

The future of  
agriculture in Europe  
David Rees Ph.D.

***Based on the book 'Nourrir l'Humanité'  
by Bruno Parmentier***

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**INH**

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*De la science du végétal  
à la culture du paysage*

IN AUSTRALIA  
WE'RE HAND-FEEDING  
THE STOCK

IN EUROPE  
WE'VE BEEN  
HAND-FEEDING  
FOR YEARS...



**Origin and purpose  
of the CAP?**

# Contents

## 1. Farming capacity and food needs



## 2. Land and water requirements



## 3. Biofuels

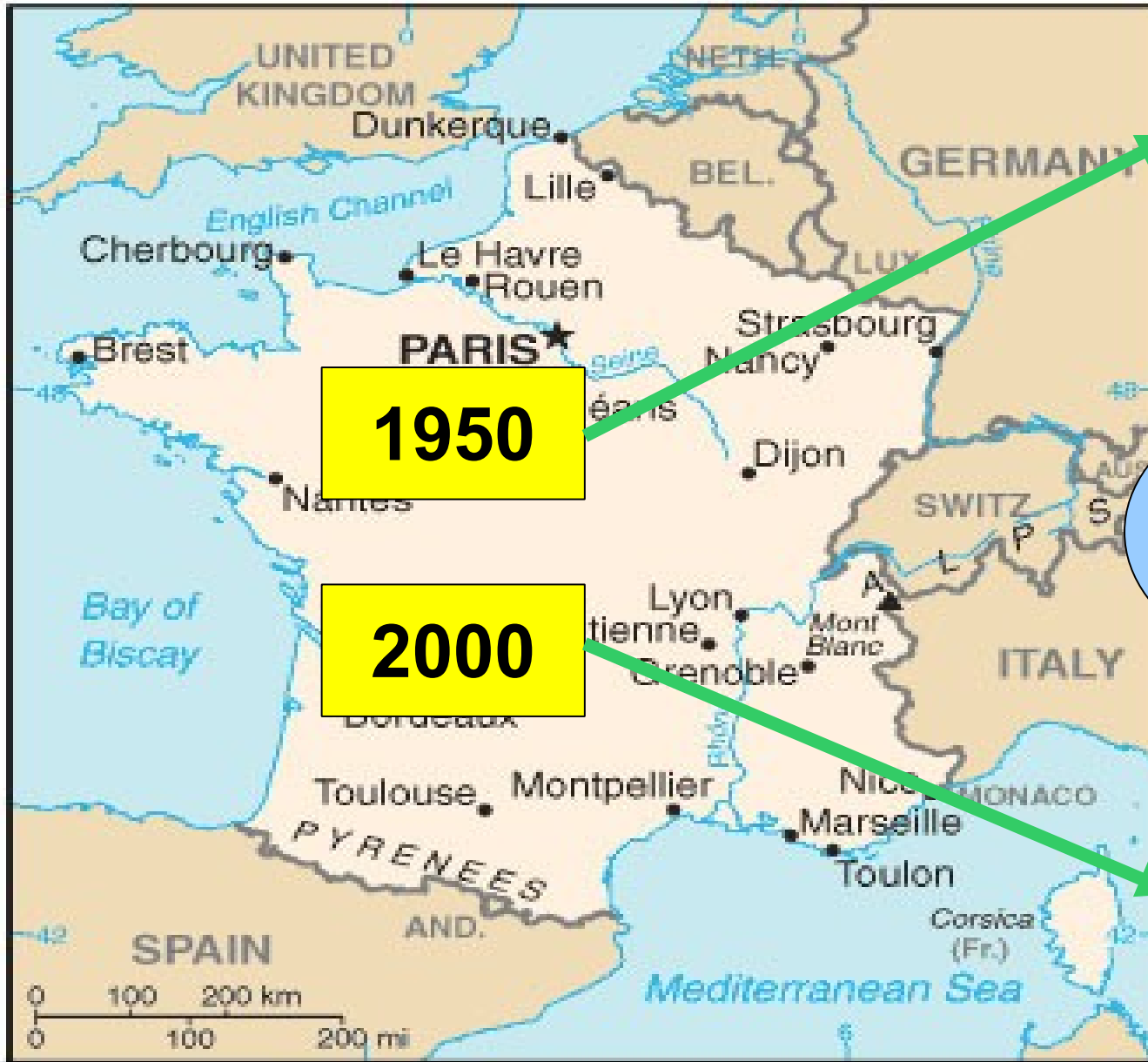


## 4. Aid

## 5. Conclusion



# France



**8m farmers  
1 farmer fed  
5 people**

**Agronomy:  
pesticides  
fertilisers  
mechanisation**

**0.8m farmers  
1 farmer feeds  
100 people**

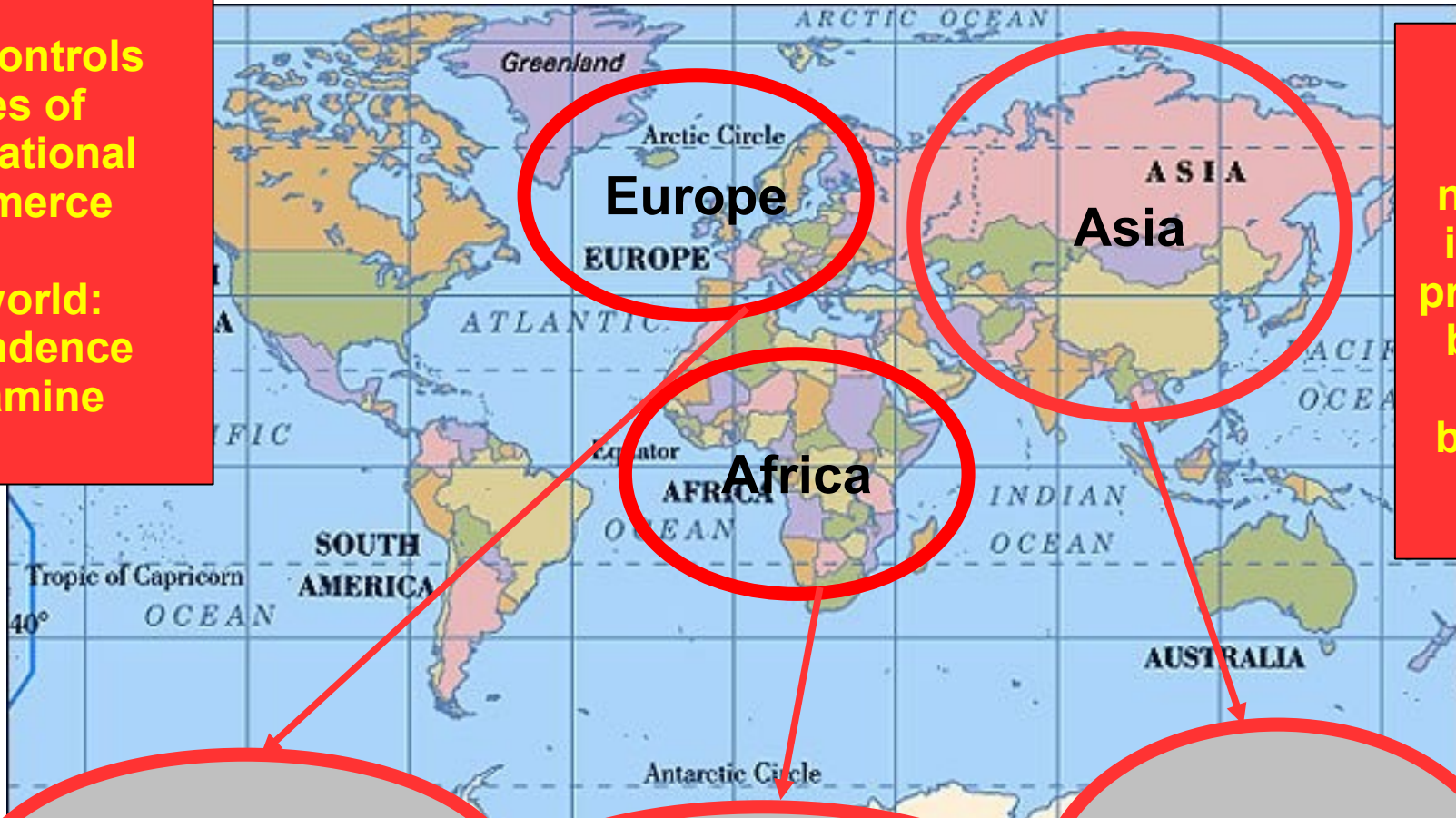
**France: 23% of EU15 production  
Top producer: beef, poultry  
BUT – has to import 75% animal feed from USA, Brazil & Argentina**

**2007**  
**Population: 6.4b**  
**Hungry: 850m**



**2050**  
**Population: 9.5b**

**West controls rules of International Commerce**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> world: dependence or famine**



**World needs to increase production by 125% Can it be done?**

**Will feed themselves**

**Need to increase production by x5**

**Need to increase production by x2.3**



**125%**

# ***Agricultural production to feed the world in 2005***

	Africa	Asia	S. America	N. America	Oceania	Europe	World
