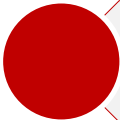


Global beef production - situation and outlook

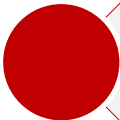
Claus Deblitz, Isam Almadani
Thünen Institute of Farm Economics



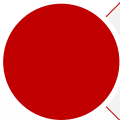
Contents



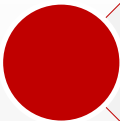
The network behind



Global situation



Performance, prices, costs and profitability

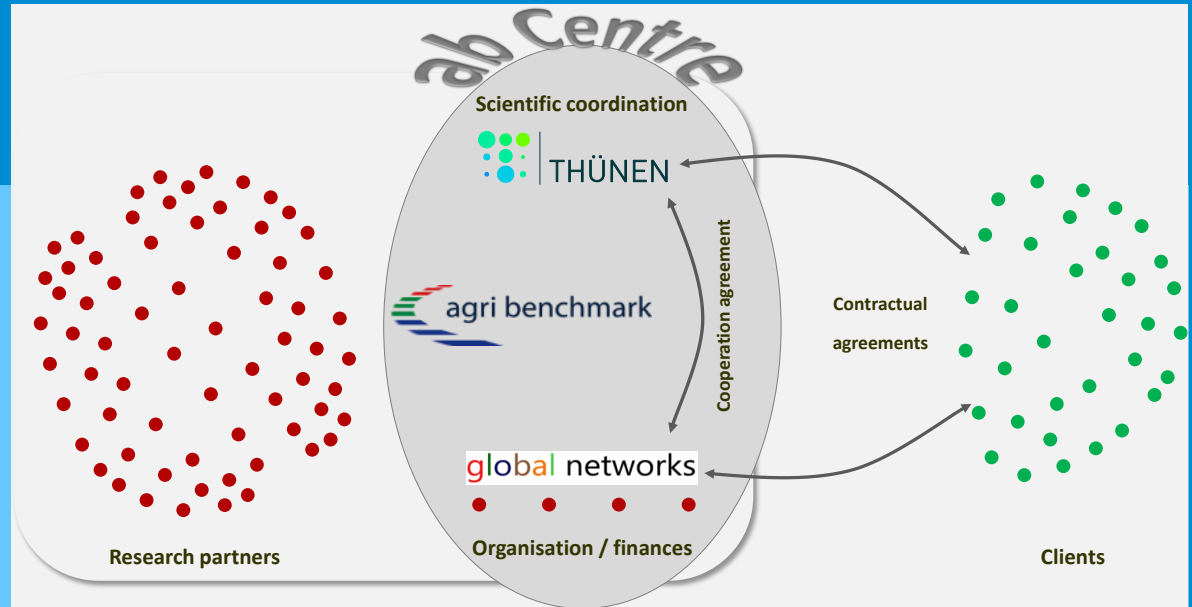


Outlook



Conclusions

The network behind

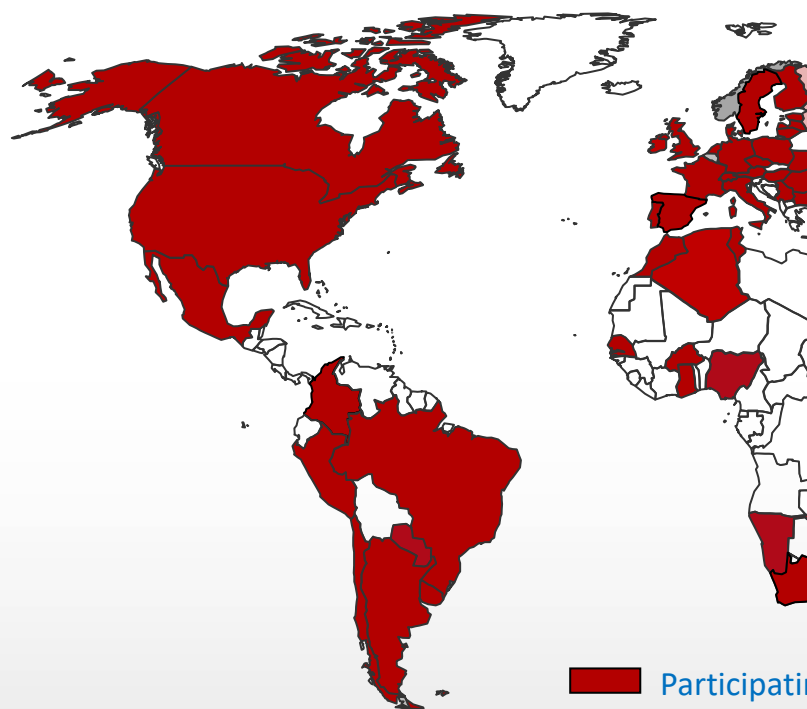


– we help to manage challenges in global agriculture



- Our core competence:
Production systems and their economics, drivers and perspectives
- An expert network which started in 2002 >>> more than just data
- Global, non-profit, independent >>> credibility
- Standardised methods >>> global comparability

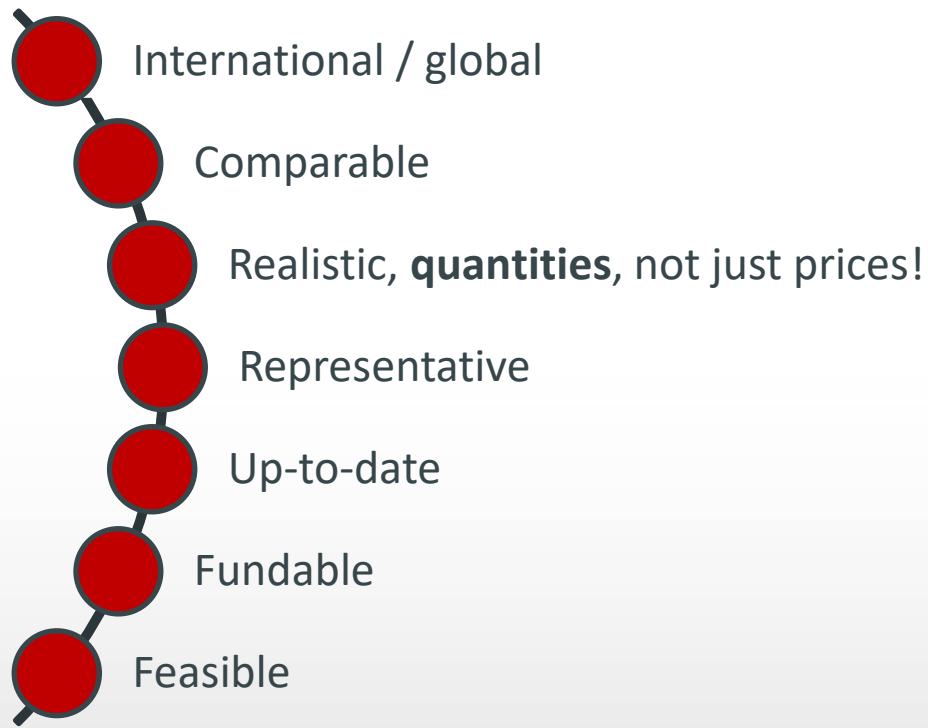
We harvest data around the world



2025

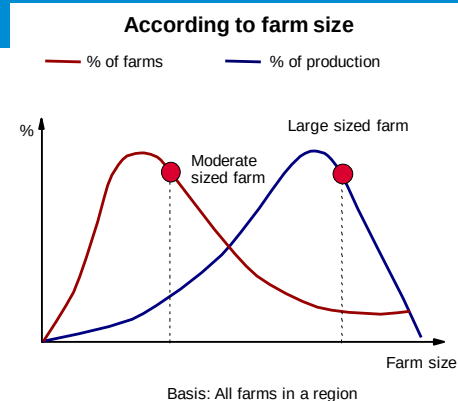
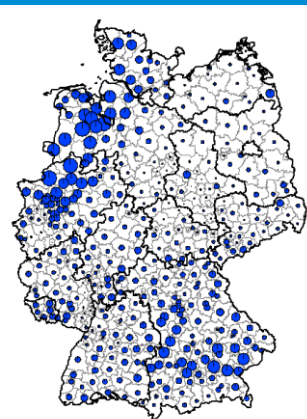
	Countries	Farms	Years in Network
Beef	30	176 *	23
Sheep	18	49	13
Pig	17	84 **	9
Poultry (broiler)	17	26	3
Cash Crop	35	123	18
Horticulture	4	10	12
Aquaculture	8	30	10

One focus – 6 networks



The typical farm approach

- **Statistics** available to determine
 - > important regions
 - > farm sizes and distribution
 - > production systems
- **Focus groups** of producers and advisors to
 - > define prevailing production systems
 - > collect data in a standardised way
- **Expertise** of researchers + advisors + farmers
 - > Production system knowledge
 - > Explore adjustments to changes in frame work conditions (forward looking results)



