and describe conditions for successful IES packages. In particular, to understand farmers' motivations, private sector commitments, and the enabling legal and institutional frameworks that allows IES packages to be built.
- A web toolbox: developed to guide decision-makers to combine and successfully implement IES.
- Forums on IES packages: to provide global, regional and national level opportunities for cross-fertilization between geographies and the development of locally-adapted IES packages and policies.
- Support focus-countries: to develop an IES-enabling policy framework that allows their transition towards a more sustainable agricultural sector.



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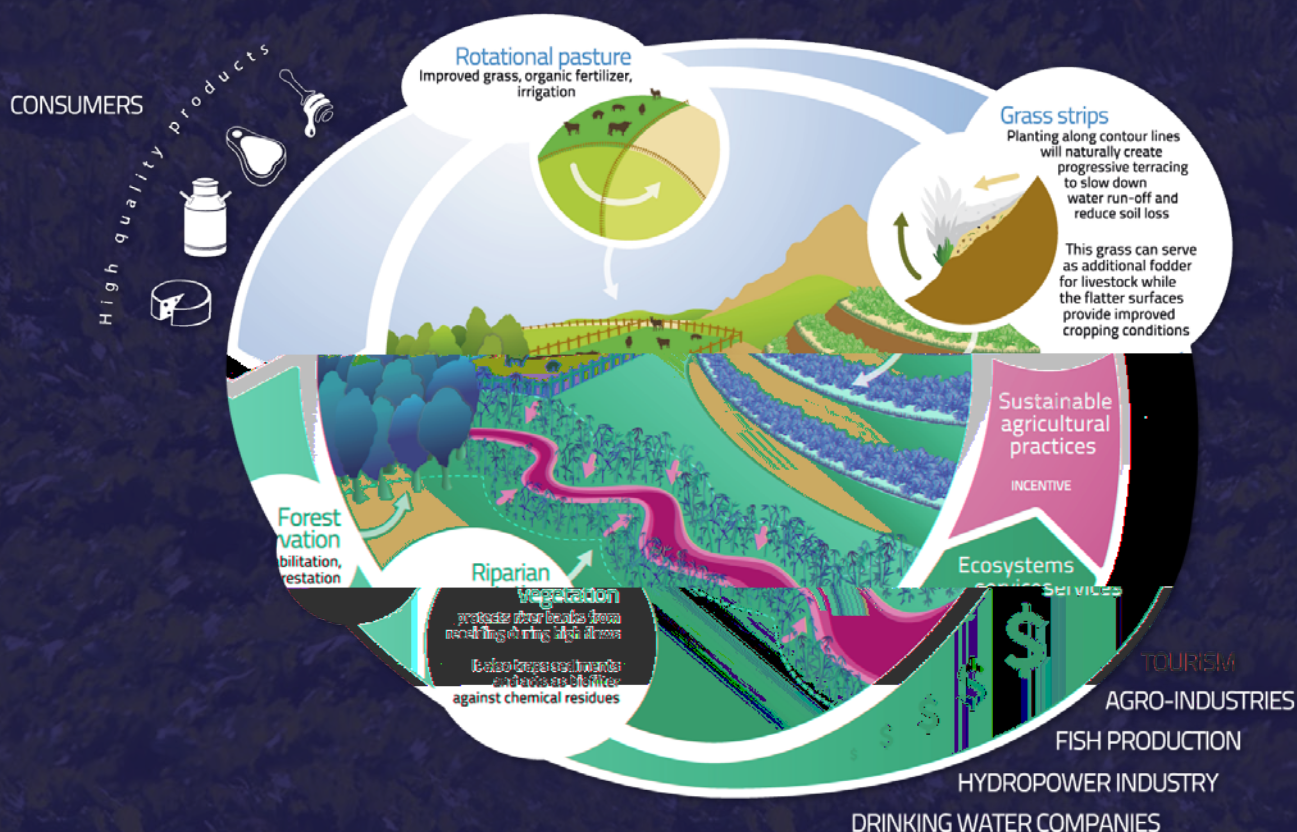


In more details:

Without short- and long-term incentives, farmers are limited in their ability to invest the time and money required to change agricultural practices and overcome technical, cultural or financial adoption barriers to sustainable production.

To overcome these barriers, an IES package can create an umbrella initiative to support farmers' transition to more sustainable agricultural production. It supports a coordinated approach to planning and investment in agricultural and environmental measures from both public and private sector ecosystem service users. IES can enable stakeholders with different objectives work towards the sustainable management at the landscape level.

IES can enable the private and public sectors achieve mutually-beneficial environmental and rural development targets. Public programs to improve agricultural productivity can provide incentives for conservation and sustainable management of resources. Private actors may have specific interests in securing sustainable supply of agro-ecosystem products and services. Together, they can finance and support an integrated package of incentives that effectively protects ecosystem services and assists their country in the long-term transition to sustainable agriculture, as illustrated in the example mapped below:



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