



XX
Conferencia
Internacional sobre

**PALMA
DE ACEITE**

**EL PODER TRANSFORMADOR
DE LA PALMA DE ACEITE**

Dinámica de carbono, nutrientes y desarrollo de la palma de aceite en Colombia



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE



Juan Carlos Quezada

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Postdoctoral Fellow
at National Technological University, Singapore

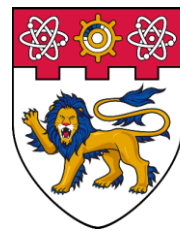




Changi Airport, Singapore



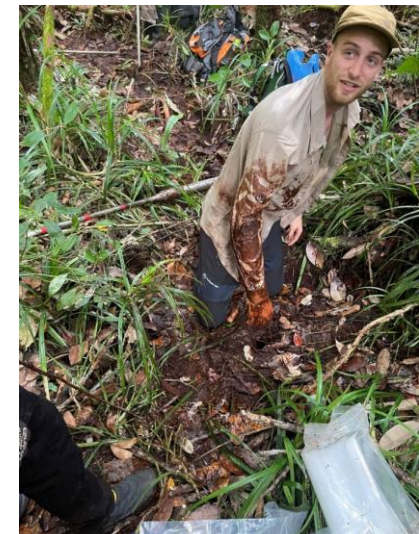
Ecology and Ecosystems - Tropical Forest Ecology – Prof. David Wardle



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**
SINGAPORE



Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Borneo



Turberas tropicales, bosques pantanosos, peat swamp forests



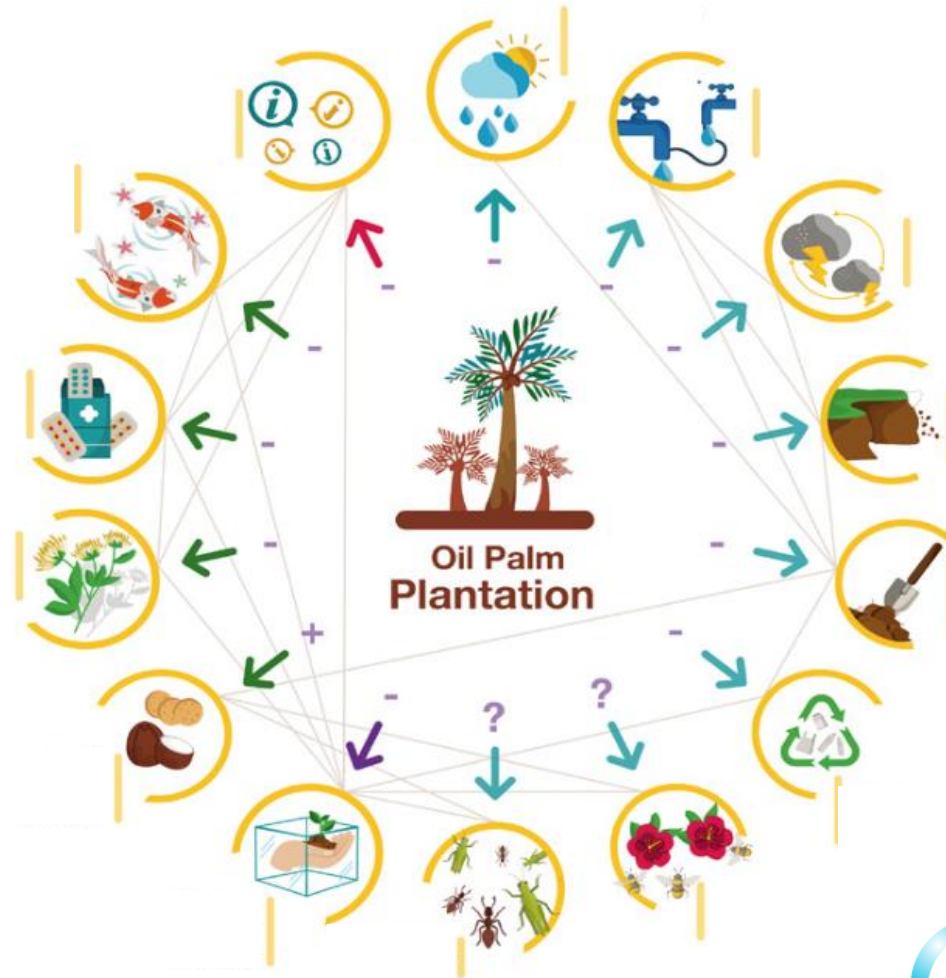
Bosques pantanosos degradados



XX
Conferencia
Internacional sobre
20th International Oil Palm Conference

**PALMA
DE ACEITE**

EL PODER TRANSFORMADOR DE LA PALMA DE ACEITE



SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

ECOLOGY

Carbon neutral expansion of oil palm plantations in the Neotropics

Juan Carlos Quezada^{1,2,*}, Andres Etter³, Jaboury Ghazoul^{4,5,6}, Alexandre Buttler^{1,2,7}, Thomas Guillaume^{1,2}

Alternatives to ecologically devastating deforestation land use change trajectories are needed to reduce the carbon footprint of oil palm (OP) plantations in the tropics. Although various land use change options have been proposed, so far, there are no empirical data on their long-term ecosystem carbon pools effects. Our results demonstrate that pasture-to-OP conversion in savanna regions does not change ecosystem carbon storage, after 56 years in Colombia. Compared to rainforest conversion, this alternative land use change reduces net ecosystem carbon losses by $99.7 \pm 9.6\%$. Soil organic carbon (SOC) decreased until 36 years after conversion, due to a fast decomposition of pasture-derived carbon, counterbalancing the carbon gains in OP biomass. The recovery of topsoil carbon content, suggests that SOC stocks might partly recover during a third plantation cycle. Hence, greater OP sustainability can be achieved if its expansion is oriented toward pasture land.

Received: 5 December 2018 | Revised: 20 May 2019 | Accepted: 22 May 2019

DOI: 10.1002/ldr.3380

RESEARCH ARTICLE

WILEY

Drivers of soil carbon stabilization in oil palm plantations

Johanna Rüegg^{1,2} | Juan Carlos Quezada^{1,3} | Mathieu Santonja^{1,3,4} | Jaboury Ghazoul² | Yakov Kuzyakov^{5,6,7} | Alexandre Buttler^{1,3,8} | Thomas Guillaume^{1,3}

Received: 29 October 2021 | Revised: 1 December 2021 | Accepted: 1 December 2021

DOI: 10.1111/gcb.16069

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Global Change Biology

Deforestation-free land-use change and organic matter-centered management improve the C footprint of oil palm expansion

Juan Carlos Quezada¹ | Thomas Guillaume^{1,2} | Christopher Poeplau³ | Jaboury Ghazoul^{4,5,6} | Alexandre Buttler^{7,8}

Geosci. Model Dev., 14, 3879–3898, 2021

<https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-14-3879-2021>

© Author(s) 2021. This work is distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.



Geoscientific
Model Development
Open Access
EGU

Partitioning soil organic carbon into its centennially stable and active fractions with machine-learning models based on Rock-Eval[®] thermal analysis (PARTY_{SOC}v2.0 and PARTY_{SOC}v2.0_{EU})

Lauric Cécillon^{1,2}, François Baudin³, Claire Chenu⁴, Bent T. Christensen⁵, Uwe Franko⁶, Sabine Houot⁴, Eva Kanari^{2,3}, Thomas Kätterer⁷, Ines Merbach⁸, Folkert van Oort⁴, Christopher Poeplau⁹, Juan Carlos Quezada^{10,11,12}, Florence Savignac³, Laure N. Soucémarianadin¹³, and Pierre Barré²

Principales preguntas

Qué pasa con el C a lo largo del ciclo/ciclos del cultivo de palma?

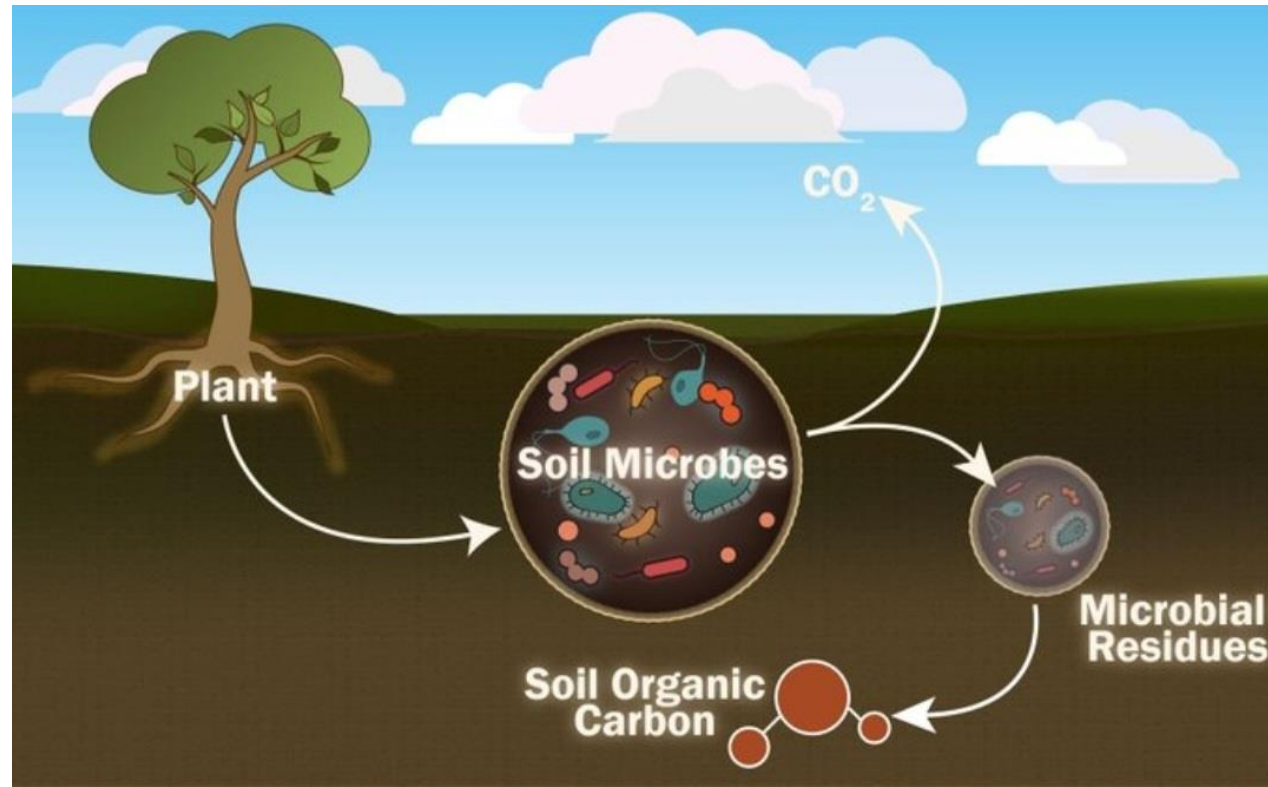
Cómo es la dinámica de nutrientes?

Cómo se comporta la actividad biológica del suelo?

Key/take home messages

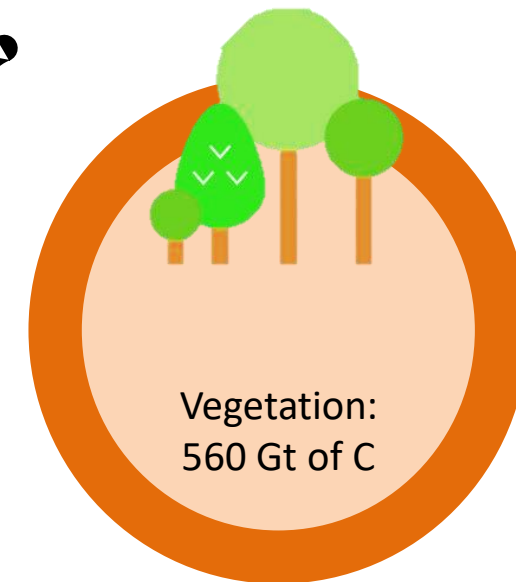
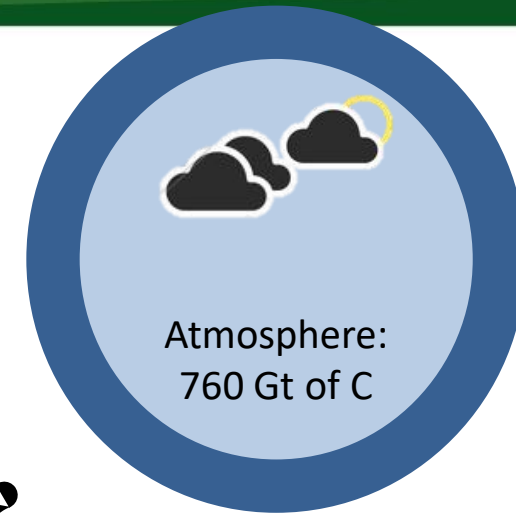
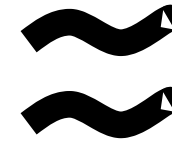
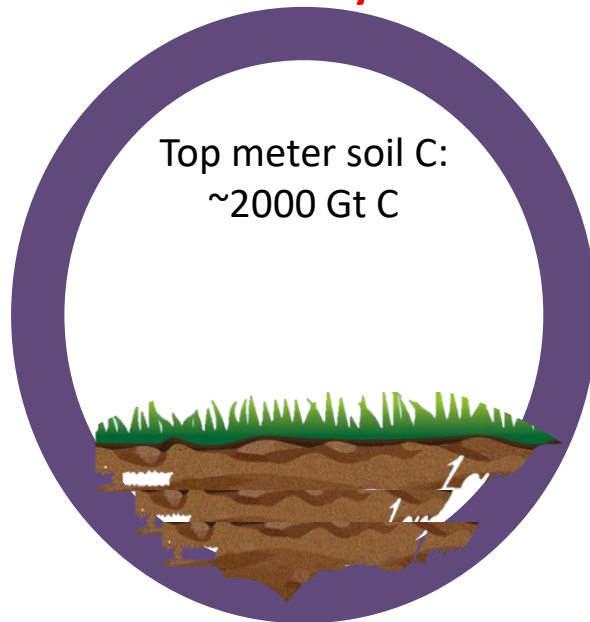
- Muy **poca evidencia empírica** sobre la expansión de la palma en **zonas de sabanas y pasturas** en zonas de sabana
- Mucho menor información en cuanto a **la huella de C** por la conversión de sabanas y pasturas en plantaciones de palma
- Desconocimiento de **aspectos fundamentales de la dinámica de C y nutrientes** durante ciclos enteros de producción
- La **conversión de sabana en palma deja una huella positiva de C** a nivel del ecosistema lo largo del 1 ciclo del cultivo
- La dinámica del C en el ecosistema palmero a través de un ciclo de producción es **mediada por el manejo agronómico**
- Plantaciones derivadas de **pasturas (indirectamente de sabanas) tienen un balance neutro de C (balance de C no se afecta por conversión a palma)** a nivel del ecosistema a lo **largo de dos ciclos de cultivo**
- La **fertilidad química del suelo aumentó** durante el tiempo de cultivo y aún no se acerca al equilibrio
- Mayor estabilización de C y mayor actividad microbiana del suelo en **zonas de palera y plato**
- **La dinámica del C en el suelo a largo plazo (dos ciclos) se compone de dos tendencias diferentes.** Primero se da una fuerte pérdida de las stocks/cantidades **de C y luego se estabiliza.**

Activar la biología del suelo con capacidad de secuestro de C



Global scale

~10 % lost in the last 150 yrs.



