



Just transitions of agri-food systems: challenges and opportunities from an AE perspective

Marta G. Rivera Ferré
10/11/2022

Food security: from simple messages

2050: A third more mouths to feed

Food production will have to increase by 70 percent - FAO convenes high-level expert forum



HOW
TO FEED THE WORLD
2050

12-13 October 2009

Related links

- [Global agriculture towards 2050 \(discussion paper\)](#)

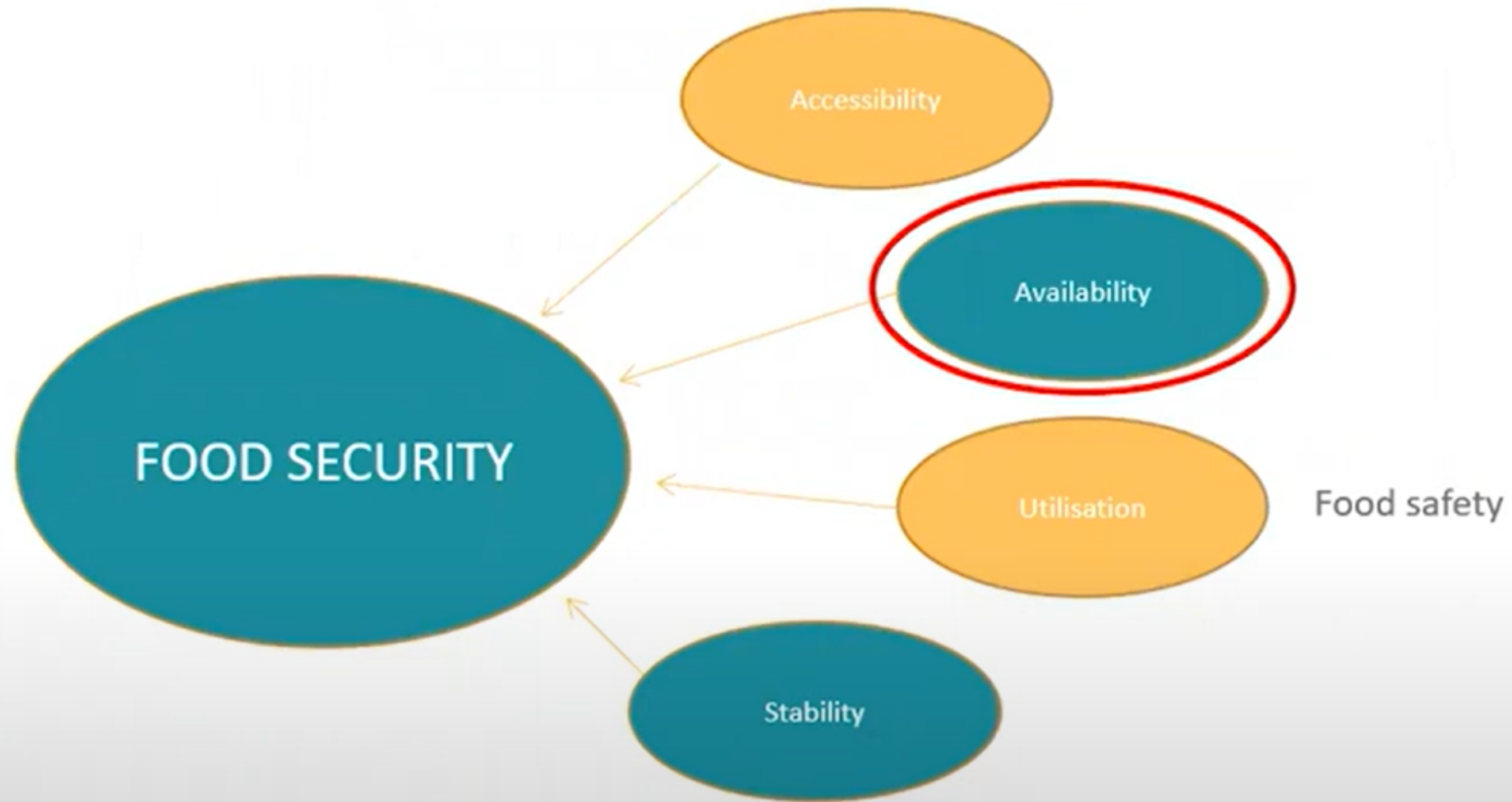


UN: farmers must produce 70% more food by 2050 to feed population

A quarter of farmland is highly degraded, according to the first report into the state of the world's land resources



Dimensions of “*food security*”



3 Food availability is determined by the physical quantities of food *produced, stored, processed, distributed, and exchanged*

PRODUCTION

CONSUMPTION

↑ 240% against ~150 population increase

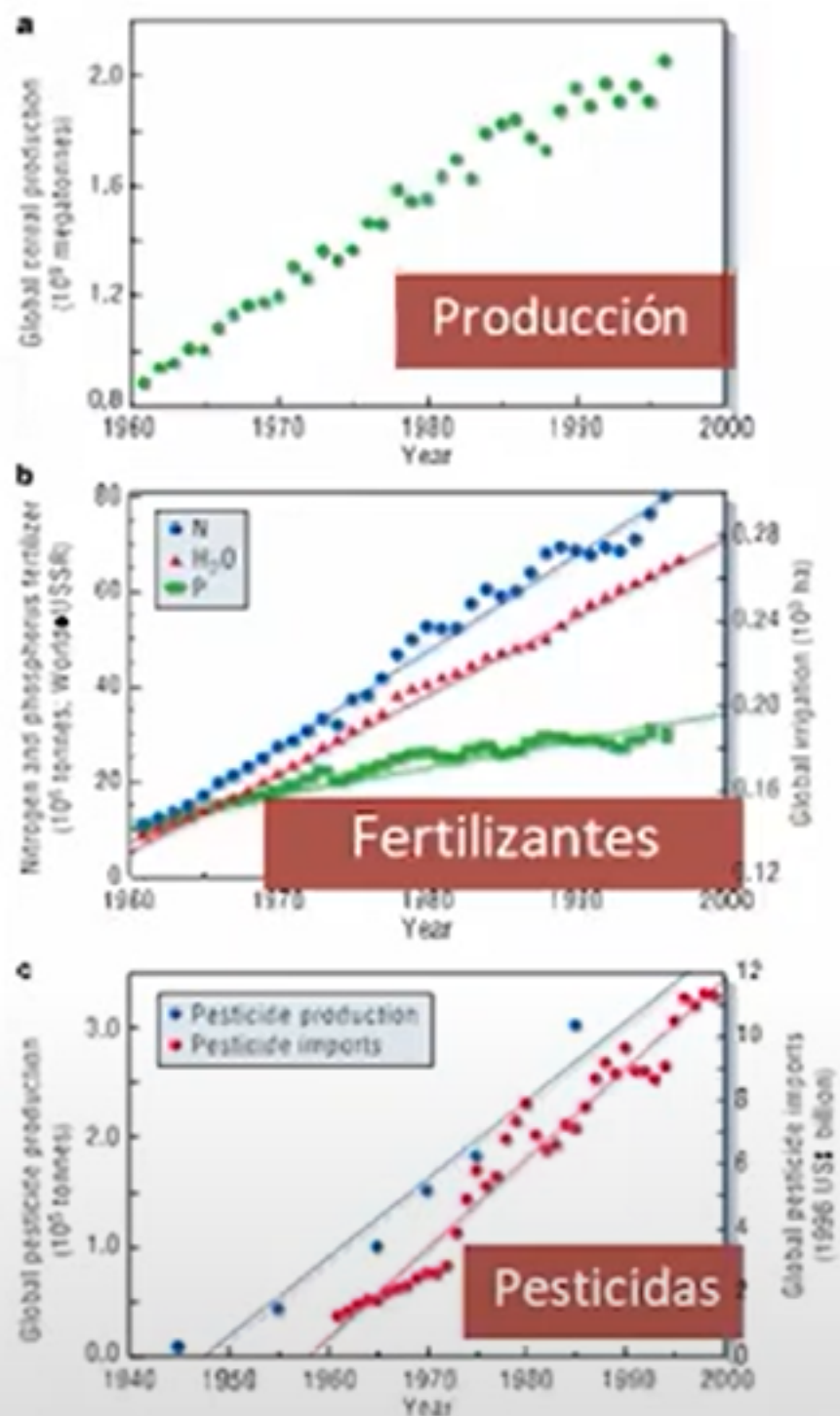


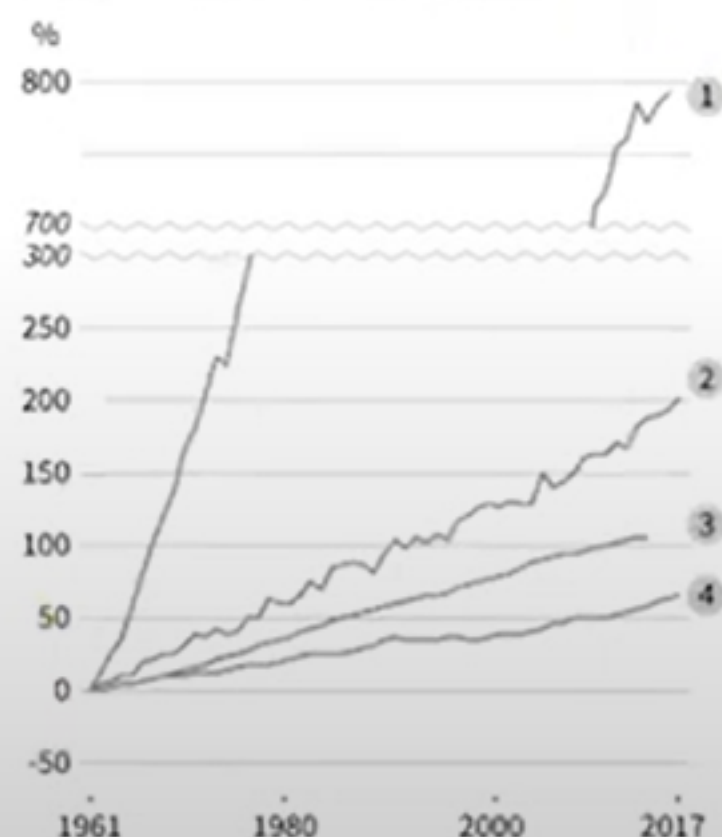
Figure 1 Agricultural trends over the past 40 years. **a**, Total global cereal production²; **b**, total global use of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer (except former USSR not included) and area of global irrigated land; and **c**, total global pesticide production² and global pesticide imports (summed across all countries)². Parts **b** and **c** modified from ref. 4.

D. Agricultural production

Land use change and rapid land use intensification have supported the increasing production of food, feed and fibre. Since 1961, the total production of food (cereal crops) has increased by 240% (until 2017) because of land area expansion and increasing yields. Fibre production (cotton) increased by 162% (until 2013).

CHANGE in % rel. to 1961

- 1 Inorganic N fertiliser use
- 2 Cereal yields
- 3 Irrigation water volume
- 4 Total number of ruminant livestock



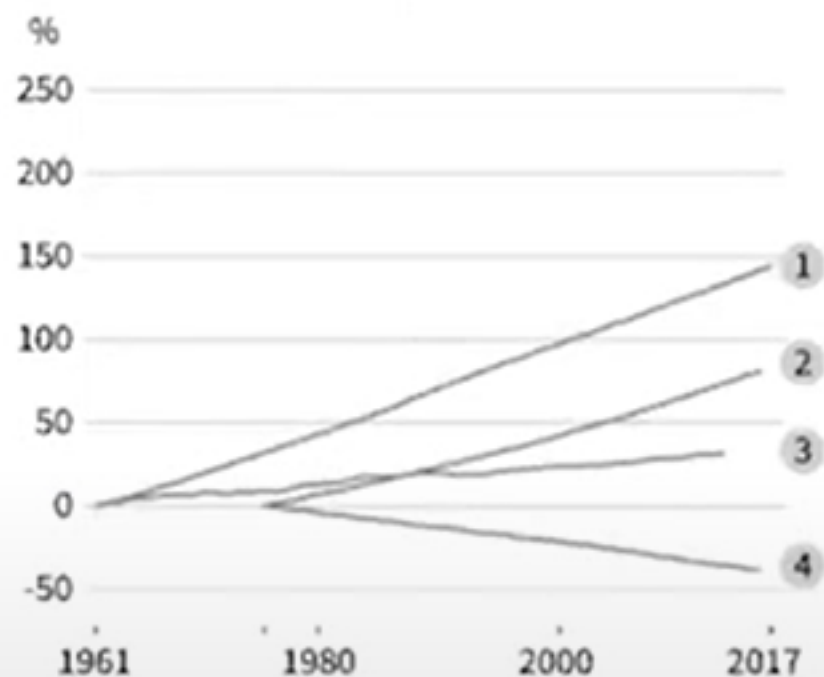
IPCC, 2019

E. Food demand

Increases in production are linked to consumption changes.

CHANGE in % rel. to 1961 and 1975

- 1 Population
- 2 Prevalence of overweight + obese
- 3 Total calories per capita
- 4 Prevalence of underweight

