



ISAP 2022

International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific

IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

Making sense of (un)sustainability through civic engagement in the urban food production

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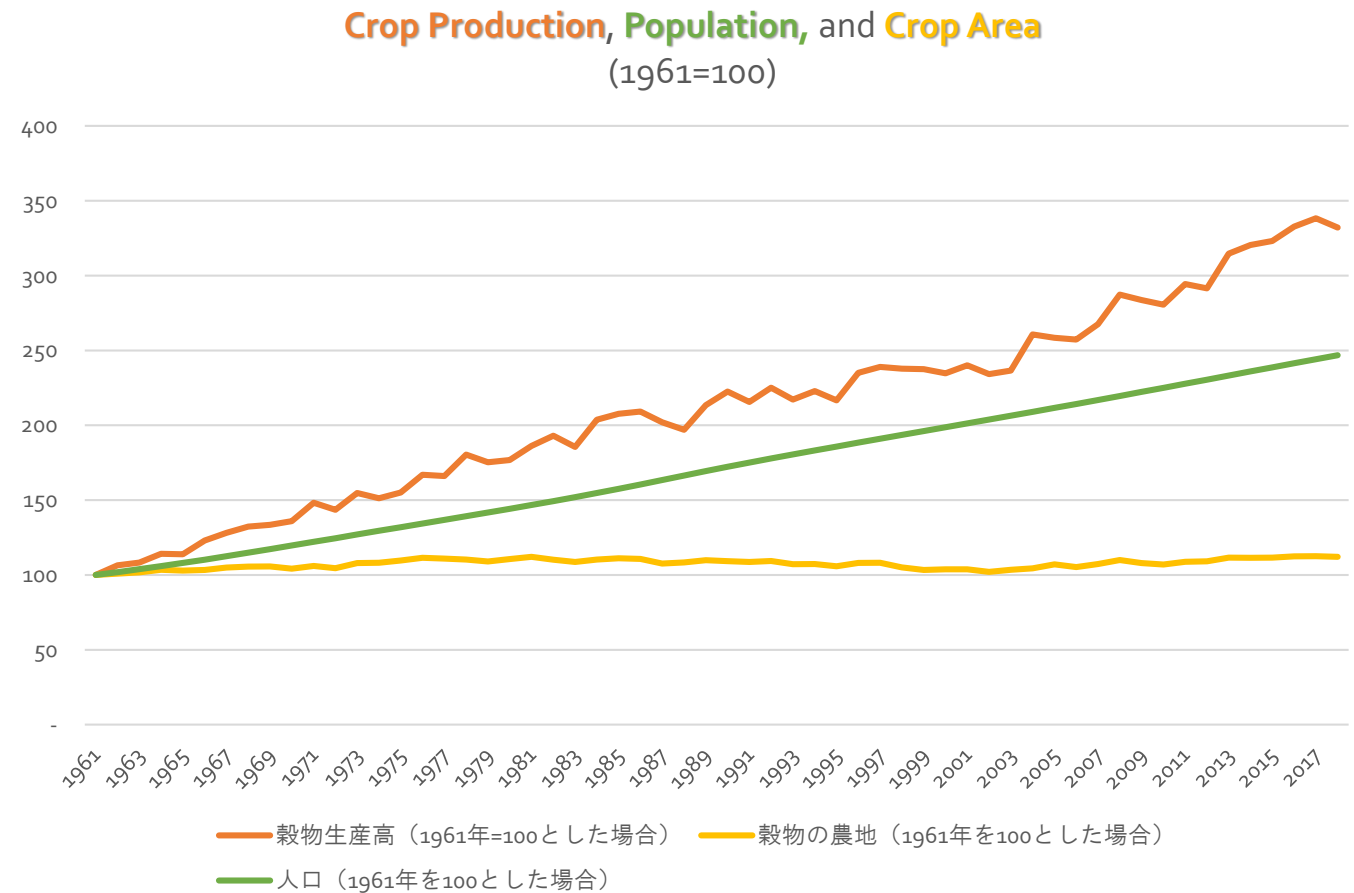
Introduction

- What are justice issues?
 - How are benefits, costs, opportunities & risks distributed?
 - Who can participate in the agenda setting/decision making?
- “How and on what ground societies/actors consider something as a justice issue?”

