BEST PRACTICES FOR SUFFICIENT QUALITY FODDER PRODUCTION

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The Problems

Lack of proper soil management:

- No soil sampling to upgrade fertility/use
- No fertilization on Grass / Pastures
- Low yields (in general) and thus poor results (in quantity & quality)
- Seasonality

Recommended Practices

- Use MOULD plough instead of disc plough:
  - Flat beds
  - 1 round of harrowing required
  - Only costs sh.200 more

- Harrow immediately after ploughing when soil still soft

Disc-plough


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Mould Plough

Minimum tillage

Advantages:

No waste of water

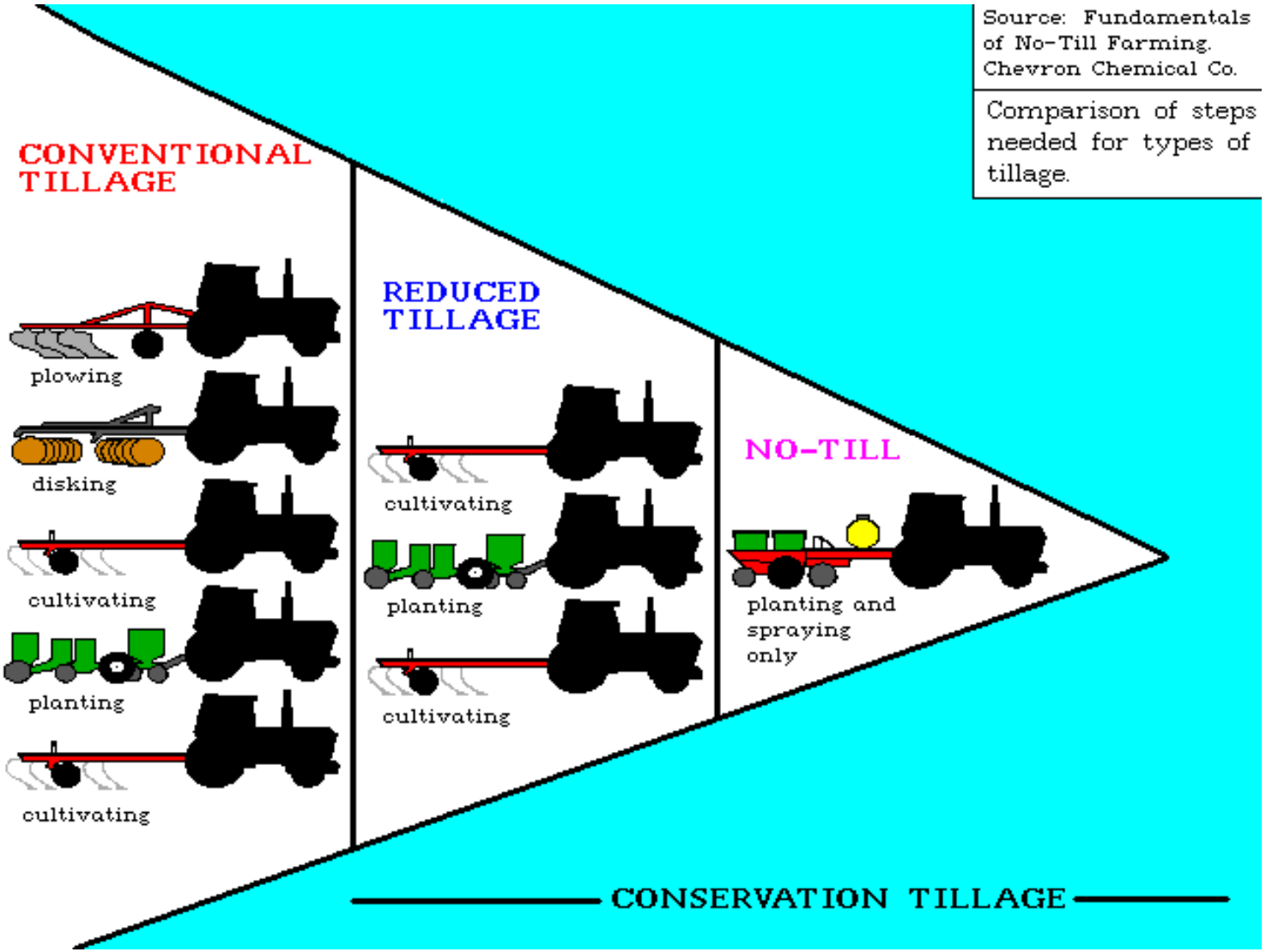
Reduction on cost of machinery

Better soil management

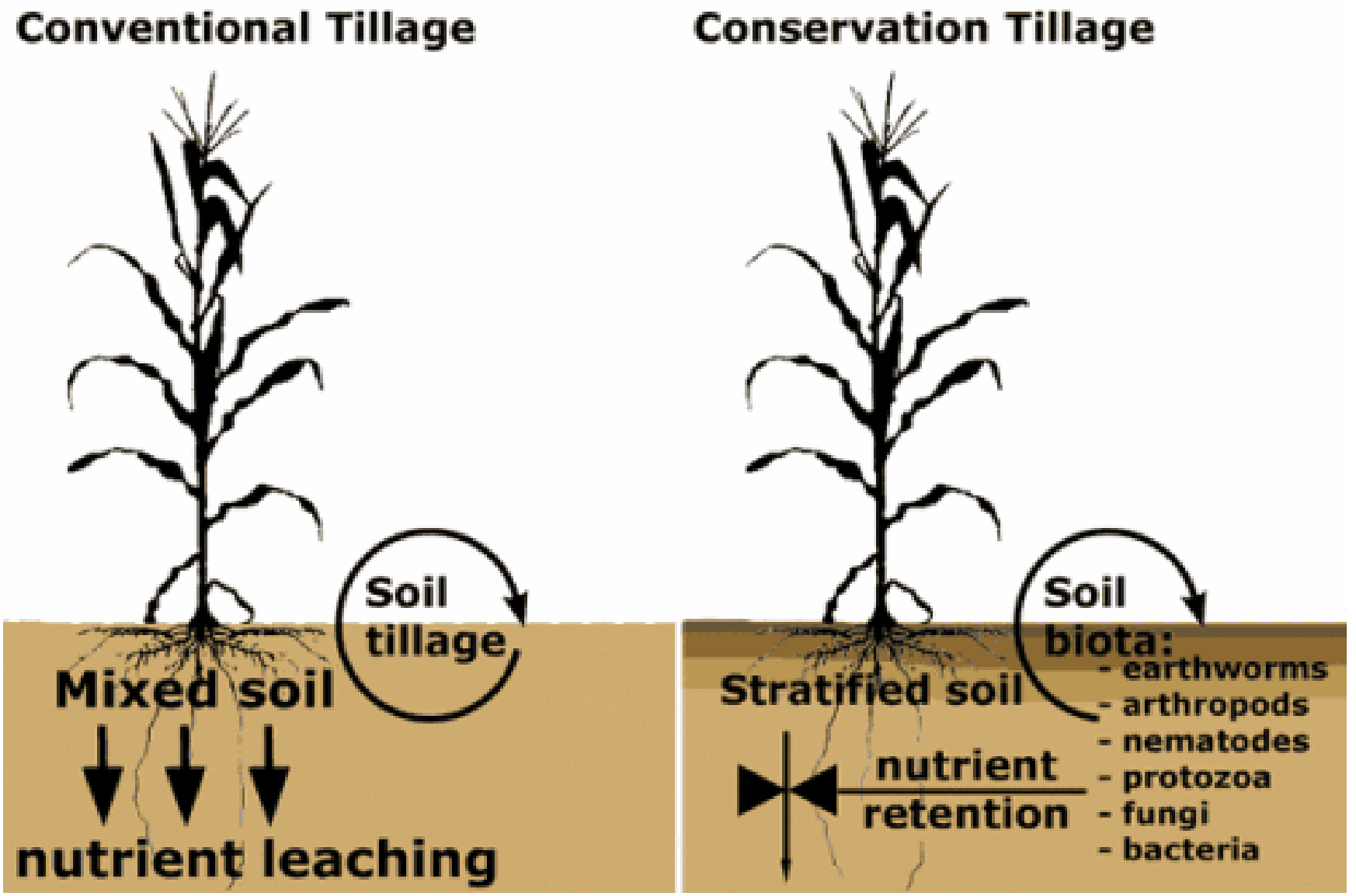
Better use of Nutricious value

In future…….. better yield (soil investment)

Conventional Tillage Practices



Cultivator with Roll


Conventional Tillage
Soil
tillage
Mixed soil
nutrient leaching
Conservation Tillage
Soil
biota:
- earthworms
- arthropods
- nematodes
- protozoa
- fungi
- bacteria
Stratified soil
nutrient
retention

Recommended Practices

- Plant improved, certified and treated seed
- Fertilizing the soil
- Use calibrated planter that places fertilizer 5cm-below 5cm-aside of seed
- Right harvesting time
- Short harvest time: logistics
- Optimal conservation practice (storage)!
