

Eco-systems of agricultural landscapes and sustainable land use: Livestock systems

01 – Introduction - 2 Development of Livestock Farming Systems



Creation of agro-ecosystems

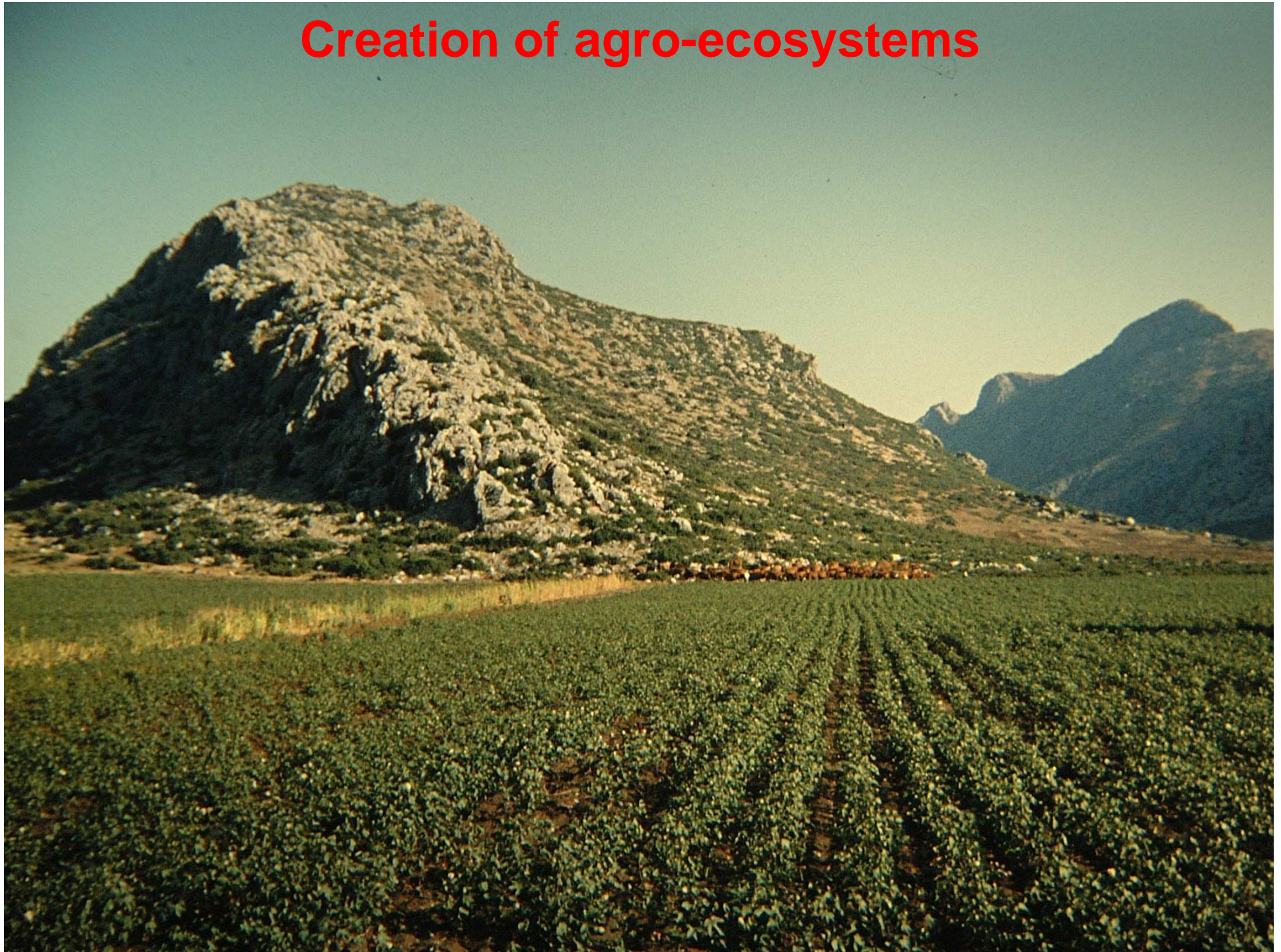
In catering for the needs of the ever increasing number of domestic organisms man has converted natural ecosystems into agro-ecosystems for approximately 15000 years. Today only minute portions of the earth's surface have escaped this transformation. Many ecosystems which we know of old and cherish as natural landscapes which are worth protecting against ongoing changes are in fact the result of man's early mismanagement of nature. The most striking example are the present landscapes of Central and Western Europe and the European coastline of the Mediterranean which was transformed from dense forest to open agricultural landscapes and wastelands of considerable extent during a time span of only 2500 years.



