

Strategies for successful establishment of 4F Crops

Wolter Elbersen, Maarten van der Zee
and Harriëtte Bos



FOOD & BIOBASED RESEARCH
WAGENINGEN UR

Final Workshop of the 4F Crops project, Lisbon, 19 November 2010
“Successful scenarios for the establishment of non-food crops in EU27”

Research question:

What role can/should new non-food crops play in (an uncertain) future?

- What is the demand for biomass from crops?
 - Volumes, quality
 - Sustainability
- What role can biomass crops play?
- What strategies are needed for successful introduction of (new) non-food crops in Europe?
 - What role can these crops play?
 - What should agriculture do?
 - What should what industry do?
 - What policies are needed?
 - What research is needed?

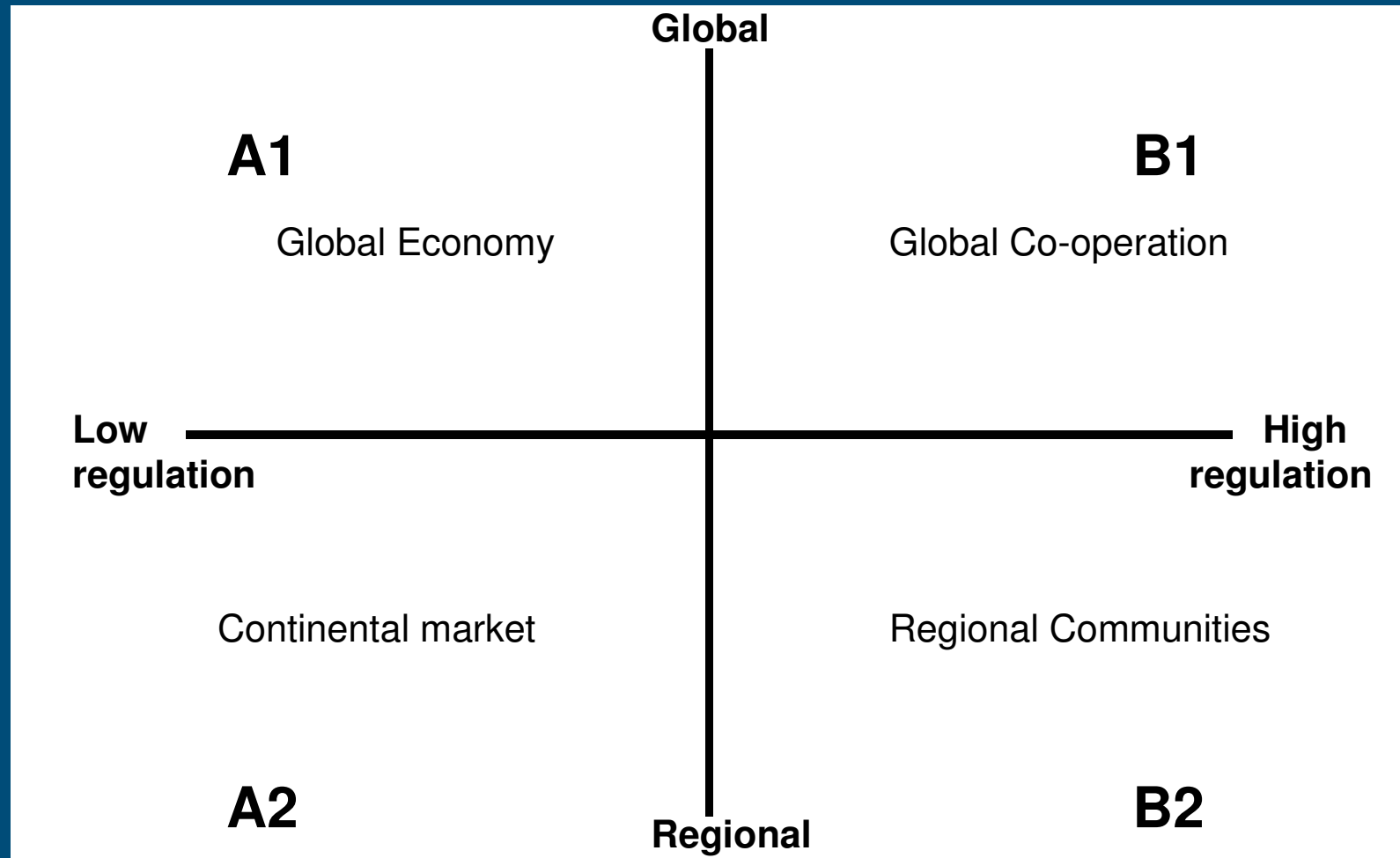


Outline

- How to look into the future?
 - scenarios
- What is biomass for energy demand in 2020?
 - NREAP
- What is biomass for chemical demand in 2020?
- How to fill in the biomass demand?
- What is the role of crops?
- What to do?



