

# Science and Agricultural Sustainability

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**Chief Departmental Science Advisor**

**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



September 2022



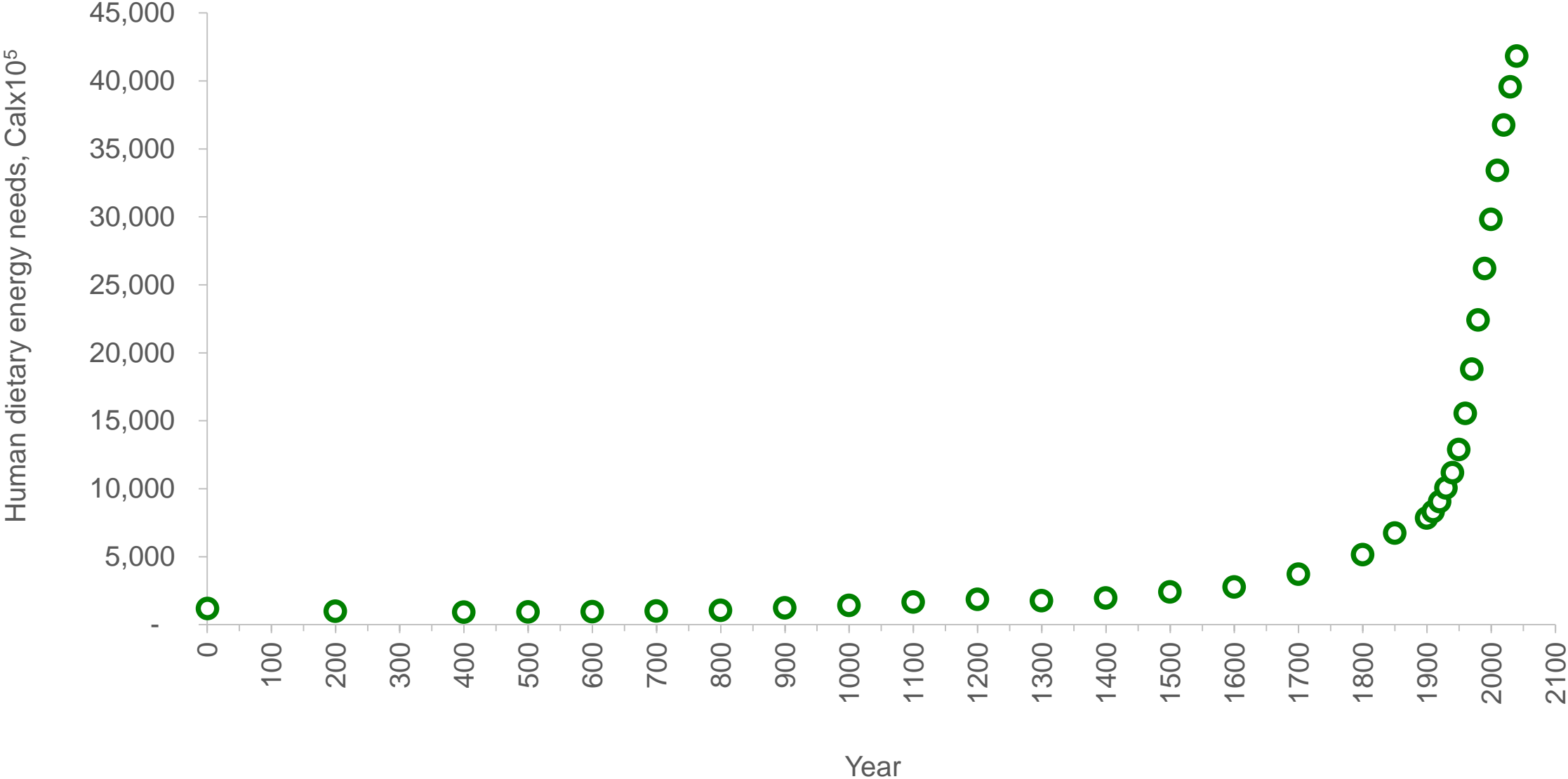
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***“The first farmer was the  
first man.  
And all historic nobility rests  
on the possession and use  
of land”***

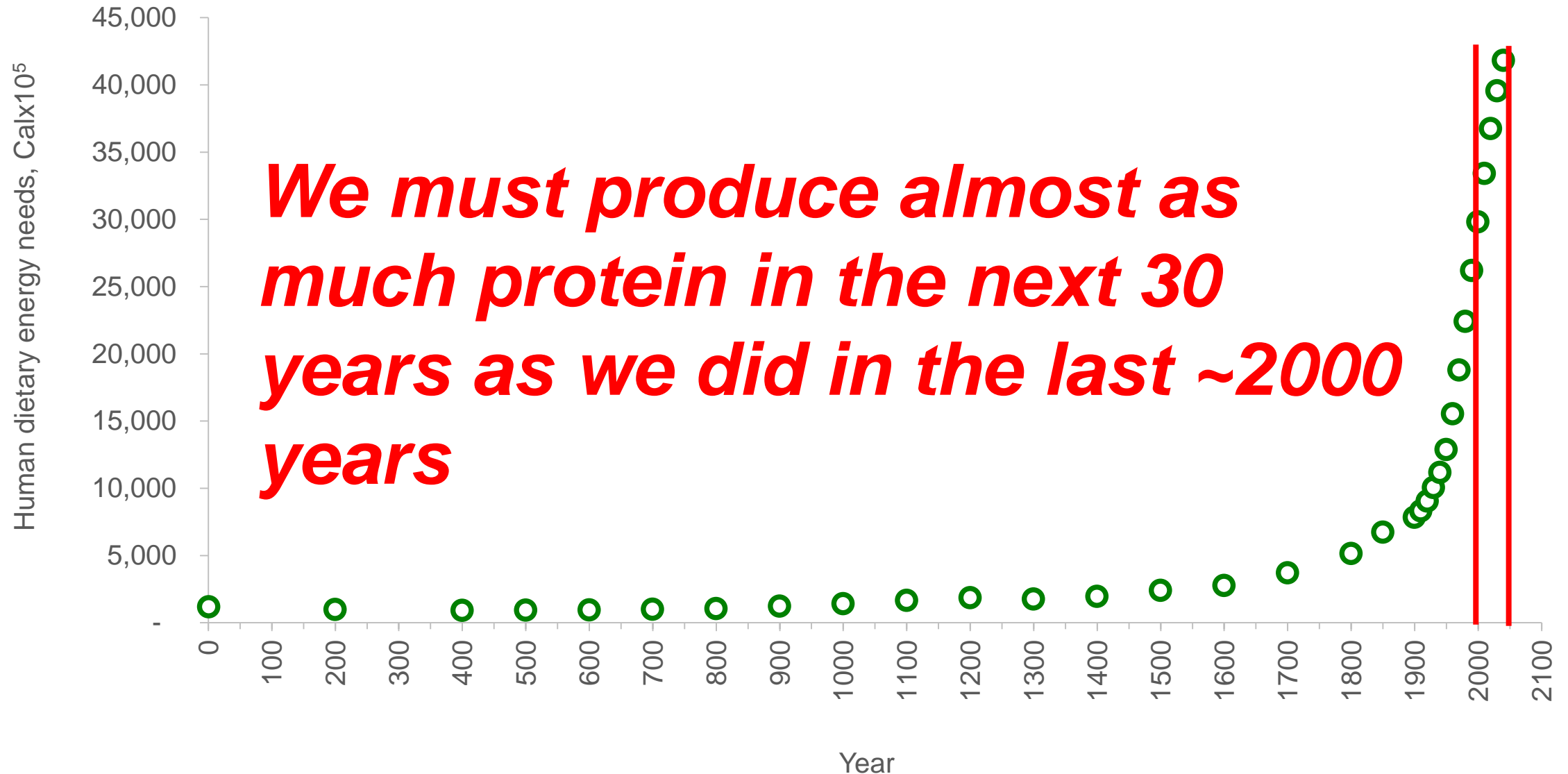
*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**The world is facing a massive challenge**

