



Climate-smart agriculture and the role of carbon

Rafiq Islam, Ph.D.

Soil, Water and Bioenergy Resources
The Ohio State University South Centers, USA.
(islam.27@osu.edu)

CFAES

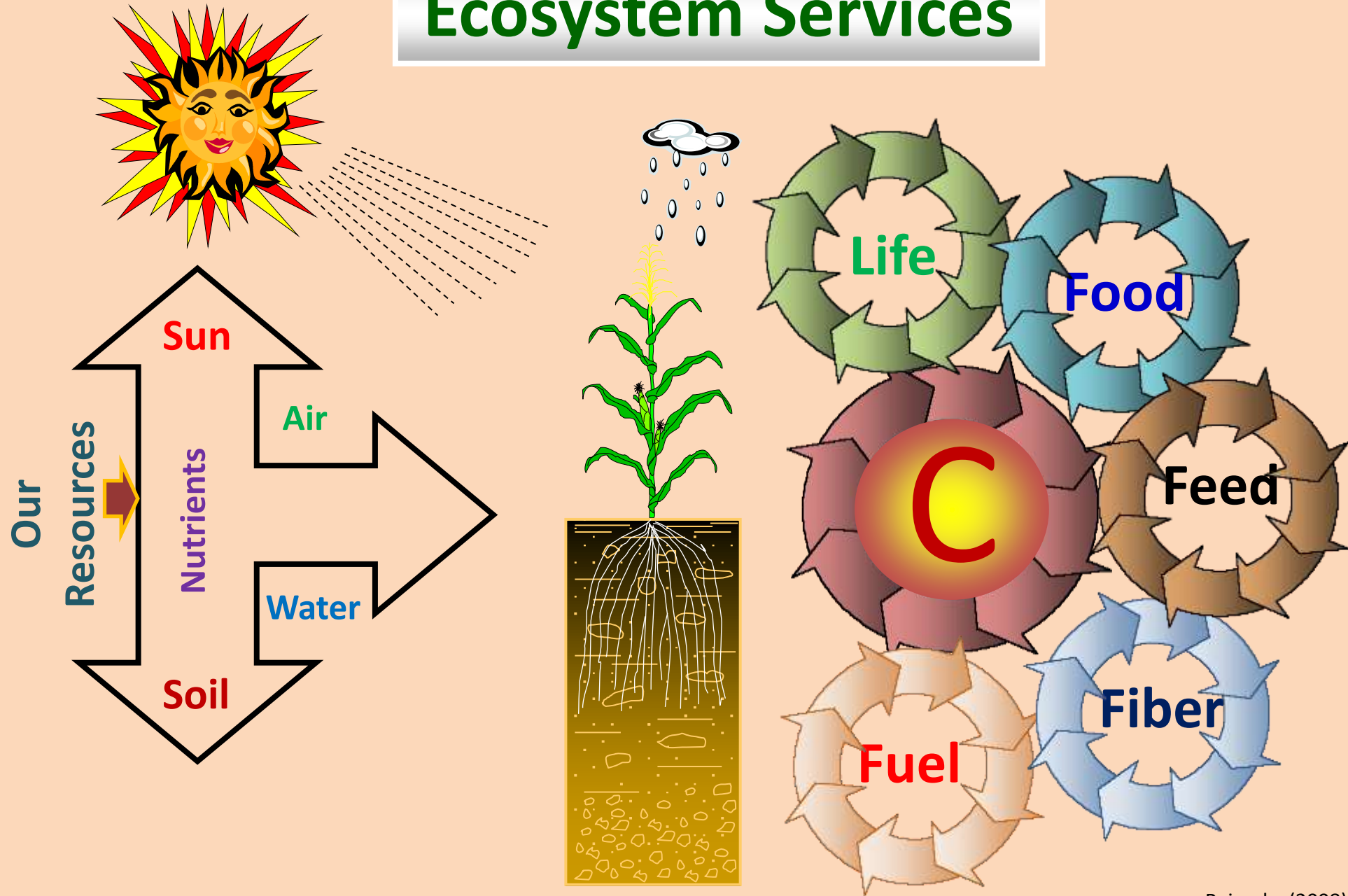


THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

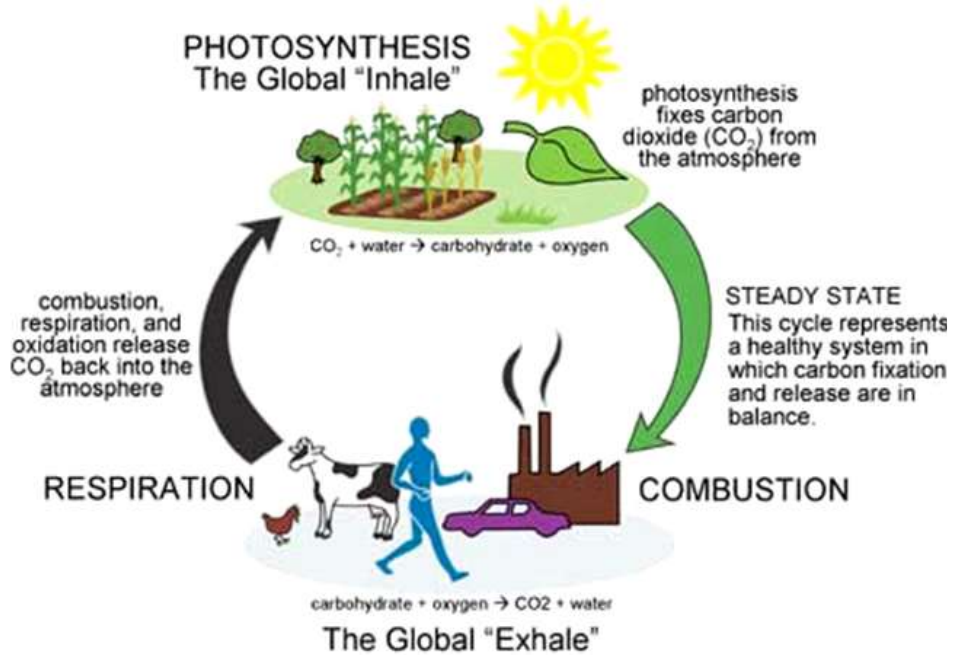
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Carbon is the “Lord of the Rings” .