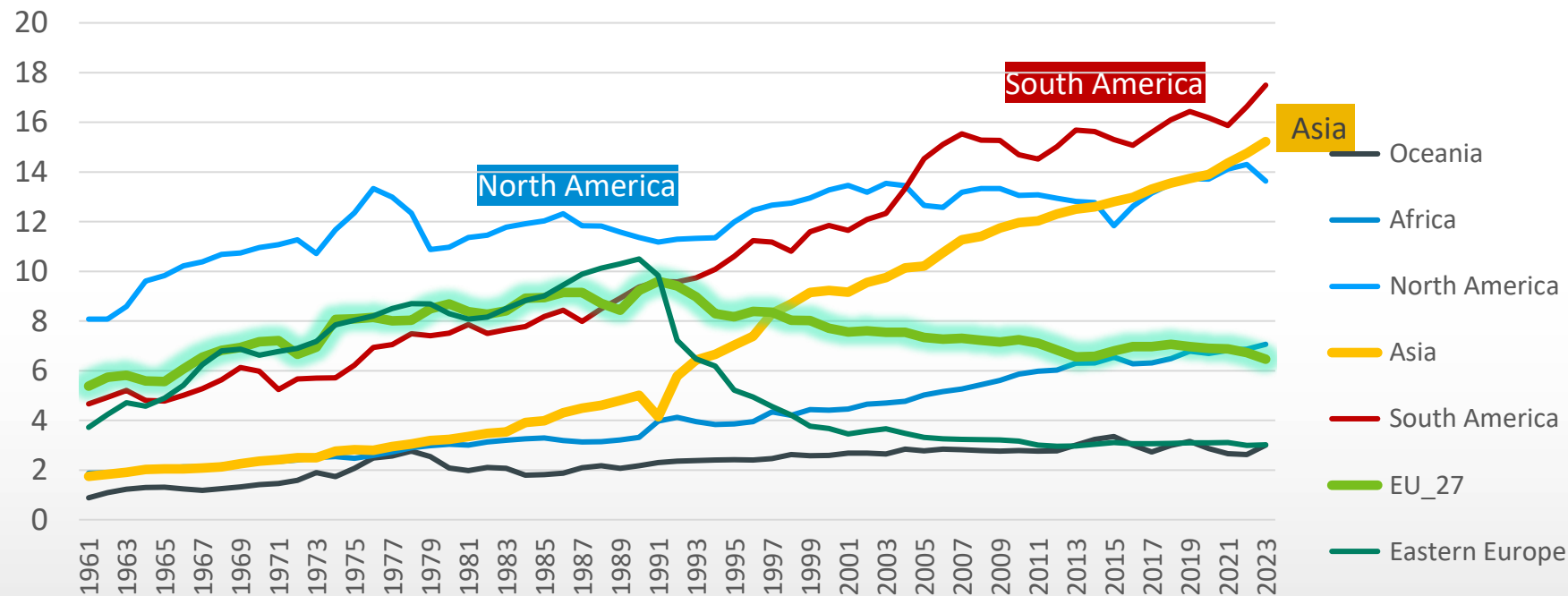
Chibanda et al. (2020)
The typical farm approach
and its application by the
agri benchmark Network

Global situation



Massive growth of Asian (and South American) beef production, EU lagging behind

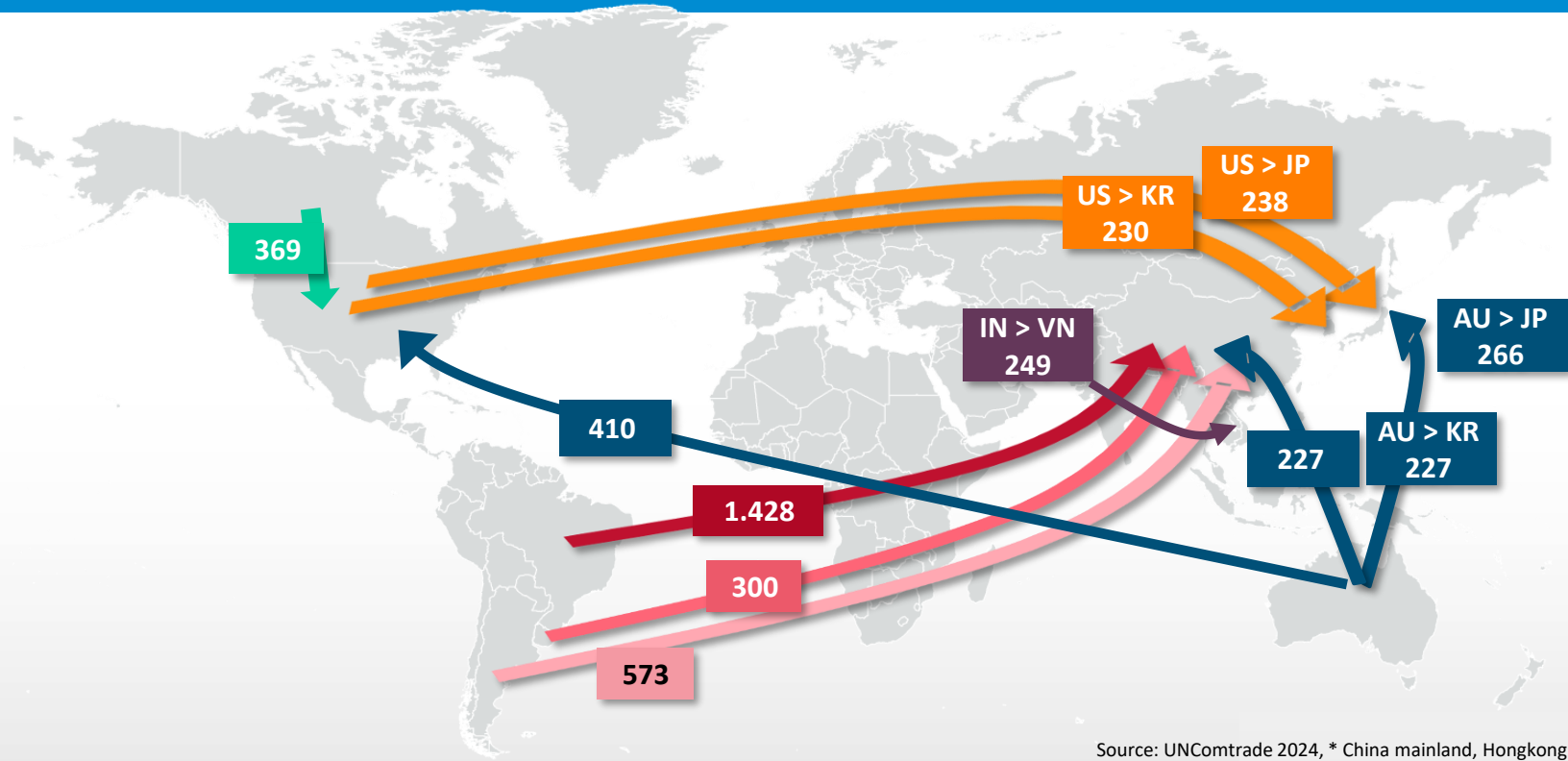
Million tons



Source: FAOStat 04/2024

Top 11 cattle meat trade flows 2024 ('000 tons)

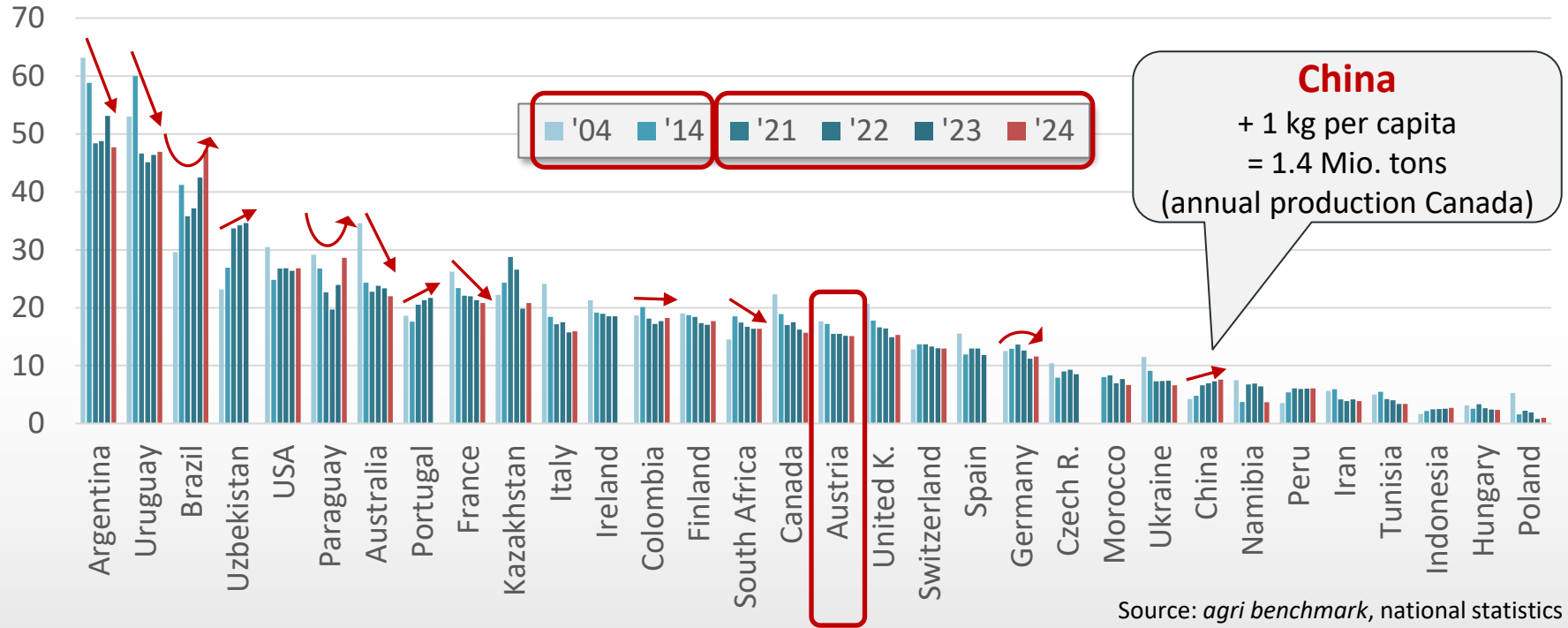
EU not important, but China and Asia is!