**Anthropogenic perturbations ->
Land use Change ->
Disturb the C cycle ->
global C balance**



90-120 m

64 -75 m

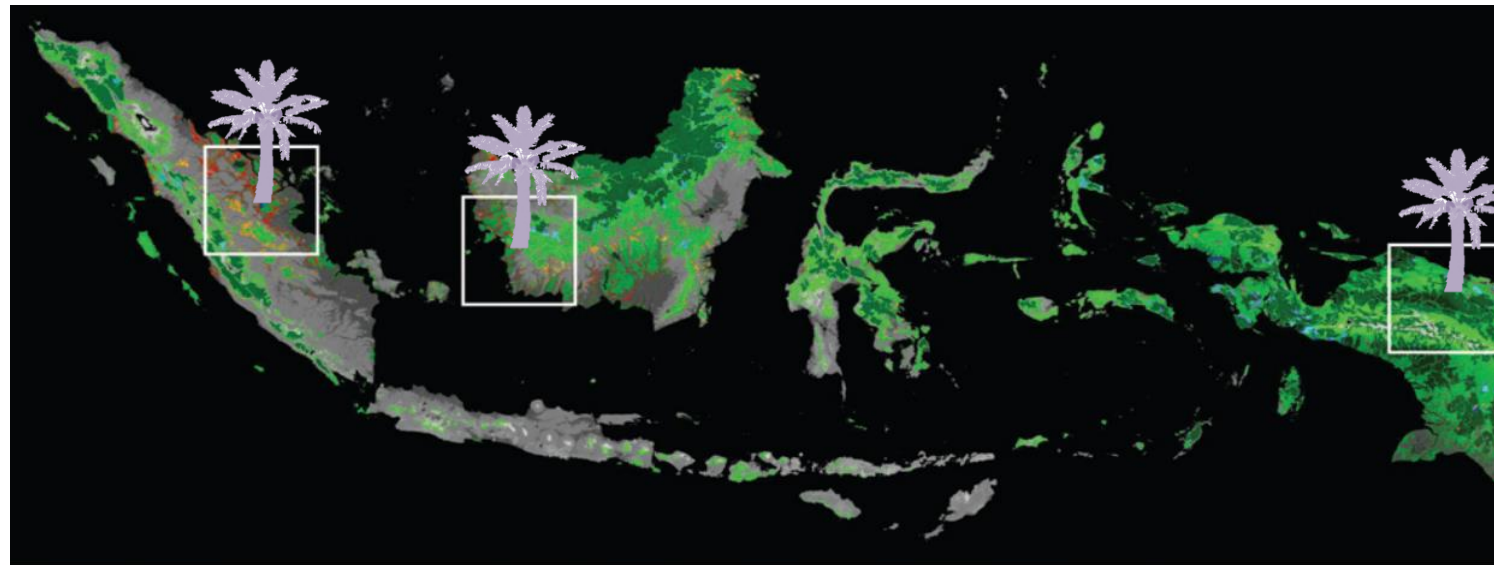


**Tropical deforestation rate
every 2-6 seconds**

**~1000 soccer fields by the end of this
talk**

Deforestation scenario for OP in SE Asia

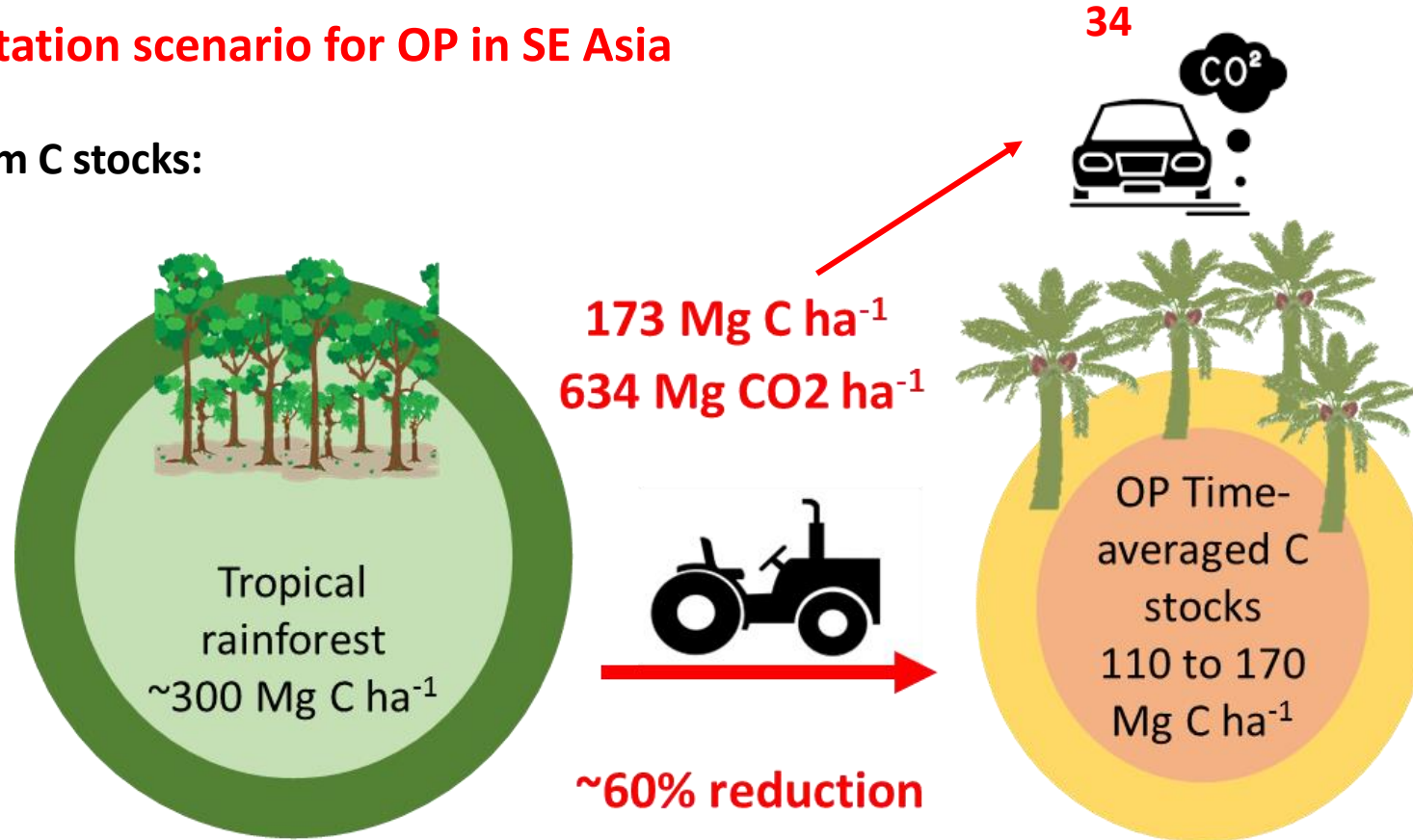
- One of the highest world's deforestation rates **0.84 Mha yr⁻¹**
- Indonesia produces **~50%** of global palm oil, together with Malaysia **~80%**
- Since 2000, **70%** of OP expansion on forests, peatlands, agroforest
- **4th** highest GHG emission rate



Margono B. et al., 2014. NCC

Deforestation scenario for OP in SE Asia

Ecosystem C stocks:



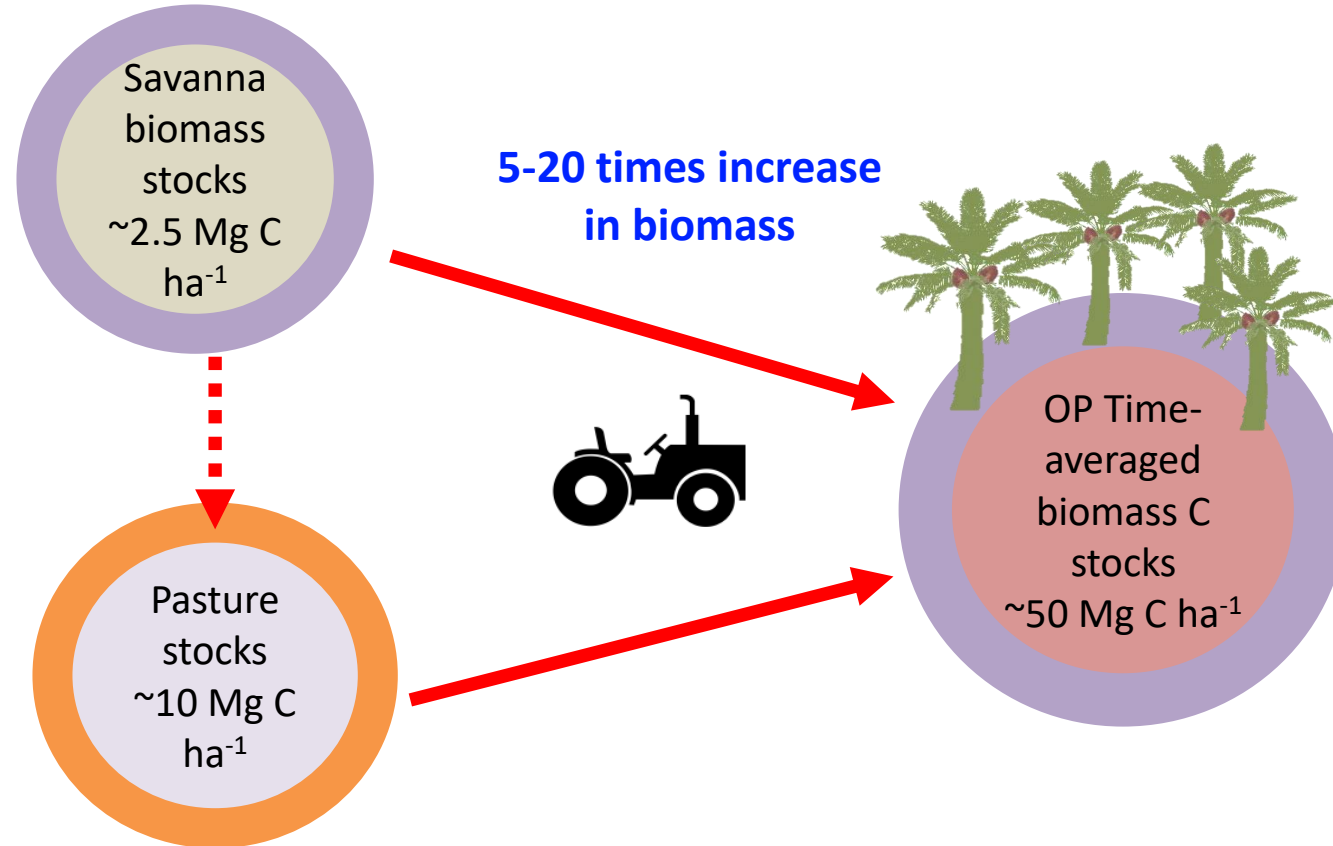
Alternatives to deforestation?

Guillaume T. et al., 2016. Nat. Comm.

Converting ecosystems with low biomass?

Biomass C stocks:

Deforestation-free Alternatives



Braz S. et al., 2013. Soil Sci. Soc. Ame.

Converting ecosystems with low biomass?

“Los Llanos” Orientales (Eastern Colombia)

Colombia



- ~40% of OP cultivated area
- ~22 million ha (5 time the Swiss territory)
- Savanna ecosystem (dominated by C4 grasses)
- Main land use: Extensive cattle ranching
- Expansion predicted to continue
- 2.5 million ha of degraded pasture areas



- OP area: ~450,000 ha
- Minimal deforestation cost

Castiblanco C. et al., 2013. Environ. Sci. Poli.

Converting ecosystems with low biomass?

↳ Evident increase of biomass C



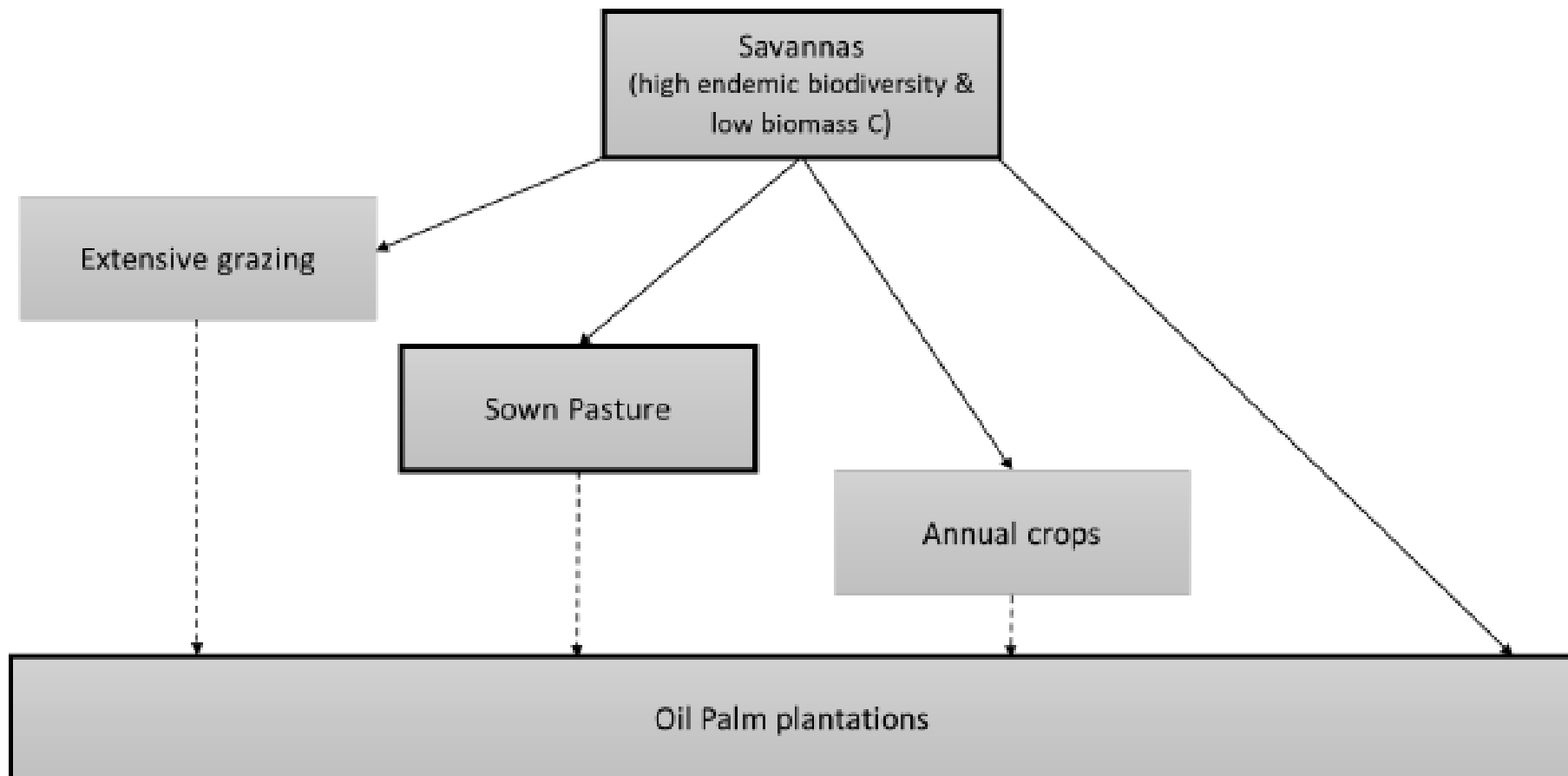
↳ Knowledge gaps

- **Few studies** on pastures/grasslands conversion into OP
- **No empirical data** on the soil C pool
- **SOC** dynamic aspects like **decomposition** and **accumulation**

