

A food system transformation can enhance global health, environmental conditions and social inclusion

Benjamin Leon Bodirsky

Felicitas Beier, Florian Humpenöder, Debbora Leip, Michael Crawford,
David Chen, Patrick von Jeetze, Marco Springmann, Bjoern Soergel, Zebedee Nicholls,
Jessica Strefler, Jared Lewis, Jens Heinke, Christoph Müller, Kristine Karstens,
Isabelle Weindl, Pascal Führlich, Abhijeet Mishra, Edna Molina Bacca,
Miodrag Stevanovic, Alexandre Koberle, Xiaoxi Wang, Vartika Singh,
Claudia Hunecke, Quitterie Collignon, Pepijn Schreinemachers, Simon Dietz,
Ravi Kanbur, Jan Dietrich, Hermann Lotze-Campen, Alexander Popp

Preprint: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>



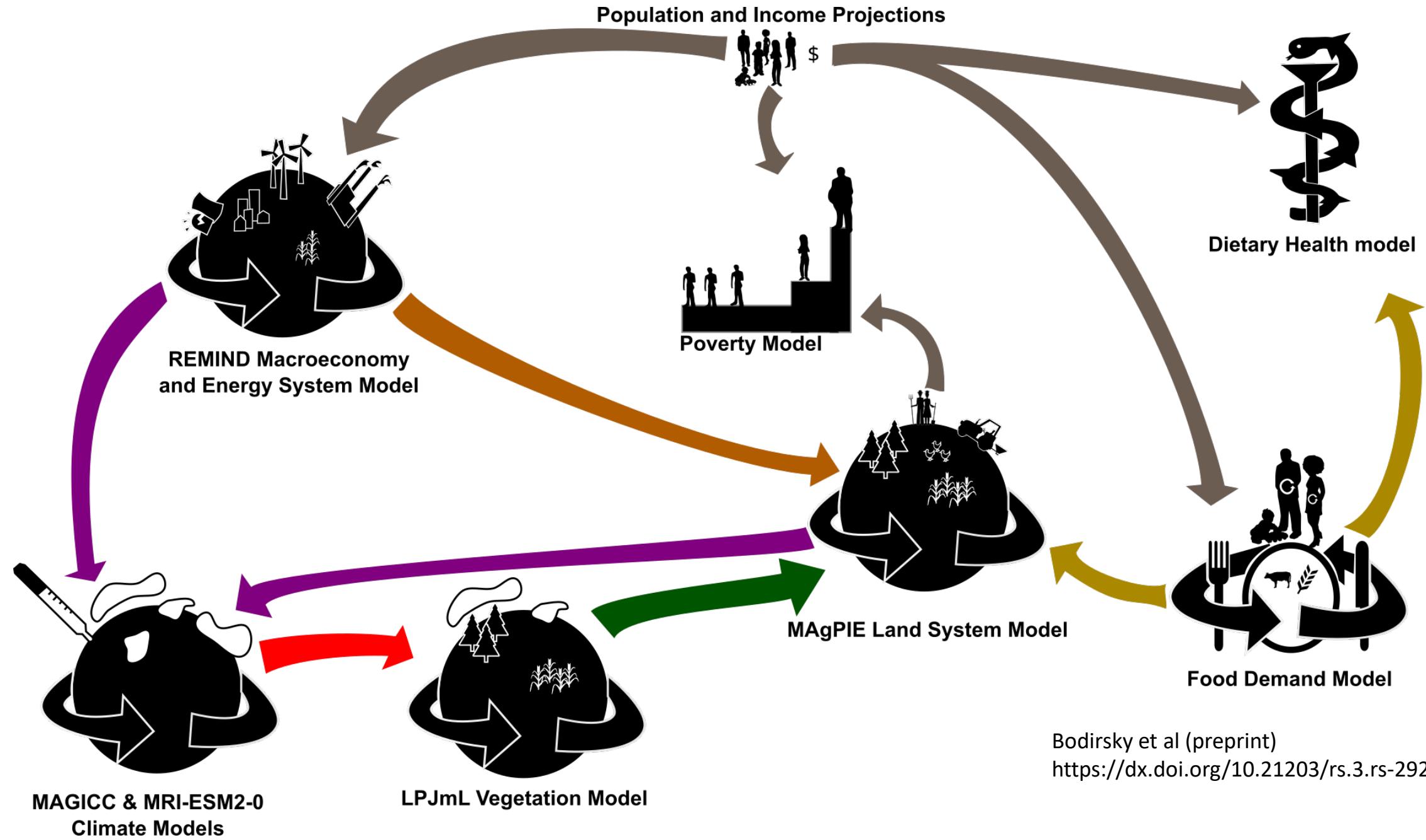
POTS DAM-INSTITUT FÜR
KLIMA FOLGENFORSCHUNG



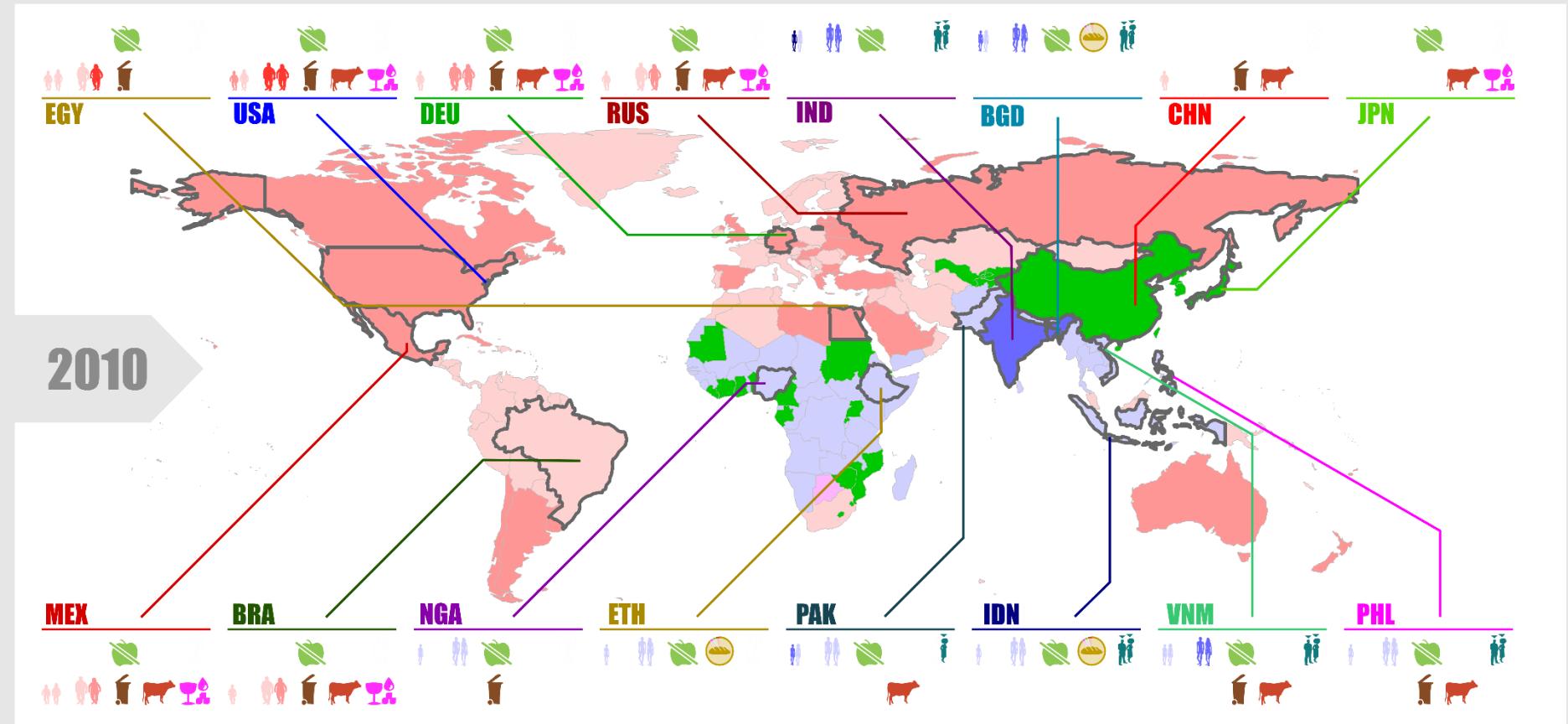
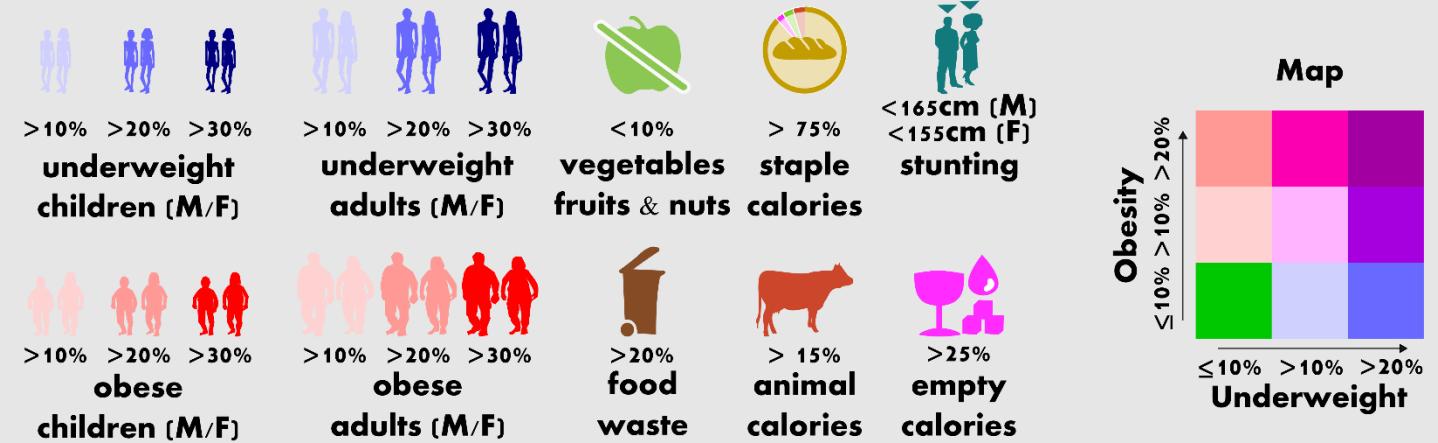
| Food System
Economics
Commission

Is our food system on track?

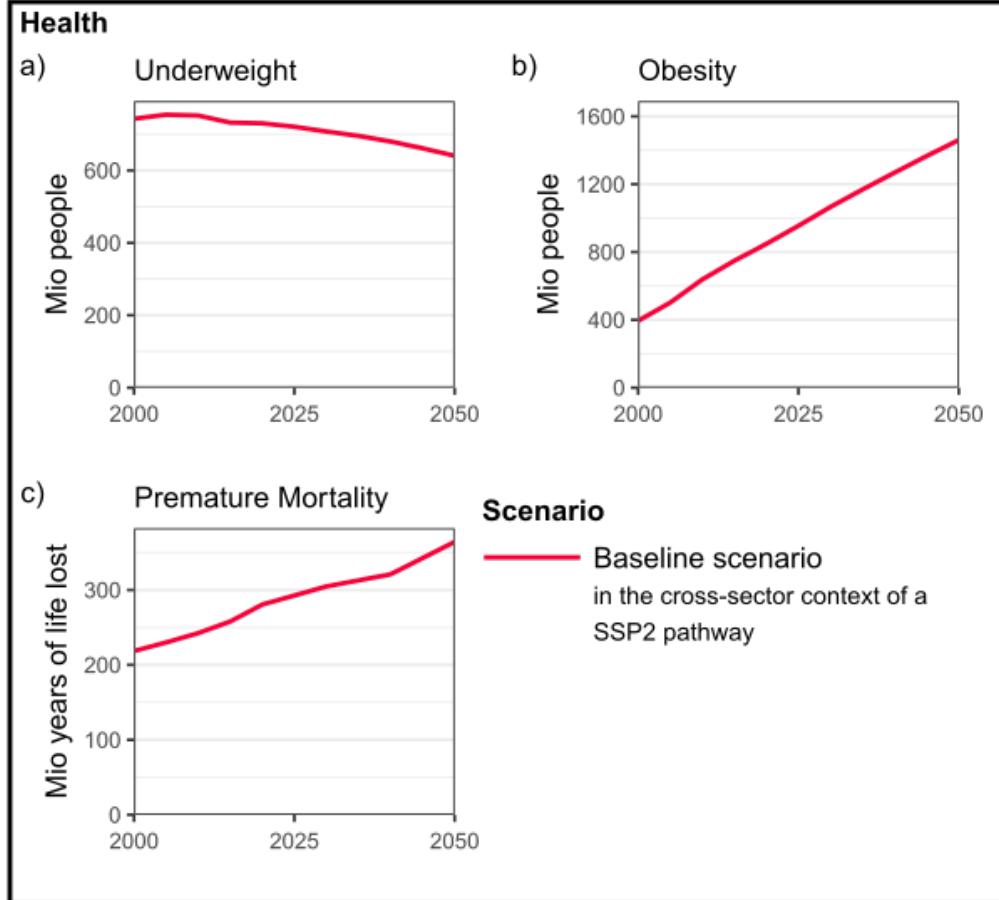
**Global health
Environmental conditions
Social inclusion**



