

Introduction to Institute For Global Food Security School of Biological Sciences Queen's University Belfast

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IGFS

THE INSTITUTE
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FOOD SECURITY



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Queen's University Belfast



- > Member of the Russell Group
- > 3,500 staff
- > 1000 active researchers
- > 25,000 students



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Institute for Global Food Security

Institute for Global Food Security Launched 14th March 2012

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/igfs>

Formerly Institute of Agri-Food And Land use
No1 UK REF Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science

- 50 – 60 PIs
- 60 – 80 PDRAs
- 100 PhDs
- ~15 embedded support staff
- **A critical mass of 200 – 250 researchers**



ASSET Centre - Centre for Assured, Safe and Traceable food - Launched in January 2009

A food supply chain which is safe, transparent, rapidly traceable and sustainable

Innovative, state-of-the-art scientific techniques that will create a niche food forensic strength to develop a new dimension in animal and human health, food safety monitoring and traceability

ASSET aims to provide Industry and the consumer with Assured, Safe and Traceable food



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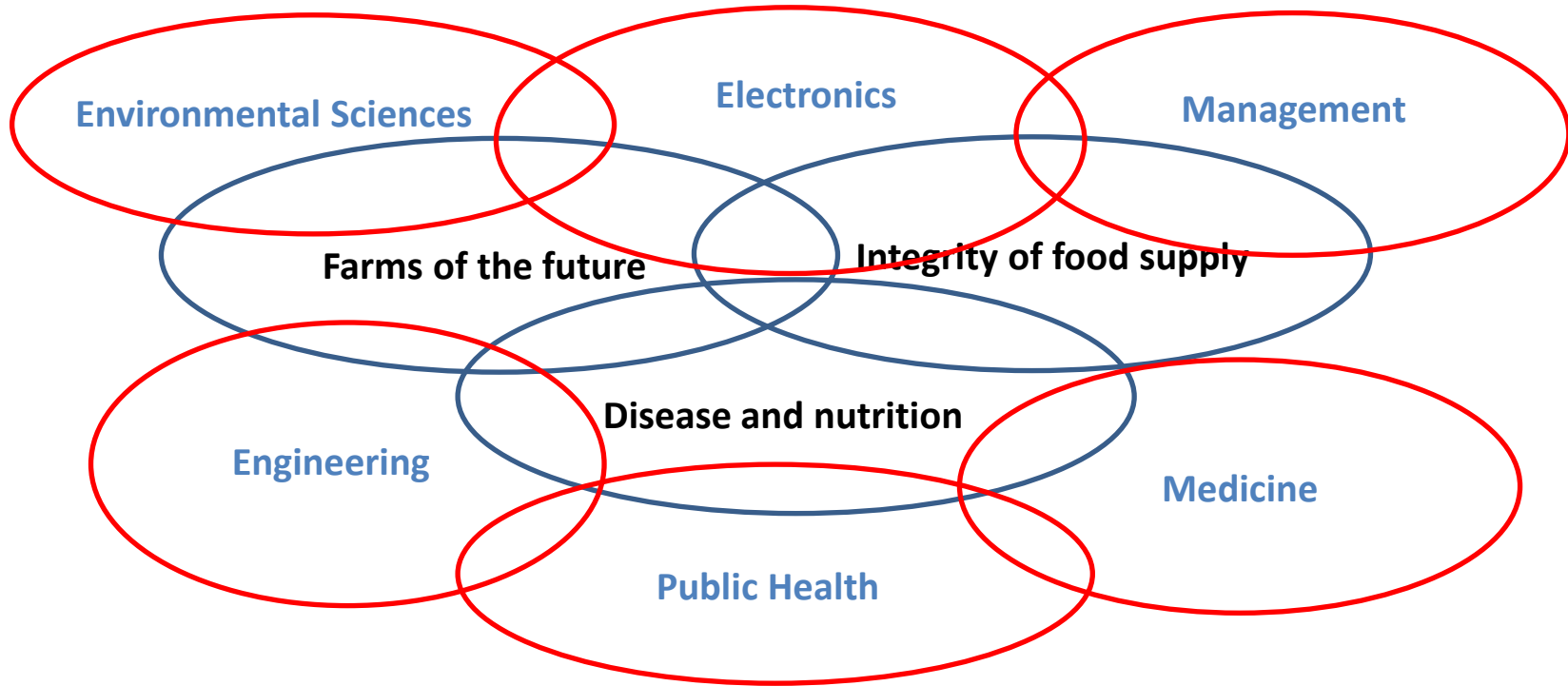
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Research Focus - Grand Challenges



UK

EU

US

Asia

Africa

Link with recognised centres of excellence and research leaders wherever they are located



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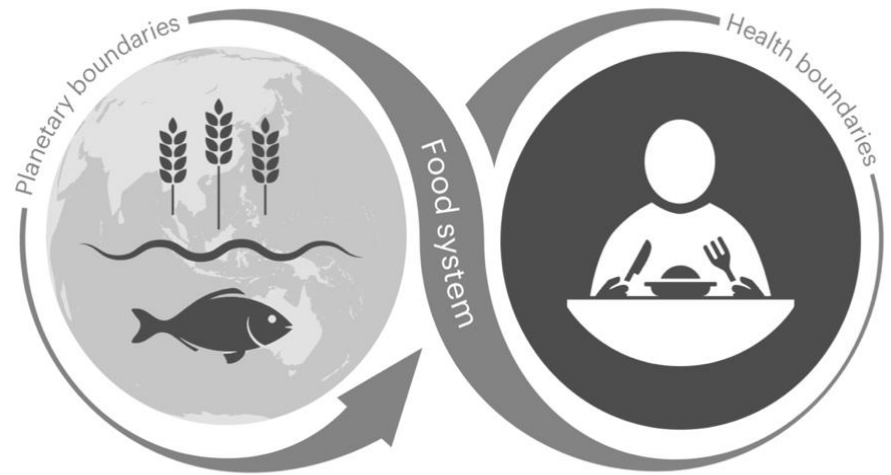
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Interdisciplinary Research

Planetary Health

Transformative Food Systems

Nutrition and Human Health



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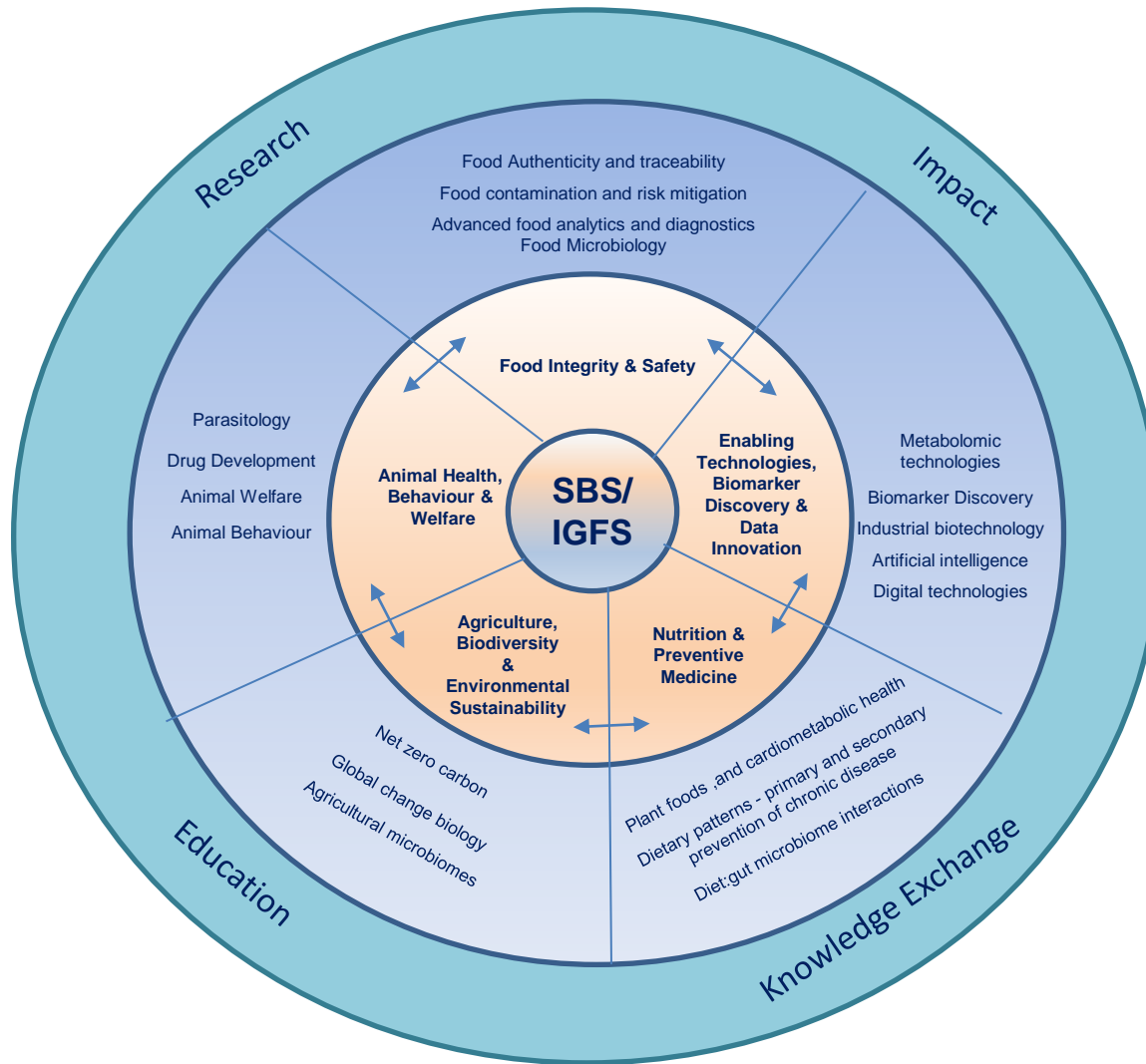
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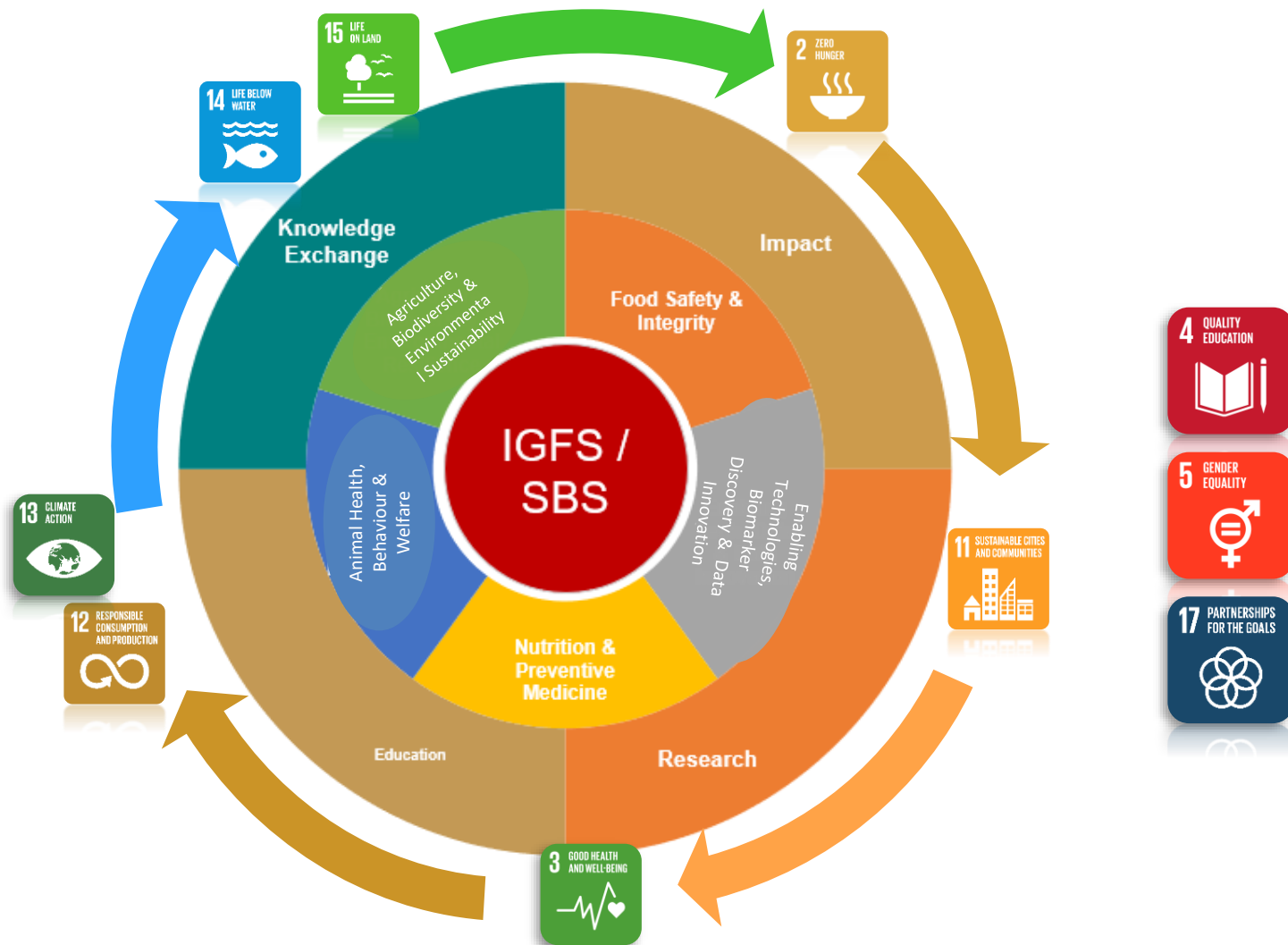