Pop. Growth	3.14	1.69	1.8	1.31	1.61	0.91	<b>1.76</b>
Needs change	1.07	1.02	1.03	0.99	1	0.98	<b>1.02</b>
Diet change	1.64	1.38	1.07	1	1	1	<b>1.28</b>
Cum. effect	<b>5.14</b>	<b>2.34</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>2.25</b>

*Ref: Philippe Collomb 'Une voie étroite pour la sécurité alimentaire d'ici à 2050'*

**+125%**



***2006: an Indian consumes 4kg of meat per year  
: an American consumes 80kg of meat per year***

***2050: If Indians and Chinese consumed 40kg of meat per year?***

***(1kg of meat requires about 4-10kg of cereal)***

**44% cereals**  
→  
**meat production**



**1960 – 0.94b tons**



**2000 – 2.2b tons**

**2000 – 2.2b tons**



**2050 – 3.2b tons**

**+1b tons**



**3x USA production**

## Food Production

**Maize, Rice and  
Corn**

**1950-2000**

**3 times more  
productive**



**Pesticides  
&  
Fertilisers**

## Fertiliser

**Corn: France 240kg/h, Russia 25kg/h**

**Maize: USA 257kg/h, Tanzania 12kg/h**

**Rice: 320kg/h, Cambodia 4kg/h**

**Cotton: Tadjikstan 461kg/h, Benin 45kg/h**



## Food Production

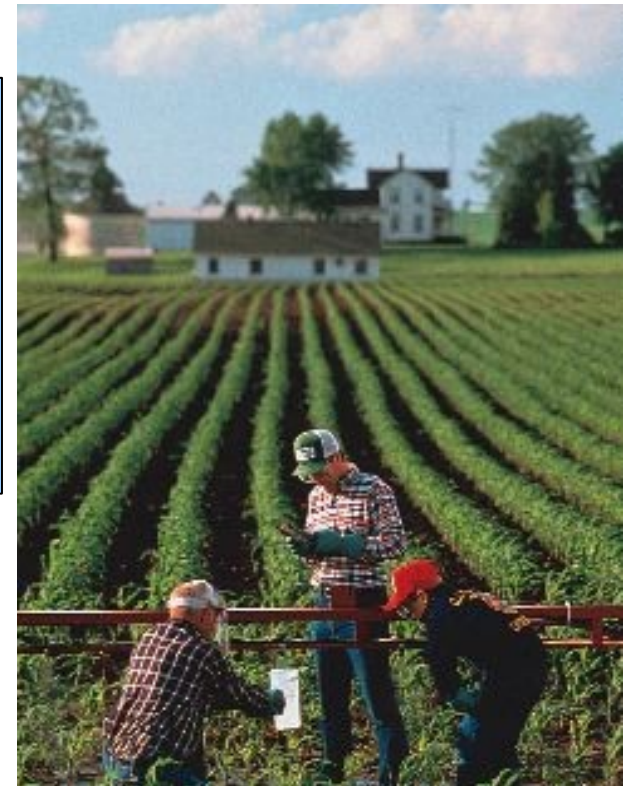


### Third-world farmer

1h of land, no machines, no animal traction,  
no selected seed, no insecticide, no fertiliser  
At 1\$ per day, production cost is 36\$ per  
100kg