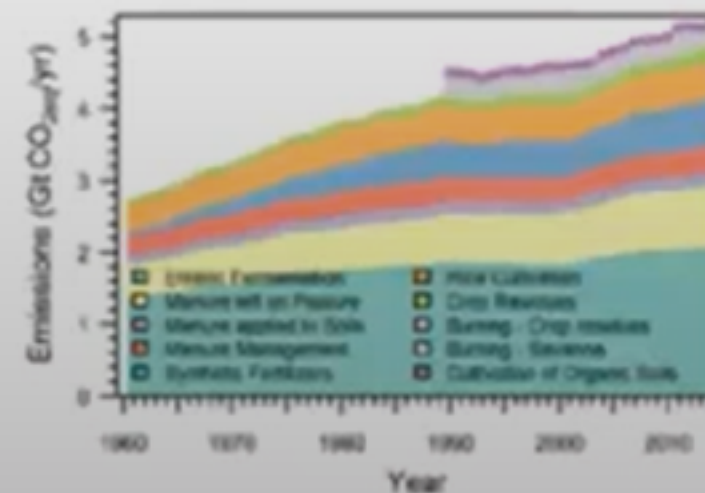
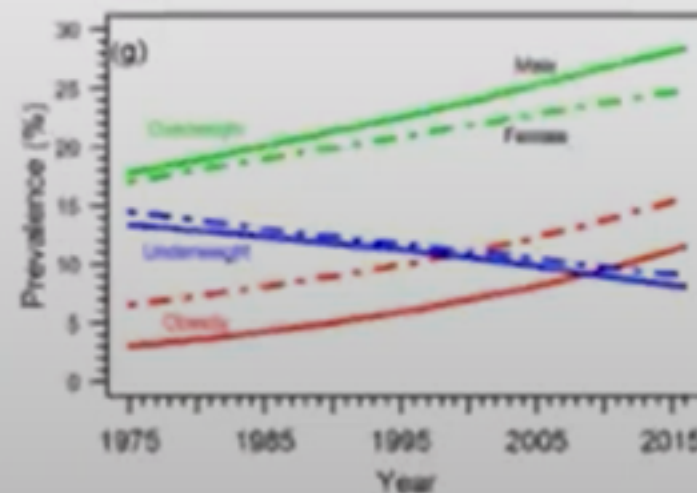
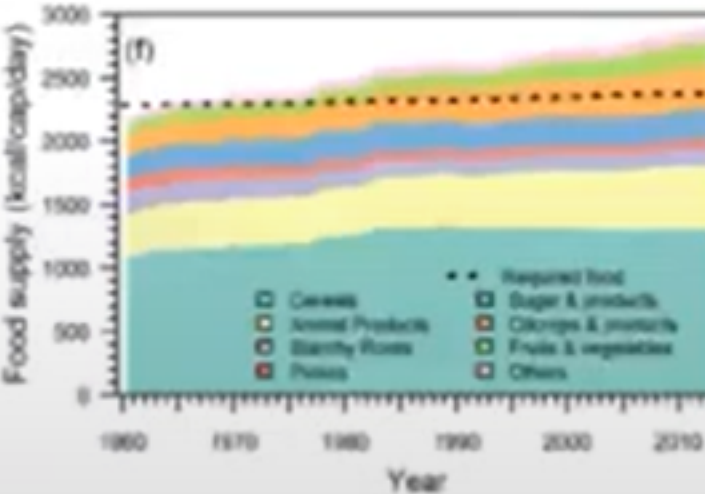
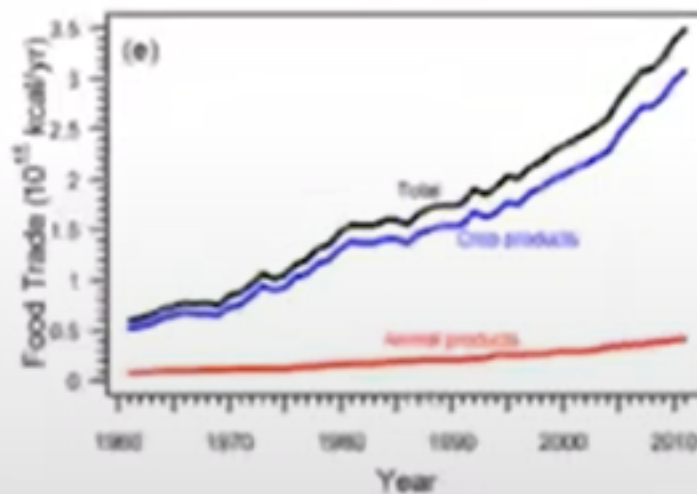
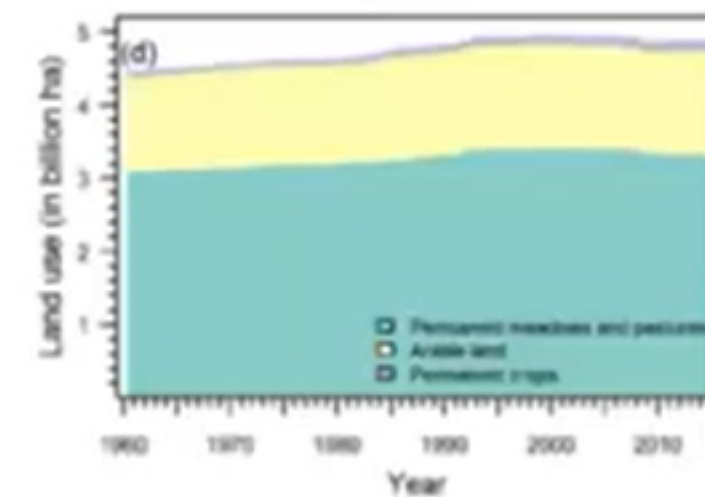
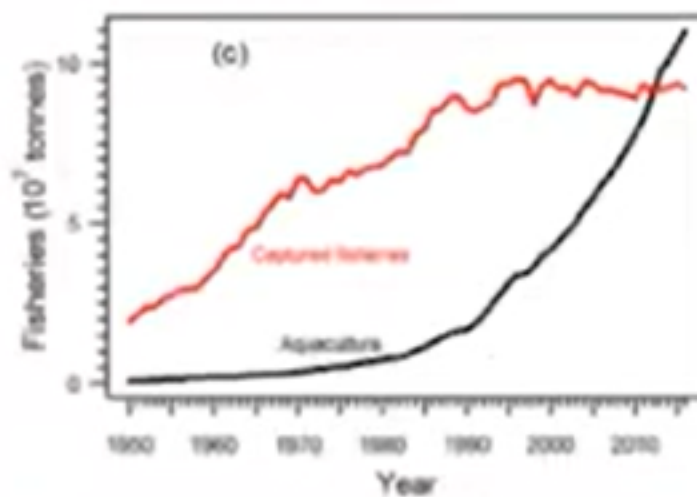
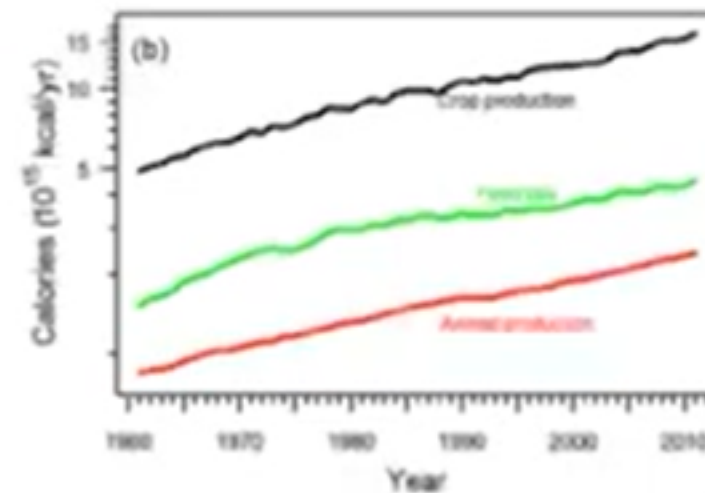
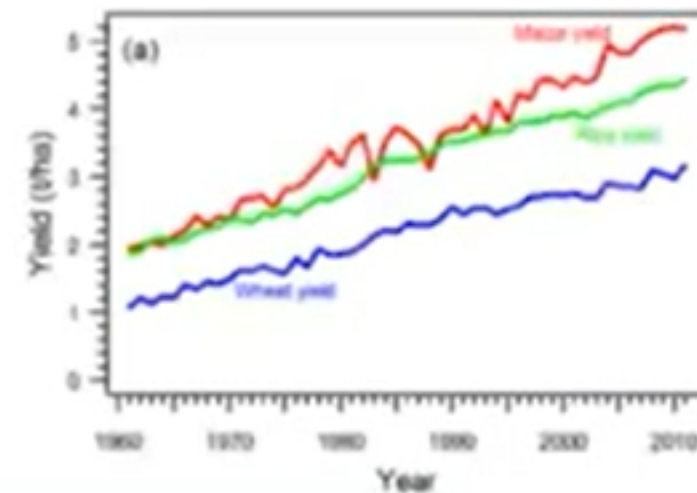


IPCC, 2019

FOOD SECURITY TRENDS

Period 1961 - 2013:

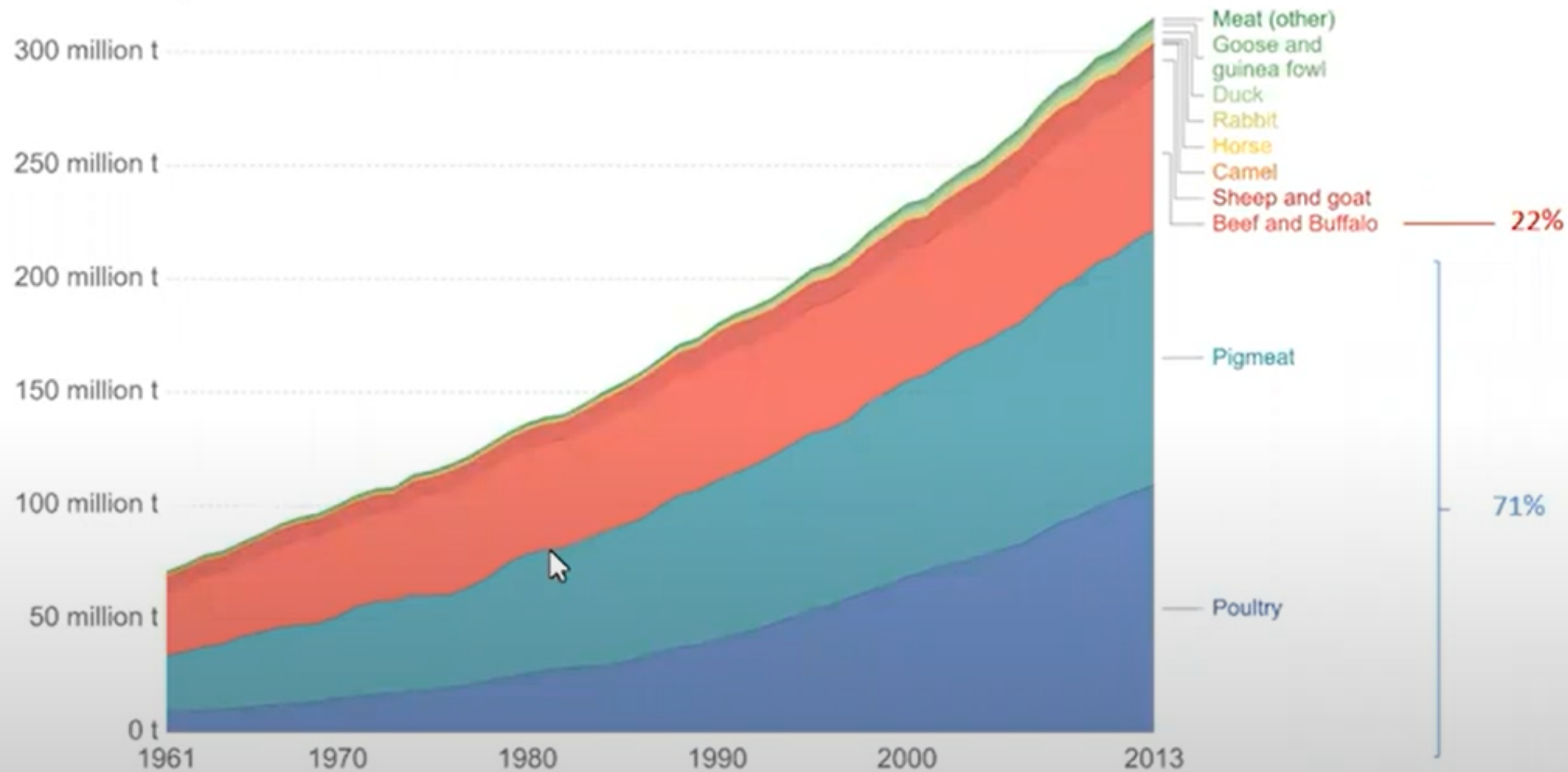
- Global availability of food, from 2200 to 2884 kcal/cap/day: “from food deficit to food surplus”
- > 50% world population suffers from overweight or undernutrition=> their diets do not offer conditions for an “active and healthy life” (IPCC, 2019)



Meat production by livestock type, World

Our World
in Data

Meat production by commodity or product type, measured in tonnes per year. All data shown relate to total meat production, from both commercial and farm slaughter. Data are given in terms of dressed carcass weight, excluding offal and slaughter fats.



Source: UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

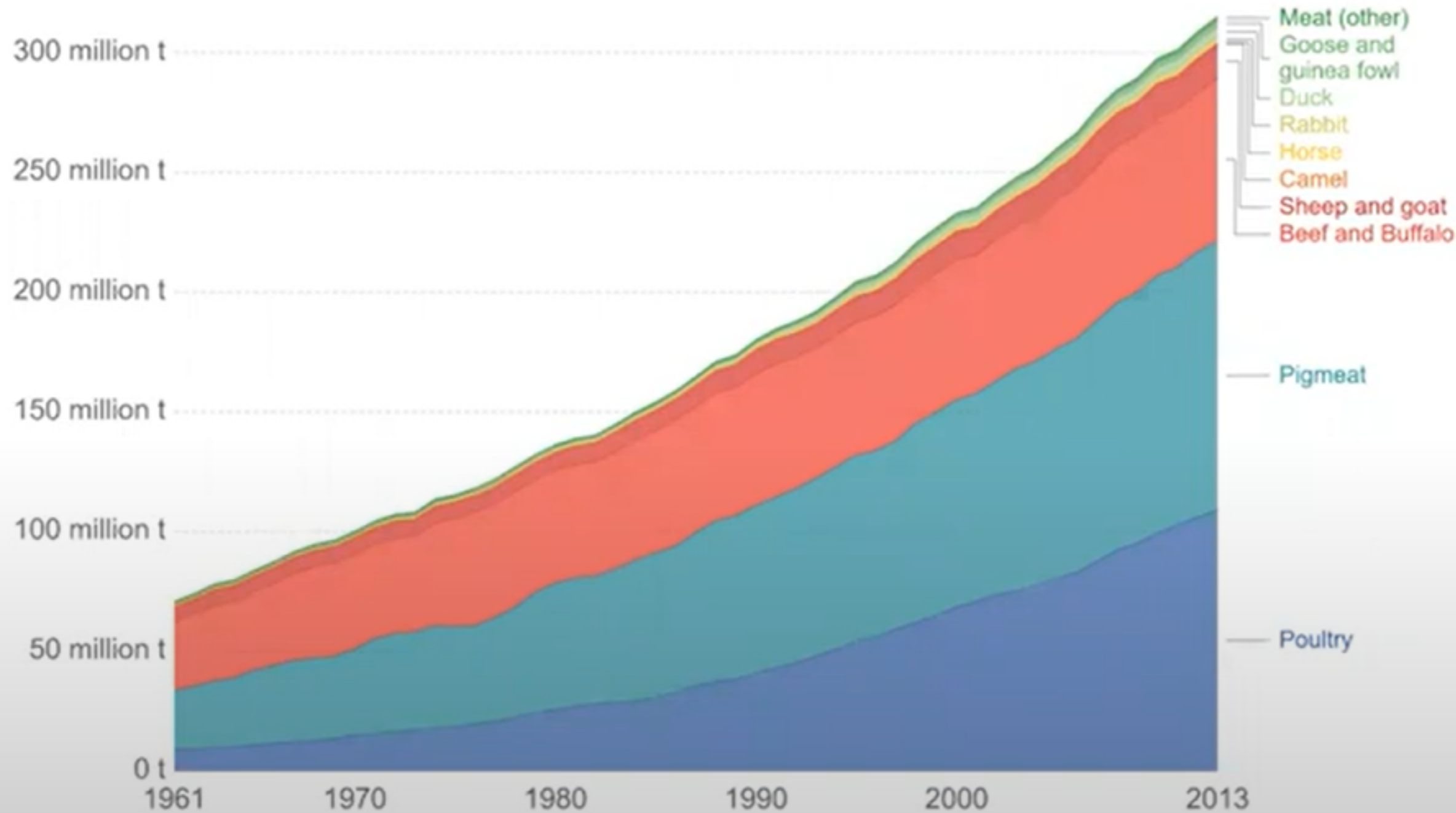
OurWorldInData.org/meat-and-seafood-production-consumption/ • CC BY



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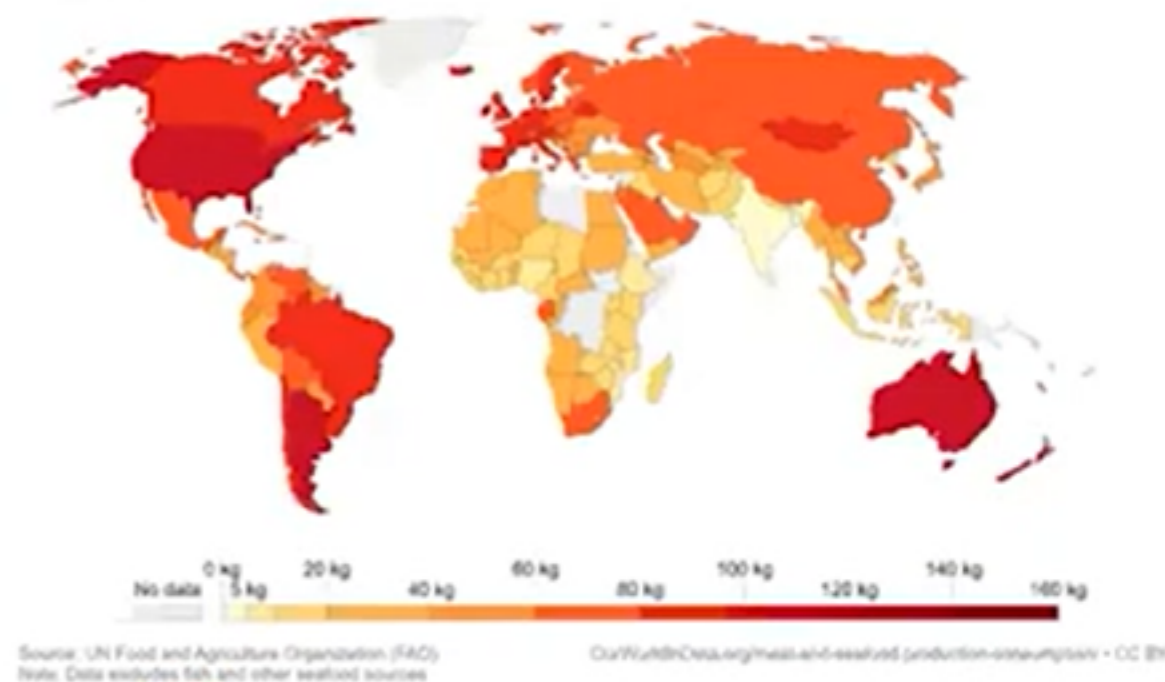