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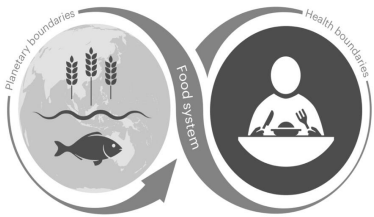
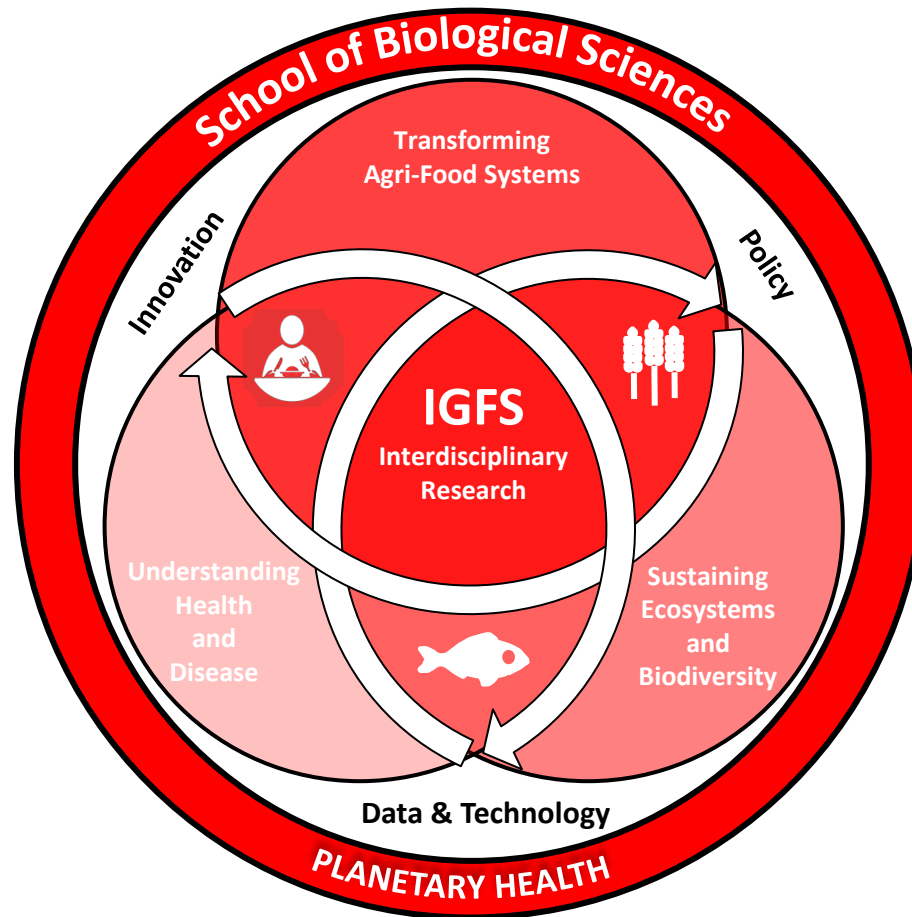
Strategic Research Themes



Strategic Research Themes & UN Goals



Strategic Research Themes

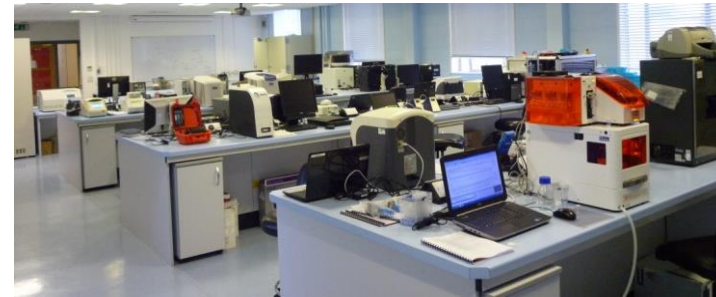


State of the Art Facilities

Food Analysis (Wet chemistry LAB): Sample preparation for food, feed and environmental sample analysis



ASSET LAB: Highly innovative rapid diagnostics including biosensor (SPR, acoustic wave, microarrays, lateral flow, flow cytometry, electrochemistry) and spectroscopic (IR and RAMAN) technologies



Advanced ASSET LAB: Suites of HPLCs, UPLC coupled to mass spectrometers including QTof, Xevo-TQ, Xevo-TQS, PDA, REIMS, Isotope ratio, ICP-MS for chemical analysis



Pathogen LABs: Category 2 and Category 3 Pathogen labs

Core Technologies

Building on existing core technologies:

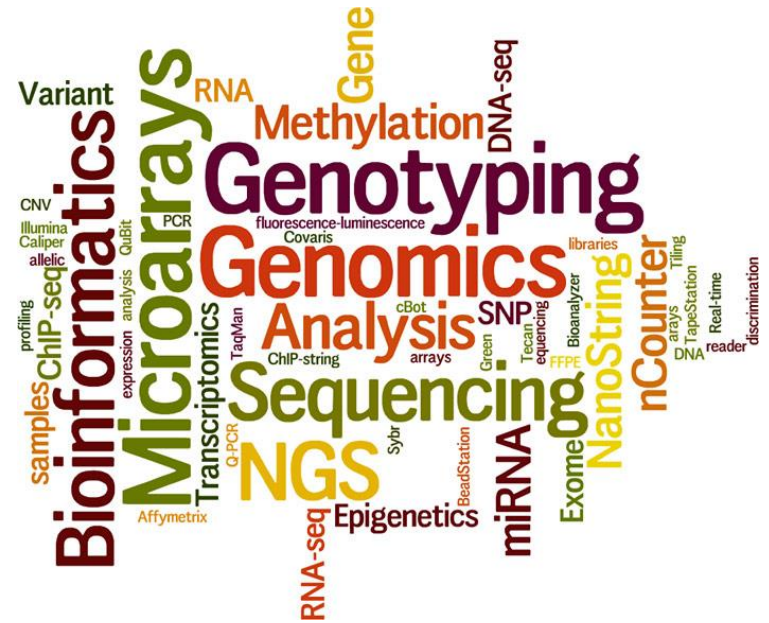
Biological Services Unit,

Advanced Imaging,

Advanced Mass Spectroscopy,

Functional Genomics

Informatics Unit



MSc & PhD Programmes

1. Advanced Food Safety
2. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
3. Parasitology
4. Bioinformatics

PhD Research in many areas



Partnerships

- Institutional
- Industrial
- One to one



Connectivity across Europe



EIT Food is a European Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) set up to transform our food ecosystem.

By connecting consumers with businesses, start-ups, researchers and students from around Europe, EIT Food supports innovative and economically sustainable initiatives which improve our health, our access to quality food, and our environment.

<https://www.eitfood.eu/>



Key drivers:

- Consumer Trust
- Public health
- Talent
- Connectivity & Transparency
- Venturing & Growth
- Sustainability

An Introduction to Food Security, Safety & Sustainability

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16th May 2022



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Food - agriculture & aquaculture

“Food and agriculture worldwide is fundamental for the preservation and advancement of human life on this planet”

(Food and Agriculture Organization, 2016)

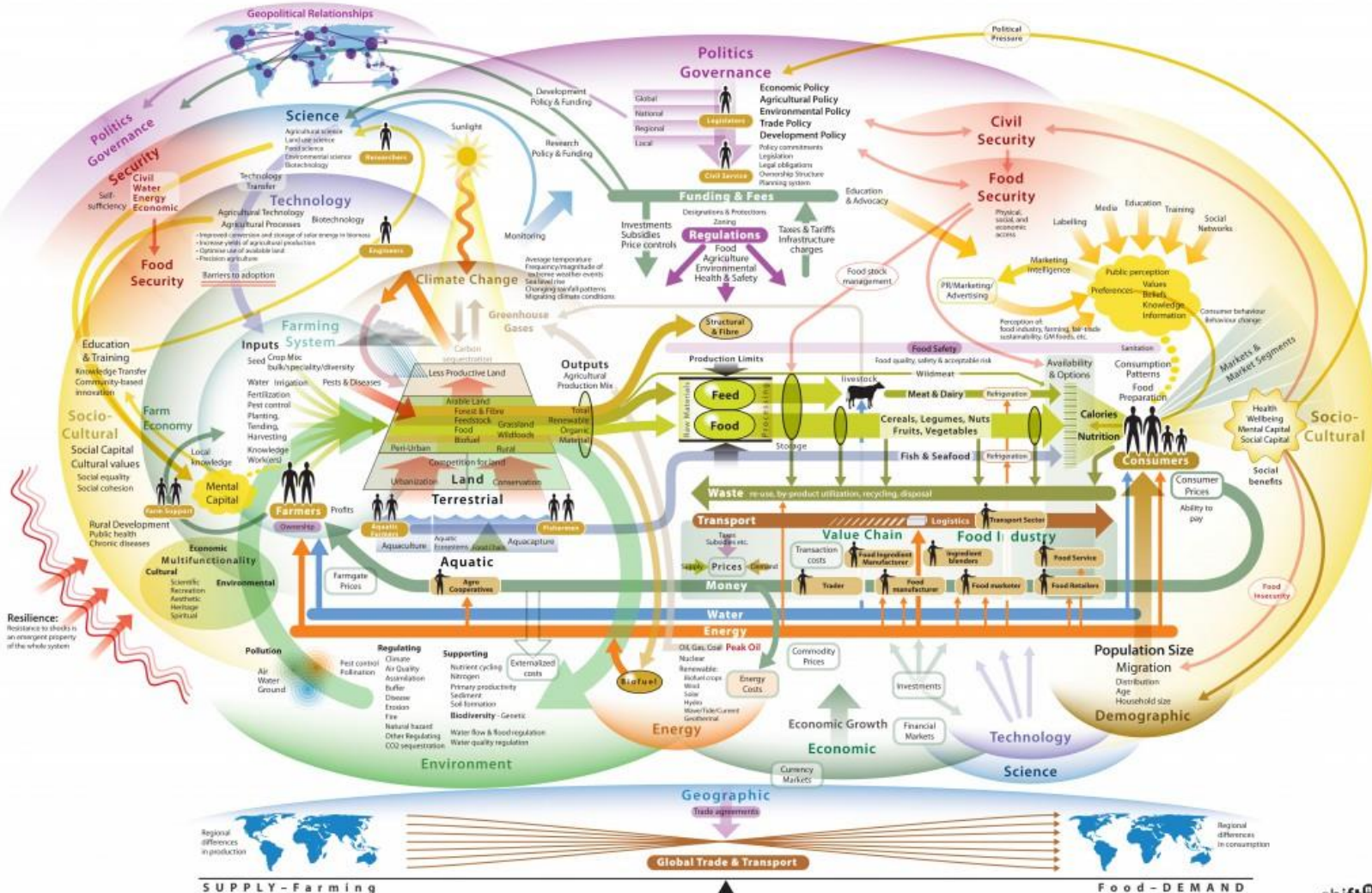
“ When we think about threats to the environment, we tend to picture cars and smokestacks, not dinner. But the truth is, our need for food poses one of the biggest dangers to the planet. ”

Richardson (2014)



