

Paying Farmers Upfront Not to Burn — A Randomised PES Trial Against Crop-Residue Burning (Punjab, India)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · India

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Randomised controlled trial

Summary

A randomised trial across 171 Punjab villages found that paying farmers a share of their no-burn payment upfront cut satellite-detected crop-residue burning by roughly 8-11 percentage points versus a standard pay-on-compliance contract.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	2/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	3/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[J-PAL South Asia, with UC Santa Barbara, Princeton University, MIT and Yale University](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[J-PAL evaluation summary](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[NBER working paper: Money \(Not\) to Burn](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

Cite this — Evidoria. *Paying Farmers Upfront Not to Burn — A Randomised PES Trial Against Crop-Residue Burning (Punjab, India)*. Persistent ID: 22da6d8d-b878-4cab-af83-ad5cb67cda6b.