

# Towards a just transition for the EU livestock sector

Exploring socio-economic and biophysical option  
spaces to identify workable compromises and  
relevant policy instruments

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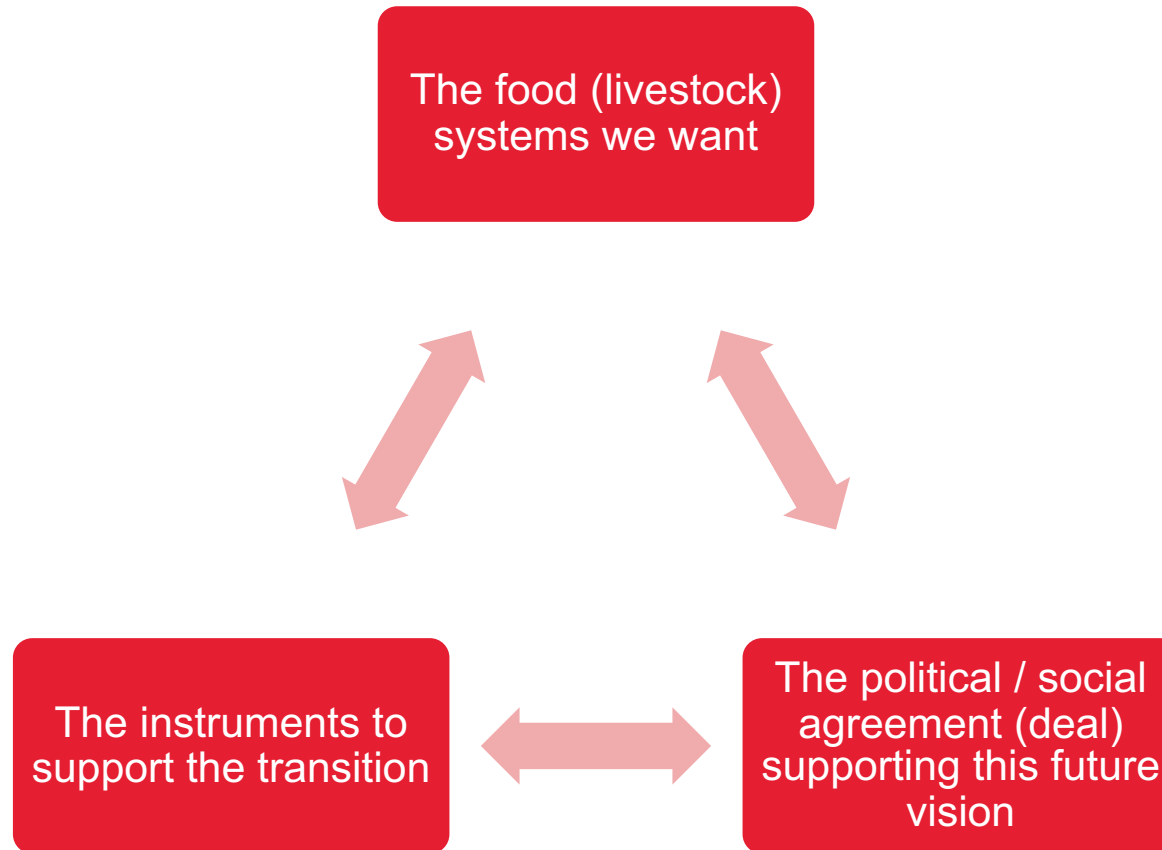
Technical workshop on sustainability