Canadian farmer 12\$ per 100kg  
Australians and Argentinians:  
8\$ per 100kg

Cannot allow market forces  
to determine the market





## Opening the market: Mexico and the USA

US investment quadruples  
in Mexico (cheaper labour)

Mexican exports 31 to  
165b\$

0.75m to 1.6m cars per year


**Maize (Mexican staple diet)**

**US maize production 4 times more productive**

**US maize twice the amount of subsidy**

*US Maize subsidies  
(10b\$) more than  
the entire Mexican  
Agricultural budget*

**Mexico loses 3m farmers**

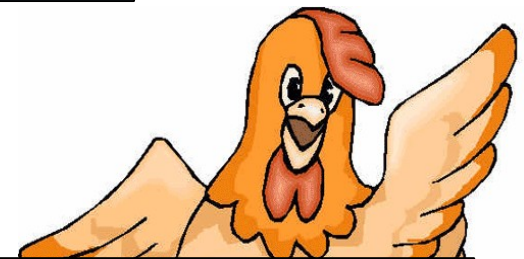


**US investment in the Maquiladoras  
now moving to Asia. How will Mexico earn the  
\$ to import the food it used to grow?**

## EU CAP subsidies and dumping

**EU chicken producers**

**Cheaper cereal due to subsidies**



**Best bits for the EU market  
Worst bits (wings) to Africa**

### **Cameroon**

**Local chicken: 2€28**

**EU imported frozen chicken: 1€37**



**1996-2003: Imports 980 tonnes to 22,000 tonnes  
National production 26,000 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes  
110,000 jobs lost per year  
83% of samples improper for consumption**



