The Southeastern Agroforestry Decision Support System (SEADSS): An On-Line Application for Tree and Shrub Selection and Agroforestry Decision Making. (A08-ellis102159-Oral)

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Abstract:

Computers and the Internet are effective means for education and extension. An important initiative of the Center for Subtropical Agroforestry, University of Florida, is the development of an on-line GIS database application for the purpose of providing landowners and extension agents in the southeast information and decision-making tools for the adoption and management of agroforestry land use systems. The Southeast Agroforestry Decision Support System (SEADSS) offers information on sub-tropical tree/shrub species and county-level geographic site information. The basic agroforestry tenet of combining trees or shrubs with crops or livestock make it essential in presenting information on the ecological, economic and management characteristics as well as site adaptability of potential trees and shrubs. Moreover, geographic information of specific sites or farms is also vital for landowners and extension agents to evaluate and plan agroforestry systems. Integrating Geographical Information Systems (GIS), the SEADSS provides on-line access to spatial data such as soil characteristics, hydrology, topography and land use. The SEADSS links GIS with the sub-tropical tree/shrub database, allowing the user to query biophysically suitable and/or economically and managerially desirable trees or shrubs for an area of interest, or conversely, spatially show potentially suitable areas within a county for specific species being considered. The development of SEADSS has begun with a pilot version for Alachua County, Florida. This pilot version is being developed with the involvement local extension agents, ensuring that the SEADSS becomes a easy to use and powerful agroforestry planning and decision-making tool for landowners and extension agents in the southeast.

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