# The world is facing a massive challenge



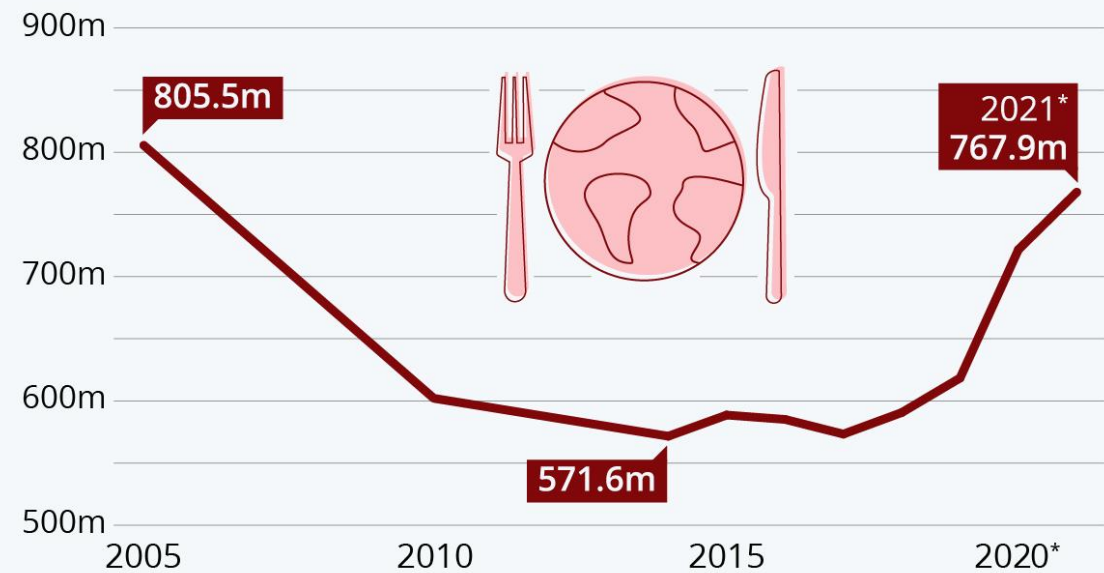
# The world is facing a massive challenge





# World Hunger Continues Dramatic Rise

Number of undernourished people worldwide from 2005 to 2021\*



\* 2020: Middle estimate. 2021: Middle estimate, projection

Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization

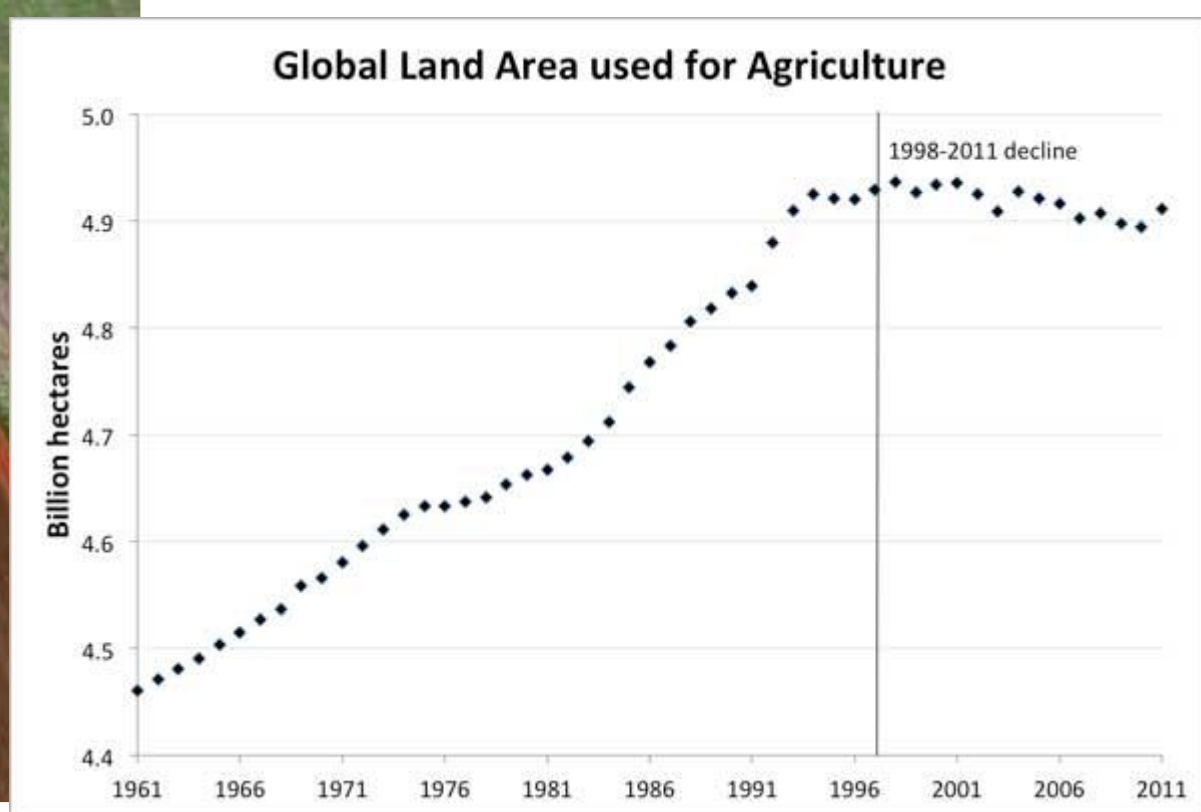


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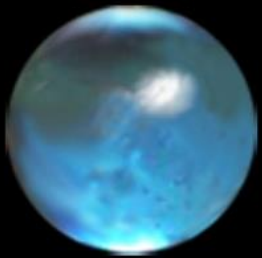


And we cannot use  
more land!



