

# Preface

The two volumes comprising the series *Integrating Ecology and Poverty Reduction* address the ecological dimensions of some of the major challenges of reducing poverty in developing countries (Vol. 1) and present 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.

The second volume of this series, *Integrating Ecology and Poverty Reduction: The Application of Ecology in Development*, builds upon the first volume, *Integrating Ecology and Poverty Reduction: Ecological Dimensions*, by exploring the way in which ecological science and tools can be applied to address major development challenges associated with rural poverty. In Vol. 2, we explore how ecological principles and practices can be integrated, conceptually and practically, into social, economic, and political norms and processes to reduce poverty and positively influence the environment upon which humans depend. Specifically, these chapters explore how ecological approaches and considerations can be useful for enhancing the positive impacts of education, gender relations, demographic shifts and dynamics, markets, and governance for poverty reduction. As one of the final chapters on the future and evolving role of ecological science points out,

sustainable development must be built upon an ecological foundation if it is to be realized. The chapters in this volume illustrate how traditional paradigms and forces guiding development can be steered along more sustainable trajectories by utilizing ecology to inform project planning, policy development, market development, and decision-making.

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