

Sustainable Agricultural Production: alternatives proposed by Brazil to meet the growing demand for food on a global scale

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Overview

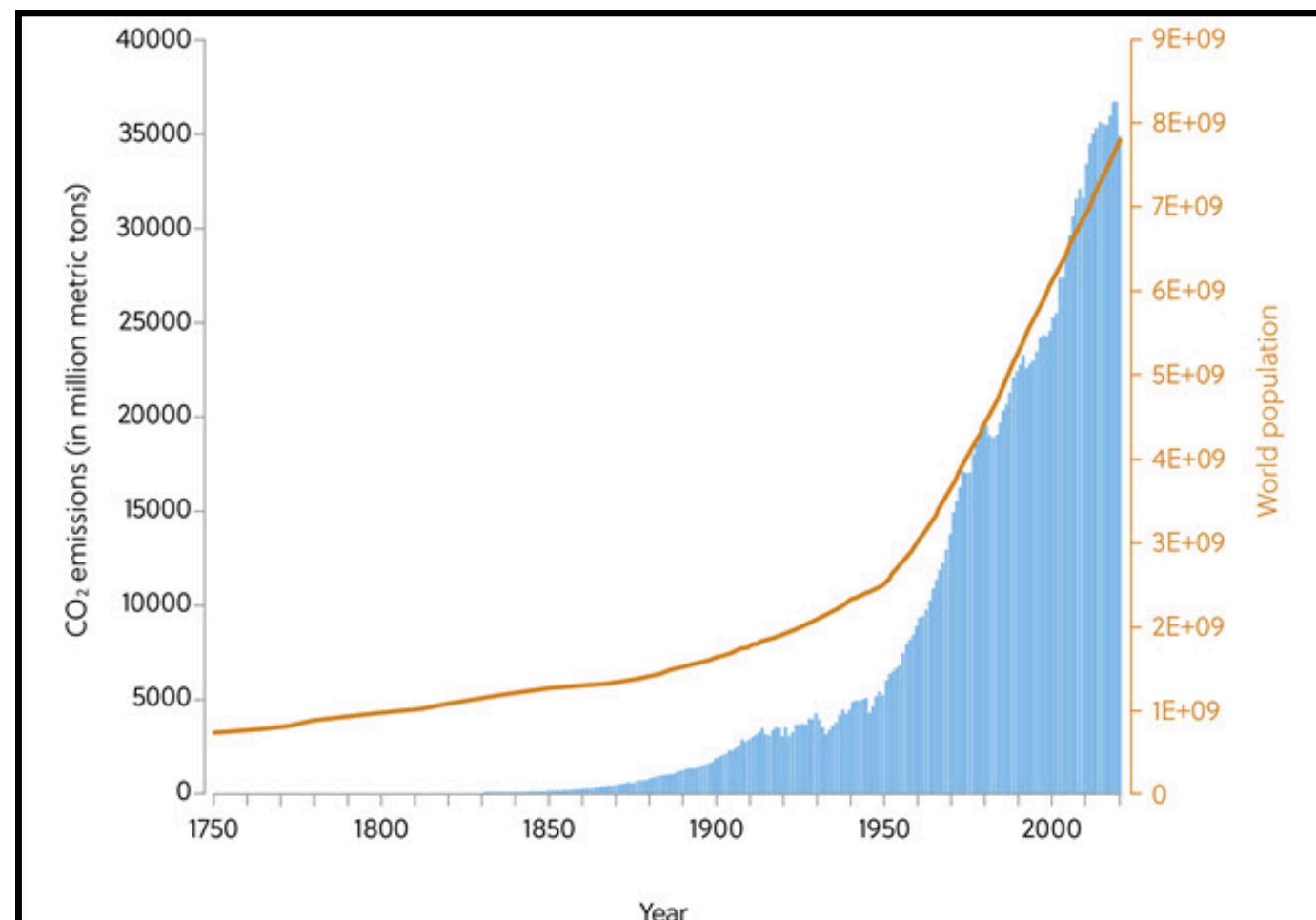
- Climate Change
- Climate Change in Brazil: Livestock and Degraded Pastures
- Brazilian alternatives: Integrated Crop-Livestock-Forest Systems and Agroforestry Systems
- Case Studies
 - Environmental Performance
 - Sustainability Assessment
 - Economic and Environmental Impacts
 - Dayri Small Farm

General Context: Increasing concerns about climate change

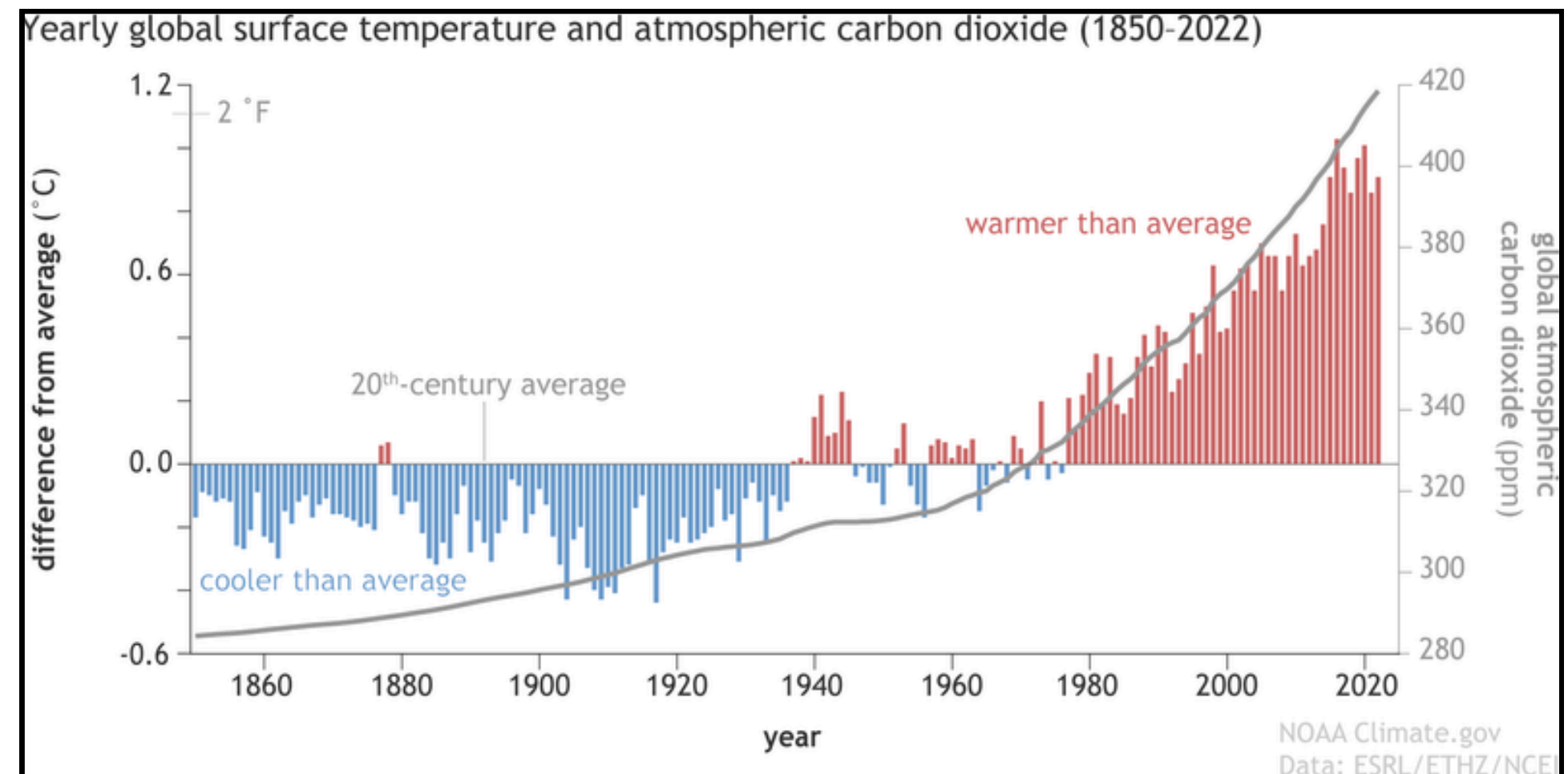
- Anthropocene:

- It is a new division in the geological time scale, which is defined by the immense changes in nature and in the functioning of Earth system by human activity.
- “*The human dominance of biological, chemical and geological processes on Earth is already and undeniable reality*”

(Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer)



Source: (Global Carbon Budget 2023)



General Context: Increasing concerns about climate change

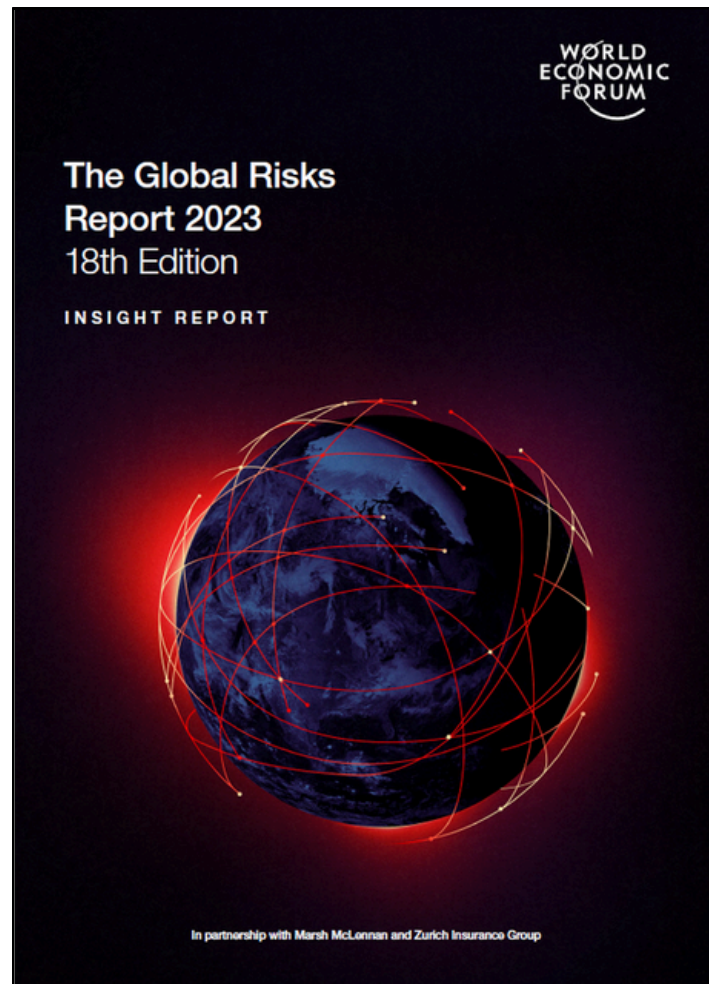


FIGURE A

Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period"

2 years

1	Cost-of-living crisis
2	Natural disasters and extreme weather events
3	Geoeconomic confrontation
4	Failure to mitigate climate change
5	Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization
6	Large-scale environmental damage incidents
7	Failure of climate change adaptation
8	Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity
9	Natural resource crises
10	Large-scale involuntary migration

10 years

1	Failure to mitigate climate change
2	Failure of climate-change adaptation
3	Natural disasters and extreme weather events
4	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
5	Large-scale involuntary migration
6	Natural resource crises
7	Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization
8	Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity
9	Geoeconomic confrontation
10	Large-scale environmental damage incidents

Risk categories | Economic | Environmental | Geopolitical | Societal | Technological

Source

World Economic Forum Global Risks
Perception Survey 2022-2023.

General Context: Biocapacity and Ecological Footprint

The Ecological Footprint

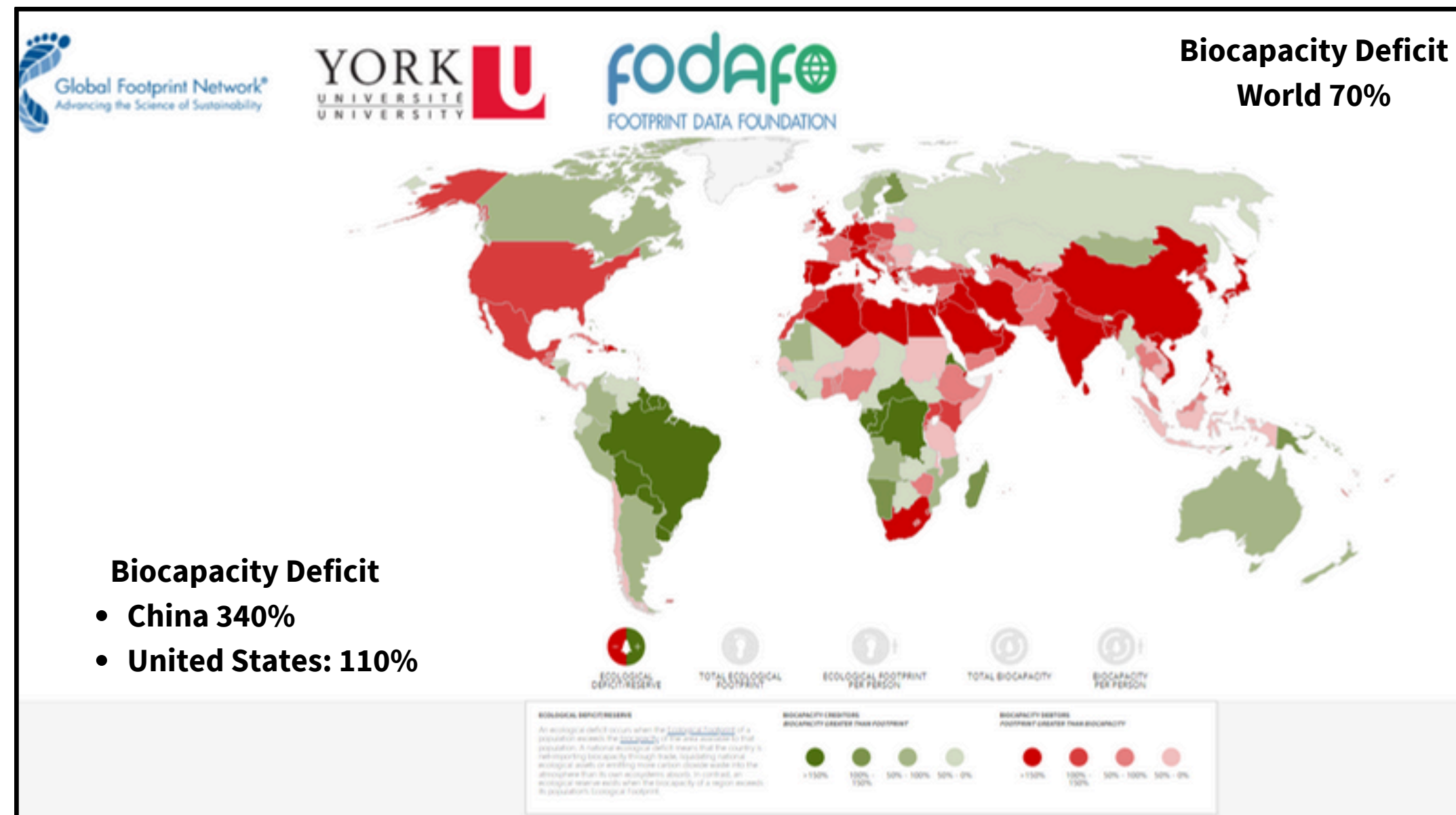
The Ecological Footprint measures how much demand human consumption places on the biosphere. It is measured in standard units called global hectares.

