

Duurzame landbouw –  
Gezond voedsel - Vitaal platteland

## **Climate and agriculture**

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April 2015



# Outline

1. CLM in a nutshell
2. Climate and ag
3. Carbon calculators at farm level  
*Questions*
4. More than carbon: wider scope for farm level tools  
*More questions*



# 1. CLM in a nutshell

- Sustainable food & farming, biodiversity, water, rural development
- Research, advice, bridge building
- Started >30 years ago
- Independent, self-owned
- Started out as non-profit, now plc + foundation
- Currently 22 people and network of partner organisations
- One specialty: Measuring, monitoring and benchmarking (standards, systems and tools)

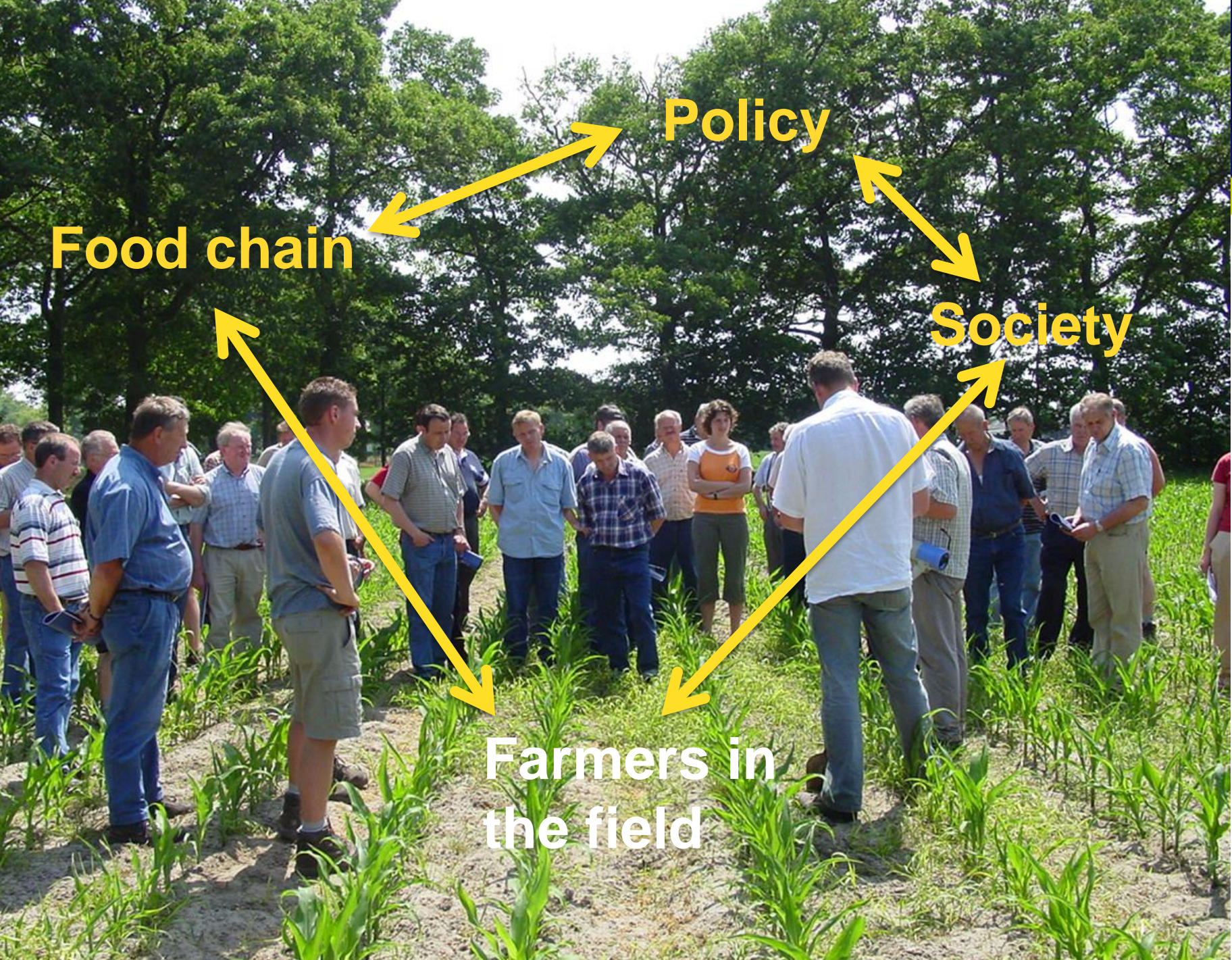


# Clients

- Governments: EU, ministries, regional and local authorities
- Retail, food and agri-business (SAI-Platform, Jumbo, Sodexo, Heineken, Cono/Ben&Jerry, Ardo, FrieslandCampina, McCain, Bayer)
- Farmers' organisations
- Environmental NGOs (FoE, Greenpeace, WWF)







Policy

Food chain

Society

Farmers in  
the field



# CLM's scope

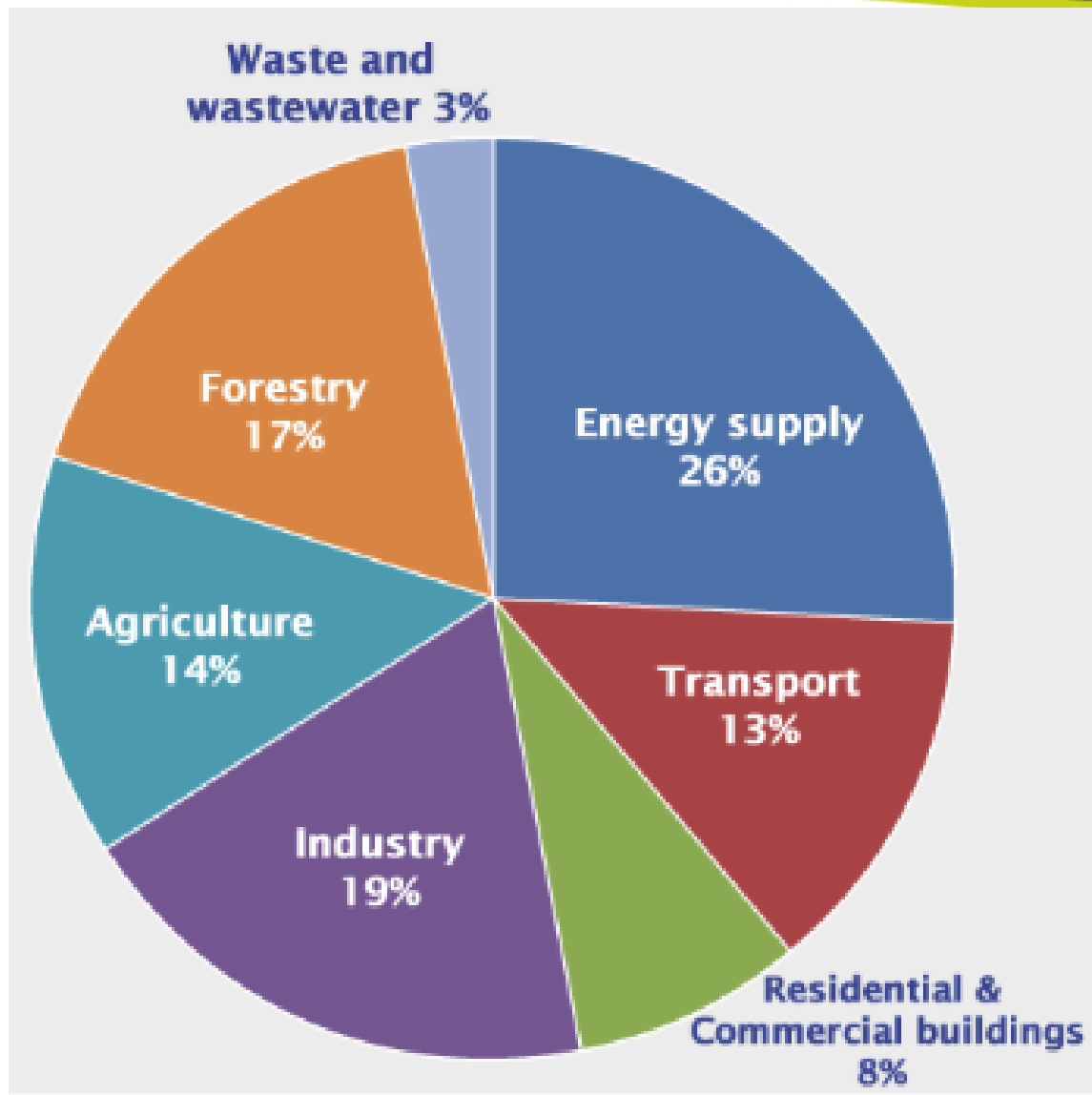
- Mainly Netherlands
- Some work at European level (EU research projects)
- Some international activities, e.g. with SAI-Platform, Cool Farm Alliance
- Contact with IATP since early years