Creation of agro-ecosystems

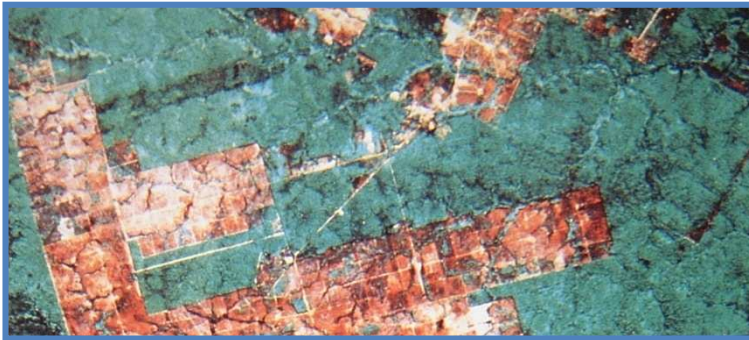


Creation of agro-ecosystems



Creation of agro-ecosystems



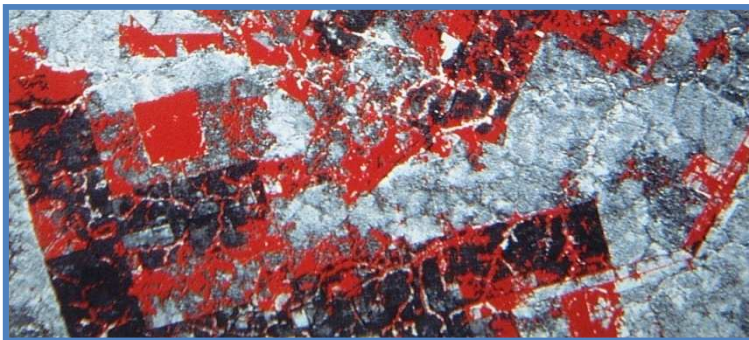


Expanding the agro-ecosystem in Amazonia, Brazil, by clearing virgin forest

a) Virgin forest and fields cleared for crop (soy) production



b) The same area three years later



c) Computer generated map of the extent of the newly deforested area



The evolution of farming systems

Foraging (hunting and gathering)