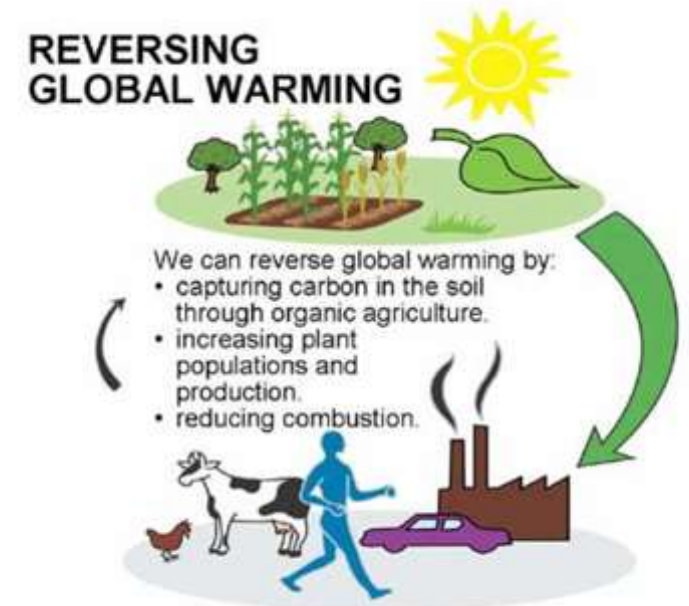
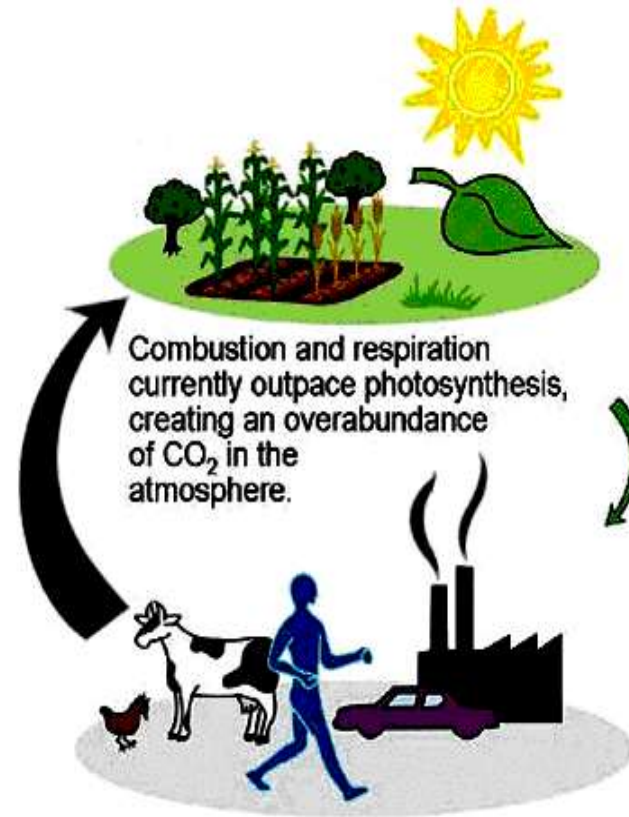
Ecosystem Services



The Global Breath: How Carbon Moves In Our Environment







Carbon storage and reactivity in various forms within the *Earth-atmosphere* system play a critical role in *balancing climate change / ecosystem services*.





Potential climate change impacts around the world



 Species impacts
 Wildfires

 Floods/Sea level rise
 Water stress

 Melting ice
 Crop changes

Crop growth, yield and food quality



- **Corn, millet, sorghum, & sugarcane** are C₄ plants (highly efficient) at current levels of CO₂.
- **Soybeans, rice, wheat, barley, oats, cotton, & alfalfa** are C₃ plants (moderately efficient) at current levels of CO₂.
- The C₃ plants will be **more efficient** at high CO₂ levels. The C₄ plants will be affected – decrease in **crop yield & food quality**.





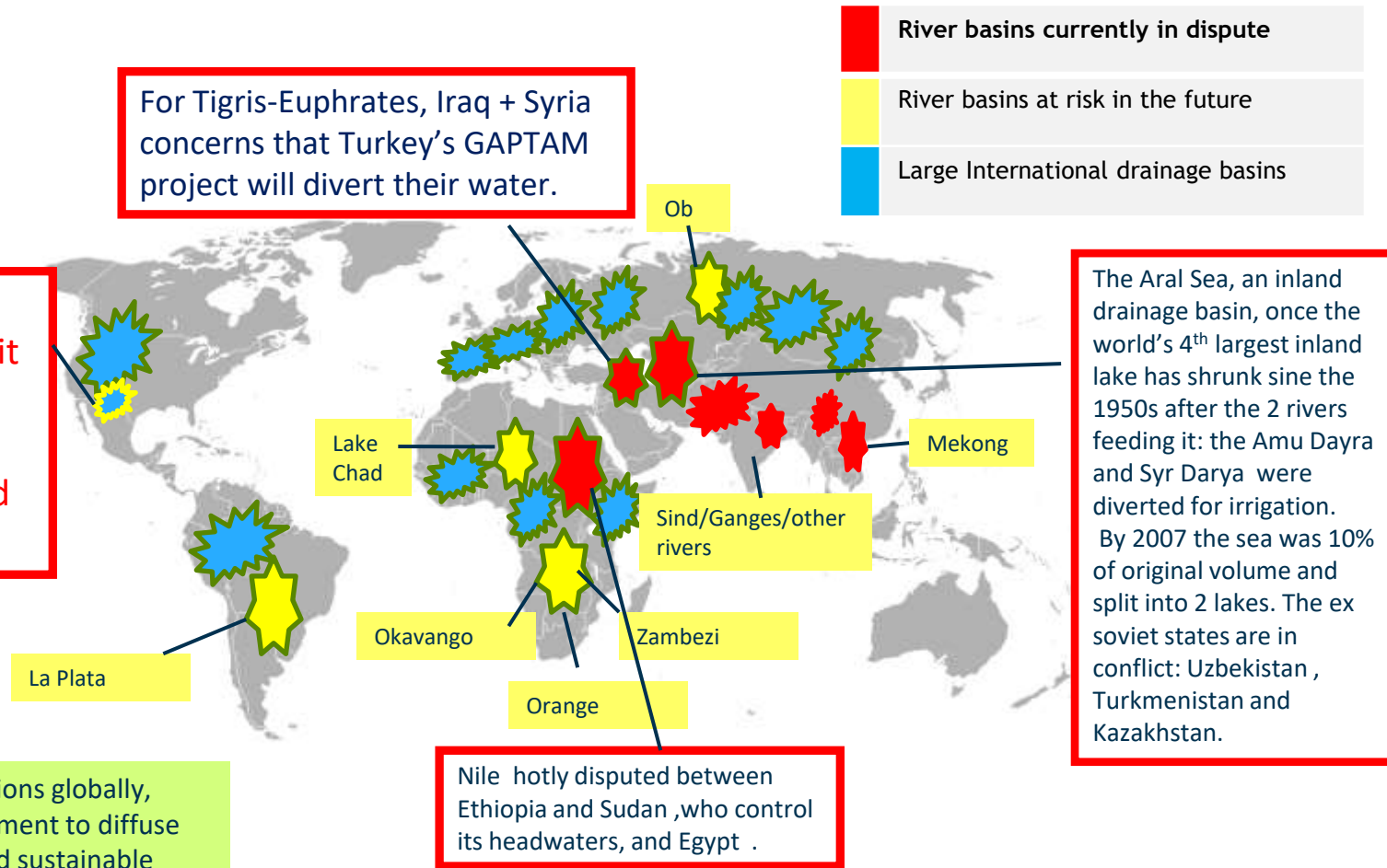
Present and future water conflicts

- As water supply decreases, tensions will increase as different players try to access common water supplies.

For Tigris-Euphrates, Iraq + Syria concerns that Turkey's GAP/TAM project will divert their water.

