Permanent grasslands:
The blind spot of the EU Green Deal
And why "menu à la carte" doesn't work

How to reconcile the CAP with the EU Green Deal: possible solutions

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Virtual Policy Workshop

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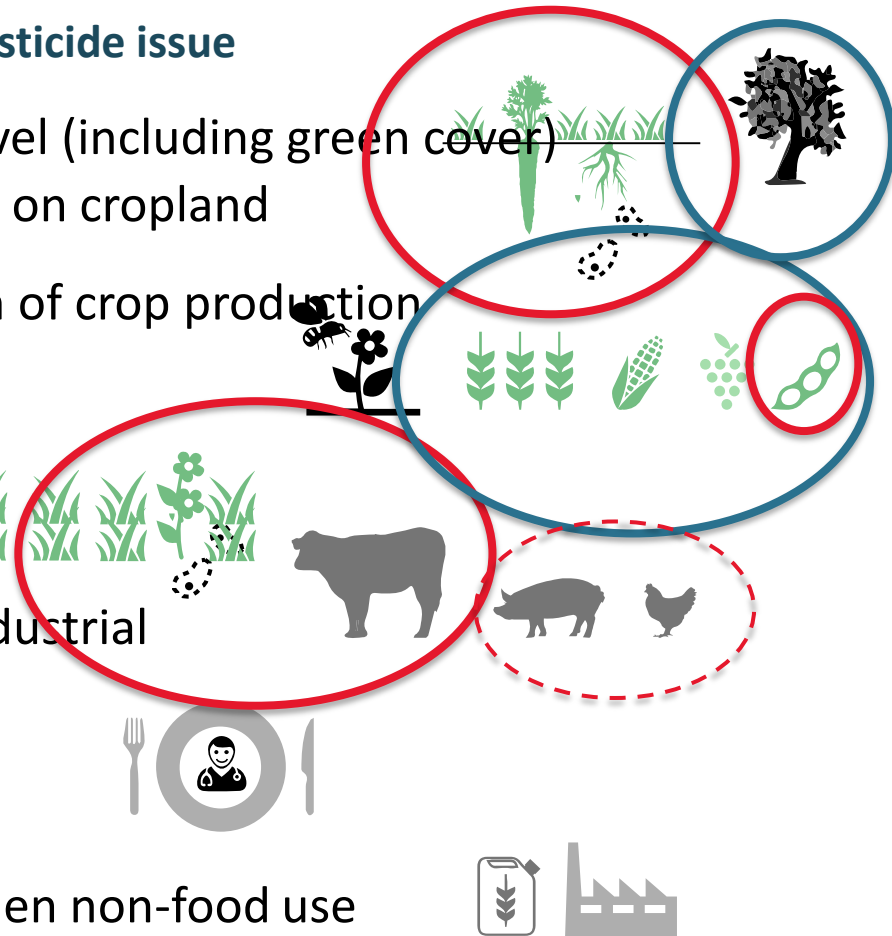# The integrative agenda of the EU Green deal

- Reference to the Farm to Fork strategy and Biodiversity strategy (goals) on the one hand and the CAP (means) on the other hand

- The search for a win-win-win agenda: climate, biodiversity, health, income, competitiveness