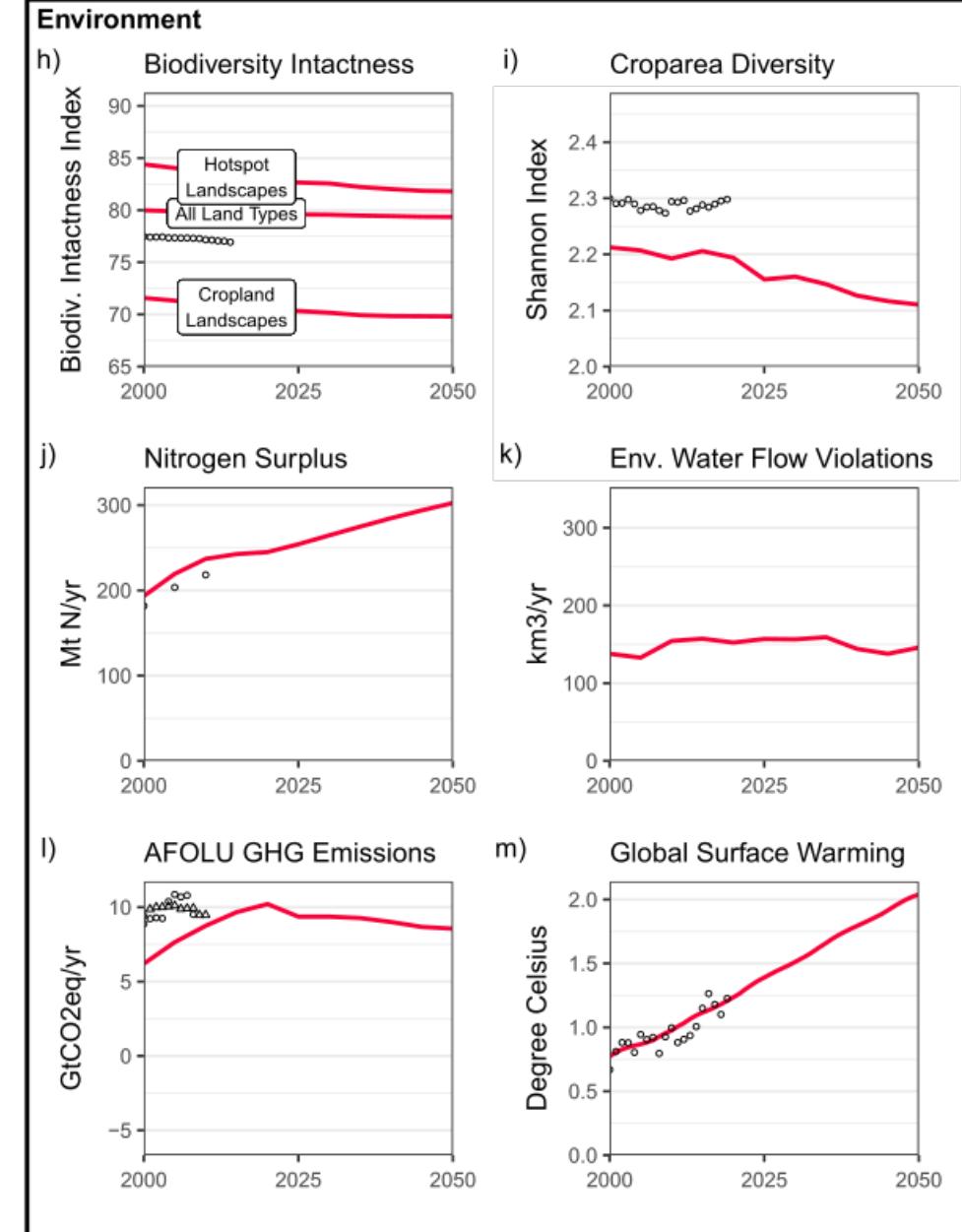
starved, stuffed & wasteful



Baseline trends: Food security improves but dietary health deteriorates

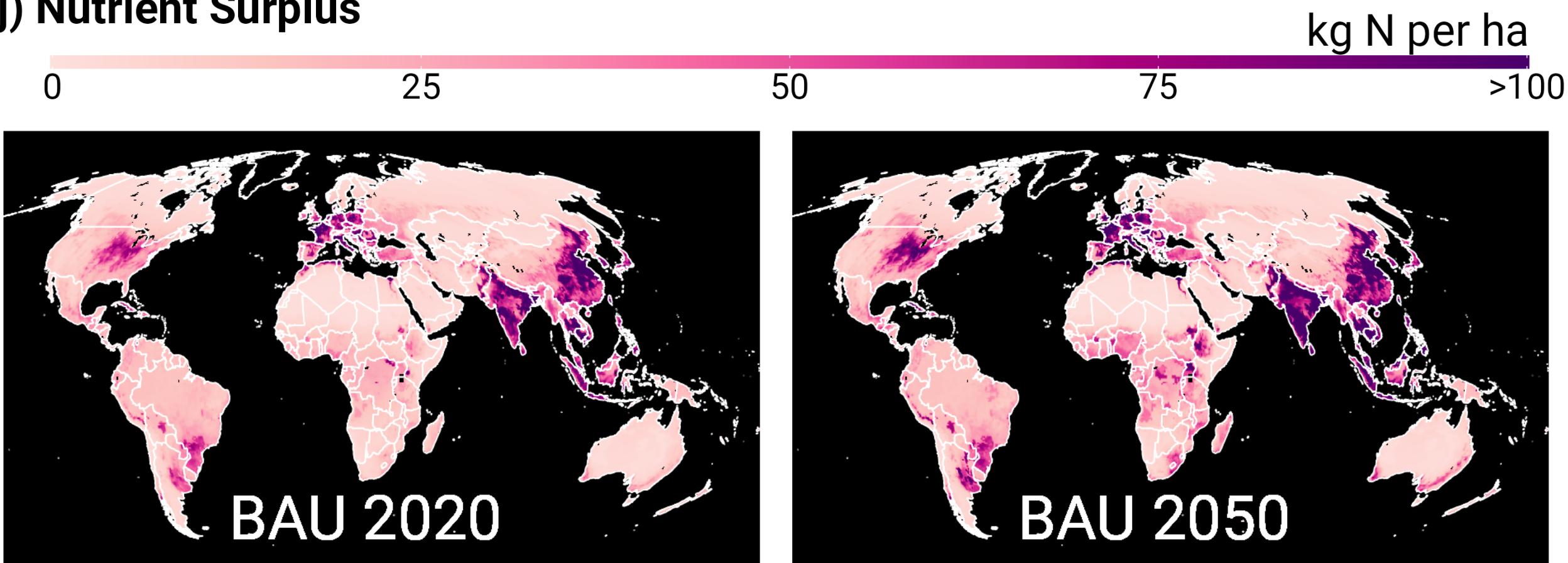


Baseline trends: Most global environmental indicators deteriorate



Bodirsky et al (preprint)
<https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>

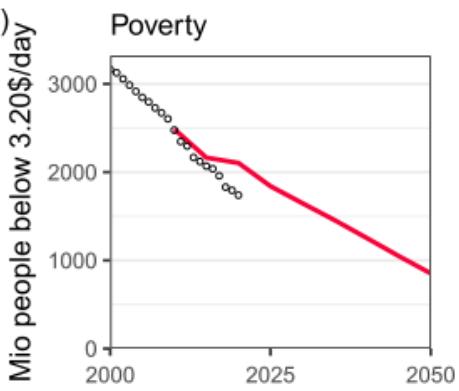
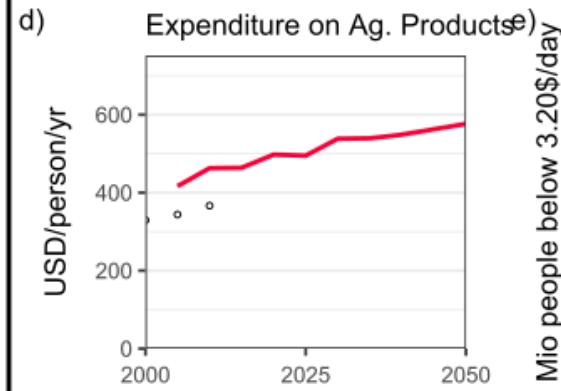
j) Nutrient Surplus



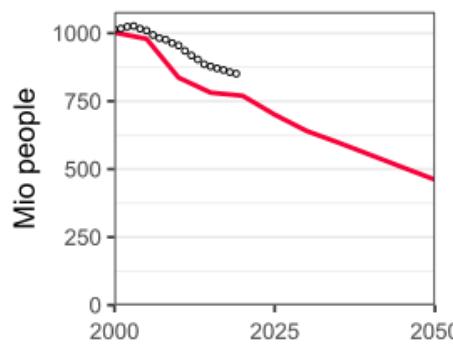
Bodirsky et al (preprint)
<https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>

Baseline trends: Poverty is reduced, employment in agriculture falls, and the share of agriculture in the economy declines

