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1 **A spatial bio-economic modelling approach**
2 **on the trade-offs between global bioenergy demand,**
3 **agricultural intensification, expansion, and trade**

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1

Abstract

2 Increased future demands for food, fibre and fuels from biomass can only be met if the
3 available land and water resources on a global scale are used and managed as efficiently
4 as possible. The main routes for making the global agricultural system more productive
5 are through intensification and technological change on currently used agricultural land,
6 land expansion into currently non-agricultural areas, and international trade in
7 agricultural commodities and processed goods. In order to analyse the trade-offs and
8 synergies between these options, we present a global bio-economic modelling approach
9 with a special focus on spatially explicit land and water constraints as well as
10 technological change in agricultural production. For a given bioenergy demand scenario
11 until the middle of the 21st century and different land allocation options, we analyse the
12 required rate of productivity increase on agricultural land as well as the implicit values
13 (shadow prices) of limited land and water resources. The shadow prices for bioenergy are
14 provided as a metric for assessing the trade-offs between different land allocation options.

15

16 Keywords: Land use change, Spatial modelling, Technological change

1 **1. Introduction**

2 Over the next decades, the competition for scarce land and water resources will further
3 intensify, due to rising global population and wealth on the demand side, and due to
4 changing climate conditions on the supply side. Furthermore, ambitious policies for
5 climate change mitigation will increase the pressure on agricultural production, as part of
6 the global energy supply for human purposes will be provided by various kinds of
7 biomass as a primary energy carrier. The market and price effects on agriculture based on
8 increased bioenergy demand may be even bigger than the direct climate impacts on
9 agricultural productivity. Recent estimates on the potential global bio-energy supply
10 range from less than 100 EJ/year to over 400 EJ/year for 2050 (e.g. Berndes et al. 2003,
11 Hoogwijk 2004). These estimates differ due to large discrepancies in land availability for
12 biomass plantations and yield levels in crop production. However, concerns about the
13 sustainability of bioenergy due to potentially unfavourable net greenhouse gas balances
14 have also been raised (e.g. Crutzen et al. 2007, Searchinger et al. 2008, Fargione et al.
15 2008). Finally, the need for biodiversity conservation on a global scale will increase the
16 demand for certain shares of the land to be used less intensively or taken out of
17 production altogether.

18 While the combined impacts of all these trends are still highly uncertain, approaches to
19 future land-use management will be confronted with serious trade-offs. If more land is to
20 be taken out of production, intensity on the remaining land has to be increased. Both
21 increased land-use intensity and land expansion into new areas may entail higher
22 greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector. The challenge of analyzing these
23 trade-offs and projecting future land-use patterns is to account, within one modelling
24 framework, for the socio-economic determinants of agricultural demand as well as for the
25 spatial heterogeneity of the land's suitability for agricultural production.

26 As a metric for weighing conflicting goals in large-scale land use decisions we choose the
27 required rate of technological change (or productivity increase) to fulfil global food, fibre
28 and bioenergy demand under different constraints on land availability and trade. As
29 additional technological change will only be provided at additional costs of production
30 (through investment or research and development), we also translate this into increased

1 costs of production. Our modelling approach enables us to translate various biophysical
2 constraints to agricultural production into relevant production costs, and through derived
3 shadow prices it also provides a quantitative measure of scarcity for land and water
4 resources.

5 In this study we focus on the main routes for making the global agricultural system more
6 productive: (i) intensification and technological change, (ii) land expansion into currently
7 non-agricultural areas, and (iii) international trade in agricultural commodities and
8 processed goods.

9

1 **2. Linking an economic land-use allocation model to a process-based** 2 **vegetation-hydrology model**

3 We have developed a mathematical programming approach, which is coupled to a grid-
4 based dynamic vegetation model, to simulate spatially explicit land-use and water-use
5 patterns. This approach provides most flexibility to integrate various types of biophysical
6 constraints into an economic decision-making process. It provides a straightforward way
7 to link monetary and physical units and processes. Instead of using empirically based, but
8 rather static yield functions, potential crop productivity and related water use is explicitly
9 modelled. The dual solution of the mathematical programming model provides valuable
10 insights into the internal use value of resource constraints. The model computes shadow
11 prices for binding constraints in specific grid cells, e.g. in this case related to land and
12 water availability, reflecting the amount a land manager would be willing to pay for
13 relaxing the constraint by one unit.

