

The 2021 EU Agricultural Outlook Conference

December 9-10, 2021

# EU climate mitigation action & international trade

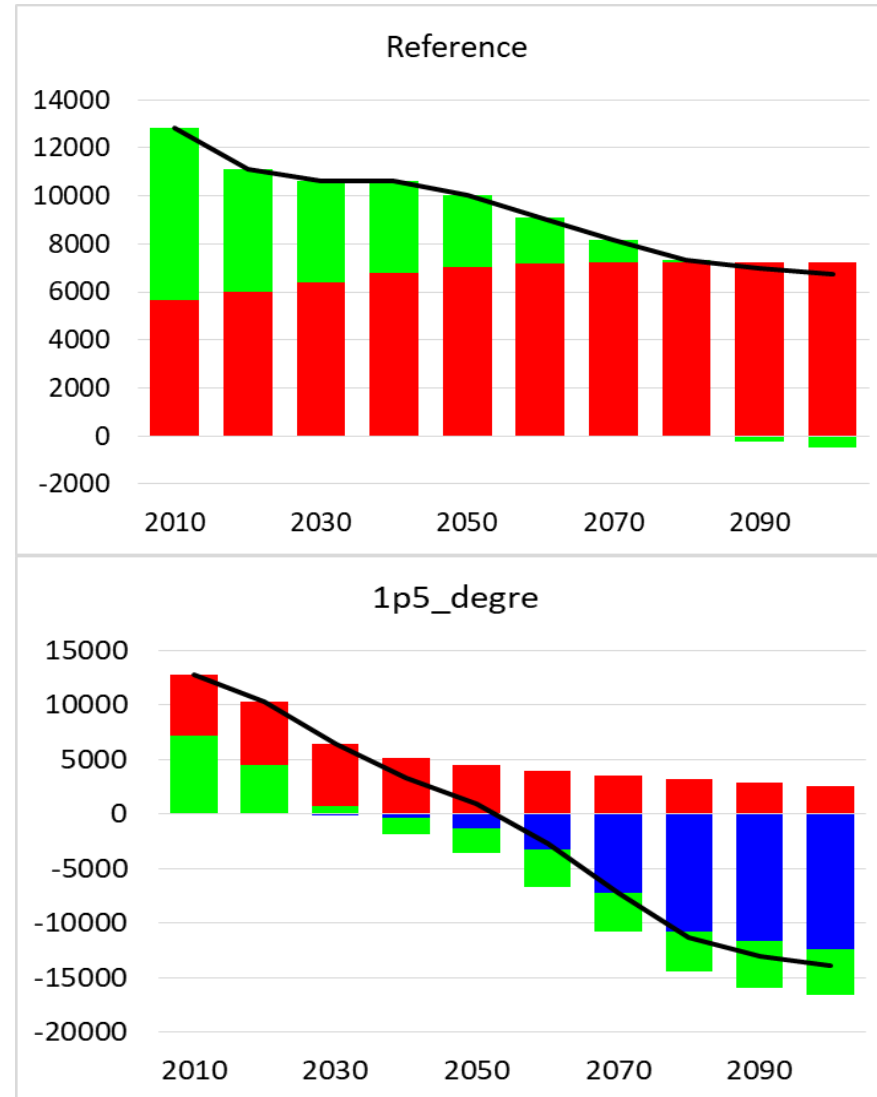
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Biodiversity and Natural Resources Program, IIASA

# Land-based mitigation contribution to 1.5° C

- Emissions | non-CO<sub>2</sub> | Land Use
- Emissions | CO<sub>2</sub> | Land Use
- Emissions | CO<sub>2</sub> | Carbon Capture and Storage | Biomass
- Emissions | GHG | AFOLU & BECCS



