

Biology First Farming: The benefits of bioprotection

Civil Dialogue
Group

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Bioprotection

Invertebrates 01

Beneficial Insects and mites that control other insects and mites

Natural Substances 02

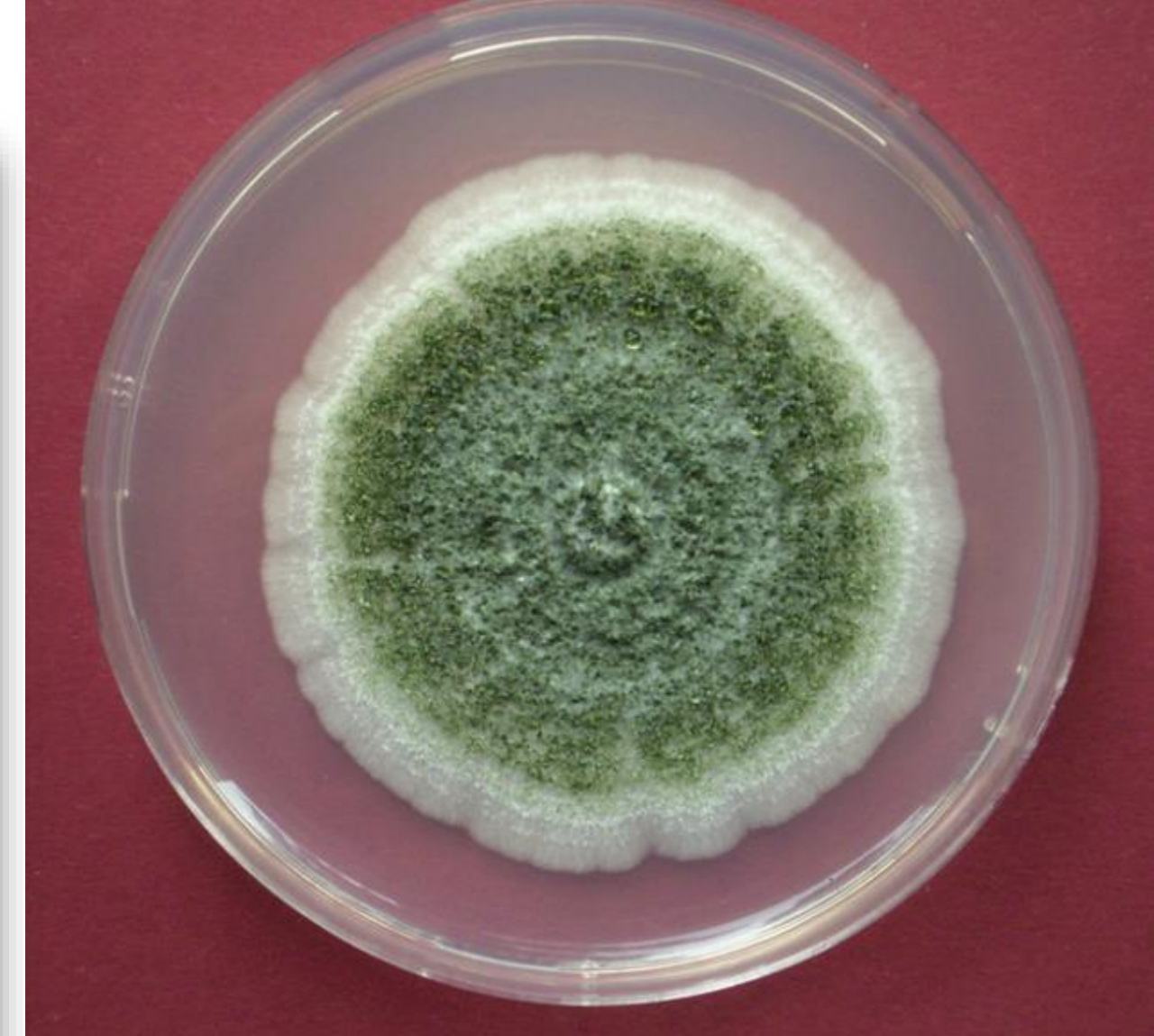
Botanical extracts and minerals

Microbials 03

Micro-organisms that outcompete or control pests and diseases

Semiochemicals 04

Insect pheromones and plant kairomones that affect the behaviour of specific insects or plants





The Albufera challenge



What has been the impact in Albufera?