14 Our globally applicable land-use model MAgPIE is a non-linear programming model
15 with a focus on agricultural production, land and water use. The information flow in our
16 coupled modelling approach is shown in Figure 1.

17

18 [Insert Figure 1 about here]

19

20 The linear objective function of the land-use model is to minimize total cost of
21 production for a given amount of regional food and bioenergy demand. Regional food
22 energy demand is defined for an exogenously given population in ten food energy
23 categories (cereals, rice, vegetable oils, pulses, roots and tubers, sugar, ruminant meat,
24 non-ruminant meat, and milk), based on regional diets (FAOSTAT, 2004). Food and feed
25 energy for the ten demand categories can be produced by 20 cropping activities
26 (temperate cereals for food or feed, maize for food or feed, tropical cereals for food or
27 feed, rice, five oil crops, pulses, potatoes, cassava, sugar beets, sugar cane,
28 vegetables/fruits/nuts, two fodder crops) and 3 livestock activities (ruminant meat, non-
29 ruminant meat, milk). Feed for livestock is produced as a mixture of grain, green fodder,

1 and pasture at fixed proportions. Fibre demand is currently fulfilled with one cropping
2 activity (cotton). Cropland, pasture and irrigation water are fixed inputs in limited supply
3 in each grid cell, measured in physical units of hectares (ha) and cubic meters (m³).
4 Variable inputs of production are labour, chemicals, and other capital (all measured in
5 US\$), which are assumed to be in unlimited supply to the agricultural sector at a given
6 price. Moreover, the model can endogenously decide to acquire yield-increasing
7 technological change at additional costs, if otherwise there is no feasible solution (i.e.
8 land use pattern) under a given set of resource constraints.

9 For future projections the model works on a time step of 10 years in a recursive dynamic
10 mode. The link between two consecutive periods is established through the land-use
11 pattern. The optimized land-use pattern from one period is taken as the initial land
12 constraint in the next. If necessary, additional land from the non-agricultural area can be
13 converted into cropland at additional costs.

14 Potential crop yields for each grid cell are supplied by the Lund-Potsdam-Jena dynamic
15 global vegetation model with managed Lands (LPJmL) (Sitch et al., 2003; Bondeau et al.,
16 2007). In addition to major food and feed crops, also cellulose-based bioenergy crops
17 have been implemented. LPJmL endogenously models the dynamic processes linking
18 climate and soil conditions, water availability and plant growth, and takes the impacts of
19 CO₂, temperature and radiation on yield directly into account. LPJmL also covers the full
20 hydrological cycle on a global scale, which is especially useful as carbon and water-
21 related processes are closely linked in plant physiology (Gerten et al., 2004; Rost et al.,
22 2008). Standard LPJmL outputs include changes in net primary production and different
23 fractions of biomass, changes in carbon pools and water balances.

24 Spatially explicit data on yield levels and freshwater availability for irrigation is provided
25 on a regular geographic grid, with a resolution of three by three degrees, dividing the
26 terrestrial land area into 2178 discrete grid cells of an approximate size of 300 km by 300
27 km at the equator. Each cell of the geographic grid is assigned to one of ten economic
28 world regions: Sub-Saharan Africa (AFR), Centrally-planned Asia including China
29 (CPA), Europe including Turkey (EUR), the Newly Independent States of the Former
30 Soviet Union (FSU), Latin America (LAM), Middle East/North Africa (MEA), North

1 America (NAM), Pacific OECD including Japan, Australia, New Zealand (PAO), Pacific
2 (or Southeast) Asia (PAS), and South Asia including India (SAS). The regions are
3 initially characterized by data for the year 1995 on population (CIESIN et al., 2000),
4 gross domestic product (GDP) (World Bank, 2001), food energy demand (FAOSTAT,
5 2004), average production costs for different production activities (McDougall, 1998),
6 and current self-sufficiency ratios for food (FAOSTAT, 2005). While all supply-side
7 activities in the model are grid-cell specific, the demand side is aggregated at the regional
8 level. Aggregate demand within each region, defined by total population, average income
9 and net trade, is being met by the sum of production from all grid cells within the region.

10 Trade in food products between regions is simulated endogenously, constrained by
11 minimum self-sufficiency ratios for each region. This is to say that some minimum level
12 of domestic demand has to be produced within the region, while the rest can be allocated
13 to other regions according to comparative advantages. If, for instance, a region currently
14 has a self-sufficiency ratio of 1.2 for a certain product, then in future projections this may
15 either be kept constant or gradually reduced over time to account for global trade
16 liberalization.

