

# Increasing productivity in rain fed, semiarid systems by analyzing and remediating limiting factors

**Bram Govaerts**  
Associate Director  
CIMMYT, Mexico



**Transitioning Cereal Systems  
to Adapt to Climate Change**

November 13-14, 2015

# Increasing productivity in rainfed, semi-arid systems by analyzing and remediating limiting factors

Bram Govaerts, Nele Verhulst and team



# International scenario

HOW CAN WE FEED  
9 BILLION  
PEOPLE?



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

La próxima despensa global  
Cómo América Latina puede alimentar al mundo



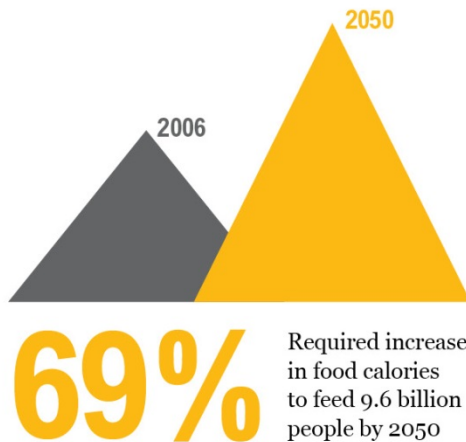


# International scenario

## THE GREAT BALANCING ACT

The world must achieve a “great balancing act” in order to sustainably feed 9.6 billion people by 2050.  
Three needs must be met at the same time.

### CLOSING THE FOOD GAP



### SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**28%** Global population directly or indirectly employed by agriculture

### REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT







A Global Food Company

# MARKET

## “THE NEW CONSUMER”



### MARKET CHECK-LIST

#### THE NEW CONSUMER DEMANDS

-  High quality
-  Food safety
-  Animal welfare
-  Full traceability
-  Zero deforestation
-  No slave & child labor
-  Carbon footprint

Food insecurity a significant risk  
to “global society”

Food safety/security issues create  
“direct and indirect risks &  
opportunities for businesses”

Insurance can play a large role in  
risk mitigation/management  
as well as innovation/investment

March, 2014

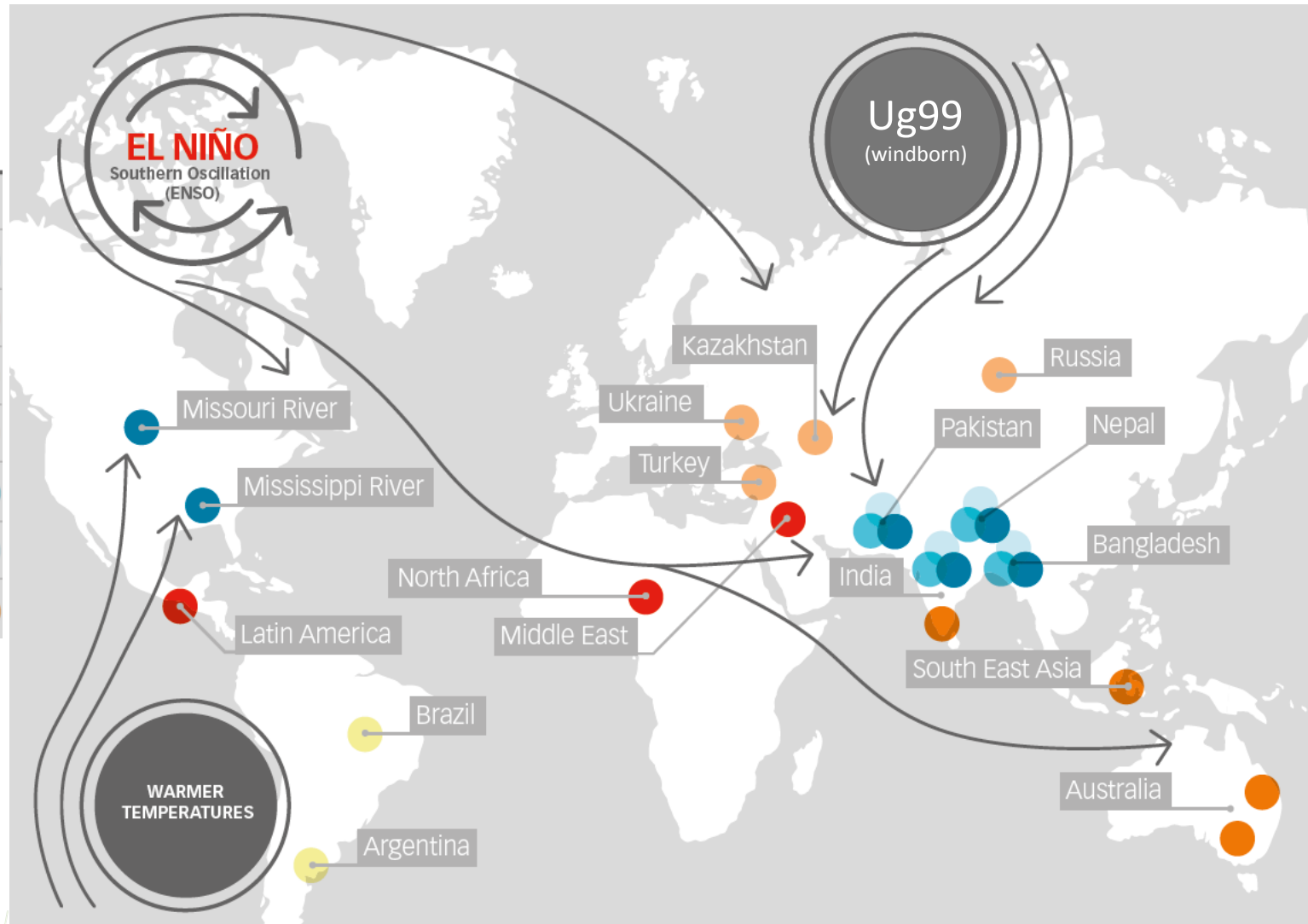
# FEAST OR FAMINE

**BUSINESS AND INSURANCE IMPLICATIONS OF FOOD  
SAFETY AND SECURITY**



# Lloyds food system shock scenario

Key	
Flooding	Dark Blue Circle
Food Riots	Red Circle
Crop Epidemic	Yellow Circle
Farms Suffer	Orange Circle
Torrential Rainfall	Light Blue Circle
Landslides	Very Light Blue Circle
Severe Drought	Dark Orange Circle





