



UNIVERSITY OF  
HOHENHEIM

## **RETHINKING AGRICULTURE**

# **Understanding and managing connections in land-use and food systems**



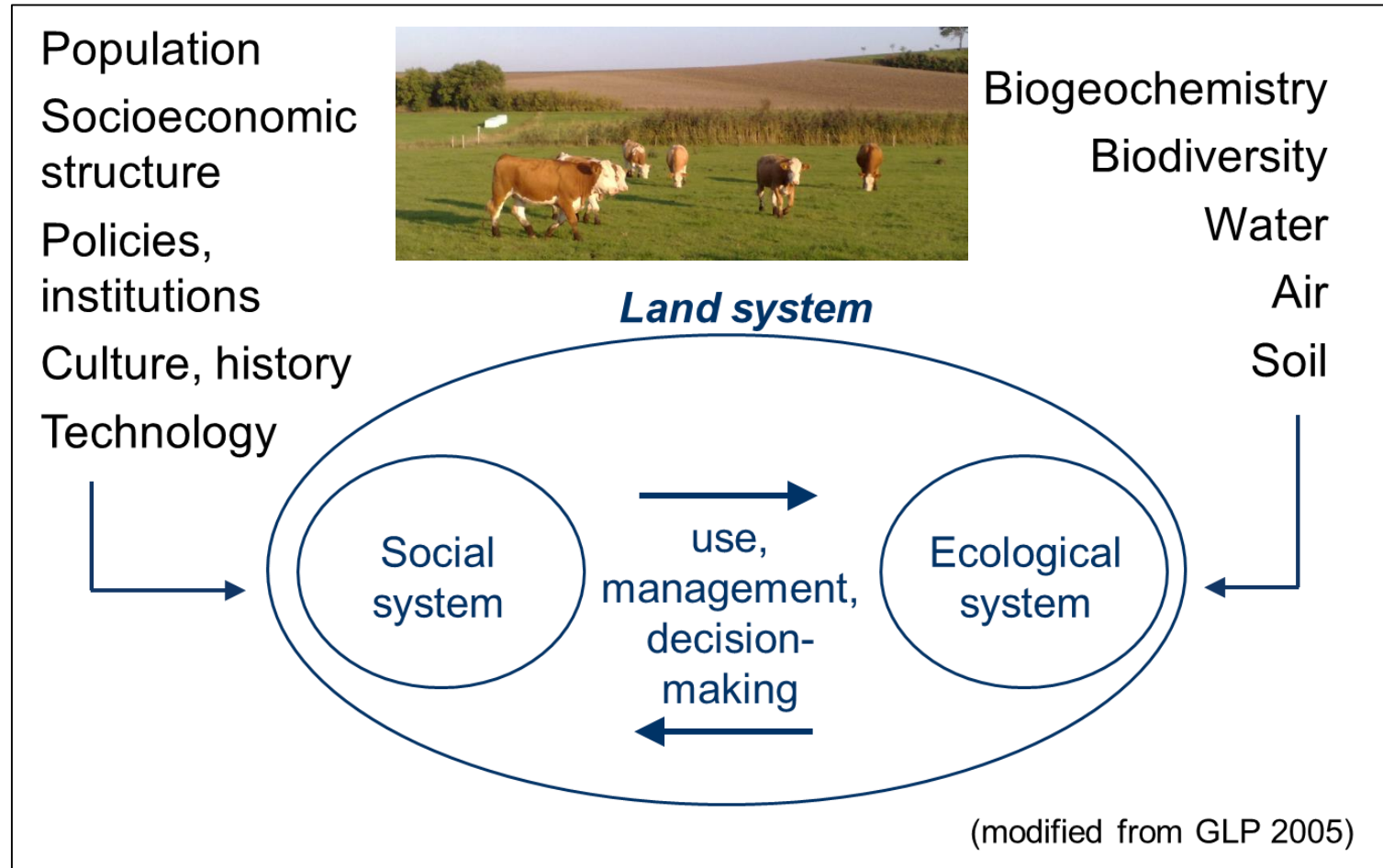
UNIVERSITY OF  
HOHENHEIM

## Land-use and food SYSTEMS



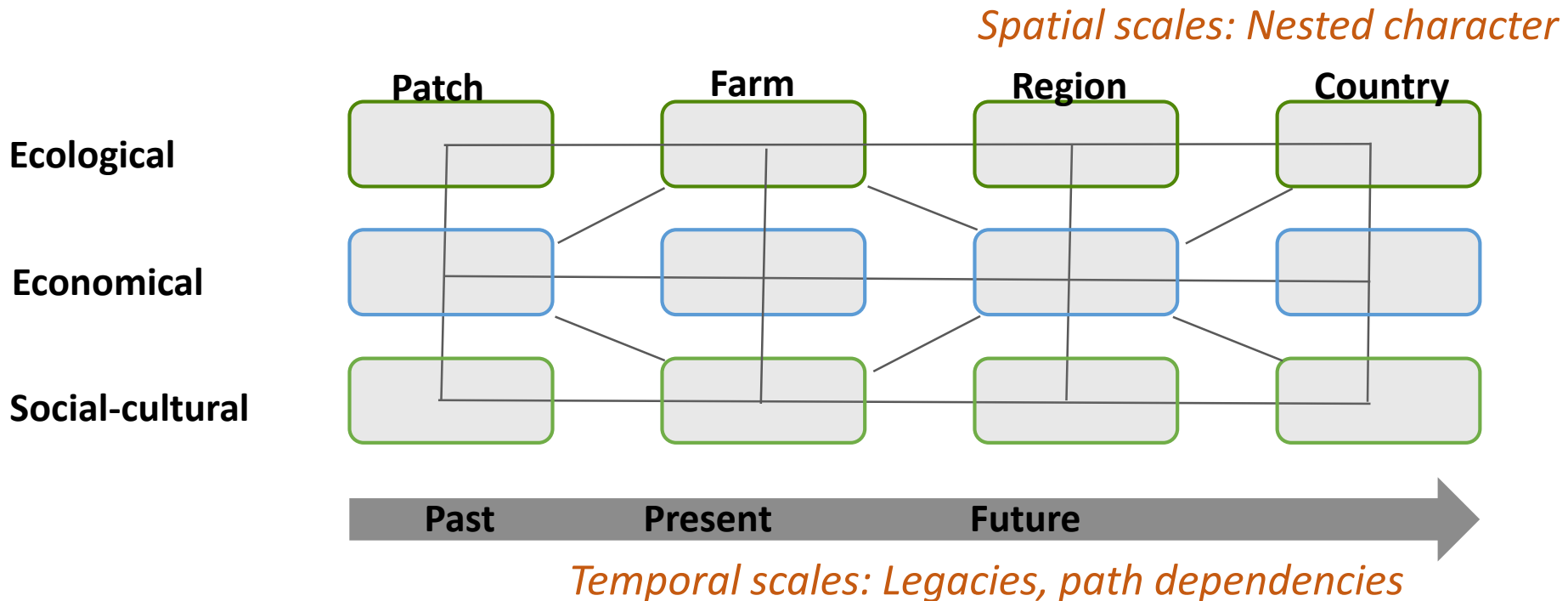


## Land-use and food systems





## Land-use and food systems



- Interconnected social and ecological (and technological) sub-systems
- Interconnections across time and spatial scales



## Managing connections for sustainability

Understanding and managing connections within land-use and food systems (drivers, effects, feedbacks etc.) is key for advancing sustainability, particularly with regard to:

- Connections we are not aware of or do not understand  
e.g., effects of climate change
- Connections that need to be broken/modified  
e.g., “perverse” subsidies that provide incentives for harmful practices, self-reinforcing feedbacks in ecological degradation processes
- Connections that are missing  
e.g., closer relations between producers and consumers



## Potential topics of seminar series: some ideas

- Creating connections between producers and consumers, or rural and urban population
- Internalising external costs: The polluter-pays-principle revisited – prospects for CAP
- Multifunctionality – creating synergies and reducing trade-offs for different functions/values of land-use systems
- Human-nature connections: Is a paradigm shift needed, and if yes, how to achieve it?
- Telecoupling – understanding and managing long-distance effects in land-use and food systems
- Interconnections between agricultural practices and biodiversity
- Understanding legacies/path dependencies in land-use and food systems
- ...



## Potential speakers: some ideas



Reinette Biggs (Stockholm Resilience Centre):  
Managing feedbacks in social-ecological systems

Daniel Lang (Leuphana University Lüneburg):  
Human-nature-connectedness as a leverage  
point for sustainability?



Graeme S. Cumming (James Cook University):  
Telecoupling, scale (mis)matches in managing  
social-ecological systems