Source: UNComtrade 2024, * China mainland, Hongkong and Macao

Per capita consumption of beef 2004, 2014 and 2021-2024

kg per capita and year



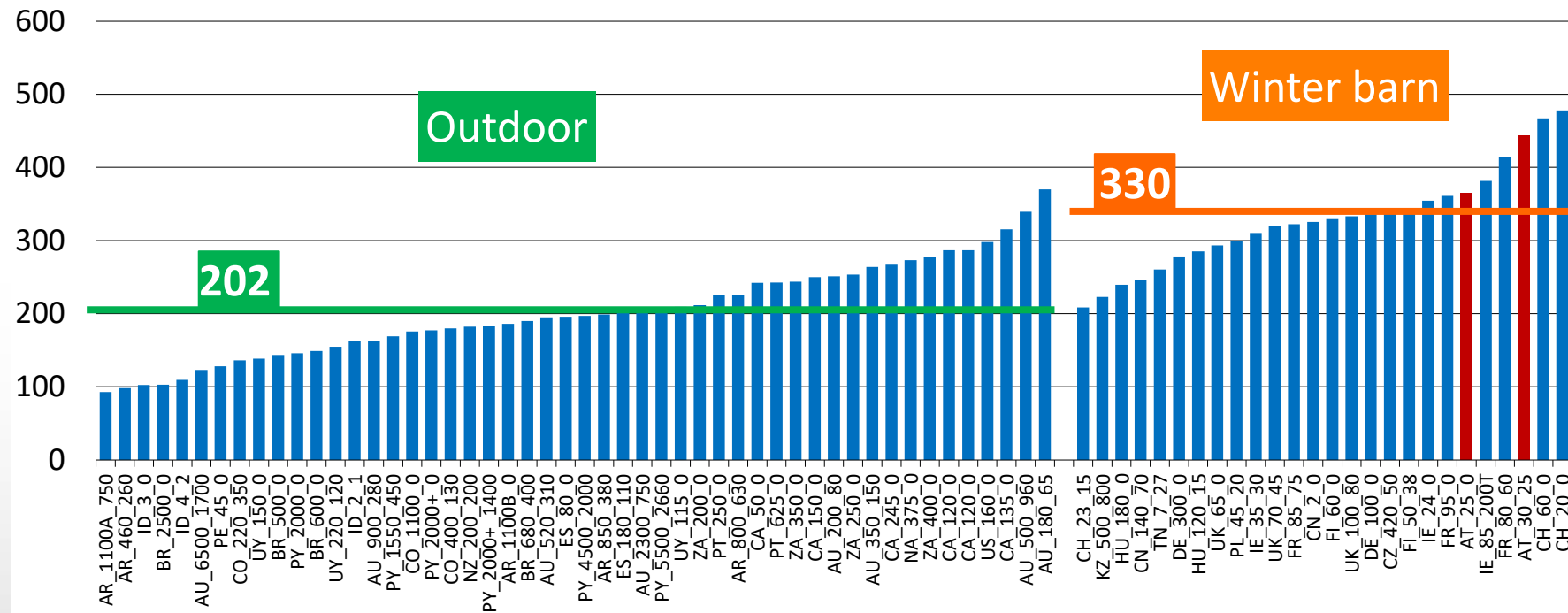
Source: agri benchmark, national statistics

Production systems and performance



Cow-calf: higher live weights in winter barn systems

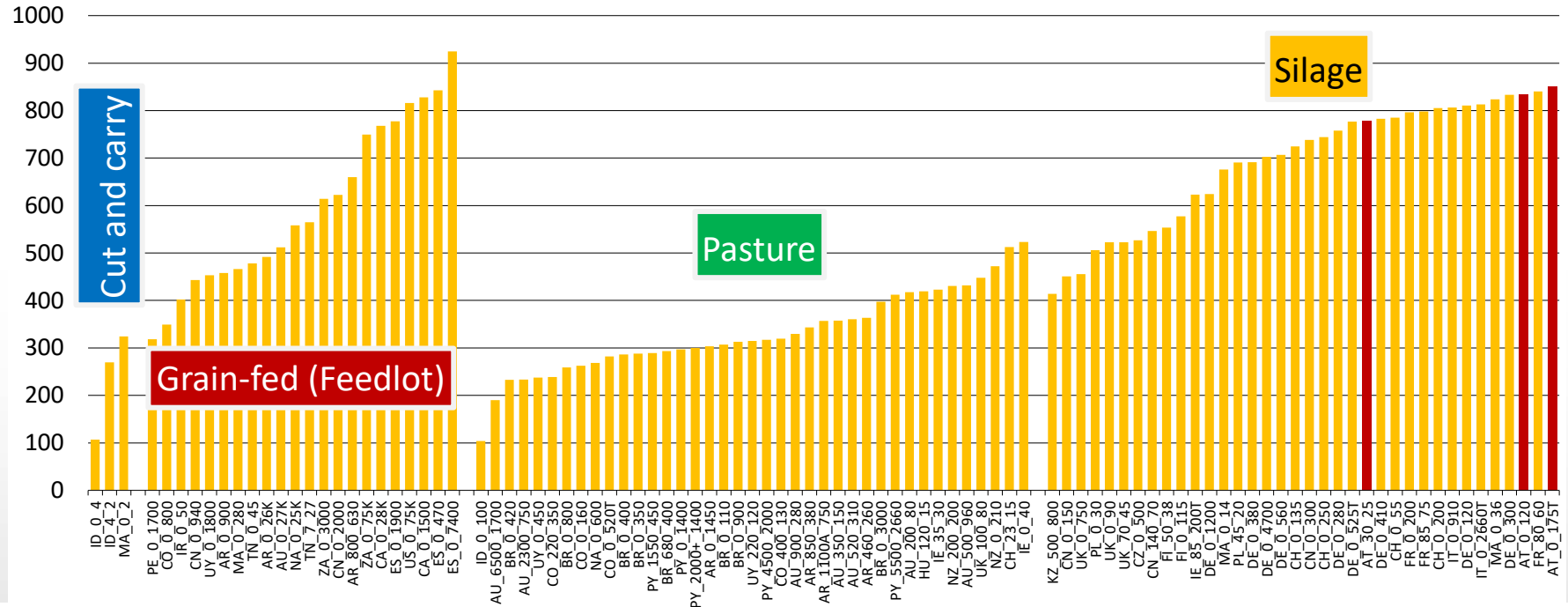
kg live weight produced per cow and year



