



Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn

c/o ICRAF - World Agroforestry
Centre, PO Box 30677,
Nairobi, Kenya 00100 GPO
Phone: 254 20 524 000
Fax: 254 20 524 001
E-mail: asb@cgiar.org
Web: <http://www.asb.cgiar.org>

Learning by Doing: Competitive Grants to ASB Partners

At a Glance...

The Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn (ASB) consortium tackles two of the most pressing issues of our time – the related problems of deforestation and human poverty at the margins of tropical forests. Working together, ASB's many and varied partners identify policy, technological, and institutional options to balance conservation and development. A key element of ASB's strategy is ensuring the full and equal **engagement** of all members of the network. A **competitive research grants** programme has been a highly-successful part of ASB's capacity building, research and action. ASB is seeking funding to resume this "learning by doing" granting programme.



Responding to Partners' Needs...

ASB works through **local collaboration** and global partnerships. Many of its partners are national and regional organizations or institutions in developing countries across the tropics – as such, they often lack the human and financial resources to fully engage in research and action for forest conservation and improved livelihoods. One component of ASB's success is its focus on building the strength of individual organizations within the consortium. In the past, ASB provided small grants to **interdisciplinary** teams to pursue shared research priorities of the ASB consortium, a selection of which are described in the box.

Grants for Shared Research Priorities

ASB is seeking funding to re-launch this highly-successful Grants Programme.

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis according to priorities and criteria set by the Global Steering Group (GSG), ASB's governing body with balanced representation from north and south. Since our national partners actively establish these research priorities for the consortium, allocating funds through competitive grants not only maintains accountability to this research agenda but also ensures ownership at the activity level.

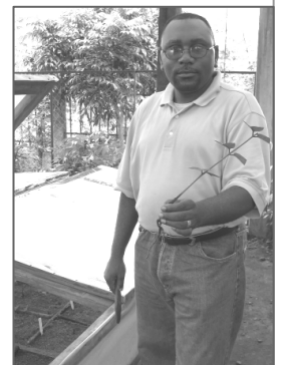
ASB's grants can cover a broad range of activities - from empowering local people and groups in their negotiations to better manage their own natural resources, to writing workshops that help scientists bring their work to international and policy-makers' attention.

\$150,000 US per year over 3 years would replenish the support fund for this granting programme.

Contact: Dr Thomas Tomich, ASB Global Coordinator, Nairobi, asb@cgiar.org or connect to the ASB website in English, with mini-sites in Spanish, French, and Portuguese (in preparation) and a searchable data base of ASB publications (more than 500 entries).

Competitive grants have already paid for...

- Translating ASB research findings into practical lecture notes for curricula around the world;
- Researching conditions under which coffee can be grown in tree systems, a more sustainable alternative to the prevailing monoculture coffee cropping in Brazil;
- Supporting the development of a formal farmers' network for the production and sale of certified seed and seedlings, linked to government reforestation efforts in Peru;
- Analysing options for carbon-offset projects that meet carbon sequestration objectives while providing profit to farmers;
- Finding the cause of pasture death in Western Brazil, which threatens 60m hectares of pastures and leads farmers to convert new areas of rainforest;
- Undertaking a biodiversity assessment of land uses on the Thai forest margins;
- Identifying superior sources of seed for the priority agroforestry trees in the Peruvian Amazon, by working with farmers on their own land to learn about their preferences and constraints;
- Improving brazil-nut production systems, a key non-timber forest product.



These are just some of the activities supported by ASB's grant programme. Besides advancing the research agenda, the small grants helped **build capacity** among ASB partners in tropical countries and in the network as a whole.