

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF FARMING SYSTEMS

An FAO-World Bank study, *Farming systems and poverty* (FAO & World Bank, 2001), contains information about cropping, livestock-keeping, fishing, agro-forestry, and hunting and gathering activities of households belonging to each of 44 unique farming systems in developing and transition countries. It also provides information on the existing social, economic and institutional environments within which each farming system is practiced, and about other sources of off-farm income that help to sustain rural households.

The tables contained in this Annex have been developed by the study team, based on the authors' knowledge of the agro-ecological zones where each farming system is practiced, plus information contained in the above-mentioned study about principal sources of livelihood, level of farm technology used, and prevalence of poverty (where the terms limited, moderate and extensive refer to the number in poverty while the term refers to the depth of poverty) for each farming system found in each of the six regions listed below:

- Latin America and Caribbean
- East Asia and Pacific
- South Asia
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Middle East and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa

The regional maps shown in this Annex are enlarged extracts from a global map (Map A4.7) that was initially prepared for the FAO-World Bank study. The FGGD Digital Atlas for the year 2000 (FAO, 2006) contains the complete global farming systems database and a printable version showing the 44 farming systems collapsed into seven classes (see Section 5.1).

MAP A4.1

Farming systems in Latin America and Caribbean



TABLE A4.1

Characteristics of farming systems in Latin America and Caribbean

Farming system	Location	Principal livelihood sources (secondary sources)	Level of technology and organization	Prevalence of poverty
Irrigated	Arid lands across northern and central Mexico, and coastal and inland valley areas of Peru, Chile and western Argentina	Horticulture, fruit, cattle (rice, cotton, vines)	Irrigation infrastructure allows a relatively high degree of intensification of production	Limited to moderate
Forest based	Centred on the Amazon basin	Subsistence agriculture, cattle	Low: scattered indigenous and low-input settler agricultural activity	Limited to moderate
Pastoral	South Argentina	Sheep, cattle	Low: no reported irrigation	Limited to moderate
Dryland mixed	Northeast Brazil and Yucatan peninsula of Mexico	Livestock, maize, cassava, wage labour, seasonal migration (rice, beans, squash, sugarcane)	High: well established economic and productive structure, but land degradation is a serious problem	Extensive among small-scale producers
Temperate mixed (Pampas)	Central and eastern Argentina and Uruguay	Livestock, wheat, soybean (sunflower horticulture)	Medium: further intensification of production is expected	Limited
Sparse (forest)	Southern end of the Andes	Livestock grazing, forestry, tourism	No data	Limited to moderate
Coastal plantation and mixed	Coasts of Central America, northern part of South America and east Brazil	Tree crops, fishing, tubers, tourism	Small-scale family farms and large-scale plantations, often internationally owned	Extensive among labourers, otherwise not prevalent
Intensive mixed	Centred on eastern and central Brazil	Coffee, horticulture, fruit, off farm work	High	Limited
Cereal-livestock (Campos)	Southern Brazil and Paraguay, northern Uruguay and Argentina	Rice, livestock	No data	Limited to moderate
Maize-beans (Mesoamerica)	From central Mexico to the Panama Canal	Maize, beans, coffee, horticulture, off-farm work (rubber, cut-flowers, vegetables, tree fruits)	Medium: installation of non indigenous settlers, serious land degradation	Extensive and severe among the indigenous population
Extensive mixed (Cerrados and Llanos)	Central-western Brazil and eastern Colombia, Venezuela and Guyana	Livestock, oilseeds, grains, coffee (soybean, maize, rice, upland rice, beans)	Medium: recently developing	Moderate among landless migrants
Intensive highland mixed (north Andes)	Northern Andes	Vegetables, maize, coffee, cattle, pigs, other cereals, potatoes, off-farm work	High in the well developed intermontane valleys and lower slope; traditional methods in the highlands and upper valleys	Moderate in the lower areas, extensive and often severe at higher altitudes
High altitude mixed (central Andes)	Southern Peru, western Bolivia, northern Chile and Argentina	Indigenous grains, potatoes, vegetables, sheep and llamas, off-farm work (maize, lima beans, barley, sugar beet)	Low: very strong indigenous culture	Extensive and severe
Moist temperate mixed forest	Coastal zone of central Chile	Dairy, beef, cereals, forest, extraction, tourism (sheep, sugar, beet)	No data	Limited
Extensive dryland mixed (Gran Chaco)	From northern central Argentina to Paraguay and eastern Bolivia	Livestock, cotton, subsistence crops	No data	Moderate to extensive

