

# Studying in Wageningen University: Wealth of personal and cooperate benefits

Barrack Okoba, PhD

Principal Research Scientist

KARI

Agro Environ Sympossium, Wageningen University

1-5<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

# Presentation outline

1. **Approach: Integrating socio-economic and land management processes to derive solution options**
2. **Benefits – improved professionalism**
3. **Thesis publication based on journal papers**
4. **Benefits to my country – example of developed land management Strategy for triple wins**

# Integrated approach in understanding of the common landscape management challenges



= Involving land users to assess underlying degradation issues - perceptions

= Clearly identifying causes of land degradation - using science



# Benefits – improved professionalism

- **This framework** benefits enhances both social and biophysical skills thus improving better understanding of the farming challenges/farming systems.
- **Group discussions – PhDs** - creates self confidence in a student, but also more insights and information during research proposal writing, data collection and reporting.
- **Policy of having MSc join PhD students in the field research** - removes variance in the research results.  
Besides that it enriches both students in understanding the differences between the “North and South” circumstances; enhancing cross culture integrations.

“ Many have found their spouses in this model”

# PhD theses based on refereed publication system:

- Through this systems, writing skills are improved to a great extent.
- Because of the many manuscripts in refereed journals -my visibility has been enhanced: thus getting contacts for collaborative proposal writing, paper reviewing and invitations for participating in scientific forums.
- Superior education system I achieved at WU-LDD is linked to promotions and recognition I continue to experience. E.g. work ethics and working in cross-cultural environment
- Posistions/tasks include- head of SWM research programmes, member of various task forces, official of professional bodies, etc

# Benefits to my country

- Contact person for development of Climate Change Strategy- to address the increasing challenges of food insecurity and environmental degradation
- Taskforce member to various government initiatives: Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor on agricultural development potential, Kenya Conservation Agriculture With Trees Development, Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, Development of Agriculture Climate Change Policy and Strategy, etc, etc
- Lead consultant to FAO and EU programmes/research projects on Conservation Agriculture Research

# Benefits to my country

- Recognized partner, on behalf of my government, to International Research Institutes – IFPRI, ILRI, WU, EU, ACT, ICRAF, Sida, etc on various subjects related to Land and water management studies
- Supporting PhD and MSc students in their research – WU, Ghent University, University of Bonn, Nairobi, Kenyatta, JKUAT, etc, etc.
- Committed to reviewing of manuscripts from international journals
- Membership to professional bodies: Soil Science Society of Africa (current Treasurer), Soil Science Society of E. Africa (member, former secretary), Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, Ecological Society of East Africa, etc, etc