Beef finishing: Net gain of silage systems comparable to grain-fed systems

g per day

Net gain = Carcass weight / Age at slaughter



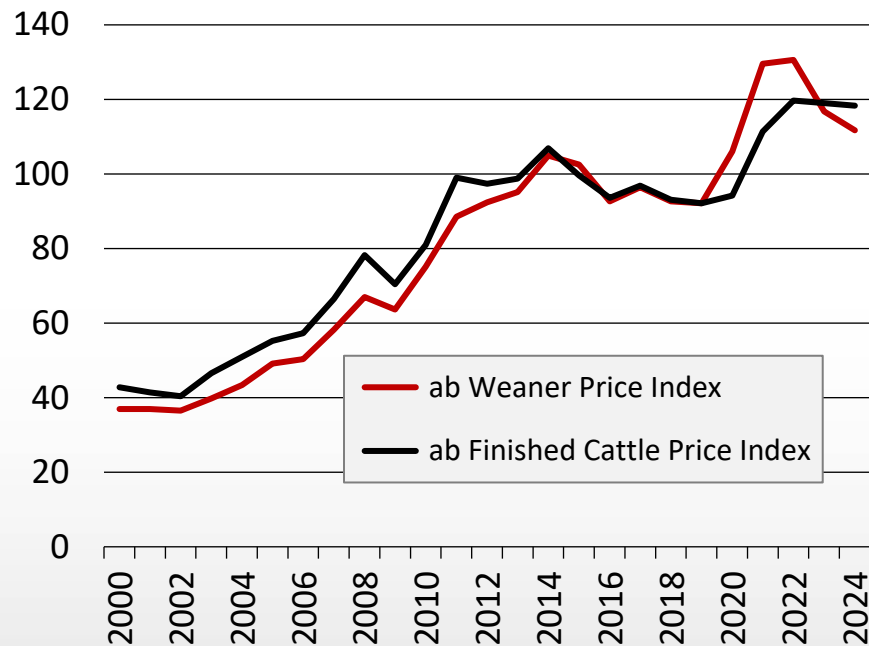
Prices, costs and profitability



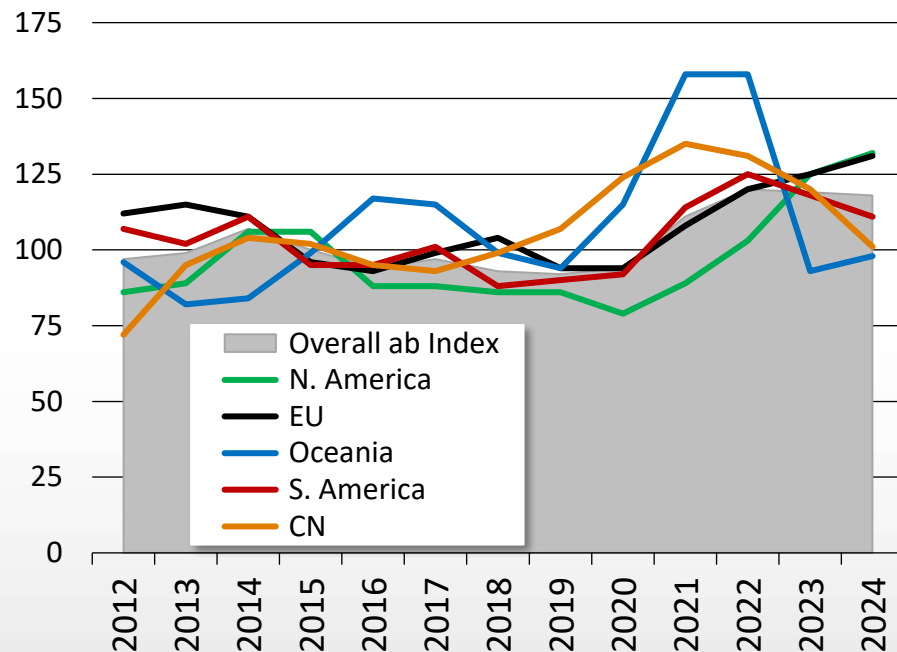
Price relation beef price vs. weaners improved further

(Source: *agri benchmark* Finished Cattle and Weaner Cattle Price Indices)

Index 2014-2016 = 100



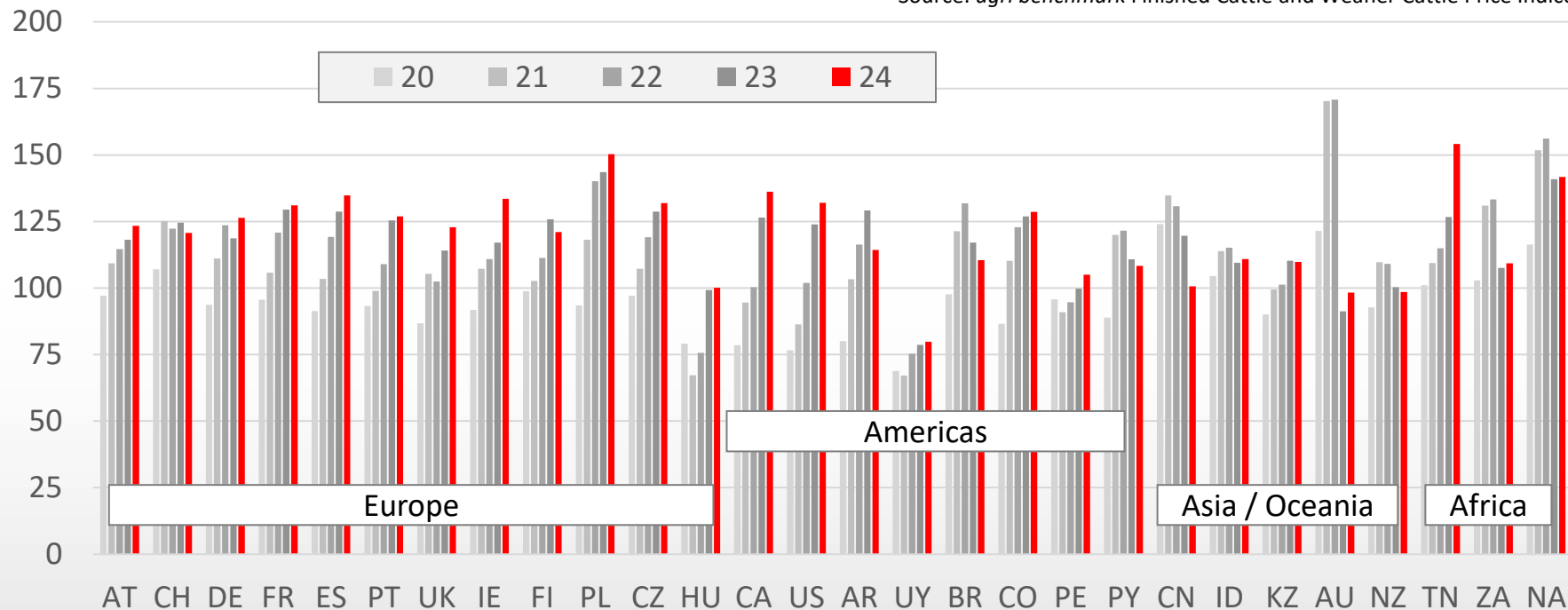
Finishing Index 2014-2016 = 100



Price developments for beef – Europe and N. America upwards, S. America rather down, RoW mixed

