



INSTITUTE FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL-
ECONOMIC
ACCOUNTING

Environmental-Economic Accounting for Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture

Carl Obst: Honorary Fellow, University of Melbourne, FAO Consultant & Director, IDEEA

Presentation to the 8th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

Trondheim, Norway 1 June 2016

Competing policy agendas



Biodiversity vs Agriculture

- Natural vs Productive land
- Conservation vs Use
- Protected areas vs Private management

Distinct information requirements

Biodiversity

Species

Habitat

Protected areas

Fragmentation and connectivity

Invasive species

Deforestation

...



Agriculture

Production and income

Herd size and harvest area

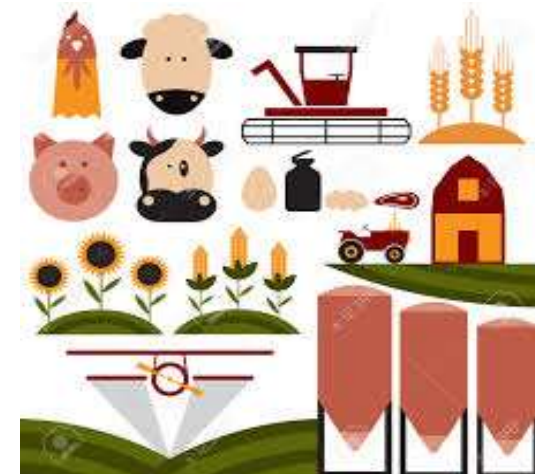
Productivity and efficiency

Technology and machinery

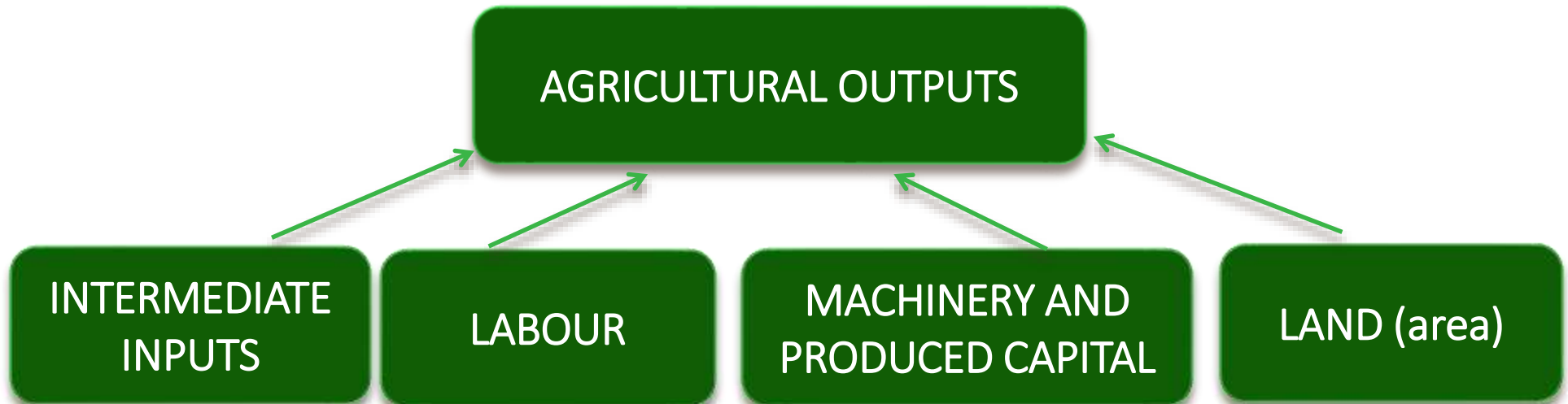
Water use and irrigation

Fertilizer use

...