Source: UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

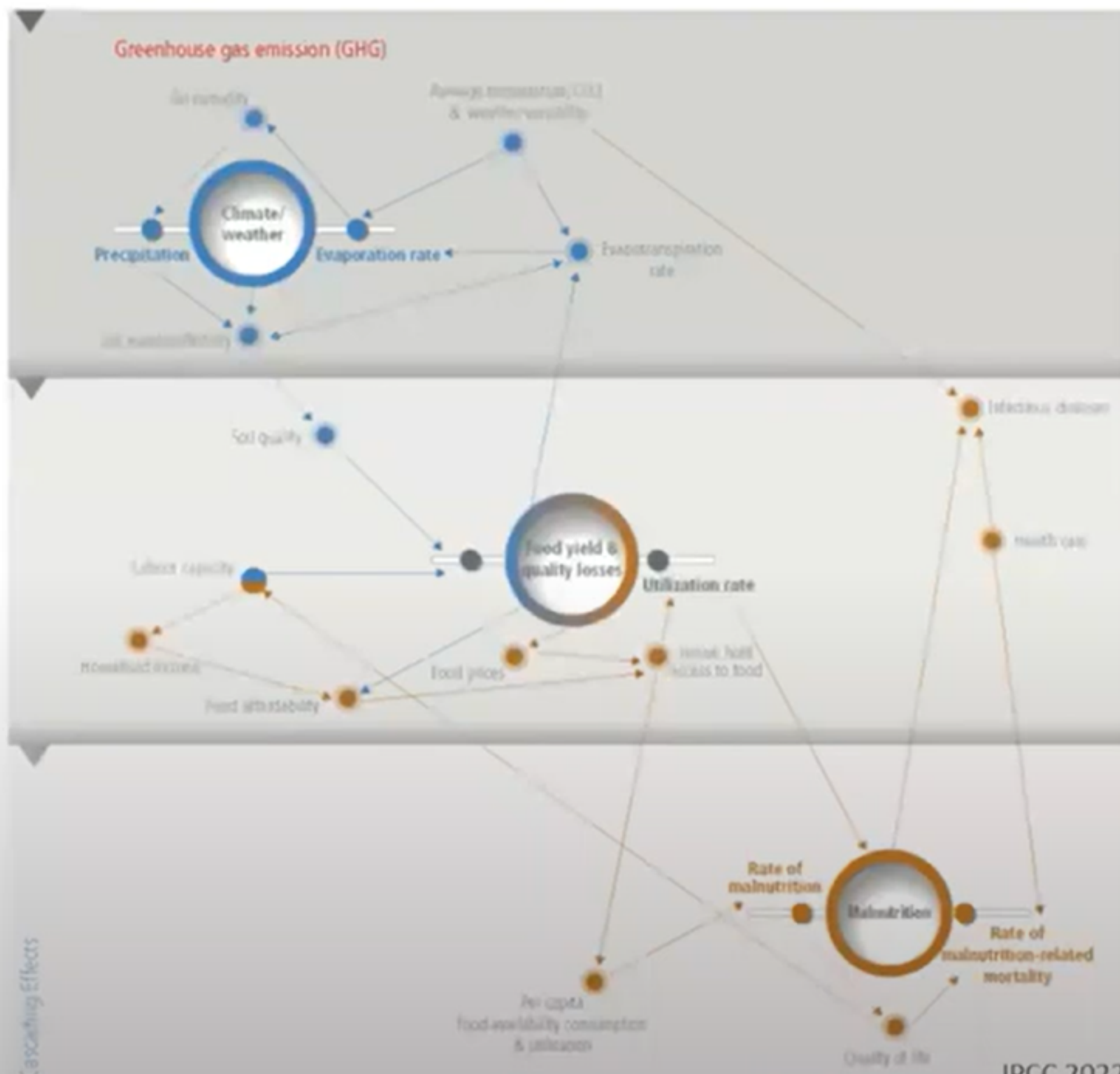
OurWorldInData.org/meat-and-seafood-production-consumption/ • CC BY

Meat supply per person, 2013

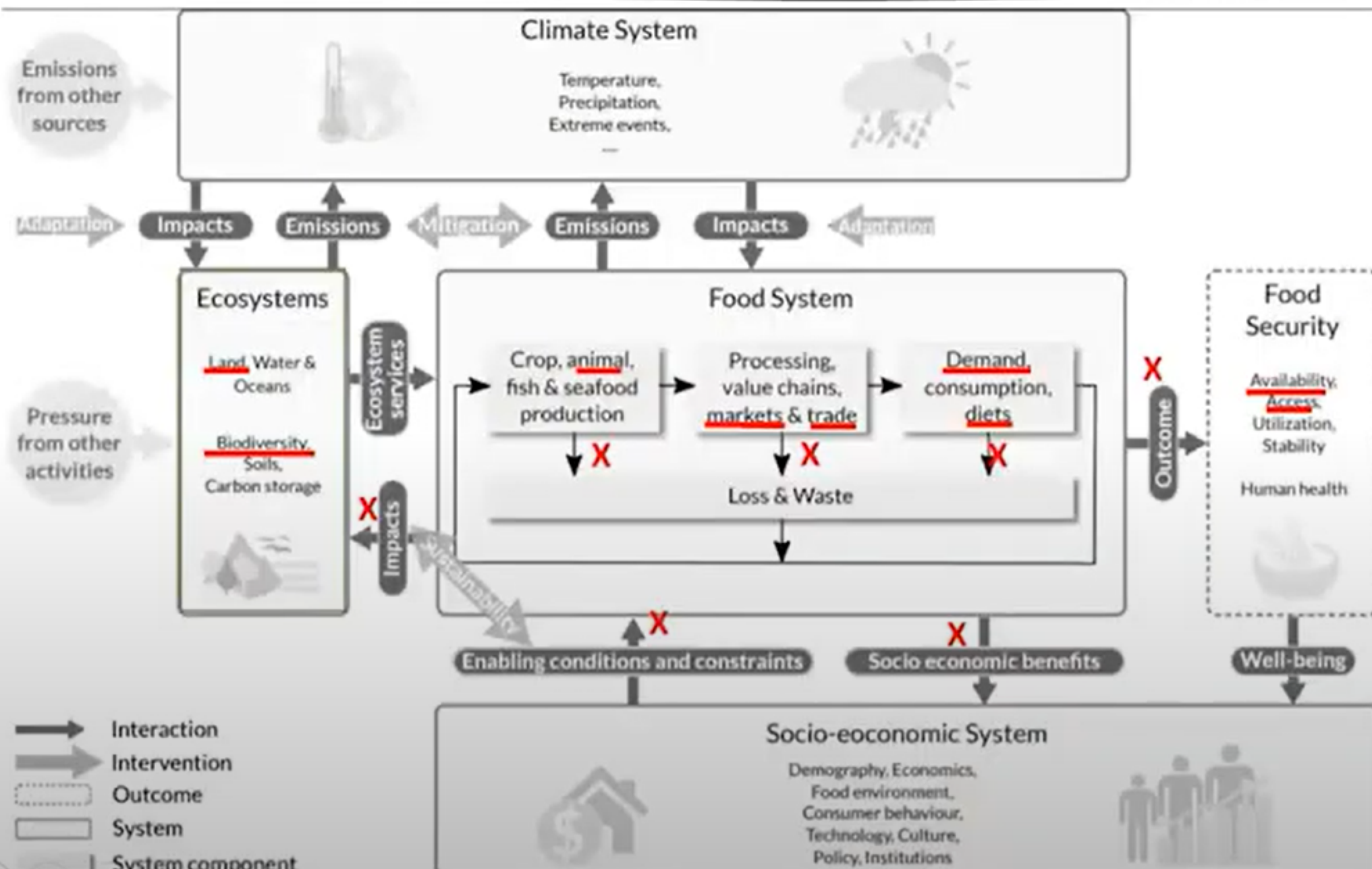
Average total meat supply per person measured in kilograms per year. Note that these figures do not correct for waste at the household/consumption level so may not directly reflect the quantity of food finally consumed by a given individual.



