

# Elucidating farm system economics as influenced by agroforestry in West Switzerland

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## Context: Agroforestry in Switzerland



**General objectives** of the overarching project:  
*Implement and develop agroforestry as a sustainable form of agriculture suited to the Swiss context, able to answer the identified environmental deficits.*

### Means:

- **6 years of pilot agricultural policy** (subsidies for developing and maintaining agroforestry systems),
- **8 years of monitoring** of the potential effect on **climate mitigation, biodiversity, erosion, farm economics, and animal welfare.**

**Agroforestry farmers**  
 in the 4 different Cantons

- Already planted and newcomers
- Max **140** over the **8** years
- Max **2ha/farmer.year** subsidised for planting

Roles: **Implementation in practice, Building and sharing experience**

**Extension services & agricultural officers**  
 from the 4 different Cantons

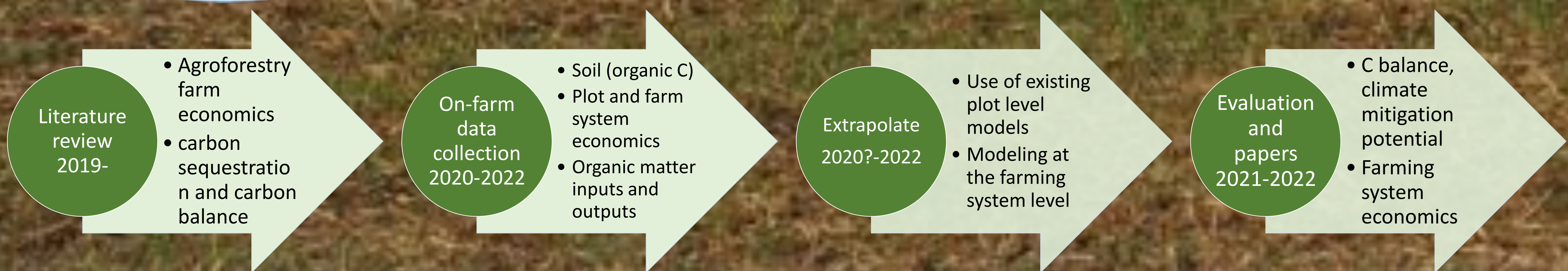
Roles:  
**Project management**  
**Recruitment of farmers**  
**Dissemination, part funding**

**Scientists**

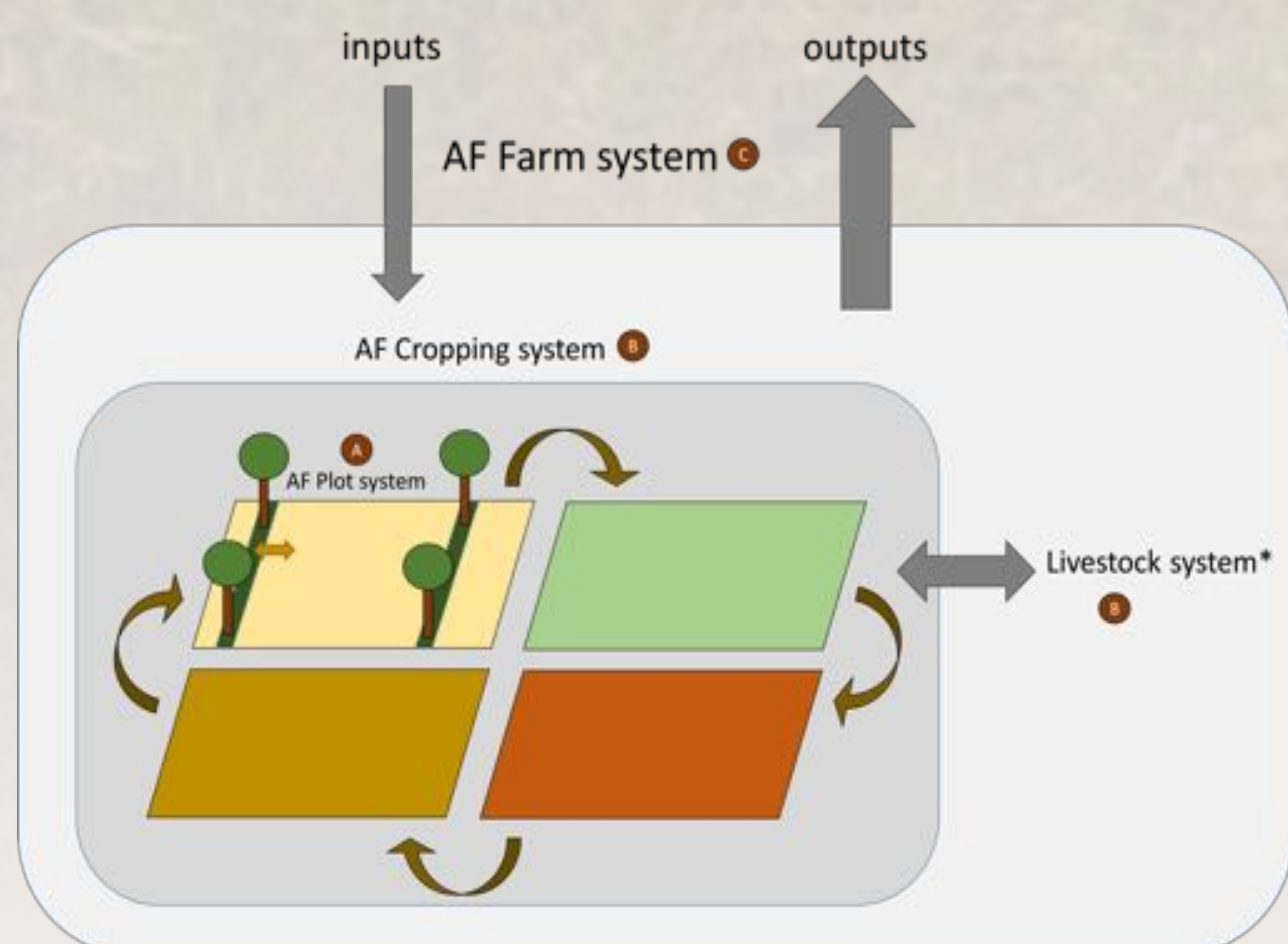
Roles: **Scientific monitoring and evaluation regarding the project objectives**

(provisional) research questions on the ETHZ side (me):

1. **What are the effects of implementing agroforestry on the farm system economics in the short and long run in Switzerland?**
2. **What is the potential of alley-cropping forestry to mitigate climate change?**



## Scope of analysis: farming system (carbon balance & economics)



## Main practical questions and incoming issues:

- How to do this within only 4 years and a **diverse set of <20 plots planted <10 years ago** (and numerous newcomers?)
- How to talk with very **different project partners** and enable fruitful **information exchanges?**
- How to maintain **farm anonymity?**
- Where to place the **research objectives** between very **practical case-specific** results and more **academic** and “universal” results?