MAP A4.2

Farming systems in East Asia and Pacific

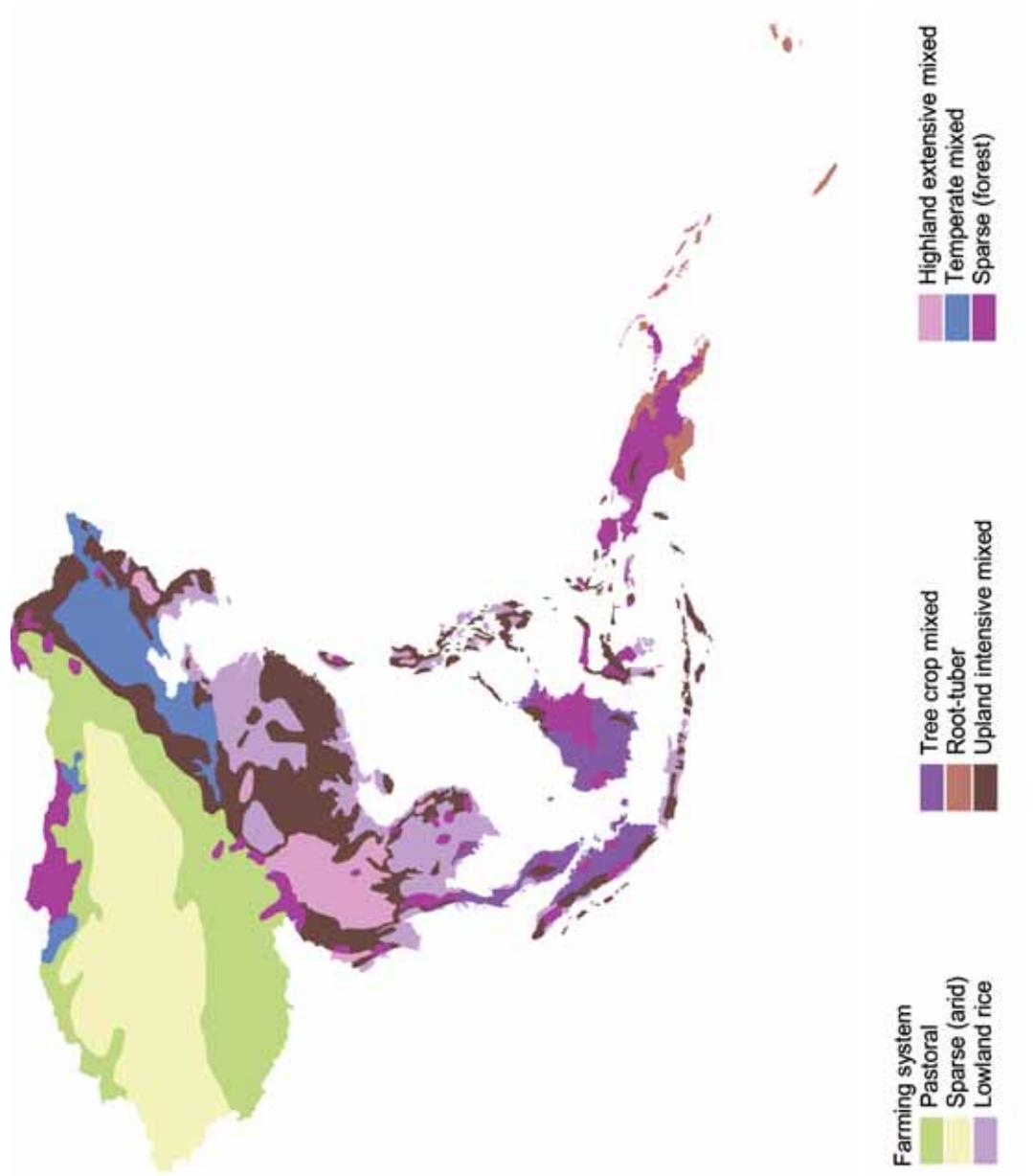


TABLE A4.2

Characteristics of farming systems in East Asia and Pacific

Farming system	Location	Principal livelihood sources (secondary sources)	Level of technology and organization	Prevalence of poverty
Pastoral	Western China and much of central and northern Mongolia	Transhumant pastoralism, e.g. camels, cattle, sheep and goats, with irrigated crops in suitable areas (wheat, barley, pulses, peas, broad beans, potatoes, grapes, cotton)	No data	Extensive, especially triggered by drought or severe winter
Sparse (arid)	Western China and southern Mongolia	Local grazing where water is available, off-farm work (large-scale irrigation concentrated in the west)	No data	Extensive and severe especially after droughts
Lowland rice	Large areas in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, South and Central-east China, western Korea, Philippines and Indonesia	Rice, maize, pulses, sugarcane, oil seeds, vegetables, livestock, aquaculture, off-farm work (sweet potato, cotton, fruits, some wheat in Central-east China)	No data	Moderate overall, extensive in Myanmar and Cambodia
Tree crop mixed	Significant areas in Malaysia, southern Thailand, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea	Rubber, oil palm, coconuts, coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, rice, livestock, off-farm work (pepper, upland rice, maize)	Medium: both large private estate and smallholder management	Moderate
Root-tuber	Papua New Guinea and Indonesia	Root crops, vegetables, fruits, livestock, off-farm work (coconut, hunting, gathering)	No data	Limited
Upland intensive mixed	All countries of East and Southeast Asia	Rice, pulses, maize, sugarcane, oil seeds, fruits, vegetables, livestock, off-farm work (wheat, upland rice, cotton, soybean, citrus)	Very heterogeneous, some remnant shifting cultivation	Extensive, somewhat to very severe
Highland extensive mixed	Laos, Central and North Vietnam, northern Thailand, northern and eastern Myanmar, Southwest China, Philippines and parts of Indonesia	Upland rice, pulses, maize, sugarcane, oil seeds, fruits, forest products, livestock, off-farm work	Low: permanent and shifting cultivation	Moderate and severe
Temperate mixed	Central North China and restricted areas of Mongolia	Wheat, maize, pulses, oil crops, livestock (small areas of rice, potato, cabbage, fruits)	No data	Moderate
Sparse (forest)	Scattered locations in East Asia and present in the major islands of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea	Hunting, gathering, off-farm work (potatoes and buckwheat, plus cattle and yak herds on the mainland of Asia; in the dense tropical forest upland rice, root crops, large ruminants)	Low: small, scattered settlements	Moderate