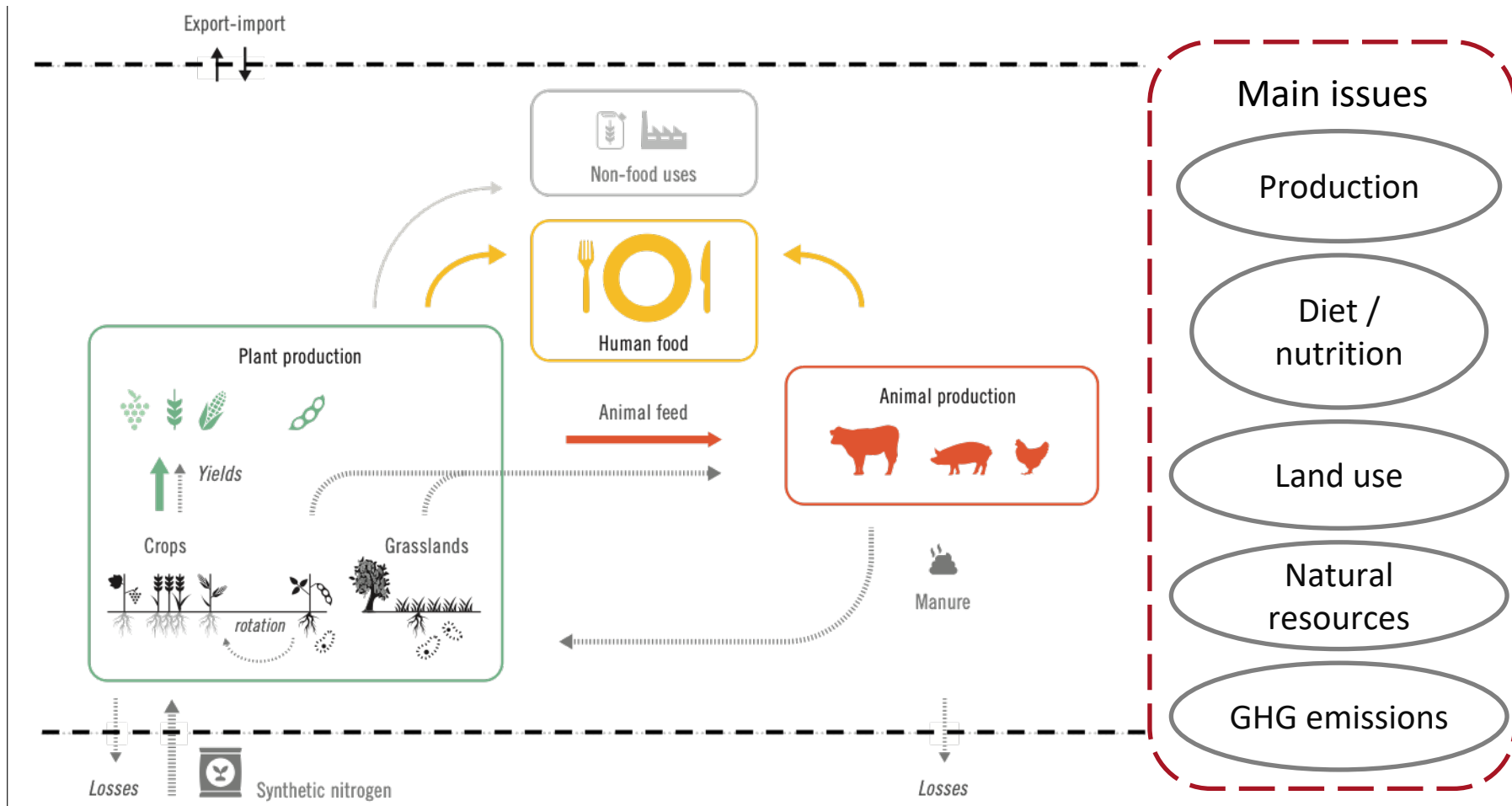
Pierre-Marie Aubert, Head of Food & Agricultural Policy IDDRI

February 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

- The livestock sector is at the heart of a sustainable food system transitions from a social, environmental and economic points of view
- 1. Policy **instruments** can only be well designed if they are to support **transitions** towards an **agreed upon vision**, considering both economic & ecological aspects
- 2. Ecological dimensions: increase **resilience**, manage **landscapes** & biodiversity, recycle & transfer **nutrients**
- 3. Economic dimensions: farmers' **incomes**, lively **rural landscapes**, industry **competitiveness**, **jobs**, food **affordability**
- 4. Not all objectives can be met simultaneously => developing models and dialogues to identify **compromises**, **risks** and **opportunities**, and design the right policy instruments to support that transition

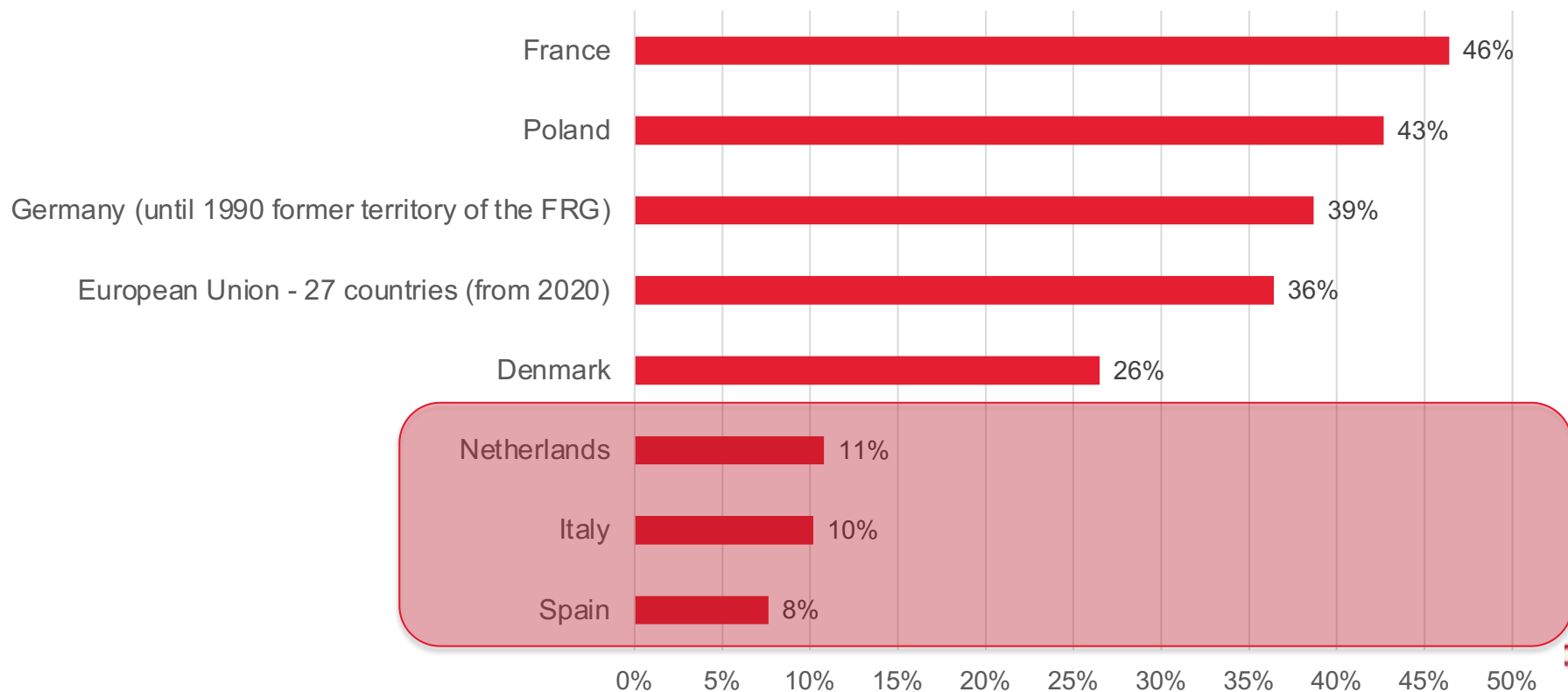
# 1. Discussing instruments on the basis of an agreed upon direction of travel