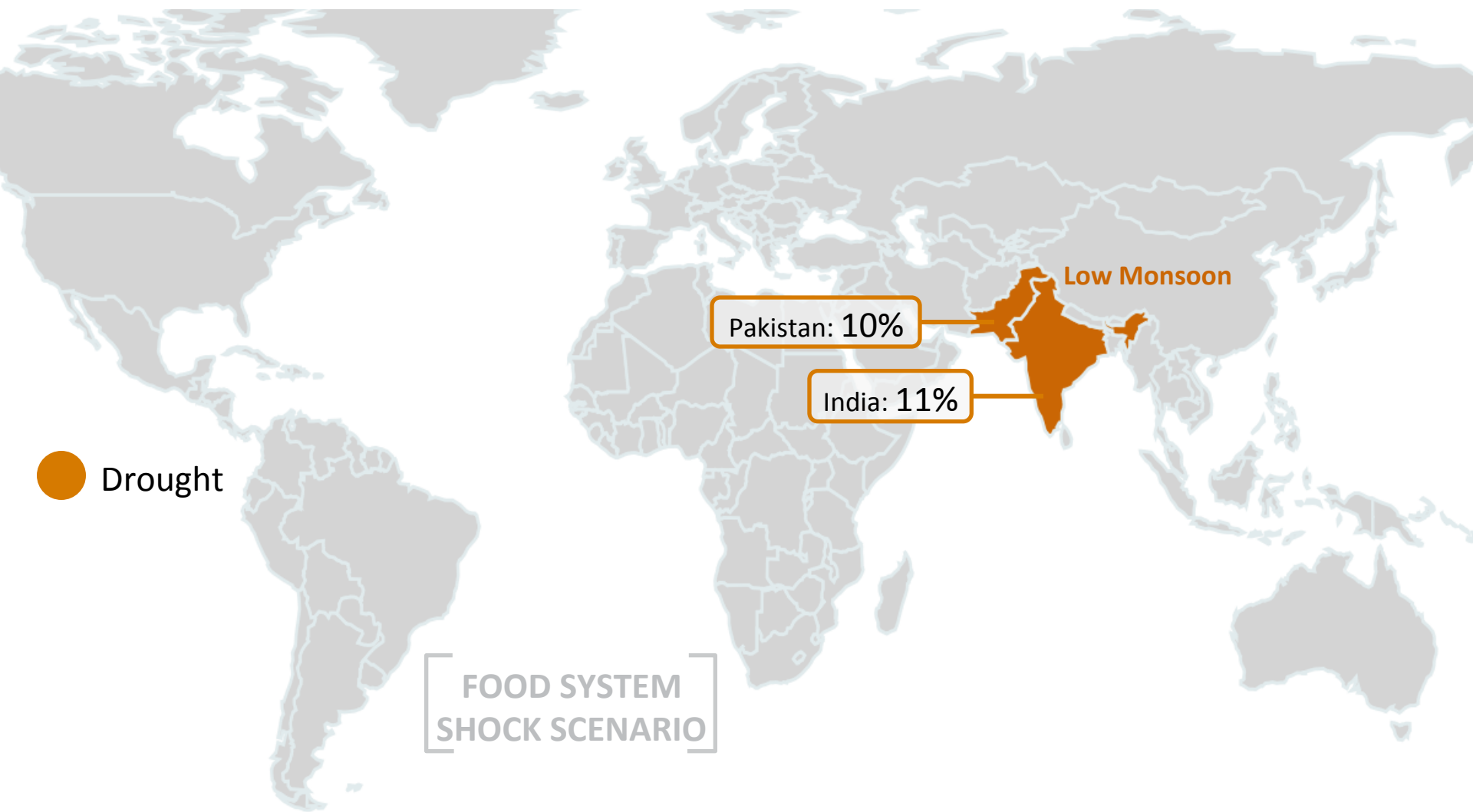
# Wheat production losses



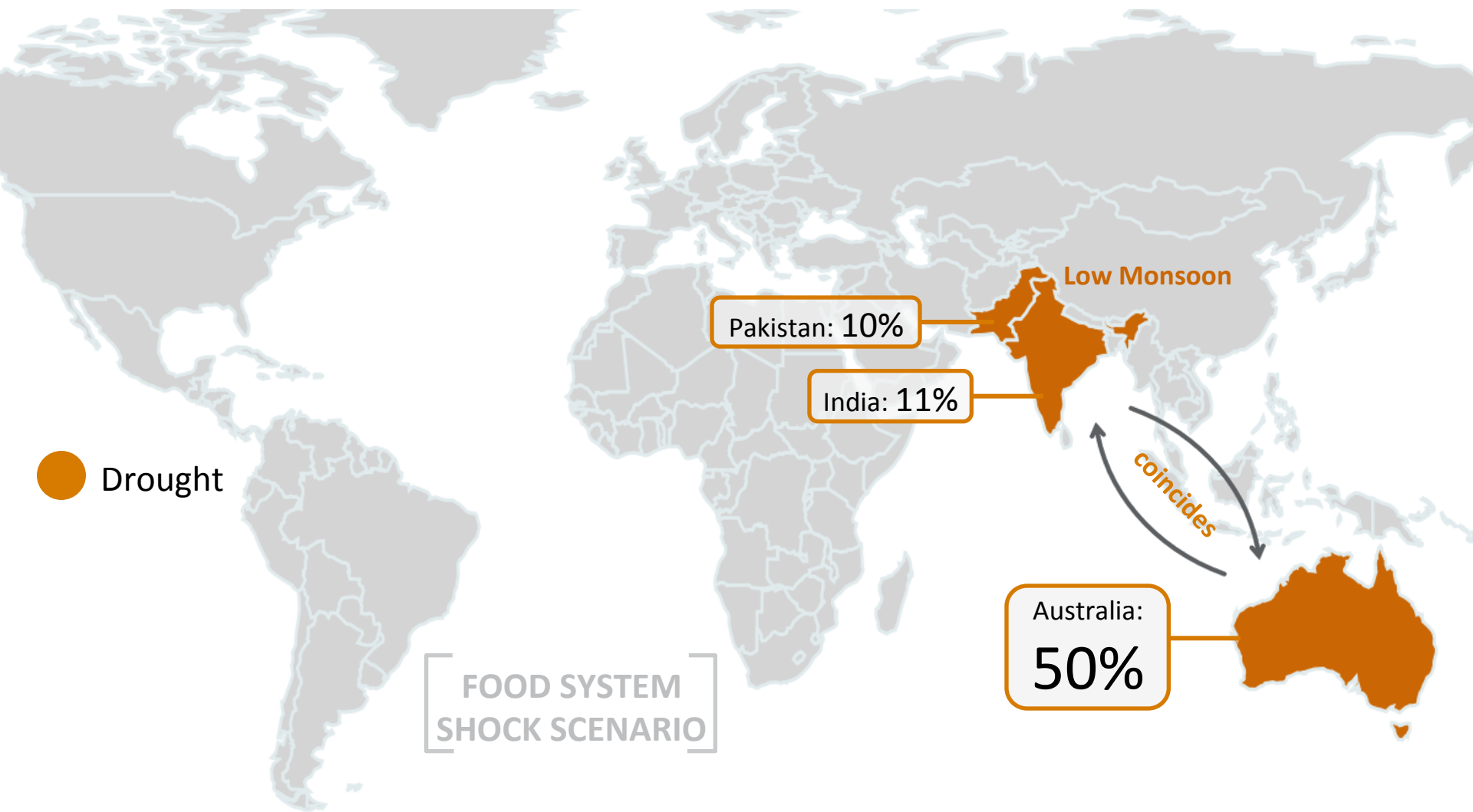
FOOD SYSTEM  
SHOCK SCENARIO



# Wheat production losses

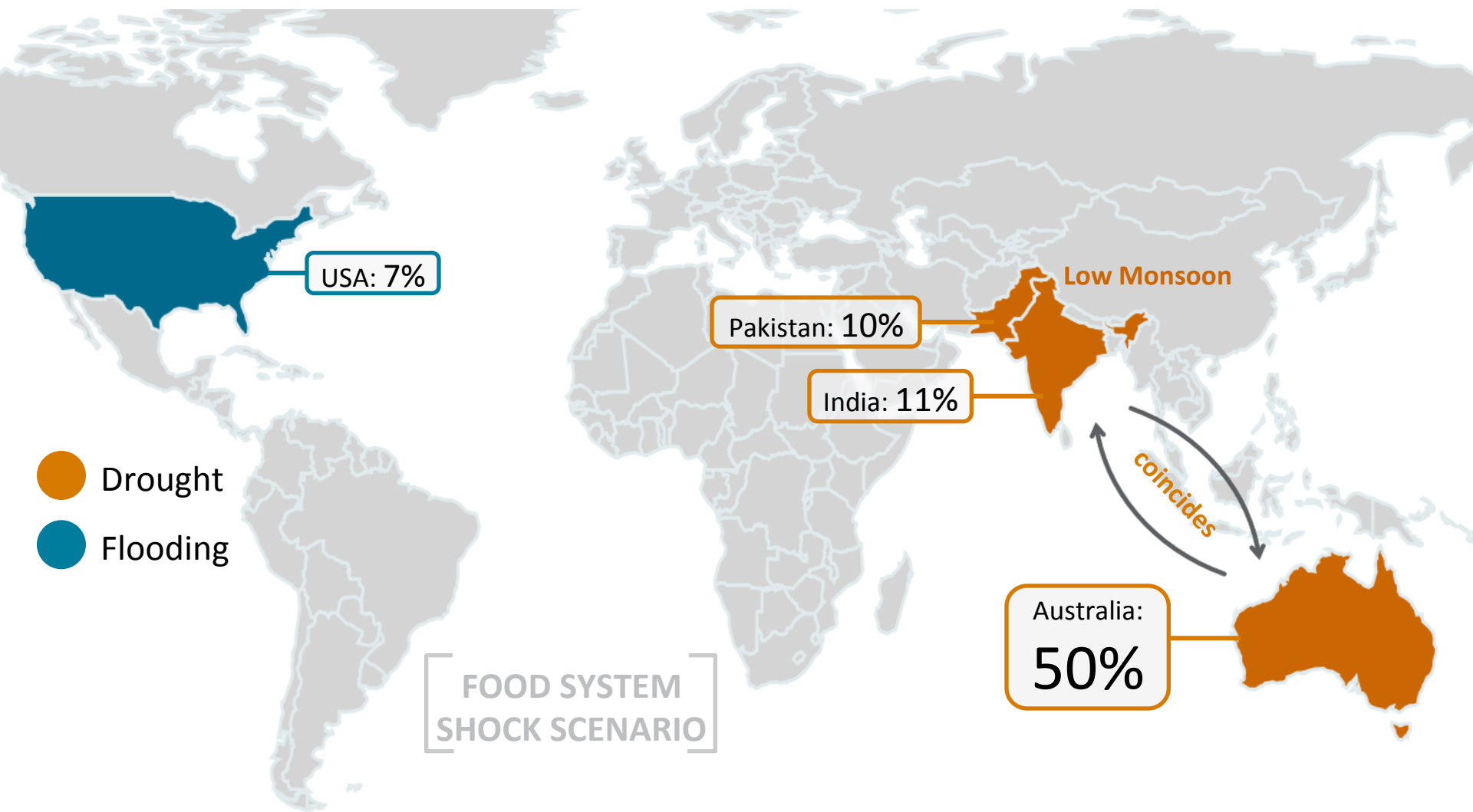


# Wheat production losses

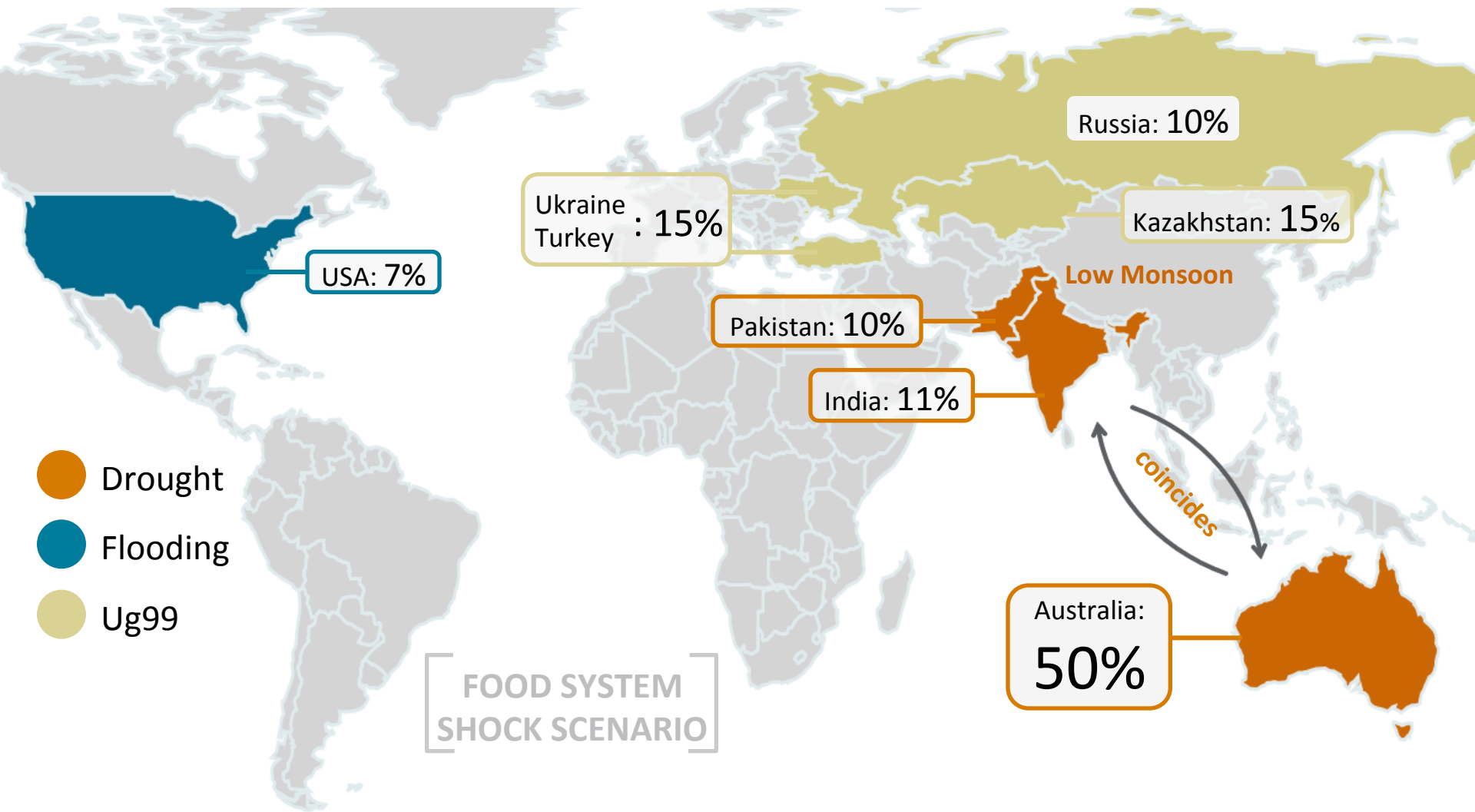




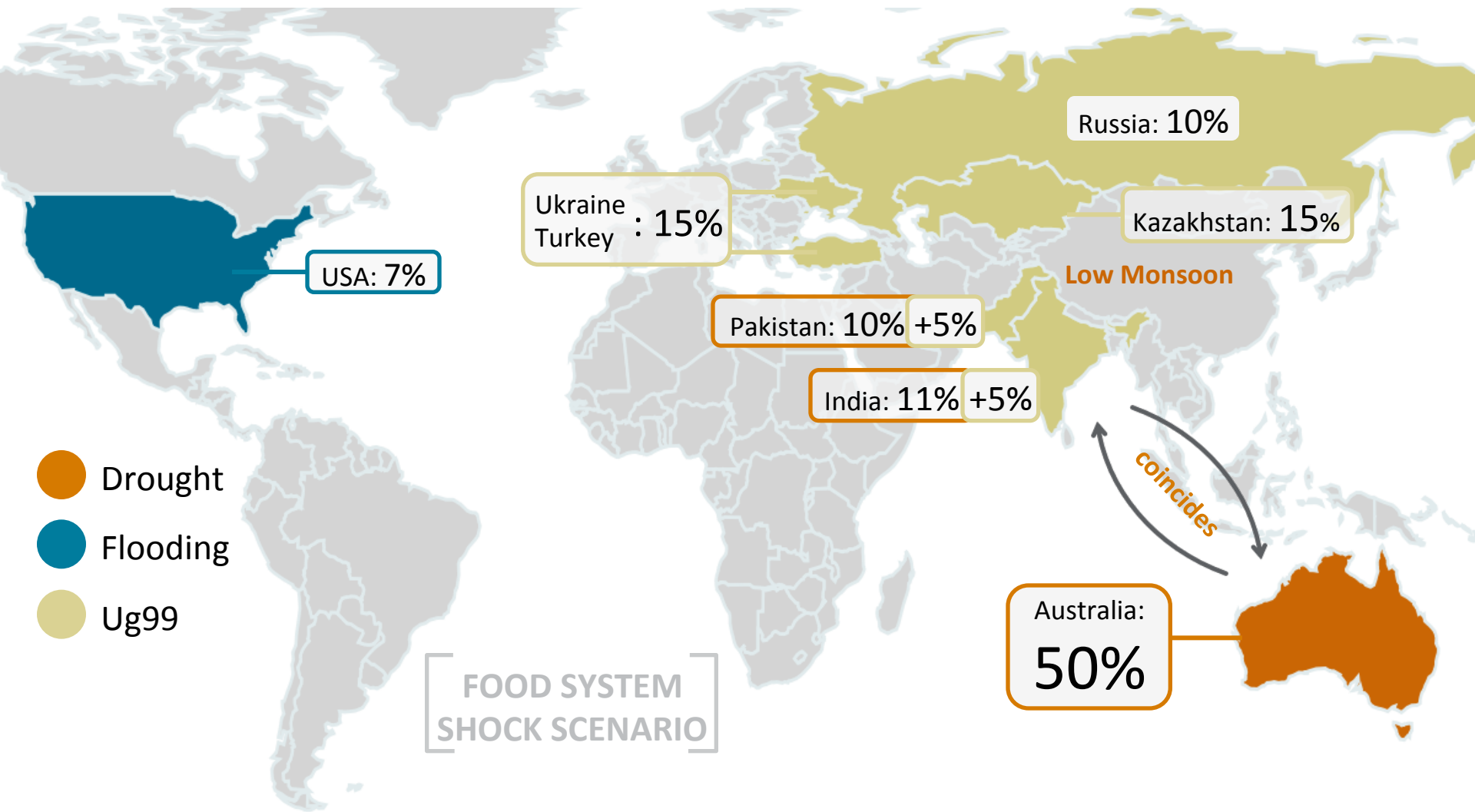
# Wheat production losses



# Wheat production losses

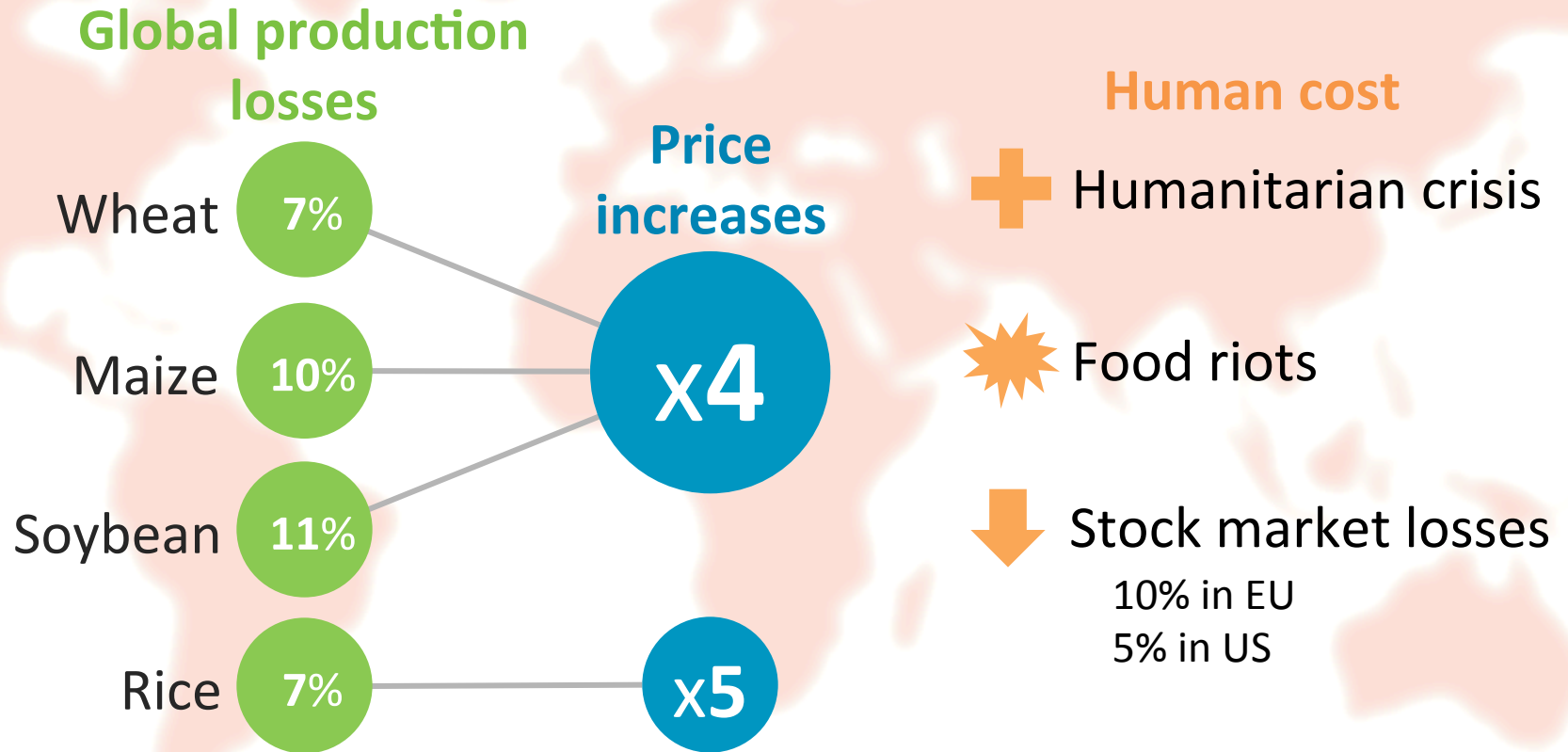


# Wheat production losses





# Impacts



# Integrated sustainable production

- Semi-arid, rainfed production systems: water = principal factor limiting crop productivity and risk factor
- Need to optimize rainfall use efficiency to cope with
  - heavy rainfall events
  - prolonged drought
- Further increase productivity by addressing other limiting factors like nutrient deficiencies
- Integration with a resilient the value chain
- Development of innovation networks



# Conservation agriculture

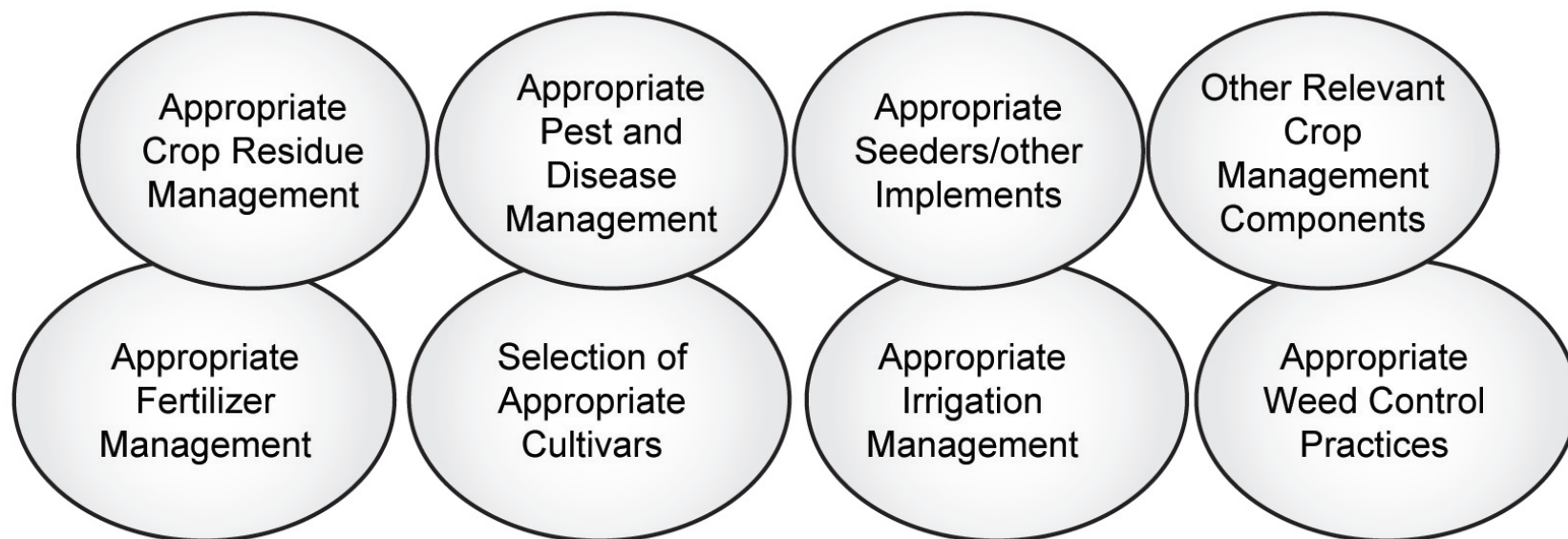
