

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN AGRICULTURE

EXPECTATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS

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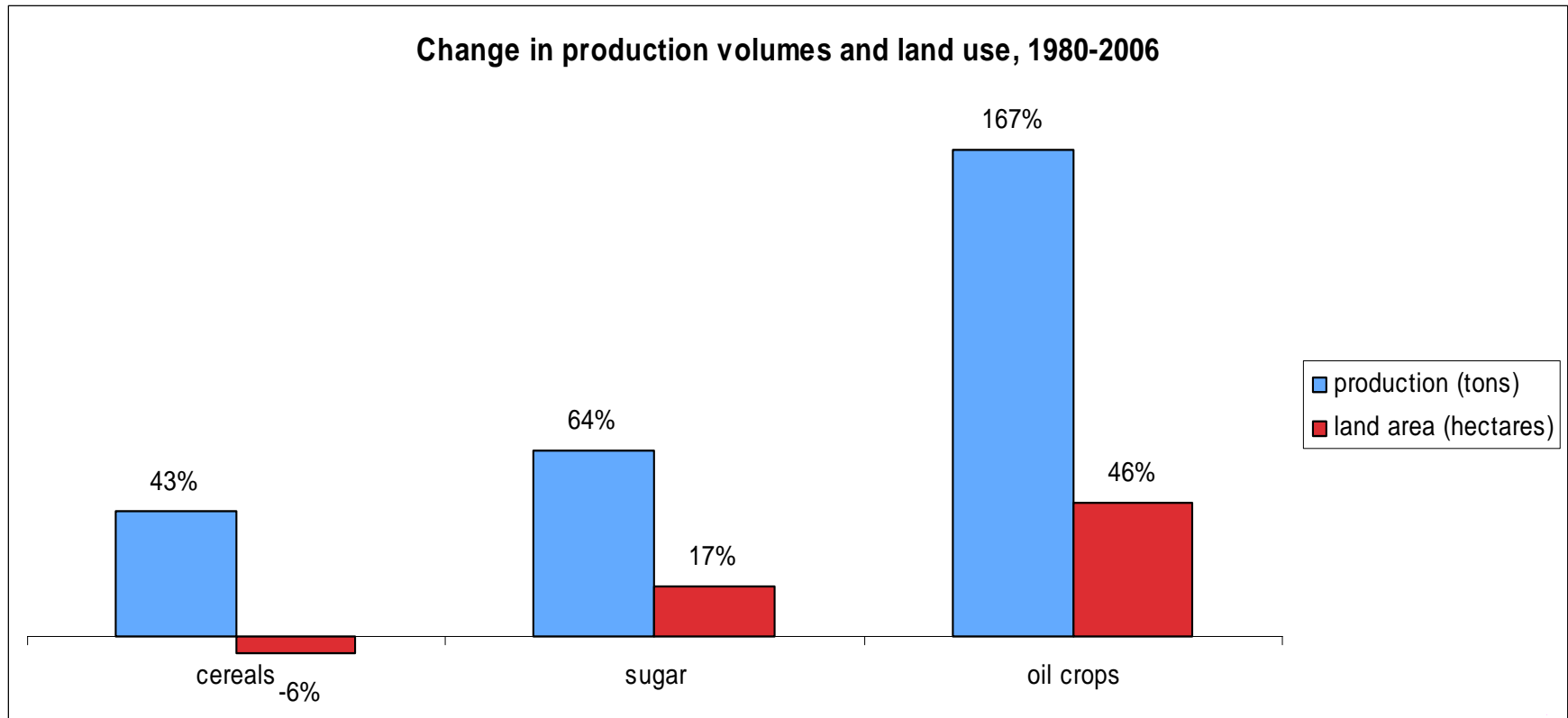
Climate change and agriculture – GENERAL OVERVIEW I

Current and future challenges for the farming sector:

- Demand of secure food supply
- Increase in world population & changes in food pattern
- Increasing production costs
- Price volatility for agricultural commodities
- Globalisation and trade liberalisation
- Production of additional services (e.g. landscape)
- Environmental protection and climate change

Climate change and agriculture – GENERAL OVERVIEW II

In general, demand expansion for agricultural commodities has so far been met mainly by productivity increases, not by land use change:



Climate change and agriculture – ADAPTATION

Agriculture is already undertaking activities to adapt to and to mitigate climate change

Agriculture is adapting to and will continue to adapt to:

- increased frequency and severity of extreme weather conditions
- growing risk of pests / diseases
- changes in temperature -> risks for lower yields
- changes in vegetation period
- new animal needs (housing)
- economic / market developments

Climate change and agriculture – MITIGATION

Climate change mitigation options in agriculture are:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the crop production and in livestock
- reducing energy use in the agricultural sector
- improving carbon sequestration (e.g. afforestation)
- bio-energy production (biogas, biofuel, biomass)

⇒ site specific selection of cost-effective mitigation measures with adequate compensation to farmers if additional costs

BUT risk that mitigation activities do NOT be accounted for the agricultural sector (e.g. biofuel -> transport sector, afforestation -> forestry?)

Climate change and agriculture – EXPECTATIONS FROM RESEARCH

Research and exchange of best-practice examples are essential:

- ⇒ develop methodologies for the assessment of impacts, feasibility, vulnerabilities and cost-effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation
- ⇒ improve the basic understanding and predictions of impacts
- ⇒ enhance ecosystems' resilience
- ⇒ development of adaptation and mitigation technologies and innovation

Climate change and agriculture – OPPORTUNITIES

European Union is today a net importer of food, e.g. meat
-> extensification, especially land use changes leading to a lower production should be limited to specific site conditions with high reduction potential (wetlands)

Agricultural productivity and capture of CO₂ are positively linked

-> mitigation measures should target efficiency improvements (nutrient use efficiency, energy efficiency)

In the crop production as well as in livestock there are some efficiency reserves, but farmers need advice, education to improve their management skills

Climate change and agriculture – CONCLUSIONS I

**Need to agree on the society expectations from
agriculture and rural areas**

DEFINING POLICIES following a coherent approach for:

- **Food production / production methods**
- **Environmental concerns**
- **Competitiveness in view of market liberalisation**

KEY ISSUES to take into account:

- **Motivation of farmers**
- **Land and other physical resources**

Climate change and agriculture – CONCLUSIONS II

What to do:

- > **Ensure the availability of the right tools**
- > **Create the right incentives**
- > **Ensure adequate financing**

When doing the above mentioned:

- > **Avoid bureaucracy increase**
- > **Avoid uneven burden distribution**
- > **Make simplification an overriding objective**

Climate change mitigation in agriculture



Thank you for your attention!

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