The challenges for food systems Transitions

Challenges of food systems transitions

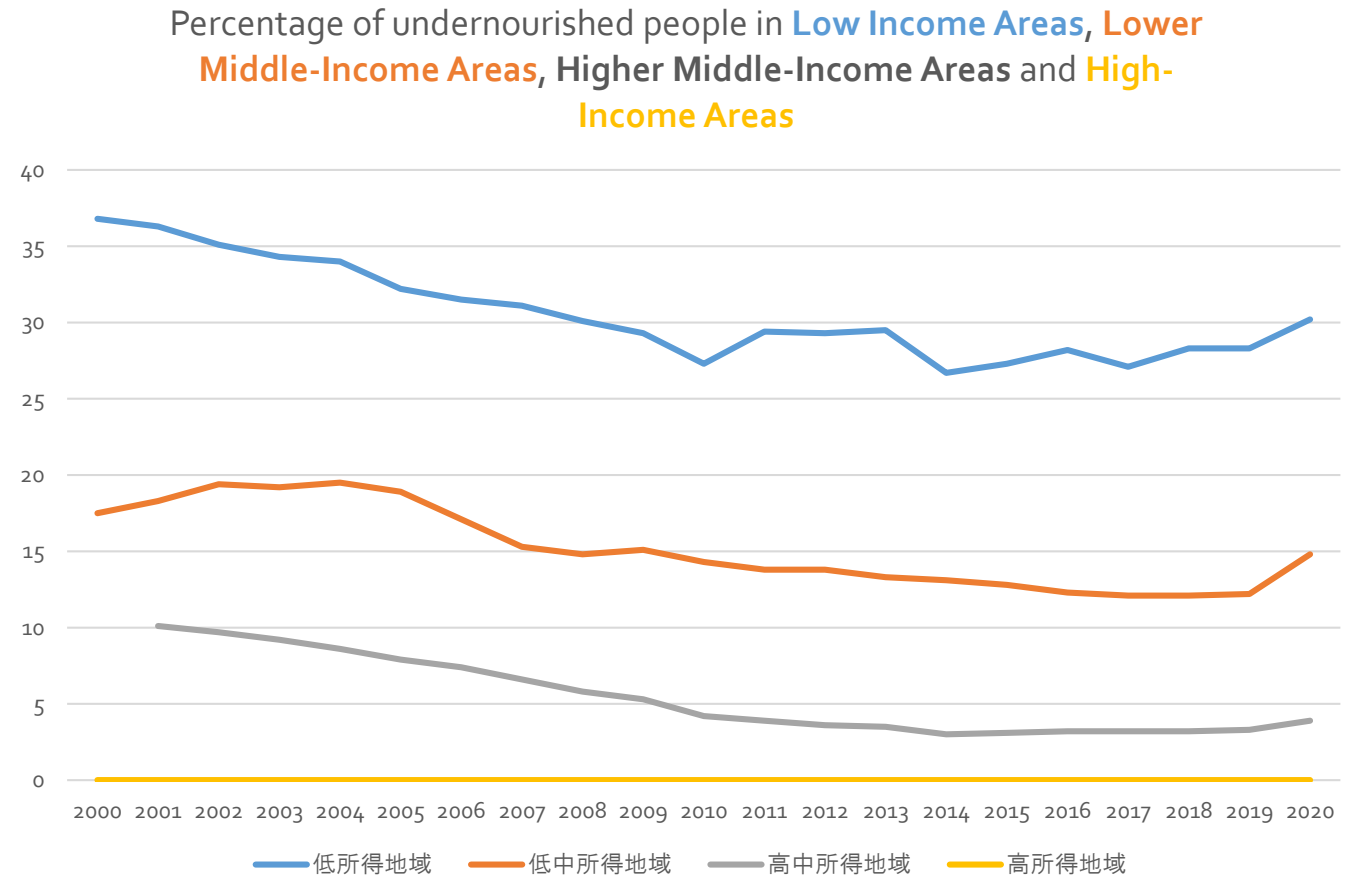
- Lack of equitable & stable access
 - Despite the growth of food production surpassing population growth, malnutrition remains
- Fluctuating price threatens consumers & smallholders