- Based on three principles:
  - Minimal soil movement
  - Soil surface cover => rational
  - Crop rotation => economic
- Adapted to production system





# The Four Principles of Conservation Agriculture Provide the Foundation to Develop, Validate and Deliver CA-based Crop Management Technologies

***Appropriate Crop Management Component Technologies Must be Specifically Developed for Each Crop Production System***



**Dramatic  
Reductions  
In  
Tillage**

**Retention of  
Adequate  
Levels of  
Residues  
on the Soil**

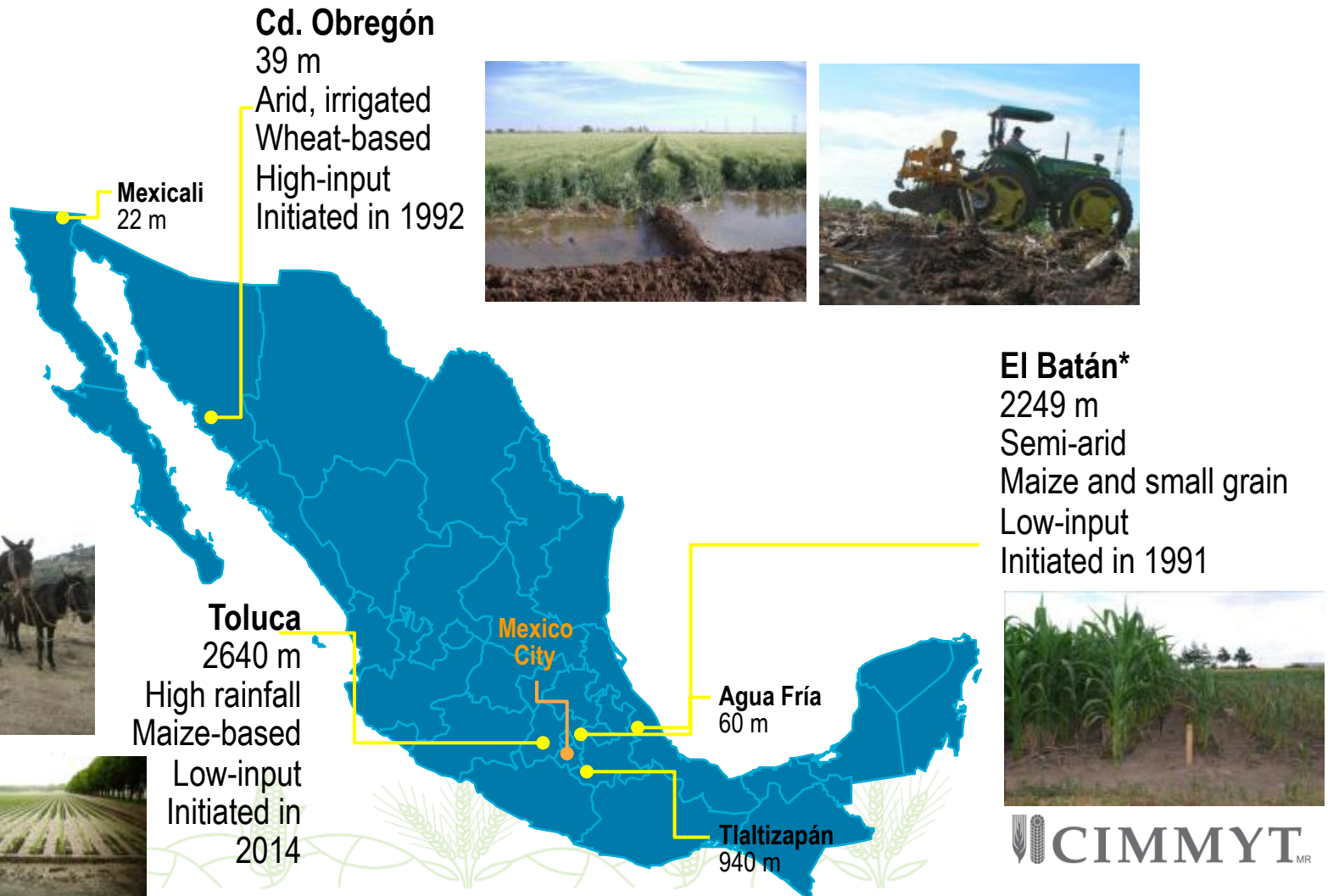
**Economically  
Viable  
Diversification  
of Crop  
Rotations**

**Perception of  
Economic  
Benefits by  
Farmers**

**The Foundation for the Development of Suitable CA-based Crop Management Technologies**

# Long term trials

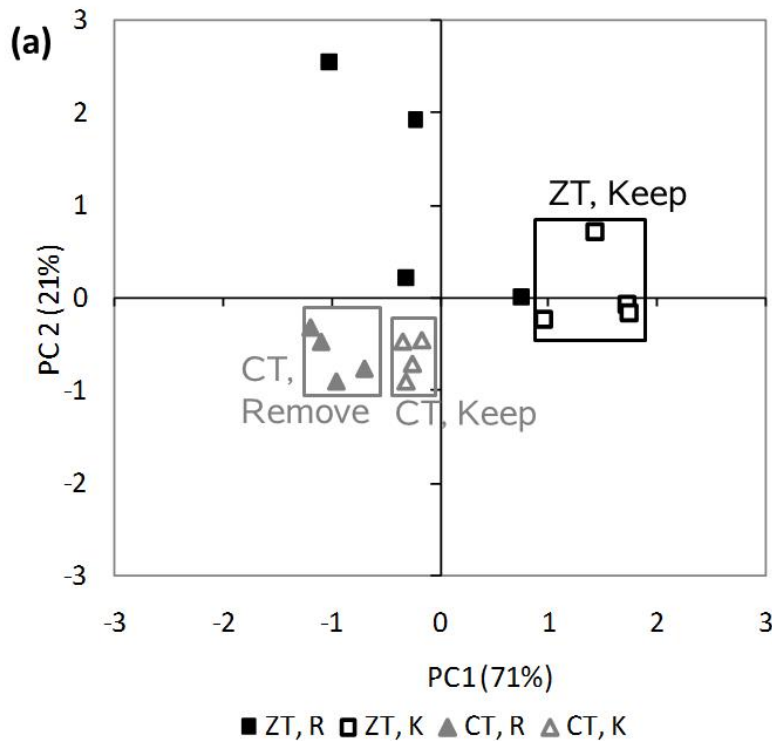
- in contrasting agro-ecological environments in Mexico



