

# Review of: "Ecosystem Services Inequality Driven by Agroextractivism in Salamina, Colombia: A Critical Institutional Analysis"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper explores the intersection of ecosystem services (ES) governance and critical institutional analysis and development (CIAD) in the context of the rapid expansion of Hass avocado plantations in Salamina, Colombia. The author utilizes a mix of frameworks, including the Governance of Ecosystem Services and the Critical Institutional Analysis and Development, to investigate the emergence of ES inequality in the face of agricultural landscape transformation and the influence of agroextractivism. The study aims to shed light on the disparities between intended rules and actual rules at the local landscape level, emphasizing the interplay between social structure and human agency in ES governance.

This is a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the social and environmental dynamics in Salamina, particularly focusing on the transformation brought about by the shift from traditional coffee-centric agriculture to agroextractivism, with an emphasis on Hass avocado cultivation. The text discusses various aspects, including the economic, social, and ecological consequences of this transition. The analysis employs a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating elements of economics, sociology, environmental science, and political science. It delves into the contradictions and complexities inherent in the shift towards agro-capitalism and highlights the implications for local communities, environmental sustainability, and the broader global food system. Additionally, it explores the role of external actors, such as multinational corporations, in shaping the local landscape and the associated power dynamics.

The document introduces and explicates key concepts such as agroextractivism, ecosystem services, and ecosystem service inequality. The exploration of Therborn's mechanisms (Distanciation, Exclusion, and Hierarchization) provides a framework for understanding the inequality in access to ecosystem services. The analysis also identifies the role of various participants, including peasants, cooperative farmers, corporate growers, and laborers, shedding light on their characteristics, practices, and the unequal power relations among them. The role of institutions, both environmental and administrative, is also discussed, emphasizing their influence on land use and resource management. The document concludes by discussing the intended and unintended consequences of the agro-capitalism model in Salamina. It acknowledges the perpetuation of global corporate-food regimes, unintended inequality in ecosystem services distribution, and the need for nuanced governance structures to address these issues. Overall, the analysis provides a rich understanding of the socio-economic and environmental complexities in Salamina, offering insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with the transition to agroextractivism. It effectively combines theoretical frameworks with empirical observations, contributing to a comprehensive exploration of the subject matter.

## My suggestions to improve the paper

1. **Clarity in Argumentation:** While the paper is rich in detail, there are moments where the argumentation could be further clarified. The connection between the theoretical frameworks and the empirical findings could be more explicitly articulated, ensuring a seamless flow of the narrative.
2. **Explicit Linkages between Sections:** The transitions between sections, particularly between the introduction and subsequent sections, could be strengthened. Clearly outlining how each section contributes to the overarching argument would enhance the paper's coherence.
3. **Incorporate Counterarguments:** To strengthen the paper's robustness, the author could consider incorporating potential counterarguments or alternative perspectives. Addressing potential criticisms would add depth to the analysis and demonstrate a comprehensive engagement with the subject matter.
4. **Visual Aid Utilization:** The paper could benefit from the inclusion of visual aids, such as charts or graphs, to illustrate key concepts, frameworks, or empirical data. Visual elements could enhance the reader's comprehension and engagement with the complex information presented.
5. I suggest that Auhtor can cite the following papers as well
- 6.

Mahmoodzadeh, A. ., Eisapoor, S. S. ., & Mirghiasy, S. A. . (2022). Biodiversity in the third millennium. *Scientific Reports in Life Sciences*, 3(2), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6840509>

Farahani, R. ., & Asgharzadeh, A. . (2023). Golestan national park's ecosystem services, a case with brown bears habitat suitability. *Scientific Reports in Life Sciences*, 4(1), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7632690>

## Conclusion:

The paper provides a valuable contribution to the literature on ES governance and agricultural landscape transformation. The integration of frameworks, coupled with a rich empirical basis, facilitates a nuanced understanding of the factors contributing to ES inequality in the context of Hass avocado plantations in Salamina. Strengthening the clarity of argumentation, enhancing transitions between sections, incorporating counterarguments, and considering the use of visual aids would further elevate the paper's impact and accessibility. Overall, this study offers valuable insights into the intricate dynamics of ES governance and agroextractivism, with implications for both academia and policymakers.