4 scenarios



Biomass for energy and chemicals:

- Low regulation

- This means Bioenergy / biofuels / biobased chemicals driven more by security of supply

- High regulation

- This means bioenergy / biofuels / biobased chemicals driven more by sustainability demands = GHG mitigation



General assumptions under 4 scenarios

		Population	Solidarity	Economy	Technology	Globalization	Government regulation
A1	Global economy	↗	↘	↗	↗	↗	↘
B1	Global cooperation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
A2	Continental markets	↘	↘	↗	↗	→	↘
B2	Regional Communities	↘	↗	→	→	↘	↗



Specific agri assumptions for 4 scenarios

	A1 GLOBAL ECONOMY	B1 GLOBAL CO- OPERATION	A2 CONTINENTAL MARKETS	B2 REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
CAP Expenditures, billion €	0	15	47	45
Export subsidies(2020)	no	No	yes	no
Self sufficiency	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Organic agriculture	Lowest	Low	Low	Highest
Land available for non-food in 2020 (Million ha)	12.12	20.2	5.05	10.1
Land available for non-food in 2030 (Million ha)	14.76	24.6	6.15	12.3
Type of land released	low quality	Low quality	Average	Mainly low quality



Specific Bioenergy assumptions

	A1 GLOBAL ECONOMY	B1 GLOBAL CO- OPERATION	A2 CONTINENTAL MARKETS	B2 REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
Biomass price	low	high	high	Highest
CO₂ price	low	High	low	highest
Biomass efficiency	low	high	low	High
Biomass switch from E+H to transport and chemicals	Average	Fastest	Slow	Fast
Advanced biofuels introduced	Slow	Fastest	Slowest	Fast
Sustainability criteria	Not strict	strict and mainly focused on GHG	Not very strict	Very strict and broad
ILUC	Not relevant	Most relevant	Not relevant	Relevant
“Inertia of infrastructure”	high	low	high	Lowest
Biomass CHP	Low	High	Low	High
Biorefinery implementation	Large scale / price driven	High / larges scales	Low only traditional;	High/ also smaller scales



What is the Biomass demand for Energy and Chemicals?



NREAP biomass demand in 2020 is basis

2020	EU-country	Primary Biomass Mtoe	Final energy consumption Mtoe	Biofuel all ktoe	total Biomass power ktoe	total biomass heat ktoe
NREAP	Austria	5.46	4.63	584	443	3607
PRIMES	Belgium	6.95	2.90	874	2021	
NREAP	Bulgaria	1.48	1.35	200	75	1073
NREAP	Cyprus	0.10	0.08	38	12	30
PRIMES	Czech Republic	3.05	1.30	597	705	
NREAP	Denmark	5.64	3.67	261	761	2643
PRIMES	Estonia	0.81	0.32	46	271	
NREAP	Finland	9.95	8.28	560	1110	6610
NREAP	France	25.53	21.59	3660	1476	16455
NREAP	Germany	28.62	21.08	5473	4253	11355
NREAP	Greece	2.16	1.95	617	108	1222
PRIMES	Hungary	4.56	1.87	386	1486	
NREAP	Ireland	1.25	1.06	482	87	486
NREAP	Italy	13.70	9.82	2530	1615	5670
PRIMES	Latvia	1.32	0.48	82	393	
NREAP	Lithuania	1.53	1.30	167	105	1023
NREAP	Luxembourg	0.39	0.33	216	29	83
NREAP	Malta	0.04	0.01		12	2
NREAP	Netherlands	7.03	3.79	834	1431	1520
PRIMES	Poland	15.16	5.35	1399	3952	
NREAP	Portugal	3.58	3.10	477	302	2322
PRIMES	Romania	3.00	0.93	248	677	
PRIMES	Slovakia	2.56	0.99	216	776	
NREAP	Slovenia	0.88	0.78	191	58	526
NREAP	Spain	11.36	9.32	3504	861	4950
NREAP	Sweden	14.45	11.67	810	1435	9426
NREAP	United Kingdom	15.01	10.37	4205	2249	3914
	total EU 27:		173	28657	26703	117345

Biomass requirements are estimated based in NREAP report and conversion efficiency estimates

Biomass use for power and heat is uncertain!

Biomass demand (Mton DM) in 2020 based on NREAP, PRIMES

		Total	Byproducts and waste	EU crops	Imports
Ethanol	Carbohydrates 1e generation	17.73	1.77	10.46	5.50
	Sugars from lignocellulose 2e gen	1.55	0.85	0.39	0.31
	oils and fats	29.49	1.47	19.17	8.85
Biogas	Biogas substrate: manure, crop, by-products	125.94	88.16	36.52	1.26
Lignocellulose	Solids for thermal conv: chips + pellets mainly	469.76	258.37	117.44	93.95
	Black liquor	11.26	11.26	0.00	0.00
	Total biomass demand	655.74	361.89	183.98	109.87

