



Food security & livestock

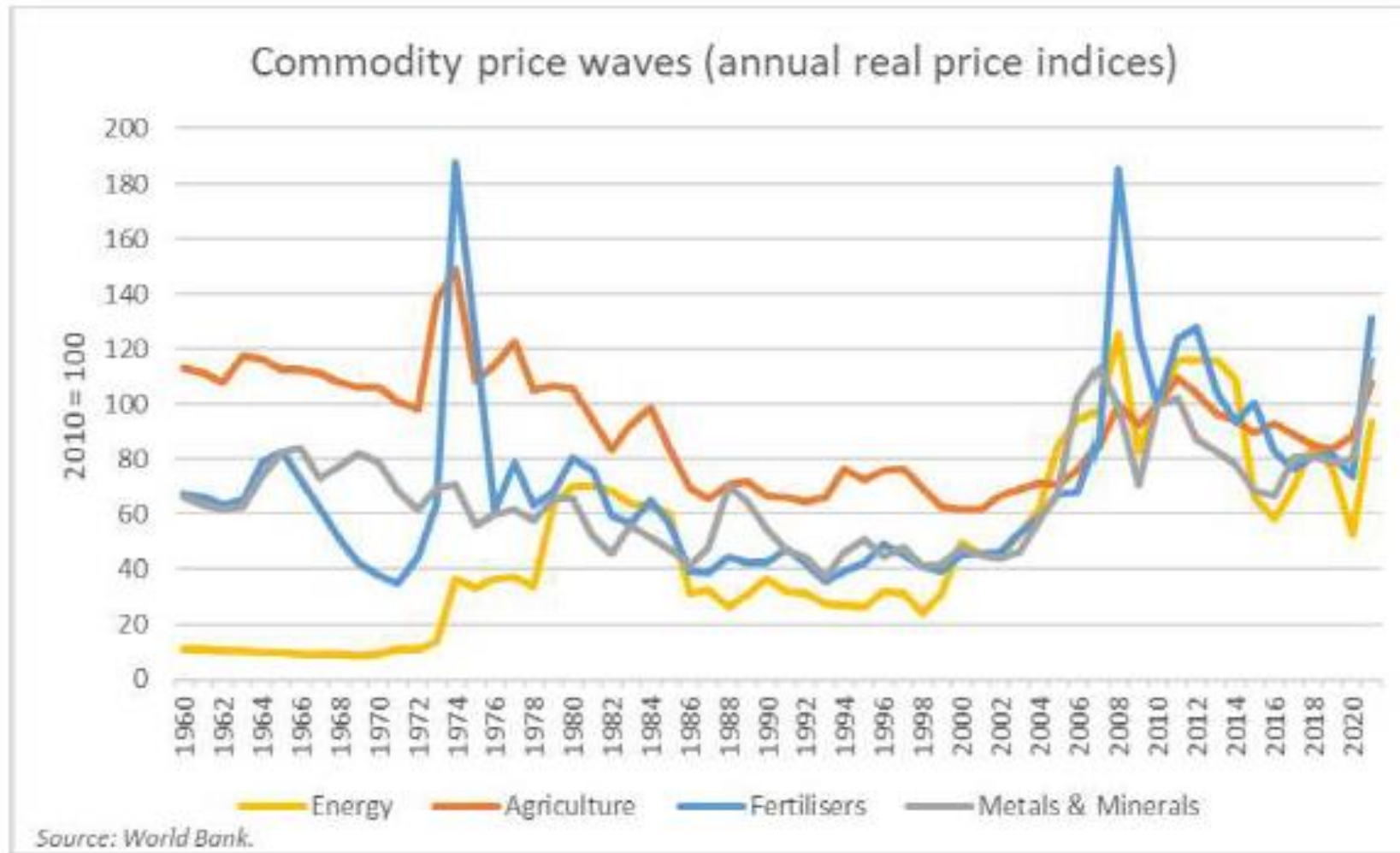
Brigitte Misonne, Head of Unit AGRI G3 Animal Products