Source: Rogelj et al. NCC 2018

## World 1.5° C trajectory

AFOLU emissions net zero by 2050

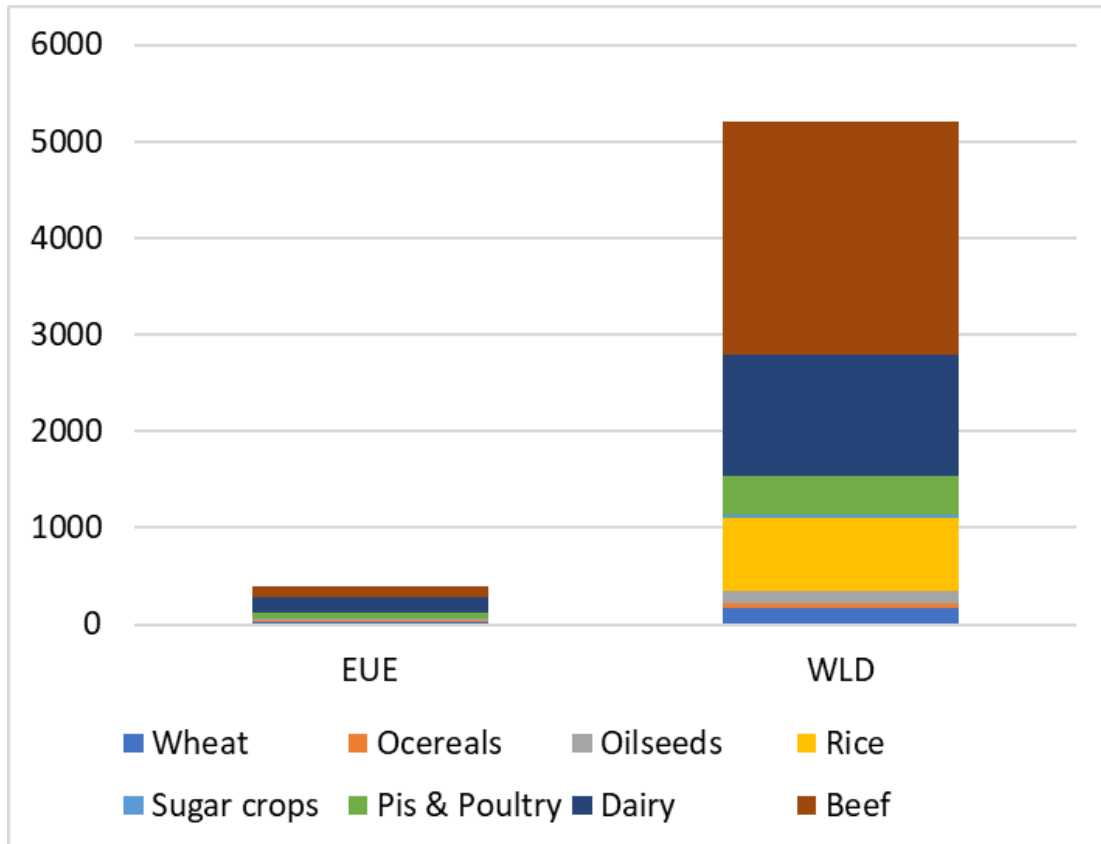
Total emissions net zero by 2060-2080

## EU: "Fit for 55"

AFOLU climate neutrality by 2035

# Agricultural GHG emissions

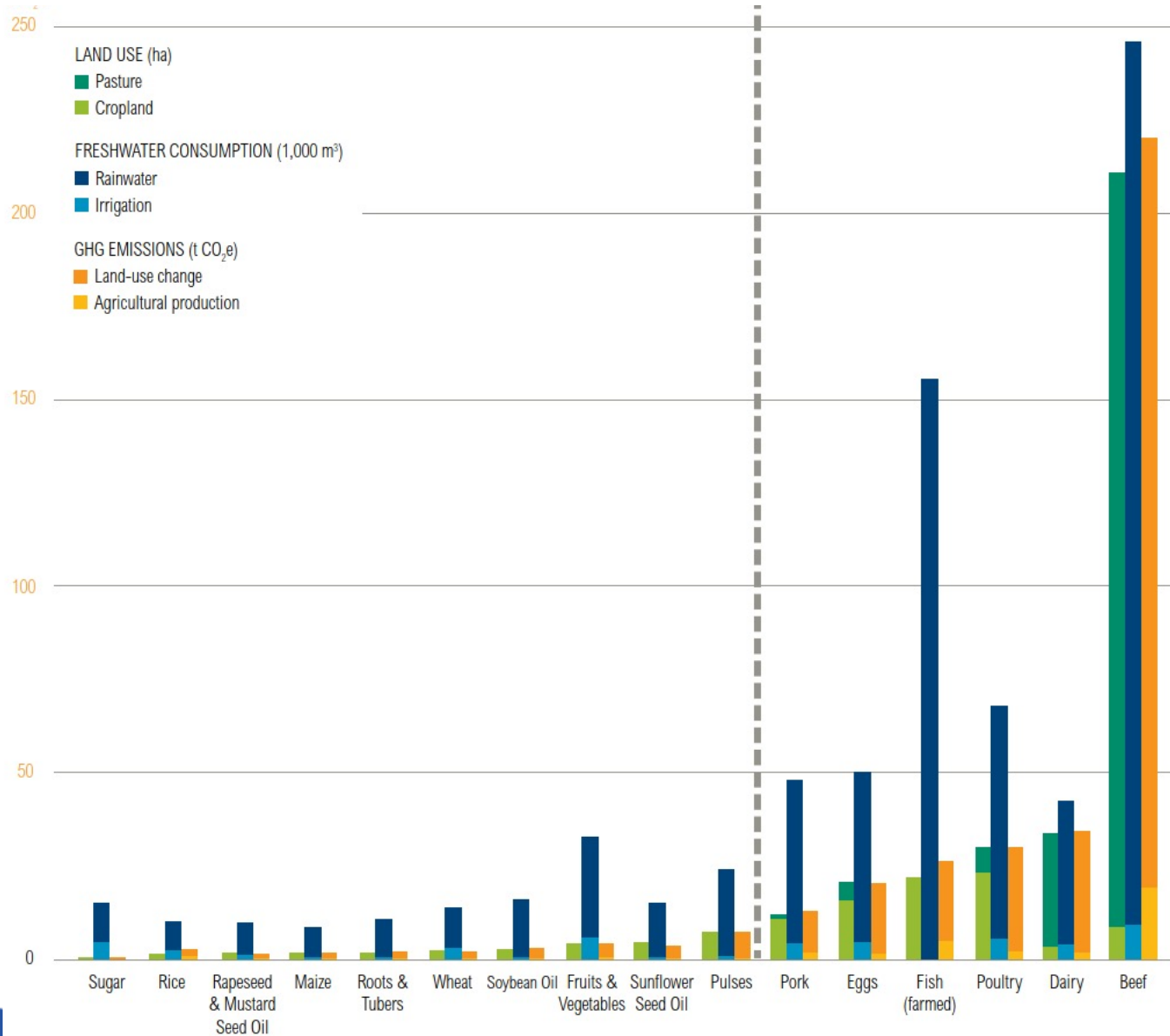
Total agricultural GHG emissions in mio tCO<sub>2</sub>eq