## 2. Agriculture and climate change



# GHG emissions per sector, global, 2007

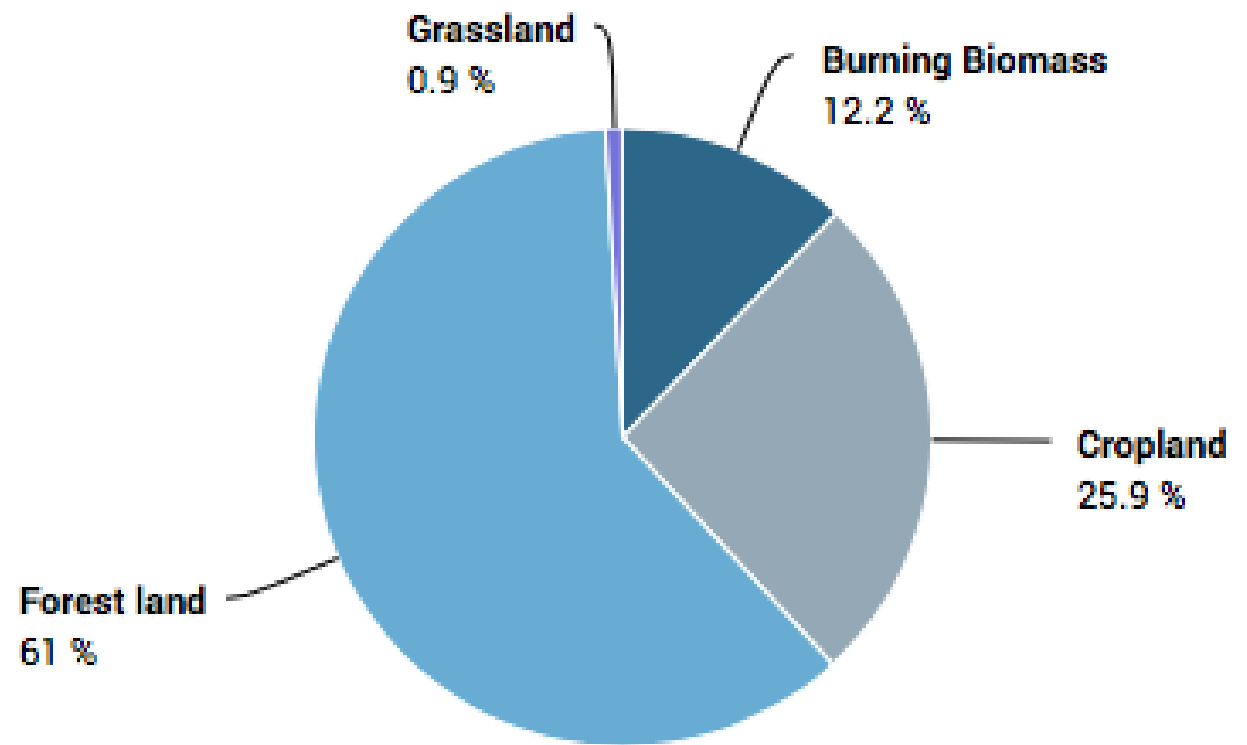


IPCC 2007



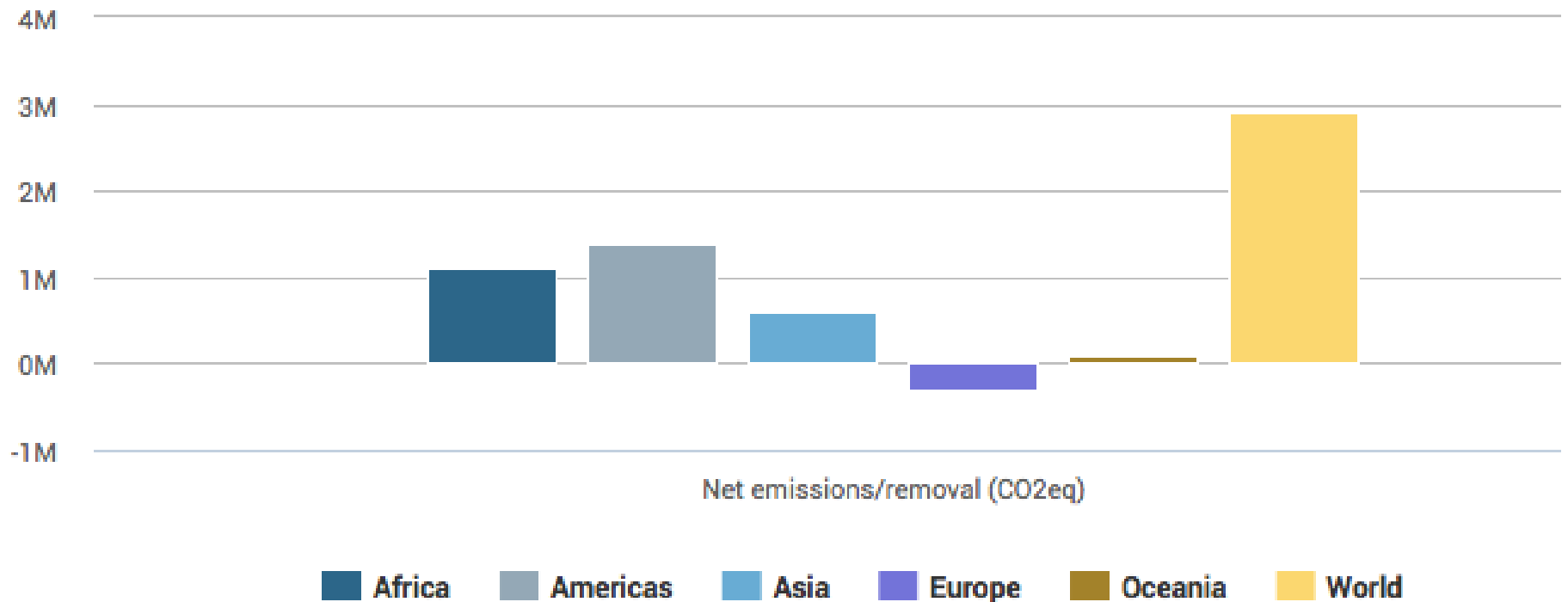
# CO2 from land

Net emissions/removals by land use    Average 1990 - 2012



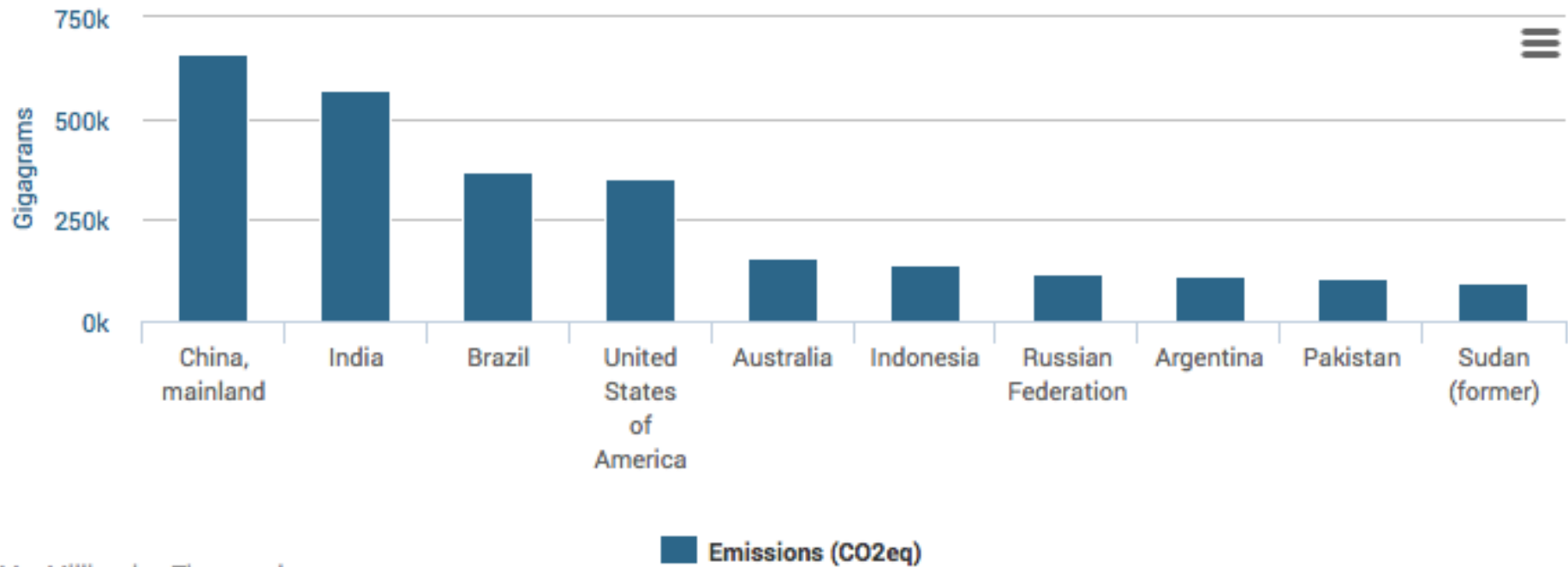
# CO2 from land use change

Net emissions/removals by continent (CO2 equivalent) Average 1990 - 2012



# GHG top-10 emitters (FAOstat)

Top 10 emitters (CO2 equivalent) Average 1990 - 2012





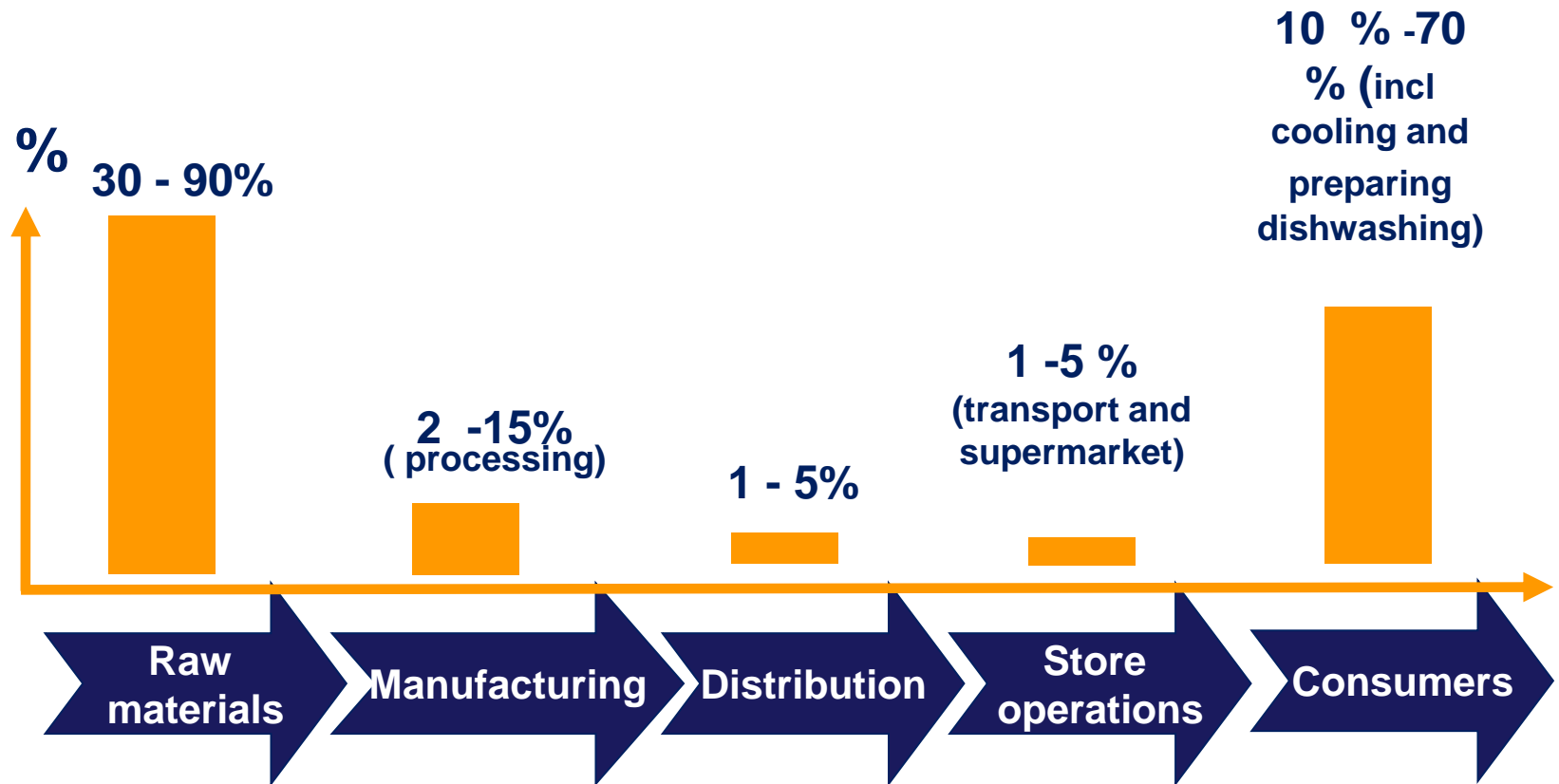
# Deliniation: farm level

Today's focus:

- Farm level only
- Agriculture only (not afforestation or clearing of land)
- Not consumer phase, e.g. reduced meat consumption
- Not about food waste (33% is lost, say FAO)



# Delination: farm level



# Climate change and the farm

- Part of the cause of climate change
- One of the sectors most hit by consequences
- And part of the solution





# Climate change and the farm

- Cause: emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub>
- Consequences: droughts, weather extremes, shifting patterns of pests and diseases, longer growing seasons
- Solution: fixing carbon in soils (and in landscape elements). Producing biomass.



# Climate change and the farm

- Cause: emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub>.  
**Reduce**
- Consequences: droughts, weather extremes, shifting patterns of pests and diseases, longer growing seasons  
**Adapt**
- Solution: fixing carbon in soils (and in landscape elements). Producing biomass.  
**Optimise**



HAVE SOME MORE  
BEANS, BESSY.