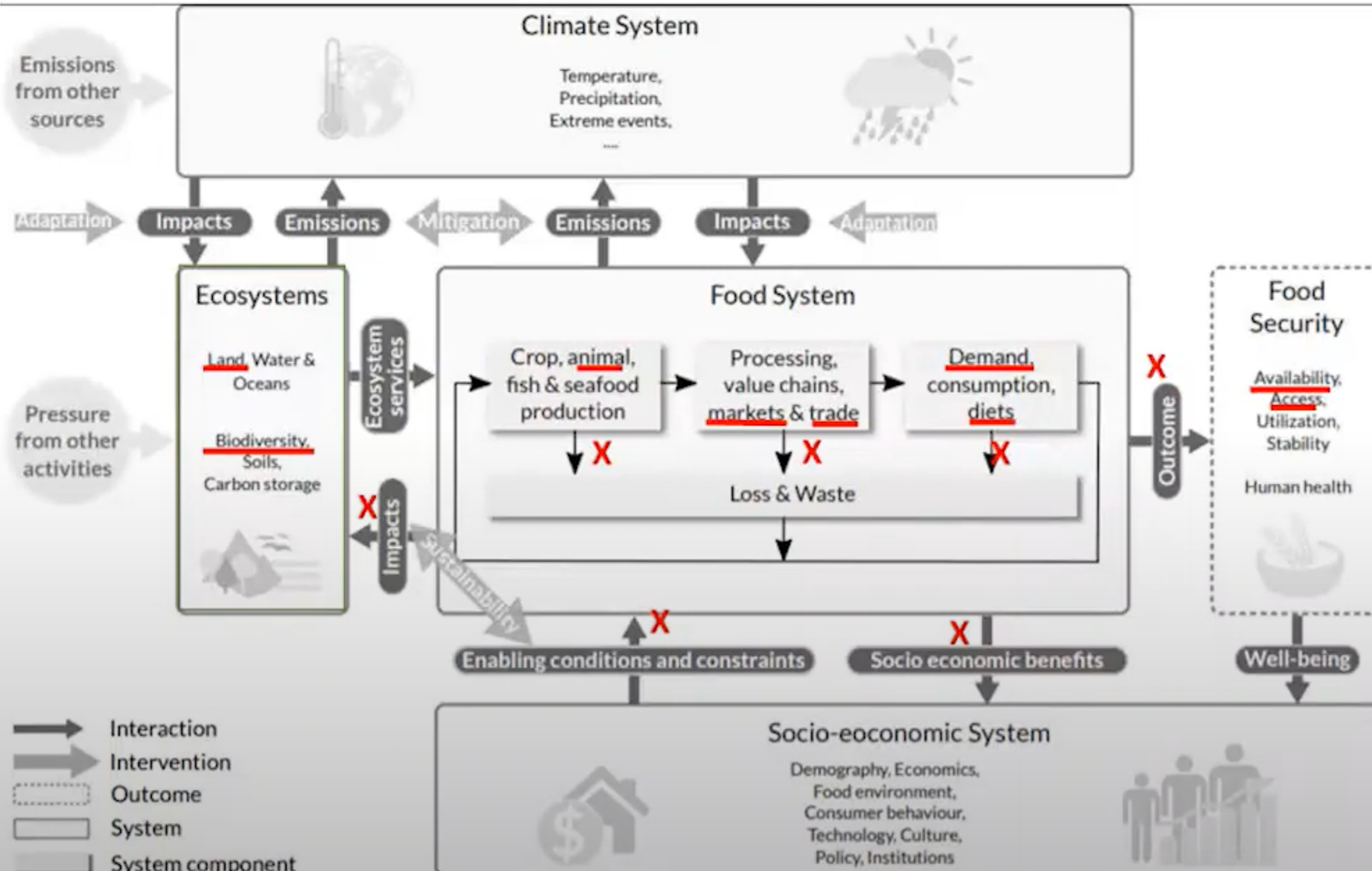




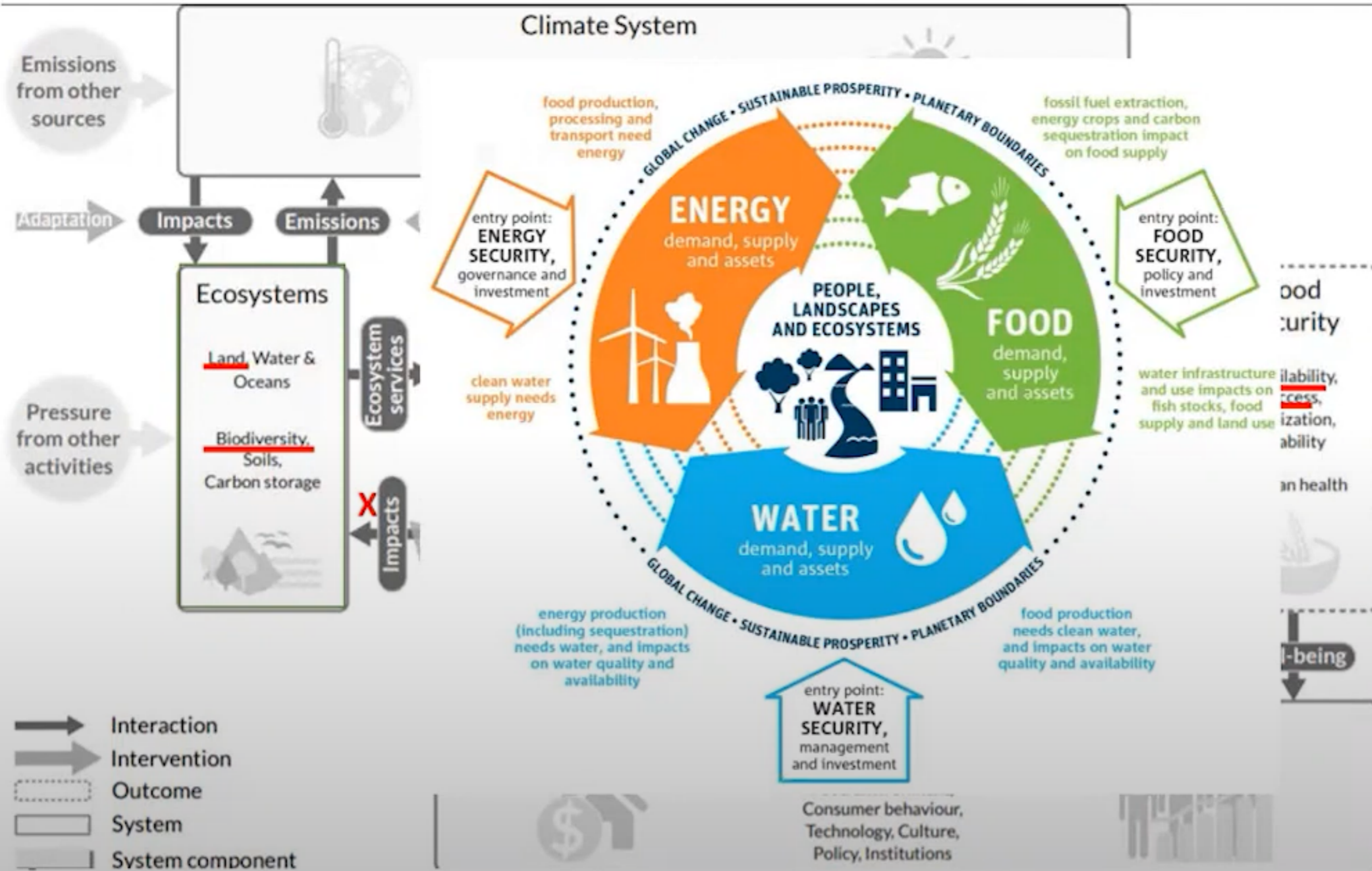
Food security: from simple messages



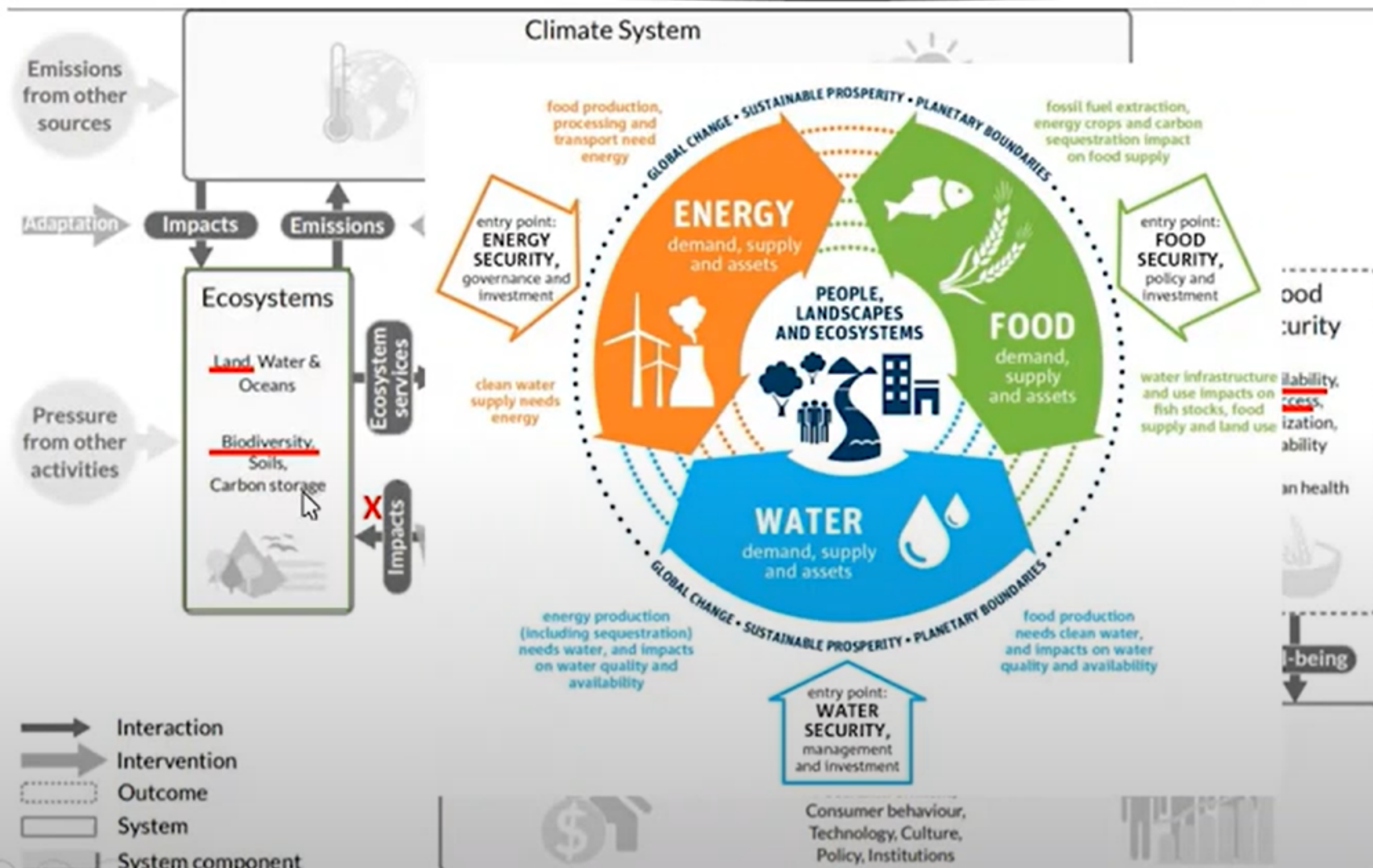
Food security: from simple messages



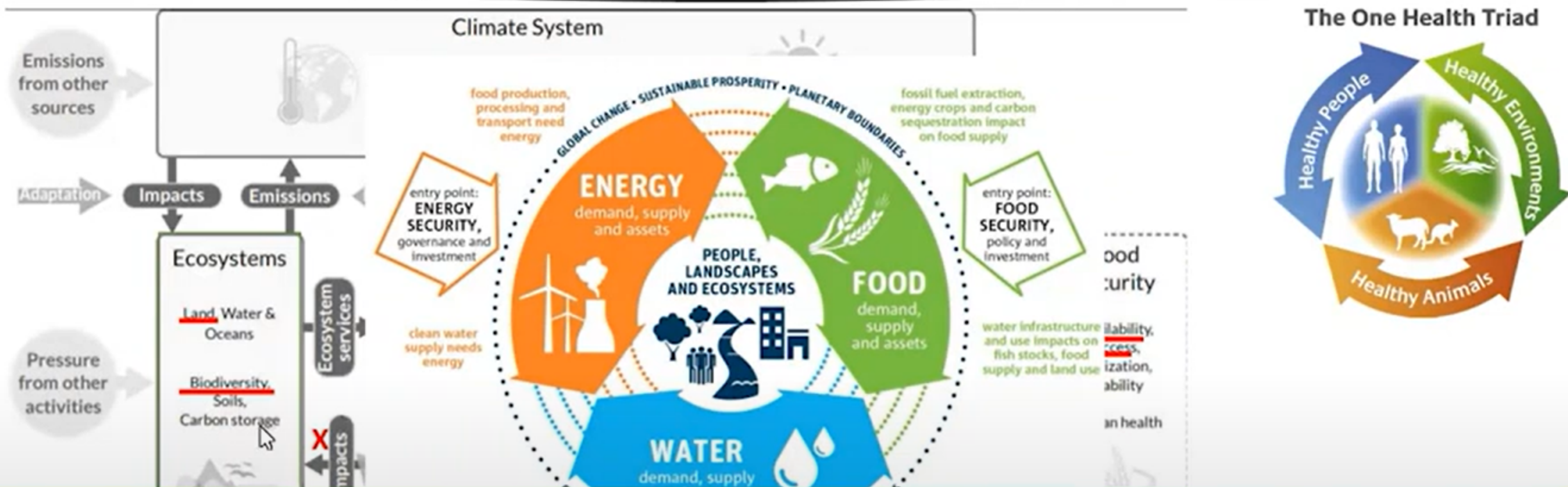
Food security: from simple messages



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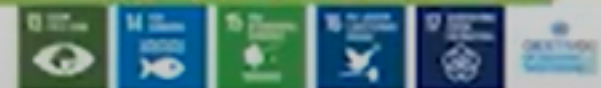
Food security: from simple messages



Food systems as complex socio-ecological systems

- Outcome
- System
- System component

Consumer behaviour,
Technology, Culture,
Policy, Institutions



Challenges of food production as part of food systems

- Food security (all forms of *malnutrition*)
- Adapt to climate change
- Reduce GHG emissions
- Livelihoods of billions people

In a context of:

- Limited inputs (fossil fuels, N, P, water)
- Degradation of terrestrial and water ecosystems and resources
- Biodiversity degradation/loss
- Volatility increases
- Increasing population
- Conflicts
- Pandemics risk



The Lancet, 2019



This report addresses all three UN Rio conventions – climate, biodiversity and desertification – and thus our report recognizes the nexus of these global challenges and demonstrates the broad policy relevance of the IPCC's work.

Hoesung Lee, IPCC Chair
Geneva, 2019

#SRCCL



New knowledge shows an increase in risks from dryland water scarcity, fire damage, permafrost degradation and food system instability, even for global warming of around 1.5°C

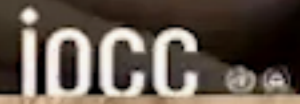
Valérie Masson-Delmotte
Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I
Geneva, 2019



Balanced diets featuring plant-based foods, such as coarse grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, and animal-sourced food produced sustainably in low GHG emission systems, present major opportunities for adaptation to and limiting climate change.

Debra Roberts
Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II
Geneva, 2019

#SRCCL



We need to adapt our land use to climate change so we can secure food production for present and future generations.

Inger Andersen
Executive Director, UNEP

#SRCCL



Food security will be increasingly affected by future climate change through yield declines – especially in the tropics – increased prices, reduced nutrient quality, and supply chain disruptions.

Priyadarshi Shukla
Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group III
Geneva, 2019

#SRCCL



This report addresses all three UN Rio



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Geneva, 2019



Land already in use could feed the world in a changing climate and provide biomass for renewable energy, but early, far-reaching action across several areas is required. Also for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Hans-Otto Pörtner
Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II
Geneva, 2019

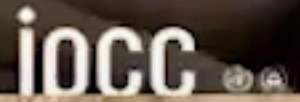
#SRCCL



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#SRCCL



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Valérie Masson-Delmotte
Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I
Geneva, 2019

"It is important that we think about ethical and equity aspects..."

Youba Sokona, IPCC Vice-Chair

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Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group III
Geneva, 2019

Comment | Published: 13 January 2020

Planet-proofing the global food system

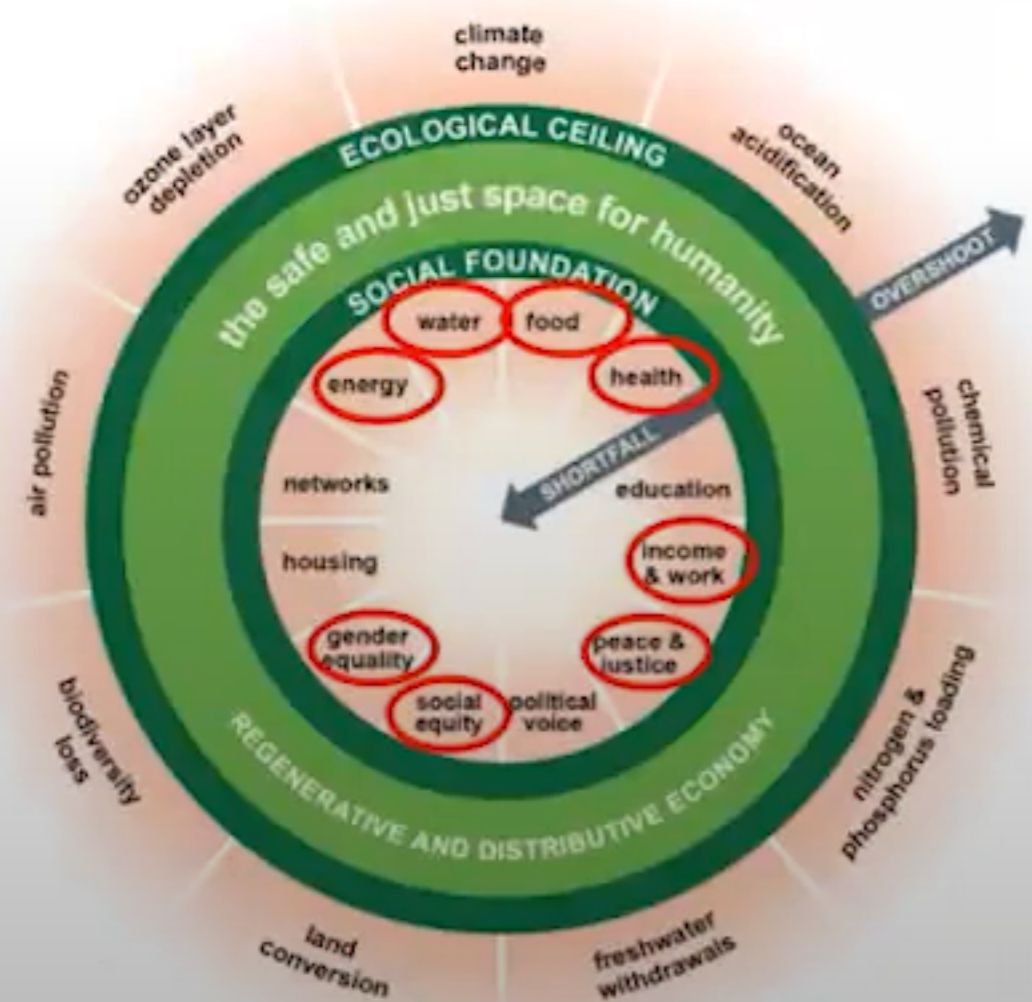
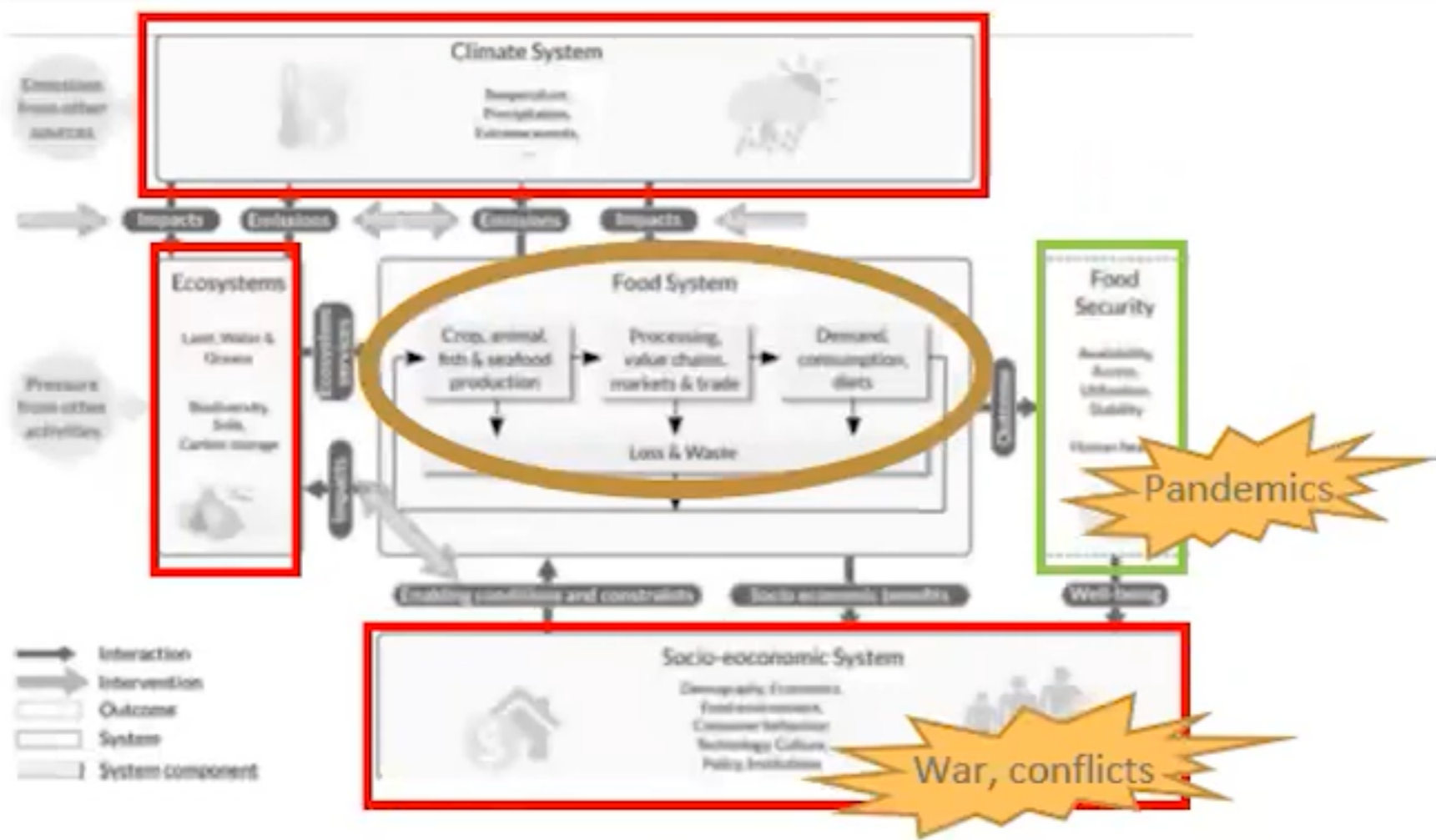
Johan Rockström , Ottmar Edenhofer, Juliana Gaertner & Fabrice DeClerck

Nature Food 1, 3–5(2020) | [Cite this article](#)

