Preface

Agroforestry, a sustainable land use suited to resource poor farmers, is being promoted as a contributory solution to the problems of land degradation.

Economics has a crucial role to play in decision-making in households, communities, institutions and governments.

Economic development in most developing countries relies on the sustainability of natural systems.

This book discusses how economic and financial analysis can be used to assess the net benefits of agroforestry enterprises for peasant households, institutions and society. Economic, financial, social and technical issues are examined.

Special attention is paid to:

* incentives for agroforestry and analysis of peasant economic decisions

* the use of cost benefit analysis as a method for assessment of agroforestry enterprises

* the quantification and valuation of the perceived benefits of agroforestry - soil conservation, multiple products and efficient resource use

* economics for sustainable production

* the use of a spreadsheet model for economic analysis of agroforestry

This volume represents the collection of papers presented at the Commonwealth Science Council's meeting on 'Agroforestry for Sustainable Development - Economic Implications' in Swaziland in 1989. The participants of the meeting who contributed to this volume include natural scientists, social scientists and economists so that the approach to the subject is of an interdisciplinary nature.