# The World's Water

And water is fast becoming  
the limiting factor in many  
parts of the world



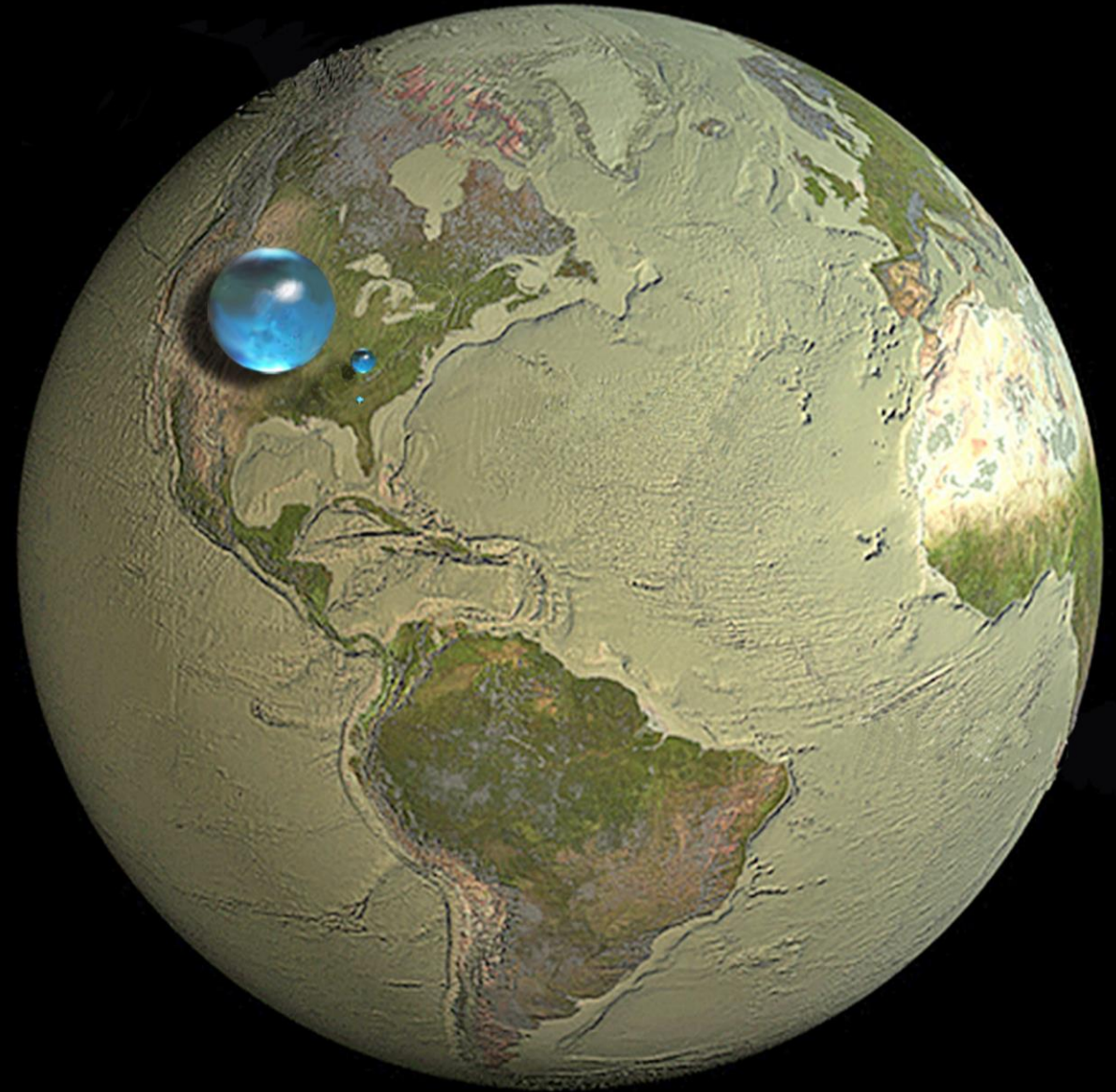
**All water on, in, and above the Earth**