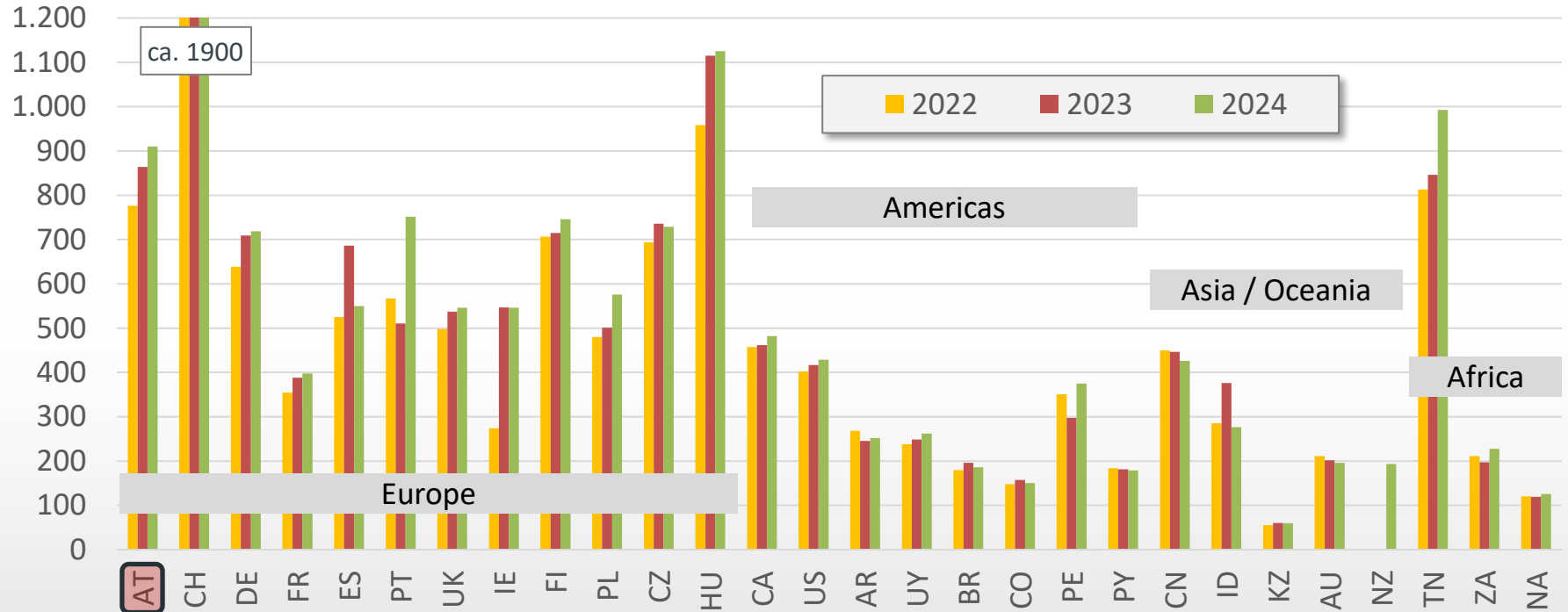
Index 2014-2016 = 100

Source: *agri benchmark* Finished Cattle and Weaner Cattle Price Indices



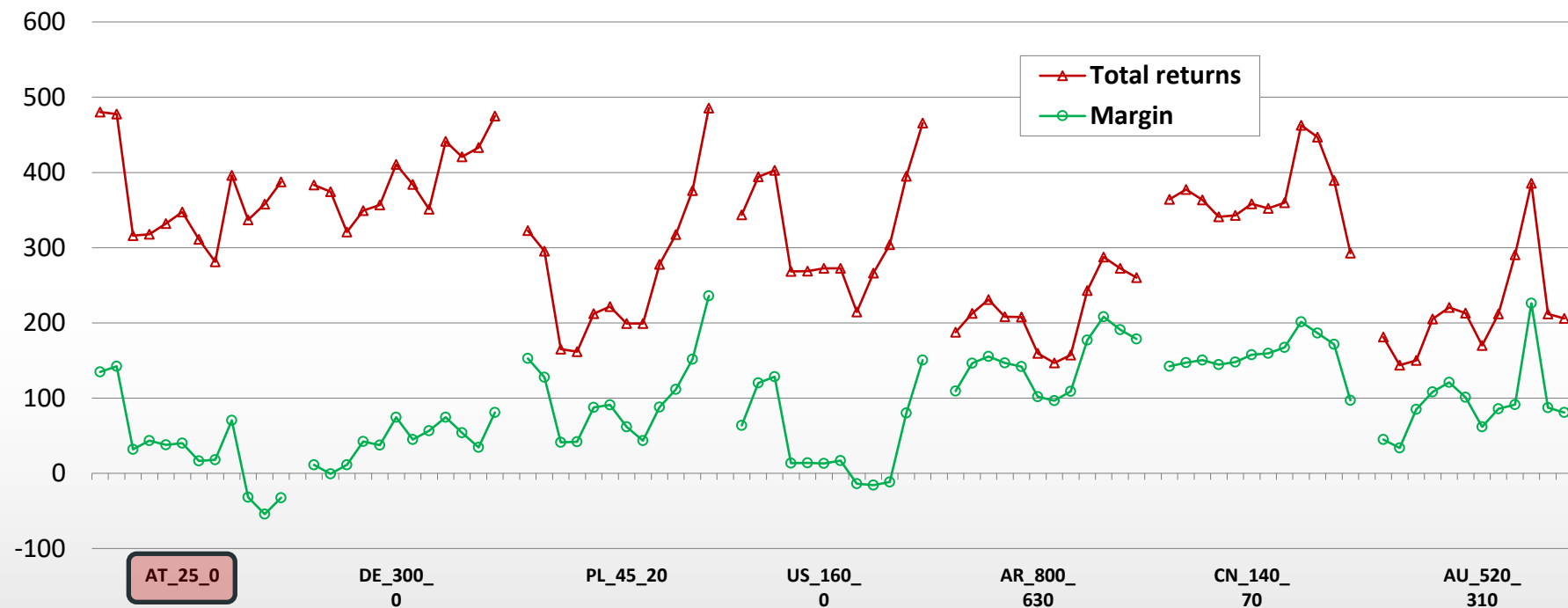
Cow-calf total costs 2022-2024 stable to increasing - exceptions Spain and Indonesia

USD per 100 kg live weight



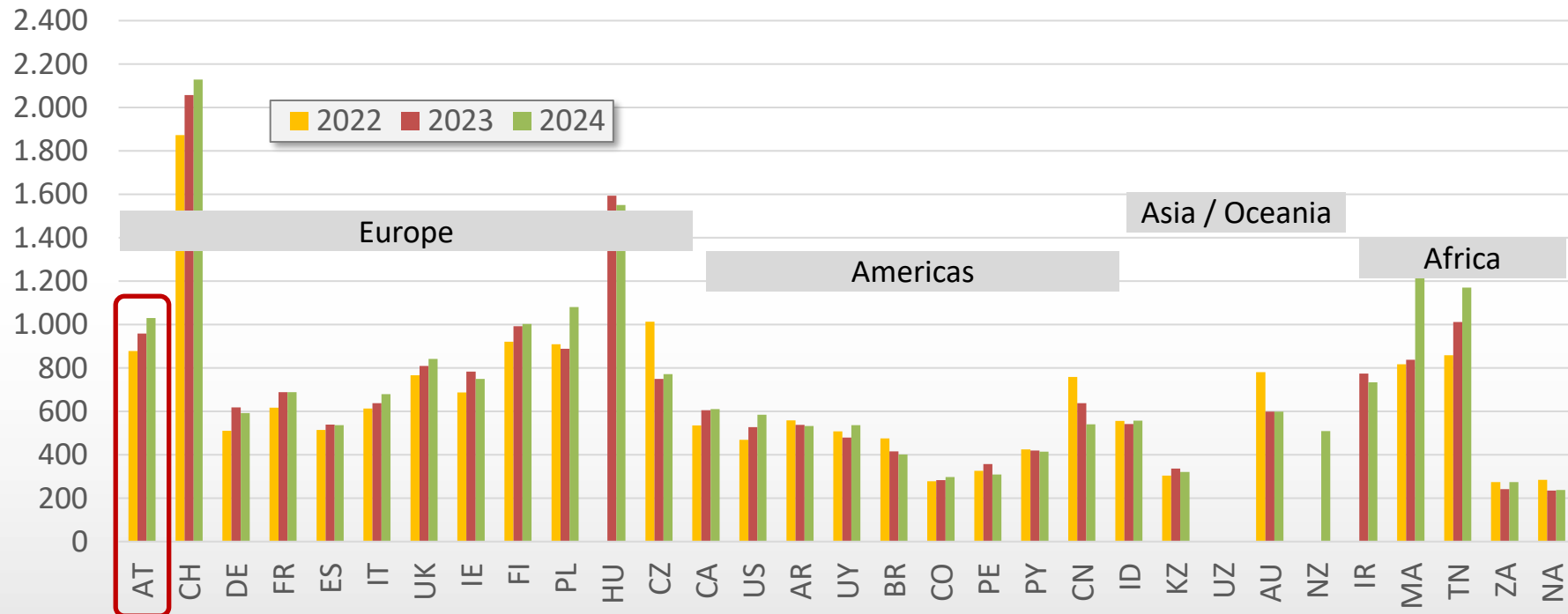
Cow-calf profitability mainly determined by weaner prices

USD per 100 kg live weight



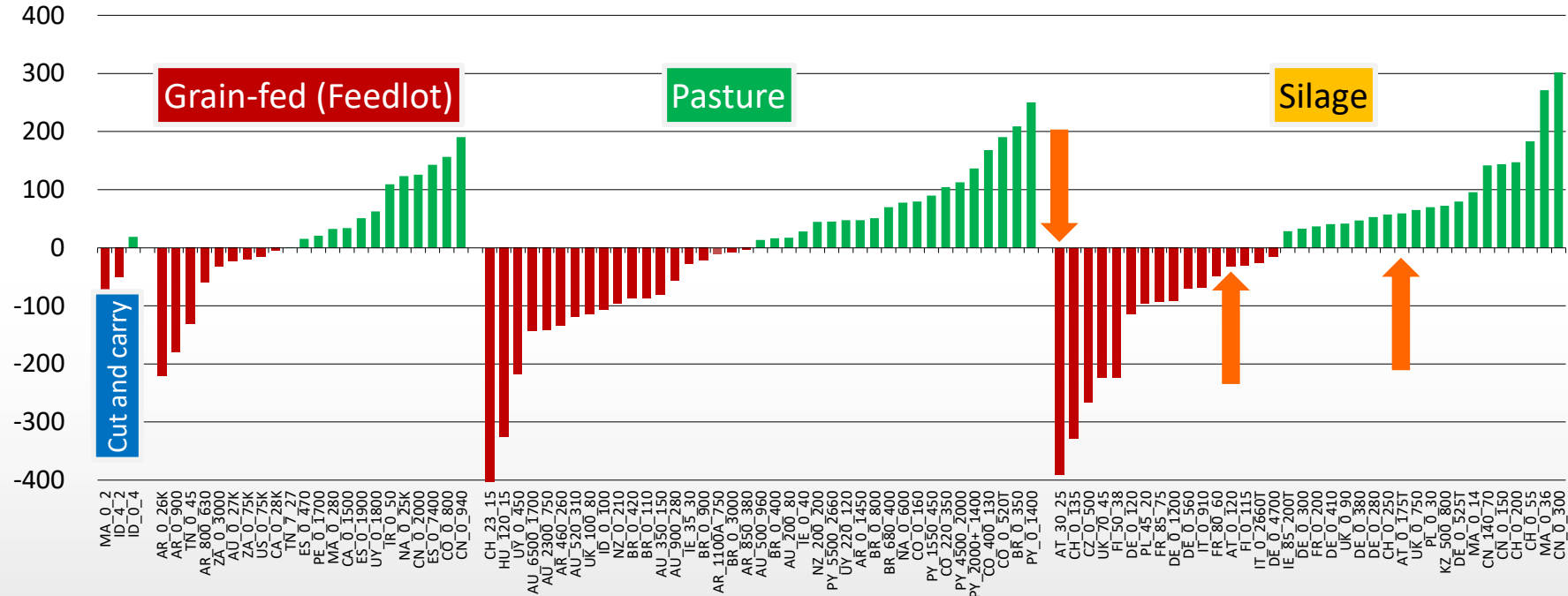
Beef finishing total costs 2022-2024 in EU and N. America rather increasing in RoW rather stable to decreasing