17 Land conversion activities provide for potential expansion and shifts of agricultural land
18 in specific locations. For the base year 1995, total agricultural land is constrained to the
19 area currently used within each grid cell, according to Ramankutty and Foley (1999).
20 However, if additional land is required for fulfilling demand, this can be taken from the
21 pool of non-agricultural land at additional costs. These land-conversion costs force the
22 model to utilize available cropland first, and land conversion will become relevant only if
23 land becomes scarce in a certain location or if the marginal cost reductions by producing
24 crops on converted land outweigh the costs of conversion. LPJmL computes trends in
25 potential crop yields and irrigation water requirements for the 20th and 21st century,
26 taking climate change impacts into account (Bondeau et al., 2007). Under plausible
27 scenarios of population and income growth, MAgPIE calculates food and bioenergy
28 demand and allows for future projections of spatially explicit land-use patterns, for
29 deriving future technological change rates, and for valuating constraints on land and
30 water availability or trade restrictions.

1 Bioenergy in MAgPIE is supplied as a mix of three different types: vegetable-oil-based
2 from various oil crops, starch/sugar-based from cereals and sugar crops, and cellulose-
3 based from specialized grassy and woody bioenergy crops. Demand is currently not
4 specified according to different uses in the energy system, e.g. heating, fuels etc.. All
5 bioenergy products in the model are delivered into an aggregated demand pool. Future
6 trends in food demand are computed as a function of GDP per capita based on a cross-
7 country regression.

8

1 **3. Global bioenergy demand in 2055 under different scenarios of intensification,** 2 **land expansion, and international trade**

3 We apply our modelling system to a modest future bioenergy scenario with three
4 different land allocation options. Besides changes in population, economic growth and
5 environmental production conditions, the issue of technological change in production (i.e.
6 yield increase) is of crucial importance for the resulting spatial patterns of land and water
7 use. This can be tackled in two directions. With most other modelling approaches, this is
8 done by assuming a future trend in productivity growth and then deriving the economic
9 and environmental consequences. In contrast, with the mathematical programming model
10 presented here, the issue can be turned around, and the minimum rate of technological
11 change required to meet certain constraints can be derived. Hence, the main question
12 behind the scenarios described here is: "How much yield increase (or technological
13 change) is required to fulfill future global demand for bioenergy and food under different
14 restrictions on land and water use?"

15 We run the MAgPIE model in six 10-year time steps from 1995 until 2055 in a recursive
16 dynamic manner. The model is driven by external scenarios on population growth and
17 GDP growth taken from the SRES A2 scenario (IPCC, 2000). Global population
18 increases up to about 9 billion in the year 2055, and average world income per capita
19 reaches about 15,000 US\$ (in 1995 purchasing power parity terms). Global bioenergy
20 demand is determined exogenously, starting close to zero in 1995 and reaching about 100
21 ExaJoule in 2055. This is a hypothetical scenario with share of about 10 percent in total
22 primary energy consumption in 2055. It is rather modest, compared to other studies on
23 global bioenergy potential. Here the demand scenario serves as an example to
24 demonstrate the type of trade-off analyses to be conducted with our modelling approach.
25 In principle, any bioenergy demand path (global or with regional resolution) can be
26 implemented in the same way. Figure 2 provides an overview of input data for the
27 scenarios in this paper.

28

29 [Insert Figure 2 about here]

1

2 *Scenarios*

3 Our baseline scenario covers only food demand and keeps the cropland area constant over
4 time. Regional trade balances are also kept constant at 1995 levels. The baseline results
5 provide a benchmark for the minimum technological change rates which are required to
6 achieve future food and feed demand without any land expansion into currently non-
7 agricultural areas. The scenario Biof100 adds a bioenergy demand path, as described in
8 Figure 2, to the baseline conditions, i.e. again without land expansion. The scenario
9 Biof100+area allows for area expansion together with bioenergy demand. In each time
10 step, a maximum of 1% of initially non-agricultural land is allowed to be converted into
11 cropland in each grid cell. And finally, the scenario Biof100+trade keeps the cropland
12 area constant, but allows for increased trade of food, feed and bioenergy between the 10
13 regions. This is implemented by lowering the minimum self-sufficiency rate for each
14 region, which leads to a higher share of production being allocated to the most productive
15 grid cells on a global scale.