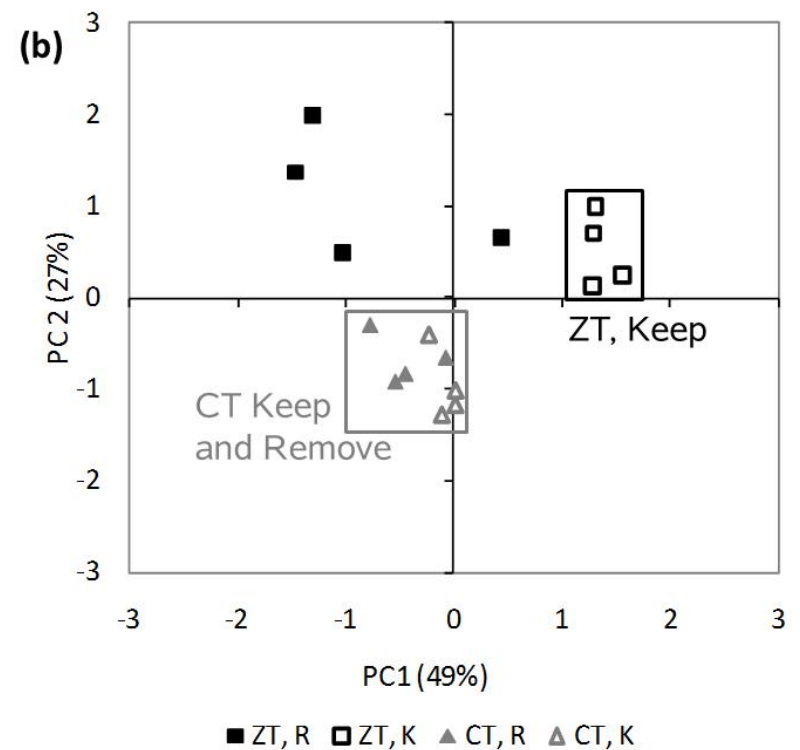
# CA and soil quality

- Rainfed conditions in Central Mexico

Chemical soil quality



Physical soil quality

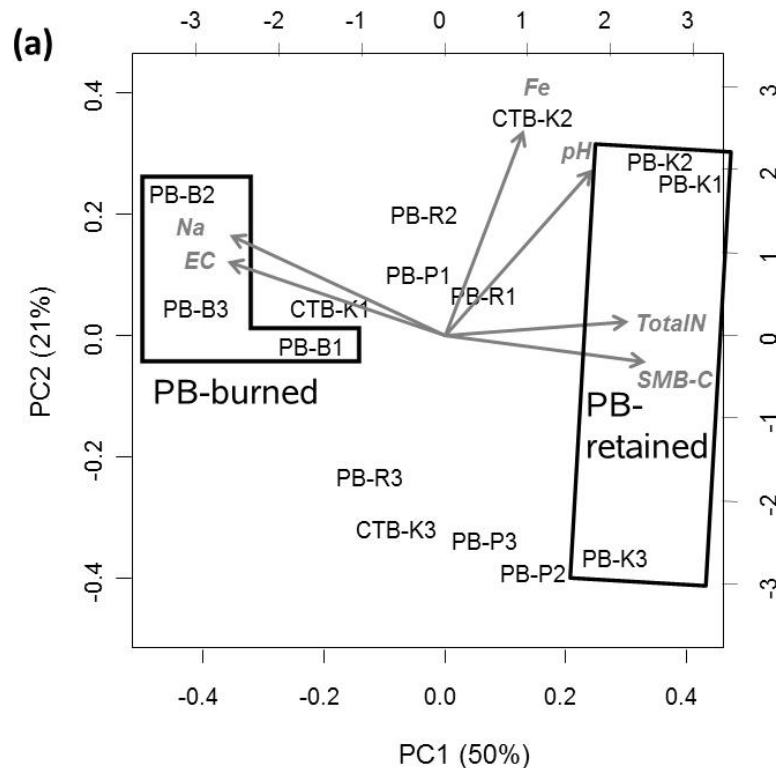


(Govaerts et al., 2006)

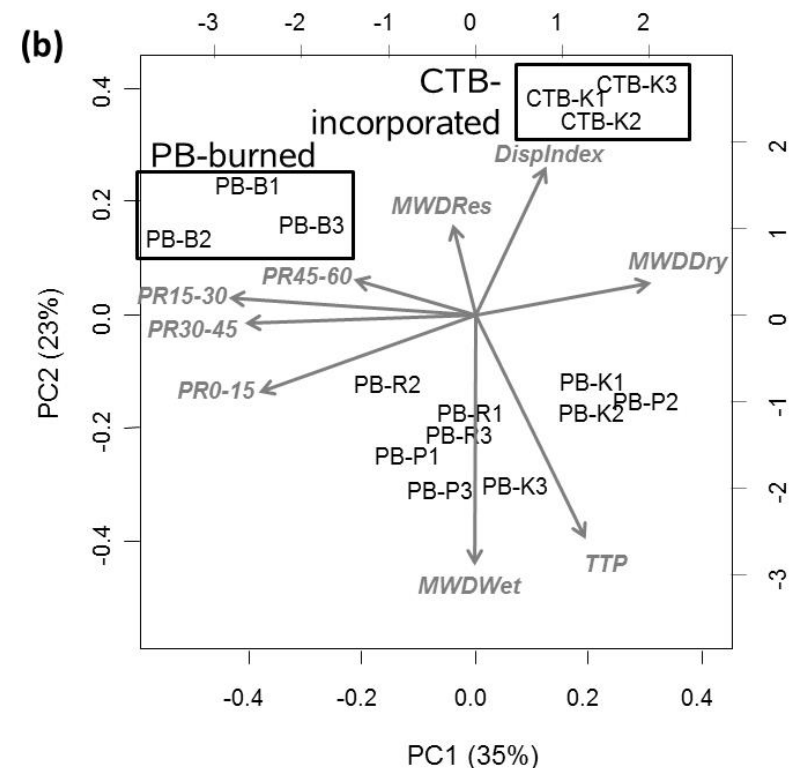
# CA and soil quality

- Irrigated conditions in northwestern Mexico

Chemical soil quality



Physical soil quality

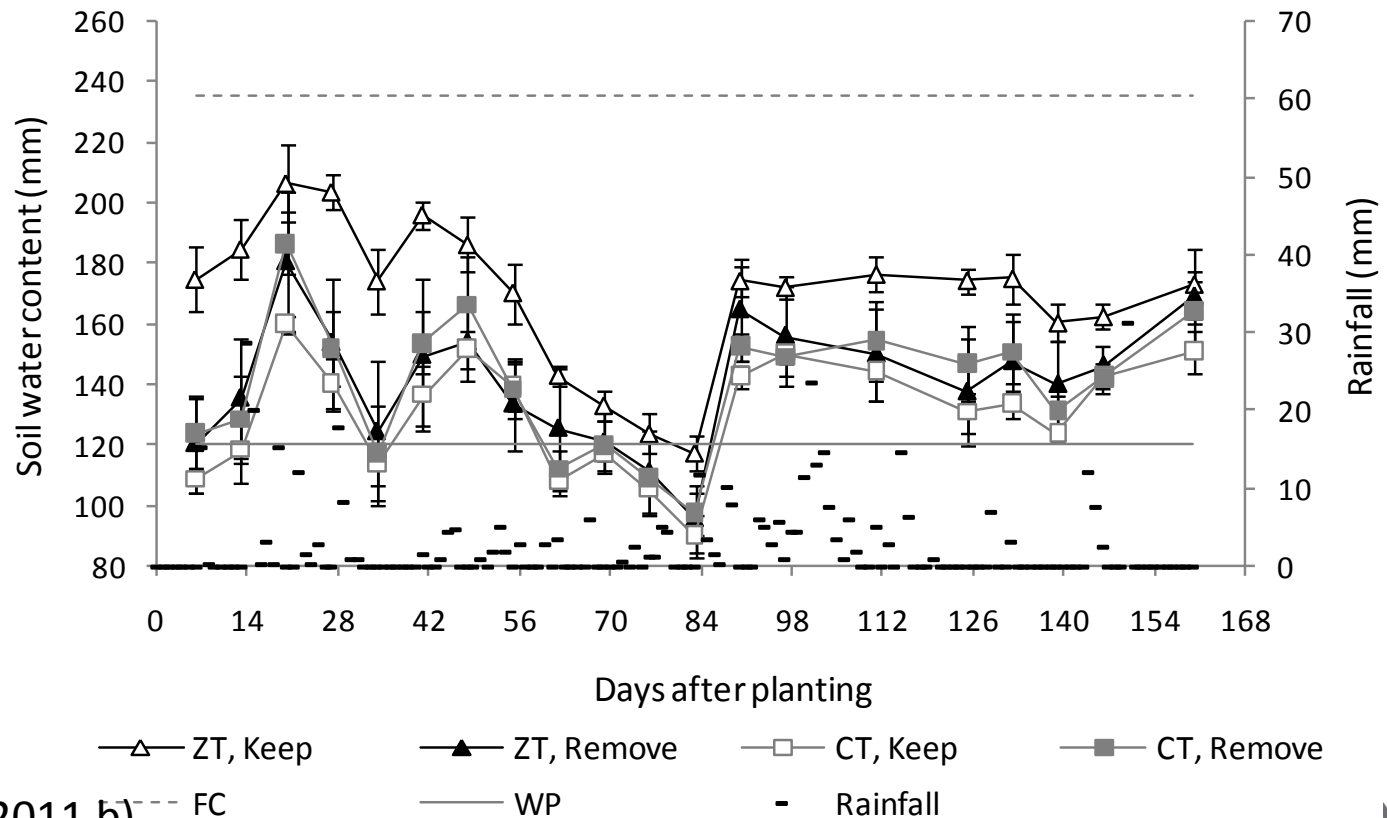


(Verhulst et al., 2011 a)



# Rainfed conditions in central Mexico

- Soil water content (0-60 cm) in 2009 season (with severe drought 30-83 days after planting)



(Verhulst et al., 2011 b)

# Rainfed conditions in central Mexico

- Maize yield ( $\text{t ha}^{-1}$  at 12%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )

Management practice	2008	2009	1997-2009
ZT, Keep	7.88 (0.20) a	7.42 (0.63) a	5.65 (0.02) a
ZT, Remove	5.65 (1.26) a	3.63 (0.30) b	4.43 (0.27) b
CT, Keep	6.65 (0.11) a	2.71 (0.17) b	4.59 (0.05) b
CT, Remove	7.18 (0.96) a	3.28 (0.67) b	4.31 (0.23) b

Conservation  
agriculture

(Verhulst et al., 2011 b)

