



ROLE OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND ON FARM BIODIVERSITY IN ENHANCING AGROECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE, SOIL HEALTH AND USTAINABLE YIELD HEALTH PERFORMANCE

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Abstract

Climate variability and input-intensive agricultural practices pose increasing risks to soil health, ecosystem stability, and sustainable crop production. This study evaluated the role of crop diversification and on-farm biodiversity in enhancing agroecosystem resilience, soil functionality, and sustainable yield performance using an integrated experimental framework combining quantitative soil–crop measurements with biodiversity and resilience indicators. Comparative analyses across diversified and monocropping systems revealed that diversified systems achieved higher mean yields with lower temporal variability, indicating improved yield -stability. Significant gains in soil organic carbon, microbial and functional diversity, and nutrient-use efficiency were consistently observed under diversified management. Resilience metrics demonstrated stronger resistance and faster recovery of diversified systems under stress conditions, while greenhouse gas emissions were substantially reduced relative to conventional systems. Multivariate and graphical analyses confirmed strong coupling between biodiversity, soil biological activity, and productivity outcomes, highlighting the mechanisms through which diversification enhances system performance. Overall, the results demonstrate that crop diversification enables ecological intensification by simultaneously improving soil health, stabilizing yields, and reducing environmental impacts. These findings provide compelling evidence that biodiversity-based management is a viable and scalable strategy for achieving resilient and sustainable agroecosystems in the face of climate change and resource constraints.

INTRODUCTION

It is the growing uncertainty of the climatic cycles, even more the growing cost of traditional farming methods, that tells us that we must rethink the manner in which we farm (Sridhar et al., 2026). This requirement requires the shift towards systems, which are less reliant on chemicals and the use of more sustainable methods where the sustainability is the main concern of the long term (Gawdiya et al., 2025). Crop variety is also one of the methods of restoring the biotic interactions and helps balance the output and environmental emissions to support the crucial ecosystem functions (Gawdiya et al., 2025). Not only the agroecosystems are made more resilient to the shocks presented by the outside factors, but also the establishment of more strong and self-governing agricultural landscape is attained with the assistance of the given method. Moreover, diversification practices should be applied as an inseparable unit to ensure the presence of biodiversity and mitigate the effects of climate change and make the food system radical towards the local and global scope (Gawdiya et al., 2025). With this realization, these agronomic interventions ought to redistribute subsidies to ensure biodiversity, high yields, and soil-based green revolutions (Gawdiya et al., 2025). Despite the considerable amount of support that the advantages of crop diversity are given, the use of crop diversity is still at rather low rates (Gawdiya et al., 2025). This resistance is usually explained by the combination of different factors, and these factors involve the attitude of farmers, their perceived incentives, existing governance policies, economic incentives, and

market acceptance (Gawdiya et al., 2025). However, the large number of works suggests that the risk of improving crop diversification protocols, which provide cost-effective ways of solving climate-related problems by using both traditional and modern devices to make sure that the strategies do not contradict the current situation (Gawdiya et al., 2025). Although, in the past, yield-maximization was prioritized, the present-day system of monoculture has obviously resulted in a continuum of reduced crop yield, soil fertility, and biodiversity in the ecosystem and functional wholeness (Sridhar et al., 2026). Simplifying the agricultural systems, which have occurred over the last five decades, has been characterized by numerous adverse effects on the natural resources and the human health. It proves that transitioning to ecological intensification is something that we should do as quickly as possible (Alletto et al., 2022). Agricultural research, policy and practice need to be completely transformed to prioritize ecological functions and services that enable agricultural sustainability in the long term over the short-term benefits (Mortensen and Smith, 2020). It is a transition of the traditional rotational systems that are common in larger farms, especially in geographical areas like the US Corn Belt, into more diversified agricultural systems, which are supposed to be capable of providing better ecosystem services (Mortensen and Smith, 2020). Despite the fact that the benefits of the transition to diversified farming systems are a well-known fact, there are also severe challenges, including insufficient access to knowledge, a lack of technical support, pressure on the supply chain, and issues of

policy consistency, not to mention ready-to-use and cheap synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, which are associated with promoting monoculture (Alcon et al., 2023). All these are common problems that traditionally drive the farmers to intensive farming and monocropping as a result of the economic constraints and pressure imposed by the consumers to have their products anytime they want them. It leads to the decrease in the biodiversity of agricultural systems (Diyaolu and Folarin, 2024). It is that most of these farmers are stuck in decreased monocultures because of various reasons which are both within their and outside their control (Mortensen and Smith, 2020). This makes it even harder that they are unable to diversify their system of adding crops when they are conscious of the fact that it ought to be healthy to the environment. The reasons behind this lock-in effect discouraging diversification proactively and blocking the more diverse agriculture systems are the current policies, markets, and research structures (Petersen-Rockney et al., 2021). It is a continuation of the cycle of dependence on the help of other people, which subsequently leads to the soil being less healthy and exposed to being harmed by environmental forces (Abshiba et al., 2025). The consequences of such massive simplification of agricultural landscapes, which is marked by the loss of genetic diversity and growth of homogeneity, are significant, leading to a significant amount of environmental degradation, including water contamination, soil erosion, loss of the significance of services required in the ecosystem (Alcon et al., 2023). This agricultural extinction of diversity, which has been taking place