**GMOs**

**90m h (eq. all  
EU agricultural land)**

**China  
reduced insecticide by 80%  
with GM Cotton**

**28% cheaper  
farmer intoxication  
from 22% to 5%**

## **What should we eat?**



**1€50 - 1l vegetable oil - 7,200kcal**

**1€50 – 1kg sugar – 4,000kcal**



**1€50 – 0.5kg bread – 1,200kcal**

**1€50 – 0.1kg meat – 200kcal**



**1€50 – 1kg vegetables – 250kcal**



# Agricultural land

38% of land is farmed, pasture or forest

1960: 0.43h per person

2000: 0.25h per person

1960-2000: agricultural land +9%

1960-2000: population +50%

Australia: 2.5h / person

China: 0.12h / person



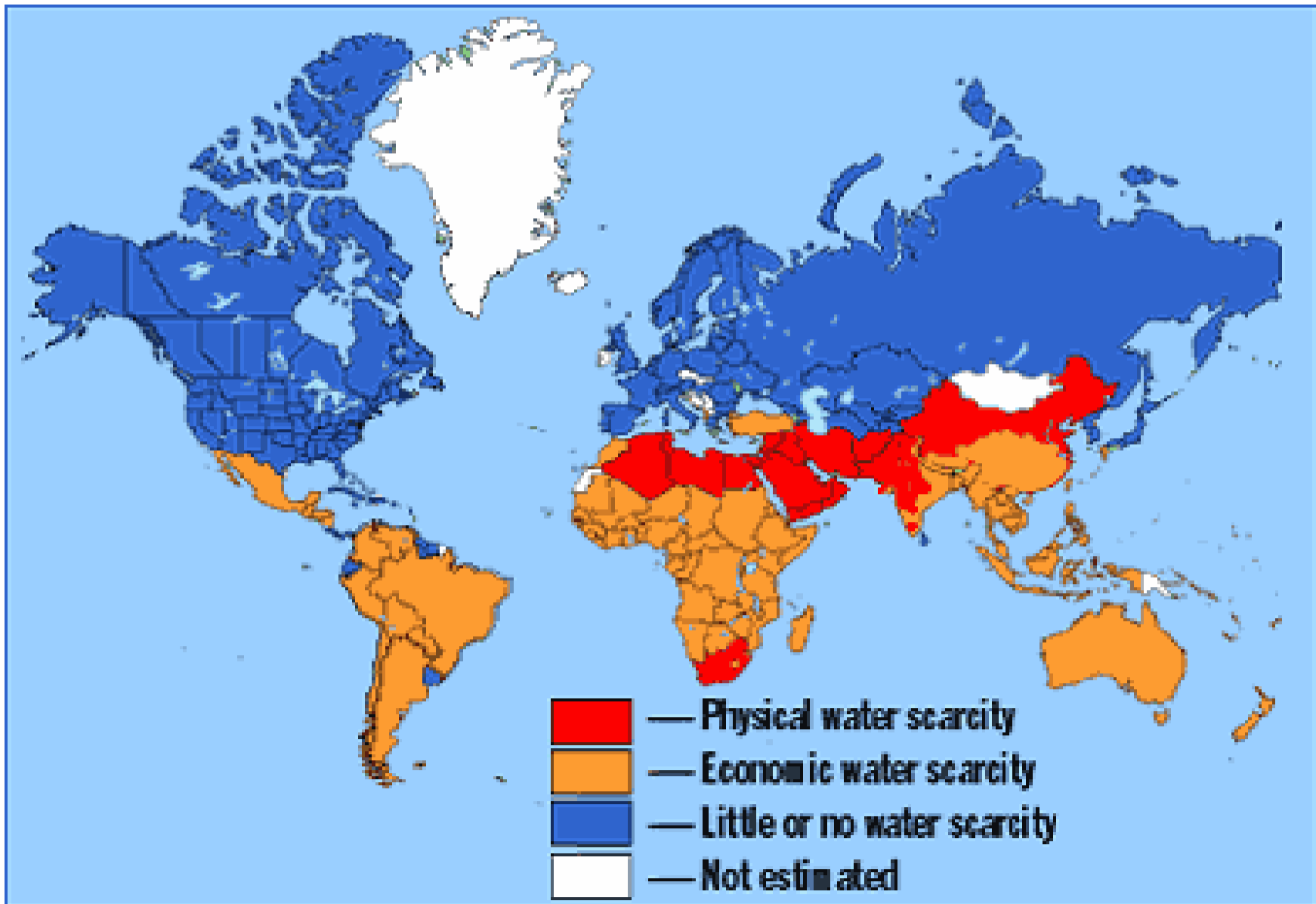
# ***Farming needs water***



***97.5 water is sea water, 2.5% fresh water – but  
65% of fresh water is held as ice, so only 1% is available***

***“More than half of humanity will be living with water shortages, depleted fisheries and polluted coastlines within 50 years because of a worldwide water crisis”, warns a United Nations report***

## *World water needs*







**Arizona:  
wells from  
150m to 450m  
deep**

**West: drought  
Underground  
reserves  
50% gone**

**Kansas  
pipeline from  
the Missouri**

**Request to  
Canada  
for water  
supplies  
(refused)**

CONN: CONNECTICUT  
MASS: MASSACHUSETTS  
NH: NEW HAMPSHIRE  
RI: RHODE ISLAND  
VT: VERMONT



**1950: Reserve of 16,800m<sup>3</sup> per person**

**2006: Reserve of 6,800m<sup>3</sup> per person**

**2025: Reserve of 4,800m<sup>3</sup> per person**

**12 countries have 60% reserves (Brazil, Russia, USA, Canada, China, Indonesia, India, Colombia, Peru)**



**80 countries (40% world population) have serious water problems**



**Erosion, desertification, industrialisation etc.**

**China loses 1m h of agricultural land per year!**



**China: 1.26 billion people.**

**Over-pumping: Northern China water table dropping 1m per year.**

**300 cities short of water.**

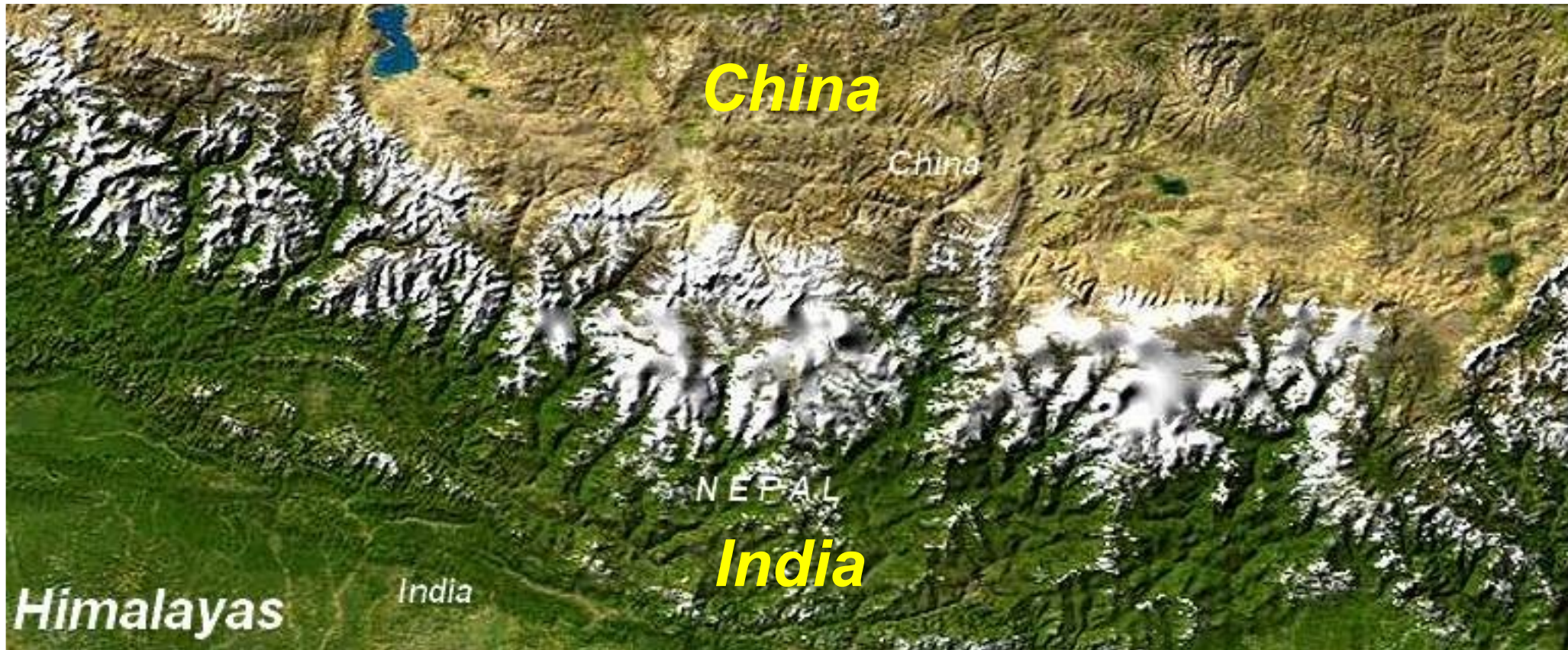
**Diverting water from agriculture to industry; farmers bankrupt**