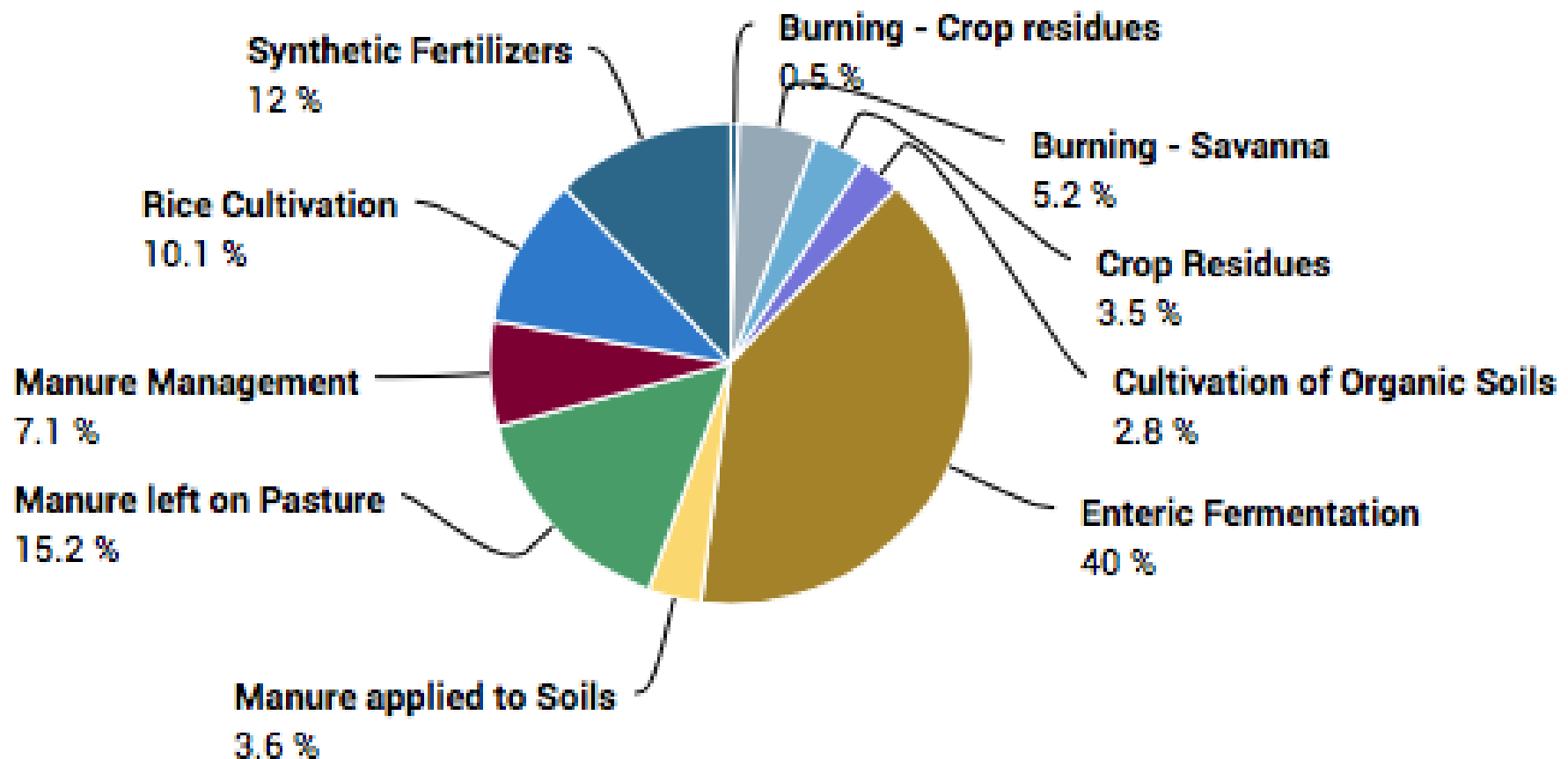


GLOBAL WARMING AXIS OF EVIL



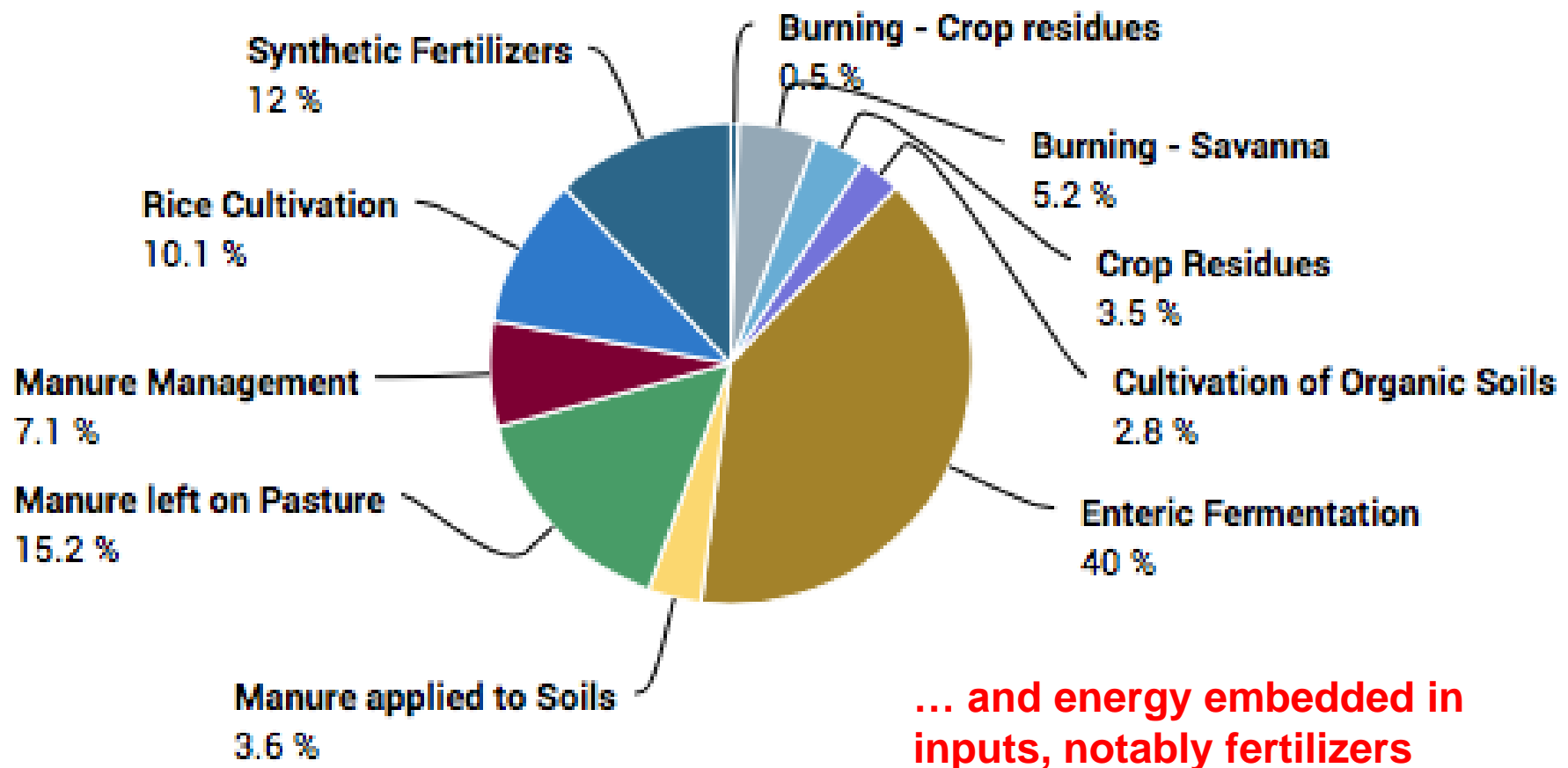
# GHG emissions from farming (FAOstat)

Average 1990 - 2012



# GHG emissions from farming (FAOstat)

Average 1990 - 2012



# Reduce emissions: increase efficiency

## Example efficiency:

- Dairy: reduce number of heifers
- Crops: split application of fertiliser
- Increase production per ha with precision farming

## Scope for reduction (order of magnitude):

- Modern dairy farm: 10%
- Extensive arable farm: 25%

# Sequestration

A rough though promising estimate

- World agriculture area is about 48 billion square kms, or 4800 billion hectares.
- Assume some 4000 bn hectares can fix CO<sub>2</sub>
- A farmer can fix ½ tonne CO<sub>2</sub> per ha per year
- On all the world's hectares this equals 2 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>
- That is around 5% of global emissions (34,5 billion tonnes in 2012)



# Sequestration

Fix carbon in the soil (and landscape elements)

- Leave stubble and crop residue
- Apply manure and compost
- Reduce soil tillage
- Cover crops / green manure
- Maintain grasslands
- Not cut down hedges and trees
- ....



# Where it comes together

In a nutshell, advice to the farmer is:

- Produce more efficiently...
- ...while caring for the soil

Contradiction?

*Efficiency ⇔ Resilience*



# Climate smart agriculture (CSA)

## Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture

- Launched (by government of the Netherlands) at UN Climate Summit September 2014.
- Backed by 75 countries and organizations, such as the World Bank.
- Sourcebook
- <http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/72611/en/>



# Climate smart agriculture

- Often translated to: sustainable intensification
- However, FAO: “Efficiency and resilience should be pursued together”
- Resilience:
  - increasing diversity in the field, e.g. from slash-and-burn to agroforestry
  - More productive livestock more vulnerable to disease and heatwaves
  - Same for plant production: high performance means high maintenance, delicate balance
  - Diversity beyond field level: the farm, the region, the system (ecologic, watershed, economic and social)



# So what's new?

CSA sounds like single issue, though with direct relations to water availability, soil quality, nutrient efficiency, diversity (social and environmental).

