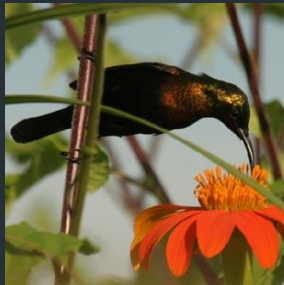


West Africa agriculture: socio economy and biodiversity conservation in traditional farming systems



Hope Ovie Usieta, Ph.D.

Leventis Foundation (Nigeria)



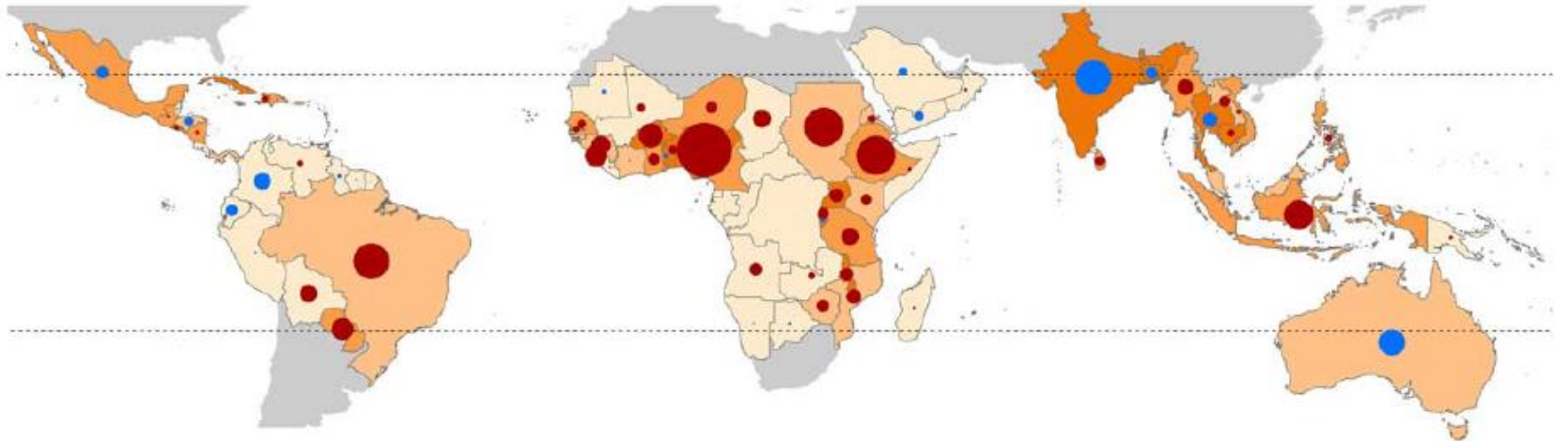


United Nations
**World Food
Programme**