MAP A4.3

Farming systems in South Asia

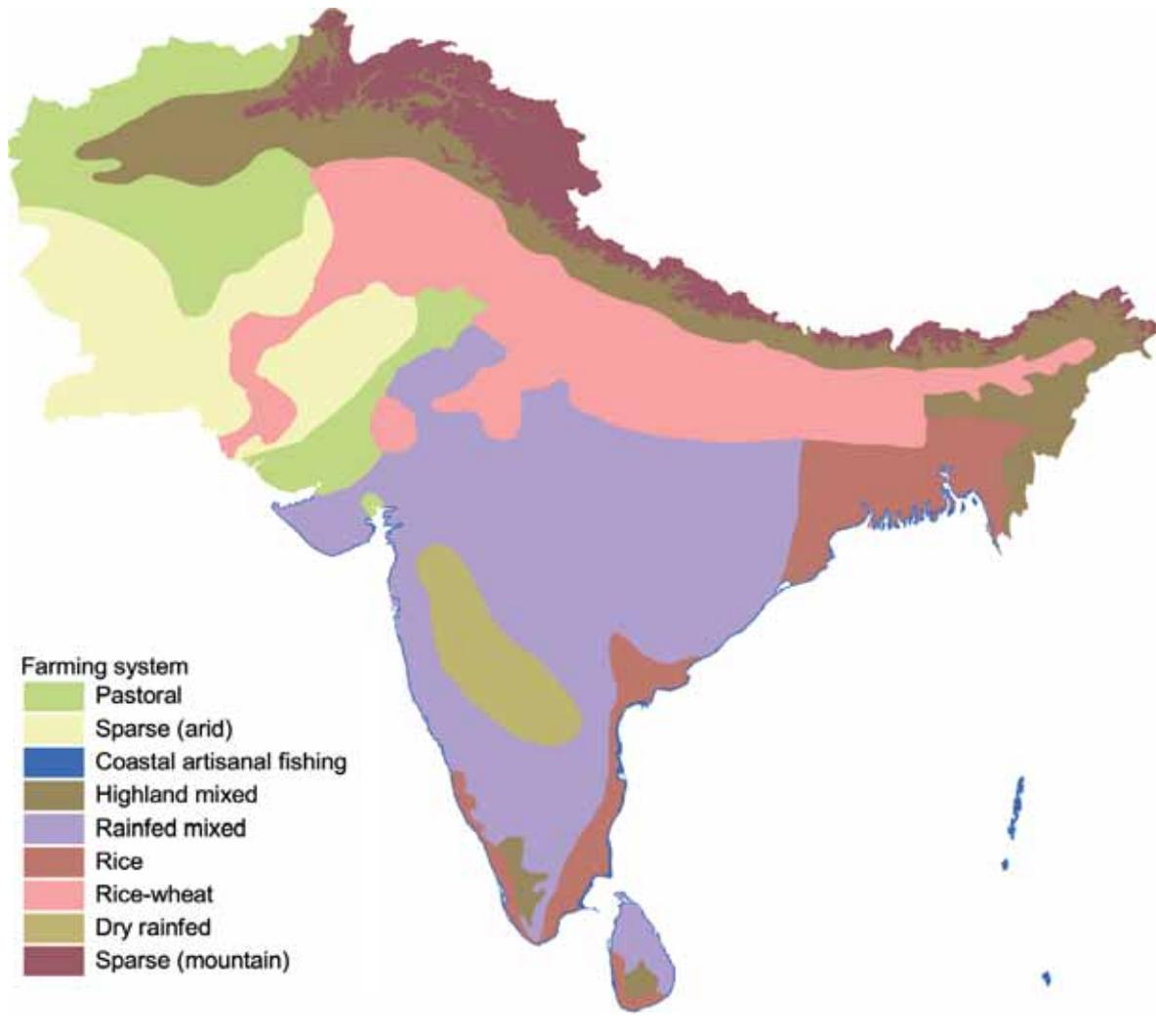


TABLE A4.3

Characteristics of farming systems in South Asia

Farming system	Location	Principal livelihood sources (secondary sources)	Level of technology and organization	Prevalence of poverty
Pastoral	Semiarid and arid zones from Rajasthan in India through Pakistan and Afghanistan	Livestock, irrigated cropping, migration, off-farm work (rice, wheat, fodder crops)	No data	Moderate to extensive, periodically accentuated by drought
Sparse (arid)	Pakistan, southwest Afghanistan and northwest India	Livestock where seasonal moisture permits, scattered irrigation settlements (irrigated cropping, rice, wheat)	No data	Moderate to extensive, often severe after droughts
Coastal artisanal fishing	Narrow band along the major part of the coast of Bangladesh and India, and around the Maldives	Fishing, coconuts, rice, legumes, livestock (vegetables)	Medium: over-exploitation of the common resources, stakeholder with conflicting objectives	Moderate to extensive
Highland mixed	Lower slopes across the entire length of the Himalayan range, from Afghanistan to the extreme northeast of India, Kerala and Central Sri Lanka	Cereals, livestock, horticulture, seasonal migration (legumes, tubers, vegetables, potato, fodder crops, fodder trees, orchards)	Low: remoteness and lack of social service	Moderate to extensive
Rainfed mixed	India and a small area in northern Sri Lanka	Rice and some wheat, barley, maize, millet, sorghum, a wide variety of pulses and oilseeds, sugarcane, vegetables and fruit, fodder crops, livestock, off-farm work	Medium: recently, irrigation has contributed to an elevated level and stability of cereal production	Extensive, severe after droughts
Rice	Bangladesh and West Bengal, smaller areas in Tamil Nadu and Kerala states of India, and southern Sri Lanka	Wetland rice (both seasons), vegetables, legumes, off-farm work (coarse grains oil seeds)	No data	Extensive and also quite severe in small farms
Rice-wheat	Northern Pakistan and Indian from the Indus irrigation area in Sindh and Punjab, across the Indo-Gangetic plain to the northeast of Bangladesh	Irrigated rice, wheat, vegetables, livestock including dairy, off-farm work (cotton)	Medium: significant level of crop-livestock integration	Moderate to extensive
Dry rainfed	Western Deccan in India	Coarse cereals, irrigated cereals, legumes, off-farm work	Medium: 36 percent of the cultivated area is under irrigation	Moderate
Sparse (mountain)	Along the mid level and upper slopes of the Himalayan Range	Potatoes and buckwheat plus cattle and yak herd, sheep and goats, seasonal migration and tourism	No data	Moderate to extensive, especially in remote areas