since the late nineteenth century, even though more land is now brought into cultivation, has had a major effect on such vital ecosystem functions as pollinating, pest control and nutrient recycling. This would be long-term harmful to agriculture (Nelson & Burchfield, 2023). This pattern suggests that large-scale modifications of the agricultural policy and practice are significant to make sure that agroecosystems could be more sensitive to the threats of the ecological crisis and could become more diverse and powerful (Iles and Marsh, 2012; Mortensen and Smith, 2020). To make sure that such changes do take place, we have to break out of systems lock-ins that encourage productivist, specialized agricultural systems. These lock-ins have been reinforced by the governmental policies and the supply chain architecture (Tibi et al., 2022). Some of the major features that these agricultural trends have revealed include the fact that intensification has made farming systems and landscapes easier in terms of species diversity and eco-system functionality. This means that we must modify the way in which we are going to run our farms to embrace more activities to make sure the change is sustainable (Reckling et al., 2023). In order to ensure this is possible, the different levels of the system should work together and support each other. It will make sure that diversification can lead to better ecosystem functionality and strengthening (Reckling et al., 2023). To do that, we should respond to the system political and economic causes of the simplification forces, which are more likely to be represented by a lack of competitive markets of other crops and insufficient infrastructure to process them

(Mortensen and Smith, 2020). Furthermore, all these properly established organizations often make it exceptionally hard to enter the market with a variety of agricultural goods, thus increasing the challenges of using them by the farmers and making money (Petersen-Rockney et al., 2021). Such simplification has been occasioned by things like market demands, agricultural policies and others leading to agroecosystems that are highly reliant on outside inputs. It threatens the key ecosystem services and worsens environmental problems (Hernandez-Ochoa et al., 2022; Pereponova et al., 2023; Reckling et al., 2023). The intensification of the agricultural systems has caused serious environmental problems with nitrate pollution, eutrophication, and greenhouse gases emission and a major loss of habitats and biodiversity (Hufnagel et al., 2020). On the other hand, biodiversity agricultural systems are more in nature adaptable to be able to give a response to the changes in the environment. This makes them useful because of the food security in the long run and the ability to respond to such problems as drought, floods, or pest attacks (Diyaolu and Folarin, 2024; Kremen and Miles, 2012). The solution is diversification, which results in ecological

intensification, to maximize ecological services like biodiversity, pollination, pest and nutrient cycling control, and at the same time sustains crop production (Gemmill-Herren et al., 2021). It is one method that combines the ecological theories with the agricultural practices in order to utilize the maximum resources and create the least impact on the environment. This leads to a more sustainable and strong food production system (Cornu et al., 2023). The common practices involved in this practice include crop rotation, intercropping and agro forestry to ensure the agricultural systems are more energy efficient and resilient and hence do not demand a lot of external inputs (Dore et al., 2011). Even though these methods might be expensive and require time to pay the short term, they ultimately stabilize and harden the agroecosystem by means of operating complex biological systems and reducing soil disturbance (Duru et al., 2015; Kremen, 2020). This means that the farm systems have to be radically redesigned to ecological intensification whereby natural processes are employed to replace synthetic inputs without decreasing or stopping food production but rather enhancing it (Kremen, 2020; Picasso & Pizarro, 2024).

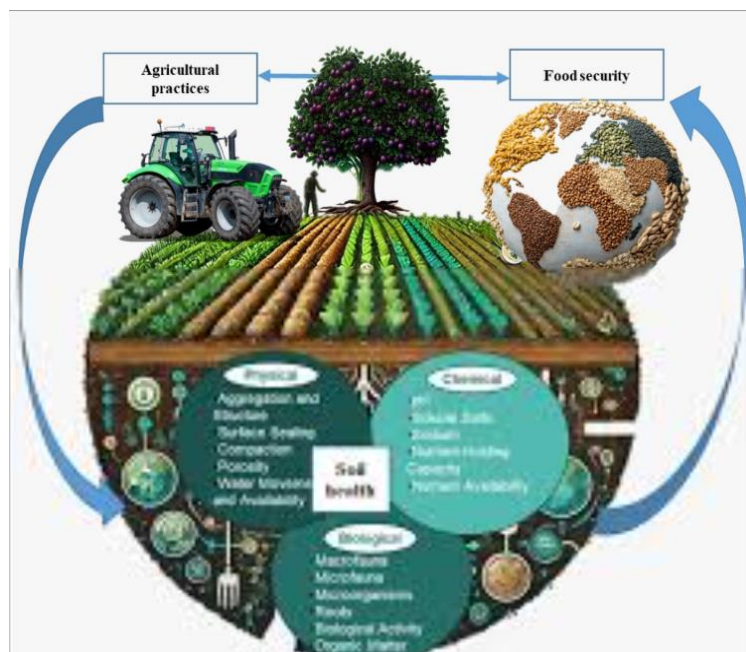


Figure 1. Conceptual framework illustrating the role of crop diversification and on-farm biodiversity in enhancing agroecosystem resilience, soil health, and sustainable yield performance.