USD per 100 kg carcass weight

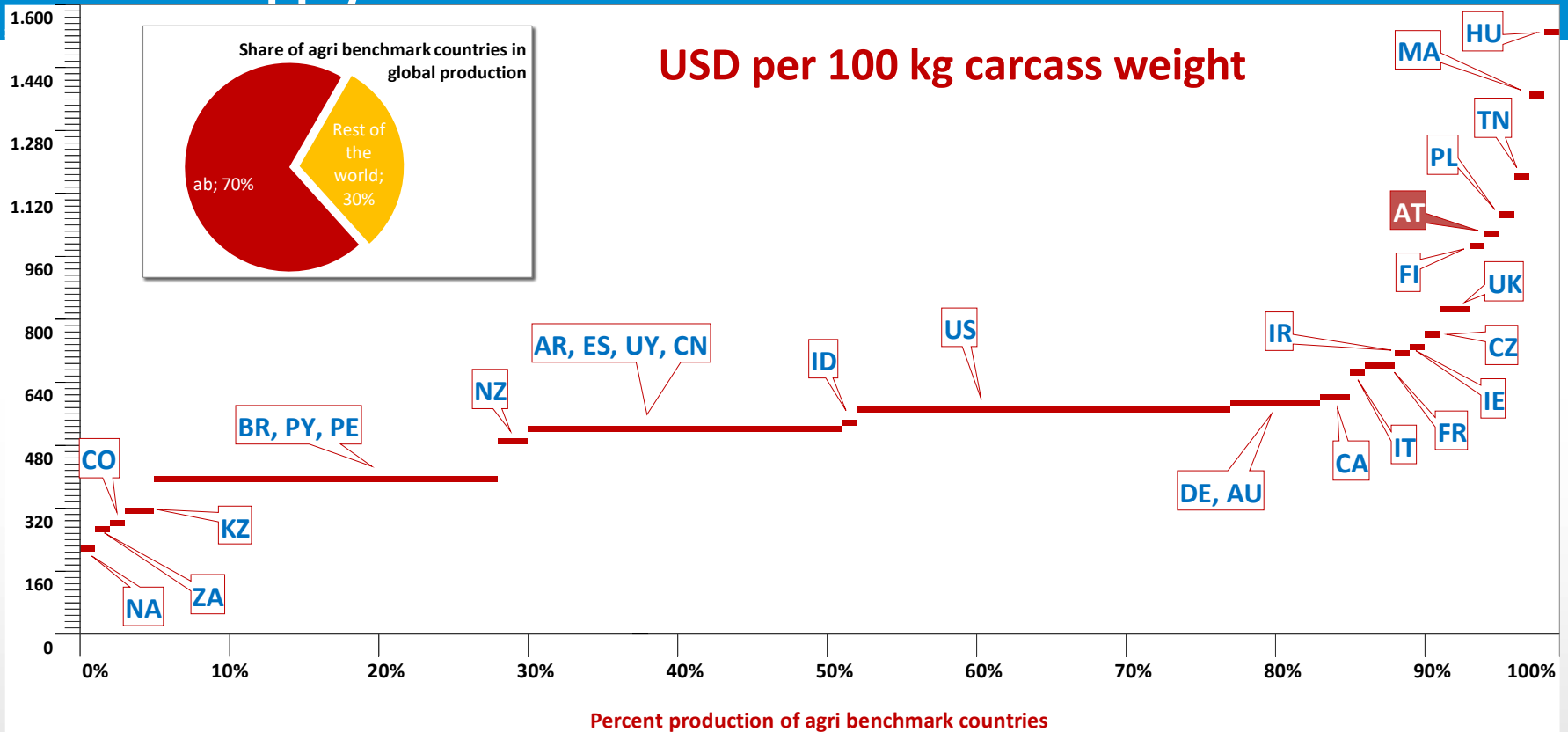


Beef finishing profitability 2024, half positive, half negative, no superior system!