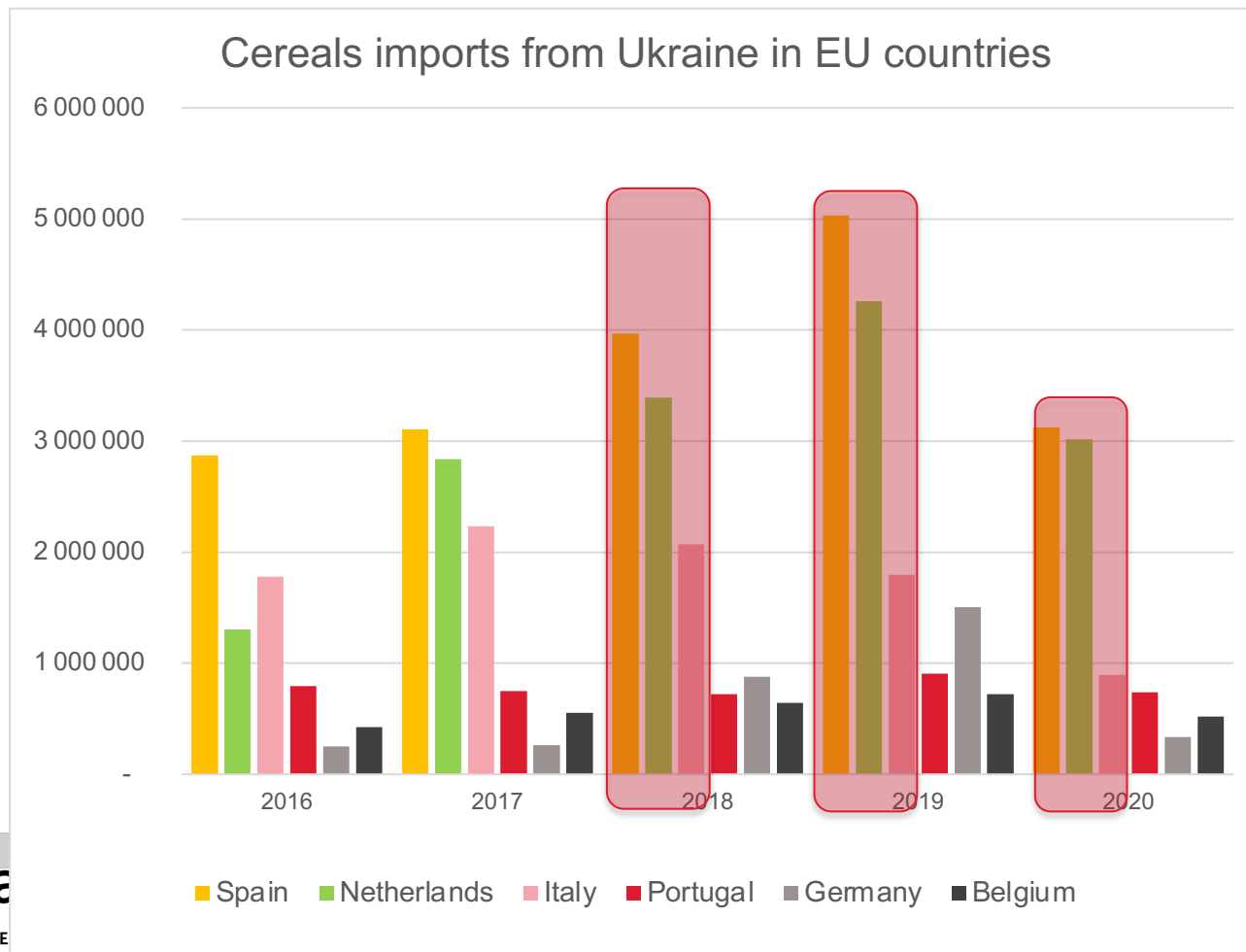


- Biomass availability is at the heart of the reflection: how much can be fed considering other demands for biomass?
- Resilience issue: decrease feed dependency, increase farm autonomy

