In the American tropics, the vast majority of pastures are dominated by a single species (mostly grasses). Pastures with higher species diversity can be more efficient and might be more stable and resistant to disaster than those with fewer species. They also provide ecosystem services.

Preliminary results from a pilot study show an increase in pollinators in multi-species pastures. Multispecies pastures for increased productivity and provision of ecosystem services.

As this is a long-term project in its early stages, results of production potential and ecosystem services are not yet available.

Despite this, preliminary results show that even within the limited period since the pilot study began, there has been a two-fold increase in richness and diversity of pollinators (e.g., Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera) in multi-species pastures compared to a grass-legume system.

The relevance of preliminary results is important in light of the steady decline of pollinators worldwide. Our preliminary results show that establishment of multi-species pastures can rapidly provide an environment friendly to pollinators and thereby mitigate their reductions as shown elsewhere.

Future steps:
- Larger field trials are being established at ABC.
- These trials will be part of Legacynet: a voluntary global network of experimental sites set up to investigate the benefits of multispecies grasslands.

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