

Building a social licence to operate for the emerging biobased economy

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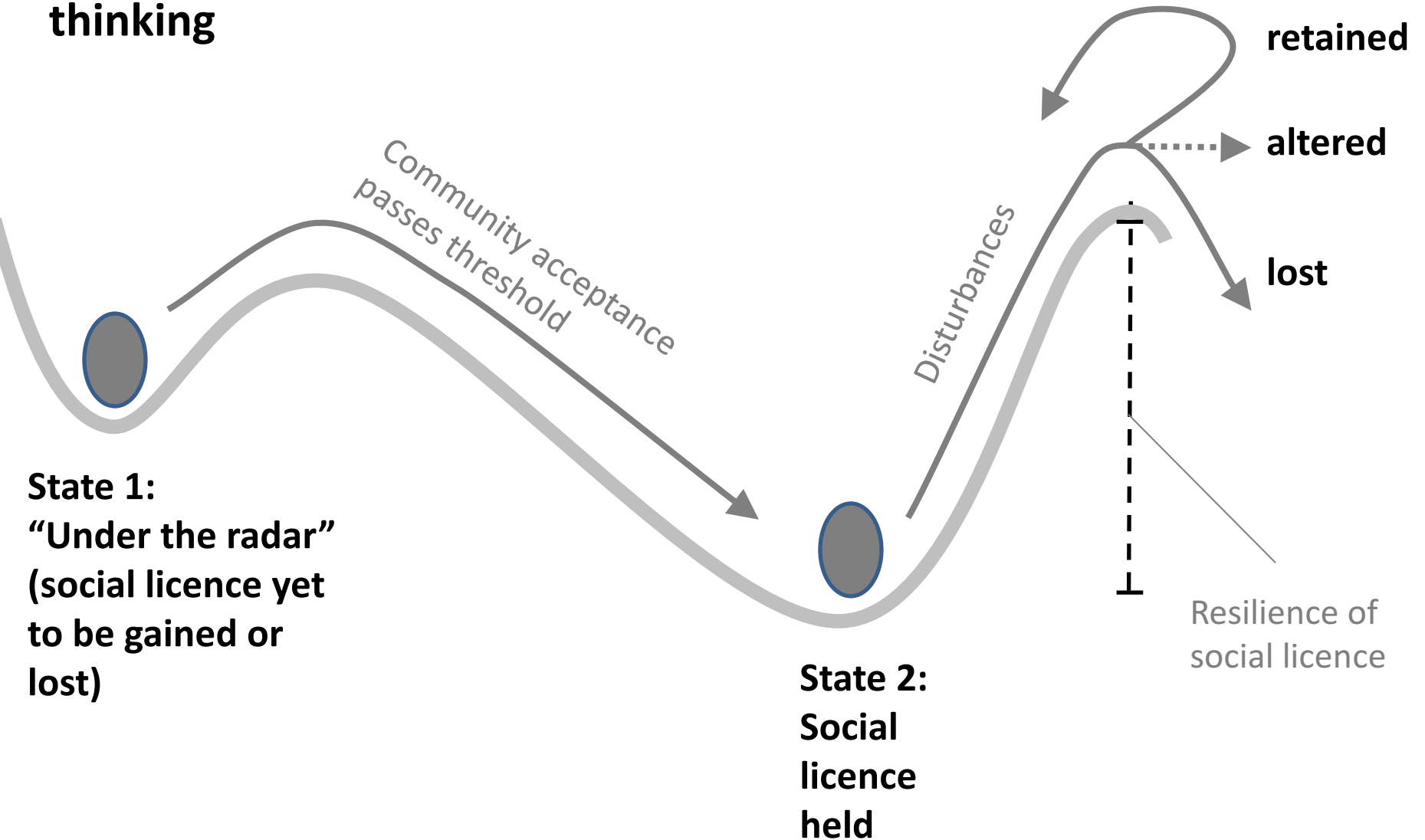


Social Licence to Operate (SLO)

SLO “must begin with, and be firmly grounded in, the social acceptance of the resource development by **local communities**” (Joyce & Thomson 2000)

SLO is “dynamic and **nonpermanent** because beliefs, opinions, and perceptions are subject to change as new information is acquired” (Thomson and Boutilier 2011)