MAP A4.4

Farming systems in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

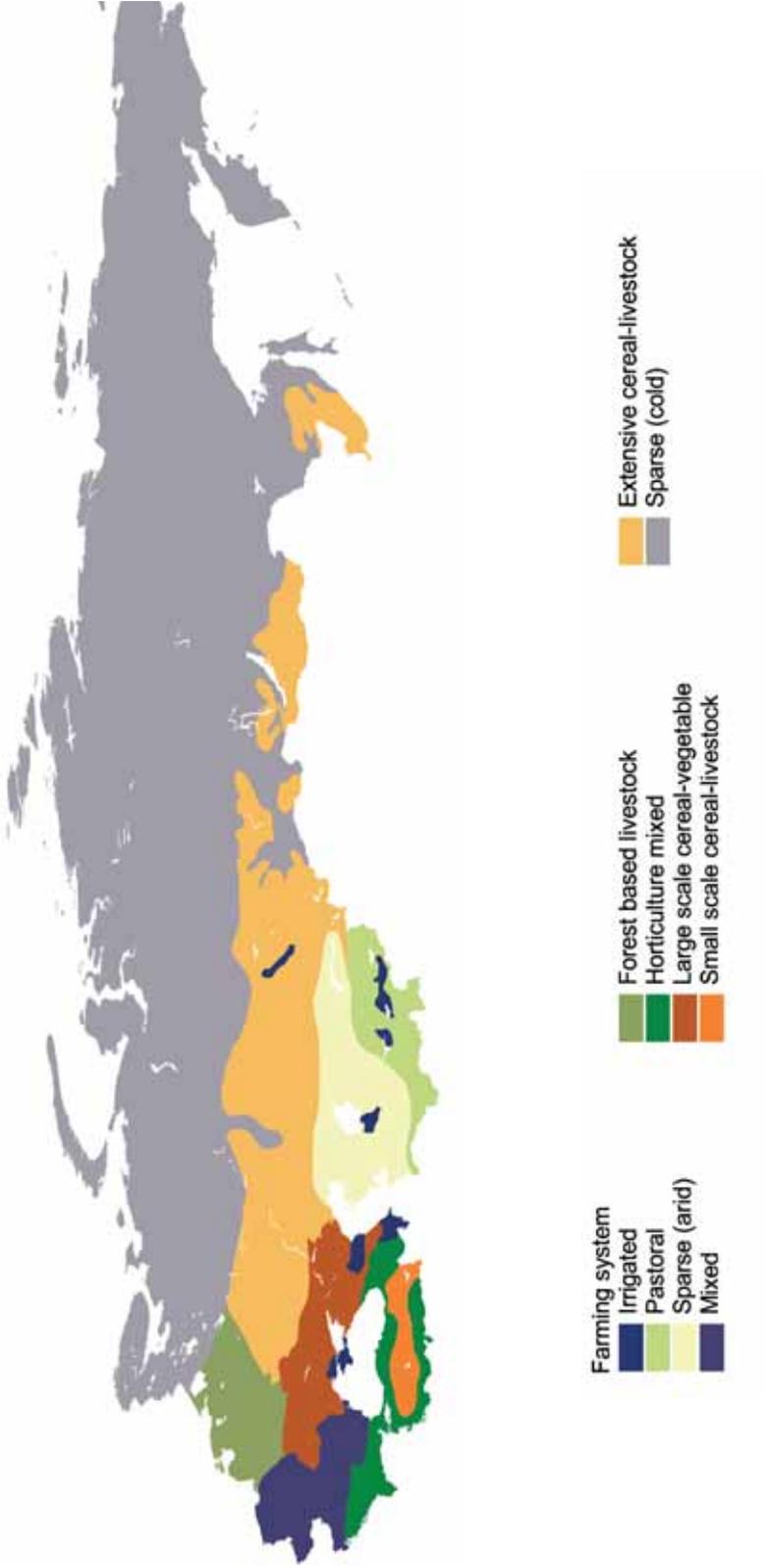


TABLE A4.4

Characteristics of farming systems in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Farming system	Location	Principal livelihood sources (secondary sources)	Level of technology and organization	Prevalence of poverty
Irrigated	Crimea, west of Caspian sea, south of Aral Sea, eastern Uzbekistan, central Kyrgyzstan, and the Ertis valley in the northeast of Kazakhstan	Cotton, rice, other cereals, tobacco, fruit, vegetables, off-farm work (wheat, barley)	Medium	Moderate to extensive, especially widespread in the Caucasus
Pastoral	Typical of much of southeaster part of Central Asia	Sheep, cattle, cereals, fodder crops, potatoes	Low: excessive animal population, poor pasture management and overgrazing	Moderate to extensive, particularly widespread in this system
Sparse (arid)	South of Eurasian steppe, including most of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as a large strip of Kazakhstan	In the most favourable areas, extensive cereal cultivation (barley) complemented by sheep raising (cereals)	Low: heavily indebted farms, water resources over-exploited	Extensive
Mixed	Central european countries as Poland, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Croatia	Wheat, maize, oil crops, barley, livestock (sunflower, rapeseed, fodder crops, sugar beet, pumpkin, alfalfa, fruit)	Medium: small to medium-scale private family farms and medium to large corporate or co-operative farms	Low to moderate, concentrated among ethnic minorities, unemployed and unskilled workers
Forest based livestock	Belarus, Northwest Russia and Baltic states	Forest, hay, cereals, industrial crops, potatoes. Little or no cash income, use of barter	Low: co-operative or corporate ownership	Moderate
Horticulture mixed	Southern Balkans, northern Turkey and the Caucasus	Wheat, maize, oil crops, fruit, intensive vegetables, livestock	Medium to high: use of greenhouses, partial irrigation	Moderate to extensive, partly arising from armed conflicts
Large-scale cereal-vegetable	Ukraine and southwest part of Russian Federation and Republic of Moldova	Wheat, barley, maize, sunflower, sugarbeet, vegetables. Little cash income, large dependance on own production and barter	No data	Moderate to extensive
Small-scale cereal-livestock	Semiarid and dry sub-humid and mountainous zones of Turkey	Wheat, barley, sheep and goats	No data	Moderate, but increasing
Extensive cereal-livestock	Semiarid areas of the Russian Federation and northern Kazakhstan, and substantial areas in southern Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	Wheat, hay, fodder, cattle, sheep (barley, sunflower, vegetables)	Fallow every two year	Moderate to extensive, increasing among old people, young families and former co-operative members
Sparse (cold)	Northern part of the Russian Federation	Rye, oats, reindeer, potatoes, pigs, forestry (vegetables)	Low	Extensive

