

# World Hemp Forum

Les rencontres du chanvre industriel

**Forum des chercheurs**  
Researchers' Forum



# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

*Stefano Amaducci*

Department of Sustainable Crop Production  
Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation



*Checking on my PhD experiments (Bologna, Italy, August 1996)*

# Personal “Hemp Bio”

## 2002-2006

**HEMP SYS** (Design, development and up-scaling of a sustainable production system for hemp textiles: an integrated quality systems approach)

*Researcher - University of Piacenza*

## 2012-2017

**MULTIHEMP** (Multipurpose hemp for industrial bioproducts and biomass)

*Ass. Prof. - University of Piacenza*

## 2017-2022

**GRACE** (GRowing Advanced industrial Crops on marginal lands for bioRefineries)

**SSUCHY** (Sustainable Structural and multifunctional biocomposites from hybrid natural fibres and bio-based polymers)

*Full Prof. - University of Piacenza*

## 2020-2022

**Multicanapa** (PSR Emilia Romagna)



## 1999-2000

Multi-use Industrial Crops for Quality Raw Materials

*Post Doc - University of Wageningen*

## 2000-2004

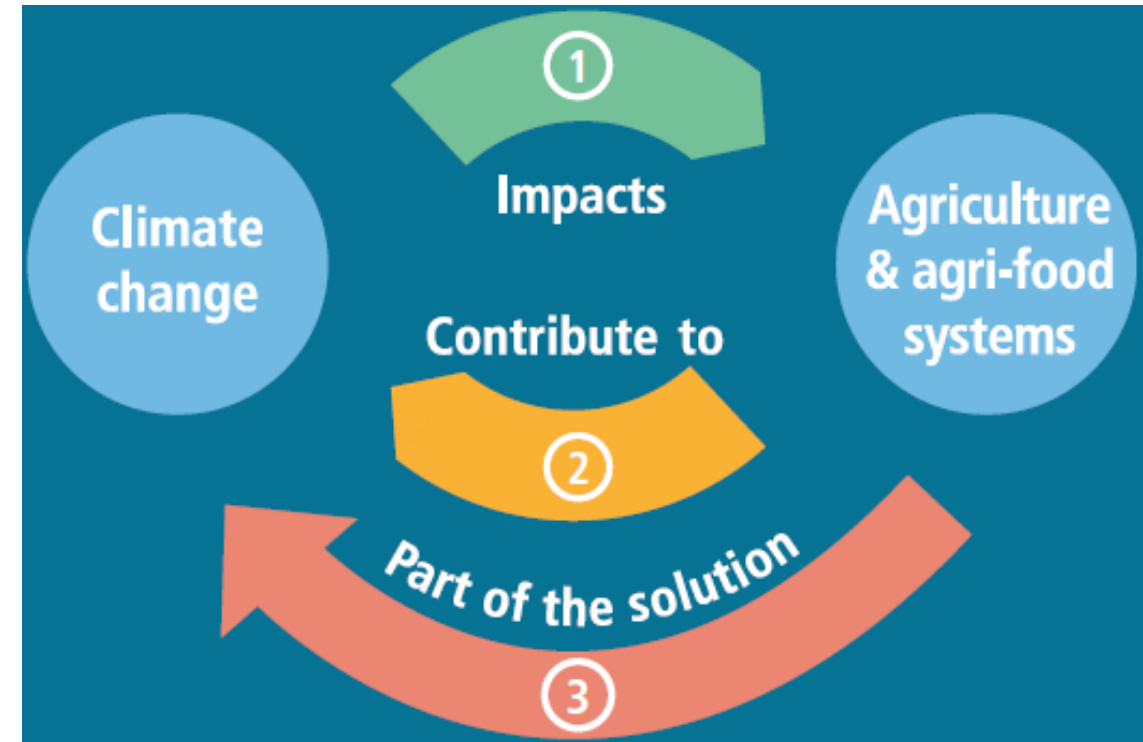
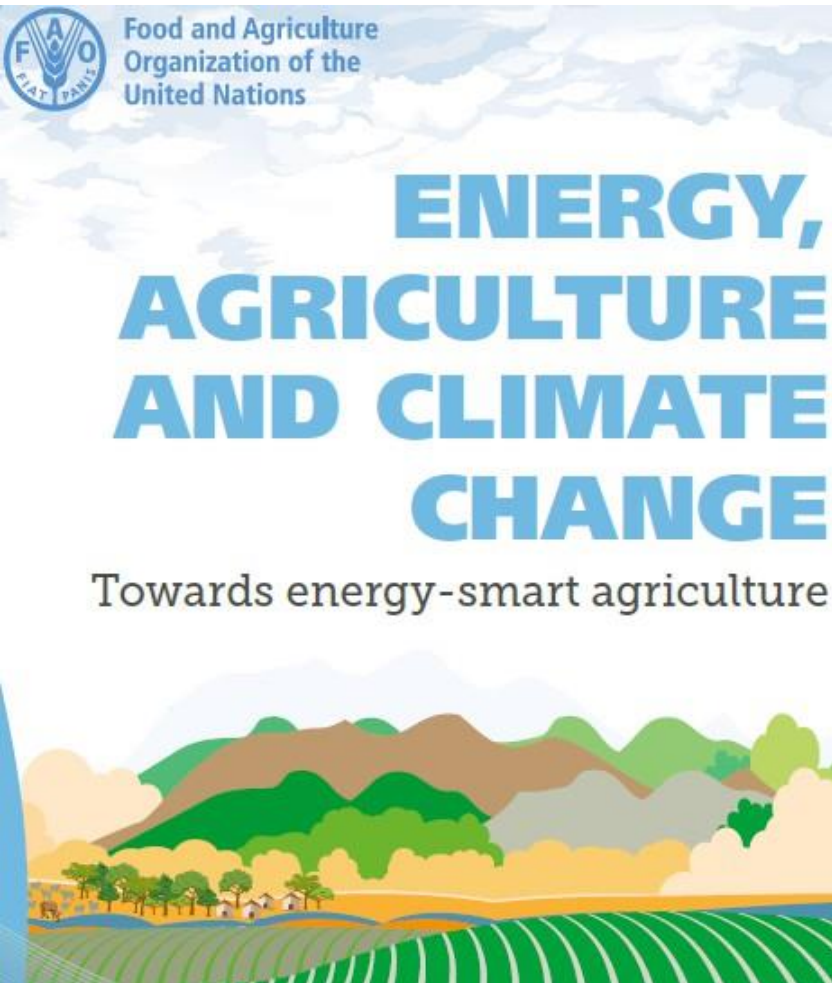
**HARMONIA** (Hemp as Raw Material for Novel Industrial Applications)

## 1996-1998

**HEMP** (Hemp for Europe Manufacturing and Production systems)

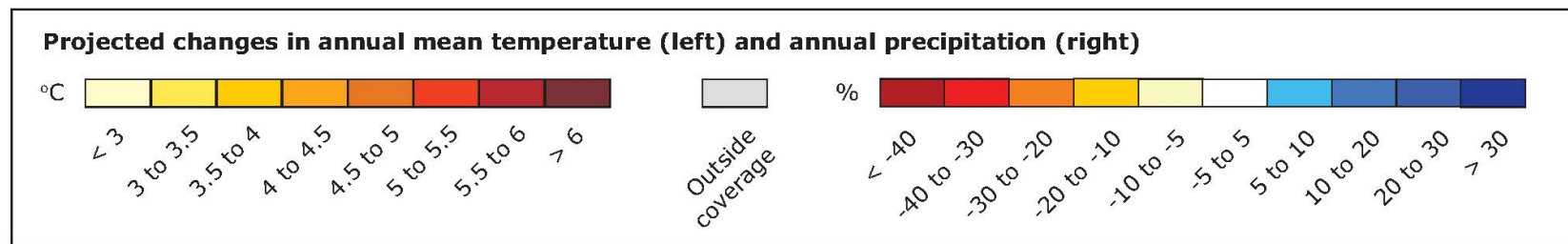
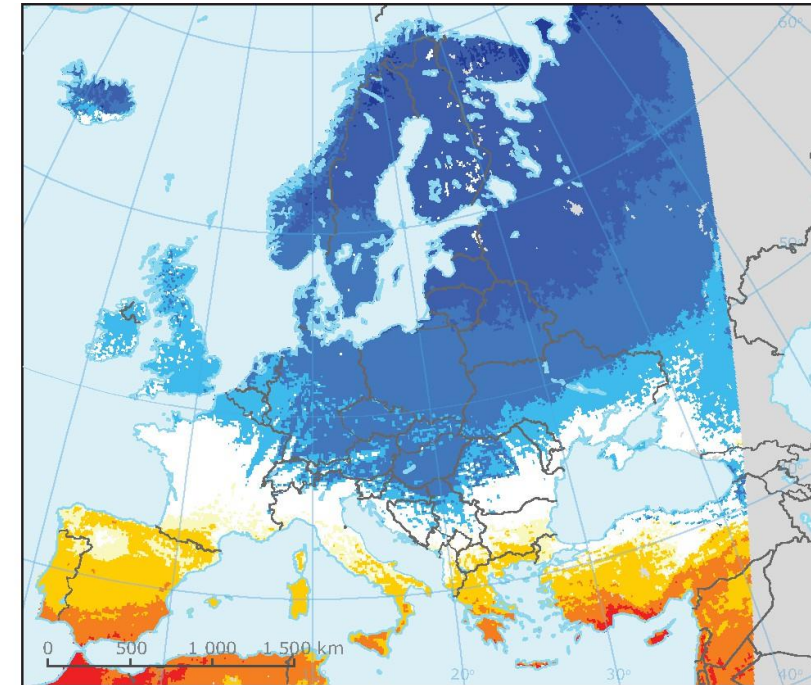
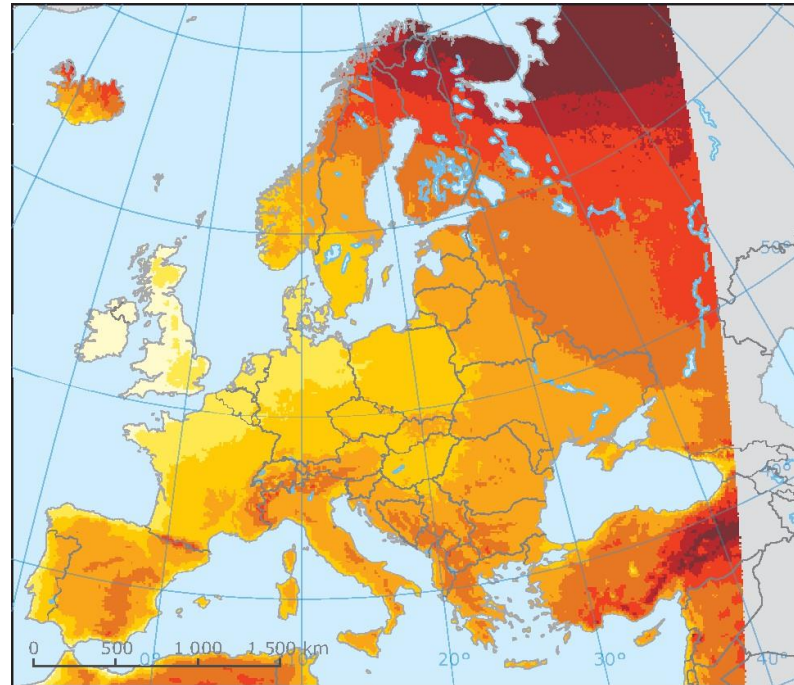
*PhD - University of Bologna*

# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation



## Climate change and hemp

Climate change projections for Europe based on an ensemble of regional climate model simulations provided by the EURO-CORDEX initiative

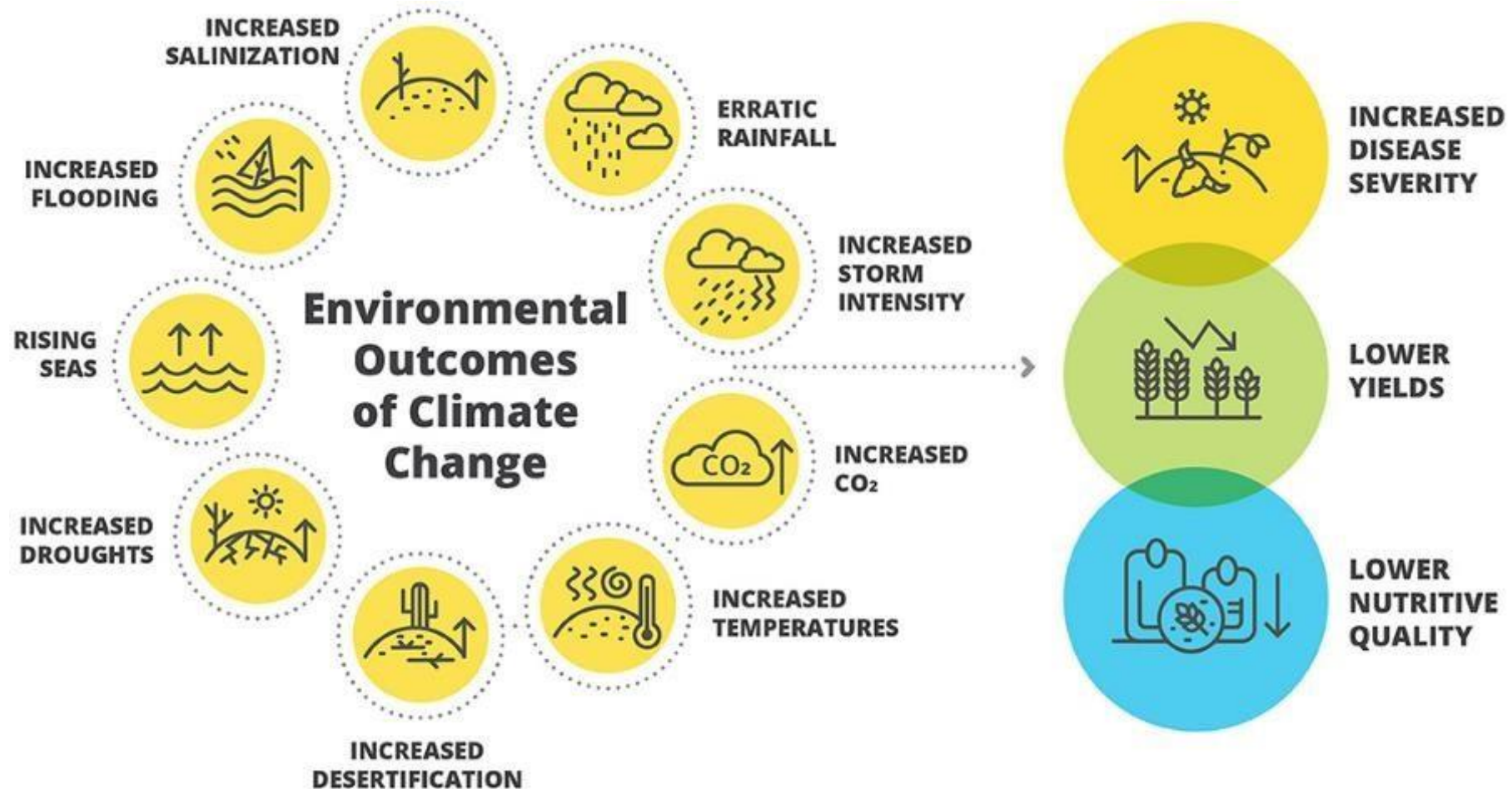


## Climate change impacts

- ✓ Raise global surface T° 2.6-4.8°C by 2100
- ✓ Increase of evapotranspiration
- ✓ Rainfall pattern, frost-free days
- ✓ Increased frequency of extreme events
  
- ✓ Crop yield
- ✓ Suitability of crops
- ✓ Insects (pollinators), weeds, and diseases
- ✓ Soil microbe relations
- ✓ C and Nutrients cycles
- ✓ Suitability of agricultural practices



## Climate change impacts

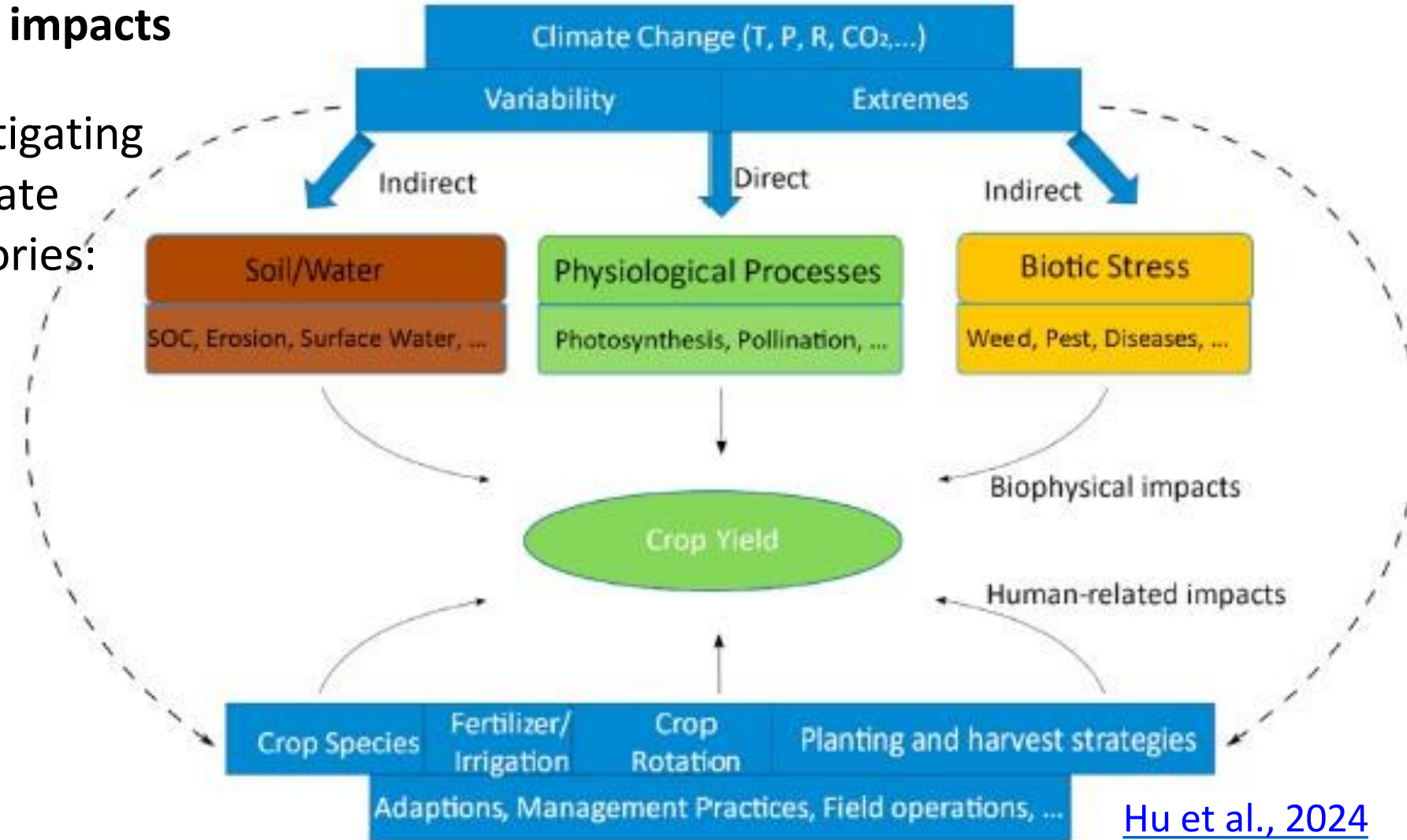




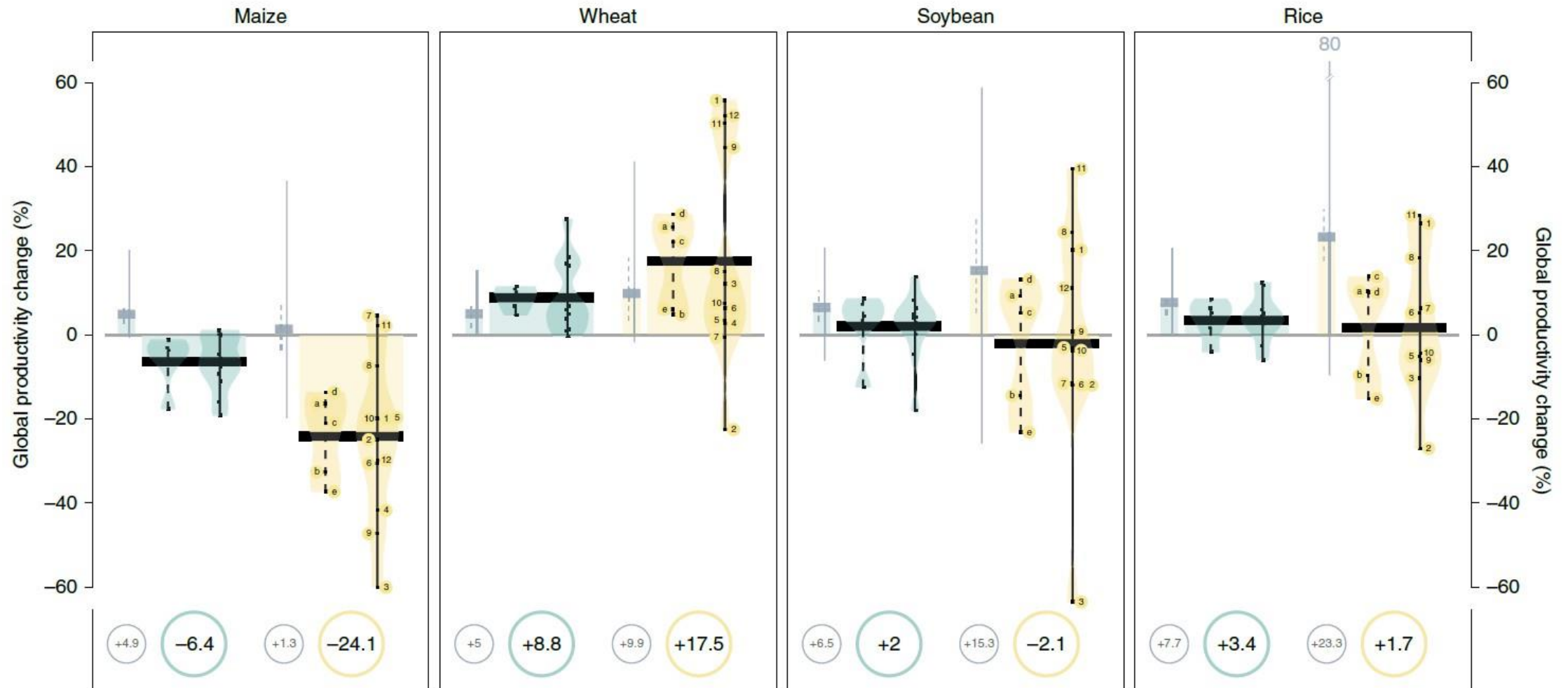
## Climate change impacts

Scientific methods for investigating crop yield responses to climate change fall into three categories:

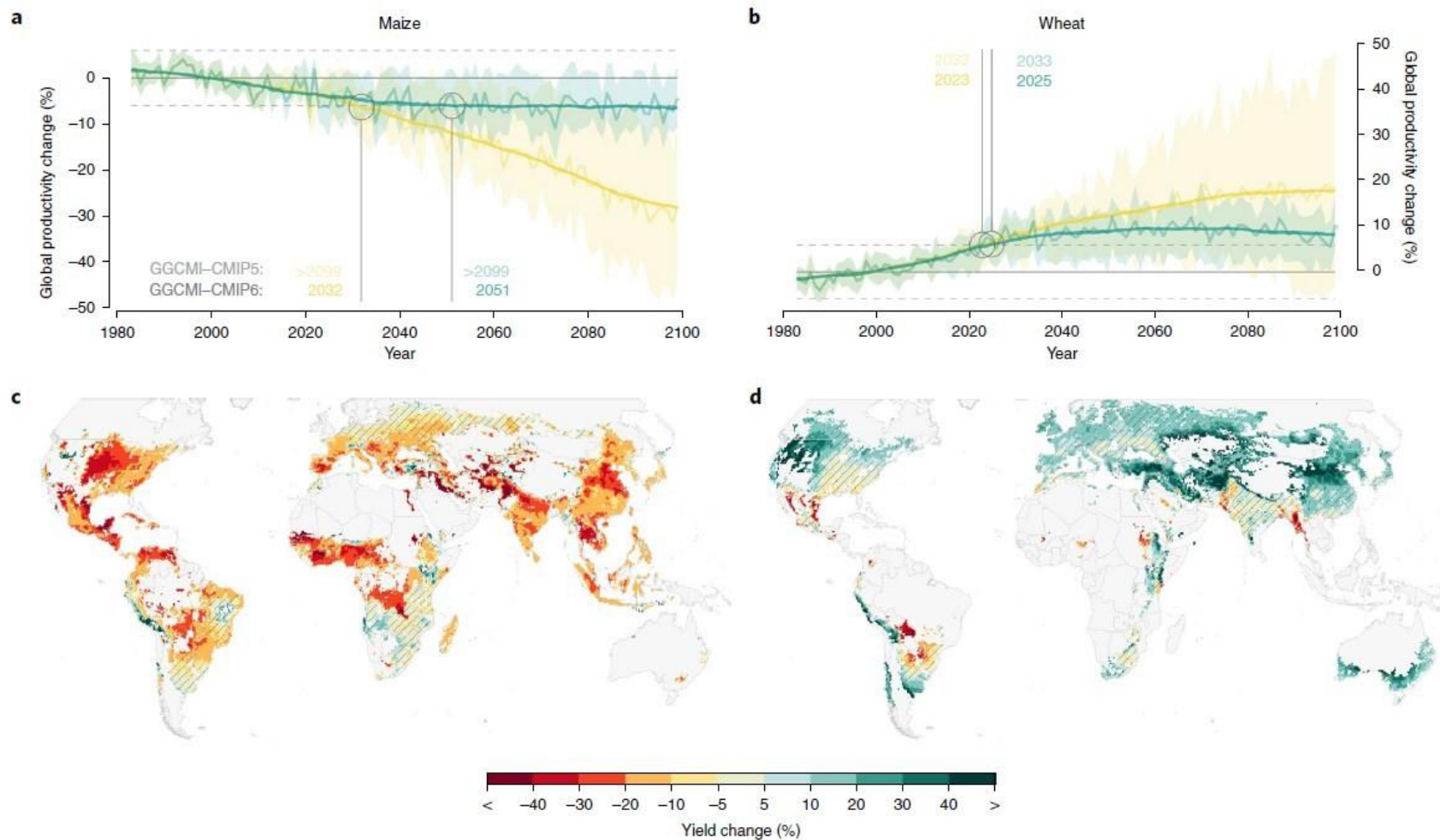
- Field experiments;
- Process-based modeling;
- Statistical modeling



