



Opportunity's and  
dillema's following the  
Strategic Dialogue





- How can we give **our farmers**, and the **rural communities** they live in, a better perspective, including a **fair standard of living**?
- How can we support agriculture **within the boundaries of our planet** and its ecosystem?
- How can we make better use of the immense **opportunities offered by knowledge** and technological innovation?
- How can we promote a bright and thriving future for **Europe's food system in a competitive world**?



1. The time for change is now.
2. Cooperation and dialogue across the food value chain are critical.
3. Policy measures must be coherent and create powerful enabling environments based on fruitful synergies.
4. Food and agricultural production play a strategic role in the new geopolitical context as an essential part of European security.
5. The role of young people in agriculture and rural areas and the diversity of European food and farming systems are an important asset.
6. Economic, environmental, and social sustainability can reinforce each other.
7. Markets should drive sustainability and value creation across the chain and better internalize externalities.
8. The opportunities of technology and innovation should be leveraged to support the transition towards more sustainable agrifood systems.
9. The shift towards balanced diets that are healthier and more sustainable is essential for a successful transition.
10. Attractive rural areas are of crucial importance for food security, the future viability of society, and liberal democracy.



## New EU Agriculture Commissioner given 100 days to prepare vision for sector



New EU Agriculture and Food Commissioner Christophe Hansen. Photo by Dursun Aydemir/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images.

Ciaran Moran

Tue 24 Sep 2024 at 03:30

# The way forward

Mr Hansen committed to build on and continue the “Strategic Dialogue” initiated by the Commission President, visit farmers throughout the continent, and develop - in close cooperation with Parliament - a vision for the future agricultural and food policy during his first 100 days in office.

The resulting report recognized that the way forward is political and will include many dilemmas.

The report is clear: there are no objective, uncontested way to settle these dilemmas and “trade-offs can only be managed collectively, requiring dialogue and hard, consensual choices on the various alternative pathways”

There is a role for science to clarify these trade-offs and mark-off the guard-rails of transition pathways.

This report reflects a key consensus-driven contribution to informing the direction of EU agriculture. In the current political climate, this alone can be seen as a significant achievement.

However: to get meaningful policies, we need to look at the integrated food systems, or even biomass systems.

As WUR, we have highlighted 5 dilemma’s that are relevant plotting the way forward.

