

# Ecological Engineering – the LEGATO project

by the LEGATO consortium c/o Josef Settele

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## LEGATO

<u>Land-use intensity and E</u>cological En<u>G</u>ineering – <u>Assessment T</u>ools for risks and <u>O</u>pportunities in irrigated rice based production systems

Antragszeitraum / application period:

1. March 2011 – 29. Feb. 2016

GERÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung





## Ecosystem Services – the baseline of the LEGATO approach

- Ecosystem services dealt with in LEGATO:
  - Provisioning: biomass & nutrients (rice & other crops),
  - ✓ Regulating: biocontrol & pollinators,
  - ✓ Cultural: cultural identity, aesthetics & recreation

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## **Ecological Engineering**

- o design, monitoring and construction of ecosystems;
- development of strategies to maximise ecosystem services through
- exploiting natural regulation mechanisms (instead of suppressing them).



#### **LEGATO**

- LEGATO analyses the potential of Ecological Engineering to achieve
  - sustainable land management
  - *increase in crop productivity* and
  - diversification of income sources
- LEGATO tests the implementation and transferability of Ecological Engineering across regions







#### Figure 7.1: LEGATO overview structure and work flow



#### LEGATO Ifugao (PH\_3) research sites





## **Banaue / Philippines 1908**

#### **Banaue / Philippines 2010**

## LEGATO

Co-Design, Feedback, Implementation Citizen Science



















IRRI

Ecological Engineering for Sustainable Management in Rice Landscapes

Banaue Hotel and Youth Hostel • July 1-7, 2012

Banauc HOTEL

#### **Nutrient Research in LEGATO**

#### Marxen/Klotzbuecher et al. (in prep.)



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## **Contrasting geology and soils**



#### Vietnam

- quatenary sediments in the river deltas, but differences in the mineral assemblage
- intrusive, metamorphic rocks in the highlands
  - $\rightarrow$  highly weathered soils



#### **Philippines**

- basic, effusive rocks (vulcanos)
- recent carbonate sediments

→ younger, more weatherable minerals



#### **Conclusions and outlook**

 Differences in Si availability between the Philippines and Vietnam are much greater than within the countries

→ Geo-/pedological conditions are the major determinant for Si availability in soils

- Concentration of plant available Si in soils determines Si status of rice plants
  - $\rightarrow$  role of phytoliths?
  - $\rightarrow$  adequate management?

#### Interdisciplinary questions

- Influence of rice Si concentration on pests?
- Which socio-economic factors dertermine the crop residue management?
- Economic feasibility of Si fertilization?

## **Decomposition Research in LEGATO**

Schmidt A. et al. (in prep.)



Small scale decomposition survey

**Invertebrate decomposers** are crucial for the longterm **sustainability** development of rice ecosystems.

**Surrounding structures** influence decomposition rates of invertebrates, measurable by a **gradient** within the field.

## **Pollinator Research in LEGATO**

Westphal et al. (in prep.)



#### **Species richness and plant-pollinator interactions**







- 13 bee genera (Apidae, Halictidae, Megachilidae)
- 26 morphospecies
- 77 flowering plant species (many non-native)
- 491 plant-pollinator interactions



#### **Polycultures**

- → Provide important nesting and foraging habitats for bees in ricedominated landscapes
- → Positive effects on diversity and stability of plant pollinator interactions in neighboring fields
- → Structurally complex polycultures could represent effective ecological engineering measures









Next step: role of bees as indicators of parasitoids

## Natural Biological Control Service





The effects of surrounding landscapes on the biocontrol-production function in rice dominated agroecosystems

Christophe Dominik



The Ecosystem Service Cascade: The influence of purpose and application characteristics like scale and beneficiaries

Spangenberg et al. (subm.)