FAOSTAT

Challenges of food systems transitions

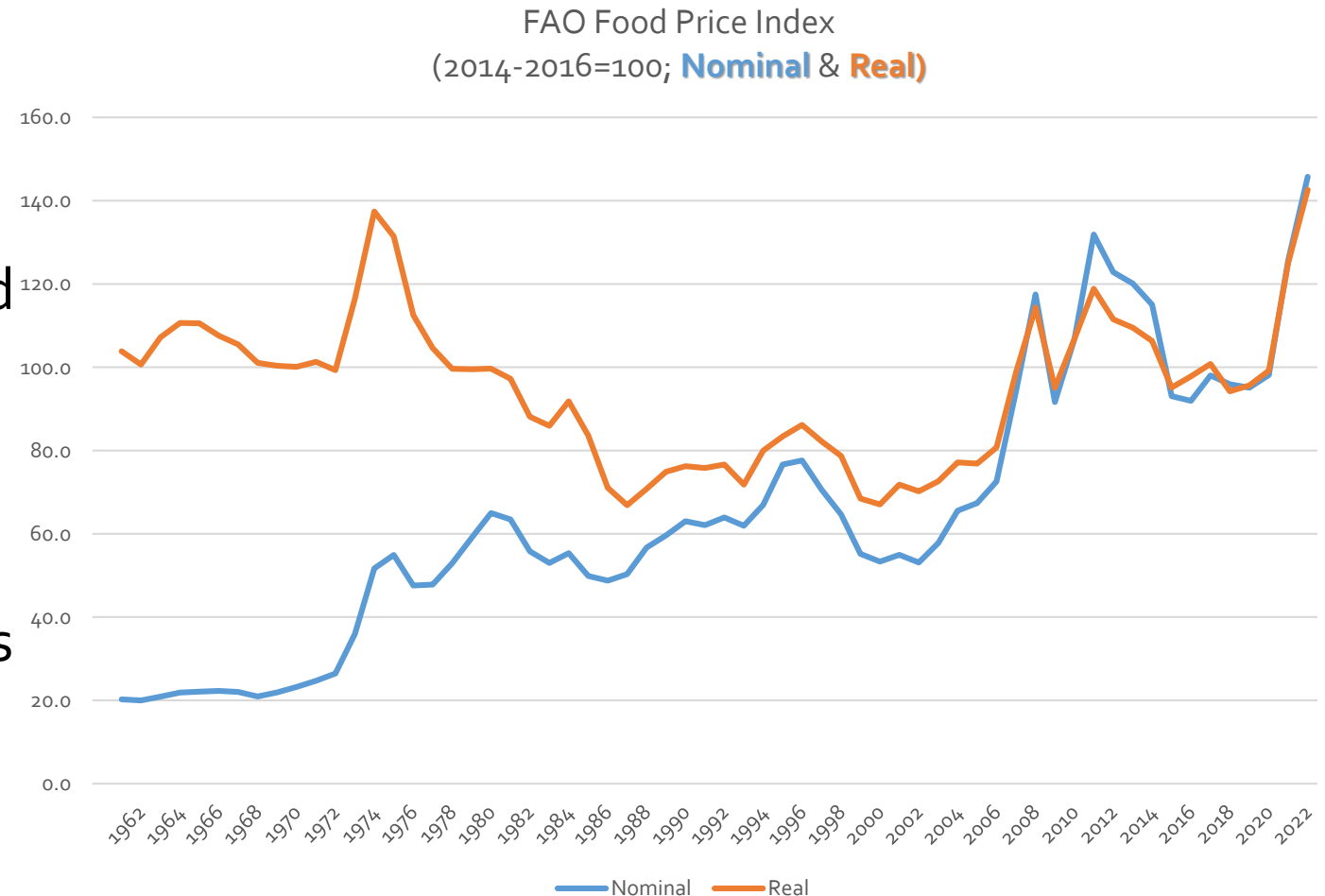