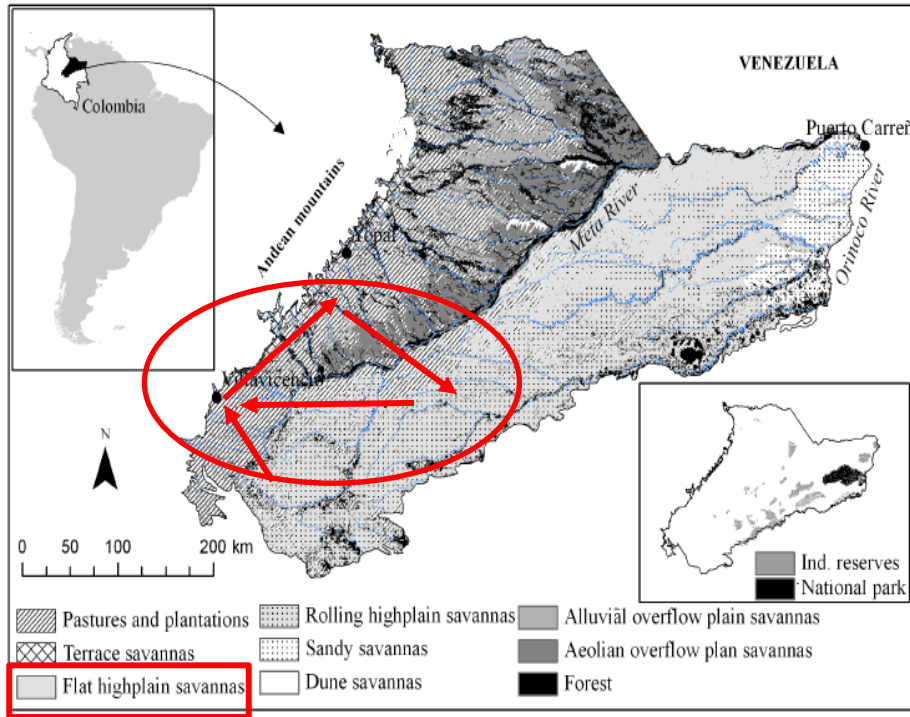
Overall Objective

Assess quantitatively, with field-based measurements, the impacts of deforestation-free alternatives on soil biogeochemical properties and ecosystem C storage for a more sustainable expansion of OP agriculture in the tropics.





EASTERN PLAINS OF COLOMBIA “LOS LLANOS”



Main land use: extensive cattle ranching with almost no management and few external inputs

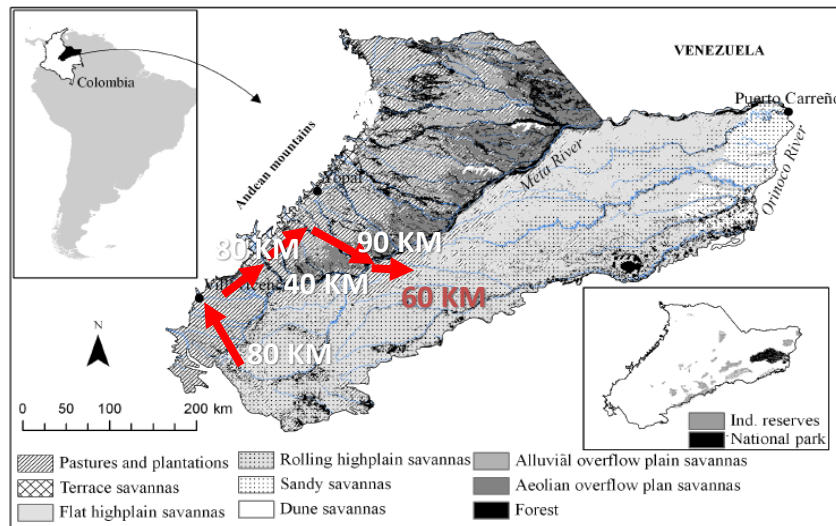
VISITS TO FARMS

Plantation name	Soil Type	Land-use History*	OP plantation age range (yrs)	Plant material**	Management***
Palmasol	Well-drained Inceptisols	S --> P --> OP	0 - 30	H and G	CC, compost
Manapure	Well-drained Inceptisols	S --> R --> OP	0 - 30	H and G	CC
La Cabana	Well-drained Inceptisols	S --> P --> OP 1st-->OP 2nd	3 to 57	H and G	CC, compost, raw residues
La Cabana	Medium-drained shallow Inceptisols	S --> P --> OP 1st-->OP 2nd	3 to 57	H and G	CC, compost, raw residues
La Cabana	Shallow Gleysols	S --> P --> OP 1st-->OP 2nd	3 to 57	H and G	CC, compost, raw residues
Campo Alegre	Gleysols	S --> R --> OP	4 to 12	H and G	CC
Palmera Santana	Gleysols	S --> R --> OP	4 to 28	G	CC, weeded circle no bare soil
La Vigia	Gleysols	S --> P --> OP	5 to 8	H and G	CC, reduced use of chemicals
Sillatava, Ocarra, Samani	Oxisols (+ plinthite)	S --> OP	2 to 9	G	Implementing CC
Sapuga	Oxisols	S --> OP	7 to 30	G	No CC
Sapuga	Oxisols	S --> P --> OP	7 to 30	G	No CC

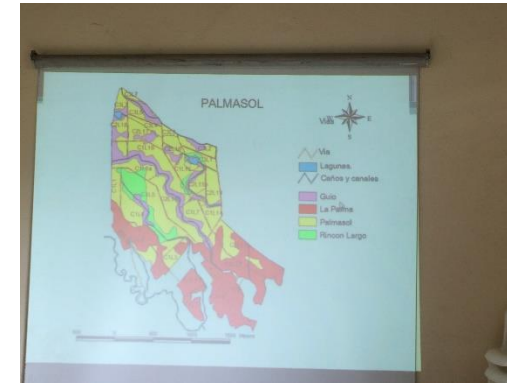
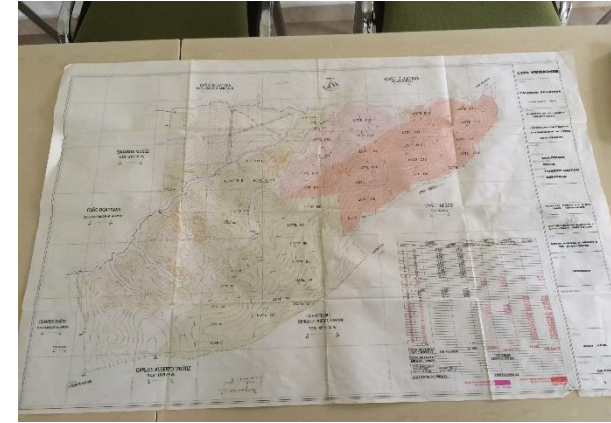
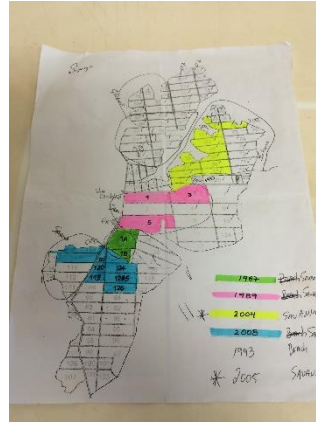
*S: Savanna, P: Pasture, OP: Oil palm, R: Rice

**H: Hybri, G: Guinensis

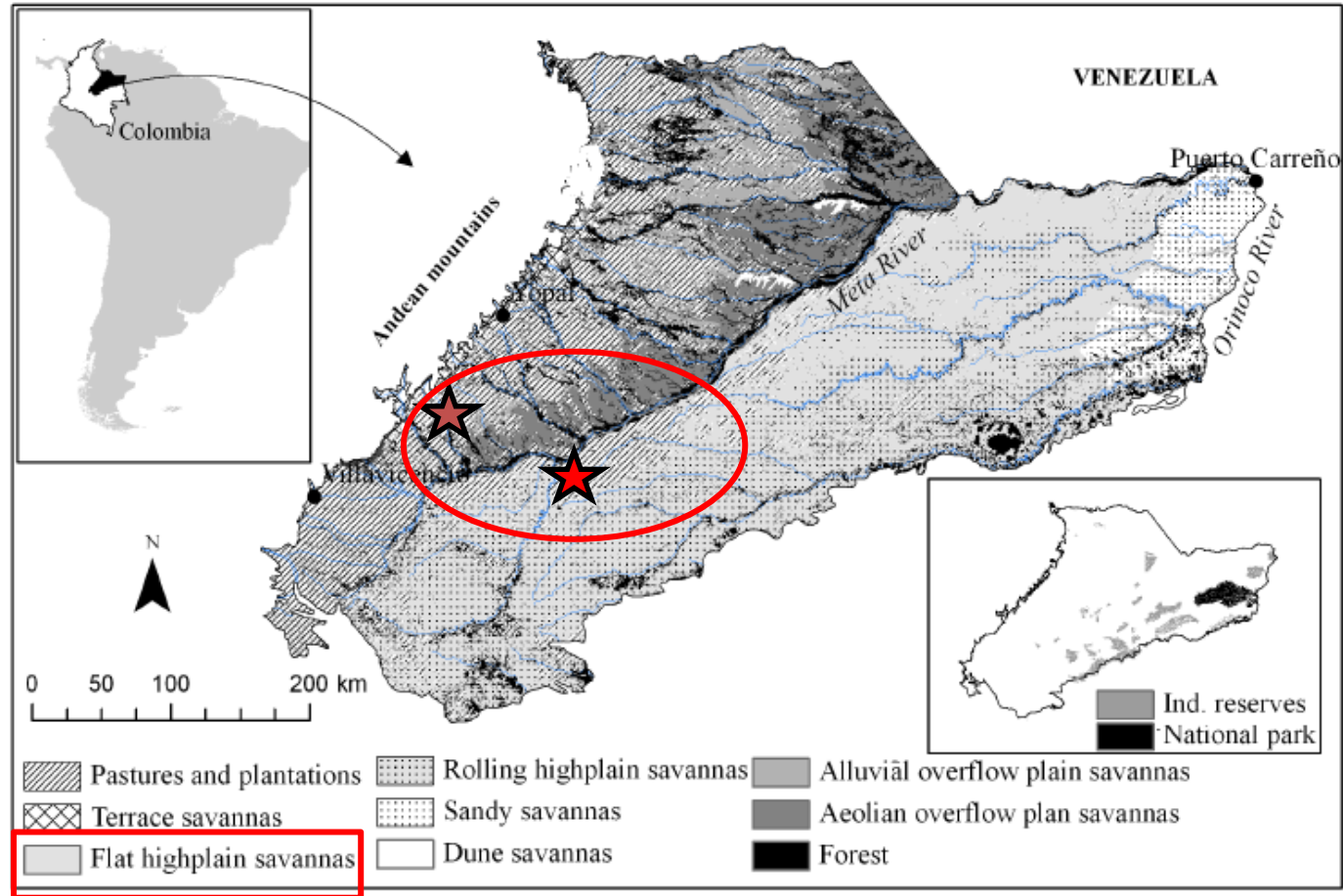
***CC: Cover crops



CRITERIA FOR SITE SELECTION

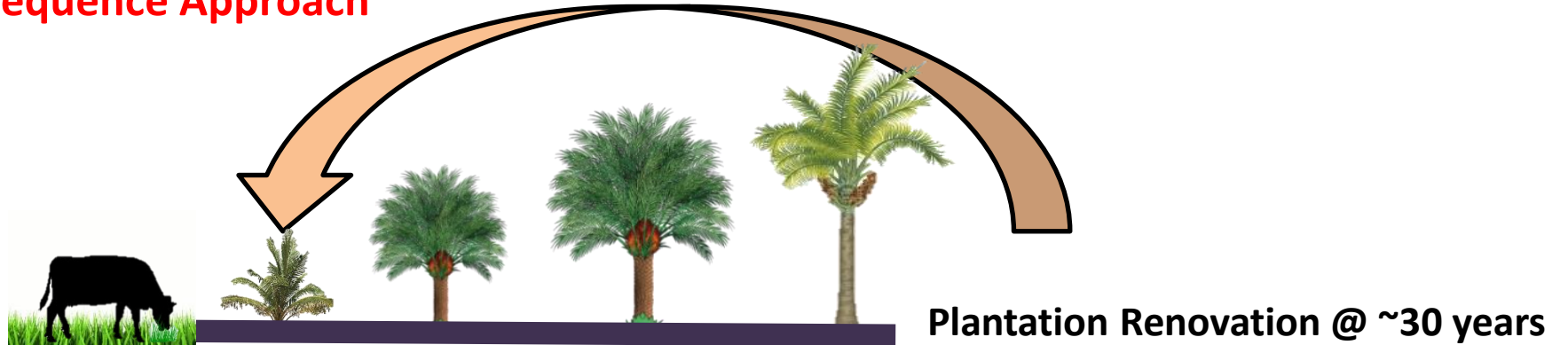


SELECTED RESEARCH SITES

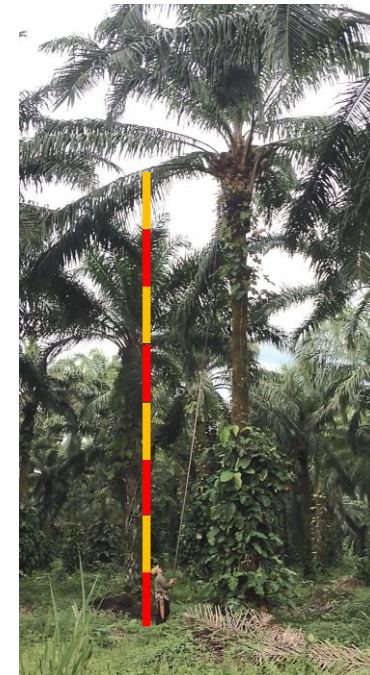
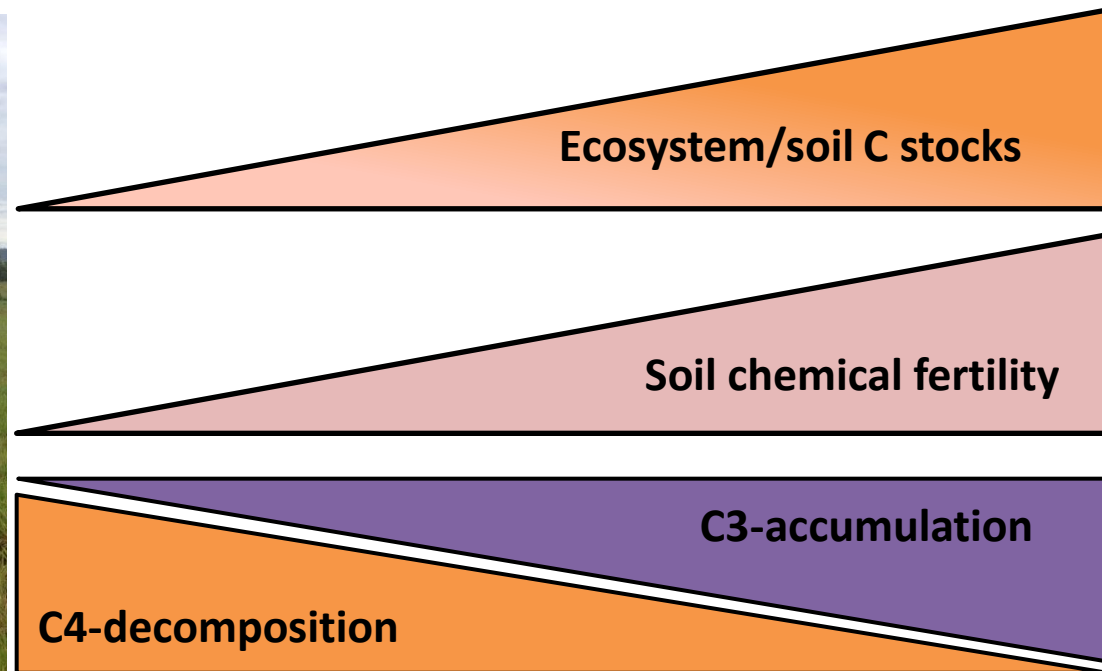


