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while growing food for local consumption is the core of tropical agriculture cash crops normally crops grown for export are also included in the definition when people discuss the tropics it is normal to use generalized labels to group together similar tropical areas one of the hallmarks of tropical agriculture is its exceptional crop diversity tropical regions boast an array of fruits vegetables and staple crops that not only contribute to local diets but also play a critical role in global food security the category tropical crops refers to plants that grow in tropical climates the database currently classifies agricultural crops in 3 categories tropical subtropical temperate but several crops belong to more than one of these categories the main consumed tropical crops include avocado banana guava mango papaya pineapple and pomegranate among them banana is the most produced crop with more than 113 million t followed by mangoes plus mangosteens and guavas with more than 50 million t pineapples with more than 27 million t and avocados with about 6 million t faostat by presenting a way to close the yield gap of staple food crops using a combination of relatively

simple and appropriate technologies that maximize the economic social and environmental returns making agriculture more sustainable and productive to feed a growing world population predicted to reach 9 billion people by 2050 fao estimates that agricultural production must increase by 70 percent globally and by almost 100 percent in developing countries south america food crops agriculture diversity corn maize a native of tropical america and now a staple in countries around the world is the most widely cultivated crop throughout the continent argentina became a major exporter of corn during the 20th century agriculture in the world s tropical regions face mounting pressures due to climate change emerging pests and diseases growing demand for food as well as systemic socioeconomic and environmental constraints our results suggest that overall food crop expansion has contributed towards biodiversity loss in tropical regions although the direction and magnitude of the impact depends on the crop level of shading rotation time taxonomic group and geographical region tropical agricultural research is therefore entering an exciting era and the stakes are high climate change emerging pests and diseases and growing demand for food are just a few of the intense and mounting pressures on crop production but right across the tropics researchers are rising to the challenge the tropical agriculture platform tap a g20 initiative to promote agricultural innovation in the tropics to feed a growing population and meet the challenge of climate change agricultural production must intensify in a sustainable way and

innovation is key to make that happen future research on sustainable agriculture production in the tropics will combine socioeconomic and environmental data to understand how sustainability governance affects important outcomes including human well being biodiversity livelihoods and land cover change tropical horticulture includes plants such as perennial woody plants arboriculture ornamentals floriculture vegetables olericulture and fruits including grapes viticulture the origin of many of these crops is not in the tropics but in temperate zones agricultural land use in the tropics is characterized by marked regional contrast diversity of crops and less acreage in cereal crops but more in legumes than in the temperate zone crop yields are low in the tropics for the cereals the average yield is only 58 percent of that for the temperate zone crop production in the tropical regions is highly diversified compared to the large acre crop farming system in the temperate regions in the tropics food and industrial crops may be cultivated either in small holdings plantations or in mixed gardens the development of high yielding varieties of rice maize and wheat between the 1960s and 2000 boosted crop production by 66 88 in asia and latin america 1 and cereal crop yields rose from our analyses provide an overview of patterns of crop cultivation and expansion in tropical countries the crops that expanded most during the period were soybeans and maize whether or not multiple cropping is taken into account any combination of these 10 tropical staple crops could keep you

alive in a crisis i recommend planting more than one of them for variation in diet plus redundancy if cassava does badly one year you ll still have pigeon peas by reviewing available methods to evaluate the impact of climate change on diseases of tropical and plantation crops we present trends for some diseases and their management strategies identify critical gaps in knowledge and suggest experimental and analytical approaches to advance knowledge studies on diseases and their pathogens on tropical crops continue to be very important for plant protection in developing tropical countries as well as in japan moreover studying plant diseases in the tropics and subtropics is unquestionably very interesting

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