Global Food System

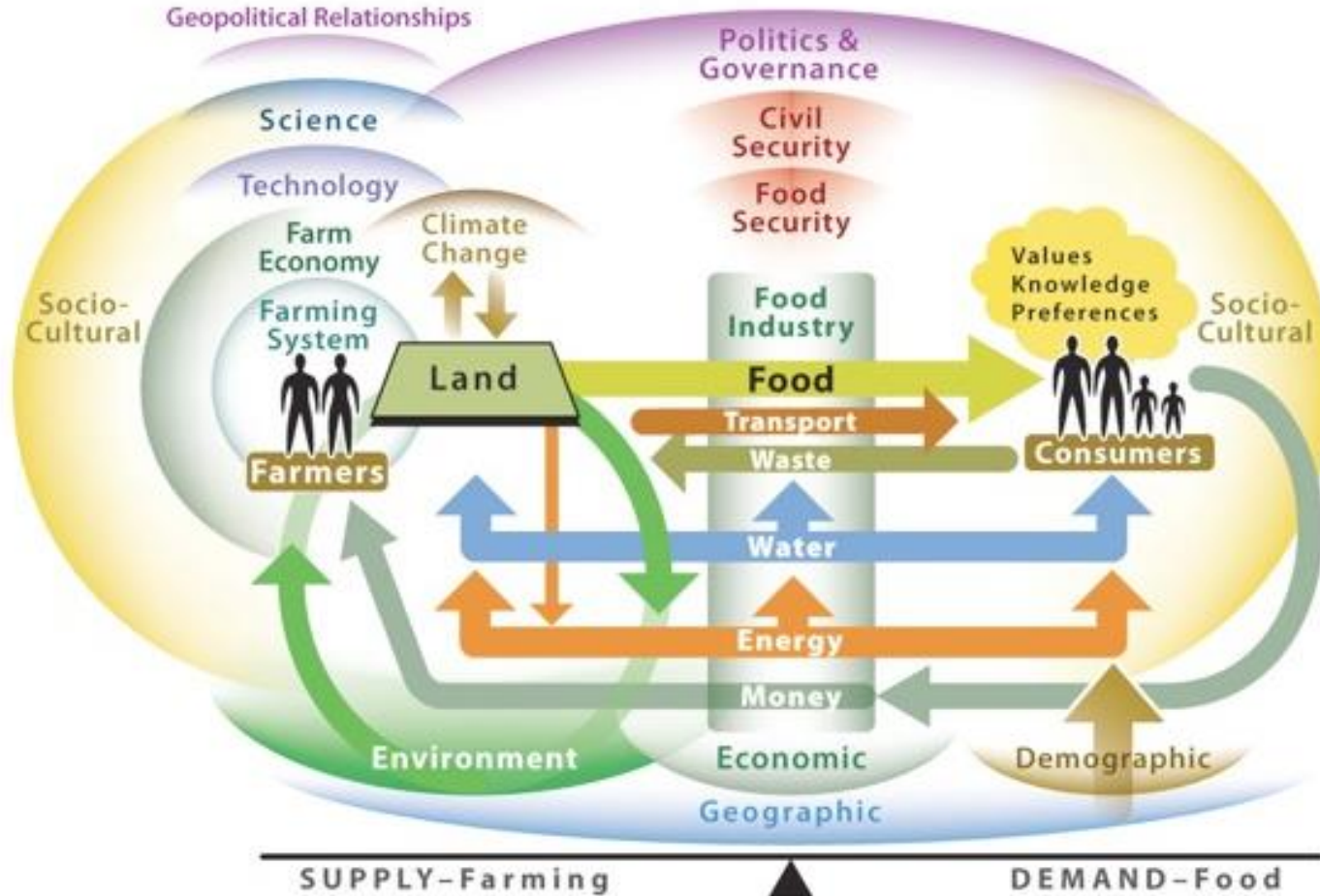
Global Food System Map



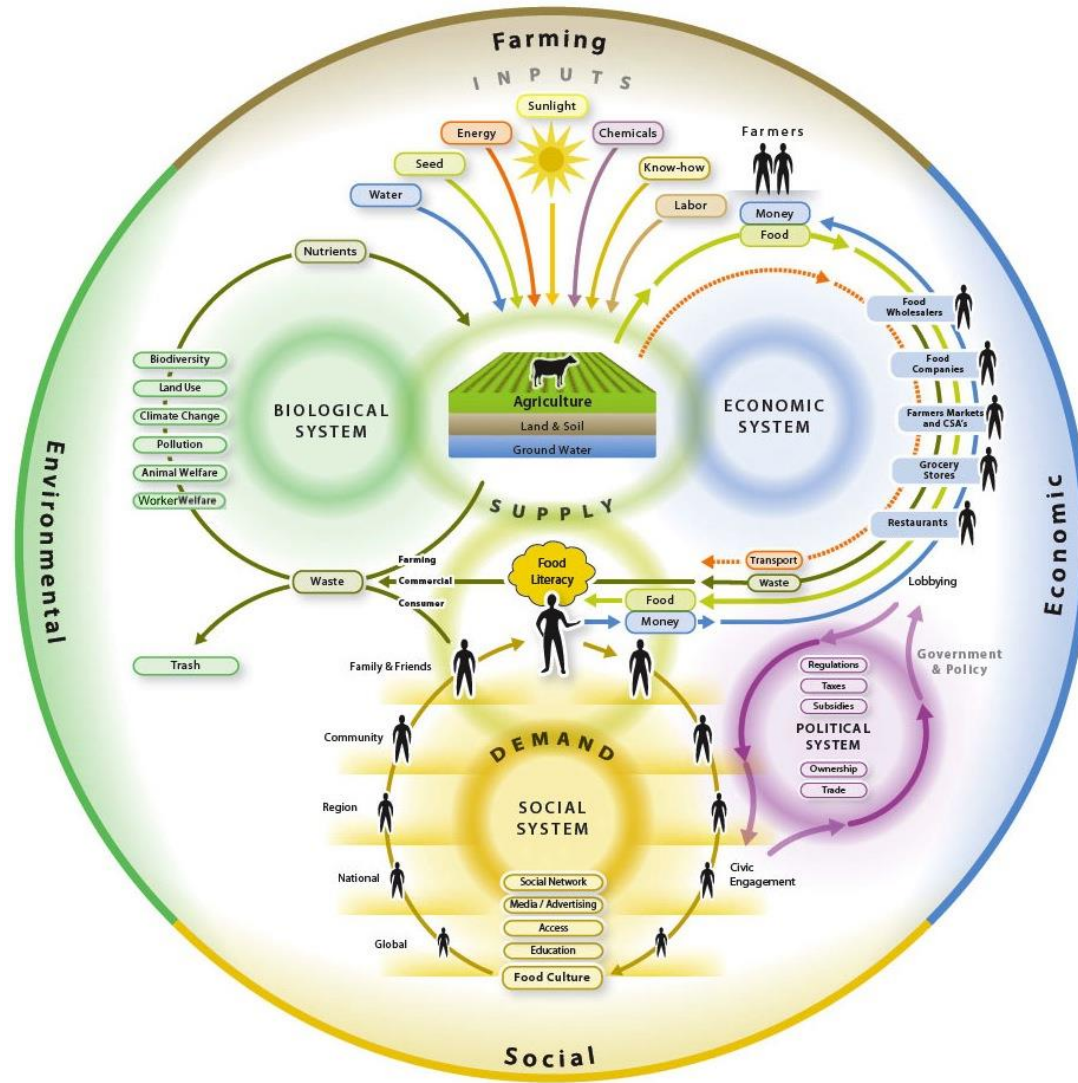
© shift^D 2009. All rights reserved. clarity in complexity.

Supply vs Demand

Food System Map – Basic Elements



Factors contributing to food systems



Supply Chain systems

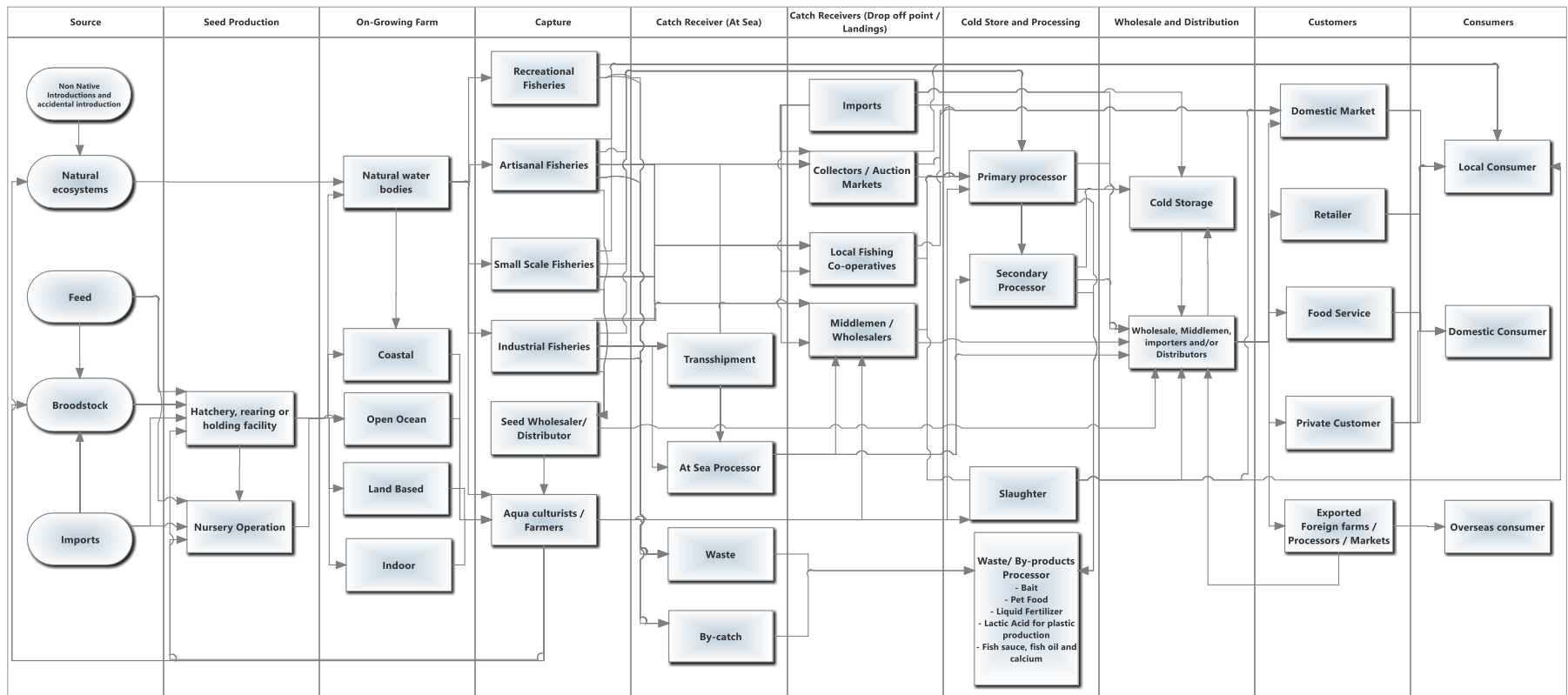
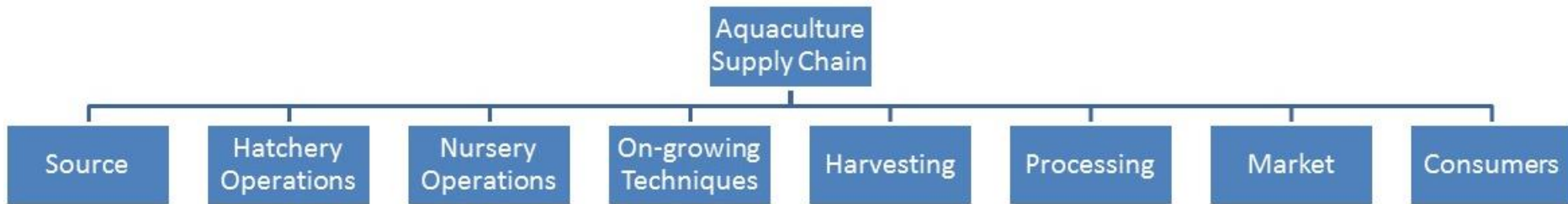
TRADITIONAL VALUE CHAIN