- EU: 8% of global GHG emissions
- Livestock: 80% of EU and Global emissions
- Beef: 29% in EU and 46% globally
- Dairy: 38% in EU and 24% globally

Source: FAOSTAT

# GHG intensity across products



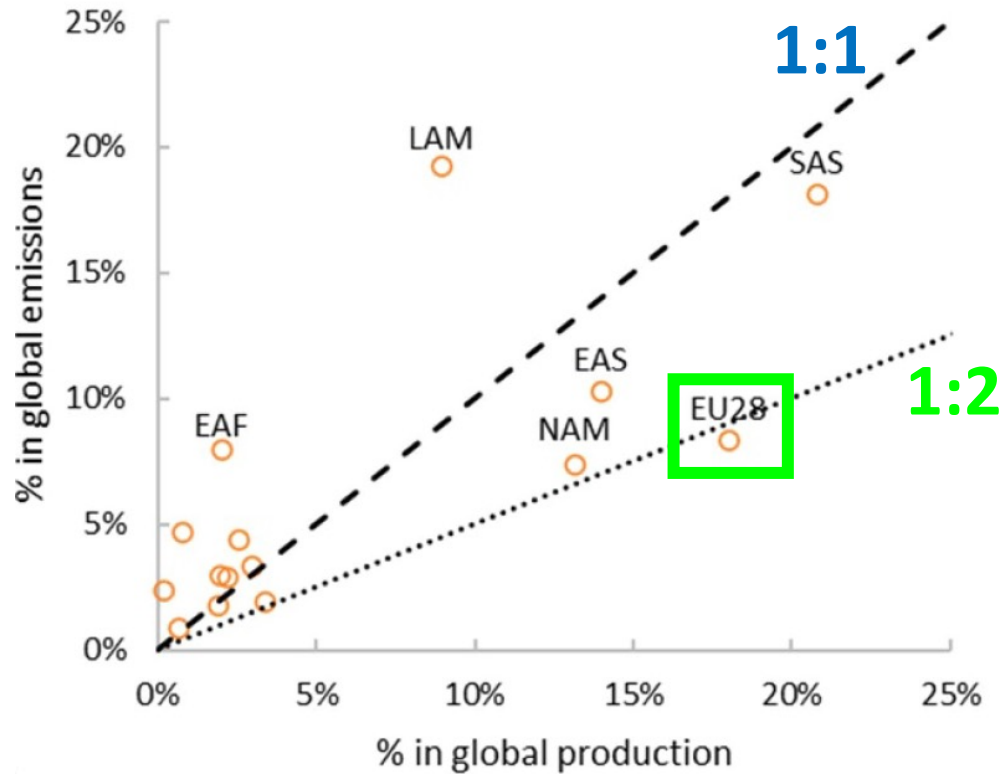
Land Use Change

Agricultural production

Source: Ranganathan et al. WRI 2016

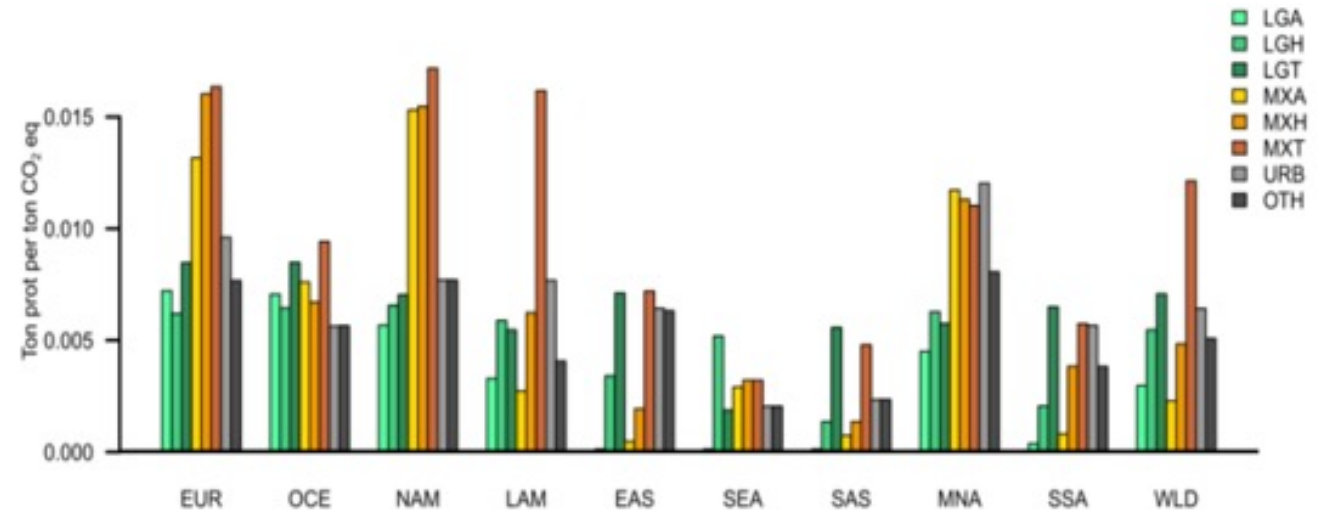
# GHG efficiency in livestock: Direct emissions