Social licence and systems thinking



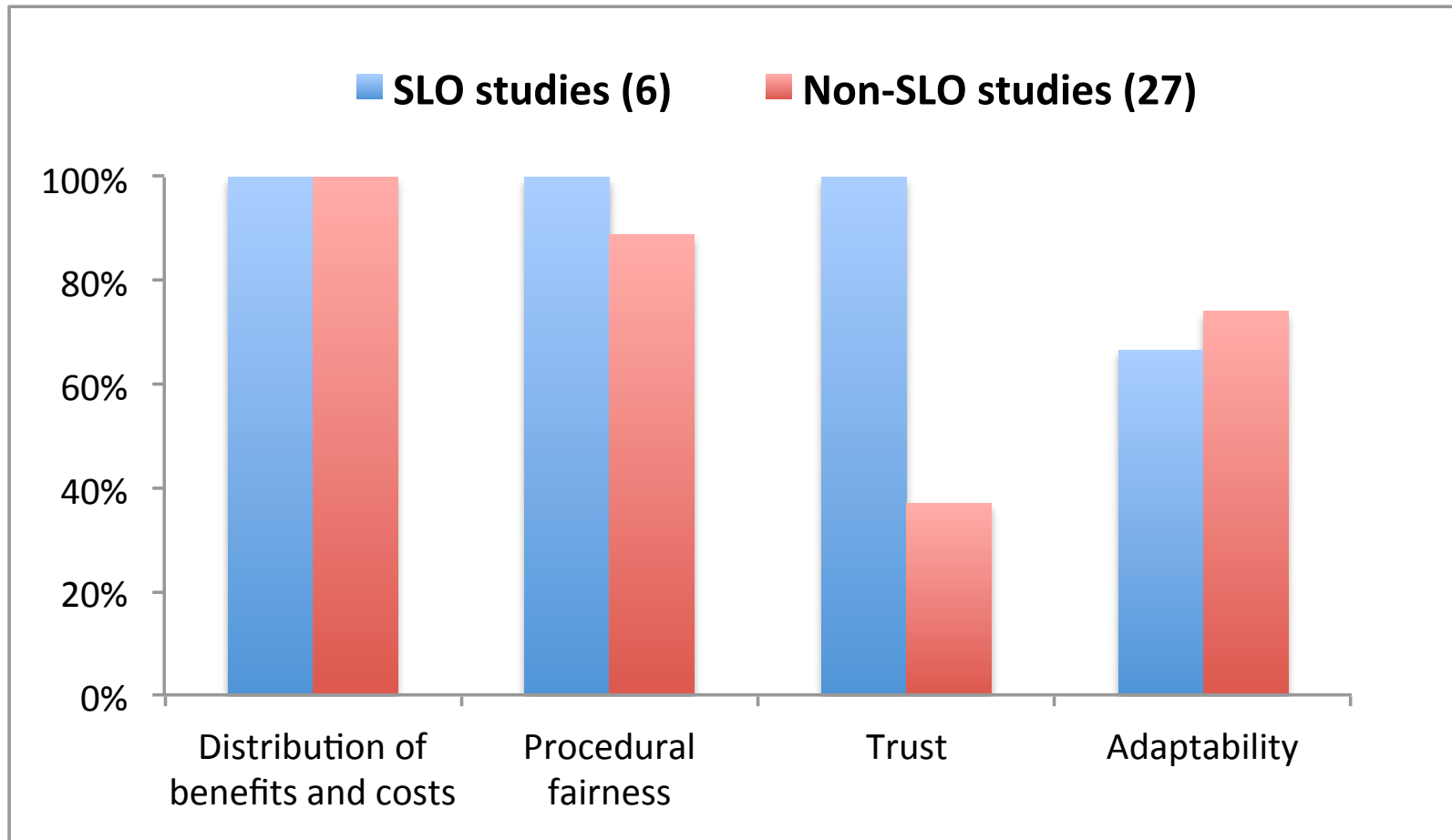
What can SLO offer for understanding the social acceptance of emerging bio-based industries?