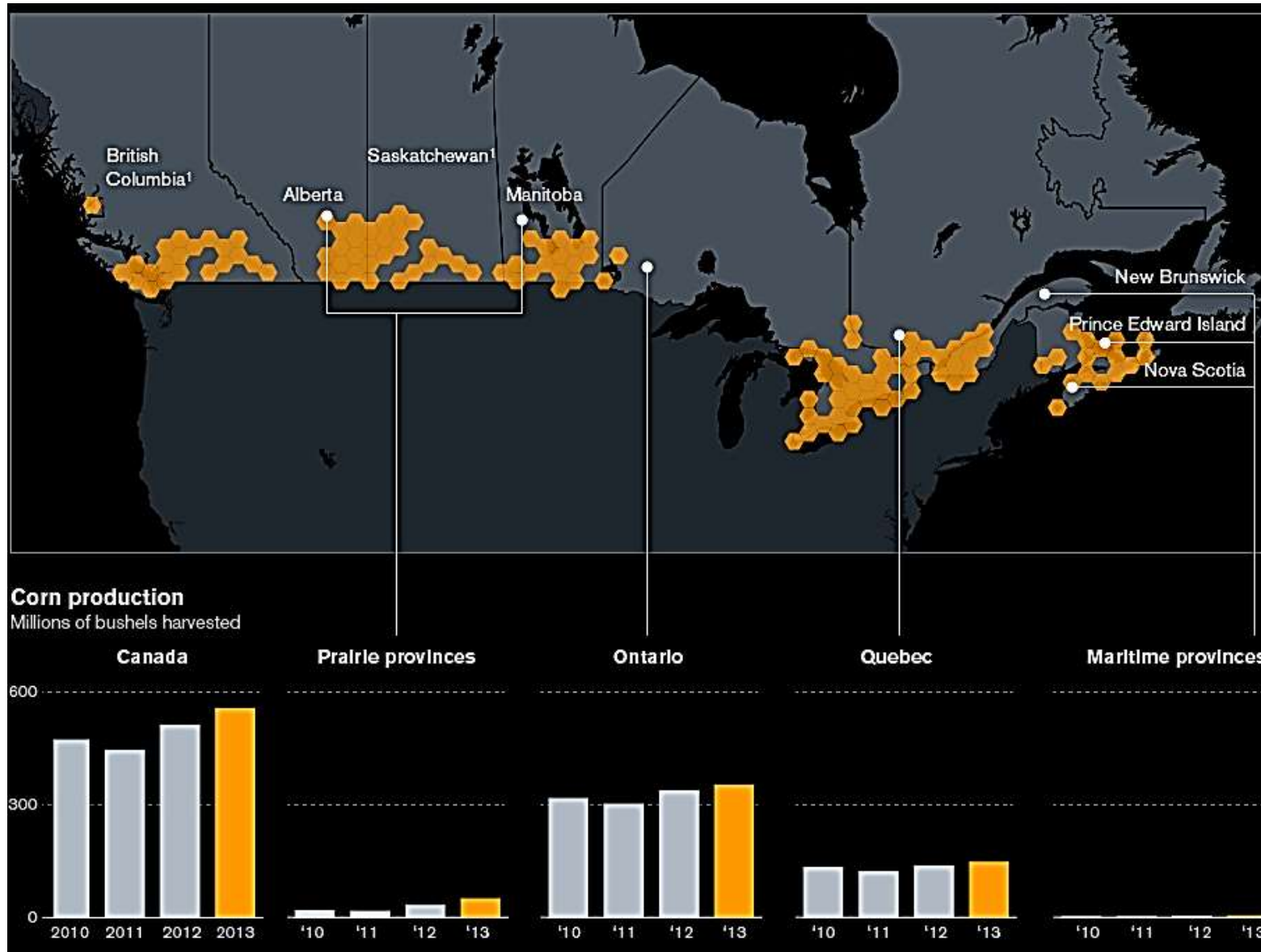
Colorado: disputes between the 7 U.S. states and Mexico it flows through. The river is so overused, that it no longer reaches the sea!. 90% diverted before reaches Mexico

Note: although there have been rising tensions globally, many areas demonstrate effective management to diffuse the situation and create more equitable and sustainable demand-supply balance, such as the Mekong River Committee, & the Nile River Initiative



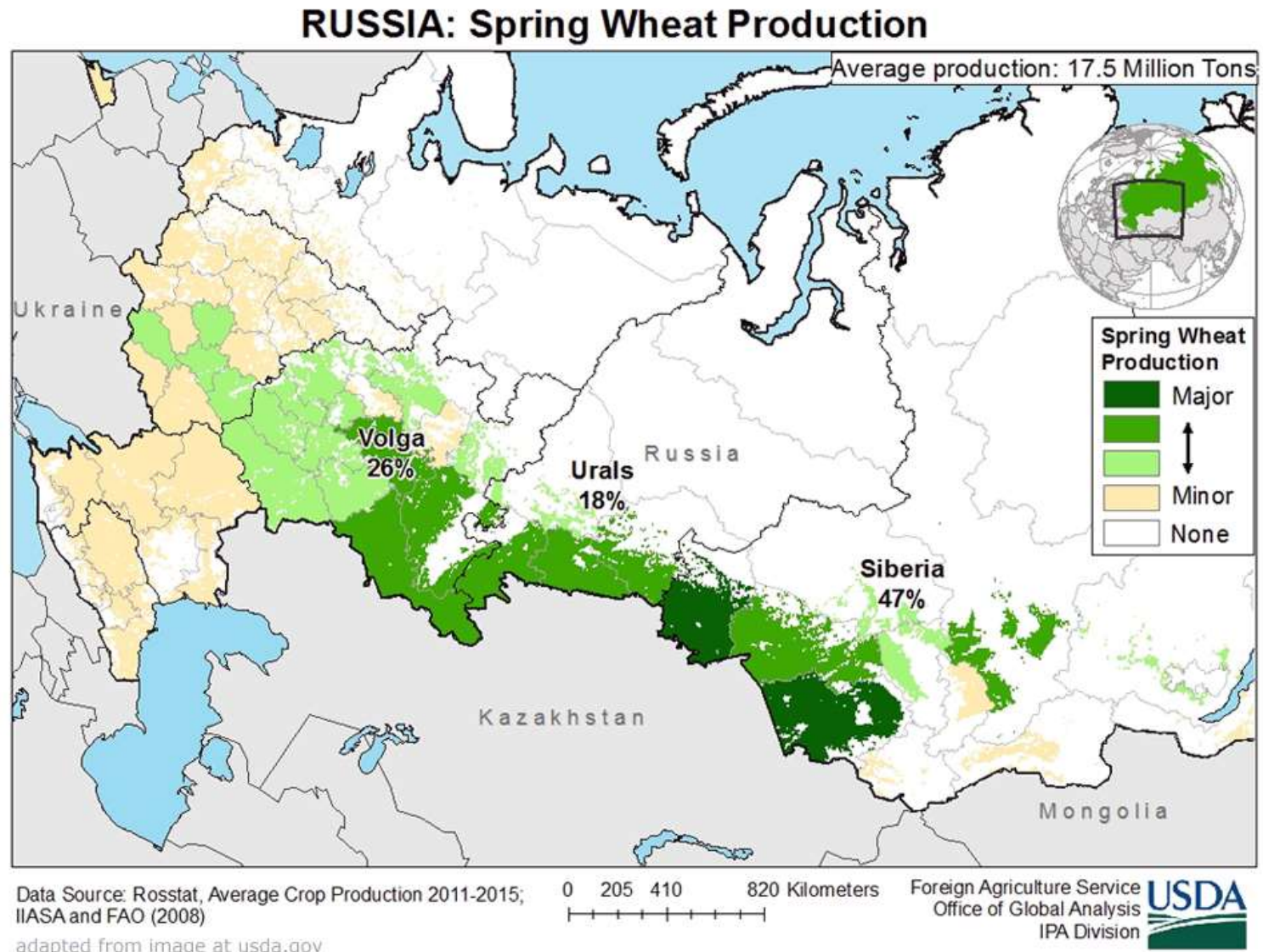
Canada's Climate Warms to Corn and Soybeans as Grain Belt Shifts North (25 years back hardly any corn!!)