**Liquid fresh water**

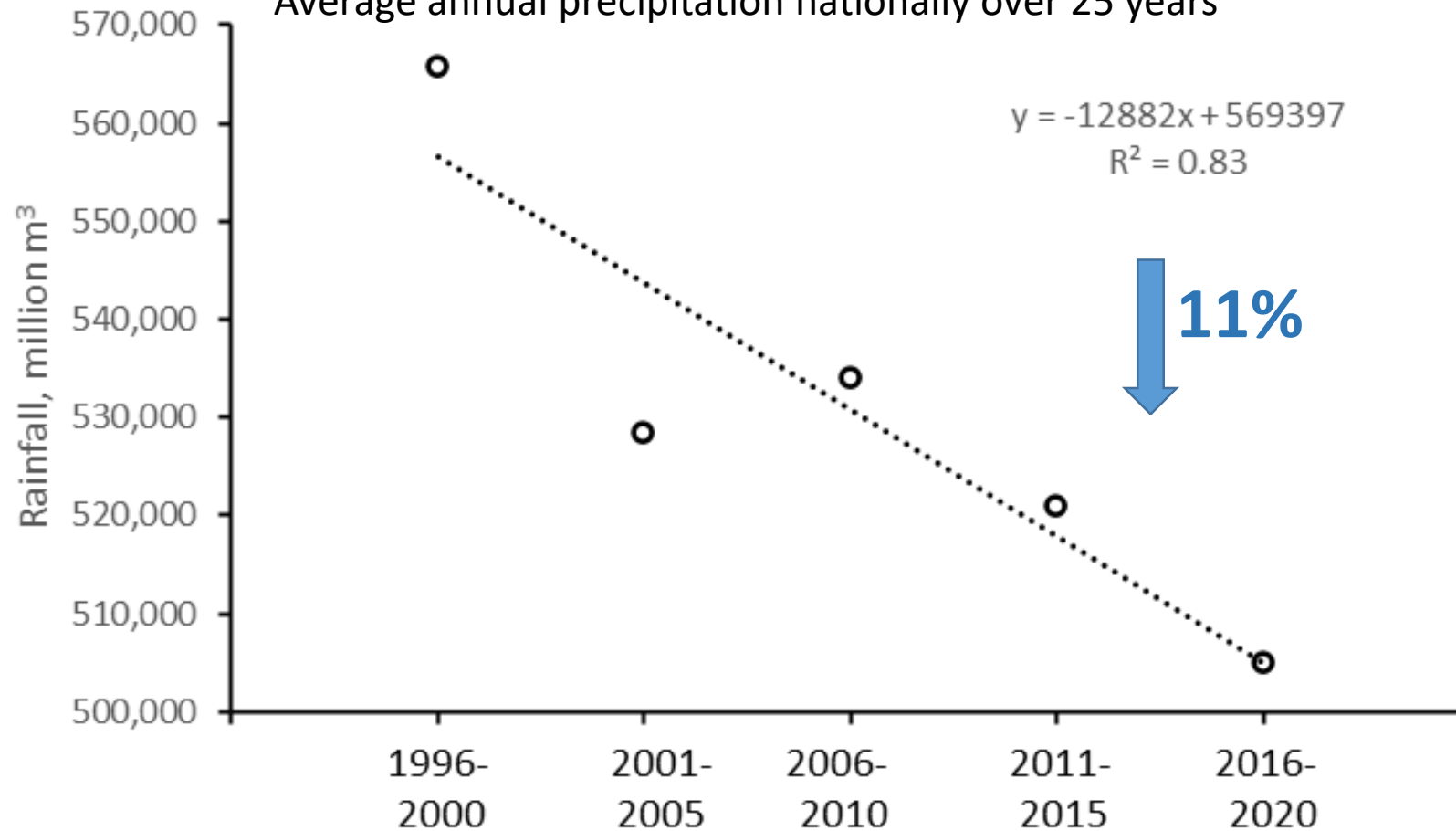


**Fresh-water lakes and rivers**



# And rainfall patterns are changing

Average annual precipitation nationally over 25 years

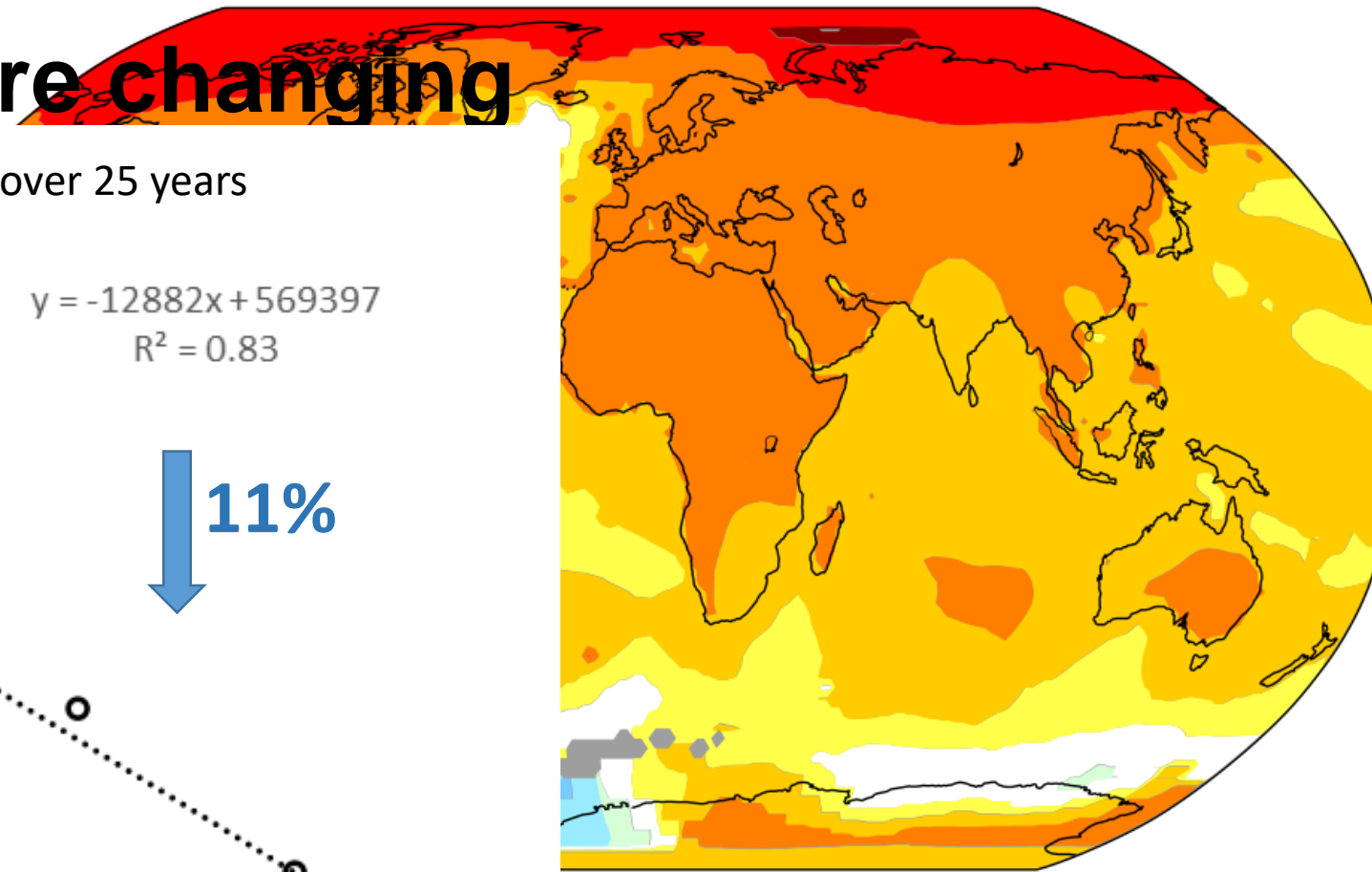
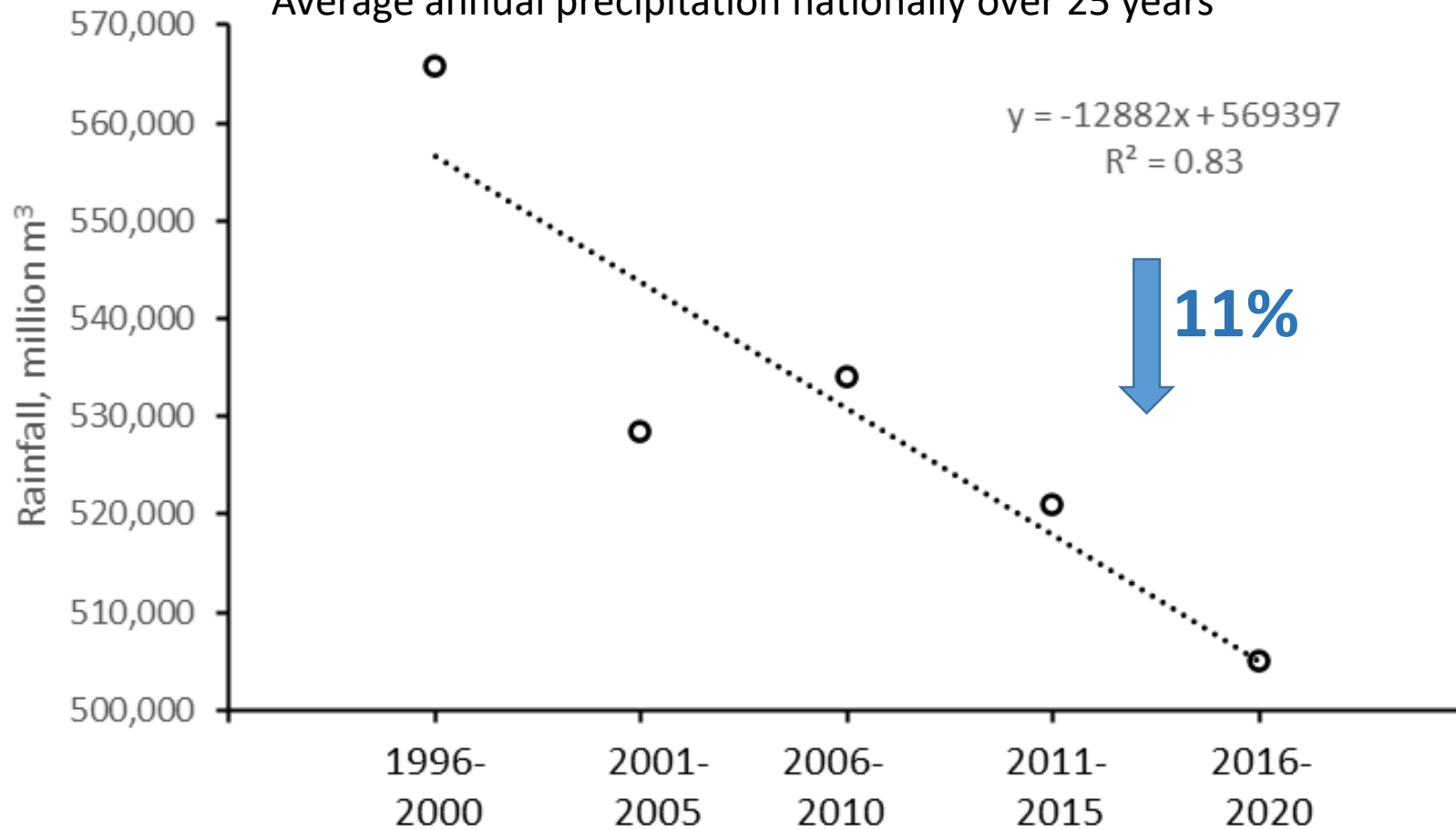