## GHG efficiency of livestock production



Source: FAOSTAT

## GHG efficiency of beef production

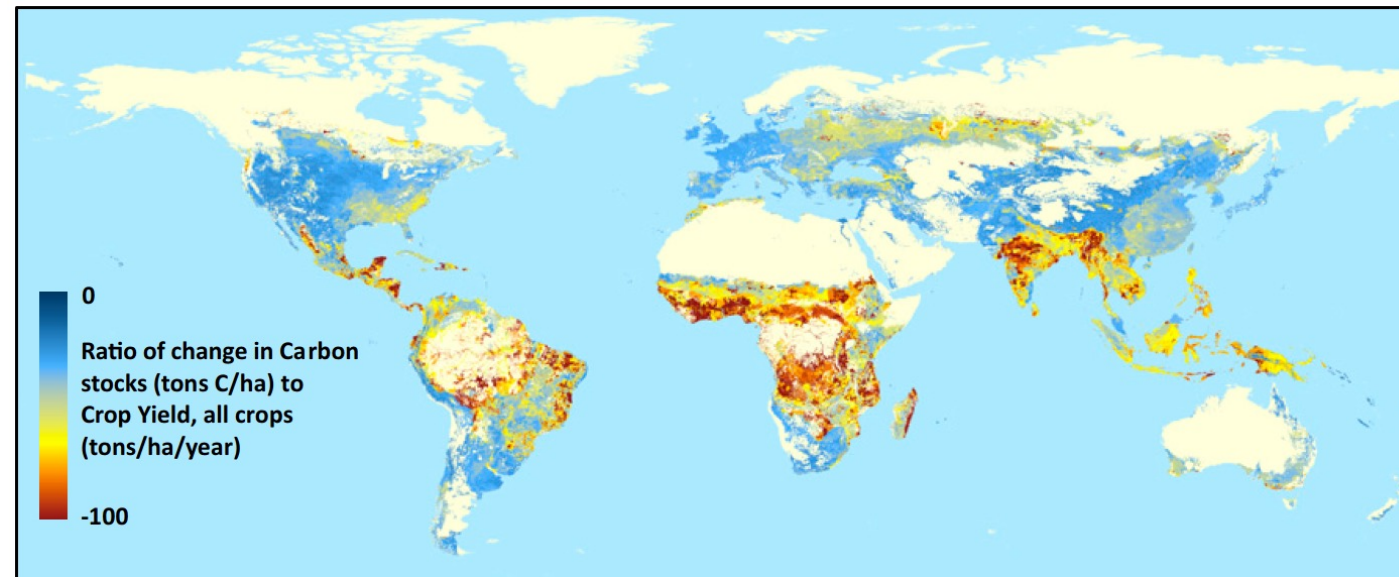


Source: Herrero et al. PNAS 2013

# GHG efficiency in crop sector: Land Use Change

For each unit of land cleared

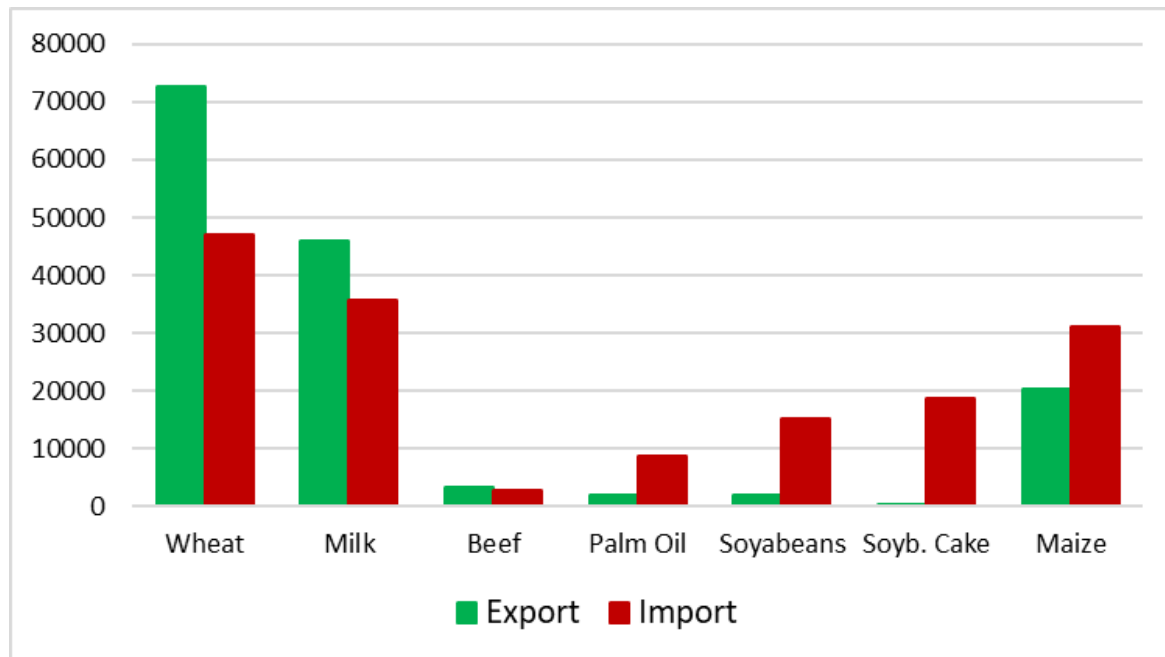
- the tropics lose nearly two times as much carbon ( $\sim 120 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$  vs.  $\sim 63 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ ) and
- produce less than one-half the annual crop yield compared with temperate regions ( $1.71 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{y}^{-1}$  vs.  $3.84 \text{ tons}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}\cdot\text{y}^{-1}$ ).



Source: West et al. PNAS 2010

# EU trade in selected key products

International trade in 1000 tons



Source: FAOSTAT

## Main trading partners and GHG implications

Wheat (Imports): North America & Former Soviet Un.

