

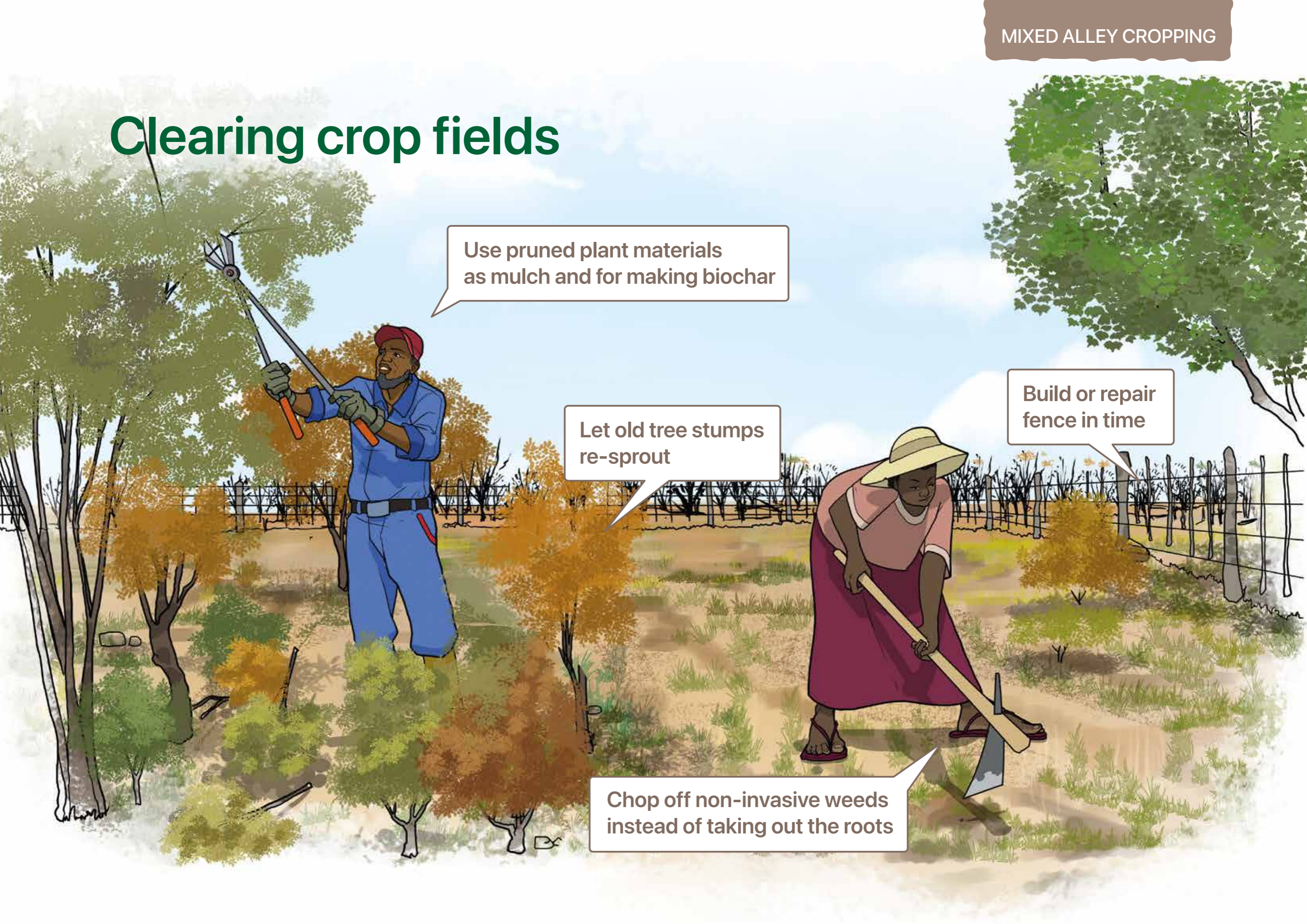
Clearing crop fields

Use pruned plant materials as mulch and for making biochar

Let old tree stumps re-sprout

Build or repair fence in time

Chop off non-invasive weeds instead of taking out the roots



Clearing crop fields

Additional information to share

Choose field size that you can prepare and manage with available labour and resources. Always remember, a small field that is well taken care of and receives the required inputs will be more productive than a larger field that does not receive enough care and inputs.

In general try not to remove roots from unwanted plants. All roots of all plants contribute to the health of soil. There may be some exceptions, such as invasive star grass.

Do not burn the dry weeds and grass but rather gather and use it for mulch, making compost or for bedding in the deep litter of livestock kraals.


Mulching your field prevents the loss of water, protects seedlings against heat and cold and reduces the growth of weeds.


Old tree stumps left in fields can re-sprout and become valuable sources of plant material (also called biomass).


When trees that are left or specially planted in crop fields are cut, their roots stimulate (help) crop plants to grow better.


Every tree in the crop field helps to hold soil and to prevent erosion.


KEY MESSAGES

-  Prepare and plant only as big a field as you can give all the necessary care and inputs

-  Livestock love to eat all green leaves and stover - make sure the field is fenced or livestock herded

-  No burning when clearing fields

-  Leave some trees in the field

-  Prune these trees to provide sugars and growth hormones for your crop plants