Methods

Chronosequence Approach



A Few General Research Questions/Hypotheses



Methods

Natural ^{13}C abundance

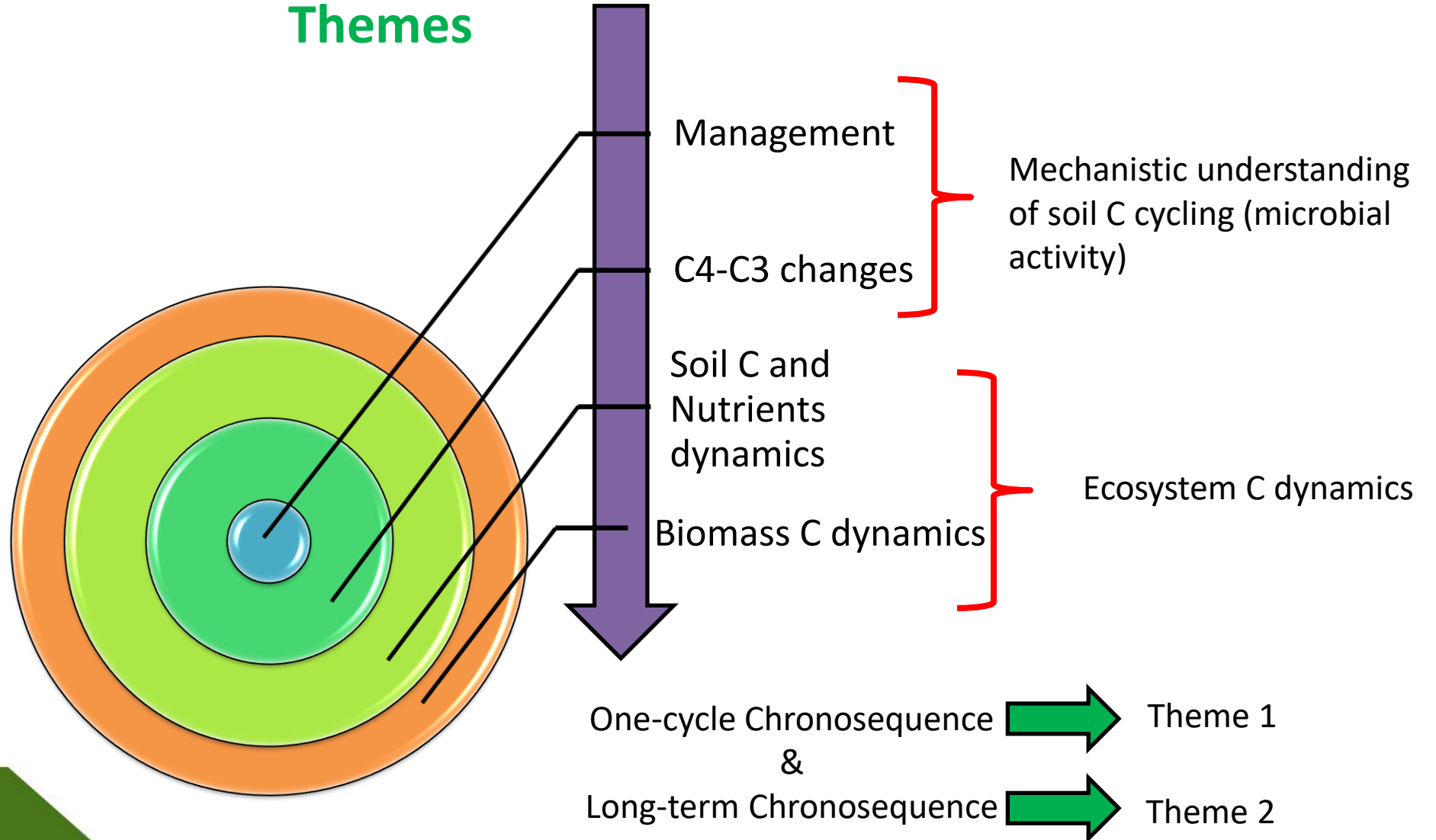


- Vegetation change (**C4 to C3**)
- Natural **^{13}C -labelling**
- **In-situ** estimations of **SOC turnover**
- **Clock** for C4 **decomposition** and C3 **stabilization rates**
- Only a **handful** of **studies** have used the natural abundance $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ approach

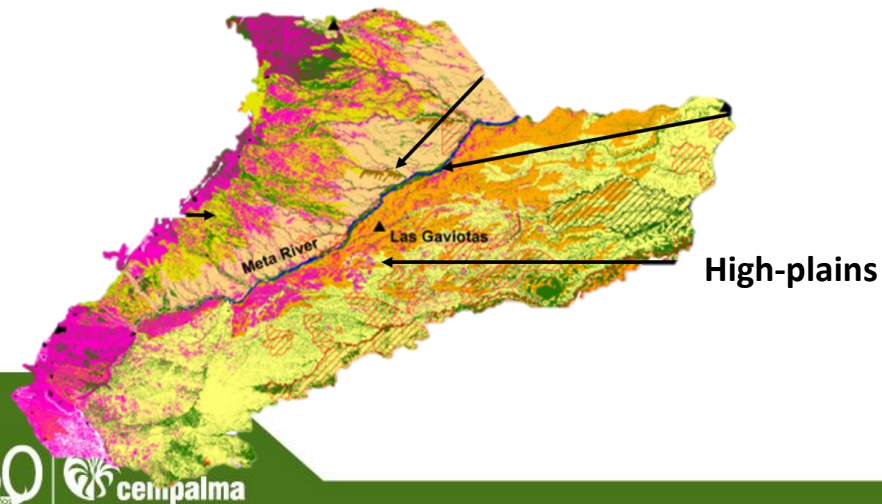
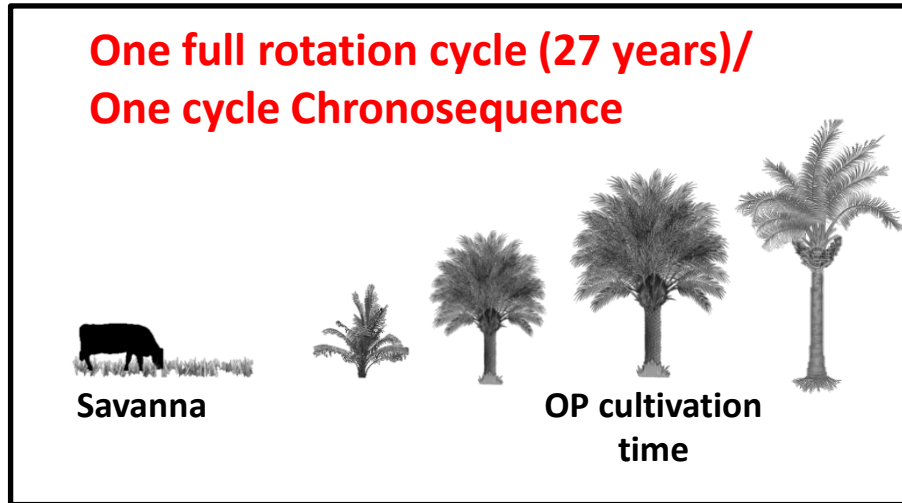
$\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signature: $\sim 14 \text{ ‰}$



Themes



One-Cycle C Dynamics



Effect of Management Practices

Weeded circle
Fertilization ++
C belowground inputs ++

Harvest path
No inputs

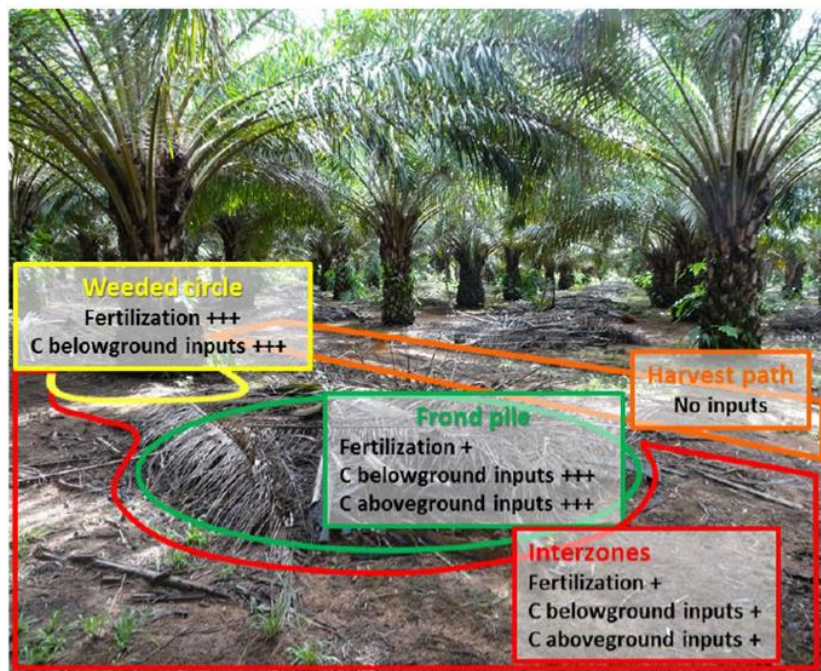
Fronde pile
Fertilization +
C belowground inputs +++
C aboveground inputs +++

Interzones
Fertilization +
C belowground inputs +
C aboveground inputs +

Mechanisms C accumulation and decomposition

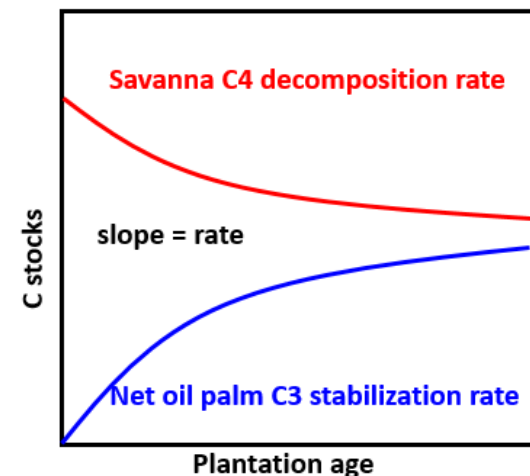
One-Cycle C Dynamics

Drivers of SOC stabilization by management



Hypotheses

$$W > F > IR > H$$



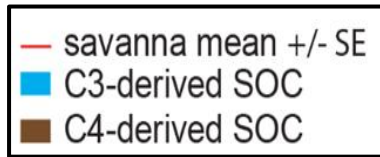
$$F > W > H > IZ$$

- 2,4 and 9 year-old plantation, 5 palms
- **Path analysis** -> **Direct** and **indirect** effects of fine roots, microbial activity and nutrient application on OP-derived C accumulation
- **Fine roots** (C inputs)

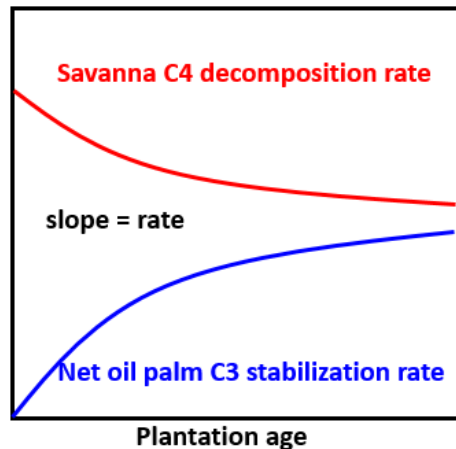
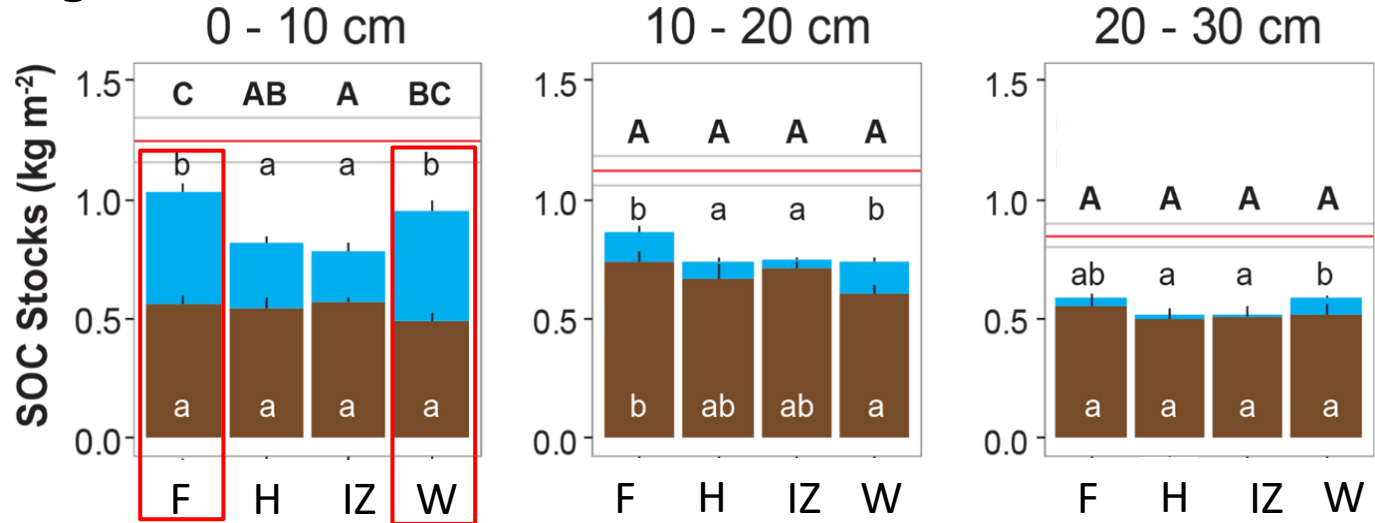
One-Cycle C Dynamics