01 TECHNICAL RESULT

Since 2006 the pest is fully controlled by mating disruption on 16,000 ha of rice, avoiding of the use of approx. 50,000 L of synthetic insecticides each year. Close to 100% effectiveness, insignificant damage, lower than conventional spraying.

02 ECONOMIC RESULT

Lower cost than conventional spraying.
The use of mating disruptions allows the coexistence of an important economic activity (such as the rice cultivation) in an area which as been declared a natural reserve and that is, additionally, a touristic site in the region.

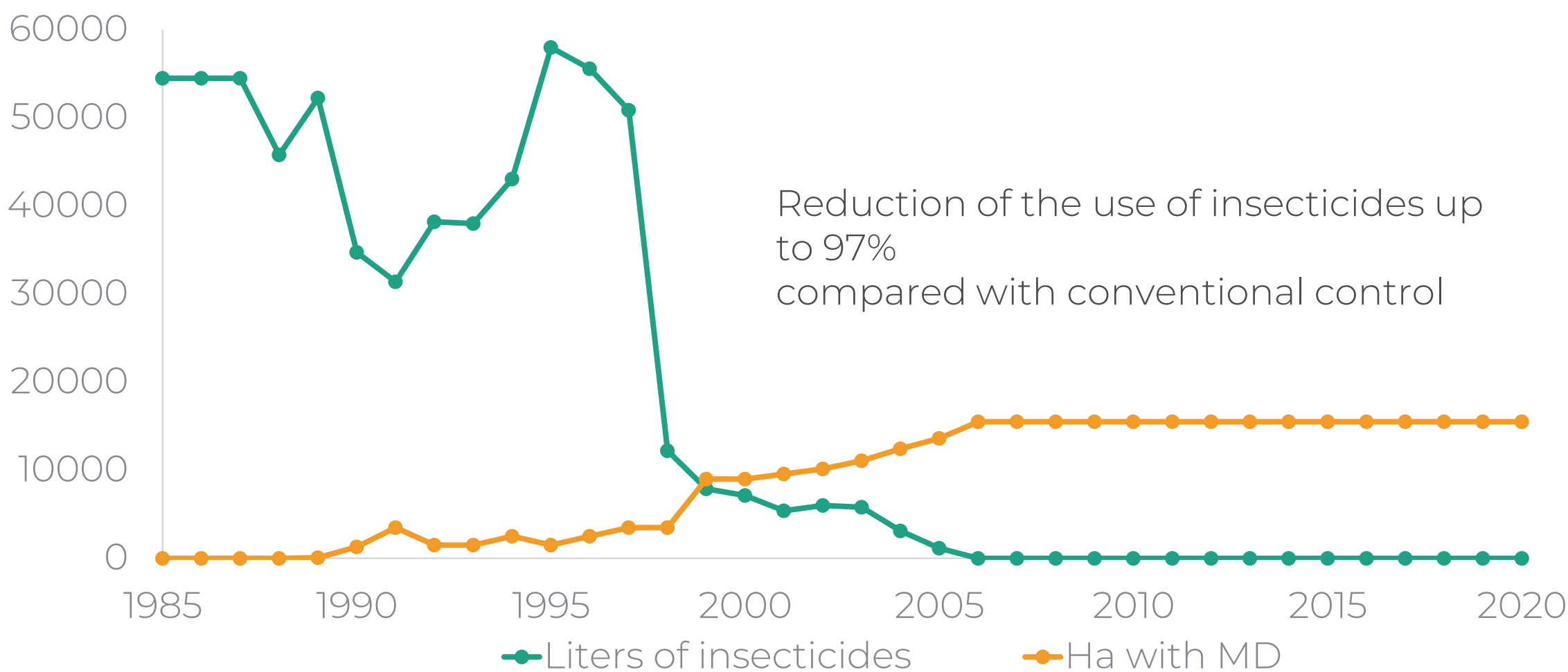
03 SOCIETAL RESULT

Production of residue free rice. And significant reduction of operators, workers and bystander exposure to hazardous substances and chemical pesticides.

