Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Stiftung Öffentlichen Rechts

Master thesis in Northern Vietnam

Effects of local and regional land use intensity on pollinating bees in irrigated rice production landscapes

Irrigated rice production landscapes are currently undergoing severe changes with respect to land use intensification. Increasing amounts of agrochemicals (fertilizer and pesticides) are applied and traditional small-scale farms and fields are converted to larger production areas with increasing machine employment. Due to land consolidation processes and agrochemical inputs, traditional wet rice production areas including lowland and terraced systems suffer from losses of biodiversity and related ecosystem functions, such as biocontrol (from natural enemies) and pollination.

We will analyze the effects of local and regional land use intensity on bee pollinators in three study regions in Northern Vietnam, addressing following questions:

1. Which habitat (local habitat structure, resource abundance) and landscape factors (amount of semi-natural habitats) affect bee species richness and abundance?
2. How are plant-pollinator interactions affected by changes in local and landscape factors?

Flower visiting bees will be recorded with transect walks on rice paddy bunds and within agroforests in irrigated rice production landscapes in Northern Vietnam. This study is part of the LEGATO project (http://www.legato-project.net/) and field work will be conducted in collaboration with Martin Wiemers and Markus Franzén (UFZ Halle). Field work is planned to start in April 2014 until June 2014.

If you are interested in this master thesis please contact:

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