**Rivers: heavy metal pollution; too bad for irrigation.**

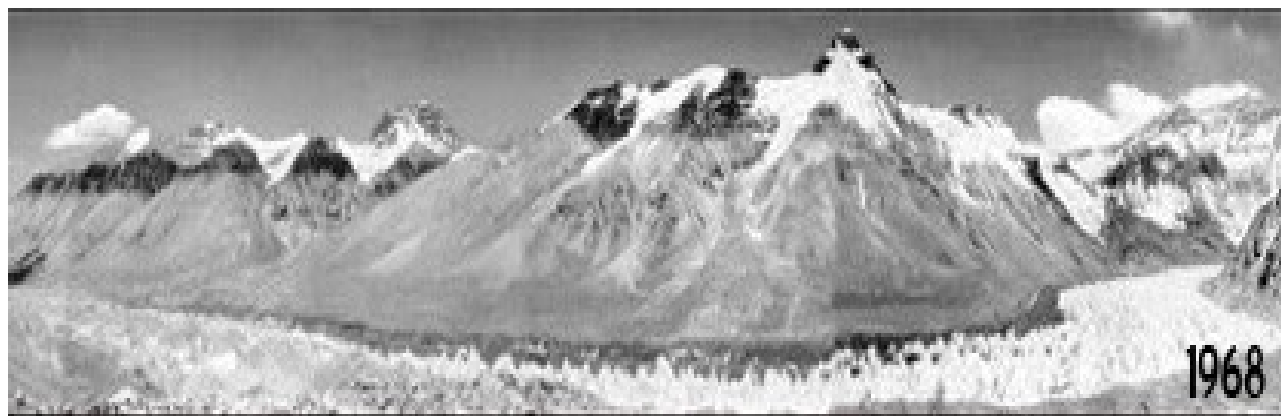
**Farm production reducing, imports increase (prices rise).**



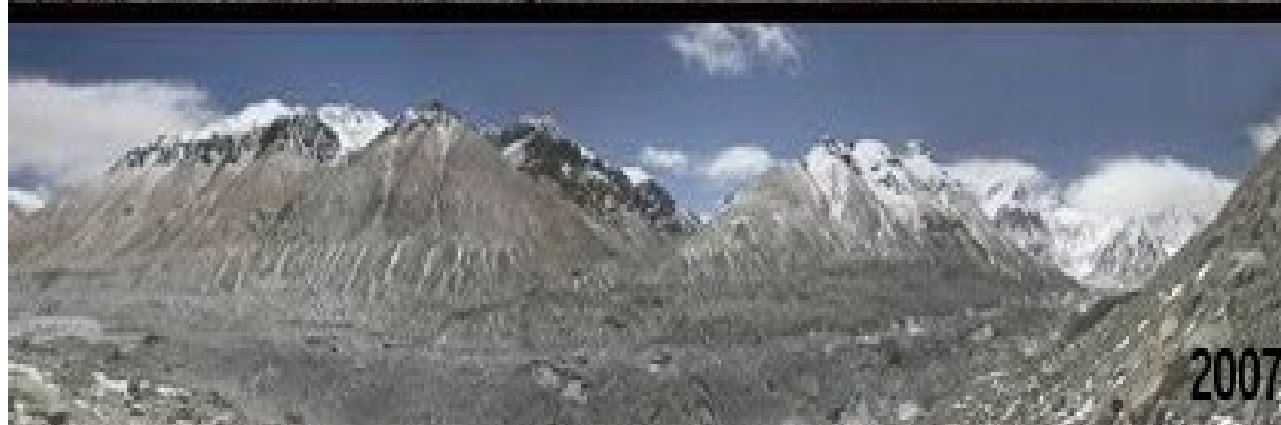
## ***China – an unavoidable water crisis***



***China and India use snow-melt waters for summer water supplies.***



1968



2007

## MELTING MOUNTAINS

**Himalayas: 33,000km<sup>2</sup>. Depth reducing by 0.2 to 1m per year  
Feeds the Amou-Daria, Ganges, Indus, Salouen,  
Mekong, Yangzi, & Huang He.  
Initial flooding will be replaced by lack of water**