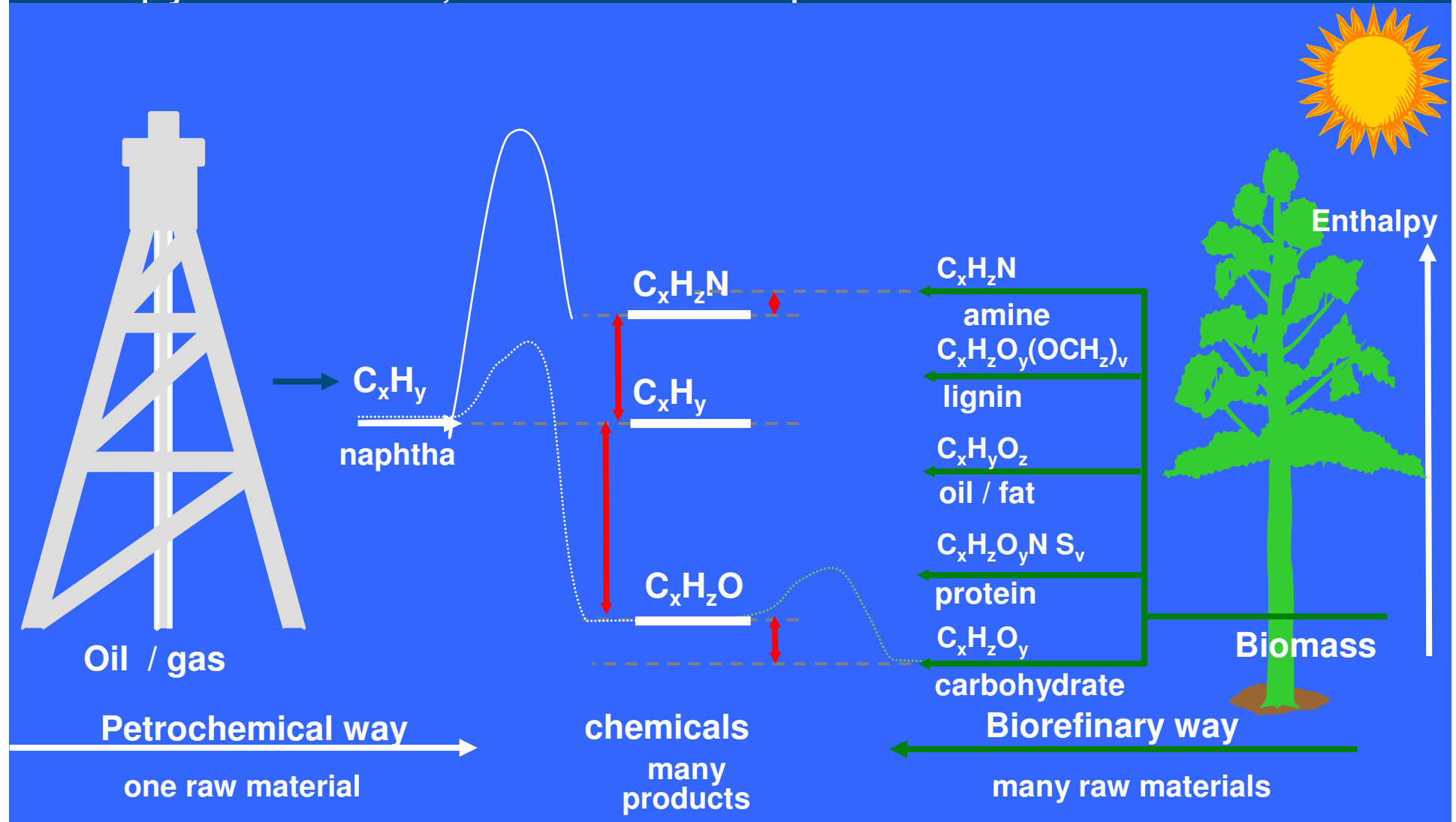
NB. Biomass demand for chemicals is not included



Biomass demand for Chemicals in the EU?



Functionalised chemicals can be made from Biomass without major enthalpy differences, but not from naphtha