MAP A4.5

Farming systems in Middle East and North Africa

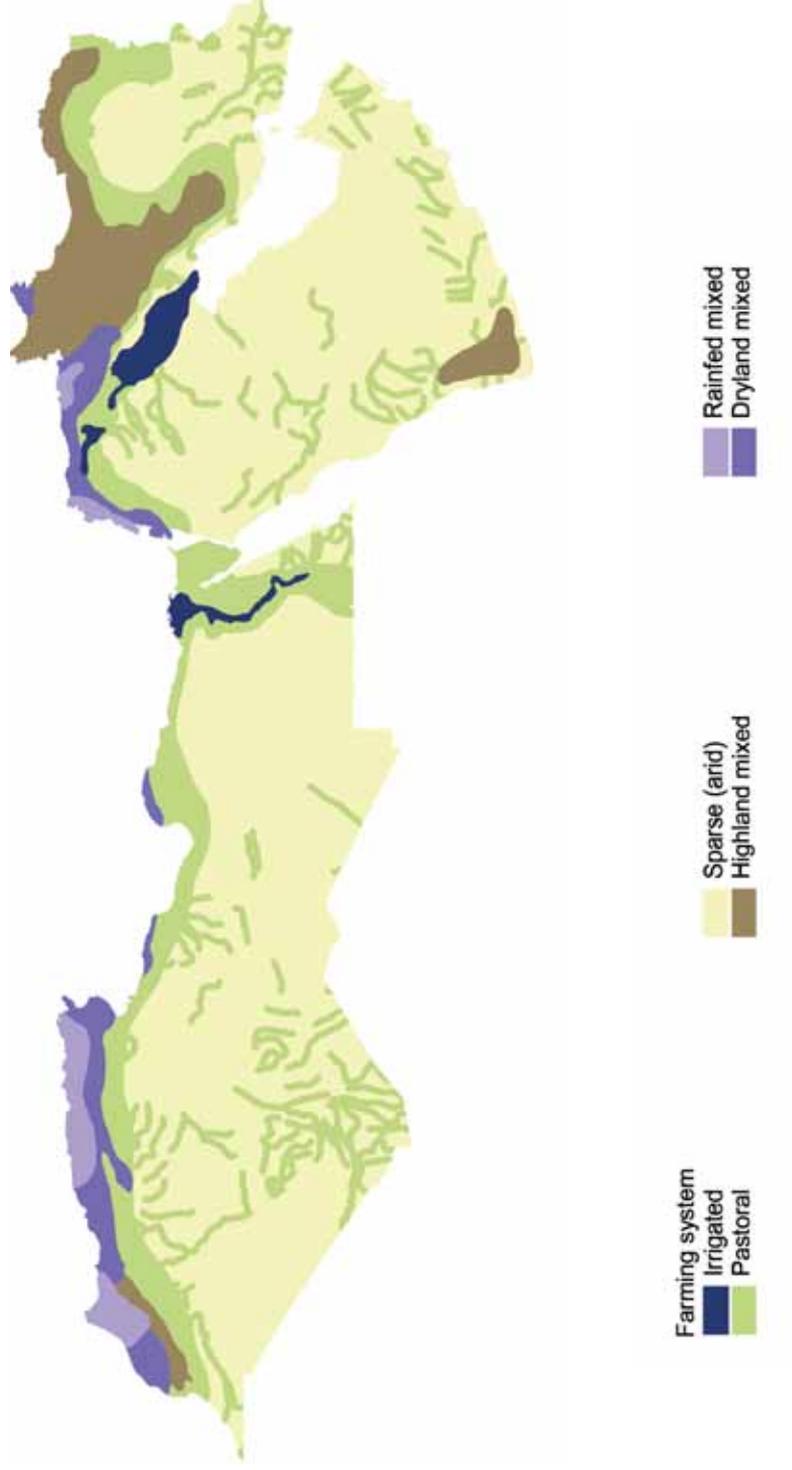


TABLE A4.5

Characteristics of farming systems in Middle East and North Africa

Farming system	Location	Principal livelihood sources (secondary sources)	Level of technology and organization	Prevalence of poverty
Irrigated	Nile and Euphrates valleys	Fruits, vegetables, cash crops (cereals, cotton, sugar beet, fodder, date palm)	Seldom efficient use of water; cases of excessive utilisation of non-recharged aquifers	Moderate
Pastoral	Scattered trough Middle East and North Africa, including large areas of semiarid steppe lands	Sheep, goats, barley, off-farm work	Medium	Extensive
Sparse (arid)	Covers more than 60 percent of the Middle East and North Africa, including vast desert zones	Camels, sheep, off-farm work (dates and other palms, fodder and vegetables)	Many irrigation schemes	Limited, as limited population pressure
Highland mixed	Western Yemen, northern and western Iran, central Morocco	Cereals, legumes, off-farm work (tree crops, vines, fruits, vegetables, olive, qat, coffee)	Infrastructure poorly developed, serious problem of degradation of natural resources	Extensive
Rainfed mixed	Coastal areas in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Syria, and northern part of Iraq	Tree crops, cereals, legumes, off-farm work (olive, fruits, nuts, melons, vines, fodder crops, cattle, cash crops, grapes, potato, sugar beet, faba beans, oil crops, vegetables, flowers, vetches, medics)	An increasing area benefits from new irrigation technologies	Moderate thanks to income from seasonal labour migration
Dryland mixed	Coastal areas in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria and Jordan and northern part of Iran and Iraq	Wheat and barley, sheep, off-farm work (lentils, chickpeas, vegetables)	Medium: relatively poor market linkages	Extensive among small farmers