USD per 100 kg carcass weight

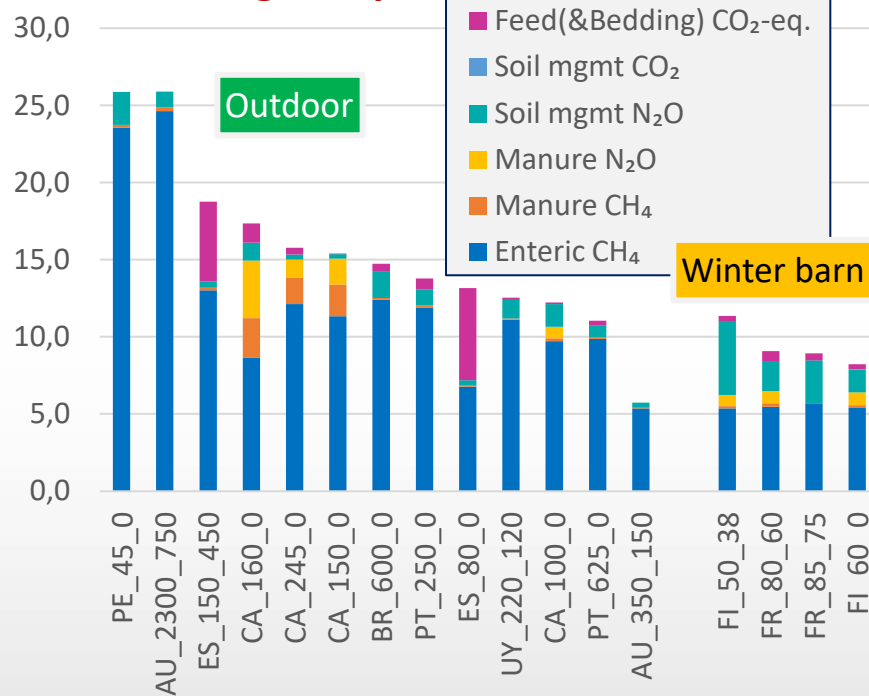


The beef supply curve 2024

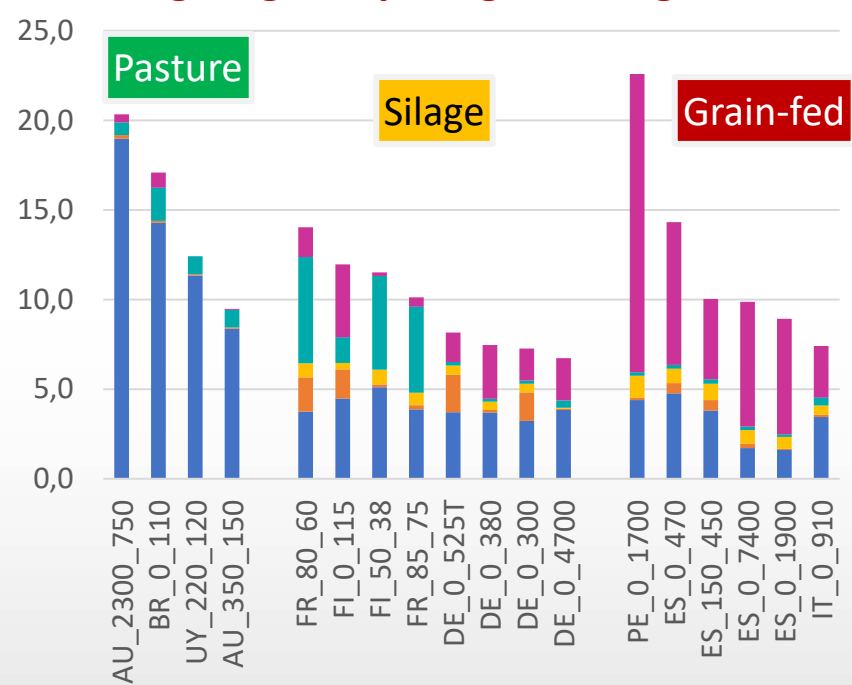


Greenhouse gas emissions – *agri benchmark* Baseline

Cow-calf – kg CO₂ per kg liveweight SOLD



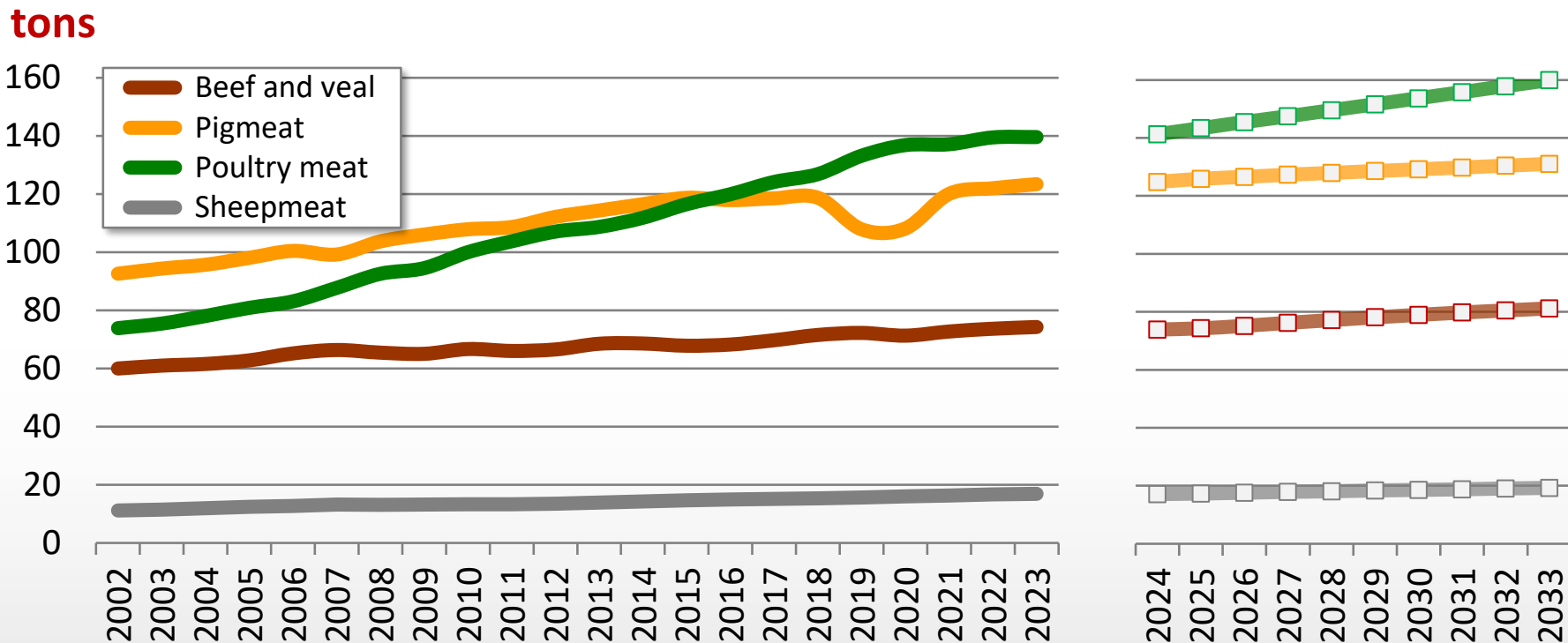
Finishing – kg CO₂ per kg liveweight ADDED



Outlook



FAO / OECD outlook – livestock production

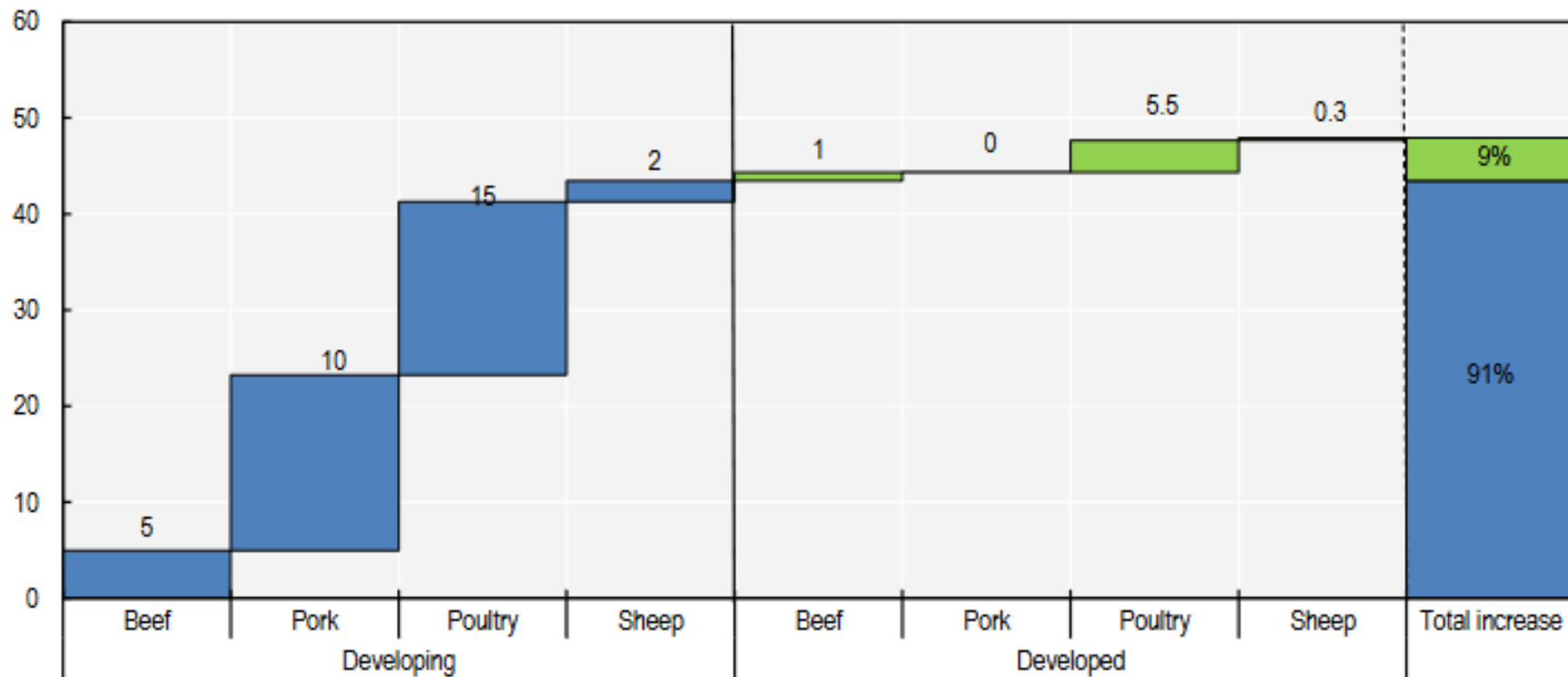


Source: OECD / FAO Agricultural Outlook 2024-2033

Production increase mainly from transition and development countries

million tonnes

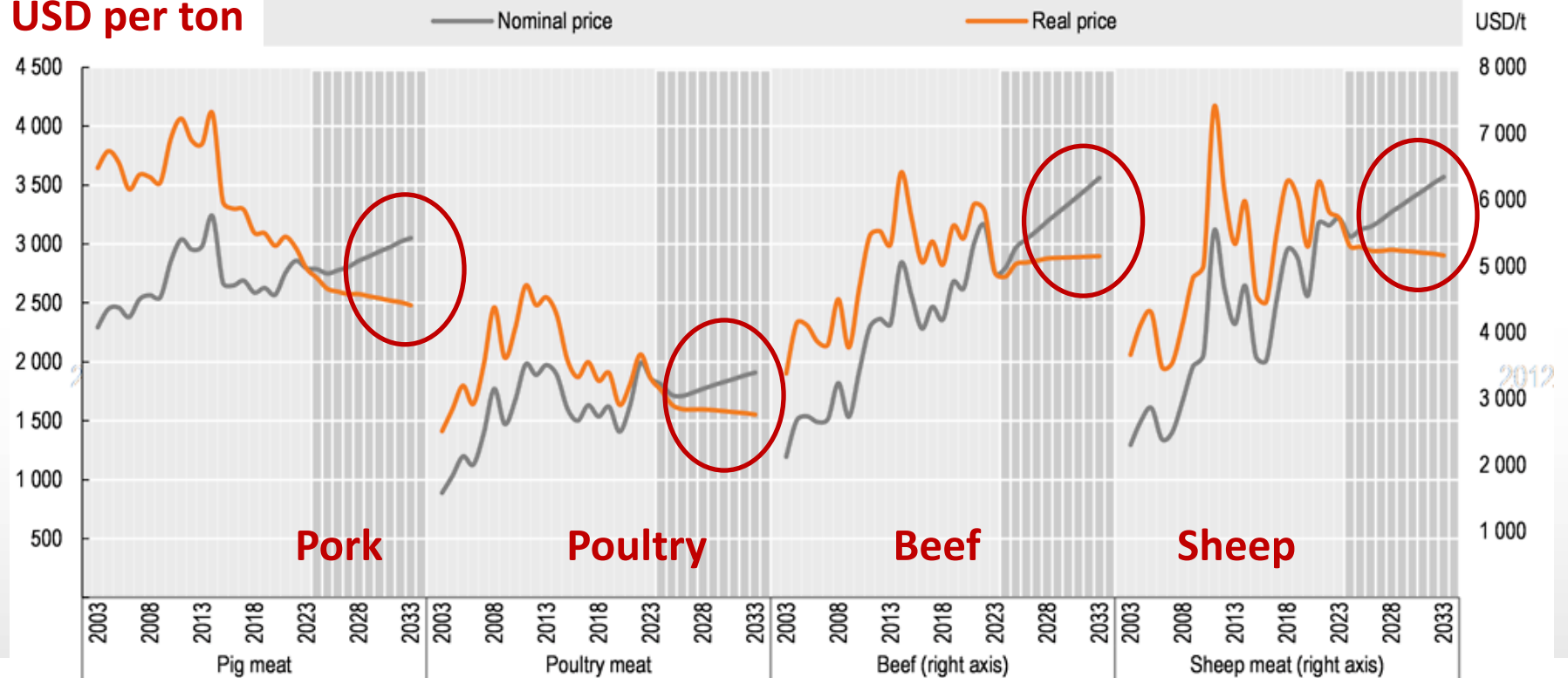
Quelle: OECD / FAO Agricultural Outlook 2022-2031