Climate change is good!



Russia is an emerging global food superpower. Climate change is in favor of the Eurasian Grain Belt. About 17% of world wheat export (Leonid Bershidsky, Sept. 2017).

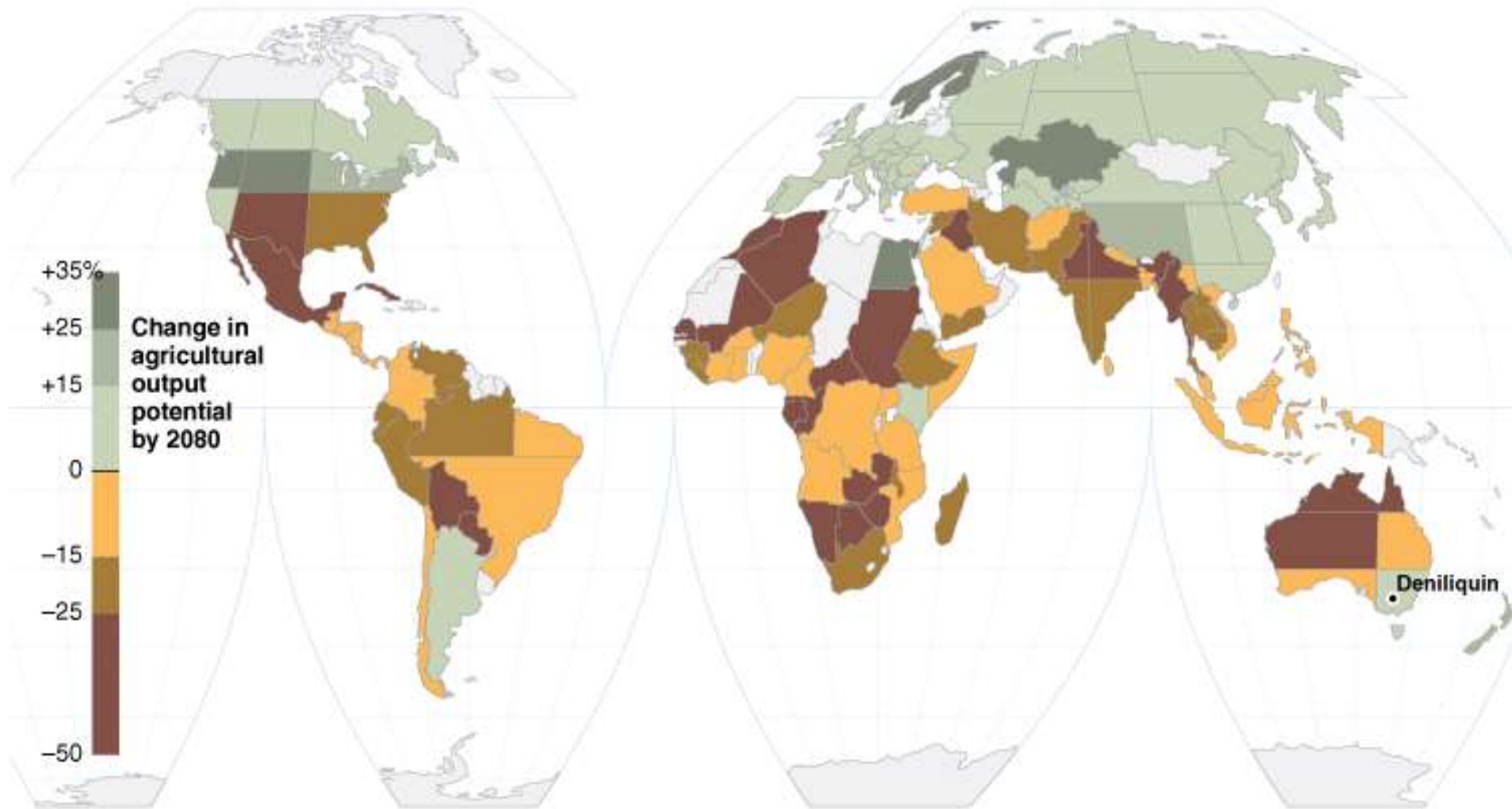
Climate change is good!



Farming in a Warmer World

on Degraded Soil with Water Shortage

Crop forecasts show that some countries farther from the Equator could benefit from a warmer world, but others would be worse off by 2080 if global warming were to proceed unchecked. Long-range forecasts vary widely; the following is a synthesis of available forecasts by country or region.



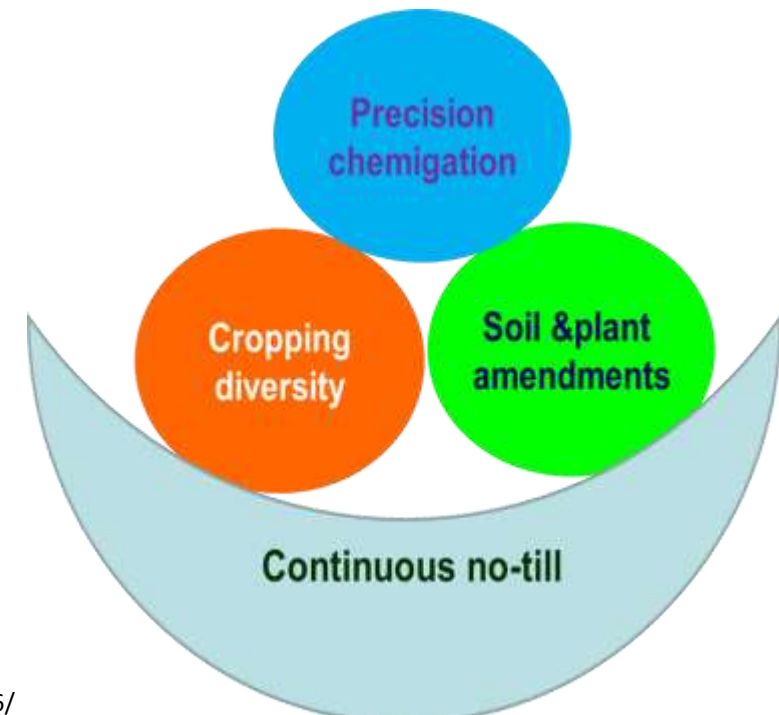
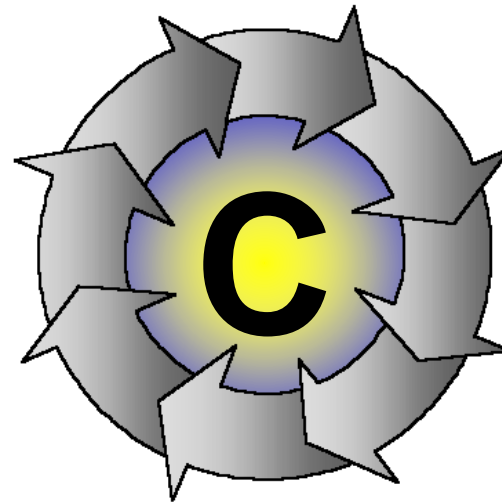
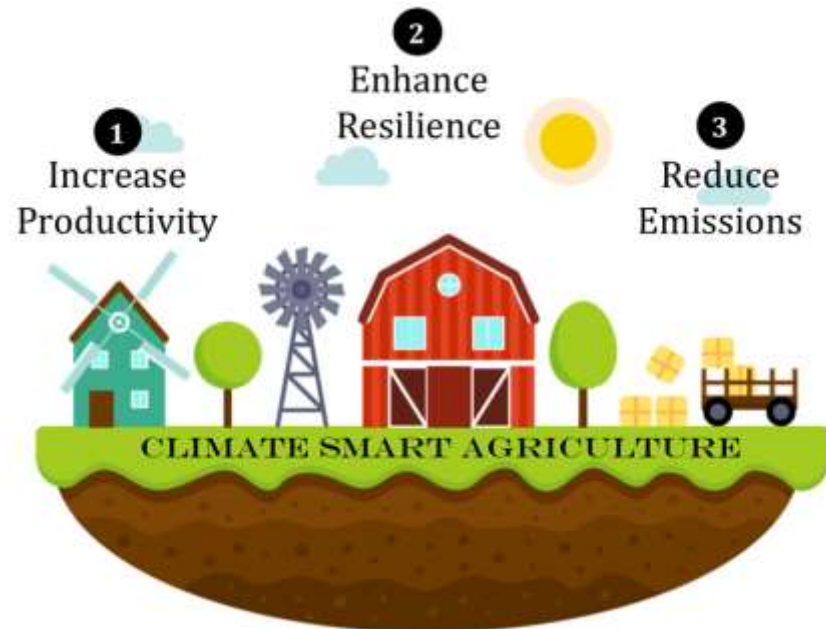
Note: These figures assume that crops grow faster because of higher levels of carbon dioxide in the air. But some scientists say that the actual effects of global warming could be worse than shown here, because the benefits of extra carbon dioxide may not appear if crops lack proper rainfall, proper soil and clean air.

