

PRACTICES FOR INTEGRATING WOOD AND WOODY CROPS TO INCREASE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AGRICULTURE



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Economic and Financial Potential of Agricultural Holdings in Bulgaria for Enhancing Their Sustainability in the Context of the SDGs.

Why integrate woody components?

Sustainable Agriculture

Integration of Woody
Components

Wood Products
Woody plantings

Ecosystem Services

Farm Sustainability

Economic

Environmental

Social

What practices are we talking about?

WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS



Wood mulch



Wood chips



Biochar



Compost with wood residues



Wood biomass

WOODY PLANTINGS



Shelterbelts / Windbreaks



Hedgerows



Alley trees



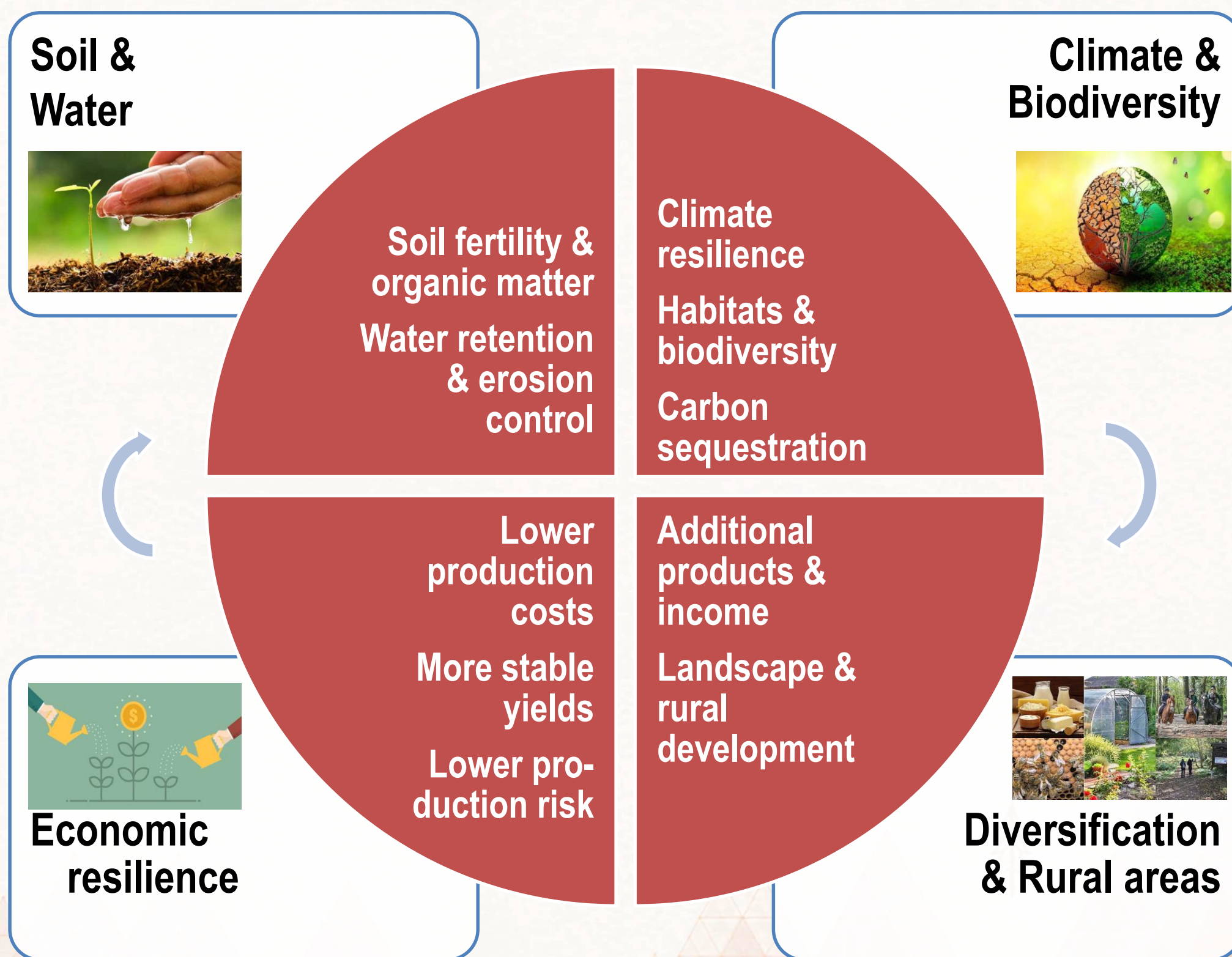
Buffer strips



Silvopastoral systems

Different practices – common objective: Resource efficiency • Ecosystem services • Farm sustainability

How do they contribute to farm sustainability?