## Climate change impacts

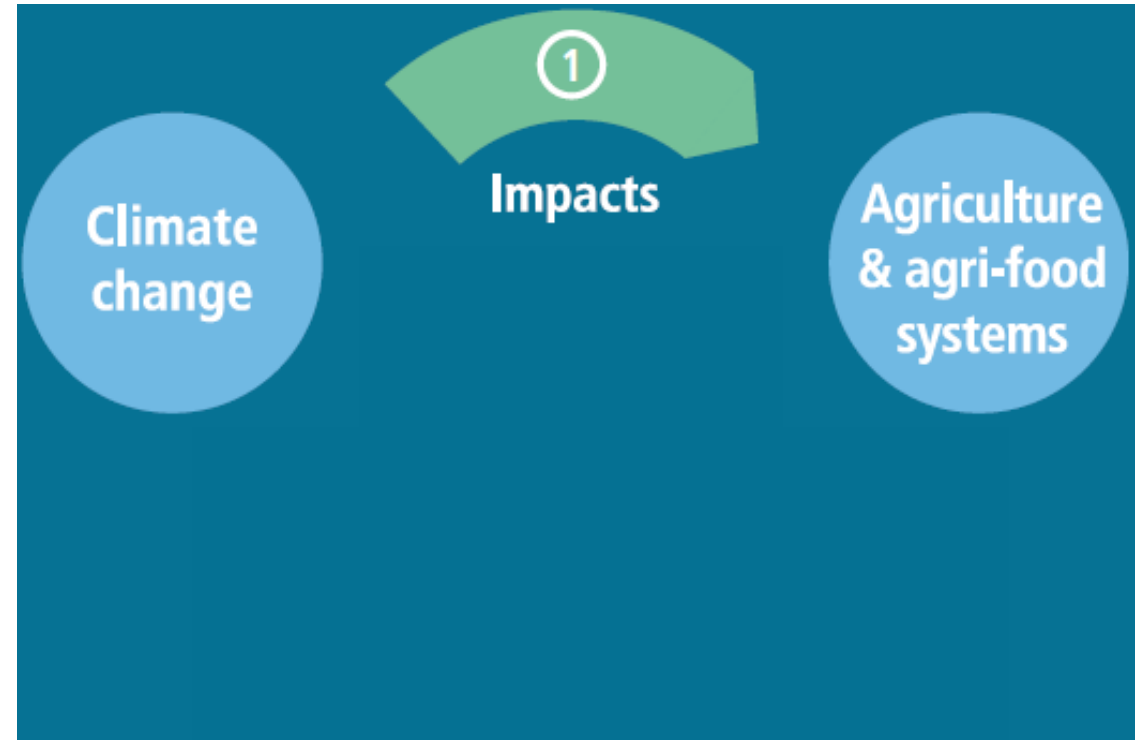


## Climate change impacts



## Adaptation

- ✓ Cultivars and breed improvements
- ✓ Changing management practices (e.g. sowing time)
- ✓ Switching crops, breeds, and farming systems
- ✓ Managing water
- ✓ Diversifying agricultural systems

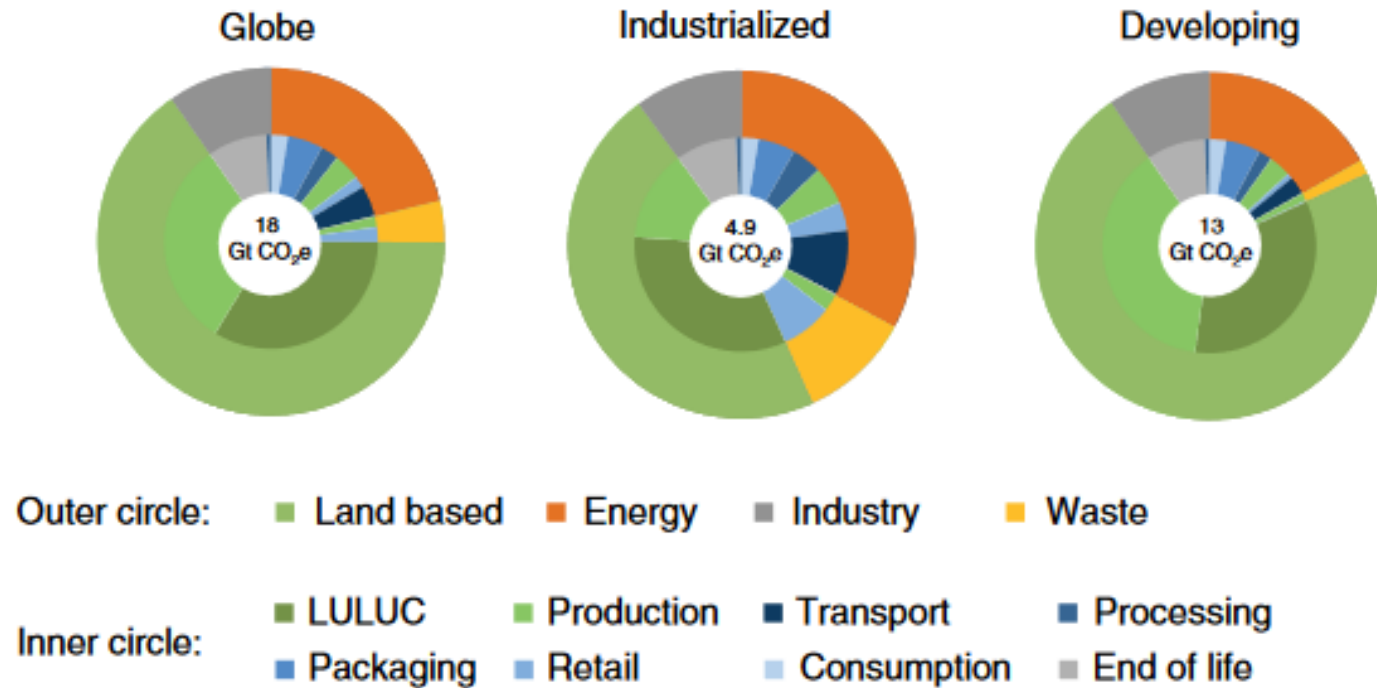


## Impact of agriculture on climate change

- ✓ Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture 13–21% in 2010-2019
- ✓ The agricultural sector is the largest contributor of non-carbon GHGs, such as CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O



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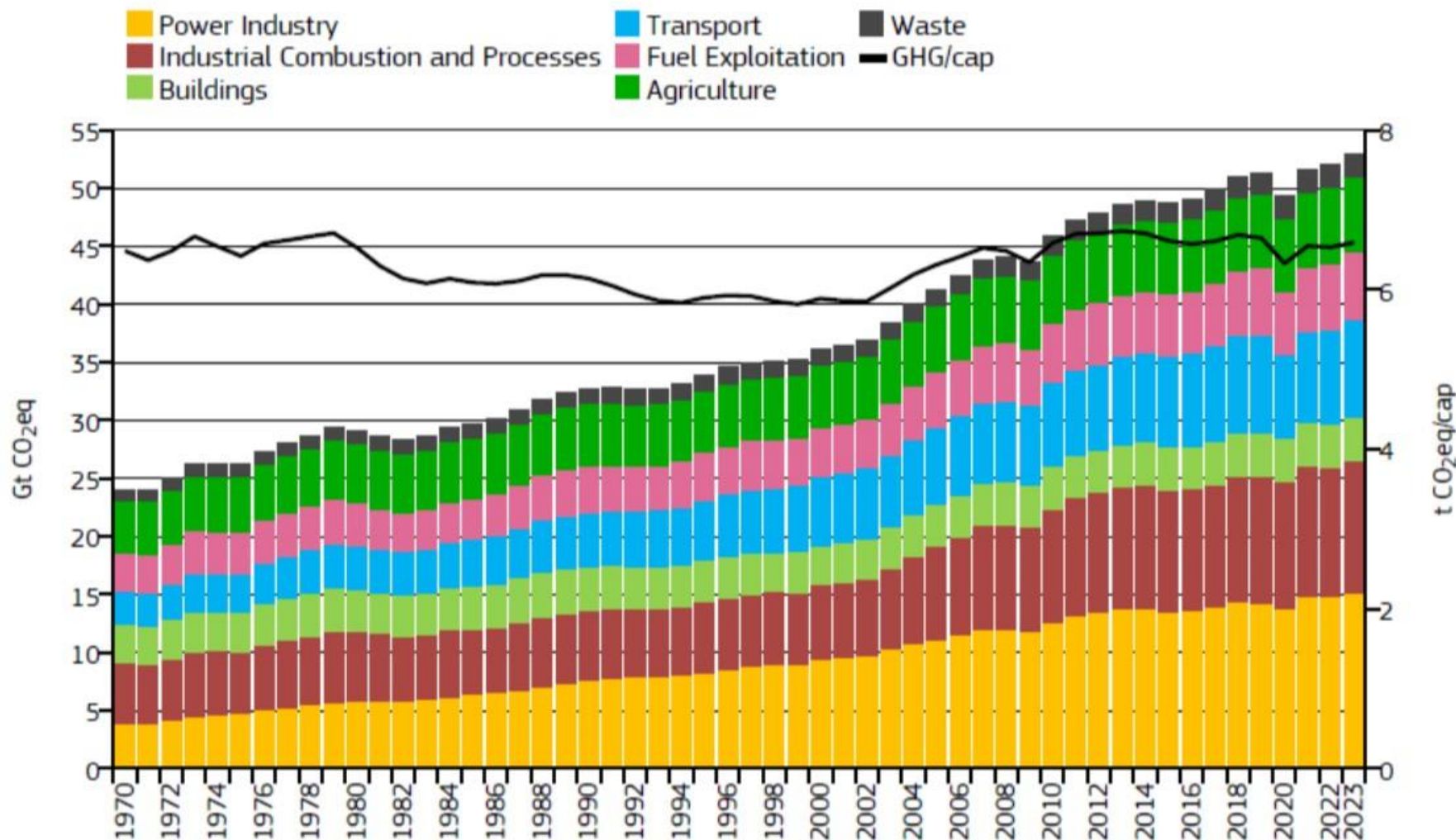


In 2015, food-system emissions amounted to 18 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year globally, representing 34% of total GHG emissions, 71% of which (**24%** on global GHG emissions) from agriculture and LULUC activities

**Fig. 1 | GHG emissions from the food system in different sectors in 2015.**

Total GHG emissions (including CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and F-gases) are expressed as CO<sub>2</sub>e calculated using the GWP100 values used in the IPCC AR5, with a value of 28 for CH<sub>4</sub> and 265 for N<sub>2</sub>O.

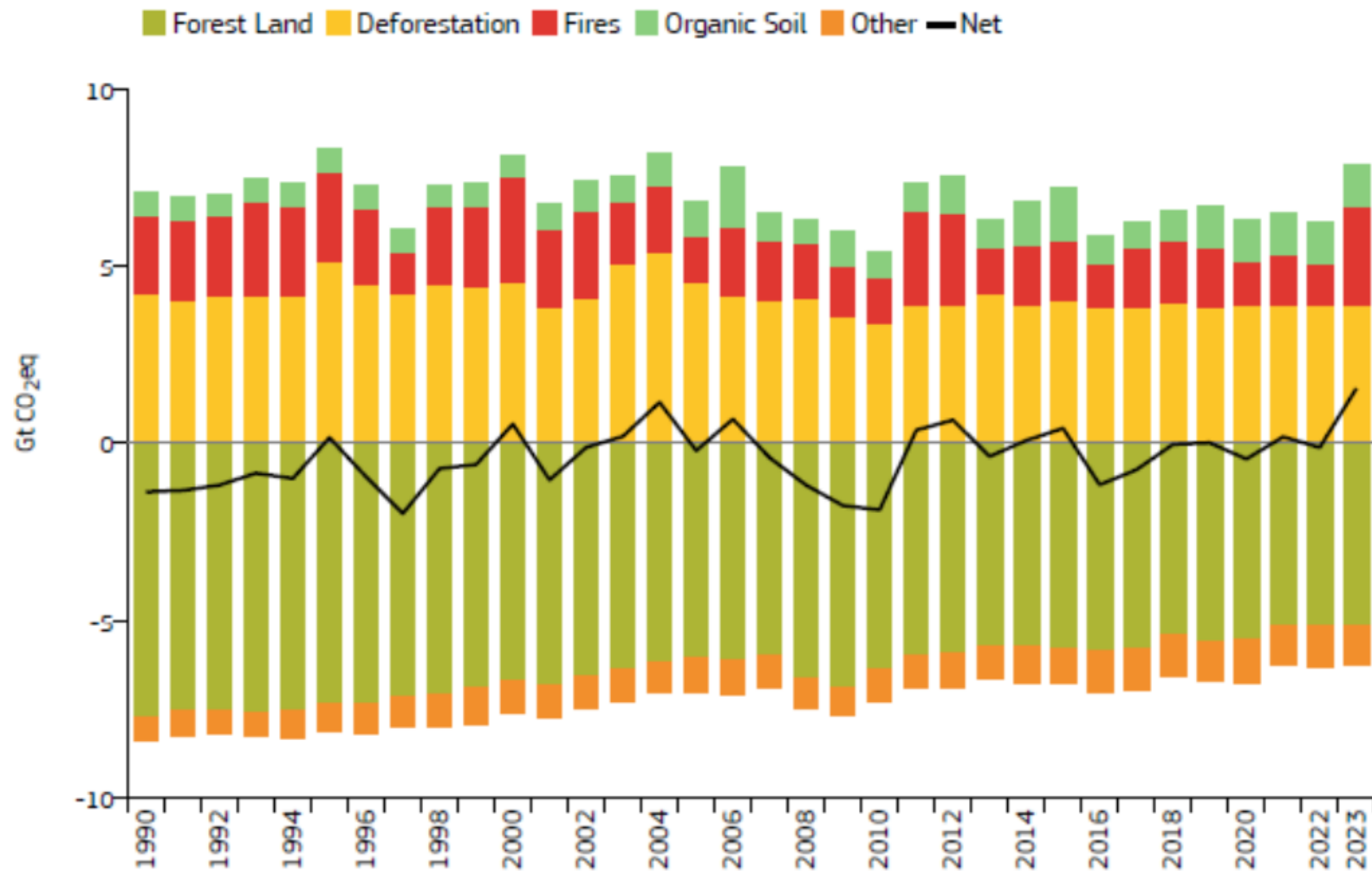
# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation



Global GHG emissions by sector (left axis, bars) and per capita (right axis, black line), 1970-2023

# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

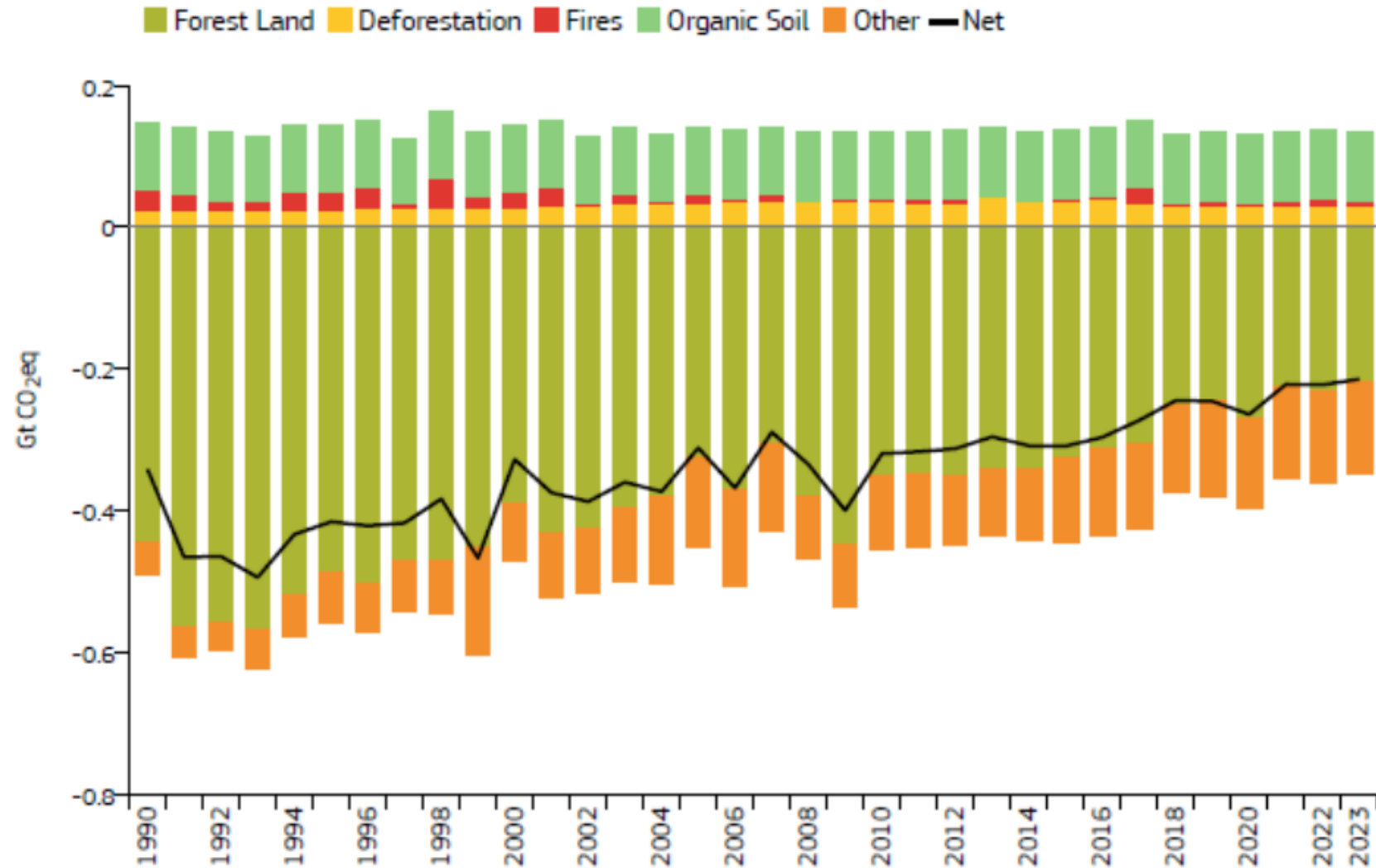
Global GHG emissions and removals from LULUCF sector (in Gt CO<sub>2</sub>eq), 1990-2023





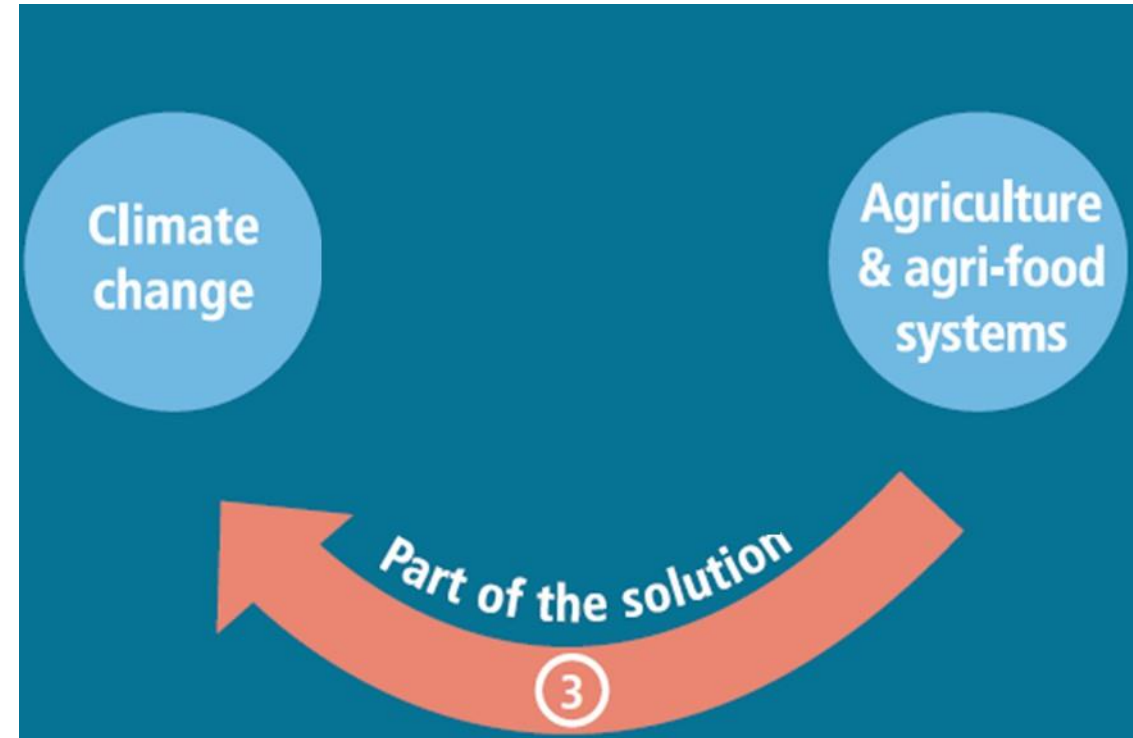
# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

EU27 GHG emissions and removals from LULUCF sector (in Gt CO<sub>2</sub> eq), 1990-2023



## Mitigation option in agriculture

- ✓ Fertilizer use
- ✓ Soil management
- ✓ Residue management
- ✓ Water management (paddy rice)
- ✓ Animal husbandry/manure management
  
- ✓ Increase Soil Organic Matter
- ✓ Restoration of organic and degraded soils
- ✓ Set-aside, LUC, agro-forestry

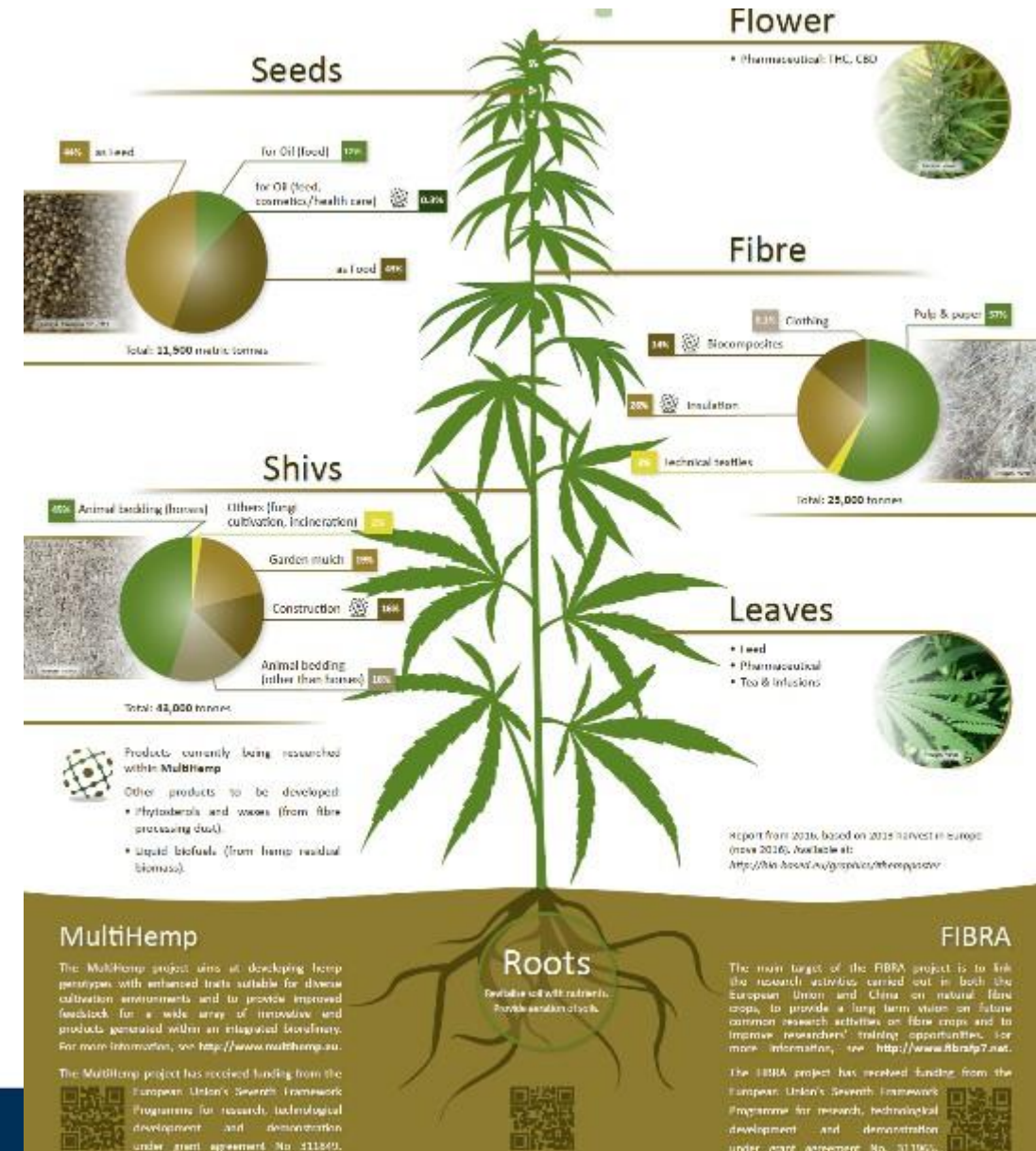


# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

## Mitigation option with hemp

- ✓ Bio-materials (C sink)
- ✓ Bioenergy
- ✓ Carbon Farming (C sink)

Is GHG mitigation with hemp cost competitive?  
Does hemp offer other ecosystem services/ co-benefit?