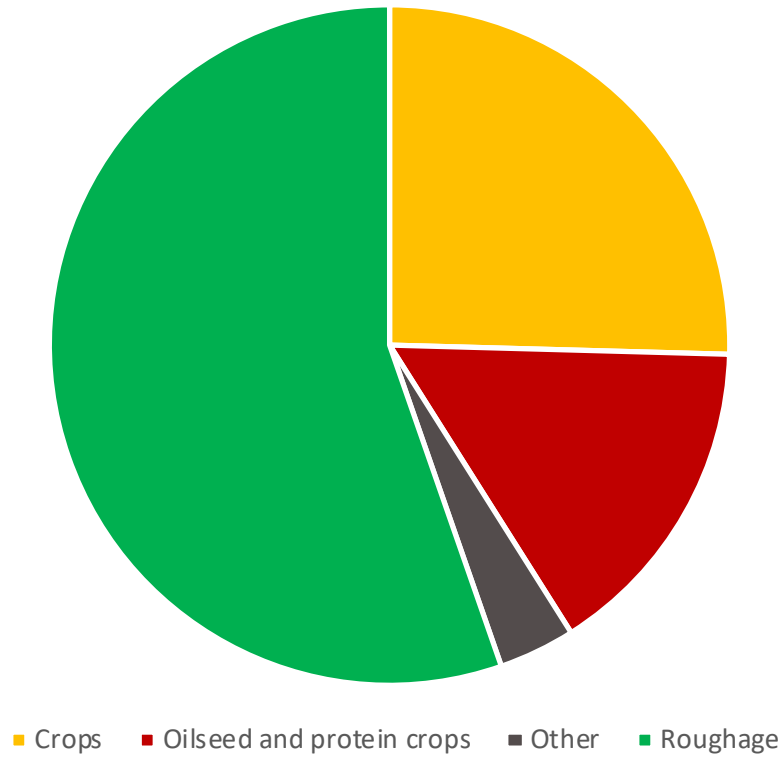**IDDRI**

Agroecology is a rather promising candidate

The pesticide issue

1 Fertility management at the territorial level (including green cover) and 10% of landscape ecological features on cropland

2 Pesticide-free farming and extensification of crop production

Organic farming as a reference model

3 Redeployment of permanent grassland

4 Livestock extensification (phase-out of industrial modes)

5 Healthy and sustainable diets

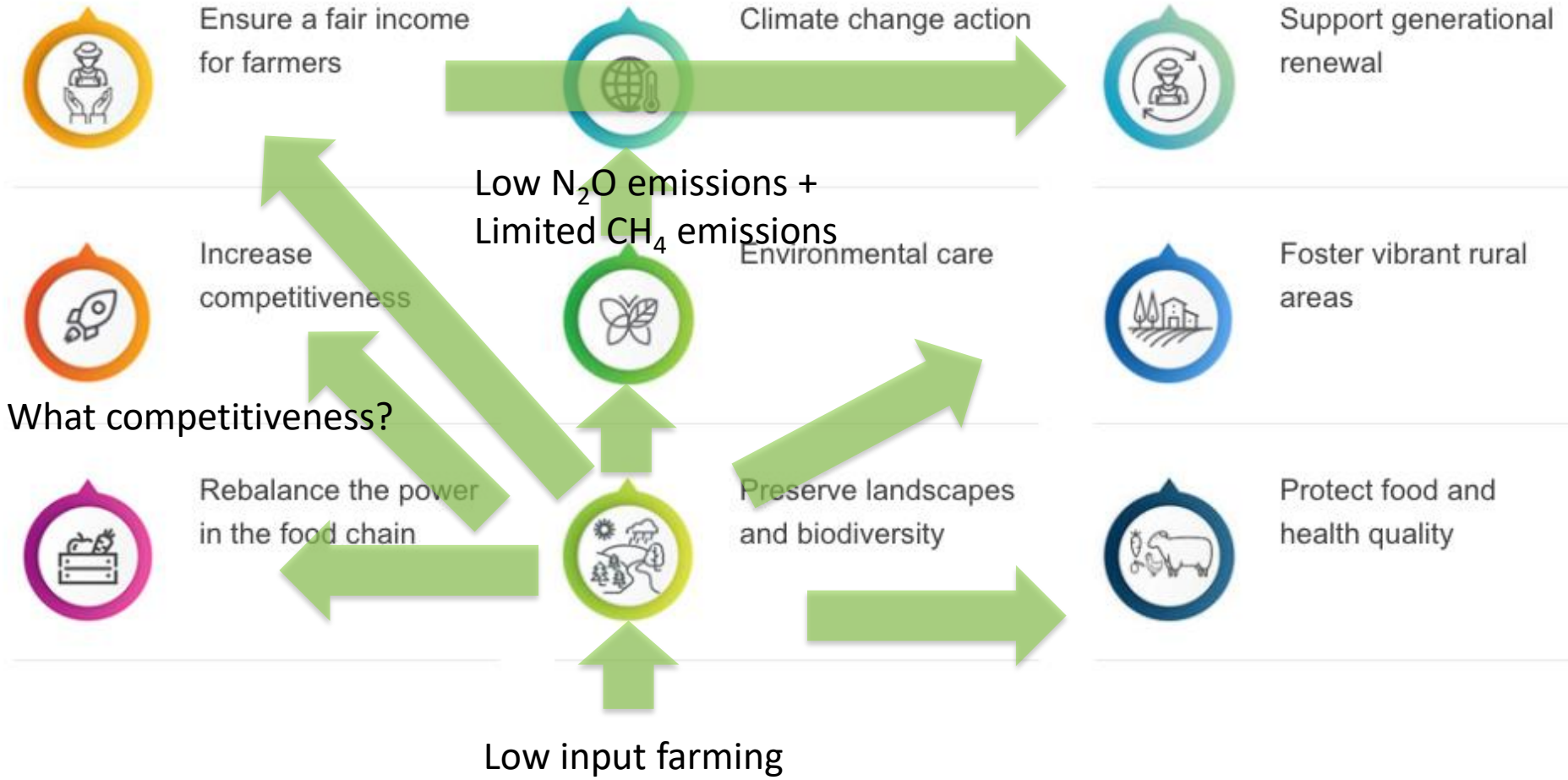**6** Food first, then feed, then biodiversity, then non-food use