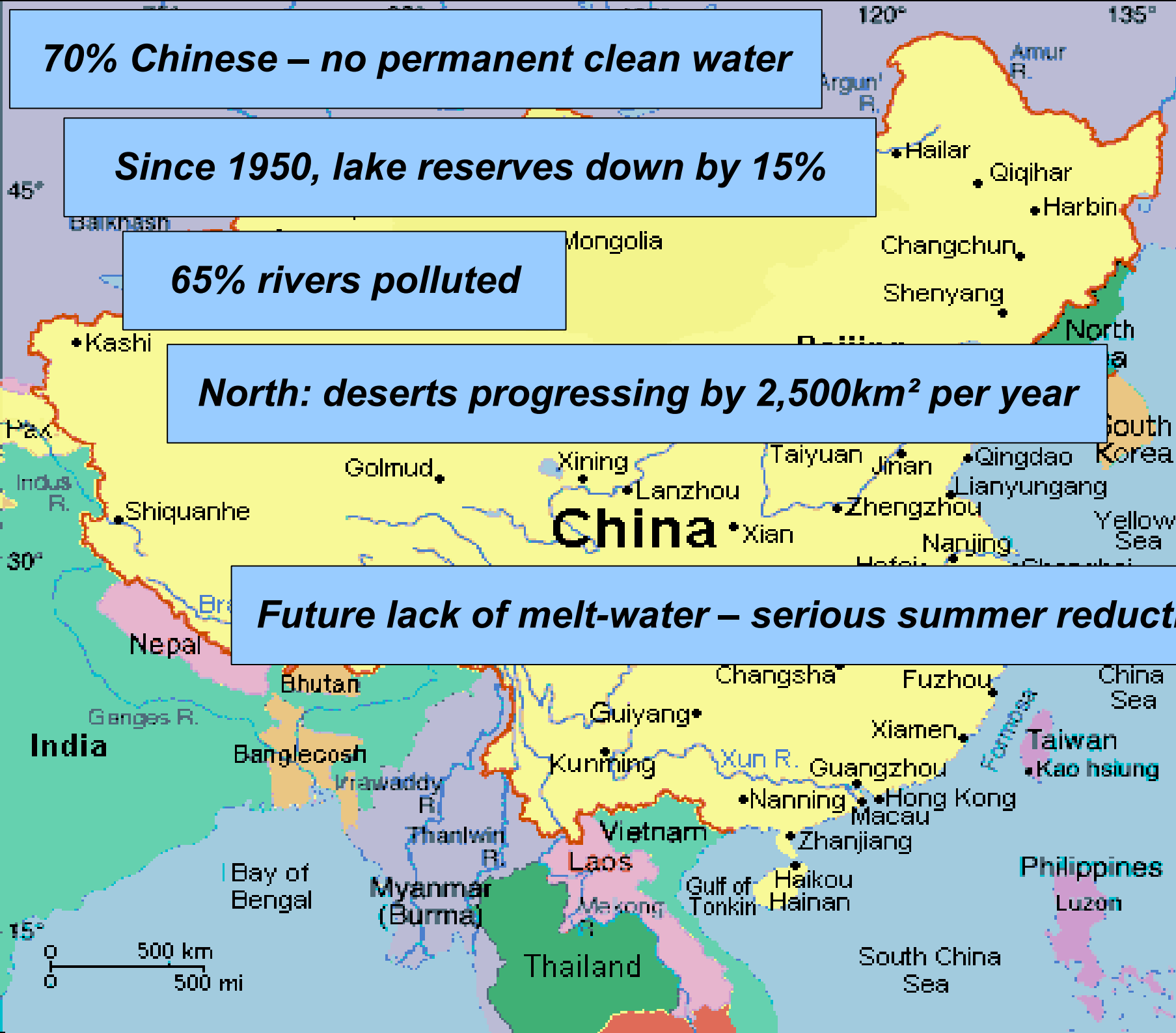
**70% Chinese – no permanent clean water**

**Since 1950, lake reserves down by 15%**

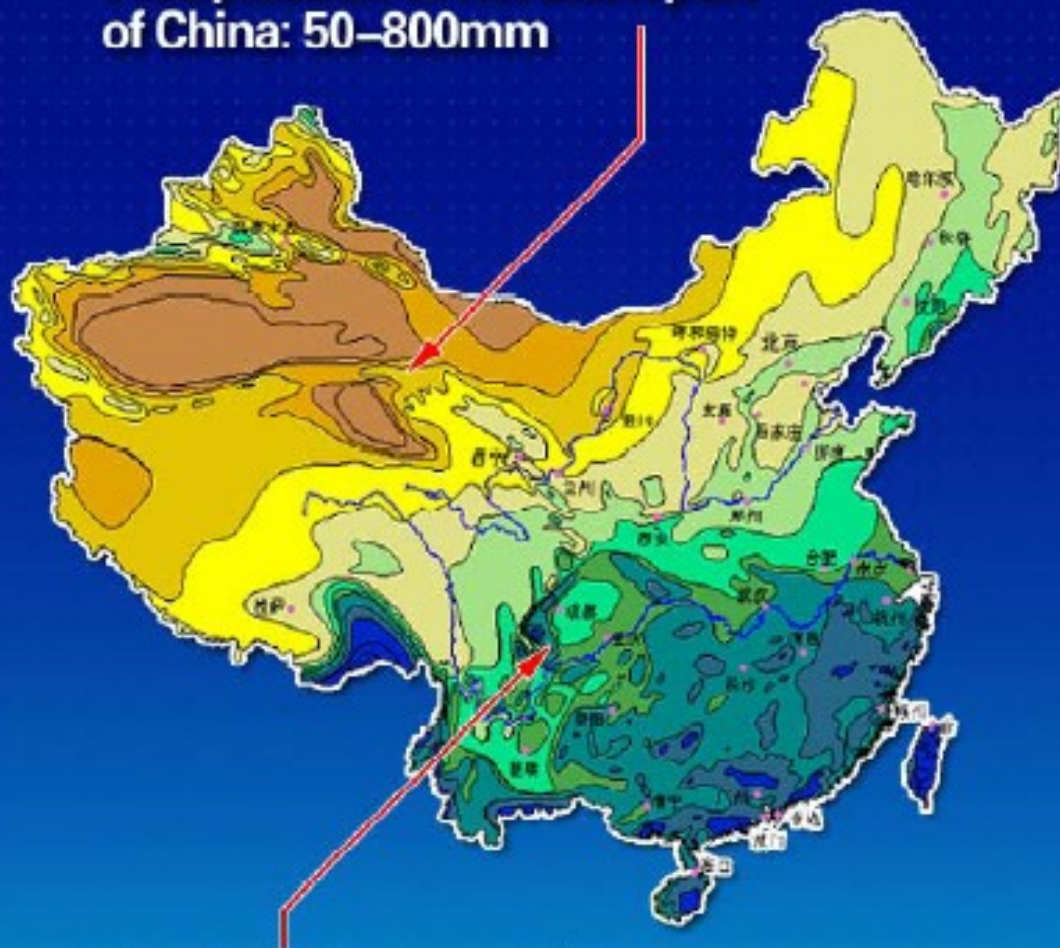
**65% rivers polluted**

**North: deserts progressing by 2,500km<sup>2</sup> per year**

**Future lack of melt-water – serious summer reduction**



Precipitation in northern part  
of China: 50–800mm



Precipitation in southern  
part of China: 800–2000mm

Water is also unevenly  
distributed in space:

**Northern part of China:**

Water resources: 19%

population: 47%

Cultivated land: 64%

GDP: 45%

**Southern part of China:**

Water resources: 81%

population: 53%

Cultivated land: 35%

GDP: 55%



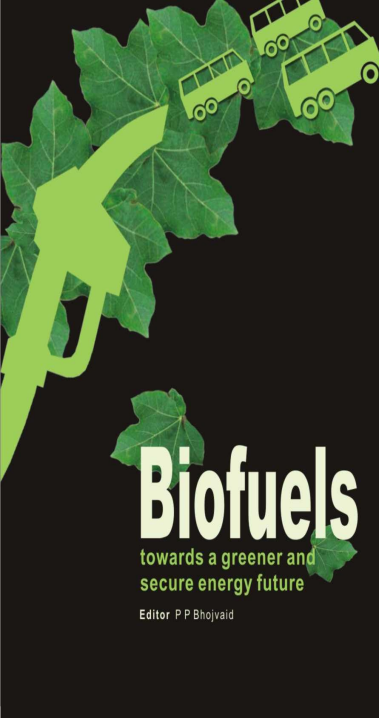
# South-to-North Water Transfer Project



## **Virtual Water: how much water required to produce different foods**

	<u>l/H<sup>2</sup>O/kg</u>
<b>Corn</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Rain rice</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Flood rice</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Soya</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>Cotton</b>	<b>5,200</b>
<b>Beef</b>	<b>13,500</b>
<b>Pork</b>	<b>4,600</b>
<b>Poultry</b>	<b>4,100</b>
<b>Milk</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Cheese</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Eggs</b>	<b>2,700</b>

**'Dry' countries should therefore import high virtual water products rather than producing them themselves.  
N. Africa buys 40m tons of cereal per year. = 40b tons of virtual H<sup>2</sup>O**



# Biofuels – a solution or a menace?



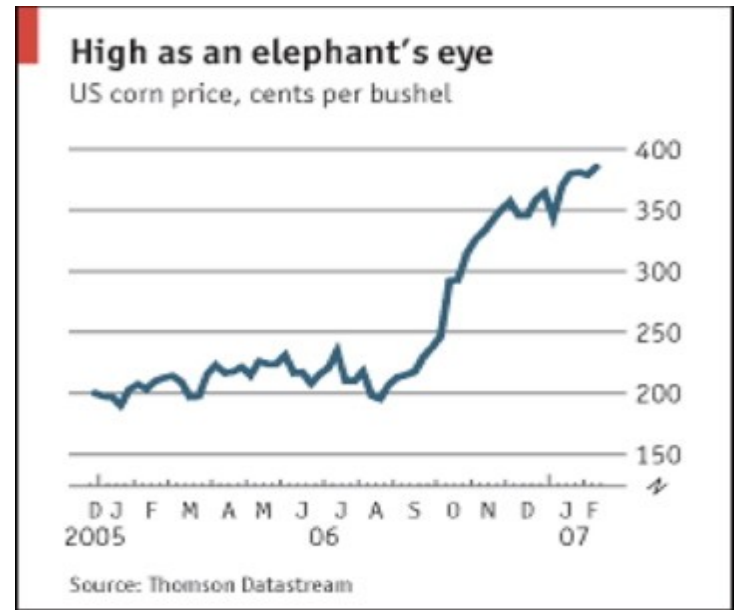
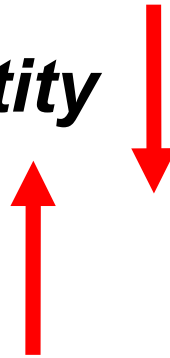
*Biofuel production*