16

17 *Technological change rates*

18 The resulting rates of technological change for the baseline and the three bioenergy
19 scenarios are provided in Figure 3. The model results are compared with FAO statistics
20 from the period 1970-1995. The numbers describe average regional yield increases per
21 year for all crops over a given period (1995-2055 for the future scenarios).

22

23 [Insert Figure 3 about here]

24

25 Under our chosen baseline conditions on population growth, income growth, and no
26 cropland expansion, average global crop yields need to increase by about 0.9 percent per
27 year until the middle of the century. This is significantly lower than the trend over the last
28 three decades. In most regions the required future rate of change is lower than the
29 observed rate in the past, except for AFR and FSU. For AFR this reflects rather slow

1 productivity increase in the past, and the expected effects of strong growth in population
2 and income in the future. In FSU the low rate in the past is due to the breakdown of
3 production in the transition period of the 1980s and 1990s. Very low future rates in EUR
4 and PAO are mainly due to expected slow population growth (or even decline) in these
5 regions.

6 In the Biof100 scenario, without land expansion, the rate of technical change increases
7 significantly, however, in all regions except AFR and FSU it remains below historical
8 rates of productivity increase. The weighted average rate for the world as a whole is close
9 to the historical rate of 1.3 percent per year. In the area expansion scenario
10 (Biof100+area) the required rate of technological change is about the same as in the
11 baseline. This indicates that in 2055 100 ExaJoule of primary bioenergy can be produced
12 without major implication for the food system, if recently observed technology trends can
13 be maintained over the next decades. The scenario with increased trade (Biof100+trade)
14 shows a mixed picture. One would expect that, due to more flexibility in land allocation
15 across the globe, average technological change rates should be lower than in the scenario
16 Biof100. In fact, in all regions except AFR and FSU this is the case. In contrast, yield
17 increase is much higher in AFR and FSU. Since these are the "low-cost" regions in the
18 model (including the costs of technological change), with increased trade the model shifts
19 as much production as possible into these regions. The resulting weighted average global
20 technological change rate is at the same level as in the Biof100 scenario without trade.
21 However, it is interesting to note that total costs of production, which are not shown here,
22 are significantly lower with increased trade, showing one important trade-off to be taken
23 into account.

24

25 *Land expansion*

26 Figure 4 shows the development of total cropland and the share of bioenergy crops in the
27 three bioenergy scenarios. The same amount of 100 ExaJoule bioenergy in 2055 is
28 produced on the smallest area in the trade scenario. This illustrates the effect of more
29 efficient land allocation across the globe.

30

1 [Insert Figure 4 about here]

2

3 *Shadow prices for water*

4 Figure 5 shows the implicit value of irrigation water in each grid cell, as derived by the
5 model for the Biof100 scenario in 2005 and 2055. This is a quantitative economic
6 measure of resource scarcity, as in an optimization model the shadow price would be zero
7 for any constraint that is non-binding in the solution.

8

9 [Insert Figure 5 about here]

10

11 The upper map highlights areas where the model indicates water scarcity in 2005. The
12 second map shows that water scarcity increases and that many new grid cells become
13 water-scarce over time due to increased demand from food and bioenergy production.
14 Grid cells with the highest shadow prices indicate where water-saving methods and
15 technologies could be applied with the highest economic benefit. The shadow price
16 indicates, by how much production costs would decrease if one additional cubic meter of
17 water would be available in a specific location.

18 *Shadow prices for bioenergy*

19 As a final set of results, we show the shadow price for bioenergy in the model. Since the
20 model minimizes production costs for a given demand for food and bioenergy products,
21 these numbers show the marginal increase in production costs for an additional unit of
22 output. This can also be interpreted as the minimum price that "the energy system" would
23 have to pay for one additional unit of bioenergy.

24

25 [Insert Figure 6 about here]

26

1 While the shadow price for bioenergy is continuously rising in the Biof100 and
2 Biof100+area scenarios, the curve has a different shape with increased trade. The strong
3 increase in technological change in AFR and FSU seems to drive up production costs in
4 the beginning, while the advantages of improved allocation dominate in later periods with
5 higher bioenergy demand. In the end, the trade scenario shows the most efficient of all
6 three global production patterns for bioenergy.