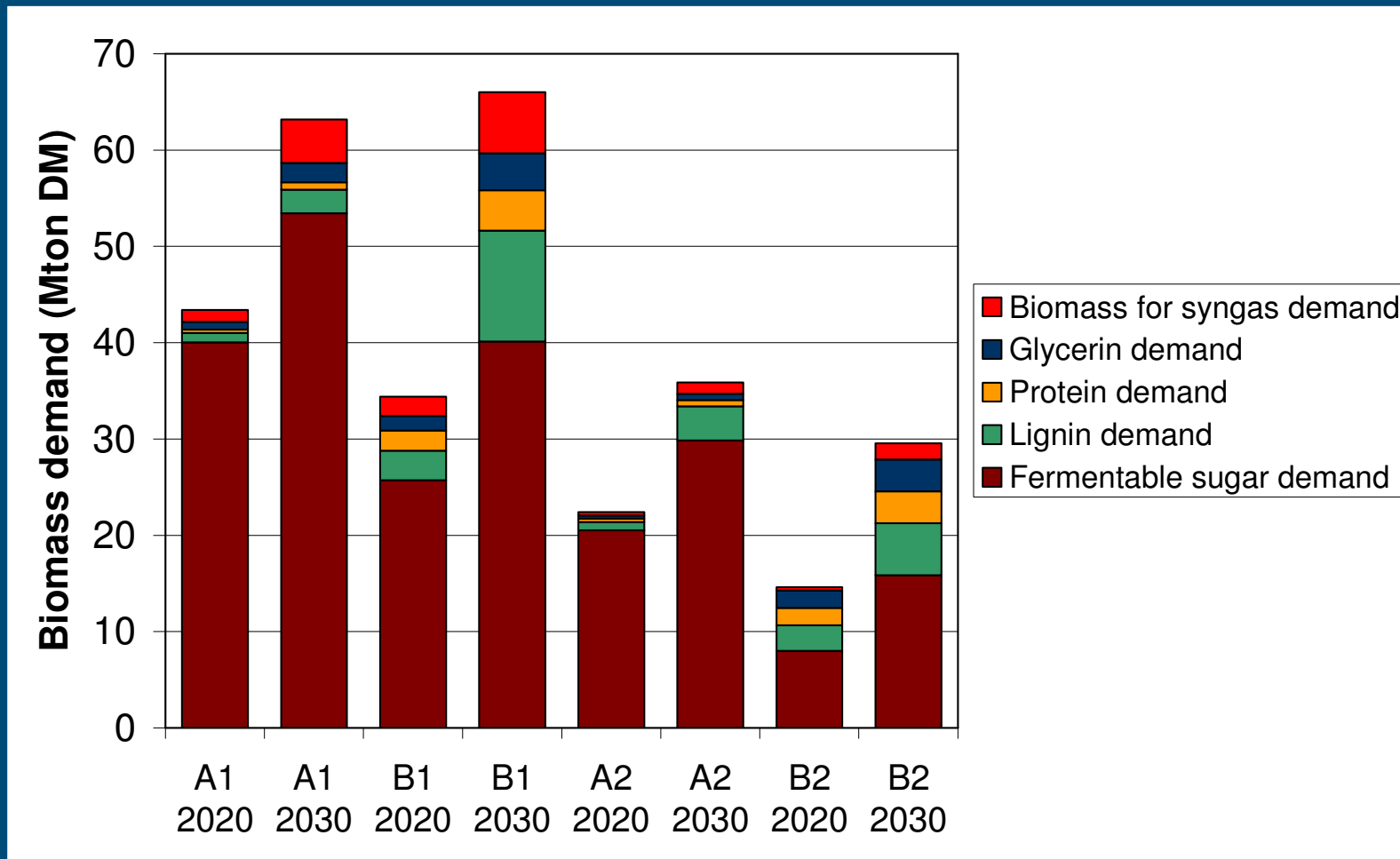


Scenarios affect demand from chem. ind.

- Chemical industry is adapted to biomass + sust requirements
 - Focus on functionalized molecules (polyesters, furanics)
- Without sust. requirements chemical industry will make unfunctionalized base chemicals (C2, C3): fitting current infrastructure
 - Chemical industry will demand biomass that fits the existing infrastructure → ethanol converted to ethylene replaces naphtha, syngas from biomass
- Chemical industry will follow energy: use glycerin from biodiesel industry, FT chemicals from BTL industry,