MAP A4.6

Farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

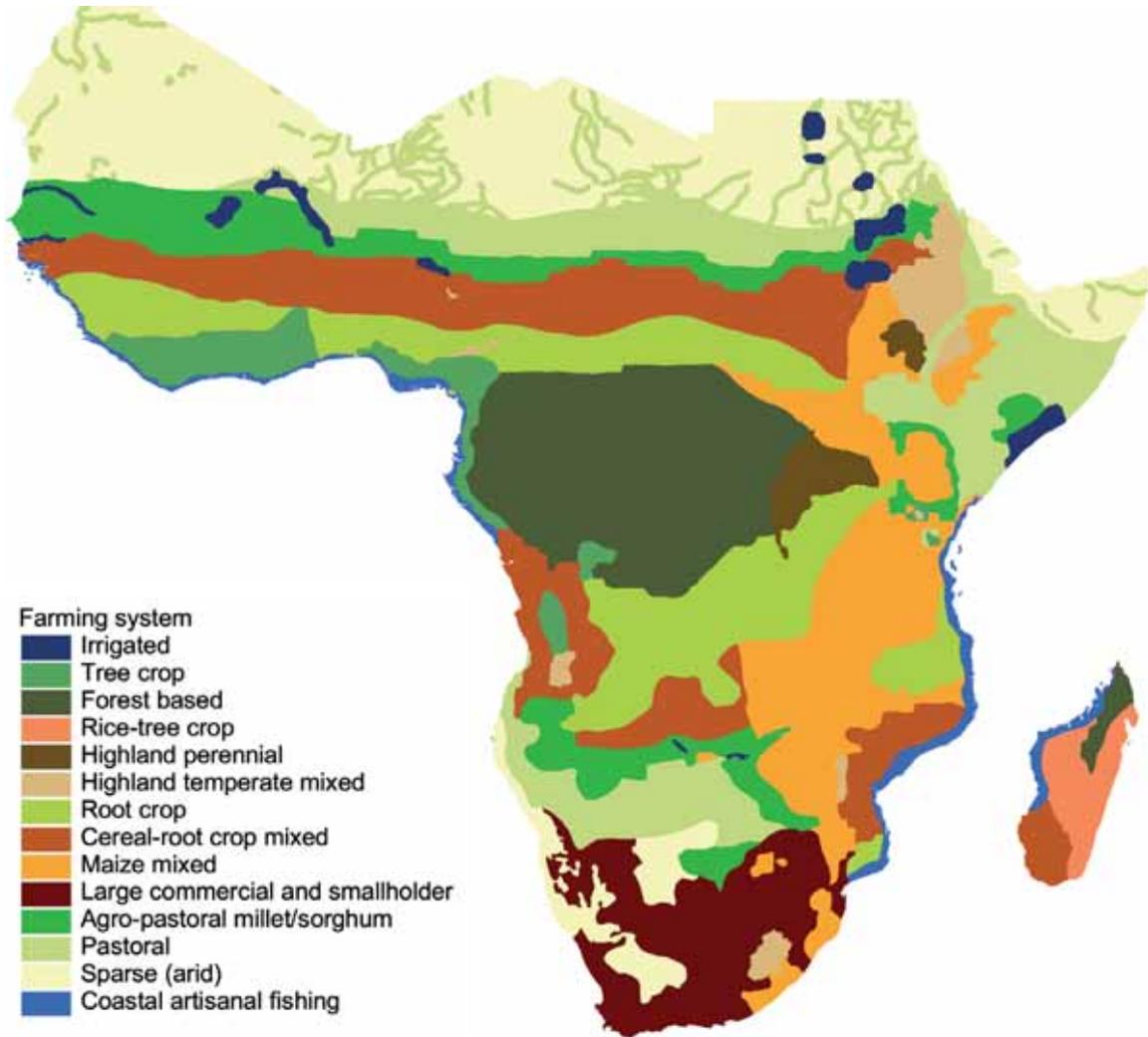


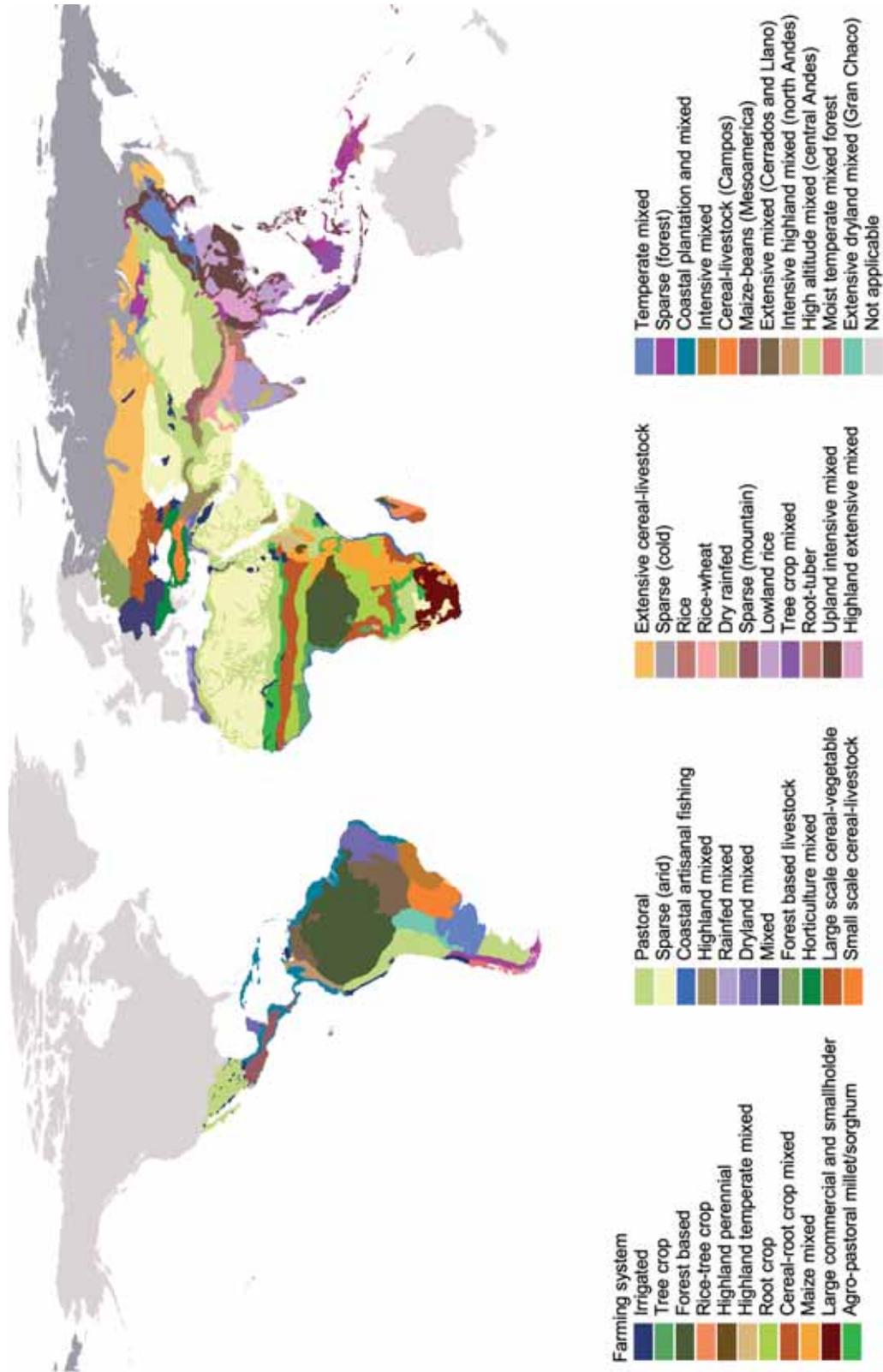
TABLE A4.6

Characteristics of farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

Farming system	Location	Principal livelihood sources (secondary sources)	Level of technology and organization	Prevalence of poverty
Irrigated	Gezira Scheme in Sudan, extensive riverine and flood recession-based irrigation, e.g. West African fadama areas and the Wabi Shebelle in Somalia	Rice, cotton, vegetables, rainfed crops, cattle, poultry (sorghum, groundnuts, sugarcane)	High	Limited
Tree crop	Coastal areas of western and central Africa	Cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, yams, maize, off-farm work (cocoyam, cassava, cereals, pulses)	No data	Limited to moderate, concentrated among very small farmers and agricultural workers
Forest based	Humidest zones of the Congo Democratic Republic, the Congo Republic, southeast Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, southern Tanzania and northern tips of Zambia, Mozambique and Angola	Cassava, maize, beans and cocoyams (groundnut, sorghum)	Low: physical isolation, lack of roads and market	Extensive, in places very severe
Rice-tree crop	Moist sub-humid and humid agro-ecological zones of Madagascar	Rice, banana, coffee, maize, cassava, legumes, livestock, off-farm work	Low: small farm size, shortage of appropriate technologies, poor development of market and off-farm activities	Moderate
Highland perennial	Sub-humid and humid agroecological zones of Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi	Banana, plantain, enset, coffee, cassava, sweet potato, beans, cereals, livestock, poultry, off-farm work	Low: very small farm size, shortage of appropriate technologies, poor infrastructure and few opportunities of off-farm activities	Extensive increasing and severe
Highland temperate mixed	Mostly in the high lands and mountains of Ethiopia, smaller areas in Eritrea, Lesotho, Angola, Cameroon and Nigeria	Wheat, barley, teff, peas, lentils, broad beans, rape, potatoes, sheep, goats, livestock, poultry, off-farm work (oilseed)	Low: lack of input, soil erosion and shortage of biomass	Moderate to extensive