1 **4. Conclusions**

2 The model MAgPIE computes spatially explicit land-use and water-use patterns with
3 global coverage by combining socio-economic information on population, income, food
4 demand and production costs with spatially explicit environmental data on potential crop
5 yields and water availability for irrigation. The structure of MAgPIE facilitates an
6 integrated environmental-economic assessment. It provides essential inputs for assessing
7 the trade-offs between different land-use options and economic as well as spatially
8 disaggregated ecological constraints. The derived shadow prices provide a useful measure
9 of scarcity and allow for an economic valuation of biophysical goals and constraints. This
10 is unique in globally applicable land-use models, especially as MAgPIE explicitly
11 considers water as an essential input to agricultural production. The demand for
12 bioenergy has been included as an additional driving force for global land use change.
13 This has been combined with different scenarios on land availability and expanded
14 international trade.

15 In our baseline scenario, covering only food and feed demand, required future
16 technological change rates are slightly lower than over the past decades. Furthermore, we
17 conclude that 100 ExaJoule of primary bioenergy can be produced in 2055 without
18 further land expansion, if technological change rates can be maintained at recent levels.
19 If, at the same time, cropland is expanded into currently underused areas, required yield
20 increases are substantially lower. Under a scenario of increased trade in agricultural and
21 bioenergy products, a larger share of global production in the model is shifted to Sub-
22 Saharan Africa and the Former Soviet Union, the regions with highest potential for low-
23 cost productivity increases.

24 Our model does not only provide the opportunity to investigate the global biophysical
25 potential for bioenergy production. It also assigns a shadow price to bioenergy output,
26 depending on the level of demand and different constraints to land and water availability.
27 This opens up a unique spectrum of all kinds of trade-off analyses between different
28 scenarios, as it provides an economic metric and an aggregate measure for comparing
29 different scenario outcomes. It also provides a method for valuation of biophysical

- 1 resource, for which in most regions only imperfect markets or no markets at all exist.
- 2 This type of land and water use model can establish a crucial link between economic and
- 3 energy system models on the one hand, and process-based models on carbon and water
- 4 cycles and other ecological processes on the other.

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1 **6. Figure captions**

2 Figure 1: Information flow within the coupled modeling system

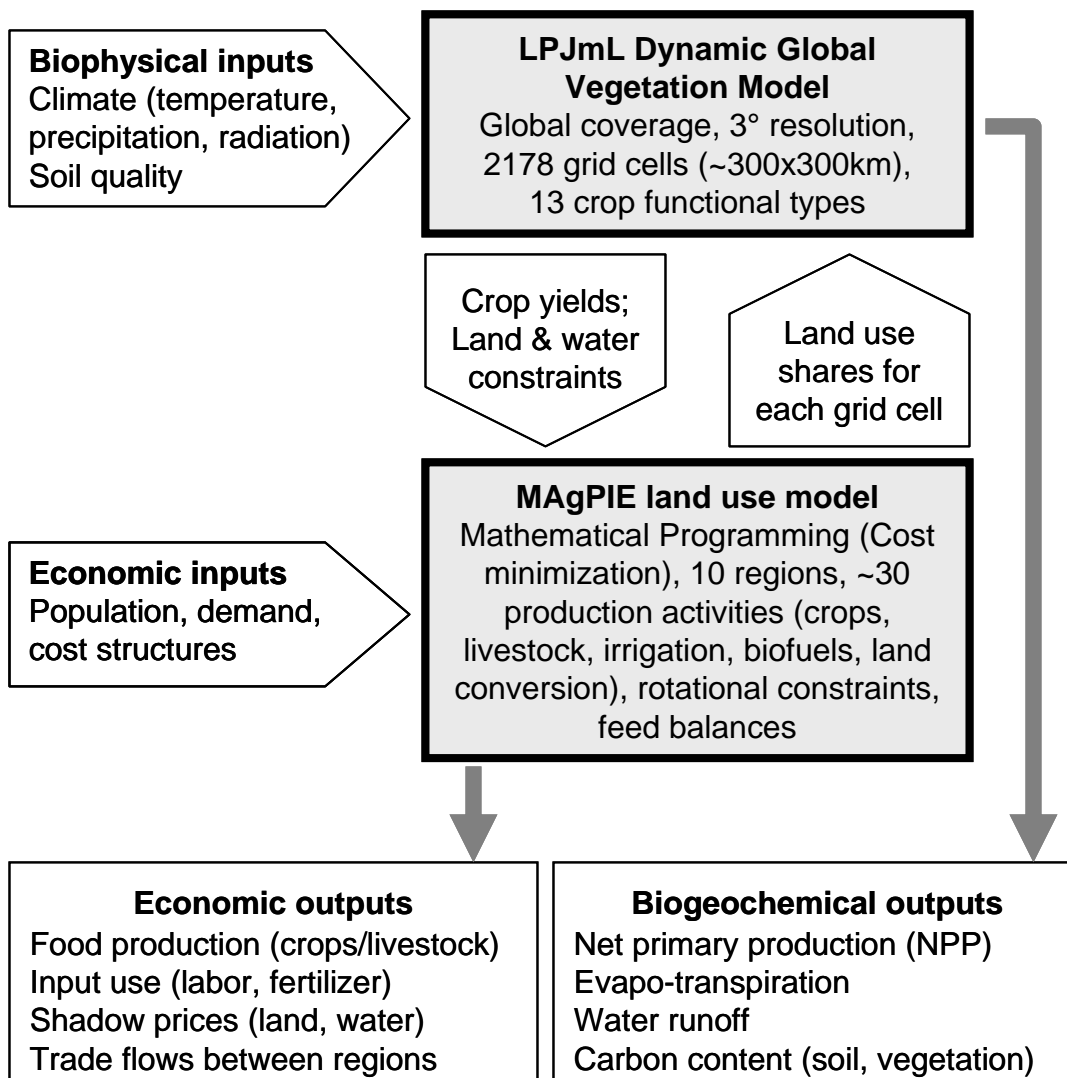
3 Figure 2: Exogenous scenario inputs on regional population growth, regional growth in
4 calorie intake per person per day, and global demand for bioenergy