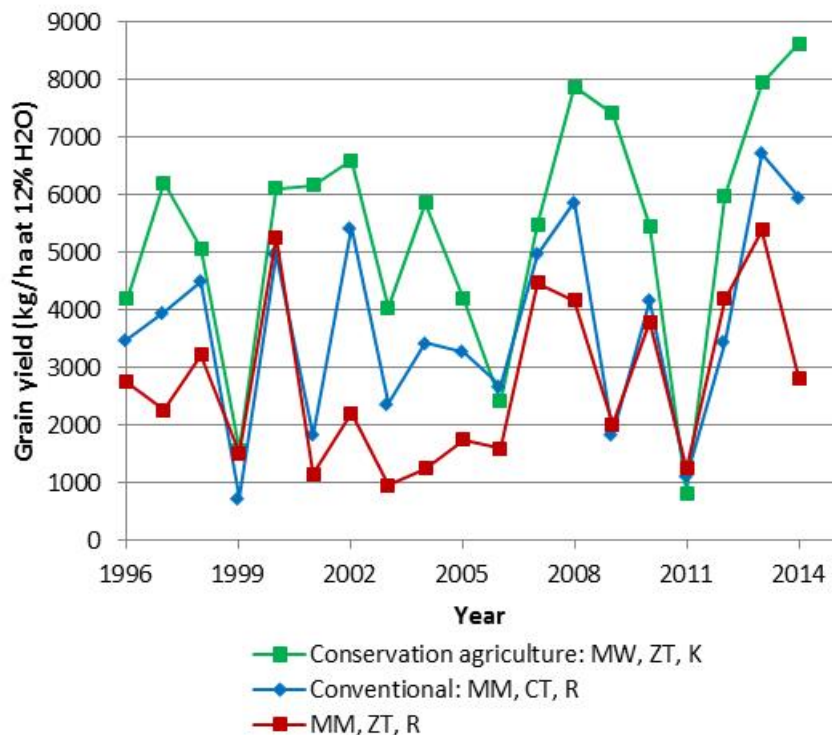


Farmer  
practice

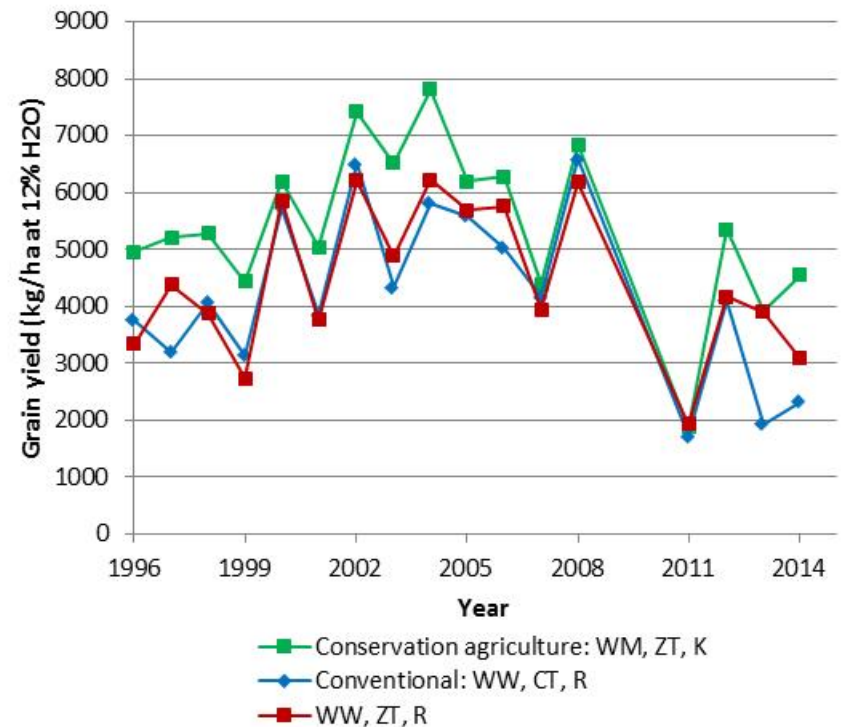
# Results from LTT

- CA increases yield compared to conventional practices as well as resilience

## Maize



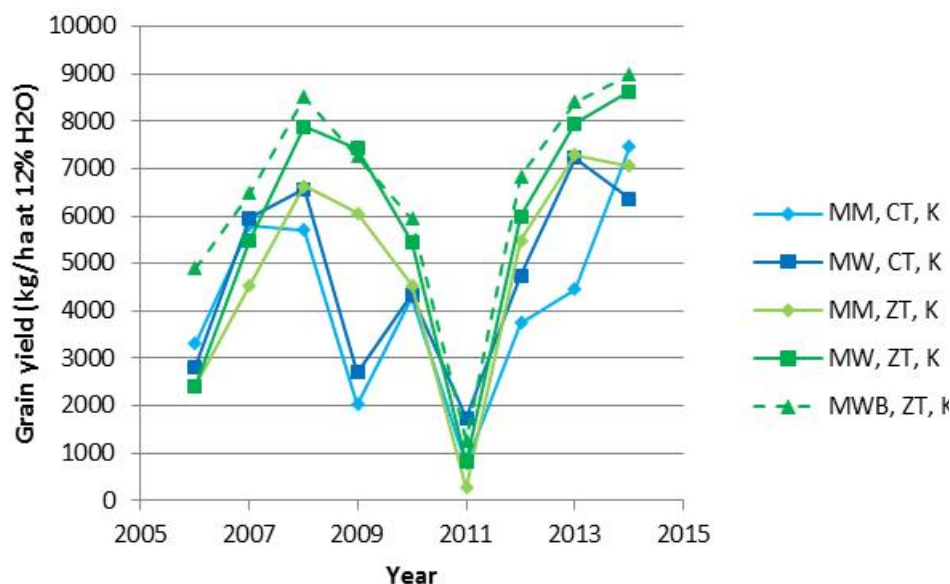
## Wheat



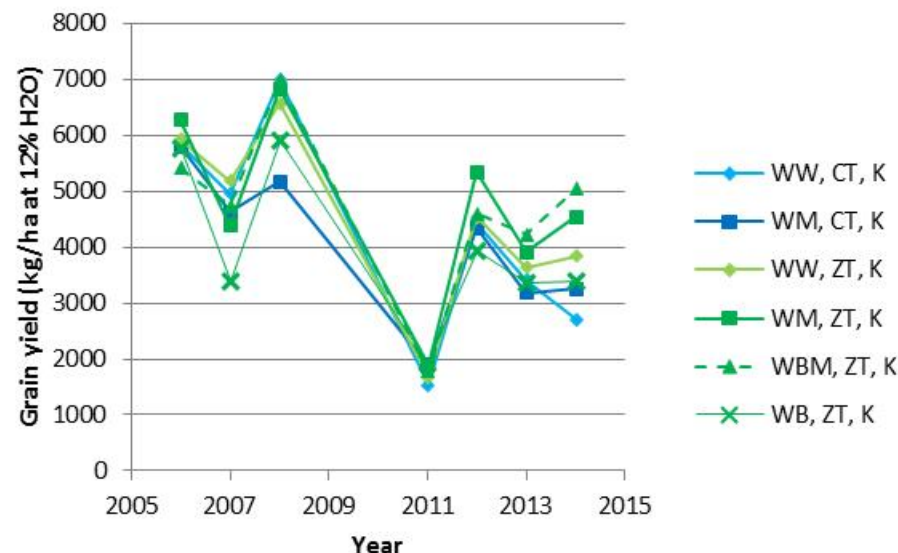
# Results from LTT

- CA increases yield compared to conventional practices, and more so in more diverse crop rotations

## Maize

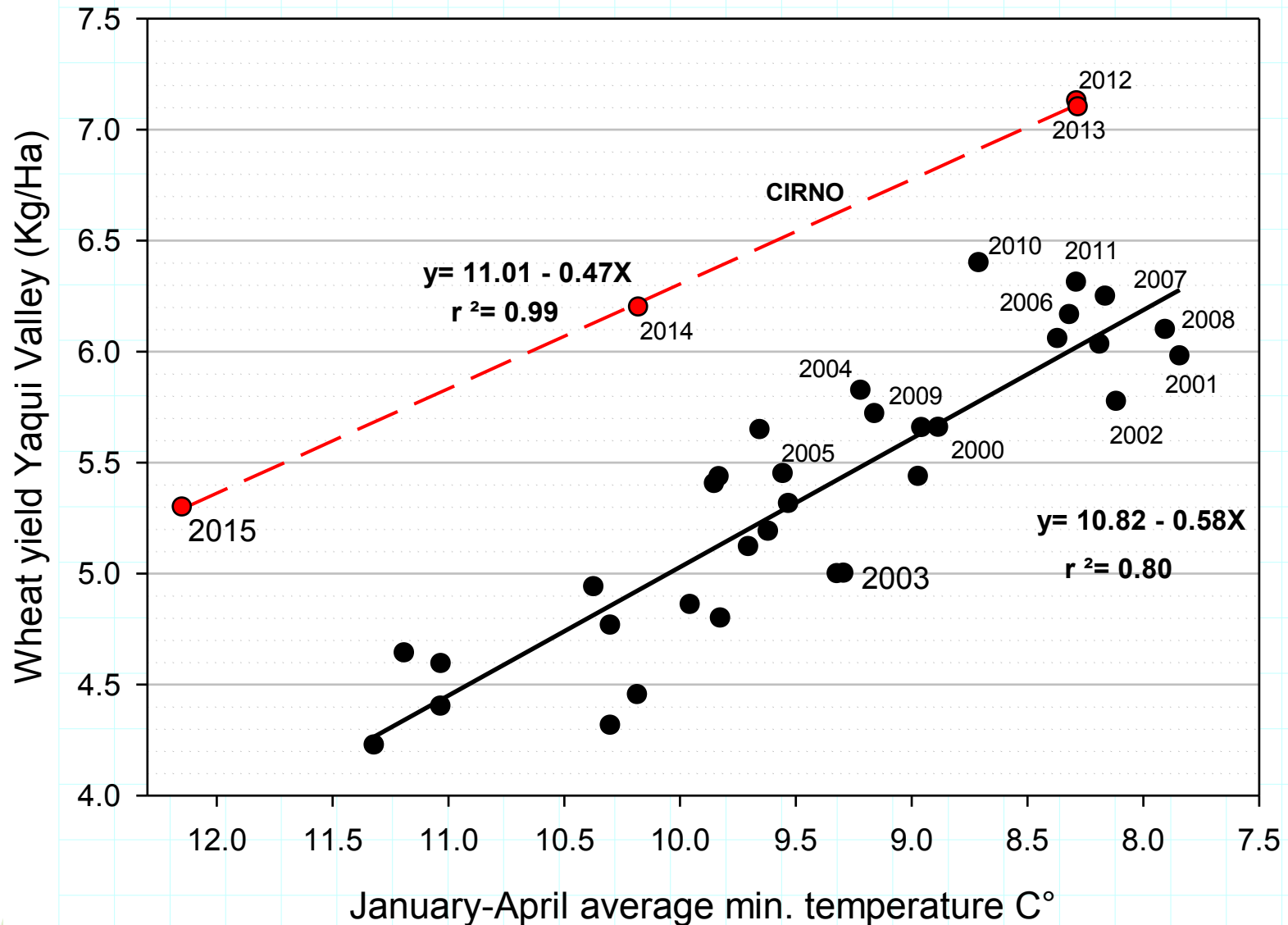


## Wheat

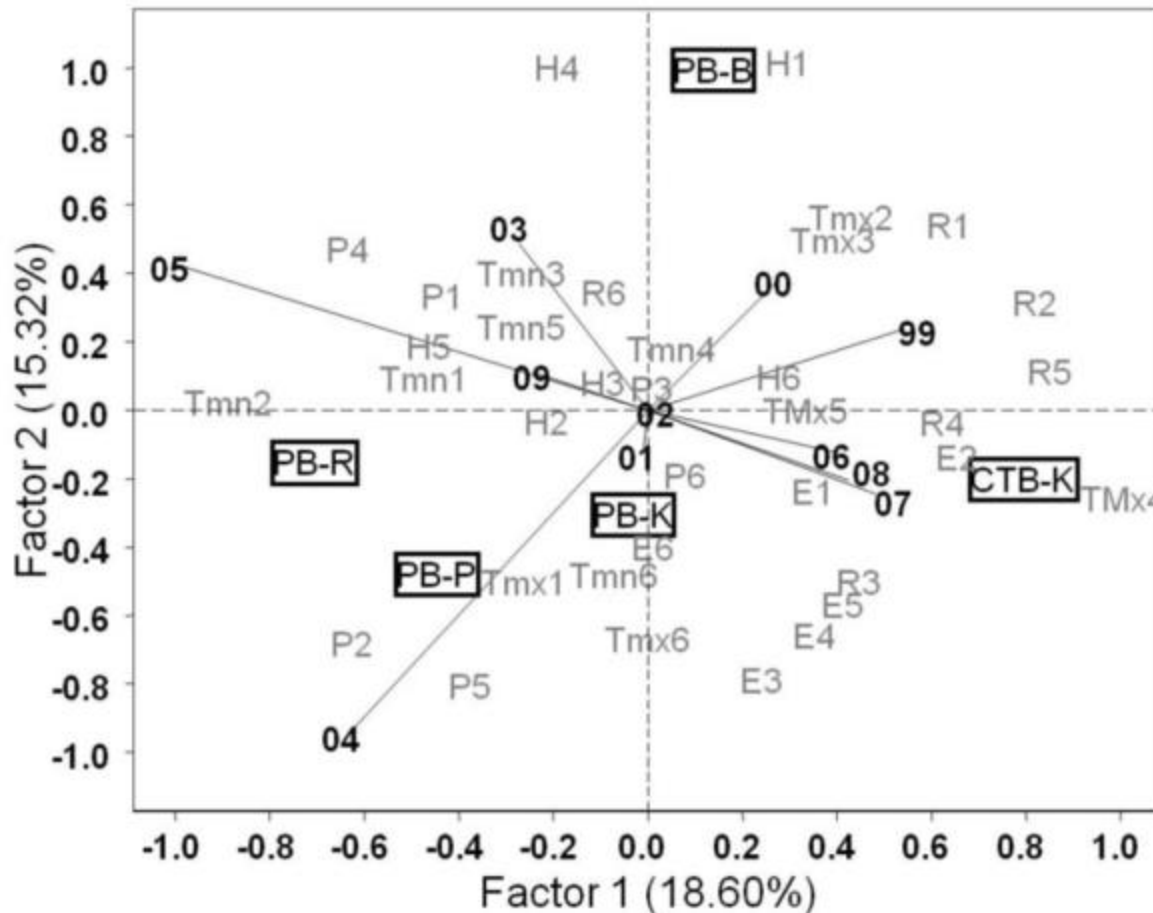




# Wheat yield in the Yaqui Valley vs Average minimum Temperatures of 1980-2015



# Yield: system × year interaction explained by climatic co-variables



**Years: 1999-2009**

**Climatic variables:**

**H**= relative humidity

**Tmn**= minimum temp

**Tmx**= maximum temp

**R**= radiation

**E**=  $ET_0$

**P**= precipitation

**1, ..., 6**= Periods of the growing season

**1** ≈ emergence

**2** ≈ tillering

**3** ≈ stem elongation and booting

**4** ≈ head emergence

**5** ≈ flowering

**6** ≈ grain filling

# Optimize the second limiting factor

- Maize-wheat rotation and wheat monoculture
- Permanent beds (PB) and conventionally tilled beds (CB)
- 4 fertilizer treatments:

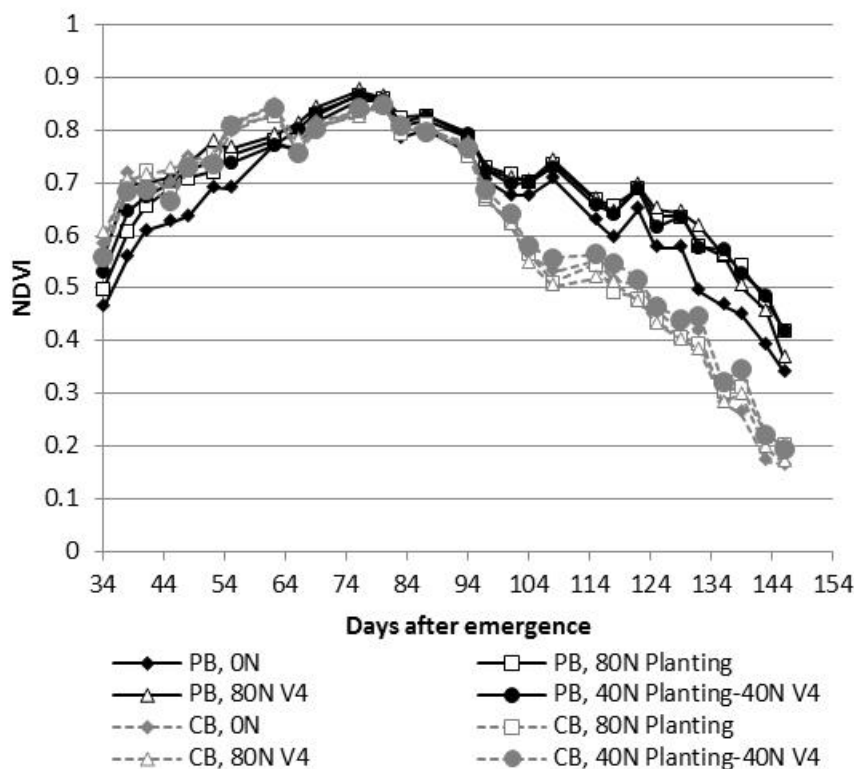
Trt	N dose (urea) at planting	N dose (urea) at V4/1 <sup>st</sup> node	Abbreviation
1	0 kg N/ha	0 kg N/ha	0 N
2	80 kg N/ha	0 kg N/ha	80 N planting
3	0 kg N/ha	80 kg N/ha	80 N V4/1 <sup>st</sup> node
4	40 kg N/ha	40 kg N/ha	40 N planting - 40 N V4/1 <sup>st</sup> node



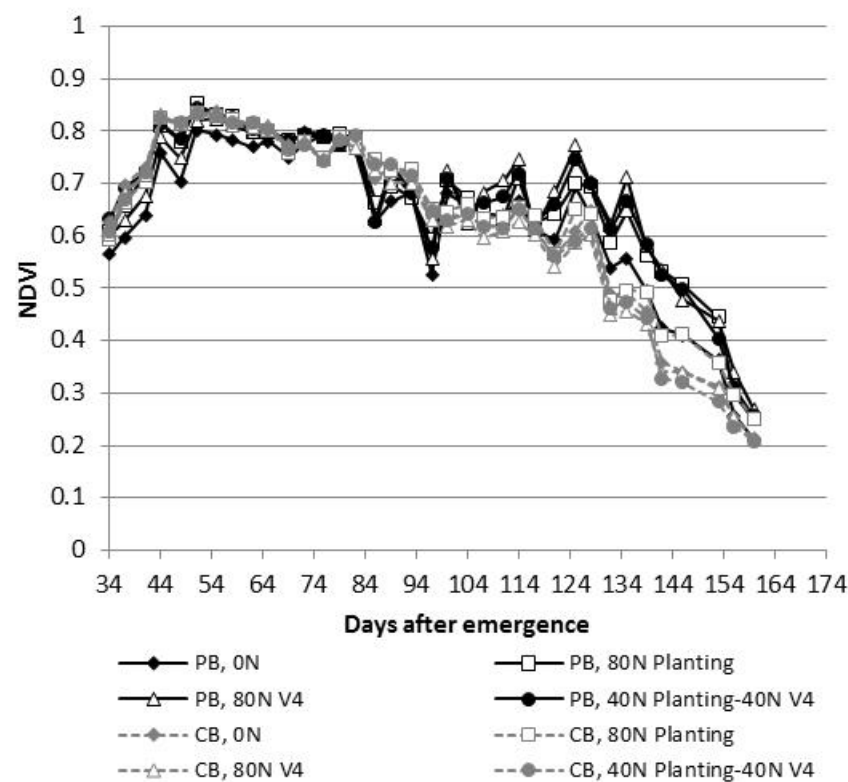
# Fertilizer experiment - maize

- NDVI: CB (grey) values decrease faster than in CA

In 2012



In 2014

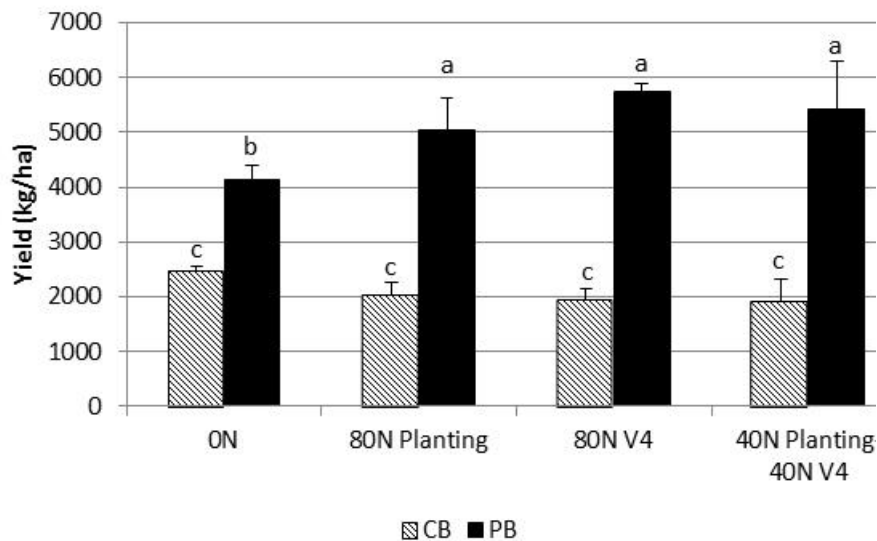




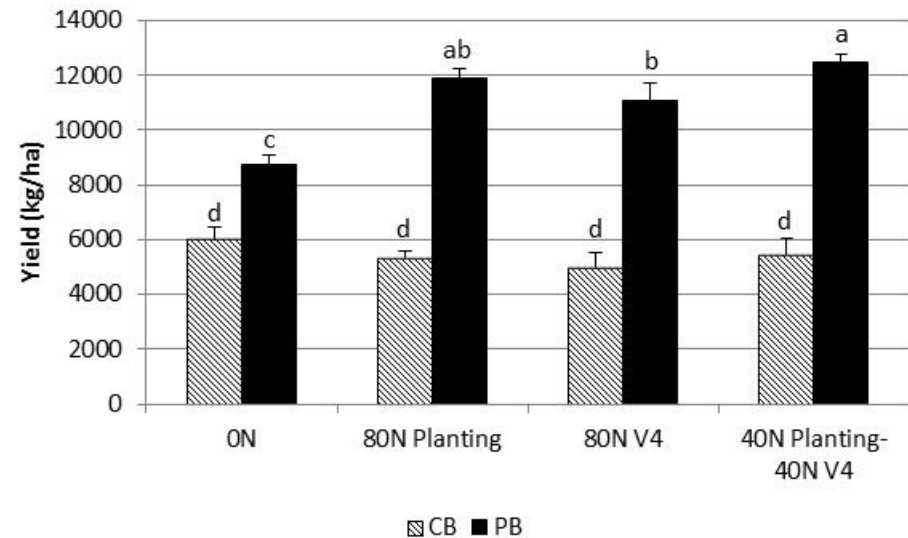
# Fertilizer experiment - maize

- Yield:
  - Under CB: low yields, fertilizer does not increase yield
  - Under CA:
    - Without fertilizer yield higher than under CB
    - Fertilizer application increases yield

**2012**

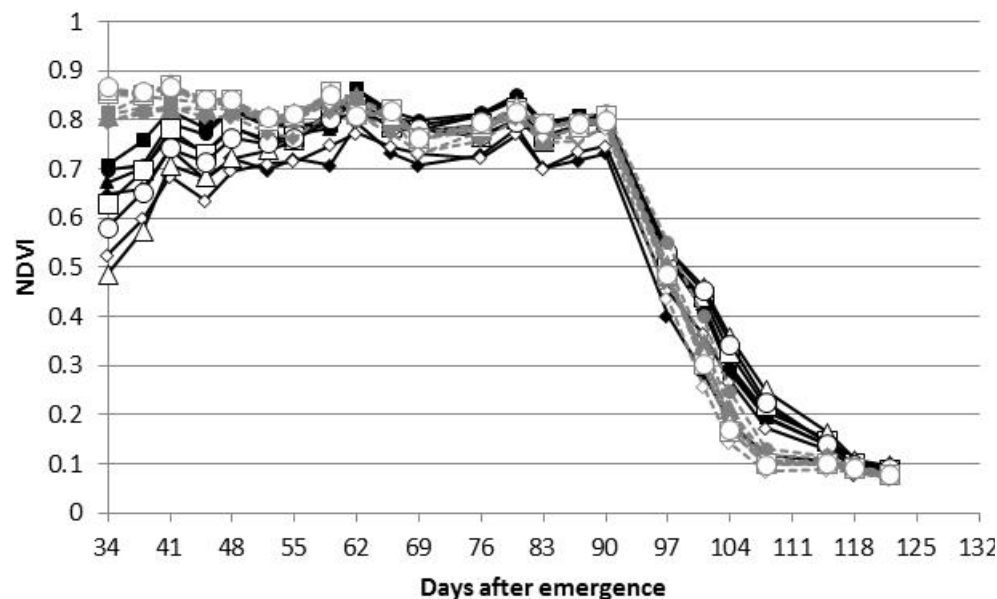


**2014**



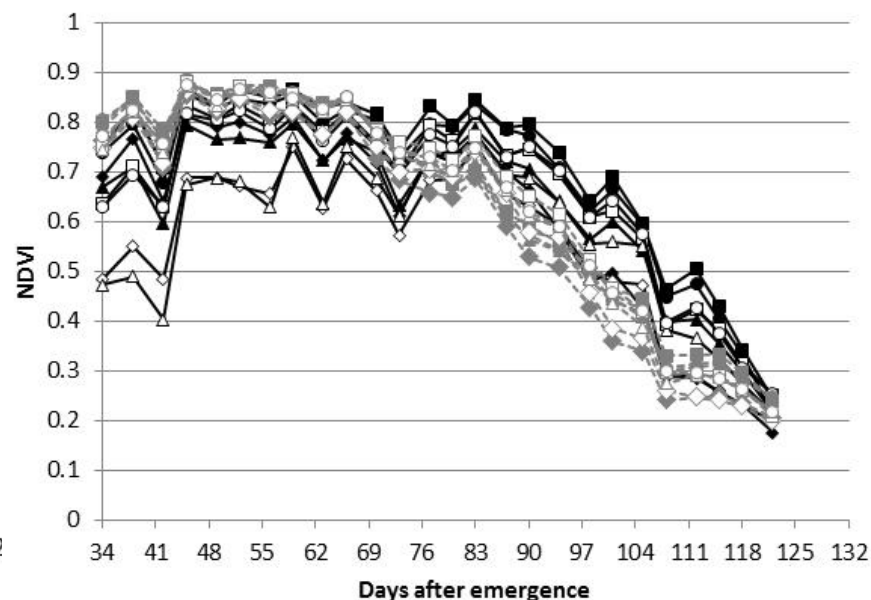
# Fertilizer experiment - wheat

## • NDVI In 2012



- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| —◆— PB, WM, 0N               | —■— PB, WM, 80N Planting                  |
| —▲— PB, WM, 80N 1st node     | —●— PB, WM, 40N Planting-40N 1st node     |
| —◇— PB, WW, 0N               | —□— PB, WW, 80N Planting                  |
| —△— PB, WW, 80N 1st node     | —○— PB, WW, 40N Planting-40N 1st node     |
| ---◆--- CB, WM, 0N           | ---■--- CB, WM, 80N Planting              |
| ---▲--- CB, WM, 80N 1st node | ---●--- CB, WM, 40N Planting-40N 1st node |
| ---◇--- CB, WW, 0N           | ---□--- CB, WW, 80N Planting              |
| ---△--- CB, WW, 80N 1st node | ---○--- CB, WW, 40N Planting-40N 1st node |