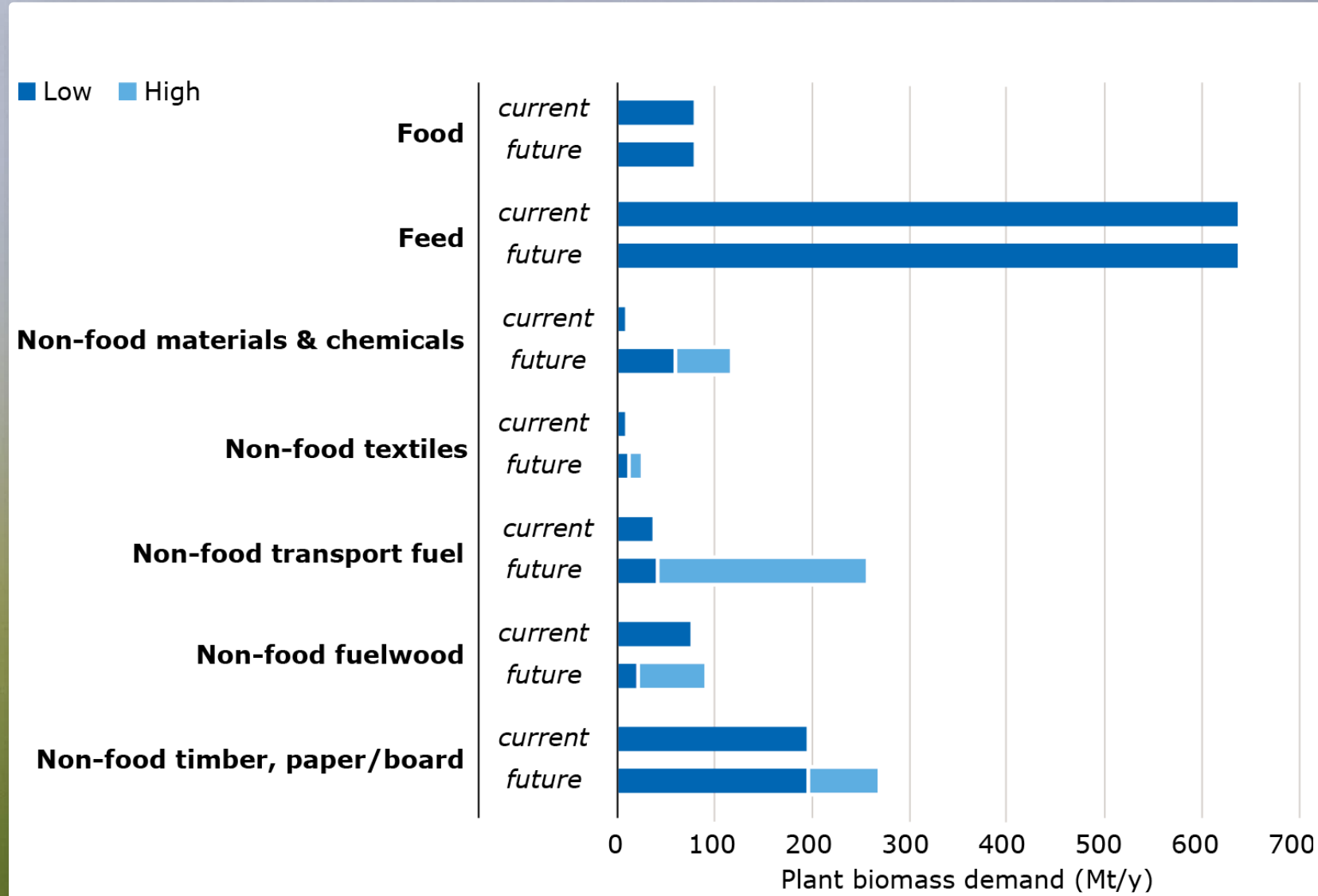
## The SD Vision (2035/2040):

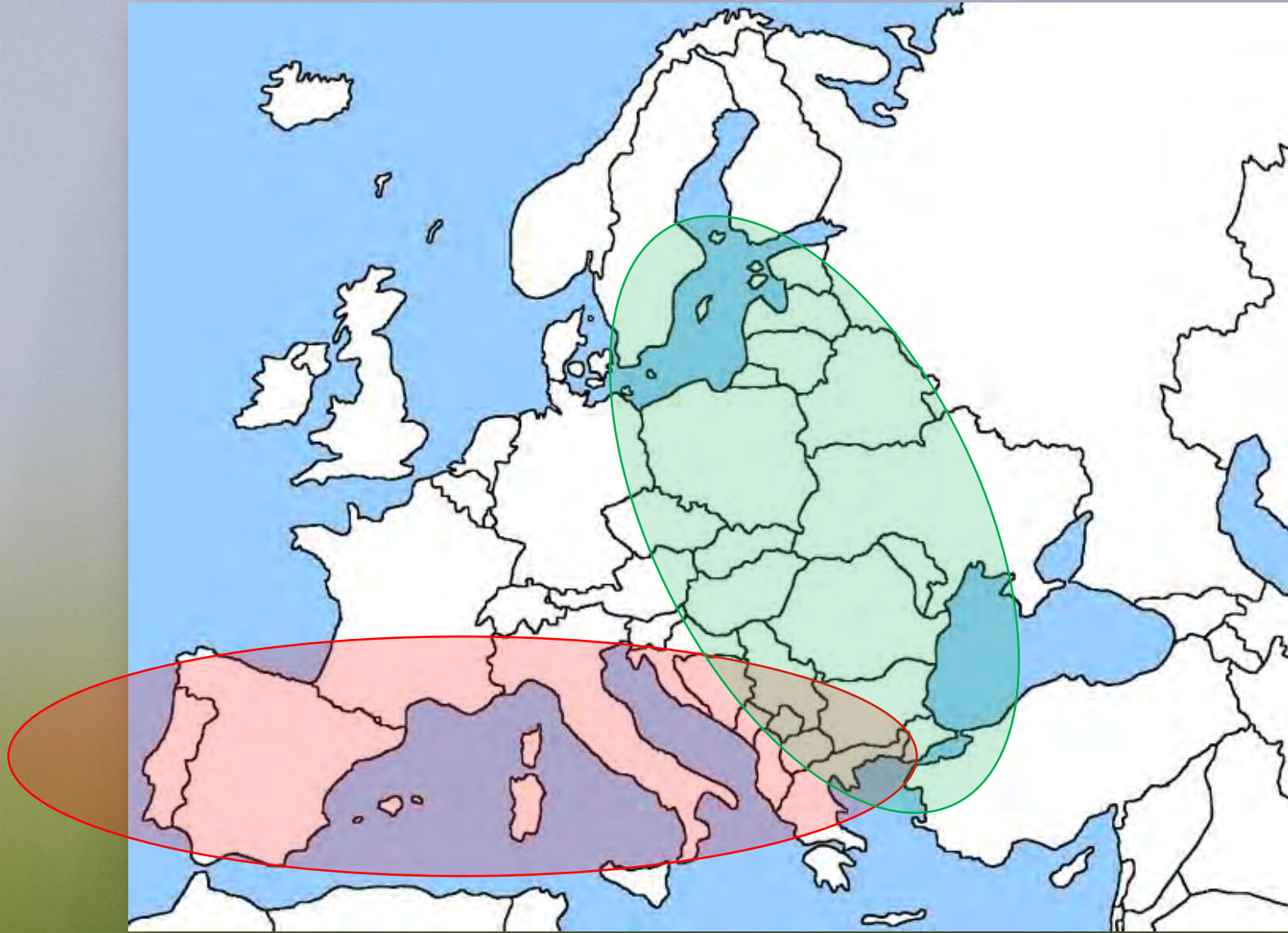
Resource consumption in the sector and the economy as a whole has been adapted, including through circularity, to not exceed planetary boundaries...