*Example: support to my country*

---

Development of climate change  
adaptation and mitigation Strategy

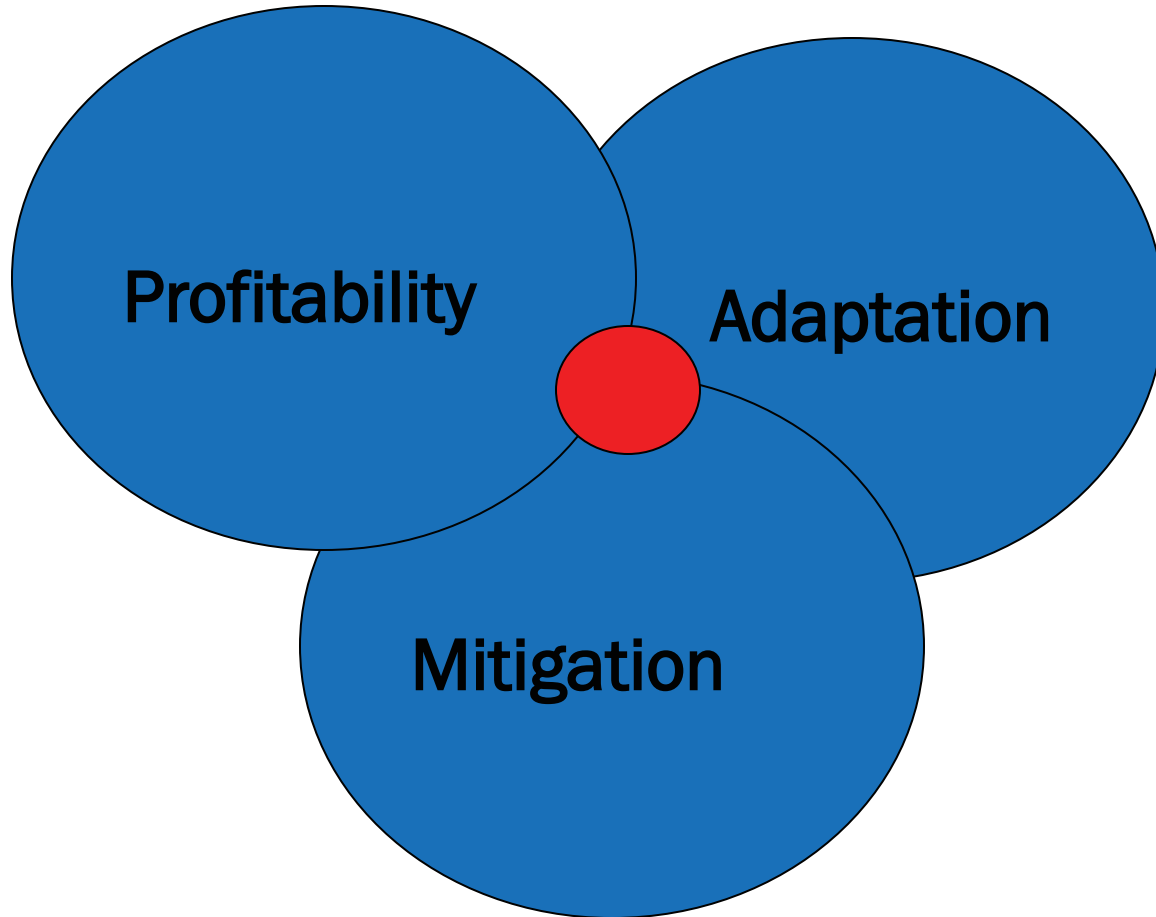


# Synergies and Tradeoffs between Mitigation and Food Security

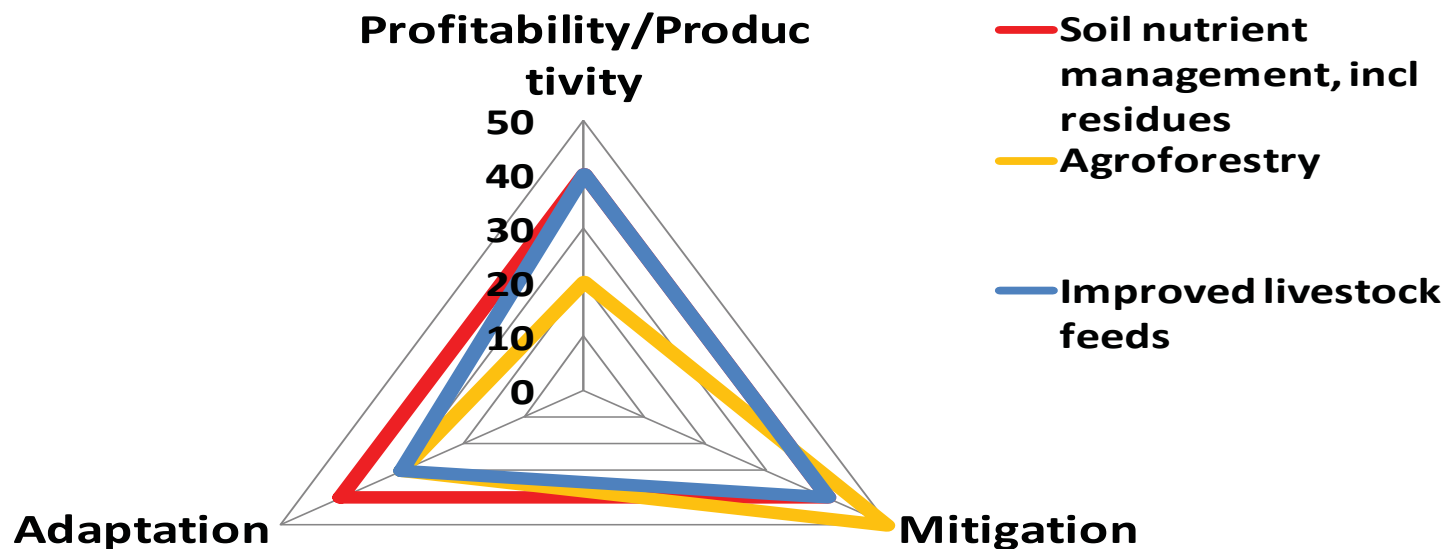
<b>Mitigation Potential</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Biofuels</b> <b>Conservation tillage/ residue management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Integrated soil fertility management</li><li>- Improved seed</li><li>- Irrigation (low energy using..)</li><li>- Conservation tillage/residue management</li><li>- Improved fallow</li></ul>
	<b>Low</b>	<b>Overgrazing</b> <b>Soil nutrient mining</b> <b>Bare fallow</b>	<b>GW pumping</b> <b>Mechanized farming</b>
		<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>