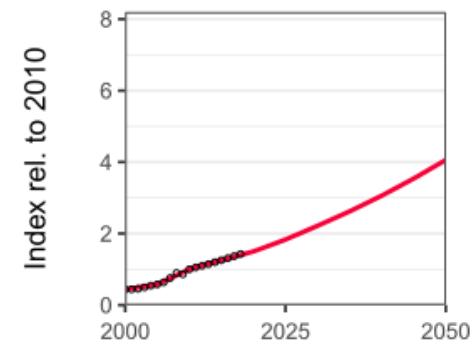
Inclusion

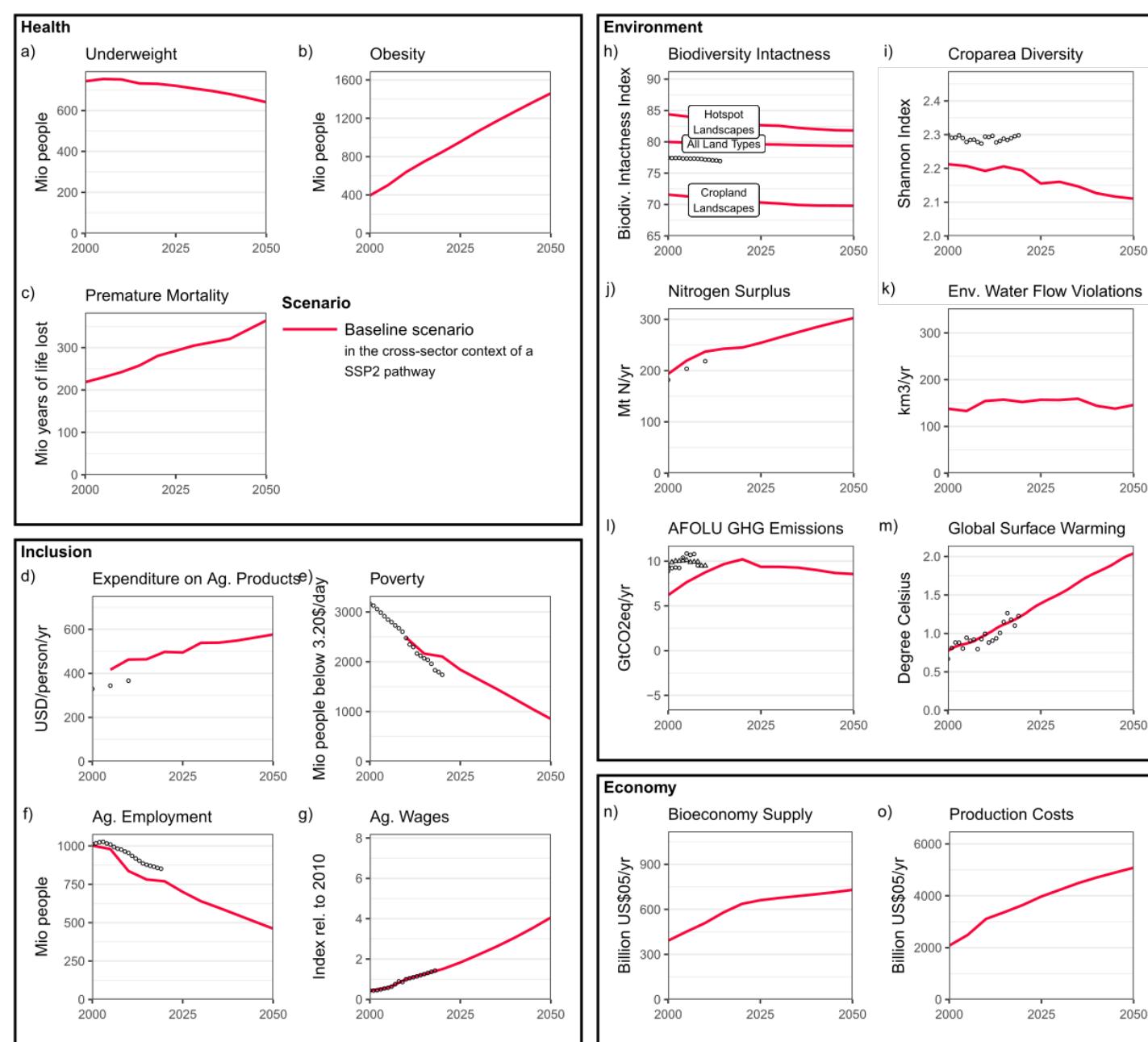


f) Ag. Employment



g) Ag. Wages





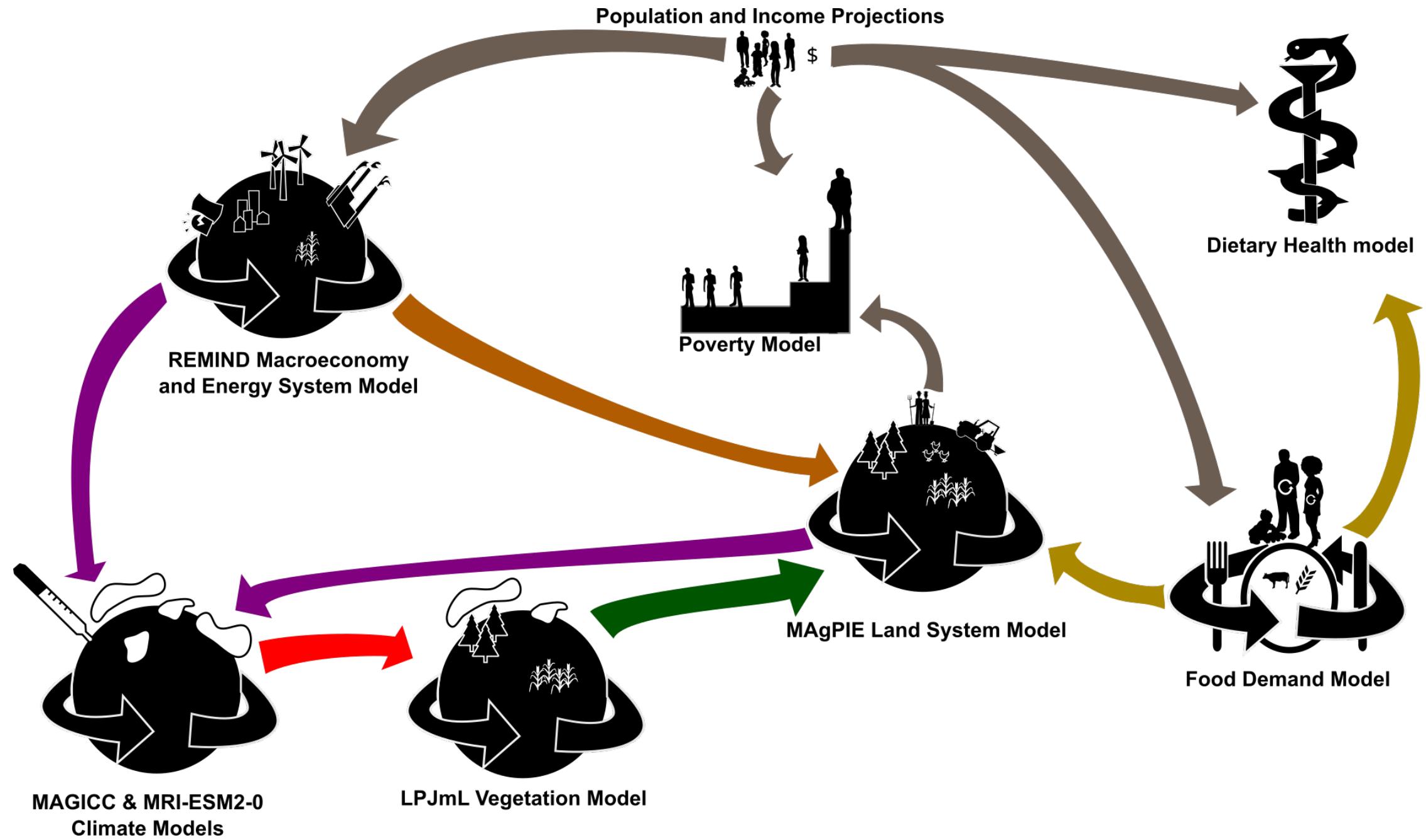
**Our food system is not on track.
Sometimes it requires an acceleration of development,
sometimes it requires a trend reversal.**

We need a food system transformation.

**How does such a transformation look like?
How does a sustainable food system look like?**



Bodirsky et al (in prep)
Illustration: Jan von Holleben





Integrating degrowth and efficiency perspectives enables an emission-neutral food system by 2100

Benjamin Leon Bodirsky  ^{1,2,5}, David Meng-Chuen Chen  ^{1,3,5}✉, Isabelle Weindl  ¹, Bjoern Soergel  ¹, Felicitas Beier ^{1,3}, Edna J. Molina Bacca ^{1,3}, Franziska Gaupp  ^{1,4}, Alexander Popp  ¹ and Hermann Lotze-Campen  ¹

Degrowth proponents advocate reducing ecologically destructive forms of production and resource throughput in wealthy economies to achieve environmental goals, while transforming production to focus on human well-being. Here we present a quantitative model to test degrowth principles in the food and land system. Our results confirm that reducing and redistributing income alone, within current development paradigms, leads to limited greenhouse gas (GHG) emission mitigation from agriculture and land-use change, as the nutrition transition towards unsustainable diets already occurs at relatively low income levels. Instead, we show that a structural, qualitative food system transformation can achieve a steady-state food system economy that is net GHG-neutral by 2100 while improving nutritional outcomes. This sustainable transformation reduces material throughput via a convergence towards a needs-based food system, is enabled by a more equitable income distribution and includes efficient resource allocation through the pricing of GHG emissions as a complementary strategy. It thereby integrates degrowth and efficiency perspectives.

Agriculture

NitrogenEfficiency

CropRotations

LandscapeHabitats

RiceMitigation

LivestockManagement

ManureManagement

SoilCarbon

Agriculture

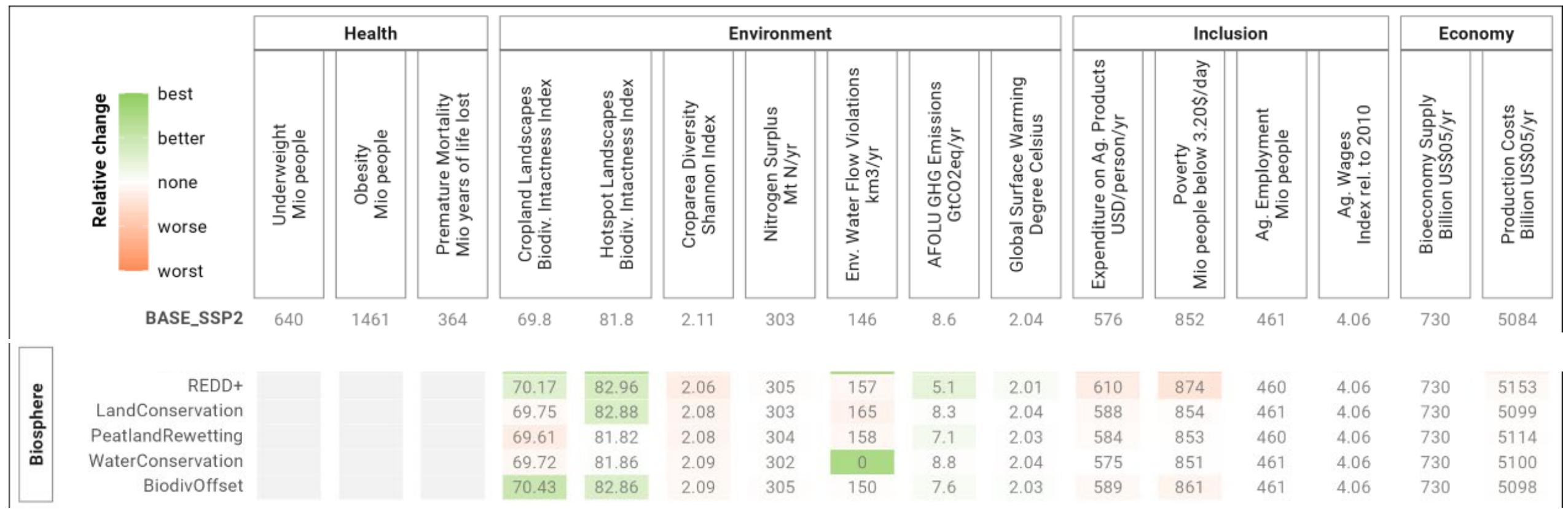
	Health			Environment				Inclusion		Economy						
BASE_SSP2	640	1461	364	69.8	81.8	2.11	303	146	8.6	2.04	576					
	Underweight Mio people	Obesity Mio people	Premature Mortality Mio years of life lost	Cropland Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Hotspot Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Croparea Diversity Shannon Index	Nitrogen Surplus Mt N/yr	Env. Water Flow Violations km ³ /yr	AFOLU GHG Emissions GtCO ₂ eq/yr	Global Surface Warming Degree Celsius	Poverty Mio people below 3.20\$/day	Expenditure on Ag. Products USD/person/yr	Ag. Employment Mio people	Ag. Wages Index rel. to 2010	Bioeconomy Supply Billion US\$05/yr	Production Costs Billion US\$05/yr

Agriculture

- NitrogenEfficiency
- CropRotations
- LandscapeHabitats
- RiceMitigation
- LivestockManagement
- ManureManagement
- SoilCarbon

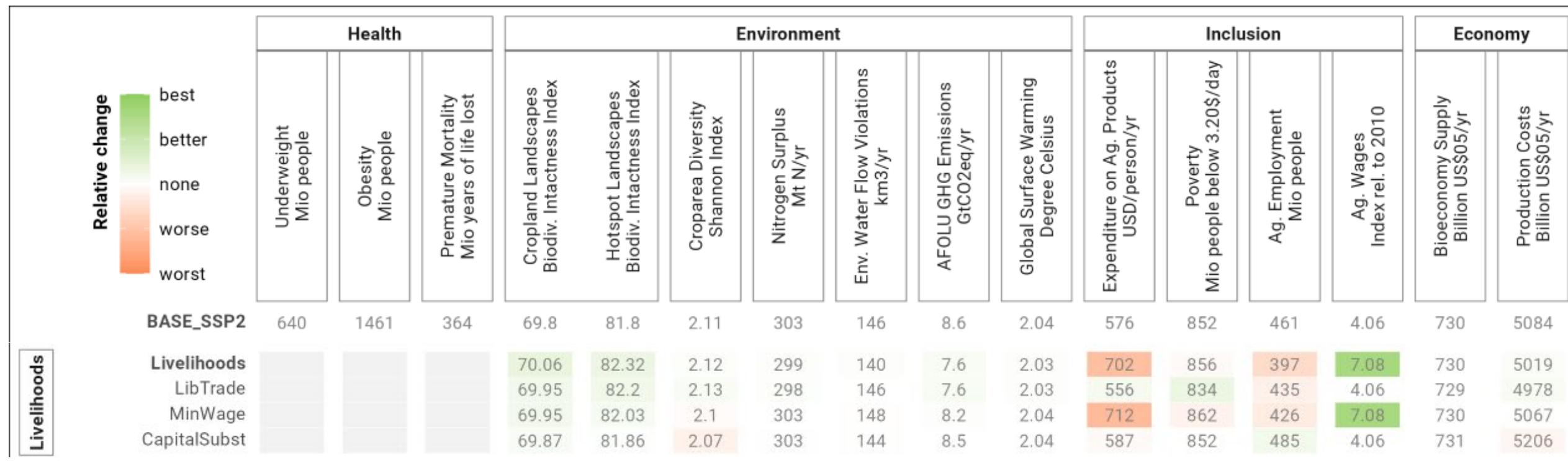
Agriculture	Relative change	Health				Environment				Inclusion			Economy				
		Underweight Mio people	Obesity Mio people	Premature Mortality Mio years of life lost	Cropland Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Hotspot Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Crop area Diversity Shannon Index	Nitrogen Surplus Mt N/yr	Env. Water Flow Violations km ³ /yr	AFOLU GHG Emissions GtCO ₂ eq/yr	Global Surface Warming Degree Celsius	Expenditure on Ag. Products USD/person/yr	Poverty Mio people below 3.20\$/day	Ag. Employment Mio people	Ag. Wages Index rel. to 2010	Bioeconomy Supply Billion US\$05/yr	Production Costs Billion US\$05/yr
BASE_SSP2		640	1461	364	69.8	81.8	2.11	303	146	8.6	2.04	576	852	461	4.06	730	5084
NitrogenEfficiency					69.77	81.66	2.1	217	144	7.6	2.03	604	859	515	4.06	731	5329
CropRotations					69.24	81.21	2.28	302	214	9.5	2.05	578	853	463	4.06	732	5159
LandscapeHabitats					70.47	81.79	2.09	303	143	8.4	2.04	580	851	461	4.06	730	5091
RiceMitigation					69.84	82.13	2.09	303	146	8.2	2.03	577	851	470	4.06	730	5119
LivestockManagement					69.68	81.74	2	306	169	6	2	648	877	581	4.06	730	5710
ManureManagement					69.83	81.77	2.09	297	145	7.9	2.03	591	855	484	4.06	732	5206
SoilCarbon					69.67	82.91	2.06	304	169	5.5	2.02	584	856	461	4.06	730	5129

Bodirsky et al (preprint)
<https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>



Diets	Health					Environment					Inclusion			Economy					
	Underweight Mio people		Obesity Mio people		Premature Mortality Mio years of life lost	Cropland Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index		Hotspot Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index		Croparea Diversity Shannon Index	Nitrogen Surplus Mt N/yr	Env. Water Flow Violations km ³ /yr	AFOLU GHG Emissions GtCO ₂ eq/yr	Global Surface Warming Degree Celsius	Expenditure on Ag. Products USD/person/yr	Poverty Mio people below 3.20\$/day	Ag. Employment Mio people	Ag. Wages Index rel. to 2010	Bioeconomy Supply Billion US\$05/yr
Relative change	best	better	none	worse	worst														
BASE_SSP2	640	1461	364	69.8	81.8	2.11	303	146	8.6	2.04	576	852	461	4.06	730	5084			
Diets	0	730	163	70.46	82.67	2.35	222	104	1.4	1.94	350	796	376	4.06	718	3557			
LowProcessed			318	69.86	81.85	2.09	303	139	8.5	2.04	540	844	462	4.06	731	4749			
HighLegumes			340	69.7	81.73	2.14	301	154	8.7	2.04	592	857	462	4.06	724	5164			
LowMonogastrics			356	70.01	82.33	2.17	277	125	7.5	2.03	478	829	392	4.06	740	4413			
LowRuminants			355	70.37	82.4	2.15	263	146	2.5	1.96	470	811	395	4.06	739	4505			
HighVegFruitsNuts			331	69.66	81.73	2.14	306	158	8.6	2.04	625	869	546	4.06	736	5471			
HalfOverweight	640	730	327	69.96	82.04	2.1	296	138	8	2.04	557	847	450	4.06	724	4939			
NoUnderweight	0	1461	224	69.76	81.84	2.08	305	153	8.6	2.04	588	855	471	4.06	733	5164			
LowFoodWaste			364	70.03	82.2	2.13	286	134	7.3	2.03	520	838	425	4.06	708	4673			

Bodirsky et al (preprint)
<https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>