## Temperature change in the last 50 years

# And rainfall patterns are changing

Average annual precipitation nationally over 25 years



vs 1956-1976 baseline

2 +0.5 +1.0 +2.0 +4.0 °C

-1.8 -0.9 -0.4 +0.4 +0.9 +1.8 +3.6 +7.2 °F

Ter

# And rainfall patterns are

570,000

Average annual precipitation nationally over 2



6-1976 baseline

+1.0 +2.0 +4.0 °C



+1.8 +3.6 +7.2 °F



**FACT  
FAKE**



***Farming is a job where  
you work 80 hr/wk  
for below minimum  
wage to feed someone  
who thinks you're  
trying to poison them!***

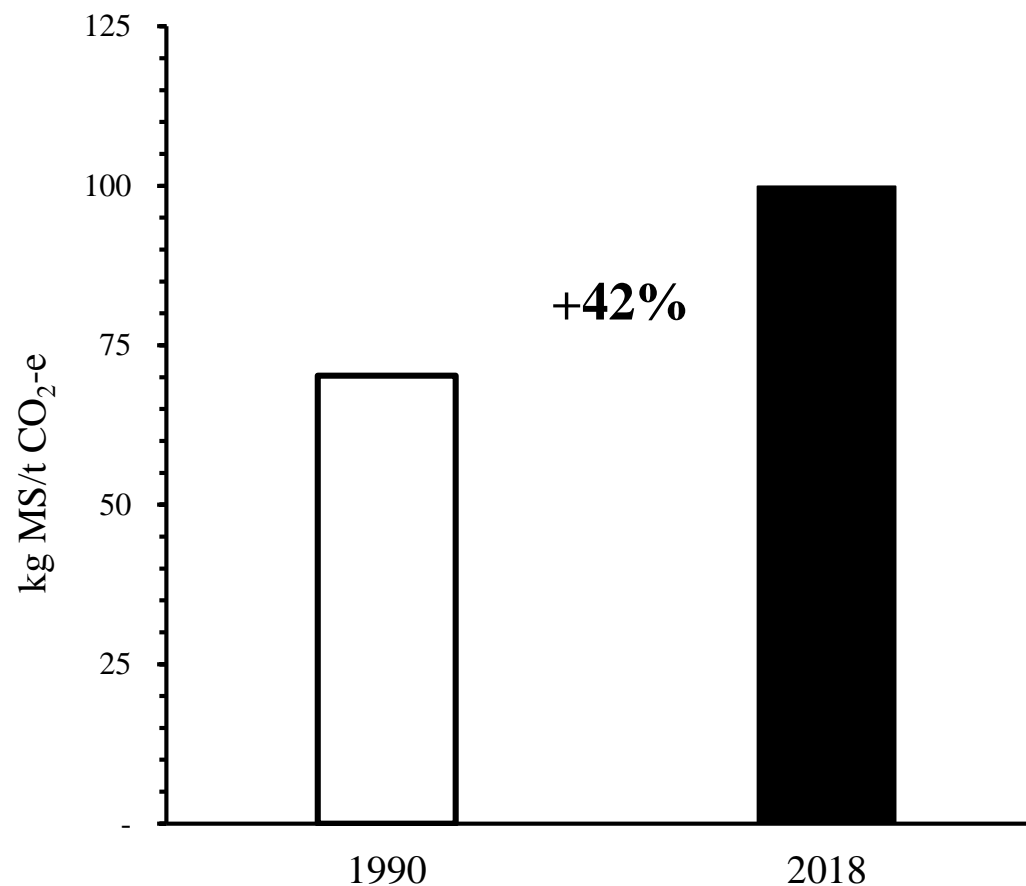
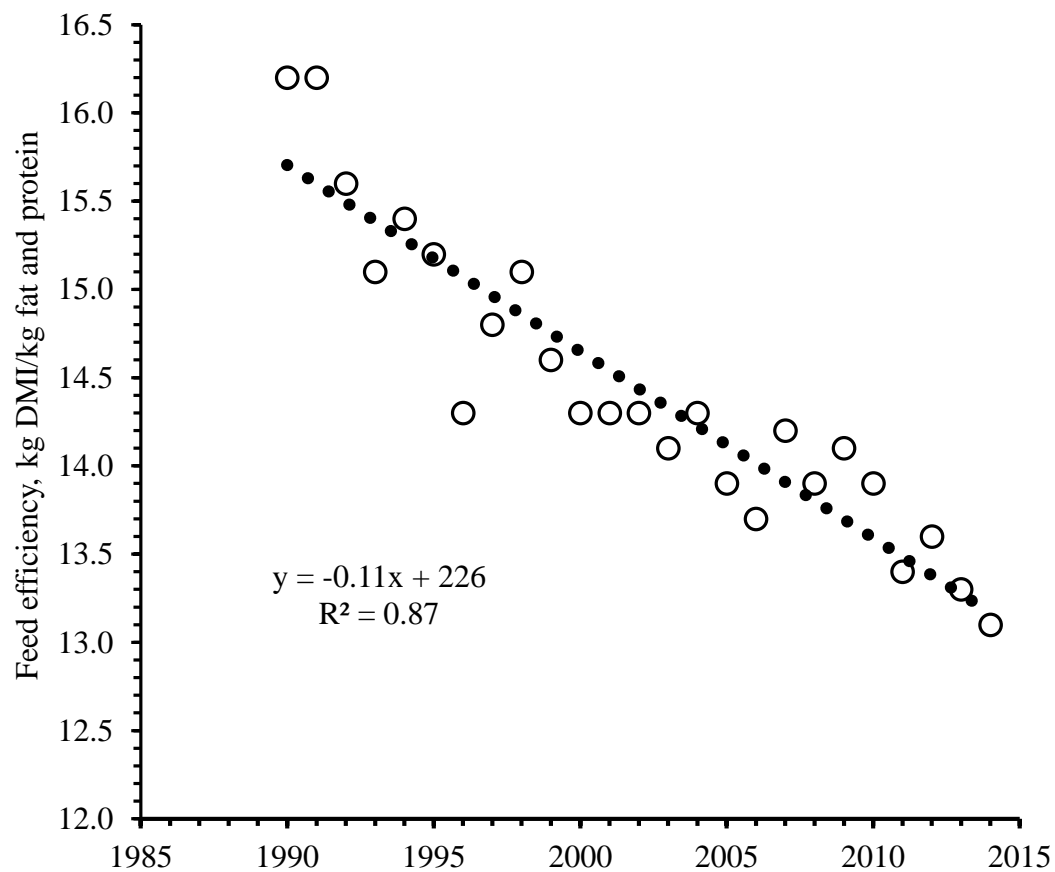