Biocapacity

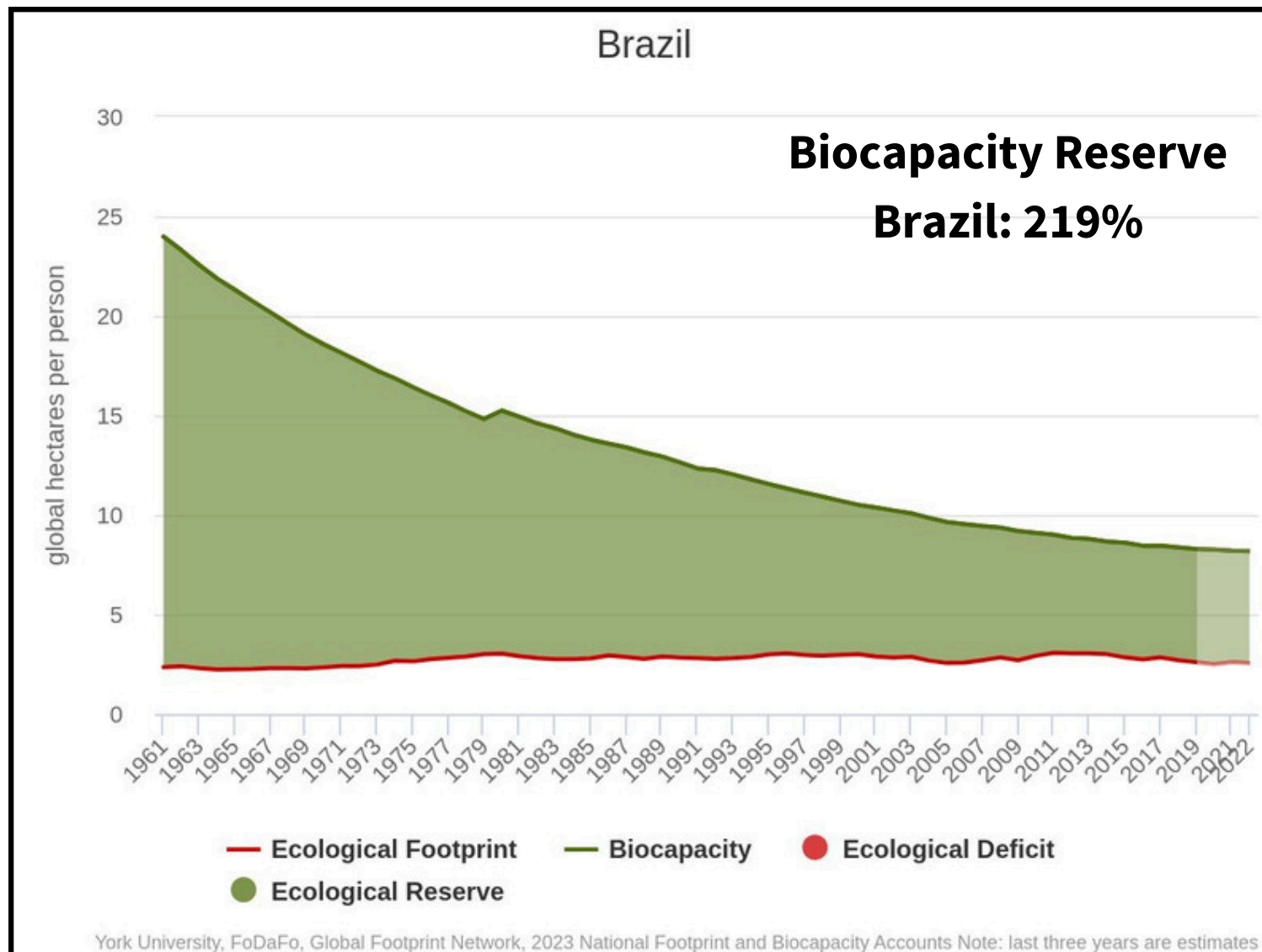
Biocapacity is the area of biologically productive land and ocean area to provide food, fiber, and timber, accommodate urban infrastructure, and absorb excess CO₂. Biocapacity reflects current management practices and is measured in standard units called global hectares.

The average biocapacity per person for the entire world:

1.6 global hectares

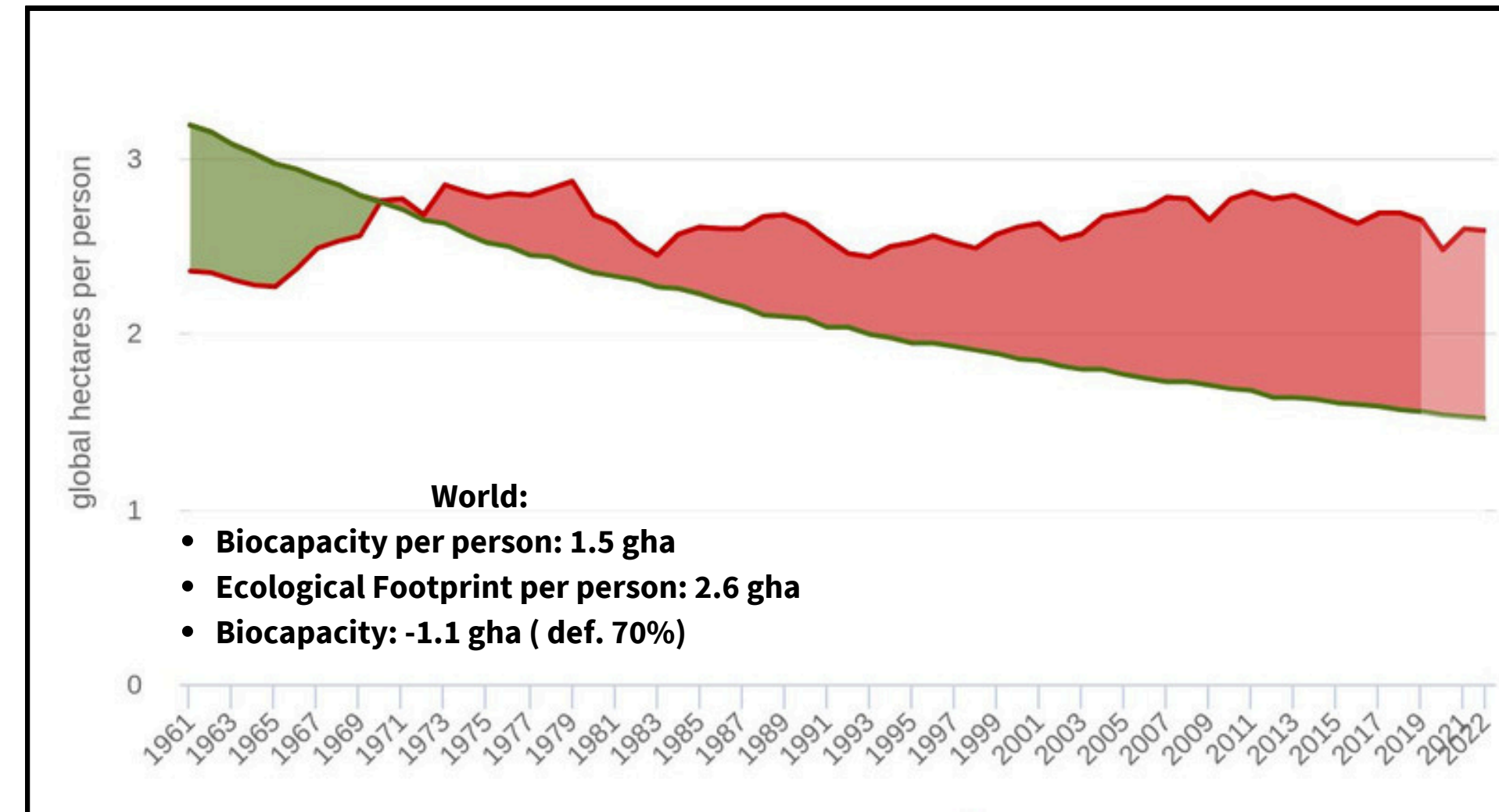


General Context: Biocapacity and Ecological Footprint

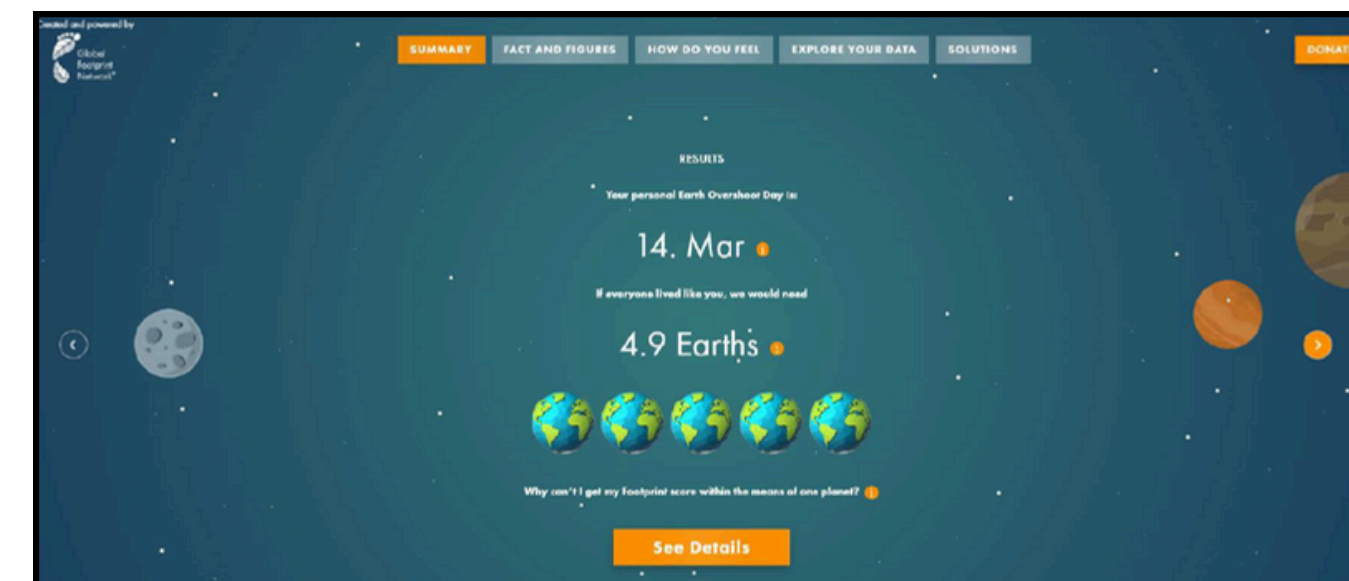


Brazil:

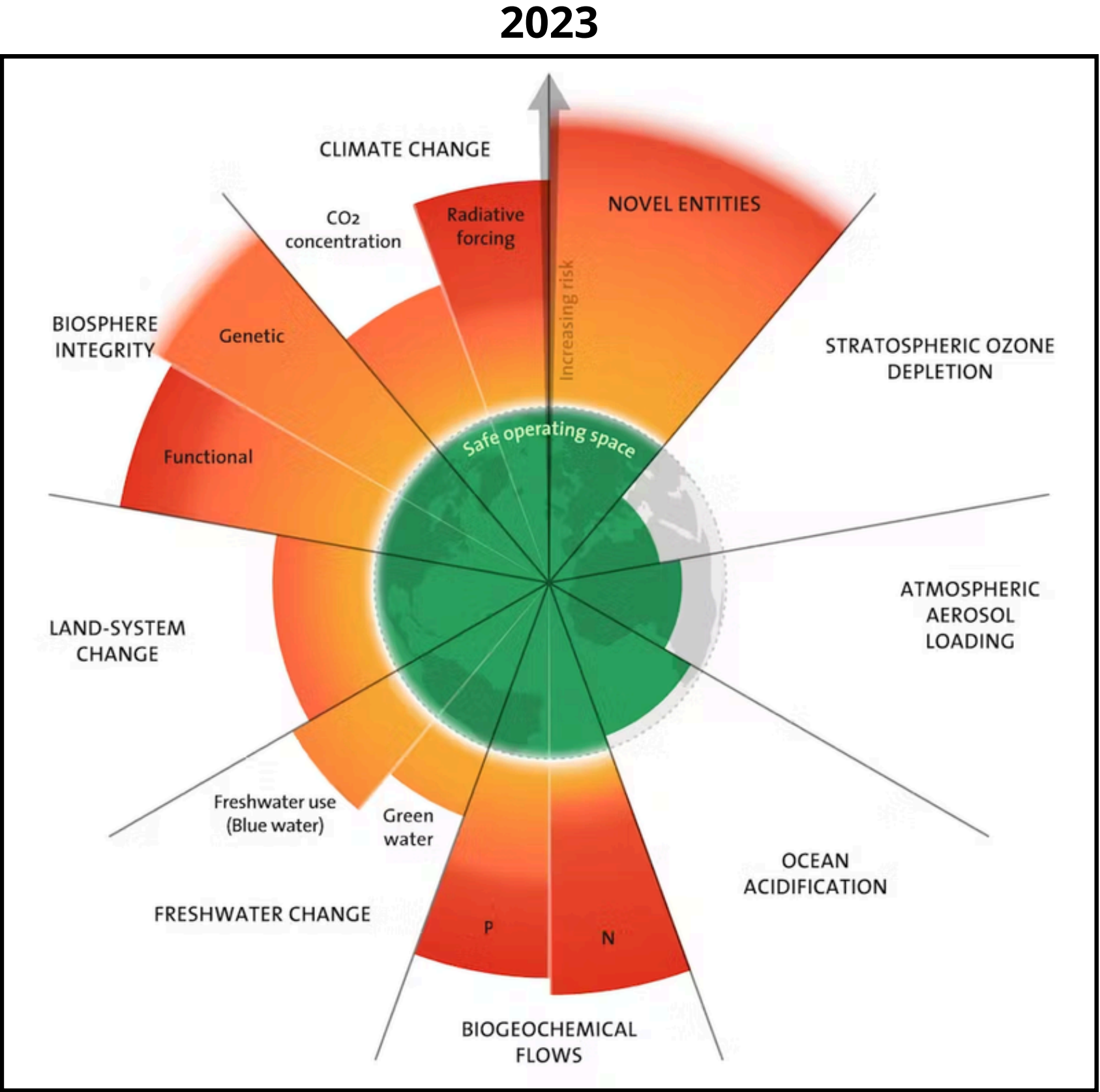
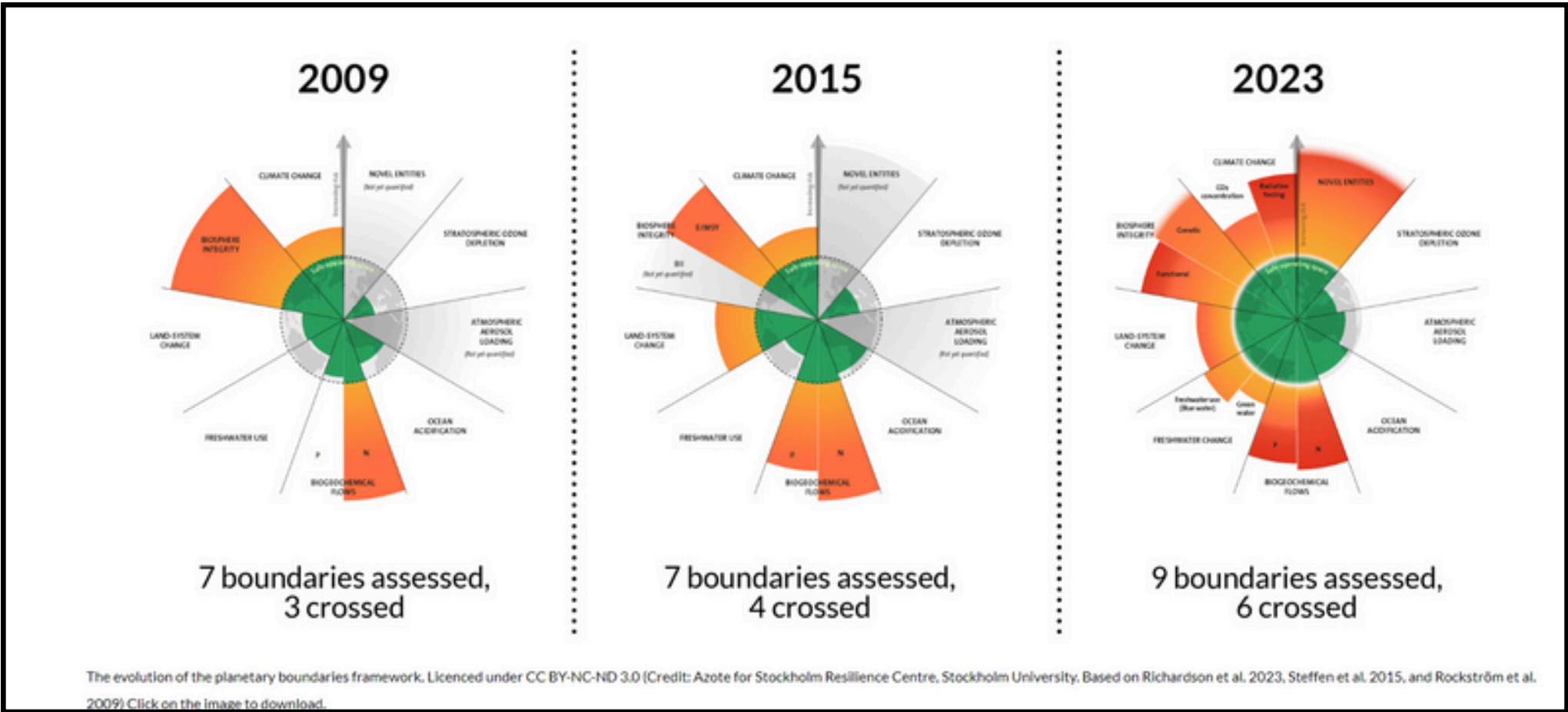
- **Biocapacity per person: 8.2 gha**
- **Ecological Footprint per person: 2.6 gha**
- **Biocapacity: 5.6 gha (Res. 315%)**