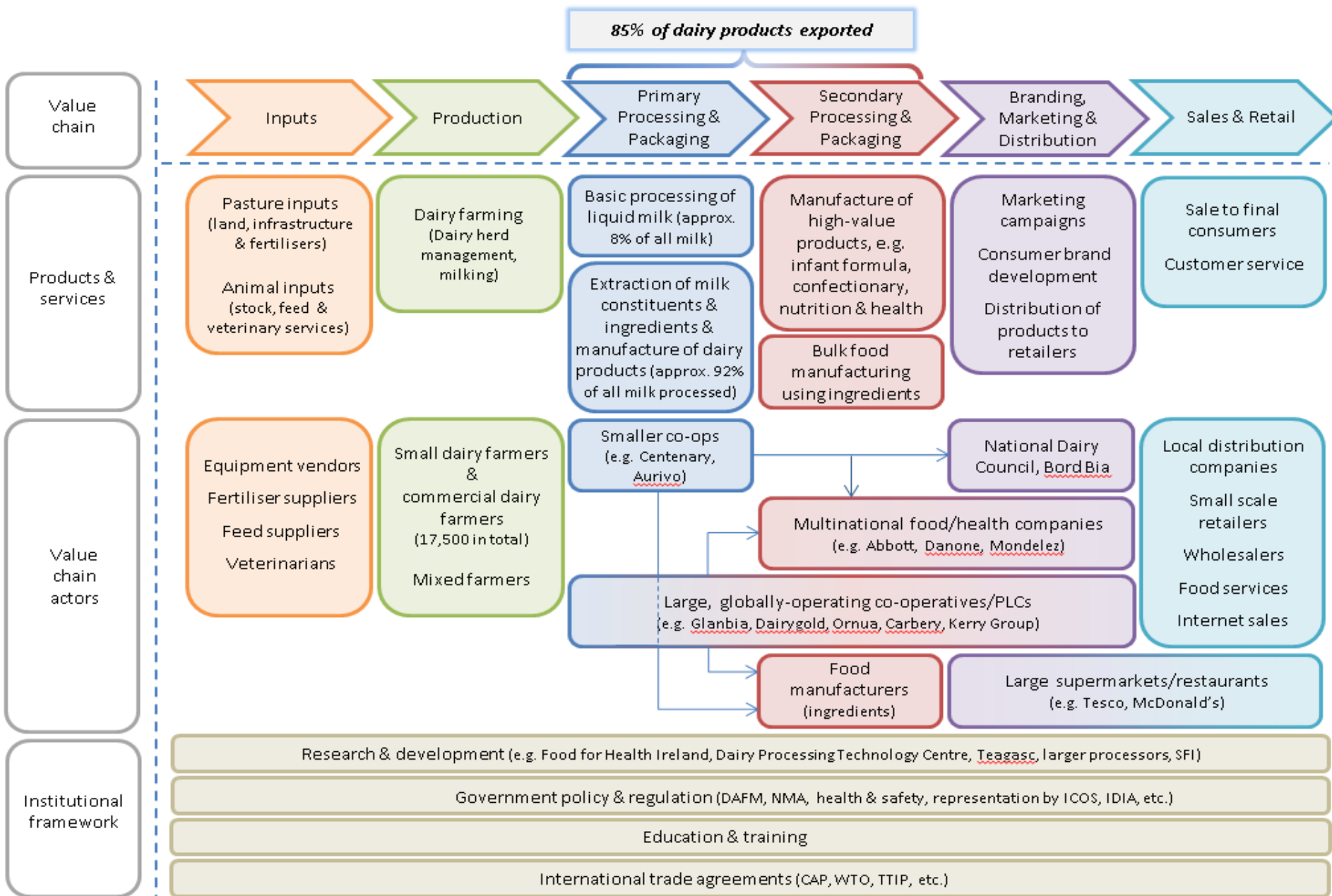
MODERN VALUE CHAIN



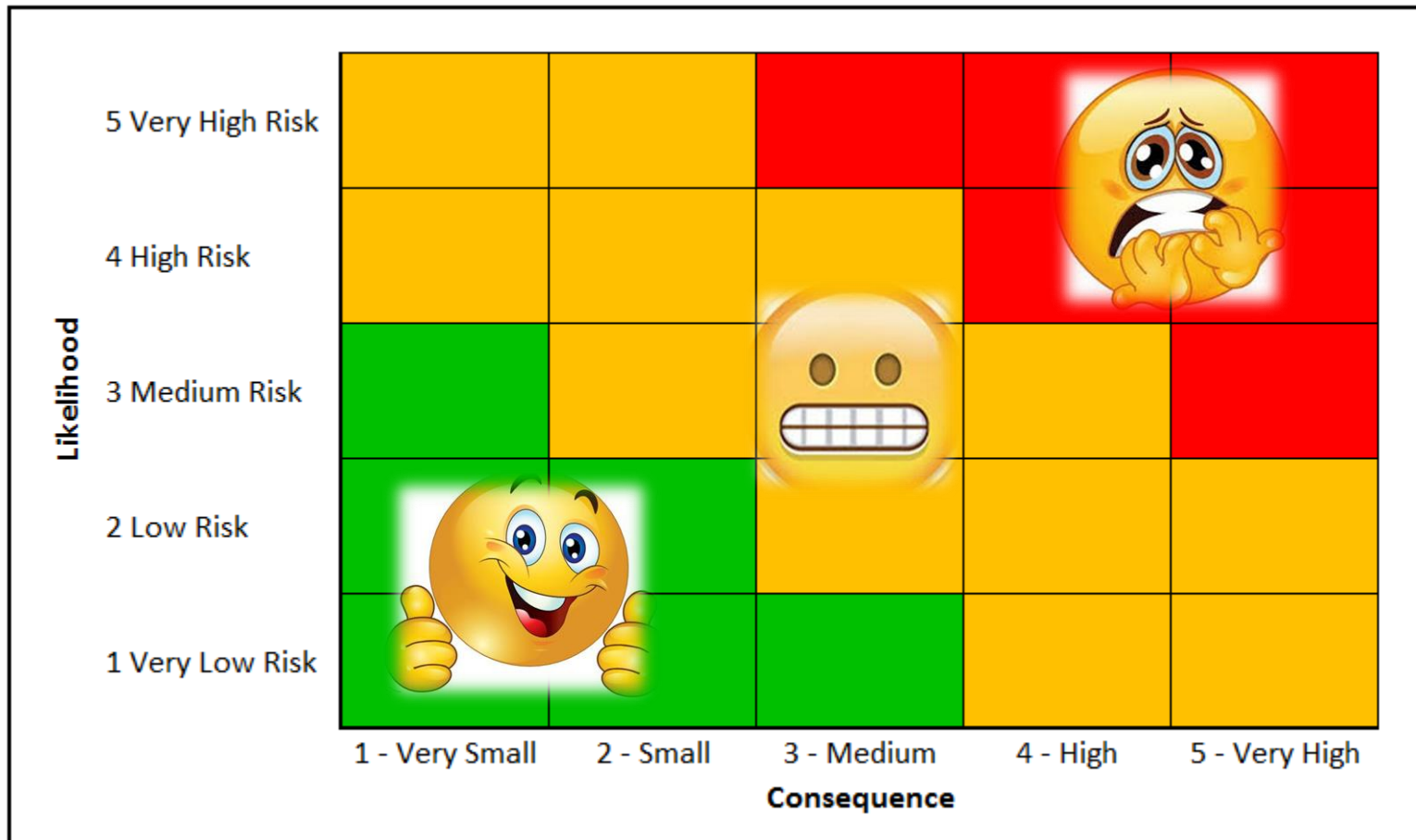
The Finfish Supply Chain (Fox et al., 2018)



Map of the Dairy Chain (Heery et al., 2015)

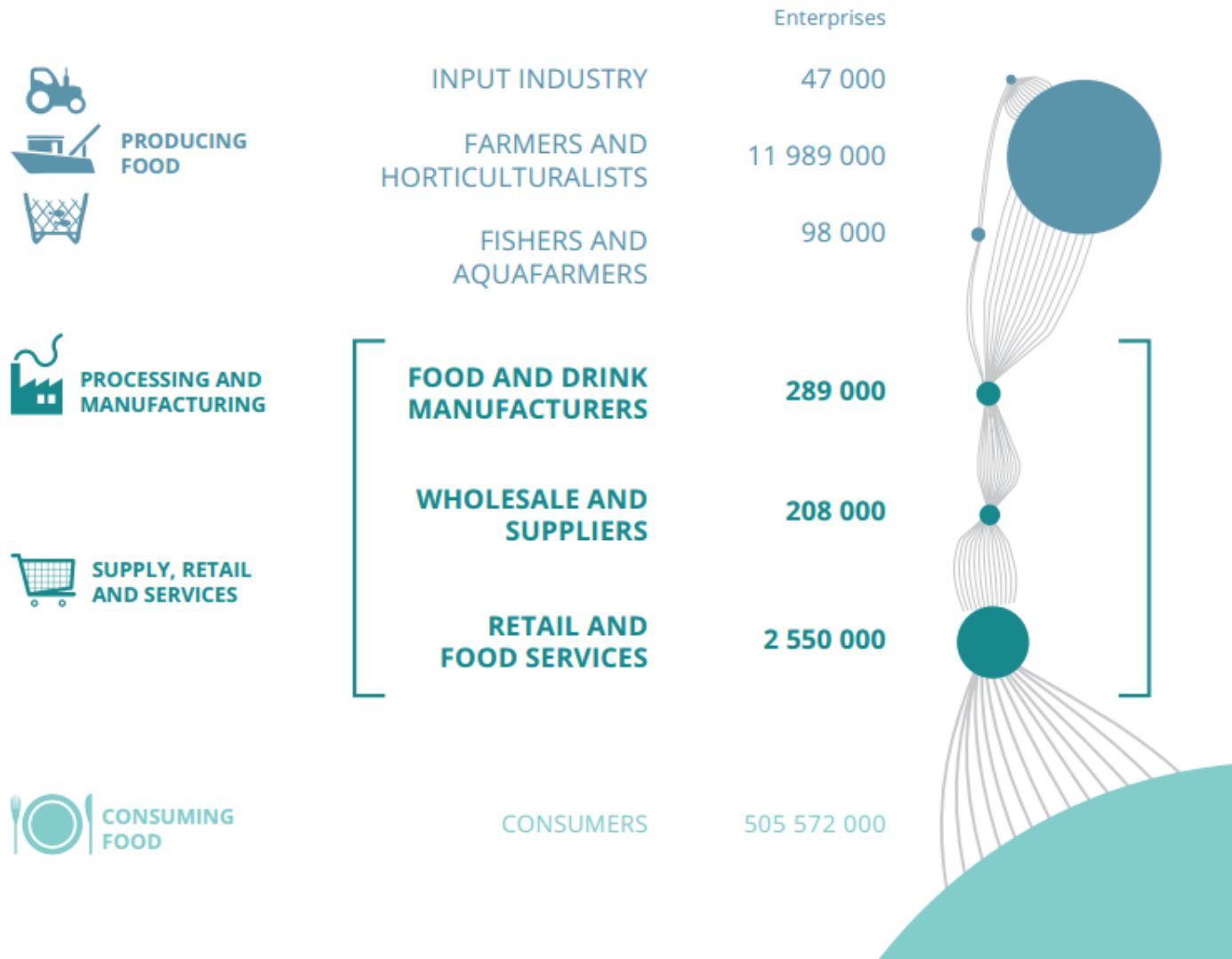


The Risk Matrix

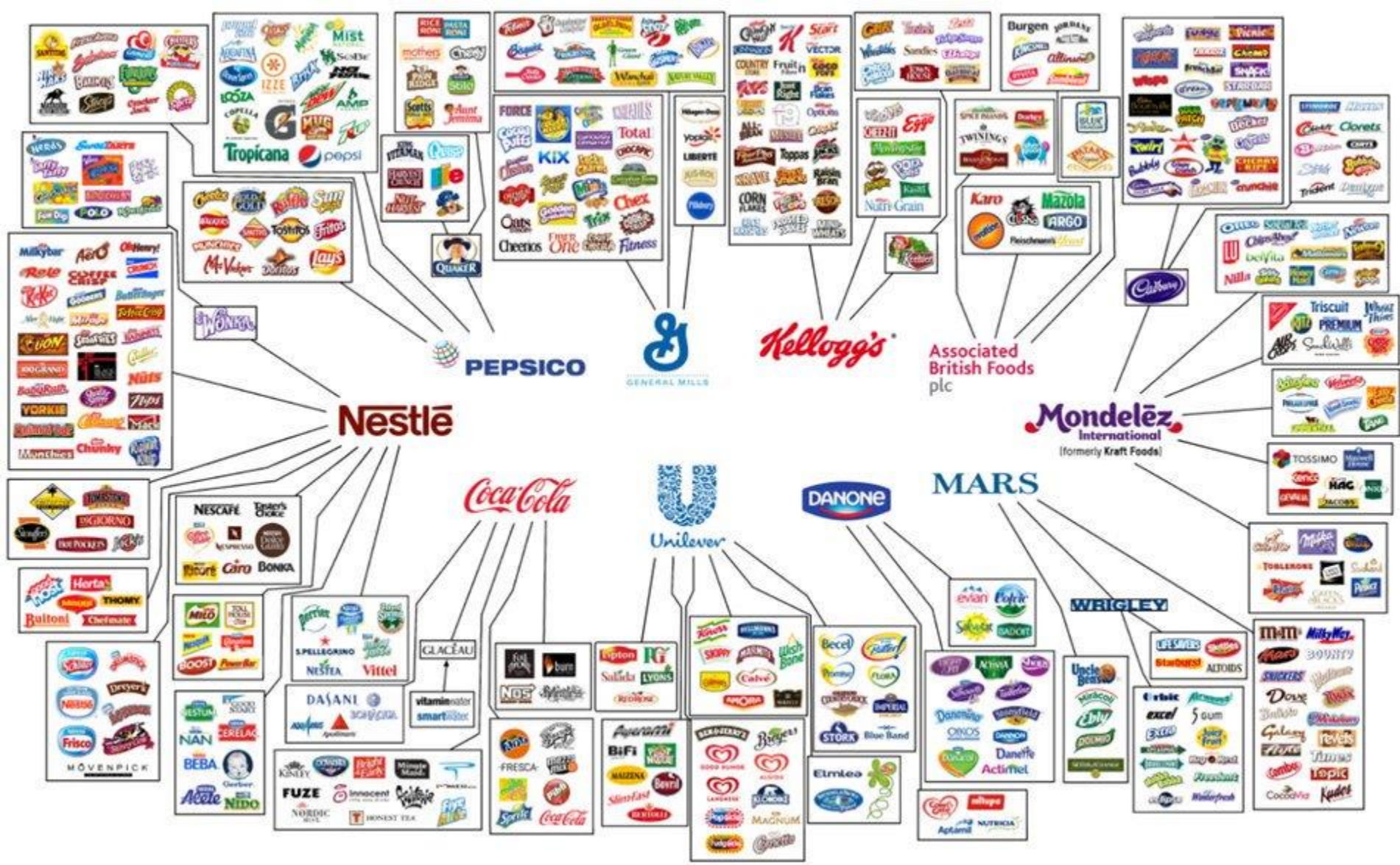


Can this be improved?