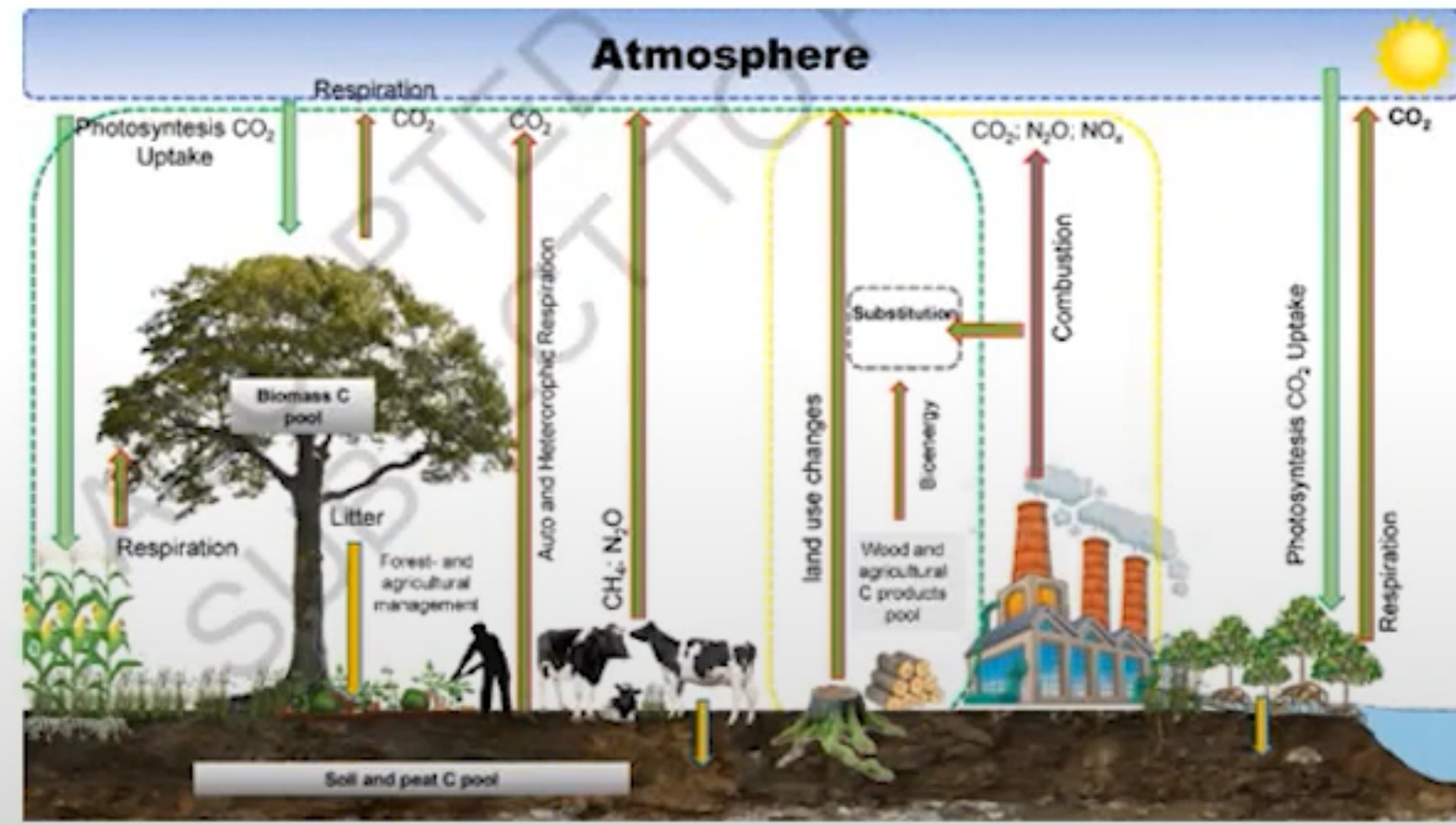
5759 Accesses | 13 Citations | 75 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Without a great food system transformation, the world will fail to deliver both on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. There are five grand challenges to be faced, by science and society, to effect that transformation.

Food is failing us. The global food system is the single largest greenhouse-gas-emitting sector in the world¹, and by far the largest cause of biodiversity loss, terrestrial ecosystem destruction², freshwater consumption, and waterway pollution due to overuse of nitrogen and phosphorus³. It holds a firm grip over the stability of the Earth system and the future of humanity. Unhealthy food is the world's biggest killer, with diet-related chronic disease estimated to be responsible for 11 million premature deaths in 2017 alone⁴. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of people – more than 900 million – are undernourished. This increase is due in part to armed conflict, but climate change and the water–food–environment nexus are increasingly identified as amplifiers of social instability^{5,6}.



• ABOUT EMISSIONS



IPCC 2022, WG3

REPORT

f t in d v

Global food system emissions could preclude achieving the 1.5° and 2°C climate change targets

MICHAEL A. CLARK · NINA D. O. DOMINGO · KIMBERLY COLGAN · SUMIL K. THAKKAR · DAVID TILMAN · JOHN LYNCH · INÉS L. AZEVEDO AND JASON D. HILL [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE · 6 Nov 2020 · Vol 370, Issue 6517 · pp. 705-708 · DOI: 10.1126/science.aba7337

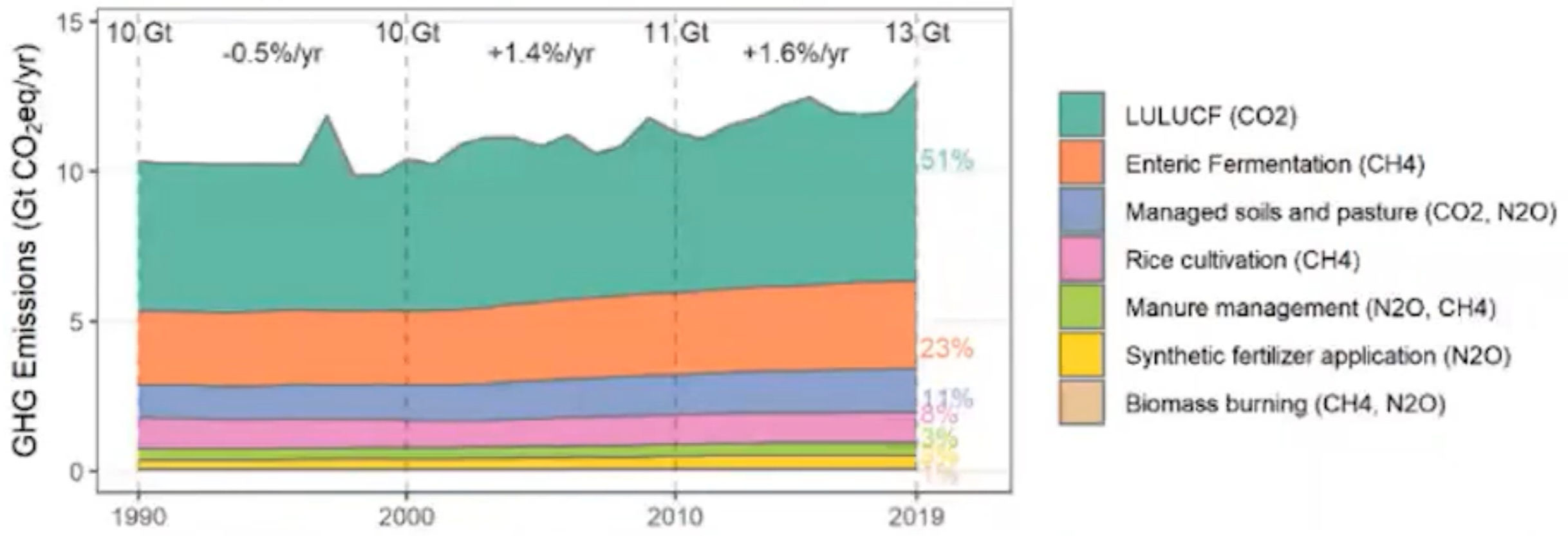
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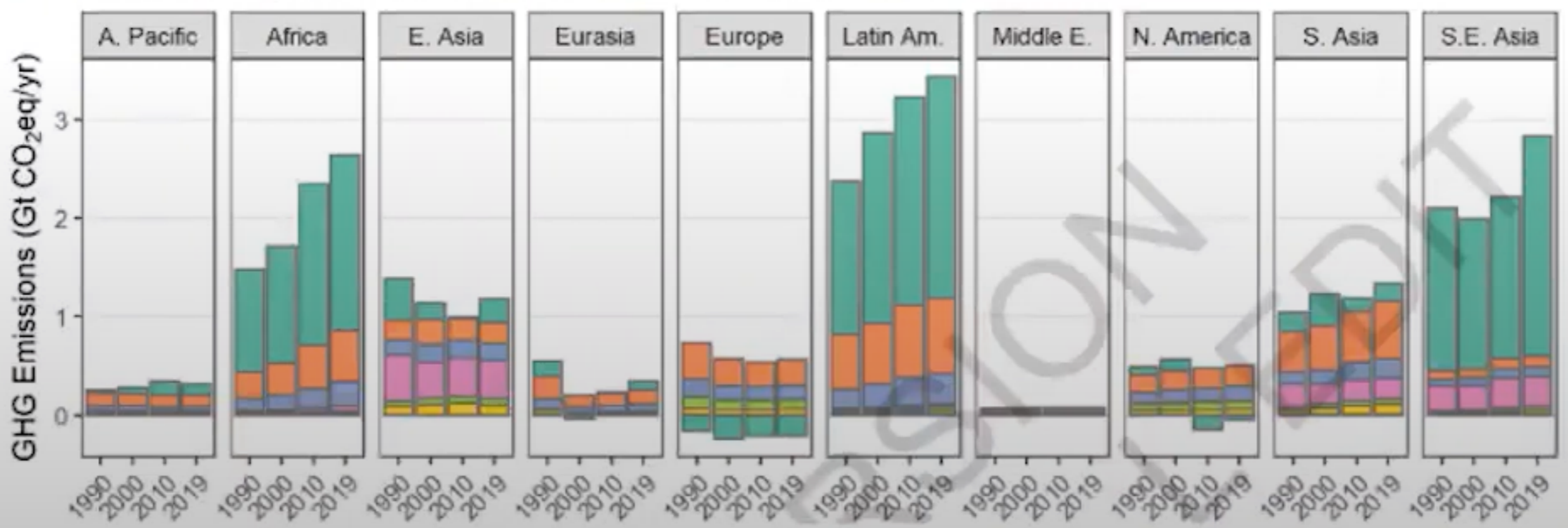
Thought for food

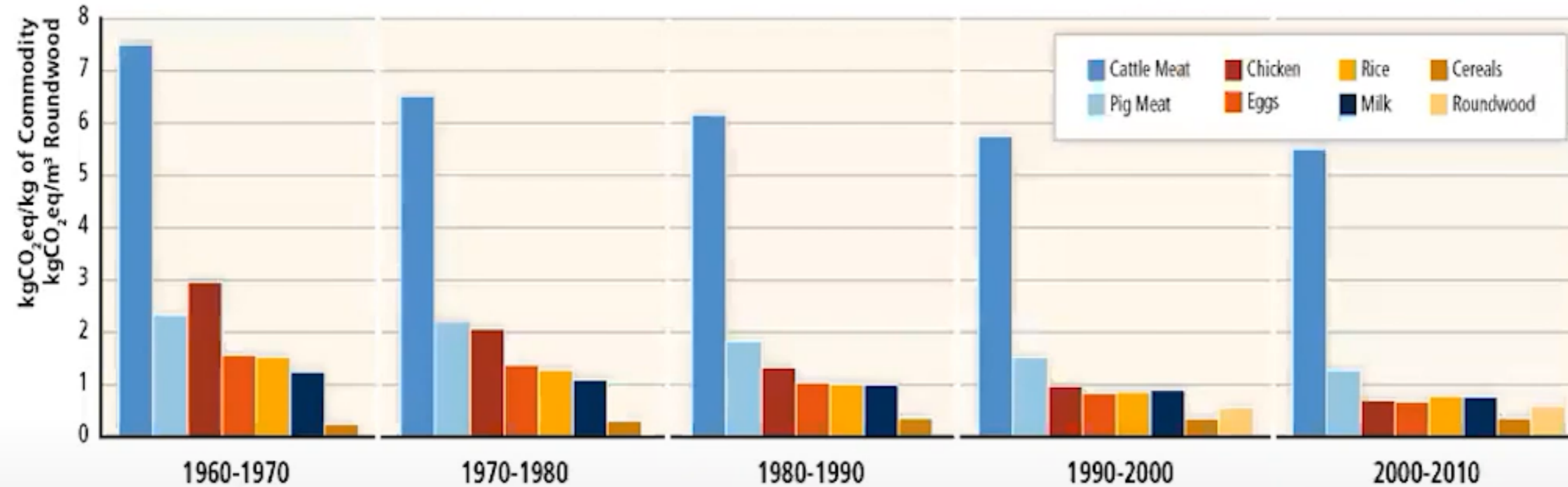
To have any hope of meeting the central goal of the Paris Agreement, which is to limit global warming to 2°C or less, our carbon emissions must be reduced considerably, including those coming from agriculture. Clark *et al.* show that even if fossil fuel emissions were eliminated immediately, emissions from the global food system alone would make it impossible to limit warming to 1.5°C and difficult even to realize the 2°C target. Thus, major changes in how food is produced are needed if we want to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

a. AFOLU global trends in GHG emissions and removals



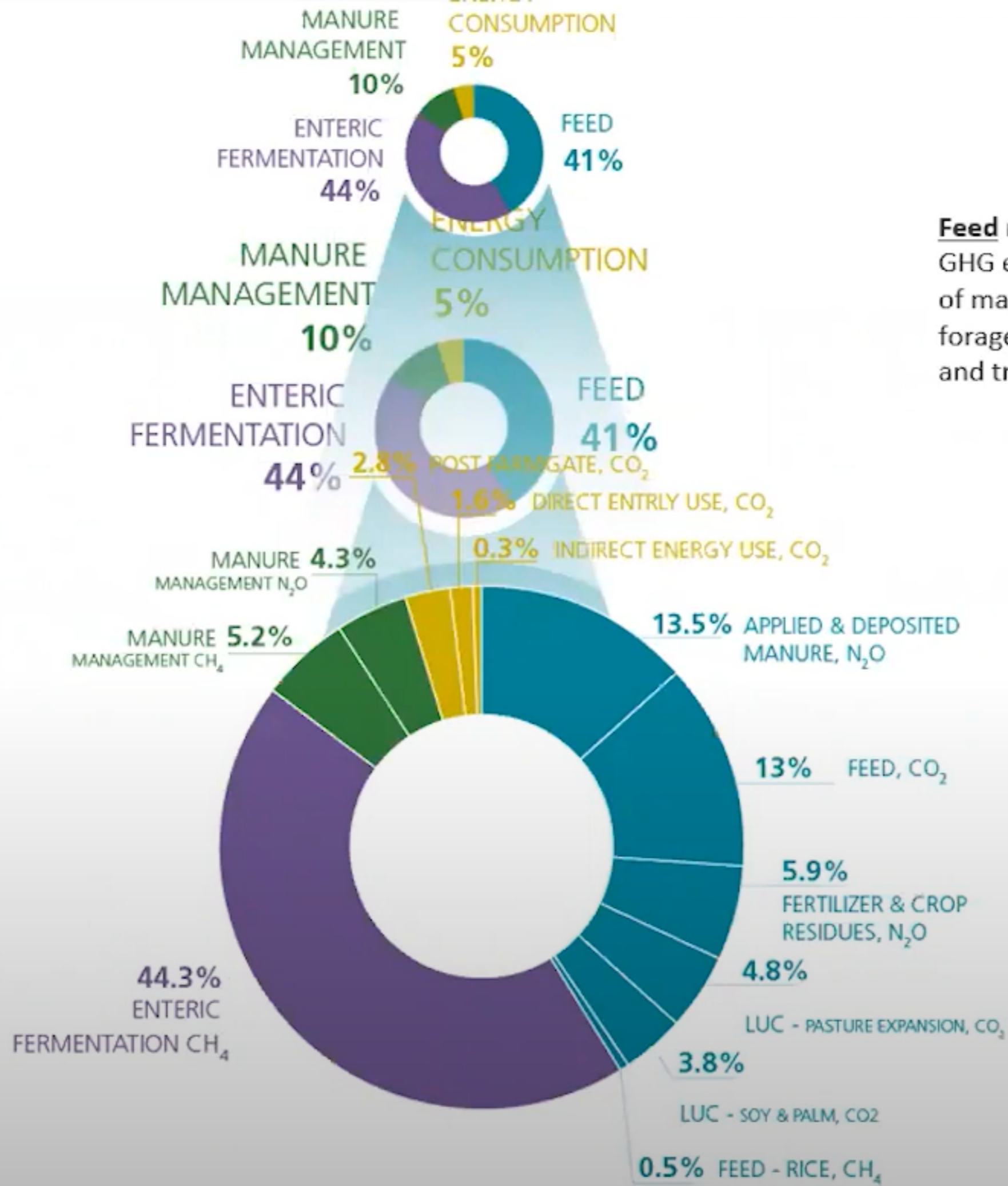
b. AFOLU regional trends in GHG emissions and removals