*Sustainable farming all over again?*



# So what's new?

However

- CSA provides a new driver: a “new”, additional direct risk to farming (in addition to soil loss, disease pressure etc).
- Nutrient loss, soil degradation, water shortage can be partly solved (and masked) by technological fixes. Not so with climate.
- CSA is another driver for the `landscape approach`: ecosystems, watersheds, social and economic context (note: easier for govts and local stakeholders than for food companies)
- So: not so much news on the contents, but new driver for change.





# Climate smart agriculture: the food chain

Why do food companies worry about sustainability?

- Security of supply
- Company reputation
- Genuine concern



# Climate smart agriculture: the food chain

Why do food companies worry about sustainability?

- Security of supply
- Company reputation
- Genuine concern

Why do they publish tools?

- Help farmer understand and improve
- Provide companies insight into (their) actual sustainability impact
- Aggregate results for company reporting...
- .... and eventually benchmarking



# Climate smart agriculture: the food chain

- Virtually all food companies and retailers say climate change is priority
- Moving up the chain to farm level (because that is where most of the impact is):
  - asking farmer for his carbon footprint.
  - Farmer: What is it, why should I, and how can I?
  - Food company: here is a calculator – please use it
- Prime focus is efficiency



# 3. Carbon calculator tools

- CLM's climate yardstick
- Cool Farm Tool
- Farm smart tool



### 3. Carbon calculator tools

- Easy to use for farmer solo
- Input basic farm data
- Provide farm level calculations
- Offer relevant measures to farmer
- Provide immediate results, graphs and tables
- Interactive: scenarios and comparison
- Science based
- Focus on emissions, with some attention to soil carbon (emissions or fixing)





# Climate change and energy

## Farm data

- Type of crop and rotation
- Yield
- Type, amount, application method of manure, fertilizer, compost
- Crop residues, amount and management
- Grazing
- Input to farm (straw, pesticides)
- Land use changes last 20 years
- Energy used and produced on farm
- Soil type
- Transport (distance, mode, load)
- Soil conservation practices

## Methodology

- IPCC Tier 2 Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, cradle to farm gate.

## Indicator

- Emission of greenhouse gases in CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/kg of product

## Background data

- Emission factors (IPCC Tier 2)
- Properties of soil types (pH, CEC, SOM)
- Average rainfall and temperature
- Humification coefficient residues, manure
- Farm activity data and related emissions
- Energy mix per country
- Region specific emissions of inputs
- Composition of manures and fertilizers
- Composition of crops
- Default land use change
- Average yield and harvest indices

## Issue

- Climate change and energy

# CLM climate yardstick

## Highlights CLM:

- Very user friendly structure and look-and-feel
- Particularly good animal production data and methodology
- Farm-level focus
- Used in Netherlands and Denmark (background data Dutch and Danish)




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[Dairy farm](#)
[Livestock and stables](#)
[Soil and land use](#)
[Feed](#)
[Energy](#)
[Results](#)
[Arable farm](#)
[Pig farm](#)

[Home](#) : [Dairy farm](#) : **[test nieuwe versie : Livestock and stables](#)**

## Livestock

- Give the average quantity of animals per category (animal category)

Dairy cows	<input type="text" value="100"/>	(Number)
Weaners 0-1 years	<input type="text" value="33"/>	(Number)
Yearlings 1-2 years	<input type="text" value="30"/>	(Number)
Culled cows	<input type="text"/>	(Number)

## Purchase/sale

- Indicate number of animals bought or sold

Type of animal	Purchase/sale	Number/year
Weaners 0-1 years	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Yearlings 1-2 years	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## Milk production

Fill in the requested values

Per cow	<input type="text" value="8000"/>	kg/year
Urea number	<input type="text" value="25"/>	mg/100g

# CLM Climate Yardstick

## Stable type dairy cattle

- Indicate which stable type is used for your dairy cattle

*If your stable type is not listed please choose the one that fits best*

Stable type

## Outdoor grazing

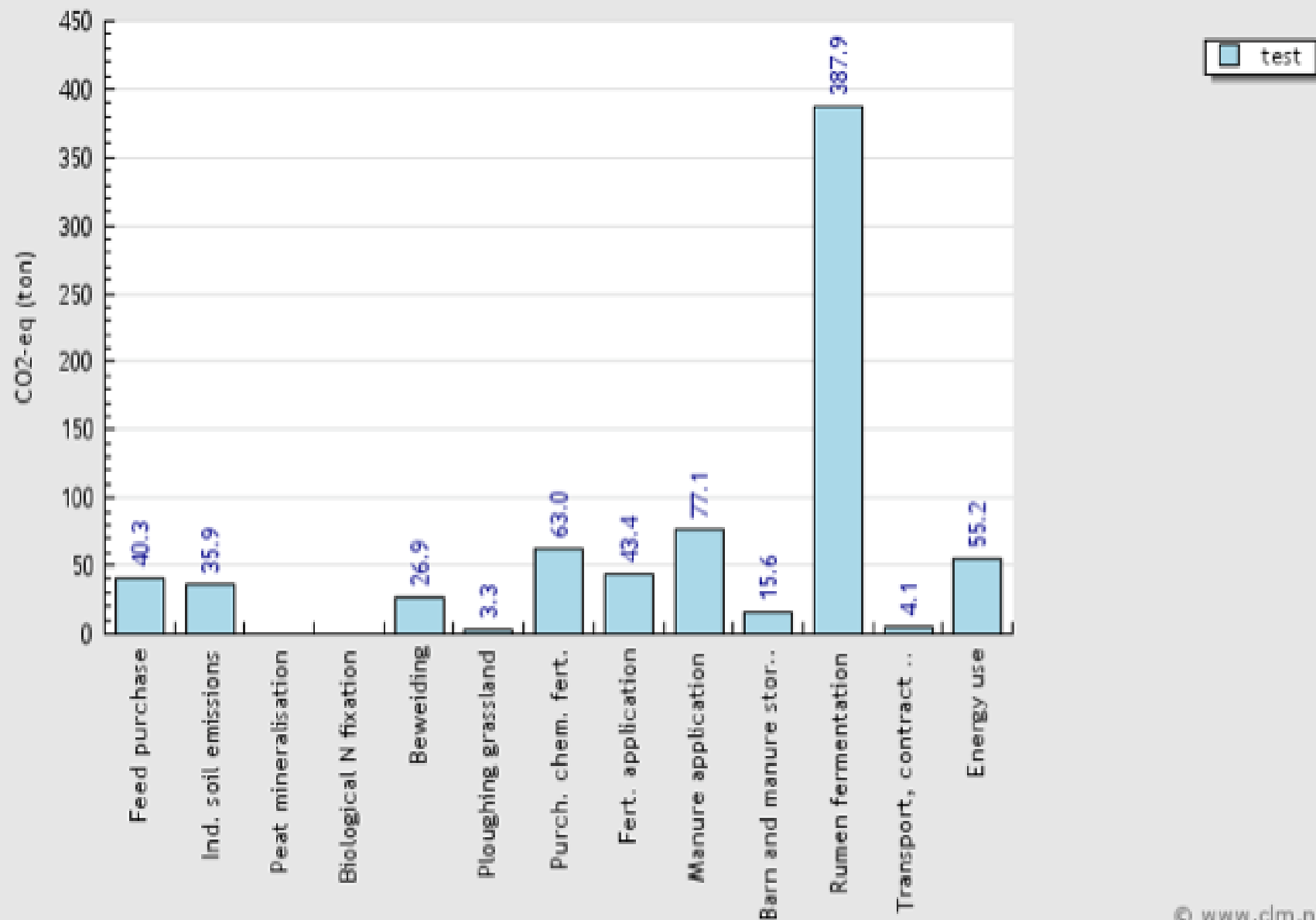
- Indicate the period of outdoor grazing (in months) and the number of hours of outdoor grazing per day

Type of animal	Grazing period (months/year)	Time at pasture (hours/day)
Dairy cows	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="12"/>
Weaners 0-1 years	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>
Yearlings 1-2 years	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="24"/>
Culled cows	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="24"/>