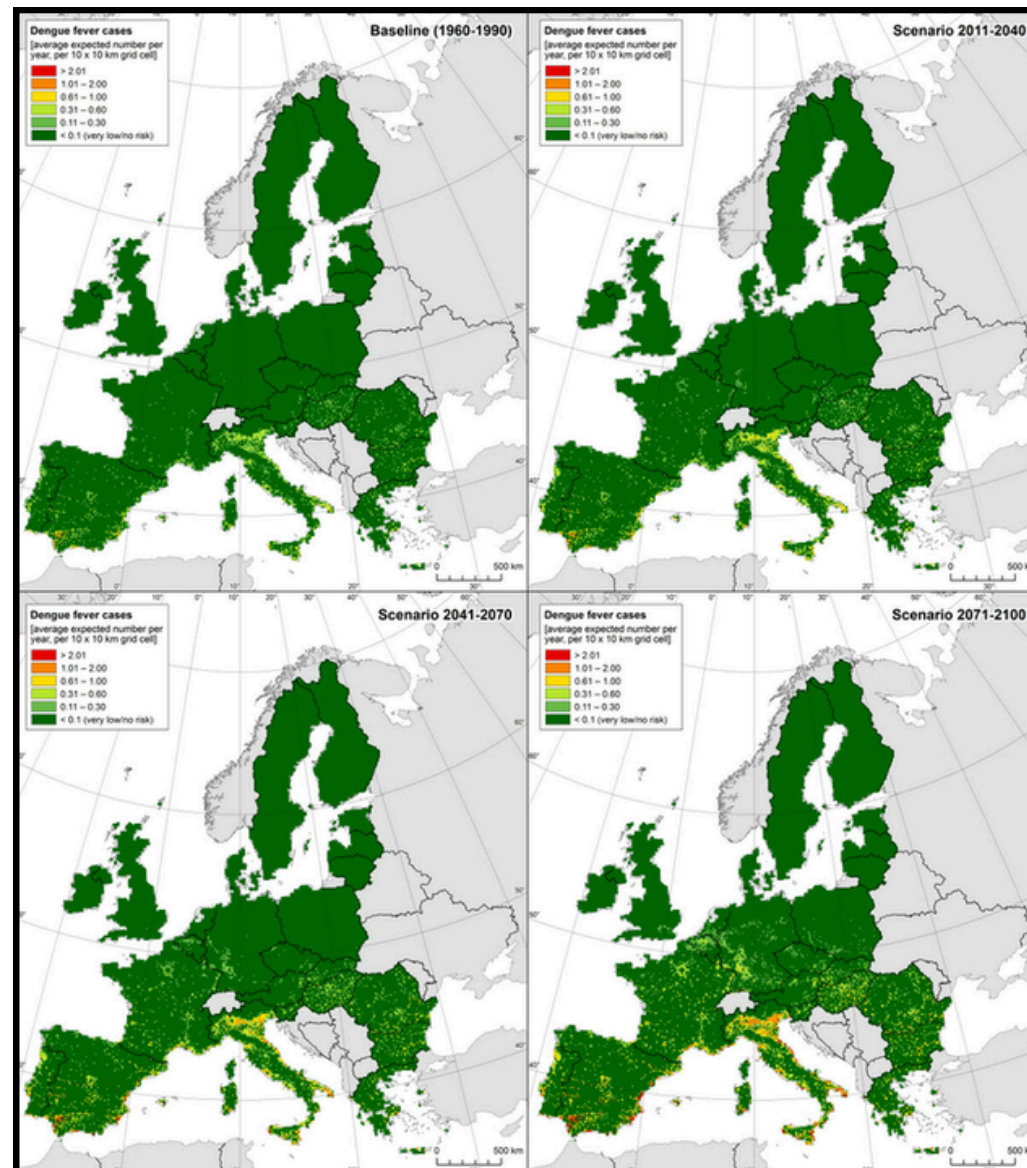
<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en>



General Context: Planetary Boundaries



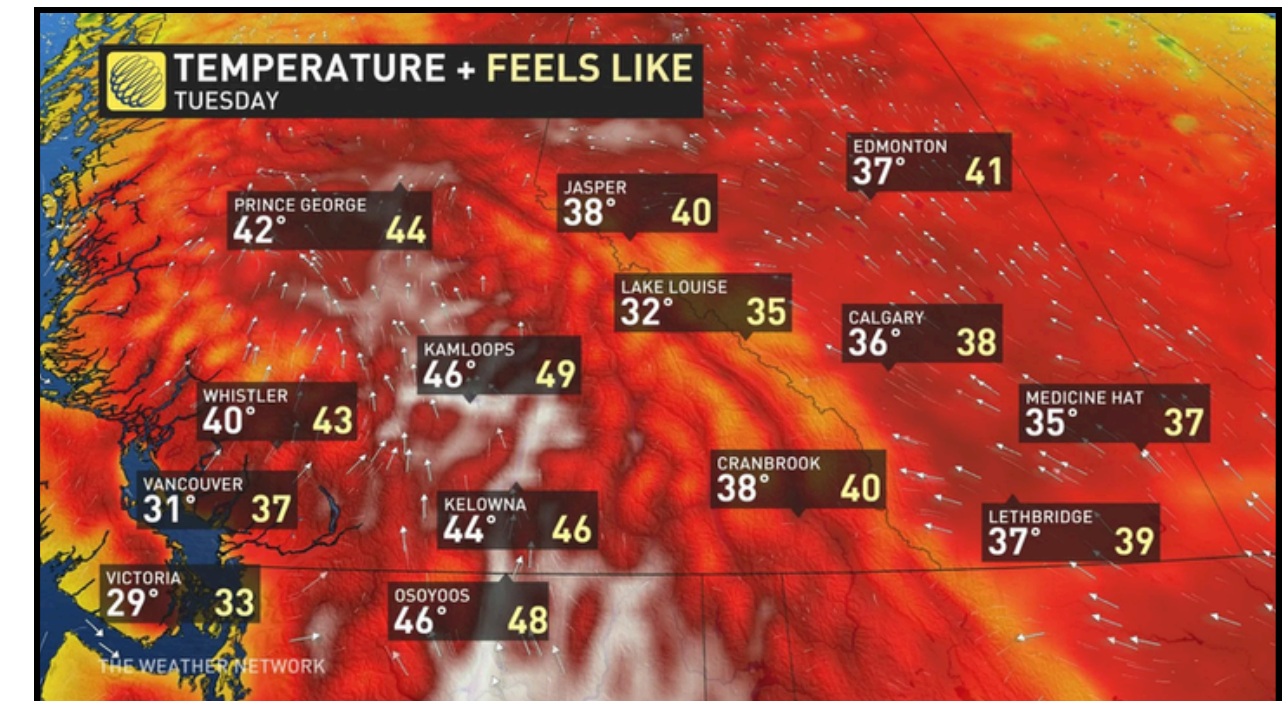
Increased intensity and frequency of extreme climatic events



Average expected number of **dengue cases** in Europe



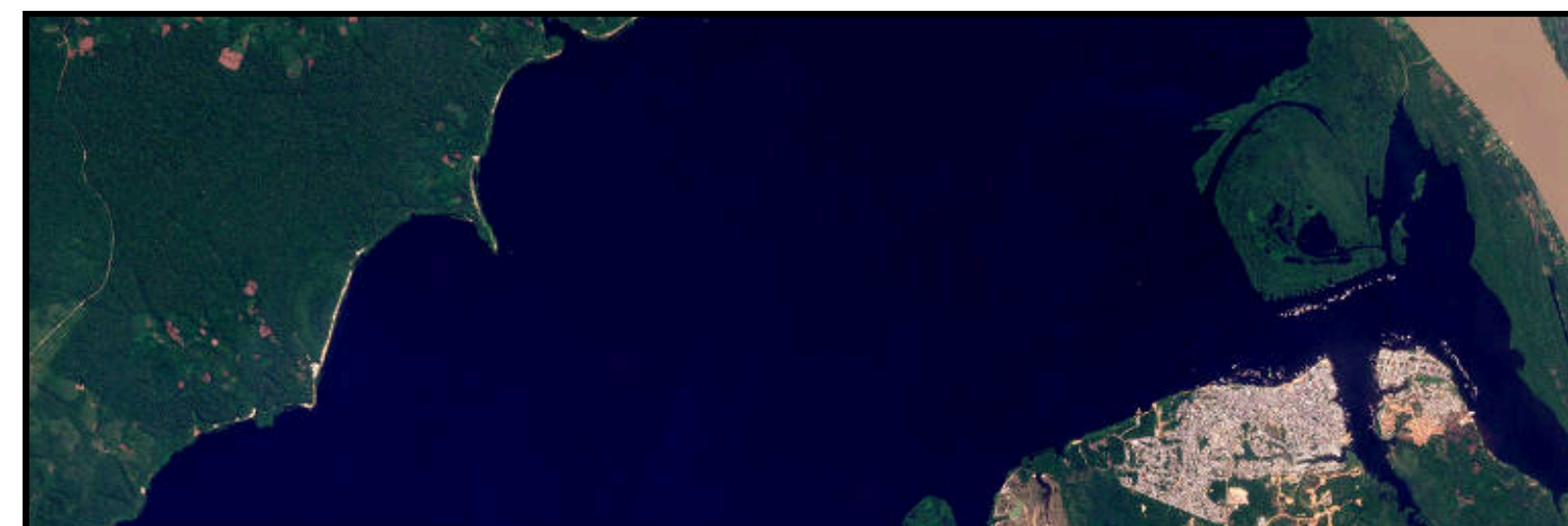
COP26: **We are sinking!**
Nov, 2021



A 'Heat-dome' event Western Canada, with parts of B.C.
Jun, 2021

Increased intensity and frequency of extreme climatic events

Rio Negro - Amazon Oct, 2023



Increased intensity and frequency of extreme climatic events

Pantanal Jun, 2020



Increased intensity and frequency of extreme climatic events

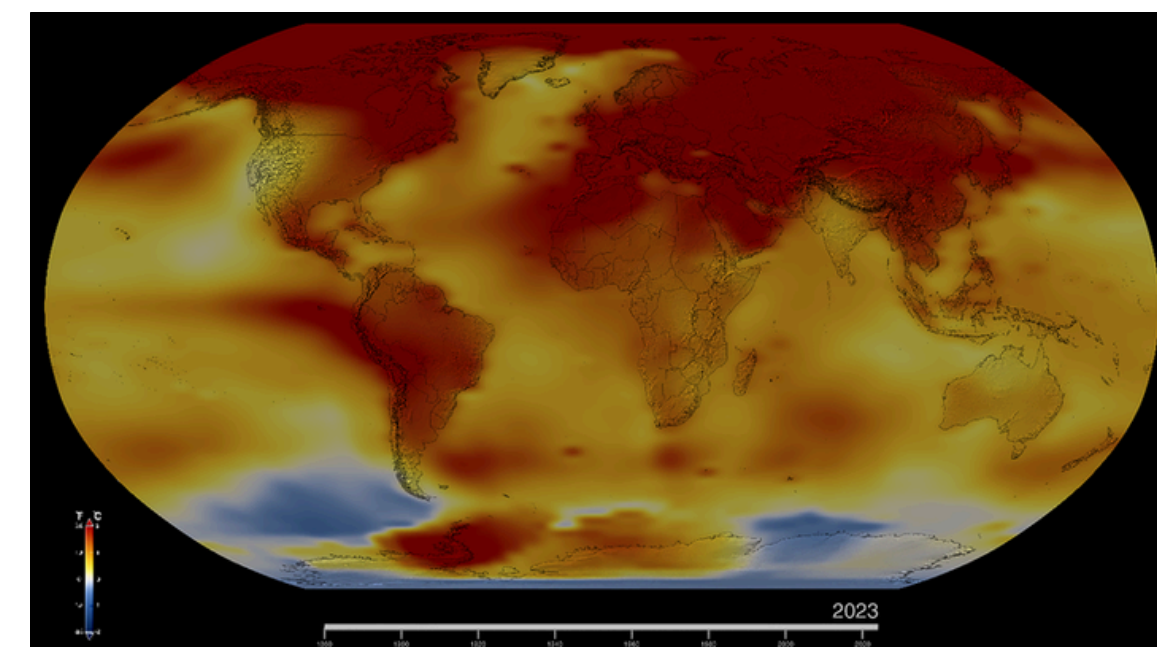
Flood - Rio Grande do Sul; **Apr, 2024**



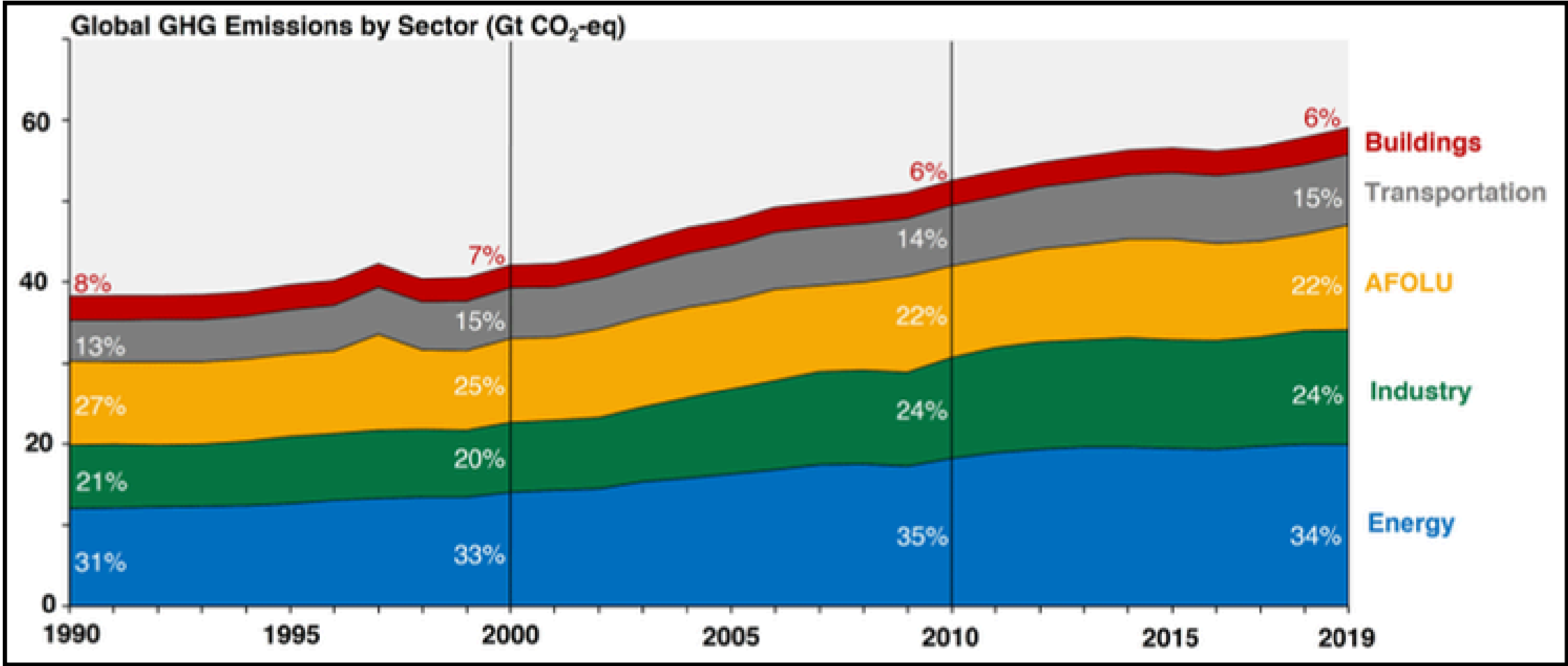
Record feels like Rio de Janeiro, **Mar, 2024**