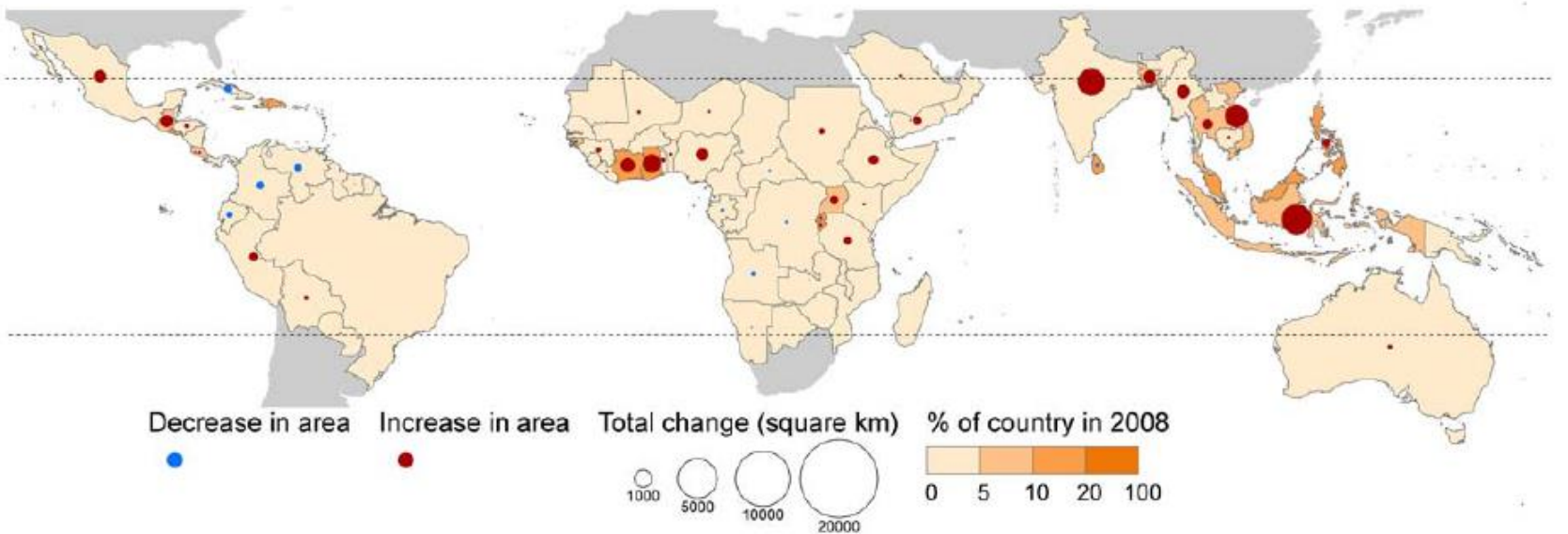


A

Change in area of annual crops, 1999-2008

**B**

Change in area of perennial crops, 1999-2008



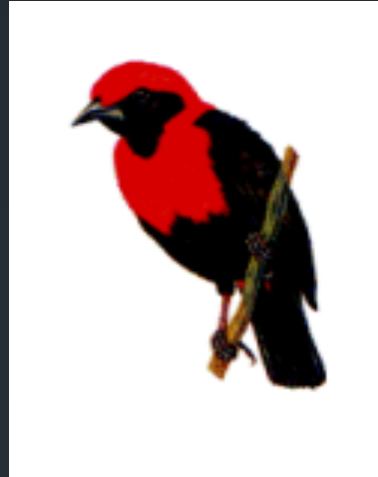
West African agriculture



...changing



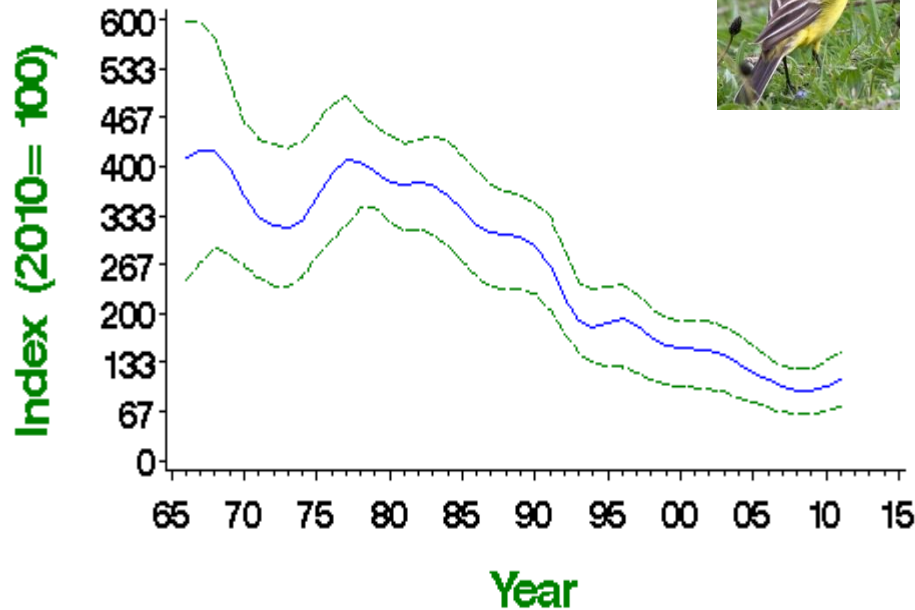
Region holds endemic and globally threatened birds



