

# Agroforestry Systems in the Peruvian Amazon

## Farmers' Perceptions and Management Adjustments

Leidy Johanna Bedoya Giraldo | Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Natalie Laibach & Dr. Valentina Robiglio

San Martín, Perú



### Introduction

By 2018, Peru ranked as the seventh most deforested country in the world, with 13% of the Peruvian Amazon already cleared (EnvolVert, 2023). Conventional farming contributes heavily to environmental degradation and global emissions (Gassner & Dobie, 2022). In response, numerous projects in San Martín have promoted agroforestry systems aiming to enhance livelihoods while restoring degraded lands.

Yet:

- How do farmers perceive these systems over time?
- Do they experience the promised benefits?
- What challenges remain?

### Objectives



Types of agroforestry systems



Farmers' benefits and challenges



Changes in management practices



Perceptions across social groups

Understanding farmers' perceptions of agrosilvicultural practices is crucial to ensure that long-term investments in restoration and sustainable land use are both socially relevant and ecologically effective.



### Methodology

#### Case selection

2 organizations with >10 years of agroforestry projects, working with smallholders and Indigenous communities

#### Participants

47 semi-structured interviews

- 15 Smallholders
- 14 spouses
- 15 Indigenous farmers
- 3 technicians

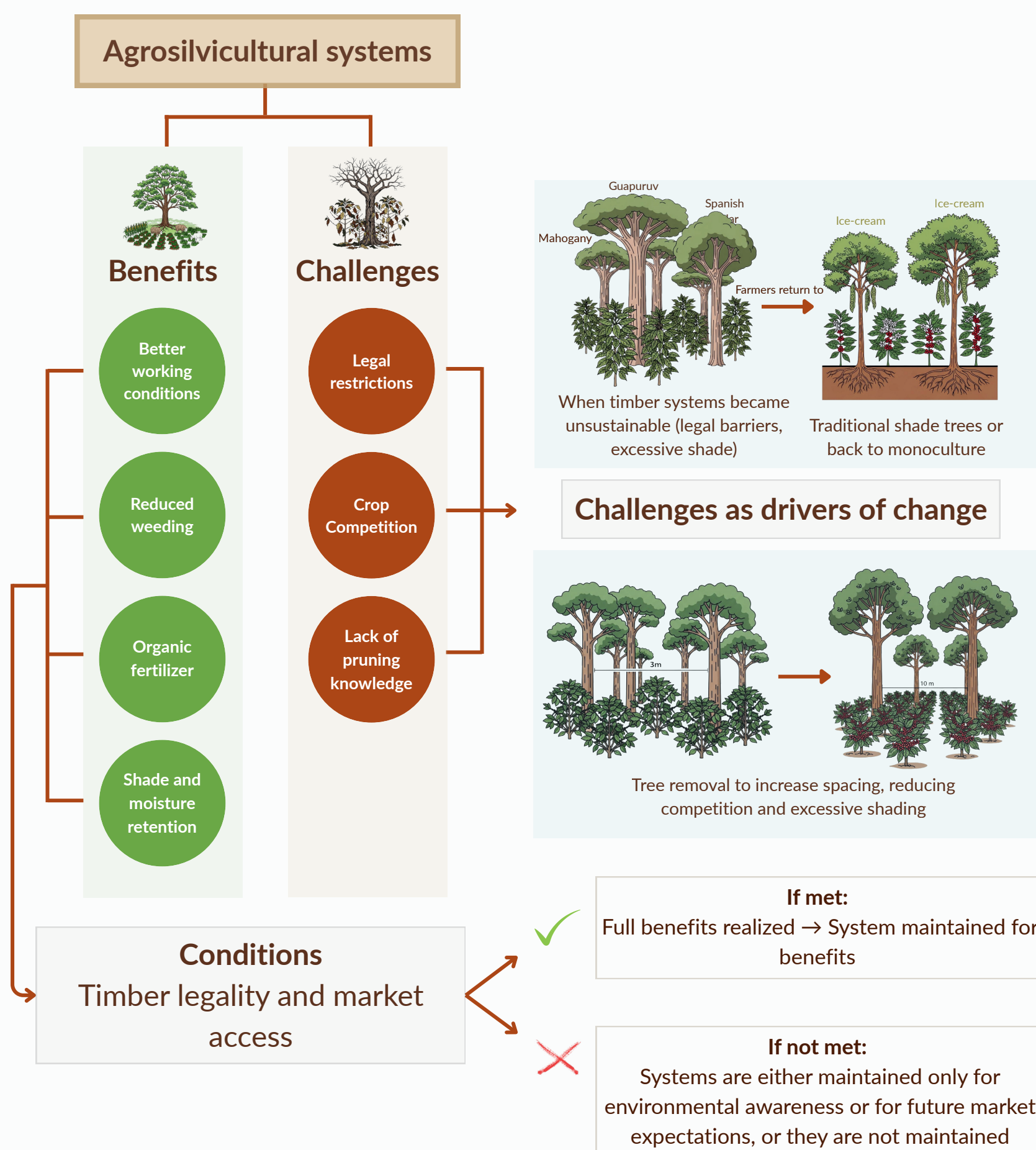
#### 3 Focus groups discussions

Women, smallholders, indigenous farmers

#### Approach

Plot observations, open coding in Atlas.ti, preliminary Group Concept Mapping.

### Preliminary Results



- **Farmers adapt Agrosilvicultural systems dynamically as they learn from challenges**  
Shaina: highly competitive for resources  
Guapuruvu: breaks easily in wind, damages crops
- **Traditional shade trees as Guaba (*Inga edulis*) and Rufinde (*Inga lineata*) are passed down through generations as “the right trees for coffee”**  
Non-competitive shade, natural fertilization, and food/market products.
- **Legal barriers and weak markets limit timber adoption**  
Without legal permissions and markets, farmers have little incentive to maintain timber species
- **Environmental awareness emerges as a strong motivator where economic incentives are weak**  
In such cases, the benefits of tree-crop associations outweigh the absence of timber markets.

### From Results to Action

#### Group Concept Mapping (GCM)

Visualisation of links between benefits, challenges, and practices among social groups

**Agroforestry Box tool - CIFOR-ICRAF**  
Classifying systems and management types

**Contribution to SMART Platform**  
Agroforestry data hub for San Martín



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### Contact



Leidy Johanna Bedoya Giraldo

✉ Leidy-Johanna.Bedoya-Giraldo@hsrw.org