- Ruminant meat has a GHG intensity much higher than other agricultural products
- But these are direct emissions only. If we include the emissions from the human-edible feed for mono-gastric animal products, they move closer to ruminant meat

Emissions by activity and GHG types: delivering complex messages



Feed related activities makes 41% of total GHG emissions: associated LU change, use of manure and synthetic fertilizers for forage and feed production, processing and transport of feed

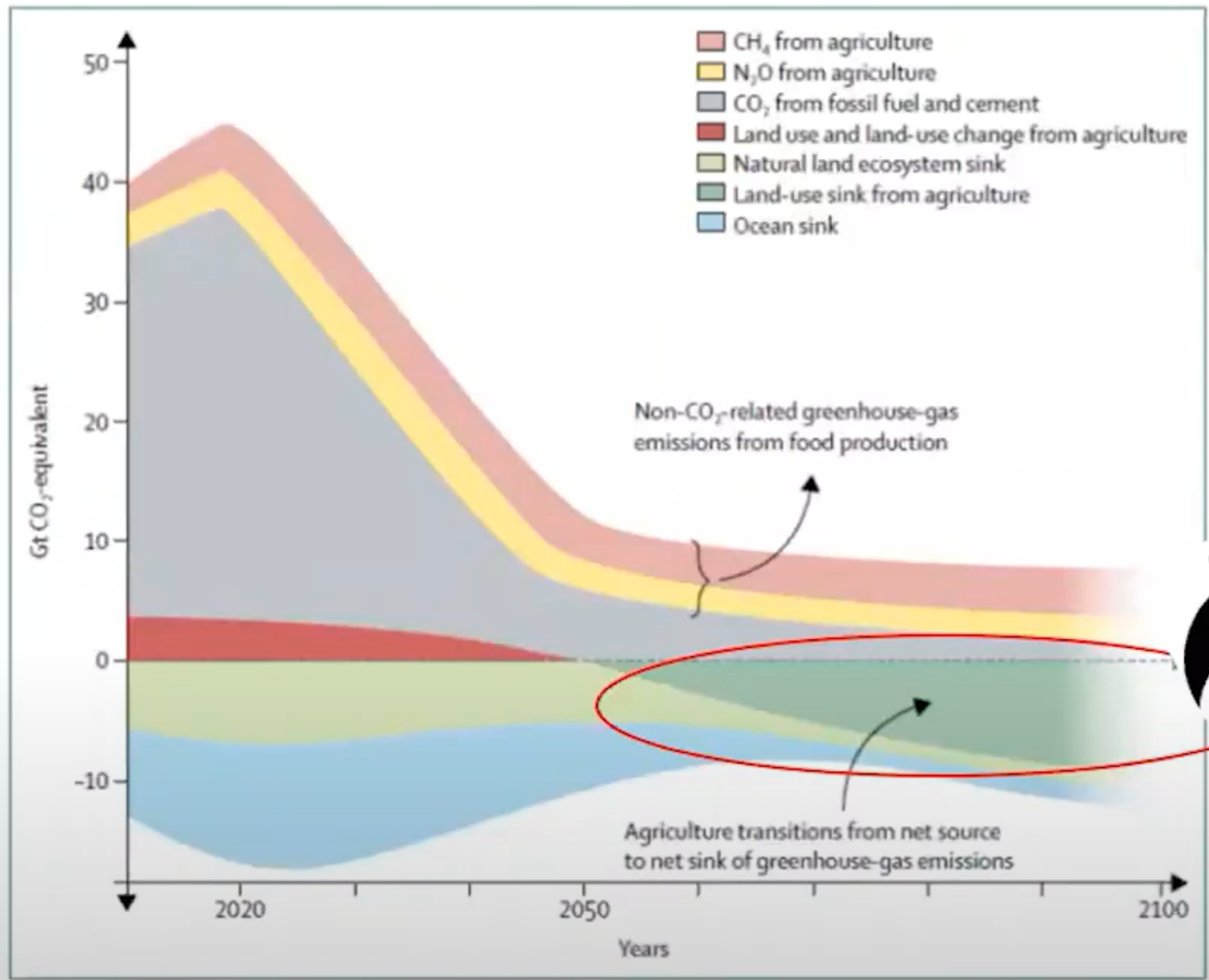
Water	Measure of water use	Grazing	Intensive
		Liters day ⁻¹ per animal at 15°C	
Cattle	Drinking water: all	22	103
	Service water: beef	5	11
	Service water: dairy	5	22
Pigs (lactating adult)	Drinking water	17	17
	Service water	25	125
Sheep (lactating adult)	Drinking water	9	9
	Service water	5	5
Chicken (broiler and layer)	Drinking water	1.3–1.8	1.3–1.8
	Service water	0.09–0.15	0.09–0.15
Feed required to produce 1 kg of meat		kg of cereal per animal	
Cattle		–	8
Pigs		–	4
Chicken (broiler)		–	1
Methane emissions from cattle		kg of CH₄ per animal year⁻¹	
Cattle: dairy (U.S., Europe)		–	117–128
Cattle: beef, dairy (U.S., Europe)		53–60	–
Cattle: dairy (Africa, India)		–	45–58
Cattle: grazing (Africa, India)		27–31	–

Godfray et al., 2010

	Grazing System	Mixed Crop-Livestock System	Industrial System
GHG emissions (examples)	27–31 kg of CH ₄ per animal per year in grazing cattle in Africa and India ⁴⁶ 12% total non-CO ₂ emissions ⁴⁰	53–60 kg of CH ₄ per animal per year in beef & dairy cattle in USA and Europe; 45–58 kg of CH ₄ per animal per year in dairy cattle in Africa and India. ⁴⁶ 77% emissions from cattle (not all mixed crop-livestock) ⁴⁰	117–128 kg of CH ₄ per animal per year in dairy cattle in USA and Europe ⁴⁶ 10% total non-CO ₂ emissions from monogastric (not all industrial) ⁴⁰
GHG emission metrics giving the most favorable outcome	Area (kg CO ₂ eq/area of land); resource based (kg CO ₂ eq/kg of fossil fuel based inputs; kg edible output/quantity of ecosystem services provided; kg CO ₂ eq. avoided by use of marginal land). ⁵²	Quantity based (e.g., kg CO ₂ eq/kg food and non-food goods—leather, wool, manure, traction, etc.) ⁵²	Quantity based (e.g., kg CO ₂ eq/kg produce) ⁵²
Mitigation assets	Grazing responsive to environmental variation and low dependence on fossil-fuel-based practices and external inputs. Enhanced animal husbandry, GHG sequestration.	Maintenance of soil fertility, low dependence on fossil-fuel based practices and external inputs. Enhanced animal husbandry and herd/flock management, supplements, feed budgets.	Increased productivity and efficiency through better nutrition and genetics, adjusting the growing environment, animal health.

Rivera-Ferre et al., 2016

	Comments
<i>Quantity based</i>	
kg CO ₂ eq/kg product	Mainstream metric – favours intensive monogastric production
kg CO ₂ eq/kg protein, iron, calcium, fatty acid profile and so forth	Depends on nutrient: iron and calcium metric may favour ruminants; grass-fed ruminants may have better Omega 3–6 ratios than cereal fed animals (Aurousseau et al., 2004; Demirel et al., 2006); protein as metric will favour intensive monogastrics
kg CO ₂ eq/kg food and non-food goods provided (leather, wool, feathers, dung, traction)	Variable; on balance likely to favour ruminants
<i>Area based</i>	
kg CO ₂ eq per area of land	Emissions lower for extensive systems and for monogastrics
kg CO ₂ eq per area of prime arable land required	Emissions lower for extensive systems, both ruminant and monogastric
<i>Resources based</i>	
kg CO ₂ eq/kg of fossil fuel based inputs	Emissions lower for extensive systems, both ruminant and monogastric
kg CO ₂ eq avoided through use of byproducts or poor quality land to rear livestock; this approach quantifies the GHG and land opportunity cost of needing to obtain an equivalent quantity of nutrition from elsewhere	Favours extensive systems and particularly landless household pig and poultry reliant on scraps
kg edible output per given quantity of ecosystem services provided on farmed land	Favours extensive ruminant systems
kg edible output per given area of land 'spared' for conservation or biomass production	Favours intensive systems, especially monogastrics



- Reduce emissions
- Feeding people
- Sequester carbon

LIVESTOCK

Figure 2: Projections of global emissions to keep global warming to well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C. Data are from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change fifth assessment report (RCP2.6 data for nitrous oxide and methane) and Rockström and colleagues²⁸ (for fossil-fuel emissions, land use, land-use change, and forestry, and biosphere carbon sinks).

Synergies and trade-offs

Response options based on land management		Mitigation	Adaptation	Desertification	Land Degradation	Food Security	Cost	
Agriculture	Increased food productivity	L	M	L	M	H	—	
	Agro-forestry	M	M	M	M	L	●	
	Improved cropland management	M	L	L	L	L	●●	
	Improved livestock management	M	L	L	L	L	●●●	
	Agricultural diversification	L	L	L	M	L	●	
	Improved grazing land management	M	L	L	L	L	—	
	Integrated water management	L	L	L	L	L	●●	
	Reduced grassland conversion to cropland	L	—	L	L	L	●	
	Forests	Forest management	M	L	L	L	L	●●
		Reduced deforestation and forest degradation	H	L	L	L	L	●●
Soils	Increased soil organic carbon content	H	L	M	M	L	●●	
	Reduced soil erosion	↔	L	M	M	L	●●	
	Reduced soil salinization	—	L	L	L	L	●●	
	Reduced soil compaction	—	L	—	L	L	●	
Other ecosystems	Fire management	M	M	M	M	L	●	
	Reduced landslides and natural hazards	L	L	L	L	L	—	
	Reduced pollution including acidification	↔	M	L	L	L	—	
	Restoration & reduced conversion of coastal wetlands	M	L	M	M	↔	L	
	Restoration & reduced conversion of peatlands	M	—	na	M	L	●	
Response options based on value chain management		Mitigation	Adaptation	Desertification	Land Degradation	Food Security	Cost	
Demand	Reduced post-harvest losses	H	M	L	L	H	—	
	Dietary change	H	—	L	H	H	—	
	Reduced food waste (consumer or retailer)	H	—	L	M	M	—	
Supply	Sustainable sourcing	—	L	—	L	L	—	
	Improved food processing and retailing	L	L	—	—	L	—	
	Improved energy use in food systems	L	L	—	—	L	—	
Response options based on risk management		Mitigation	Adaptation	Desertification	Land Degradation	Food Security	Cost	
Risk	Livelihood diversification	—	L	—	L	L	—	
	Management of urban sprawl	—	L	L	M	L	—	
	Risk sharing instruments	↔	L	—	↔	L	●●	

Chapter 13

Effectiveness & feasibility of adaptation options for food system to climate impacts & risk in Europe

Impact Type	Adaptation Option	Effectiveness	Feasibility					Confidence		
			Economic	Technological	Institutional	Socio-cultural	Ecological	Geophysical	Evidence	Agreement
Heat stress	Irrigation	M	M	H	M	L	L	L	M	M
	Change of sowing/harvest date	M	H	H	NL	M	M	H	H	M
	Change of cultivars	L	M	M	NL	M	M	H	M	M
Drought	Irrigation	H	H	M	M	H	L	L	H	H
	Change of sowing/harvest date	M	H	H	NL	M	M	H	M	M
	Change of cultivars	L	M	M	NL	M	M	H	H	M
	Soil management	M	M	M	H	M	H	M	L	M
Flooding Compound & extreme weather	Change of sowing/harvest date	L	L	M	NL	H	M	L	L	M
	Plant & livestock breeding, including GMO	M	M	L	L	M	M	M	M	M
	Mixed use - agroecology & agroforestry	H	M	M	L	L	H	M	M	M
	Agricultural policy changes	M	M	M	M	M	M	H	L	H
	Training & information	L	M	NL	M	M	M	H	L	M
	Crop selection changes	M	H	H	NL	L	L	L	L	L
	Land cover change, incl. agricultural land abandonment	L	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L
Disease pathogen & vectors	Plant & livestock breeding, including GMO	NL	NL	L	L	L	NL	NL	L	NL
	Management, including high frequency rotations	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	L	NL
Combined impacts on productivity	International trade changes	M	M	NL	L	M	L	M	L	M
	Consumer shifts in consumption	NL	M	NL	NL	L	NL	NL	L	M

Legend	
	High = H
	Medium = M
	Low = L
	No/Limited Evidence = NL

UN special rapporteur on the right to food calls for a new Green Revolution based on agroecology

by Olivier De Schutter and Gaëtan Vanloqueren | 21 Sep 2011

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Agroecological and other innovative approaches

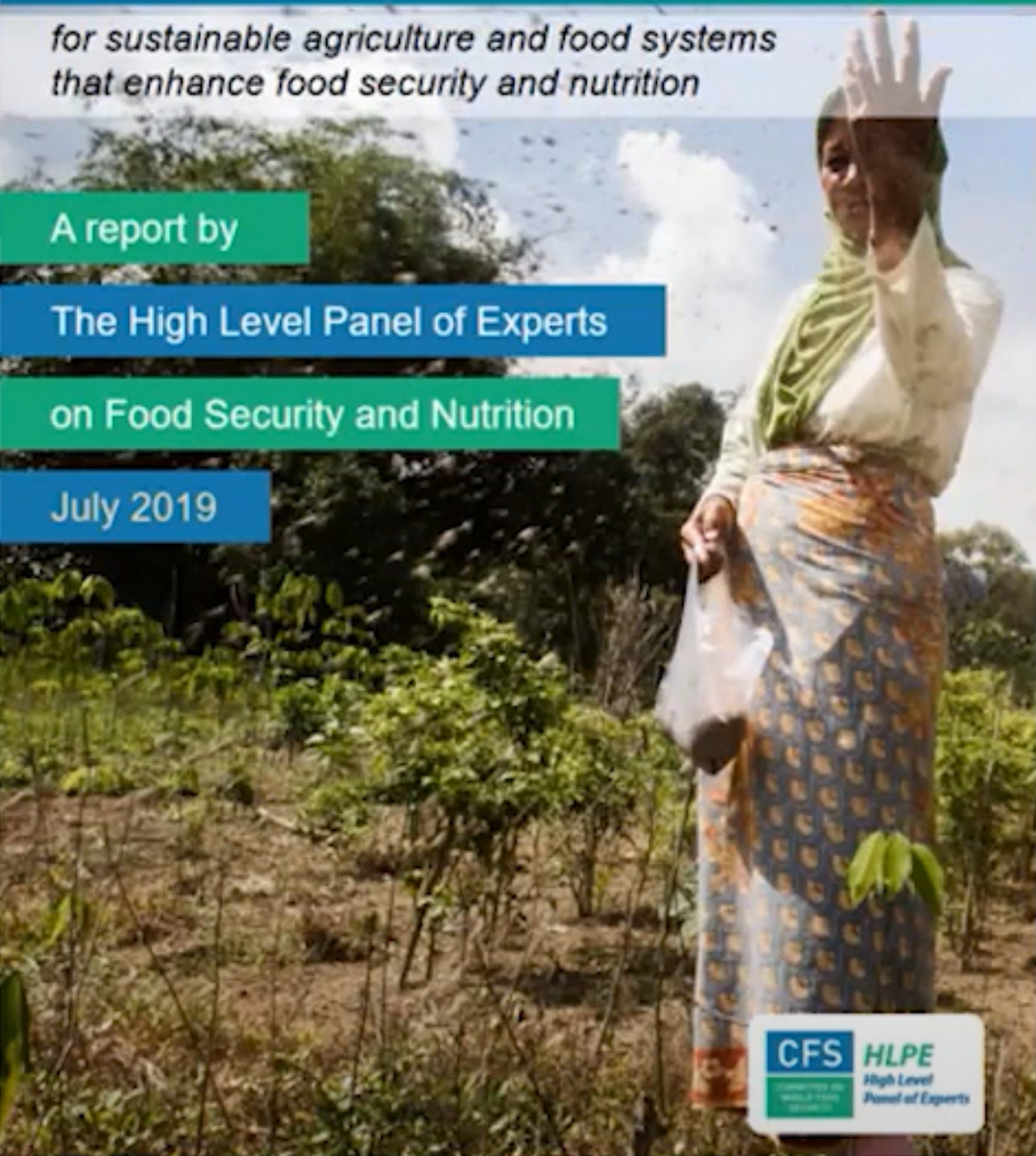
for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition

A report by

The High Level Panel of Experts

on Food Security and Nutrition

July 2019



INTPA / F3

Supporting the transformation of agricultural and food systems through agroecological approaches

Summary

This technical note aims to provide support for reflection and decision-making to develop interventions aimed at supporting the transformation of agricultural and food systems, based on the principles of agroecology and in line with the priorities of the European Green Deal. In this perspective, it supports a vision of agroecology open to innovation and the market and including a set of interventions (production, processing, distribution, consumption).