Europe's food supply chain by the number of enterprises in each food system activity



Big Brand Domination

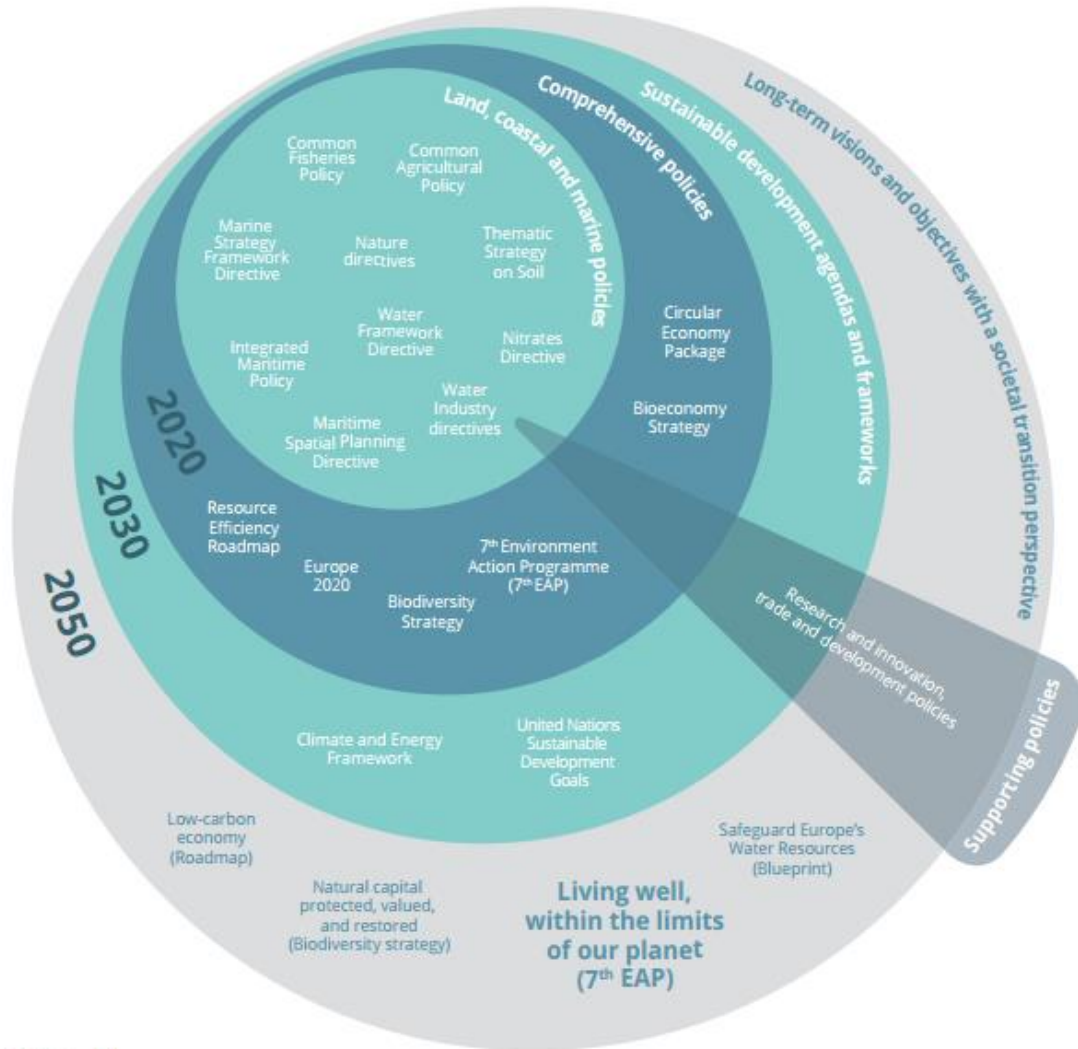


Future supply chains - AMAZONATION

AMAZONATION



Big picture Policies to food systems



- Land, coastal and marine policies
- Comprehensive policies
- Sustainable development agenda & frameworks
- Long term visions and objectives with a societal transition perspective
- Research & innovation, trade and development policies
- 2050 - 7th European Action Programme (EAP) – Living well within the limits of our planet

Source: EEA.

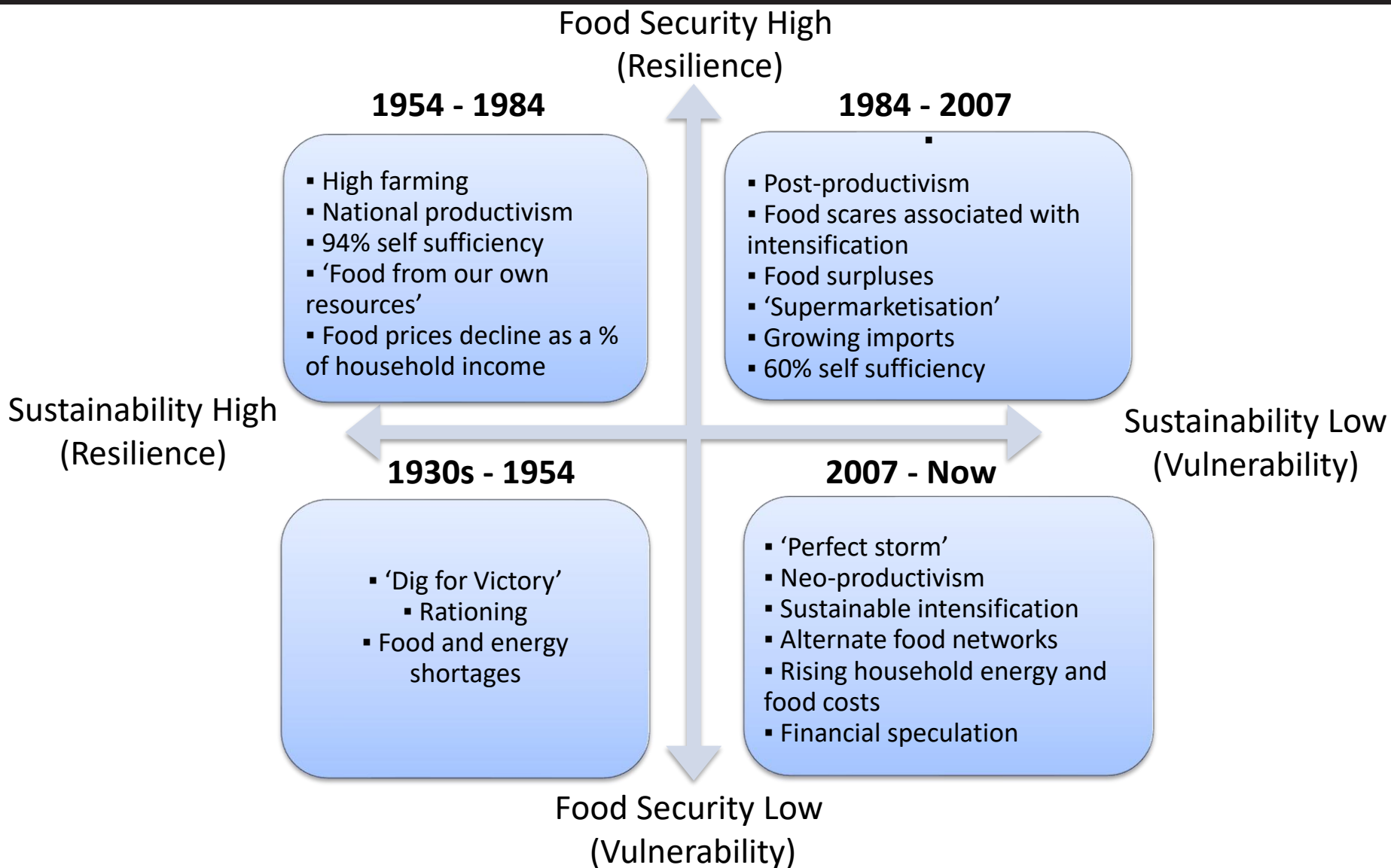
Food Security

The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”.

New caveat is
“produced by ethical and respectful means”



Food Security & Sustainability in the UK

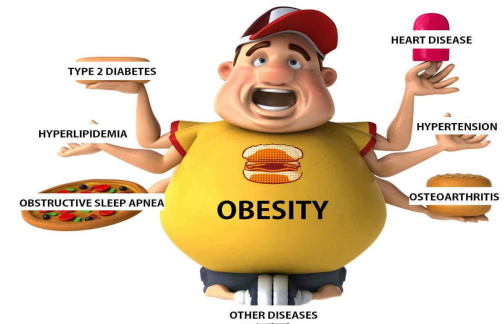


Food Security

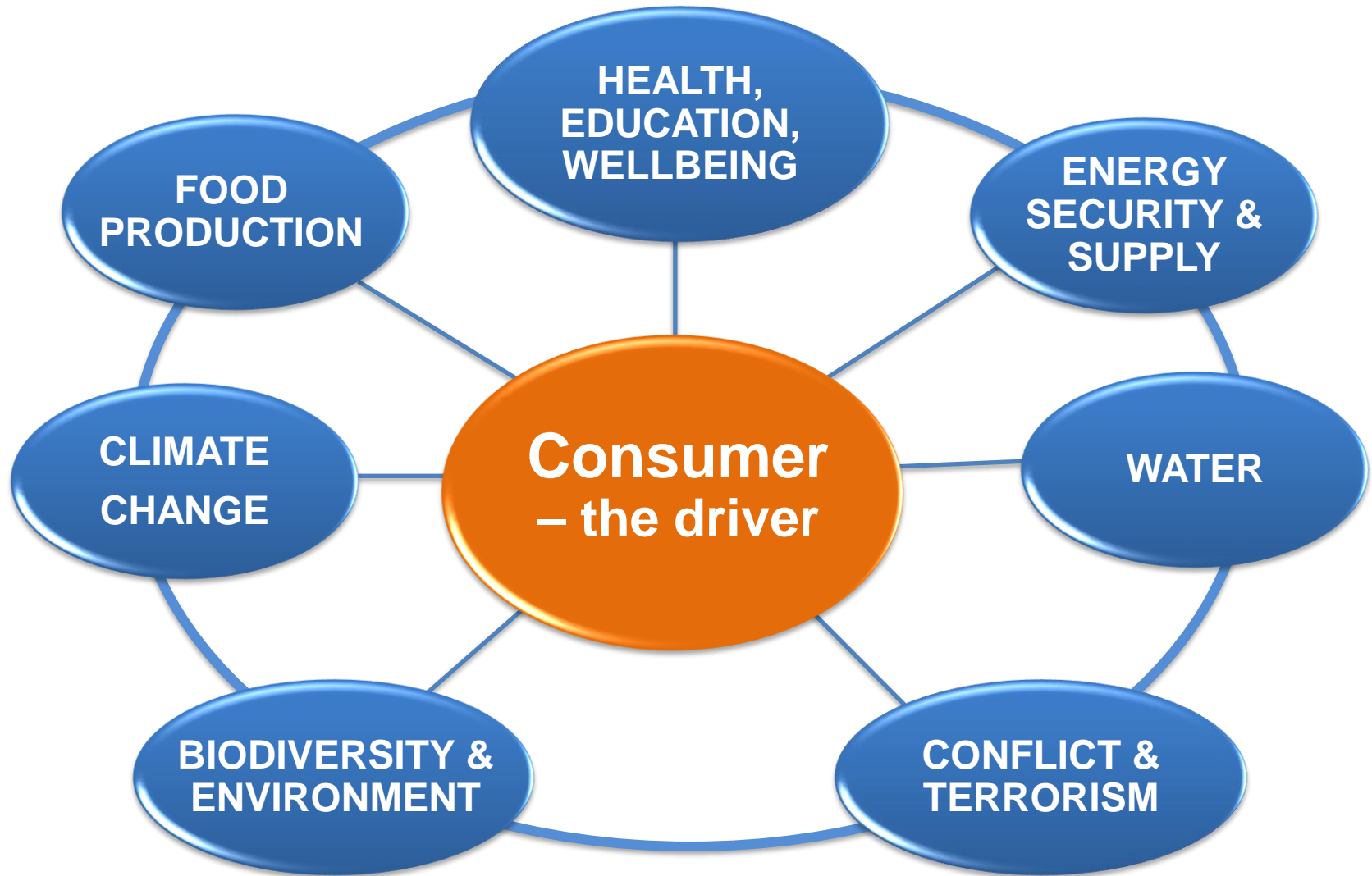
Worldwide, people's health and well-being are affected by food
E.g. some modern diets that are rich in fat, sugar, salt and meat.



- ~ 800 million people are hungry
- >2 billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, which affect their growth and development
- ~2 billion people are overweight
>600 million of those are obese
- Slave labour in particular child labour in the food production is high
 - 16 million people were in forced labour in 2016.
 - >1 in 10 worked in agriculture or fishing
 - 15% manufacturing
 - Approx. 25% children



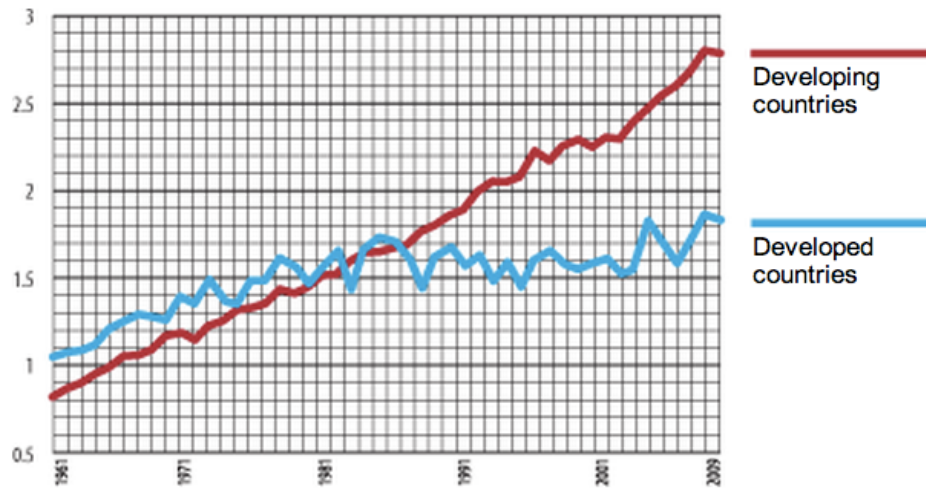
21st Century Challenges



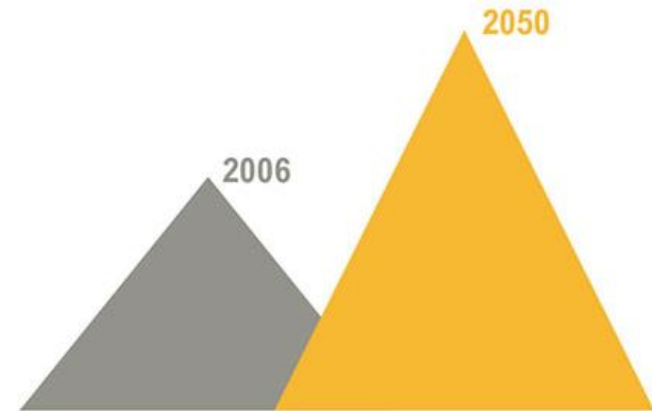
21st Century Challenges – Food Production

