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Colegio de Postgraduados, Mexico

Online seminar

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LIA FORESTIA 2023

Community-based forest management in Mexico and climate change mitigation

The functional role of forests ecosystems in climate change mitigation is well recognized by fixing atmospheric carbon (C). However, they are also vulnerable to natural and human-induced disturbances. Forests may act as sinks or sources depending on the balance between atmospheric CO₂ emissions and removals. Nonetheless, C dynamics in forest ecosystems are complex and multifactorial. Understanding these dynamics is essential for managing forests sustainably and preserving C stocks. Questions such as to what extent does the carbon cycle change when a forest is harvested? What is the behavior of managed forests for timber production in terms of CO₂ emissions and removals? Are the forests under community-based forest management sustainable? are necessary to answer, to determine precisely the magnitude to which forests under forest management are capable of removing atmospheric CO₂, and therefore mitigating climate change. Here I will use as a model the Intensive Carbon Monitoring Site Atopixco in central Mexico, to show some results regarding C dynamics in intensively managed forest for timber production. The aim of this site is to generate detailed information regarding C stocks and flux rates that may not be easily quantified over large areas, and to analyze processes of CO₂ uptake and release that can help explain observed changes that result from forest management activities and natural disturbances. Of particular interest is the community-based forest management for timber production in Mexico, since most of such forested land is owned by ejidos and communities, where they are actively involved in decision-making regarding forestry operations and forest conservation.



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Gregorio Ángeles-Pérez is a professor at Postgrado en Ciencias Forestales, Colegio de Postgraduados in Mexico. He is interested in studying the structure and function of forest ecosystems, and the mechanisms involved in their response to natural and human-induced disturbances. Particular topics are the mechanisms that allow species coexistence, biogeochemical cycles, and the role of sustainable forest management in climate change mitigation. He is responsible for the operation of the “Intensive Carbon Monitoring Site Atopixco”, which is part of the Mexican Intensive Carbon Monitoring Sites (Mex-SMIC, Spanish acronym) network.



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