Animal Taskforce – 21 April 2022

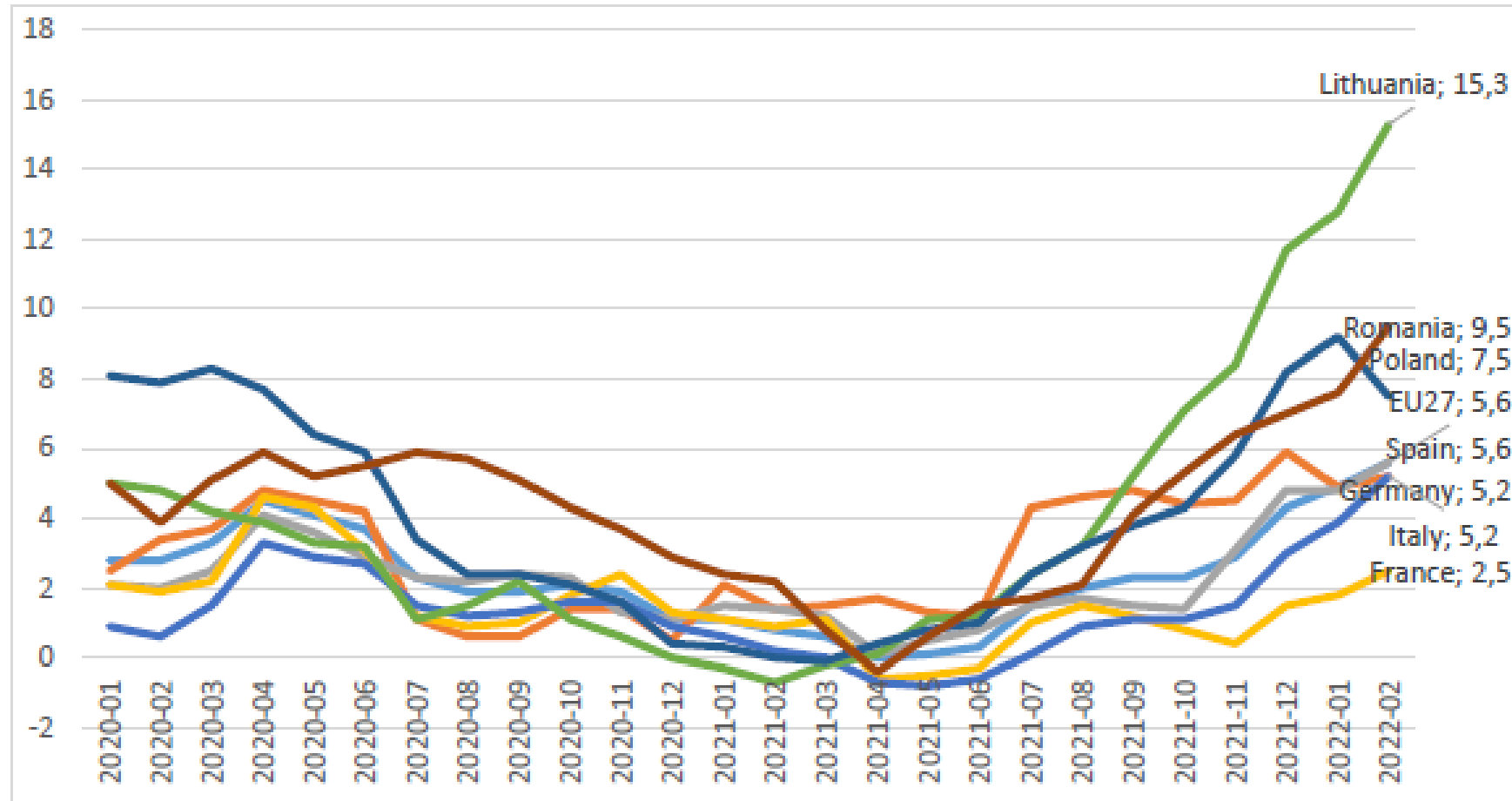
Safeguarding food security – context

- **Russia's invasion of Ukraine** destabilises already fragile agricultural markets (increasing costs for energy, fertilizers, food)
- **Covid-19 and climate change** put agriculture under pressure (droughts, floods, heatwaves, sea level rise) – food prices +5,6% on February 2021
- **Food supply is not at stake in the EU** (main wheat and barley exporter, self-sufficient in maize, sugar, animal products) but affordable for low income consumers?
- **Dependence on imports** of energy, fertilizers, animal feed
- **Global food security** (shortages in besieged Ukrainian cities, halted flow of cereals and oilseeds from the Black Sea)
- **Main concerns:** global wheat (+70% futures markets) due to market share of Ukraine (25 million t), Russia and cost of natural gas, nitrogen fertilizer and oxygen
- **Response:** fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system

Commodity price waves



Food price inflation per MS



Source: [Eurostat](#) (selected Member States).

Measures for the world and for Ukraine

- **World** (in particular, Sub-Saharan and North Africa, Middle East, Western Balkans, Asia)
 - since 2015: UE 350 million EUR/year in humanitarian food assistance
 - in 2021-2024: at least 2,5 billion EUR
- **Ukraine:** food assistance by the WFP – UE: 93 million EUR for Ukraine and Moldova
 - This « breadbasket of Europe » needs
 - seeds, diesel, fertilizers, plant protection products
 - transportation, storage facilities (targeted by Russia)
 - Support (FAO) to small farms in Western Ukraine – UE preserves access to market – Ukrainian government finances interest of loans for farmers (760 million EUR)
 - EU emergency support programme for Ukraine: 330 million EUR