- Do trials before upscaling new technologies

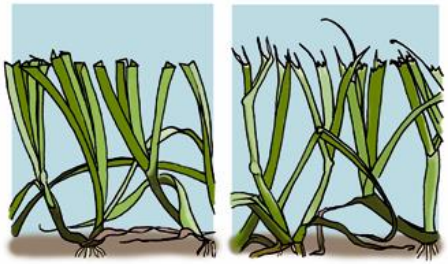
Fodder Nutrition

- Soil analysis for other basic nutrients once every 5 years
- Soil analysis for N done every year,
- For Rhodes hay production apply CAN after every cut
- For cost-benefit analysis of fertilizing, refer to Technology farm case study

HAY/Silage?

- Use improved and certified seed
- Cut the grass at knee height: nutrients!
- Cut before the spike is coming out, when this is coming out, the leaves are dying and the food-value decreases
- Mowing height from the ground: +5 cm

Hay/ Silage production

- 




Fertilizing for Hay production

- At planting 150kg DAP pro acre
- After each cutting 100 CAN pro acre

PASTURE

- Start with the cows at 16 cm grass height

- After grazing top-off the grass (same stage)

- Give CAN 100 kg pro acre after each grazing
- You can feed your cows on the same field 5 or 6 or even more times a year (rotational grazing)

MAIZE

- Use improved, certified and treated seed if possible hybrid seed
- Look for difference in earliness of the variety
- Look for stay green variety harvest at dough ripe stage
- Chop the maize at 1 or 1,5 cm

Fertilizing Maize

- Before planting 140 kg CAN per acre
- At planting 50 kg Mais-map = per 100 kg: 20 N and 40 P_2O_5 .
- Later (at length knee-high) 140 CAN per acre given/supplied by hand


PKIOPS
VC