Save form



Greenhouse gas emission of farm by source

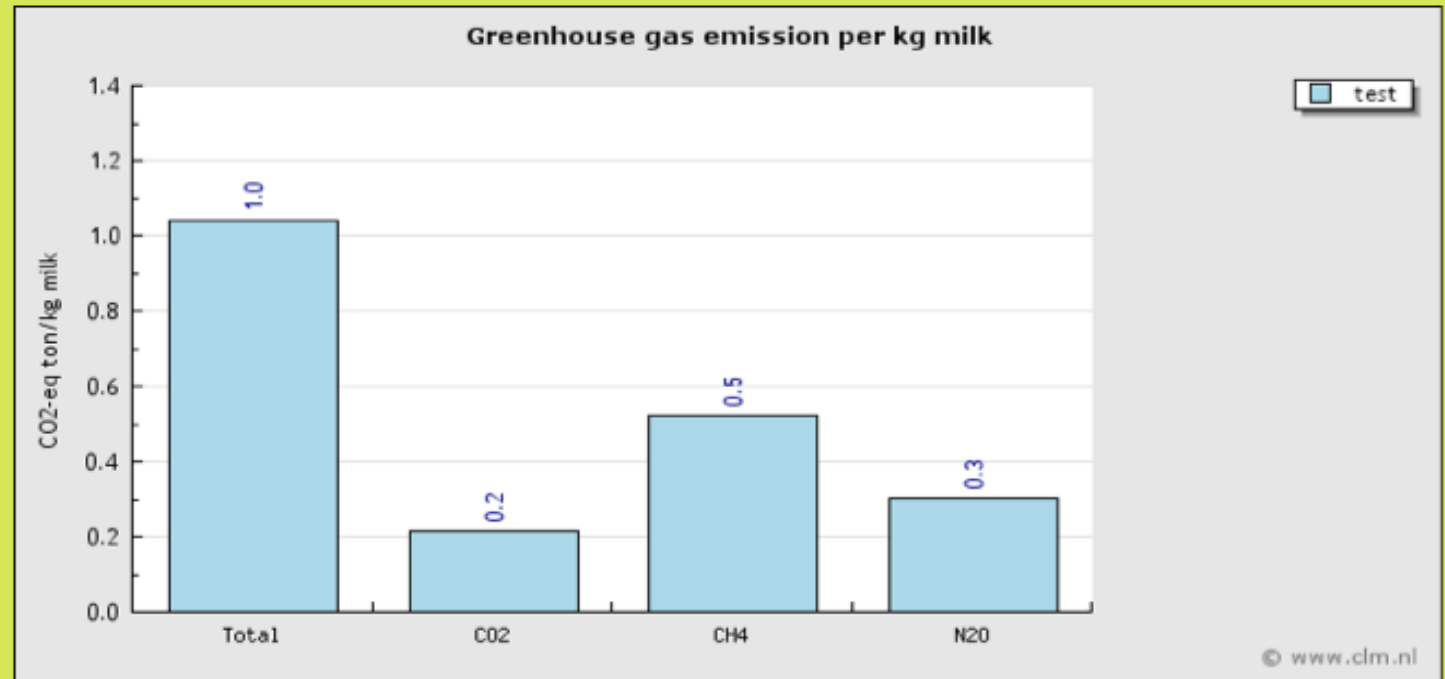


# CLM Climate Yardstick



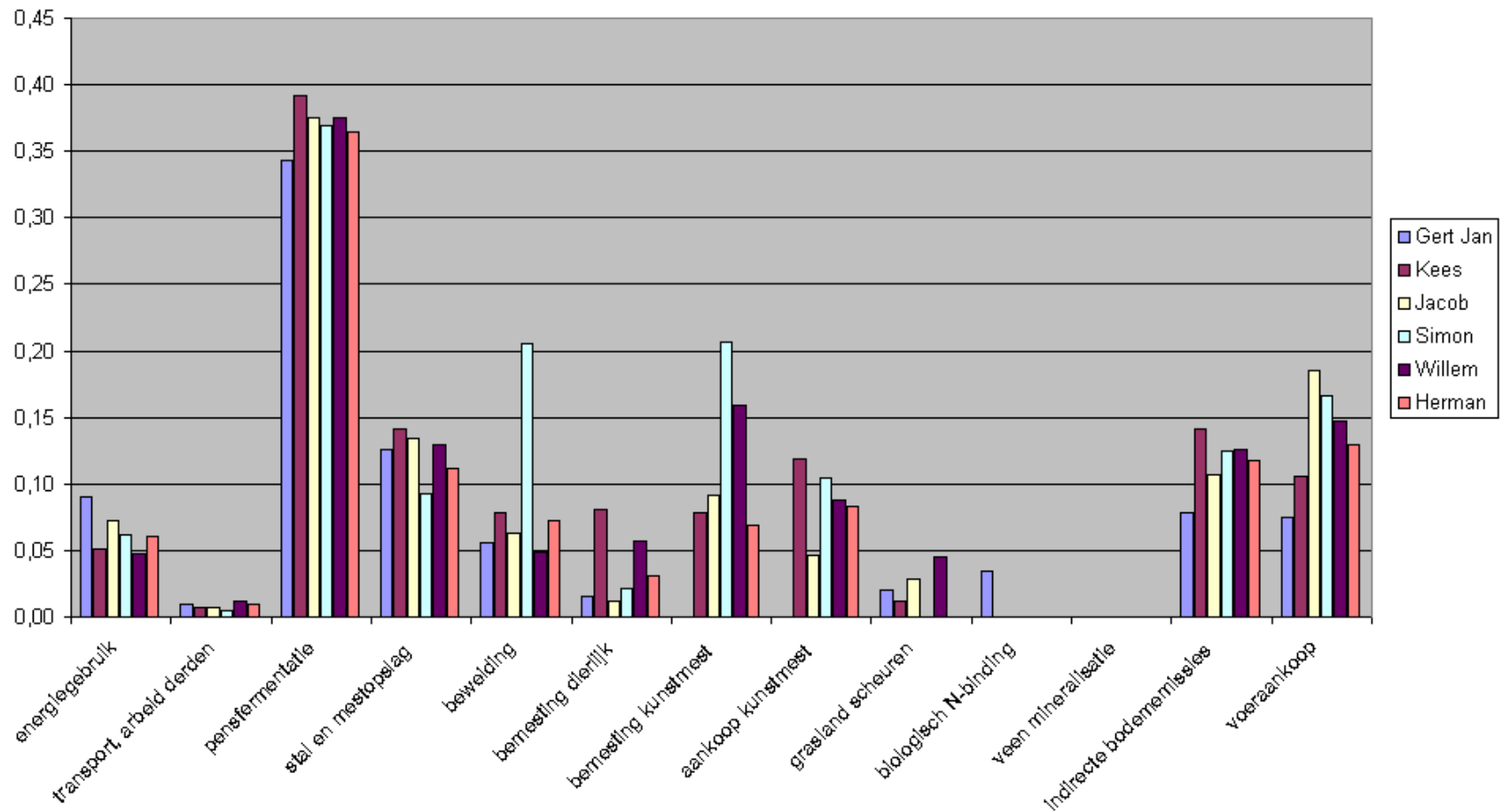
- Dairy farm**
- Livestock and stables
- Soil and land use
- Feed
- Energy
- Results
- Arable farm**

Greenhouse gas emission per kg milk



# Climate Yardstick - workshops

broeikasgasvergelijk bron per liter melk





# FarmSmart

- Online tool, GHG emissions and energy
- Specifically for dairy farmers
- USA based (US Geo data)



# Cool Farm Tool

- Worldwide coverage: all crops and regions
- Product-based
- Very broad support base from industry
- Scope for more themes to be covered



# Cool Farm Alliance



[www.coolfarmtool.org](http://www.coolfarmtool.org)

# Cool Farm Tool



- Overseen by University of Aberdeen
- Tool draws on established research, e.g.:
  - Livestock: IPCC Tier 1 and 2 calculations
  - Field N<sub>2</sub>O: Bouwman model (used in IPCC)
  - Soil: Ogle model
  - Fertilizer emissions: Fertilizer's Europe
  - Energy: GHG Protocol, IEA and EPA
  - SAI Platform compliant