 - Avoid export restrictions/bans on food

Measures for Europe (1/2)

- **Support to the most deprived** through the specific EU fund (FEAD) managed by Member States
- **500 million EUR** to support the most affected farmers (R. 2022/467) – 1st ever use of the crisis reserve + 200% top-up
- **Private storage aid for pigmeat** (R. 2022/470)
- **Increased advances on direct payment** (from 16 October)
- **Temporary Crisis Framework for State aid** (like for Covid-19) covering farmers (max 35 000 EUR/farm) and fertilizer producers
- **Derogation from greening in 2022:** to increase food supply (4 million ha = 5,7% EU farming land = 1,7 million ha fallow land + 2,2 million ha nitrogen fixing crops), Member States can authorise production (of any crop) on land lying fallow (including using plant protection products) with that land keeping its status of ecological focus area and still counting as a different crop in crop diversification

Measures for Europe (2/2)

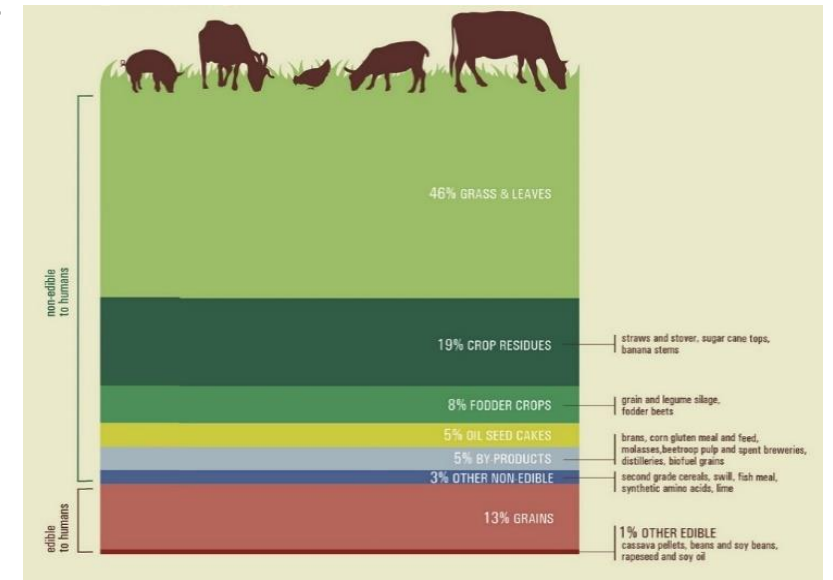
- **VAT:** possibility for Member States to reduce their tax rates
- **Retail:** invitation not to let prices explode
- **Crisis preparedness and response:** new Expert Group (2 meetings so far) to map risks/vulnerabilities and recommend measures
- **Temporary flexibility** on imports of animal feed
- **Monthly stock follow up** for essential food
- **Strategic Plans** : priority to investments that decrease dependence on gas (biogas), diesel, pesticides, fertilizers (precision farming, agroecology)
- **Pigmeat reflection group:** kick-off meeting on 10 March + 1st plenary meeting on 6 April + next one on 25 May
- **Focus on wheat:** EU exported 19 million t + 13 million t to come + good harvest prospects (+1% area, mild winter) + higher yield (5,3 t/ha)

