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**ECONOMICS OF REGENERATION: JOYS AND DILEMMAS OF
SUCCESSIONAL AGROFORESTRY LIVELIHOODS**

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Agroforestry is a theme of emerging importance in major debates related to the polycrisis. Successional agroforestry is a specific agroecological practice that mimics the dynamics of ecological succession, creating complex agroecosystems with substantial benefits when compared to simpler agroecosystems, such as increased carbon sequestration, water cycle regulation, and higher biodiversity. Nevertheless, the system's complexity carries economic challenges under a market society, e.g., difficulties related to commercializing a high diversity of products and high labor demand. Despite the difficulties, initiatives have proliferated considerably in the past decade in Brazil, notably with the popularization of syntropic agriculture. This study investigates the economics that emerges from successional agroforestry practice in the Federal District, Brazil. Through interviews and farm visits, the economics of successional agroforestry is characterized and analyzed through a framework considering the interplay between exchange value, use value, and metabolic value. While exchange and use value are more established categories under

Marxian scholarship, metabolic value is proposed by contemporary feminist political economy as value created through life's organic processes of reproduction, counterbalancing entropy, and being the inherent basis for any type of economy. Results map diversified economic practices such as CSAs, public and private markets, education, and consultancy, emerging out of the need to adapt to ever-changing circumstances and motivated by multiple values beyond financial gain. The production of financial gain (or exchange value) is limited by structural barriers, but also contrasts with the abundance of use and metabolic value. Thus, financial uncertainties coexist with a sense of purpose and other needs satisfaction for the farmers and society as a whole. A case is made for policies that support the socio-ecological benefits of successional agroforestry beyond financial and market logics.

Palavras-chave: rural livelihoods; agroforestry transitions; syntropy; metabolic rift; ecological economics.