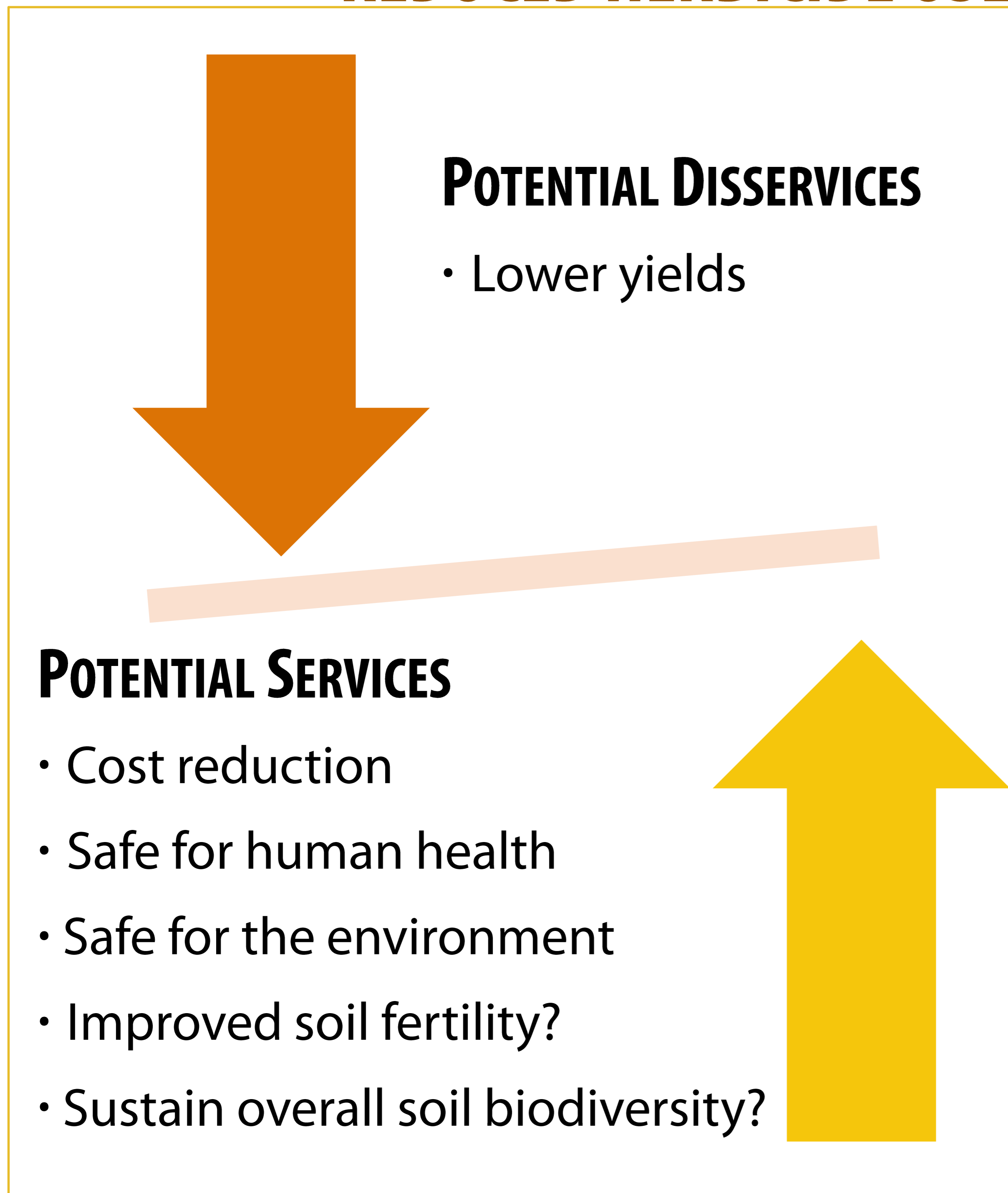




A healthy soil needs weeds

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REDUCED HERBICIDE USE



FILLING GAPS

Innovations and Know-how:

- ✓ Identify **management practices** resulting in **weed communities** with traits that limit yield loss while supporting **soil health**
- ✓ It will support conversion to **Conservation Agriculture, IWM or Organic Agriculture**

STATE OF THE ART

Weeds have the potential to:

- Facilitate crop colonization by mycorrhizal fungi (van der Heijden et al., 1998; Rinaudo et al., 2010)
- Reduce soil erosion covering the soil (Hernandez et al, 2005)
- Reduce nutrient leaching (Webster and Goulding, 1995; Askegaard et al., 2011)
- Act as trap crop for soil-borne diseases and pests (Sholte, 2000; Rämert et al., 2001)

RESEARCH GAPS

Positive functions of weeds for soil health have not been explored in depth so far.

To our knowledge no study has determined:

- The role of weeds in improving soil structure in conservation tillage
- The weed community that is effective in sustaining multiple ecosystem services
- The trade-offs between advantages and yield reduction caused by weeds