Livestock and food security

1. In face of societal demands, is it still legitimate to talk about livestock?
 - **Animal products provide 50% of protein intake in EU diet.** Animal based food are a unique source of or are very rich in several micro nutrients (B12, A, B3, B6 and D, zinc, selenium, calcium, phosphorus and iron) and various bioactive components (e.g. taurine) important for cognitive functions
2. What's the problem with livestock?
 - Environment (soil, water & air), climate (GHG & methane), health (chronic diseases, cancer), animal welfare
3. Can livestock be sustainable? Yes
4. Can the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) help? Yes

Livestock positive externalities

- Animals **convert nonedible biomass** into highly nutritious food for humans. At world level, only **14%** of dry matter ingested by livestock is edible to humans (**86% is grass and crop residues**).
- Livestock farming produces food on **57% of land that cannot be used for crops** (marginal land).
- Livestock farming ensures rural vitality and economic activity in regions where it is the **only sustainable economic activity** and crop farming is not possible due to soil/climatic conditions.



Ideas for solutions: 6 generic ones

No “one size fits all”, but a case-by-case approach, **tailor made at regional, local, farm level**:

1. Reconnect **livestock and crop** production at farm or regional level to replace chemical fertilizers (key for organic farming), reduce dependency on protein imports and **increase circularity** by optimising the use of available co-products.
2. **Include more often grassland** and leguminous fodder in crop rotation, to improve soil fertility, biodiversity, reduce pesticides and dependency on imports.
3. Adjust **breeding** (productive, healthy and fertile bovines can **save** some 30 MtCO₂eq = **6% agricultural emissions**).
4. Adjust **feeding** (feed additives can **reduce methane emissions by 30%** without reducing production).
5. Adjust **housing** to evolving animal welfare requirements (healthier animals also save antibiotics).
6. Improve and extend **knowledge exchange, advice and innovation** in animal husbandry and manure management.

Possible concrete examples

Production system

1. More **temporary grassland** in rotation
2. Longer rotation with **leguminous crop** for feeding
3. **Grazing management optimization** as additional module in FaST
4. **Extensive livestock management** system
5. Increase **grass-fed production**
6. Investment for **agro-forestry system**
7. Payment for **permanent grassland / peatland / wetlands**

Manure management

16. Investment in low-emission **manure storage** system
17. Anaerobic digestion / **methanisation**
18. **Organic fertilisers** / soil improver
19. **Nutrient management plans** at local level
20. Investment in and use of low emission **manure spreading techniques** (ground level application of manure and slurry)

Focus on animals

8. **Feed additives** to reduce methane emissions (3-Nitrooxypropanol, Linseed, Seaweed)
9. **Increased share of co-products** in the feed ratio
10. **Precision protein feeding** (avoiding N surplus in the ratio, reducing leakage)
11. **Use of sexed semen in dairy herd** enhancing meat production from the dairy herd (maintain output using fewer resources)
12. **Increased number of lactations per dairy cow** to increase efficiency (maintain output using fewer resources)
13. Maintain/re-introduce **local resistant breeds**
14. Invest in more **animal welfare**, such as improved **housing** systems (including e.g. new ventilation systems, filters for methane)
15. Support **carbon audits** for better management and for labelling purposes

Knowledge and innovation

21. vocational or specific **training courses for farmers or advisors**
22. use of **advice by farmers**
23. setting up of **advisory services, e.g. for innovation support**
24. **on-farm demonstration** activities

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Merci!



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