



The forest industry of the Sacalá community in Guatemala

In Guatemala, Chimaltenango Department, the leaders of the community of Sacalá in the municipality of San Martín Jilotepeque, took an innovative initiative to address the growing environmental degradation, and the inability to use the forest potential of the area. Sacalá and the villages around it are on the high parts of the Xaya River Basin, source of water supply for the city of Guatemala and its three million inhabitants.

The project started in 1994 with a system of eco-farms where the integrated forestry production chain was displayed vertically: nurseries, plantations, sawmill creation and design, carpentry, joinery and marketing. It currently has a production line for communal consumption, such as firewood, lumber, home products and accessories (trays, insulators, tea boxes, etc.), boxes for export spirits and children's furniture.

The system is based on a chain of strategic alliances (local consortium) between the community organization that establishes and manages small areas of the forest, a company responsible for the preparation of wood, manufacturers of products through small timber and a marketing company specializing in the design, creation and promotion of products on the market.

The Forest Industry of the Sacalá Community has a fully integrated forest supply chain, with the participation of local people and private enterprises. Governmental and international institutions recognize him as a working model to be replicated in other areas.

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