..while the EU is engaged globally, it does not consume more land and resources than it possesses.

# Background...

Current and future demand for plant biomass products in the EU

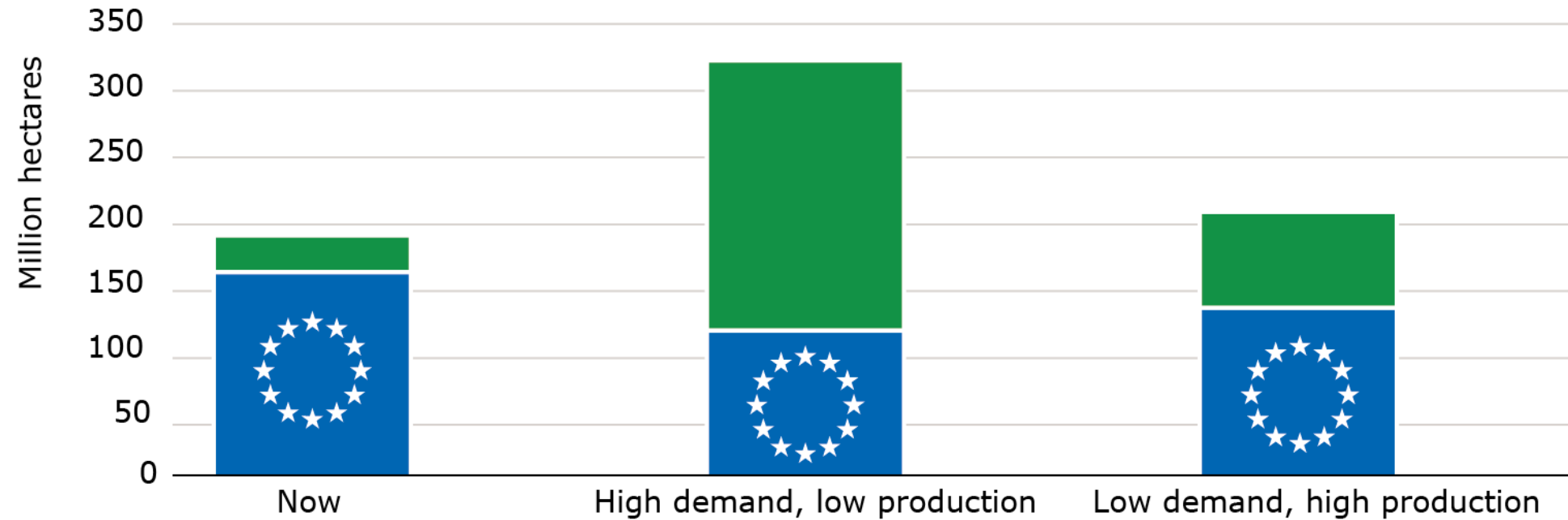






## Required land use in Europe and the Rest of the World (RoW) by 2050

★ area Europe ■ area RoW



# The dilemma's





**Dilemma:** To what extent should the EU pursue self-sufficiency in its food and non-food biomass supply?



Geopolitics and disruption of supply chains?





**Dilemma:** What roles are envisioned for animal husbandry in the EU?



**Dilemma:** At what scale should food and non-food biomass production coexist with biodiversity and address climate targets?





**Dilemma:** Climate and biodiversity targets: a shared EU responsibility or tailored to each Member State?



A person wearing a light blue long-sleeved sweater is pushing a metal shopping cart with blue handles. The cart is filled with various groceries, including a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a yellow bag, and other items. The background shows a supermarket aisle with shelves stocked with products. A green horizontal bar is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

