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Linking Carbon Forest Plantations on Abandoned Land with Increased Production of Food

- A real world implication of systems analysis -

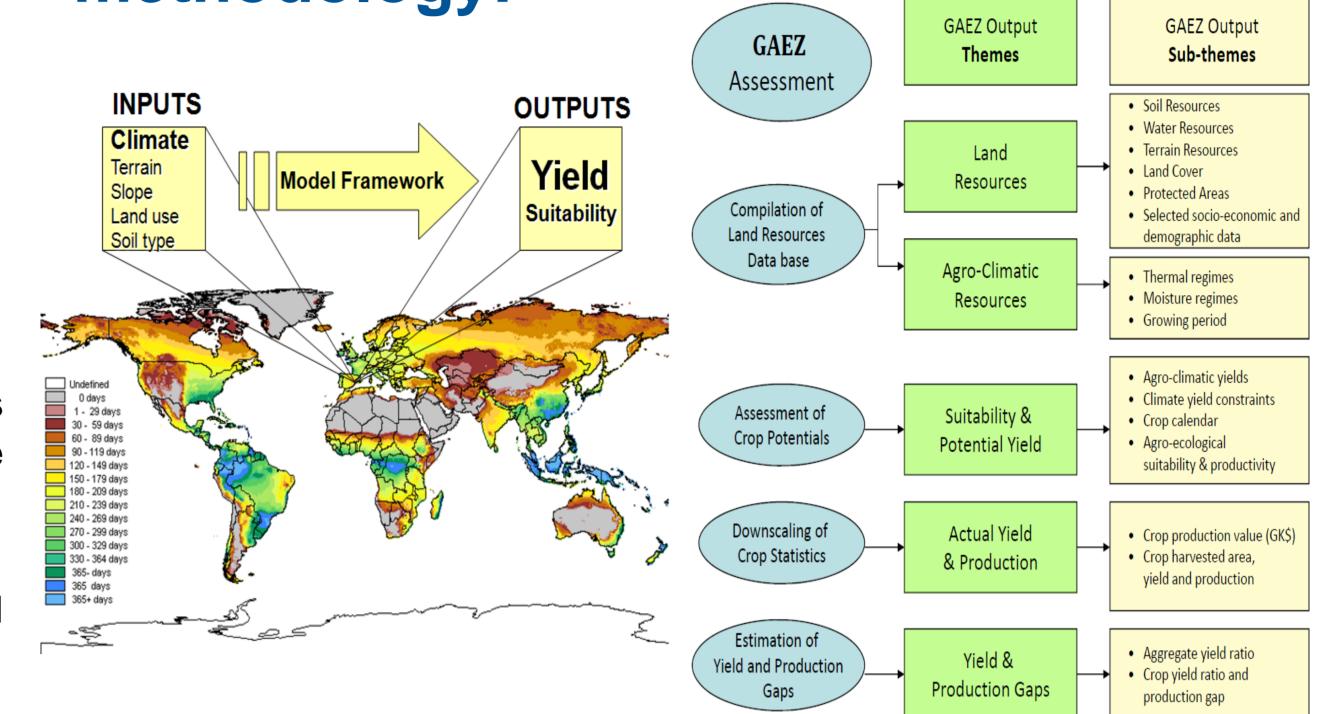
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Climate change mitigation, adaptation, food production, scarcity of land

 The Food and Agriculture Organization predicts a 34% increase in the world's population from 2010 to 2050 with a corresponding growth in consumption patterns, expected to result in a 60% increase in food demand. While yield increases are important to satisfy this demand, preserving high-quality land and regaining abandoned land by the combination of forestry and agriculture provide further possibilities for sustainable resource management.