+ Add product

i About

⚙ Farm settings

# Results

# Expert assumptions

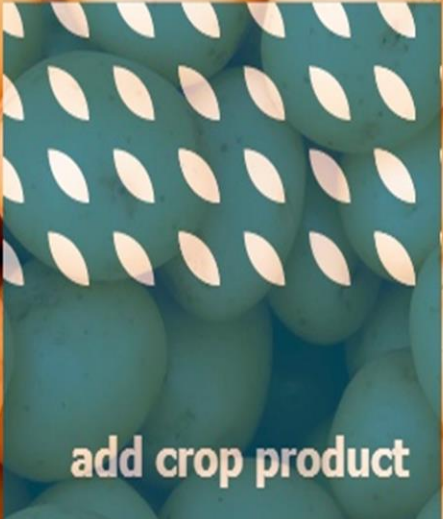
? Help

[Account settings](#)

[Sign out](#)

# Welcome to the Cool Farm Tool Online

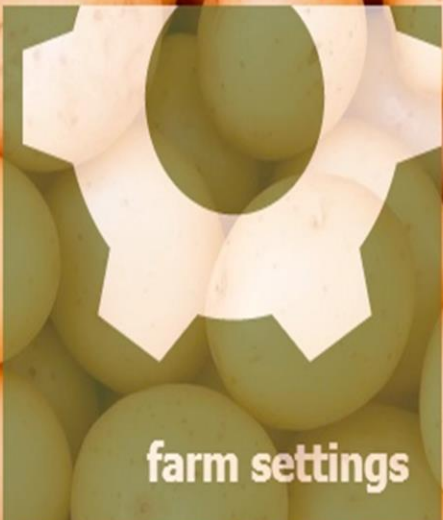
You have four main options. You can create a new crop or livestock product footprint, view a previously entered product footprint or change your farm settings. Note that after they are first entered, farm settings are unlikely to change.




**add crop product**



**add livestock product**



**farm settings**



**view products**

## General information

Enter basic crop properties to get started.

Crop type:	<input type="text" value="Dry Bean"/>	
Year:	<input type="text" value="2014"/>	
Name:	<input type="text" value="dry_bean_2014"/>	
Fresh product weight:	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="tonnes"/>
Finished product weight:	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="tonnes"/>

## Co-products

☐ Are there any marketable by-products of this crop that you use or sell?

## Other comments

Add comments about this section

Back









Save & continue



## Field treatment

This page allows you to specify your farming methodology. In the following sections, provide as much information as possible on fertiliser and pesticide applications and crop residue management.

### Fertiliser applications

Type:	Monoammonium phosphate – 11% N / 52% P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> 	
Production:	Estimate production impact from region of origin 	
Source region:	World (2007) 	
Rate:	65.38	lbs / acre 
Rate measure:	product 	
Method:	Incorporate 	
Emissions inhibitors:	None 	



+ Add product

i About

⚙ Farm settings

📊 View products

# Results

🌿 Expert assumptions

? Help

carmel mcquaid

SL

## Product result

✎ dry\_bean\_2014

## dry\_bean\_2014

Crop type	<b>Dry Bean</b>	Reporting year	<b>2014</b>
Fresh product	<b>1.00 tonne</b>	Finished product	<b>1.00 tonne</b>
Product yield	<b>2,470.00 kg / ha</b>	Growing area	<b>1.00 acres, medium, moist</b>

### Summary

Total emissions  
**262.87** kg CO<sub>2</sub>e

Emissions per hectare  
**649.28** kg CO<sub>2</sub>e

Emissions per product  
**262.87** kg CO<sub>2</sub>e

### ▼ Total emissions

0 20 40 60 80 100



kg	CO <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O	CH <sub>4</sub>	Total CO <sub>2</sub> eq	Per hectare	Per tonne	Per tree
Energy use (processing)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Energy use (field)	40.20	-	-	40.20	99.29	40.20	-
Fertiliser production	64.92	-	-	64.92	160.34	64.92	-
Soil / fertiliser	25.96	0.27	-	105.66	260.97	105.66	-
Carbon stock changes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paddy methane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pesticides	41.50	-	-	41.50	102.50	41.50	-
Crop residue mgmt	-	0.04	-	10.60	26.18	10.60	-
Off-farm transport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waste water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>172.57</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>262.87</b>	<b>649.28</b>	<b>262.87</b>	<b>-</b>

► Co-products emissions

► Field management emissions

► Machinery operations

► Transport

Questions?





## 4. More than carbon



## 4. More than carbon

Farmer's concern is primarily with yield, margin, soil, inputs like N, P and pesticides.

In addition, food companies and retail interested in climate change, water and biodiversity

Include all into the tool: much more interesting



## 4. More than carbon

Cool Farm Tool now adding

- Water footprint
- Biodiversity score
- Farm economy

Other tools like FarmSmart, Field to Market and Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops also aim to cover most essential issues.







# Biodiversity in the Cool Farm Tool





# Measuring biodiversity on the farm

## Pressure factors

Land use, GHG, toxic-, eutrophic-, acidic emissions, use of water etc.

## Natural conditions and management effort

Conditions: surface of natural area, landscape elements etc.