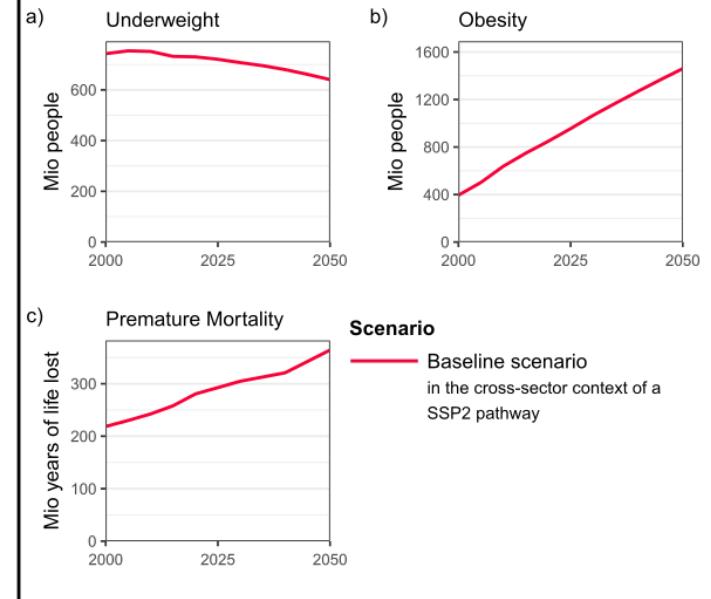


Relative change	Health			Environment						Inclusion			Economy			
	Underweight Mio people	Obesity Mio people	Premature Mortality Mio years of life lost	Cropland Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Hotspot Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Croparea Diversity Shannon Index	Nitrogen Surplus Mt N/yr	Env. Water Flow Violations km ³ /yr	AFOLU GHG Emissions GtCO ₂ eq/yr	Global Surface Warming Degree Celsius	Expenditure on Ag. Products USD/person/yr	Poverty Mio people below 3.20\$/day	Ag. Employment Mio people	Ag. Wages Index rel. to 2010	Bioeconomy Supply Billion US\$05/yr	Production Costs Billion US\$05/yr
BASE_SSP2	640	1461	364	69.8	81.8	2.11	303	146	8.6	2.04	576	852	461	4.06	730	5084
Diets	0	730	163	70.46	82.67	2.35	222	104	1.4	1.94	350	796	376	4.06	718	3557
LowProcessed		318	69.86	81.85	2.09	303	139	8.5	2.04	540	844	462	4.06	731	4749	
HighLegumes		340	69.7	81.73	2.14	301	154	8.7	2.04	592	857	462	4.06	724	5164	
LowMonogastrics		356	70.01	82.33	2.17	277	125	7.5	2.03	478	829	392	4.06	740	4413	
LowRuminants		355	70.37	82.4	2.15	263	146	2.5	1.96	470	811	395	4.06	739	4505	
HighVegFruitsNuts		331	69.66	81.73	2.14	306	158	8.6	2.04	625	869	546	4.06	736	5471	
HalfOverweight	640	730	327	69.96	82.04	2.1	296	138	8	2.04	557	847	450	4.06	724	4939
NoUnderweight	0	1461	224	69.76	81.84	2.08	305	153	8.6	2.04	588	855	471	4.06	733	5164
LowFoodWaste			364	70.03	82.2	2.13	286	134	7.3	2.03	520	838	425	4.06	708	4673
Livelihoods				70.06	82.32	2.12	299	140	7.6	2.03	702	856	397	7.08	730	5019
LibTrade				69.95	82.2	2.13	298	146	7.6	2.03	556	834	435	4.06	729	4978
MinWage				69.95	82.03	2.1	303	148	8.2	2.04	712	862	426	7.08	730	5067
CapitalSubst				69.87	81.86	2.07	303	144	8.5	2.04	587	852	485	4.06	731	5206
Biosphere				70.44	84.02	2.07	306	0	5	2.01	621	879	460	4.06	730	5251
REDD+				70.17	82.96	2.06	305	157	5.1	2.01	610	874	460	4.06	730	5153
LandConservation				69.75	82.88	2.08	303	165	8.3	2.04	588	854	461	4.06	730	5099
PeatlandRewetting				69.61	81.82	2.08	304	158	7.1	2.03	584	853	460	4.06	730	5114
WaterConservation				69.72	81.86	2.09	302	0	8.8	2.04	575	851	461	4.06	730	5100
BiodivOffset				70.43	82.86	2.09	305	150	7.6	2.03	589	861	461	4.06	730	5098
Agriculture				70.54	82.53	2.14	217	336	1.7	1.96	716	905	669	4.06	731	6170
NitrogenEfficiency				69.77	81.66	2.1	217	144	7.6	2.03	604	859	515	4.06	731	5329
CropRotations				69.24	81.21	2.28	302	214	9.5	2.05	578	853	463	4.06	732	5159
LandscapeHabitats				70.47	81.79	2.09	303	143	8.4	2.04	580	851	461	4.06	730	5091
RiceMitigation				69.84	82.13	2.09	303	146	8.2	2.03	577	851	470	4.06	730	5119
LivestockManagement				69.68	81.74	2	306	169	6	2	648	877	581	4.06	730	5710
ManureManagement				69.83	81.77	2.09	297	145	7.9	2.03	591	855	484	4.06	732	5206
SoilCarbon				69.67	82.91	2.06	304	169	5.5	2.02	584	856	461	4.06	730	5129
FST_SSP2	0	730	144	70.9	84.9	2.46	171	0	-5.6	1.86	539	835	385	7.08	718	4011

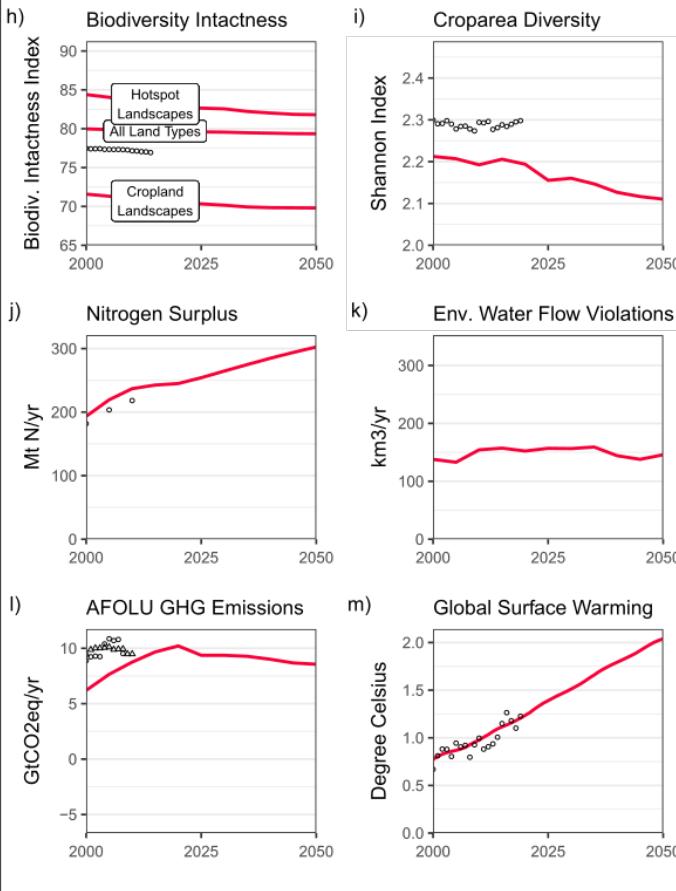
Bodirsky et al (preprint)

<https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>

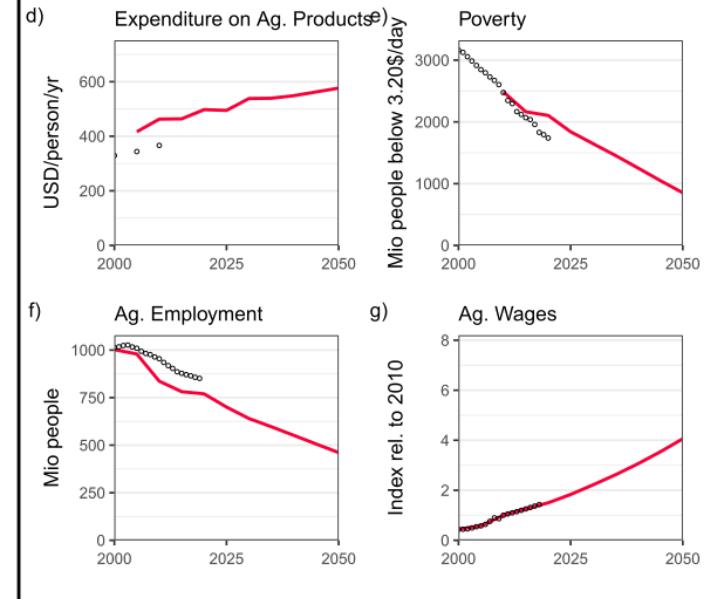
Health



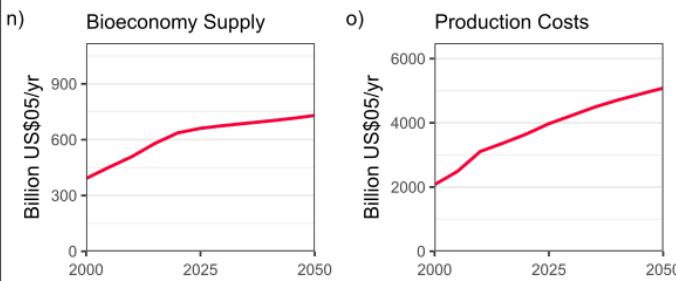
Environment

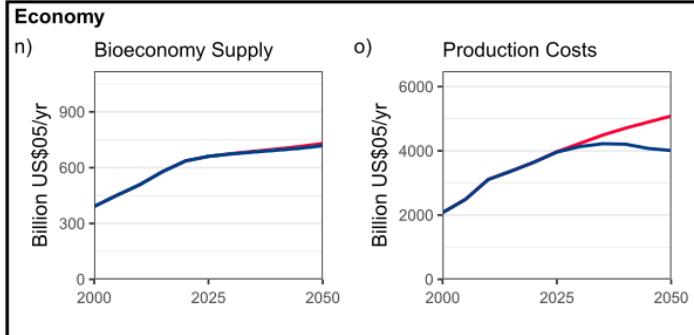
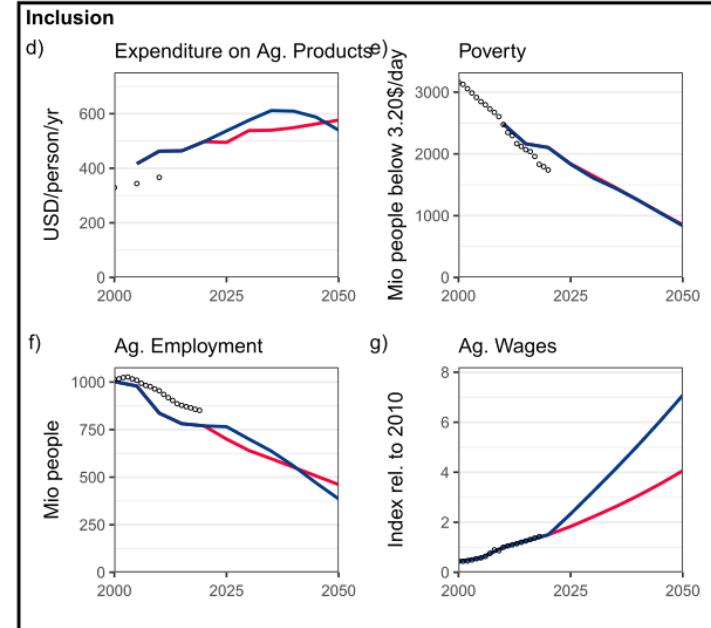
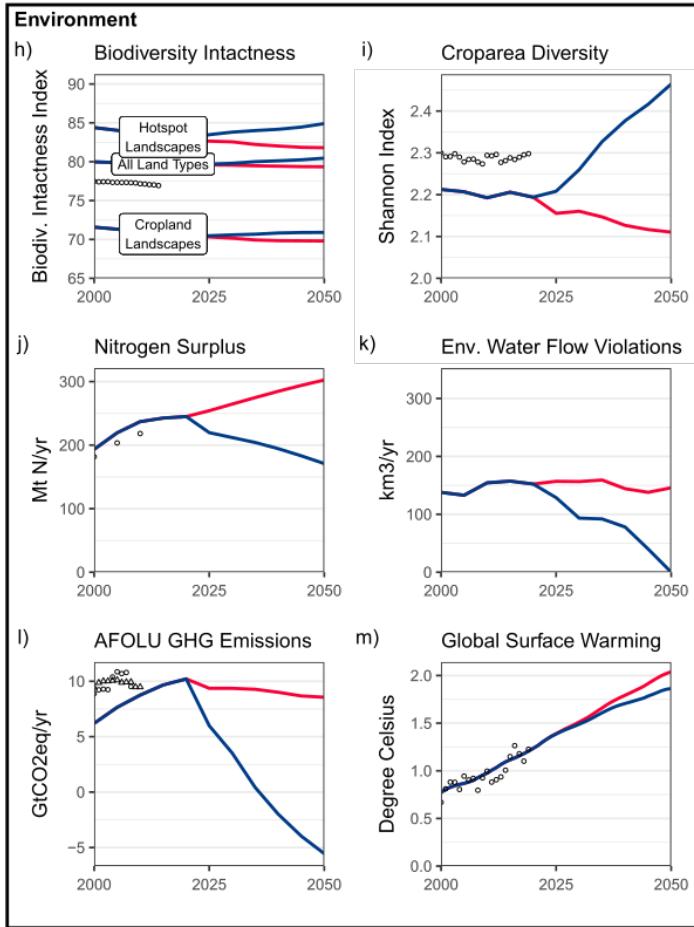
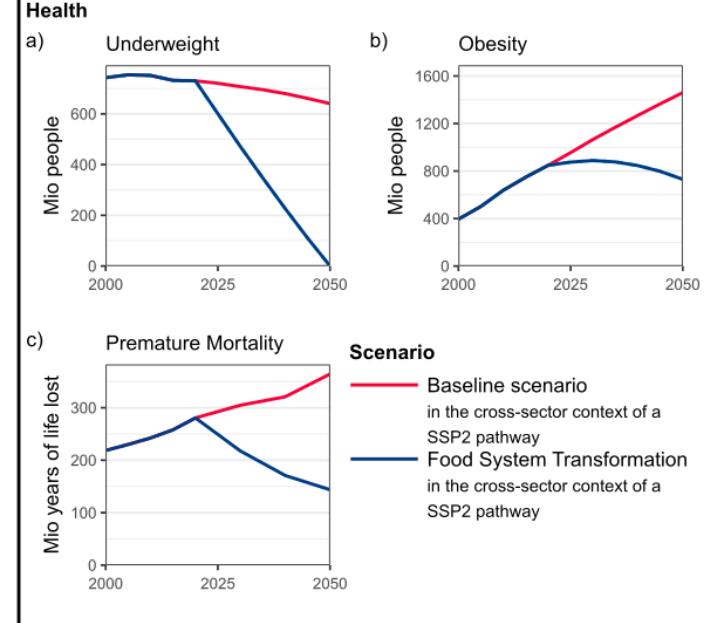