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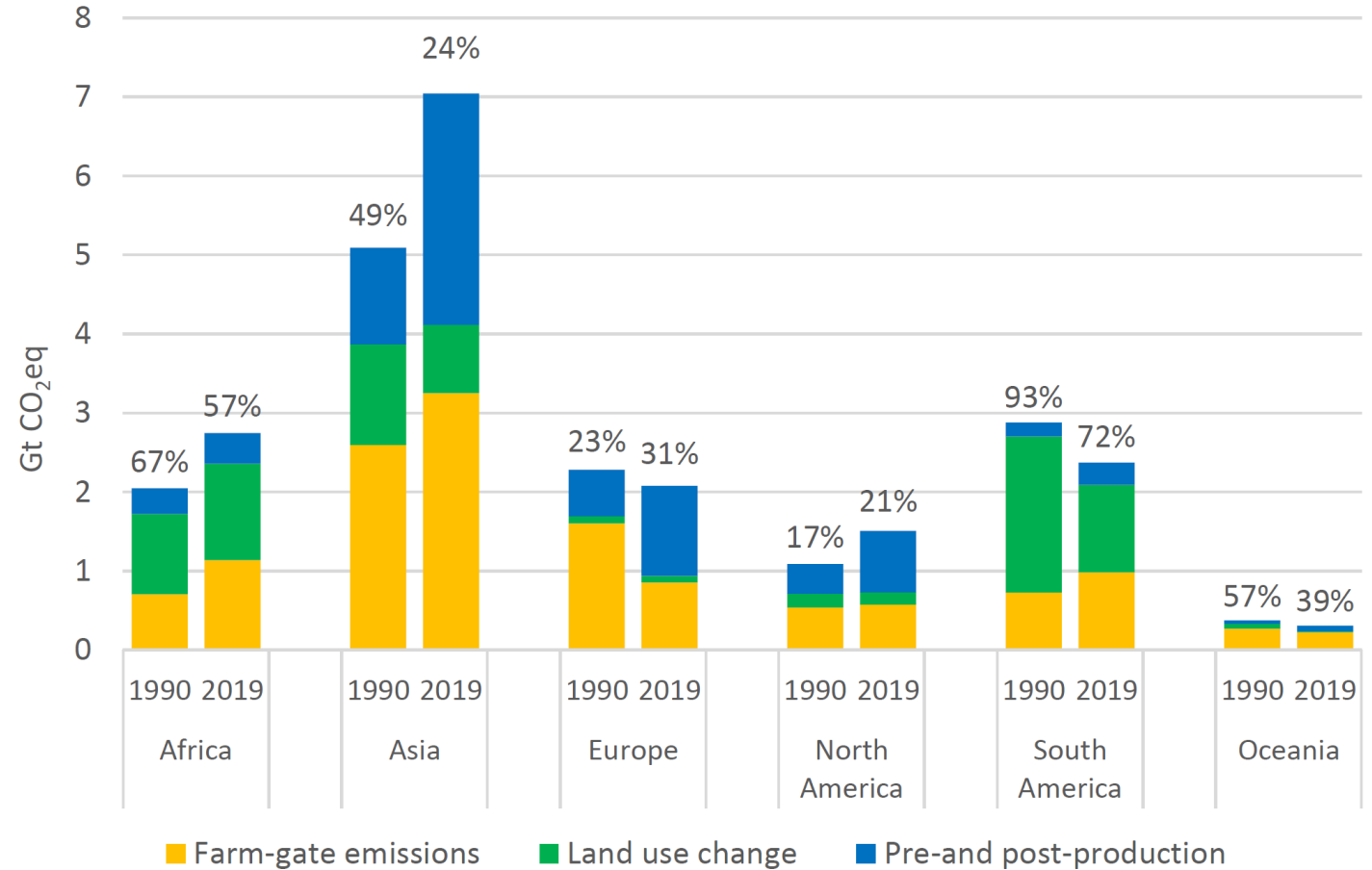