Wheat (Exports): Africa & Middle East

Oil palm (Imports): South East Asia & South America

Soybeans / cake (Imports): South and North America

Maize (Exports): Middle East & Africa

Maize (Imports): Former Soviet Union & Americas

Beef (Exports): Middle East, Africa, Eastern Asia













Beef (Imports): South America (80%)

# Can unilateral EU policies deliver any climate benefits?

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
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## How much multilateralism do we need? Effectiveness of unilateral agricultural mitigation efforts in the global context

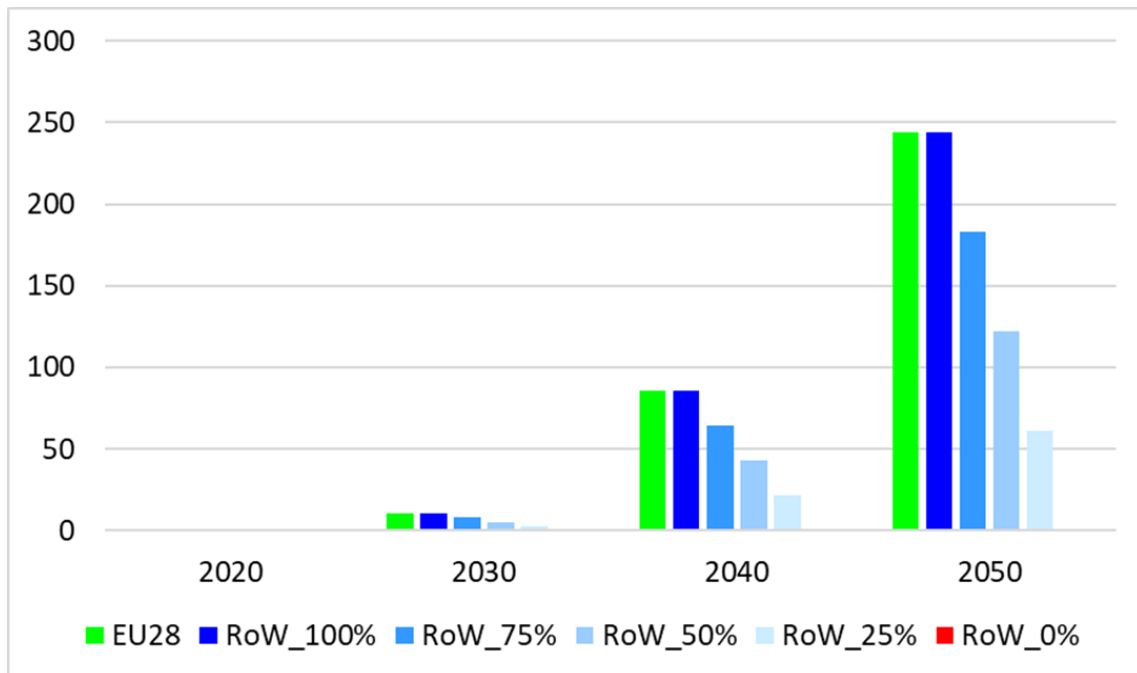
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# Analytical framework

1.5 degree compatible mitigation in the EU  
+ different levels of engagement in RoW

Carbon price (USD/tCO<sub>2</sub>eq) agricultural non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

