Appendix 1-S.A.L.T.

Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) has made steep worthless lands usable. This is a practice valuable to the tribal community. They are learning to stabilize topsoil with the proper selection of species. They can maintain their ancestral lands without having to destroy them through shifting cultivation, otherwise known as slash and burn farming.

I was able to observe this SALT technology while staying with a Christian ministry in Palawan. They trained Christian workers and tribal members to implement the hedge systems for the betterment of the respective tribal groups they were helping. The results were dramatic.

There is a wide family of legume shrubs that prevent erosion and make excellent fertilizer and feed stock. Any farm can find the proper species to plant for any area, (even on flat land as a border crop). On our lot we have implemented various combinations of wind blocks, erosion controls and fodder crops that keep everything in balance. They bring in beneficial insects and bird nests.

Flemingia macrophylla is also called other names.

With a healthy hedge system growing, the soil in the root zone is a breeding center for soil dwelling earthworms that benefit from the lack of tillage. There is no interruption in their life cycle.

Much has been written on this method, but in the tropics Mount Carmel in Davao, Mindanao, Philippines has the most information available. They also sell seeds for the species adapted to this climate. I have been able to utilize both the rensonii and flemingia and now grow my own seed stock for our students.

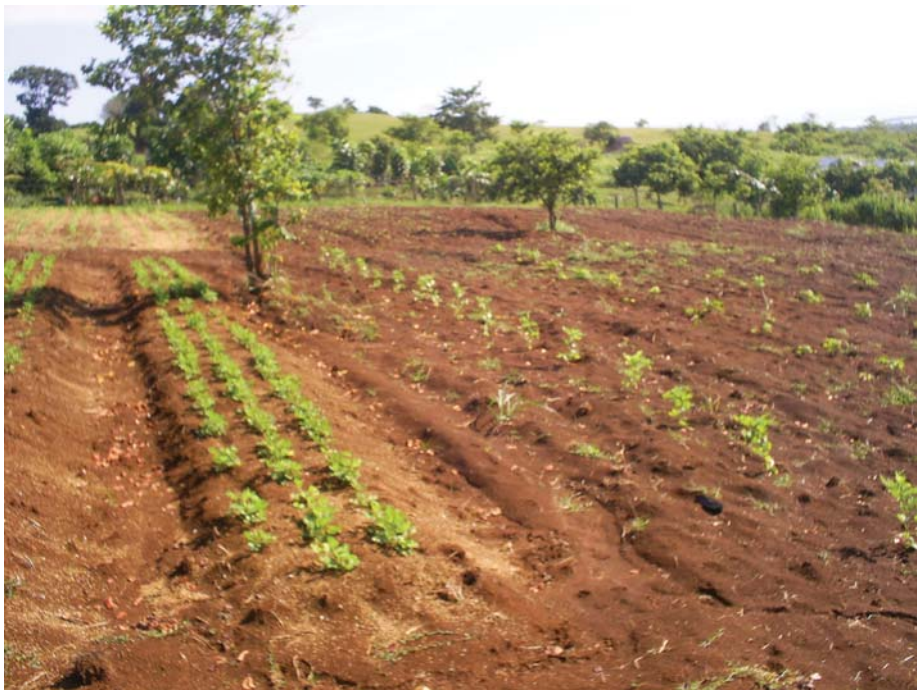
Flemingia has two seeds in each pod.

Desmodium rensonii is a favorite of our goats. It has small disc like seeds.

S.A.L.T. hedges prevent high winds from damaging crops that are planted between rows and filter the wind while preventing erosion. The trees and small twigs from shrubs also provide fuel for cooking. The hedges that make good companions in our system are usually legumes, but any plant can work. Plant rows following the contour of the land and make every other row a different crop. Keep trimming the plants and use the hedge trimmings as mulch, animal feed, compost or green fertilizer. Acacia auriculiformis and Acacia angustissima are popular fodder crops and can tolerate wetter climates.

Azadirachta indica - Neem trees can be cut back and kept as a shrub. Intercrop them with your legume trees and shrubs. Melia azedarach is the counterfeit neem, called China Berry in the USA. It has some of the properties of neem but is inferior in active ingredients and the limbs are brittle.

Rensonii is deep rooted and brings up nutrients from deep down in the sub-soil levels. Its seeds germinate well when stored properly.



Flamengia seedlings are growing in uniform rows. They will prevent erosion in the coming years and feed many goats.

The Bokashi Barn - Bokashi is ready for field application after we ferment it for 2 weeks. It works well as a soil preparation and conditioner.