Drivers of SOC stabilization by management

Major Findings



F: Frond pile
 W: Weeded Circle
 IZ: Interzone
 H: Harvest Path



W > F > IZ > H

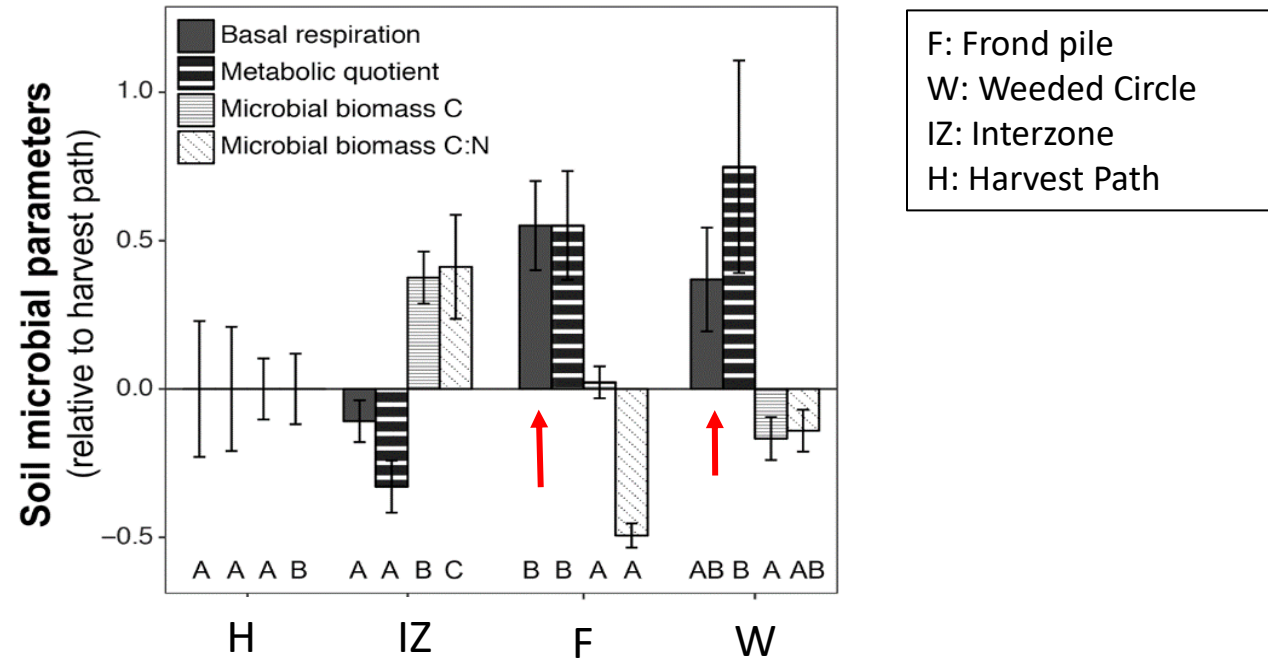


No Priming Effect

One-Cycle C Dynamics

Drivers of SOC stabilization by management

Major Findings



- Active but inefficient microorganisms with low CN ratio +

Metabolic Quotient

K strategists (H, IZ)

r strategists (F and W)

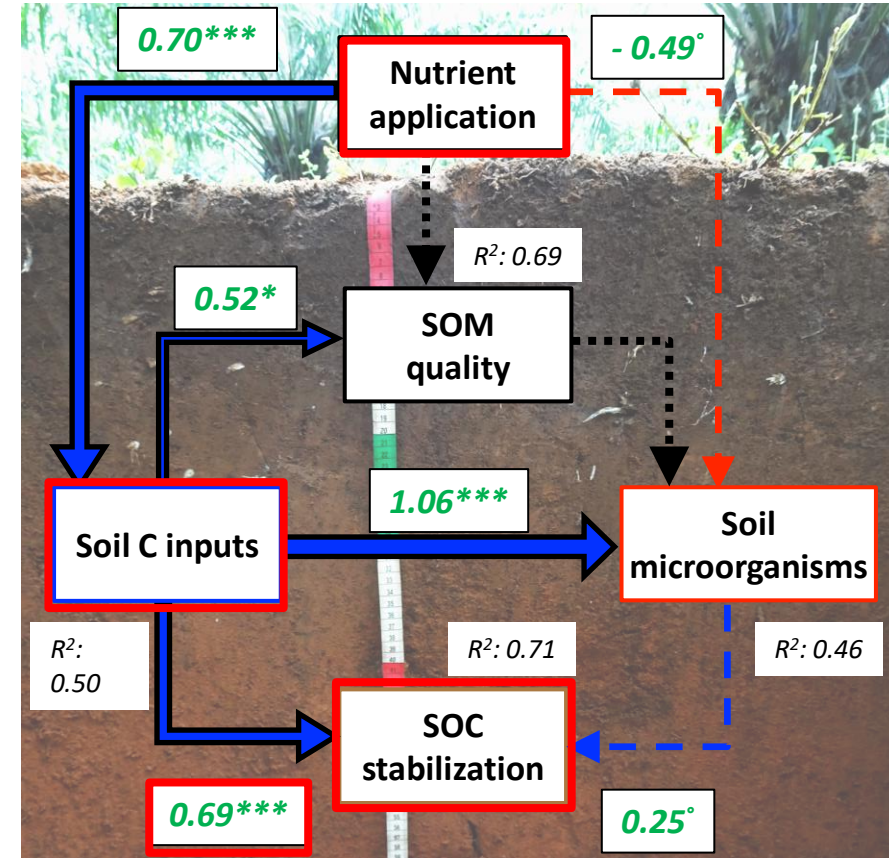
One-Cycle C Dynamics

Drivers of SOC stabilization by management

Major Findings

SOC stabilization is driven by soil C input

Cascading impact
nutrients -> root growth -> C inputs SOC



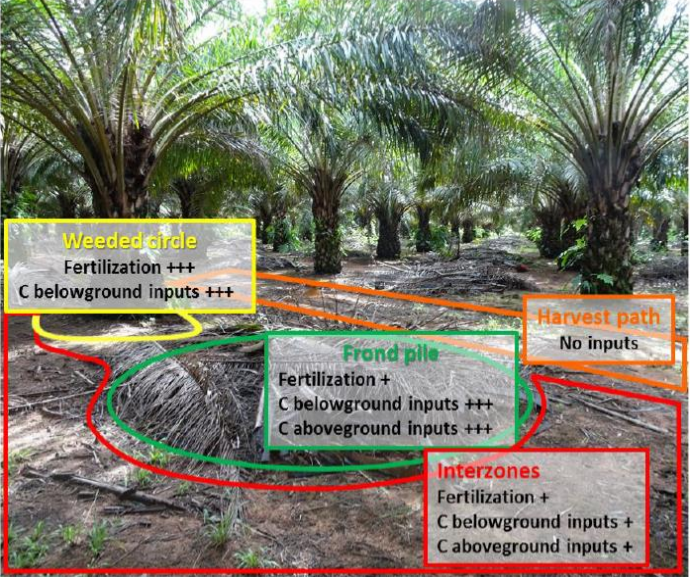
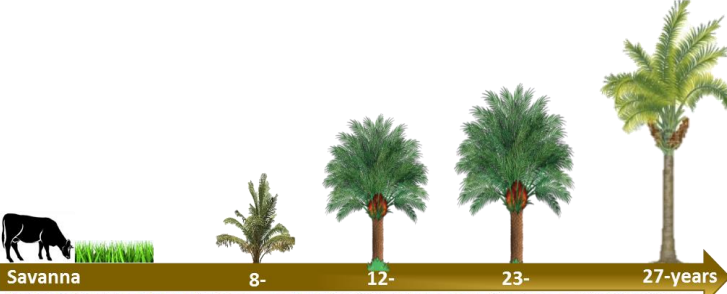
Pχ² = 0.33, RMSEA = 0.09, TLI = 0.97, CFI = 0.99

Will these findings hold in time as OP-cultivation continues?

One-Cycle C Dynamics

Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Savanna mediated by Management

Hypotheses



F: Frond pile
W: Weeded Circle
IZ: Interzone
H: Harvest Path

FronD Pile (F)



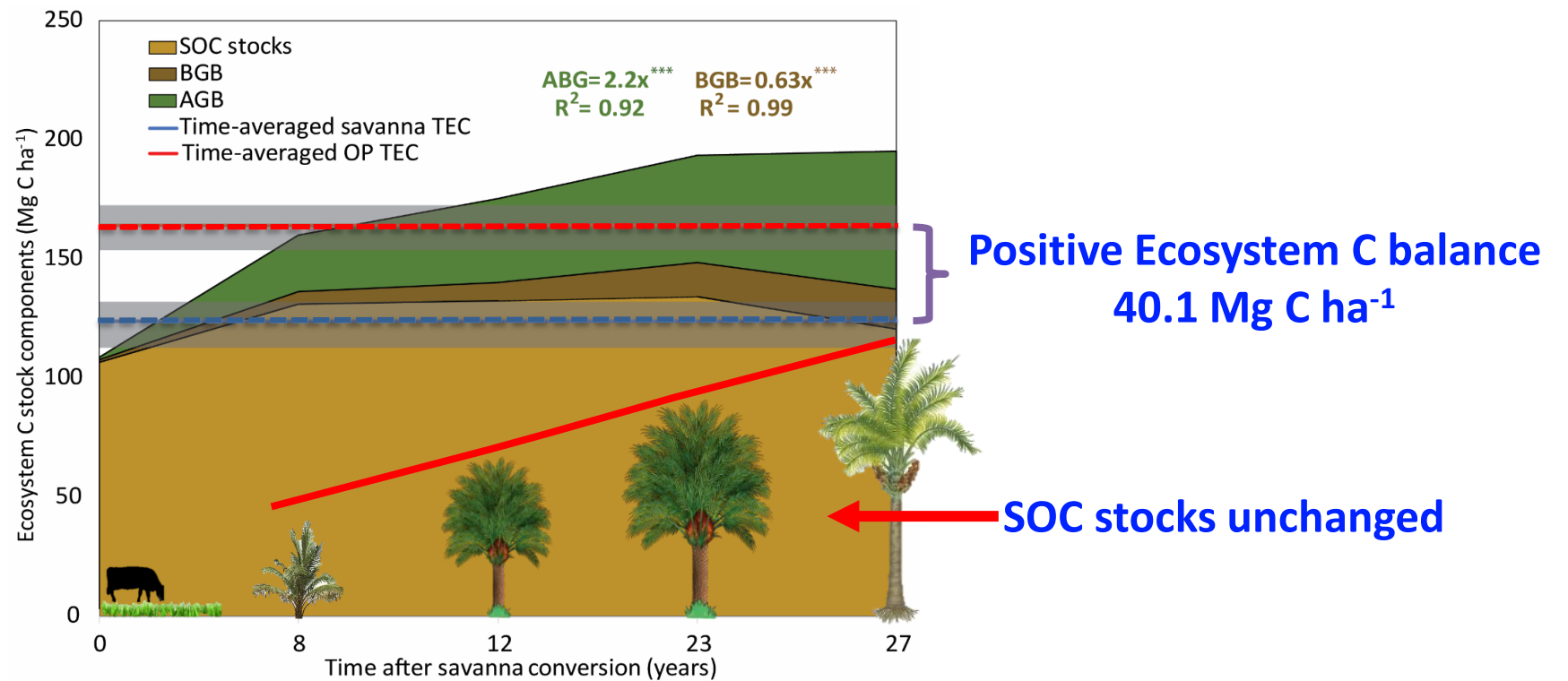
Weeded circle (W)



One-Cycle C Dynamics

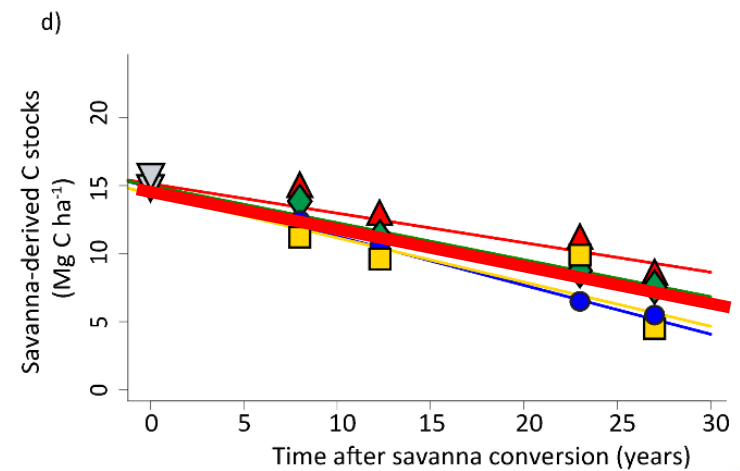
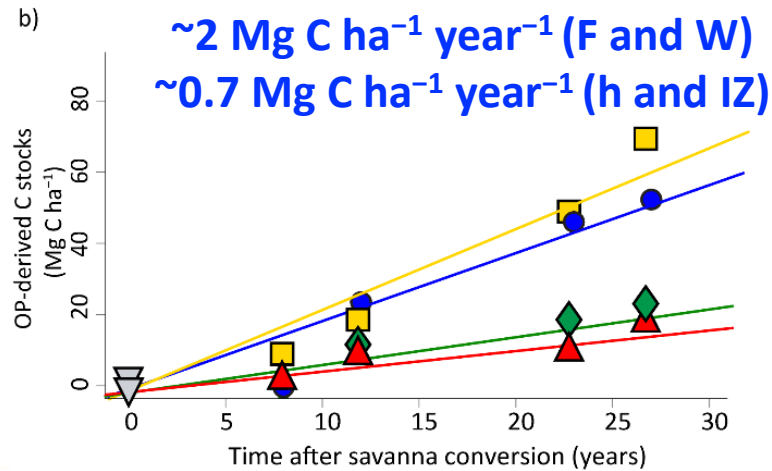
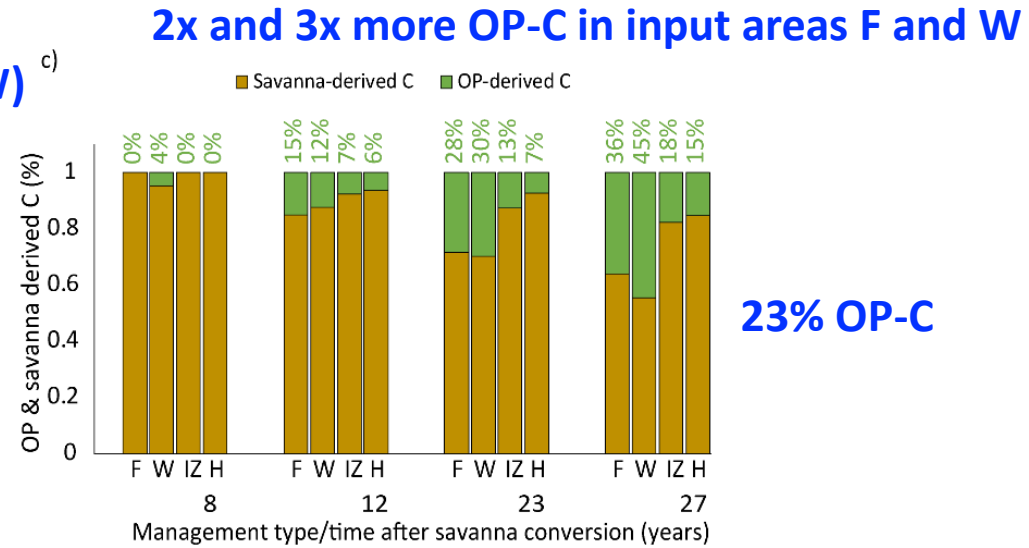
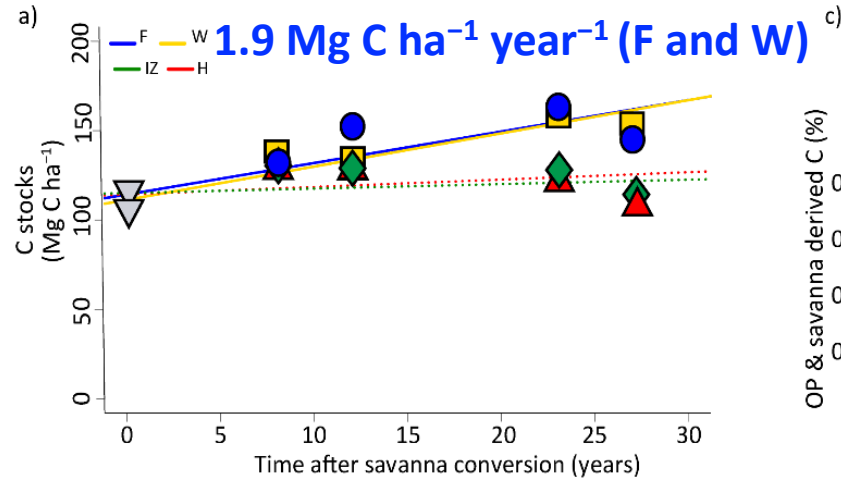
Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Savanna mediated by Management