Inclusion



Economy





Food System Transformation achieves

- Large improvement of dietary health
- Reduction of environmental impacts
- Similar employment but higher wages
- Similar poverty

But:

- Cannot stop climate change alone
- Cannot reduce poverty

CrossSector	Relative change															Environment								Inclusion			Economy							
	Health				Environment								Inclusion			Economy																		
	Underweight Mio people		Obesity Mio people		Premature Mortality Mio years of life lost				Cropland Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index		Hotspot Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index		Croparea Diversity Shannon Index		Nitrogen Surplus Mt N/yr		Env. Water Flow Violations km3/yr		AFOLU GHG Emissions GtCO2eq/yr		Global Surface Warming Degree Celsius		Expenditure on Ag. Products USD/person/yr		Poverty Mio people below 3.20\$/day		Ag. Employment Mio people		Ag. Wages Index rel. to 2010		Bioeconomy Supply Billion US\$05/yr		Production Costs Billion US\$05/yr	
	BASE_SSP2	640	1461	364	69.8	81.8	2.11	303	146	8.6	2.04	576	852	461	4.06	730	5084																	
	CrossSector	530	1610	238	69.7	81.52	2.07	274	172	7.1	1.74	549	242	346	5.71	1065	5555																	
	Population	606	1446	407	69.87	82.15	2.12	294	142	7.3		582	854	431	4.06	719	4883																	
	HumanDevelop	556	1633	215	69.62	81.74	2.16	270	142	9		544	241	318	5.71	716	4975																	
	EnergyTrans				69.85	81.65	2.01	326	166	9	1.73	574	849	528	4.06	988	5786																	
	Bioplastics				69.79	81.82	2.08	307	153	8.6		576	850	472	4.06	782	5195																	
	TimberCities				69.8	81.86	2.09	303	148	7.7		582	853	461	4.06	794	5213																	

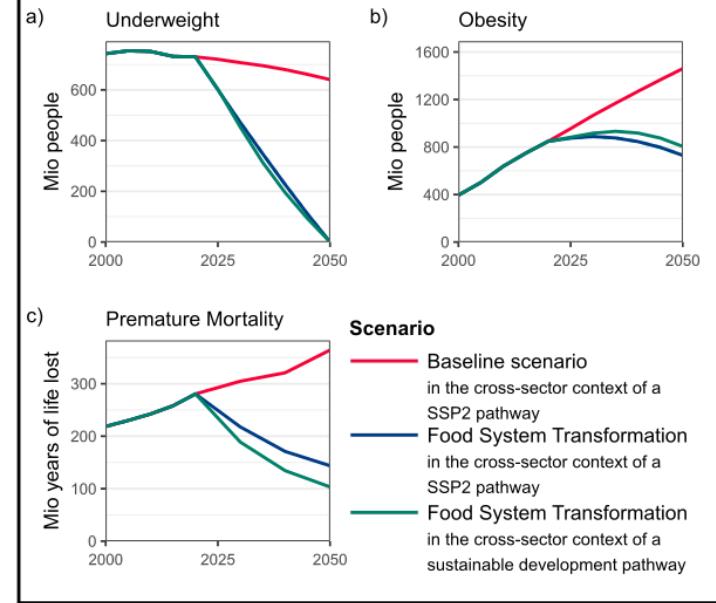
Bodirsky et al (preprint)
<https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>

CrossSector		Relative change															
		Health			Environment						Inclusion			Economy			
		Underweight Mio people	Obesity Mio people	Premature Mortality Mio years of life lost	Cropland Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Hotspot Landscapes Biodiv. Intactness Index	Croparea Diversity Shannon Index	Nitrogen Surplus Mt N/yr	Env. Water Flow Violations km3/yr	AFOLU GHG Emissions GtCO2eq/yr	Global Surface Warming Degree Celsius	Expenditure on Ag. Products USD/person/yr	Poverty Mio people below 3.20\$/day	Ag. Employment Mio people	Ag. Wages Index rel. to 2010	Bioeconomy Supply Billion US\$05/yr	Production Costs Billion US\$05/yr
	BASE_SSP2	640	1461	364	69.8	81.8	2.11	303	146	8.6	2.04	576	852	461	4.06	730	5084
Diets	Diets	0	730	163	70.46	82.67	2.35	222	104	1.4	1.94	350	796	376	4.06	718	3557
	LowProcessed			318	69.86	81.85	2.09	303	139	8.5	2.04	540	844	462	4.06	731	4749
	HighLegumes			340	69.7	81.73	2.14	301	154	8.7	2.04	592	857	462	4.06	724	5164
	LowMonogastrics			356	70.01	82.33	2.17	277	125	7.5	2.03	478	829	392	4.06	740	4413
	LowRuminants			355	70.37	82.4	2.15	263	146	2.5	1.96	470	811	395	4.06	739	4505
	HighVegFruitsNuts			331	69.66	81.73	2.14	306	158	8.6	2.04	625	869	546	4.06	736	5471
	HalfOverweight	640	730	327	69.96	82.04	2.1	296	138	8	2.04	557	847	450	4.06	724	4939
	NoUnderweight	0	1461	224	69.76	81.84	2.08	305	153	8.6	2.04	588	855	471	4.06	733	5164
Livelihoods	Livelihoods			70.06	82.32	2.12	299	140	7.6	2.03	702	856	397	7.08	730	5019	
	LibTrade			69.95	82.2	2.13	298	146	7.6	2.03	556	834	435	4.06	729	4978	
	MinWage			69.95	82.03	2.1	303	148	8.2	2.04	712	862	426	7.08	730	5067	
	CapitalSubst			69.87	81.86	2.07	303	144	8.5	2.04	587	852	485	4.06	731	5206	
Biosphere	Biosphere			70.44	84.02	2.07	306	0	5	2.01	621	879	460	4.06	730	5251	
	REDD+			70.17	82.96	2.06	305	157	5.1	2.01	610	874	460	4.06	730	5153	
	LandConservation			69.75	82.88	2.08	303	165	8.3	2.04	588	854	461	4.06	730	5099	
	PeatlandRewetting			69.61	81.82	2.08	304	158	7.1	2.03	584	853	460	4.06	730	5114	
	WaterConservation			69.72	81.86	2.09	302	0	8.8	2.04	575	851	461	4.06	730	5100	
Agriculture	Agriculture			70.43	82.86	2.09	305	150	7.6	2.03	589	861	461	4.06	730	5098	
	NitrogenEfficiency			70.54	82.53	2.14	217	336	1.7	1.96	716	905	669	4.06	731	6170	
	CropRotations			69.77	81.66	2.1	217	144	7.6	2.03	604	859	515	4.06	731	5329	
	LandscapeHabitats			69.24	81.21	2.28	302	214	9.5	2.05	578	853	463	4.06	732	5159	
	RiceMitigation			70.47	81.79	2.09	303	143	8.4	2.04	580	851	461	4.06	730	5091	
	LivestockManagement			69.84	82.13	2.09	303	146	8.2	2.03	577	851	470	4.06	730	5119	
	ManureManagement			69.68	81.74	2	306	169	6	2	648	877	581	4.06	730	5710	
	SoilCarbon			69.83	81.77	2.09	297	145	7.9	2.03	591	855	484	4.06	732	5206	
FST_SSP2	FST_SSP2	0	730	144	70.9	84.9	2.46	171	0	-5.6	1.86	539	835	385	7.08	718	4011
	CrossSector	530	1610	238	69.7	81.52	2.07	274	172	7.1	1.74	549	242	346	5.71	1065	5555
	Population	606	1446	407	69.87	82.15	2.12	294	142	7.3		582	854	431	4.06	719	4883
CrossSector	HumanDevelop	556	1633	215	69.62	81.74	2.16	270	142	9		544	241	318	5.71	716	4975
	EnergyTrans			69.85	81.65	2.01	326	166	9	1.73		574	849	528	4.06	988	5786
	Bioplastics			69.79	81.82	2.08	307	153	8.6			576	850	472	4.06	782	5195
	TimberCities			69.8	81.86	2.09	303	148	7.7			582	853	461	4.06	794	5213
FST_SDP	FST_SDP	0	805	103	71.06	84.81	2.35	166	0	-6.7	1.53	452	225	304	7.81	1059	4649

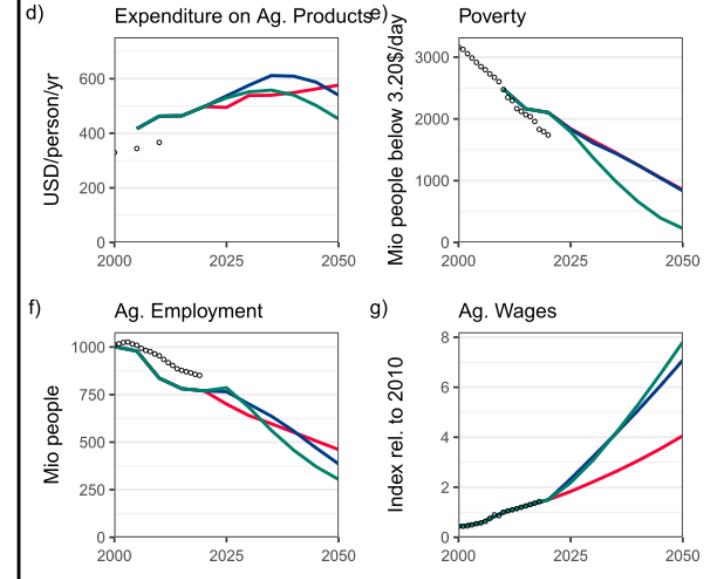
Bodirsky et al (preprint)

<https://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2928708/v1>

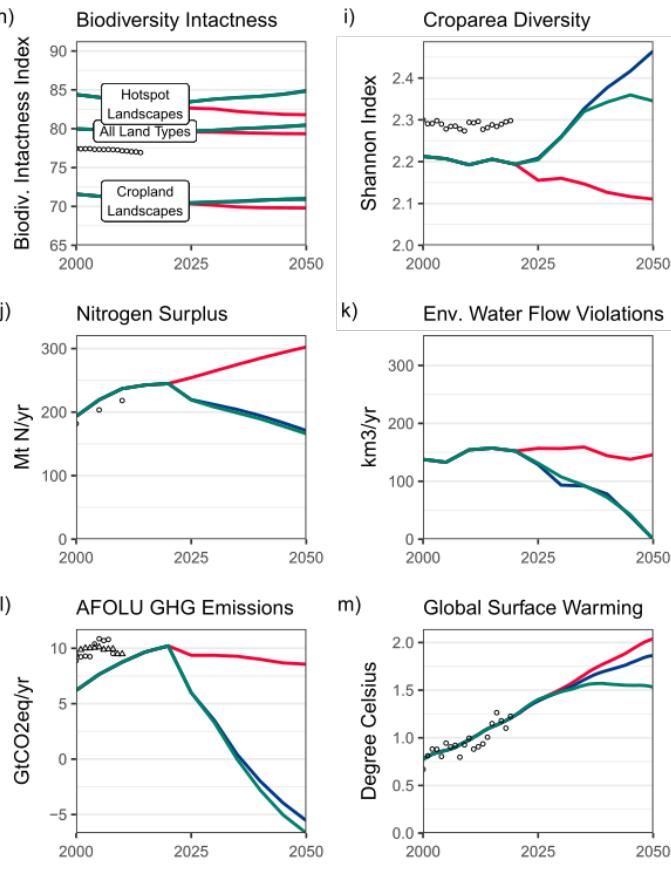
Health



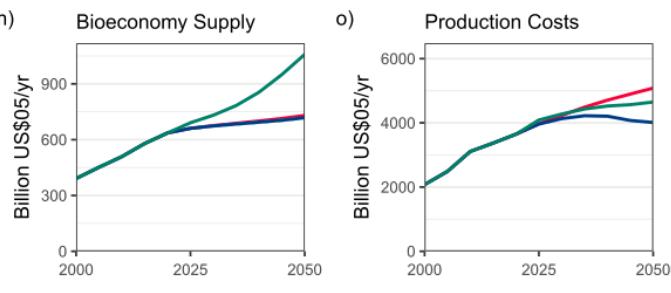
Inclusion



Environment

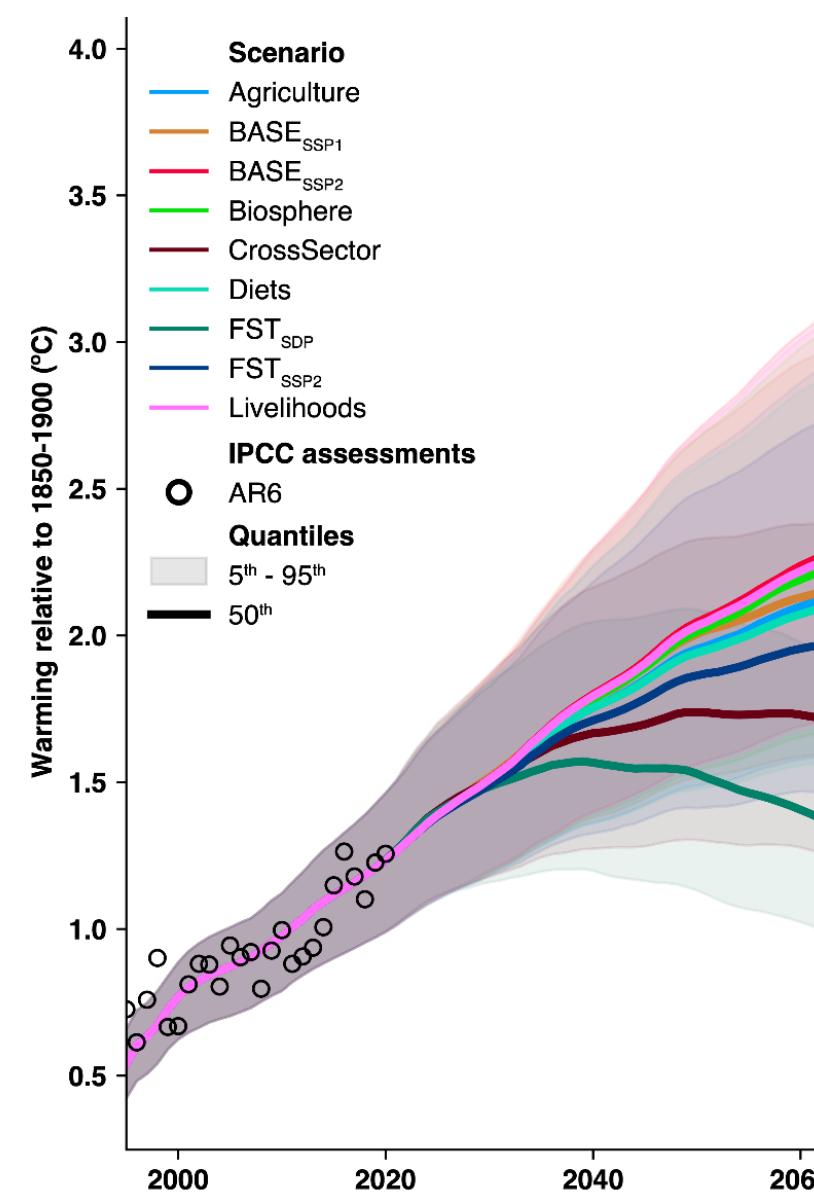


Economy



In combination with cross-sectoral impacts from a general sustainable development pathway