**Food Security Prospects**

# Synergies and Tradeoffs



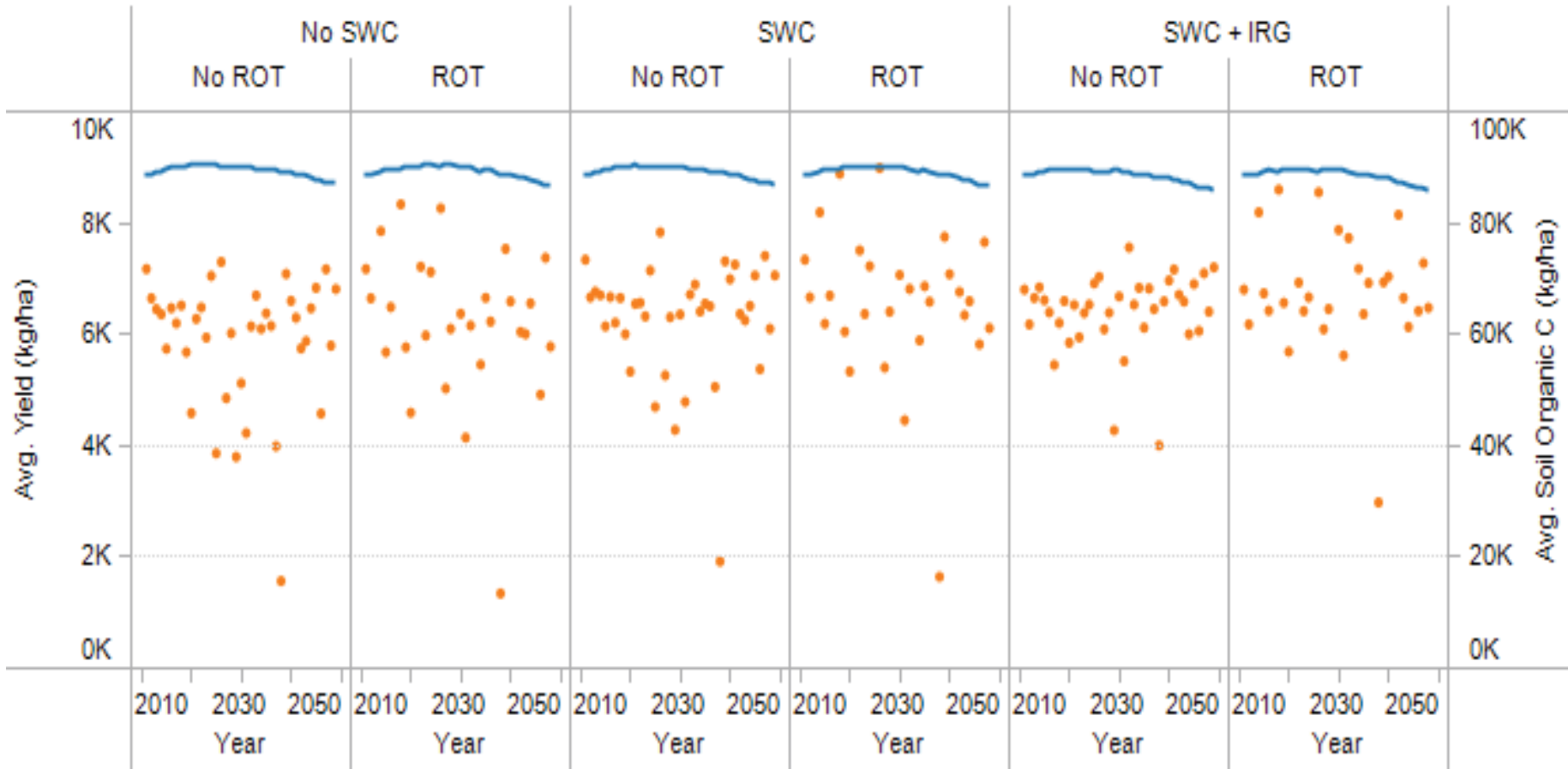
# Win-Win-Win Strategies



- Given the threat of CC to Agri production and livelihood, the decision makers need to consider promotion of practices that provide greatest benefits in terms of A, P/P and M strategy
- Given the positive correlation between Soil carbon and crop yields -> Agricultural practices that improves soil fertility and enhance carbon sequestration also improves crop yields

# Management Strategies for increased productivity and SOC Sequestration

Njoro, Loam  
OPV / RSD / MNR, FRT



# Wayforwards

- The cross-culture exposure needs to be enhanced.
- Need to consider maintaining contacts with past alumni even in development of post-doc opportunities,
- Encourage inter-county development of research proposals to benefit future MSc/PhD students
- To encourage cross-institutional visits -guest lectures, testing of models,.....

**Thank you**

**Asante saana – KARIBU KENYA**