Source: "Global Warming and Agriculture: Impact Estimates by Country," by William R. Cline, Peterson Institute,

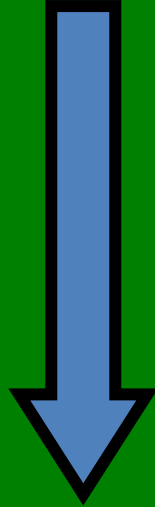
By 2050, **global food security needs to be doubled**, which will make existing farming practices increasingly dependent on more **chemicals, water, and energy** inputs (Islam 2018).

Such **intensification** of farming under **climate change** will have adverse **consequences** on ecosystem services.

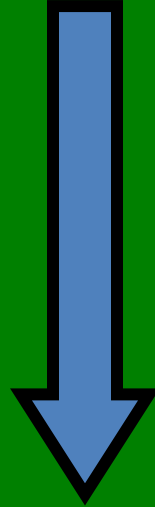
Agricultural practices must be Carbon proactive



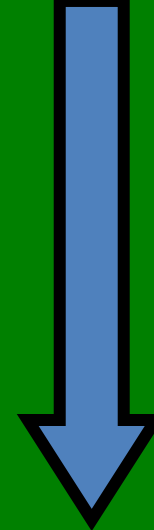
No-Till, Zero-Till, Direct Seed



No “flow”



No “blow”



No “glow”



No-till cropping diversity with cover crops

Cover crop



Radish



Legumes
(Cowpea)

