

EVALUATION OF SWIDDEN FALLOW POTENTIAL TO INCREASE LANDSCAPE-LEVEL BRAZIL NUT (*BERTHOLLETIA EXCELSA*) PRODUCTIVITY IN WESTERN AMAZONIA

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BIO

Eduardo Schmitz Bongioiolo was born and raised in the State of Rondônia in the Brazilian Amazon. There, he helped manage his family's Ecolodge, and multiple times guided international scientists through the forest. He then moved to southern Brazil to attend the Universidade do Extremo Sul Catarinense, where he pursued his B.S. in environmental engineering. During his final undergraduate project, he worked as an intern in a cassiterite mining company, analyzing water bodies in recovering degraded areas. While studying English at UF, he had the opportunity to get to know more about UF's work in the Amazon and realized that this would be professionally and personally more fulfilling than working with industry. This led him to pursue a Master of Science degree in Forest Resources and Conservation with a certificate in Tropical Conservation and Development.

TUE, FEB 19

12:45 - 1:45

Grinter 376

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @ 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.

Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on TCD's YouTube Channel.



PRESENTATION SUMMARY

This study examined the extent to which forest residents could increase nut productivity by allowing their swidden fallows to grow into Brazil nut rich forests. We conducted *B. excelsa* inventories in the Brazilian state of Acre in abandoned swidden fallows. We also conducted interviews to determine landowner perspectives on fallow potential for increasing nut production. An individual-based model estimated growth, survivorship and production from the 250 inventoried trees in 18 fallows. By the final projected time interval (40 years), all fallows were predicted to produce fruits, suggesting an increase in landowner income. Our model was the first step to better understand *B. excelsa* fruit production dynamics in swidden fallows.