Biomass for EU chemicals under 4 scenarios



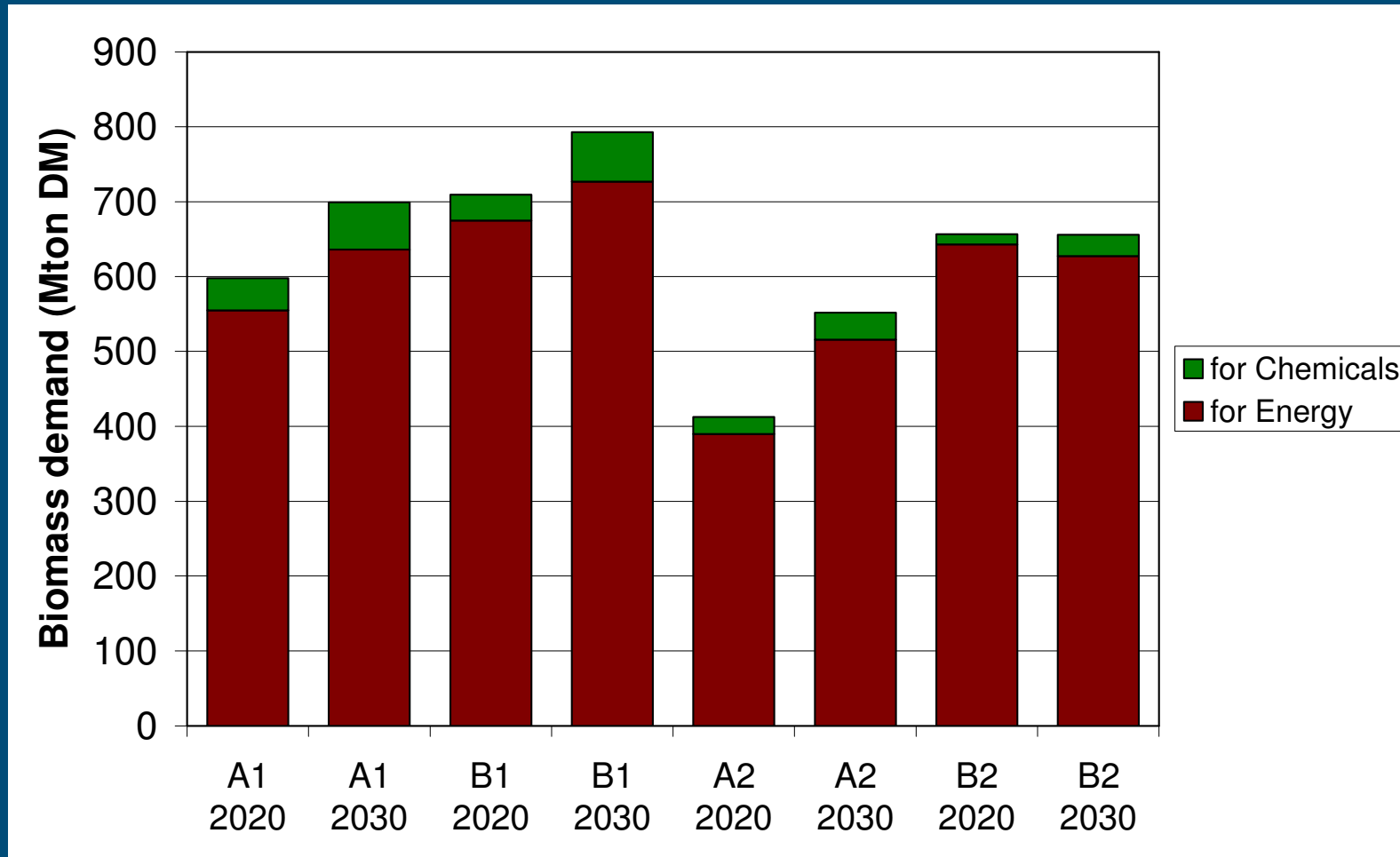
Example:

Biomass demand for E & C (Mton DM) - Scenario A1 in 2020

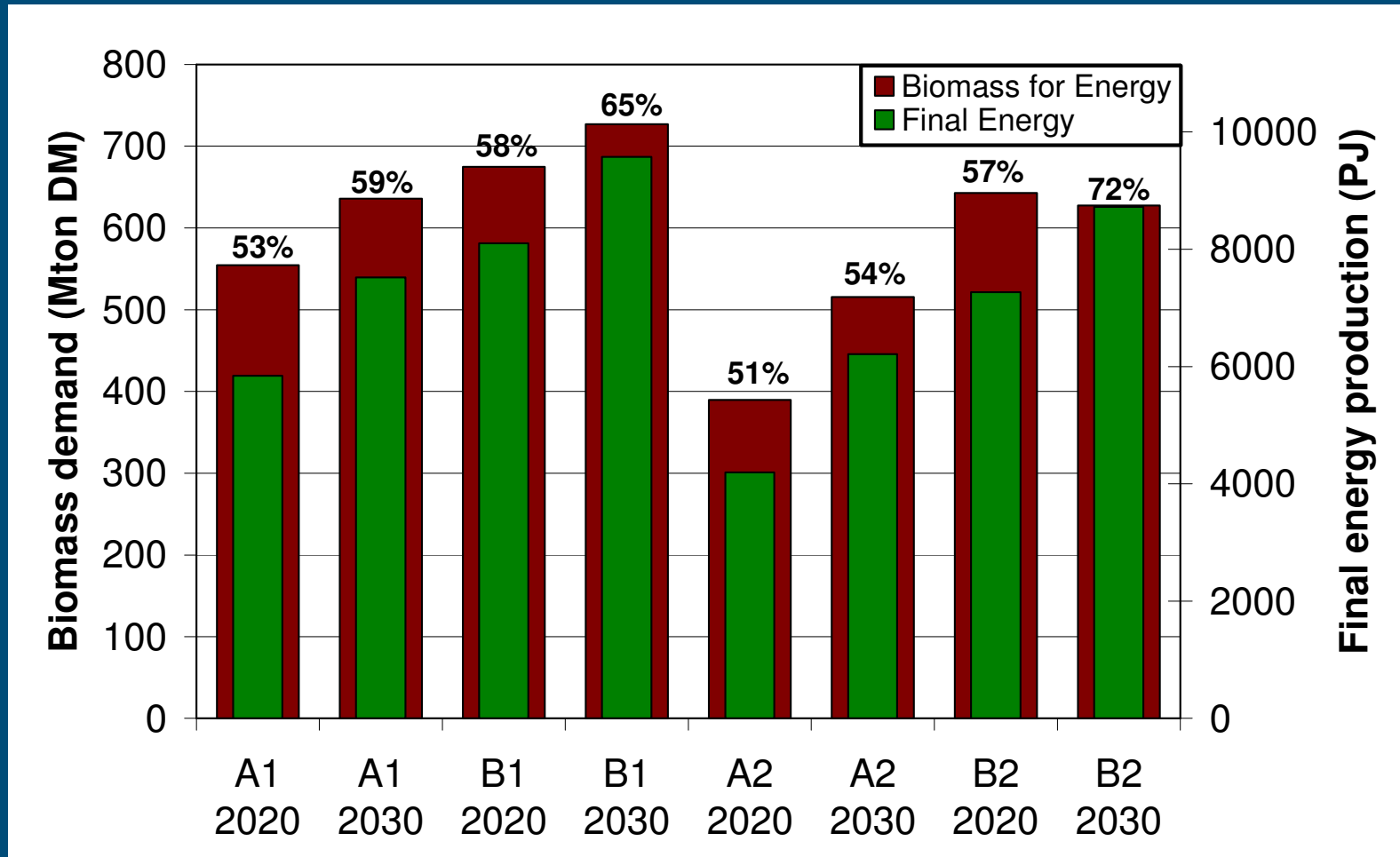
	Total energy	Total Chemicals	Total E+C	Byproducts and waste	EU crops	Imports
Carbohydrates 1e generation	14.93	35.88	50.81	4.06	23.12	23.63
Sugars from lignocellulose 2e gen.	1.73	4.15	5.88	2.59	1.53	1.76
oils and fats	23.61		23.61	0.94	12.04	10.62
Glycerin for chemicals		0.80	0.80	0.03	0.41	0.36
Proteins for chemicals		0.36	0.36	0.01	0.18	0.16
Biogas substrate: manure, crop, by-products	106.47		106.47	59.62	45.25	1.60
Solids for thermal conv: chips + pellets mainly	398.37	1.23	399.60	175.82	103.90	119.88
Black liquor = lignin	9.48	0.96	10.44	10.44	0.00	0.00
Total biomass demand	554.58	43.38	597.96	253.53	186.42	158.01