5 Figure 3: Required annual yield increases (percent) over the period 1995-2055, baseline
6 scenario plus scenarios with bioenergy, cropland expansion and trade (Simulation results,
7 see text for further explanation). As a matter of orientation, the dashed line is set at 1.4
8 which is the rate of change equivalent to a doubling of yield in 50 years time.

9 Figure 4: Changes in total cropland and bioenergy areas for different bioenergy scenarios
10 (million hectares) (Simulation results)

11 Figure 5: Shadow prices for irrigation water (US\$/m³) in 2005 and 2055 (Simulation
12 results)

13 Figure 6: Shadow price for bioenergy (US\$/GJ) (Simulation results)

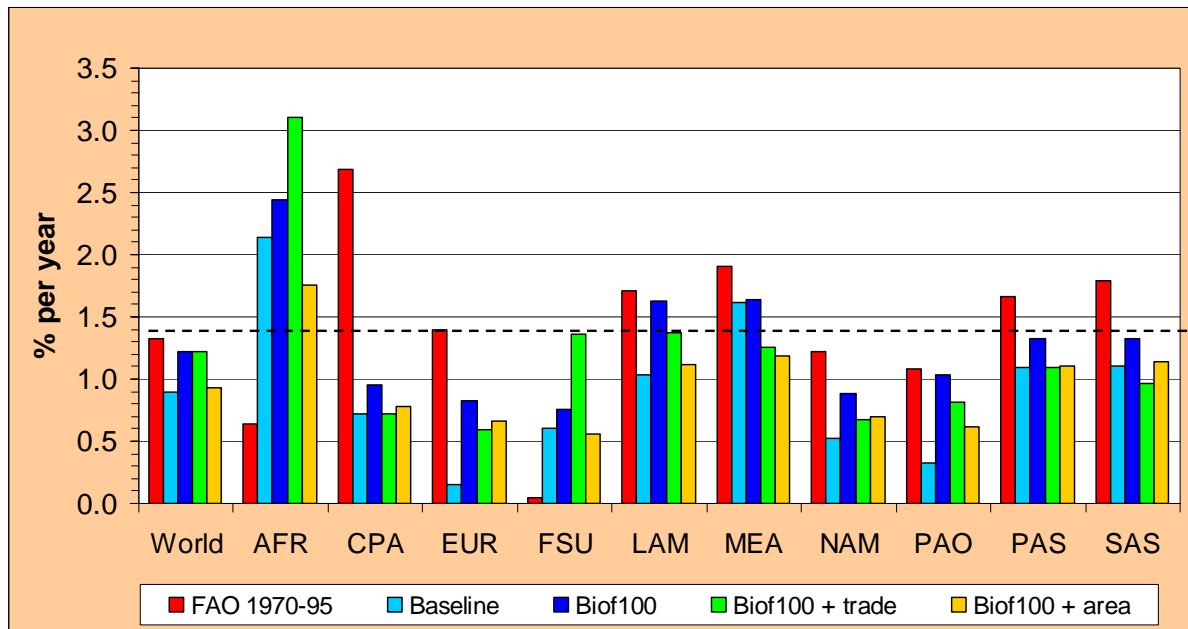
1 **Figure 1**2
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3**Figure 2**

