



# Nature's benefits in agro-forest frontiers

From 2015-2020 | Total budget € 2,300,000\*

Throughout the tropics forested landscapes are being converted into agricultural landscapes. Current landscapes reflect the continuous changes in interactions between people and the environment. Understanding the mechanisms that underlie these social-ecological systems is crucial for designing, in close collaboration with local actors, strategies for land use that maintains biodiversity, supplies a wide portfolio of ecosystem services, and meets the needs of local actors. This programme focuses on agro-forest frontier areas, the dynamic border between forested and agricultural land, in Brazil and Mexico. The programme has three objectives: (1) identify and understand ecological and social drivers that shape agro-forest frontier landscapes and their ecosystem services; (2) explain changes in the social-ecological system and their consequences for landscape configurations; (3) design adaptive strategies to balance and optimize the supply of ecosystem services in changing landscapes.

Brazil (Zona da Mata, Minas Gerais state) represents a diversity of important drivers shaping land use change. FOREFRONT uses a comparative approach between sites in Brazil and Mexico that builds on the complementary expertise among the participating institutes and facilitates cross-country learning. Both countries face large land use challenges, are role models for other Latin American countries and have long-standing collaboration with Wageningen University.

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**More information:**

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