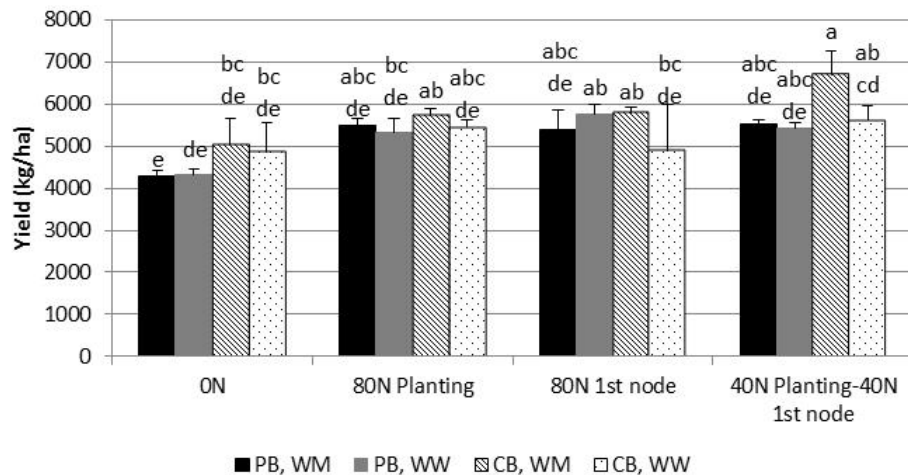
## In 2014



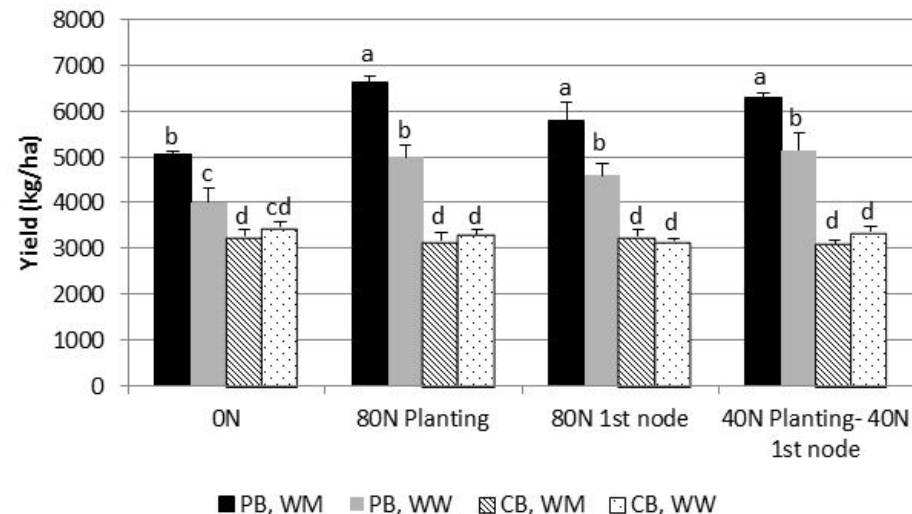
# Fertilizer experiment - wheat

- Yield:
  - In 2012, few differences
  - In 2014 under CB: low yields, fertilizer does not increase yield
  - In 2014 under PB with monoculture: higher yield than CB & fertilizer increases yield; lower yield than with rotation (tan spot)
  - In 2014 under CA: higher yield than both other tillage-rotation practices & fertilizer increases yield

**2012**



**2014**

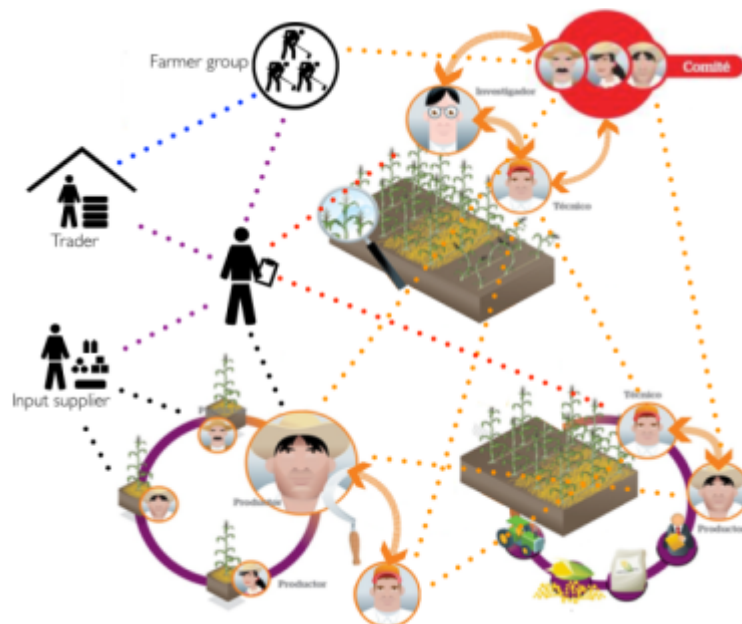
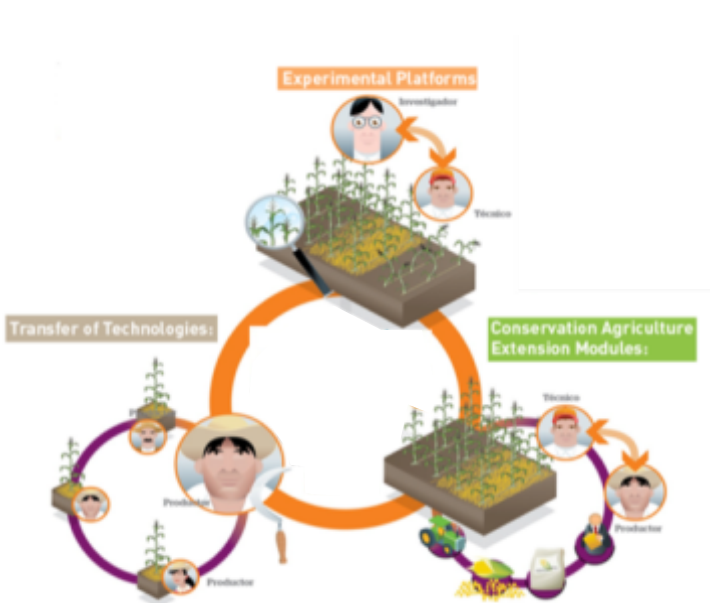




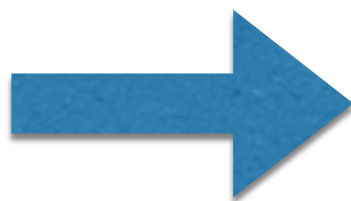




# Research on the model per se



- Transfer-of-technology
- technology focus
- CA
- hub = 3 structures
- linear



- brokering
- actor focus
- sustainable intensification
- hub = network
- dynamic network

# M&E4L → SDG

deredactie.be video: Te x MasAgro Guanajuato gismaps.cimmyt.org/CE/M x gismaps.cimmyt.org/gto/ x

gismaps.cimmyt.org/CE/MasAgro/GTO/

**MasAgro Guanajuato**  
Modernización Sustentable de la Agricultura Tradicional

Usuario BEM Clave Entrar

**BITACORA UNICA AGRONOMICA**  
Bitácora para Módulo

Parcela	
Item	Descripción
Tipo Parcela	Módulo
Estado	Guanajuato
Municipio	San Diego de la Unión
Localidad	Ejido Noria de Alday

**Ciclo 2013 - Primavera-Verano**

Item	Descripción
Estatus	Bitácora aceptada/bloqueada
Ciclo	(Confiabilidad de la
Agronómico	información buena)
Tipo de Producción	Riego
Tipo Ciclo Agronómico	Bitácora para Módulo
Institución	CIMMYT

**gto**  
orgullo y compromiso de todos

**IMPULSO**  
A TU CALIDAD DE VIDA

**CIMMYT**  
Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo

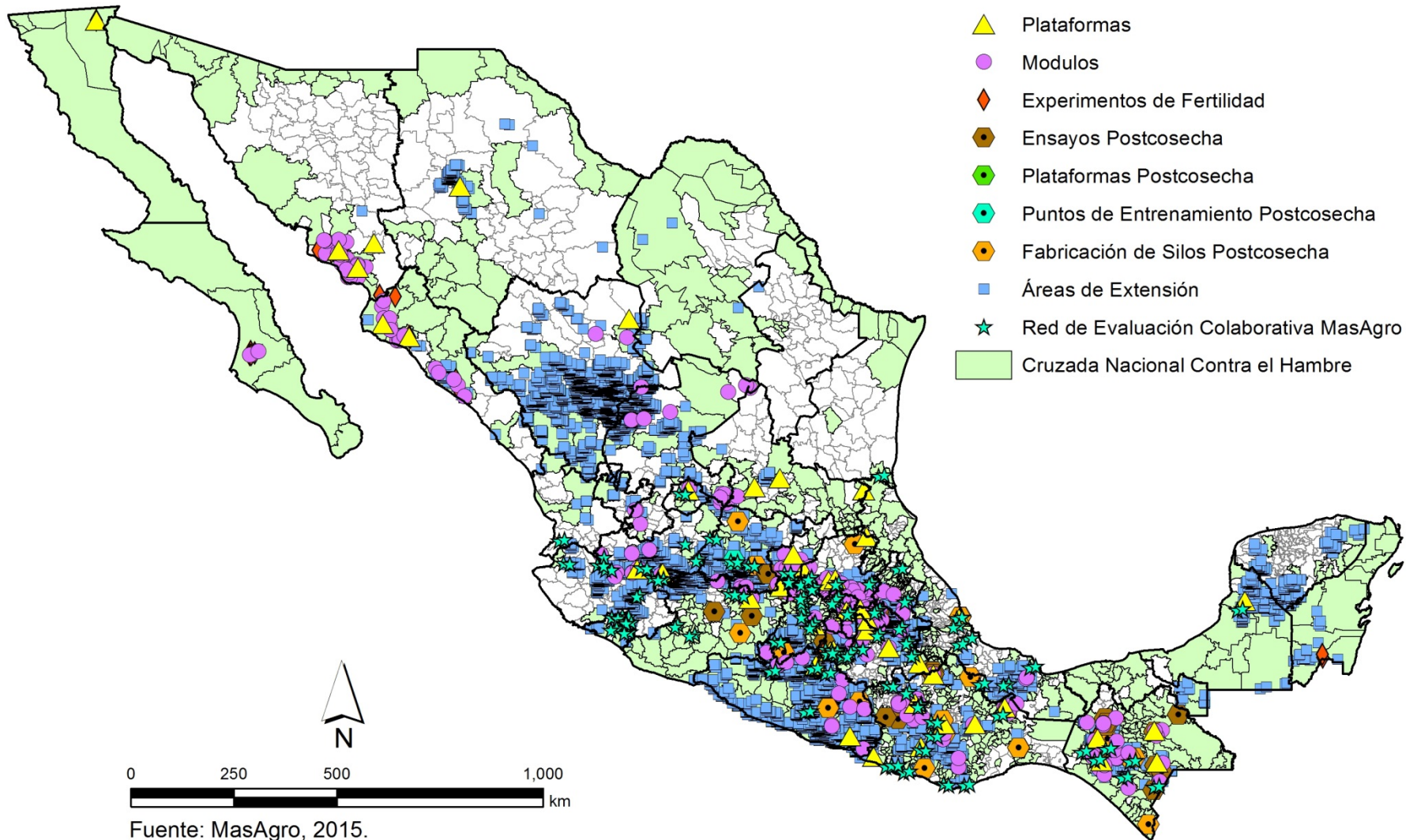
**SAGARPA**  
SECRETARÍA DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERÍA, DESARROLLO RURAL, PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN

© Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT) © 2012-2015. Km. 45, Carretera México-Veracruz, El Batán, Texcoco CP 56130, Edo. de México, MEXICO

EN 11:24 PM 6/15/2015



## Infraestructura MasAgro 2014



# Results on the ground



**440.000 ha** with  
technologies and  
improved agronomic  
practices

**1.000.000 ha**  
with indirect influence

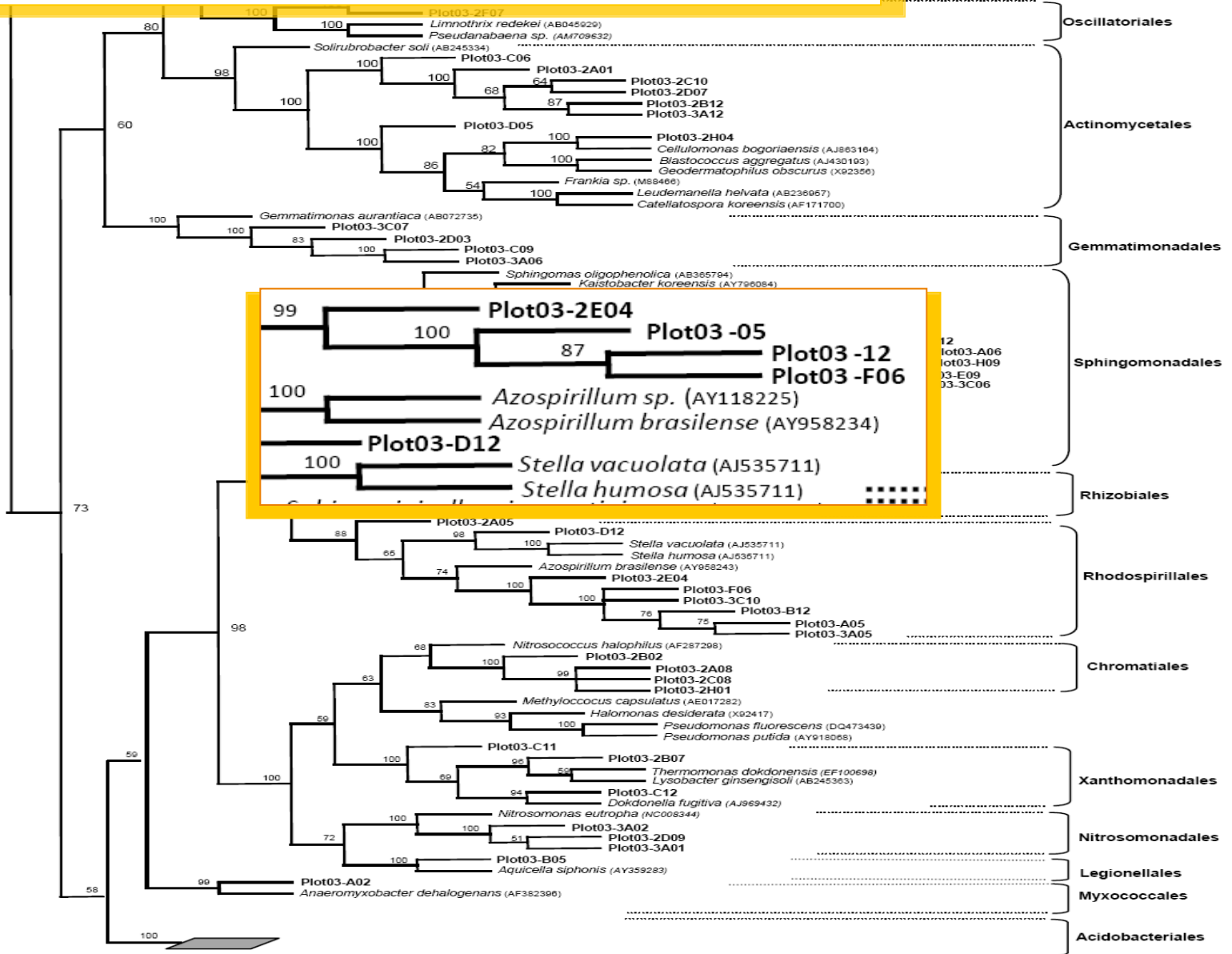
Over **200.000**  
**producers**

**21 %** **women**

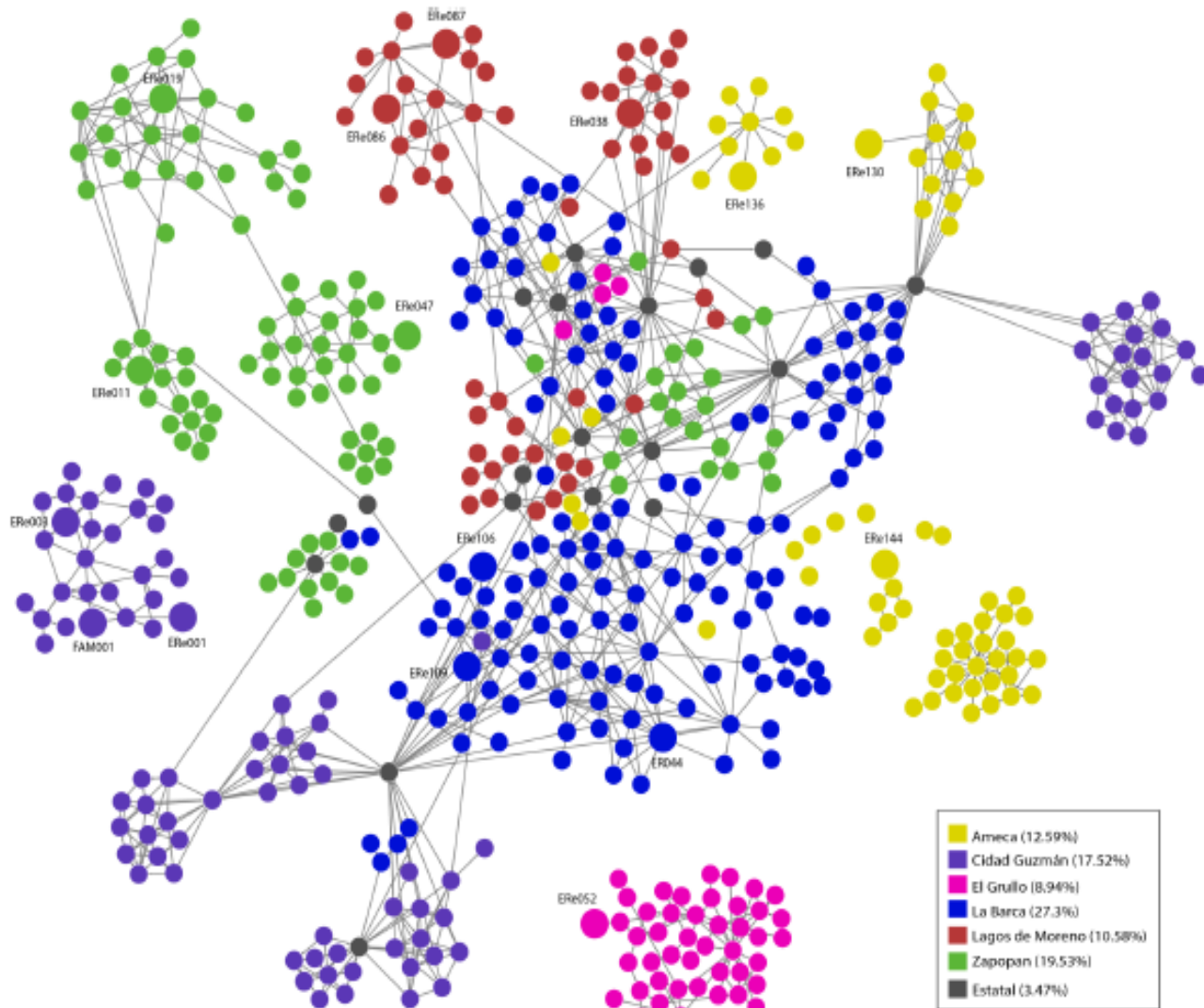




# *Desulfurobacterium thermolithotrophum* (AJ001049)



# Mapping of Interventions



[illegible]





Veronica

Vic

Wes

Whitney

Will

Yesenia



# Knowledge Systems for Sustainability

To equip humanity with the ability to manage the complex risks emerging from mounting pressures on Earth's food, water, and energy systems, by mobilizing science and technology across multiple disciplines and across public, private and civil sectors to provide system-oriented, scale-appropriate, actionable solutions.



International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis

THE EARTH INSTITUTE  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**Battelle**

*The Business of Innovation*



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

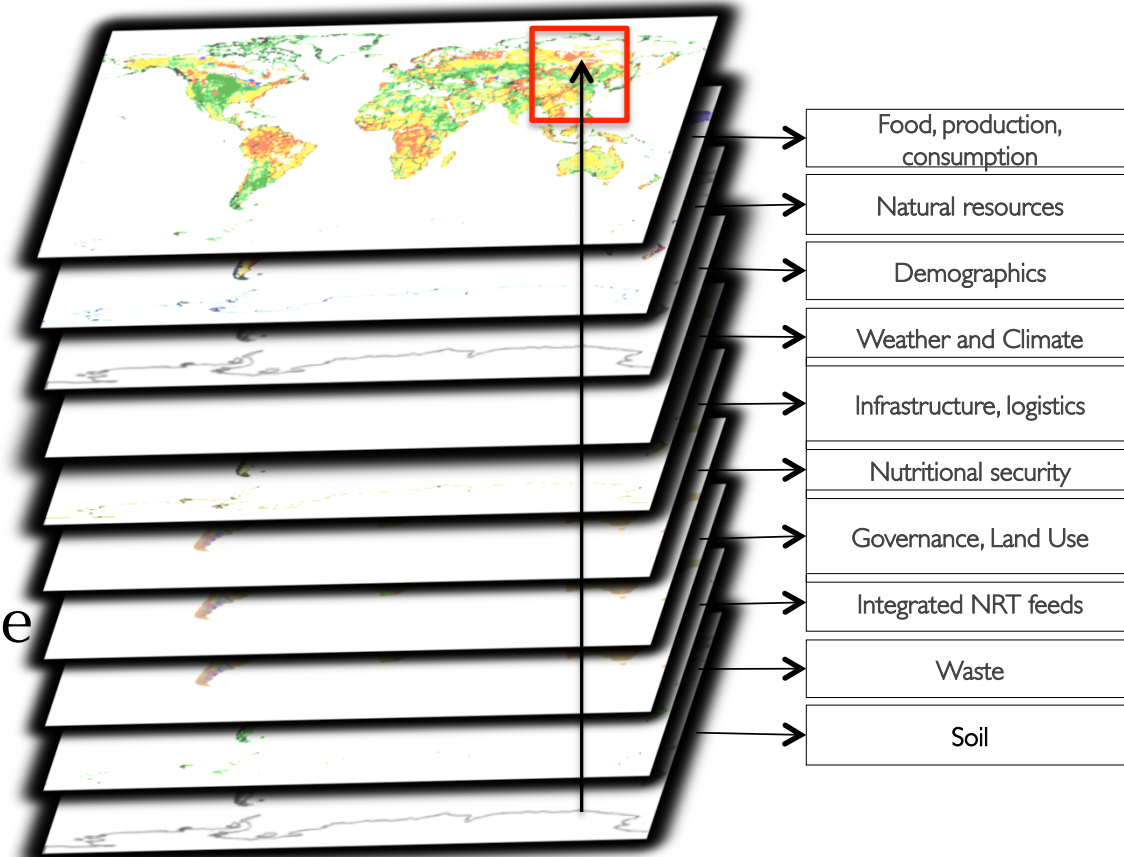


**CI**



**Core Product:** Knowledge systems that allow us to scan for patterns, zero in on places, learn from our actions at scale

- *Data, information, and knowledge assets*
- *Modeling of complex systems*
- *Learning systems*
- *Decisions about management that advance securities*



Importable and exportable actionable insights shared between critical decision makers such that scalable, repeatable actions can be replicated

2014

Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium



# THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IN HUMAN HISTORY

CAN WE FEED 9 BILLION PEOPLE BY 2050?



La próxima despensa global  
Cómo América Latina puede alimentar al mundo

UN LLAMADO A LA ACCIÓN PARA AFRONTAR  
DESAÍOS Y GENERAR SOLUCIONES

## Innovation

## Inspiration

## Intensification



Thank you  
for your  
interest!



# Thank you!

University  
*of* Idaho

WASHINGTON STATE  
 UNIVERSITY



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Oregon State  
UNIVERSITY **OSU**

Pacific Northwest  
Farmers Cooperative



Monsanto