Biomass demand for Energy and Chemicals



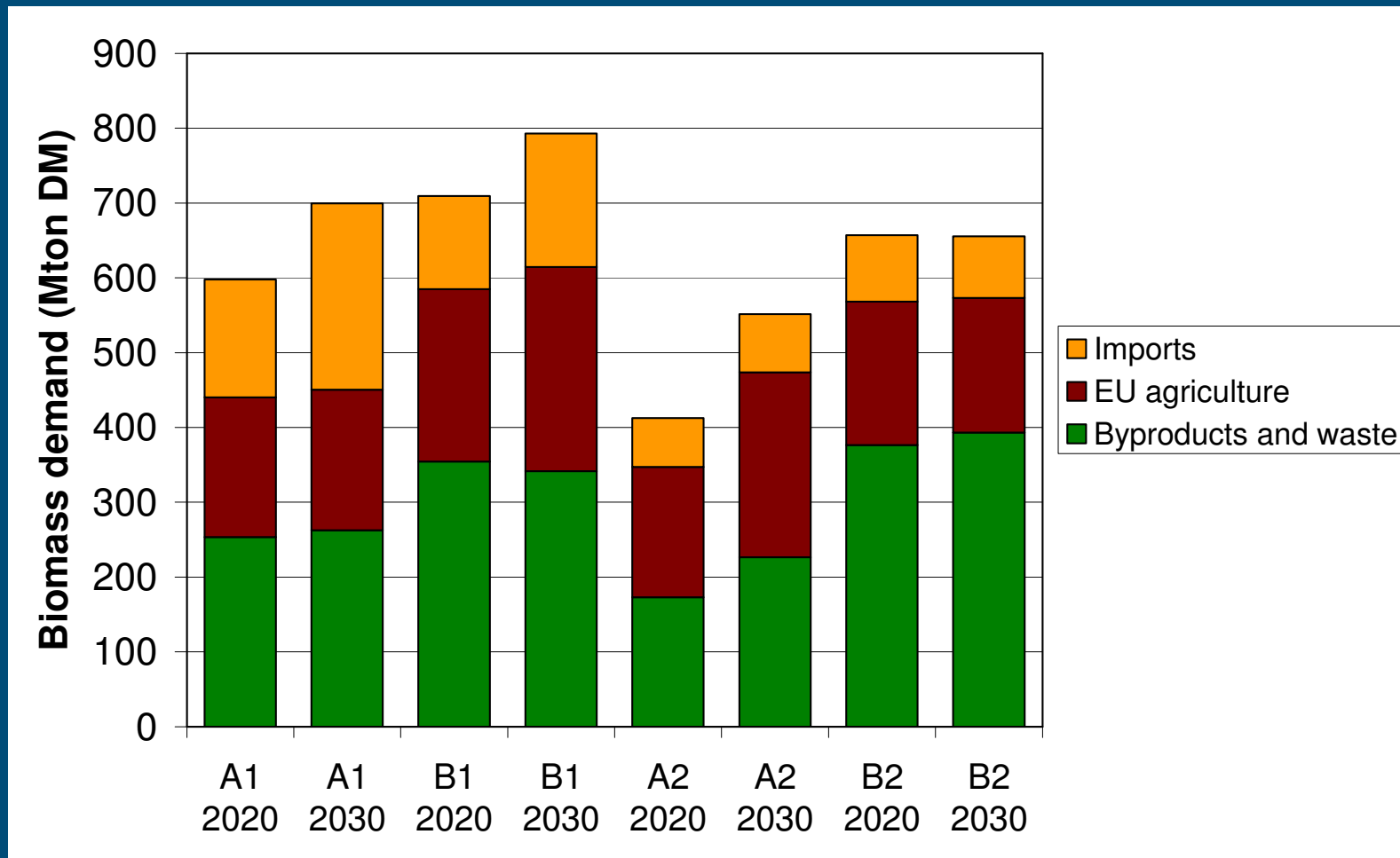
Biomass demand for E versus Final energy production