Cover crop



Corn



Rye



Soybean



Wheat



Conservation tillage and cover crops



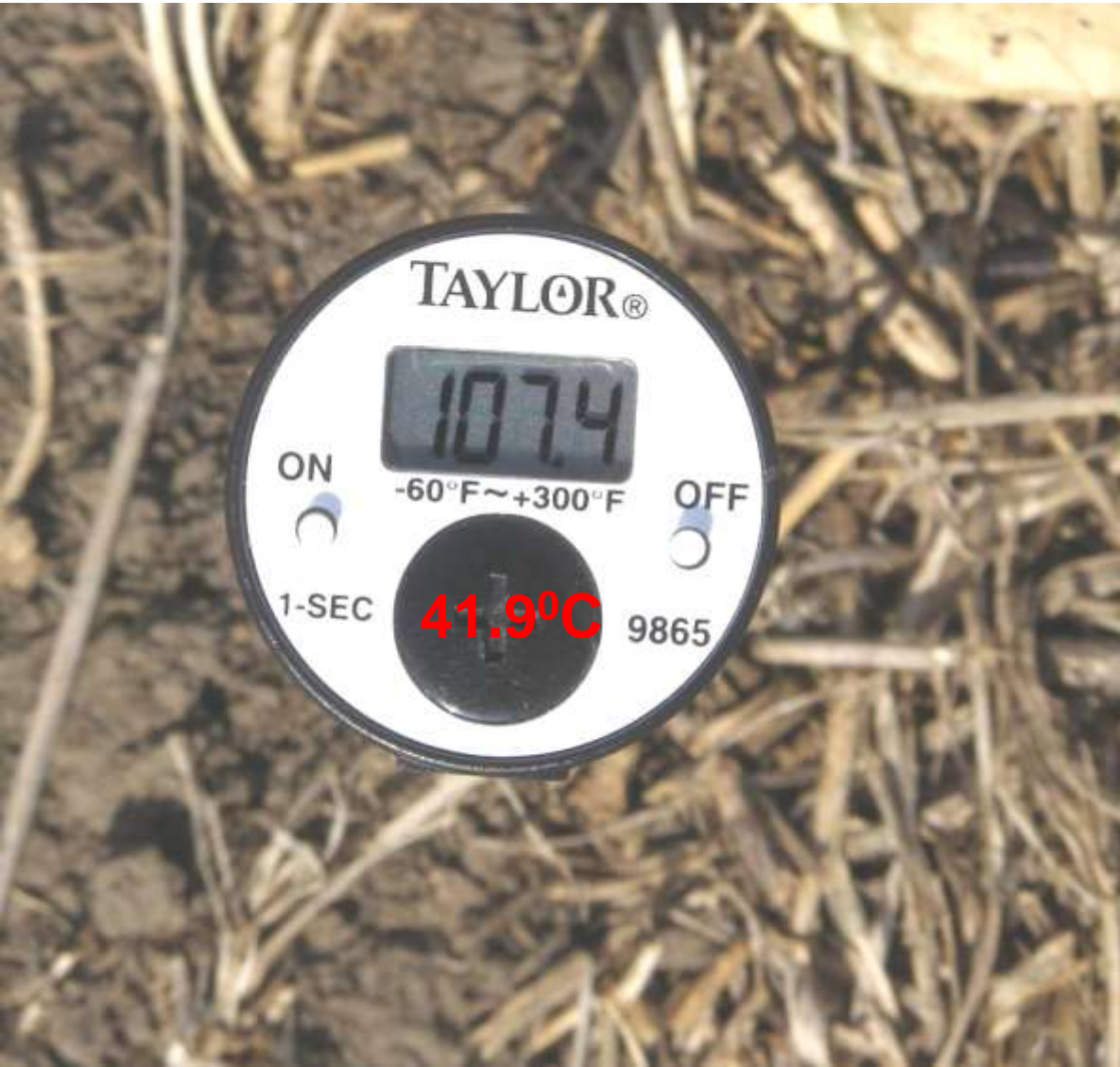


**Radish controls
soil-borne
diseases and
reduces
SOIL
COMPACTION**



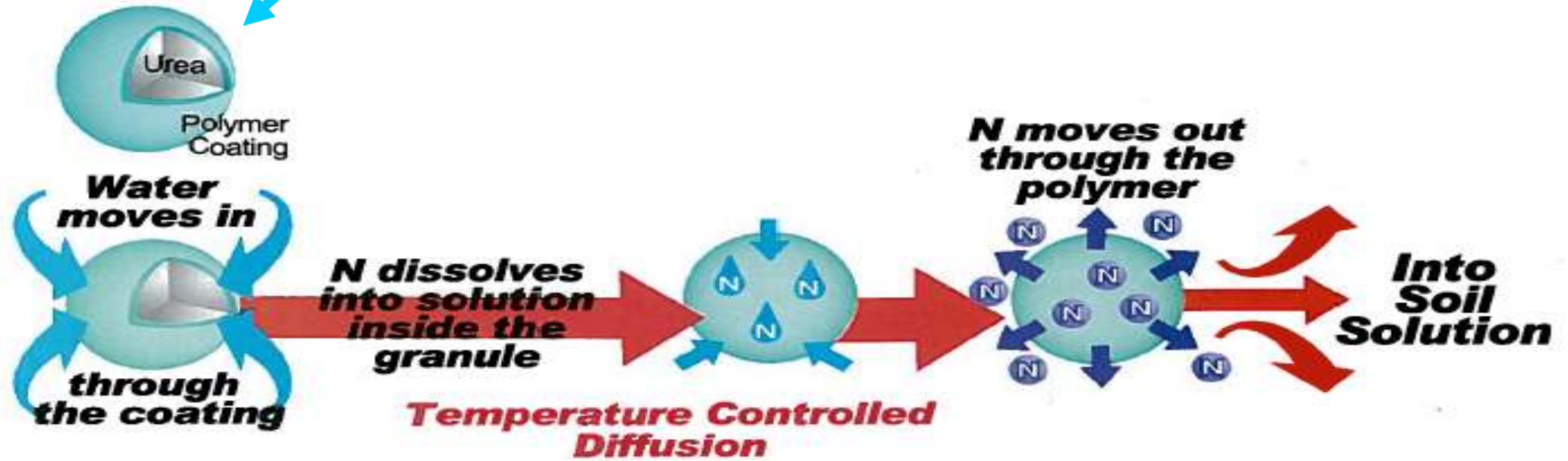
Soil temperature and drought control

Conventional tillage

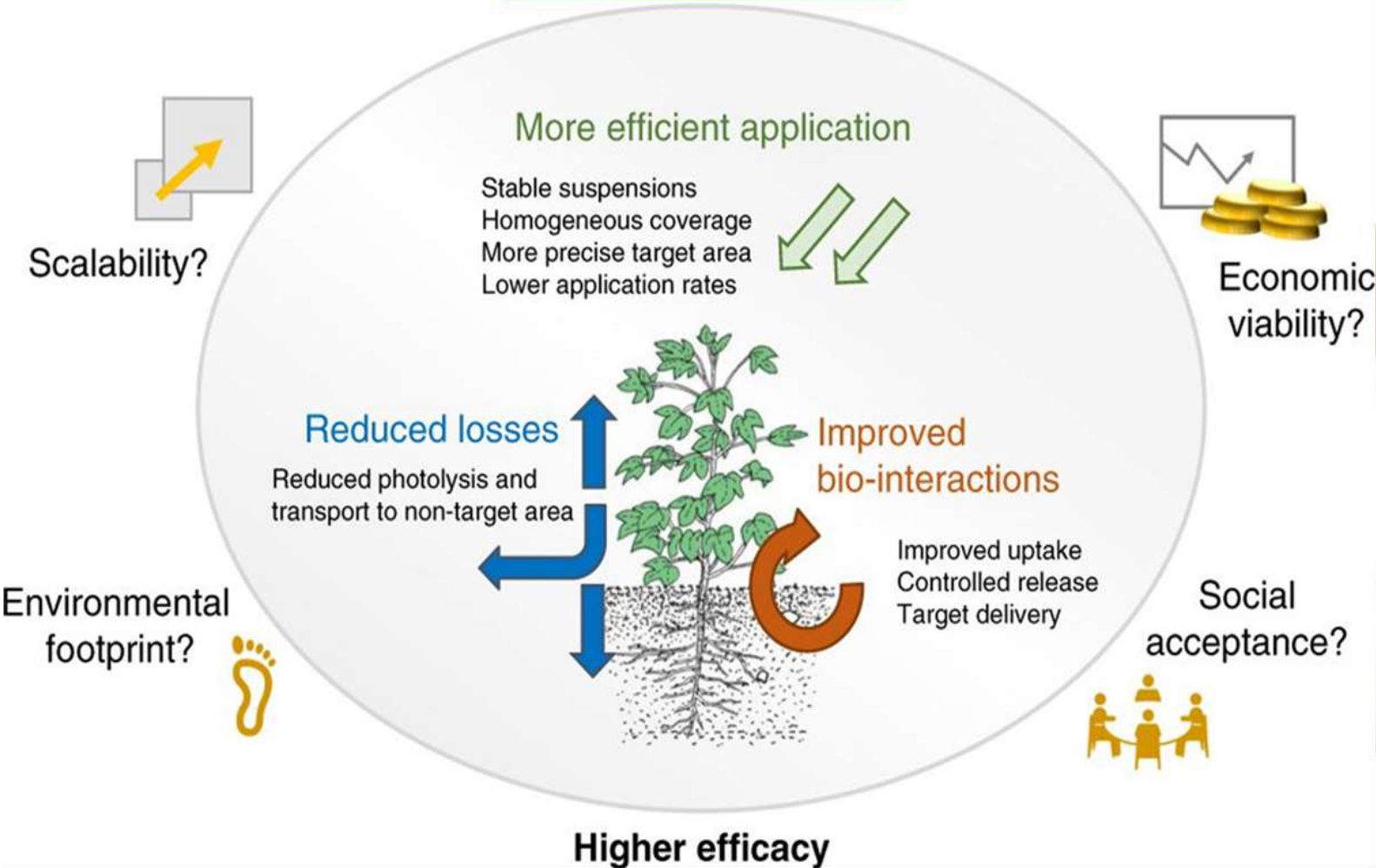


No-till + cover crops





Nano-fertilization Technology



Nano Chelated
Iron
9%

1 kg 2 3 to 7

➤ **Photosynthesis and Greenness (Chlorophyll) Increase**
This nano fertilizer is in powder form, completely soluble in water, and absorbable through both foliar spraying (2 g/L) and soil application (3-7 kg/ha).



- 7. Chemical Fe fertilization
- 8. Chelate Fe fertilization
- 9. Nano Fe fertilization**

Use improved crop varieties

Drought tolerant, efficient water & nutrient user, and salt-resistant crops.