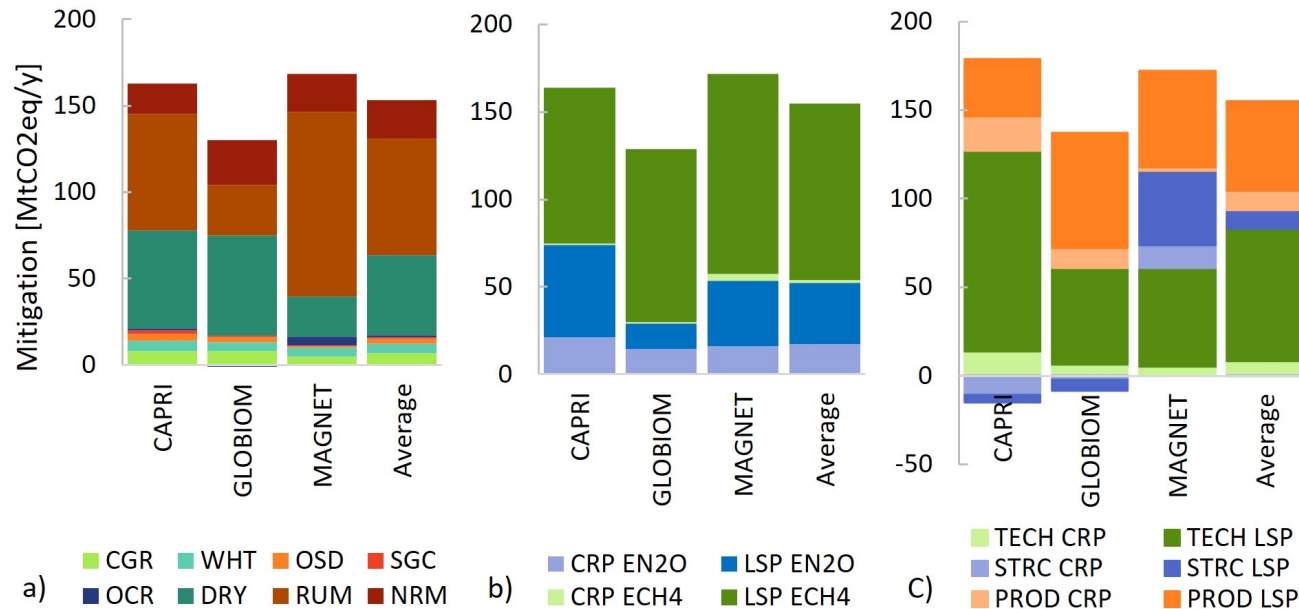


## Model ensemble



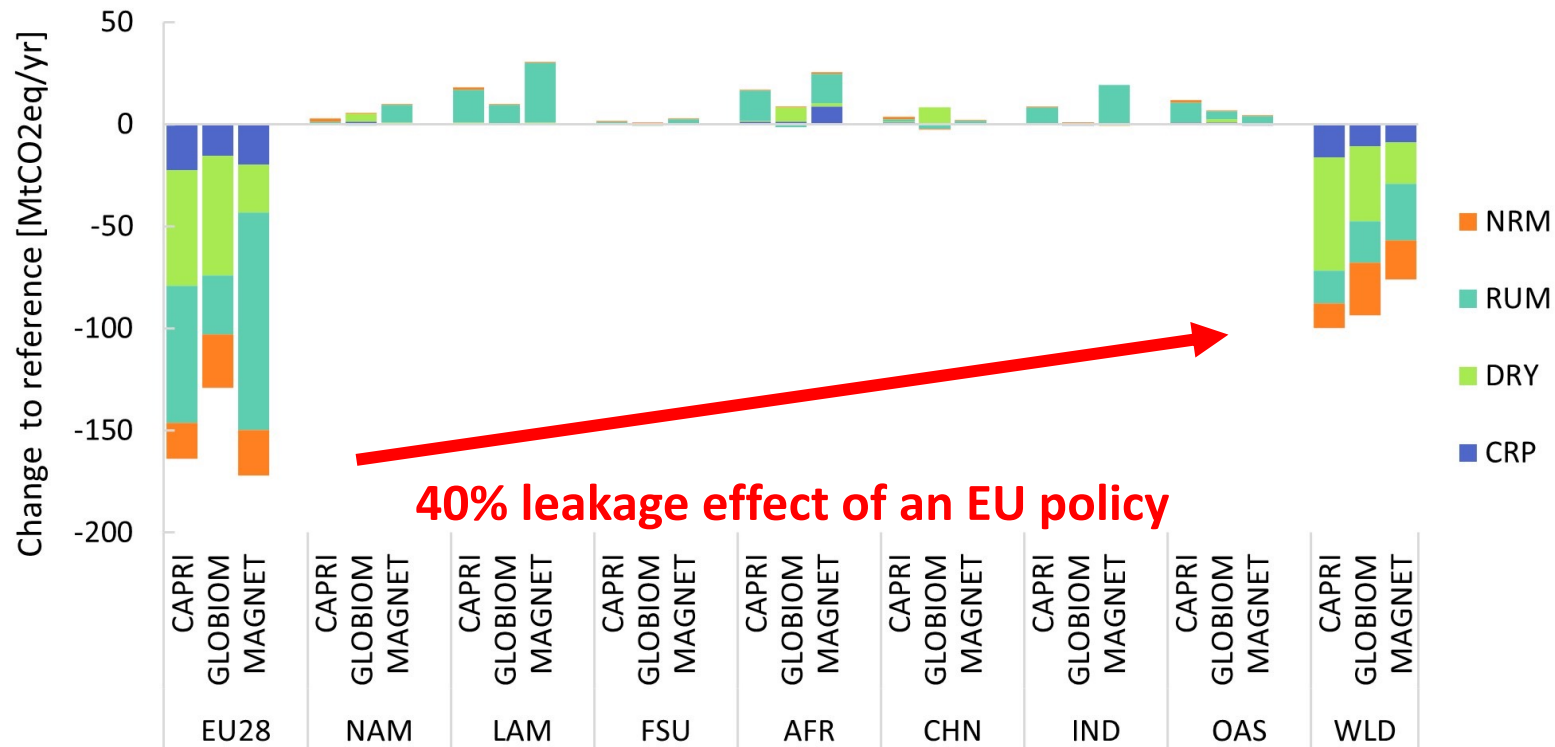
# EU agricultural sector mitigation: Unilateral action