% Efficiencies refer to HHV efficiencies for Power and Heat conversion only



Sourcing of the total biomass demand



(conventional) biomass availability

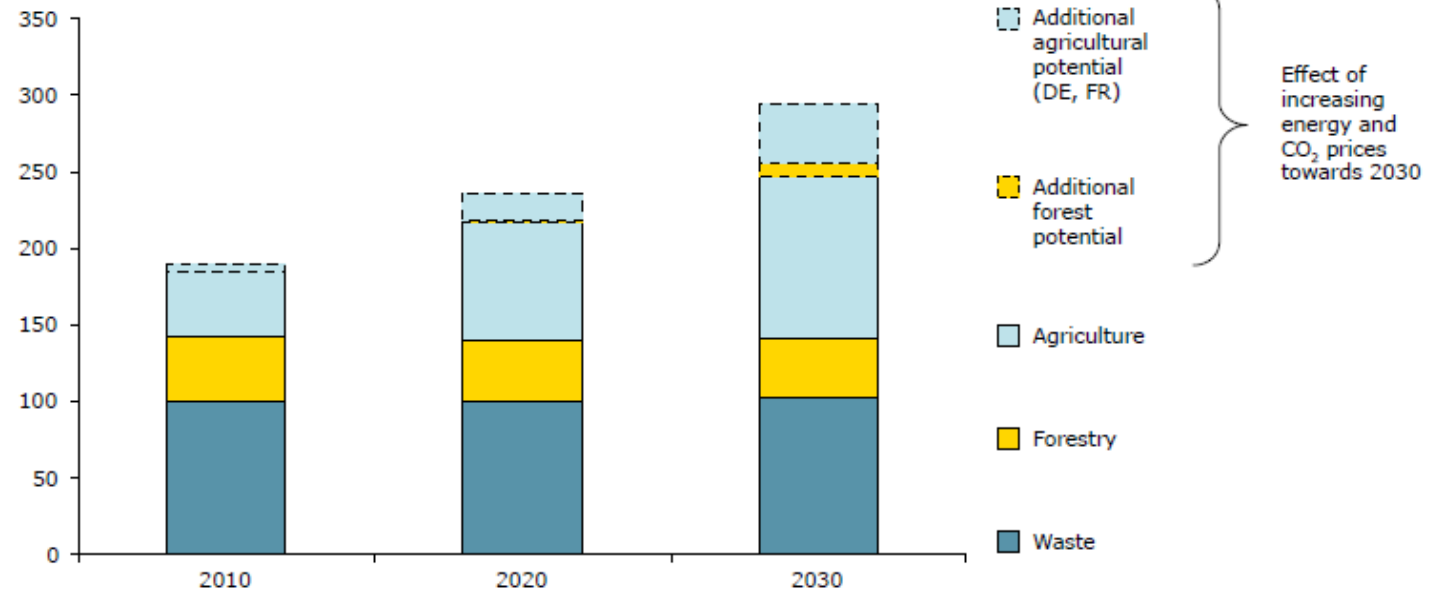
	2020	2030	
By-products and Waste	370	370	EEA, 2006
Non-food crops	184 to 230	250 - 390	EEA, 2006 ; Ganko and Kopczynski, 2010
Total:	554 - 600	620 - 760	

2020: 20.2 million ha @ 10 ton/ha est. = 202 Mton DM

2030: 24,6 million ha @ 12 ton/ha est. = 295 Mton DM

Unconventional options not included

Primary bioenergy potential, MtOE



How to fulfill the demand for non-food biomass?