1. Key variables – especially the role of trust

SLO frameworks and variables

	Zhang et al. (2015) - mining	Prno (2013) - mining	Thomson & Boutilier (2011) - mining	Dare et al. (2014) - forestry	Hall (2014) - wind energy
Benefits and costs - How are they distributed?	✓	✓			✓
Processes - Communication & engagement	✓	✓		✓	✓
Governance - Decision-making power	✓				✓
Trust - Credibility, legitimacy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adaptability - Flexibility, responsiveness		✓		✓	

Role of trust



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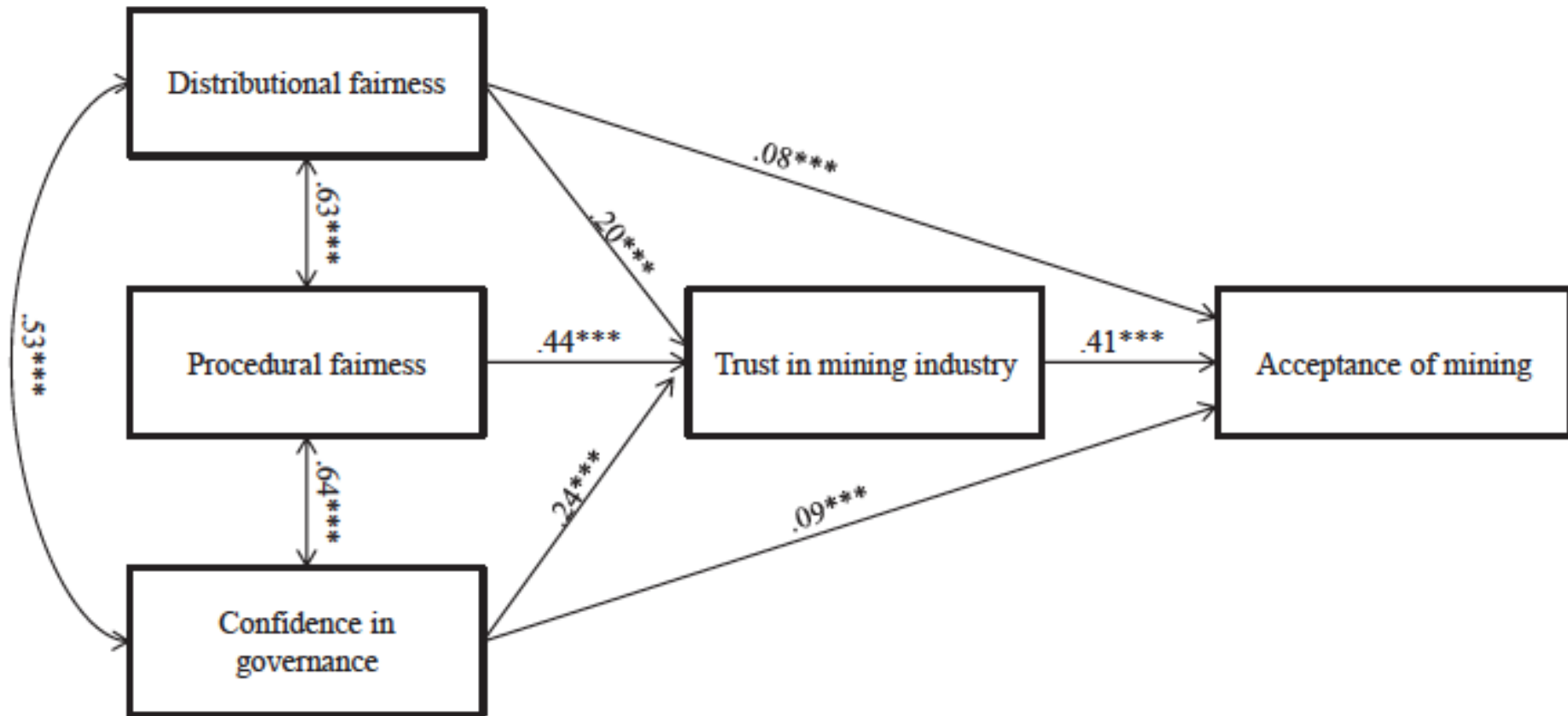
What can SLO offer for understanding the social acceptance of emerging bio-based industries?

1. Key variables – especially the role of trust

- Trust in existing institutions/companies (e.g. forestry)
- Quality of contact > quantity (Dare et al. 2014)
- Keeping small promises (Thomsen & Boutilier 2011)
- Responding to disturbance in community's interest

2. Methods:

Quantitative - surveys used to assign values to variables



Zhang et al. (2015)

What can SLO offer for understanding the social acceptance of emerging bio-based industries?