- Climate change can be limited to 1.5°
- Poverty can be drastically reduced
- Employment in agriculture falls even faster



Global warming relative to 1850-1900 from MAGICC7.5.3 for key scenarios until 2100. Lines represent median value across 600 runs of the MAGICC reduced-complexity climate model. Ribbons represent 5th-95th percentiles.

Baseline

Only FST

Cross-sector sustainable development without FST

FST within cross-sector sustainable development

Limitations

- 28 measures * 15 indicators = 420 interactions
- Feedback from nature via ecosystem services not included
- Distributional impacts of farmer income and employment changes not included
- Health impacts mostly focus on dietary non-communicable diseases
- We do not specify the policy instruments
- We don't say something about the political economy required
 - But we show that bundling can create win-wins



Bodirsky et al (in prep)
Illustration: Jan von Holleben

Conclusions

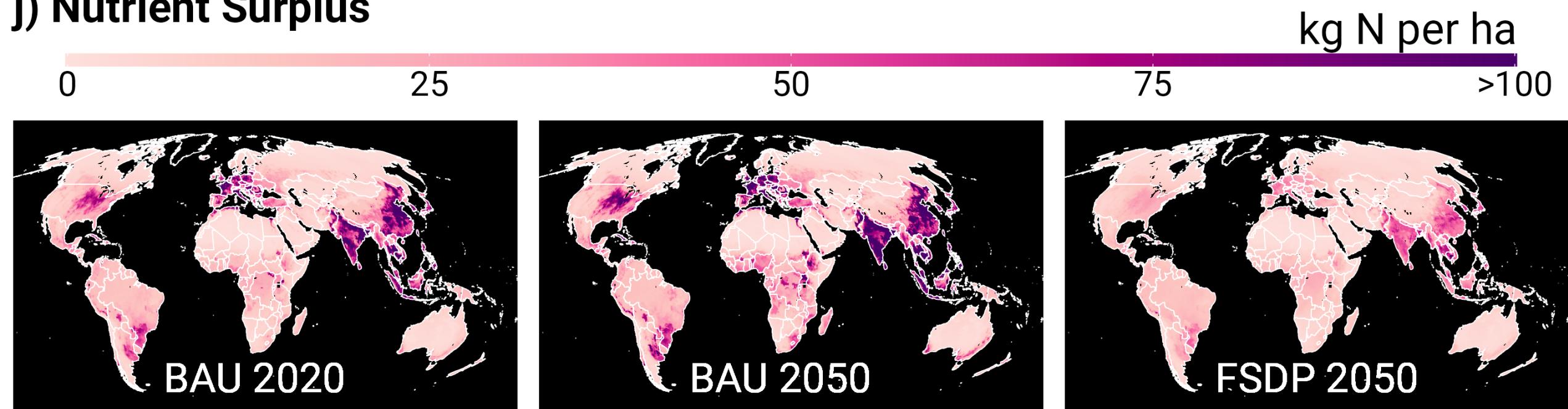
- 1) **We need visions of sustainable food systems.**
 - Stimulates an informed debate
 - Provides orientation
 - Motivates actors
 - Forms expectations
- 2) **All measures have co-benefits and trade-offs**
 - Explains inertness of the system
- 3) **Combinations of measures can create win-win solutions.**
This can also facilitate change.
- 4) **In our sustainable visions, dietary change played a central role**
 - It reduced environmental impacts
 - It reduces pressure in the food system
- 5) **A sustainable food system is possible**
 - But it requires a system-wide transformation