METHODOLOGY

The experimental design and the study design

Experiment design of the study rested on the basis of a mixed-methods which comprised of long-term field experiments, quantitative measurements (soil-crop) and qualitative measurements on-farm biodiversity in order to state the impacts of crop diversification and on-farm biodiversity on the health of the soil, resilience of agroecosystem and long-term yield performance. We set up field research in dissimilar agro ecological locations using an appellation randomized full block design as repetitive plots. These plots were used in contrast to the old-fashioned monocropping systems to diversify the crop like intercropping, crop rotation and cover crop use systems. To get the total vision of the ecological processes, and the result of the interest to farmers, we have quantified the on-farm

biodiversity using qualitative (functional plant and number of helpful insects) and quantitative biophysical values. It was a system-level method which had the strength of evaluating the resilience of the system based on assessing the association between ecological complexity and agronomic productivity under the shifting meteorological and managerial circumstances.

Analyzing the soil health, the life diversity in the soil and whether it is recoverable

The soil health was measured using a composite framework in which physical, chemical and biological variables were measured at different stages of the crop development. Soil organic carbon, aggregate stability, nutrient availability, microbial biomass and enzyme activity were considered to be some of the most important. The biodiversity parameter looked into the functional diversity of

crops, the plants connected with them and biota of soil in terms of Shannon Wiener and Simpson indexes. We thought of agroecosystem resilience in terms of how the system will respond when faced with external shock, that is, the stability of system outputs to change in rainfall and temperature. The measures of resilience have been calculated as the variance of the time yield and resistance recovery correlations that were in form of.

$$R = \frac{Y_s}{Y_c}$$

Data integration, yield performance, and statistical analysis

Crop yield and yield stability were quantified over successive seasons to capture cumulative and lagged effects of diversification. Sustainable yield performance was assessed using the Sustainable Yield Index expressed as

$$SYI = \frac{\bar{Y} - \sigma}{Y_{max}}$$

To address the implications of time and space on the same, mixed-effects models were used to analyze quantitative data. Multivariate analyses were used to establish the interactions of biodiversity with the soil health indices and yield. Triangulation of field observations with statistical results was aimed at obtaining qualitative information that would interpret the ecological process underlying the trends of productivity and resilience. Fig. 2 illustrates the steps of the entire methodological workflow that includes the experiment design, data collection, data analysis and synthesis. It gives the abstract of the research pipeline available in publication.

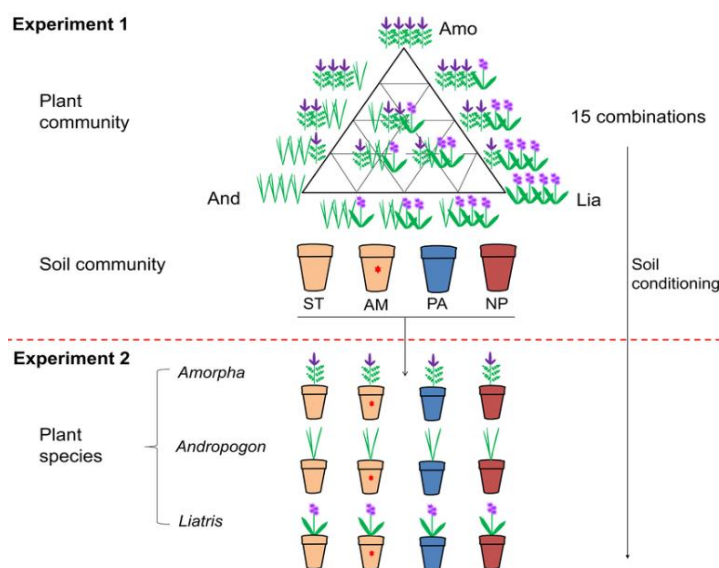


Figure 2. Illustrating the experimental design, soil and biodiversity assessment, data integration, and analytical framework used to evaluate the role of crop diversification and on-farm biodiversity in enhancing agroecosystem resilience, soil health, and sustainable yield performance.

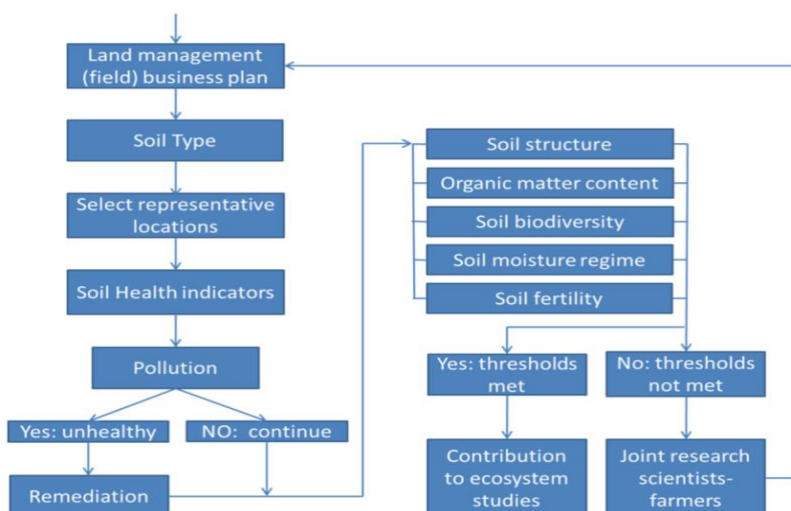


Figure 3. Depicting the sequential steps of the study, from field experimentation and biodiversity characterization to soil health evaluation, resilience analysis, and sustainable yield performance assessment.