To feed 9 billion people by 2050, food supplies need to increase by 60% globally and 100% in developing countries

World production of major crops*, 1961-2009
(billion tonnes)



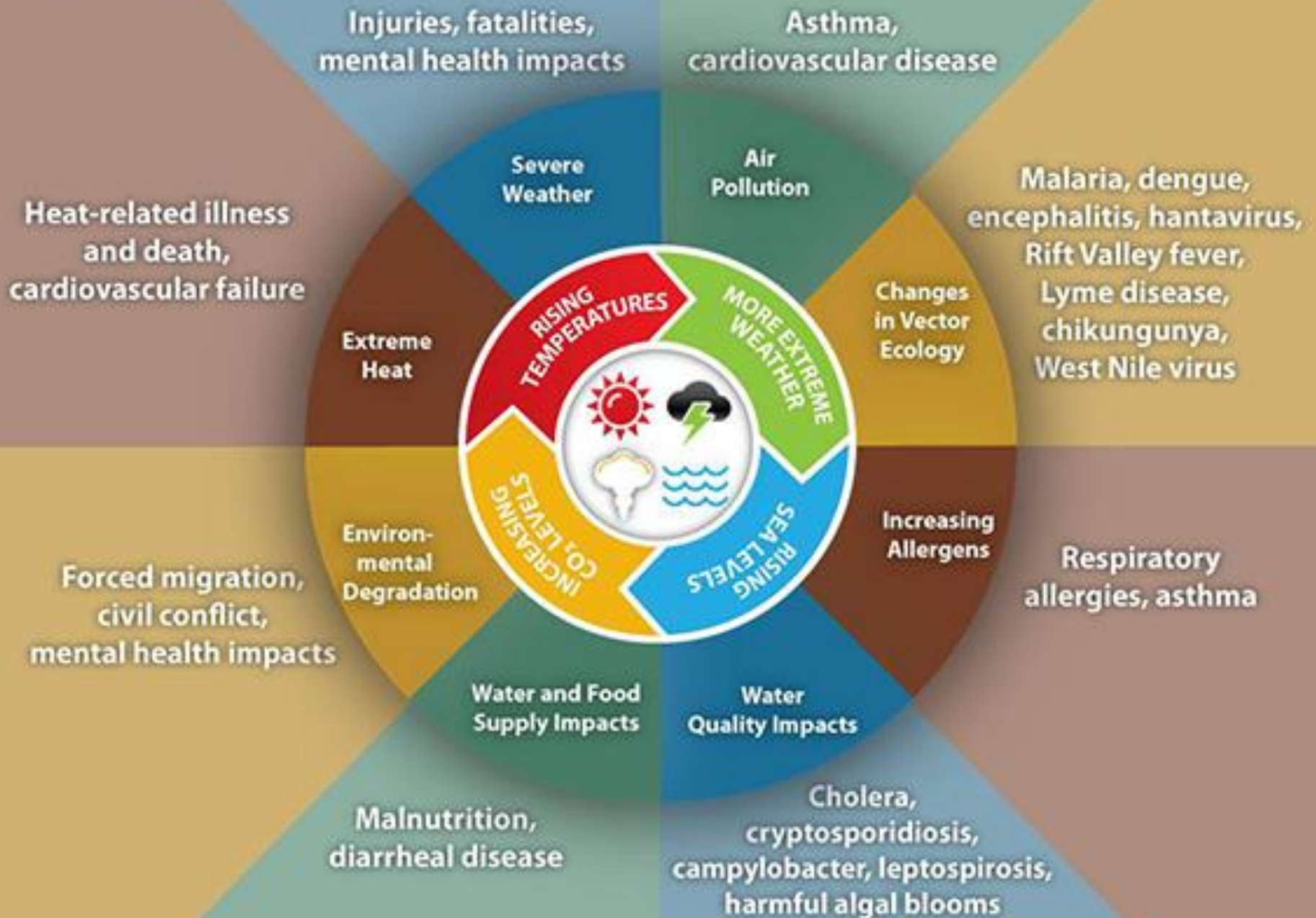
FAO Save and Grow, 2011



60%

Required increase
in food calories
to feed 9.6 billion
people by 2050

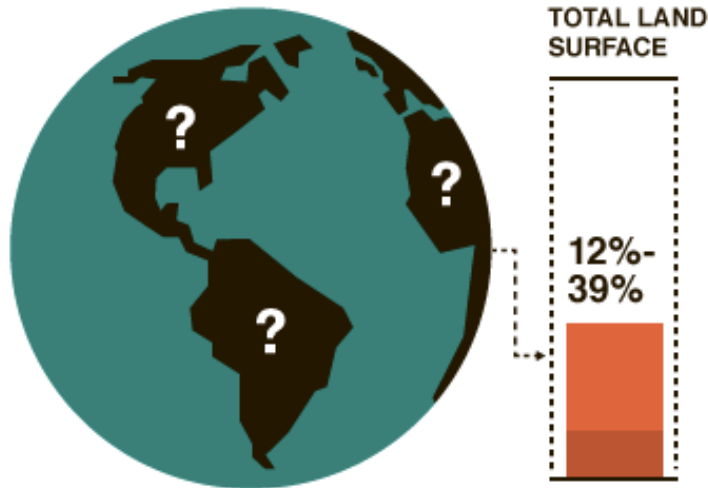
Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



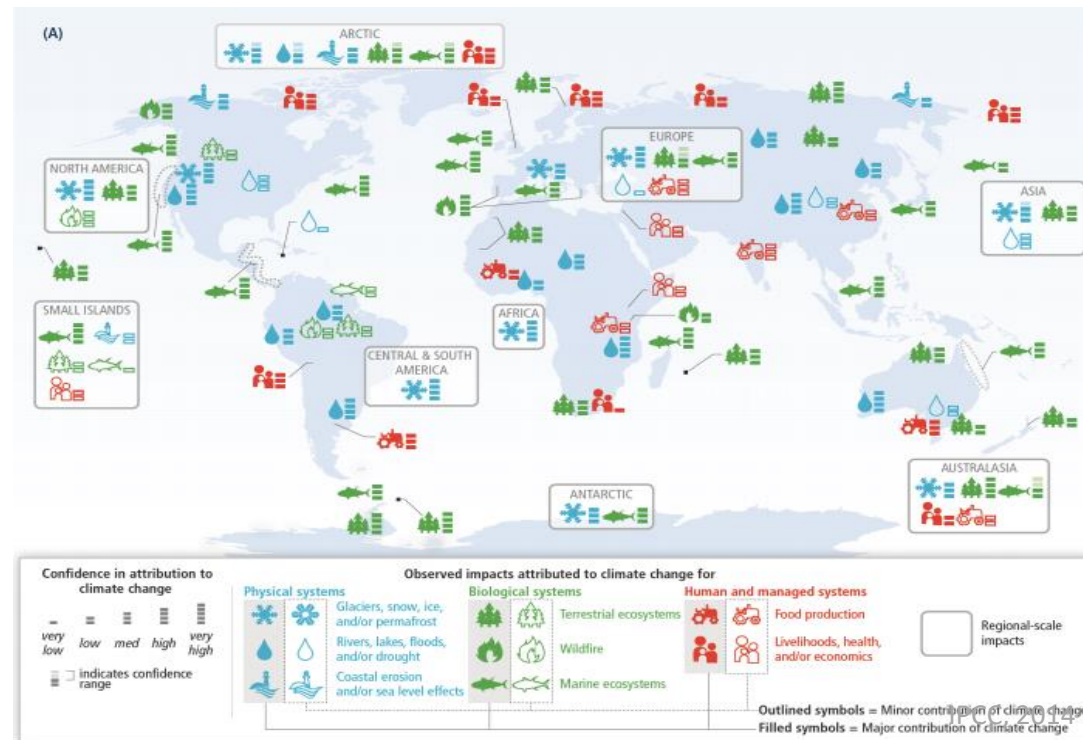
21st Century Challenge – Climate Change

Climate change may reduce agricultural production 2% each decade while demand increases 14%. Up to 40% of the world will develop unfamiliar climates.

At high emissions levels,
12-39% OF THE EARTH'S LAND SURFACE
 will develop novel climates.



CCAFS, 2014



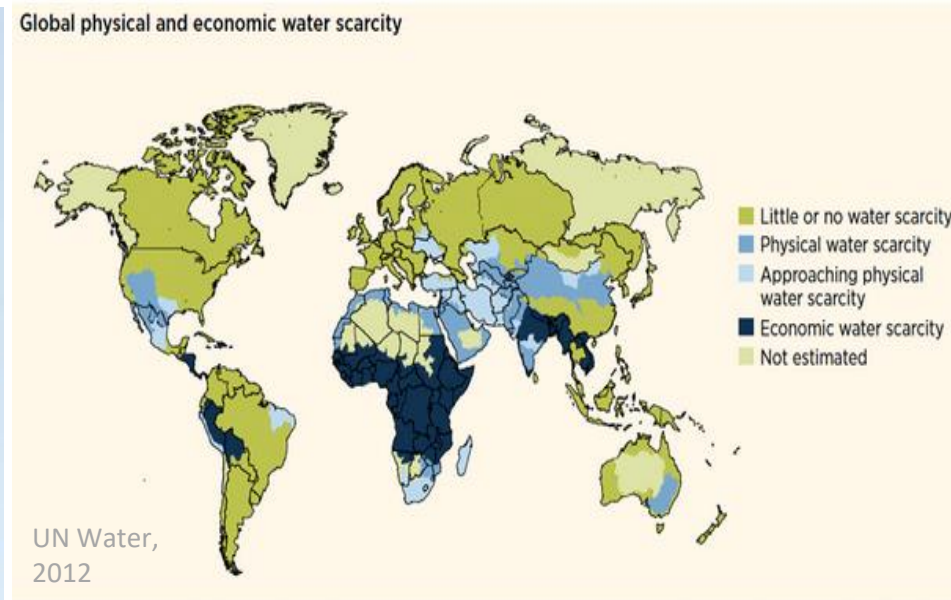
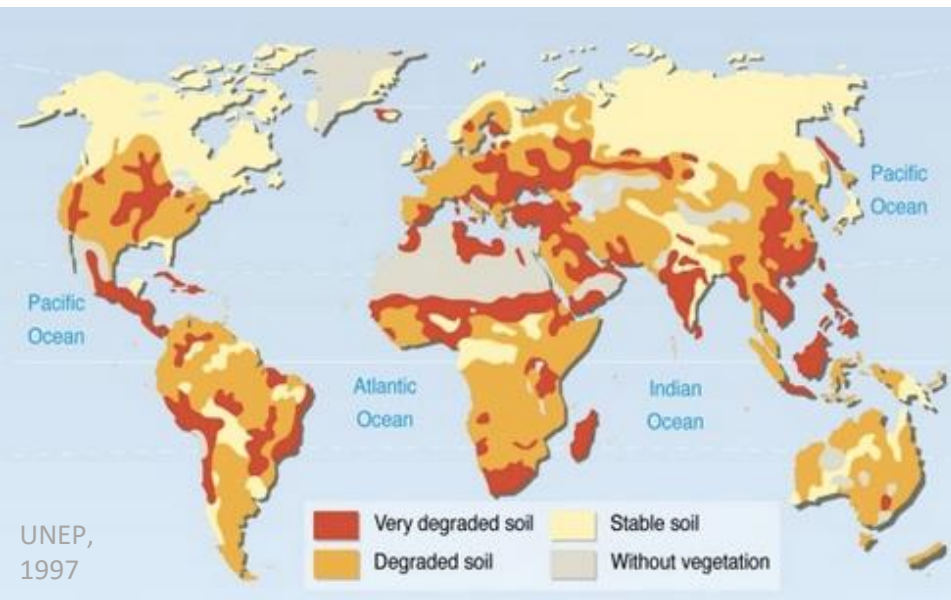
Climate Change & Water Scarcity

- How can Europe's food supply and primary production adapt to more extreme weather events?
- How can the sustainability of primary production be improved without expanding social and environmental footprints overseas?
- How can water resources be better managed to improve water-use efficiency for food production?
- How can efficiency be improved and greenhouse gas emissions reduced with respect to water and energy inputs in food processing (e.g. reduction of heating then cooling or wetting then subsequent drying steps across the food chains?)