NASA Analysis Confirms 2023 as Warmest Year on Record

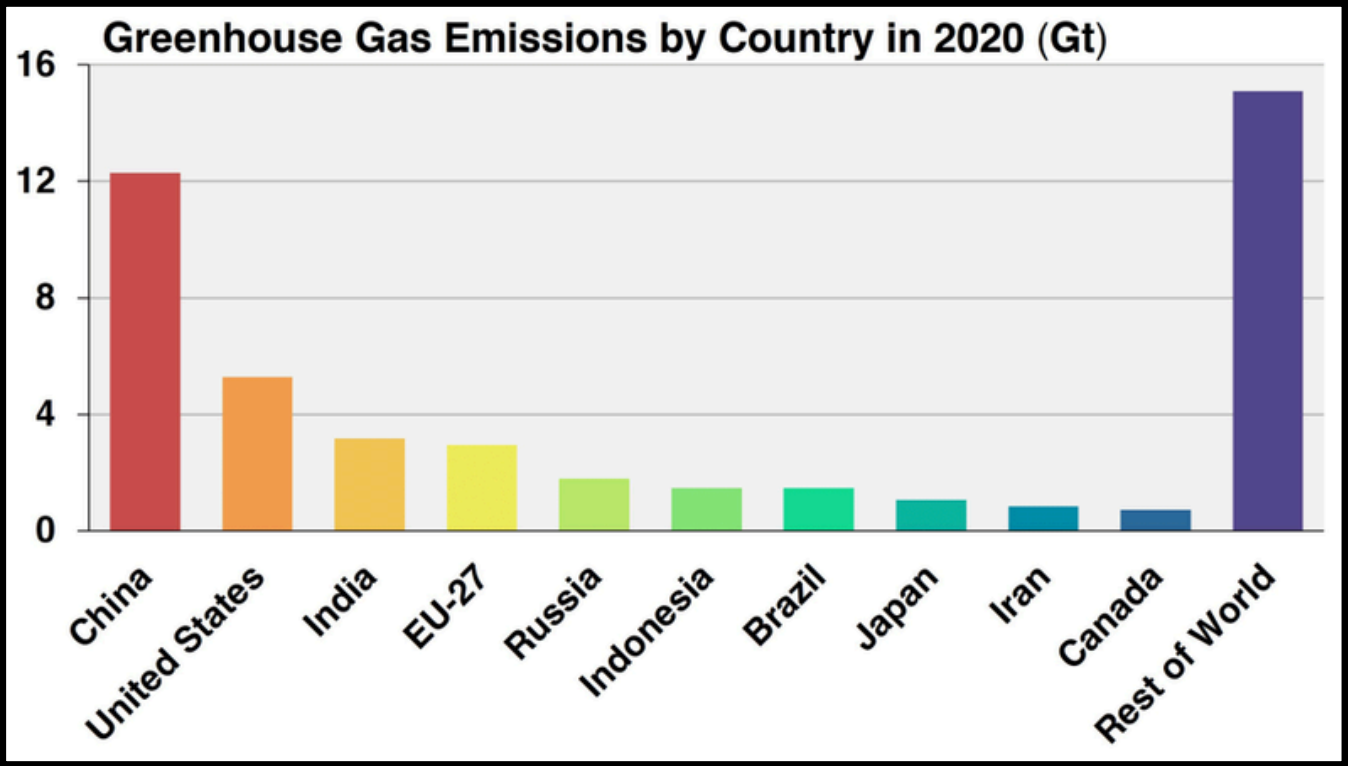


Global GHG Emissions by Economic Sector



Source: <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-greenhouse-gas-overview>

• AFOLU: Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses



Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>



- 1th largest emitter
- 26% of global emission
- Emissions per Capita (tCO₂e/person): 8.71



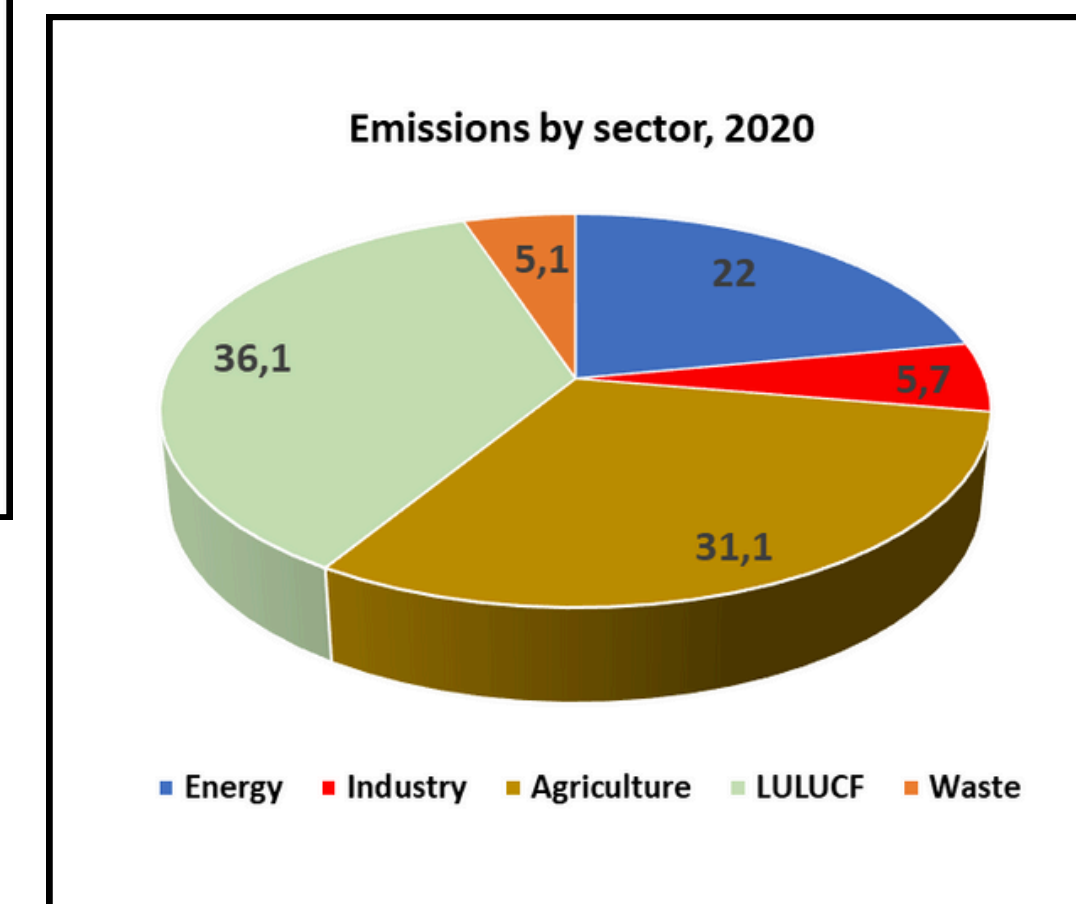
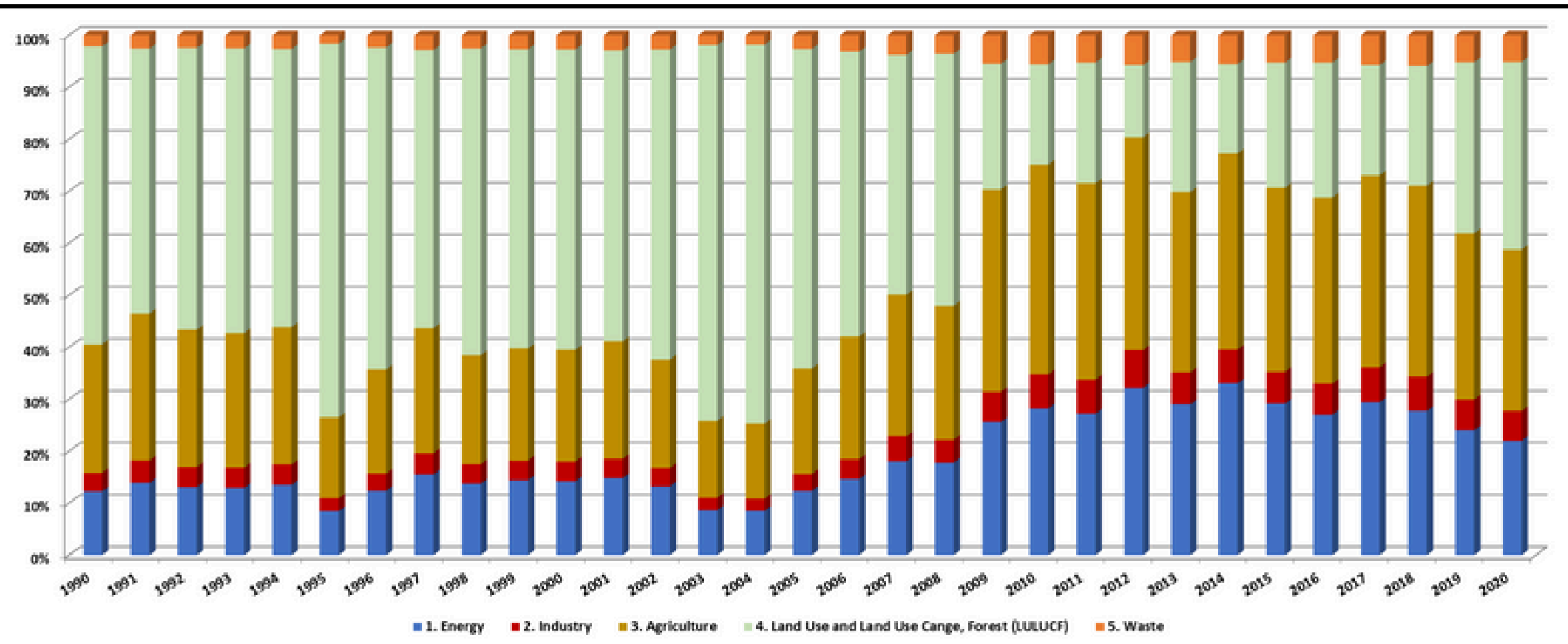
- 2° th largest emitter
- 11% of global emission
- Emissions per Capita (tCO₂e/person): 15.96



- 7 th largest emitter
- 3% of global emissions
- Emissions per Capita (tCO₂e/person): 6.91

Agriculture: Problem or Solution?