**Corn for food**

**Quantity**

**Price**

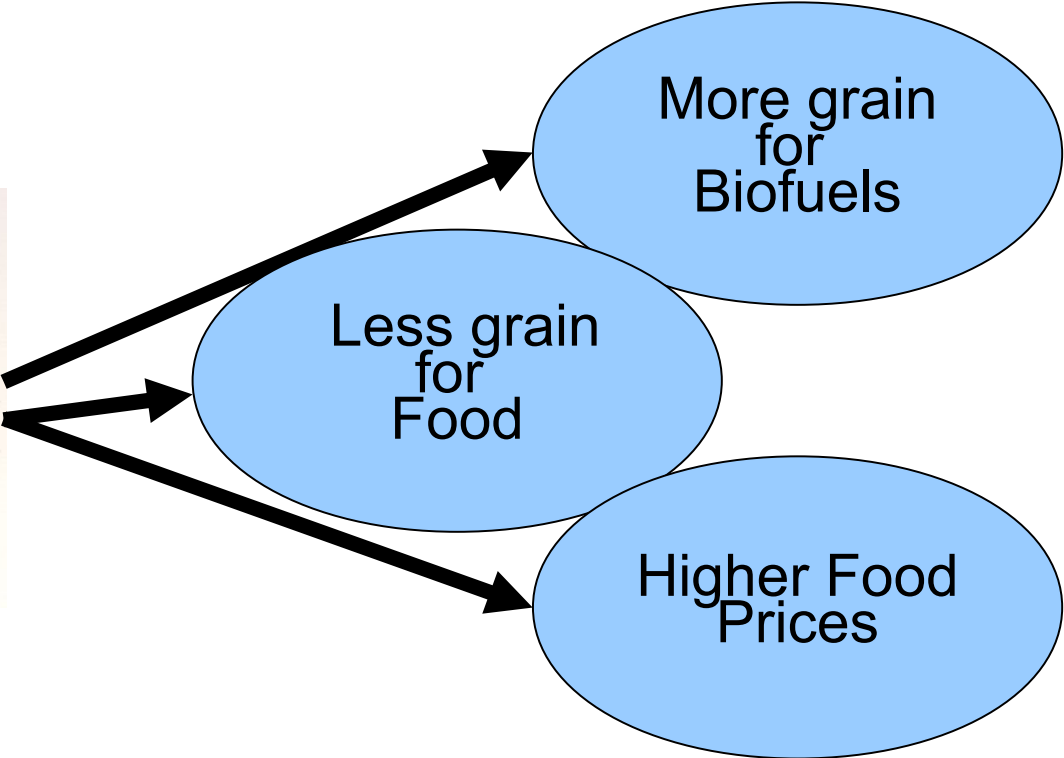


# Biocarburants



2005: 0.5%  
2010: 5.75%  
2020: 20%

Ethanol and Biodeisel more profitable than agriculture when oil 80+\$ per barrel



# Food Aid

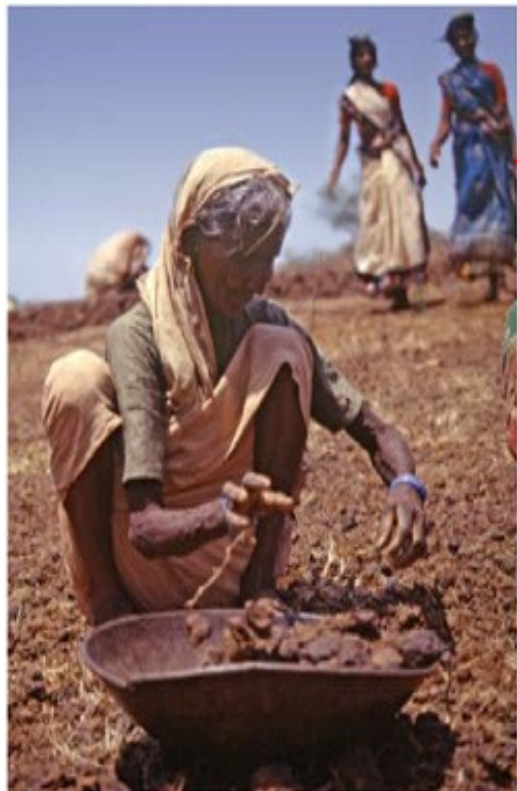


50% of cost is for shipping  
(increasing with rising fuel costs)

Sustainable development



# Poverty



# Farmer



Food imports



Dependency



## **Food Aid**

**Food aid depends on overproduction**

**1980-1987**

**Corn prices: 175\$ to  
120\$**

**Aid 6-12m tonnes**

**By 1996**

**Corn prices: 120\$ to  
205\$**

**Aid 12-3m tonnes**

# Conclusion

## North America

Switch of food crops  
Reduction of e

## Europe

Increase in production  
Increase in exports  
GMO-based biofuels  
Immigration control

## South America

Restriction of  
Market prote  
Fuel develop  
Environmental de

## Africa

Reduction of production (drought)  
Disease and poverty  
Massive emmigration (to?)

ia  
duction (water)  
Imports  
Increases)

ation

Asia  
ction (drought)  
biofuels  
Pacific islands

(Sea levels)

Fuel prices  
Biocarburant production  
Food production

Environmental migration  
Economic migration

Food prices

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# ***Falling prices of third-world agricultural products 1980-2000***



***Cocoa beans -70%***



***Palm Oil  
-45%***



***Cotton  
- 48%***



***Coffee beans -65%***





**Cocoa – 3 companies control 40% of the market  
The producer receives 2-4% of the final price**



**Coffee – 4 companies control  
40% of the market. 4 companies control  
45% of torrefaction.**



**Bananas – 88% for the international commercial  
companies, 12% for the (often foreign) producers,  
2% for the labourers**

# Who will feed whom in the future?



**China has to feed 22% of the world's population with 7% of agricultural land (and diminishing).**

**Produces 19% world cereals (twice EU)**

**30% world rice**

**15% world corn**

**19% maize**

**# 1 cotton producer (25%)**

**# 1 Pork (4 x more than the EU)**

**# 1= Chicken**

**# 3 cattle (behind Brazil and India)**

**# 1 pisciculture**

**#1 fruits and vegetables (8 x EU)**



**Chronic flooding**

**Ice-melt in the Himalayas**

**Lowering of water reserve levels**

**Water and air pollution**

**Cereals for animal feed (1970 – 9%, 2000 - 30%)**

**Future world food reserve**

**Brazil**

**#1 sugar, coffee, soya, orange juice,  
chicken, beef, tobacco, ethanol.**

**30% GDP, 35% employment, 45% exports**

**With Argentina, will become the two biggest  
food exporters in the world and will supply  
Asia, Africa and the Middle East**

**EU – self-sufficient. The CAP regulations  
(protection) will be removed and the EU  
will face real food competition for the first  
time but increasing food prices and EU  
agronomy in developing EU countries  
(Central Eastern) will develop and sustain  
EU's position)**



# North Africa and the Middle East

Northern Africa and the Middle East



Potential: land, water, labour OK.

But, political and economic instability, the lack of technology and capital and its inability to defend itself against EU and US competition.

Future – serious water shortages, serious food shortages, low income and higher food prices will lead to massive emmigration (attempts)

Middle East. Oil revenues (while they last) will allow the purchase of food and the desalination of water (high-energy costs). When the oil runs out – no other sufficient infrastructure.

## ***Russia and ex Soviet Union***



***Can increase production considerably. Good land and water, global warming benefit. Could become future world cereal producer (like before - Odessa used to be the centre for world cereal prices)***

***Depends on:***

***Use of oil money for investment in technology and infrastructure (before the oil and gas runs out)***



## ***The responsibility of the CAP***

### **Agricultural subsidies:**

***Switzerland 68%***

***Japan 56%***

***EU 32%***

***USA 16%***

***Australia 5%***

***Tax barrier against importing non-EU food 60%*  
*(as opposed to 5% for industrialised goods)***

***If the EU reduced its import taxes by 60%, it  
would increase by 20% developing country exports***

***What EU do we want? The EU could stop all agricultural  
exports and transform competitive production (sugar...)  
to internal production.***

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