1. **Key variables – especially the role of trust**

- Trust in existing institutions/companies (e.g. forestry)
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2. **Methods:**

Quantitative - surveys used to assign values to variables

Qualitative – asking people if social licence exists

“That license is there”




“All but a handful of people support it”

(Prno & Slocombe 2014)

What can studies of emerging bio-based industries offer to the SLO concept?

1. Different types of costs/trade-offs:

- Food security issue
- Landscape amenity

	<p>Baseline computer generated image showing current arable land use.</p>
	<p>Scenario showing 40 ha of <i>Miscanthus</i> in a 'realistic' planting pattern.</p>
	<p>Scenario showing 100 ha of <i>Miscanthus</i> in a 'heavily aggregated' planting pattern.</p>

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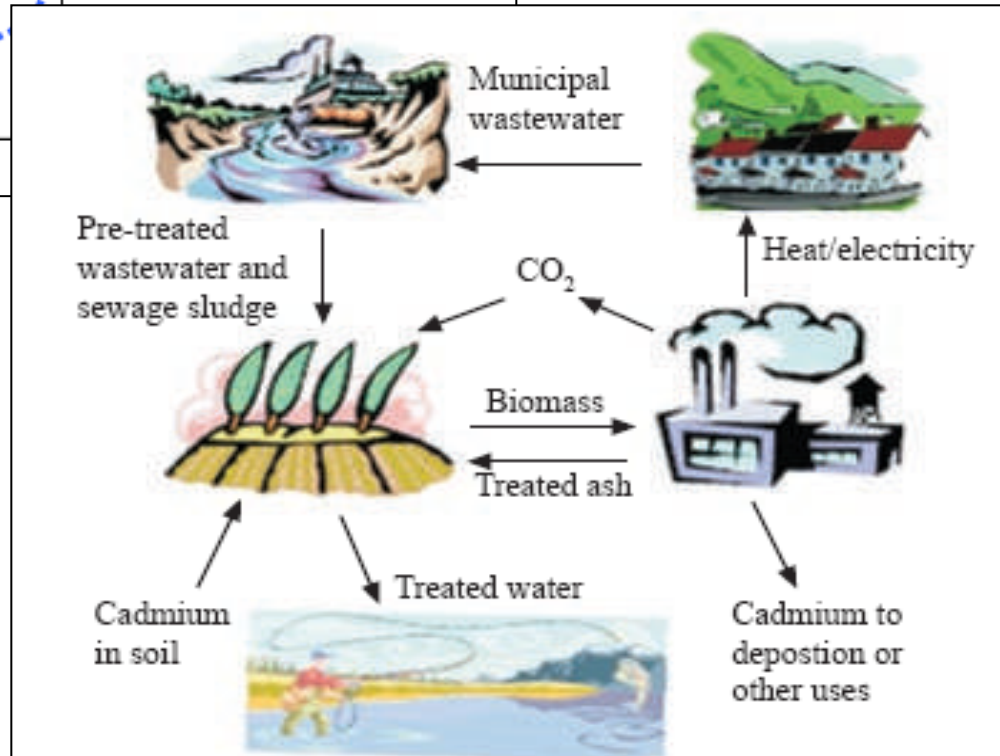
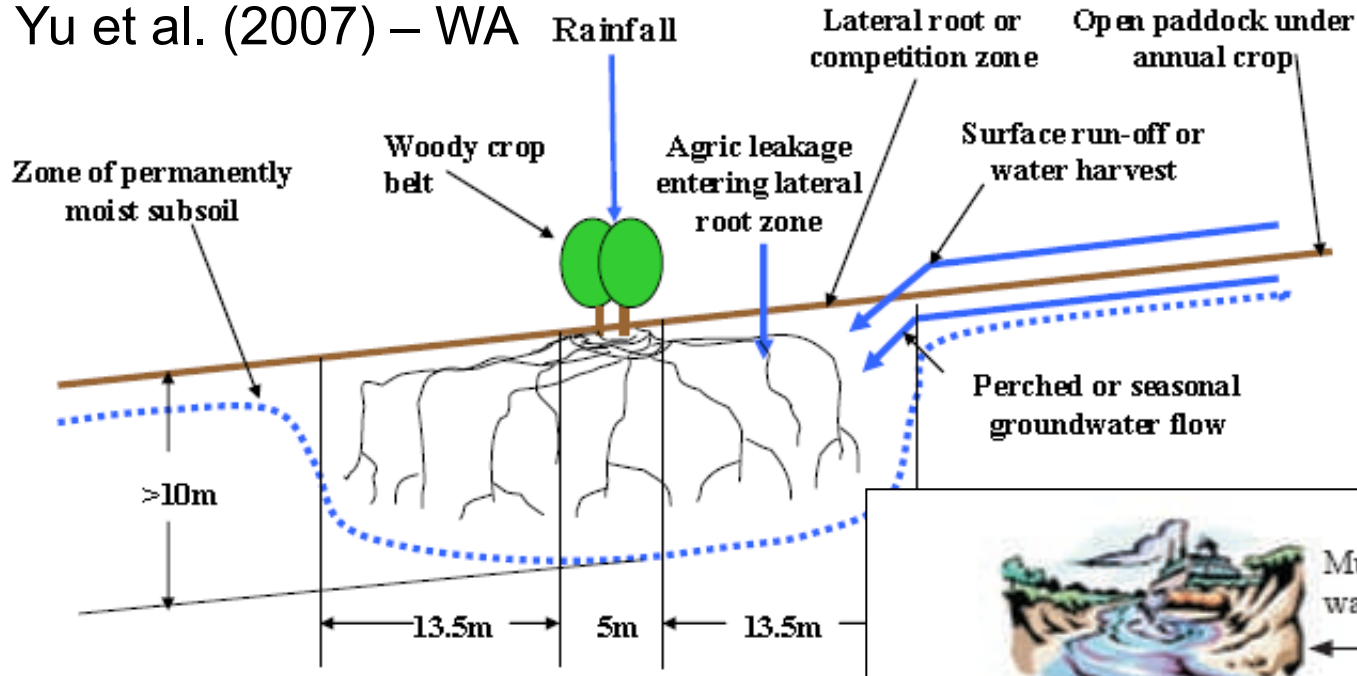
1. Different types of costs/trade-offs:

- Food security issue
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2. Different types of benefits:

- Carbon-neutral (or carbon positive through sequestration)
- Ecosystem services (soils, biodiversity, water quality)

Yu et al. (2007) – WA



Simpson et al. (2009) - Europe

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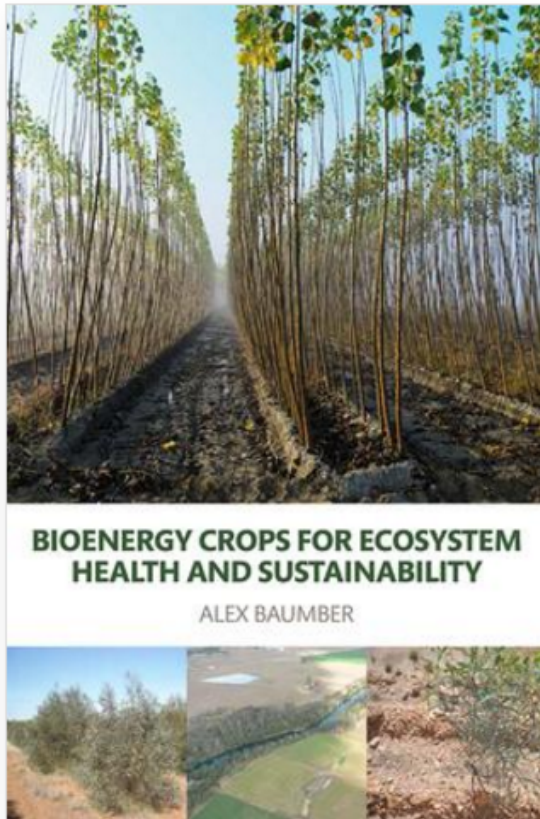
- 1. Different types of costs/trade-offs:**
 - Food security issue
 - Landscape amenity
- 2. Different types of benefits:**
 - Carbon-neutral (or carbon positive through sequestration)
 - Ecosystem services (soils, biodiversity, water quality)
- 3. Thresholds for SLO to be considered:**
 - land use change vs new facilities
- 4. Determinants of trust:**
 - no single “proponent” in gradual land use change
 - companies switching from forest products to energy

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Further info

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