## GHG reduction in EU by 2050



- EU mitigation: 155 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup> (36%)
- Livestock sector contributes 90%
- Beef and dairy contribute 75%
- CH<sub>4</sub> represents 65%
- Mitigation options: Technological > Production level > Structural change

# Global agricultural sector mitigation: Unilateral action



- Global mitigation: 90 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>
- Leakage mostly through beef
- Latin America increasing exports to EU and substituting for EU imports in Africa
- Africa partly compensating loss of EU exports domestically

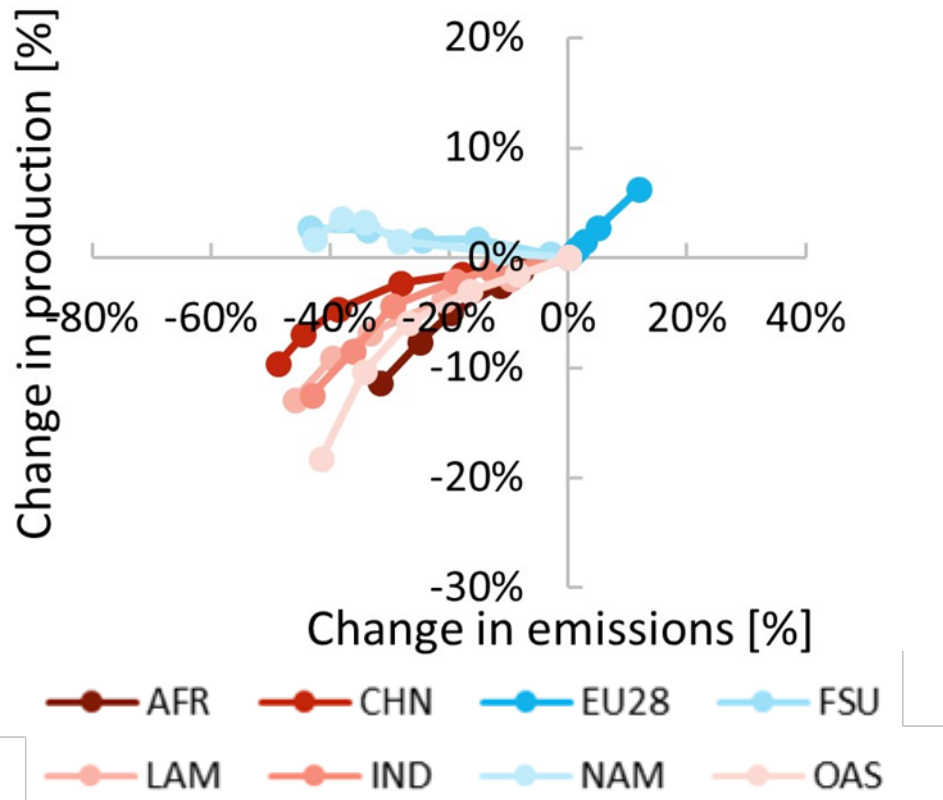
# EU agricultural sector with increasing RoW commitments



- **Unilateral action**  
→ decreasing EU production and farmers revenues unless compensated
- **Coordinated multilateral action**  
→ Opportunities for EU farmers because of GHG efficiency