Vielen Dank!
bodirsky@pik-potsdam.de

Backup slides

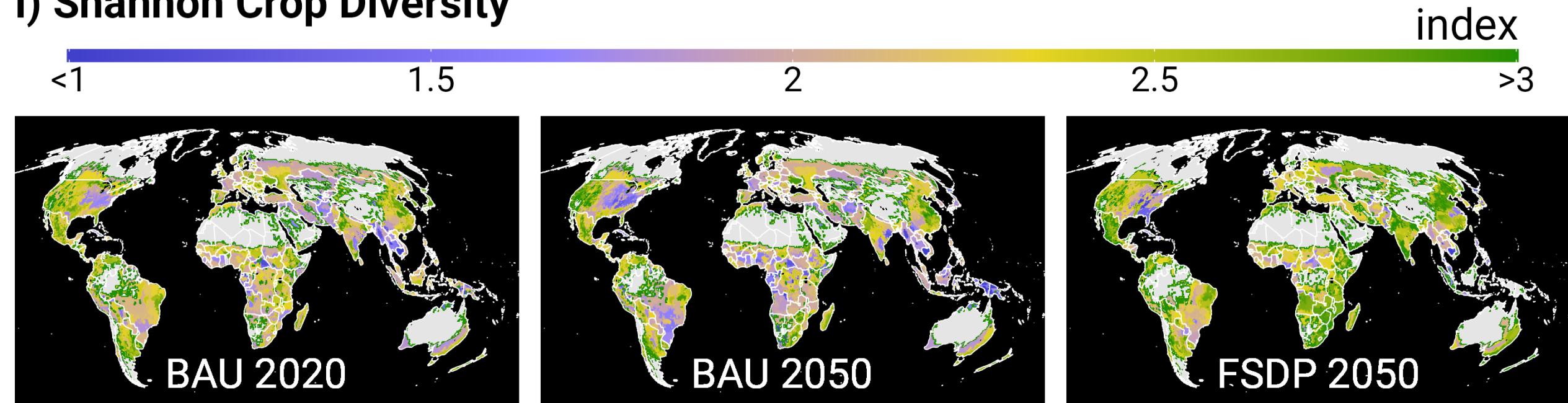
j) Nutrient Surplus



Data range: 0 to 547

Projection: Mollweide

i) Shannon Crop Diversity

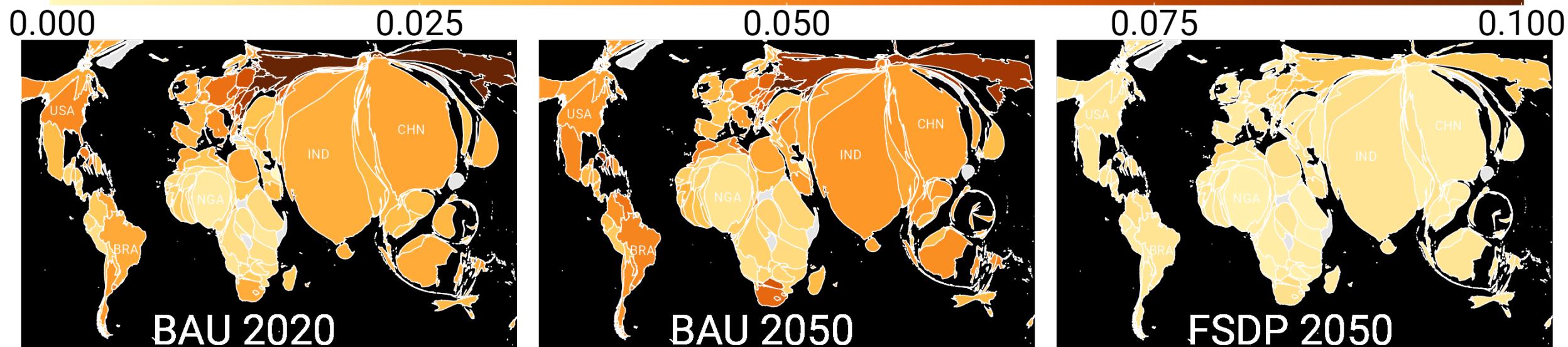


Data range: 0.01 to 3.27

Projection: Mollweide

c) Years of Life Lost

Years per person



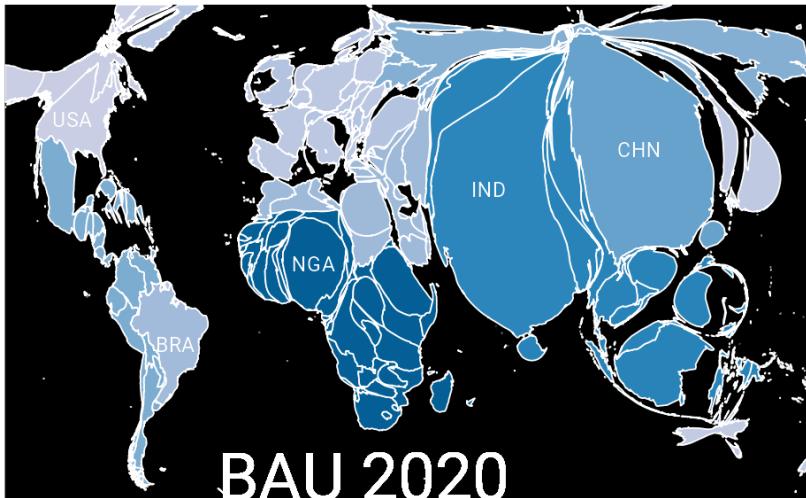
Data range: 0 to 0.16

Cartogram projections with areas proportional to population

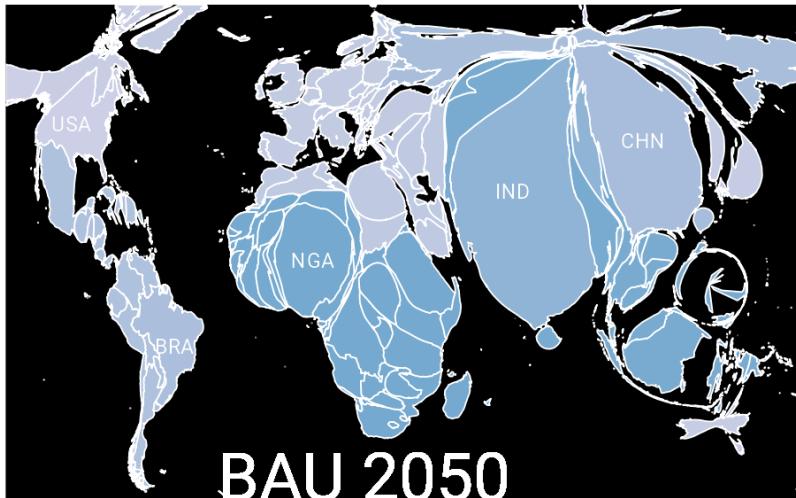
f) Agricultural Employment

Population share per country

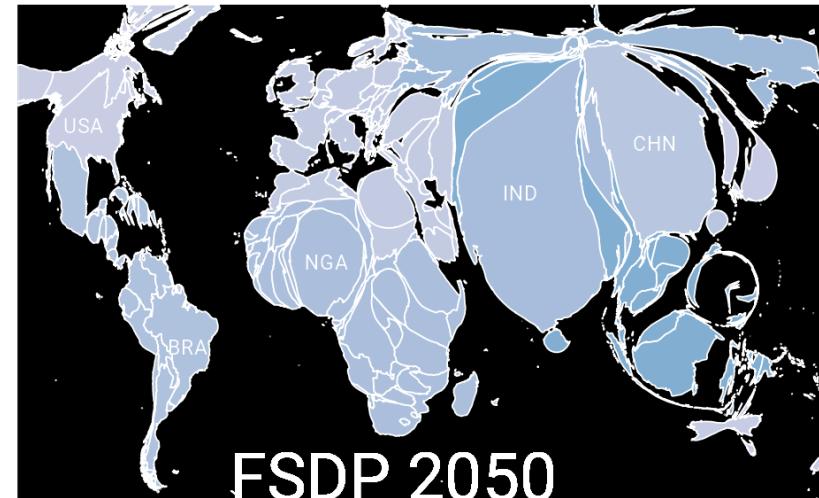
0.0



0.1



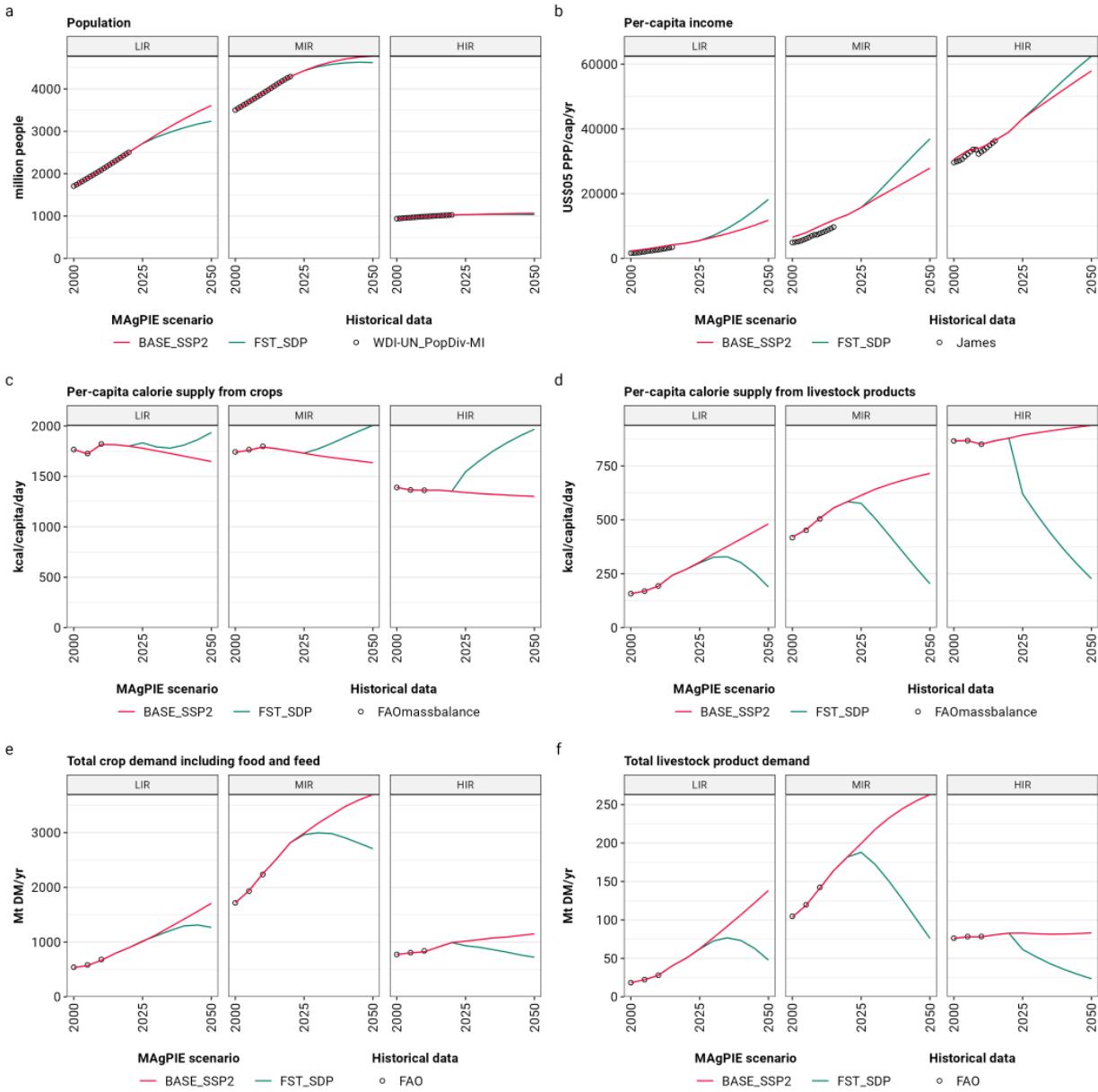
0.2

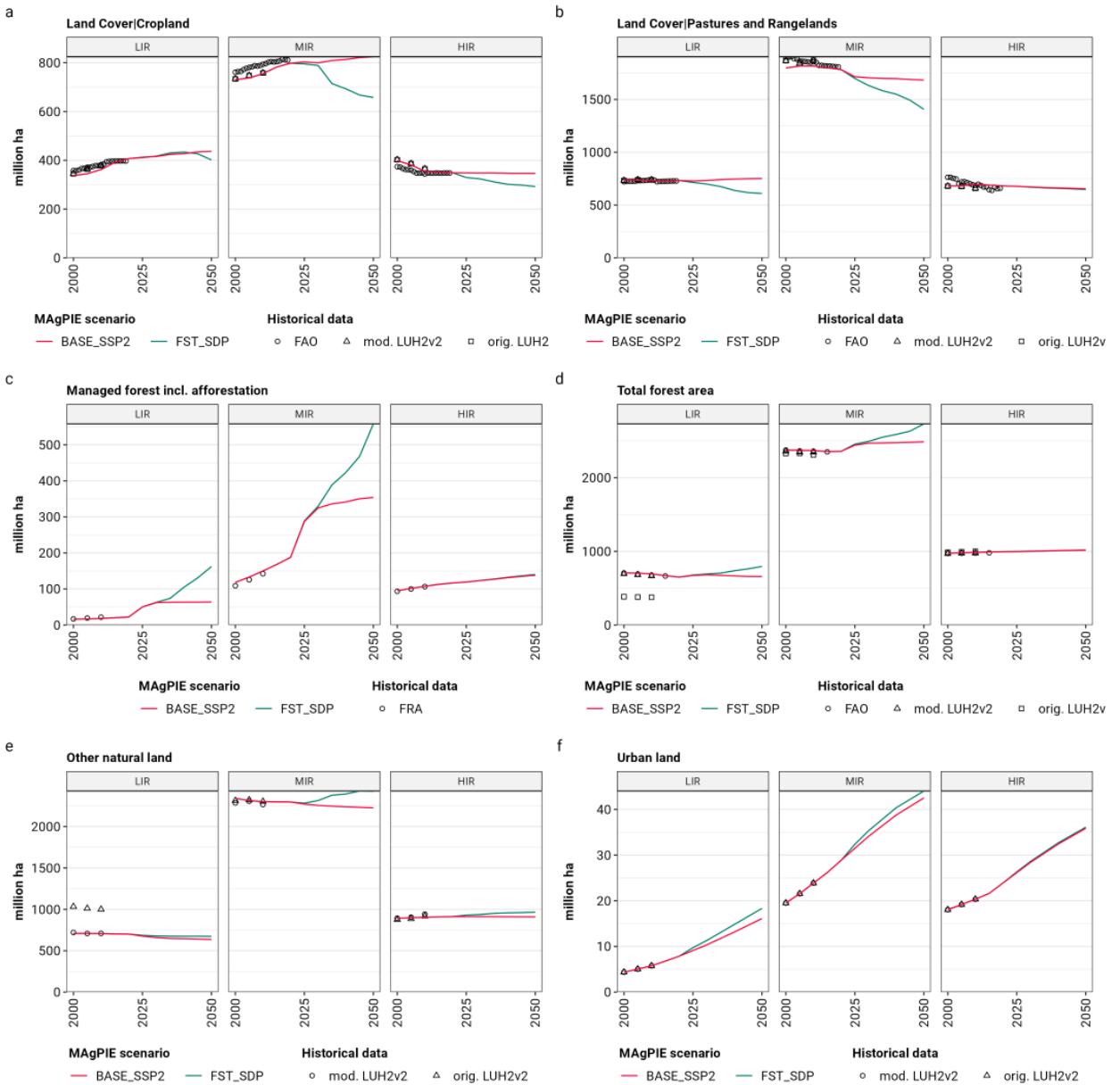


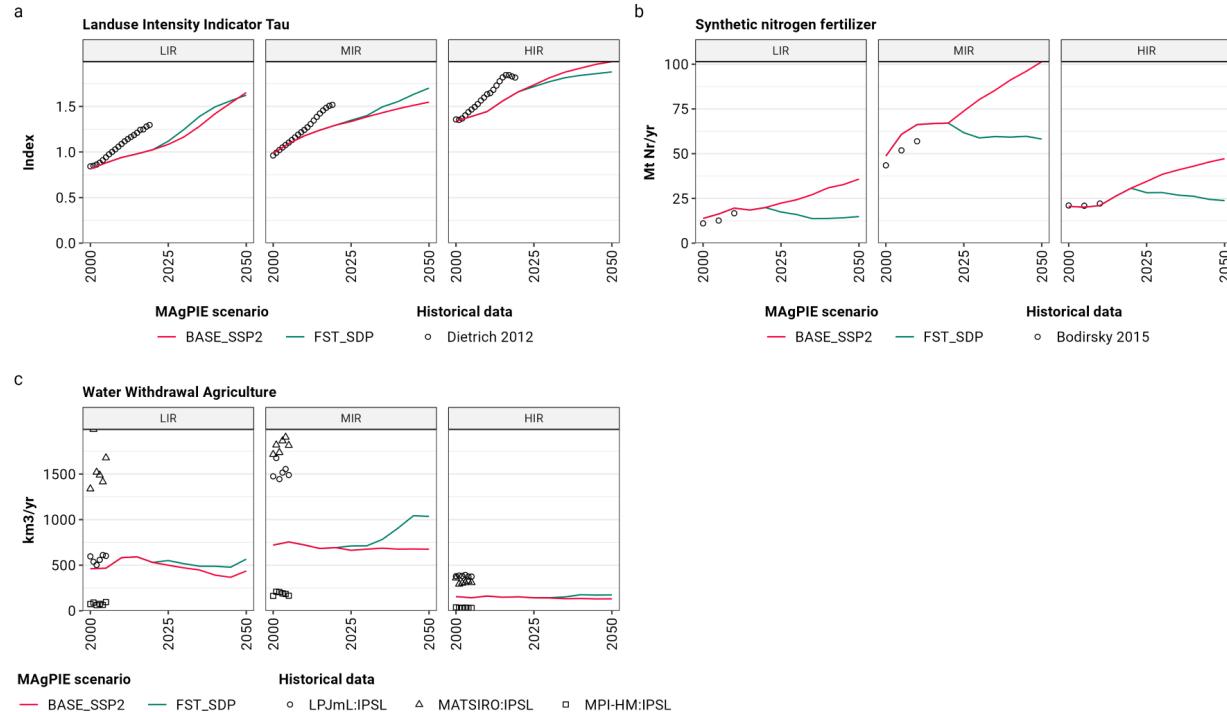
0.3

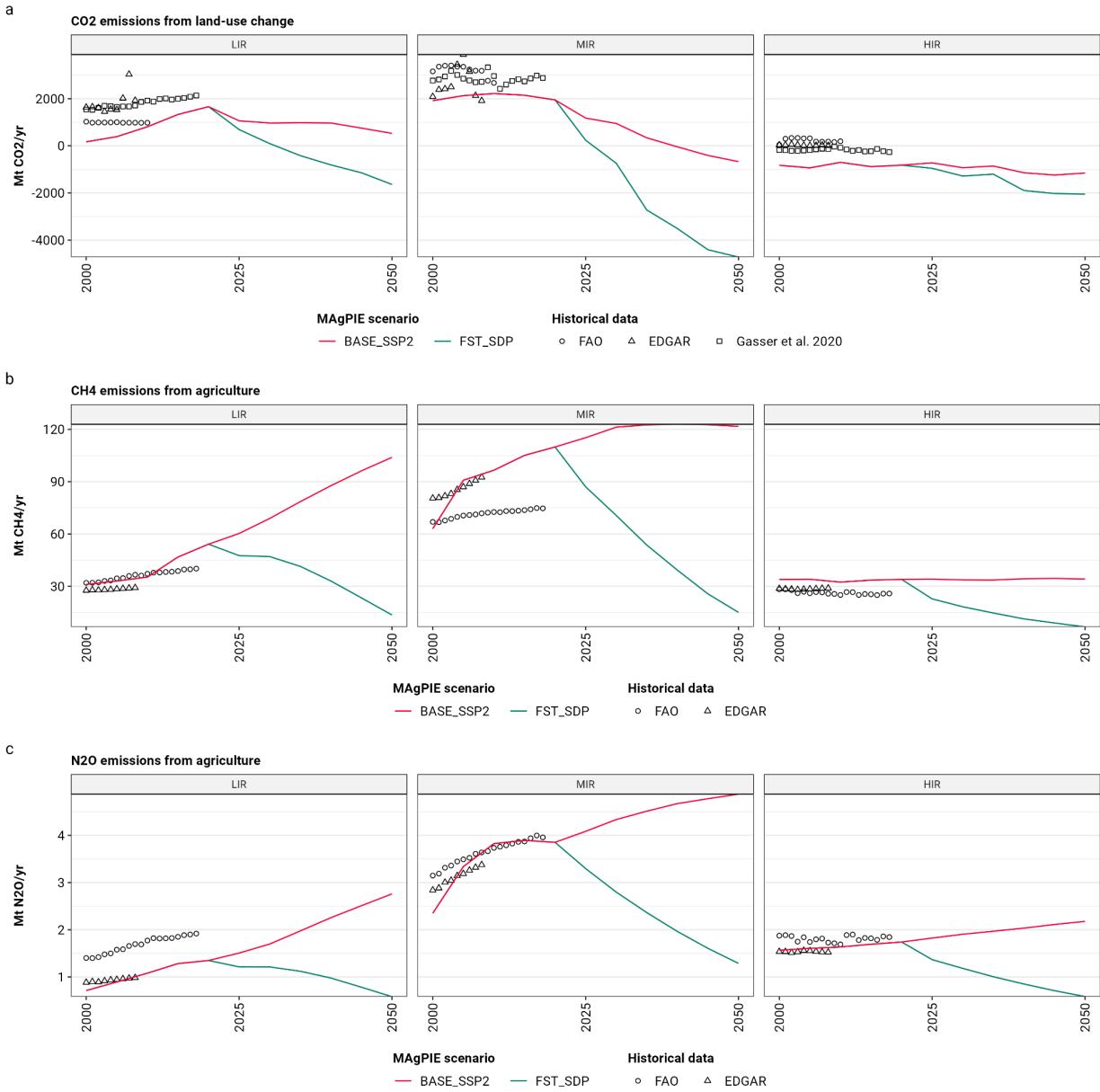
Data range: 0.01 to 0.28

Cartogram projections with areas proportional to population

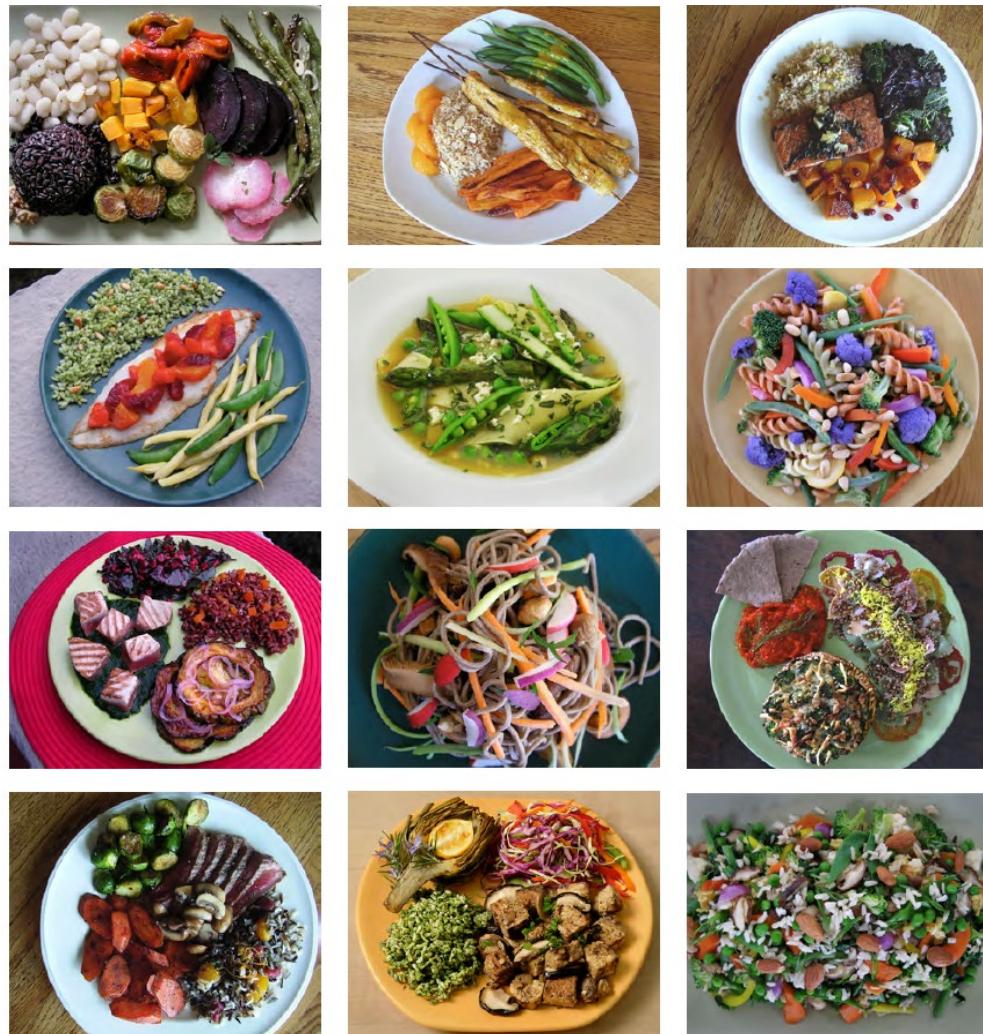






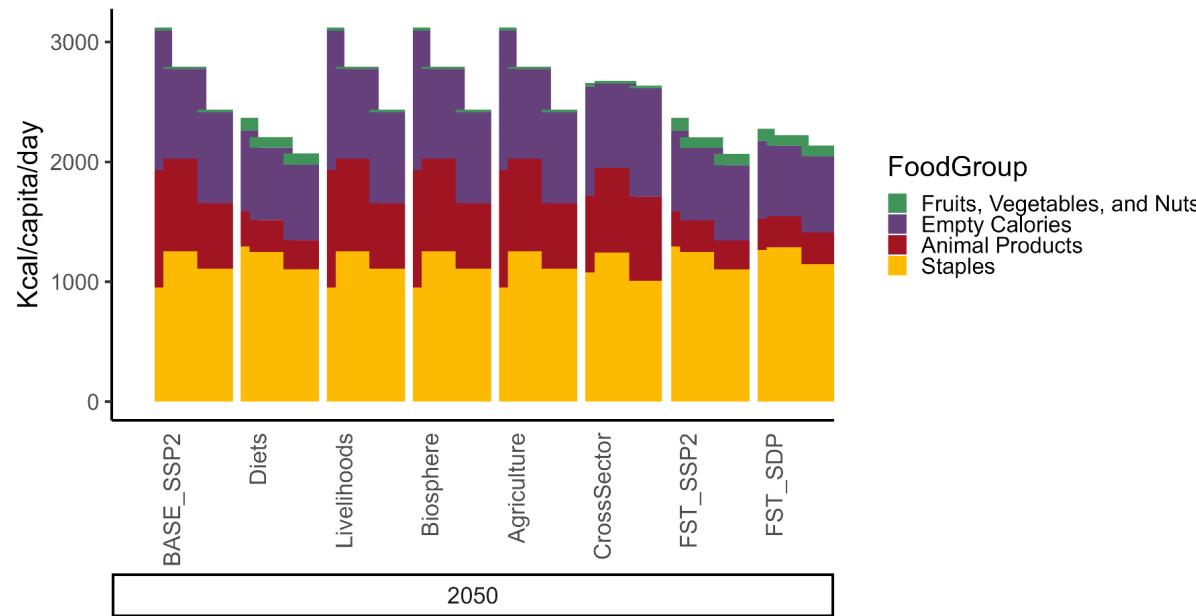


EAT-Lancet: Eine gesunde UND nachhaltige Ernährung

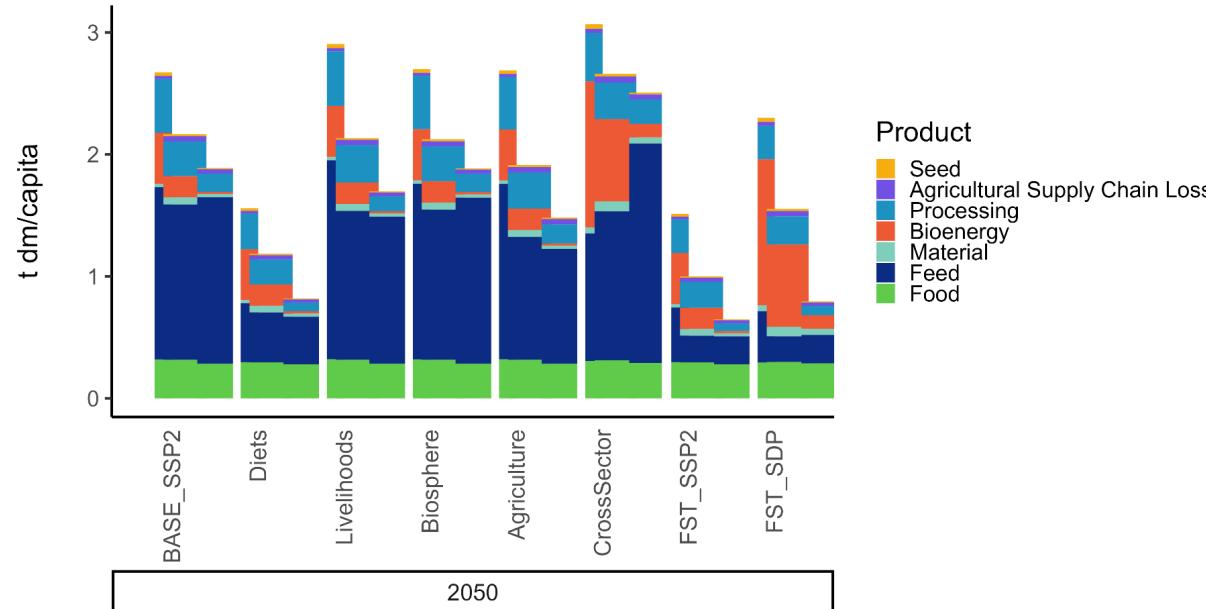


EAT-Lancet Commission 2019

a) Calorie Supply



b) Crop-Based Product Demand

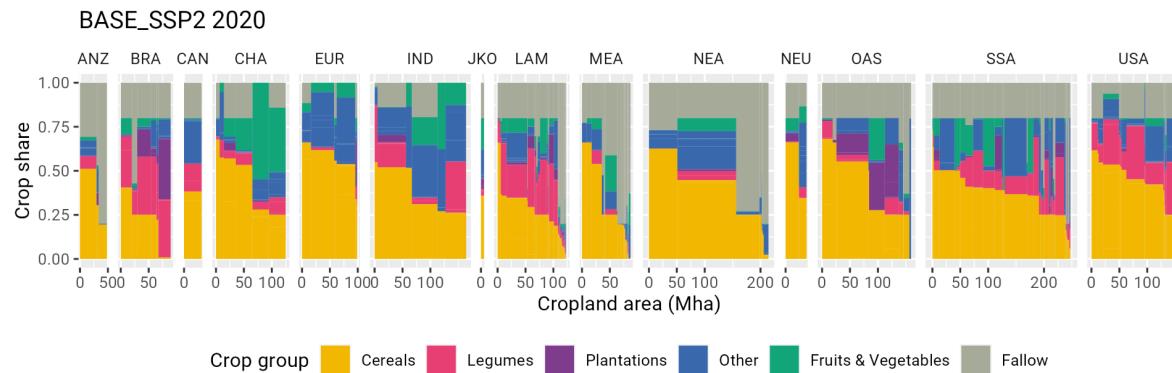


a) Per-capita food demand by product in kcal per capita per day and

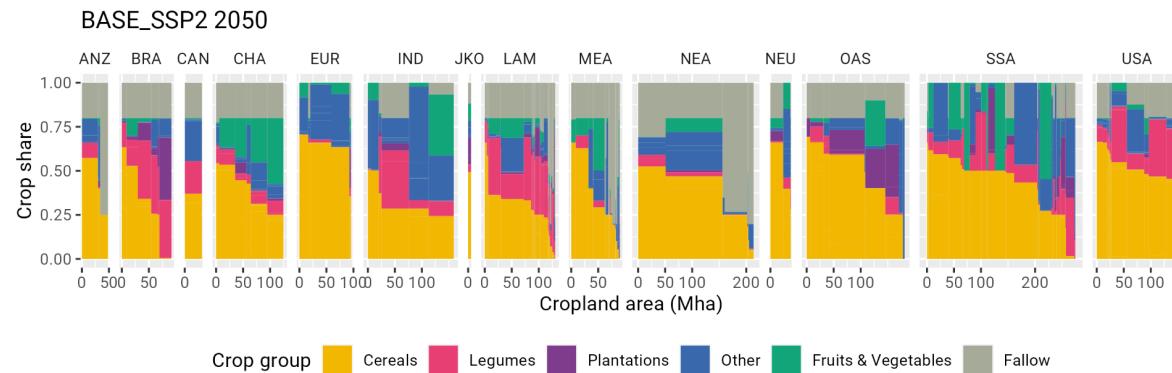
b) crop-based product demand by utilization category in t DM per capita per year.