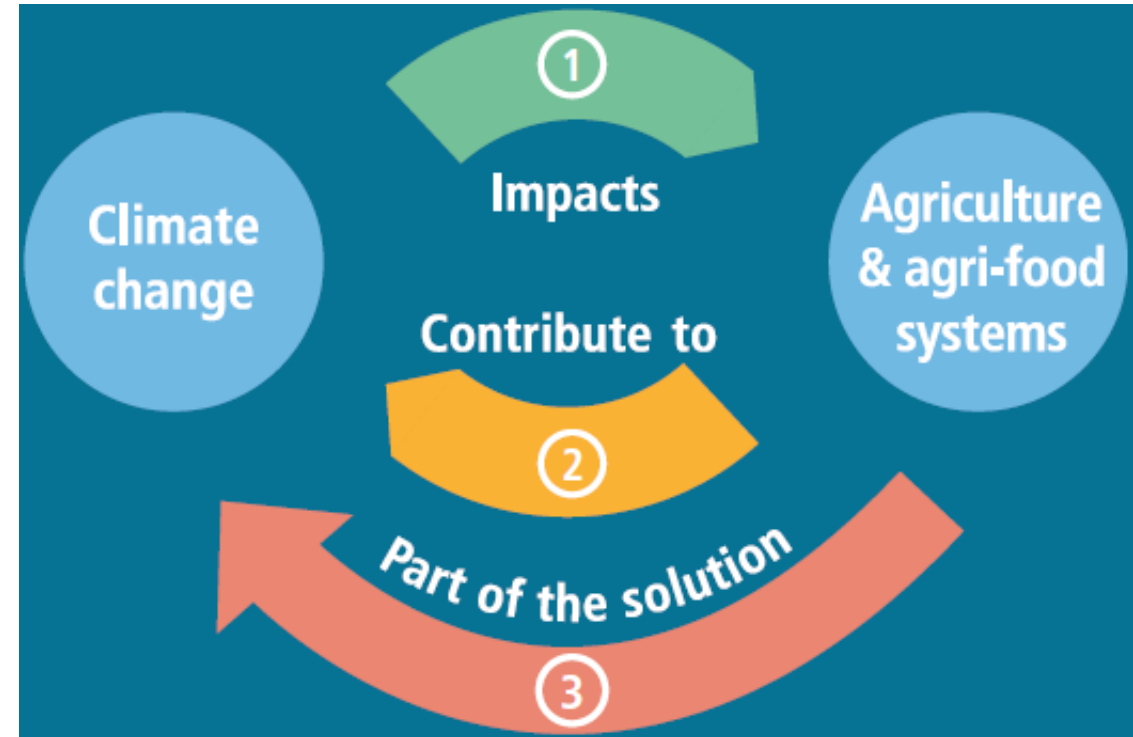


## Climate change and hemp

- ✓ Temperature change  
*Photosynthesis, Phenology*
- ✓ Extreme climatic events  
*Lodging, water logging, anoxia*
- ✓ Water stress (drought, High VPD)  
*Lower yield*

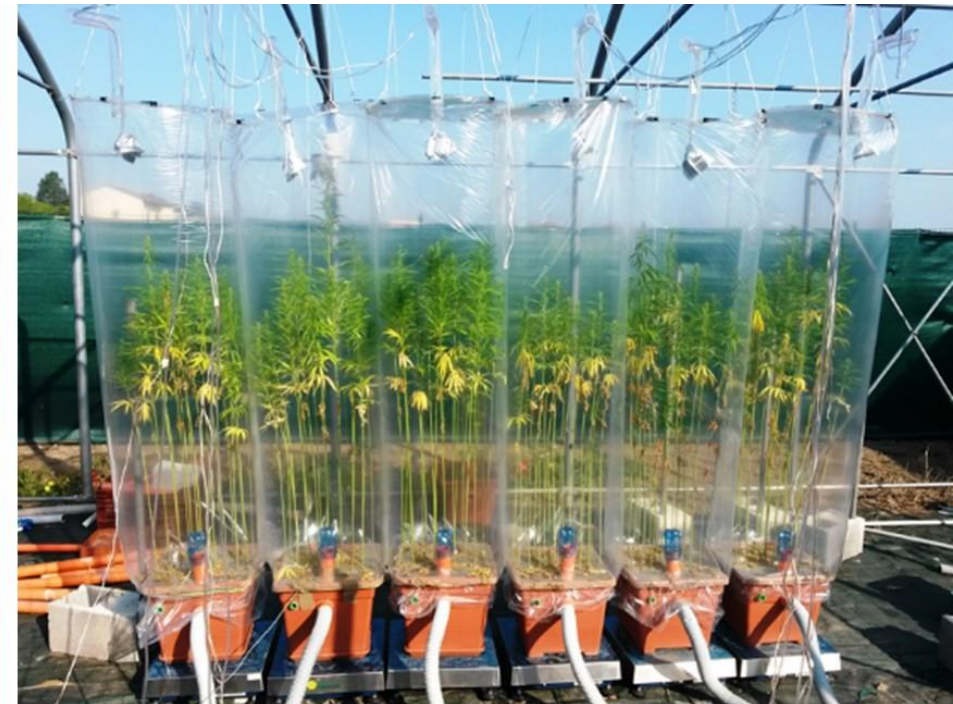
### Key role in mitigation

- *High nitrogen use efficiency*
- *C carbon capture in biomaterials*
- *Cultivation in marginal environment*



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BIOENERGY

GCB Bioenergy (2017) 9, 1573–1587, doi: 10.1111/gcbb.12451

Hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) leaf photosynthesis in relation to nitrogen content and temperature: implications for hemp as a bio-economically sustainable crop

KAILEI TANG<sup>1,2</sup>, PAUL C. STRUIK<sup>1</sup>, STEFANO AMADUCCI<sup>2</sup>, TJEERD-JAN STOMPH<sup>1</sup> and XINYOU YIN<sup>1</sup>

frontiers  
in Plant Science

ORIGINAL RESEARCH  
published: 10 July 2018  
doi: 10.3389/fpls.2018.00951

Water- and Nitrogen-Use Efficiencies of Hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) Based on Whole-Canopy Measurements and Modeling

Kaili Tang<sup>1,2</sup>, Alessandra Fracasso<sup>2</sup>, Paul C. Struik<sup>1</sup>, Xinyou Yin<sup>1\*</sup> and Stefano Amaducci<sup>2\*</sup>

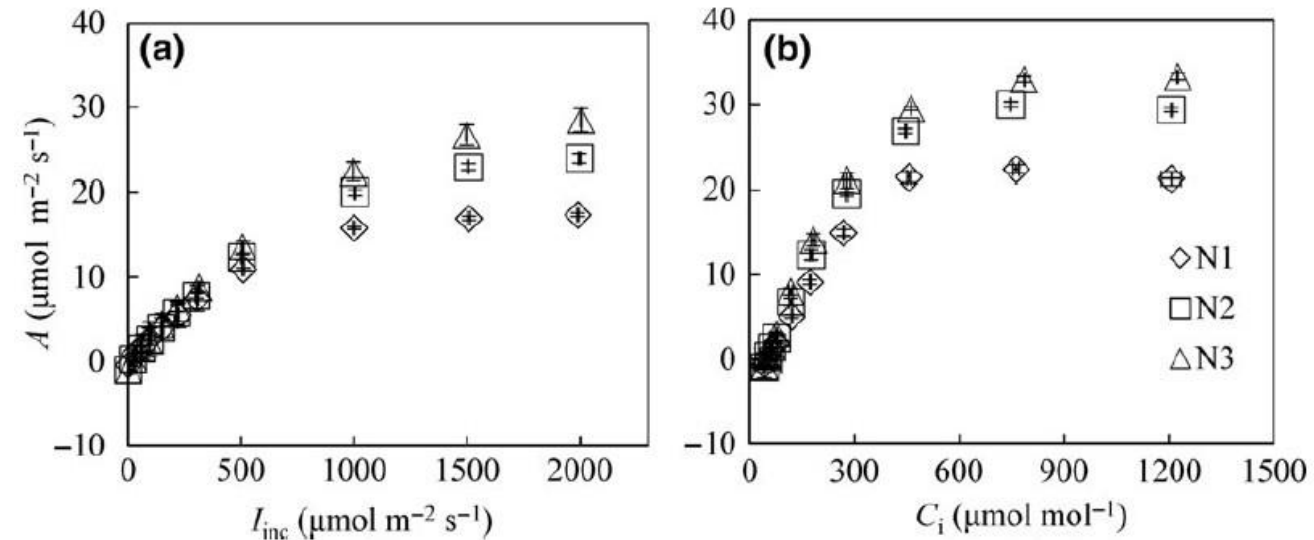
OPEN ACCESS

## Climate change and hemp

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## Climate change and hemp

- ✓ Temperature change

### *Photosynthesis, Phenology*

- ✓ Extreme climatic events

*Lodging, water logging, anoxia*

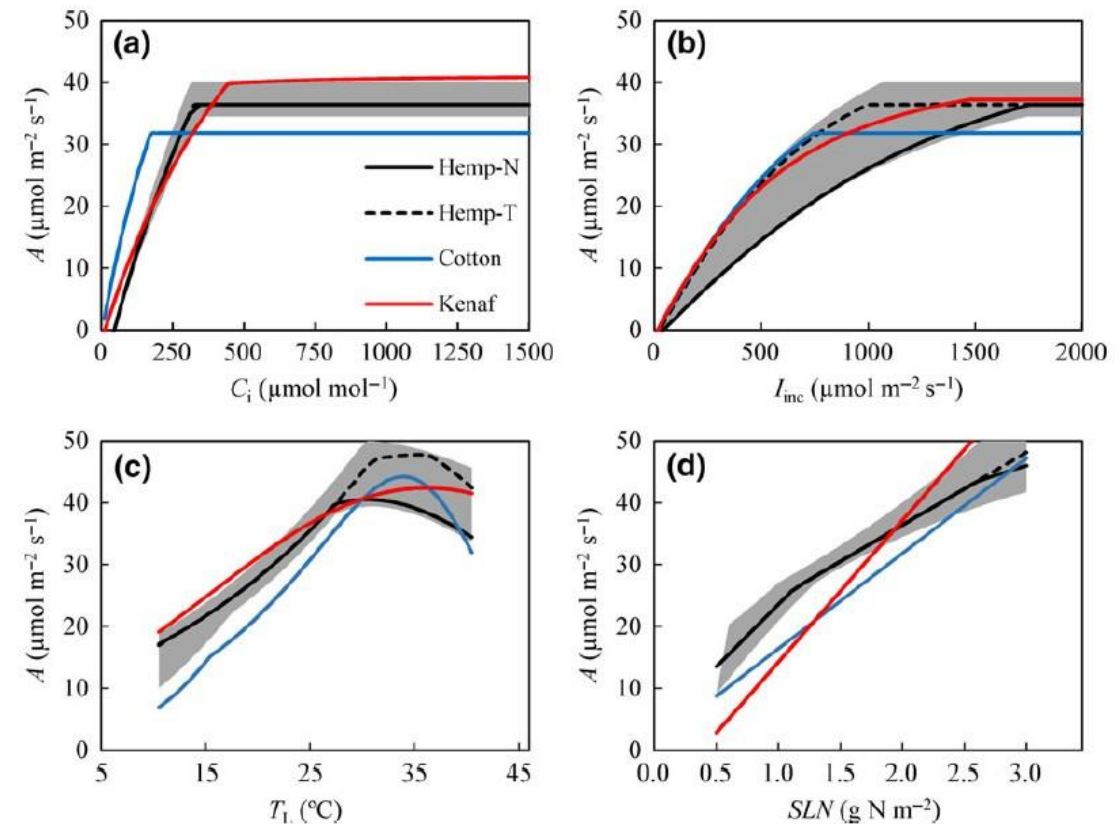
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*Lower yield*

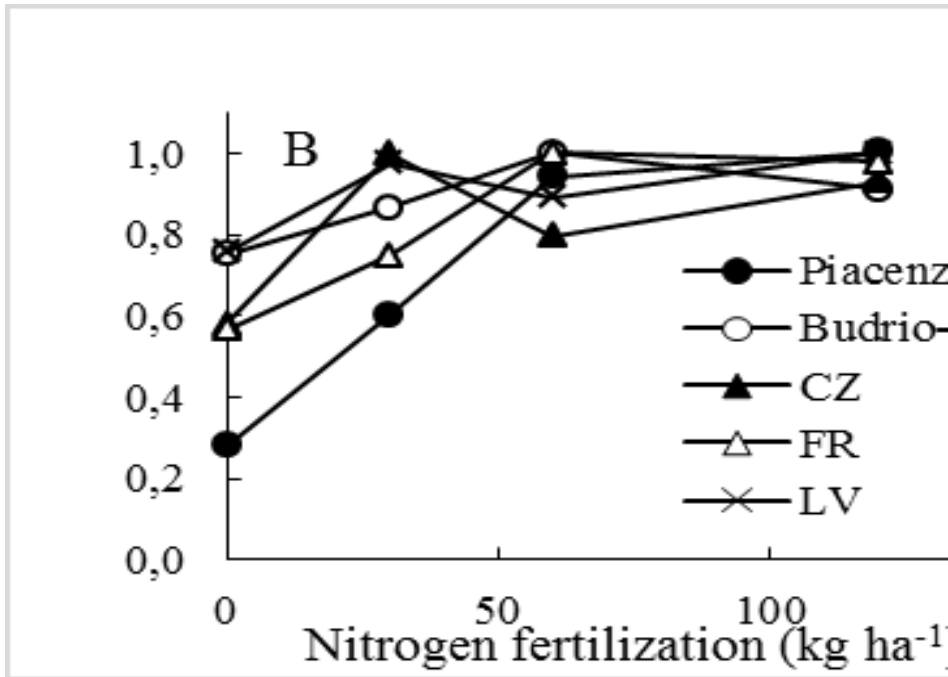
### Key role in mitigation

- *High nitrogen use efficiency*
- *C carbon capture in biomaterials*
- *Cultivation in marginal environment*

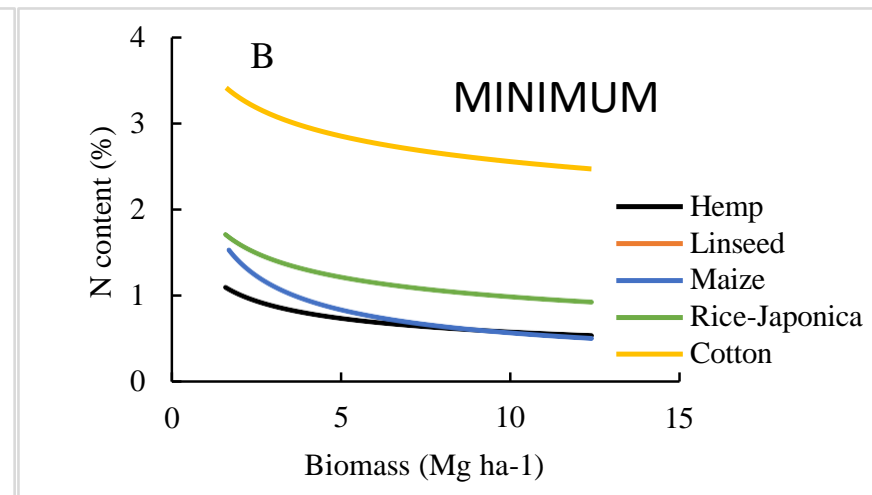
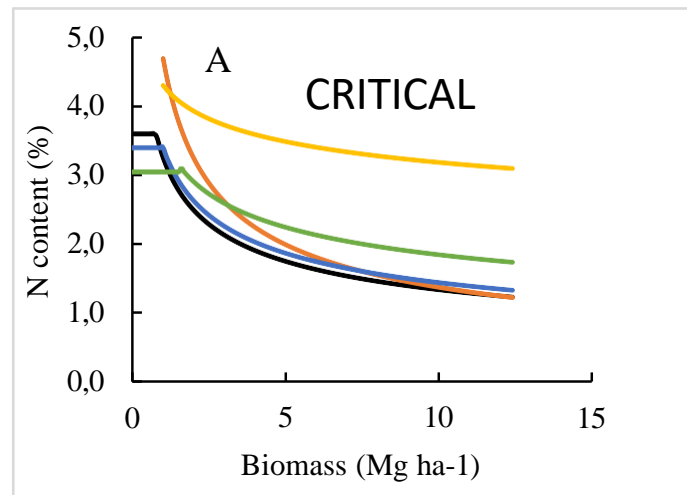
Compared with cotton and kenaf, hemp has higher photosynthetic capacity when leaf nitrogen is  $<2.0 \text{ g N m}^{-2}$



# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation



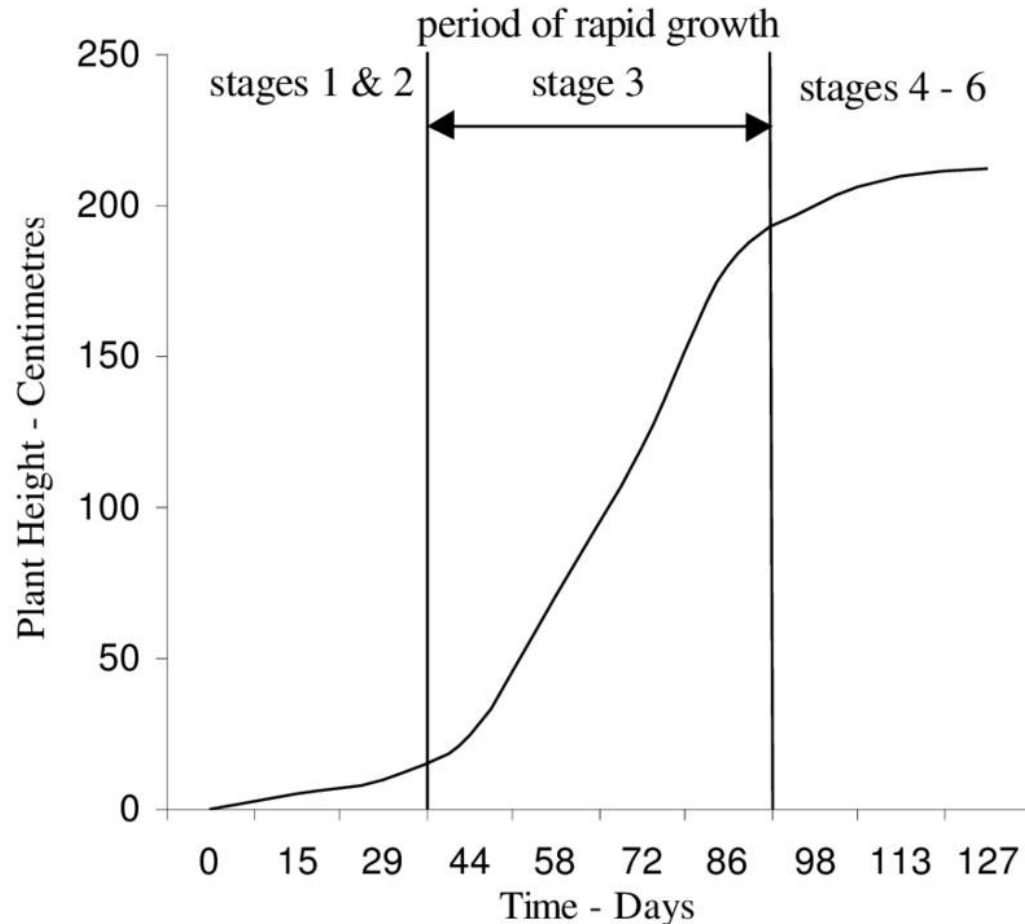
Nitrogen effect depends on the soil fertility but no effect over **60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>**



Comparison of hemp nitrogen dilution curve with that other crops



Growth cycle of hemp (Bócsa & Karus 1998)



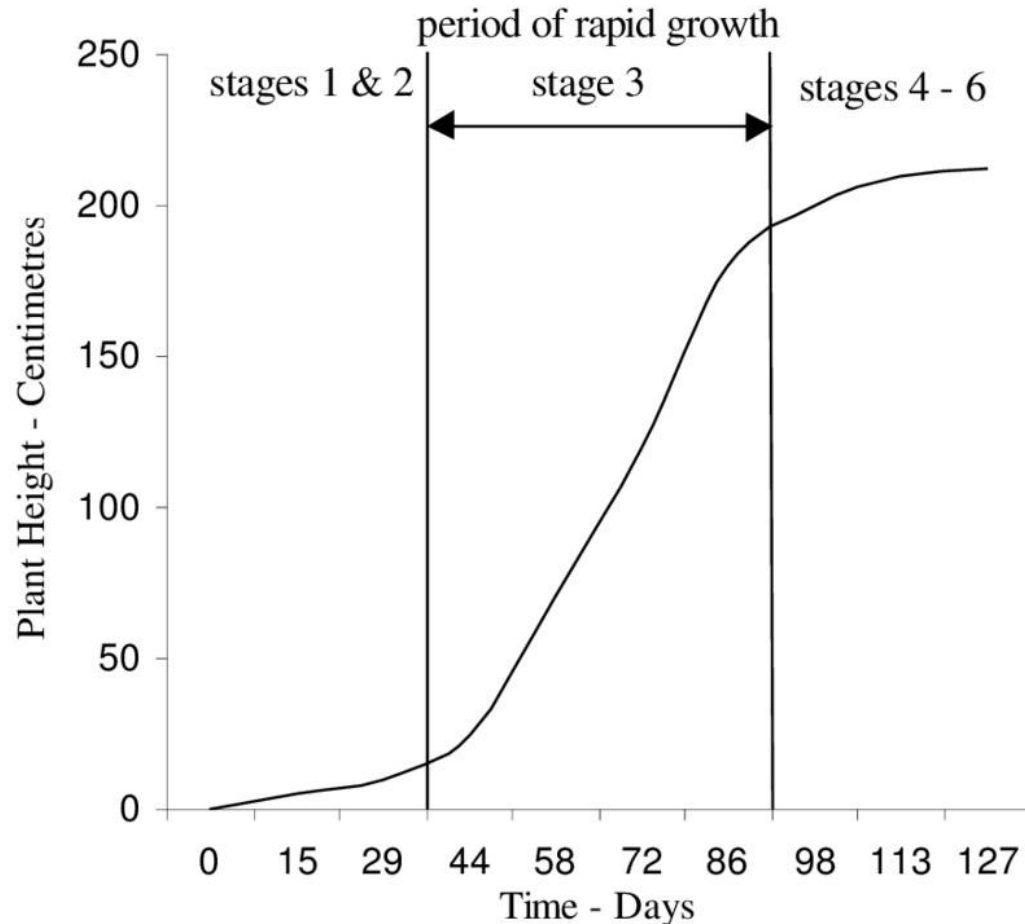
## Emergence - Canopy closure



### Factors affecting this phase

- Soil conditions
- Soil humidity and temperature
- Air temperature
- Rainfall
  
- Genotype
- Planting density
- Seed quality

Growth cycle of hemp (Bócsa & Karus 1998)



## Emergence - Canopy closure



### Factors affecting this phase

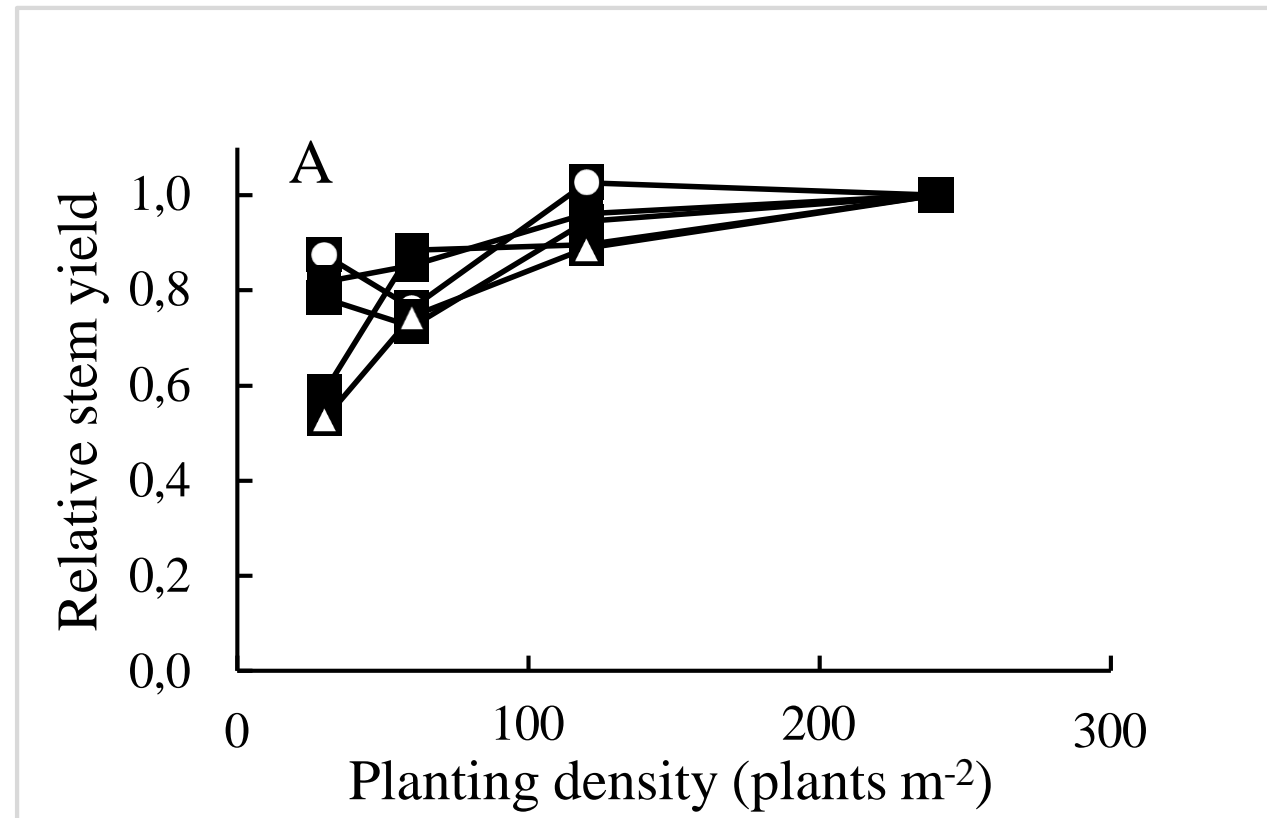
- Soil conditions
- Soil humidity and temperature
- Air temperature
- Rainfall
  