Share of feeding stuff produced on the farm in total feed use in 2019 (Production value at basic price)

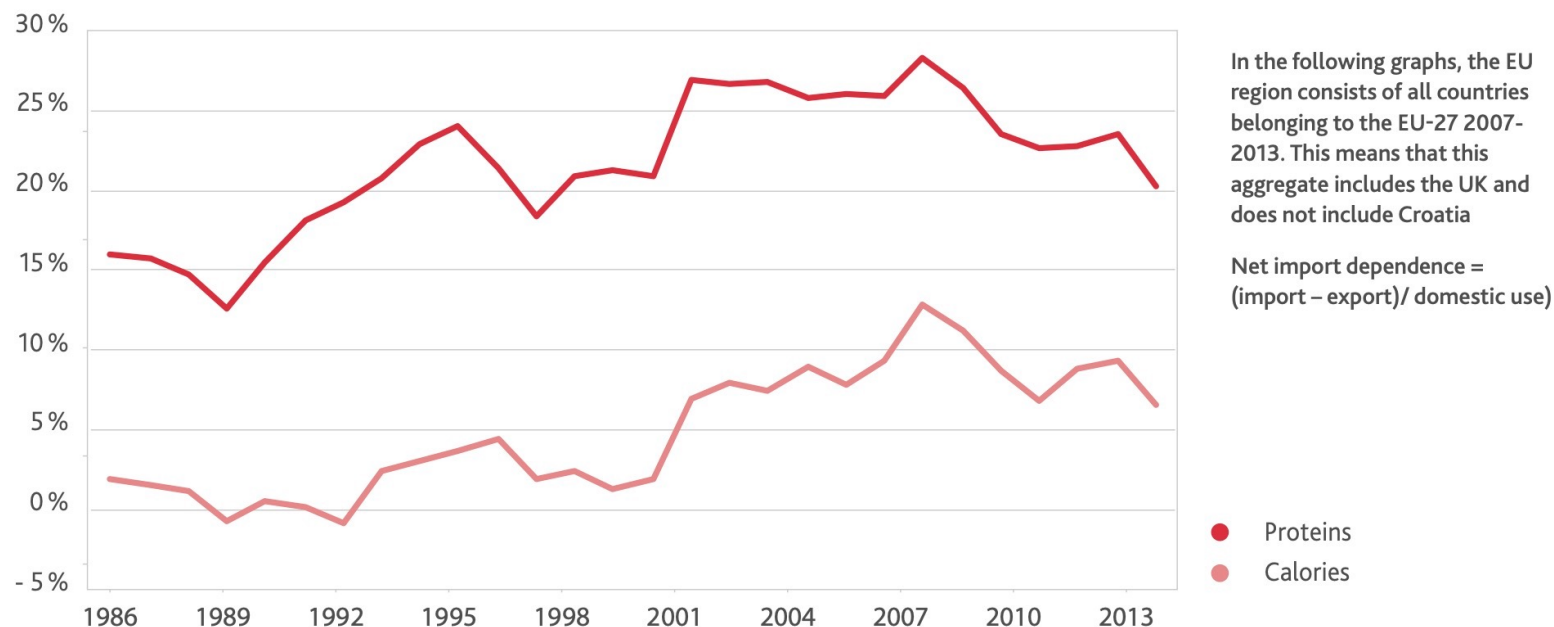


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- Increase circularity: recycle by products, left over and other food waste, and valorize locally produced N-fixing crops

