



## Which animal do farmers need for tropical mixed farming systems?

Nathalie Mandonnet, Gisèle Alexandre, Valérie Angeon, Harry Archimède, Jean-Christophe Bambou, Rémy Arquet, Audrey Fanchone, Jérôme Fleury, Mario Giorgi, Jean-Luc Gourdine, et al.

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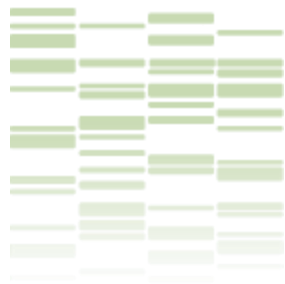
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# Which animal do farmers need for tropical mixed farming systems in the Caribbean?

Nathalie Mandonnet & Team Ceresita

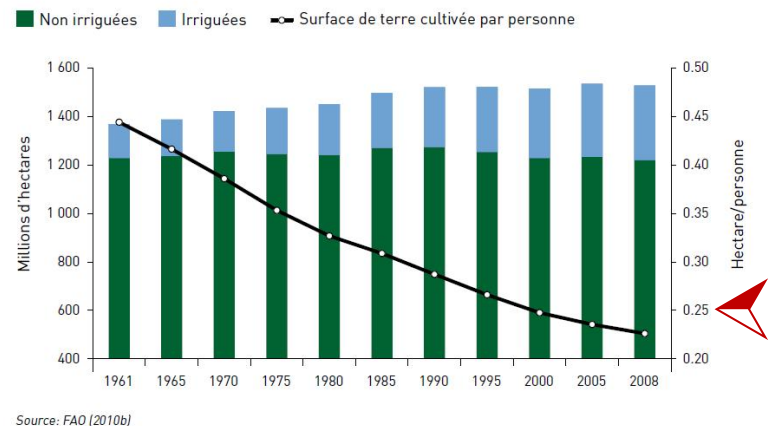
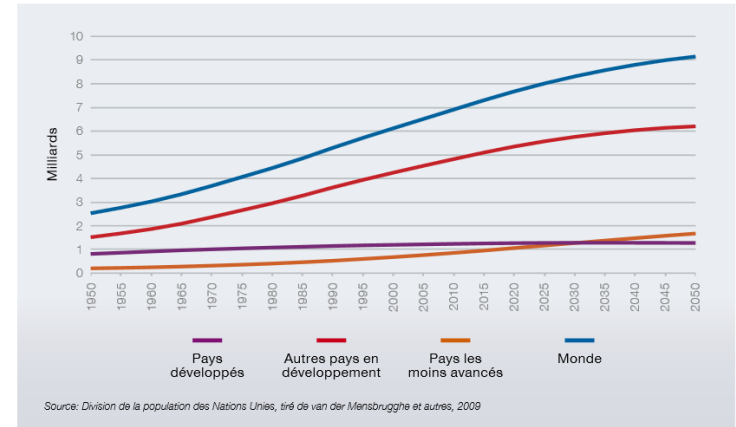
*URZ Recherches Zootechniques, INRA, Petit-Bourg, France*

*UE PTEA Plateforme Tropicale d'Expérimentation sur l'Animal, INRA, Petit-Bourg, France*



# Major issues of agriculture in the Global South

- World population will reach 9 billions by 2050  
+50% in Global South
- Limited increase of arable land surface
  - Decreased land availability for crops and livestock production /inhab
- Crucial need of increased agriculture efficiency to reach food sovereignty