- Genotype
- Planting density
- Seed quality

## Planting density affects stem and fibre yield

Fibre production 90-200 plants  $m^{-2}$

Seed production 30 - 75 plants  $m^{-2}$

Dual-purpose **90-150** plants  $m^{-2}$

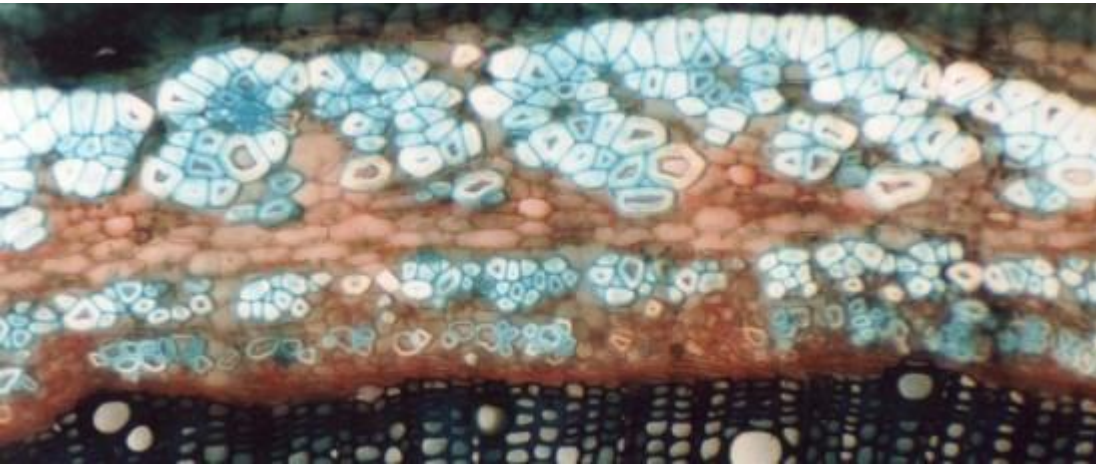


D45

D90

D180

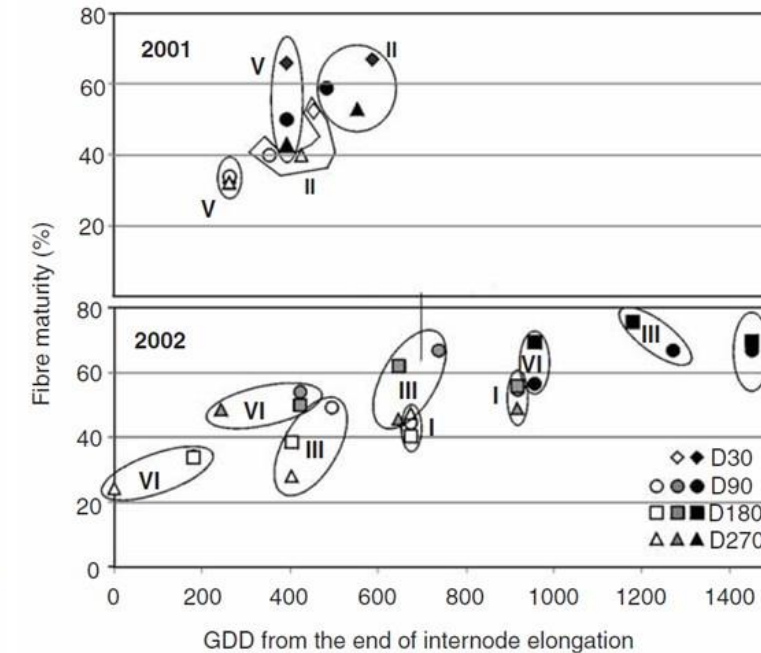
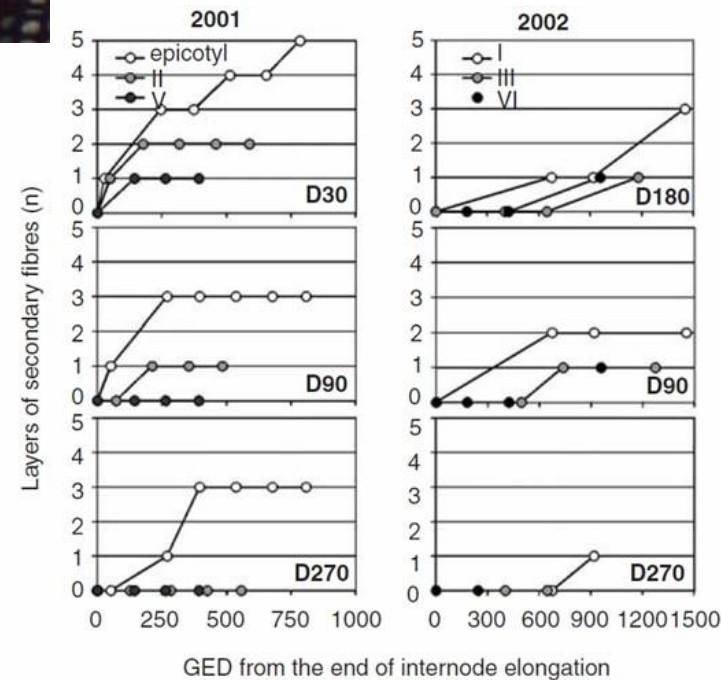
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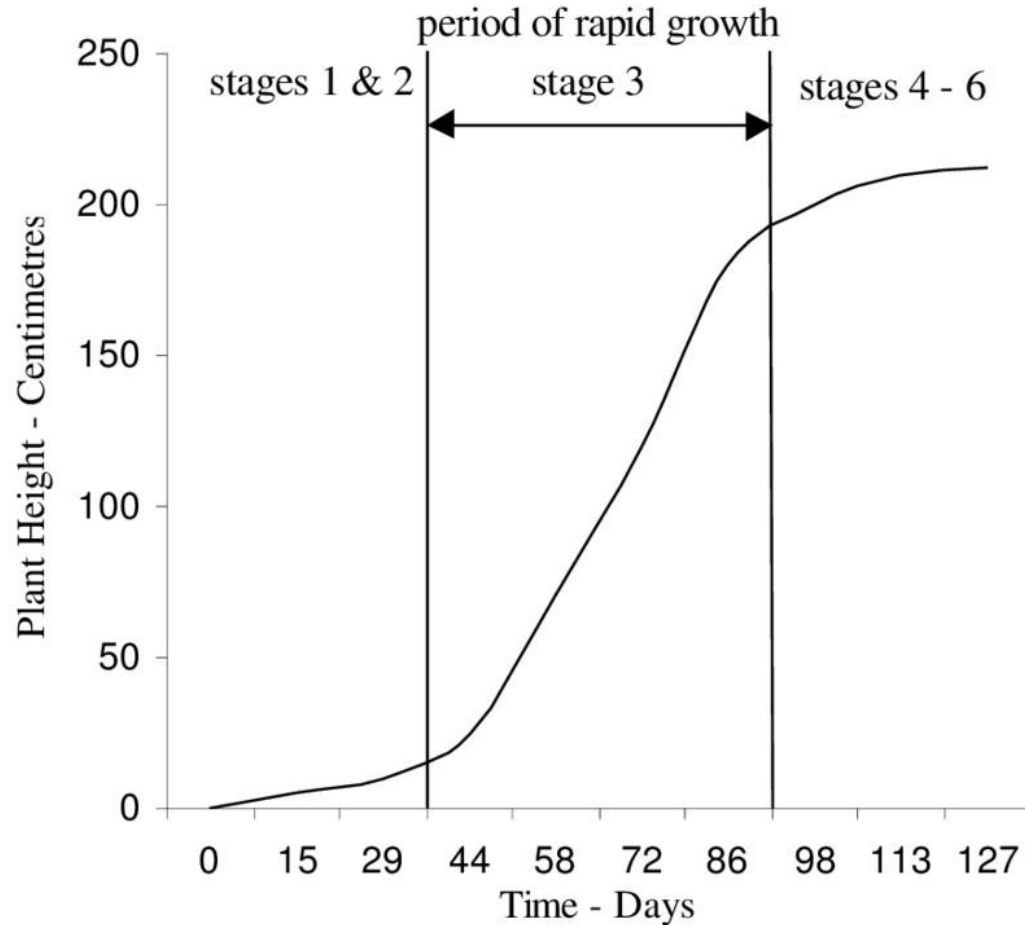
## Planting density affects stem and fibre yield ...and fibre quality

TABLE 4. Average diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) and standard errors of primary fibres at internodes I, III and VI at the three stages of flowering (74, 85 and 107 DAS) and at three plant densities (90, 180 and 270 plants  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ) in 2002.

Density	DAS	I		III		VI	
		Mean	sd	Mean	sd	Mean	sd
90	74	25.4	7.9	32.3	11.3	22.4	5.4
	85	40.6	9.2	29.1	7.2	23.0	5.2
	107	37.6	7.7	35.6	6.1	29.7	6.3
180	74	36.4	7.0	21.1	5.1	23.6	4.9
	85	32.2	7.8	26.2	5.7	18.7	4.8
	107	35.5	10.1	26.7	3.8	24.6	5.4
270	74	26.8	7.6	23.6	6.1	18.8	3.9
	85	31.4	11.2	23.4	6.1	17.1	2.0



Growth cycle of hemp (Bócsa & Karus 1998)



## Elongation



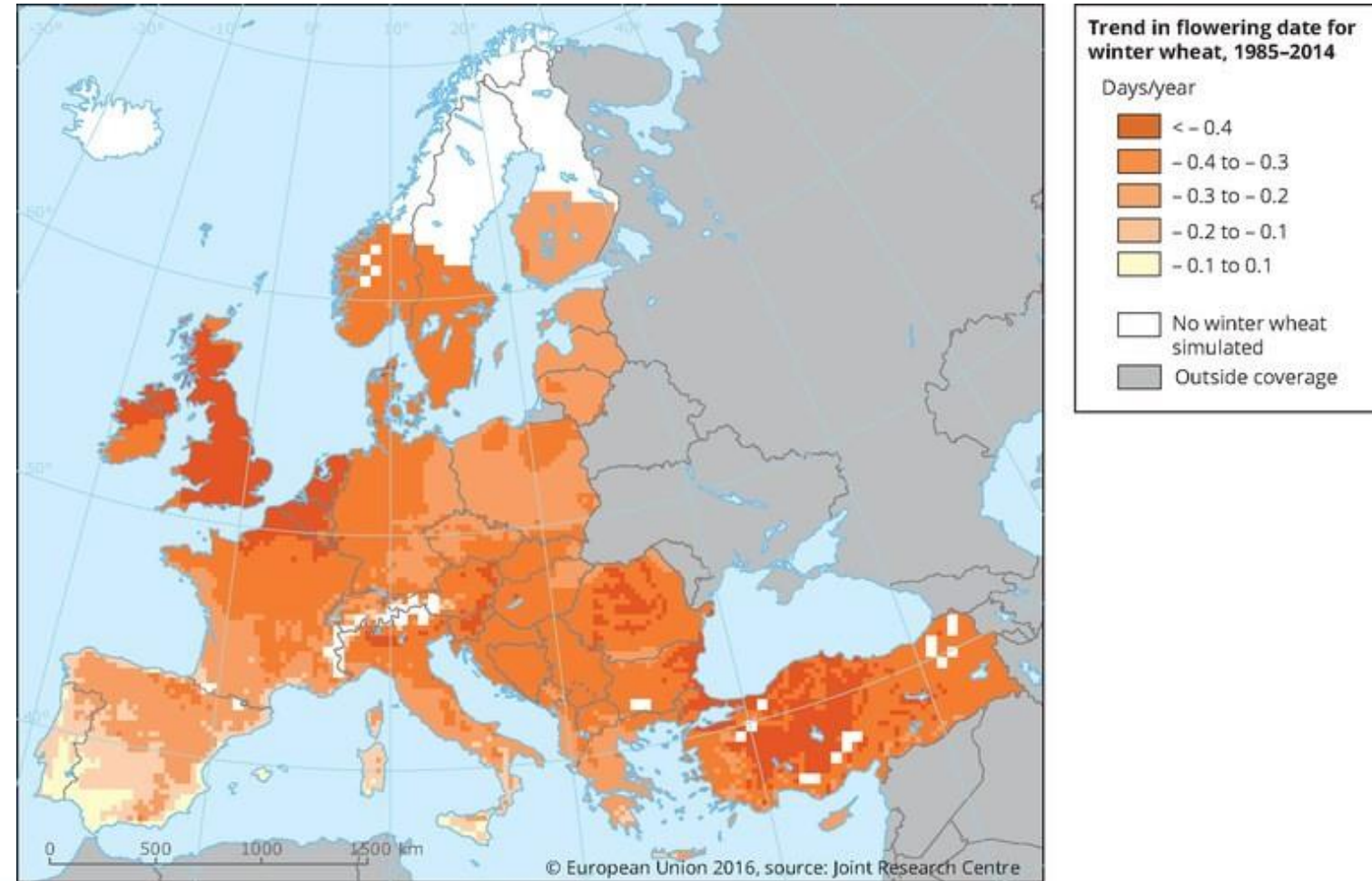
### Factors affecting this phase

- Soil humidity / rainfall
- Air temperature
- Photoperiod
- Wind/lodging
- Nutrition
  
- Genotype

## Effect of climate change on crop phenology

- Flowering of several crops has advanced by about two days per decade during the last 50 years.
- Changes in crop phenology are affecting crop production.
- Shortening of the growth phases of many crops is expected to continue (this may be altered by breeding and changing planting dates)

Rate of change of the flowering date for winter wheat



# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

Environmental control of hemp phenology is extreme!



Latvia



Italy

Finola

# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

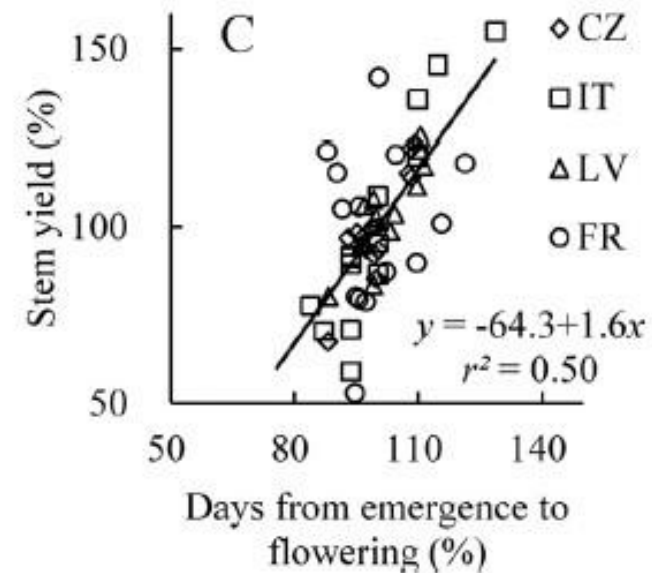
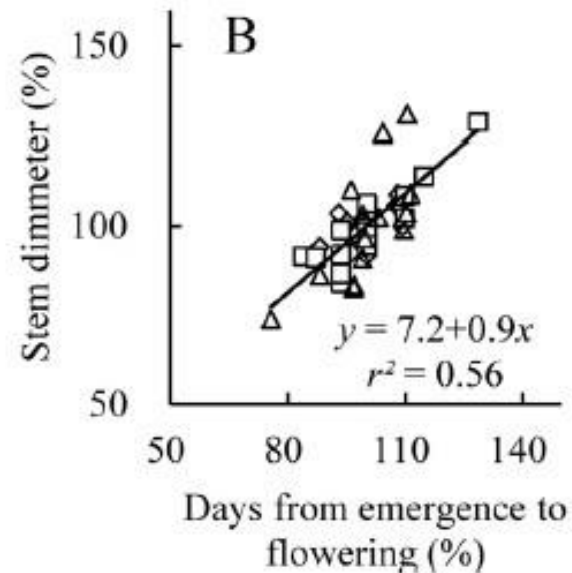
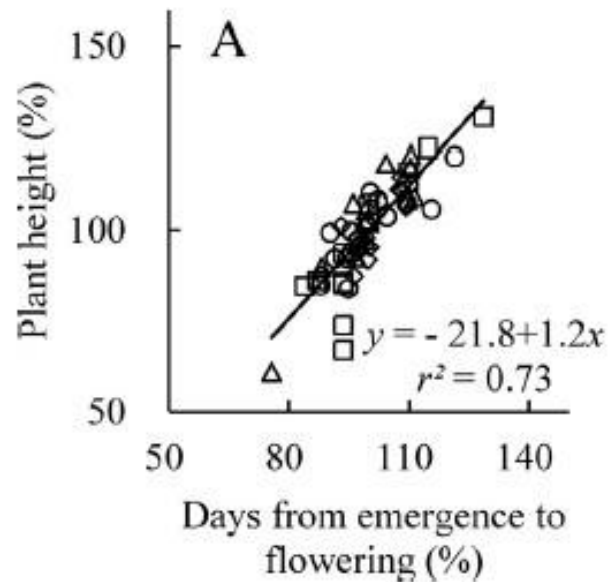


Comparing hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) cultivars for dual-purpose production under contrasting environments

K. Tang<sup>a,b</sup>, P.C. Struik<sup>a</sup>, X. Yin<sup>a</sup>, C. Thouminot<sup>c</sup>, M. Bjelkova<sup>d</sup>, V. Stramkale<sup>e</sup>, S. Amaducci<sup>b,e</sup>



The longer is the vegetative phase, the higher is biomass yield...





# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

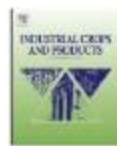


Industrial Crops and Products 87 (2016) 33–44

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Industrial Crops and Products

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/indcrop](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/indcrop)

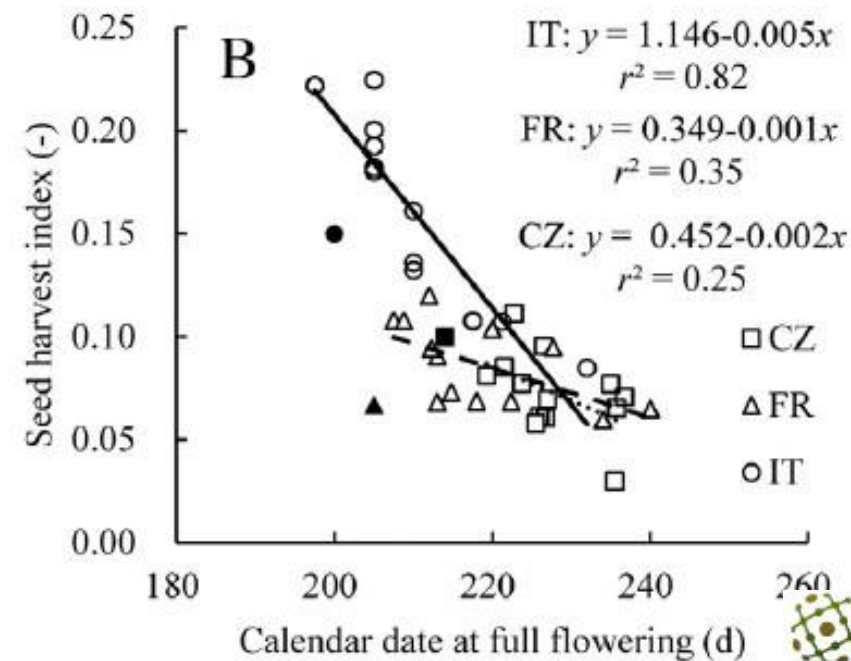
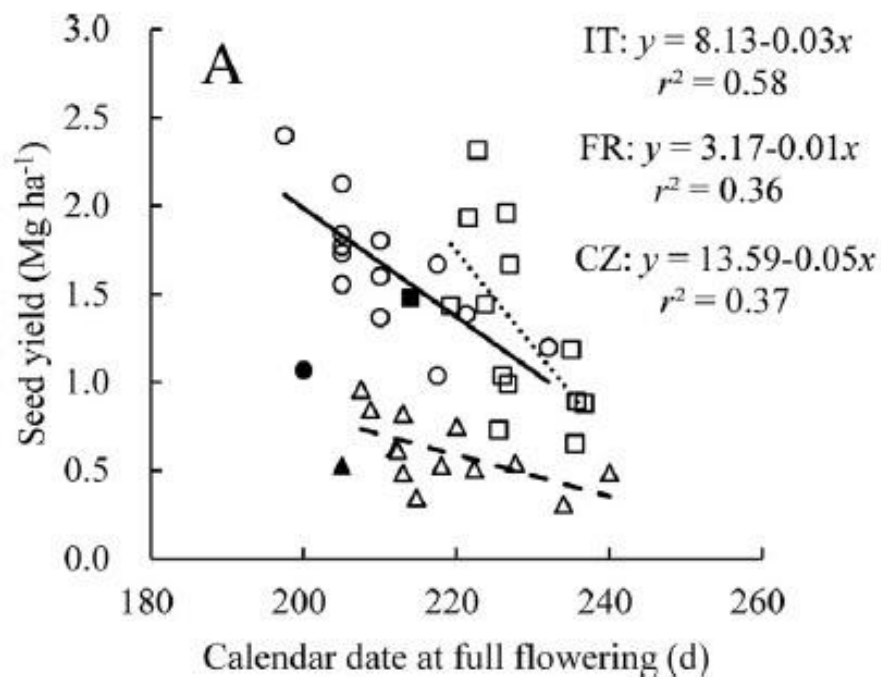


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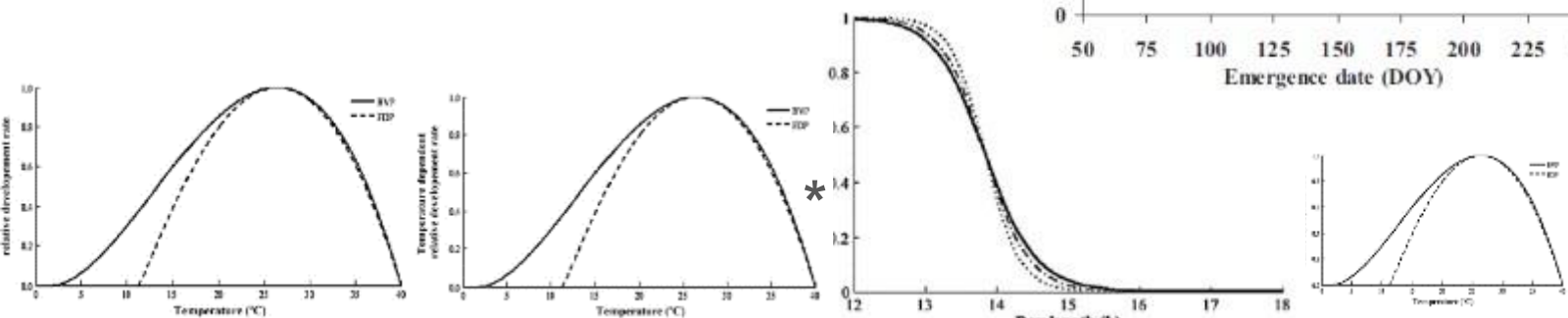
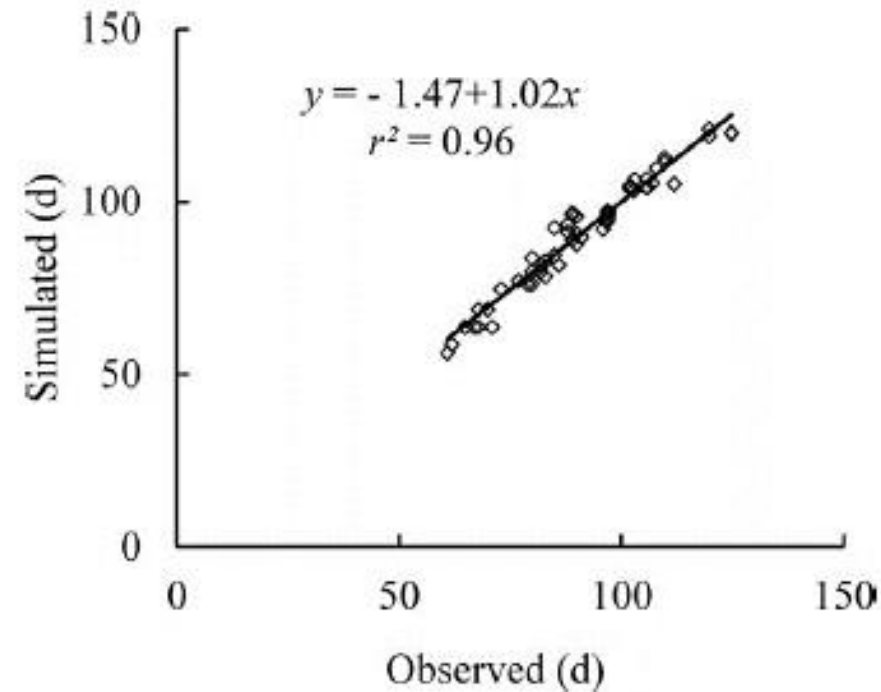
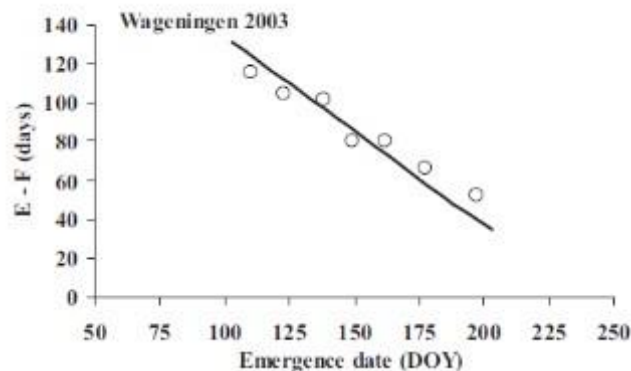
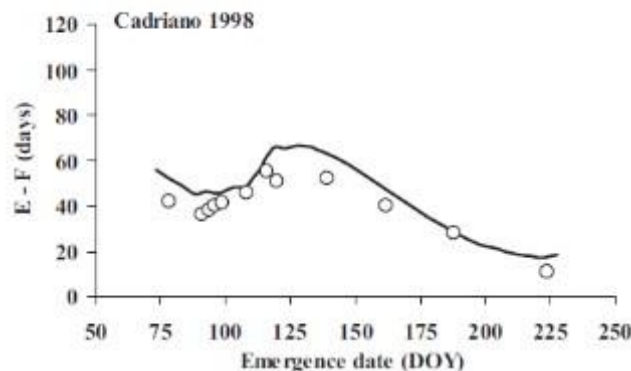
... the lower is seed yield.



# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation

$$R_{\text{dev}}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{fT(1)}{D_1} & x = 1 \\ \frac{fT(2)fP}{D_2} & x = 2 \\ \frac{fT(3)}{D_3} & x = 3 \end{cases}$$

Felina 34 (Calibration)



BVP

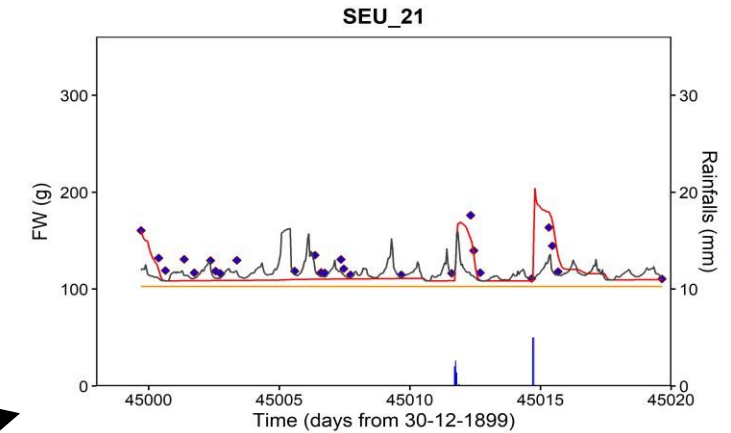
PIP

FDP

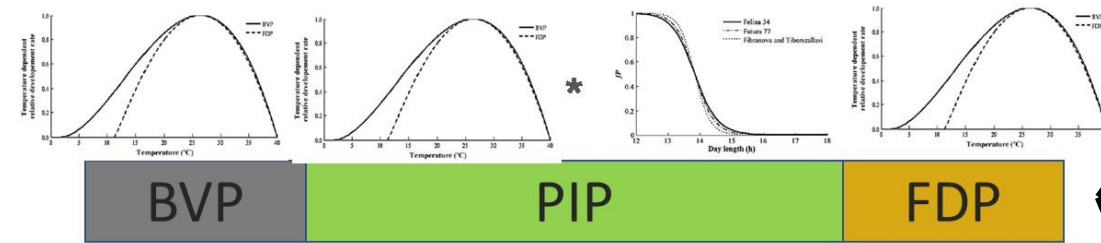
# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation



Time to seed maturity (seed yield)

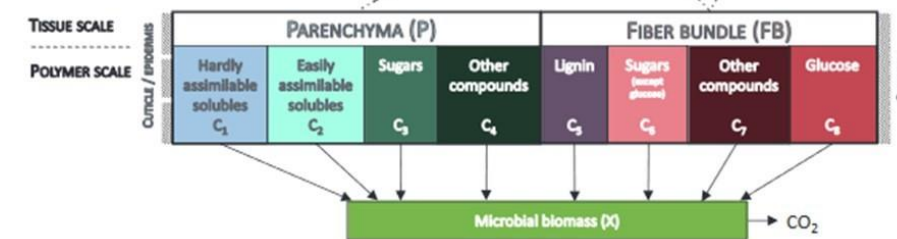
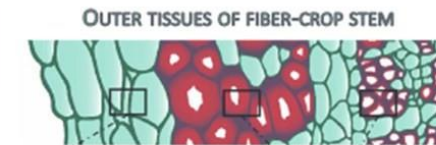


Time to dry (drying model)



Time to flowering (fibre yield)

BIORETTING : A MECHANISTIC MODEL FOR MICROBIAL DEGRADATION DURING THE DEW RETTING

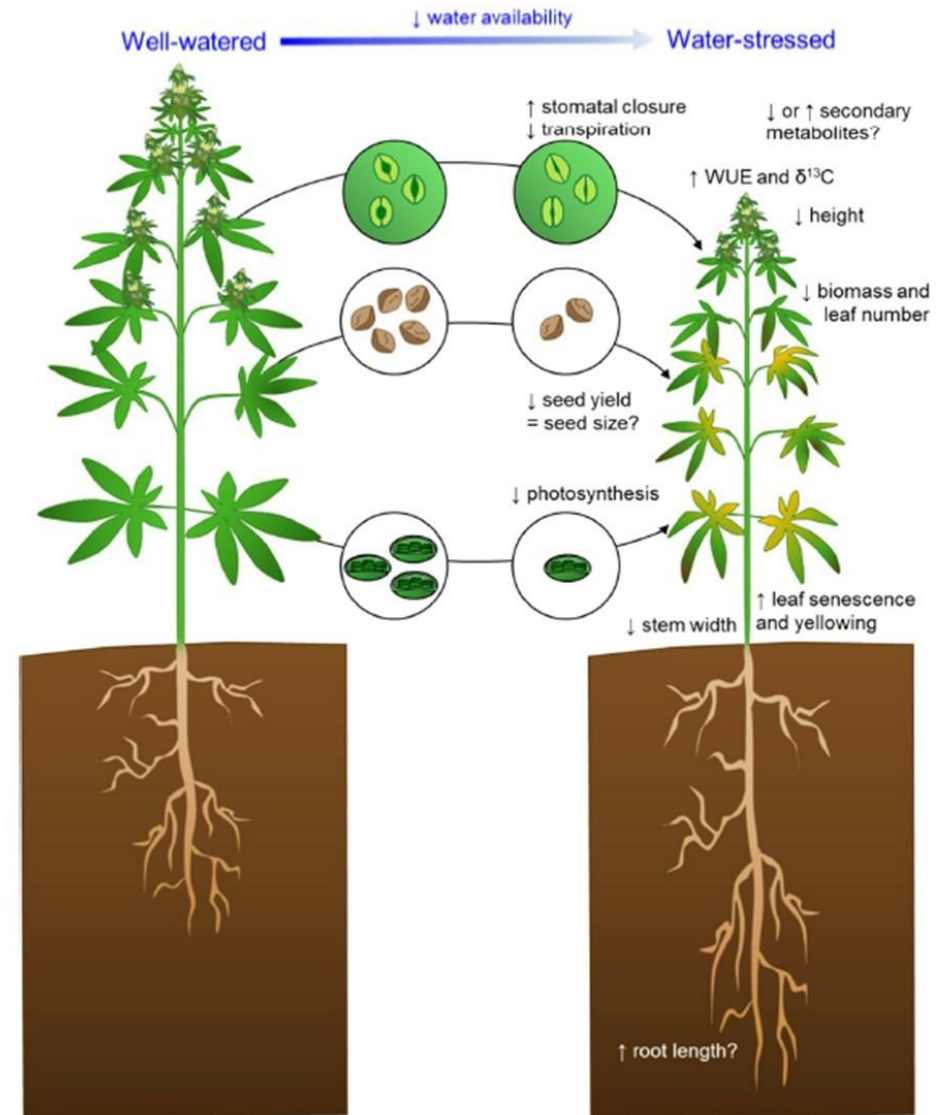


Time to retting (retting model)

Genotype X Environment x sowing time

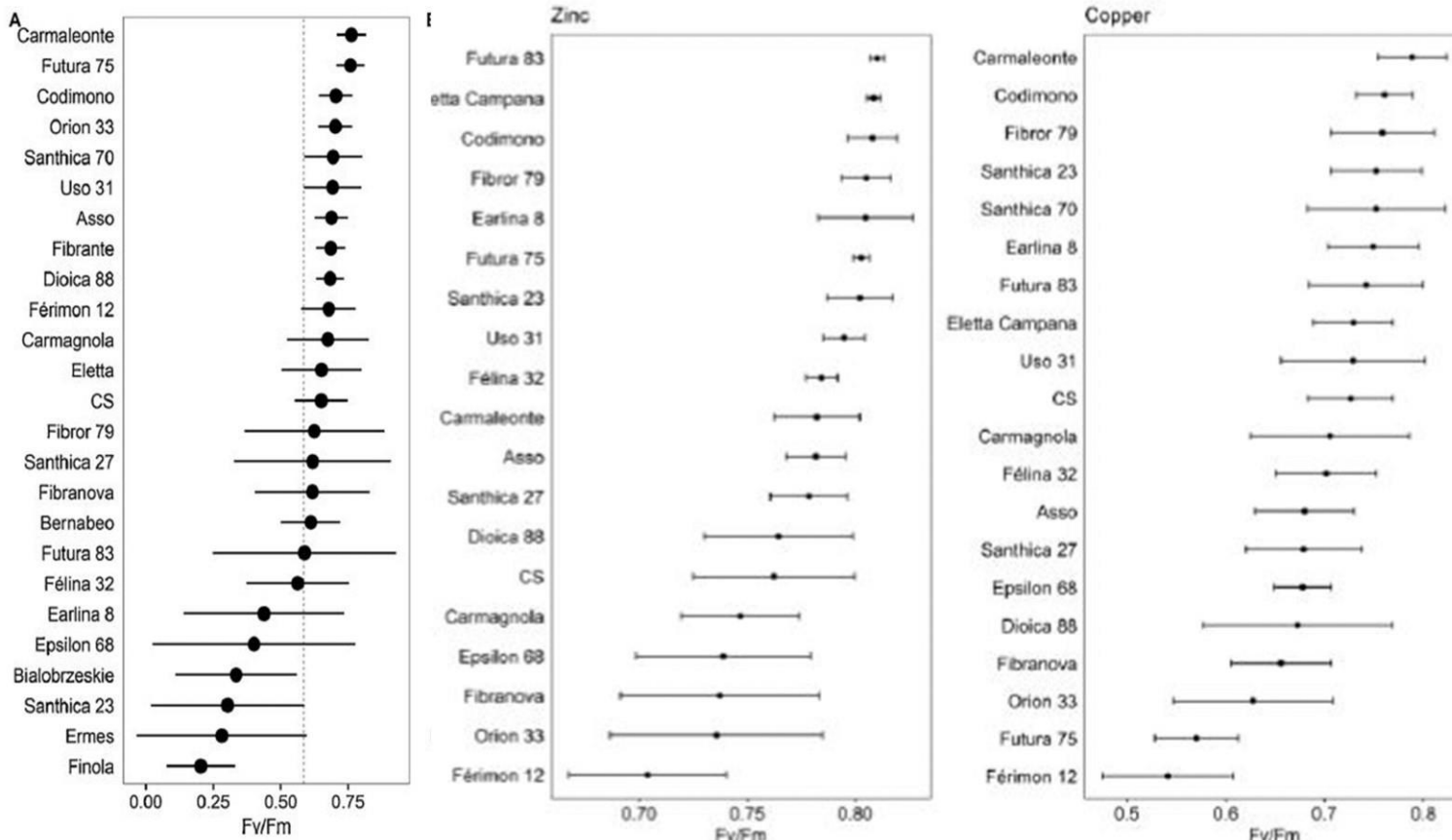
## Hemp and water consumption

Hemp has the potential to grow under limited or variable water, with relatively low water requirements of 220 mm to 450 mm compared to other fibre crops;  
Hemp shows great potential as a drought resistant crop, offering exciting possibilities to produce sustainable fibre in a changing climate



## Hemp and water consumption

Evidence of genetic variability in European germplasm for Stress tolerance



Osmotic stress	HM stress
Codimono	Fibror 79
Carmaleonte	Carmaleonte
Futura 75	Eletta Campana
Santhica 70	Futura 83
Férimon 12	Codimono

Industrial Crops & Products 170 (2021) 113774



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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/indcrop](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/indcrop)

Ranking 26 European hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) cultivars for osmotic stress tolerance and transpiration efficiency

Henri Blandinières\*, Martina Leoni, Andrea Ferrarini, Stefano Amaducci

## Suitability to marginal environment

- Productivity susceptible to HM (greenhouse scale studies)
- Tolerance to drought depends on soil characteristics / crop phase
- In marginal conditions multipurpose applications are limited:
  - To dual purpose in mountain area;
  - To stem only in HM contaminated lands;



REVIEW |  Open Access |  

Adapting the cultivation of industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) to marginal lands: A review

Henri Blandinières ✉ Stefano Amaducci

First published: 01 June 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcbb.12979>

# Hemp phenology and possible impact of climate change on its cultivation



Yellow varieties are easier to decorticate  
Yellow varieties have higher albedo (CG mitigations)



Musio S, Müssig J and Amaducci S (2018) Optimizing Hemp Fiber Production for High Performance Composite Applications. *Front. Plant Sci.* 9:1702.

## Hemp vs climate change in brief

- ✓ Effect of temperature raise will affect phenology (genotype selection)
- ✓ Extreme weather will affect high-quality fibre uses through lodging
- ✓ Heavy rains and high temperatures might reduce crop establishment
- ✓ Effect on field retting to be evaluated
- ✓ Potential threat from pathogens
  
- ✓ Hemp can be an opportunity for adaptation strategies (diversification)
- ✓ Hemp is a low emission crop
- ✓ Hemp products can play a role in Carbon Dioxide Removal strategies





# Where can you find me?



## Agrivoltaics @UCSC

- 507 kWp
- 850 MWh y<sup>-1</sup>
- Height: 5 m
- Pitch: 15 m and 18 m
- Ground cover ratio:
  - 35% (pitch 15 m)
  - 30% (pitch 18 m)
- Area agrivoltaics 10000 m<sup>2</sup>

Department of Sustainable Crop Production

[stefano.amaducci@unicatt.it](mailto:stefano.amaducci@unicatt.it)

Via Emilia Parmense 84, 29122 Piacenza, Italy

# Life Cycle Assessments for hemp-derived products: do we need them, why and how?

## Learnings from bioeconomy LCAs

Lorie Hamelin (INRAE)

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*Horizon Europe grant agreement N° 10105D430. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*

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Troyes, 19.11.2024



Funded by the European Union



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FRANÇAISE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



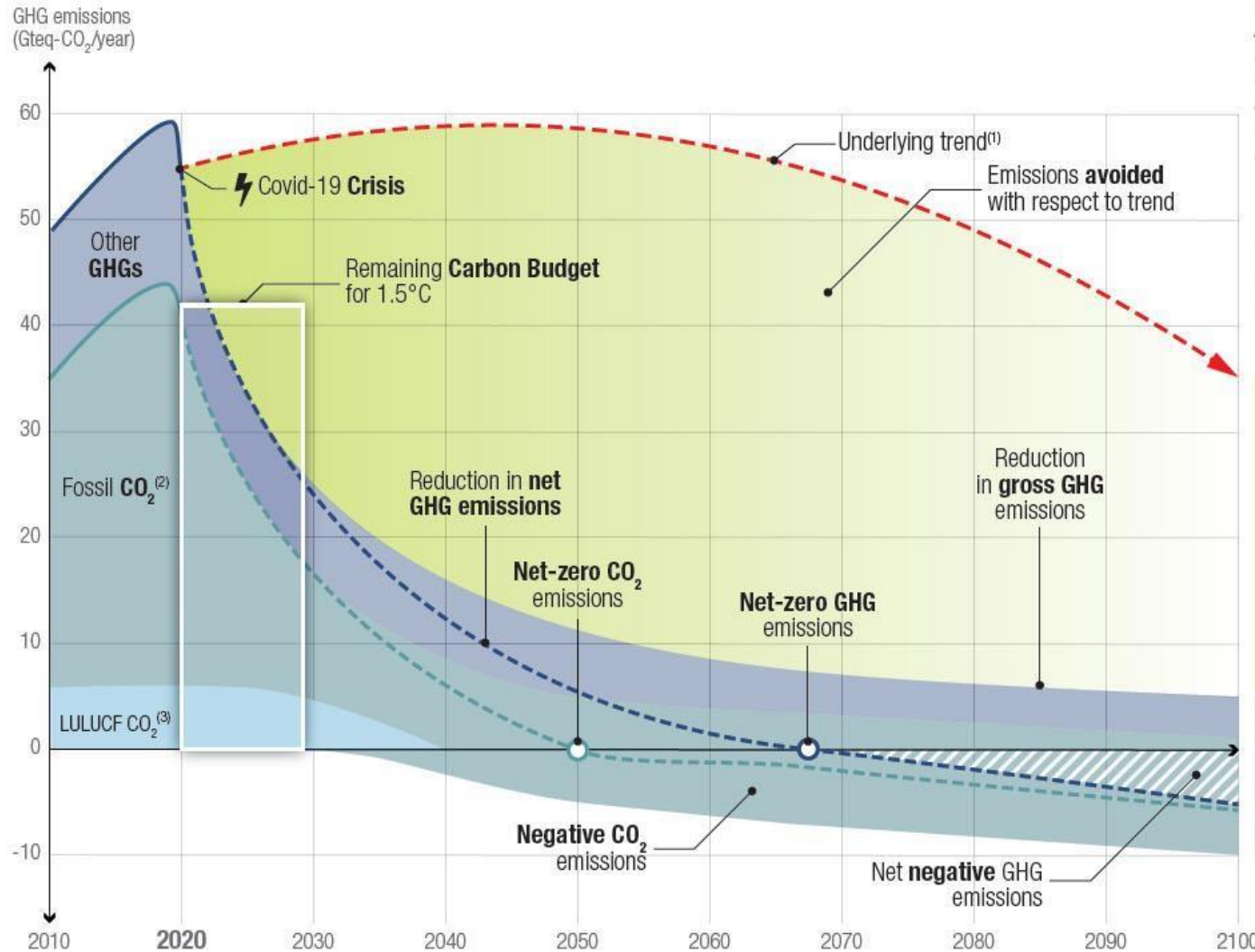
[toulouse-biotechnology-institute.fr](http://toulouse-biotechnology-institute.fr)



# Towards neutrality



# What does it mean to be CO<sub>2</sub> / GHG neutral?



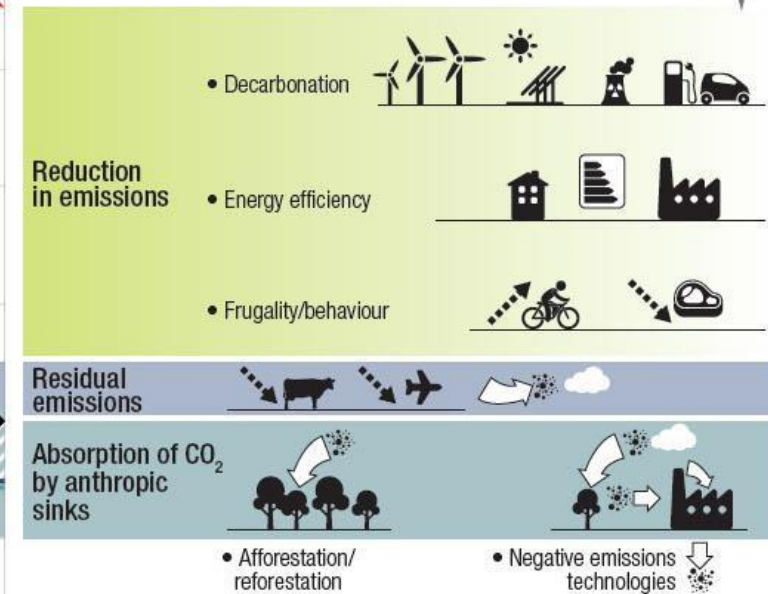
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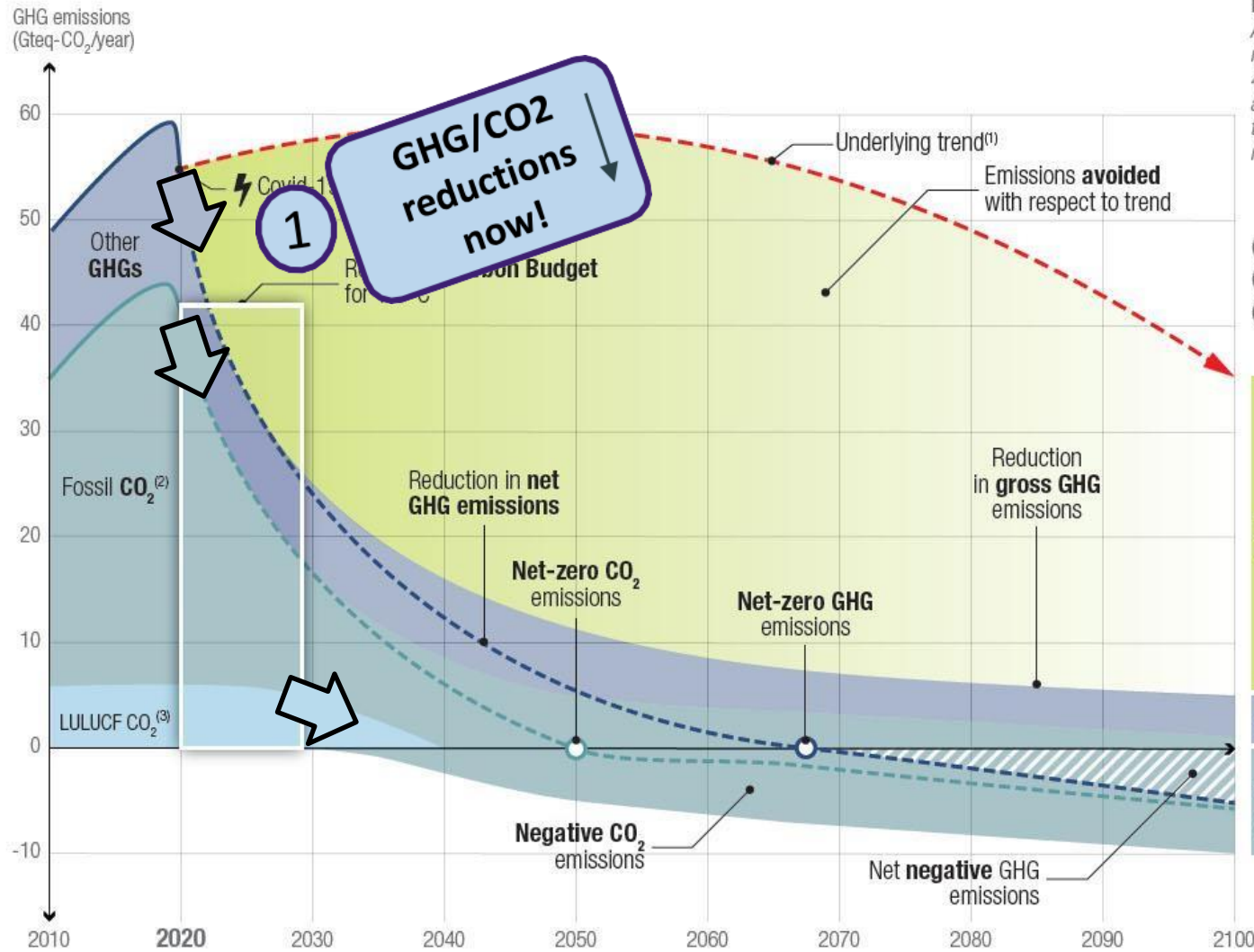
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(3) **CO<sub>2</sub> LULUCF:** CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use, land use change and forestry.



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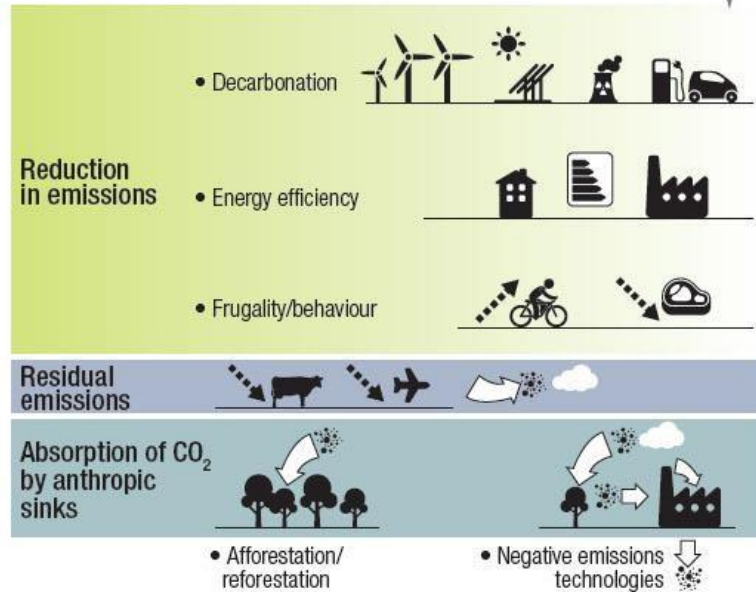
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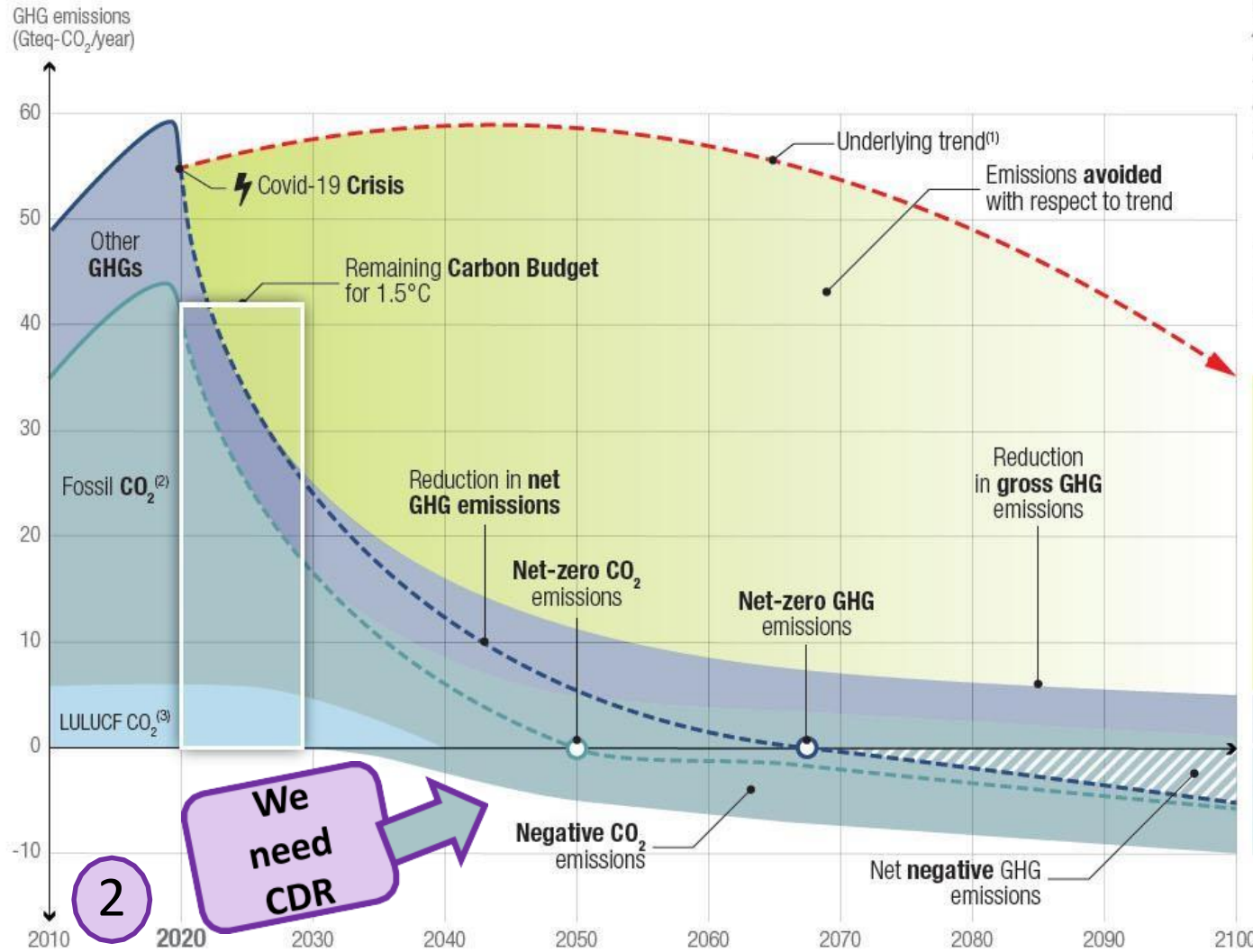
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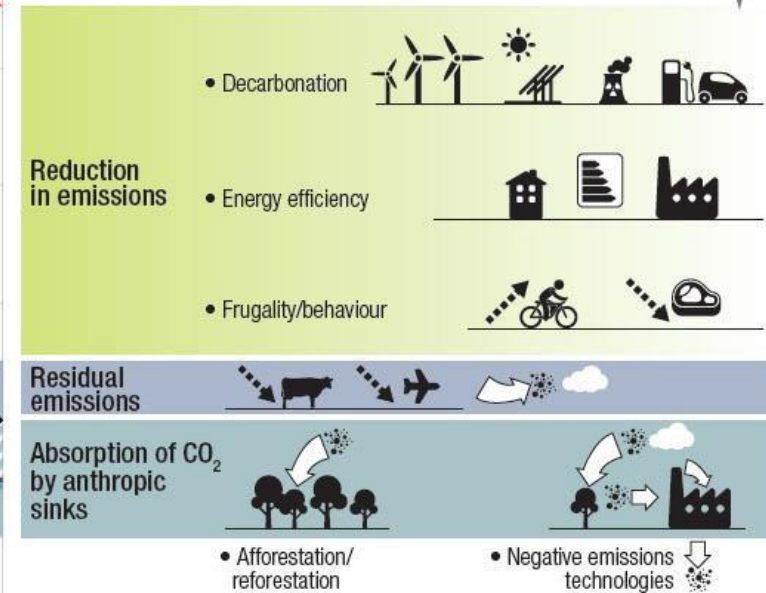
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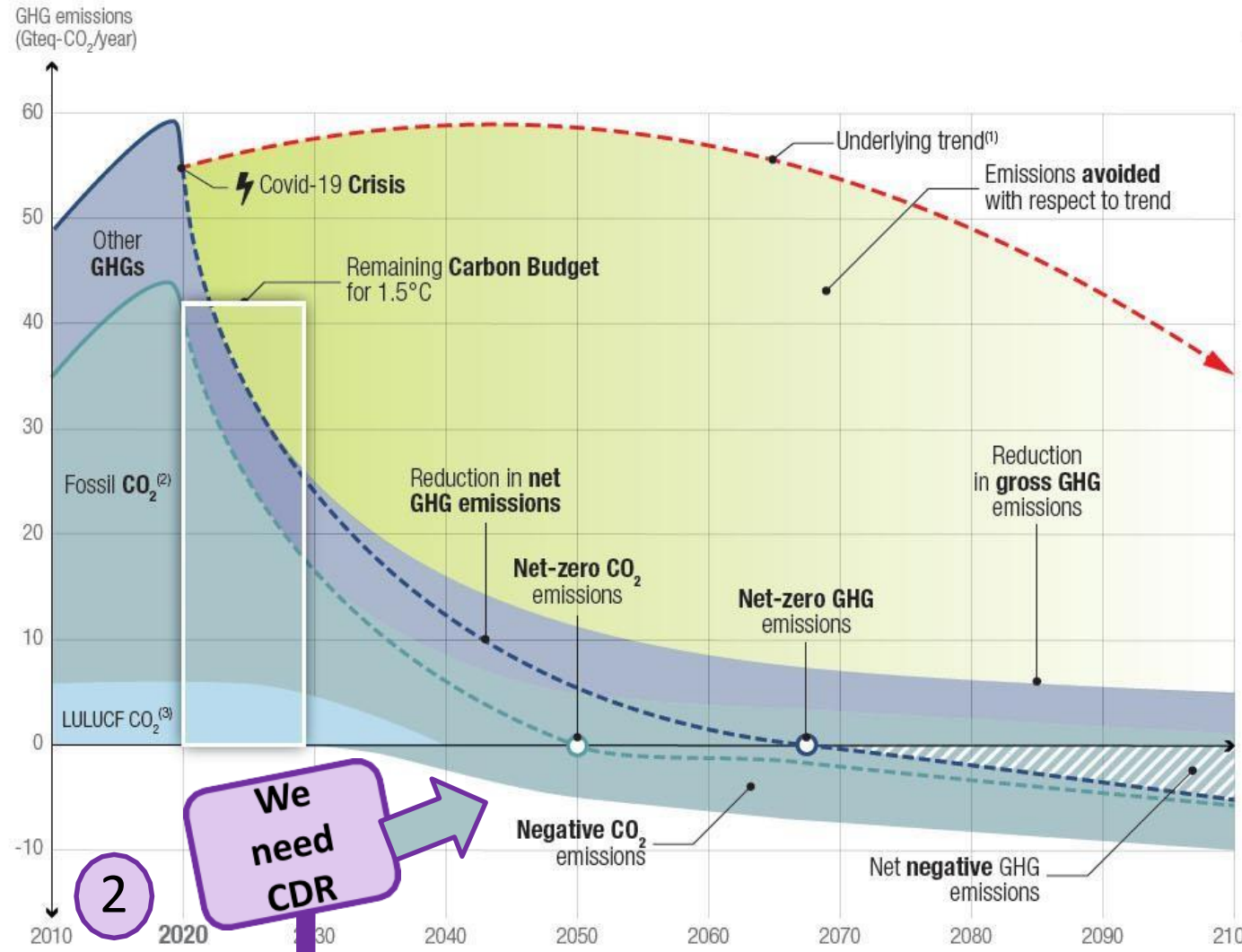
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• Decarbonation



