

Back yard Farming

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Important issues of backyard farming

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- 1- When land is not available.
- 2- Economic condition.
- 3- When the milk produced is not for sell, it is only for the consumption of farmers.



- **What is backyard farming --**
- As the name indicate backyard means the rearing of animals behind the house.
- Here the farmers keep there animals in the open place in a very small area.
- If the poor farmer having a land of 1 or 2 acre them he used 75 % of land for cultivation & remaining for farming.
- The product which is obtain by the cultivation of fodder is utilized by animals & on othe3r hand animal excreta is used as fuel.

- **Advantage** –
- 1 – farmer fulfill their own milk requirement.
- 2 – there is not any extra investment for purchasing land & housing of animal.
- 3 – No investment on the feeding of animal.

Farmer also utilize the waste material of animal in there profit way eg. Duncakes.



Characterization of mixed farms

- Mixed farming is common worldwide, in spite of a tendency in agribusiness, research and teaching towards specialized forms of farming. Obviously, mixing has both advantages and disadvantages. For example, farmers in mixed systems have to divide their attention and resources over several activities, thus leading to reduced economies of scale. Advantages include the possibility of reducing risk, spreading labour and re-utilizing resources.
- 1-This chapter first describes several forms of mixing.
- 2- it explains how mixing of several parts requires a special approach to make a success of the total mix.

WHAT IS MIXED FARMING?

- Mixed farming exists in many forms depending on external and internal factors. External factors are weather patterns, market prices, political stability, technological developments, etc. Internal factors relate to local soil characteristics, composition of the family and farmers' ingenuity. Mixed farming include cultivation of different crops on the same field, such as millet and cowpea or millet and sorghum, or several varieties of the same crop with different life cycles, which uses space more efficiently and spreads risks more uniformly (Photos 3 and 4).



IS MIXING AN IMPROVEMENT?

- The choice of mixed farming is not always a sign of improvement of the situation in which people may find themselves. Mobile Fulani herdsman in West Africa engage in crop production only when forced by circumstances, such as drought or animal diseases, leading to severe losses in livestock, making continuation of their former way of life impossible. Mixed farming is for them a poverty-induced option. Resource-poor farmers going into mixed farming have to apply labour-intensive techniques (their only resource) and, because of their low purchasing power, they cannot afford external inputs and have no option but to overexploit the environment.
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FORMS OF MIXED FARMING

- Mixed farming systems can be classified in many ways - based on land size, type of crops and animals, geographical distribution, market orientation, etc. Three major categories, in four different modes of farming, are distinguished here. The categories are:
 - On-farm versus between-farm mixing
 - Mixing within crops and/or animal systems
 - Diversified versus integrated systems





Mixed cropping: pyrethrum and maize (Kenya)

On-farm mixing refers to mixing on the same farm, and *between-farm mixing* refers to exchanging resources between different farms.

Mixing within crop and/or animal systems

- Mixing within crop and/or within animal systems refers to conditions where multiple cropping is practised, or where different types of animals are kept together, mostly on-farm. Within-crop mixing takes place where crop rotations are practised over and within years. For example, a farmer has a grain-legume rotation to provide the grain with nitrogen or a potato-beet-grain rotation to avoid disease in the potatoes.



- Plants can also be intercropped to take maximum advantage of light and moisture, to suppress weeds or prevent leaching of nutrients through the use of catch crops. Examples of mixing between animals are found in chicken-fish pond systems where chicken dung fertilizes the fish pond; in beef-pork systems where pigs eat the undigested grains from the beef cattle dung; or in mixed grazing such as cow-sheep mixes to maximize biomass utilization or to suppress disease occurrence

