The answer is YES. Local experience over the past 15 years, and results of research, have demonstrated that the use of Quesungual Slash and Mulch Agroforestry System (QSMAS) has a high potential to improve food security in vulnerable regions while protecting the environment.

QSMAS is a smallholder production system with a group of technologies for the sustainable management of soil, water and nutrients in drought-prone areas of hillsides agroecosystems of the sub-humid tropics. In southwest Honduras (Central America), the system has been proved to be resilient even to extreme climatic events such as El Niño (1997) and hurricane Mitch (1998).

QSMAS integrates local and technical knowledge and provides resource-poor farmers an alternative to replace the non-sustainable, environmentally unfriendly slash and burn (SB) traditional production system. The technologies used in QSMAS can be synthesized in the form of four basic principles. Following the principles, we provide a brief technical explanation of their impacts, and the science behind those principles that support the recommendation of QSMAS as an option to achieve food security in fragile areas. Our conclusion is that QSMAS can provide an option for farmers to adapt to, as well as contribute for mitigation of, climate change, while reducing some of the negative effects of agriculture on the environment.

The answer is YES. Experience over three years of on-farm participatory validation in Nicaragua (Somotillo) and Colombia (Suárez) suggests that QSMAS will be readily accepted and adopted by smallholders in similar agroecosystems. It also received strong support from local authorities and policy makers.

Is QSMAS suitable for adoption by small farmers in other tropical sub-humid ecoregions? Experience over three years of on-farm participatory validation in Nicaragua (Somotillo) and Colombia (Suárez) suggests that QSMAS will be readily accepted and adopted by smallholders in similar agroecosystems. It also received strong support from local authorities and policy makers.