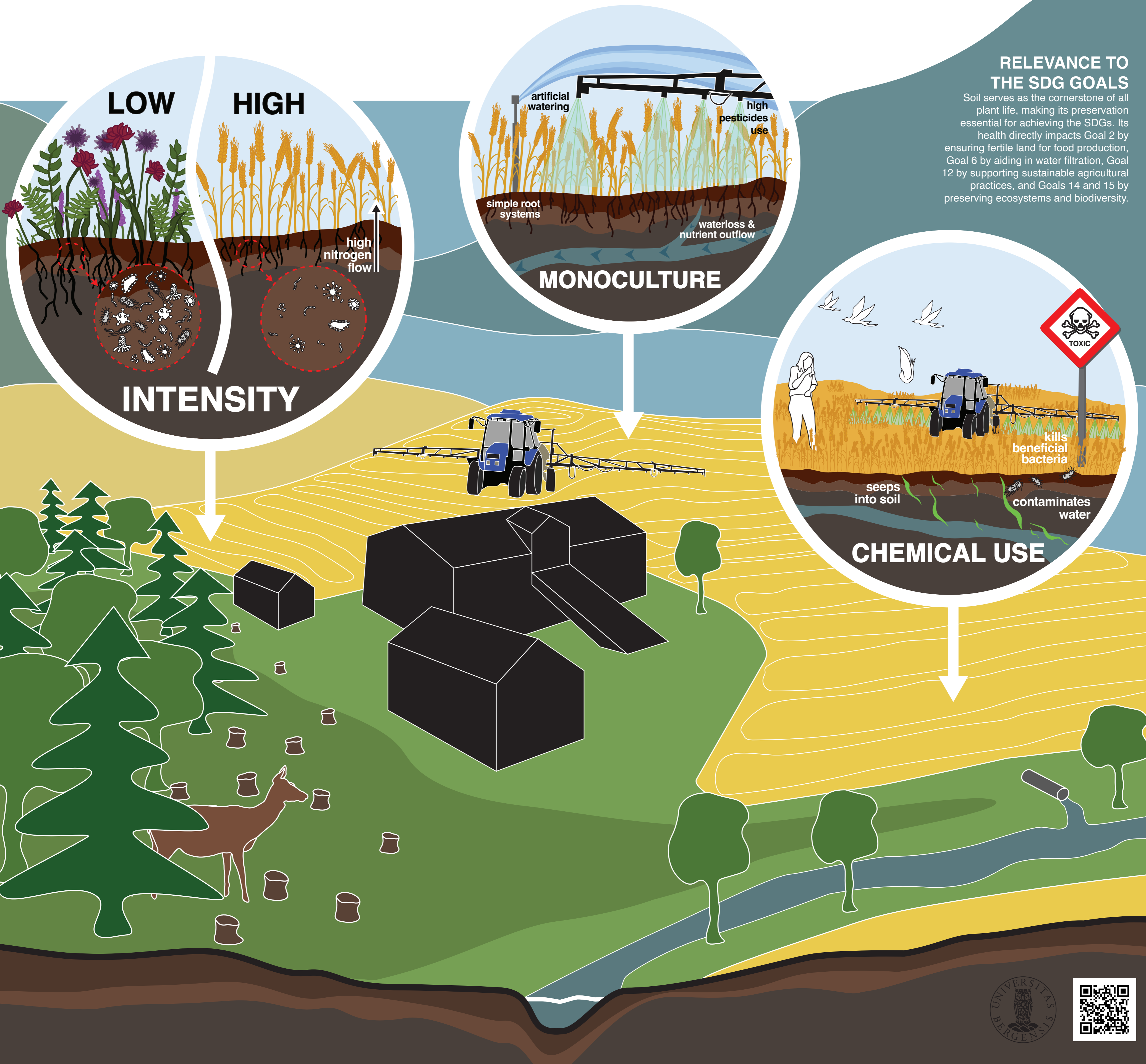


THREATS TO SOIL

THE ALARMING EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURE

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RELEVANCE TO THE SDG GOALS

Soil serves as the cornerstone of all plant life, making its preservation essential for achieving the SDGs. Its health directly impacts Goal 2 by ensuring fertile land for food production, Goal 6 by aiding in water filtration, Goal 12 by supporting sustainable agricultural practices, and Goals 14 and 15 by preserving ecosystems and biodiversity.

NAVIGATING AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Soil is the foundation for agriculture and needs to be managed in a sustainable way. Agriculture today consists of efficient, high-intensity monoculture that uses an excessive amount of fertilizer and pesticides. This practice kills microorganisms in the soil, reduces its moisture content, and depletes its nutrient reserves.

Despite its drawbacks, high-intensity agriculture offers certain benefits, notably its ability to use less land compared to other methods. However, while transitioning towards more environmentally friendly agricultural practices would necessitate more land use, it could prove crucial for preserving soil health. In the worst-case scenario, the soil may become unsuitable for cultivation if the loss of microorganisms reaches a critical point where it can **no longer support plant growth.**

Sources found in connecting article