Reduction in emissions

• Energy efficiency



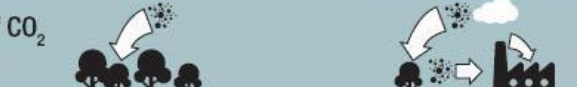
• Frugality/behaviour



Residual emissions



Absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> by anthropic sinks



• Afforestation/ reforestation

• Negative emissions technologies

In comparison:

Current Global Land Sink  
9.2 sink – 5.5 LUC loss GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr  
= 3.7 GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr

In comparison:

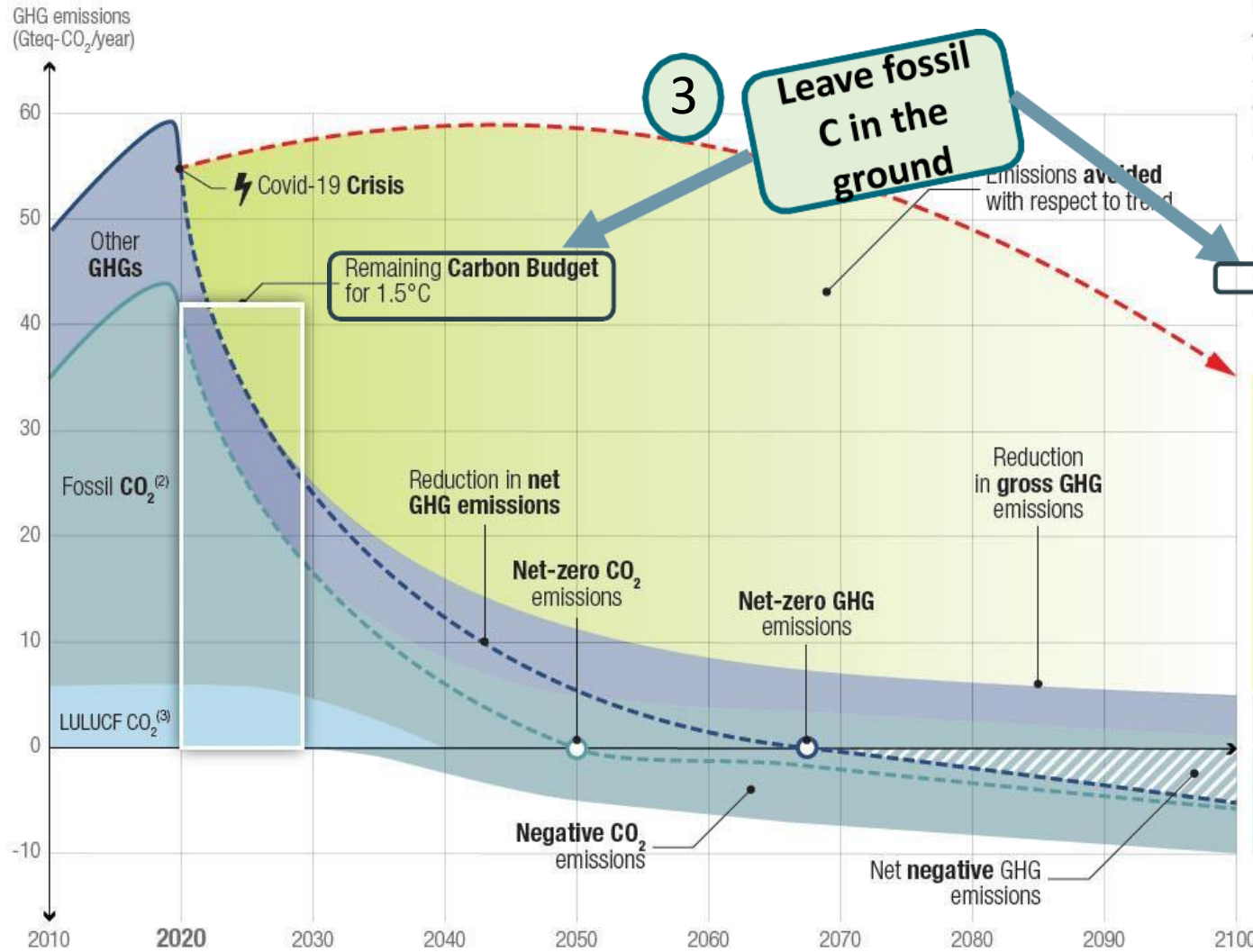
Current Global Ocean Sink  
= 11.5 GtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr

Climate Action Tracker, December 2020.

We need CDR

A lot of CDR!

# What does it mean to be CO<sub>2</sub> / GHG neutral?



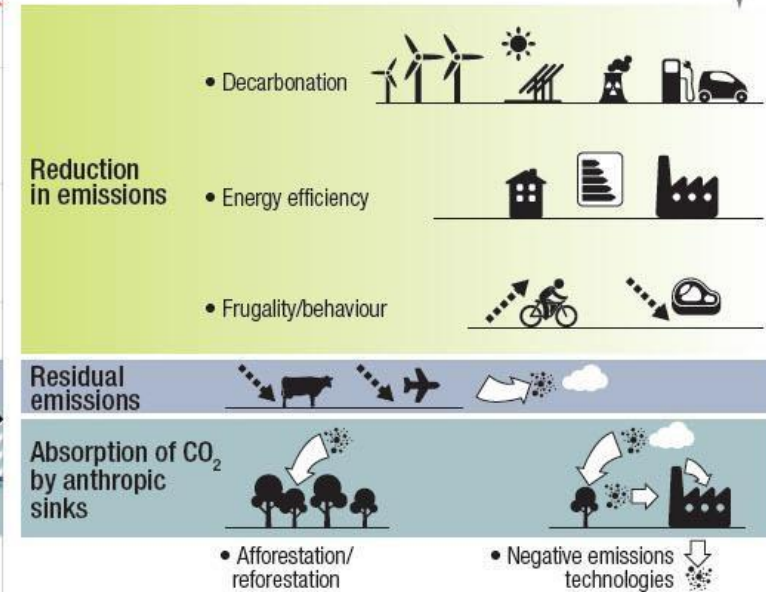
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# Hemp in all this?

- The only crop that Feeds, Clothes, Shelthers, and Heals!

- All parts of the plant can be used!

- Fiber is like gold ...fibergrass

- Grows fast, unlike cotton, requires little to no pesticide, takes a fraction of the water, and half the land ...!

- Strong & superior fiber, stronger than steel, but weight 1000 lb less

- Hemp paper requires less 'dirty' bleaching and gives more fiber/ha\*y than wood pulp

Hempcrete...

- the healthiest building material, anti-fungal, anti-bacterial
- thermal and insulation properties off the hook
- an architech dream come true!

Detoxifies soil!

- Binds up to 4 times MORE CO<sub>2</sub> than trees

- Unlike plastic, it can biodegrade

- The World's most nutrient-dense seed



Hemp: Food for life | Cameron Sims | TEDxAuckland

TEDx Talks ✓  
3,7 k vues • il y a 6 ans

**Hemp Protein**  
(rather than soy/milk protein)



Hemp holds the key to a sustainable future | Amy Ansel...

TEDx Talks ✓  
117 k vues • il y a 5 ans

**Hemp paper**  
(instead of forestry wood)



Green Hope: Hemp to the Rescue | Laura Rothgang |...

TEDx Talks ✓  
1,4 k vues • il y a 1 an

(instead of forestry wood)



Building with hemp | Joni Lane | TEDxCharlottesville

TEDx Talks ✓  
125 k vues • il y a 9 ans

**Hempcrete**  
(rather than gypsum/drywall)



Hemp as a Crop | Frances Tacy | TEDxAsheville

TEDx Talks ✓  
11 k vues • il y a 6 ans

**Hemp fabric**  
(rather than cotton)

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1,4 k vu

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125 k vu

Hemp as  
TEDxAsh

TEDx Talks  
11 k vues • il y a 6 ans

**Fabric**  
(rather than cotton)

And ... can it be instrumental in reaching climate neutrality?  
But ... beyond acting on climate, what about impact shifting?



8:03



15:02



12:37



7:13



17:30



# Where LCA comes into play



# Opinions and Black Boxes

**Much of green work is based on opinions and feel good**

- “It is obvious that by doing X we can help solve Y”

**Much is rooted in Life Cycle Analysis work**

- This is good, in principle, because it is fact based
- Clearly there have been many excellent LCAs that have helped a lot
- But LCAs are mostly black boxes that most of us cannot usefully query
- And they can tip one way or the other via some sensitive inputs that most of us are unaware of
  - Which means that some LCAs have been tweaked to give the desired answer ...
  - ... sometimes under intense political pressure
  - And there is no way the rest of us can intelligently check for sensitivities



# LCAs are needed to judge of the environmental performance of a future investment, but...

## Why do we (unfortunately) get contrasting results?

1. Handling multifunctionality
2. Lignin-first or waste from pulp production? : Land-dependant biomass (or not)
3. Biogenic C
4. FU reflecting comparable final application
5. Quality of data

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Science of the Total Environment

Review

Review of life cycle assessments of lignin and derived products: Lessons learned

Christian Moretti <sup>a,\*</sup>, Blanca Corona <sup>a</sup>, Ric Hoefnagels <sup>a</sup>, Iris Vural-Gürsel <sup>b</sup>, Richard Gosselink <sup>b</sup>, Martin Junginger <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Utrecht University, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht, Netherlands  
<sup>b</sup> Wageningen Food & Biobased Research, Wageningen, the Netherlands

HIGHLIGHTS

- A first review of peer-reviewed LCAs of lignin and lignin-based products was conducted.
- Most of lignin-based applications showed promising climate change performances but trade-offs in other impact categories.
- The lack of harmonization in the application of LCA methodology hinders direct comparative analyses.
- Recommendations to increase consistency were provided.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

Content of the studies	Analysis of methodological choices	Environmental impact	Provision of recommendations
Goal of the studies	Modeling approaches and system boundaries	Climate change impact of lignin	Summary of lignin biorefinery
Product systems investigated	Functional units	Climate change performance of lignin-based products	Analysis of the findings
	Multifunctionality	Other impacts of lignin	Future recommendations
	Impact categories assessed	Overall performance of lignin-based products	
	Type of data used	Lignin as a by-product of biofuels	
	Biogenic carbon modelling		

# Anatomy of an LCA

## More than just the desired product?



Biomass feedstock production (or not)



Processing phase



Desired product



Co-product

How to split my 100 kg CO<sub>2</sub> impact of the processing phase

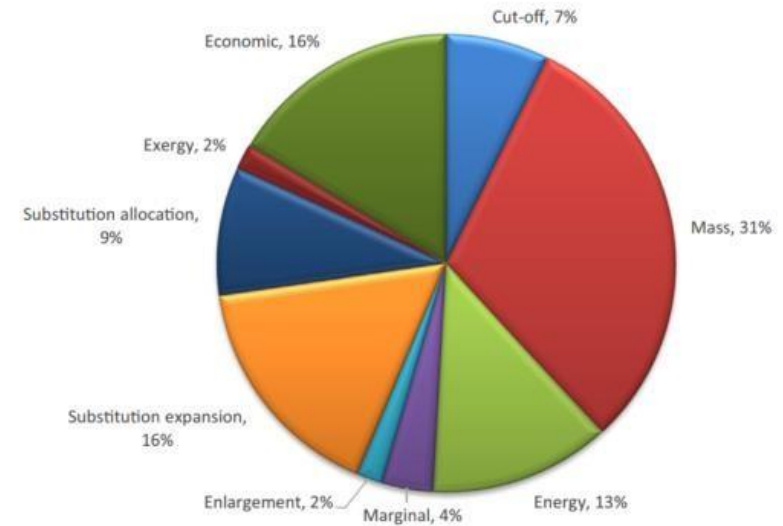
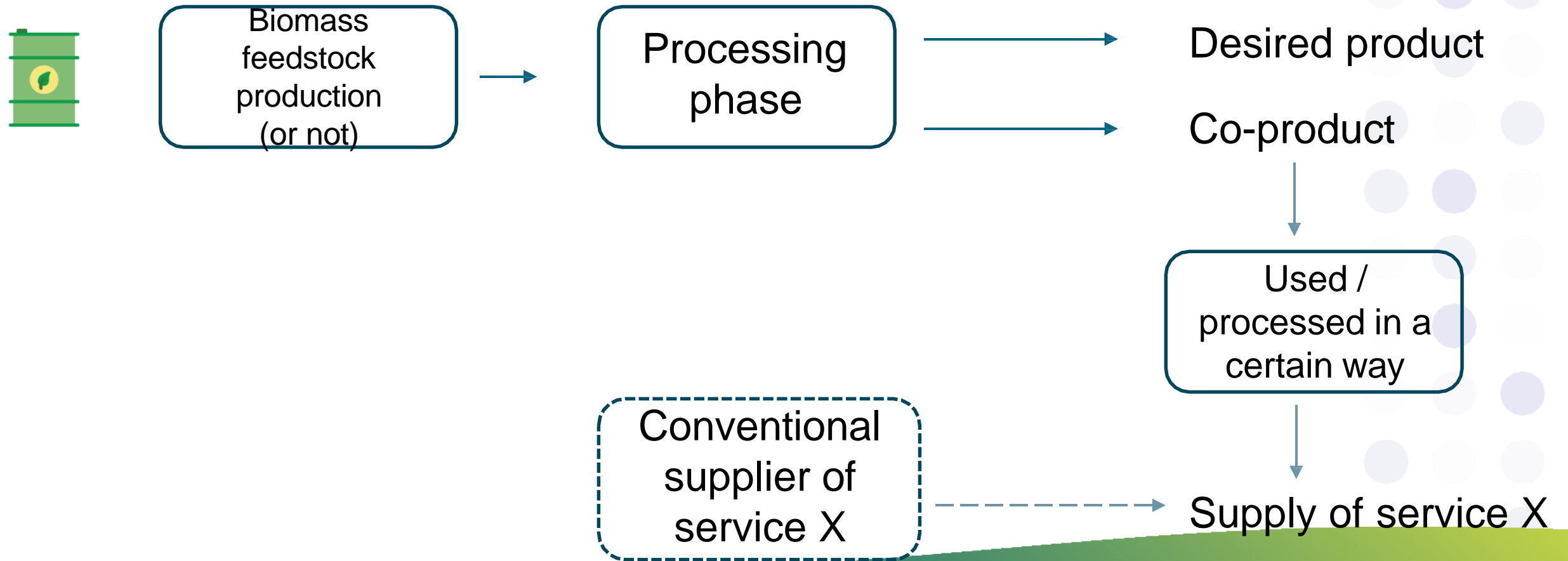


Fig. 4. Summary of the adopted multifunctionality practices in the selected 42 LCAs.

# Anatomy of an LCA

More than just the desired product? ISO 14044 says that allocation should be avoided whenever possible, by **system expansion**



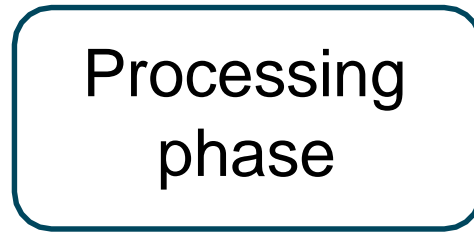
# Anatomy of an LCA

Type of biomass.

(1): NOT land-dependant

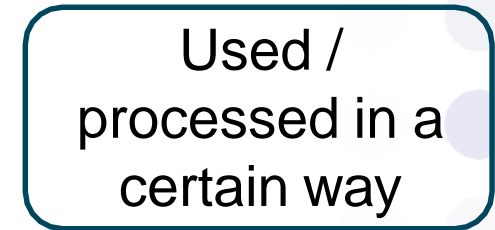


Residual biomass  
(e.g. lignin from  
pulp production)



Desired product

Co-product



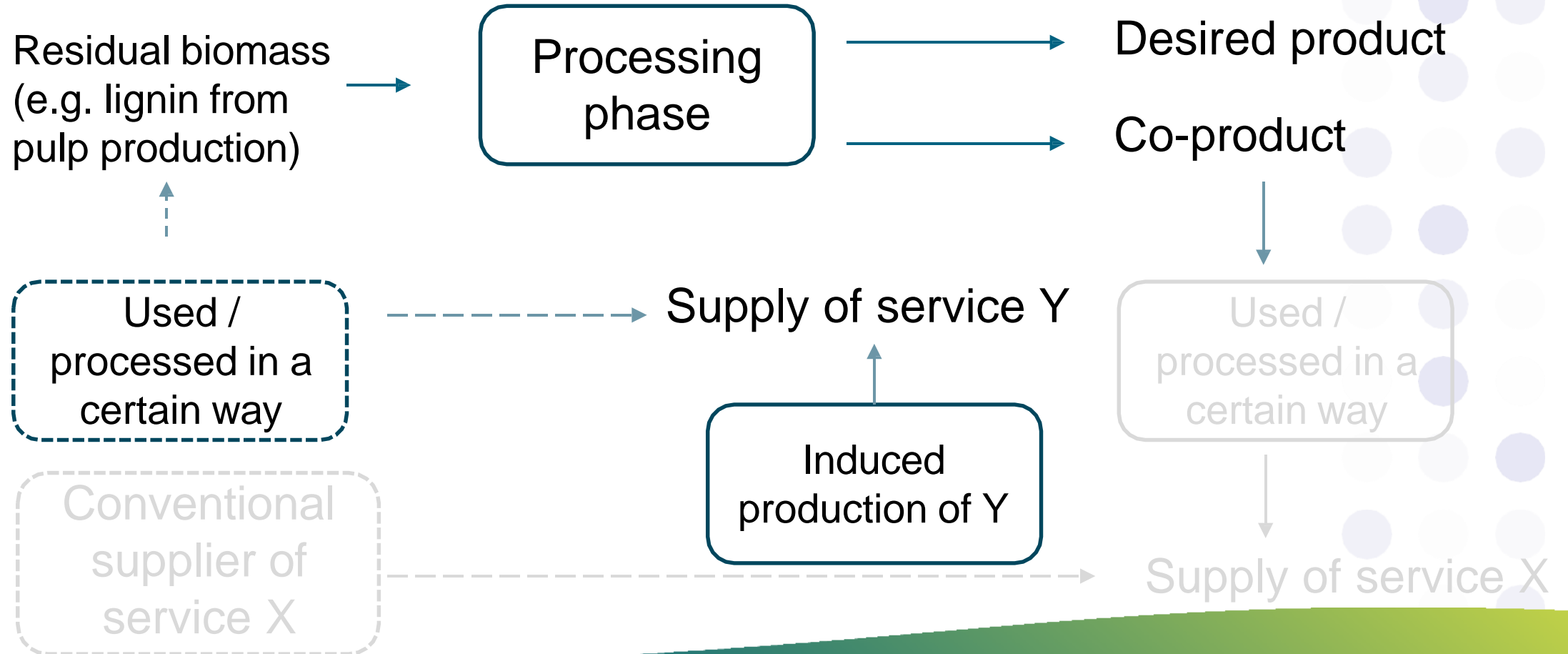
Supply of service X



# Anatomy of an LCA

Type of biomass.

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# Anatomy of an LCA

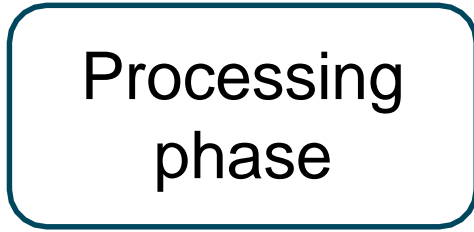
## Type of biomass.

### (1): NOT land-dependant

Concept of the counterfactual uses (or opportunity cost). You always mobilize your resource at the expense of something else!