The nitrogen issue

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Breakdown of EU proteins for feed

■ Crops ■ Oilseed and protein crops ■ Other ■ Roughage

~70 Mt EU proteins + ~16 Mt imported

Agroecology is a rather promising candidate

Lower input and structural costs/awu

Low N_2O emissions +
Limited CH_4 emissions

What competitiveness?

Low input farming

Animal welfare

The conceptual core of the current CAP reform

THE BENEFITS OF SMART AGRICULTURE

Is it a goal in itself?
(see Alan Matthew's recent post on it)

Increased PRODUCTION
Optimised planting, treatment application and harvesting improve yields.

Real-Time Data and PRODUCTION INFORMATION
Real-time access to information about sunlight intensity, soil moisture, markets, herd management and more provides for better and faster decisions by farmers.

Better QUALITY
Precise information about production processes and quality helps farmers adjust and increase the specificities of the products as well as nutritional values.

Improved LIVESTOCK HEALTH
Sensors can detect and prevent poor health in animals early on, reducing the need for treatment. Livestock management can also be improved through geofencing location tracking.

Is it consistent?
except from an
economy of scale perspective?

Biodiversity?
Landscapes?

Lower WATER CONSUMPTION
Lower water consumption due to soil moisture sensors and more accurate weather forecasting.

Lowered PRODUCTION COSTS
Better resource efficiency through automatised processes in crop and livestock management, leading to lower production costs.