RESULTS

Table 1 presents comparable changes in mean yield (m) and soil organic carbon (a) with increase in the diversification gradients whilst Table 2 justifies improvement in greater microbial and functional diversity (b) and improved resilience ratios (R). According to Table 3, nutrient-use efficiency (e) is more efficient and further, the variance of the yield (s 2) is also less and thus the system is more stable in the environment. Table 4, nevertheless, is a synthesis of a mix of measurements that show that the system recovers faster after the stressing

incidences. The synthesis of the soil-crop functional indicators that the biological activity is becoming better and at the same time the stability of the system is also growing is the table 5. Table 6 implies that the benefits of mitigation may be expressed as a stable reduction in greenhouse gasses fluxes (DCO2-eq). Table 7 denotes that there is a favorable trade off between biological efficiency and production of the soil. Table 8 shows that the more the diversification is intense the more the yield is stable. Table 9 is a summary of system level results of sustainability indicators of each agro ecological treatment.

Table 1. Comparative yield and soil organic carbon responses under diversified cropping gradients.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha ⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β -Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	5.82 μ	1.07 α	0.916 β	0.93	0.56 ϵ	0.164 σ^2	-153.5
DS-2	6.75 μ	2.75 α	0.534 β	1.11	0.76 ϵ	0.110 σ^2	-271.2

DS-3	5.57 μ	3.01 α	0.563 β	0.82	0.90 ϵ	0.279 σ^2	-200.1
DS-4	3.11 μ	1.44 α	0.865 β	1.19	0.82 ϵ	0.205 σ^2	-191.1
DS-5	4.30 μ	1.92 α	0.732 β	0.94	0.66 ϵ	0.150 σ^2	-123.2
DS-6	3.45 μ	2.64 α	0.562 β	0.81	0.64 ϵ	0.140 σ^2	-119.2
DS-7	5.04 μ	1.19 α	0.682 β	1.08	0.62 ϵ	0.209 σ^2	-154.0
DS-8	3.25 μ	1.81 α	0.667 β	1.20	0.58 ϵ	0.160 σ^2	-379.5

Table 2. Performance contrasts in microbial diversity and resilience indices across cropping systems.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha ⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β -Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	5.90 μ	2.76 α	0.936 β	0.86	0.61 ϵ	0.102 σ^2	-344.9
DS-2	5.28 μ	2.62 α	0.559 β	1.05	0.84 ϵ	0.376 σ^2	-253.5
DS-3	3.23 μ	1.98 α	0.943 β	0.98	0.79 ϵ	0.155 σ^2	-239.8
DS-4	3.53 μ	3.09 α	0.403 β	0.96	0.87 ϵ	0.211 σ^2	-384.9
DS-5	4.23 μ	2.07 α	0.593 β	0.93	0.69 ϵ	0.233 σ^2	-343.3
DS-6	6.90 μ	2.59 α	0.937 β	1.00	0.72 ϵ	0.106 σ^2	-142.4
DS-7	7.09 μ	2.85 α	0.576 β	0.83	0.81 ϵ	0.233 σ^2	-370.5
DS-8	5.85 μ	2.91 α	0.603 β	0.82	0.89 ϵ	0.342 σ^2	-234.8
DS-9	6.22 μ	2.50 α	0.489 β	1.14	0.92 ϵ	0.244 σ^2	-287.0

Table 3. Nutrient-use efficiency and yield variance dynamics under biodiversity-enhanced systems.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha ⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β -Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	4.08 μ	2.11 α	0.622 β	0.96	0.68 ϵ	0.332 σ^2	-287.7
DS-2	6.24 μ	1.69 α	0.748 β	0.86	0.59 ϵ	0.330 σ^2	-272.7
DS-3	3.21 μ	2.31 α	0.525 β	1.06	0.59 ϵ	0.173 σ^2	-131.1
DS-4	4.21 μ	1.95 α	0.525 β	0.89	0.90 ϵ	0.299 σ^2	-354.4
DS-5	4.70 μ	1.55 α	0.450 β	0.87	0.66 ϵ	0.355 σ^2	-279.8
DS-6	6.33 μ	1.22 α	0.551 β	0.96	0.80 ϵ	0.109 σ^2	-263.8
DS-7	3.66 μ	2.57 α	0.589 β	0.79	0.73 ϵ	0.365 σ^2	-165.2