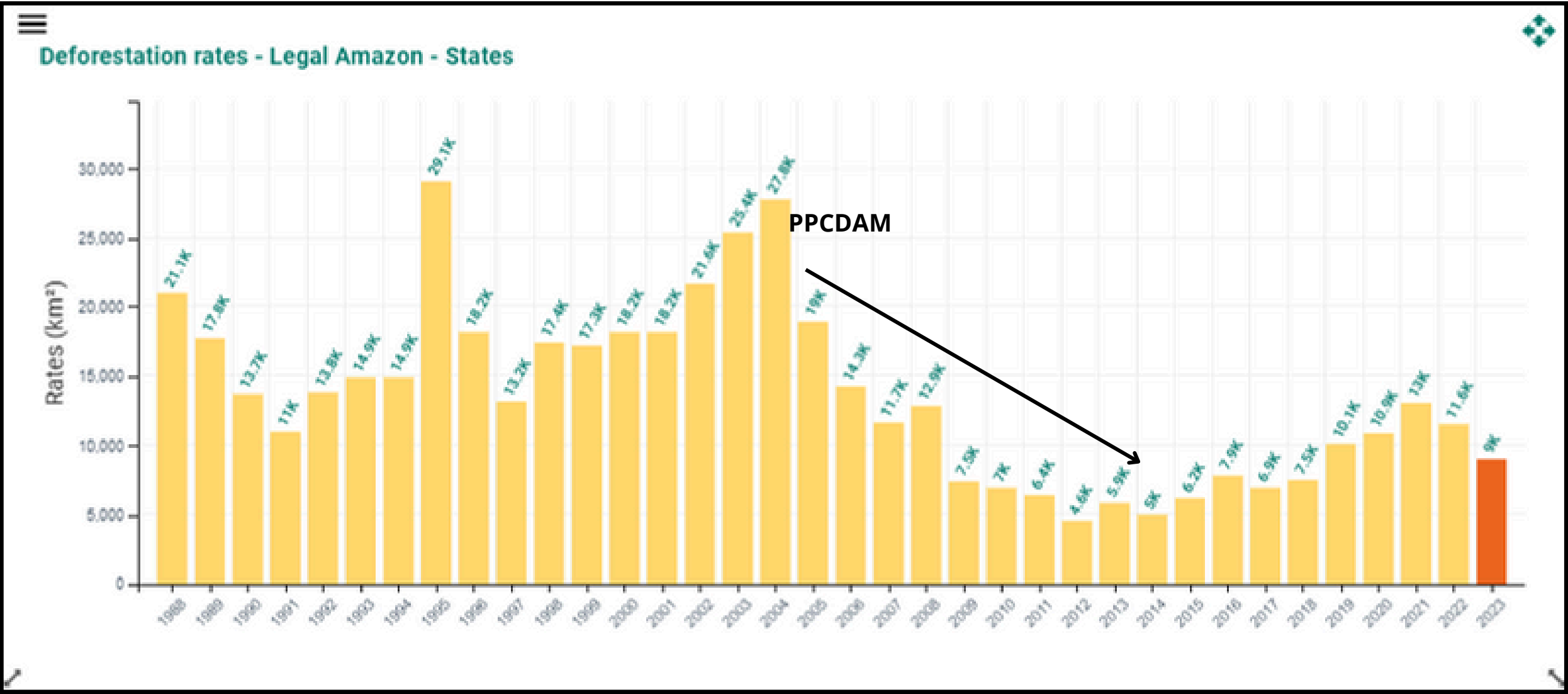
Brazil GHG Emissions by Economic Sector



• LULUCF: Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

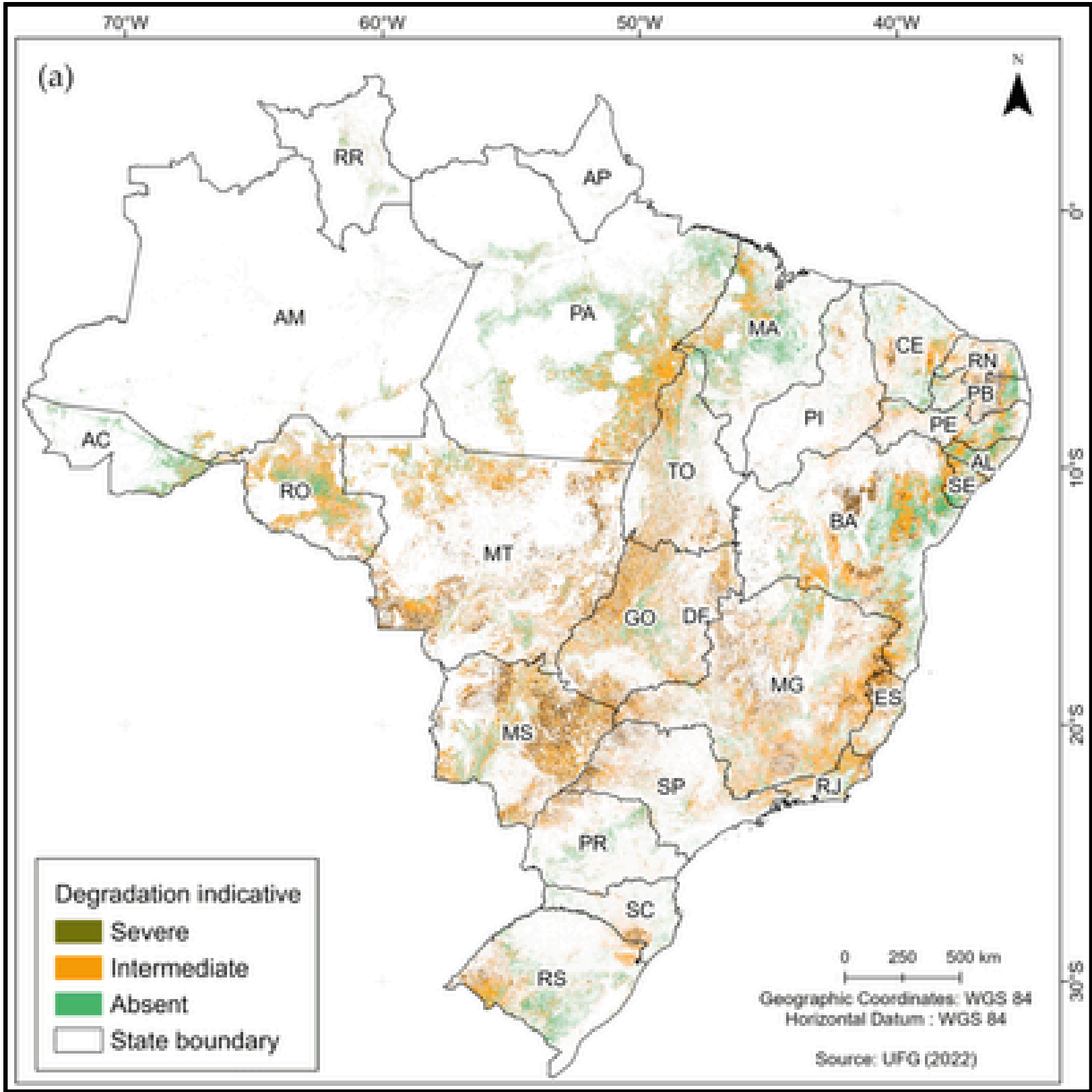
Agriculture: Problem or Solution?

Deforestation and Climate Change



Agriculture: Problem or Solution?

Degraded Pastures



Source: LAPIG: Atlas das Pastagens, 2023

Pasture area by level of degradation (million ha)

Farm size (ha)	Total (intermediate + severe)(1)	Pastures in poor condition
0 - 50	12.02 (16%)	2.00 (12%)
50 - 100	7.41 (10%)	1.23 (9%)
100 - 500	21.05 (28%)	3.00 (25%)
500 - 1000	10.14 (14%)	1.38 (12%)
> 1000	26.91 (36%)	25 (42%)
Total	77.53 (100%)	11.86 (100%)

Source: Teeb Agriculture and Food Brasil (2023) and Brazilian Agricultural Census (2017)

Agriculture: Problem or Solution?

Ecosystems Services

Provisioning Services

Products (material or energy) obtained from ecosystems:

- Food
- Fresh water
- Fuelwood
- Fiber
- Biochemicals
- Genetic resources

Regulating Services

Benefits obtained from regulation of ecosystem process:

- Climate regulation (local climate and air quality)
- Carbon sequestration
- Moderation of extreme events
- Disease regulation
- Water purification
- Pollination

Cultural Services

Nonmaterial benefits obtained from ecosystems:

- Spiritual and religious
- Recreation and ecotourism
- Aesthetic
- Inspirational
- Educational
- Cultural heritage

Supporting Services

Services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services

- Soil formation
- Nutrient cycling
- Primary production
- Habitats for species
- Maintenance of genetic diversity

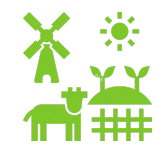
Brazilian Proposal: Sustainable Agricultural Systems



Main agricultural challenge: increase productivity + environmental conservation to meet population growth and the increasing food demand: 10 billion in 2050

- Brazilian main proposals: **Integrated Crop-Livestock-Forest Systems (ICLFs) and Agroforest Systems (SAFs)**
- Technologies in the Brazilian Low Carbon Agriculture Plan - ABC Plan (2012 and 2021)
- Target internationally assumed by the Brazilian Government:
 - 4 million ha until 2020 (already achieved - REDE ILPF survey: 11.5 million ha 2015/2016)
 - Paris Agreement (2016) increase of 5 million by 2030
- The current area, roughly 13 million ha, is about 3.2% of the agricultural area in Brazil

Integrated Crop - Livestock - Forest Systems



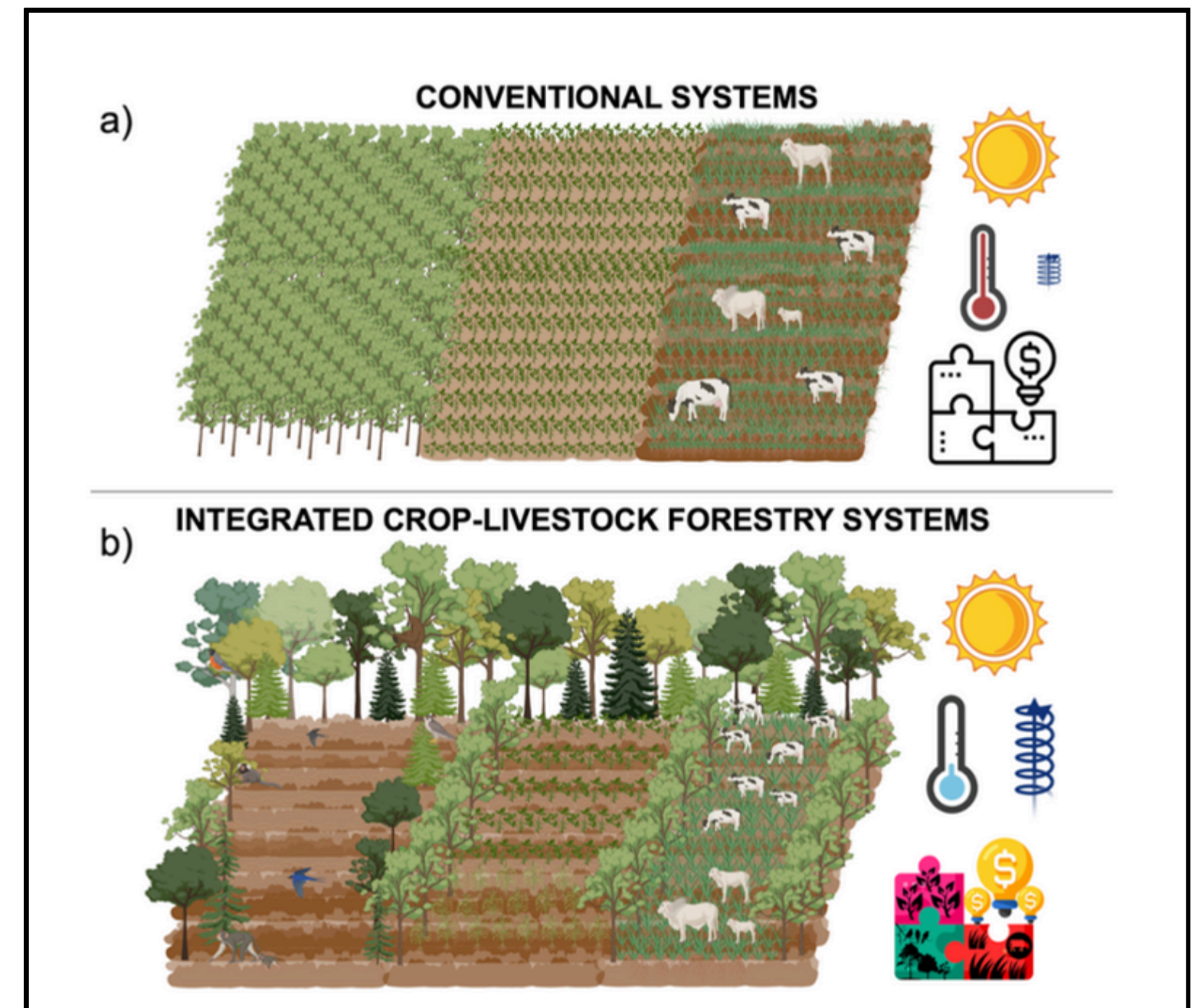
- **Brazilian technology** developed at the beginning of the 1990s to boost the sustainable intensification of agriculture and to increase the efficiency in productive resource use in agricultural systems in Cerrado and the Amazon regions, particularly environmental resources (Balbino et al., 2011; Kluthcouski et al., 2003; Macedo, 2009).
- The main objective of ICLF systems is to improve agricultural sustainability through the integration of various production activities in the same area by intercropping and rotations that aim to obtain synergies among agroecosystem components (Balbino et al., 2011; Nair, 1991; Wilkins, 2008).
- Sustainable agricultural strategies to reduce both direct emissions and emissions from deforestation by increasing land productivity and diversifying production.

Crop - Livestock - Forest Systems

ICLF systems

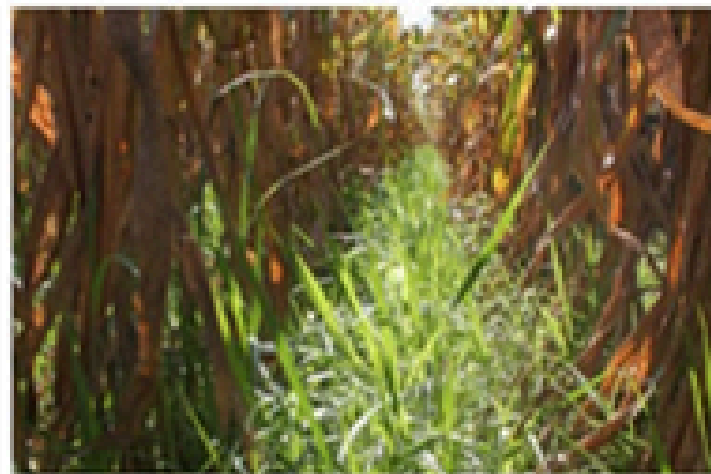
- Is a strategy to intensify resource uses: labor, land and capital, to increase productivity
- Diversifying production and reducing market risk
- Sparing land for conservation or other uses
- A key feature of integrated systems, mainly ICL, is that they can be used to recover degraded pastures by using residual fertility from the crop rotation to restore soil quality and finance further system improvements.
- Improvements in soil quality
- Water conservation
- Increase of animal performance
- Reduction in GHGs per unit of food produced

The conventional system **a** is characterized by large areas of monoculture production with intensive management of the land, whereas the integrated system **b** offers more diversity.

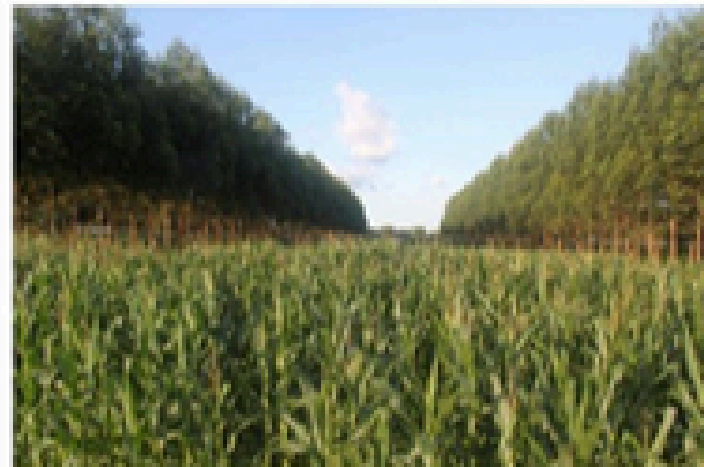


Crop - Livestock - Forest Systems

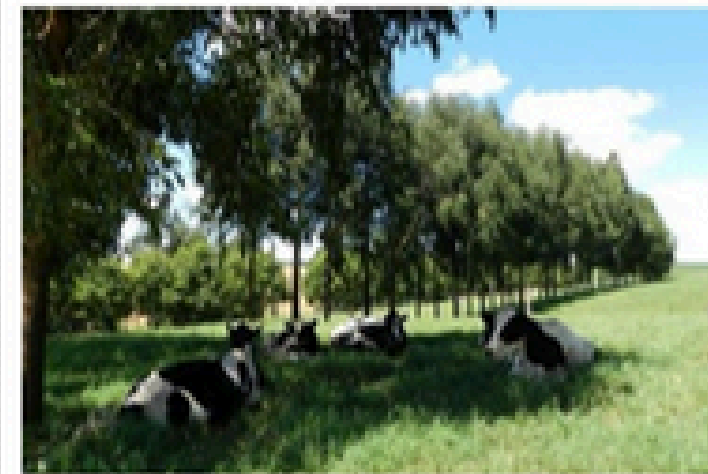
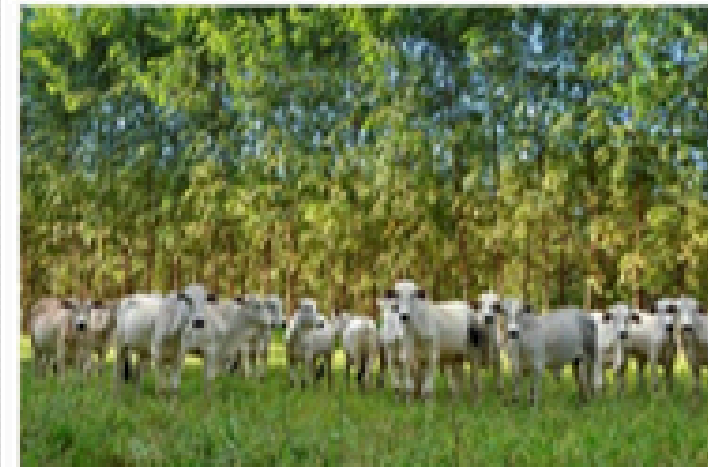
Integrated Crop - Livestock