**FIGURE 3.** EU-27 Net import dependence in calories and proteins (1986-2013)

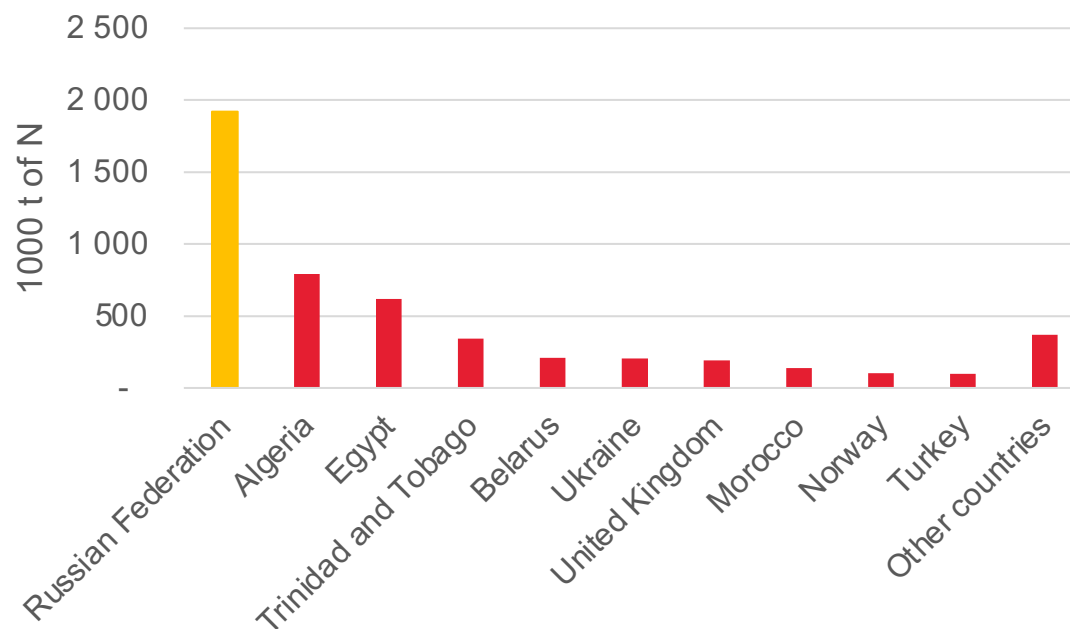


Source: FAOSTAT, IDDRI treatment



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EU main trade partners for synthetic N fertilizers imports





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- Manage landscapes and biodiversity, and transfer nutrients from semi-natural areas through dual purpose ruminant breeds

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Grass and  
Forage Science  
The Journal of the British Grassland Society | The Official Journal of the European Grassland Federation

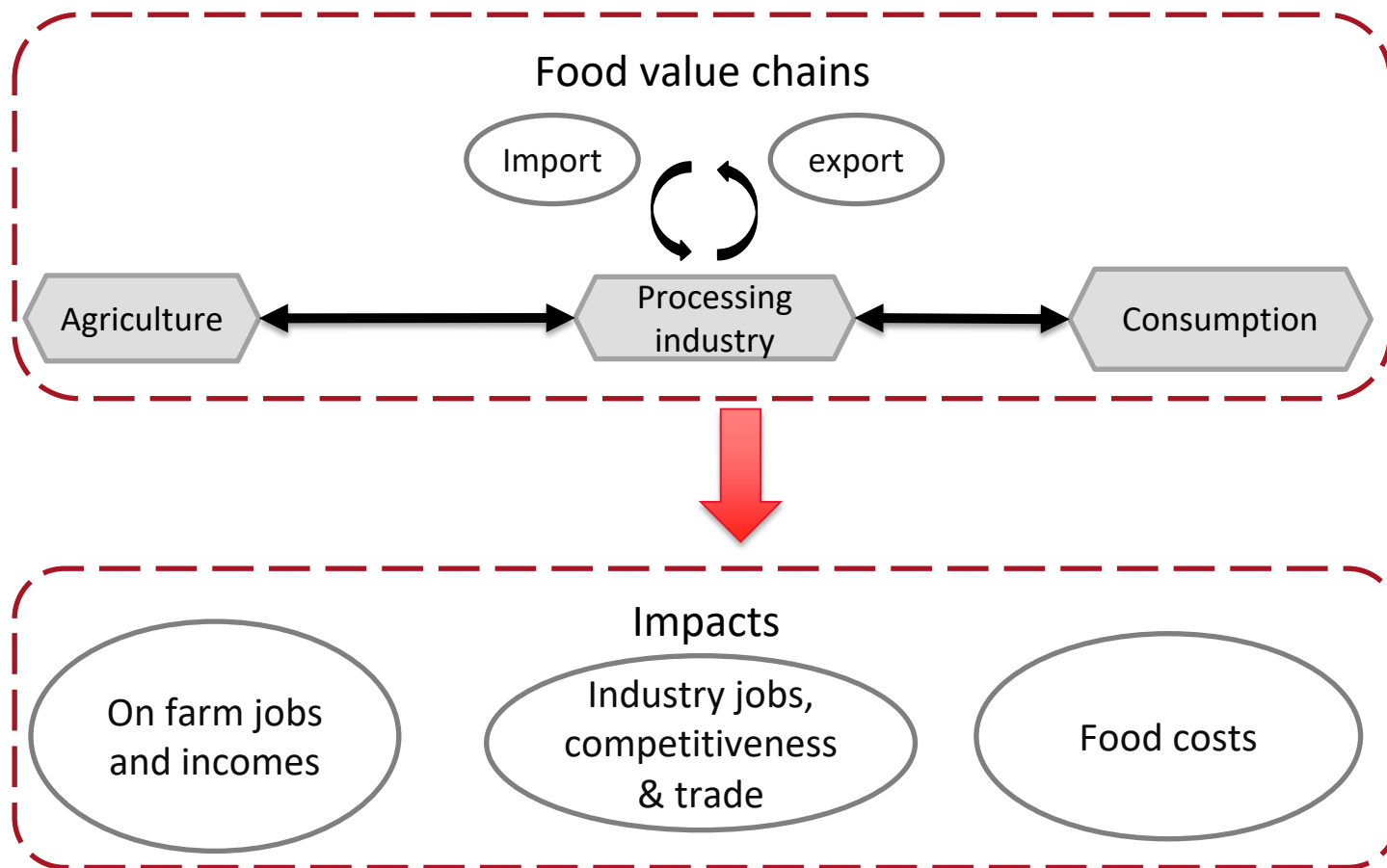


WILEY

# Putting permanent grassland at the heart of a European agroecological transition: Findings and questions arising from the ‘Ten Years for Agroecology’ (TYFA) scenario