Natural selection

Breeding & genetics research

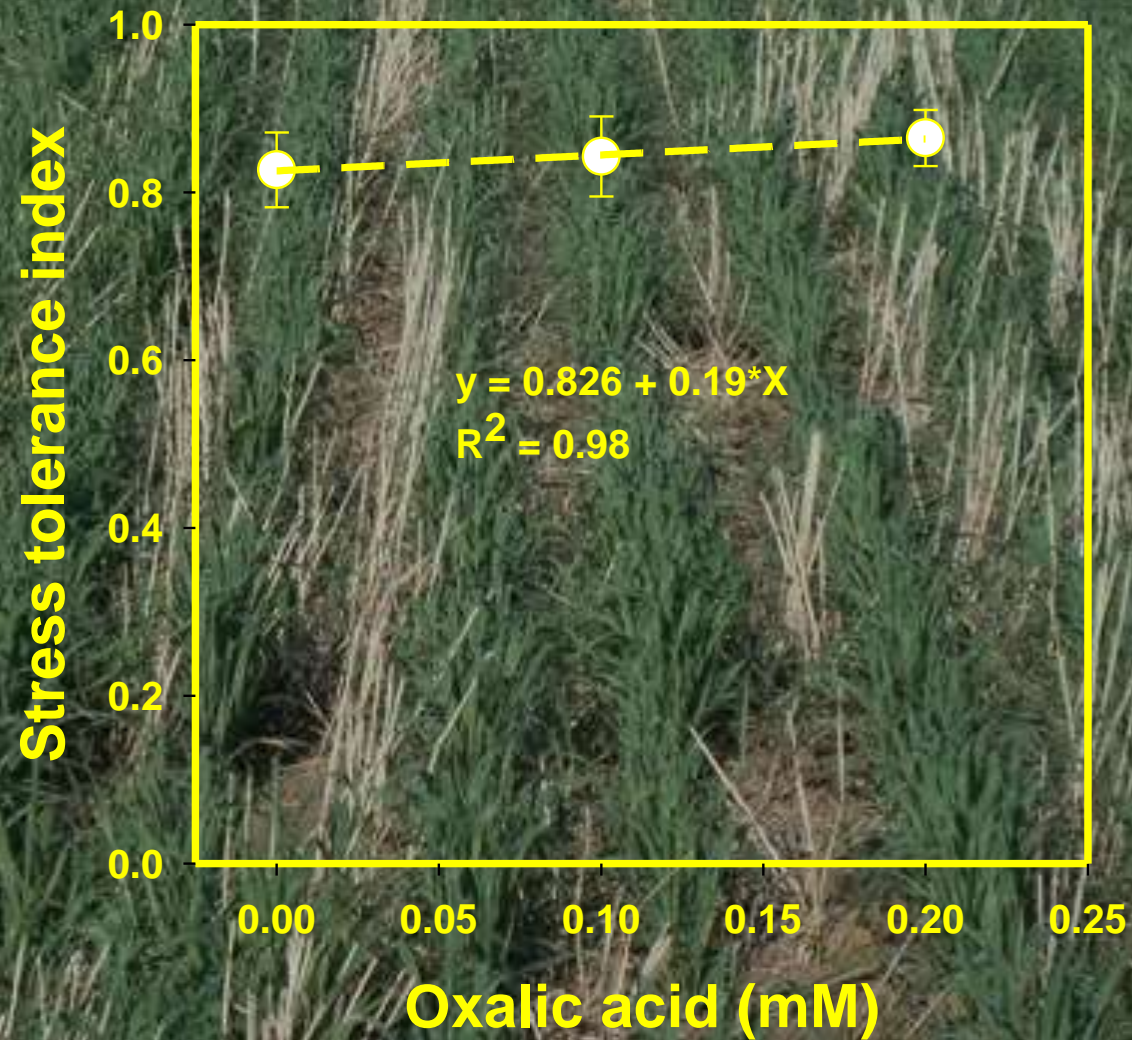




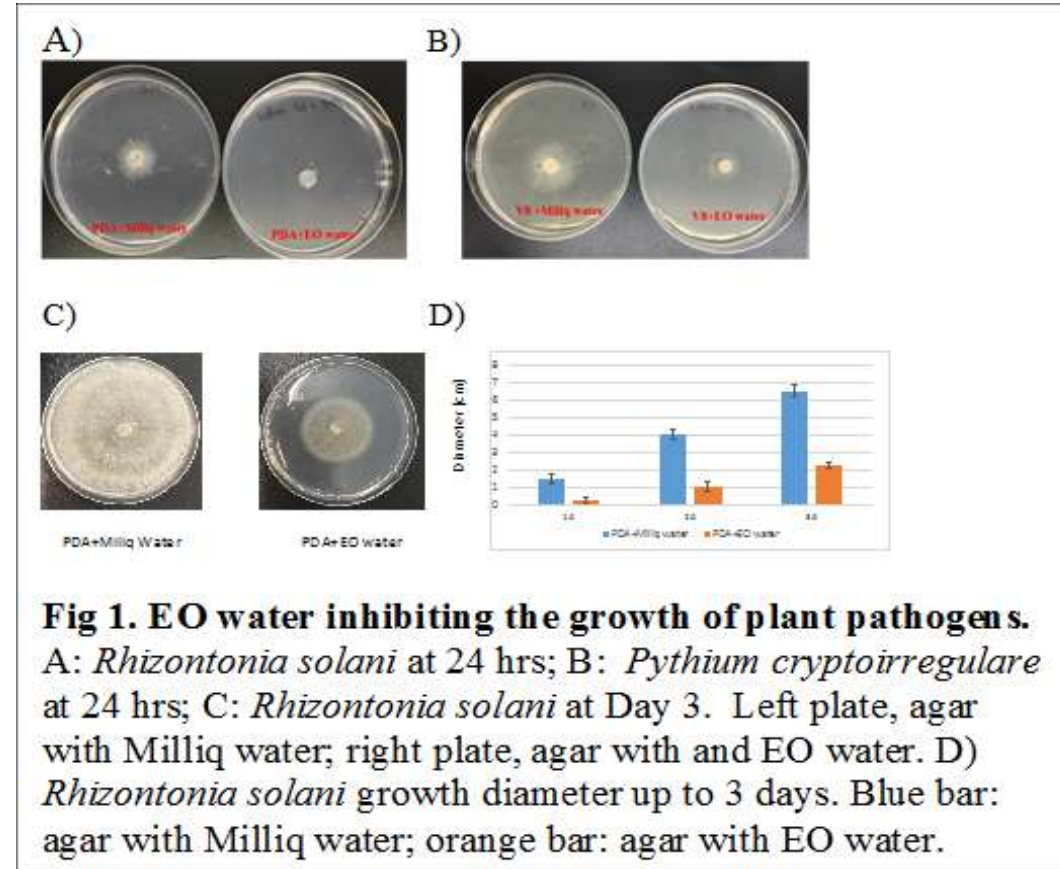
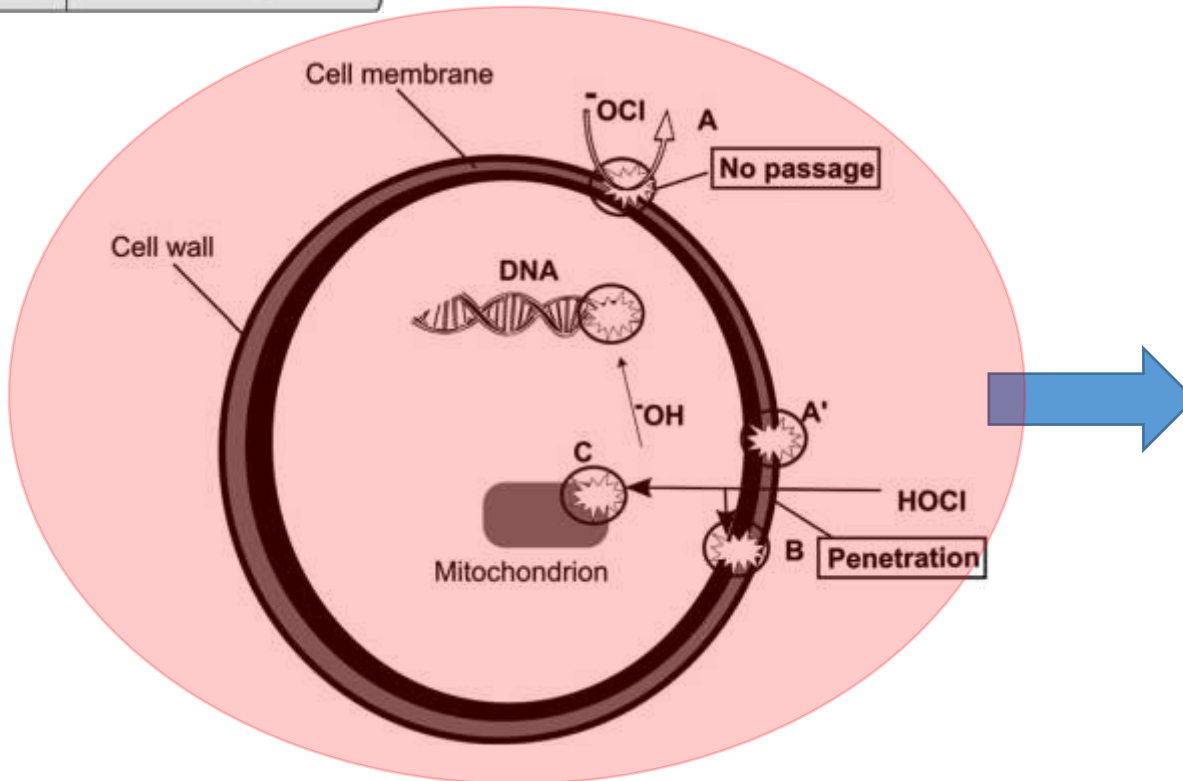
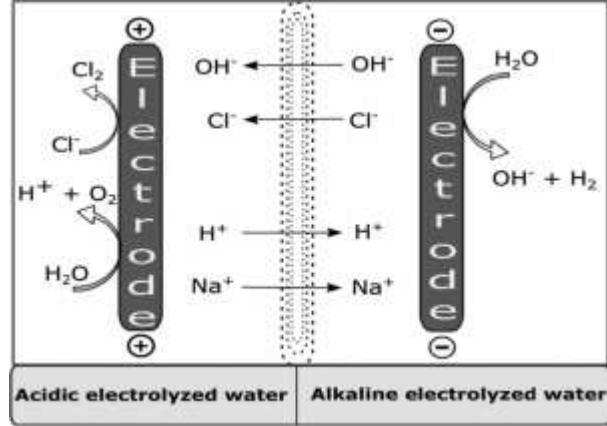
Our research has shown that mixing **salicylic acid (aspirin)** in irrigation increased **soybean-wheat-corn-sunflower yield** by 14, 5, 10, and 12%, respectively, with **higher water- and nutrient-use efficiency** in **Ukraine**, 2018-2021. Islam & Didenko (2021).