Accurate FARM AND FIELD EVALUATION
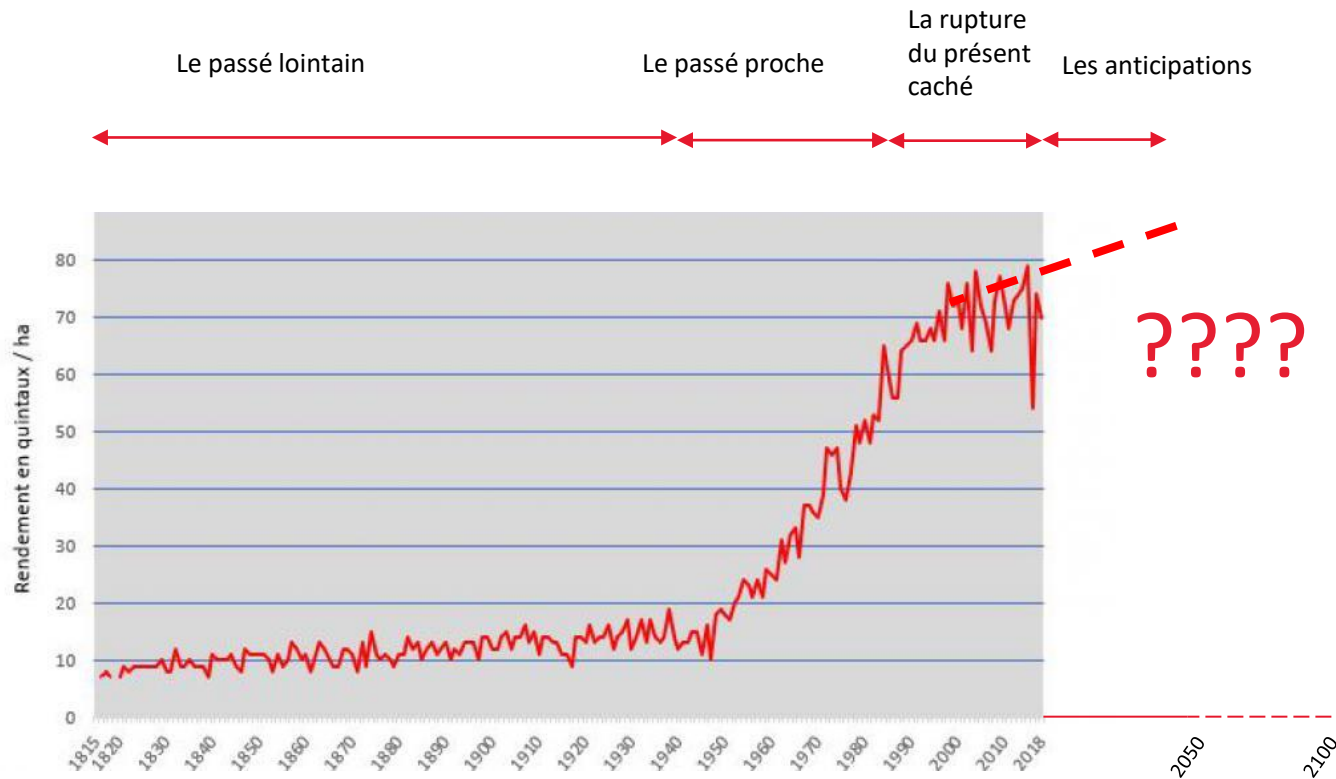Data about historical yields help farmers plan and predict future crop yields as well as the value of their land.

Reduced ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE FOOTPRINT
Increased res... the environme... of food produ...

CC adaptation???

Production is at risk, not for political nor economical reasons, but for ecological reasons

Evolution du rendement moyen annuel du blé France entière de 1815 à 2018

https://www.academie-agriculture.fr/publications/encyclopedie/reperes/evolution-du-rendement-moyen-annuel-du-ble-france-entiere-de-1815

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Revisiting the agroecological features

1 Fertility management at the territorial level (including green cover) and 10% of landscape ecological features on cropland
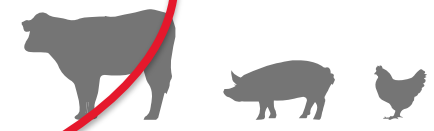
2 Pesticide-free farming and extensification of crop production
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4 Livestock extensification (phase-out of industrial modes)