European Commission

EN English

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Research and innovation

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European R&I partnership on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures

Outline of what the partnership entails, why it has been proposed and how it will be developed.

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[A partnership on agroecology living labs and research](#)

A partnership on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures



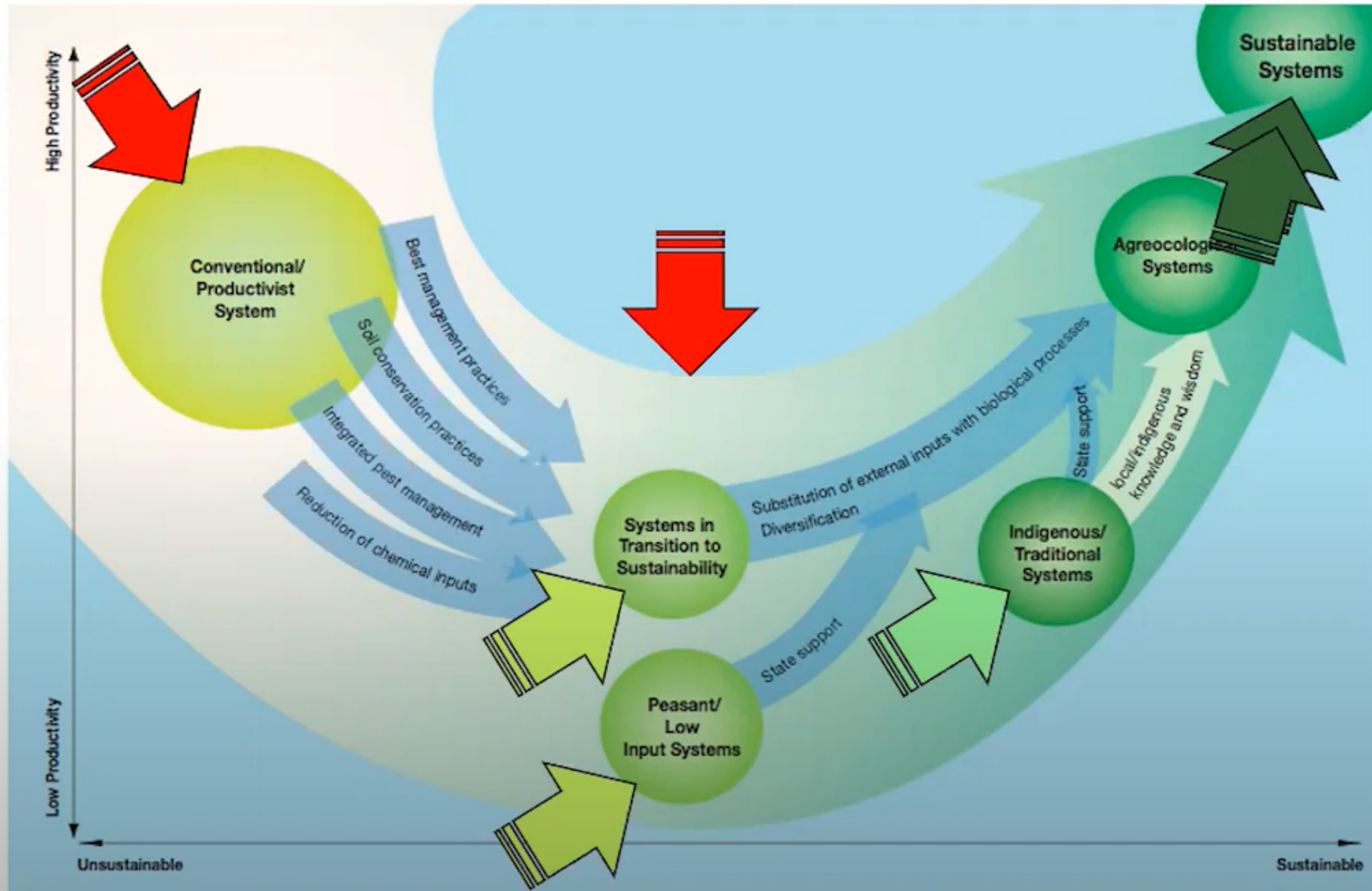
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

THE 10 ELEMENTS OF AGROECOLOGY

GUIDING THE TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS



Transition towards sustainable and resilient agri-food systems based on agroecology



Agroecology... some definitions

FAO: agroecology is an integrated approach which simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems. .
Agroecology aims to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into account the social aspects that must be addressed for a sustainable and equitable food system ...

It is based on bottom-up and territorial processes, helping to deliver contextualised solutions to local problems. Agroecological innovations are based on the co-creation of knowledge, combining science with the traditional, practical and local knowledge of producers. By enhancing their autonomy and adaptive capacity, agroecology empowers producers and communities as key agents of change. Rather than tweaking the practices of unsustainable agricultural systems, agroecology seeks to transform food and agricultural systems, addressing the root causes of problems in an integrated way and providing holistic and long-term solutions. This includes an explicit focus on social and economic dimensions of food systems. Agroecology places a strong focus on the rights of women, youth and indigenous peoples.

Agroecology... some definitions

HLPE (2019): Agroecological approaches favour the use of natural processes, limit the use of purchased inputs, promote closed cycles with minimal negative externalities and stress the importance of local knowledge and participatory processes that develop knowledge and practice through experience, as well as more conventional scientific methods, and address social inequalities.

11 Principles Of Agroecology according to ECVC (2022)

1. Fluid in application across territories
2. Ecological and low-input
3. Political, social, and determined by communities
4. Collective rights and access to the commons
5. Horizontality and diversity of learning
6. Spiritual and non commodified connection to the land
7. Solidarity and collective action
8. Autonomous and fair, based upon a solidarity economy
9. Challenging and transforming global power structures
10. Equal power and remuneration across genders
11. Opportunities for rural youth

Framings of food: evidence review in the SAPEA Evidence Review Report



SAPEA
Science Advice for Policy by European Academies



SAPEA 2020



SAPEA 2019



Framings of Food Security (Benè et al. 2019, Maxwell, 1996, Rivera-Ferre, 2012,...)

The state of play	What is the failure about?	What is threatened and needs to be fixed?	Where do the priorities for action stand?
"our food system is failing us"	Inability of the system to feed the future world population	→ Food security	→ Closing the yield gap
	Inability of the system to deliver a healthy diet	→ Nutrition security and health	→ Closing the nutrient gap and ensuring the quality of diet
	Inability of the system to produce equal and equitable benefits	→ Social justice, democratic process, small-scale actors	→ Decentralization, grass-roots autonomy
	Unsustainability of the system and its impact on the environment	→ Natural resources, agrobiodiversity, energy-water-carbon efficiency	→ Reducing the food-print of the system on the environment

Table 1. Agri-food assessments characteristics under different research framings.

	Alternative	Official
Object of study	<i>Agricultural systems</i> Seeds/breeds/cultures Distribution Peasant agriculture Multiple species/ varieties + polyculture Short food supply chains	Industrial agriculture Few species/ varieties + monoculture Long distribution-processing-storage (exports)
Methodology and research process	<i>Agri-food systems</i> <i>Interdisciplinarity/ Transdisciplinarity</i> Major scientific disciplines <i>Economic Science</i> Type of knowledge Participation Production and knowledge transfer Solutions Technologies Complex socio-ecological systems /holistic High Social and political sciences Political economy / ecological economy Traditional/ indigenous + formal knowledge (<i>Diálogo de saberes</i>) High Co-production of knowledge (science with people) Diverse Appropriate technologies	Simple systems or simplification processes Null or very little. Fragmentation social-natural sciences Natural sciences Classical economy / bio-economy Formal knowledge Small, null participation Top-down transfer of knowledge Panaceas Non-replicable technologies
Results	Complex vision of science Constructionist approach	Instrumental vision of science Positivist approach
Vision of science	Address power structures, alternative development pathways, integrated response	Economic growth, sectorial responses
Policy responses		

- **Food as a commodity:** food as a tradable good, based on tradable features that can be valued and priced in the market; clear productivist focus.
- **Food as a human right:** main focus is on the social dimensions of food. Includes i) democratic participation in food system choices; ii) fair, transparent access to all necessary resources for food production; iii) multiple independent buyers; iv) absence of human and resource exploitation...
- **Food as a commons:** food is framed as having multiple dimensions, including both social and environmental, each of which is equally and properly valued, requiring different governance structures and institutions at different levels.

nature food

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Food as a commodity, human right or common good

[Peter Jackson](#) , [Marta Guadalupe Rivera Ferre](#) , [Jeroen Candel](#), [Anna Davies](#), [Cristiane Derani](#), [Hugo de Vries](#), [Verica Dragović-Uzelac](#), [Alf Håkon Hoel](#), [Lotte Holm](#), [Erik Mathijs](#), [Piergiuseppe Morone](#), [Marianne Perkes](#), [Ruta Spisiewicz](#), [Katrien Termens](#) & [John Thøgersen](#)

[Nature Food](#) **2**, 132–134 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

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Different framings of food may shape food policies and their impact. Despite acknowledging food systems' complexities, the European Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy still addresses food as a commodity instead of a human right or common good.

A report from the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) to the European Commission recently concluded that the path to a more sustainable food system requires "moving from

LETTER • OPEN ACCESS

Redefining agricultural yields: from tonnes to people nourished per hectare

Emily S Cassidy¹, Paul C West¹, James S Gerber¹ and Jonathan A Foley¹

Published 1 August 2013 • © 2013 IOP Publishing Ltd

[Environmental Research Letters](#), Volume 8, Number 3

Citation Emily S Cassidy *et al* 2013 *Environ. Res. Lett.* 8 034015



Global Food Security

Volume 17, June 2018, Pages 64-72



How much of the world's food do smallholders produce?

Vincent Ricciardi^{a, b, c, d}, Navin Ramankutty^{a, b}, Zia Mehrabi^{a, b}, Larissa Jarvis^{a, b}, Brenton Chookolingo^{a, b}

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Farms < 2 ha produce 30–34% food supply on 24% gross agricultural area. As farms get larger, crop diversity declines and post-harvest loss increases.

LETTER • OPEN ACCESS

Subnational distribution of average farm size and smallholder contributions to global food production

Leah H Samberg¹, James S Gerber¹, Navin Ramankutty², Mario Herrero³ and Paul C West¹

Published 30 November 2016 • © 2016 IOP Publishing Ltd

[Environmental Research Letters](#), Volume 11, Number 12

Citation Leah H Samberg *et al* 2016 *Environ. Res. Lett.* 11 124010

smallholder-dominated systems home to more than 380 million households make up **roughly 30% of the agricultural land, produce > 70% of the food calories produced in these regions, responsible for more than half of the food calories produced globally, than half of global production of several major food crops.**



Which farms feed the world and has farmland become more concentrated?

Sarah K. Lowder^{a, b, c}, Marco V. Sánchez^{b, c, d}, Raffaele Bertini^e

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105455>

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Highlights

- There are more than 608 million farms in the world.
- Family farms produce roughly 80% of the world's food in value terms.
- **Farms smaller** than 2 hectares produce roughly 35% of the world's food.
- The largest one percent of farms operating 70 percent of the its farmland.



Opinion

Beyond organic farming – harnessing biodiversity-friendly landscapes

Teja Tscharntke¹, Ingo Grass², Thomas C. Wanger^{3,4,5}, Catrin Westphal⁶, Péter Batáry⁷

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Analysis | [Published: 25 March 2021](#)

Higher yields and more biodiversity on smaller farms

[Vincent Ricciardi](#), [Zia Mehrabi](#), [Hannah Wittman](#), [Dana James](#) & [Navin Ramankutty](#)

Nature Sustainability **4**, 651–657 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

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Opinion

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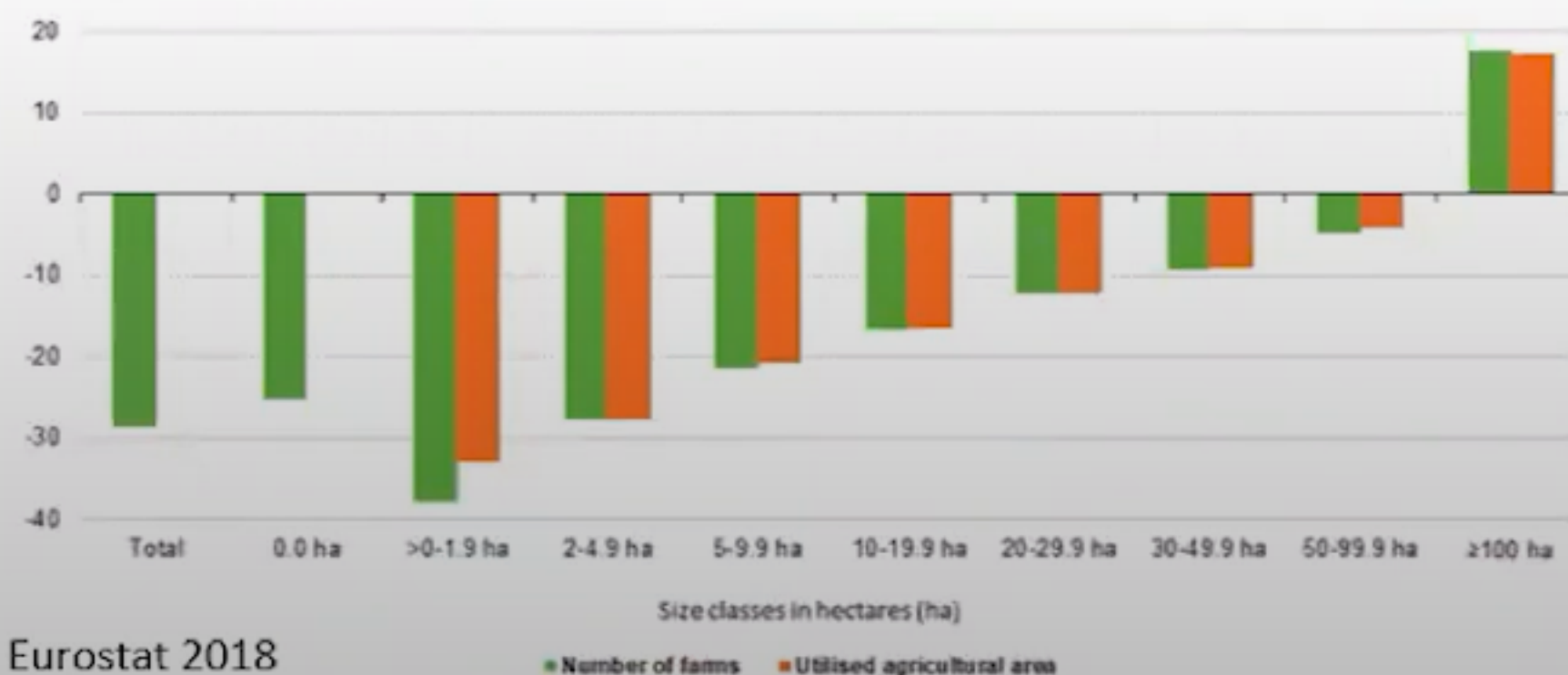
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Nature Sustainability **4**, 651–657 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

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Change in the number of farms and utilised agricultural area by size class, EU-28, 2005–2016 (%)



Eurostat 2018

■ Number of farms ■ Utilised agricultural area



Agroecological practices in combination with healthy diets can help meet EU food system policy targets

Elin Rööds ^a, Andreas Mayer ^b, Adrian Muller ^c, Gerald Kalt ^b, Shon Ferguson ^{d, *}, Karl-Heinz Erb ^b, Rob Hart ^d, Sarah Matej ^b, Lisa Kaufmann ^b, Catherine Pfeifer ^c, Anita Frehner ^c, Pete Smith ^f, Gerald Schwarz ^g

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- Business as usual
- Agroecology for export
- Localisation for protectionism
- Localisation for sustainability
- Local agroecological food systems
- - - Policy target reached

In a scenario with agroecological practices, increased productivity, healthy diets and reduced waste, all major targets of the EU Green Deal are reached.