Major Findings



Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Savanna mediated by Management

Major Findings

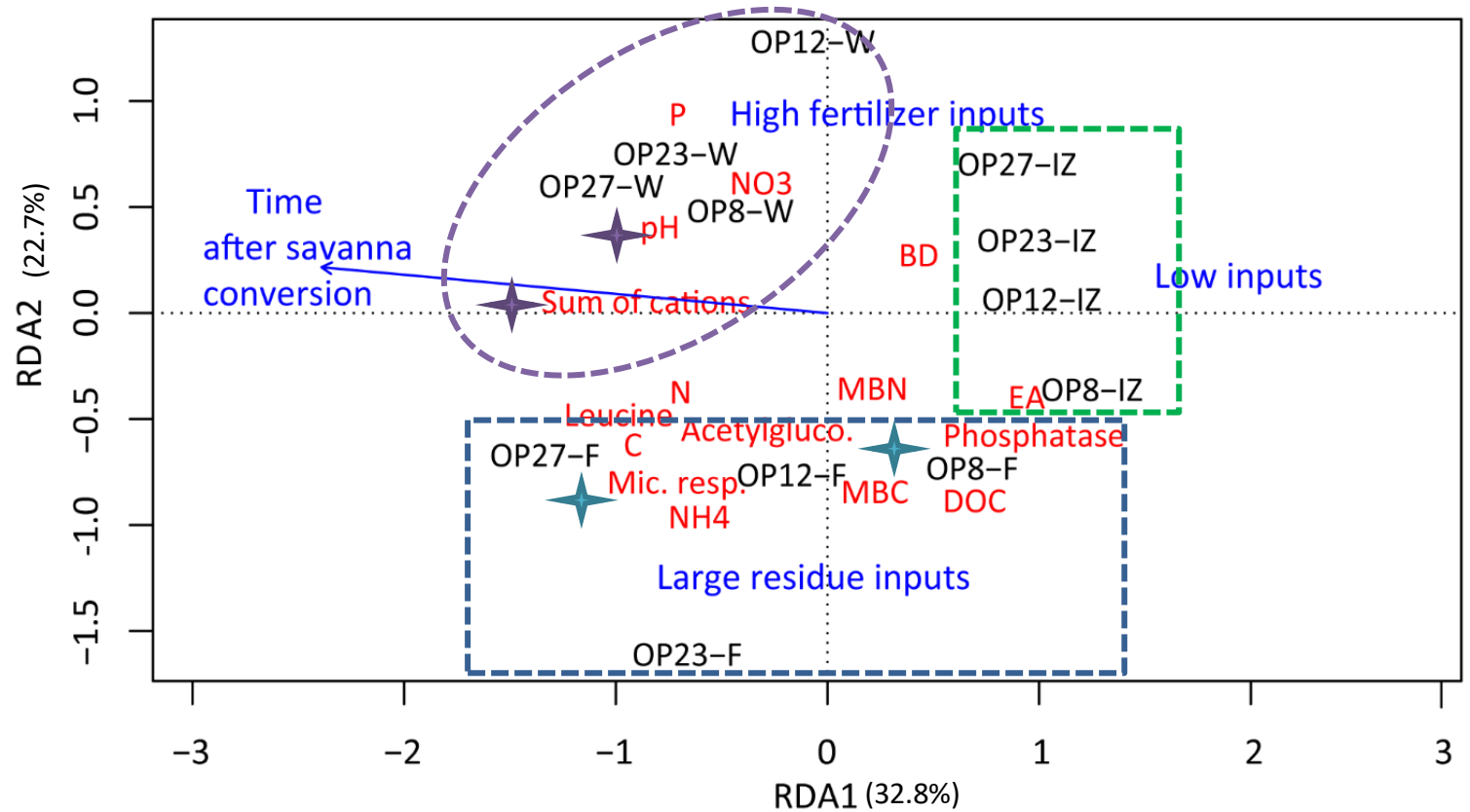


F: Frond pile
W: Weeded Circle
IZ: Interzone
H: Harvest Path

One-Cycle C Dynamics

One-Cycle C Dynamics

Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Savanna mediated by Management

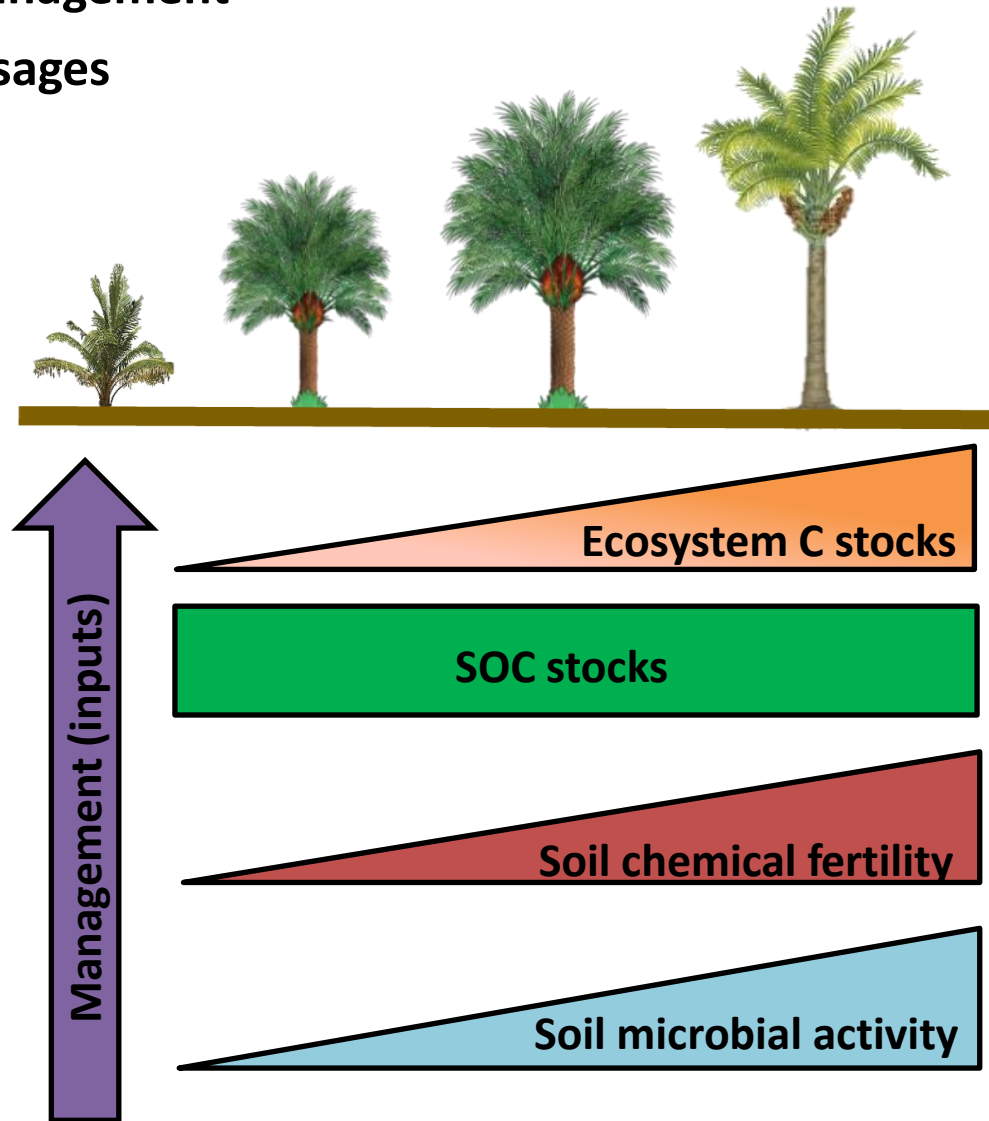


Management **~5 time > importance** (44%) to explain **variation in soil biogeochemical properties** **than LUC** (9%)

One-Cycle C Dynamics

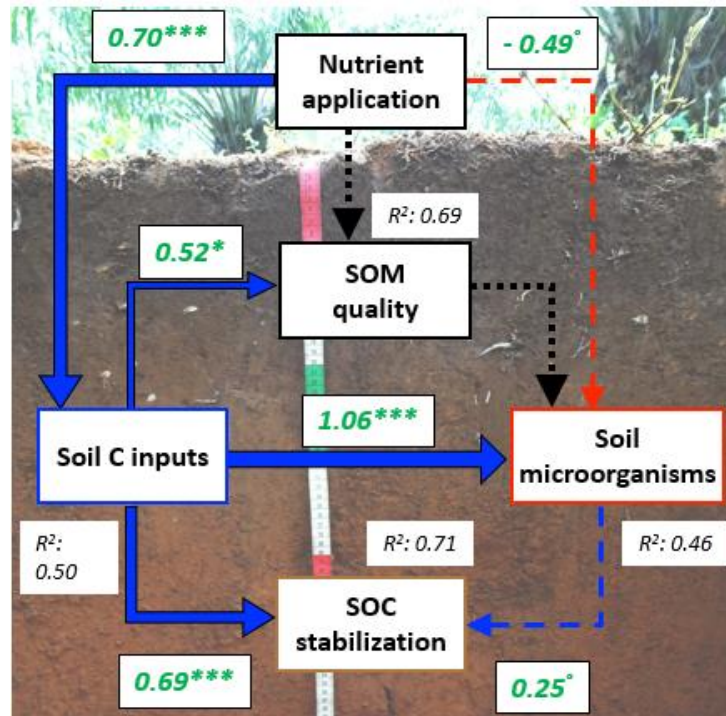
Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Savanna mediated by Management

Take Home Messages



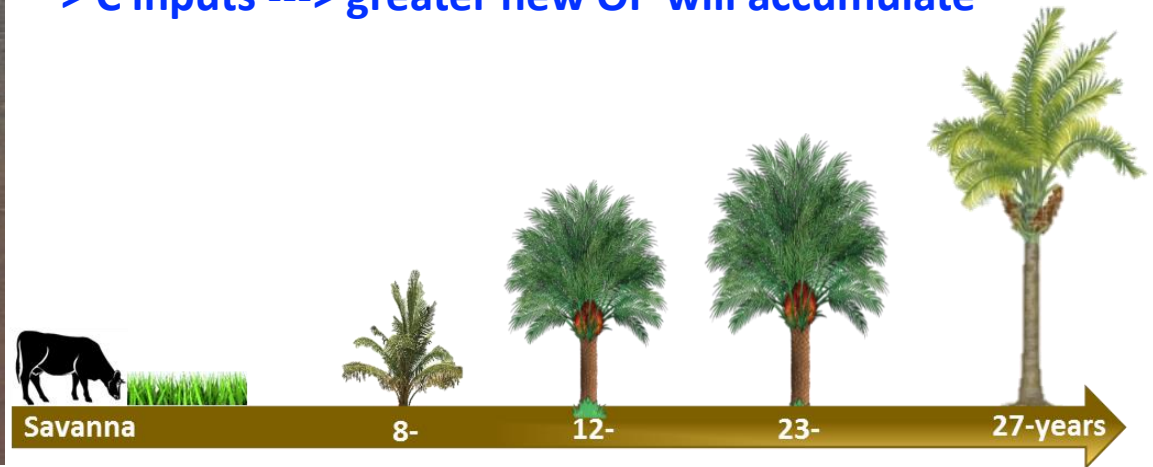
One-Cycle C Dynamics

Theme 1, Major Findings



Mature plantations findings confirmed over time

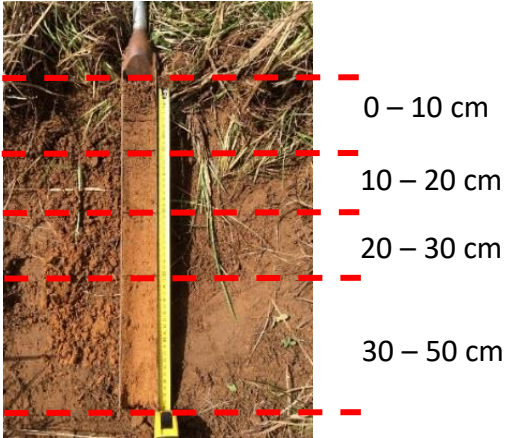
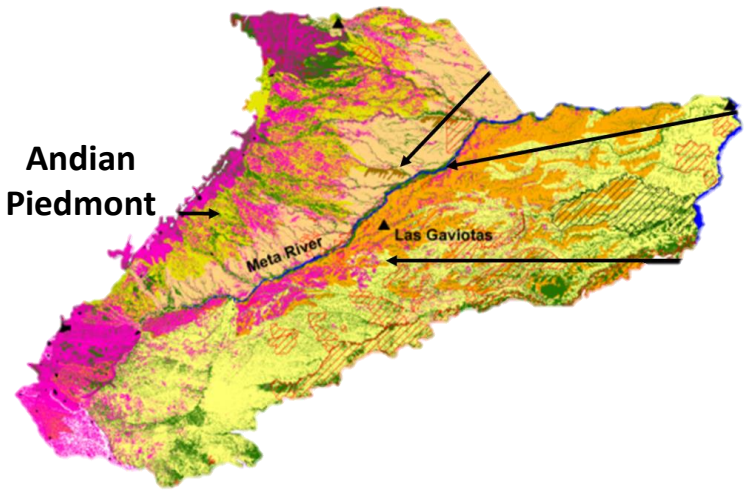
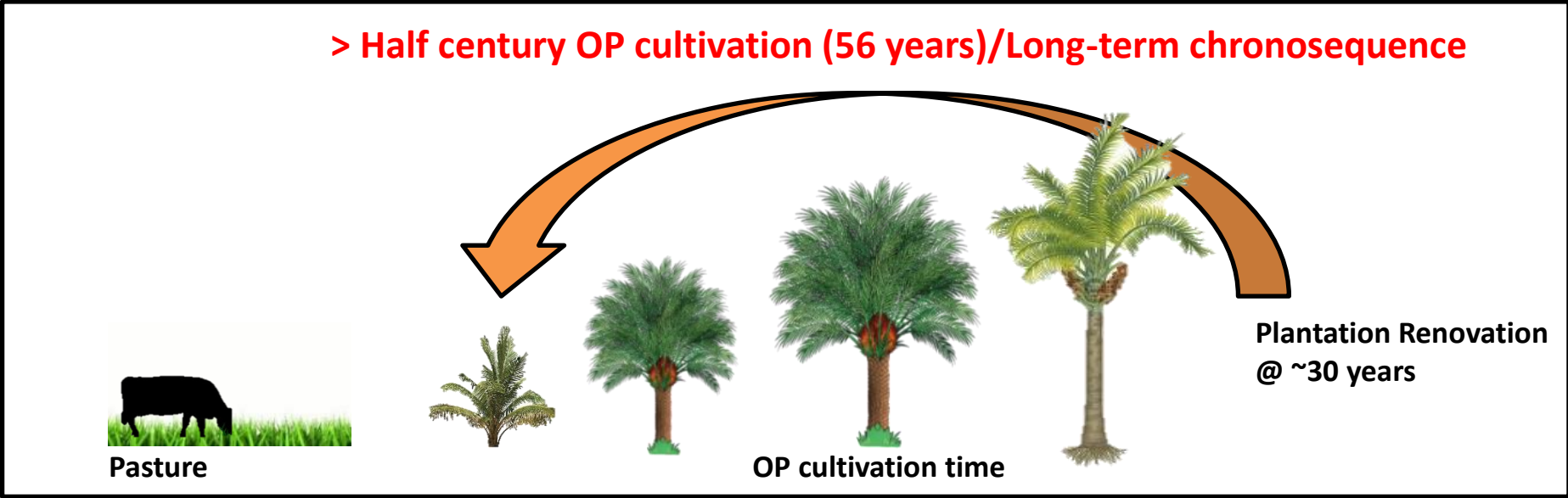
> C inputs ---> greater new OP will accumulate