...and declining Palaeartic migrants

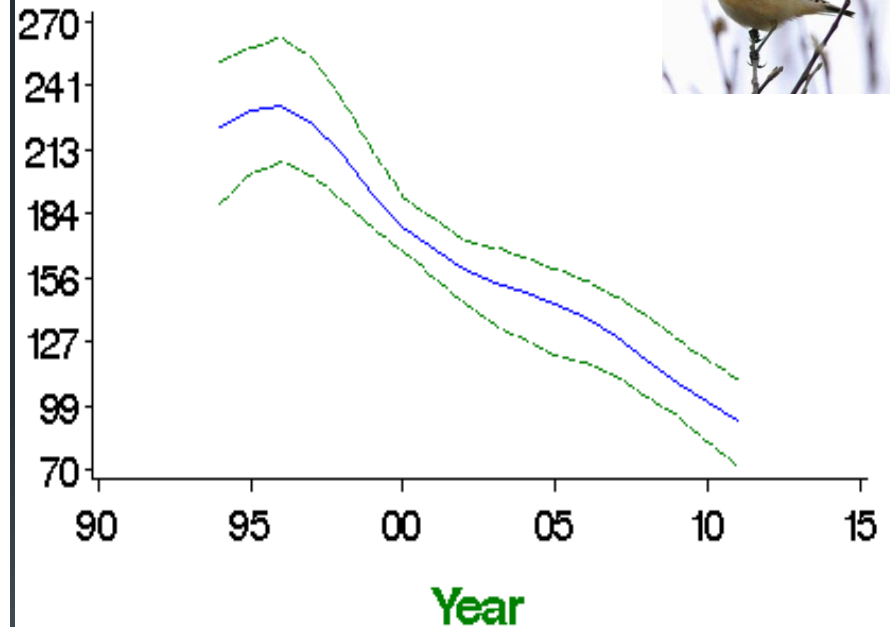
CBC/BBS UK 1966–2011

Yellow Wagtail

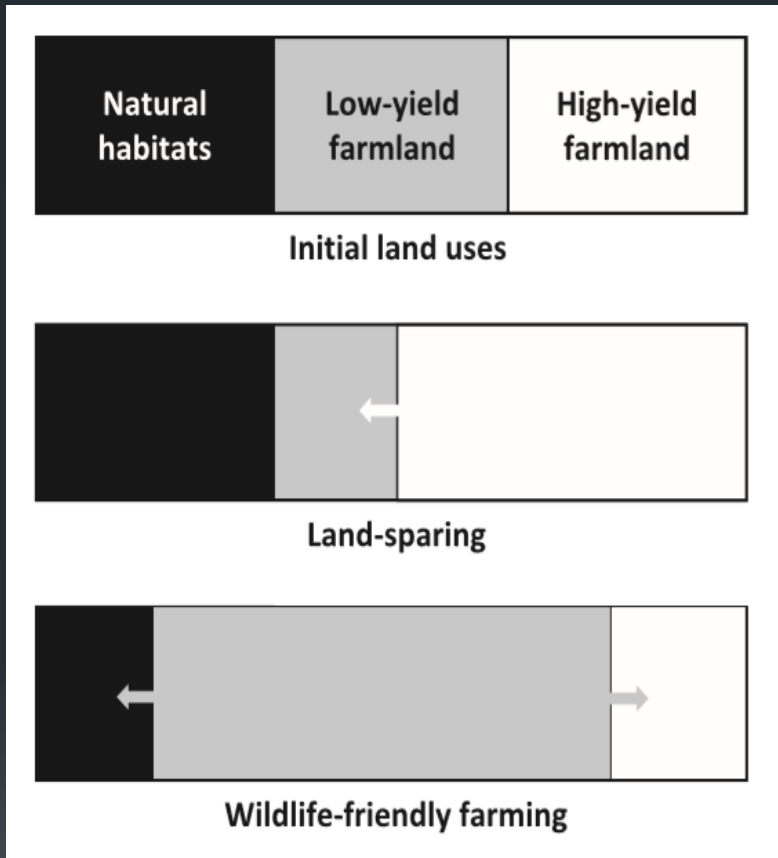


BBS UK 1994–2011

Whinchat



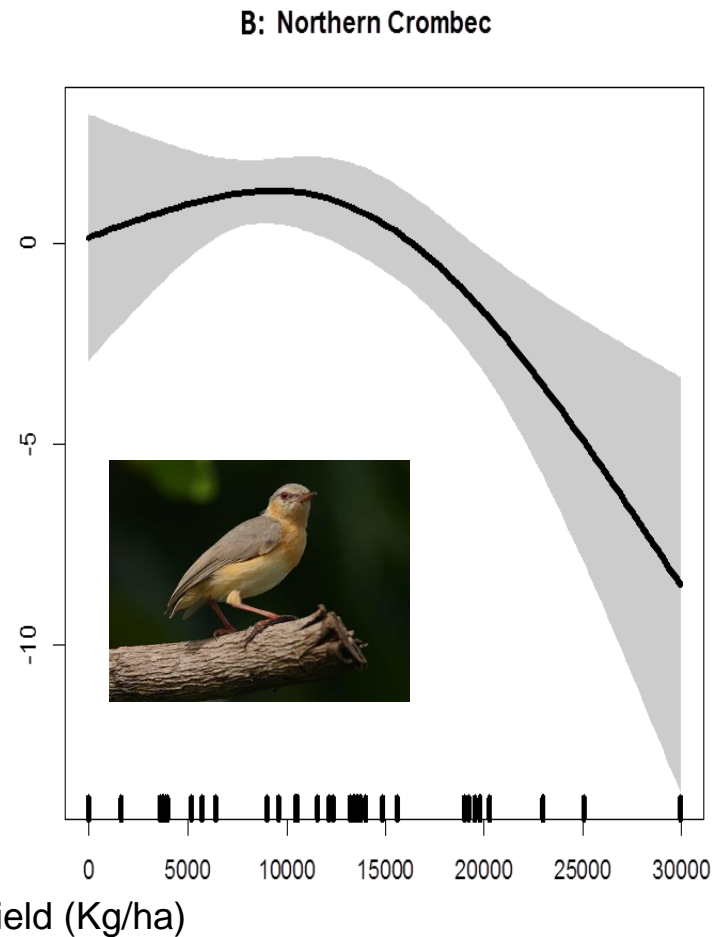
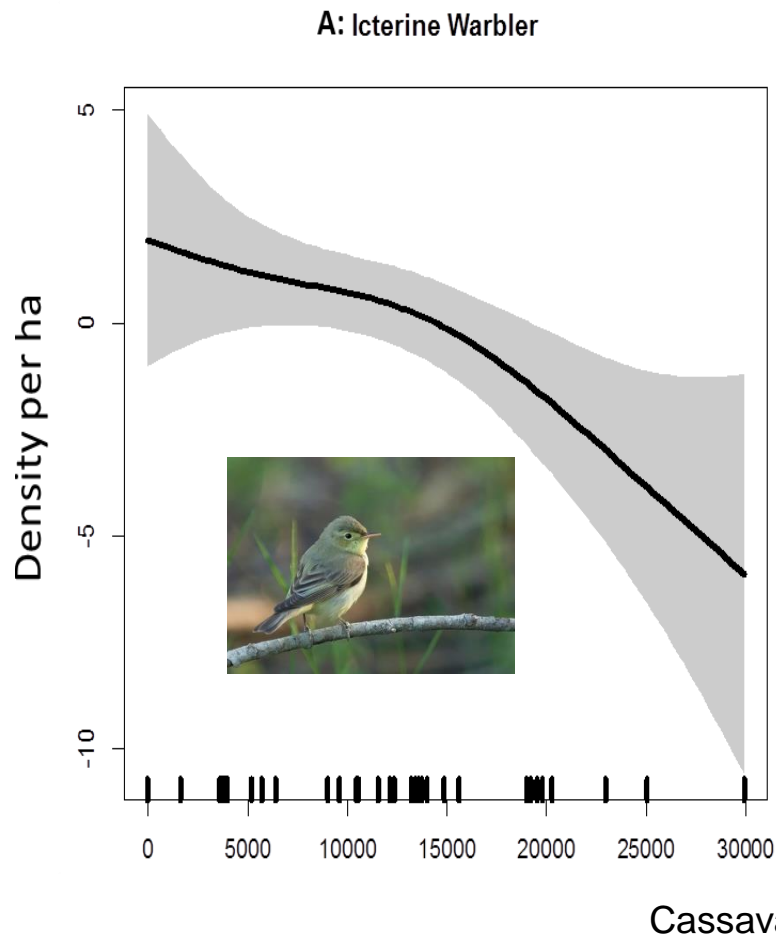
Strategies for sustainability



Consists of separating land for conservation from land for crops, with high yield farming facilitating the protection of remaining natural habitats from agricultural expansion

integrates biodiversity conservation and food production on the same land

Of the 62 species analysed, approximately 61% exhibited a 'concave' density-yield curve (classed as wood-farmland mosaic specialist,



Higher number of species exhibit maximum densities in agricultural fields

Socio-economy of the smallholder farmer

Smallholders

manage over 80 per cent of the world's estimated 500 million small farms

provide over 80 per cent of the food consumed in a large part of the developing world

contribute significantly to poverty reduction and food security.