FAOSTAT

Challenges of food systems transitions

- Negative impacts to the global environment
 - 1/3 of GHG
 - 80% of FW use
 - 50% of land use...

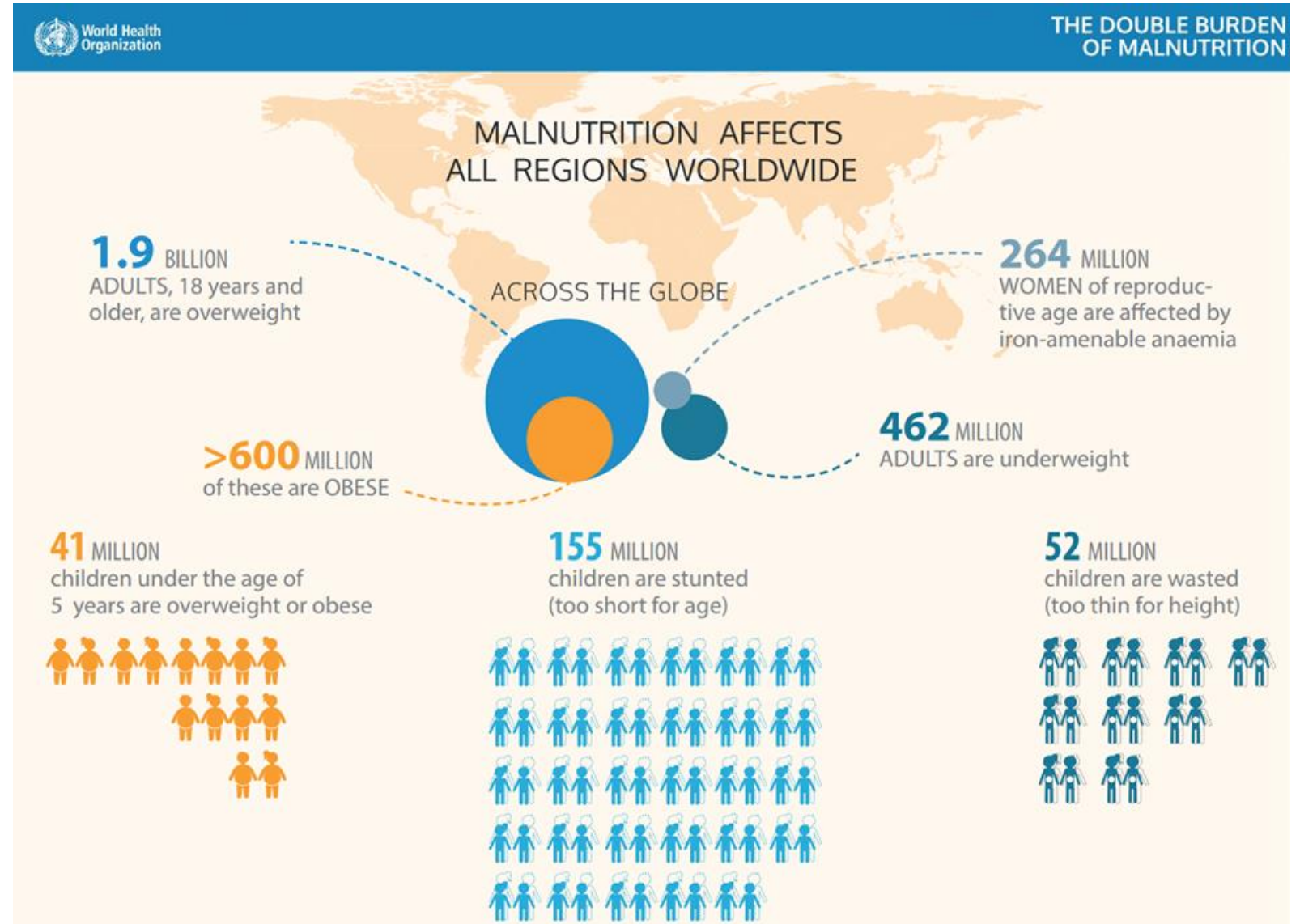
Figure 6: Agri-food systems emissions by region and life-cycle stage



FAO 2021 *The share of agri-food systems in total greenhouse gas emissions*

Challenges of food systems transitions

- Unhealthy Diets



WHO

Challenges of food systems transitions

- The Triple Challenges (OECD)

Food systems fulfil many important functions, but at its core are three essential functions: **ensuring food security and nutrition** for a growing population, **supporting the livelihoods** of millions of people working in the food supply chain, and **doing so in an environmentally sustainable way**. Food systems around the world face the “triple challenge” of simultaneously meeting these objectives. Moreover, across these three dimensions **food systems should also become more resilient**.