Ecologically oriented management > organic inputs ---> greater microbial activity
 ---> enhance soil fertility

Long-term C dynamics

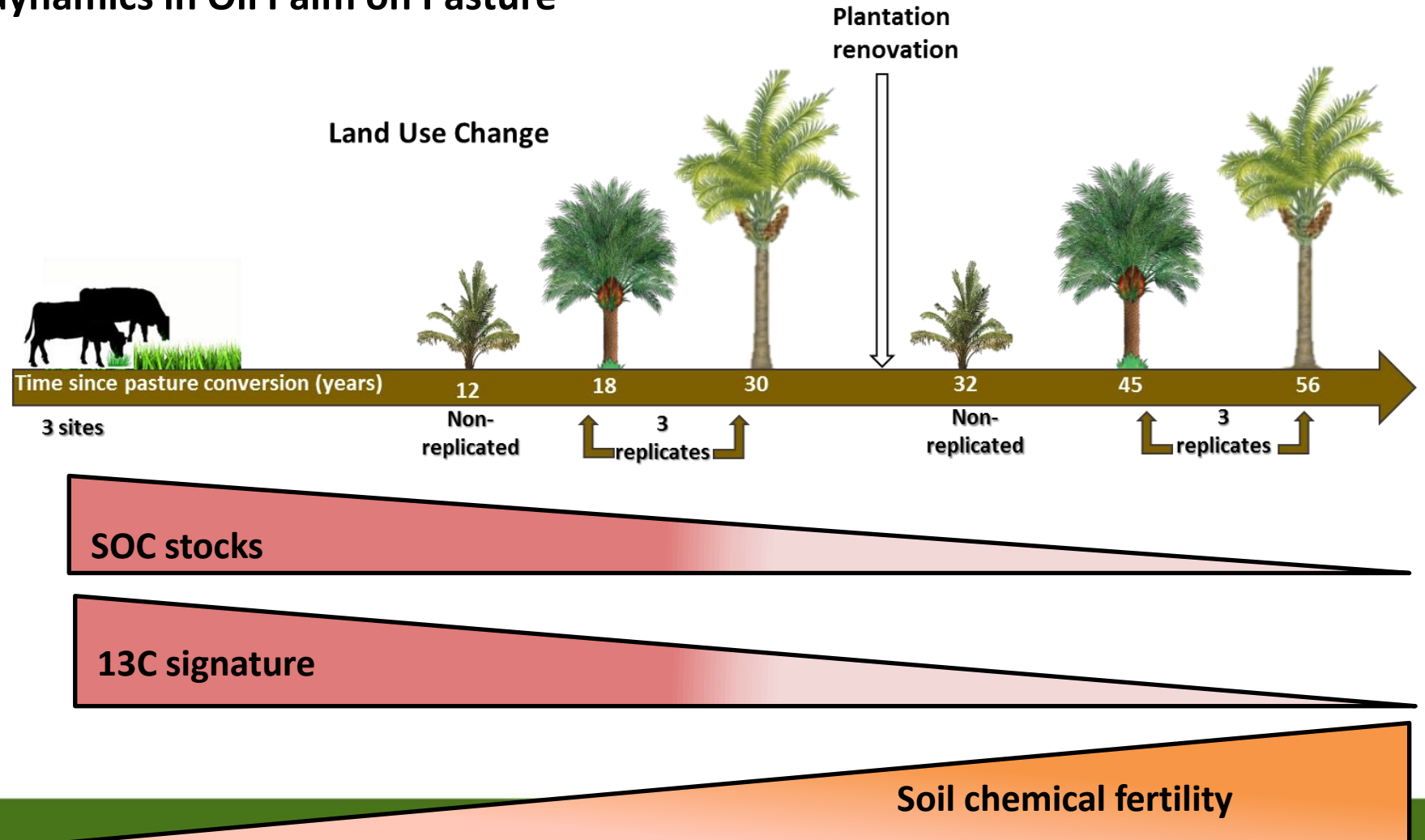
Methods



Long-term C dynamics

Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Pasture

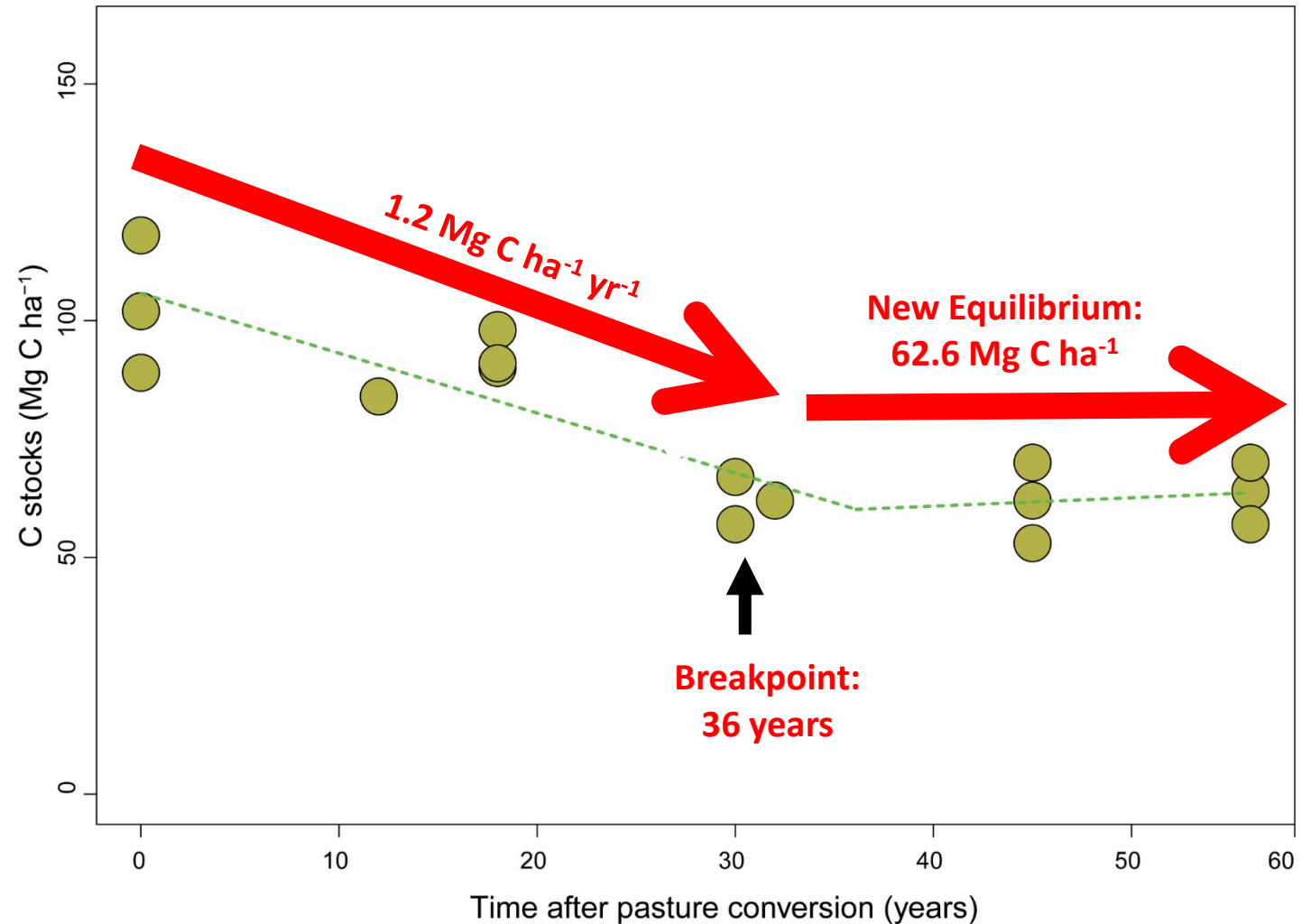
Hypotheses



Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Pasture

Long-term C dynamics

Major Findings

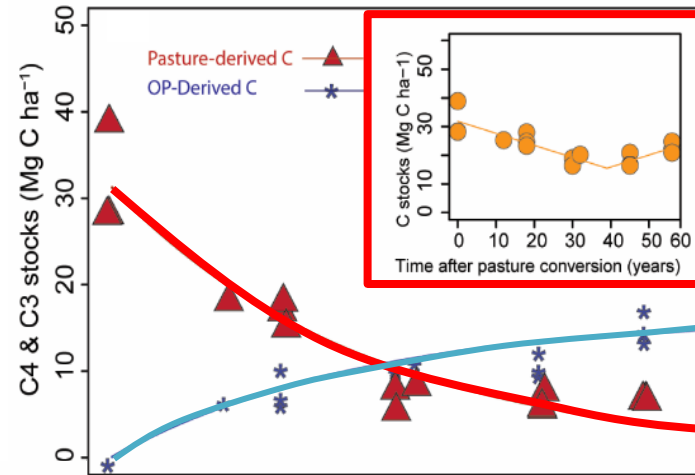


Long-term C dynamics

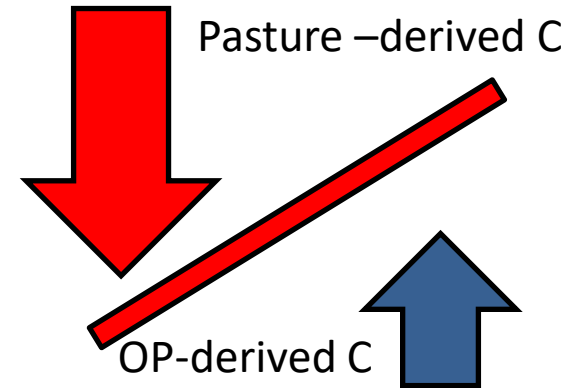
Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Pasture

Major Findings

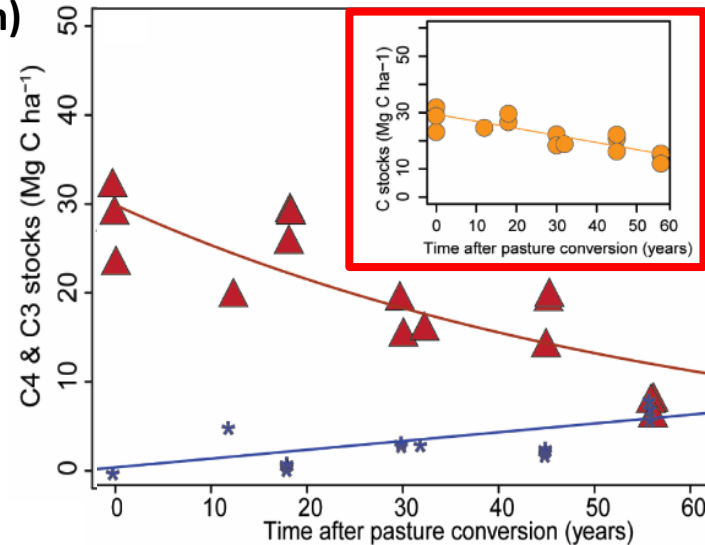
Topsoil (0-10 cm)



77% of pasture derived C loss



Subsoil (30-50 cm)

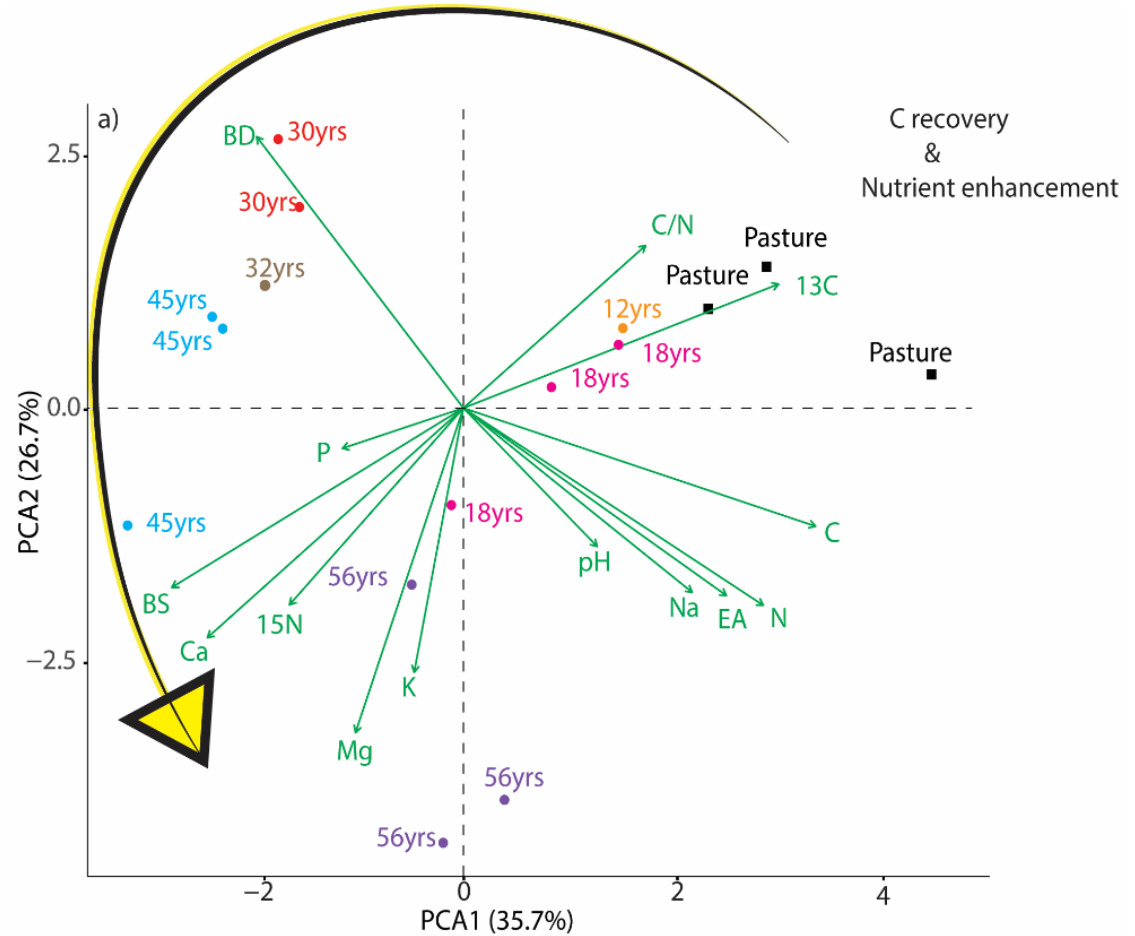
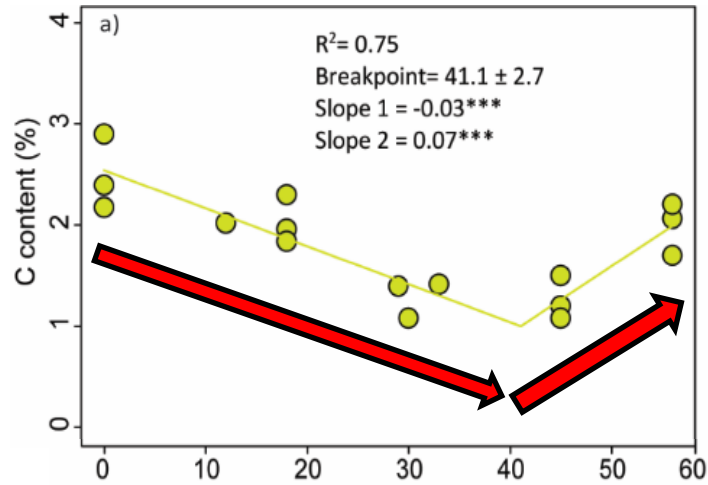