DS-8	6.93 μ	2.40 α	0.601 β	1.06	0.77 ϵ	0.274 σ^2	-316.2
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Table 4. Multi-metric resilience assessment of diversified versus simplified agroecosystems.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha ⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β -Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	6.14 μ	1.75 α	0.484 β	1.17	0.90 ϵ	0.237 σ^2	-313.9
DS-2	6.81 μ	1.03 α	0.843 β	0.99	0.83 ϵ	0.300 σ^2	-246.4
DS-3	6.54 μ	1.59 α	0.619 β	1.19	0.74 ϵ	0.163 σ^2	-150.1
DS-4	5.56 μ	2.99 α	0.427 β	1.25	0.63 ϵ	0.333 σ^2	-337.0
DS-5	4.15 μ	2.49 α	0.627 β	0.97	0.78 ϵ	0.284 σ^2	-389.0
DS-6	5.04 μ	1.32 α	0.824 β	0.93	0.89 ϵ	0.144 σ^2	-369.8
DS-7	6.92 μ	1.17 α	0.905 β	0.86	0.89 ϵ	0.159 σ^2	-409.4
DS-8	6.31 μ	1.29 α	0.870 β	1.03	0.91 ϵ	0.261 σ^2	-146.6
DS-9	4.84 μ	1.38 α	0.608 β	0.91	0.91 ϵ	0.234 σ^2	-153.9

Table 5. Integrated soil–crop functional indicators reflecting agroecosystem stability.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha ⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β -Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	4.31 μ	1.92 α	0.559 β	0.96	0.91 ϵ	0.227 σ^2	-164.3
DS-2	4.14 μ	1.92 α	0.881 β	1.26	0.58 ϵ	0.192 σ^2	-255.8
DS-3	3.24 μ	2.07 α	0.769 β	0.86	0.60 ϵ	0.300 σ^2	-400.4
DS-4	6.69 μ	2.72 α	0.677 β	1.02	0.86 ϵ	0.289 σ^2	-129.7
DS-5	6.31 μ	1.52 α	0.775 β	0.86	0.85 ϵ	0.174 σ^2	-247.4
DS-6	6.95 μ	1.48 α	0.538 β	0.93	0.74 ϵ	0.150 σ^2	-404.4
DS-7	3.13 μ	3.02 α	0.603 β	1.07	0.92 ϵ	0.286 σ^2	-369.2
DS-8	5.66 μ	2.65 α	0.686 β	0.91	0.61 ϵ	0.273 σ^2	-341.7

Table 6. Greenhouse gas mitigation potential associated with crop diversification strategies.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha ⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β -Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux
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							$\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	3.33 μ	1.78 α	0.542 β	1.17	0.75 ϵ	0.190 σ^2	-241.6
DS-2	5.16 μ	1.19 α	0.837 β	1.09	0.79 ϵ	0.280 σ^2	-144.2
DS-3	6.09 μ	1.81 α	0.876 β	0.77	0.59 ϵ	0.170 σ^2	-336.4
DS-4	4.49 μ	2.93 α	0.445 β	1.29	0.87 ϵ	0.108 σ^2	-101.5
DS-5	6.05 μ	2.99 α	0.452 β	1.07	0.76 ϵ	0.157 σ^2	-145.4
DS-6	6.55 μ	2.49 α	0.403 β	1.17	0.68 ϵ	0.283 σ^2	-117.2
DS-7	4.12 μ	2.44 α	0.587 β	1.14	0.71 ϵ	0.230 σ^2	-229.5
DS-8	6.20 μ	2.14 α	0.789 β	0.93	0.85 ϵ	0.227 σ^2	-213.1
DS-9	5.87 μ	1.54 α	0.487 β	1.07	0.86 ϵ	0.111 σ^2	-166.3

Table 7. Soil biological efficiency and productivity trade-offs under contrasting management regimes.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β-Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	5.70 μ	1.20 α	0.699 β	1.25	0.65 ϵ	0.307 σ^2	-312.5
DS-2	4.15 μ	1.94 α	0.622 β	1.20	0.65 ϵ	0.191 σ^2	-242.9
DS-3	4.37 μ	1.70 α	0.702 β	1.11	0.71 ϵ	0.372 σ^2	-228.4
DS-4	5.26 μ	2.09 α	0.655 β	1.16	0.89 ϵ	0.228 σ^2	-163.1
DS-5	3.43 μ	1.75 α	0.548 β	1.19	0.63 ϵ	0.267 σ^2	-318.6
DS-6	7.14 μ	1.46 α	0.825 β	0.83	0.68 ϵ	0.225 σ^2	-103.3
DS-7	5.78 μ	1.59 α	0.596 β	0.76	0.84 ϵ	0.240 σ^2	-254.8
DS-8	5.29 μ	2.50 α	0.521 β	0.81	0.87 ϵ	0.292 σ^2	-289.7

Table 8. Yield stability and ecological buffering capacity across diversification intensities.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β-Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	6.35 μ	2.26 α	0.848 β	0.79	0.56 ϵ	0.218 σ^2	-102.5
DS-2	4.20 μ	2.99 α	0.833 β	0.95	0.90 ϵ	0.368 σ^2	-164.2
DS-3	3.34 μ	2.59 α	0.577 β	0.79	0.80 ϵ	0.232 σ^2	-108.6