**Environmental benefits
can become economic
benefits for the farm...**

But...

***How applicable are these
practices under Bulgarian
farming conditions?***

→ ***Applicability assessment***

Assessing applicability in Bulgaria

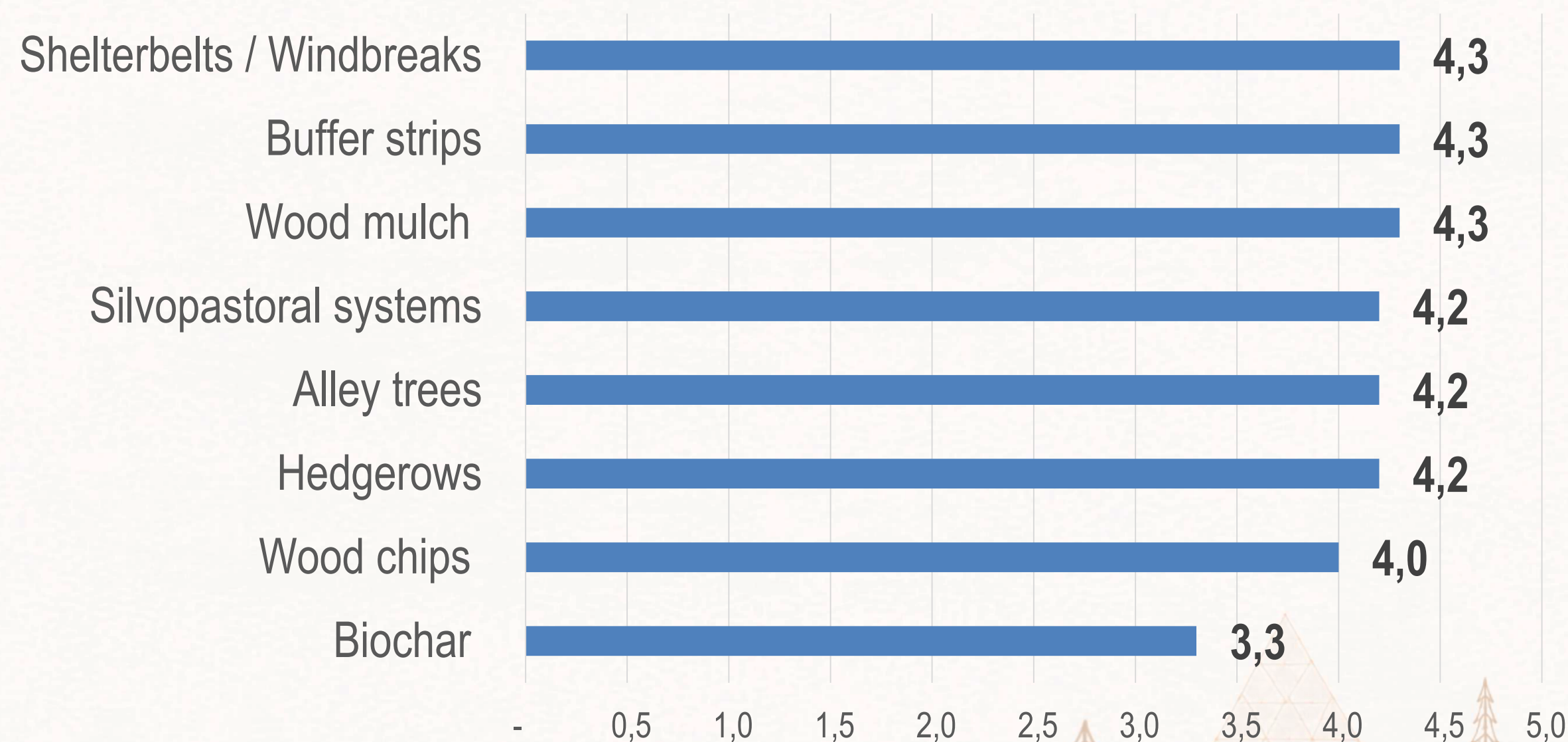


5-point assessment scale: 1 (low) to 5 (high)

Applicability Index = average score

Which practices show the highest potential?