Integrated Crop - Forest



Integrated Livestock - Forest



Integrated Crop - Livestock - Forest



Agroforestry Systems



Foto: Ronaldo Rosa
Embrapa Amazônia Oriental

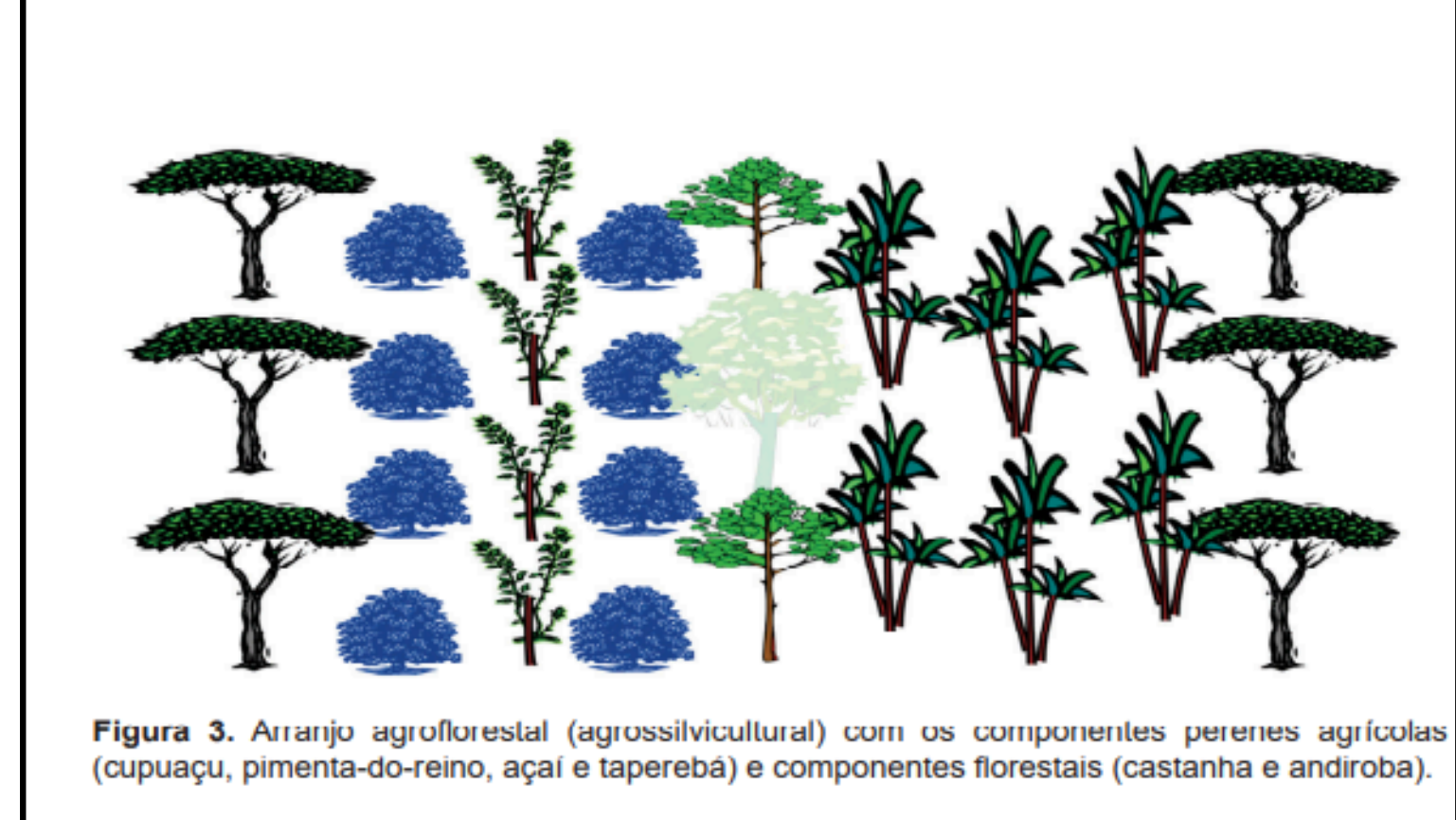
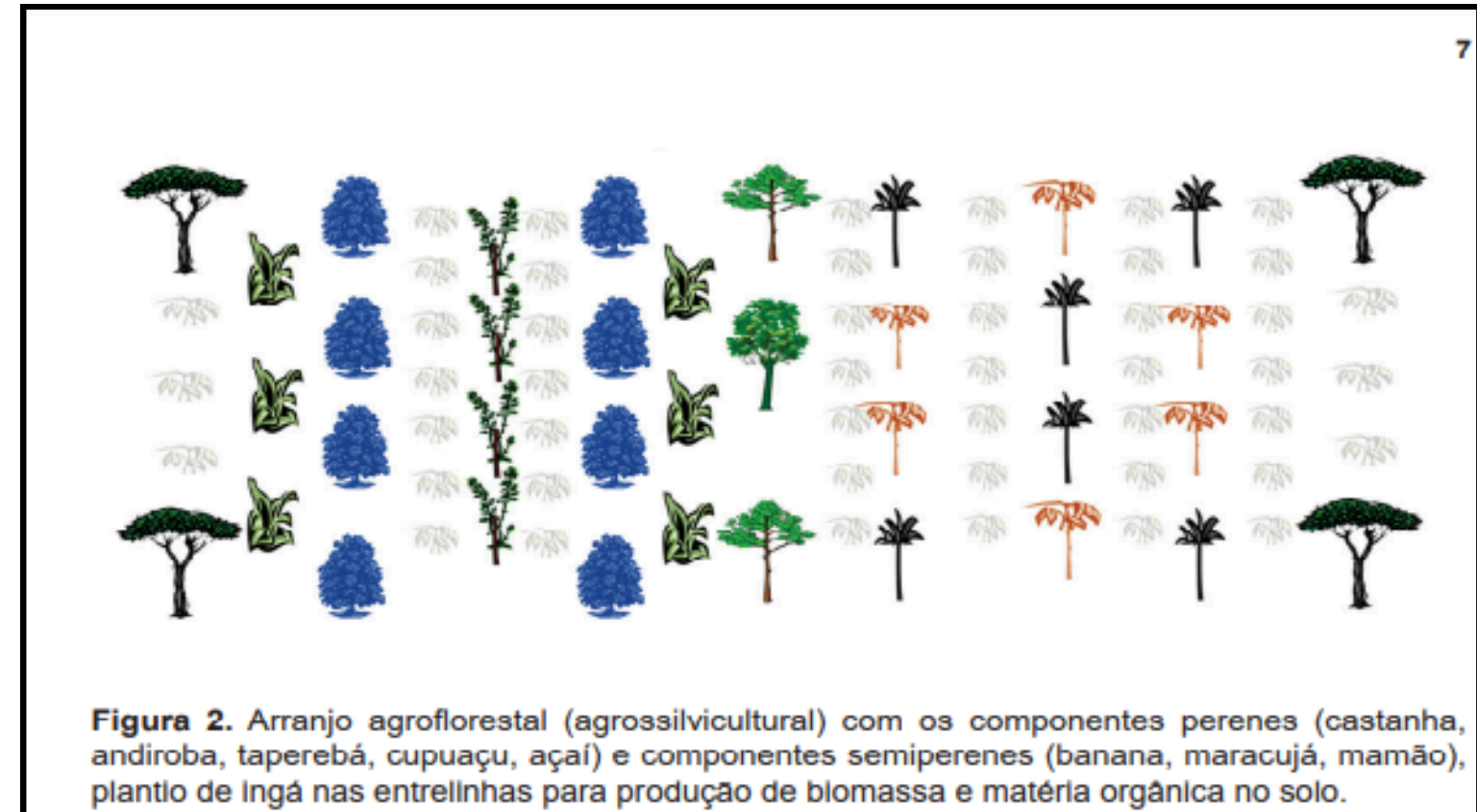
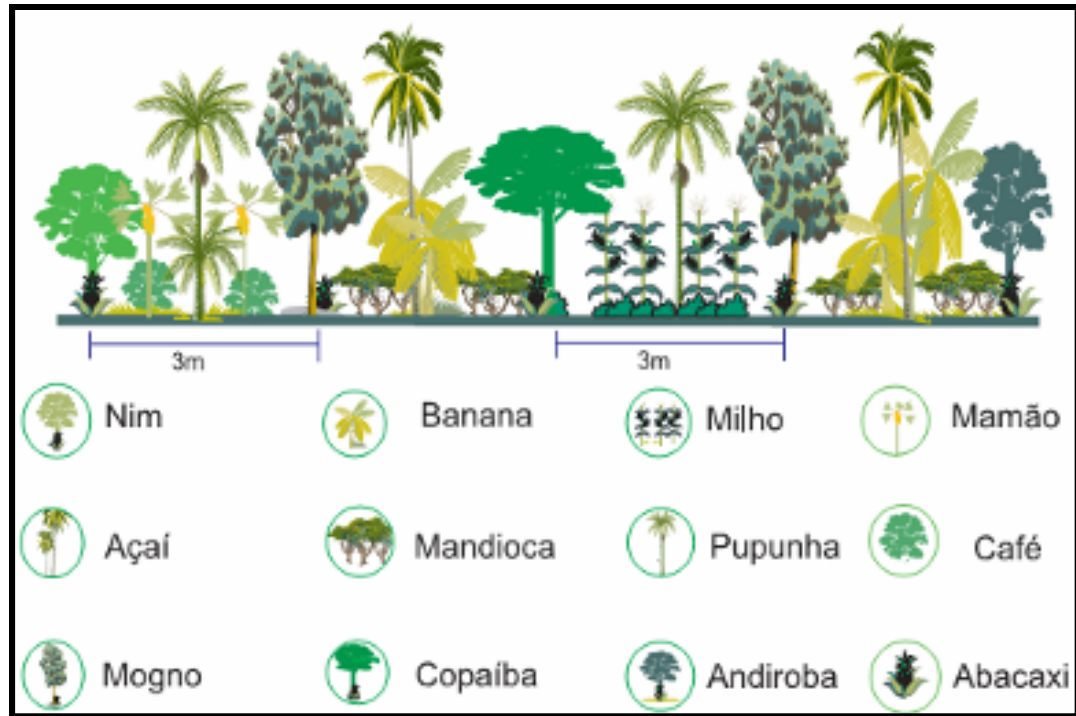


Foto: José Souza
Embrapa Cacaos

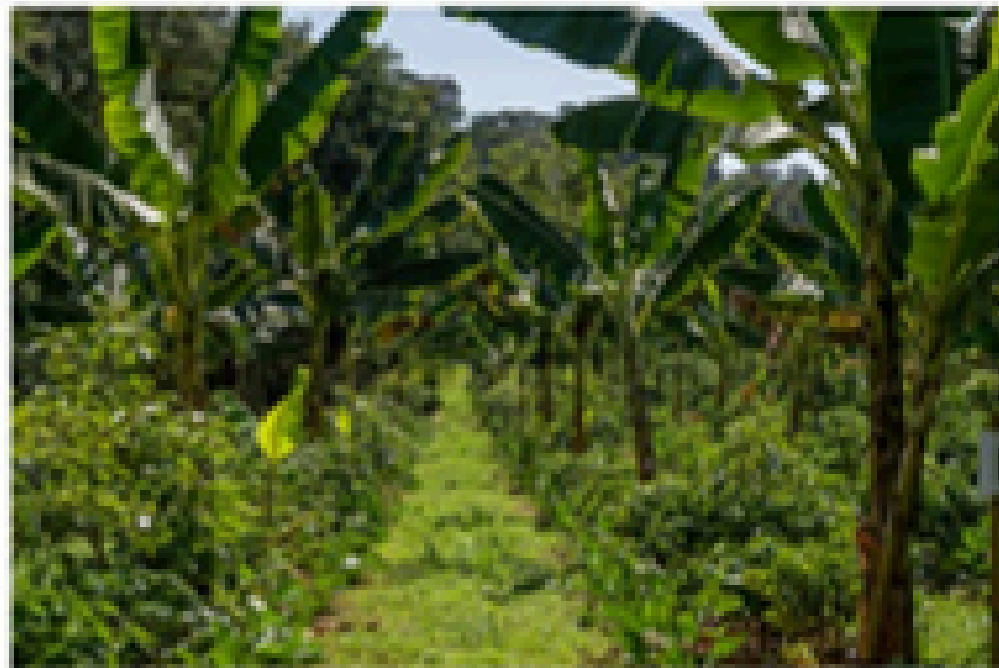


- It is a land use strategy that associates, in the same area at a given time, the cultivation of **perennial component**, such as tree or shrub species, fruit trees, timber trees, or green fertilizers, with semi-perennial component, such as banana, pineapple, cassava or some pasture species, planted at the beginning of the system implementation, and that it remains there for two to three years. Finally, the short-cycle component, such as crops, provides initial cash flow. In some situations, animal component, particularly small animals such as hens, pigs and goats, are raised to self-consume and to improve income diversification. The SAFs are suitable for small farming since they are labor-intensive (Nair, 1991).

Agroforestry Systems



Agroforestry Systems



Source: Embrapa Image Database

Case Study: Agricultural Environmental Performance in Mato Grosso, Brazil

Integrated Crop-Livestock System: a sustainable land use alternative for food production in the Brazilian Cerrado and Amazon

dos Reis JC, Rodrigues GS, de Barros I et al (2021) Integrated crop livestock systems: a sustainable land-use alternative for food production in the Brazilian Cerrado and Amazon. **Journal of Cleaner Production** 283:124580. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.124580>

Main objective: Evaluate and compare three different agricultural production systems in Mato Grosso considering the energy flow provided by renewable and non-renewable resources used in these systems.

Emergy Analysis

Method:

- Emergy synthesis (Odum, 1996)
 - Identify the inputs used
 - Emergy Flow Diagrams
 - Determine the respective UEVs
 - Elaborate the emergy tables

- Emergy is defined as the available energy (exergy) of one kind, usually the equivalent solar energy (expressed in solar emjoules - sej), required directly or indirectly to make a product or service (Odum, 1996)
- A significant advantage of emergy synthesis is to evaluate contributions from nature and people in common units. Moreover, since the economic subsystem pays only people for their services and not the environment for its work, the traditional economic evaluation provides incomplete results about the potential of activities to generate real wealth (Brown and Ulgiati, 2004; Odum, 1996)
- The baseline used was $12.1 \text{ E} + 24 \text{ sej.year}$ (Brown et al., 2016)

Case Study: Agricultural Environmental Performance in Mato Grosso, Brazil

EMERGY ANALYSIS - SYSTEMS DESCRIPTION












	ICL Farm		Typical Crop System		Typical Livestock System
	Area: 2,678 ha		Area: 1,200 ha		Area: 2,200 ha
	Crop (Soybean) Productivity: 70.1 sc ha ⁻¹ (4,206 kg ha ⁻¹)		Crop (Soybean) Productivity: 60.0 sc ha ⁻¹ (3,600 kg ha ⁻¹)		Livestock Productivity: 5.33 @ ha ⁻¹ (159,95 kg ha ⁻¹)
	Livestock Productivity: 9.35 @ ha ⁻¹ (280,71 kg ha ⁻¹)		Crop (Corn) Productivity: 112 sc ha ⁻¹ (6720 kg ha ⁻¹)		