**We produce affordable  
wholesome, natural foods  
for better nutrition outcomes**



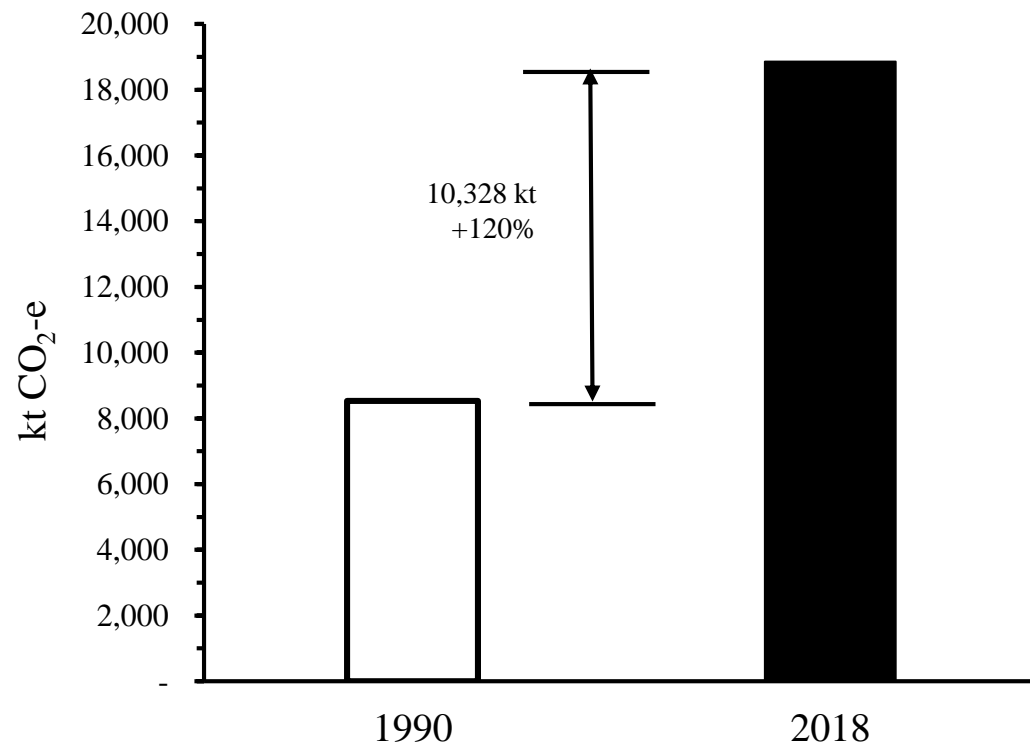
# Increased efficiency – more milk/kg DMI or CO<sub>2</sub>-e





# Externalities – climate change and water

## Climate change – GHG footprint



## Water quality – 1990-2015

- Total N                      ↑        42%
  - Oxidised N                ↑        35%
  - Conductivity             ↑        67%
- 
- Primarily lowland waterways;
  - Intensively managed grassland;
  - $R^2 = 62\%$  with dairy cattle.







# **Fit for a Better World**



# Fit for a Better World

This roadmap is designed to achieve, within a decade, ambitious targets for a more productive, sustainable and inclusive economy

Our primary sectors can lead across the three pillars of New Zealand's economic recovery to achieve these ambitious targets:



## Productivity:

Add **\$44 billion** in export earnings over the next decade via a focus on creating value and building off the strong position of our core sectors.



## Sustainability:

Play our part in New Zealand's journey to a low emissions economy, by reducing biogenic methane to **24-47 percent below** 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10 percent below 2017 levels by 2030, and by restoring New Zealand's freshwater to a healthy state within a generation.



## Inclusiveness:

Employ **10 percent more** Kiwis from all walks of life in the primary sector by 2030 and 10,000 more New Zealanders in the primary sector workforce over the next four years.



# NZ key Sustainability initiatives

- Greenhouse gases;
  - Target biogenic methane emissions: 24-47% reduction by 2050 (10% by 2030);
  - N<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> to net zero by 2050.
- Freshwater;
  - Stopping further degradation;
  - Making material improvements within 5 years;
  - Restoring waterways to a healthy state within a generation.
- Conservation of Biodiversity;
  - Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (under development).





# Research & Development

## 8 Accelerators

- Open Ocean Aquaculture
- Biological Emissions Reduction
- New Horticulture
- Emerging Protein
- Dairy-Beef Integration
- Net Zero Carbon Primary Sector
- Landscape-scale Decision-making
- Social Science for change





## New money for R&D

- Budget 2022 allocated \$339m over 4 years to increase research and adoption to reduce agricultural GHG emissions.
  - A new 'Centre for Climate Action on Agricultural Emissions'
  - Developed by government in partnership with Māori, industry and the science sector to accelerate priorities for climate change mitigation.
  - A mix of a new public-private joint venture with industry and an enhanced New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre.





# Where to from here?

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



GLOBAL  
RESEARCH  
ALLIANCE  
ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

Breeding low  
emissions animals

Methane vaccine

Rumen  
microbiology

Improving sensing  
and measurement

Soil carbon  
sequestration

Low emission feeds

Biological  
greenhouse gas  
inhibitors



# He Waka Eke Noa

- He Waka Eke Noa is a partnership between government, Māori, and industry to reduce NZ's agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.
- The goal is to develop an emissions pricing scheme for agriculture by the end 2022, which will go live by 1 January 2025.