Grouped bars include, from left to right, the average values for current low-income, middle-income, and high-income world regions (see S1.1.1). Bar width indicates the population size of these groups. Grouped bars are arranged by scenario and year.

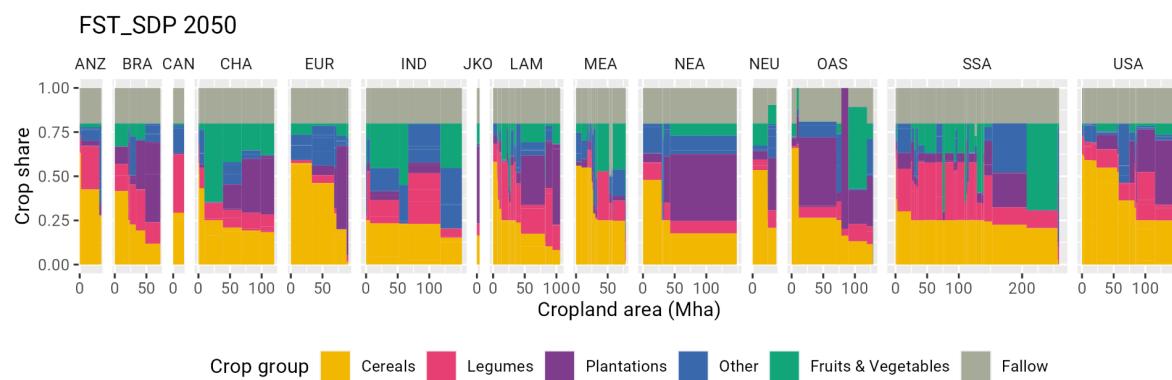
a)



b)



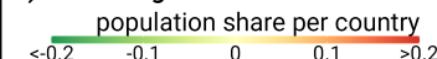
c)



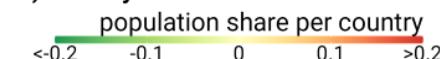
Croparea composition for (a) the scenario BASE_{SSP2} in the year 2020, (b) in the year 2050, and (c) for the scenario FST_{SDP} in the year 2050. Y-axis shows the shares of major crop groups within the crop area of a cluster cell, and x-Axis shows the size of a cluster cell within major world regions (see section S1.1.1). Plantations include grassy and woody cellulosic bioenergy plants, oilpalms and sugar cane. Other crops include for example roots and forage crops.

Health

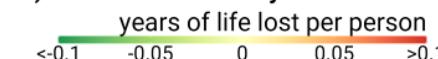
a) Underweight



b) Obesity



c) Premature Mortality



Economy

j) Value of Bioeconomy Supply



k) Production Costs



Environment

d) Biodiversity Intactness



e) Shannon Crop Diversity



f) Nutrient Surplus

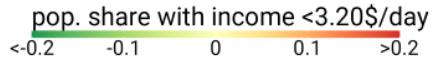


Inclusion

i) Expenditure on Ag. Products



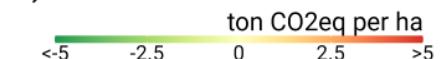
m) Poverty



g) Water Environmental Flow Violations



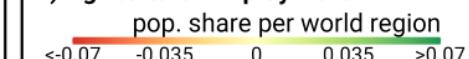
h) Annual AFOLU GHG Emissions



i) Global Surface Warming



n) Agricultural Employment



o) Agricultural Wages