Applicability Index

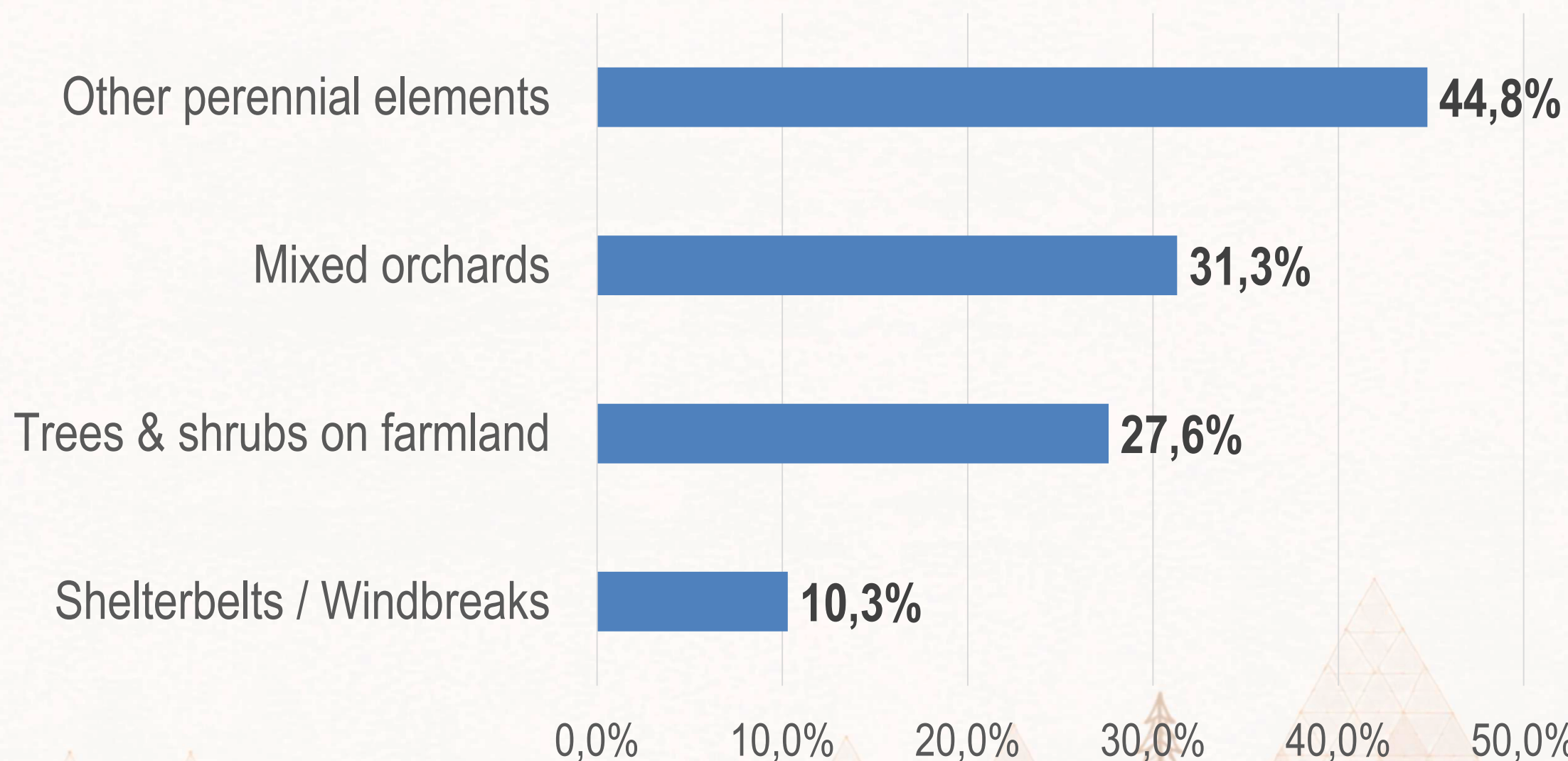


Highest applicability:

- ✓ *Moderate investment costs*
- ✓ *Strong environmental effects*
- ✓ *Broad farm applicability*

From potential to practice: Evidence from Northeast Bulgaria

Agroforestry and woody practices in surveyed farms



**56.6% of surveyed farmers
apply fully or partially
agroforestry or woody
elements**

AGRIPERMA farmer survey
Northeast Bulgaria
n = 106, May - June 2026

***High potential does not
necessarily mean high
farmer adoption.***

Take-home messages



1. More than an environmental measure

- ✓ Resource efficiency
- ✓ Climate adaptation
- ✓ Farm resilience



2. Applicability depends on farm conditions

- ✓ Farm type
- ✓ Natural conditions
- ✓ Investment capacity



3. Potential ≠ Adoption

High potential does not automatically mean widespread adoption

The challenge is to turn potential into practice.