



*Join us for a **Special Invited Guest Tropilunch***

***“Collective action in irrigation systems under uncertainty:
Field experiments in Thailand, Nepal, China and Colombia”***

Dr. Juan Camilo Cardenas

Professor of Economics at Universidad de Los Andes, Colombia

Tuesday, November 17

12:45 – 1:45 pm

1151 McCarty A

****Please note the change in venue****

Biography:

Dr. Cárdenas received his B.S. in Industrial Engineering at the Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá. He got his MSc and PhD degrees in Environmental and Resource Economics from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. He held a Post-Doctoral position at Indiana University and was a Visiting Scholar in the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, and with The International Forestry Resources and Institutions Research Program (IFRI). The central focus of his work is the analysis and design of institutions (rules of the game) promoting cooperation between individuals and solving social dilemmas in the most efficient, equitable, democratic and sustainable way possible.

Content:

Communities dependent on irrigation systems for their agricultural production are exposed to increasing levels of variability and global changes of climate or rainfall. These shocks can affect positively or negatively the outcomes and livelihoods of these communities at the individual and group levels. We conducted a series of field-lab experiments in 118 communities in Thailand, Nepal, China and Colombia that derived their income from rice farming. In these games we tested the behavioral responses to uncertainties in the returns from private or collective assets, and observed the response in the levels of collective action by these communities. We found that cooperation decreases in all four countries when these uncertainties are associated with the returns on the collective assets but not when they affect the private assets.

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Students are provided with an opportunity to present and discuss their research projects with peers and faculty. In addition, discussion sessions on issues of current interest are also held. Visiting scholars and conservation practitioners also participate when available.