Improving  
water  
quality





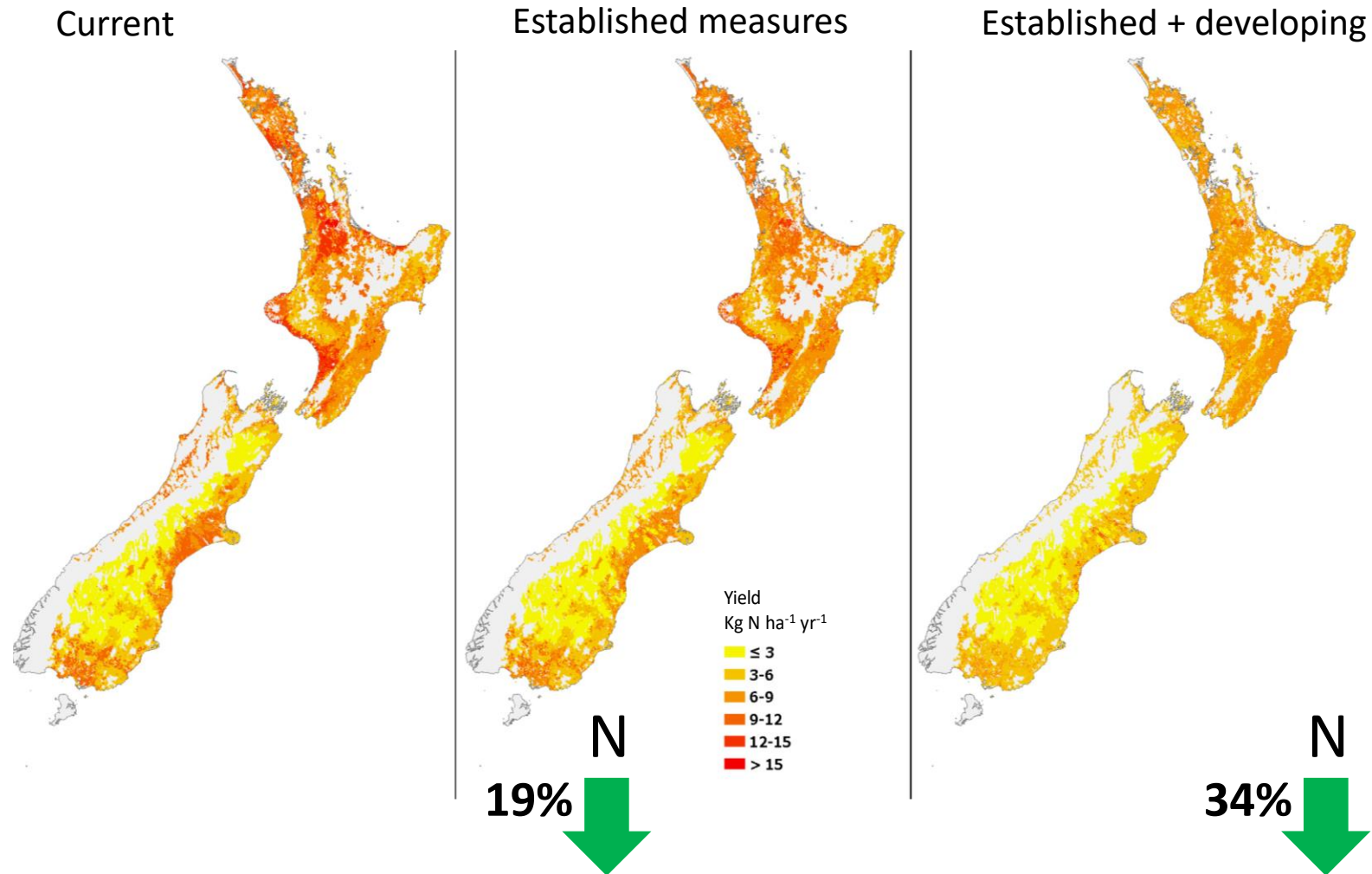
## What could be achieved in the next 20 years?

20 established + 26 developing mitigation measures applied in order of most effective, least cost.

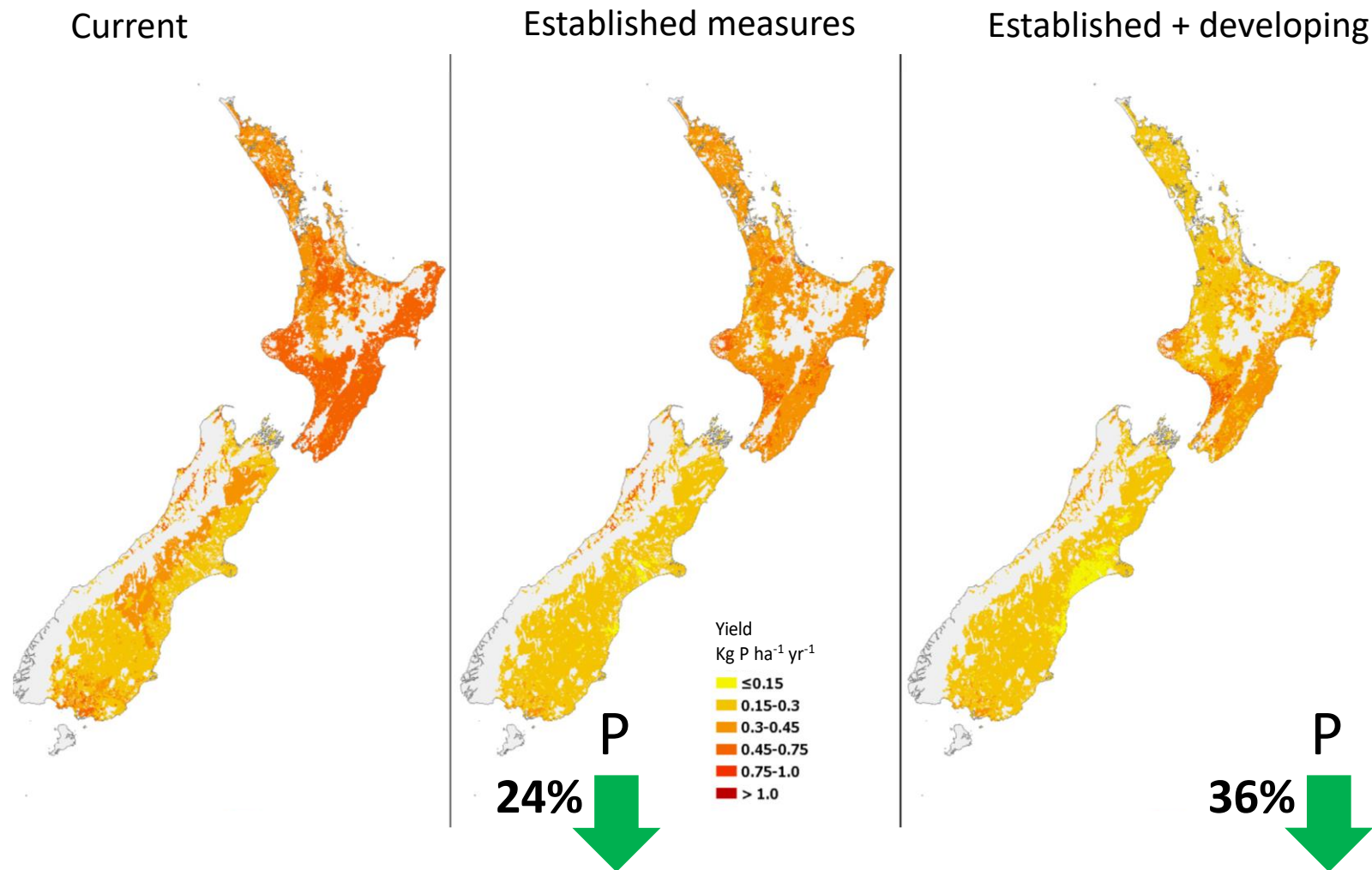





# What could we achieve by 2035?



# What could we achieve by 2035?







# Regenerating Aotearoa

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*‘Practices that, in isolation or collectively, can achieve improved outcomes for our productive landscapes, rivers, coastal and marine environments, biodiversity and natural ecosystems, improve animal welfare, have potential to increase profitability and add value, promote health and wellbeing for humans, whilst ensuring we can grow and consume our food and fibre products sustainably, and meet goals of taiao, whenua ora, mauri ora, and te ao tūroa’*