Root crop	Large parts of Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, northern Mozambique, Sierra Leone, southern Tanzania, Togo, Zambia	Yams, cassava, legumes, off-farm work (oil palm)	Low to medium: technologies not yet developed, but relatively good linkage to markets and off-farm activities	Limited to moderate
Cereal-root crop mixed	Northern parts of Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Togo, the mid-belt states of Nigeria, similar zone in central and southern Africa	Maize, sorghum, millet, cassava, yams, legumes, cattle (groundnut, sweet potato, cowpea, pigeon pea, cotton)	Medium: poor transport and communication infrastructure	Limited, some drought-induced
Maize mixed	Plateau and highland areas of Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Maize, tobacco, cotton, cattle, goats, poultry, off-farm work (sorghum, millet, sweet potato, oil seeds, groundnuts, pulses, sunflower, coffee)	Medium: input use has fallen due to the shortage of seed, fertiliser and agro-chemicals, plus the high price of fertiliser relative to the maize price	Moderate, linked to drought and market volatility

Farming system	Location	Principal livelihood sources (secondary sources)	Level of technology and organization	Prevalence of poverty
Large commercial and smallholder	Southern part of Namibia, northern part of South Africa	Maize, pulses, sunflower, cattle, sheep, goats, remittances (sorghum, millet)	High in the large-scale commercial farming sector, low otherwise	Moderate
Agro-pastoral millet/sorghum	Semiarid zone of West Africa, from Senegal to Niger and in East and Southern Africa, from Somalia and Ethiopia to South Africa	Sorghum, pearl millet, pulses, sesame, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, off-farm work (cotton, vegetables)	Low	Extensive, often severe, mainly due to drought
Pastoral	Arid and semiarid zones from Mauritania to the northern parts of Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Sudan, Uganda; arid zones in Botswana, Namibia, southern Angola	Cattle, camels, sheep, goats, remittances	Low	Extensive, mainly due to the great climatic variability and the incidence of drought
Sparse (arid)	Parts of Chad, Botswana, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Sudan	Irrigated maize, vegetables, date palms, cattle, off-farm work	Low	Extensive and often severe, especially after droughts