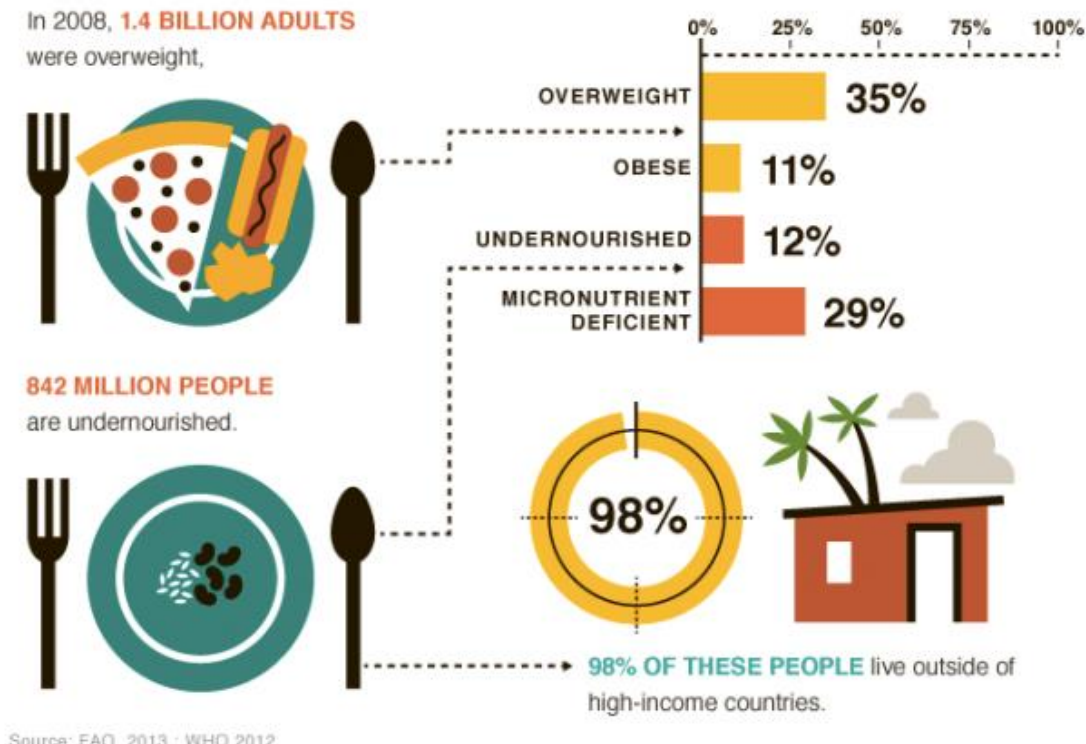
21st Century Challenge - Vulnerability

Most increased food production will take place on marginal and fragile lands, where yields are extremely variable



21st Century Challenge - Malnutrition

Once considered a high-income problem, overweight and obesity are on the rise in low and middle-income countries, especially in urban settings. At the same time, 1 billion people suffer from “hidden hunger.”



Food Security & Sustainable Nutrition

- What factors influence the allocation of food within European households, and what are the implications for health?
- How can the fat, sugar, preservative and salt content of foods be reduced while ensuring that palatability is maintained, waste is minimised, and food remains safe and does not spoil?
- How will novel, emerging and re-emerging pathogens be prevented, detected and controlled rapidly and accurately to enhance food security?
- Which EU groups (e.g. socioeconomic, regional) are, or are likely to become, food insecure in the near future, and why?
- How do we define a healthy and sustainable diet and what is the role of governments, businesses and civil society in driving healthy and sustainable food behaviours?



Pressures on natural resources are increasing

Population growth and urbanisation



City population

- 1 - 5 million
- 5 - 10 million
- 10 million or more

Percentage urban

- 0 - 25
- 25 - 50
- 50 - 75
- 75 - 100



Climate change



Supermarketisation



Dietary changes

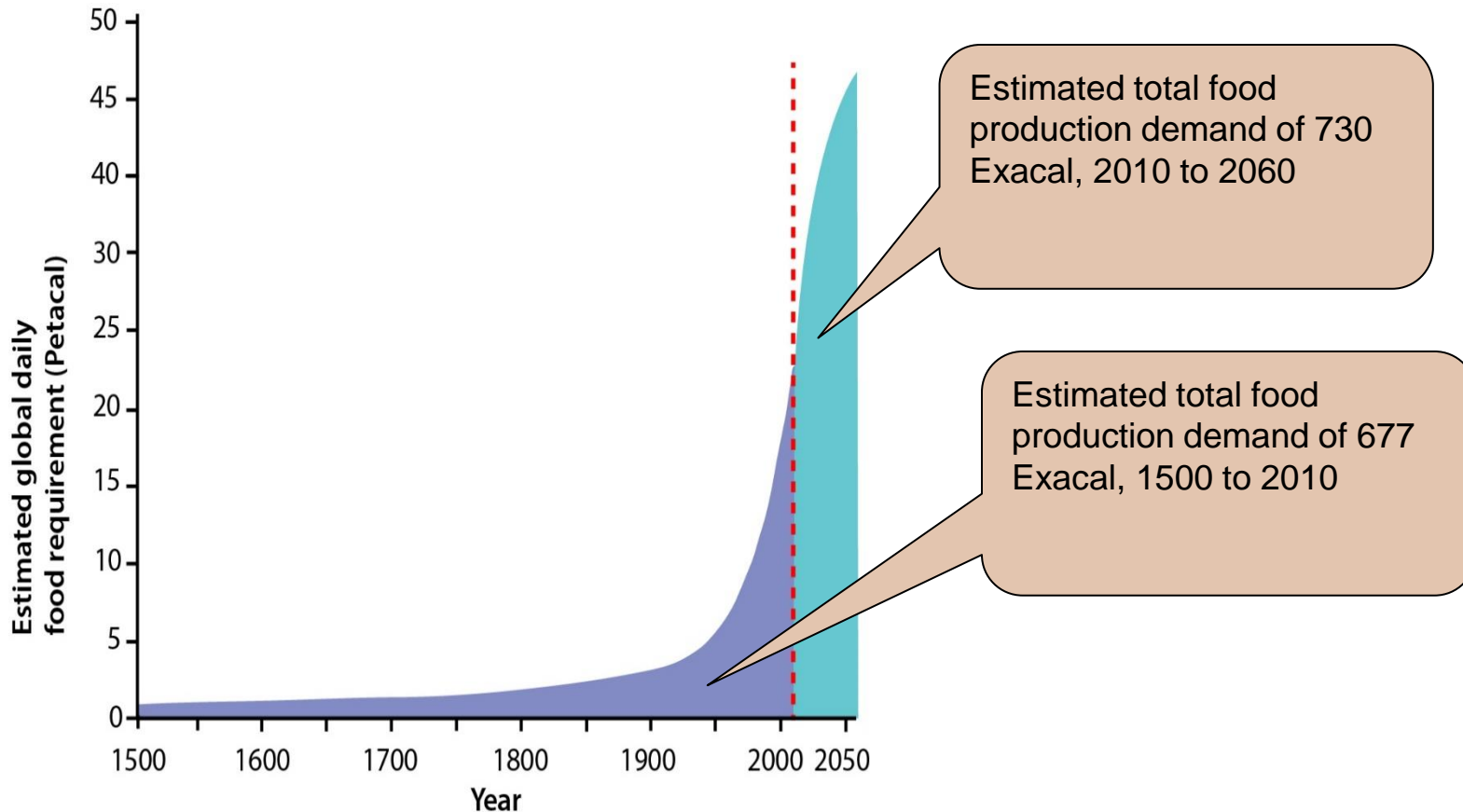
Demographic Change

- Will aspiring consumers in emerging economies follow the same food consumption model as in the West?
- Will China import more food and thus also water, nutrients and energy from other countries? How can it transform its own agriculture to produce enough food in a sustainable and safe manner?
- How can emerging economies direct more of their economic growth towards rural development and eradicating widespread poverty and malnutrition?



Challenge

produce as much food in the next 50 years as in the last 500 years



Source: CSIRO.Au

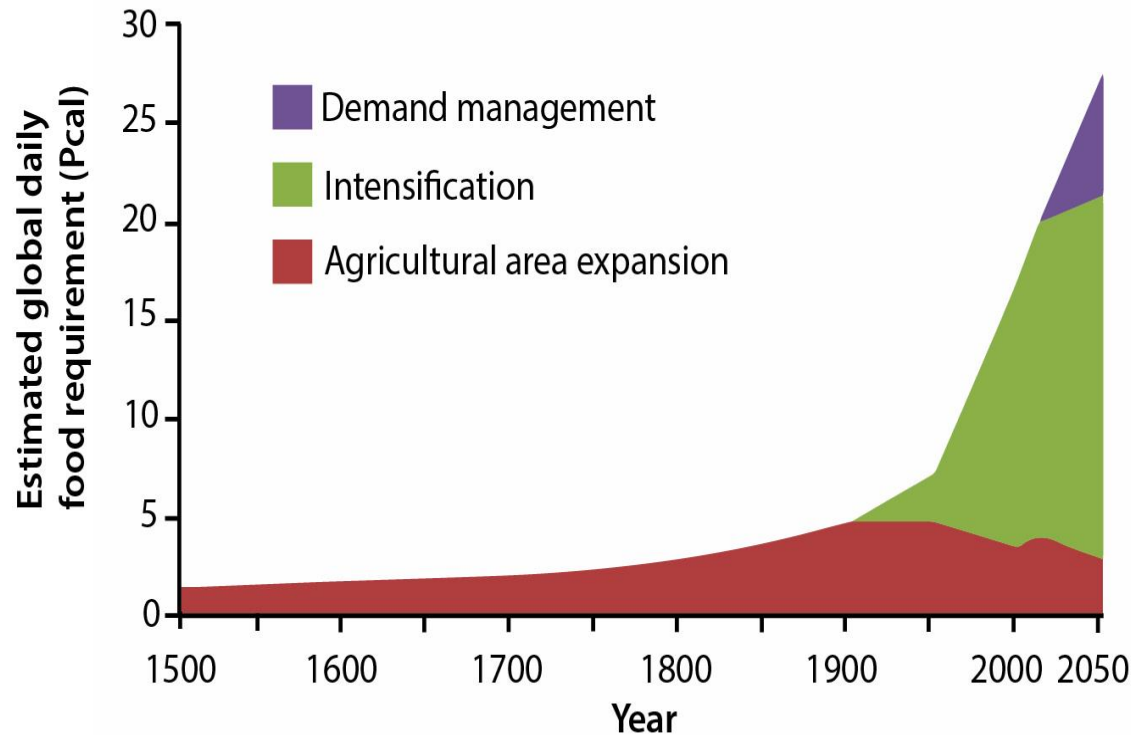
Challenge

Cereal production will have to increase by almost a billion tonnes from 2.1 billion today

Meat production will have to grow by more than 200 million tonnes to reach a total of 470 million tonnes in 2050.



How will food demand be met ?



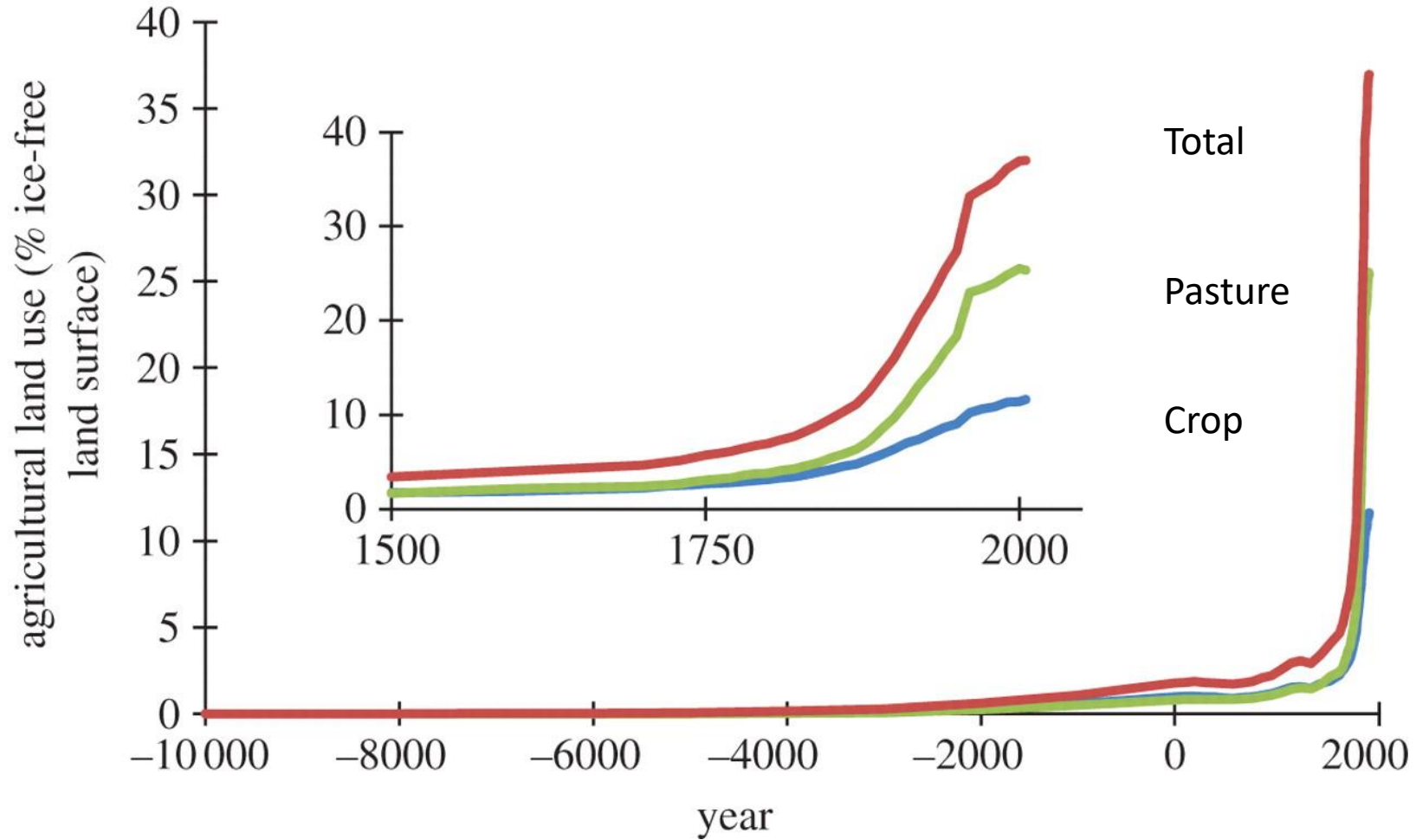
Need to
“produce more
responsibly”
and manage
“demand”