Oxalic acid improves drought tolerance (abiotic stress) on wheat in Kazakhstan



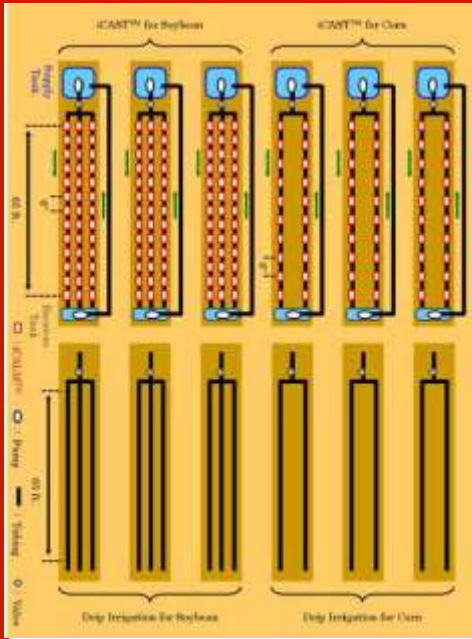
Electrolyzed oxidized water irrigation for biocontrol services



Model representing the germicidal activity of EW. The $-OCl$ attacks on the outer membrane of the cell (circle A), where as the HOCl diffuses through the cell membrane. The HOCl attacks on the outer membrane (circle A') and also inside the cell (circle B and C).

Climate-smart fertigation (iCAST[®]) – Future Technology

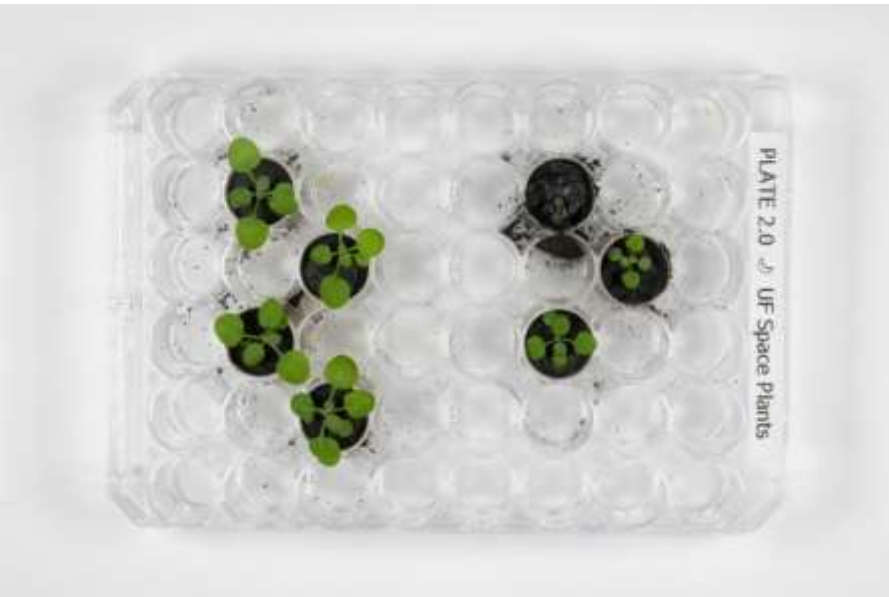
Growing corn and soybeans under *simulated desert-like conditions* with re-circulating fertigation.



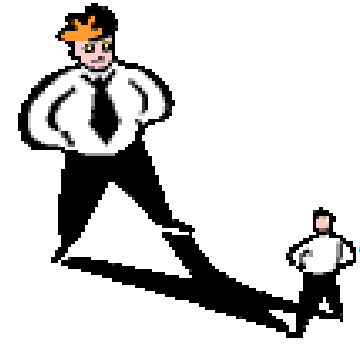
Five-year results showed: 45% less water & 50% less nutrients use than drip irrigation



Recently, U.S. researchers were able to grow a flowering plant, called *Arabidopsis thaliana*, on regolith material (soil?) collected from moon during the Apollo missions in 1969 / 1972. It offers hope that **earthly plants** can be grown in space to **support food security**.



One Health Vision



Healthy People

Healthy Plant/Food



The Miracle We Take For Granted

CFAES