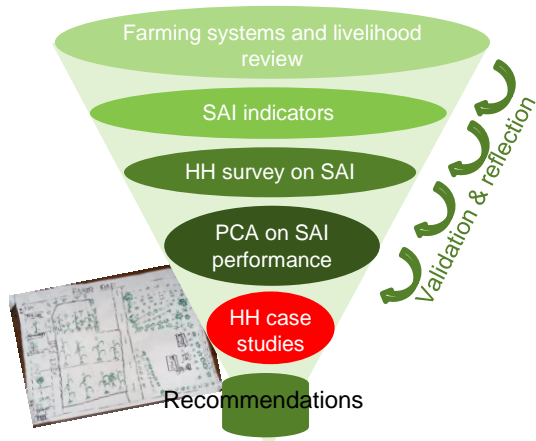
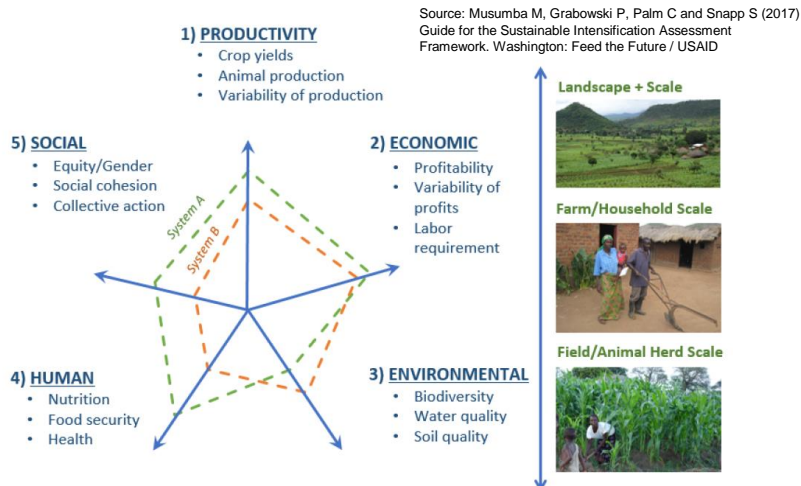


“How do smallholder farmers manage the **trade-offs** between **production**, **sustainability**, and other **socioeconomic** and **environmental** factors?”

Methodology



Trade-off domains



Examples of trade-offs and management strategies

Objective 1					Objective 2					Management options			Supporting actions (including both farmer and researcher suggestions)
Objective	Dimension *	Time **	Scale ***	Country ****	Objective	Dimension *	Time **	Scale ***	Country ****	Options	Better-off	Women Poor	
Rely on own food production	ECO	M	HH	All	Rely on income to purchase food	ECO	M	HH	All	Prioritise own farm operation – food crops	Yellow	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAS (agricultural advisory services) and subsidies supporting agroecological intensification, local savings groups AAS, access to credit, warehouse systems, women empowerment so that men don't spend all the cash Rural non-farm employment All of the above
										Prioritise own farm operation – cash crops	Yellow	Red	
										Prioritise off-farm income	Yellow	Red	
Speed up and save labour for land preparation	ECO	S,M	HH	All	Conserve trees	ENV	L	C	G,BF	Do both (own farm and off farm)	Green	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate mechanisation (smaller implements, training of tractor operators) Aim for trees in rows and on field borders As above Training in responsible use Mulching, appropriate mechanisation All of the above
										Use mechanisation for early planting (tractor services)	Yellow	Red	
										Use manual labour and protect trees	Yellow	Green	
										Use both for different parts of the farm	Green	Yellow	
Maximise prod. within available resources	ECO	M	HH	All	Make claim on future use of the land	SOC	L	HH	G,BF	Use herbicides for weed control	Green	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop land tenure system AAS, access to appropriate inputs and potentially subsidies Free schooling for low income groups, labour saving technologies To be avoided Evening classes for farm children (Indian experience) Training in responsible use Payment for ecosystem services / changes to subsidy system As above
										Small farm, intensive mgt	Yellow	Red	
										Use manual weeding	Green	Yellow	
Ensure children's education	SOC	M,L	HH	All	Maximise available work force for crop and livestock production	ECO	M	HH	All	Send children to school	Green	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use improved seed and fertiliser Implement CA / SFM / SWC Implement some SWC / SFM strategies (depending on resources)
										Children as farm labour	Red	Green	
										Do both (depending on resources/family composition)	Red	Yellow	
Maximise production in the short term	ECO	S	HH	All	Sustain NR base for production in the long term	ENV	L	HH,C	All	Use improved seed and fertiliser	Green	Yellow	
										Implement CA / SFM / SWC	Green	Yellow	

* ECO = economic and productivity, ENV = environmental, SOC = social and human

** S = short term, M = medium term (current season / year), L = longer term (multiple seasons / years)

*** I = individual, H = household, C = community / village, W = wider landscape

**** G = Ghana, BF = Burkina Faso, M = Malawi, All = all three countries

Emerging messages

- Farmers manage trade-offs through a diversification of farm management and livelihood strategies. The diversity of households and strategies will be illustrated via infographics. Poorer farmers are often forced to prioritise short term economic objectives over long term environmental ones.
- Some unsustainable farming practices need to be avoided (e.g. indiscriminate burning of fields, irresponsible use of agrochemicals). But to support decisions towards more sustainable options, enabling factors would need to operate at system level to address multiple challenges and opportunities (advisory services, access to credit, market structure, appropriate mechanisation, rural non-farm employment etc). So far, development interventions have been largely disconnected, “pushing” specific technologies, ignoring farmers' priorities and objectives.