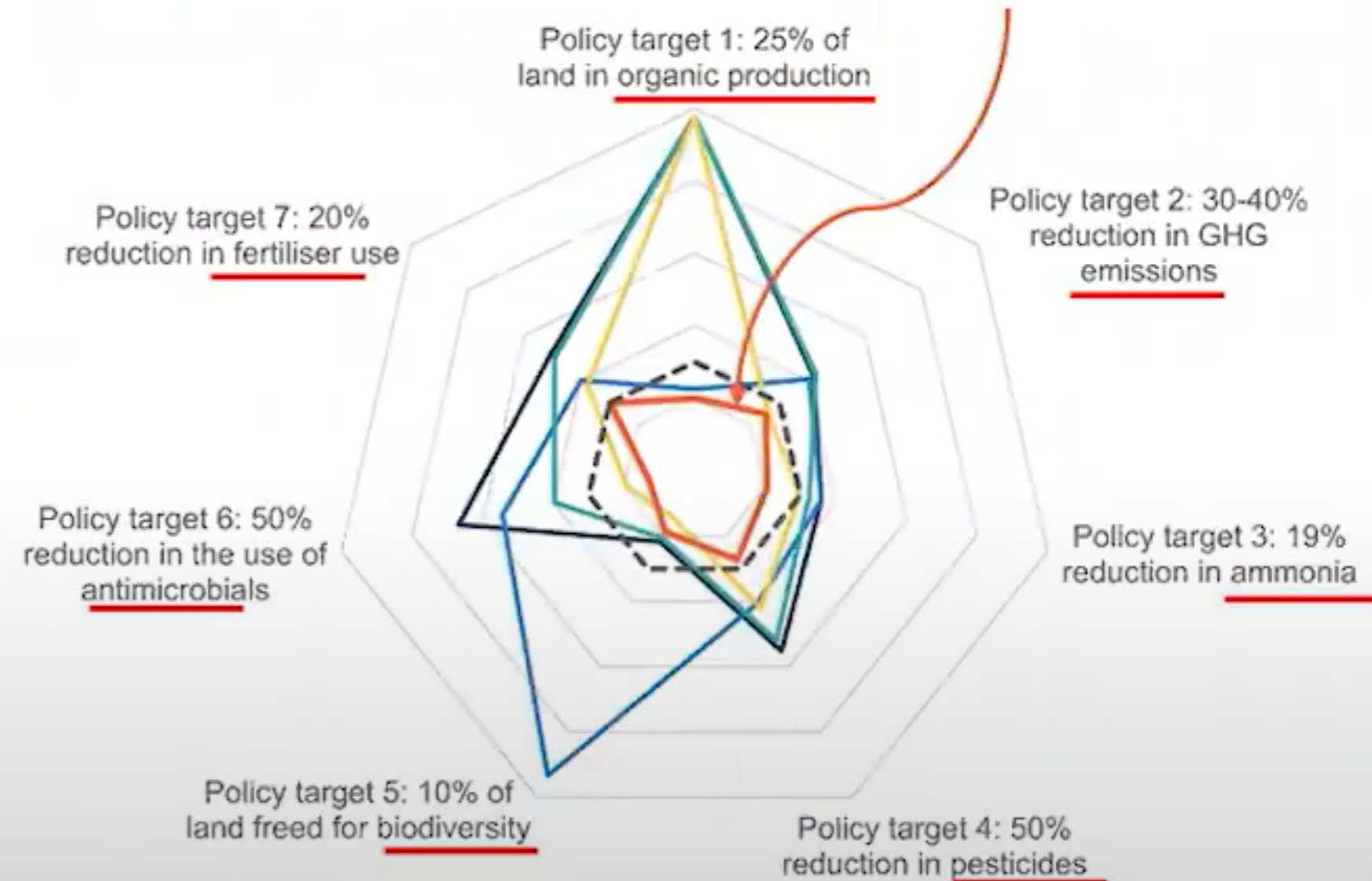


Gráfico 7. Energía No Renovable (PJ/año) utilizada para el consumo alimentario de la población española en los escenarios estudiados, según procedencia y tipo de alimento

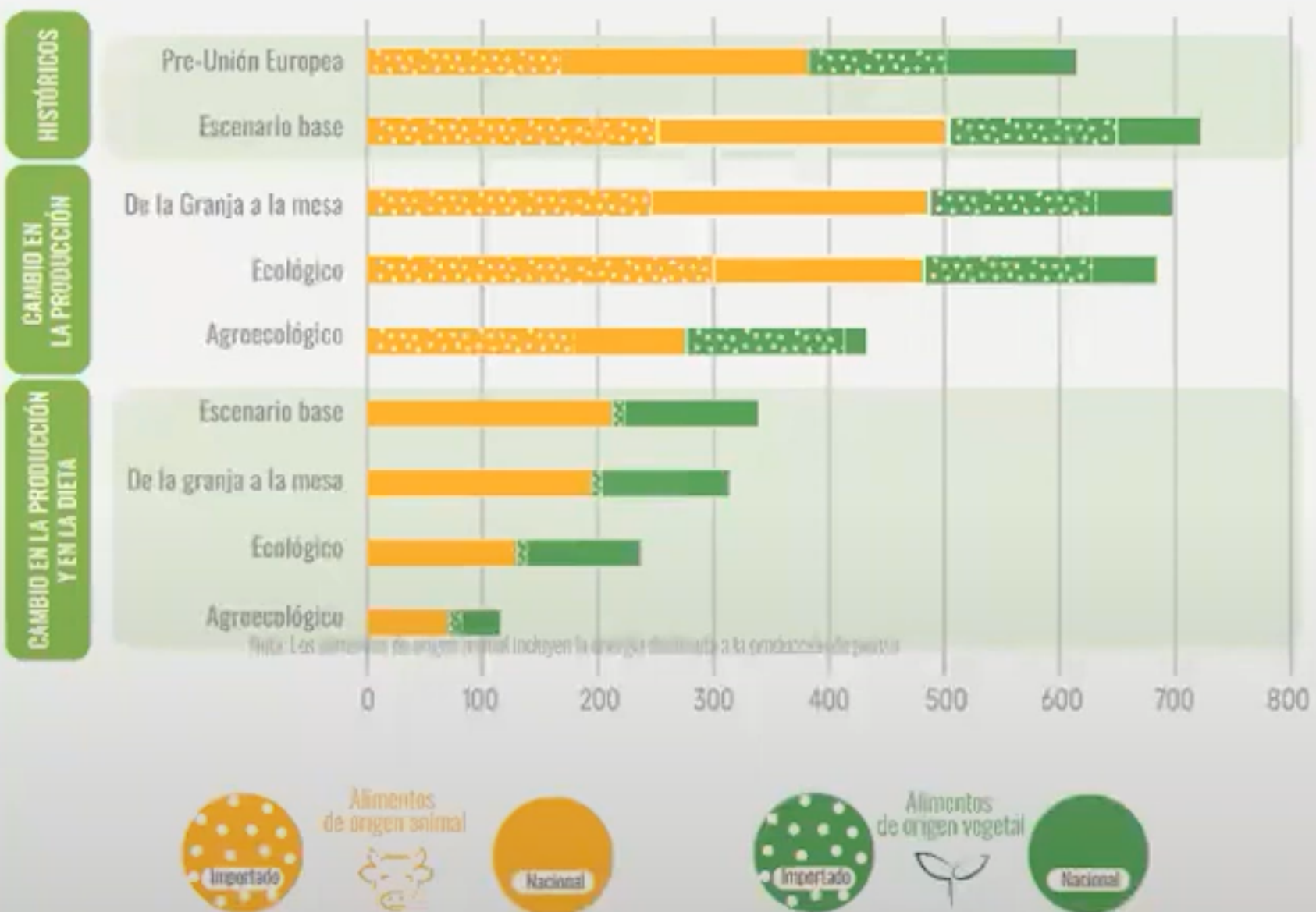
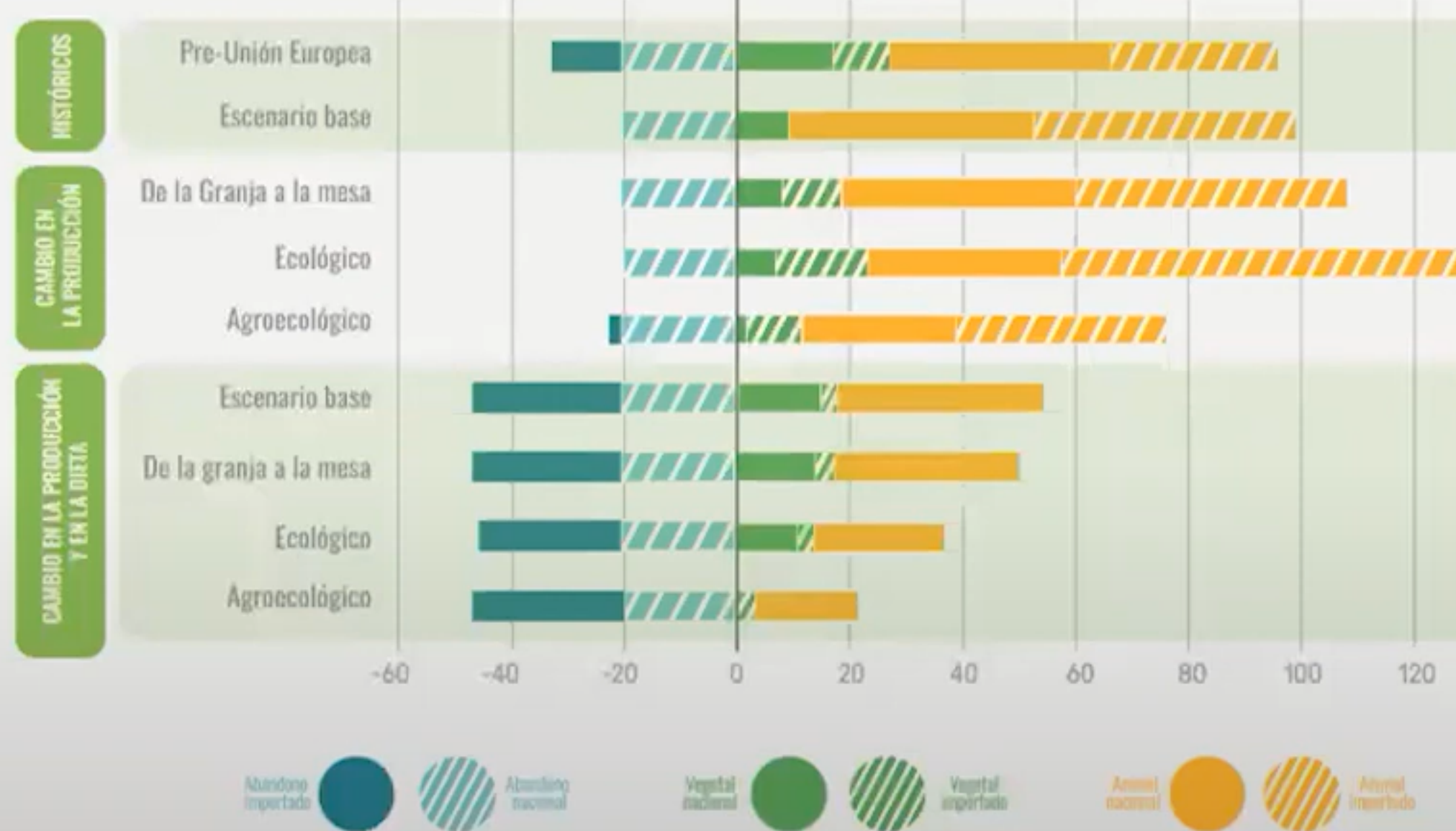
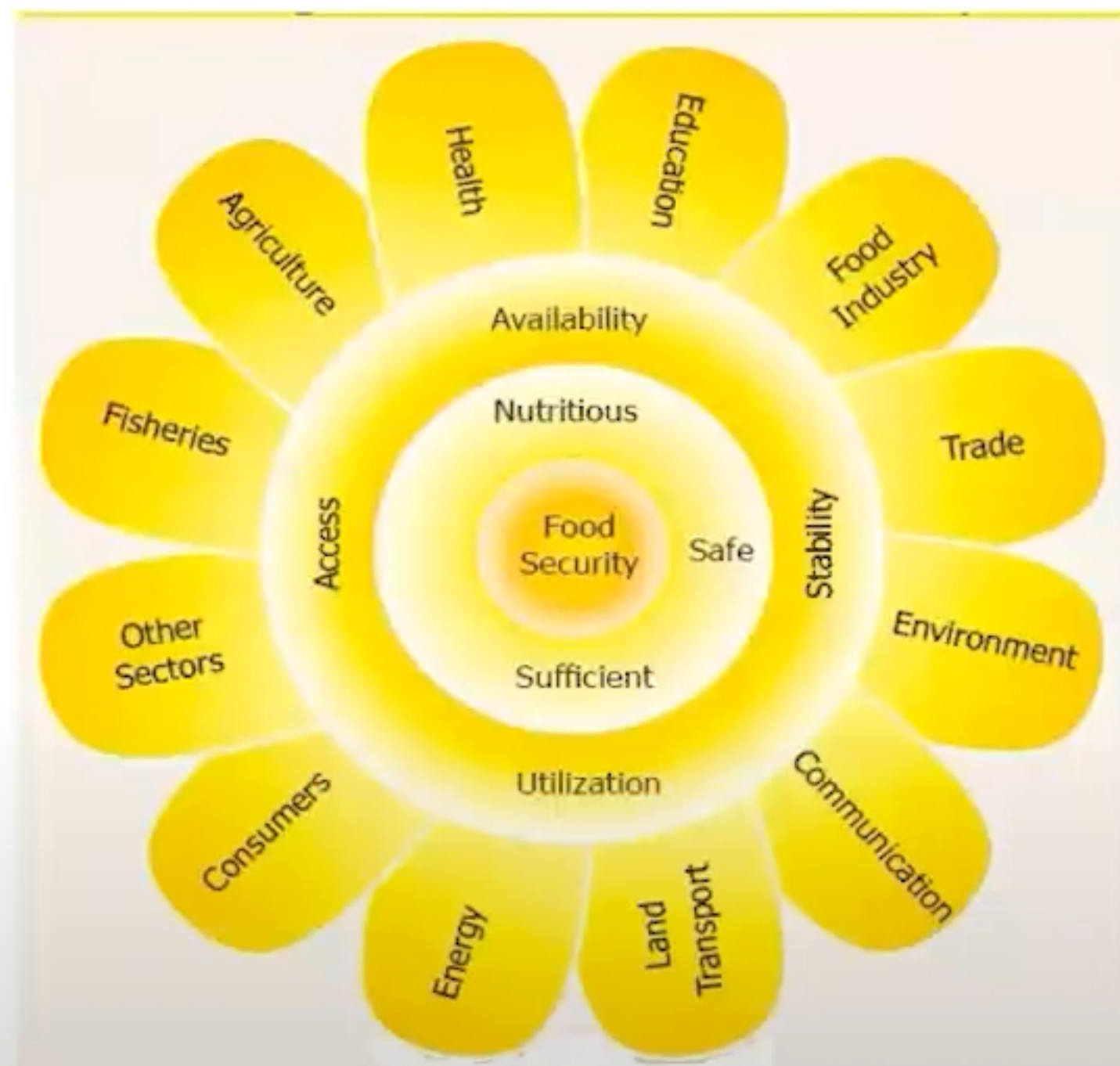


Gráfico 8. Emisiones de GEI asociadas al consumo alimentario de la población española en los escenarios estudiados (en MtCO_{2e})



Just transition in agri-food systems

- **Scientific challenge-** Complex systems
- **Sustainable agricultural practices** (soil, biodiversity): adaptation, mitigation, carbon sequestration.
- Small-scale farms => "Size matters"
- **Dietary changes** (revert nutrition transition, obesity, etc)
- Policies to reduce meat/animal protein consumption
- Reducing **food loss and waste**
- **Territorialization**



Social sciences essential to look at the policies, institutions and governance models required to transform food systems.



MUCHAS GRACIAS

transición justa de los sistemas alimentarios

Marta G. Rivera Ferre

10/11/2022