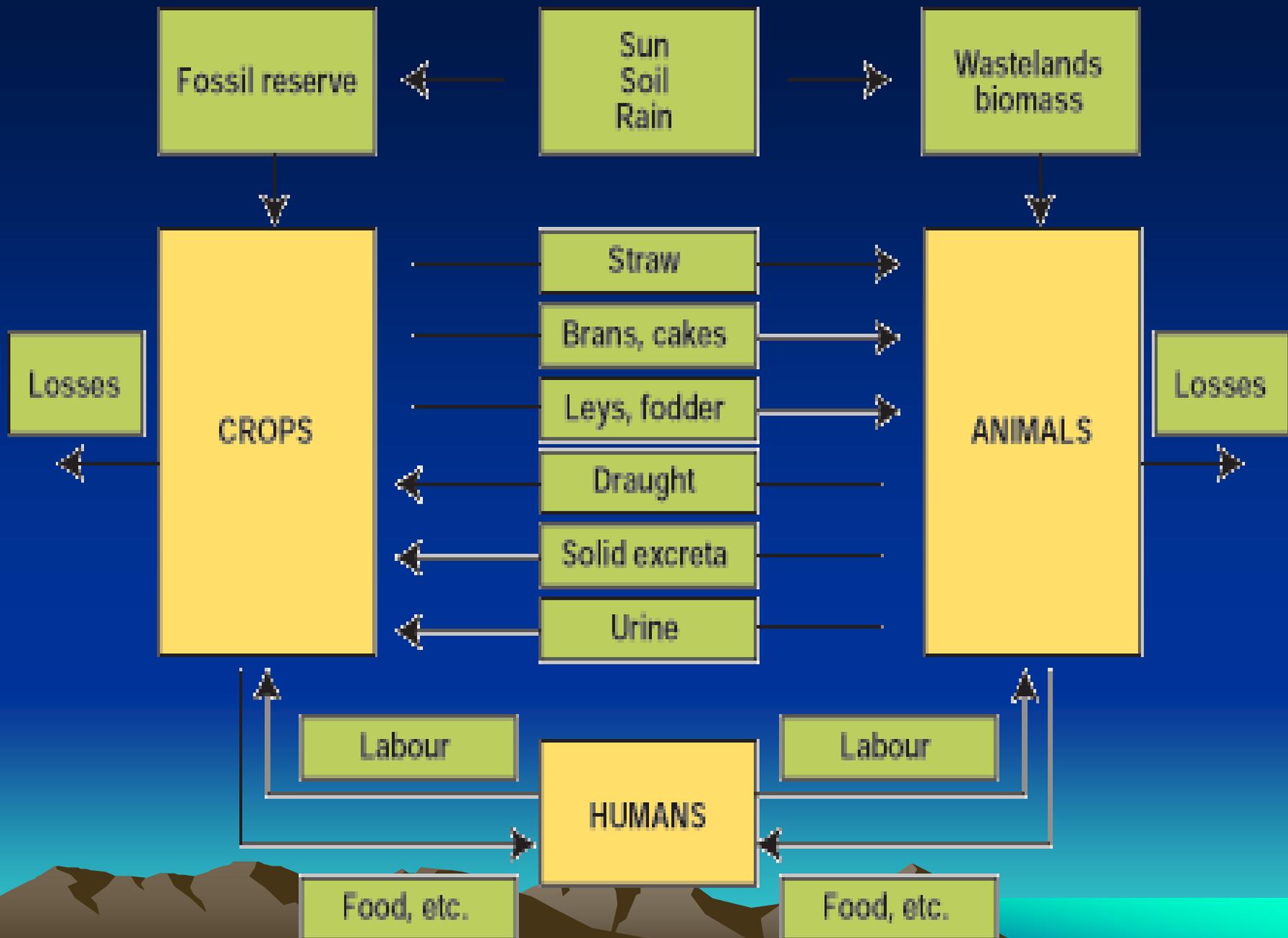


Cows and sheep grazing together in a pasture



MIXED CROP-LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS, DIFFERENT MODES

- Even in integrated systems the exchange of resources such as dung, draught and crop residues takes place in degrees that differ among the so-called modes of farming based on the availability of land, labour and capital respectively -
 - Expansion agriculture (EXPAGR)
 - Low external input agriculture (LEIA)
 - High external input agriculture (HEIA)
 - New conservation agriculture (NCA)



Thanks.....