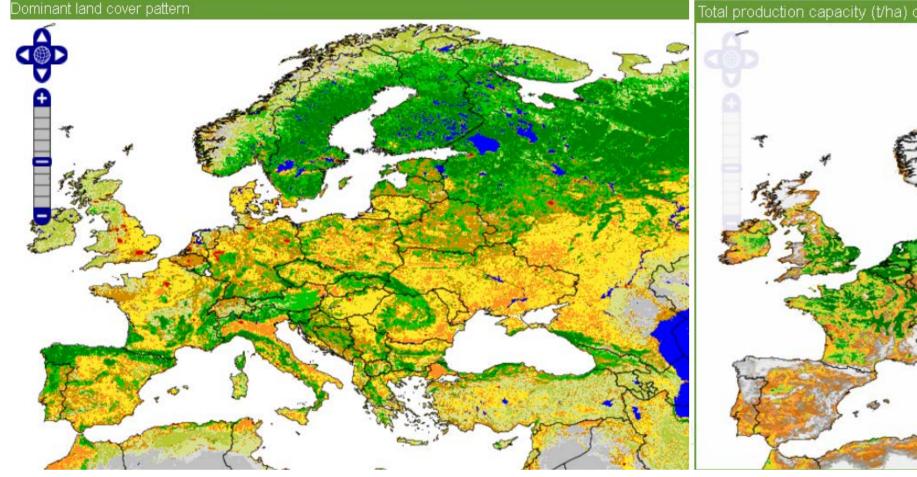
The Global Agro-ecological Zones (GAEZ)

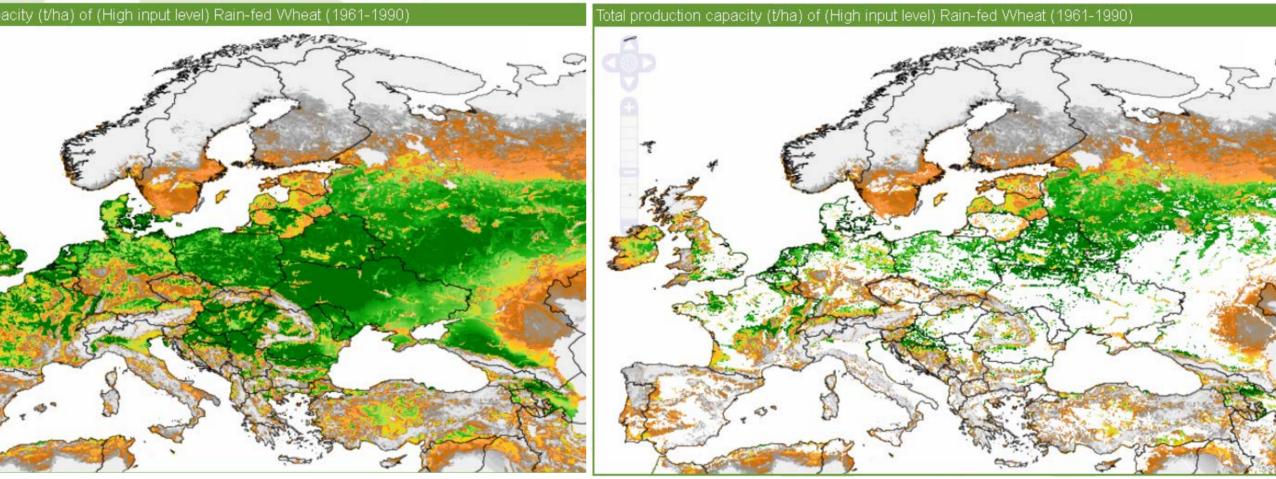
methodology:



- IASA's GAEZ framework can be applied to assess agricultural quality of abandoned agricultural lands. In collaboration with Ferrero and its pilot **Payment for Ecosystem Services** hazelnut plantation project we argue that production on such land can be economically viable and technologically sound, land degradation can be reversed, while preserving carbon pools, enhancing biodiversity and simultaneously producing food, feed, fuel and fiber.
- As demonstrated by our case study, linking forest plantations with increased production of food on human-induced degraded landscapes can effectively contribute to combating climate change while triggering significant environmental and socio-economic co-benefits.

GAEZ results: abandoned and secondary land can be used for non-food biomass production





