

“Green Microfinance and Rural Development”



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Abstract:

Academics and practitioners have been paying increasing attention to the necessity and possibility to integrate microfinance with environmental concerns. Such symbiosis can range from “do no harm policies” to practices supporting environmental betterment. In this seminar I discuss microfinance programs to support biodiversity preservation or to foster adaptation to climate change. In particular I will present an evaluation of two programs: Proyecto Cambio, in Nicaragua, and the 'Microinsurance Facility for Adaptation to Climate Change', in Cambodia. The results and analysis, based on fieldwork in target areas of both programs, support the hypothesis that certain MFIs can successfully implement such complex programs. However, the interaction of the programs with local socio-economic-environmental realities also reveals the need for a more integrated approach that transcends the individual clients and points toward the redirection of the dominant development pathways. The absence of such integrated approach seems to promote practices that could worsen the environmental degradation, sustain or strengthen social and economic inequalities, or increase clients' vulnerability.

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

At 12.30 PM

**Location: Seminar Room R42.2.110 of the
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Solvay
Brussels School of Economics and Management**

Av. F.D. Roosevelt, 42- 1050 Brussels

Please confirm your attendance to cermi@ulb.ac.be at the earliest.