<https://www.oecd.org/food-systems/understanding/triple-challenge/>

Diversified & dynamic formulation of “needs”

Changing reasons for removing/protecting urban farm areas in Japan

Values attached to urban farm areas in Japan

(In)Significance of Urban Farming

	Farm Households	Square Coverage	Value Sales
Whole Country	2,155,000	4,444,000 ha	JPY 5,836.6 billion
Urbanization Promoting Zones	228,000 (11%)	69,000ha (2%)	JPY 446.6 billion (8%)

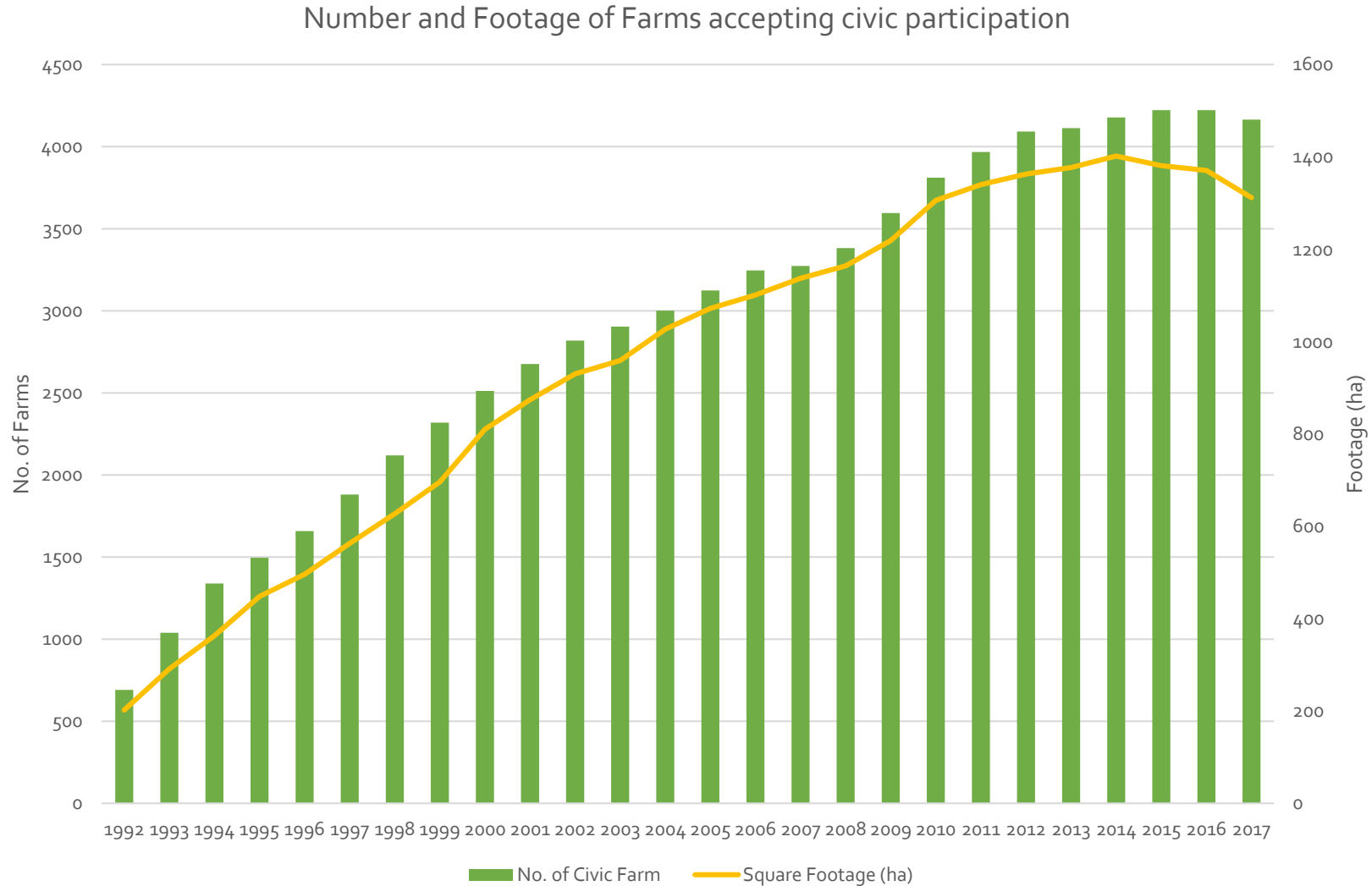
Source : MAFF

Values attached to urban farm areas in Japan

	Context	Values and Beneficiary
1970-80	Rapid Economic Growth Growing Urban Middleclass Trade Dispute with US	Agriculture sector: Urban farmlands should be protected Urban Planners: Urban farmlands are unnecessary, should be transferred
	Recession/low population growth	Agriculture sector: Continued farming through evaluation of and support for the multi-function