# SFF Futures: Regenerative Ag Portfolio

## Building a portfolio of complementary projects

- Establishing an evidence base, and materials for farmers, for regen ag practices applied in NZ – what works in our soils, climates, and farming systems
- MPI has committed \$34 million to a portfolio of projects
- Cross sector - dairy, sheep, beef, horticulture and arable
- National coverage
- Scientists, industry and farmers working together
- A range of regen practices being tested
- Integration with mātauranga māori



**Plant and Food Research**  
Biodiversity for beneficial insects



**Dairy Trust Taranaki**  
An assessment of regenerative diverse pastures

### Zespri

Regenerative practices to transform the horticulture sector



### Countdown

Regenerative practices in vegetable production systems



### On-Farm Research

Evaluating regenerative farming principles & developing farmer resilience in a drought prone region



### Synlait, Danone

Advancing soil health on-farm & understanding impacts on dairy farm economic & environmental performance







# Gilbert Enoka

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Elite athletes

- Preserve the Core;
- Disrupt the edges;





**We produce affordable  
wholesome, natural foods  
for better nutrition outcomes**



Contact me:



**john.roche@mpi.govt.nz**

Follow me:



Down to Earth Advice Ltd

Thought for the Day



@down2earth\_john

***“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men”***

- Frederick Douglas

# Nutritional assessment of plant-based beverages in comparison to bovine milk

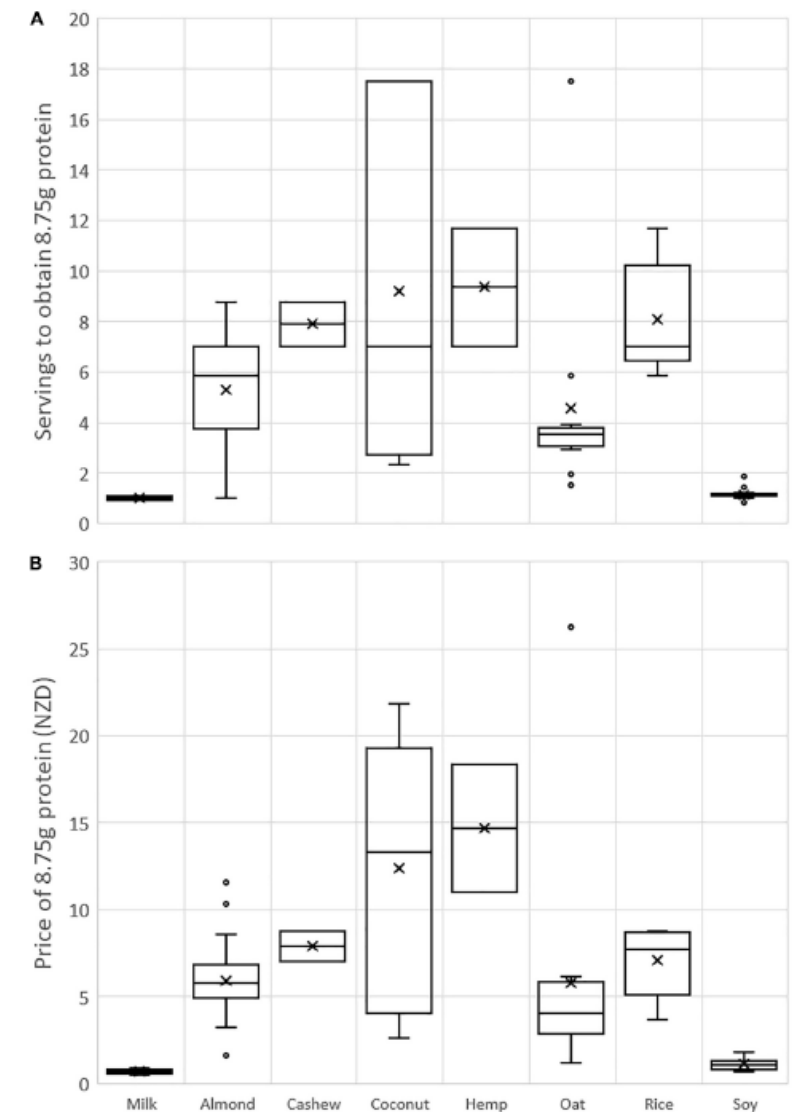
Nick W. Smith<sup>1\*</sup>, Anant C. Dave<sup>1,2</sup>, Jeremy P. Hill<sup>1,2</sup> and Warren C. McNabb<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sustainable Nutrition Initiative, Riddet Institute, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand,

<sup>2</sup>Fonterra Research and Development Centre, Palmerston North, New Zealand

TABLE 4 Mean percentage of an adult woman's recommended daily intakes for amino acids supplied by one 250 ml serving of each product type.

	Cow's milk (fresh)	Cow's milk (UHT)	Almond	Coconut	Oat	Rice	Soy
Histidine	29%	33%	6%	5%	5%	2%	29%
Isoleucine	33%	36%	5%	5%	5%	1%	27%
Leucine	32%	34%	5%	4%	5%	1%	24%
Lysine	36%	38%	2%	4%	3%	1%	25%
SAA	33%	37%	4%	5%	9%	4%	23%
AAA	54%	61%	10%	8%	11%	5%	44%
Threonine	38%	42%	5%	5%	6%	2%	31%
Tryptophan	41%	43%	6%	8%	9%	0%	37%
Valine	34%	40%	4%	5%	6%	2%	23%
Reactive lysine (as a % of total lysine)	95 ± 2	94 ± 2	73 ± 3	69 ± 13	49 ± 9	40 ± 21	99 ± 1
Reactive lysine (as a % of lysine recommended daily intake)*	34%	36%	1%	3%	1%	<1%	25%



of the number of servings (A) and the price (B) to obtain 8.75 g protein (equivalent to one serving of milk) from PBB. A serving size is assumed for all products. Products with no protein content were omitted. The x symbol denotes the mean value; boxes show the interquartile range; range bars show the minimum and maximum values, excluding outliers (circles) that are more than 1.5 times the range below or above the first or third quartile, respectively.