Land Changes and Institutional Drivers in the NEESPI region



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Foley et al., 2005, Science









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Individuals



National

Global

Regional

Communities

Individuals

Outline

Institutional changes Farmland abandonment Logging

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Shock therapy:
Open markets
Subsidy cuts
Privatization







Source: World Development Indicators 2008

Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)



Source: World Development Indicators 2004

Country	Privatization strategy
Albania	Distribution
Baltics	Restitution
Czechia	Restitution
Hungary	Restitution, distribution, voucher
Poland	Auction
Romania	Restitution, distribution
Slovakia	Restitution
European CIS	Share distribution

Share of agricultural land in individual use, 2000





Source: UNECE 2009



Outline

Institutional changes Familand abandonment Logging

Land Abandonment in Russia: Understanding Recent Trends and Assessing Future Vulnerability and Adaptation to Changing Climate and Population Dynamics

September 1990



September 2000



Agricultural de-intensification in Stravropol Kray evident in Landsat TM as substantial reduction in center pivot irrigation

- Land abandonment is not random or unexpected
- Abandonment is preceded by low crop yields and/or declines in rural population density.



North: rural population density driven by proximity to major cities.



South: rural population density is driven by soil fertility and proximity to major cities.



Vegetation trends from 2000 - 2008 revealed by MODIS (500 m resolution)

Population decline is dependent on ethnic composition of the rural population \rightarrow may indirectly influence land abandonment.





<u>Yellow:</u>

Positive trends are found mainly in croplands and not in other land cover classes.

Greens:

No changes found

- Anthropogenic rather than climatic cause.
- Selected region is characterized by depressed agriculture.
- Succession of weeds, grasses and forbs can lead to increased NDVI.

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de Cata, K.M., Wright. C.K., Henebry, G.M. 2009. Dual scale trend analysis distinguishes climatic from anthropogenic effects on the vegetated land surface. *Environmental Research Letters*, 4 045012.











Distance to all surfaced roads



Fragmentation of cropland (mean parcels no per farmer)



Highest abandonment rates: In steep terrain On isolated fields Afar from roads





Highest abandonment rates: Closer to cities

- At lower elevations
- On flatter slopes











Outline

Institutional changes Farmland abandonment

3. Logging

Land-Use And Land-Cover Changes In Temperate Forests Of European Russia

- Past and current rates of LCLUC in European Russia?
- How to monitor forest dynamics with MDGLS and Landsat-like datasets (e.g. AWiFS)?
- Socio-economic drivers of forest harvest?
- Can satellite classifications and socio-economic variables predict future harvest rates?



Wendland et al., see poster



Change in percent harvested





Wendland et al., see poster



Change in percent auctioned





Wendland et al., see poster





















- Permanent forest
 Permanent non-forest
 Forest disturbance before 1988
- Forest disturbance 1988-1994 Forest disturbance 1994-2000 Forest disturbance 2000-2007
- Reforestation 1988-2000
 Reforestation 1988-2000-2007
 Forest disturbance before 1988 and in 2000-2007









Kuemmerle et al., 2007, Ecological Applications



Kuemmerle et al., 2007, Ecological Applications



Institutional changes Farmland abandonment Logging

1. Institutional changes - Major transitions - Shock therapy **Open markets** Subsidies cut Privatization

1. Institutional changes
- Strong differences among countries
- Rural depopulation
- Agricultural sector decline



2. Farmland abandonment
- Abandonment in all countries
- Permanent change (at least for now)
- Complete abandonment vs. lower intensity

Farmland abandonment 2. - Temporal patterns: 1. Immediate shock phase 2. Market economy phase - Spatial patterns: 1. Strong crossborder differences 2. Mediated by local conditions

National

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3. Logging - Logging rates changed rapidly after the collapse - Direction of the changes varied - Some changes permanent, some not

Institutions No single institution 'explained' farmland abandonment or logging Rather, the strength of institutions mattered most

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Thank you!!!

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