

Preface

The two volumes comprising the series *Integrating Ecology and Poverty Reduction* address the ecological dimensions of some of the major challenges in reducing poverty in developing countries (Vol. 1) and potential solutions and opportunities for more effectively leveraging ecological science and tools to address some of those challenges (Vol. 2). Collectively, we hope these volumes serve to foster a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the ecological dimensions of various aspects of poverty, particularly in rural areas of developing countries where some of the world's poorest people live, and a heightened appreciation for the role that ecological science and tools can play in poverty reduction efforts. We acknowledge that no development challenge is uniquely ecological in its provenance or its resolution, but posit that ecological science and tools are critical components of effective solutions to some of the world's most vexing international problems.

This first volume, *Integrating Ecology and Poverty Reduction: Ecological Dimensions*, identifies some of the most pressing challenges related to rural poverty in developing countries and critically reviews the ecological dimensions of those problems. Specifically, we address key ecological processes and principles associated with food security, water provisioning, human health, energy security, climate change, and disaster reduction. These topics are by no means an exhaustive list of the many challenges facing poor, rural communities nor are the ecological factors discussed the only ones to consider when evaluating a problem. Rather, these chapters address some of the major obstacles to human well-being and economic development and demonstrate how ecological thinking can be applied to understand and address these problems. The second volume, *Integrating Ecology and Poverty Reduction: The Application of Ecology in Development Solutions*, addresses ways in which ecology can be applied in the context of education, gender relations, demography, markets and governance to address many of the challenges addressed in the first volume.

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Ecological Dimensions

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