Population (mio)	1995	2005	2015	2025	2035	2045	2055
World	5473	6525	7251	7903	8410	8797	9062
AFR	553	743	926	1125	1313	1481	1629
CPA	1281	1480	1582	1651	1673	1677	1659
EUR	554	589	586	575	559	532	505
FSU	276	293	295	295	285	275	262
LAM	452	550	623	687	739	780	810
MEA	278	357	423	486	541	590	633
NAM	292	332	355	375	391	400	404
PAO	134	146	148	147	146	144	140
PAS	383	462	517	565	614	652	674
SAS	1270	1572	1797	1998	2149	2265	2347
Food demand (kcal/capita/day)							
World	2615	2678	2745	2816	2892	2971	3054
AFR	2281	2345	2409	2476	2545	2615	2687
CPA	2533	2625	2720	2819	2921	3027	3137
EUR	3193	3257	3323	3389	3457	3526	3597
FSU	2565	2658	2754	2854	2957	3064	3175
LAM	2797	2871	2947	3026	3106	3188	3273
MEA	2692	2767	2844	2924	3006	3090	3177
NAM	3417	3473	3530	3588	3647	3707	3768
PAO	3309	3361	3415	3469	3524	3579	3636
PAS	2579	2667	2759	2854	2952	3054	3159
SAS	2272	2356	2443	2533	2626	2723	2823
Bioenergy demand (ExaJoule)							
World	4.4	7.8	13.2	21.9	36.2	59.9	99.4

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1 **Figure 3**
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4

1 **Figure 4**

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3

mio ha	Biof100		Biof100 + trade		Biof100 + area	
	Total cropland	Bioenergy	Total cropland	Bioenergy	Total cropland	Bioenergy
2005	1417.4	40.4	1408.2	45.1	1465.7	41.9
2015	1392.1	64.2	1384.6	68.0	1491.6	70.1
2025	1354.7	101.0	1348.5	103.3	1505.0	114.2
2035	1298.9	155.3	1302.6	148.8	1496.6	179.4
2045	1219.3	233.6	1230.0	220.1	1457.3	276.1
2055	1105.4	345.3	1123.6	325.4	1369.3	421.1

