Costa Rica Agriculture

Some Examples

- Bananas
- Coffee
- Pineapples
- Oil Palm
- Cattle
- Sugarcane
Distinct Agricultural Regions

Distinct Agricultural Regions of Costa Rica

- coffee
- coffee, sugar, various
- banana
- cocoa and banana
- grain
- various (beans, corn, rice)

Cartography by Maya Coleman in May 1997.
Source information from 1950 Mapa de Regiones de Costa Rica.
World Wide Distribution

Devastating Environmental Consequences
A Sea of Bananas
Banana Worker
Banana Processing Plant

Wages are about $10/day....*On a Good Day*
Extensive Irrigation

Why Irrigate in the Tropics?

Loaded with Insecticides
Gravity “Feed”
Moving the Line

Extremely Labor Intensive
Banana Transport
Insecticides

Spraying often starts before sunrise

*People do not get out of the way*....
Worker Exposure is High
Hard Labor
Oil Palm Fruit
Oil Palm Harvest
Oil Palm Harvesting
Pineapples
Sea of Pineapples
Deforestation

A HUGE impact on Biodiversity
Original Forest Cover

COSTA RICA

Original Forest Cover Before the arrival of the Europeans
(In green)

Mar Caribe

Pacific Ocean

Cartography by Ricardo Puente, 5/5/97
1940 Forest Cover

COSTA RICA
Forest Cover 1940
(in green)

Mar Caribe
Pacific Ocean

Cartography by Ricardo Puente, 5/5/97
1977 Forest Cover
Since 1960, the population has increased by over 2 million people.
300-500 square km/yr

Only 54% of extracted timber reaches the factory
Protected Areas

About 28% of Costa Rica is Protected
A Highway View
A Common Sight
An “In-Forest” Lumber Mill
The Preserves are Impt
Monteverde Preserve

An Island in a Sea of Deforestation
60,000 Hectares is a Drop in the Bucket.......
While Just 3 km Away...
A Cloud Forest Snippet
The National Bird of Costa Rica
Costa Rica Volcanoes

Major Volcanoes of Costa Rica

- Rincon de la Vieja
- Miravalles
- Arenal
- Poas
- Irazu

Map by USGS

Topinka, USGS/CVO, 1999, From CIA Basemap, 1997
Arenal Volcano
Spectacular Rock Falls
Volcano Sounds