Smith (2014)



Changes in land use

Singarayer & Davies-Barnard (2012)



Land Use & Biodiversity

- How might we make farming more profitable and more sustainable in our generation?
- How can we transform the food system to ensure that healthy proteins, an essential nutrient for human health, are available to a global population estimated to reach from 7.5 to 9 billion people by 2050?
- How can we ensure proteins are produced within environmental limits and in a way that contributes rather than degrades key ecosystems?
- How can biotechnology best contribute to future food and nutritional security and serve the needs of the poor?
- How should EU soils be managed for optimum productivity and environmental protection in field vegetable, arable and grassland livestock systems in the long term



Smart systems for sustainable development goals



Smart systems for sustainable development goals

These are food systems in which the environmental basis to deliver food security for current and future generations is not compromised



Interconnected resources



Towards sustainable and efficient food systems

Consumer Side



Reduced food waste

Balanced diets

Packaging

4 tips for eating sustainably - [Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYCPqoosYXI)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYCPqoosYXI>



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Consumer behaviour

- What food information system would allow EU consumers to make an informed choice about each product's impact on different aspects of sustainability (environmental, economic, health and social)?
- Which intervention (or combination of interventions) would be most effective in achieving changes in consumption decisions and which types of intervention (e.g. awareness raising campaigns, choice editing, education, legislation or regulatory) are most appropriate for specific contexts and decisions?
- What dietary choices would EU consumers make if their intake of meat and dairy products was reduced, and what impact would this have on health and sustainability?



Food Waste

- Under which circumstances are the various channels for using food waste (including anaerobic digestion, feeding it to animals, composting, land-spreading etc.) socially, environmentally and economically preferable?
- How can ways of influencing behaviour be most cost-effectively designed and targeted to reduce food waste in EU homes?
- How can waste of primary production be minimised by ensuring efficient conversion to secondary products?



The Grand Challenges

Farms of the Future



Towards sustainable and efficient food systems

Production side



Better land management



Sustainable intensification



Biological pest control



Coupling crop and livestock systems

The Grand Challenges

Nutritional Challenges in the 21st Century

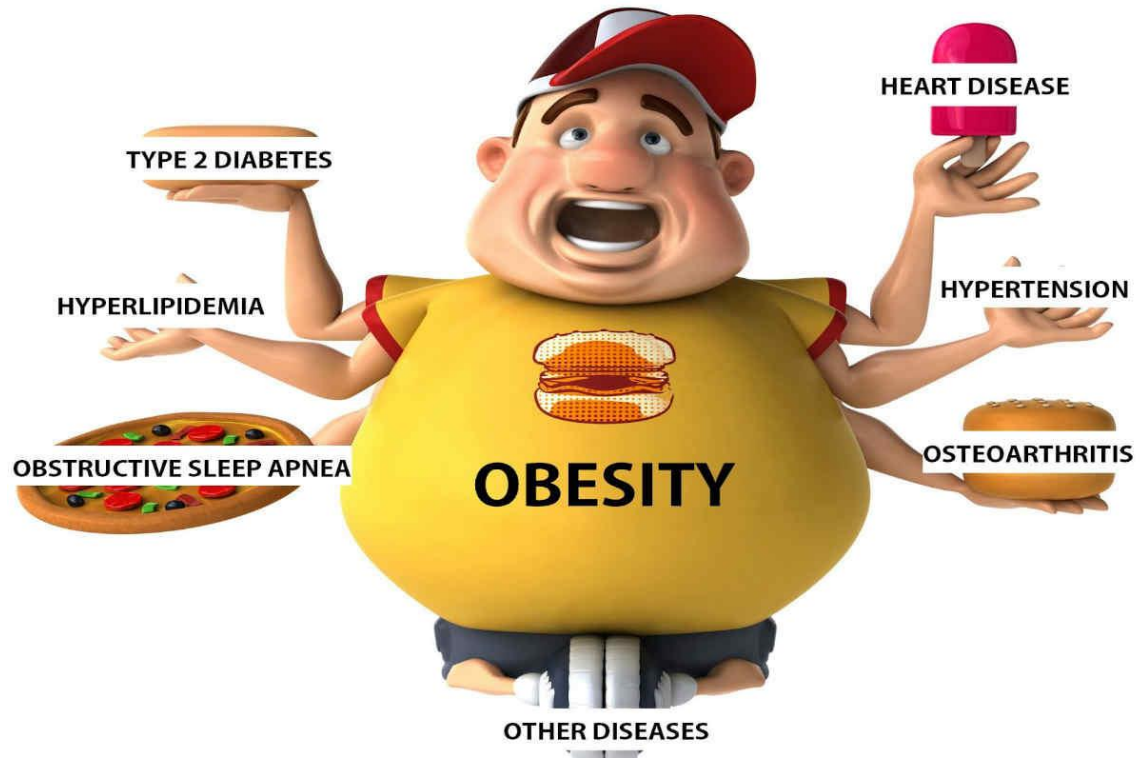


Improved human health

Genetics
Knowledge

Improved
nutrition

Improved
health



Connected Food & Health - Personalised Nutrition



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Integrity of Global Food Supply

- Ensure the food we produce is safe, authentic and nutritious

Food Safety

Minimising unintentional contamination

Food Fraud

Deception, using food, for economic gain

Food Defence

Minimising intentional contamination

Food Security

Access to adequate supplies of safe food



- The systems used to produce our food are sustainable
- Our food is produced to the highest ethical standards
- We respect the environment and all those who work in our food industry



Ensure Food Sustainability

New science, technologies and tools right across the food supply chain - investment

A partnership approach between farmers, advisors, researchers and other stakeholders including consumers

We must work together locally, nationally and internationally



Ensure Food Sustainability

Ensuring Food Sustainability is a complex process but will require a step change within our production systems and re-evaluation of the circular economy to reuse waste”



Food Safety - Global Issues

- Globally 600 million, approx. 1 in 10 people in the world, fall ill after consuming contaminated food.
- Of these, 420 000 people die, including 125 000 children < 5 years.

Microbiological

Bacterial / Viral / Parasite



Chemical

Natural



Man made



Process

Heat Contact
Adulterants



- As a prevention strategy legislation, regulations, education and food analysis are implemented.

Routes of Exposure



Food Concerns and Awareness

Under the current EU Food Hygiene legislation Producing safe and authentic food is the responsibility of Food Business Operators (FBOs)

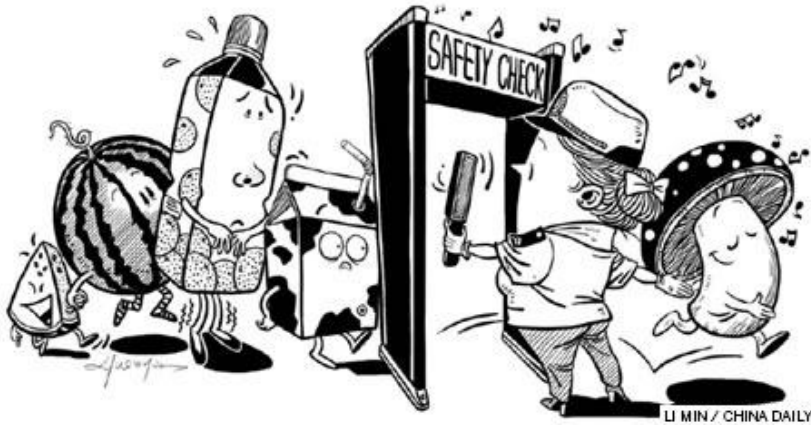


Creates Uncertainty in the food supply chain
More Questions Asked



Food Analysis

Uncertainty leads to increased surveillance and monitoring of our foods globally.

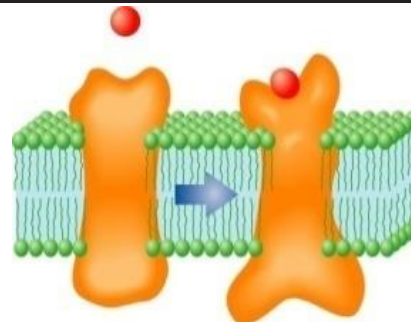


LI FENG



Choices in Methods of Analysis

1. Functional Assays
 - a. Bioassay
 - b. Cell based
 - c. Receptor based
 - d. Enzyme based



2. Analytical methods
 - a. HPLC
 - b. LC-MS
 - c. GC-MS
 - d. ICP-MS



ANALYTICAL METHODS TRADITIONAL CONFIRMATORY METHODS



Choices in Methods of Analysis

1. Functional Assays

- a. Bioassay
- b. Cell based
- c. Receptor based
- d. Enzyme based

- Level of contaminant measured relative to the response
- May detect new contaminants e.g. toxins
- Contaminant identification is not unequivocal
- Technology transfer of methods is difficult

2. Analytical methods

- a. HPLC
- b. LC-MS
- c. GC-MS
- d. ICP-MS

- Contaminants are identified and quantified for available analytical standards
- Toxicity equivalent factors may need applied
- Sample clean-up is extensive with oxidation steps being required for contaminants
- Data analysis is laborious
- LC-MS is unequivocal for identification

ANALYTICAL METHODS TRADITIONAL CONFIRMATORY METHODS

Comment is free

We must be alert to the new age of food crime

Food fraud is a growing problem that will prove fatal unless we ask more questions about what we are served



Observer editorial
The Observer, Saturday 3 May 2014 20.42 BST
Jump to comments (53)

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World news
Food safety

UK news
Crime

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Lasz year's horsemeat scandal proved 'how vulnerable our food chains were to blatant fraud perpetrated on an industrial scale'. Photograph: Ina Fassbender/Reuters

For starters, we'll have the pig's anus masquerading as calamari, followed by the potentially fatal puffer fish pretending to be monkfish, all washed down with ultra-filtered milk and some relabelled organic wine passed off as champagne. On the side, we'll have a faux artisanal sourdough roll made with normal flour substituted for organic and road salt

Choices in Methods of Analysis

3. Spectroscopic methods

- a. Near IR
 - b. Mid IR
 - c. RAMAN
 - d. SERS
 - e. REIMS
- Fingerprinting techniques
 - Non-destructive methods little to no sample prep
 - Require chemometric models of known samples
 - Sensitivity is questionable

4. RNA/DNA (Pathogen Monitoring)

- a. PCR
 - b. qPCR
 - c. NGS
- Fingerprinting techniques
 - Destructive methods highly specialised
 - Require libraries and databases of known sequences
 - Sensitivity is questionable without enhancement



Spectroscopic techniques

“fingerprinting” technique giving unique spectra

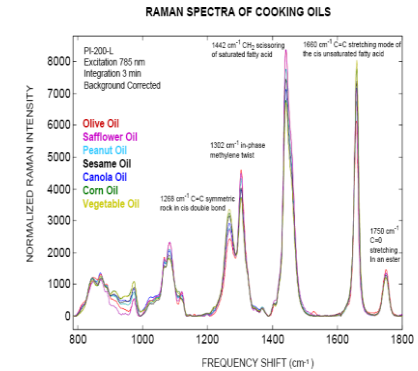
Little or no sample preparation

Ideal technique for use with adulteration of food eg fats and oils

Multivariate techniques can be used to extrapolate the desired chemical information



HANDHELD RAMAN



Image

Detector

Processor

Data

Answer

Choices in Methods of Analysis

3. Spectroscopic methods

- a. Near IR
- b. Mid IR
- c. RAMAN
- d. SERS
- e. REIMS

- Fingerprinting techniques
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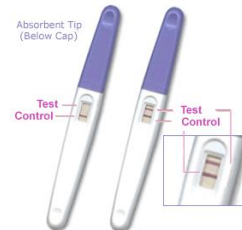
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- a. PCR
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5. Biochemical Assays

- a. ELISA
- b. Lateral flow devices
- c. Biosensor
- d. Nanosensor
- e. Aptasensors



Choices in Methods of Analysis

3. Spectroscopic methods

- a. Near IR
- b. Mid IR
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- Fingerprinting techniques
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4. RNA/DNA

(Pathogen Monitoring)

- a. PCR
- b. qPCR
- c. NGS

- Fingerprinting techniques
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5. Biochemical Assays

- a. ELISA
- b. Lateral flow devices
- c. Biosensor
- d. Nanosensor
- e. Aptasensors

- Sensitivity and specificity determined by quality of binders
- Sample preparation and data analysis is fast
- Screening tools for HACCP management and rapid response



An Introduction to Global Food Security, Safety & Sustainability

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