5 Healthy and sustainable diets

6 Food first, then feed, then biodiversity, then non-food use

Extensive permanent grasslands are a core, irreplaceable component of the objectives of the Green Deal, including sustainable crop production (mixed farming)
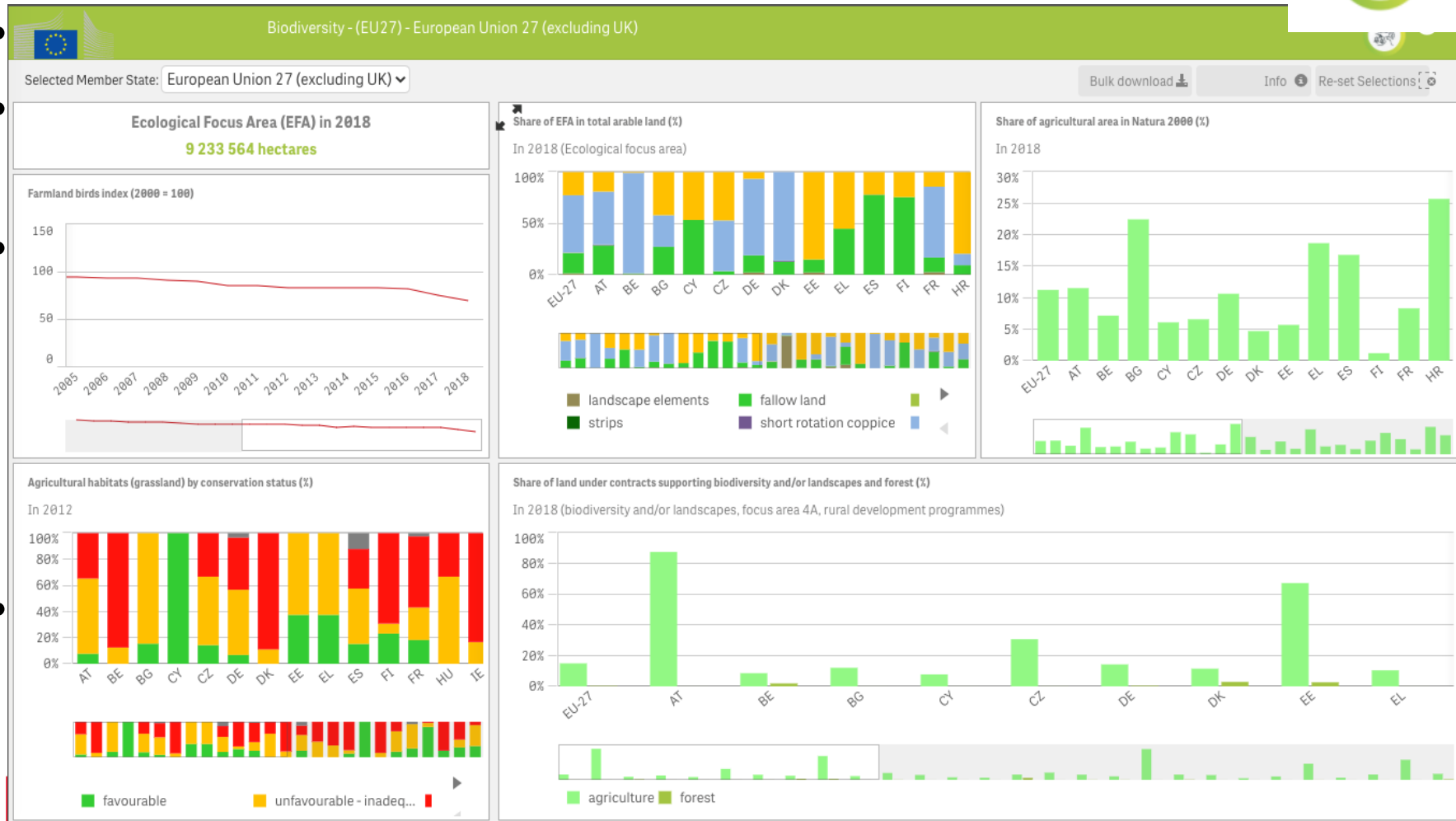
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A matter of concern: the missing extensive permanent grasslands

- In the conceptual core of smart agriculture

The risks of « à la carte » approaches of the coming CAP

- The smart agriculture/productionist/economies of scale/competitiveness paradigm is the current and dominant one

- Although it is the cause of the main problems that the Green Deal intends to address

- It is still poorly acknowledged that biodiversity conservation is not an issue "outside" productive land, starting with extensive permanent grasslands

- Thus it is more than likely that leaving the choice of "national" CAP (including overall narrative and ecoscheme design) will foster environmental dumping and smart agriculture

- While mixed agroecological farming systems should be the basis for meeting the GD objectives

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