1990-	Needs for improving urban living environment	Cities & Residents: Urban farms provide necessary functions for sound urban living environment
2000-	Depopulation / Ageing	Agriculture sector: Promotion through diversified usage & civic engagement to farms
	Reconsideration of economy-driven living	Cities & Residents: Enriched urban living through enjoying the multi-functions of farms

Source : Author, based on Zushi & Sato 2012

Values attached to urban farm areas in Japan



Source : MAFF

Reasons for removing/protecting urban farm areas in Japan

- Fairness/appropriateness about food production, distribution, consumption etc. emerge and shift dynamically in the historical contexts

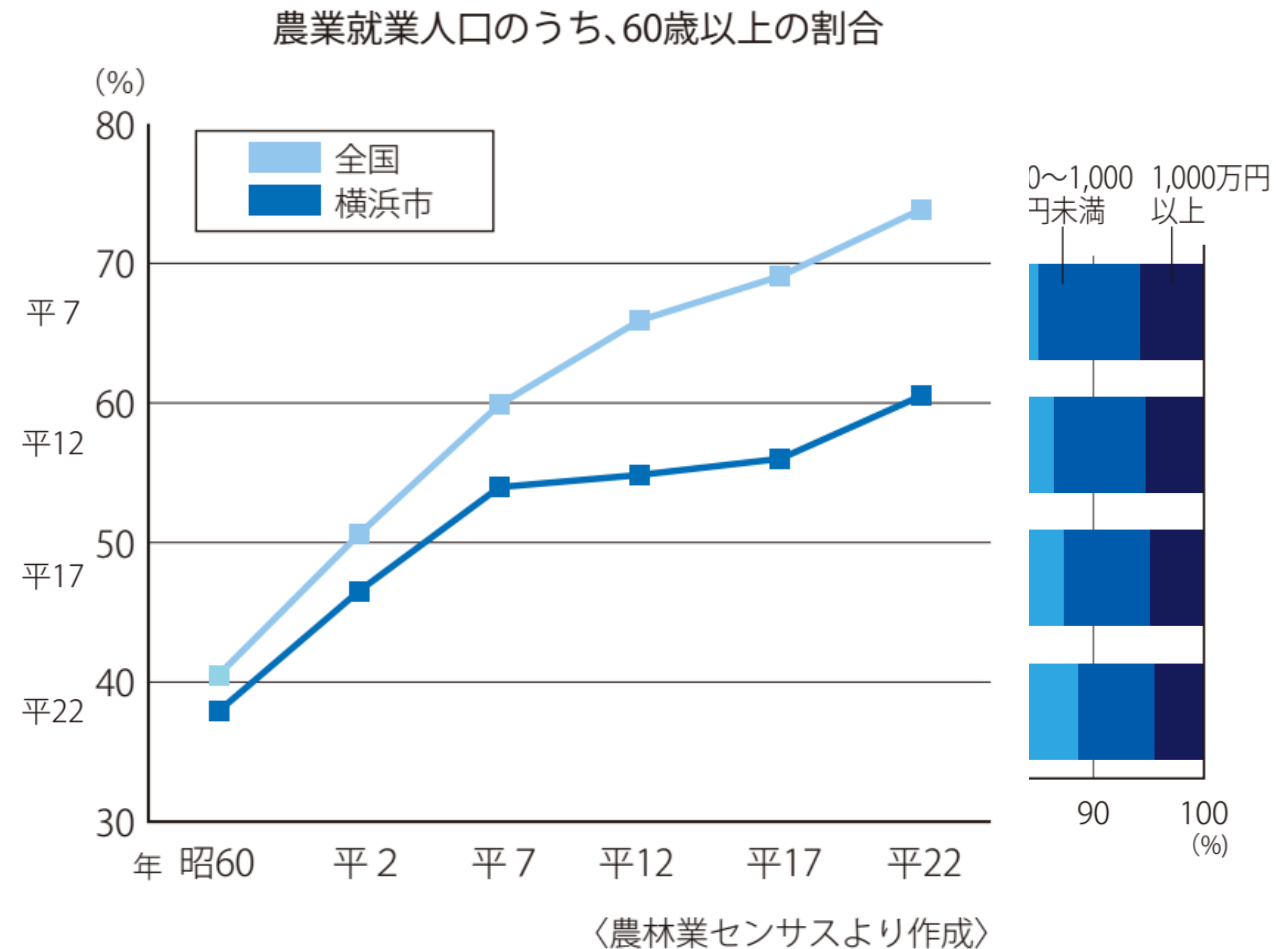
Sense-making of (un)sustainable
engagement with food