# Winners and losers of a multilateral action

## Impacts of increasing RoW commitment

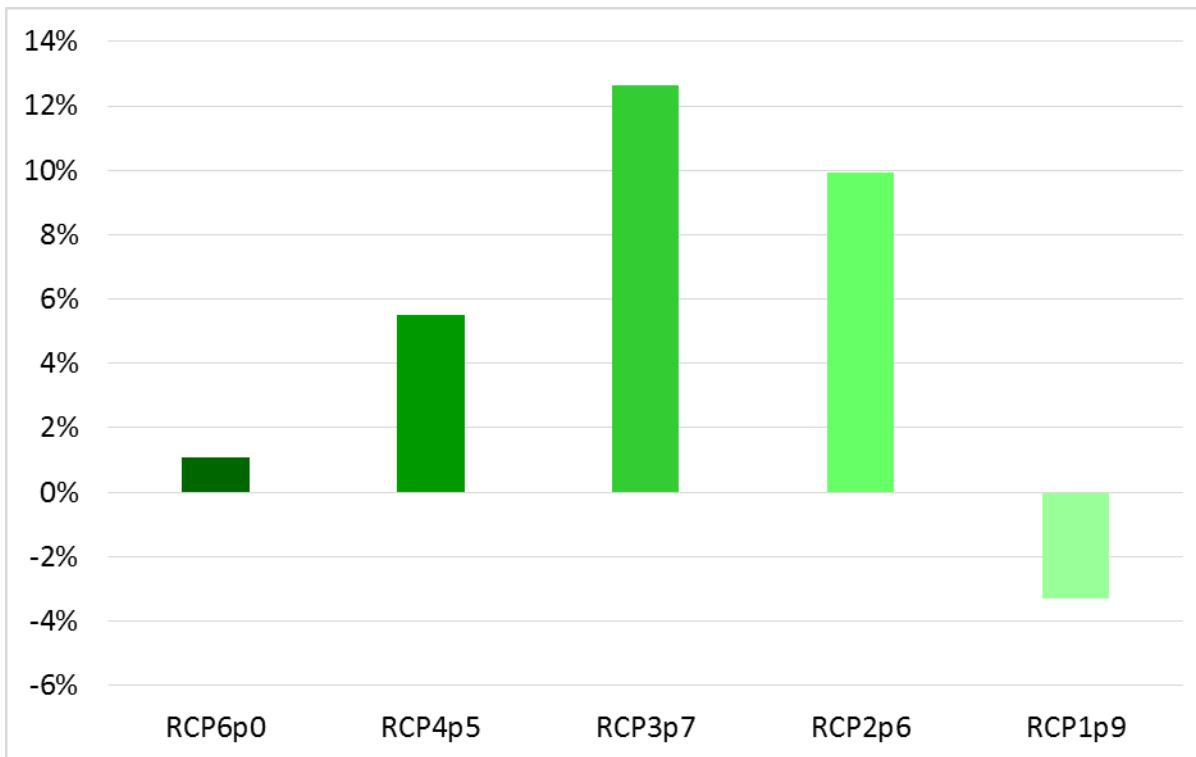


- High income regions benefit from their GHG efficiency
- Sometimes increasing production & absolute emissions
- Low and Middle income countries, without transfers of technologies, reducing production and GHG emissions

# Trade & Climate mitigation: Good servant but a bad master

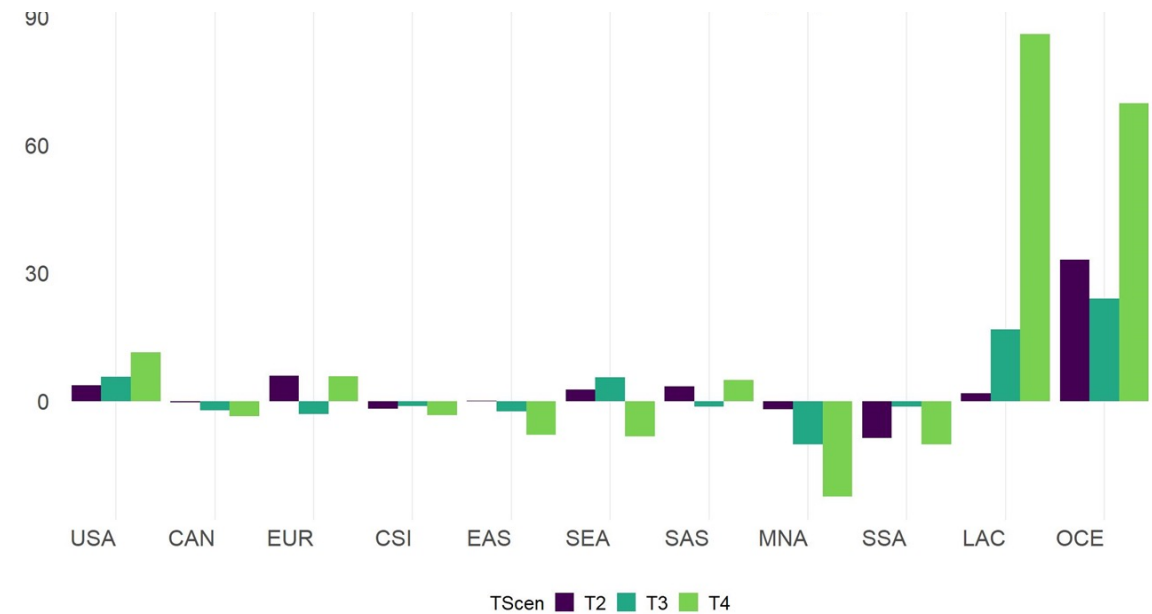
- Trade as a means of mitigation under a coordinated global climate policy

**Global beef trade volume compared to Reference by 2050**



- Trade liberalization without climate mitigation policies detrimental

**AFOLU emissions compared to Reference by 2050 [%]**



Thank you for attention!