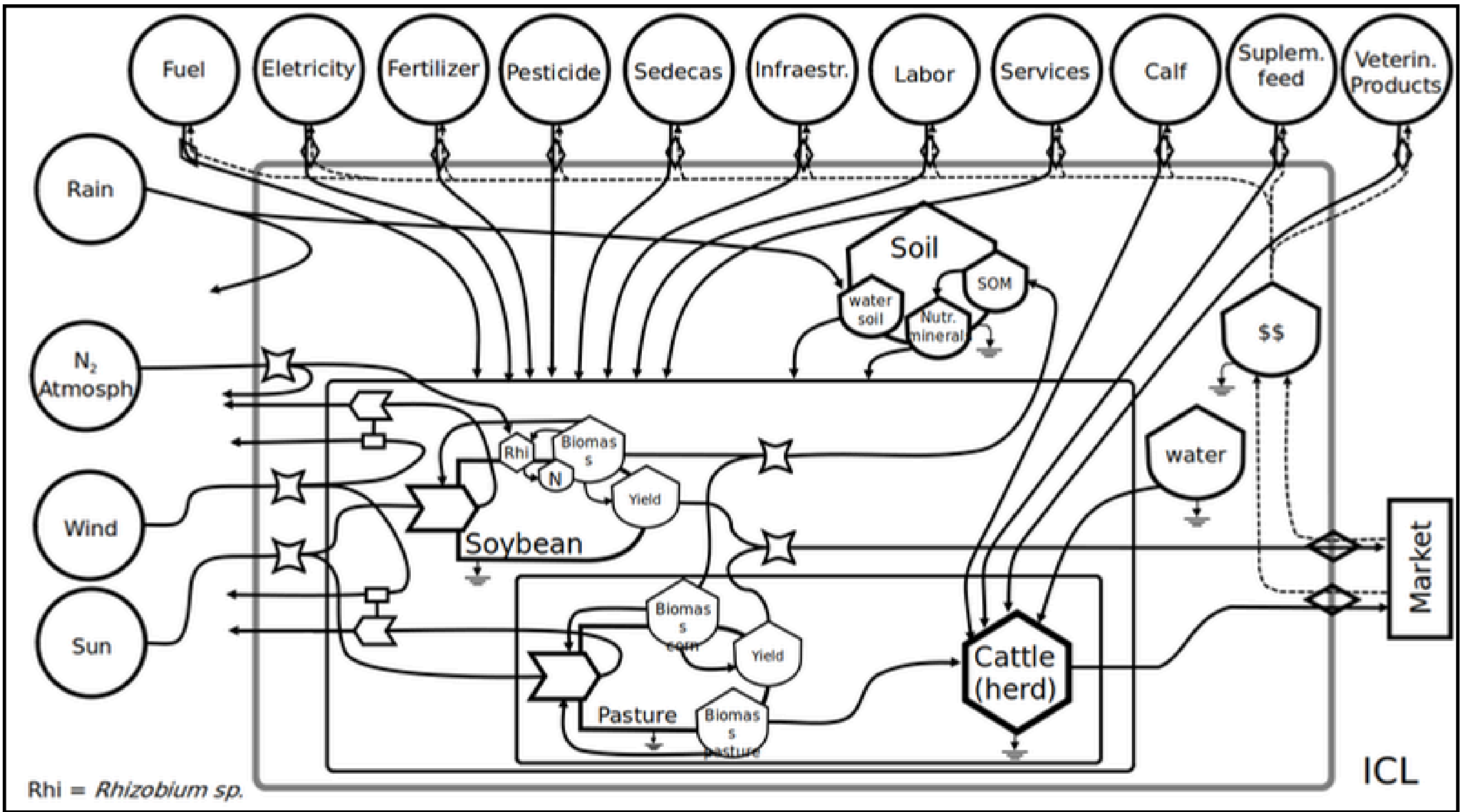
Photo: Gabriel Faria
Journalist - Embrapa Agrossilvipastoril

Case Study: Agricultural Environmental Performance in Mato Grosso, Brazil

Emergy Analysis



Photo: Gabriel Faria
Journalist - Embrapa Agrossilvipastoril



ENERGY INDICATORS

Index	Formulas	ICL	Crop	Livestock
% Renewable	$R/(R+N+F)$	0.31	0.25	0.66
Environmental Loading Rate	$(F+N)/R$	2.21	2.97	0.52
Energy Sustainability Index	EYR/ELR	0.67	0.46	5.62
EmF (factor m)	-	3.21	3.97	1.52
Carbon-emergy output intensity (CemI)	tonCO2eq/Y (J)	-2.71 E-11	3.70 E-11	7.98 E-09

ECONOMIC RESULTS

Index	ICL	Crop	Livestock
Net Revenue (A)	USD 812.70	USD 1456.83	USD 186.08
Total Cost (B)	USD 503.19	USD 997.77	USD 165.93
Gross Profit (A-B)	USD 309.51	USD 459.06	USD 20.15
Net Profit	USD 235.69	USD 295.00	USD -0.58

Net Profit = Gross Profit - (Administrative and Financial expenses)

R\$/USD (2018): 3.65
Source: IPEADATA

Main Results



The carbon-energy indicator highlighted the integrated system performance in increasing food production and, simultaneously, reducing CO_{2-eq} emissions



The crop system is highly profitable, but its high private economic performance relies on an intensive use of external inputs. Hence, continuous cropping imposes high stress on the environment, making it unsustainable in the long-run



The extensive livestock system is shown to be unsustainable in even more dimensions - low productivity, low profits, and high GHG emissions



The integrated system displayed more balanced economic and environmental performances achieving high profitability, while dramatically reducing environmental impacts

Sustainability Assessment

Fuzzy logic indicators for the assessment of farming sustainability strategies in a tropical agricultural frontier

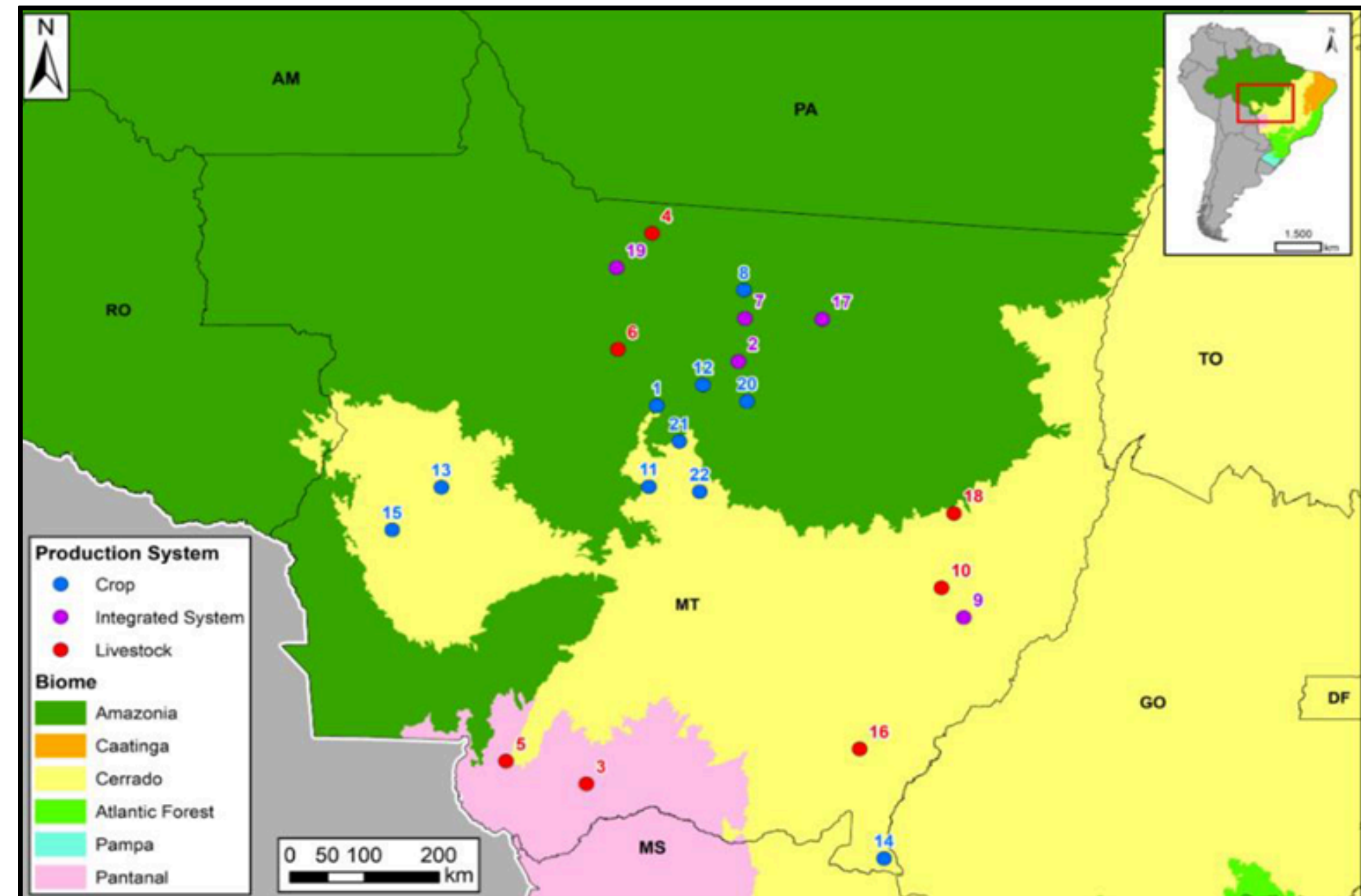
dos Reis, J.C., Rodrigues, G.S., de Barros, I. et al. Fuzzy logic indicators for the assessment of farming sustainability strategies in a tropical agricultural frontier. **Agronomy for Sustainable Development** 43, 8 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13593-022-00858-5>

Main objective: To develop a model for evaluating the sustainability of agricultural production systems based on the construction of economic, environmental and social indicators using fuzzy logic and to apply it to different farms located in the state of Mato Grosso.

Method:

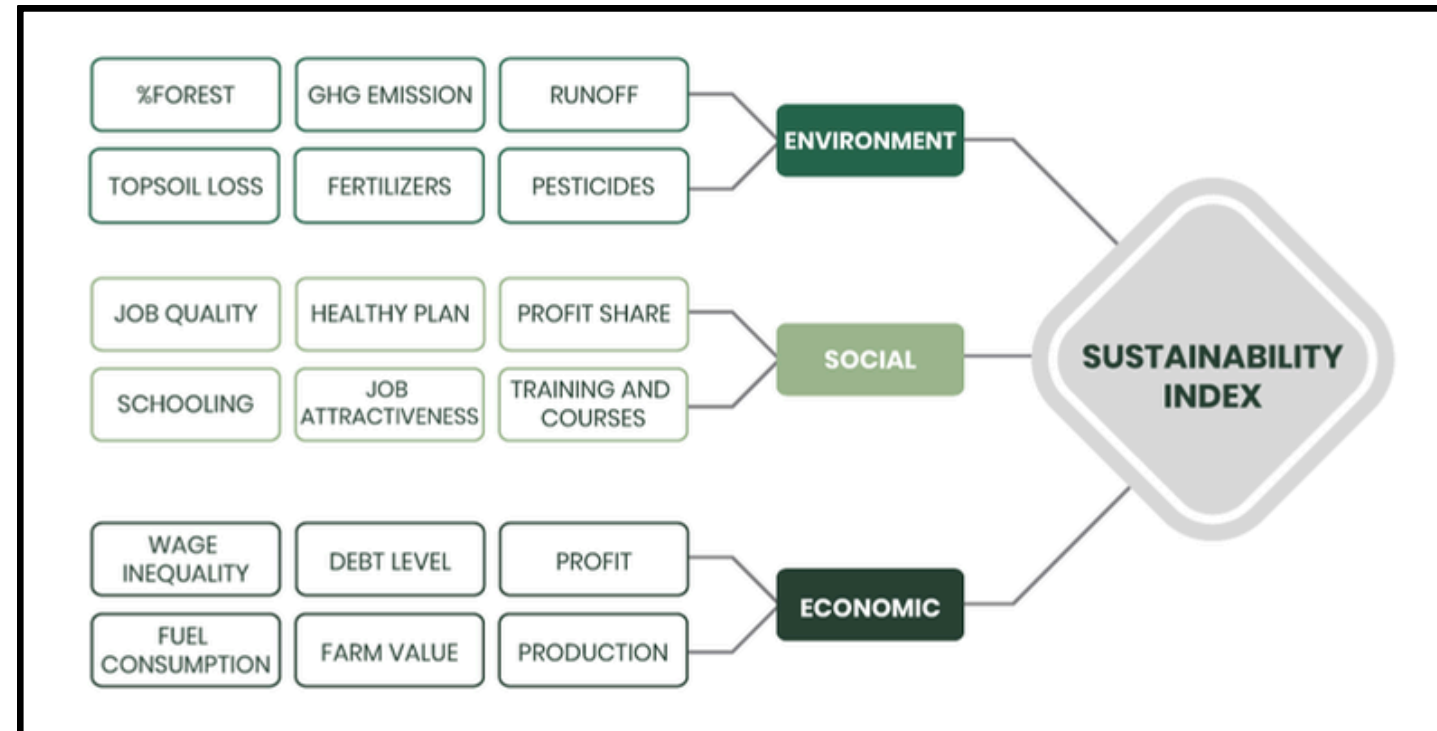
- Fuzzy Set Approach
 - Definition of input variables
 - Construction of partial indicators (EES)
 - Construction of sustainability indicators (SI)

Farms Location



Sustainability Assessment

Fuzzy Inference System



Partial Indicators contribution to SI

Variable	Dimension	Expected effect	Variable	Dimension	Expected effect	Variable	Dimension	Expected effect
Profit (P)	Economic	$If (P) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	Schooling (S)	Social	$If (S) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	Topsoil loss (TL)	Environment	$If (TL) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$
Debt level (DL)	Economic	$If (DL) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$	Job Attractiveness (JA)	Social	$If (JA) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	Fertilizers (Fe)	Environment	$If (Fe) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$
Wage Inequality (WI)	Economic	$If (WI) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$	Training and Courses (TC)	Social	$If (TC) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	Pesticides (Pe)	Environment	$If (Pe) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$
Production (Pr)	Economic	$If (Pr) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	Job Quality (JC)	Social	$If (JC) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	% Forest cover (Fo)	Environment	$If (Fo) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$
Farm Value (FV)	Economic	$If (FV) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	Health Plan (HP)	Social	$If (HP) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	GHG emission (GHG)	Environment	$If (GHG) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$
Fuel Consumption (Fu)	Economic	$If (Fu) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$	Profit Share (PS)	Social	$If (PS) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \uparrow$	Runoff (R)	Environment	$If (R) \uparrow \Rightarrow (SI) \downarrow$

Table 2. Property performance in the three Dimensions of Sustainability, Sustainability Index (SI), and categorization according to the SI.

Farm	System of production	Economic	Social	Environmental	Sustainability Index	Group	Subgroup
19	ILF ⁽¹⁾	70,33	70,28	79,59	91,87	High-performance farms(A)	A
17	ICL ⁽²⁾	70,48	70,08	70,33	91,78		
2		97,16	39,70	70,18	67,98		
22	Grain crop	76,50	70,08	39,70	67,97	Average-performance farms(B)	B 1
7	ICL ⁽²⁾	85,51	17,81	70,60	21,81		
21	Grain crop	70,23	39,70	39,70	42,94		
14		70,43	39,70	39,70	42,94		
13		43,97	70,41	39,70	42,94		
12		56,42	18,07	39,70	21,91		
1		31,27	39,70	39,70	33,31		B 2
8		17,23	39,70	39,70	21,56		
20		39,70	39,70	39,70	42,94		
9	ICL ⁽²⁾	70,50	23,60	39,70	23,25		
16	Livestock	17,39	39,70	17,83	21,65	Low-performance farms(C)	C 1
15	Grain crop	57,50	18,07	17,38	21,66		
4	Livestock	39,70	18,26	17,23	21,61		
3		2,62	18,07	39,70	16,94		
18		17,41	39,70	31,27	21,69		
11	Grain crop	70,25	17,95	17,23	21,60		
10	Livestock	2,01	18,06	18,15	16,88		C 2
6		2,55	18,07	17,83	16,93		
5		2,19	18,26	17,23	16,92		

⁽¹⁾ Integrated livestock-forestry system.

⁽²⁾ Integrated crop-livestock system.

Main Results



ICLF systems showed better overall performance (higher SI)



Livestock systems showed the worst performance for all dimensions, even for very intensive and highly technified systems (feedlot - Farm #4)



ICLF systems showed extremely higher results for environmental indicators (soil loss, fertilizer use, pesticide use and GHG emissions)



The crop systems showed high economic results (profit, production and salary levels), but poor environmental results

Sustainability as a balance across the three dimensions

Economic and Environmental Impacts

Economic and environmental impacts of integrated systems adoption in Brazilian agriculture-forest frontier

dos Reis JC, kanoi, Mariana Y. T., Michetti, M., Wruck, F. J., Rodrigues, R. A. R., Neto, A. L. F. Economic and environmental impacts of integrated systems adoption in Brazilian agriculture-forest frontier. **Agroforest Systems**, 97, pages 847–863 (2023) [doi: 10.1007/s10457-023-00831-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-023-00831-5)

Main objective: evaluate and estimate the economic and environmental impacts of large-scale adoption of ILPF systems in Mato Grosso, considering the 2020-2021 crop year.