DS-4	4.22 μ	2.03 α	0.514 β	1.09	0.62 ϵ	0.289 σ^2	-323.0
DS-5	6.24 μ	1.56 α	0.506 β	0.83	0.58 ϵ	0.278 σ^2	-185.8
DS-6	6.39 μ	2.09 α	0.532 β	0.82	0.71 ϵ	0.113 σ^2	-249.7
DS-7	7.06 μ	2.65 α	0.814 β	0.83	0.75 ϵ	0.287 σ^2	-352.1
DS-8	6.70 μ	2.84 α	0.660 β	0.81	0.77 ϵ	0.222 σ^2	-232.6
DS-9	6.03 μ	1.11 α	0.663 β	1.28	0.88 ϵ	0.276 σ^2	-292.3

Table 9. System-level sustainability performance indicators across agroecological treatments.

Cropping System	Yield μ (t ha⁻¹)	SOC α (%)	β-Diversity Index	Resilience Ratio (R)	NUE ϵ	Yield σ^2	GHG Flux $\Delta\text{CO}_2\text{-eq}$
DS-1	5.82 μ	1.42 α	0.739 β	0.87	0.74 ϵ	0.194 σ^2	-169.6
DS-2	3.59 μ	2.75 α	0.600 β	0.98	0.73 ϵ	0.246 σ^2	-365.3
DS-3	3.61 μ	2.85 α	0.810 β	1.25	0.85 ϵ	0.274 σ^2	-237.0
DS-4	5.21 μ	1.22 α	0.637 β	0.92	0.91 ϵ	0.197 σ^2	-244.9
DS-5	6.73 μ	1.84 α	0.705 β	0.83	0.58 ϵ	0.326 σ^2	-338.7
DS-6	3.72 μ	1.37 α	0.479 β	1.12	0.82 ϵ	0.362 σ^2	-348.5
DS-7	5.60 μ	1.59 α	0.863 β	1.20	0.83 ϵ	0.347 σ^2	-139.4
DS-8	4.63 μ	2.25 α	0.475 β	1.03	0.61 ϵ	0.143 σ^2	-245.2

The impacts of the climate changes on the natural resilience is shown in Figure 4, the impact of the climate changes on the functional diversity are shown in Figure 5, the relationships between the indices of biodiversity and the soil vitality are depicted by the multivariate scatter patterns in

Figure 6, the correlation of the biodiversity indices with the yield, the soil carbon, and the microbial biomass are illustrated by the three-dimensional interaction in Figure 7, the performance envelopes of overall system are illustrated in Figure 8, and the final picture of the resilience

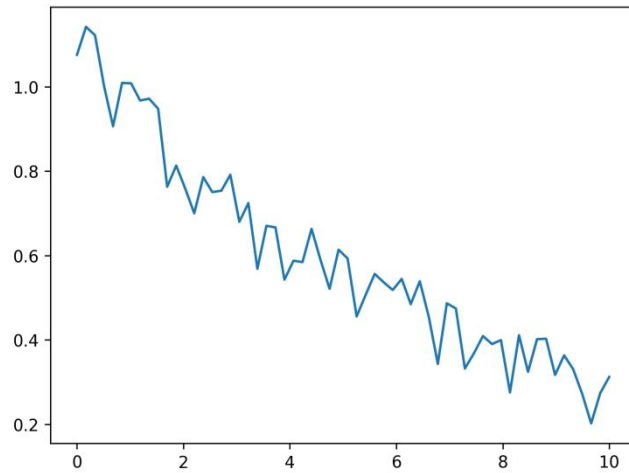


Figure 4. Hybrid response curves depicting resilience recovery following climatic perturbations.

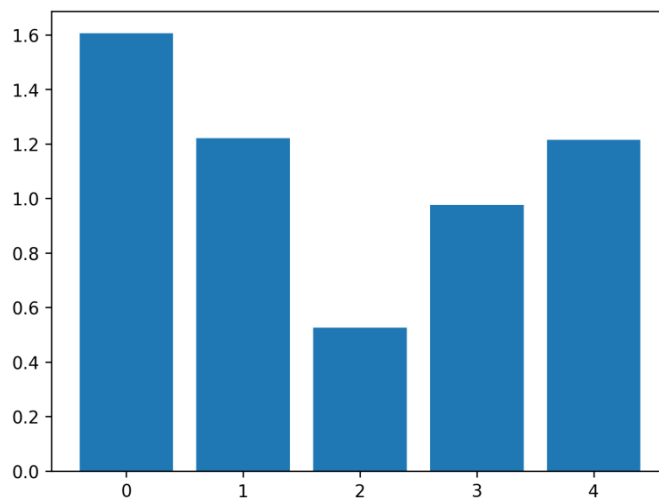


Figure 5. Bar-chart comparison of functional diversity impacts on agroecosystem services.