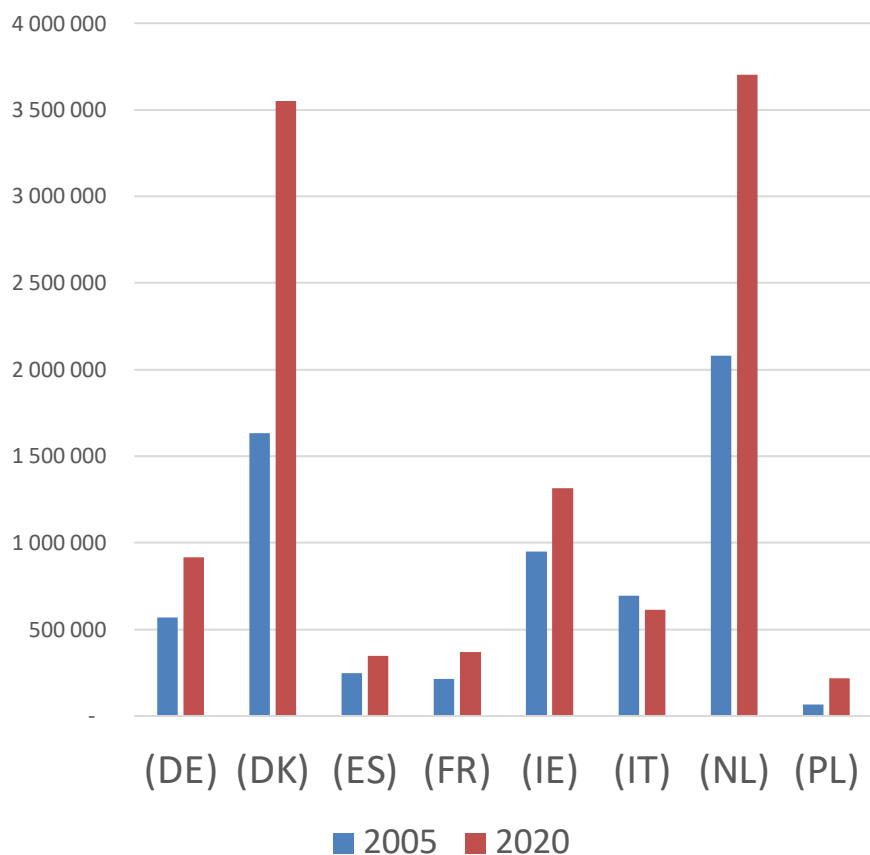
Article4(1)b <sup>1,2</sup> | Pierre-Marie Aubert <sup>2</sup>

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- Resilience issue: decrease feed dependency, increase farm autonomy
- Increase circularity: recycle by products, left over and other food waste, and valorize locally produced N-fixing crops
- Manage landscapes and biodiversity, and transfer nutrients from semi-natural areas through dual purpose ruminant breeds
- Such changes would imply / rest on important changes
  - in the total volumes produced,
  - in the way animals are reared,
  - on industry locations and transport / production costs,
  - in diets.
- ... that can not occur overnight and are, as of now, not economically viable => look at the economic dimensions

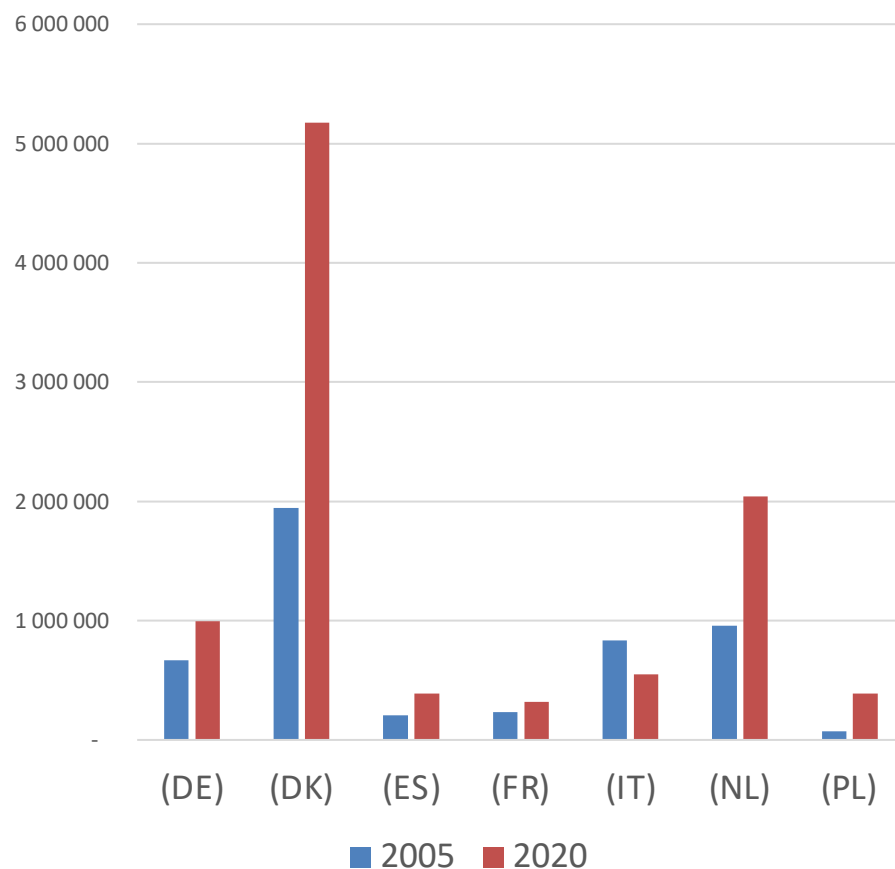


## ■ Fair income for farmers and generation renewal

Total fixed assets (€) in specialist milk dairy farm (source: FADN)

