

Juarez, Isaac, “Changes Pineapple Farms Need to Certify with the Rainforest Alliance in Northern Costa Rica.” Advisor: Hugo Hermelink. Knox College. 2010. 32pp.

This paper analyzes the changes that pineapple farms need to make to certify with the Rainforest Alliance. There are a number of requirements that a farm must meet in order to obtain certification. This paper looks at the significance that the certification process may have for the production process of non-certified pineapple farms. The goal is that the Rainforest Alliance will streamline their certification process in a manner that will be superior to their current certification process.

My research aims to produce an inventory of the changes that pineapple farms need to comply with the Rainforest Alliance certification requirements. Each of the 19 farmers that participated completed an interview that consisted of fifty questions with multiple choice answers. The questions were grouped according to the ten principles for sustainable agriculture as defined by the Rainforest Alliance. For each principle, the questions tried to define whether the required changes to questions correspond with major, minor, or no change.

Small farms need more changes than large farms to certify with the Rainforest Alliance but not by much. Organic farms need almost twice the amount of changes than conventional farms when compared by mean changes required.