Management: e.g. delayed mowing, field-margins

## Number of species / abundance

Counting species

# Measuring biodiversity on the farm

## Pressure factors

Basic conditions for biodiversity; indirect / abstract

## Natural conditions and management effort

Habitats and their condition; visible on farm / concrete

## Number of species / abundance

Actual measurement of biodiversity

From abstract → concrete



# Measuring biodiversity on the farm

Pressure factors

Not accurate enough

Natural conditions and management effort

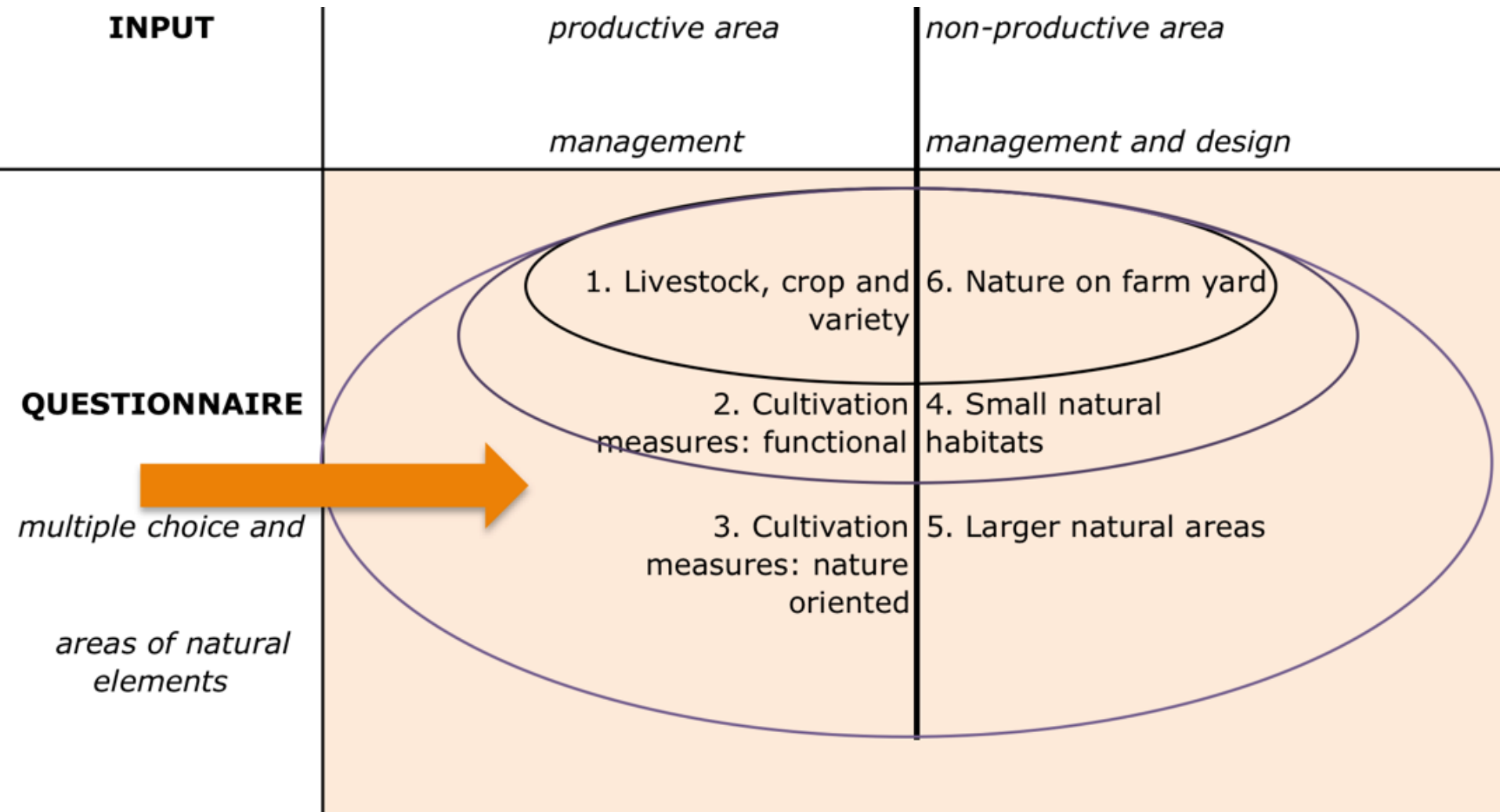
Workable proxy

Number of species / abundance


Too complex, not feasible



# Biodiversity in the Cool Farm Tool



# Biodiversity in the Cool Farm Tool



## Biodiversity assessment (ALPHA)

Start

Livestock & crops

Field (functional)

Field (agrarian)

Small natural areas

Large natural areas

Farm-yard

Results

Get started

Farm name

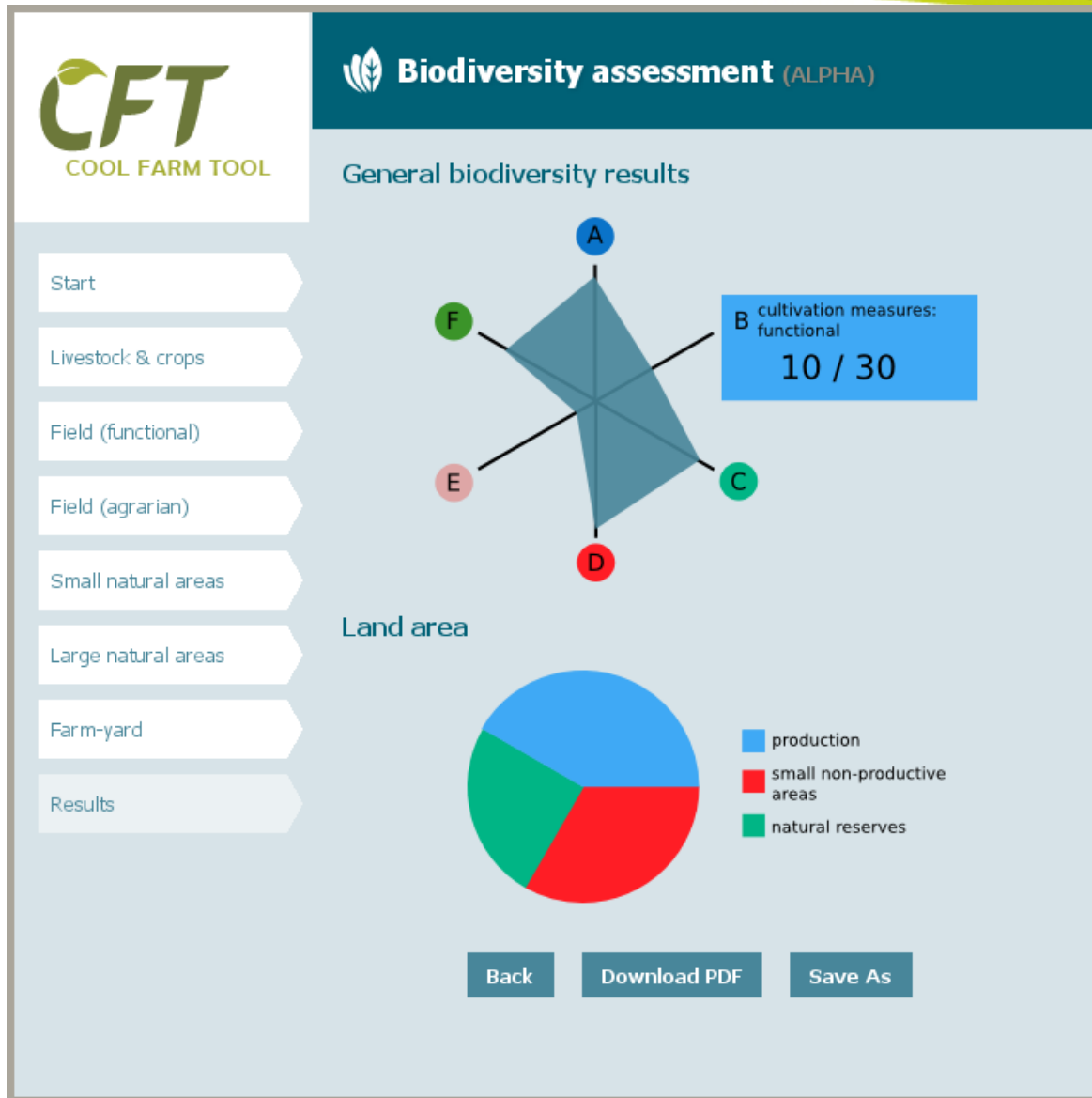
Country

Select your sector(s)

- ☐ Arable production
- ☐ Field vegetables production
- ☐ Fruit growing
- ☐ Glasshouse horticulture
- ☐ Flower bulbs
- ☐ Trees and shrubs
- ☐ Dairy cattle
- ☐ Beef cattle
- ☐ Sheep / goats
- ☐ Horses
- ☐ Pigs
- ☐ Poultry

Production area

# Biodiversity in the Cool Farm Tool



# Biodiversity in the Cool Farm Tool



## 3.3 Which measure do you take in favour of the field fauna or flora?

*For a part of the plot (at least 0.5 ha), or margins at least 3 m wide*

*You can select multiple answers.*

- ☒ Artificial fertiliser not used when grain grown
- ☐ No mechanical and chemical weed control during the cropping period
- ☒ Grain (other than maize) grown for at least 3 of the 6 years on a plot
- ☐ The grain stubble is left standing until the next spring
- ☐ A (small) part of the field is not harvested (feed for fauna)
- ☐ None of the above





# Biodiversity in the Cool Farm Tool



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**EASY, BUT UNSURE OF OUTCOMES**



# Cool Farm Tool

NERC  
SCIENCE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT



+

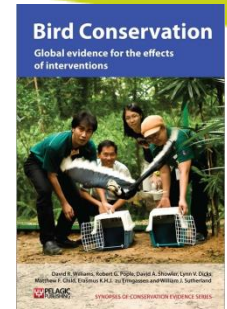
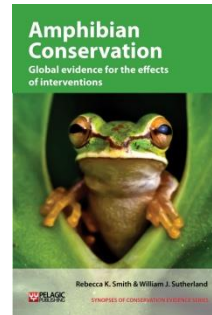
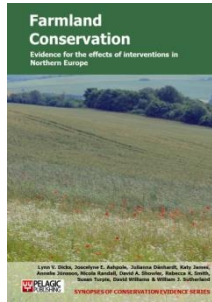


UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

**EASY, WITH EVIDENCE OF OUTCOMES**



# Biodiversity in the Cool Farm Tool



Measure	Median effectiveness score	Median certainty score	Category	Category value
Plant nectar flower mix	>60	>60	Beneficial	2
Raise water levels in grassland	>60 40-60	40-60 40+	Likely to be beneficial	1
Take field corners out of management		<40	Unknown effectiveness	0
Create beetle banks	<40	40-60	Unlikely to be beneficial	-
Reduce grazing intensity	<40	>60	Likely to be ineffective or harmful	Excluded

# Wish list

Ideal tool includes (in this order)

- Farm economy
- Nutrient balances
- Pesticide scores
- Soil quality
- Water use score
- Biodiversity
- GHG emissions





**Thank you for  
your attention**

**[www.clm.nl](http://www.clm.nl)**