Growing Bird-Friendly Coffee and Cocoa Certification

Environmental and Economic Impacts to livelihoods

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Background

- For Bird-friendly coffee and cocoa certification requirements promote biodiversity.
- However, the choice of a favourable production system matters (Laura, 2017): Sun-grown Vs Shade grown coffee production system

.....Background

- Even with increased biodiversity, it is expected that farmers make trade-offs between environmental services and productivity/ income.
- Hagger et al. (2017): productivity was negatively correlated with carbon stocks and tree diversity compared to pre-certification state.
  - **Is the price premium for certification able to compensate farms for such reduced carbon stock?**
  - **Does certification mitigate such trade-off?**
  - **What about farmers' welfare and env't benefits of conservation?**

BF certification and coffee/ cocoa agroforests for species biodiversity

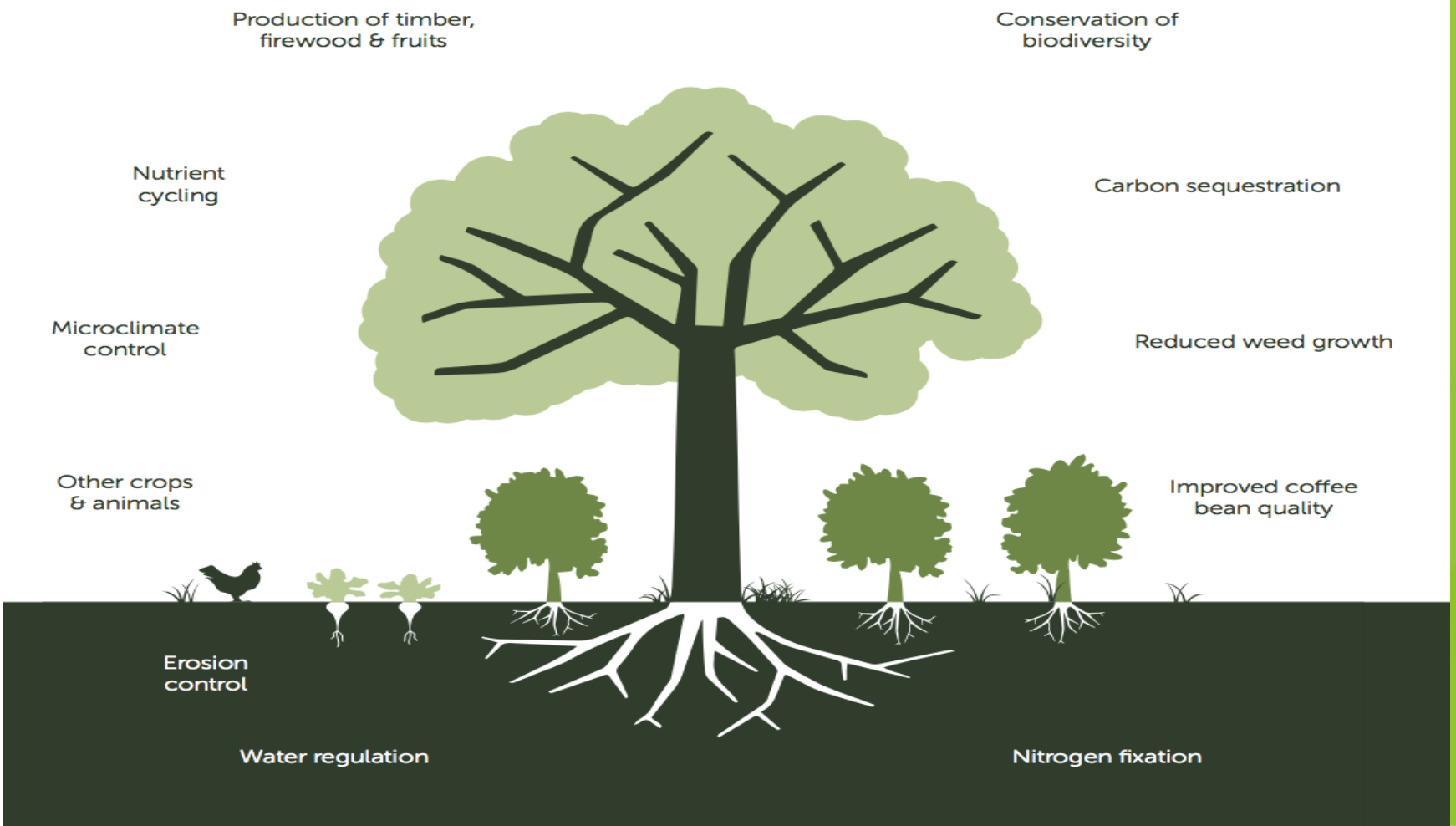
- With the world experiencing land use shift due to population pressures on natural biodiversity (assumed to be a home of 70% species (18M ha of tropical forest is lost/ year (Laura, 2017).
- Shade-grown coffee and cocoa can provide the alternative by creating the micro-climate mimicking the tropical forest condition for the continuation of ecological process while serving farmers' immediate needs.
- Shade-grown coffee/ cocoa can be habitats for birds, mammals, arthropods and amphibians/ biodiversity hotspots.