C loss rate: 0.25 Mg C ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹

Long-term C dynamics

Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Pasture

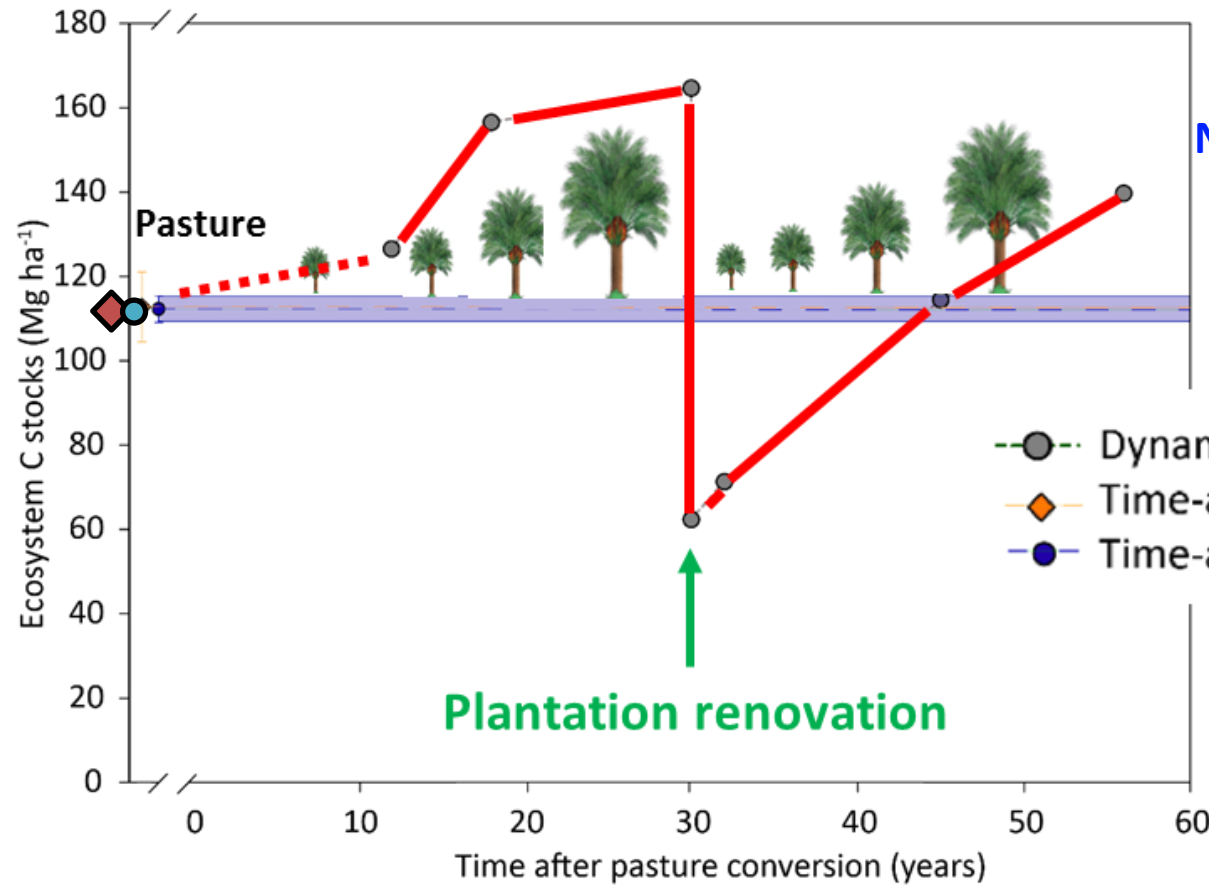
Major Findings



Long-term C dynamics

Major Findings

Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Pasture



Neutral ecosystem C balance



Initial SOC loss, counterbalanced C gains in OP biomass
 Avoid C loss of 173 Mg C ha⁻¹

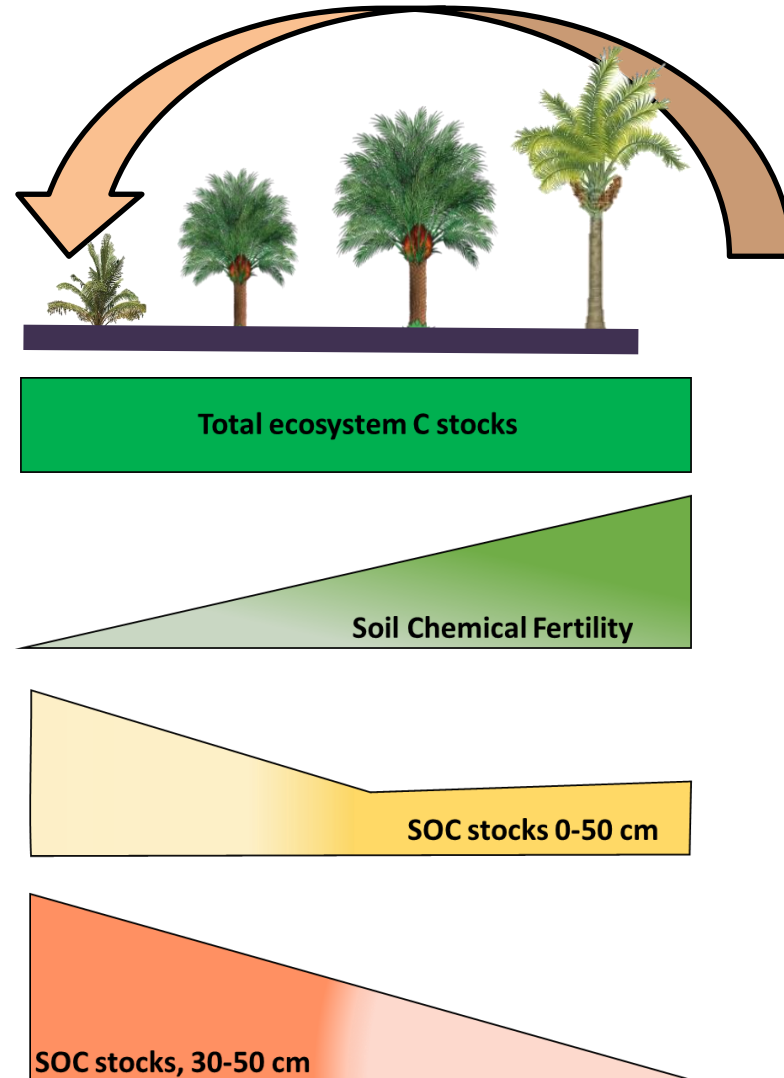
Long-term C dynamics

Ecosystem C dynamics in Oil Palm on Pasture

Take Home Messages

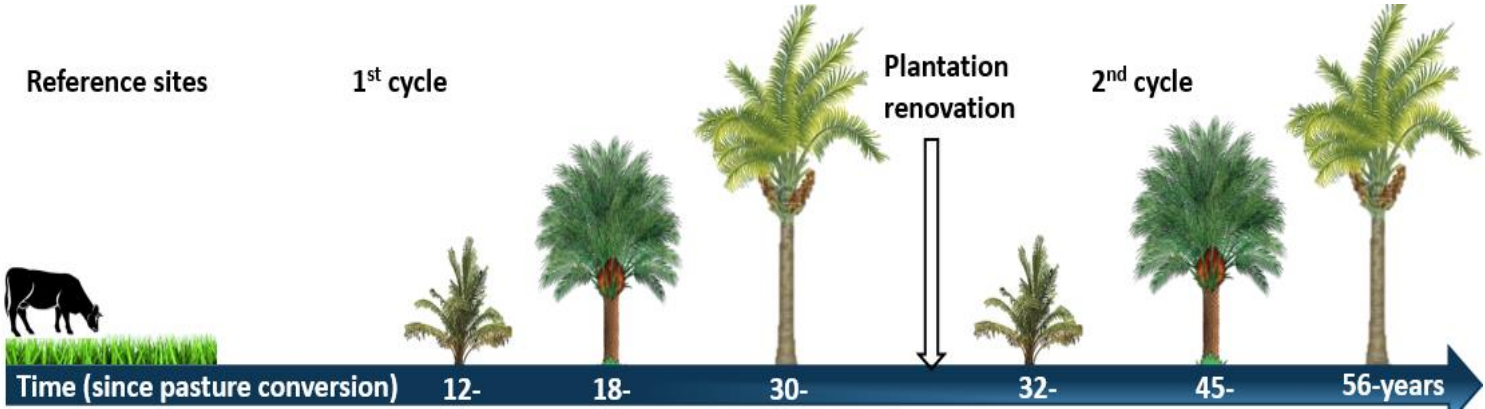
Degraded Pastures

- 2.5 million ha in Los Llanos
- 18 million ha in Cerrados
- 9 million ha Imperata Cylindrica grasslands in Indonesia

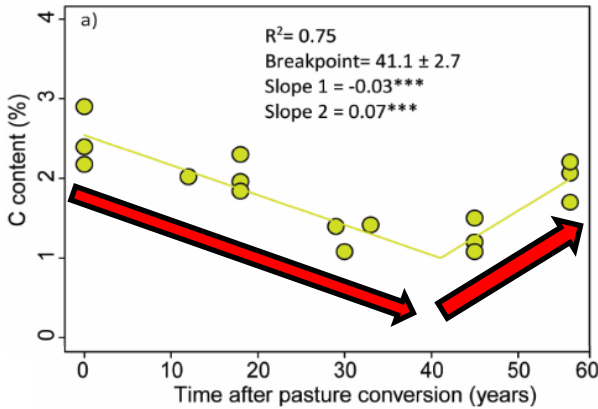


Long-term C dynamics

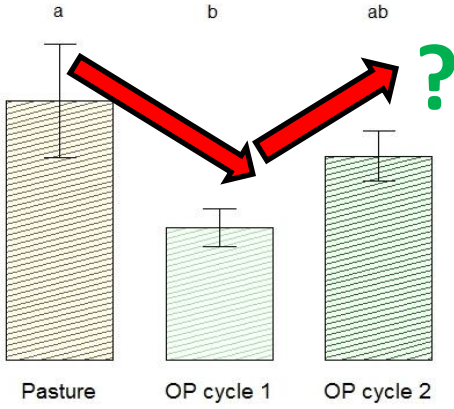
Theme 2, Major Findings



There Will Be ~~No~~ Return to Normal



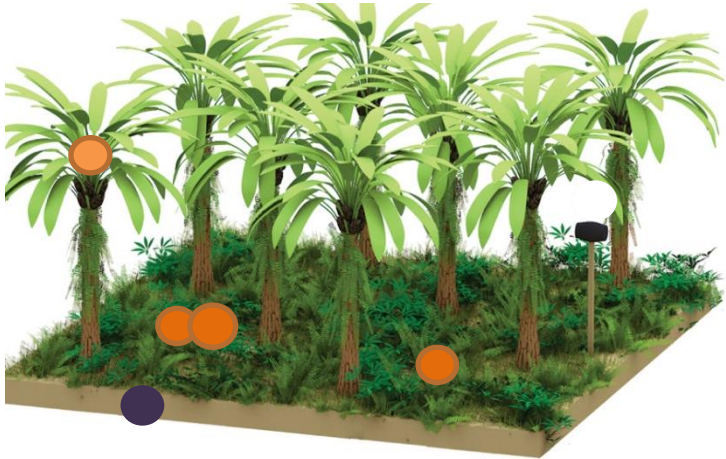
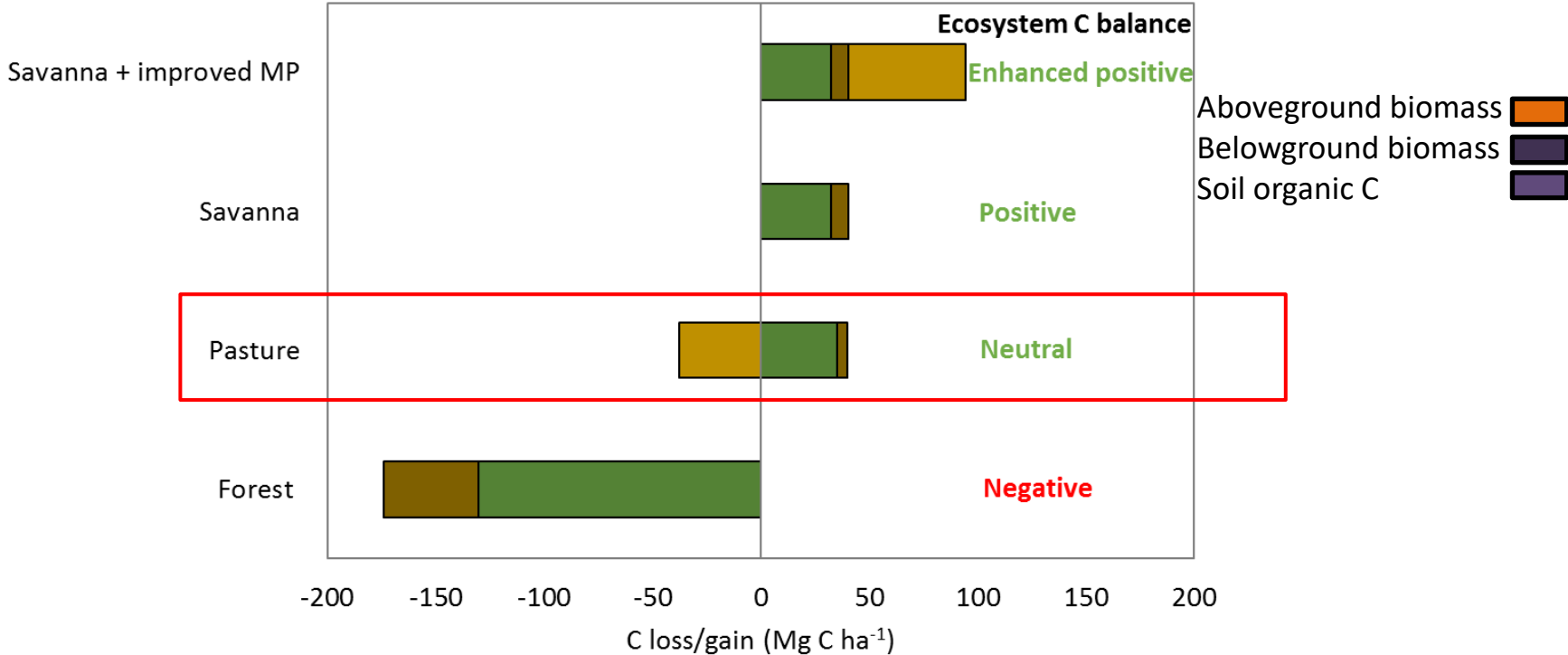
Topsoil C



POM, S+C and rSOC

S+C and rSOC: long-term C storage
 POM: soil fertility

Conclusions



Juan Carlos Quezada, September 2022.

Acknowledgments

- Prof. Alexandre Buttler
- PhD. Thomas Guillaume
- **ECOS**
- **OPAL**
 - **Prof. Andrés Etter**
 - Msc. Johanna Rüegg
- Productores
 - **Sillatava (Andrés Ulloa)**
 - **La Cabana (Jorge Zambrano)**
 - **Sapuga (Camilo Vargas)**



Funded by:



Muchas gracias!