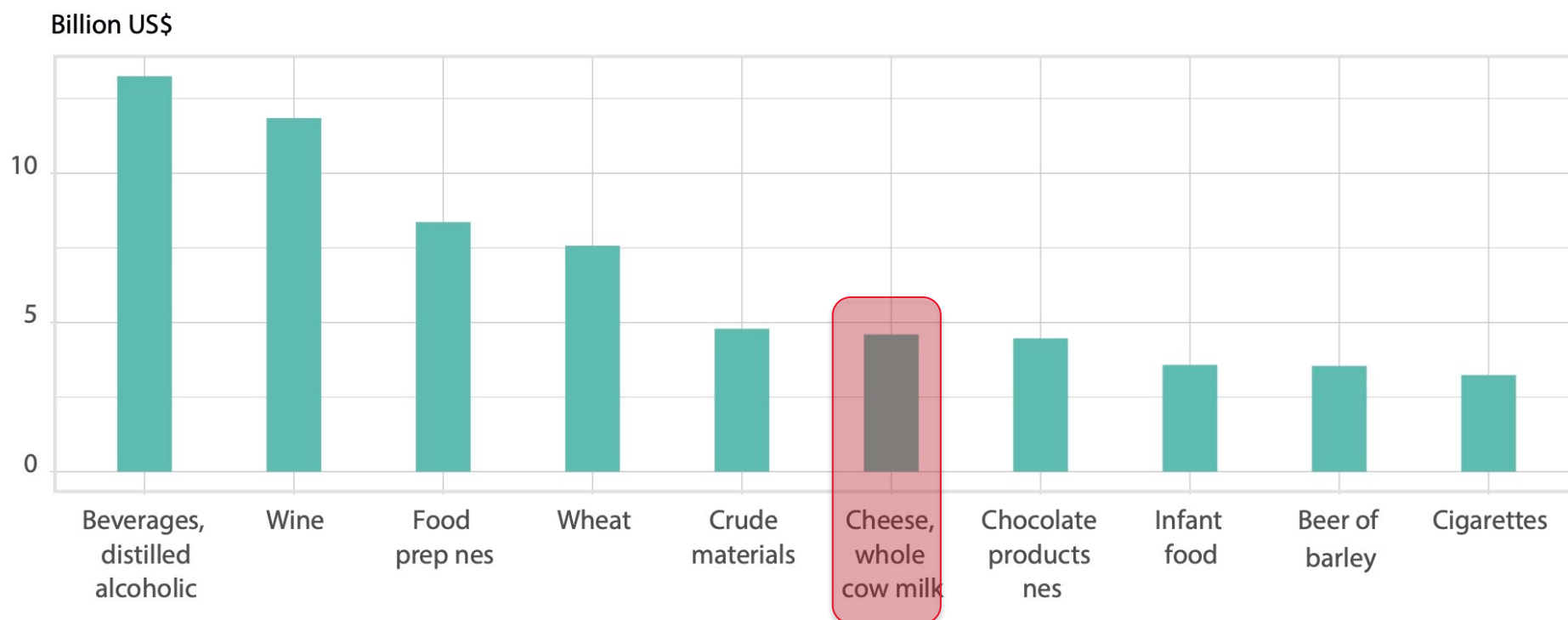


Total fixed assets (€) in specialist granivore farms



- Fair income for farmers and generation renewal
- Industry competitiveness and trade