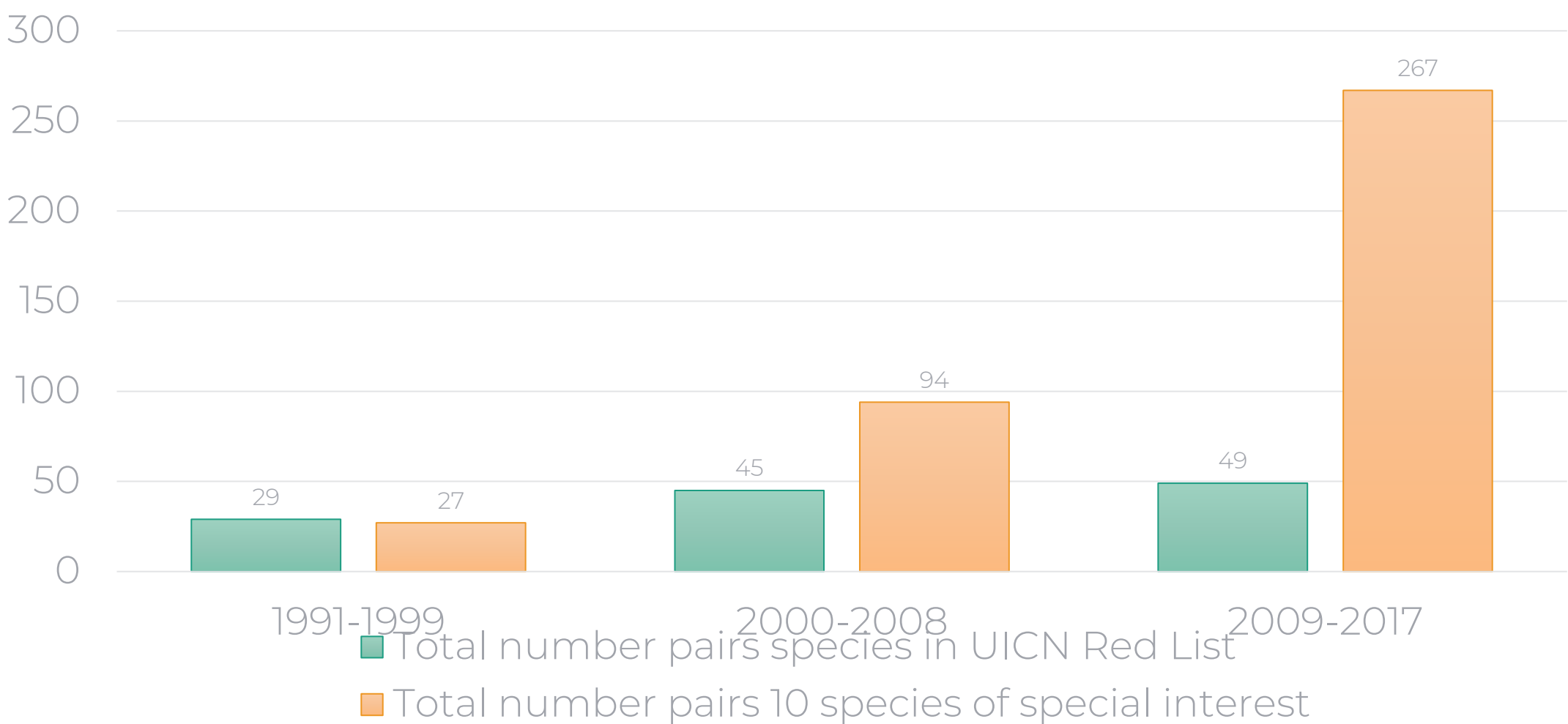
04 ENVIRONMENTAL RESULT

The switch to biocontrol allowed to significantly decrease environmental exposure to chemical pesticides, increasing biodiversity enabling resilient rice cropping systems.

Evolution of insecticide use



Evolution of nesting aquatic birds



Examples of Successful Bioprotection

Arable 01

Example farms in France – switch to bioprotection motivated by government certification

Sweet Peppers 02

Rejection of Spanish fruit due to traces of illegal pesticide in 2007. 11,00 ha under bioprotection by 2012 -

Vines 03

Franciacorta move to organic 2001 with 1 farm; to 2017 60% of region

More examples

<https://www.ibmabiocontrolsucces.org/>



Key learning from successful examples

Systemic change is needed to transition to a resilient agriculture and deliver the Farm2Fork ambition



- **External trigger market or regulatory or personal**

- Produce refusal in Almeria
- Site of special interest for migratory birds Albufera
- Motivation from individual farmer – often next generation – Chartres
- Land and water contamination - Franciacorta

- **Product availability**

- Products must be available for a farmer to switch, in the absence of products only a partial transformation is possible

- **Multiple stakeholders all with the same goal**

- Public and private institutions, local government, farmers and industry working together have been able to deliver sustained results