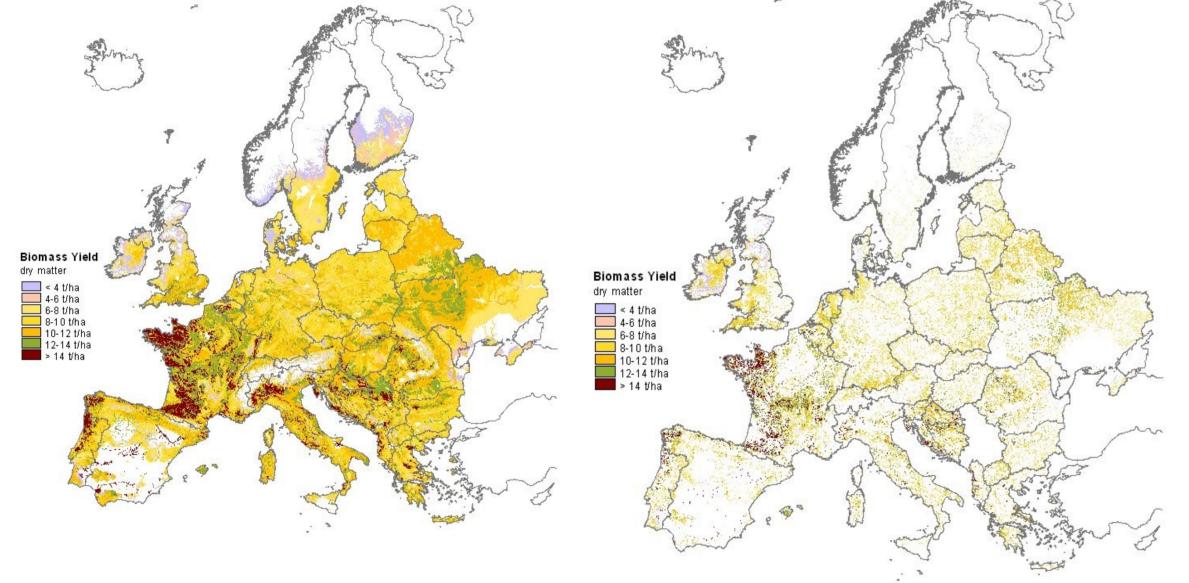
Dominant land cover in Europe and Caucasus

Suitability of cereals and hazeInut-type crops on current cultivated land

Suitability of cereals and hazeInut-type crops on marginal land, including abandoned land

- Half of global cropland is used for food, one third for feed production, 8% for industrial uses and 7% of land are for seed production and statistical crop losses. (Source: IIASA Landflow analysis)
- Abandoned lands are often low quality or degrading but suitable for forest plantations or the production of specific food and non-food low-input crops;
- Research shows that marginal and abandoned land would be suitable for fiber and **biofuel production** (IIASA-OFID Biofuel and Food security)

Forestry combined with agriculture on abandoned land can improve the resource base



Potential ligno-cellulosic woody biomass yield in Europe

Potential ligno-cellulosic woody biomass yield (excluding cropland and forest) in Europe

Forest plantations producing cash-crop create permanent land cover and replenish soil vegetative stocks.

- At the global level more than half of deforestation associated with agricultural products concerns the livestock sector dominated by pasture expansion for ruminant livestock production.
- Agroforestry and inter-cropping of trees and crops helps reduce the use of herbicides and fertilizers;
- Afforestation with **fruit and nut plantations** goes beyond inter-cropping and offers further **co-benefits** in sustainable land-use practices.
- Nut trees are suitable for **afforestation** and in general have low to moderate agro-ecological requirements but high tolerance to cold or heat stress;
- Hazelnuts are less sensitive to diseases and can be produced with **moderate use of fertilizers** on abandoned, low-fertility or degraded lands;



A range of crops are suitable for inter-cropping and agro-forestry

APPLIED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS IN BEST PRACTICE: forestry with agriculture projects

Permanent climate change mitigation can be achieved with co-production of food, feed, fiber and fuel for future generations





- HazeInut plantations are suited for combined food-feed-fibre-fuel production, ensuring that human and livestock requirements can be met without using any land with high biodiversity, protected and forested ecosystems.
- The case study demonstrated NET positive environmental impacts on soil, water, biodiversity and climate, halting and reversing degradation and indicate significant potential of hazelnut plantations.
- The application of **carbon financial mechanisms** on combined forestry with agriculture plantations proved to be suitable for establishment on abandoned but potentially highly productive lands.
- Measurable impact of training on halting land degradation.
- Sustainable food production can be achieved on carbon plantations, with significant co-benefits on livelihood improvement and rural development.
- As a conclusion, afforestation can provide substantial additional land for agricultural commodities production to meet the food and fiber requirements of future generations.



The Climate and Education









The afforestation with hazeInut plantation projects represents a replicable model for the efficient use of abandoned by low-input food-fiber plantations

Source: IIASA GAEZ assessment (download 2012): http://www.gaez.iiasa.ac.at/ Project Design Documentation of the Afforestation with Hazelnut Plantations in Western Georgia: www.climateprojects.info/HAP