FAO / OECD outlook – meat prices nominal vs. real

Source: OECD / FAO Agricultural Outlook 2024-2033

USD per ton

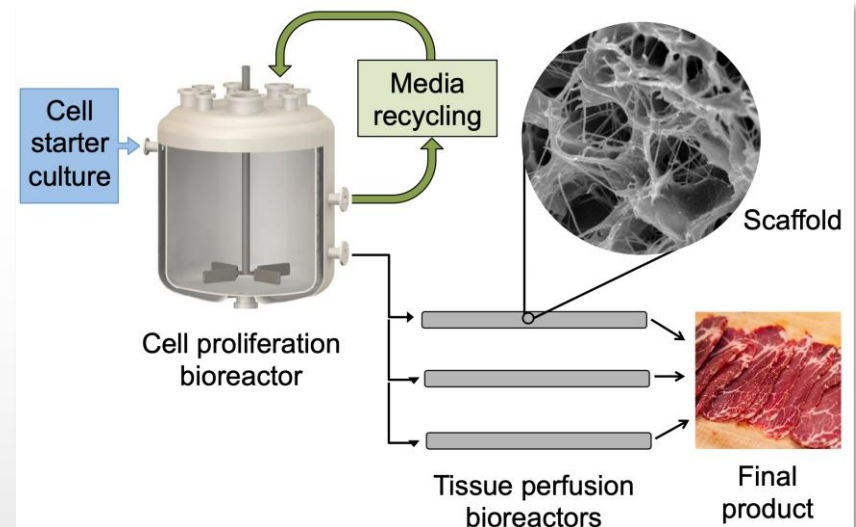


Who are the real competitors for beef (and sheep)?

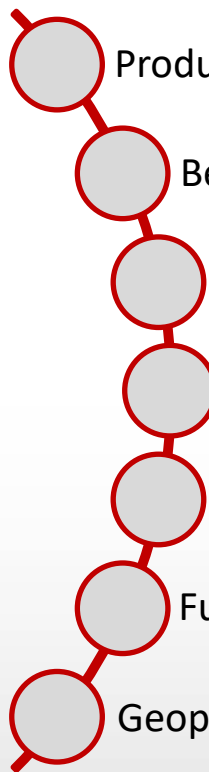
Chicken



Lab meat?

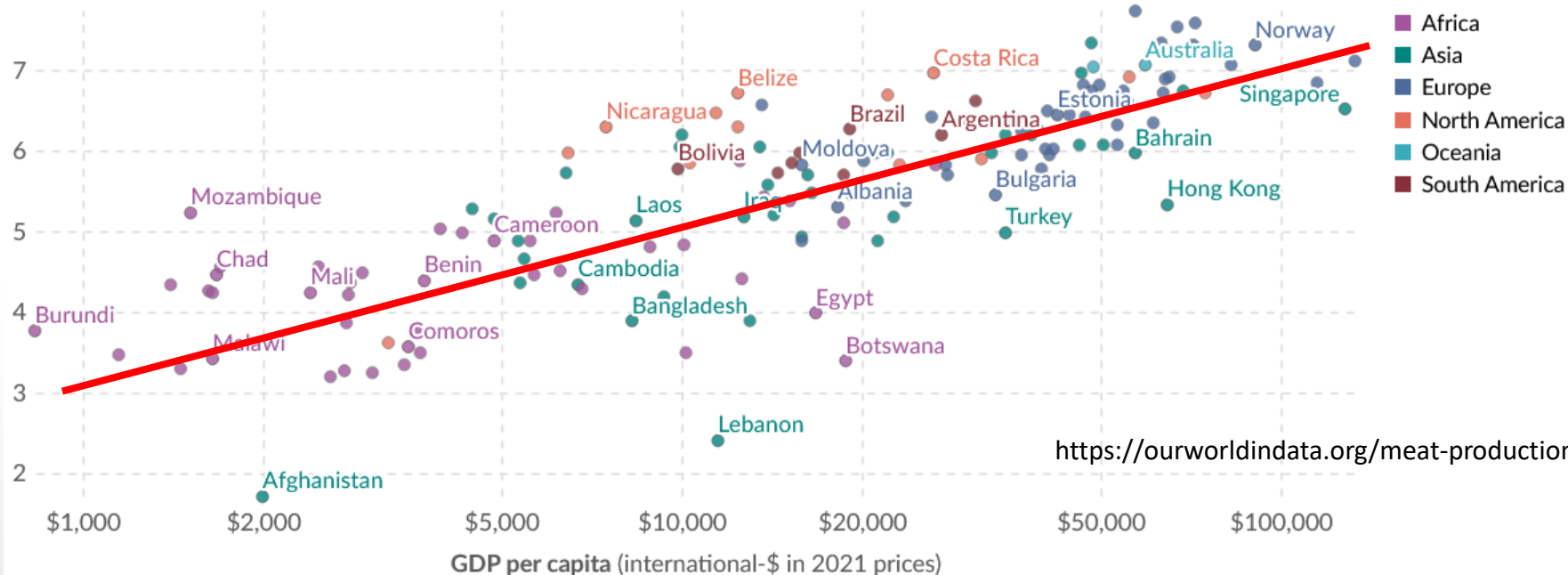


Summary

- 
- Production is driven by non-European countries, exports mainly to Asia
 - Beef prices developed mainly positively recently
 - Cow-calf profitability mainly down with few exceptions and depending on weaner prices
 - Finishing: half profit, half loss, no superior production system or breed
 - Emissions depend highly on feed and performance
 - Future prospects favourable globally but less positive in Europe
 - Geopolitical situation highly insecure

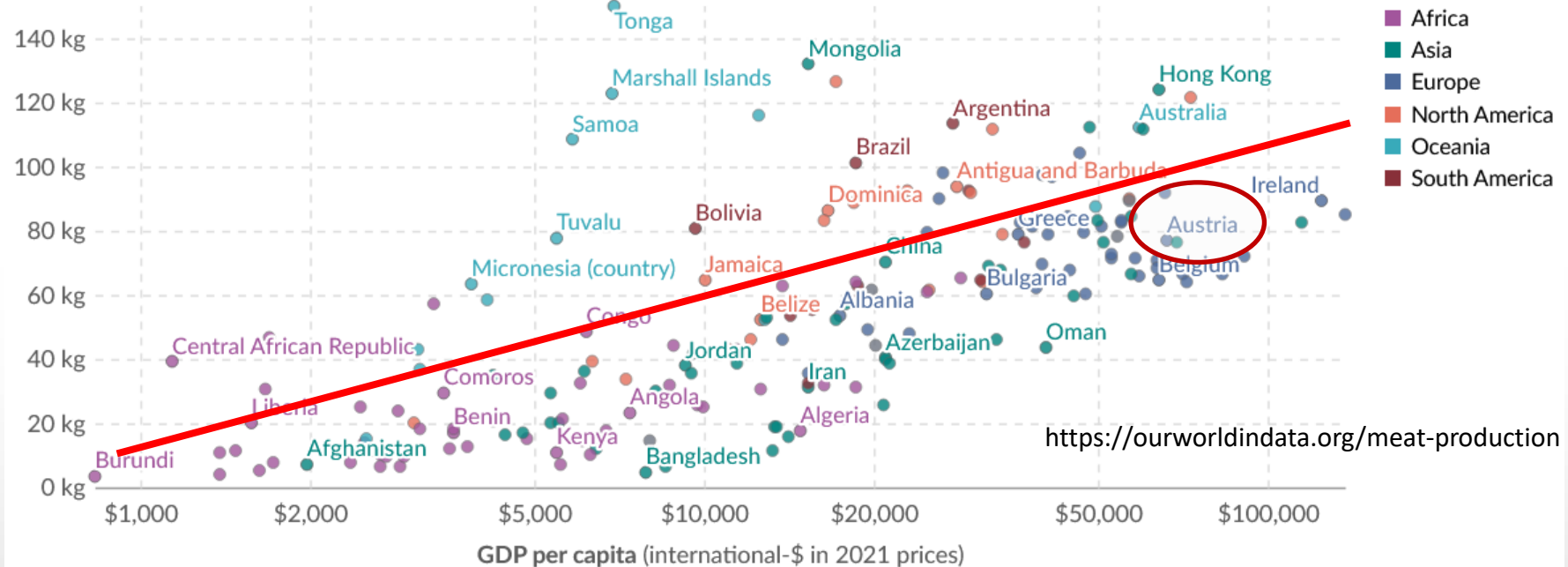
Income level and life satisfaction

Life satisfaction (0–10)



Income level and meat supply/consumption

Meat supply per person (kilograms per year per capita)



Conclusion?

Eat meat and be happy!

agri benchmark – passionate about facts



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www.thuenen.de/en/bw/