- Factsheet per crop type
- SWOT per crop type
- Role of crop type in de different scenarios
- Priorities and suggested actions per crop type



Selected crop types

- Perennial Biomass crops (wood and herbaceous)
- Oil Crops (i.e. oil/protein crops)
- Sugar Crops

- (Fibre crops)
- (Biobased chemicals crops)



Perennial herbaceous crops

- Reed canary grass



- Miscanthus



- Switchgrass



- Giant Reed



- Cardoon



SWOT: Perennial herbaceous crops

STRENGTH

- Low inputs
- Cheap biomass (value?)
- Low nutrient use
- High nutrient efficiency

WEAKNESS

- Does not fit in rotation system
- Low nutrient demand
- No high value by-products
- Low price of product
- Low labor need per ha
- Yield level not necessarily higher than arable crops
- Biomass quality lower than wood

OPPORTUNITY

- High productivity on low quality soils
- Low risk of erosion
- High nutrient efficiency
- Higher biodiversity than arable crops
- Good crops for (lignocellulosic based) carbohydrates (fuels + chemicals)
- Soil C improvement

THREAT

- No fitting policies
- Not native (Miscanthus, switchgrass)
- Knowledge limited (in EU)
- Second generation fuels delayed
- Low impact is not (yet) appreciated
- By-products and imports are cheap



Oil seed crops

- Oilseed rape
- Sunflower
- Ethiopian mustard



SWOT: Oil seed crops

STRENGTH

- There is a ready market for oil crops
- Protein co-product is valuable, lowers impact
- Crops fit in rotation system
- Quality of rape is excellent for (N) Europe
- Europe has strong knowledge basis in oil crops (rape)

OPPORTUNITY

- Imported oil seeds (soy) and oils (palm) appear to have larger ILUC problem
- Significant yield increased seem possible
- More value in specialty proteins possible
- Proteins for chemicals are an opportunity
- Glycerin is feedstock for chemical industry
- Oil industry has diesel shortage and prefers biodiesel to bioethanol
- As a food/fuel crop less impact and risk

WEAKNESS

- GHG efficiency is limited
- Cost of production is high (compared to imports)
- Oil is subsidizing protein

THREAT

- Open markets may make production unprofitable
- Hydrogenated biodiesel will make the use of cheaper imported oils possible
- ILUC is high influencing GHG balances negatively → hard to fix
- Second generation (FT) diesel
- GTL (FT) diesel is cheaper and has
- GTL may bring BTL closer sooner



Sugar crops

- Sugar beet
- Sweet sorghum



SWOT: Sugar crops

STRENGTH

- Crops are very productive
- Strong knowledge base (sugar beet)
- Sugar beet and Sweet sorghum have good water use efficiency and salt / heat tolerance
- High yields may compensate ILUC

OPPORTUNITY

- Co-products are an option (proteins?)
- Open markets will lower sugar price such that chemical industry will be stimulated to use sugars
- Potential as a feedstock for fermentation industry and feedstock for chemical industry is huge!
- Not just ethanol!
- As a food/fuel crop less impact and risk

WEAKNESS

- Cost is high compared to imports (Brazil)
- ILUC is hard to avoid
- Short harvest campaign makes processing expensive

THREAT

- Open markets will reduce markets for sugar crops
- Second generation has better impact especially if ILUC is also considered
- Starch is also an alternative for most applications (energy and chemicals)



Role of crops in Scenarios

A1 GLOBAL ECONOMY

Lignocellulosic perennials:

Limited potential on lower quality/released land.

Oil crops: Only if they can compete with imports

Sugar Crops: Large market though competition from imports is a challenge

B1 GLOBAL CO-OPERATION

Lignocellulosic perennials:

Good potential on lower quality/released land – 15 year cycle is possible – designated areas

Oil crops: Have to be competitive and sustainable - 2e generation is an alternative

Sugar Crops: Efficient sugar crops will be able to compete with sustainable imports

A2 CONTINENTAL MARKETS

Lignocellulosic perennials:

Limited potential – 15 year cycle is problematic – no designated areas

Oil crops:

EU oil crops fit well in the agri system and fuel industry - oil crops will stay competitive longer against 2nd generation

Sugar Crops:

Total market is smaller but more profitable

B2 REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Lignocellulosic perennials:

Good potential on lower quality/released land. Competition from ecological agriculture

Oil crops:

Fit well in local small scale production systems – protein is valuable

Sugar Crops:

Have a role to play in smaller scale bio-refineries



Research and development:

Perennial Herbaceous Crops:

- Focus on yields, low quality soils, low impacts

Oil Crops:

- Increase yield – increase value through processing –

Sugar crops:

- Yields! Develop more efficient processing – look at other pathways → ABE, Chemicals



Policies

Perennial Herbaceous Crops:

- “Laissez faire” will not do – If you like low impact these crops deliver you need to introduce policies to assign “logical niche” > 15 years.

Oil Crops:

- Integrate oil and protein vision – provide a level playing for energy and chemicals

Sugar crops:

- Level playing field fuels and chemicals → how to make use of synergy between fuels and chemicals instead of competition?



Observations

- Chemical industry demand is not on the radar yet
 - Sugar market for chemicals may be huge soon
- ILUC is hanging over the market:
 - Be efficient with land = be efficient with biomass!



End

© Wageningen UR



FOOD & BIOBASED RESEARCH
WAGENINGEN UR