**Dilemma:** To what extent should policies intervene in consumer behaviour?



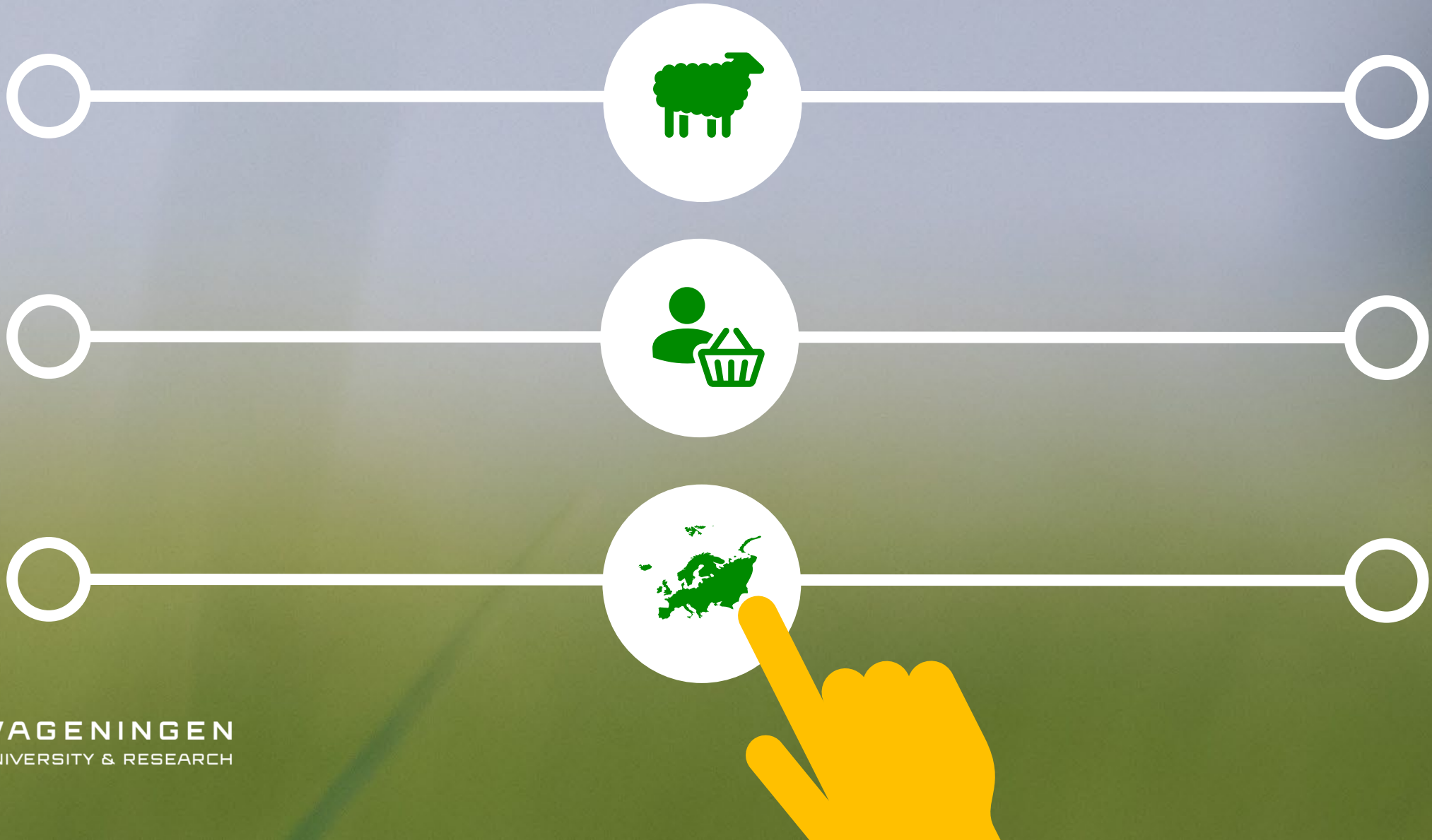




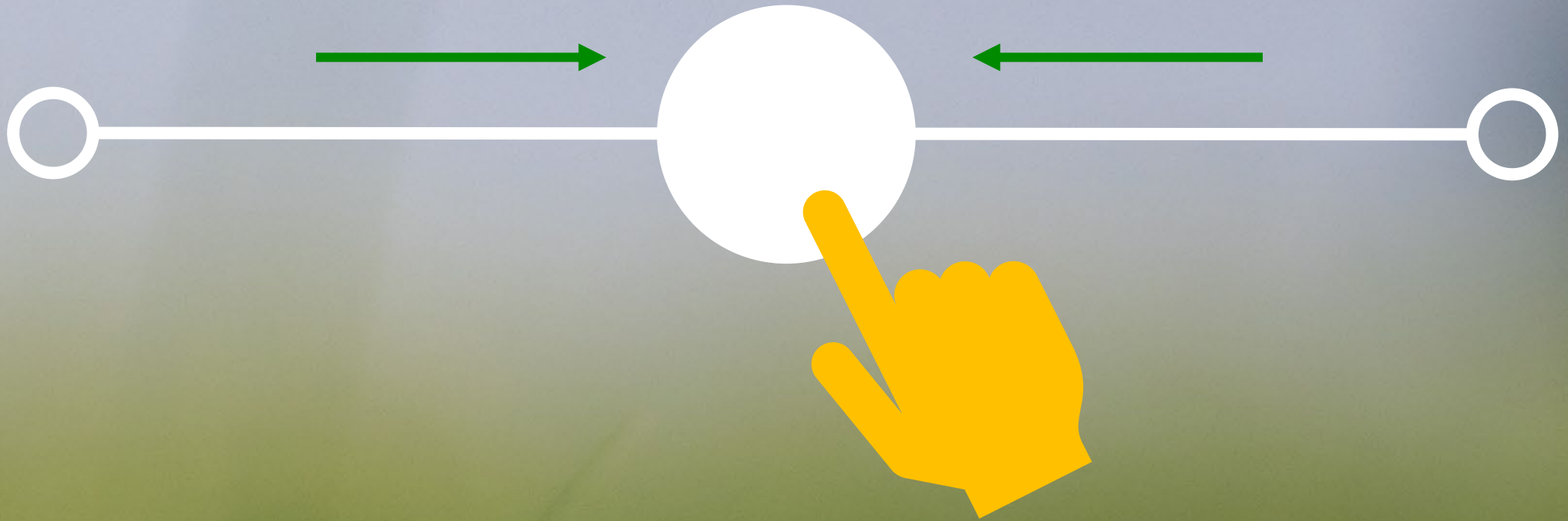
# Navigating complexity



# One choice affects others

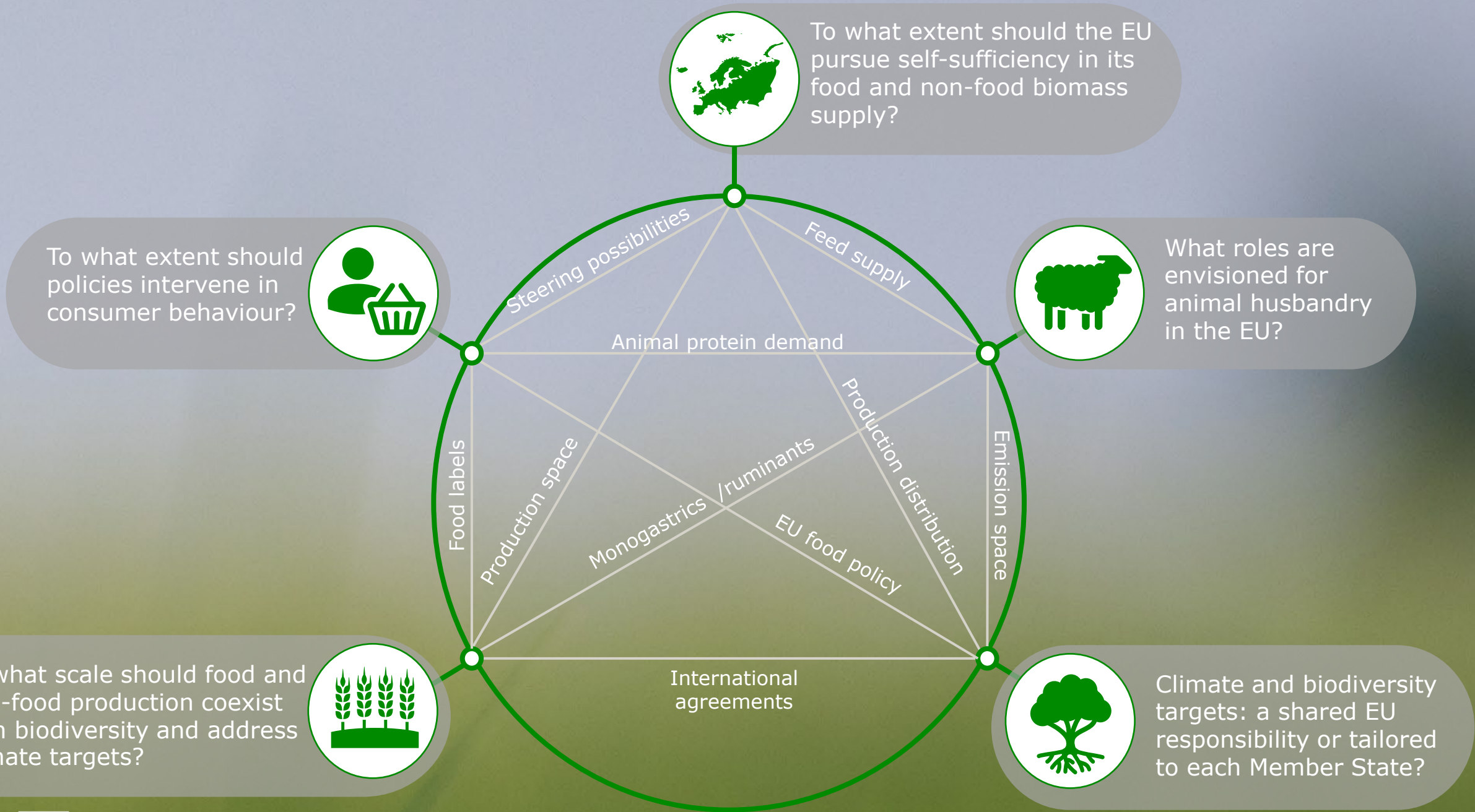


One choice affects others



# Synergies and trade-offs





- **The Strategic Dialogue has shown the potential of stakeholder dialogue for real forward looking policy recommendations**
- **The current outcomes provide an excellent base to build upon.**
- **The dialogue has not been able to navigate all the trade offs. A integrated food system, or biobased-system approach is needed for real furture proof solutions**
- **Science can provide knowledge, facts, and scenarios to help re-design of the system.**
- **The time for change is now**





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