Level of Education:

Rural dwellers still lag behind in education, particularly women and girls

Wealth and financial services

smallholders everywhere face constraints in accessing credit and other assets

Technology

The share of farmers using mechanical equipment and tools is quite low in all countries

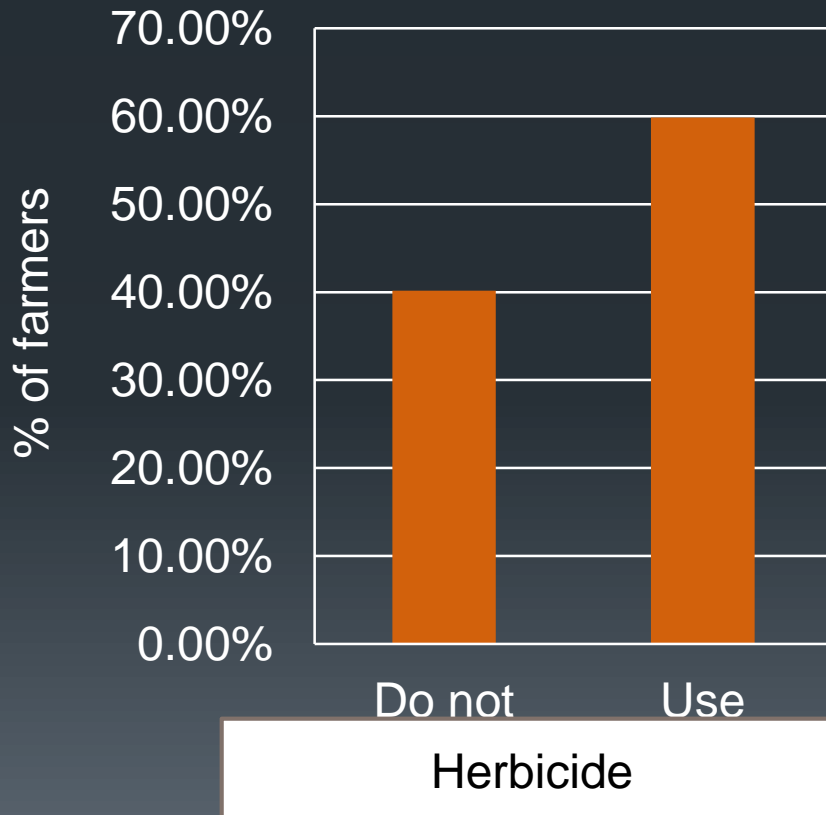
Information and extension

Extension provision in developing economies remains low for both women and men

Also Gender gap exists for many assets, inputs and services, including land, livestock, labour, education, extension and financial services, and technology

Some recent trends

60% of farmers show herbicide uptake; 93 % started in the 3-6 years prior to 2011



Older farmers (55 years and above) show higher herbicide uptake

Tendency to apply herbicide twice (efficiency) increases with level of education

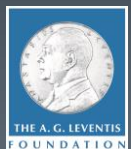
Leventis Foundation Nigeria

Promoting self sufficiency in food production



Vision

To attract youths into agriculture, train and support them to adopt improved, eco-friendly farming practices and technology aimed at reducing drudgery while increasing the national food/fibre basket and ensuring sustainable livelihood for the farming families.





Nine schools have been established in Nigeria and Ghana specialising in innovative ways of training small scale farmers to improve productivity and efficiency while considering the environment

Message

- ❖ Constraint to access to assets and inputs still persist
- ❖ Intensification of farming practices
- ❖ Smallholders play important role in food production
- ❖ There is a huge potential to increase yield in traditional systems while still retaining natural features within the farmed area that support farmland-restricted species.

Acknowledgements

Leventis Foundation (Nigeria)

APLORI

*Thank you for
listening!*



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