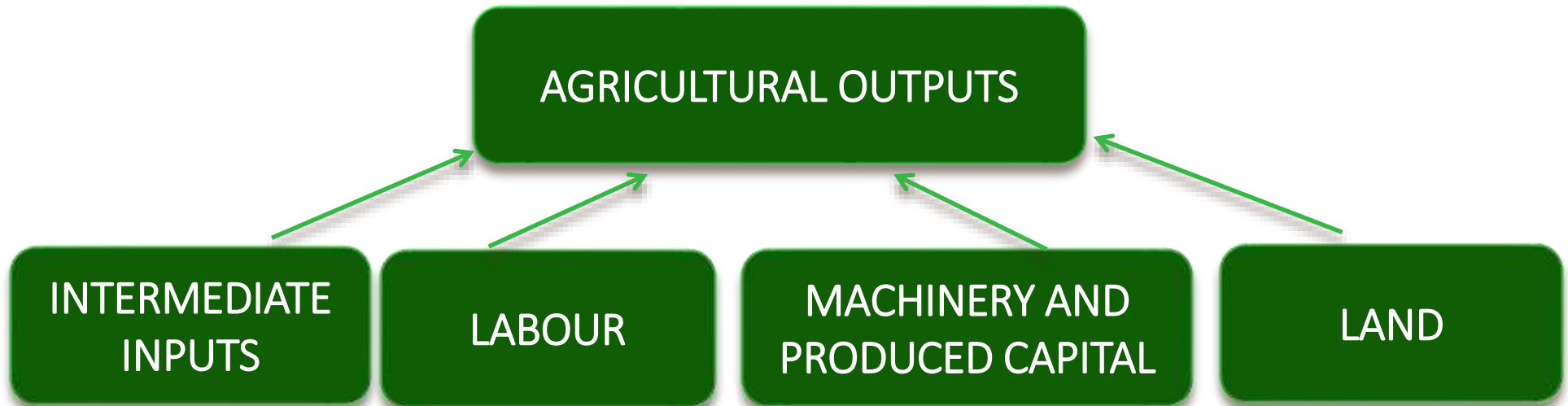
Standard economic accounting for agriculture



Supports analysis of:

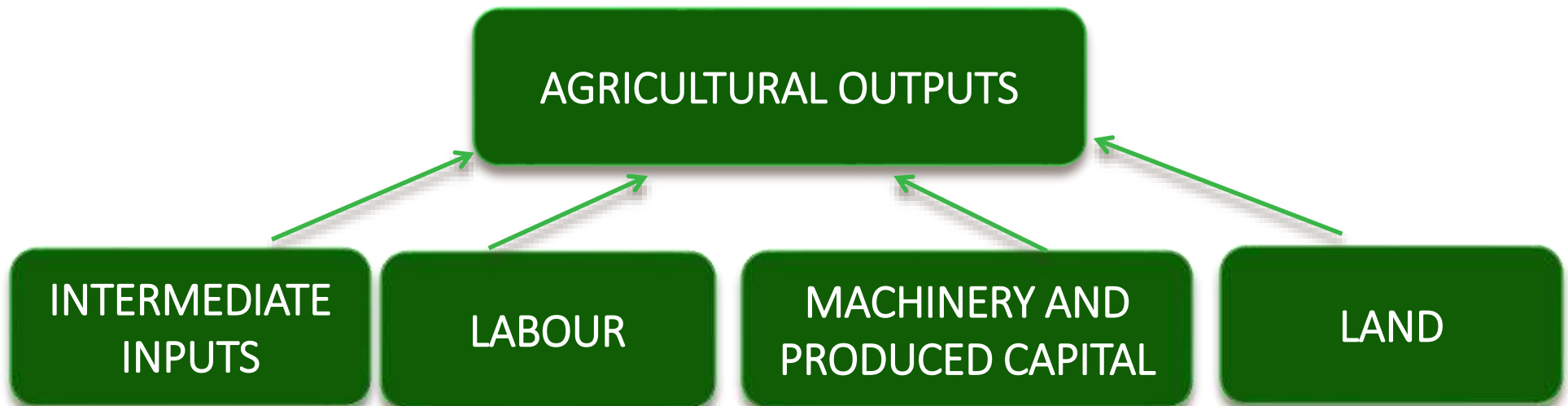
- Productivity, efficiency, profits and incomes
- Trade and supply chains
- Food and fibre consumption

But....