Development of storage systems



Domestication and the creation of agro-ecosystems



Development of subsistence farming systems



Industrial farming systems



Post-industrial organic farming systems



Livestock production systems with large herbivores

Specialised intensive systems

Mixed farming systems

Feedlot systems

Landless, urban systems

Tree crop and plantation systems

Integrated crop livestock systems

Pastoral systems



Specialised intensive systems



Mixed farming systems



Mixed farming systems



Feedlot systems



Landless, urban systems



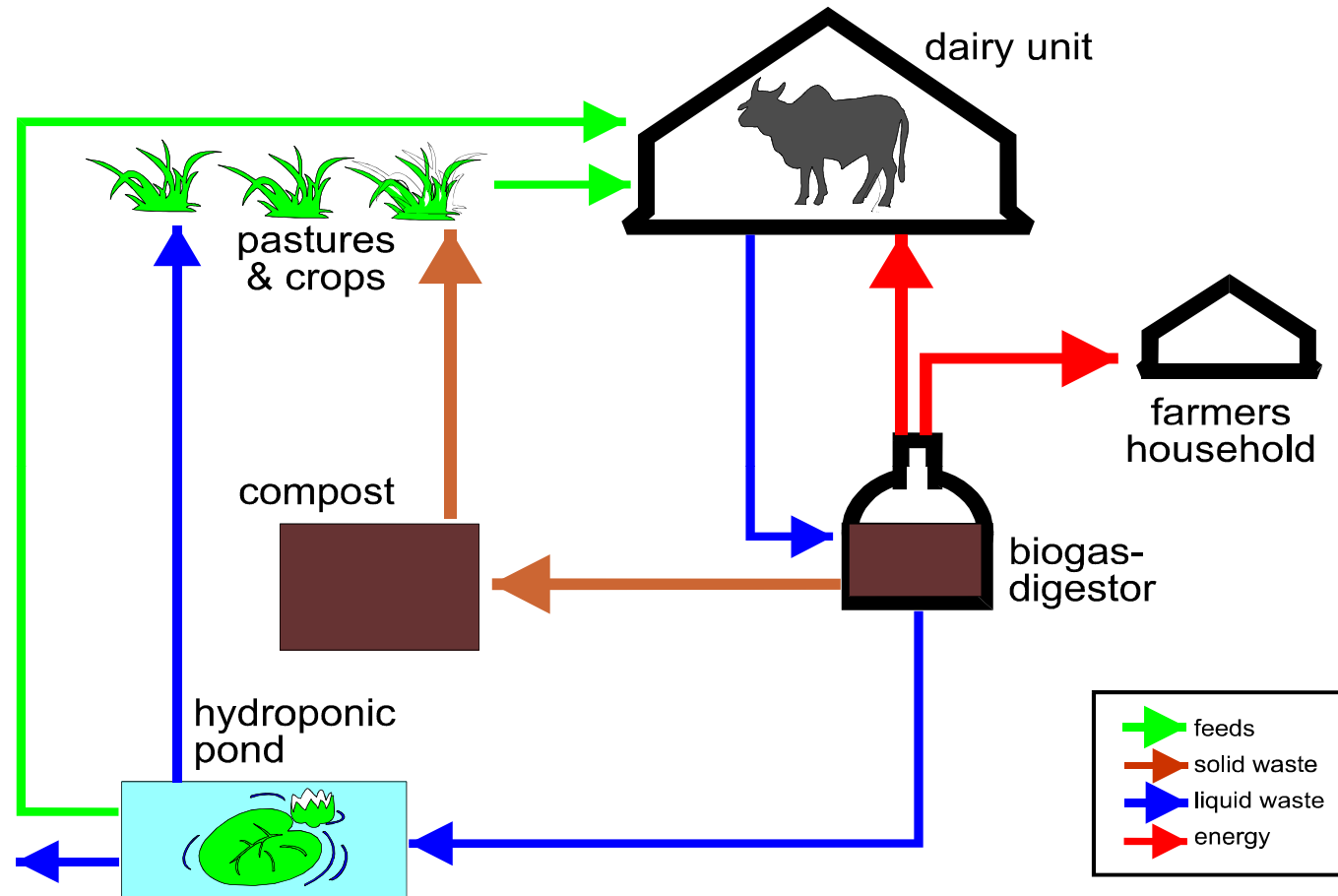
Landless, urban systems



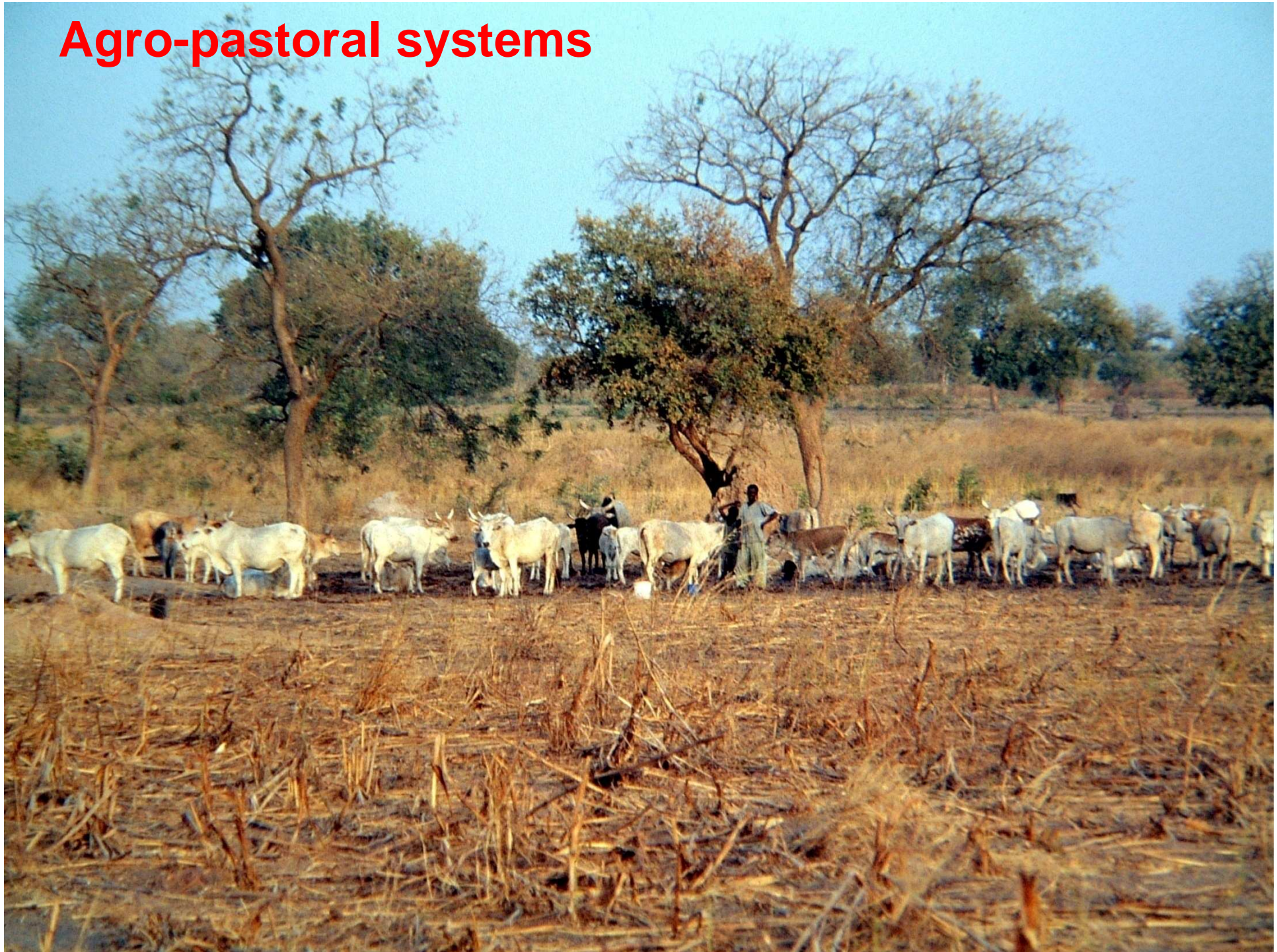
Tree crop and plantation systems



Integrated crop-livestock systems



Agro-pastoral systems



Silvo-pastoral systems



Pastoral systems



Pastoral systems