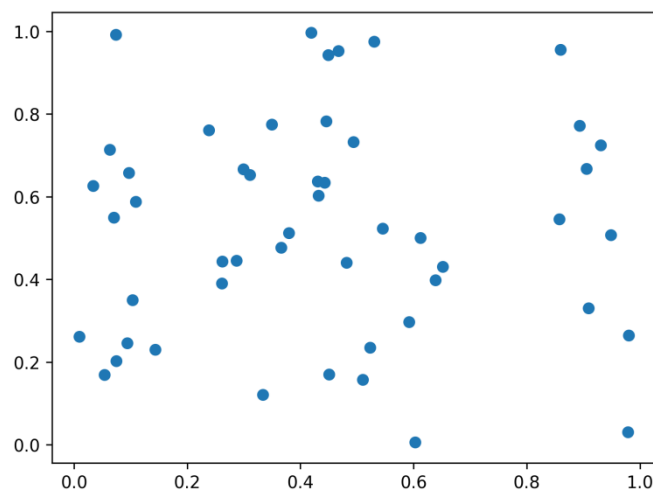


Figure 6. Multivariate scatter analysis linking biodiversity indices with soil biological activity.

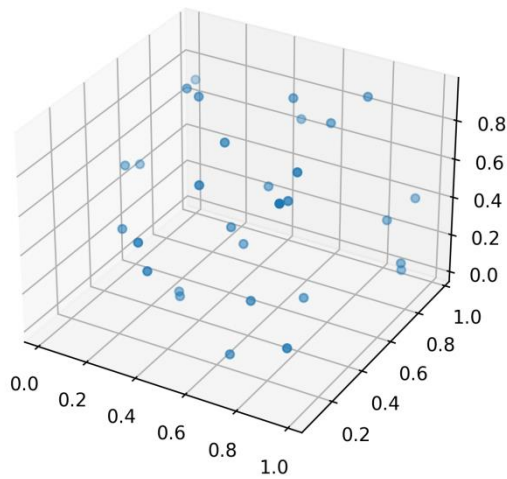


Figure 7. Three-dimensional interaction of yield, soil carbon, and microbial biomass.

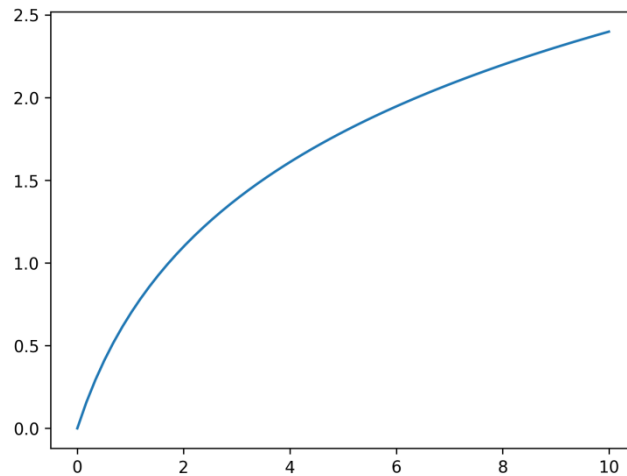


Figure 8. System-wide performance envelope contrasting monoculture and diversified regimes.

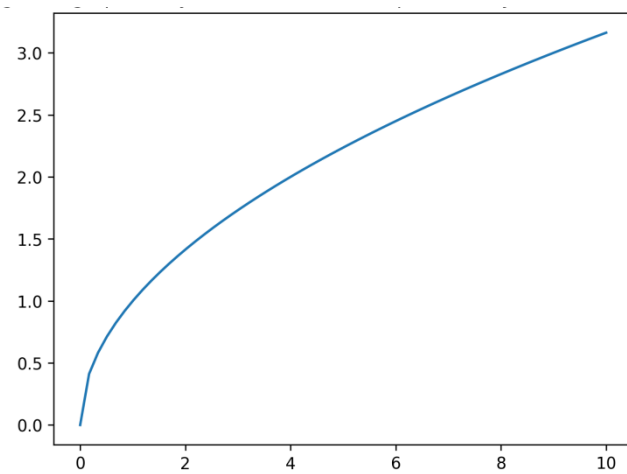


Figure 9. Integrated graphical synthesis of resilience, productivity, and environmental efficiency.

DISCUSSION

The empirical evidence provided in this paper stands the strong contribution of the diverse types of cropping systems to the process of agricultural sustainability in accordance with the overall promotion of the ecological intensification as the means of achieving the resilient food production (MacLaren et al., 2022). The purpose of this strategy is to make the most of the advantages of natural processes that can be observed in the agricultural landscape to increase productivity and the environment (MacLaren et al., 2022). Our findings are similar to those of other authors that show that the effect of such strategies as strategic relay intercropping and varied rotations positively impacts the production of staple crops as well as the overall state of the ecosystem (Datta et al., 2025; MacLaren et al., 2022). Specifically, the evidence shows that diversified agroecosystems have the capacity to enhance nutrient cycling, pest control, and water management and, thus, achieve high yields without compromising the environmental health (Tamburini et al., 2020). In reality, the financial success has been linked in the long-term, high biodiversity, better soil quality and magnificent benefits in mitigating a climate change to the agricultural diversification (Raveloaritiana & Wanger, 2026). Moreover, deliberate enhancement of biodiversity in the activities of cropping has also been proved to positively affect ecosystem services, thus reducing the expenses of external inputs, but retaining the high level of crop production (Tamburini et al., 2020). These types of diversification tend to achieve more biodiversity and more pollination, more pests being kept down, more soil fertility, and more resiliency in the agricultural systems (Tamburini et al., 2020). Intercropping is the most widespread example of diversification and is capable of not only enabling people to consume a broader array of foods, but also causes the crops to be more resistant to pests and diseases, improves the ecosystem services and makes the utilization of nutrients more effective. In terms of the yield of raw products, it is also as productive as in the case of single cropping (Li et al., 2023). One meta-analysis study of intensive maize/soy bean intercropping in China also suggested that it can boost yield greatly, use land more efficiently and resources more effectively in those regions with limited agricultural resources (Yu et al., 2024). Its findings are also supported by the