Ignores: soil fertility and nutrient cycling, water, pollination, capital cost of degrading ecosystems and biodiversity

But....



Ignores: soil fertility and nutrient cycling, water, pollination, capital cost of degrading ecosystems and biodiversity

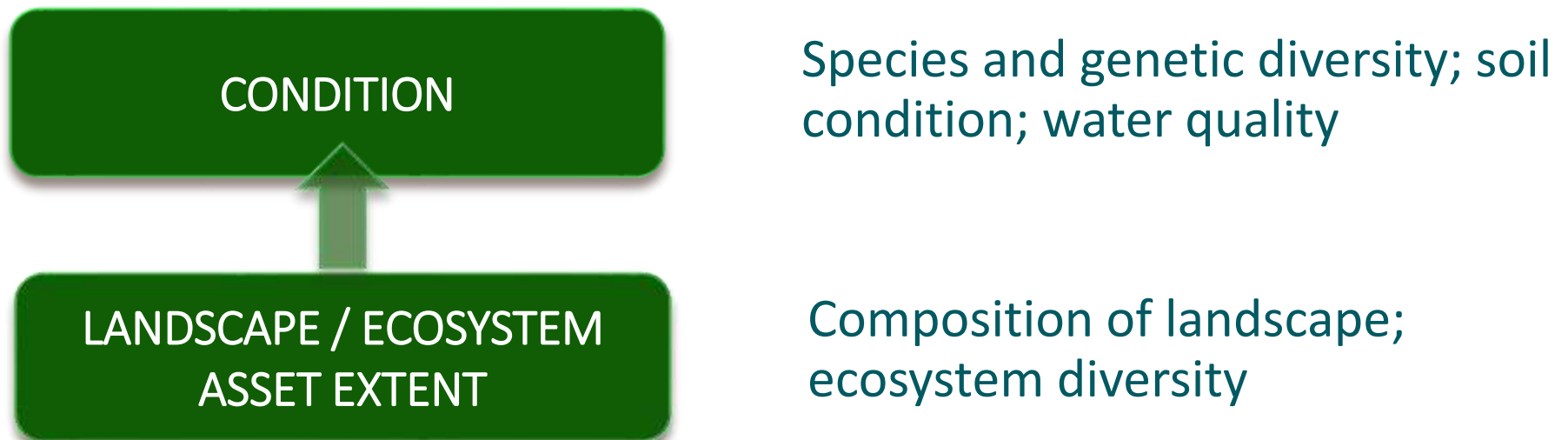
Omits: carbon storage and sequestration, water regulation, and air filtration and the broader cultural benefits