BF Certification and habitat connectivity

- Shade-grown coffee and cocoa act as biological corridors for connectivity between tropic forests and arable land.
- Birds and pollinators utilize shade coffee and cocoa as stopping points within their migratory paths.
- Such plantations act as biodiversity hotspots and biological corridors for birds, bats, bees, etc…

BF Certification and other ecosystem services

- **Ecosystem services:** natural environmental functions that provide positive benefits to people (Laura, 2017). Below are the expected benefits

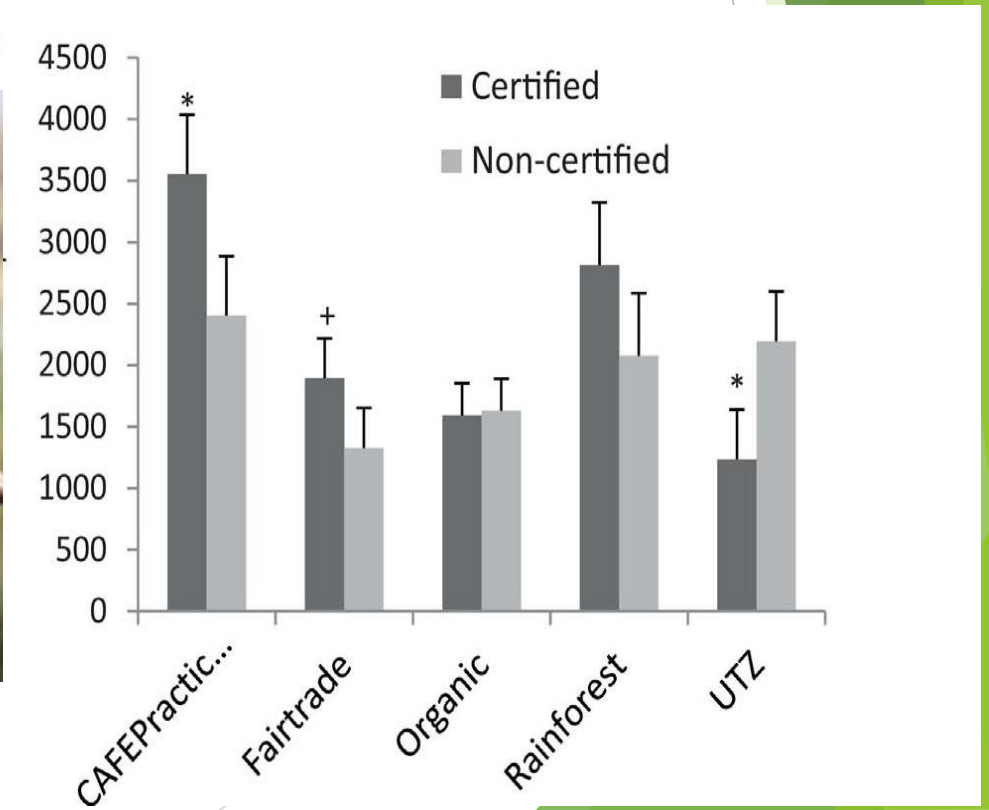


BF Certification and Climate Change

- Planting bad-friendly coffee and cocoa is key to mitigation and resilience to climate change:
- tree cover tends to protect soil moisture and creates micro-climates.
- Water storage and conservation.
- insects and wildlife diversity breeds stability in an agro-ecological system.
- Carbon sequestration and reducing global warming.
- Trees integrated in coffee/ cocoa farms can play a key role in carbon markets.
- Soil conservation
- Alternative sources of livelihoods to ensure resilience

Bird-friendly certification and net income? Economic impacts

- Hagger et al. (2017) indicates farms under all certifications (Fairtrade, Utz Certified, etc) had better environmental and economic characteristics than noncertified for most indicators:
  - Certified farmers received higher premium prices
  - They had high tree biodiversity
  - had higher net income



Other economic benefits of BF Certification

- Allows farmers to negotiate a better price above the market price. Unlike Fair Trade, there is no minimum price set in BF Certification
- Diversification: the shadow economy. such agro-ecological system harbors a variety of plant-derived goods and services making farmers less susceptible to price drops in the global market.
- The production system requires fewer or no chemical use and shade production increase productivity in the long run.
- Coffee and cocoa grown under shade has proved to have a long life span compared to that under sun or light shade, hence long term income benefit.
- There is high potential for eco-tourism and eco-technology with BF coffee and cocoa certification: a form of tourism that involves visiting natural places that conserve the env't

Suggestions to increase economic impact of BF certification

- Offer higher premiums to cover the higher associated cost.
- Promote local and global involvements through other support organizations to ensure sustainability such as NGOs, conservation and aid groups.
- Rewards for ecosystems services offered by farmers in BFC e.g. selling carbon sequestration services and reduce carbon price volatility and inaccessibility.
- Building relationships and synergies within all the players in the value chain.
- Conduct proper research prior to certification.
- Offer subsidiary support such as eco-tourism, eco-technology, credit and extension educ. to implement food security programs such as backyard/ kitchen farming etc…

The end: Any comments?