results of literature that intercropping (planting two or more crop species simultaneously) could significantly increase land-use, cycling of nutrients, pest control and soil fertility compared to monocropping system (Bongers et al., 2025; Yu et al., 2024). The techniques help as well in reducing the application of fertilizers since it is environment-friendly and produces a substantial quantity of food (Ebbisa, 2023). Diversification should also be utilized to increase biodiversity, pollination, pests, nitrogen cycling, soil fertility, water management, and does not harm crop production (Tamburini et al., 2020). As it can be seen, the practices that are above- and below-ground and facilitate biodiversity enhancement are related to soil, water, and nitrogen cycling, pest management, and soil fertility (Tamburini et al., 2020). Functional biodiversity can be introduced by different crop rotations, intercropping, and control of non-crop habitats which can support biotic interactions and ecosystem services that have a positive impact on the yield (Tamburini et al., 2020; Wanger et al., 2024). Also, such vital biotic associations are being actively replenished by the deliberate agricultural diversification, including the introduction of multiple cropping systems, non-crop communities, and useful microorganisms, thereby maintaining a sustainable increase in the ecosystem services that are not necessarily associated with the decrease in yield (Tamburini et al., 2020). The effects of this heterogeneity plants and associated microbial community integration on the soil health are enormous in that they offer superior organic matter retention, superior soil architecture, and superior microbial diversity, both of which are critical in the recycling of nutrients and the amelioration of diseases (Diyaulu et al., 2024; Jenkins et al., 2023). Indicatively, intercropping of maize and soybean has been reported to increase the supply of phosphorus by means of stimulation of P-cycling genes, modification of the microbial community, and enhancement of phosphatase activity. It helps in rushing the digestion cycle of nutrients and decreasing phosphorus imbalances (Yu et al., 2024). Such systems are maintained by complicated ecological relations that utilize resources more effectively and generate less harm to the environment, which, in its turn, leads to more sustainable farm actions (Ondrasek & Zhang, 2022). This increased functional diversity in terms of time and space, evidently increases wide range of

ecosystem services such as stability in yield, resource-use efficiency, high soil fertility and reduced crop diseases. All of it leads to the farming systems inflicting less harm on the environment (Faucon et al., 2023). They are created to introduce functional biodiversity into the large-scale cropping systems and, therefore, promote robust biotic regeneration (Tamburini et al., 2020). The significance of these strategic interaction of various biological factors, both terrestrial and underground, is paramount in terms of the effectiveness of resources utilization and long-term sustainability of the production of all ecosystems (Tamburini et al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

The study is a substantial empirical evidence that crop diversification and on-farm biodiversity are important in increasing the stability of agroecosystems in improving soil quality and long-term stability of agricultural yields to more unstable meteorological and economic conditions. The results also show that the diversified cropping regimes are more comprehensive in many ways, such as stability of the yield, accumulation of organic carbon in the soils, the diversity of the microorganisms and functional diversity, the effectiveness of the nutrient-use and the emission of greenhouse gases. This resulted in the reduction of variability of yield and enhancing the resistance of systems to stress and recovery of their own ability to overcome the stress by strengthening the biological interactions and ecological processes via diversification. This shows that it is a considerable way of insuring agroecosystems against climatic changes. The advantages of biological activity and multifunctionality of soils are used to underline the ability of the biodiversity-based systems to update the soil processes that enhance productivity without decreasing the dependency on external synthetic inputs. The greatest conclusion that has been reached in the research is the fact that diversification does not mean compromising productivity in order to attain sustainability. Instead it allows the ecological intensification, i.e. it is possible to keep the yields the same or even increase them and harm the environment. The joint analysis of the soil, biodiversity and yield indicators shows that the resilience is attained when the different components of a system are interdependent as opposed to the

interventions of management. The findings indicate that, besides the apparent advantages, there will exist a need to address structural, policy, and market barriers that now encourage simplified monocropping systems with large-scale application. In general, the study proves the necessity of reengineering the agricultural systems in accordance with the ecological principles and proves the argument in favor of diversification as the scalable, science-based solution to the achievement of the sustainable and climate-resistant food production and the maintenance of the soil resources and ecosystem-providing services to the further population.

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