Sense-making in the context of addressing the triple challenges of food systems transition

- How do societal actors make sense of (un)sustainable or (non-)resilient ways of food production and consumption?

Farming in Yokohama, Japan

- 2,029 households
- 2,850ha
- 10 Billion Value Sales
- Mainly Vegetable
 - Komatsuna 3,700t (Top in Japan)
 - Cauliflower 504t (8th)
 - Cabbage 12,900t (10th)
 - Spinaches 4,200t (11th)
 - Green Soy 766t (11th)
- Decrease and Ageing of Farmers
- Decreasing of Farmlands
- Unstable Income



Source : Yokohama City

A case of citizen-participated farm in Yokohama

A group in Yokohama

- Using a plot of paddy
- 25 non-farm families participate
- Members undertake all activities
Seeding, Planting, Weeding, Harvesting
- Guidance by Farmers & Volunteers
- Non chemical & Non Machinery
- Recovery of Seasonal Events



A case of citizen-participated farm in Yokohama

The farmer's hope

- *Rice farming is something that should involve the whole local community. Take water management - it's not possible to do that by yourself.*
- *If you look at workers on a salary, all they need to do is accomplish their own tasks, with no need to think about the next generation. The next generation can then do something new by themselves. But farming is hereditary.*
- *I want people to think about why there are still paddy fields here. I want them to think about flood control.*

A case of citizen-participated farm in Yokohama

The participants & farm volunteers' reflections

- *If we get to experience the whole process of growing rice from the springtime to the harvest in autumn, we change our whole way of thinking when we eat rice.
It becomes something we experience,
not just something we learn from a textbook at school.*
- *Our food culture is a convenience-store culture, isn't it?
Cheaper is better. We don't think it's a problem really –
I guess we are concerned about whether the food is safe to eat,
but we think it can't be helped from an economic point of view.*

A case of citizen-participated farm in Yokohama

Club Activities as Sense-Making

Shared senses about “why farm activities are valuable”

Knowledge	Physical experience grow real-world knowledge
Interactions	Knowledge shared through interactions among people in different age groups, skills and background
Growing capacities	Children grow stronger, adults renew their thoughts & attitudes on food
Actors' roles	Farmer has exceeding knowledge about “appropriate” ways of food production and consumption; volunteers and participants learn

Sense-making in the context of the triple challenges

The triple challenges

"Ensuring food security and nutrition; supporting the livelihoods; doing so in environmentally sustainable ways"

- Need to consider
 - Are costs & benefits fairly distributed?
 - Can everyone participate in the process?
 - How are the ideas of (un)sustainability/(in)justice formed?

ご清聴ありがとうございました。
Thank you very much for your attention.

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