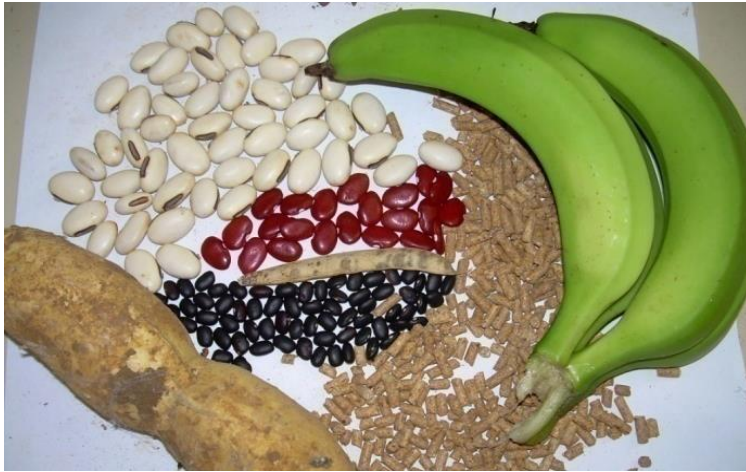


# Key role of animal in the food chain

- Importance of livestock production
  - to cover protein needs, to add value to non-usable land for crops production and to enhance the biological recycling processes
- Importance of agroecological approach
  - to meet efficiency and sustainability for food sovereignty



# Three principles for efficient livestock production in the tropics



Based on the observation and evaluation of **mixed farming systems (MFS)** in the Caribbean:

On the farm,

1. Give priority to food on feed
2. Promote the right animal at the right place
3. Favour farmers' wills and skills



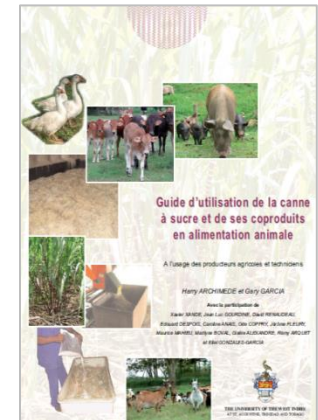
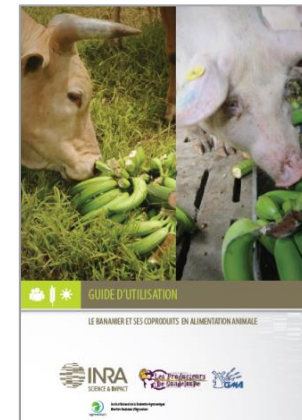
# Priority to food on feed

## 1. Optimize a human food system in which the animal protein is *only* one component

- Dual food crop plants (eg bananas, sweet potatoes, cassava, cereal, peas...),
- Recycle crops co-products as feed and energy.

## 2. Choose adapted plant resources to the agro-pedo-climatic environment of the farm

- Evaluation of the local biodiversity (from dual food to legume fodder trees)



Coproducts and non conventional plants user guides



### Coproducts and non conventional plants user guides

# The right animal at the right place



*Mixed farming INRA Gardel*



*Agroforestry photo credit: INRA*

## 1. Prioritize low-input local adapted breeds (instead of high-input/ specialized exotic breeds)

Constraints: Variability of amount and quality of feed, biotic and abiotic stress

- Optimize responses laws (production and adaptation) of conventional livestock
- Enhance the potential provided by the non-conventional animals

# The right animal at the right place



*Mixed farming INRA Gardel*

## 2. Enhance diversity within the flock (genetic, physiological status) to “empower” the existing diversity of the system

- Associate in the flock animals with complementary requirements/potentials (feeding behaviors, pathological susceptibility) to minimize the risks, optimize the resources,
- Develop genetic for low input systems/ balanced animals



*Agroforestry photo credit: INRA*



# Farmers' wills and skills



## 1. Design a **system consistent** with farmer's wills and skills

- Optimisation of integration of productions in the MFS
- Combine biotechnical and organizational innovations (smart agriculture)

➤ *Raise the self-sufficiency*

➤ *Raise the level and quality of life*

## 2. **Organize an area for hybridization** of research knowledge and traditional know-how

- Promote co-conception and living labs

## 3. Adapt **public policies** and transform the consumer as **consum'actor**





# Research issues for INRA at the animal and system levels

- **Adaptation:** characterize a A/S in equilibrium with the farm environment
  - Ex genetic control of adaptation in Creole breeds
- **Resilience:** define and design the animal/system able to make/allow the right compromise under stress
  - Ex: genetic control of nutrient allocation in pig under heat stress, importance of production and ecosystemic services integration in resilience of MFS
- **Efficiency:** multicriteria evaluation and optimization at the A/P/S levels
  - Ex: feeding strategies, integrated control of animal health, co-conception of MFS
  - La recherche prend ses responsabilités

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