Residual biomass  
(e.g. lignin from  
pulp production)



Desired product

Co-product



Used /  
processed in a  
certain way

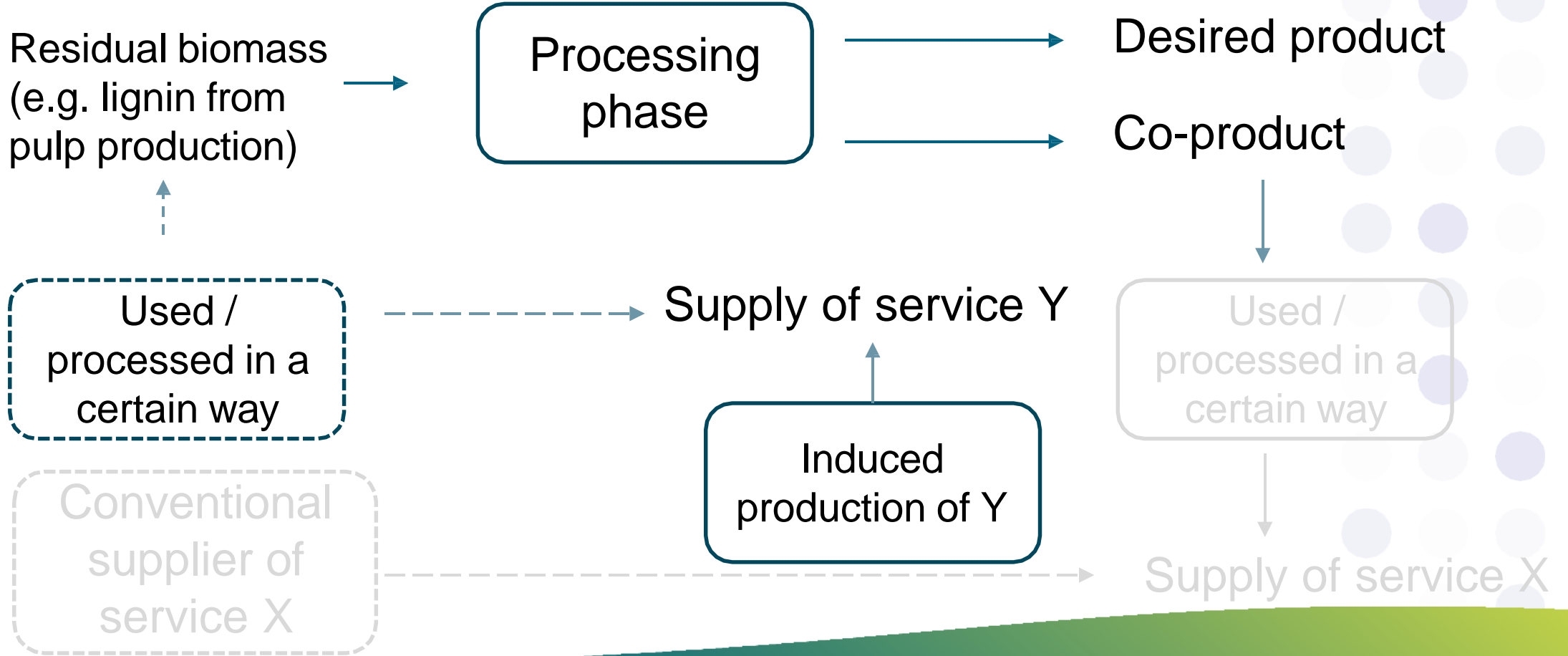
Supply of service Y

Used /  
processed in a  
certain way

Conventional  
supplier of  
service X

Induced  
production of Y

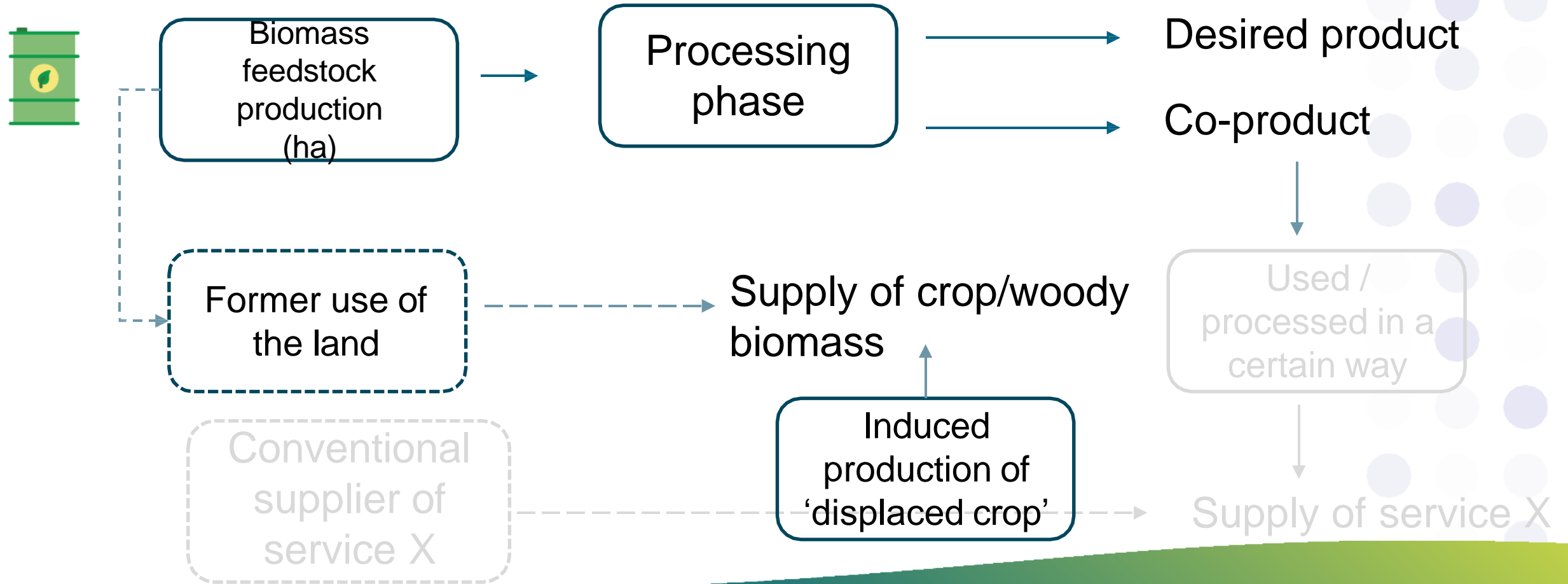
Supply of service X



# Anatomy of an LCA

Type of biomass.

**(2): Land-dependant. Grown on purpose**

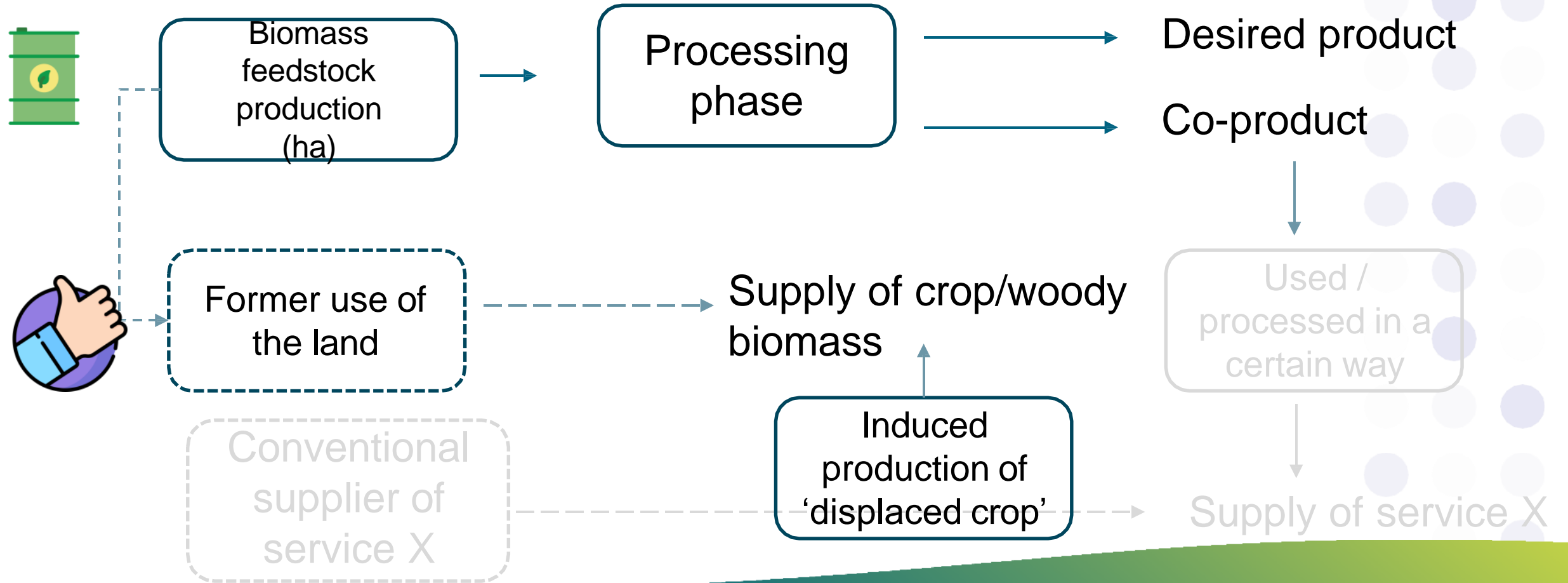


# Anatomy of an LCA

Type of biomass.

(2): Land-dependant. Grown on purpose

(Indirect) Land use change is inevitable



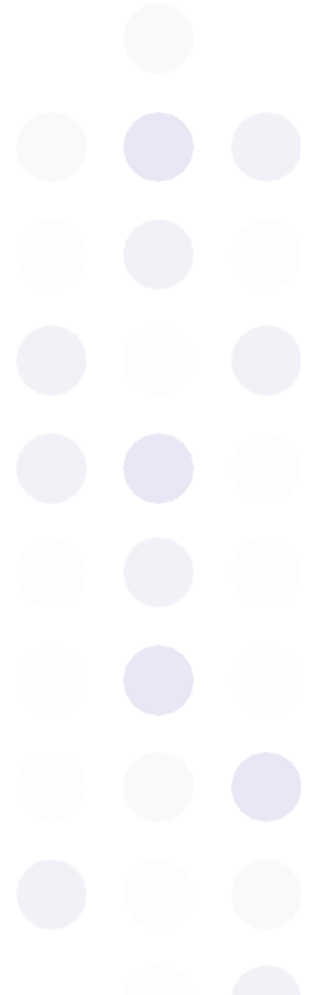
## Accounting for biogenic C

- **Biogenic:** carbon from biomass and its transformation
- There is accounting for carbon flows (inventory - LCI)
- ...and accounting for carbon impacts (impact assessment - LCIA)
- Different combinations give the same result, for example:

Negative input of **-10** kg “Carbon dioxide, fossil” (carbon uptake) ...  
...and positive characterisation factor (**+1** kg CO<sub>2</sub>e / kg CO<sub>2</sub>fossil)

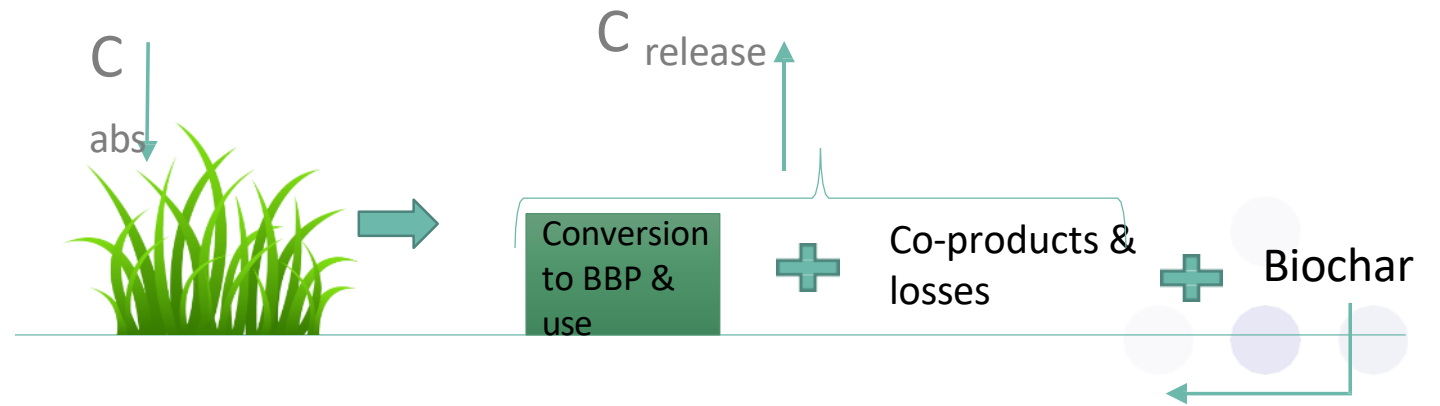
Positive input of **+10** kg “Carbon dioxide, biogenic” (carbon uptake)  
... and negative characterisation factor (**-1** kg CO<sub>2</sub>e / kg CO<sub>2</sub>biogenic)

Give same result of -10 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e



# Accounting biogenic C

21



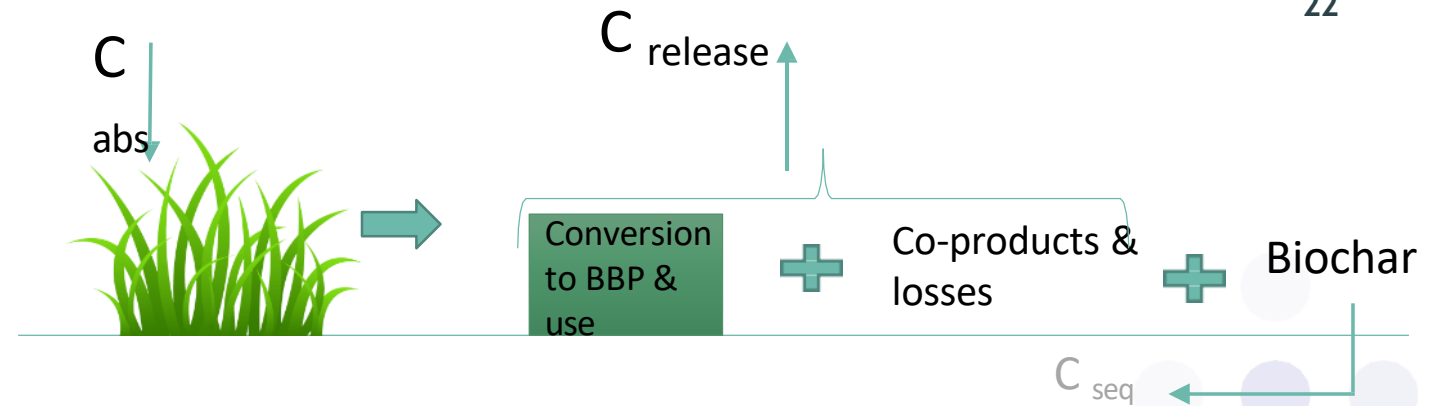
**Approach: 0/0** : Absorbed and released CO<sub>2</sub> with CF = 0 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg CO<sub>2</sub>. Induced sequestration with a flux accounted as minus (and positive CF = +1)

Issues:

- Induce the idea that there are no climate effects from the use of biomass
- Important CO<sub>2</sub> flows invisible in results (thus also for decision-making)
- Mass balance distorted when C emitted back as CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, etc. (not necessarily re-absorbed by plants)
- Temporary storage when biomass is harvested but not 'emitted' immediately is not reflected

# Accounting biogenic C

22



**Approach: -1/+1** : Uptake from the atmosphere accounted as negative (e.g. negative inventory flow and positive CF), and vice-versa for release. Only net flows are accounted (so sequestration not assigned a flow).

Issues:

- Calculation potentially more difficult
- Eventual misinterpretation of results (C-negative products) because of system boundary inconsistencies in cradle-to-gate

## ALIGNED recommendations



Funded by the  
European Union

### Harmonizing climate change midpoint scores estimations

#### ALIGNED recommendations - baseline

- System boundaries: implement **cradle-to-grave**
- Inventory phase: document and report **separately all biogenic and non-biogenic carbon flows**
- Climate impact scores:
  - compute at least two indicators: **short-term** and **long-term** effects
  - implement the **-1/+1 approach** -biogenic carbon flows always accounted-
  - analyze at least the **“total” indicators** -including contribution of both biogenic and non biogenic flows-
  - at least include **time effects** with provided Tiered approach

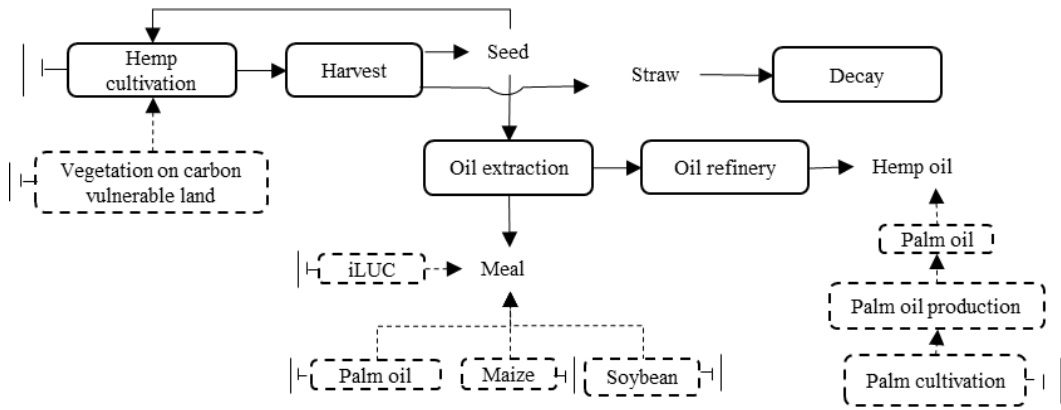


# 03 Hemp case study on 'C-vulnerable' lands



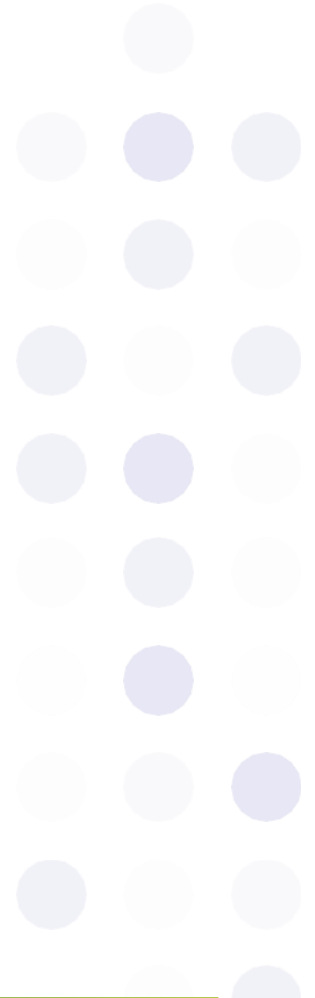
*PhD Defense Zhou Shen, May 2022*





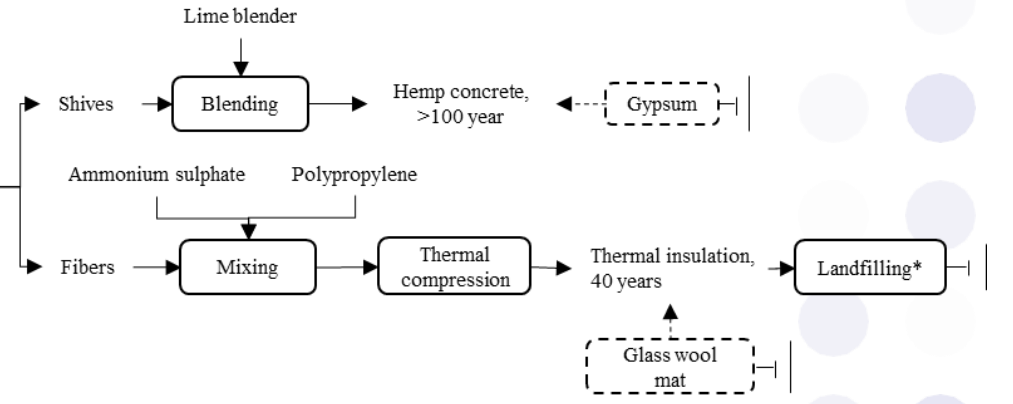
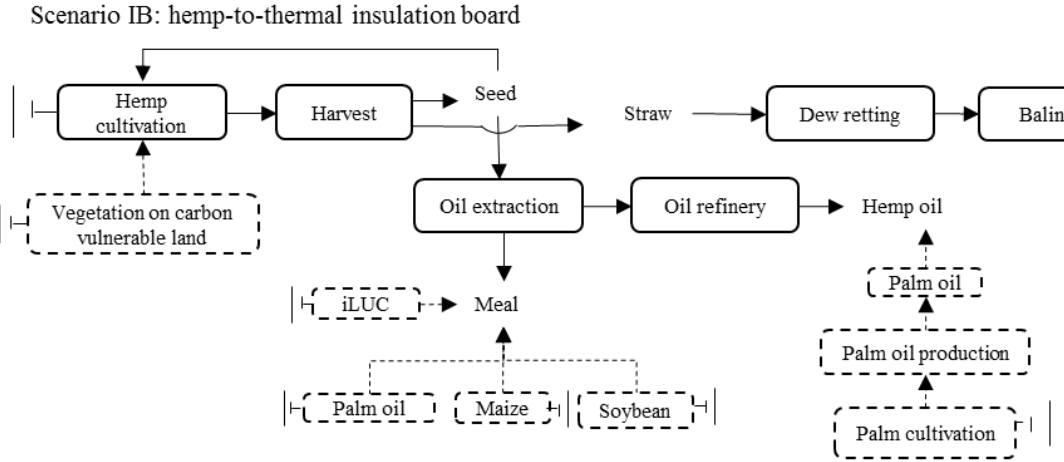
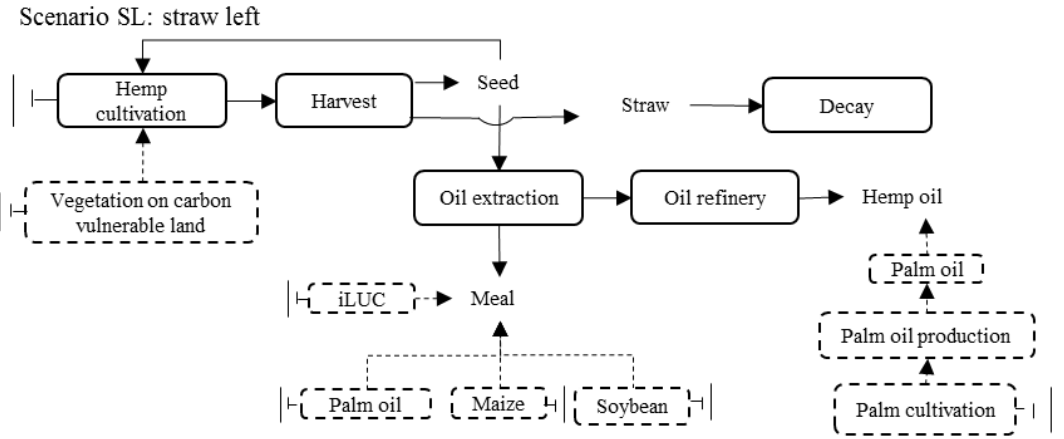
# Scenarios

**Functional unit: Annual management of 1ha CV land**



# Scenarios

**Functional unit: Annual management of 1ha CV land**

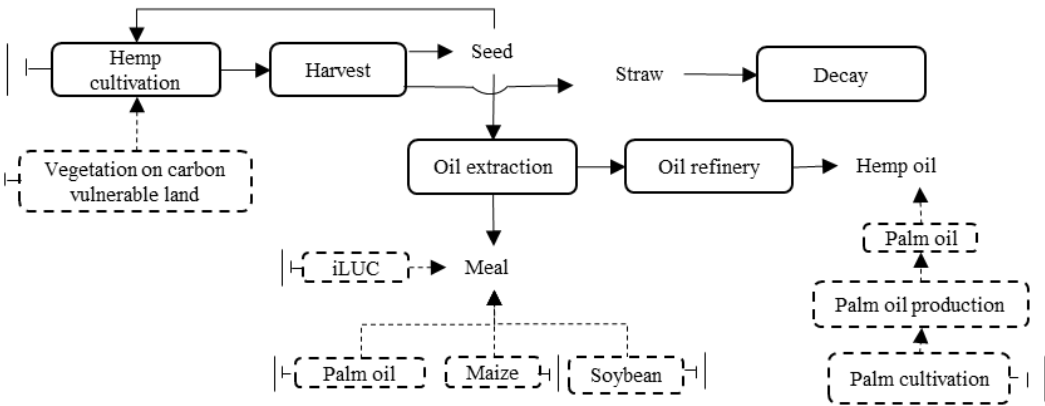


\*Landfilling without CH4 recovery;

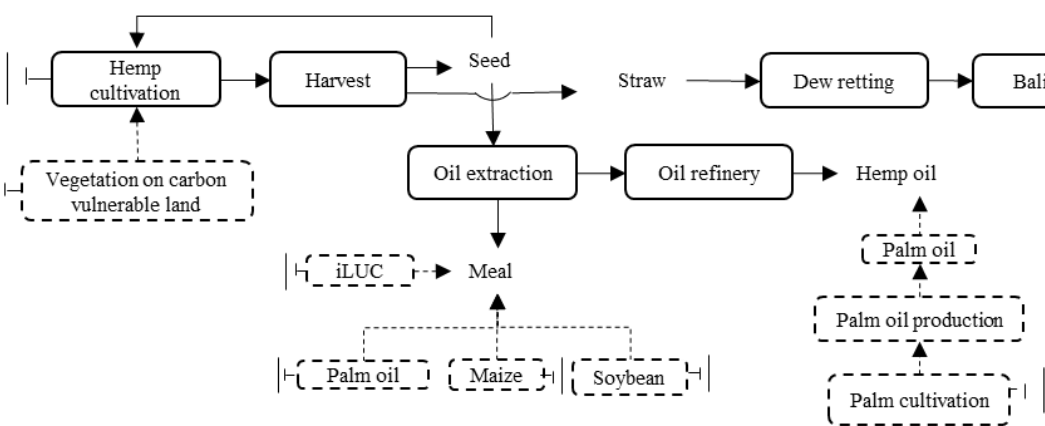
# Scenarios

## Functional unit: Annual management of 1ha CV land

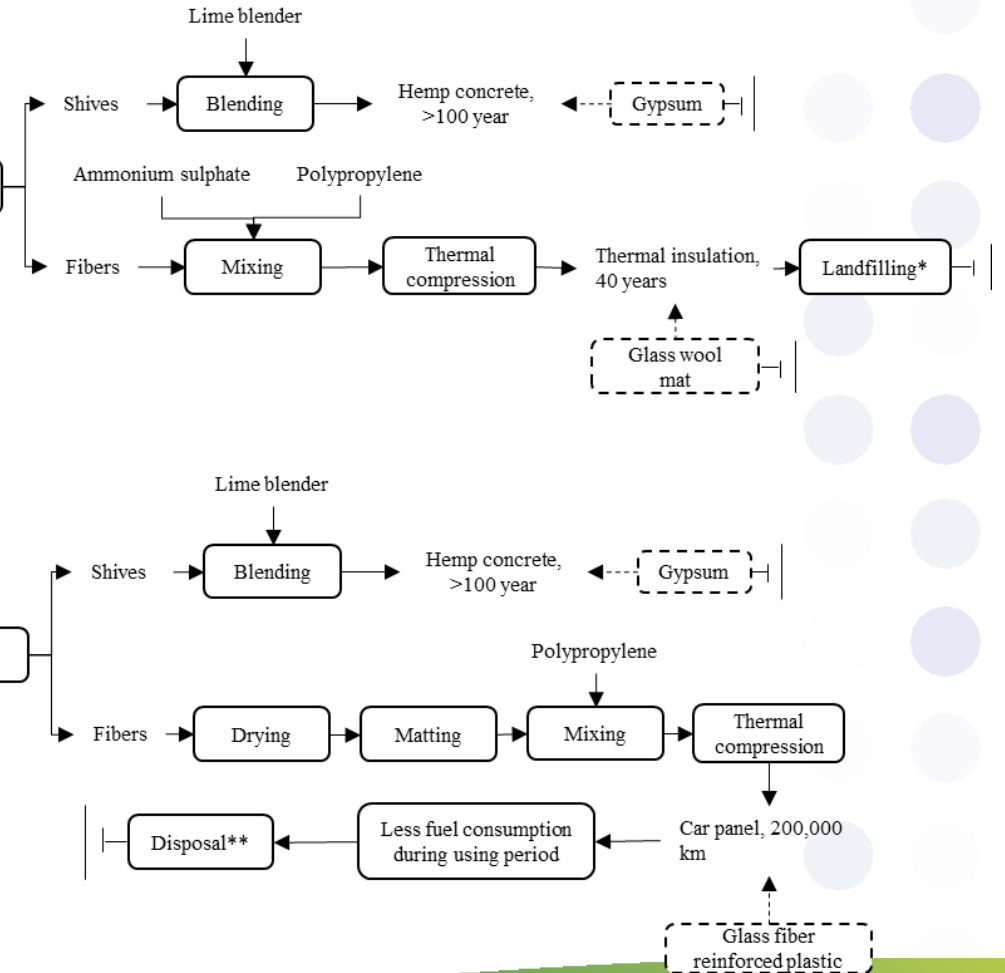
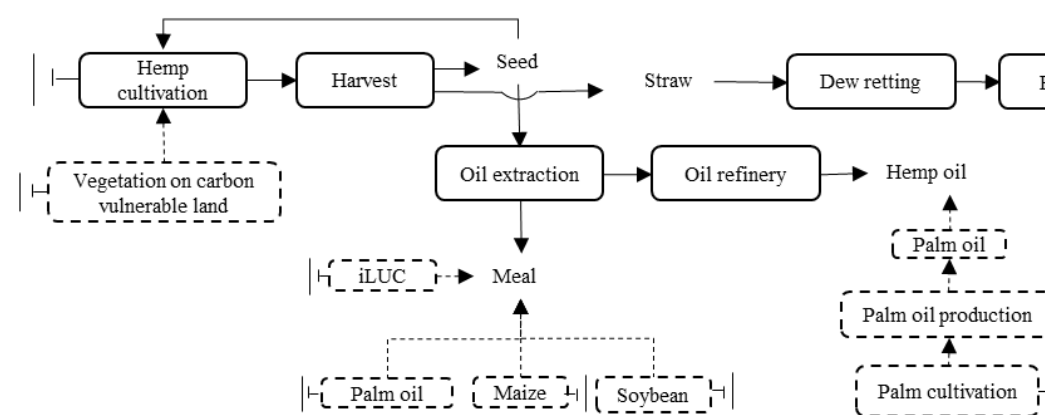
Scenario SL: straw left