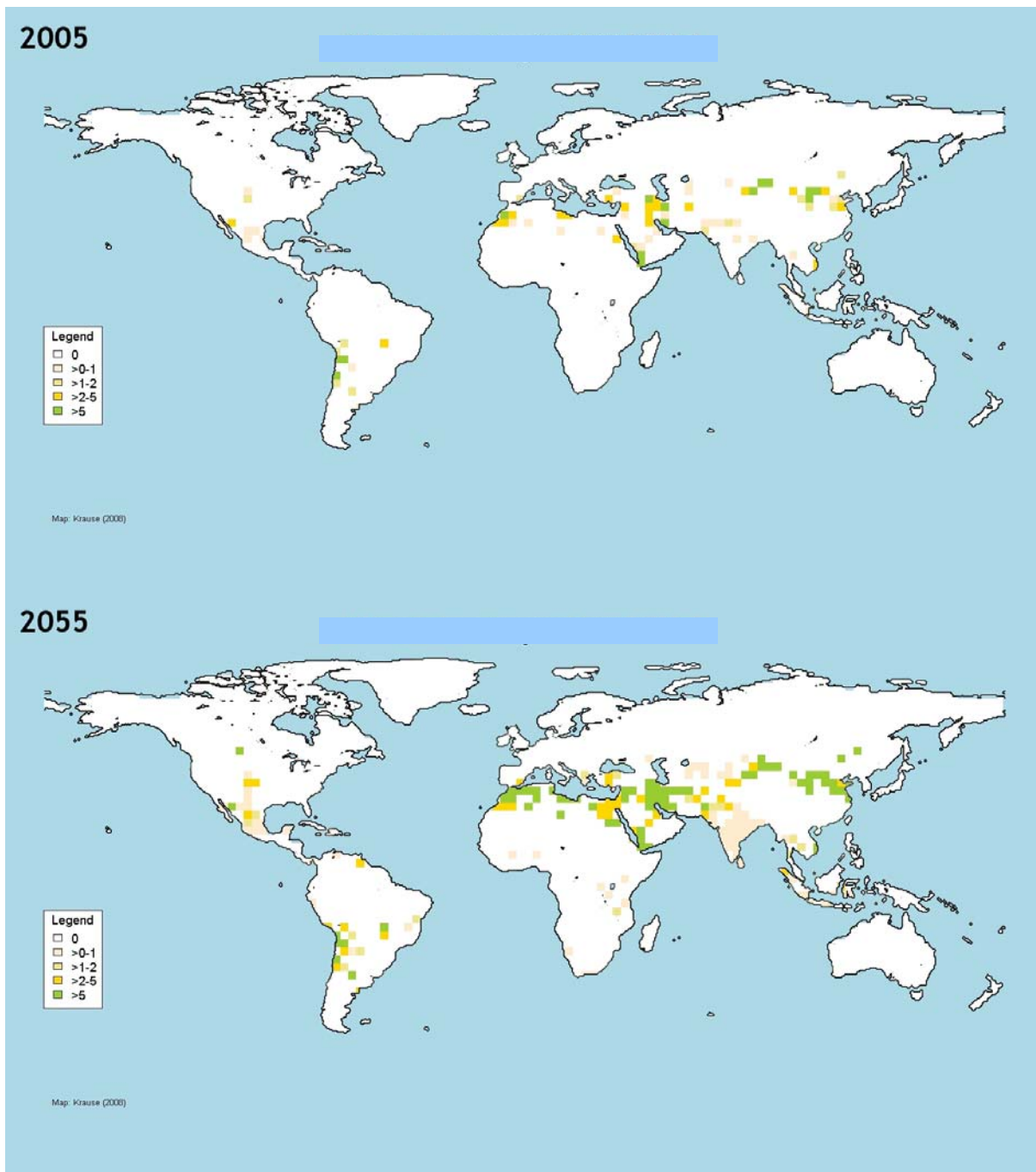
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1 **Figure 5**
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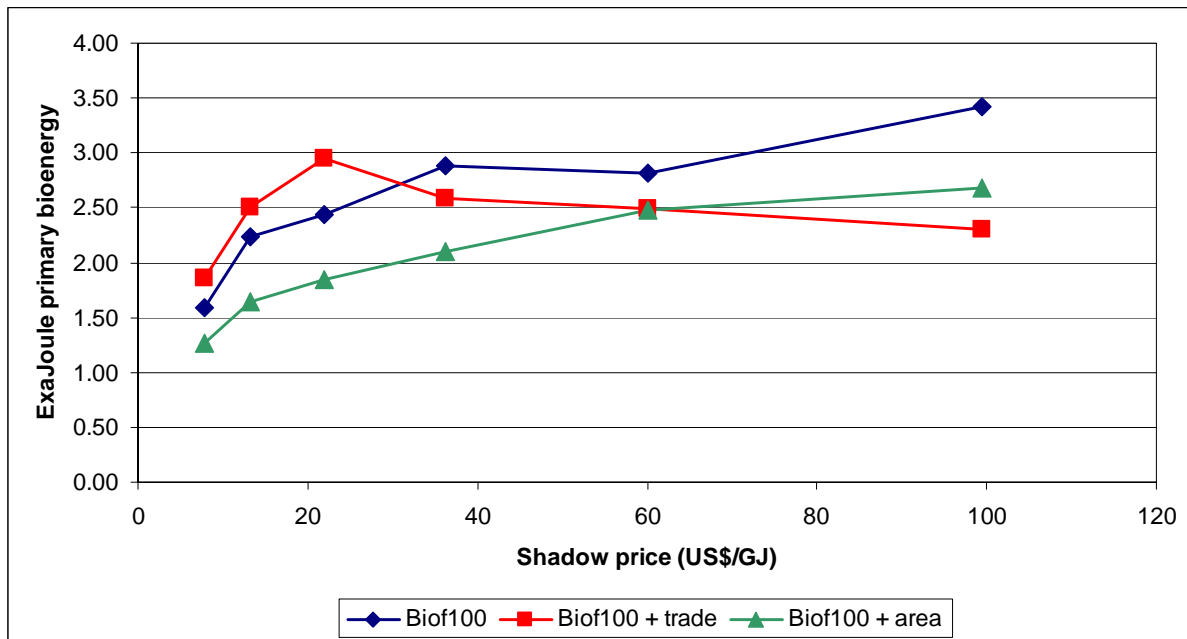
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1 **Figure 6**

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