Coastal artisanal fishing	Coastal East Africa: from Kenya to Mozambique; coastal areas of Zanzibar, Comoros and Madagascar Coastal West Africa: southern Gambia, Casamance region of Senegal, coastal areas of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone	Marine fish, coconuts, cashew, banana, yams, fruit, goats, poultry, off-farm work (rice)	Medium	Moderate, although socio-economic differentiation is considerable

MAP A4.7
 Farming systems in developing and transition countries, 2000



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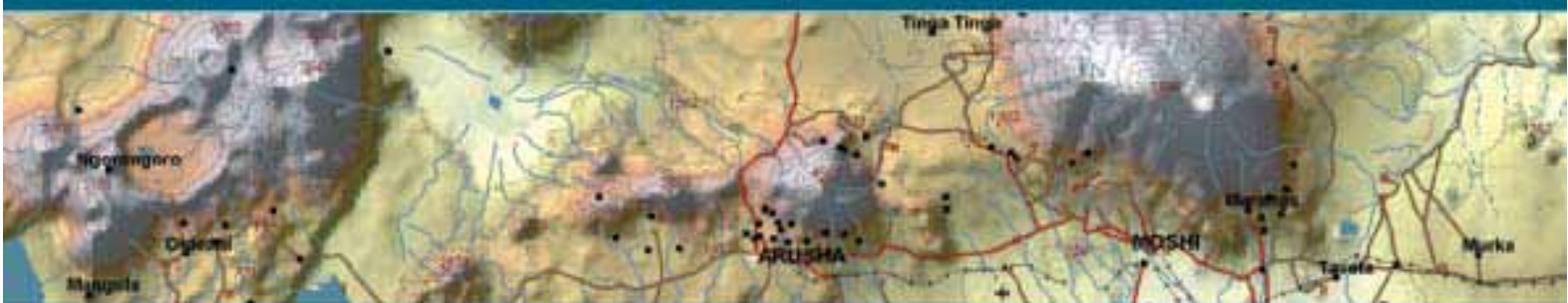
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This monograph is part of a series of reports that explain how techniques of spatial analysis can be used to investigate poverty and environment links worldwide. It combines rural population distribution data contained in the global rural population database for the year 2000 with methods and results of the *Global agro-ecological assessment for agriculture in the 21st century*, in order to estimate the distribution of the world's rural population by agricultural suitability class, land-use category and type of farming system. Refinements in GIS databases and analysis techniques have been developed collaboratively by FAO and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in the project *Improving Methods for*



Poverty and Food Insecurity Mapping and its Use at Country Level, which was jointly implemented by FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Resource Information Database (UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norway) and

Consultive Group on International Agricultural Research centers, and funded by the Government of Norway. The report considers the constraints imposed by environmental conditions at different levels of human input, evaluates agricultural production potential of the world's land area at a resolution of 5 arc-minutes (about 85 square kilometres at the equator) and reports on rural habitation in relation to agricultural production potential, land-use patterns and farming systems.



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