Scenario IB: hemp-to-thermal insulation board




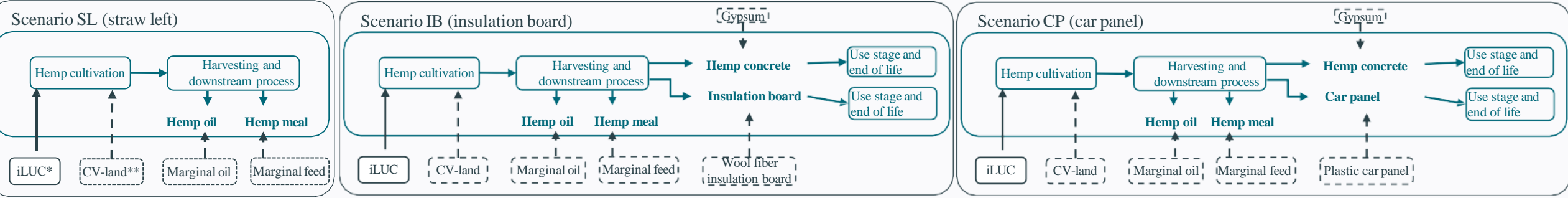
Scenario CP: hemp-to-car panel



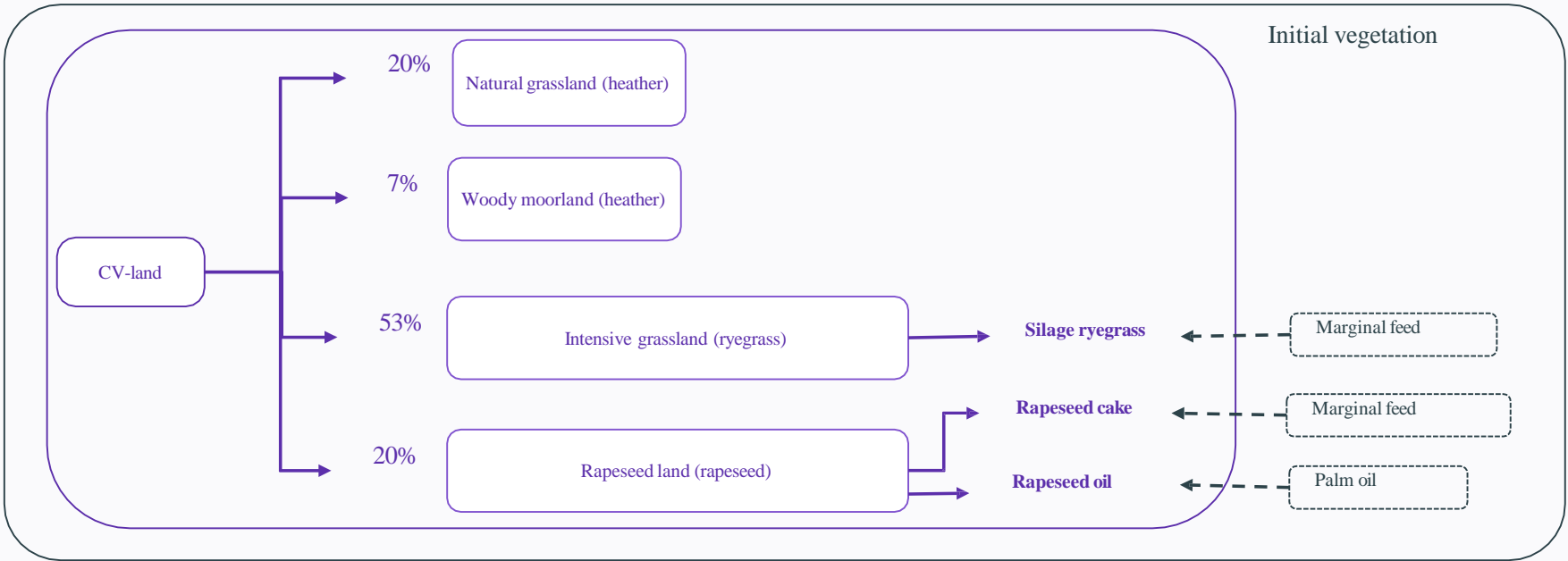
\*Landfilling without CH4 recovery; \*\* 30% incineration, 70% landfilling without CH4 recovery

# Scenarios

 Hemp case study, Functional unit: 1 ha CV-land, 1 year.

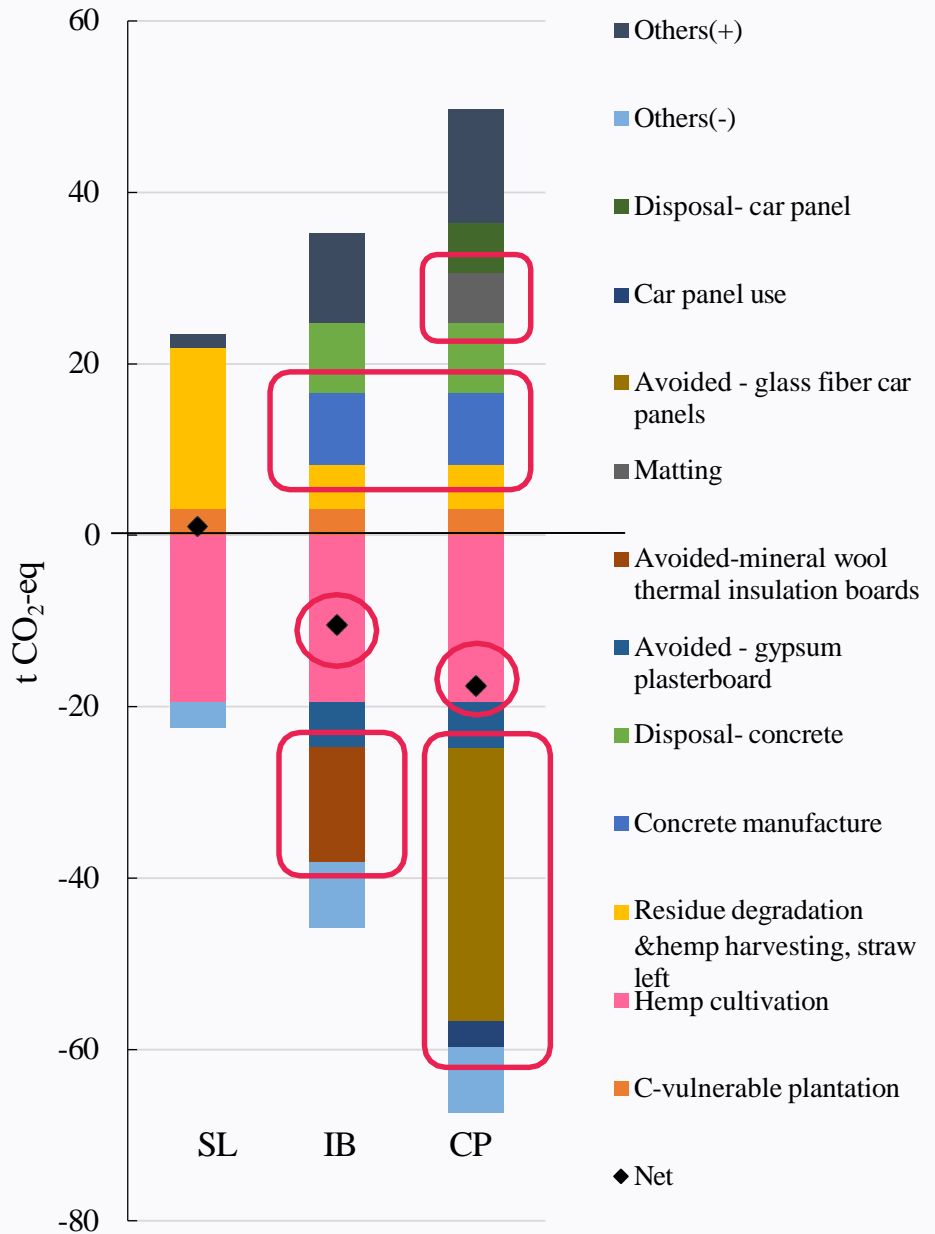


\*: iLUC: indirect land use change  
 \*\*: CV-land: carbon vulnerable land  
 Dash line means this process is an avoided process



LCIA method: Environmental Footprint (EF) V2.2  
 All C in the bio-based product is emitted at the end-of-life

# Contribution analysis, climate change

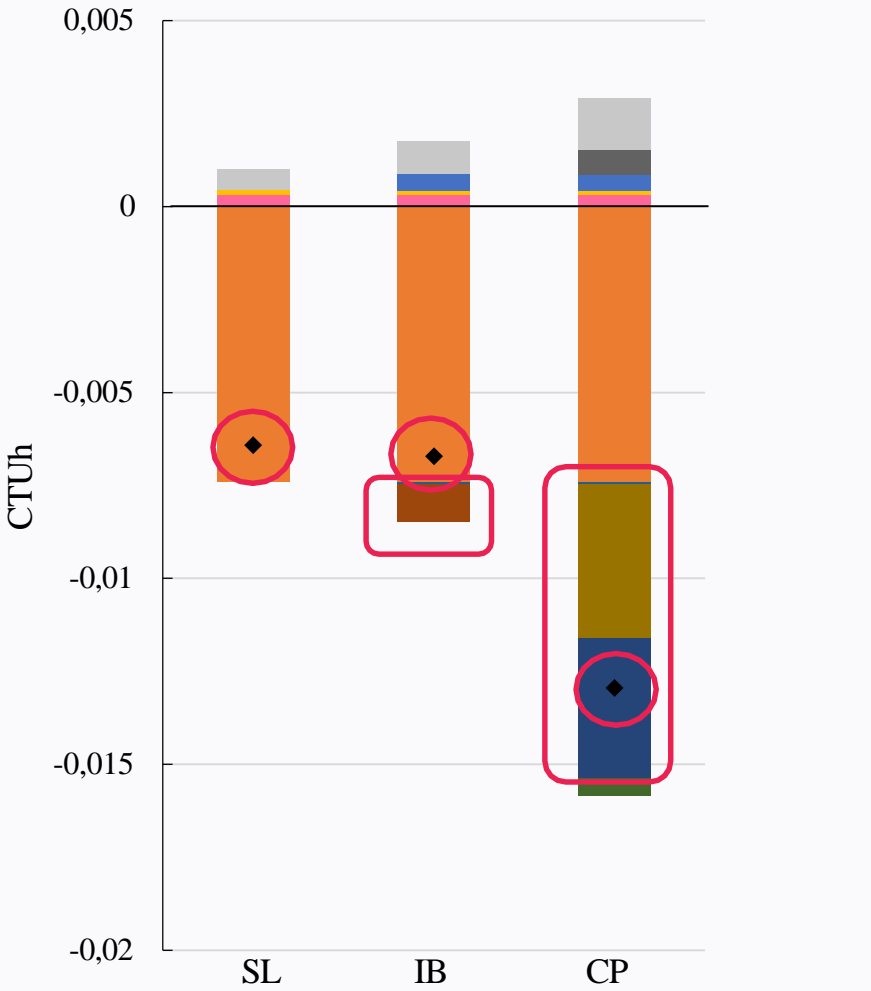


- ✓ IB and CP allow net negative – better than leaving system as is. Not true if stalks left on land
- ✓ Avoiding mineral wool (IB) and glass fiber + gasoline (CB) is key to the ‘superior’ environmental performance of IB and CP
- ✓ Hempcrete is net positive: the impact of limestone degradation + energy is greater than the impact from absorbed CO<sub>2</sub>
- ✓ Fiber content car panels half what is in insulation boards: therefore, more additives (PP) in CP (matting process)

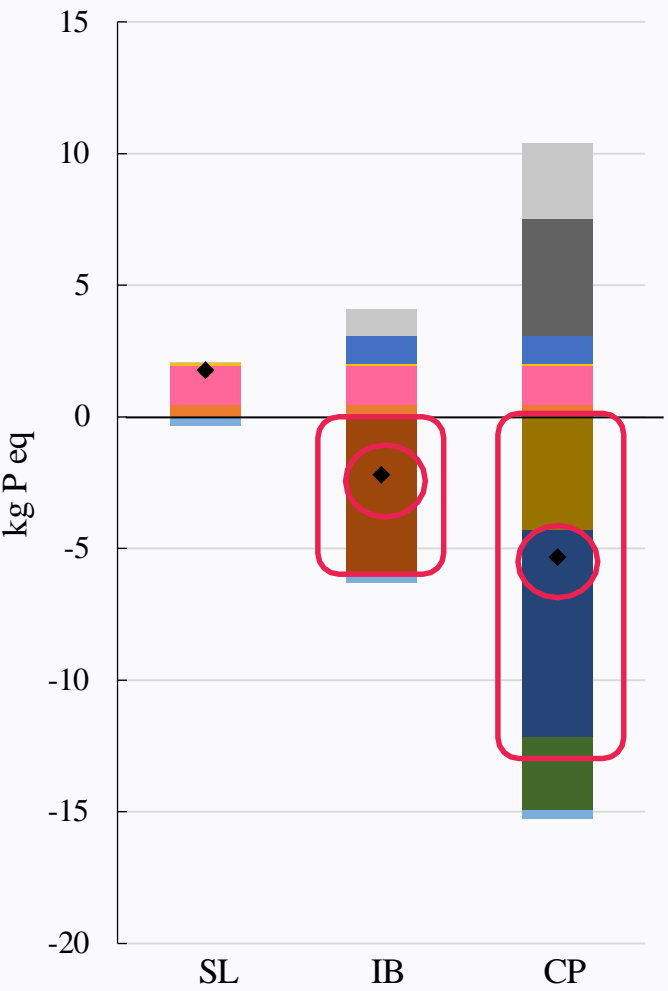
Landfilling: We assume 20% biogenic C degrade in first 100y, of which 87% as CO<sub>2</sub>, 13% as CH<sub>4</sub> (IPCC 2019)

# Other impacts (selected)

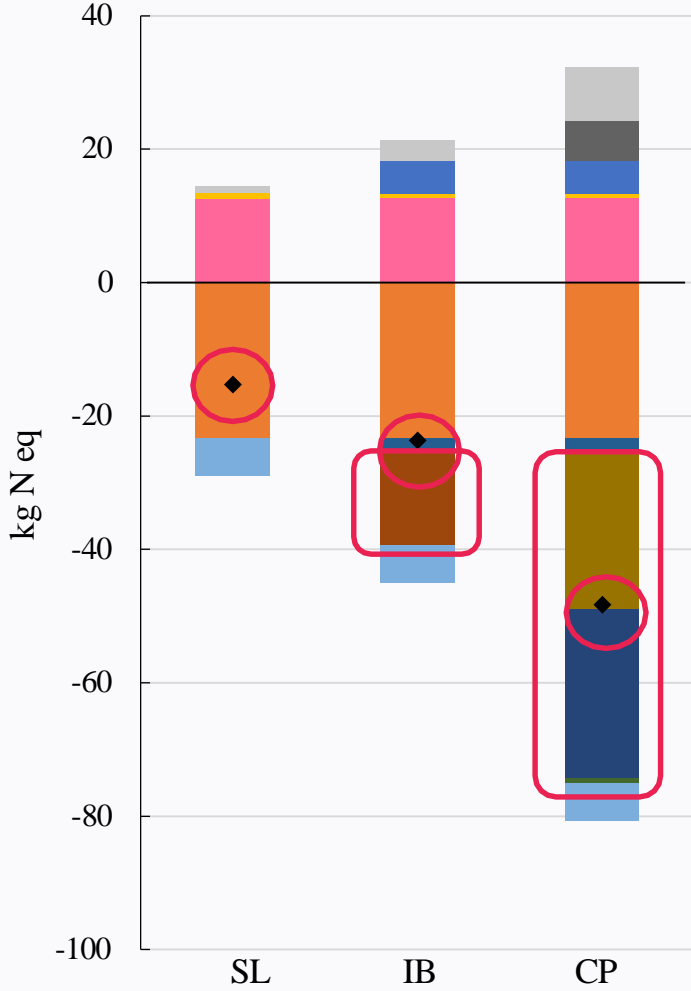
### Non-cancer human health



### Freshwater eutrophication



### Marine eutrophication



- C-vulnerable plantation
- Concrete manufacture
- Avoided-mineral wool thermal insulation boards
- Car panel use
- Others(+)

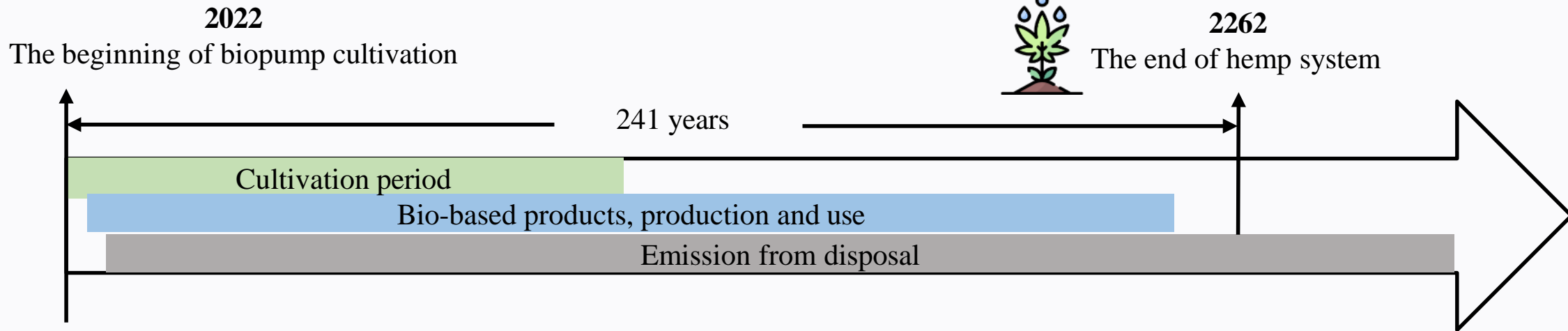
- Hemp cultivation
- Disposal- concrete
- Matting
- Disposal- car panel
- ◆ Net

- Residue degradation & hemp harvesting, straw left
- Avoided - gypsum plasterboard
- Avoided - glass fiber car panels
- Others(-)

# Accounting for GHG in time ...

Assuming hemp cultivation for 100 y, with subsequent products use

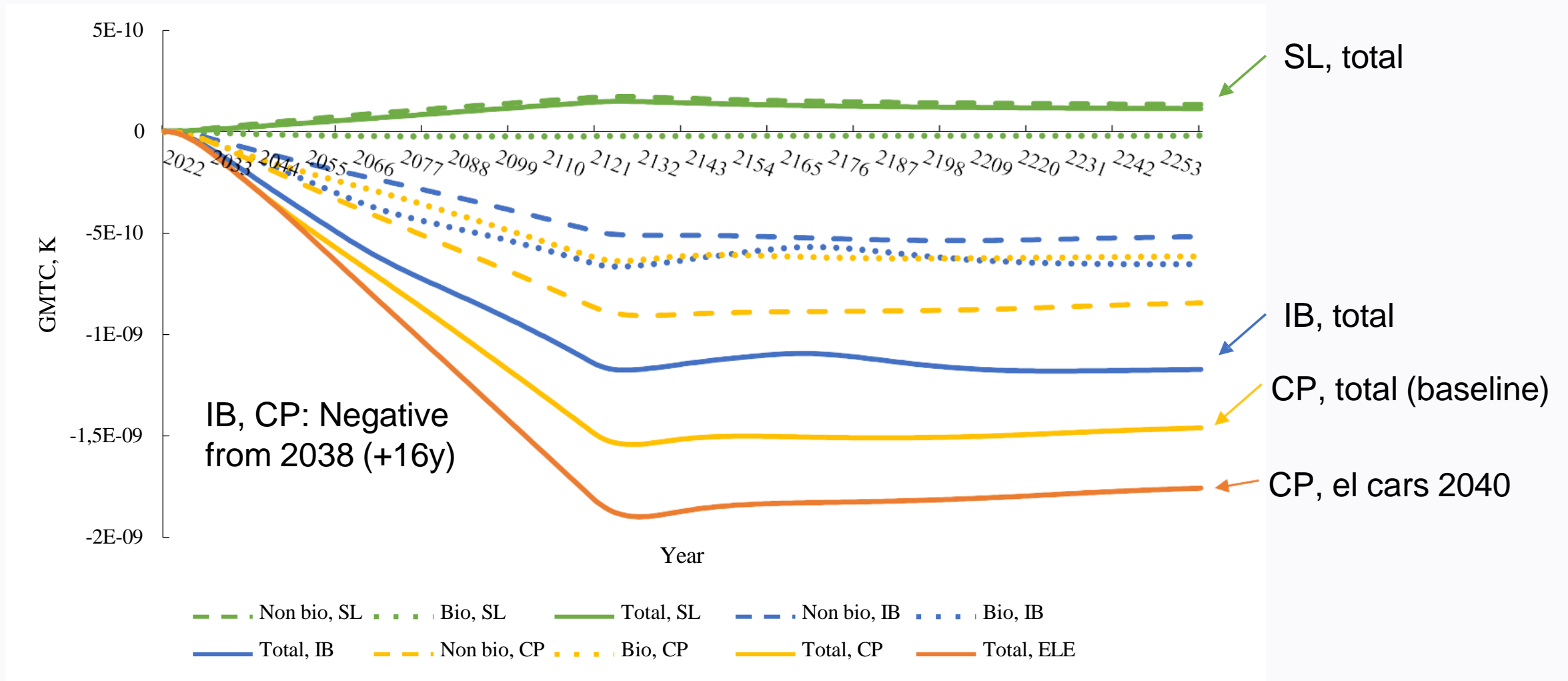
IB: 40 y  
CP: 12 y  
Hempcrete: 100 y



Climate Change Impact tool  
Metric: Global mean temperature change (GMTC), unit in K  
GHG list: IPCC/ Ecoinvent



# Global mean temperature change in time



**Fig. 5.** Dynamic global mean temperature change (GMTC) resulting from the biogenic (bio) and non-biogenic (non-bio) flows for the SL, IB, and CP scenarios and the sensitivity CP sub-scenarios, where electric mobility is considered from 2040 with 42% photovoltaic in the electricity mix (ELE) biogenic: related to the hemp; non-biogenic: related to all other processes.

# Some take home messages from this case study

- Beware where you grow it! It's not just SOC changes, but land use changes. Here, +16y for a net negative climate effect [= decreasing global surface temperature] compensating these!
- What you will replace from the 'fossil economy' is what matters most for the environmental performance. Target such applications! Related to 1ha, products appeared to matter more than food (oil) / feed (meal)
- Next steps: Scaling up to a country, in terms of land available, products demanded, and other options (e.g. residual biomass). In a low fossil C economy, how much of the land should we dedicate to hemp, and to produce what, so we have the best environmental performance?

# Take home messages from this presentation

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- LCA done right matters! ALIGNED project provides useful recommendations in that respect for bio-based products LCAs. Also to address the impact of GHGs in time.
- Accounting for biogenic C, and doing so in time matters for hemp products
- Several products?: track them all, don't make any disappear based on arbitrary, virtual rules
- We are not quite ready on supplying useful input on the biomass/land competition issues at scale (but getting there)
- Whatever can be done without C should be done without (i.e. what can be electrified). But not possible for all services

# Acknowledgements



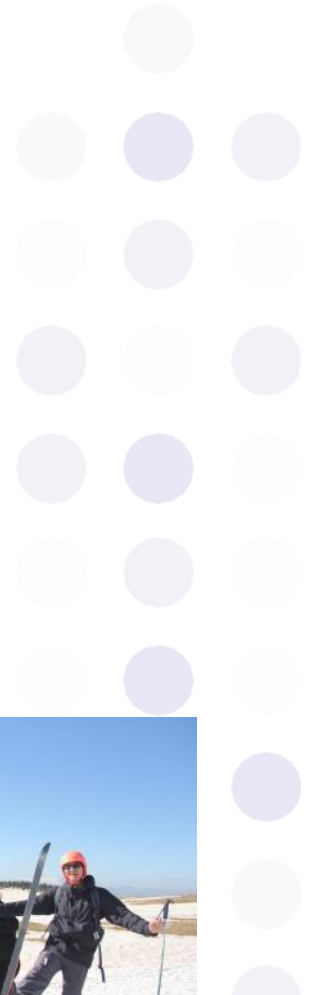
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[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvWM2\\_5hSWN1zujJ4vEZNA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvWM2_5hSWN1zujJ4vEZNA)



# THANK YOU!

AND SEE YOU SOON

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