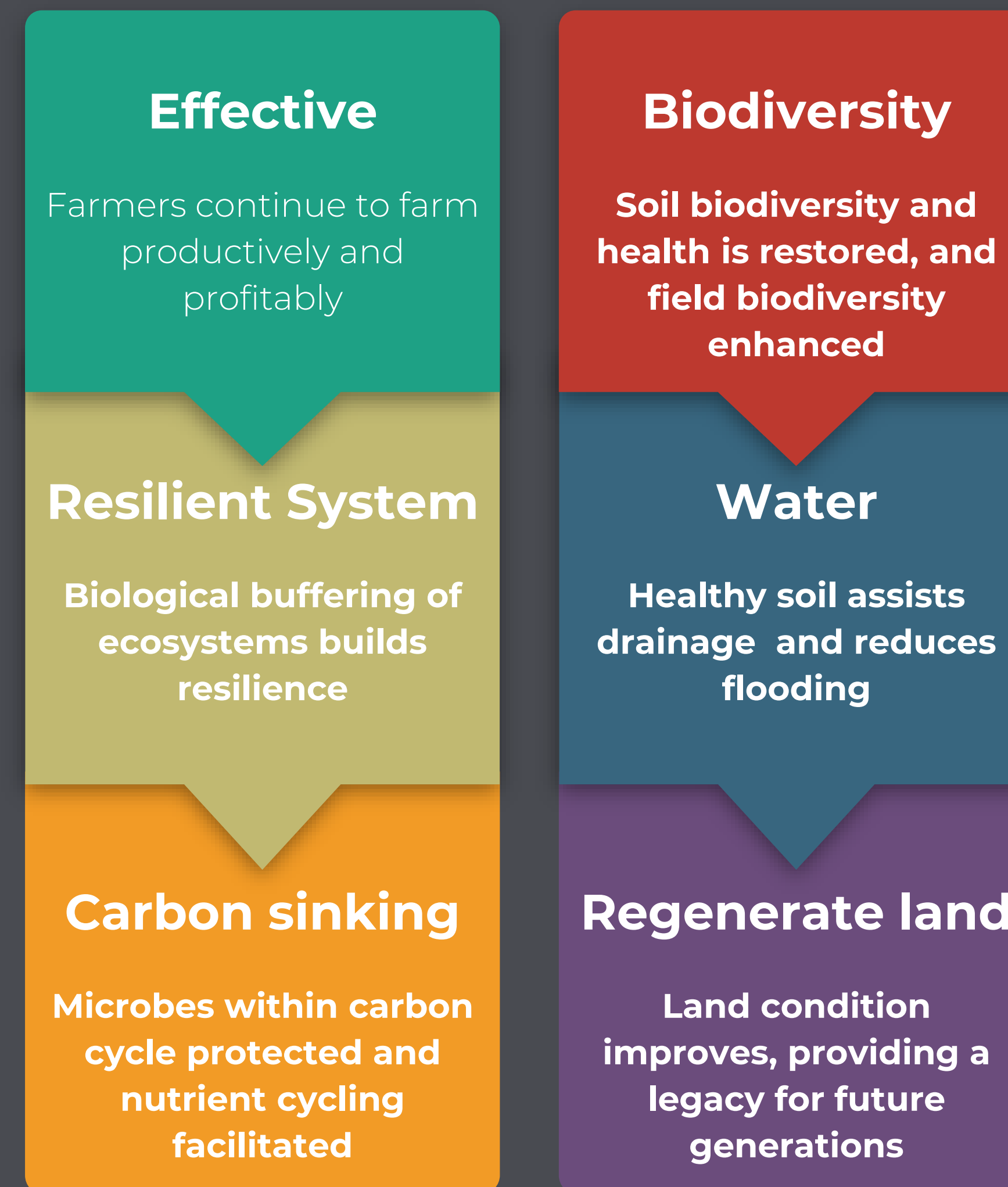
Benefits of Bioprotection

To create a paradigm shift we need a positive target of 75% of PPPs being bioprotectants by 2030

For resilient agriculture we need systemic change

For sustainable agriculture and maintaining biodiversity, bioprotection and biocontrol technologies need to be at the heart of the pest and disease control programme

It is not business as usual – it is a biology first approach and agroecological approach



Bioprotection Challenges

In horticulture and speciality crops bioprotection is often the norm – change now has to happen in arable

Farmers who take a more agroecological approach in arable suffer from the following:

- Time taken to learn how to use bioprotection – it takes more than one season to make a change
- Lack of products. In arable – products are available but in horticulture - Crop Health North EIP project run by Yorkshire farmers in North of UK in cereals trailed horticultural bioprotection products in arable to great success
<https://www.crophealthnorth.co.uk/>
- Farmers often working alone – advisers not always able to help
 - network of farmers helps

Challenge

CAP does not mandate bioprotection for subsidies

EU approvals are too slow to meet demand

Adapting 1107/2009 is not enough

Advisors have no incentive to advise bioprotection

Solution

CAP Ecoscheme for bioprotection

Reward bioprotection use in second pillar

Specific Bioprotection Regulation

Urgently create a bioprotection regulation

Reward advisers financially to help farmers transition

Decouple advice and supply

Conclusion



Systemic change is needed to transition to a resilient agriculture and deliver the Farm2Fork ambition

- **Use bioprotection to put biology first in the farming system to:**
 - Enhance resilience
 - Create healthy soil for now and for future generations
 - Protect biodiversity
 - Provide cornerstone for agroecological transition
- **Advice and financial support to change so that**
 - Farmers are incentivised to use bioprotection – CAP Ecoscheme
 - Local advisers are incentivised to work with bioprotection - Decoupling
 - Farmer to farmer networks continue to help create forums for best practice sharing - ENRD
- **Above all farmers need certainty that bioprotection will be supported**



Target 75% PPP use to be bioprotection by 2030

Positive Target

Creating bioprotection products for farmers not reduction in tools for crop protection

Measurement

Simple measurement through number of PPP applications

Enabling Change

Targets enable policy change

Certainty

Creates certainty – where there is a target there is focus for investment and so delivery

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