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Afforestation of bad lands financed through Joint Implementation Projects

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Summary

In the countries with economy in transition the afforestation of land unsuitable for agricultural crops is associated in many cases with financial difficulties. Carbon financing may be an incentive for afforestation in such situations (both in terms of financial resources and identification of lands to be afforested), and in general it significantly improves the economical benefits of the afforestation work. The paper shows the practical ways to address the management and improvement of degraded agricultural land through afforestation. It also highlights the financial (multiple partners, co-financing) and environmental (biodiversity, climate change and local environmental benefits) synergies, and social and economic aspects (local energy supply, construction material, non timber forest products, alternatives activities and temporary jobs) of the afforestation. Carbon sequestration modeling, model parametrization and associated incertitude with the modeling are explored in the context of a concrete afforestation project. The impact of wood harvesting on carbon stock will be approached. The place of the project within the framework of the Romanian national forestry and environmental issues is also discussed.

Key words: land afforestation, carbon financing, joint implementation project, carbon sequestration model.