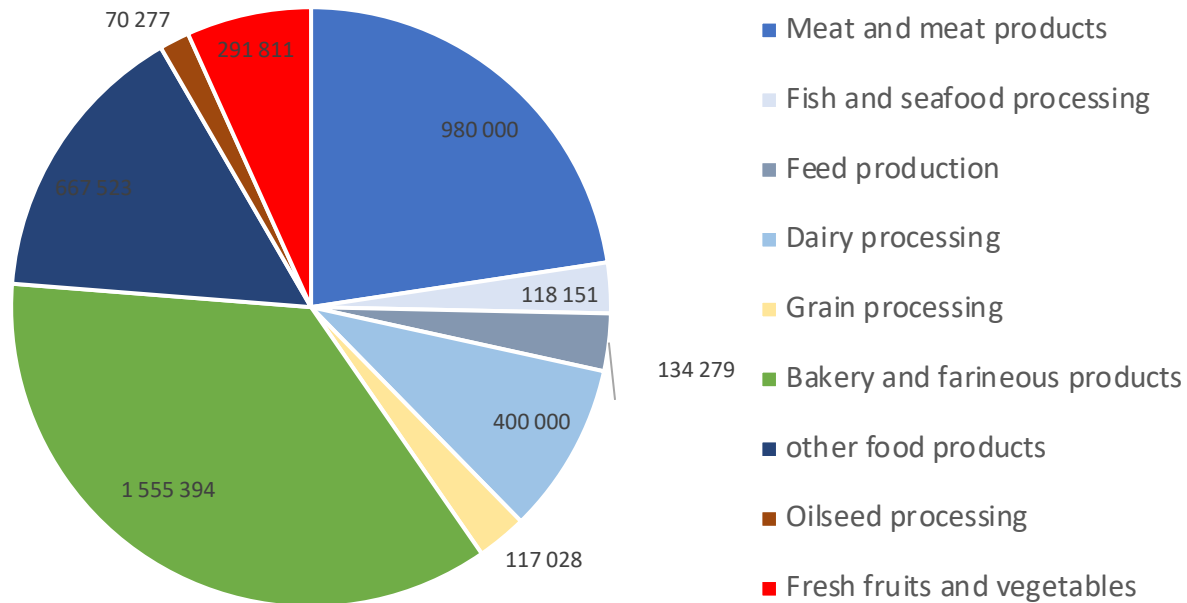
**FIGURE 11.** Export value of top 10 agricultural exports in EU (2013)



Source: FAOSTAT, IDDRI treatment

- Fair income for farmers and generation renewal
- Industry competitiveness and trade
- Jobs in the industry

Breakdown of total employment in the EU food processing industry (2020)



- Fair income for farmers and generation renewal
- Industry competitiveness and trade
- Jobs in the industry
- Food affordability and dietary shifts



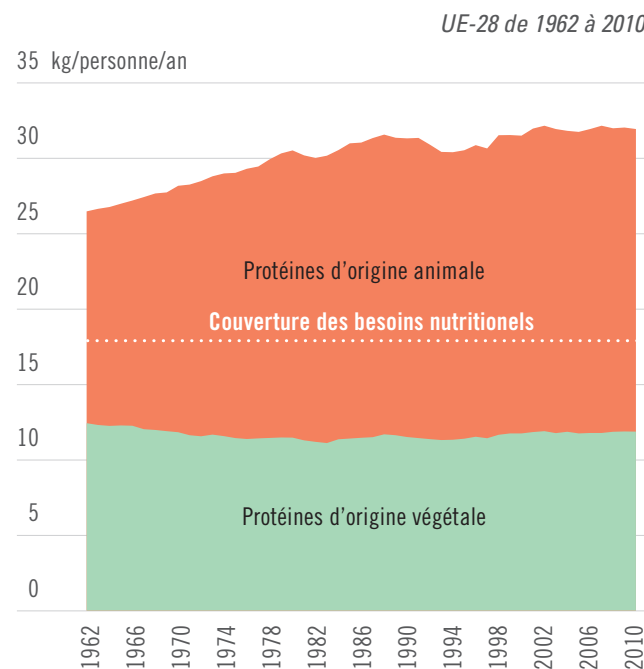
Octobre 2021

# ALIMENTATION

POINT CLIMAT N°67

## Une alimentation plus durable augmente-t-elle le budget des consommateurs ?

Auteurs : Lucile Rogissart, Valentin Bellassen, Claudine Foucherot



Source : auteur, d'après FAOstat

- Fair income for farmers and generation renewal
- Industry competitiveness and trade
- Jobs in the industry
- Food affordability and dietary shifts
- Under **current market conditions**, maintaining or increasing jobs, revenues, competitiveness, while not increasing consumer budgets...
  - ... rests on maintaining volumes and territorial specialization to enable economies of scale
  - ... and thus, tends to contradict the kind of changes identified as “positive” from an ecological perspective
- Our models suggest there is a need to:
  - (a) change market conditions (consumers, common market, trade regulations) through the right policy instruments
  - (b) identify possible compromises in the short run to start the transition somewhere / somehow, by creating economic opportunities



## 4. A matter of methods: models & dialogues to identify opportunities and conditions to seize them

- As it is impossible to reach all objectives simultaneously, and as we need to start from somewhere, we need to build compromises
- This requires
  - to really consider both dimensions (env & economic sustainability)
  - to work with the right tools to explore the option space
  - ... in order to identify the market / policy conditions to reach such compromises,
  - ... and then design and implement the right policy instruments to support the transition
- The example of an exercise carried out in France with French meat stakeholders,
  - We developed several scenarios in a protected dialogue space and assess them against a range of indicators
  - ... to identify what opportunities could be seized, and upon which conditions, that would make it possible to *start* the transition
  - A “dual” approach, combining efficiency / competitiveness approaches with biodiversity-based systems, coupled with moderate dietary shifts
  - That would require policies to support an improvement in price and non-price competitiveness as well as intervention on food environments

- We need to accept there is no agreed upon vision for the transformation of the EU livestock sector...
- ... and that to build it, one needs to consider simultaneously economic and environmental challenges: asking “HOW” rather than “WHAT”!
- ... and then think in terms of gradual steps
- Market conditions are key!
- Biomass availability is at the heart of the reflection on the biophysical side.