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# Beyond the Surface: How Termite Mounds Affect Rice Yield in Cambodia?

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## Résumé

Soil degradation and chemical reliance threaten Lower Mekong rice systems. Termite mounds represent an ecological asset as their soils are rich in nutrients. Yet, their effects on yield are understudied. Using data from 594 farmers (992 plots, 2021–2023) and a CRE-IV model, we find mound presence lowers yields 7.5%, while using mound soil raises yields 10.8%, giving USD 17–25/ha benefits. This shows that if termite mound soil is sustainably used to maintain termite mounds' existence, it provides a nature-based solution for more resilient and sustainable rice systems.

**Mots-Clés:** Agroecology, Biodiversity, Economic Assessment, Family Farming, Yield, Chrey Bak.

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