



Exploring the benefits of increased resource efficiency for farmers – Examples from Finland's RDP

Exploring the benefits for land managers of enhancing action on the sustainable use of water and soil resources

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Opportunities and future perspectives for Resource Efficiency in Rural Areas

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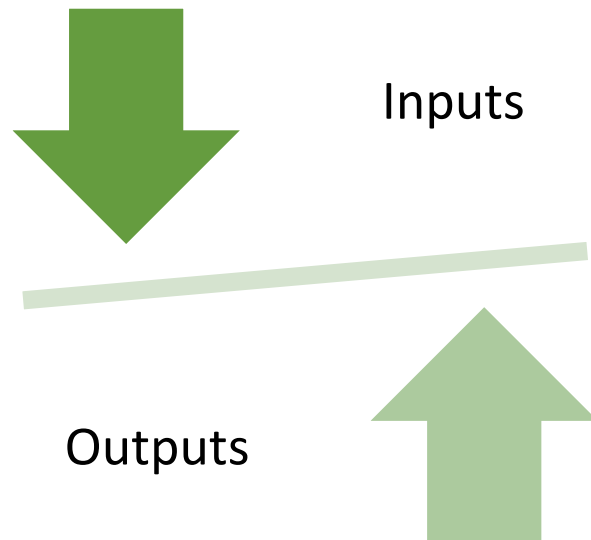
University of Helsinki

Resource efficient use of water and soil resources?

Resource efficiency at the farm level?

Resource efficiency at the food system level?

Farmers are responsible for decisions concerning their own farms



Resource efficiency as an issue for Finland

Continuing problems with non-integration of livestock farms and crop farms

- Inefficient use of nutrients
- Soil quality in crop farms

Other challenges to increase resource efficiency

- Increased farm size
- Increased specialization
- Economic problems
- Old habits die hard

The RDP offers many tools aimed at increasing sustainability in farming, but it doesn't have a broader vision of increasing sustainability at the food system level.

Examples from Finland's RDP

- The number of organic farms is increasing
- The current RDP has proven that farmers are willing to implement measures at a large scale if
 - the payment rate is adequate
 - the conditions of the measures are REASONABLE
- Cover crops 250 000 ha in 2015 (about 22 % of the grain area)
- Riparian zones 58 000 ha in 2015 (250 % of the target area)
- Recycling of nutrients and organic matter



The benefits of increased resource efficiency for farmers

Short term economic benefits

Long term economic benefits

Increases motivations

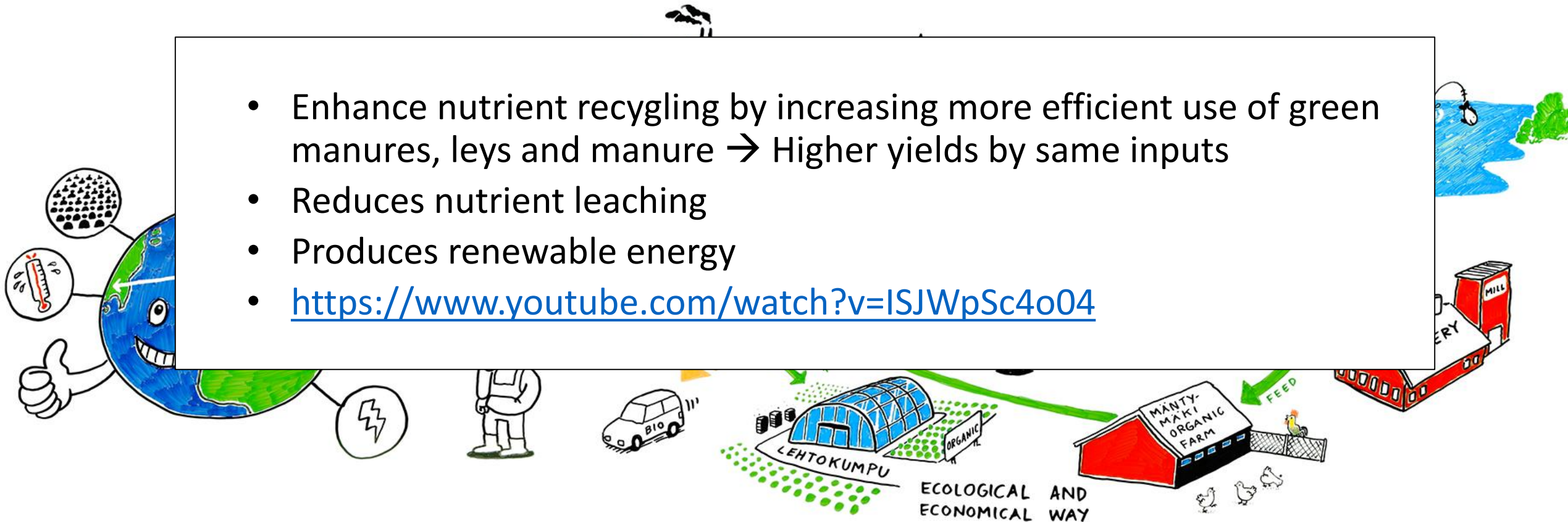
Better image of farming

Could more holistic approaches provide more benefits for land managers?



Palopuro Agroecological Symbiosis – Localized food production system based on energy and nutrient self-sufficiency

- Enhance nutrient recycling by increasing more efficient use of green manures, leys and manure → Higher yields by same inputs
- Reduces nutrient leaching
- Produces renewable energy
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISJWpSc4o04>





Kiitos!