Production System	Location (MT)	Area	Period	Investment USD
ICPF	Northesat	600	2010 - 2017	1,037.18
ICL	Northwest	600	2007 - 2012	905,49
Crop	Mid-North	1,500	2015 - 2021	880.71
Livestock	Mato Grosso	1,000	2016 - 2021	374.15

R\$/USD 2020

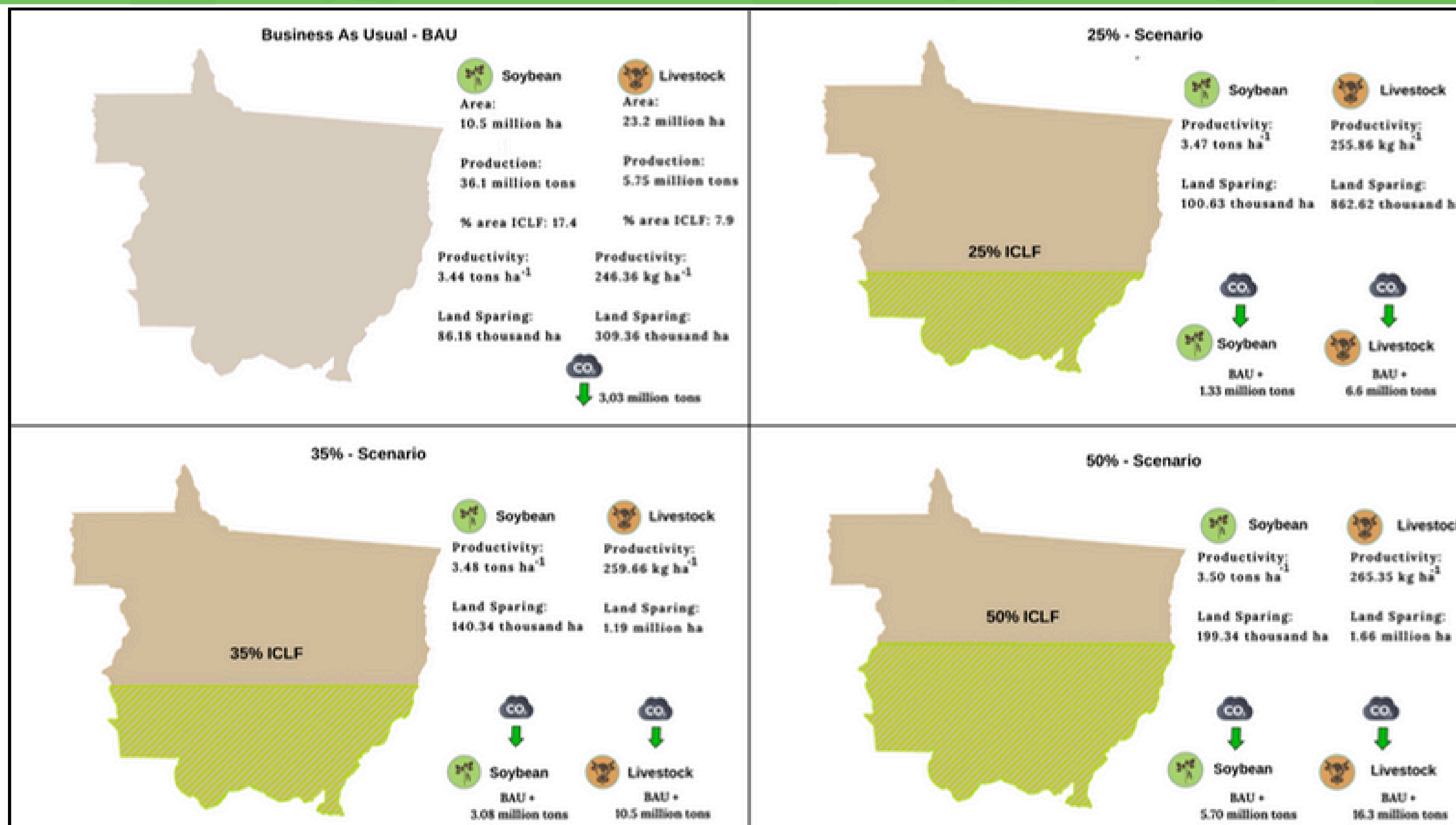
Economic and Environmental Impacts

Economic viability indicators

Indicator	ICLF	ICL	Crop	Livestock
WACC	8.02%	8.14%	8.15%	8.15%
NPV	72.75	30.99	27.73	1.40
IRR	15.78%	12.16	11.90%	8.74%
ROI	12.93%	11.35%	10.62	8.62%
Profit Index	1,36	1.16	1.14	1.01
Payback (years)	7	5	6	5

R\$/USD 2020

Economic and Environmental Impacts



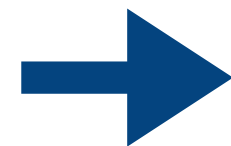
RJ (city):
120 thousand ha

Economic and Environmental Impacts



Beef cattle Productivity (Kg produced. ha⁻¹)

BR: 71.4



ILPF: 95.08

+ 33%

76% area below this value



Stoking rate

BR: 1,32 AU



ILPF: 3.2 AU

2.46 x

2022/2023 - harvest season



Economic and Environmental Impacts

Credit Carbon Simulation

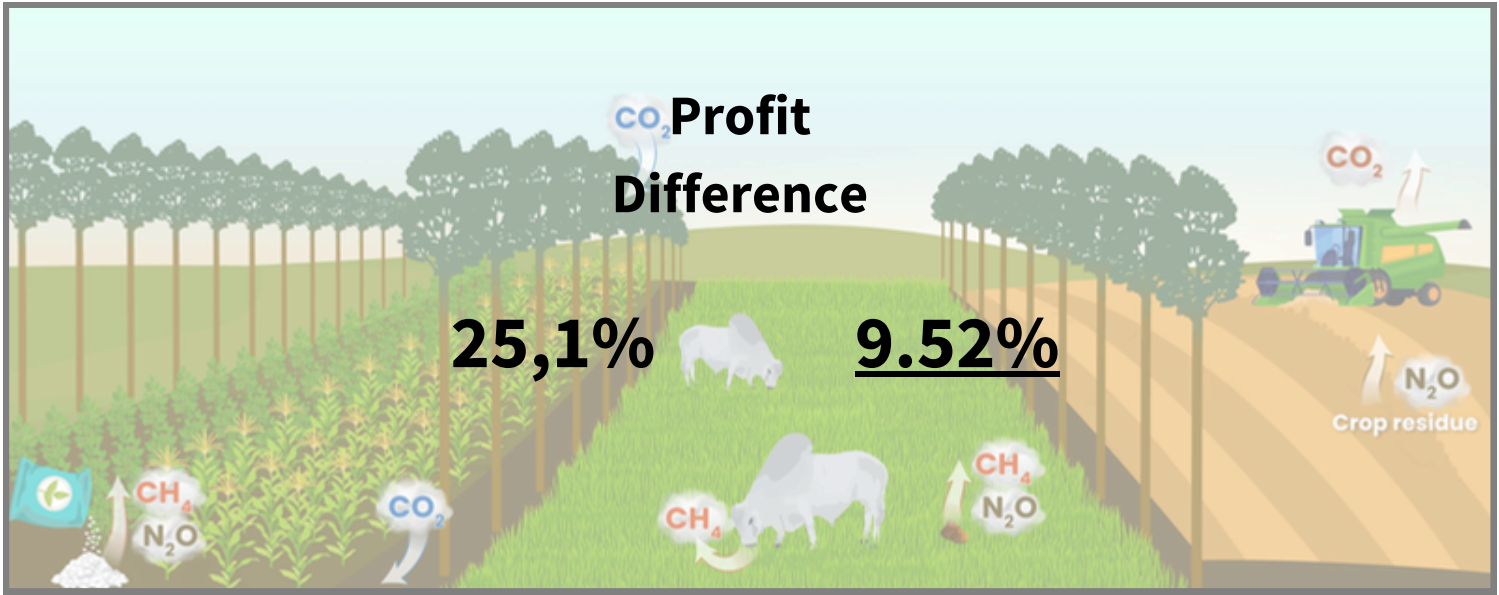
Production System	Ton CO2 eq ha year	Area	CC Revenue (USD ha)
ICLF	9.9	1000	33,66

Carbon Credit = USD 3.40

Monteiro, Alyce, et al. "Crop-livestock-forestry systems as a strategy for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing the sustainability of forage-based livestock systems in the Amazon biome." **Science of the Total Environment** 906 (2024): 167396.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.167396>

ECONOMIC RESULTS

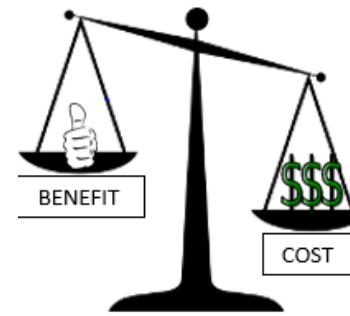
Index	ICL	Crop	Livestock
Net Profit	USD 235.69	USD 295.00	USD -0.58
+ USD 33.66			
USD 269.35			



Main Results



ICLF systems showed better results in situations where the macroeconomic situation was adverse (high interest rates, low prices)



Even with a higher initial investment, ICLF systems perform better economically: shorter payback time and higher IL



The economic performance of large-scale agriculture is more dependent on the exchange rate and commodity prices on the international market



Extensive livestock farming has very low profitability; its economic performance only allows the activity to be maintained, generating no profit for the producer



The impact analysis demonstrated the potential of integration systems to increase production and, at the same time, intensify the use of already open areas (land-saving effect)

Case Study: Dairy Small Farm - Estância Vanda (Paranaíta - MT)



Foto: Miqueias Michetti,
Consultor IMEA



Foto: Miqueias Michetti,
Consultor IMEA

- Small farm, located in Paranaíta, in the northern region of Mato Grosso
- It spans a total area of 101 hectares, of which 25 hectares are dedicated to ICLF for milk production
- The climatic conditions of 25.4°C, elevated relative humidity, and an annual precipitation average of 2,298 mm
- The principal challenge: production of milk in adverse climate conditions: cattle of Taurine genetic origin, specifically through crossbreeding Jersey and Holstein breeds, while circumventing the phenomenon known as "tropical degeneration"
- The primary objectives: thermal comfort for the livestock and reclaim degraded pasture areas

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Case Study: Dairy Small Farm - Estância Vanda (Paranaíta - MT)



Foto: Miqueias Michetti,
Consultor IMEA



Foto: Miqueias Michetti,
Consultor IMEA

Background:

- Implementation in 2014
- Single rows of Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus urograndis* - clones H13 e I144), African Mahogany (*Kaya Ivorensis*) and Teak (*Tectona grandis*), in rows spaced 30 meters apart, alternating or interspersing the species
- Initial investment: R\$ 7.106,48 por hectare
- land use strategy: corn for livestock feed (silage) and as a strategy to reduce the cost of recovering degraded pasture (taking advantage of the fertilization and soil corrections carried out in the agricultural stage)

Case Study: Dairy Small Farm - Estância Vanda (Paranaíta - MT)



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Case Study: Dairy Small Farm - Estância Vanda (Paranaíta - MT)

Zootechnical Indices

Cow herd

65 heads

Dairy production
(day)

890 liters

Dairy production
(cow - day)

16,7 liters

Calving interval

14 monthss

Dairy production by cow (Brazil)
8 liters

Economic Results 2022 (R\$ ha⁻¹)

Net Revenue

6.704,51

Production Cost

3.142,07

Gross Profit

3.562,44

Net Profit

2.037,72

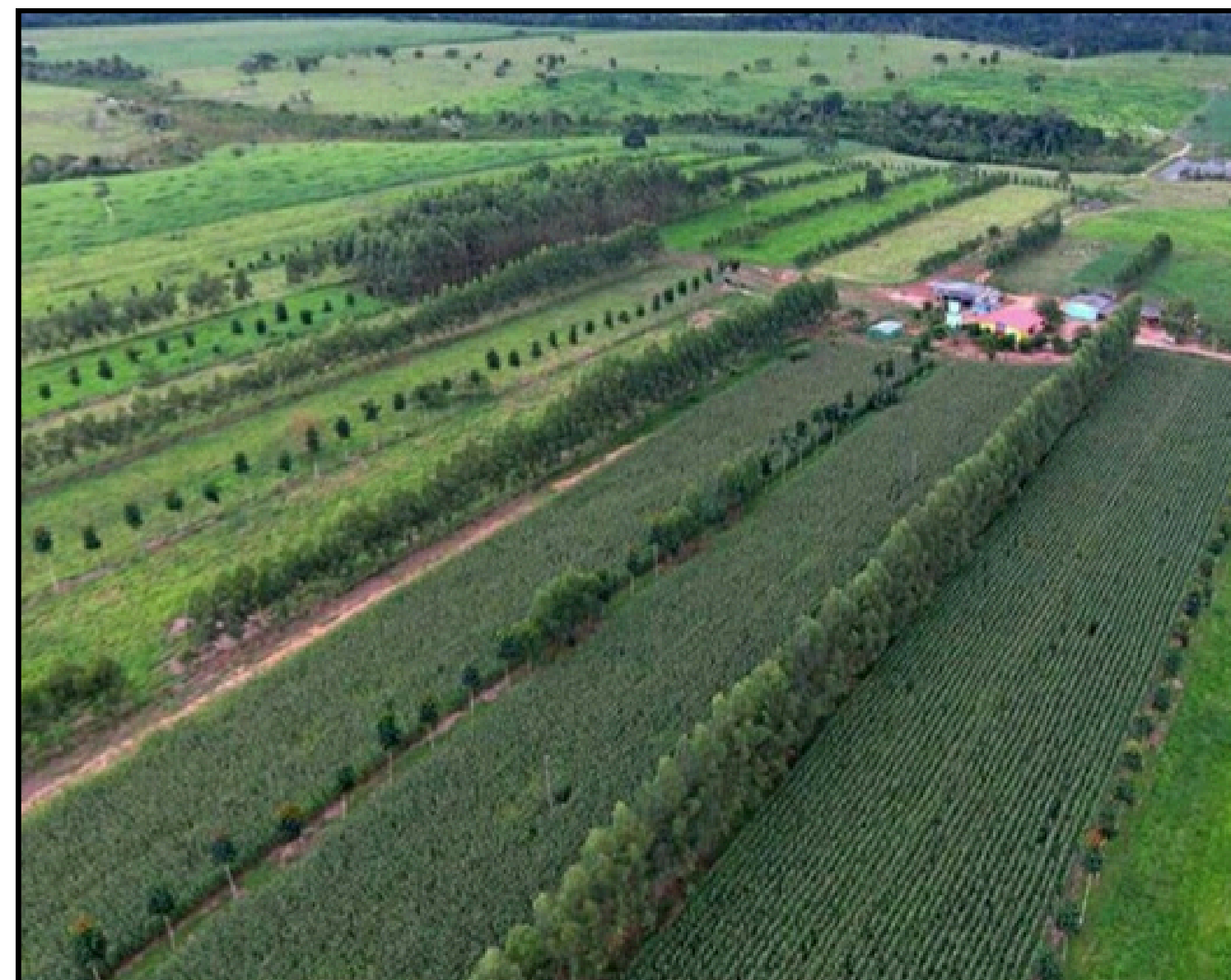
Profitability

30 %



Daily Production difference
+ 108%

Estância Vanda - 2022



Final Remarks

- The ICLF systems demonstrated economic competitiveness, even in a region highly specialized in large-scale crop production
- The emergy analysis highlighted the main contradictions of the large-scale crop system: the social benefits are lower than the social costs.
- ICLF systems have proved to be an efficient alternative for increasing livestock production while simultaneously reducing GHG emissions and the pressure to open up new native forest areas
- Reducing deforestation and recover degraded pasture is crucial to Brazil achieve its GHG emission target.
- However, it is fundamental that the Brazilian Government defines the destination (use) of the land recovered.



Embrapa Cerrados - Experimental Field
Foto: Embrapa Image Database

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Thank you