Accounting from a landscape / ecosystem perspective

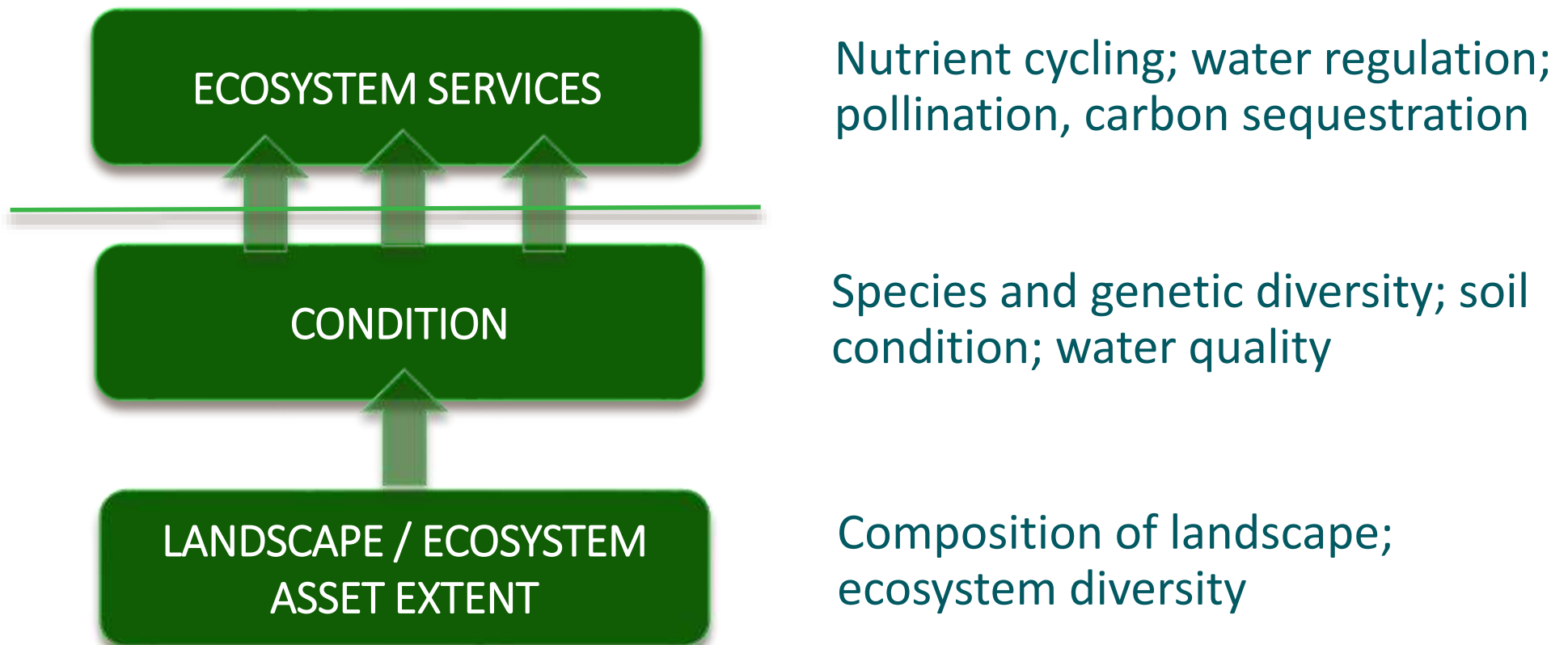
LANDSCAPE / ECOSYSTEM
ASSET EXTENT

Composition of landscape;
ecosystem diversity

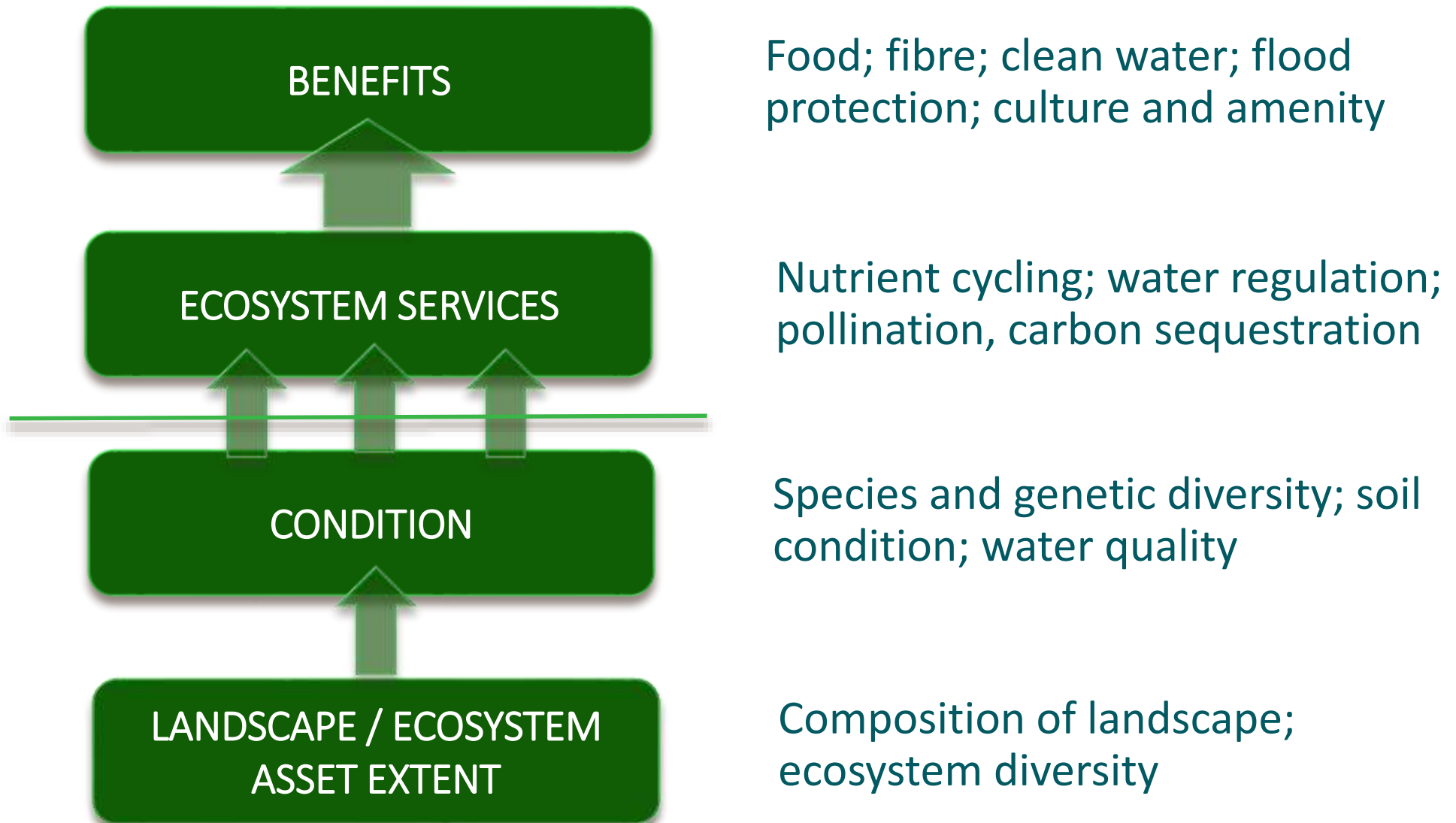
Accounting from a landscape / ecosystem perspective



Accounting from a landscape / ecosystem perspective



Accounting from a landscape / ecosystem perspective



Integrated environmental-economic accounting

BENEFITS

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS

INTERMEDIATE
COSTS

CAPITAL
SERVICES

LABOUR

PRODUCED
CAPITAL
STOCK

Integrated environmental-economic accounting

BENEFITS

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUTS | ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES

INTERMEDIATE
COSTS

CAPITAL
SERVICES

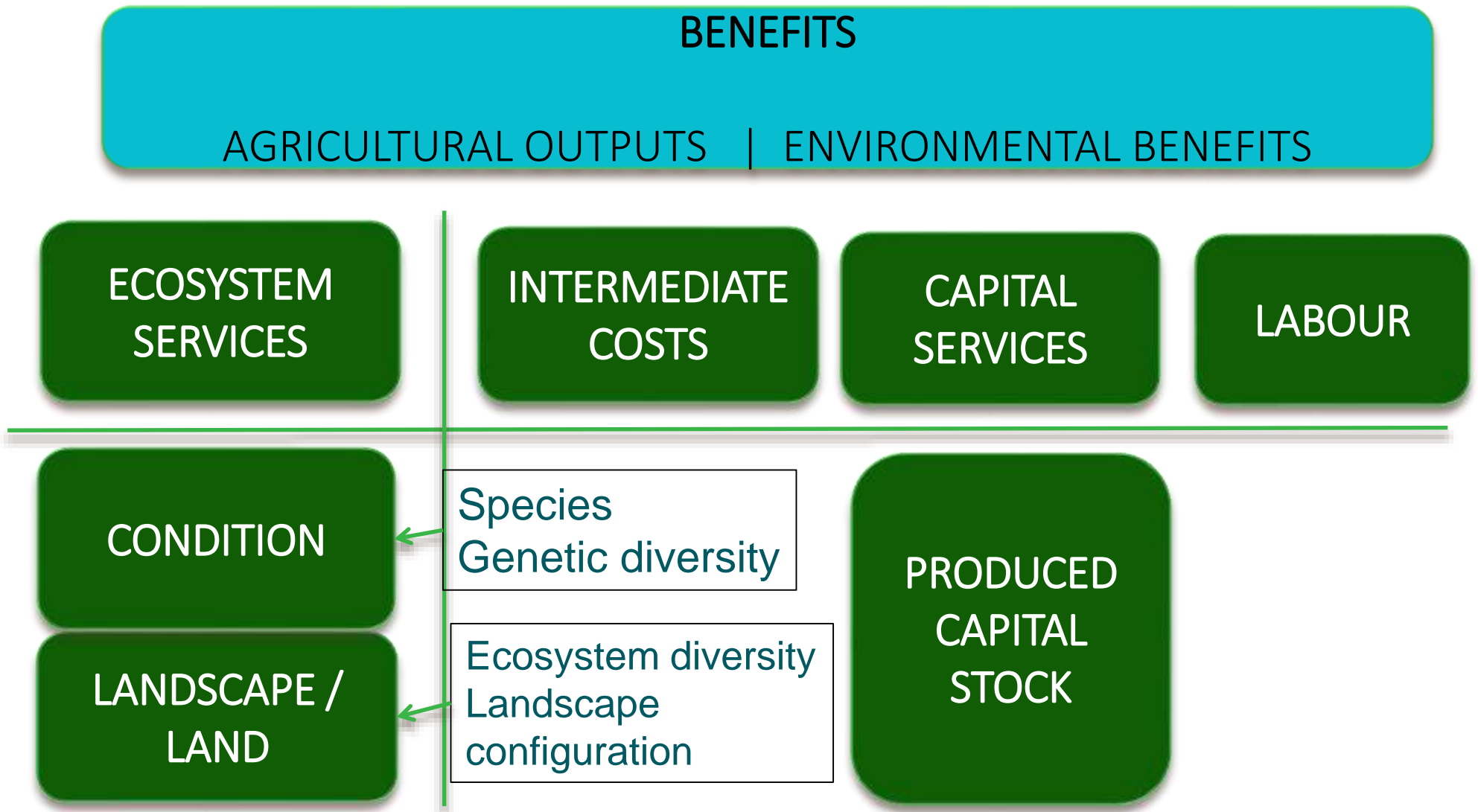
LABOUR

CONDITION

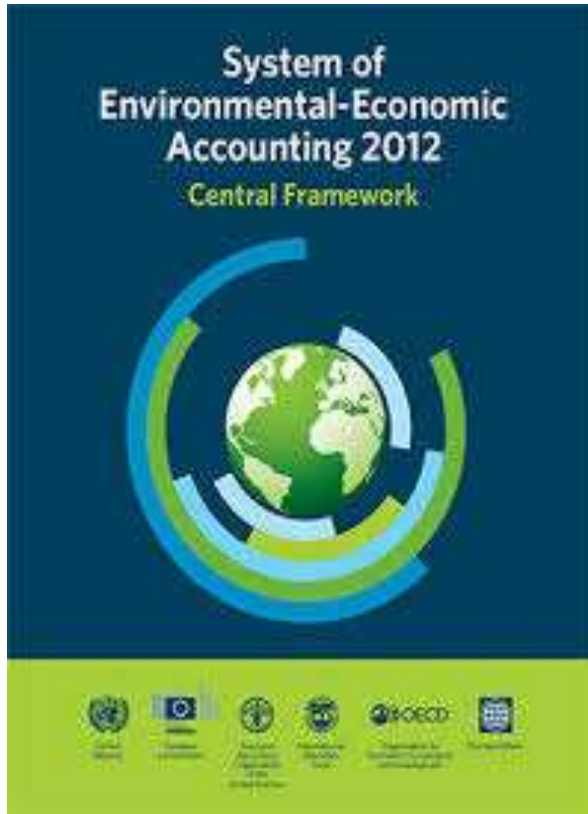
LANDSCAPE /
LAND

PRODUCED
CAPITAL
STOCK

Integrated environmental-economic accounting



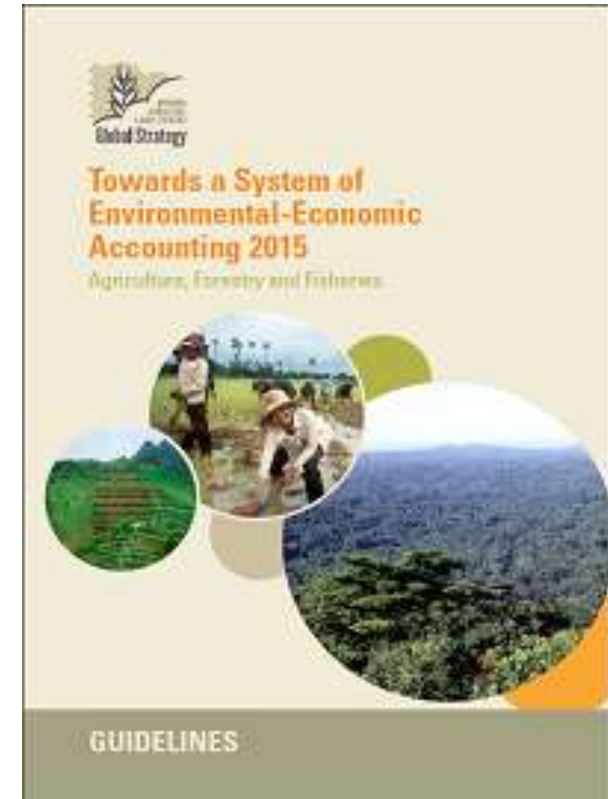
System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - SEEA



SEEA Central Framework



SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting



SEEA Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

Selected SEEA based accounting projects

- World Bank WAVES project
 - Botswana, Madagascar, Indonesia, Philippines, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Rwanda
- ANCA project – UNSD / UNEP / CBD
 - Chile, Mexico, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Africa, Bhutan, Mauritius
- FAO – SEEA AFF pilots: Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Indonesia, Uruguay
- New EU projects – INCA; Joint EU/UNSD project (Brazil, South Africa, India, China)
- Country initiatives incl. UK, Netherlands, Canada, Malaysia, Norway, Australia and USA
- Conservation International: Peru, Gabaronne Declaration countries
- GEOSS – Earth Observation for Ecosystem Accounting project

Applications of SEEA based accounting

- **Integrated international reporting**
 - Sustainable development goals
 - UNFCCC / CBD (Aichi targets) / UNCCD
- **Economic analysis and valuation**
 - TEEB Agriculture and Food
 - Extended Input-Output and CGE modelling
 - Environmentally adjusted measures of Multi-factor Productivity
- **Local and regional development**
 - Spatial planning and analysis of trade-offs / risk analysis
 - Integrated management of weeds, pests, invasive species
 - Scenario modelling e.g. climate change adaptation, biodiversity loss

Farmer, Biodiversity specialist or Landscape manager?





INSTITUTE FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL-
ECONOMIC
ACCOUNTING

Thank You