



- Sustainability criteria for biofuels in the Renewable Energy Directive

Workshop sustainability criteria for bioenergy

Ewout Deurwaarder
DG TREN, Regulatory policy & Promotion of Renewable energy

18/03/2008

● Renewable Energy Directive

- Part of the package of energy and climate measures proposed on 23rd of January
- Sets **targets** for 2020
- **Flexibility** in meeting targets
- Removes **obstacles** to the use of renewable energy
- Improves the **performance** of renewable energy
 - » Biofuel and bioliquid sustainability

● Biofuel sustainability issues

- Greenhouse gas impact
- Land use / carbon stock
- Biodiversity
- Good agricultural & environmental condition
- Impacts on people in poverty

- Approach for establishing the criteria
 - To apply to each consignment of biofuel
 - Legally meaningful, quantifiable and verifiable – important for legal clarity and certainty
 - Proportionate: limit burden of verification
 - International (trade) law

● Greenhouse gas impact

● **Sustainability criterion:**

- » Minimum requirement for GHG saving, relative to fossil fuel, of at least 35%
- » Waiver until April 2013 for current plants
- » Rules for calculation of GHG saving
- » Default values

● Land use / Carbon stock

● **Sustainability criteria:**

- » No conversion of wetland or 'continuously forested area'
- » Other land use change is counted in the greenhouse gas calculation

- » Specific incentive for crops from idle lands and desert (*Annex VII.C.8*)

Biodiversity

- **Sustainability criterion:**

- » No raw material from:

- forest undisturbed by significant human activity

- highly biodiverse grassland

- nature protection areas (unless compatible with nature protection)

● Good agricultural & environmental condition

- **Sustainability criterion:**
 - » 'Cross-compliance' rules
 - » Only for EU produced biofuels

● Verification

- For most consignments two items of data will be needed:
 - » What the biofuel was made from
 - » Where the raw material was cultivated
- Operators must track consignments using the ‘mass balance’ method (*Art. 16.1*)
- Member States have primarily responsibility for verification (*Art. 16.3*)
- The Commission can decide that ‘certification schemes’ comply with the criteria (*Art. 16.4*)
- If so, all Member States must accept the evidence these schemes provide

● Impacts on people in poverty

- Difficult to link to individual consignments of biofuel

and

- Raises issues under international law

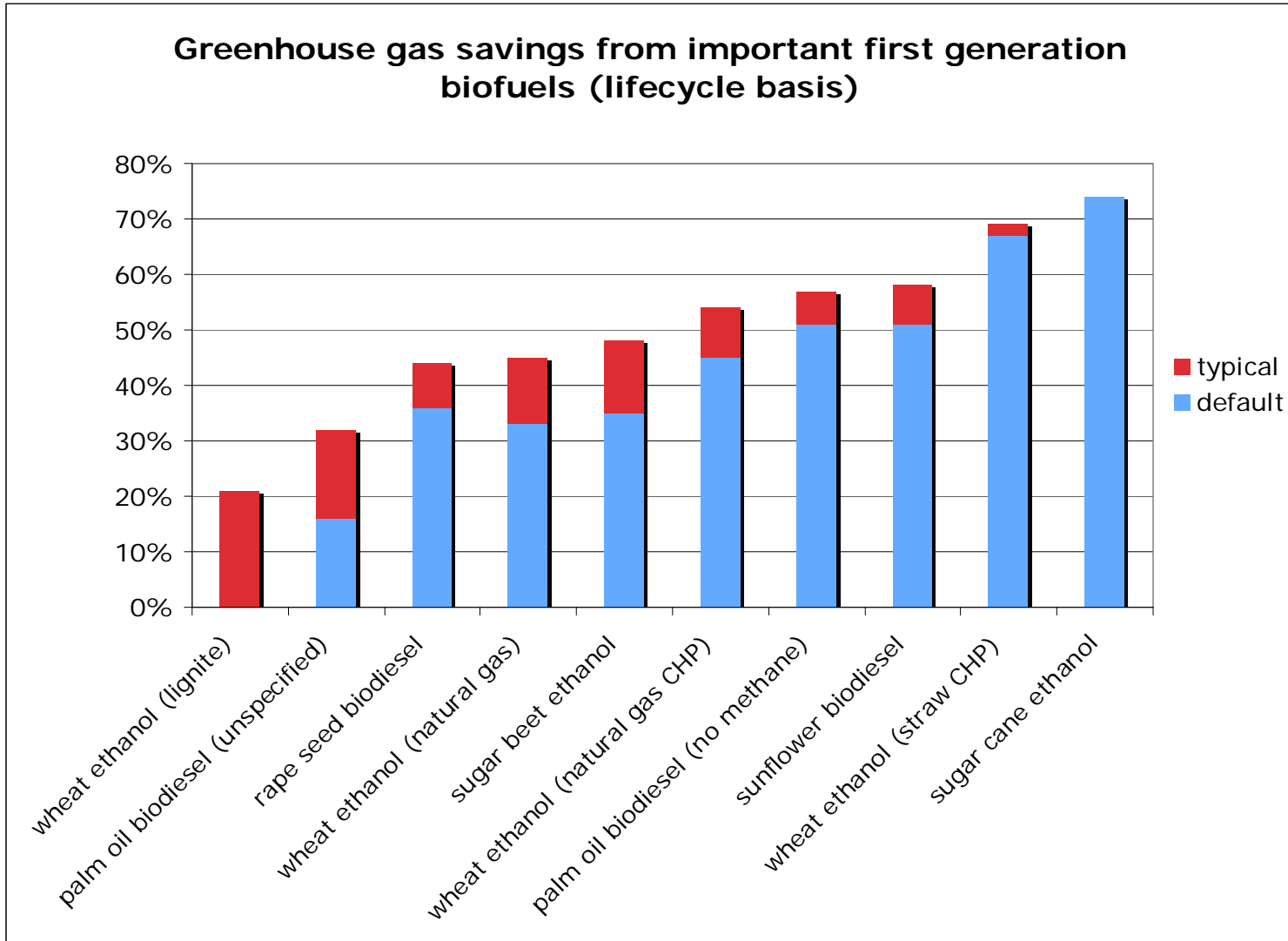
therefore

- Addressed through monitoring and reporting, including food security effects

● Thank you – ewout.deurwaarder@ec.europa.eu

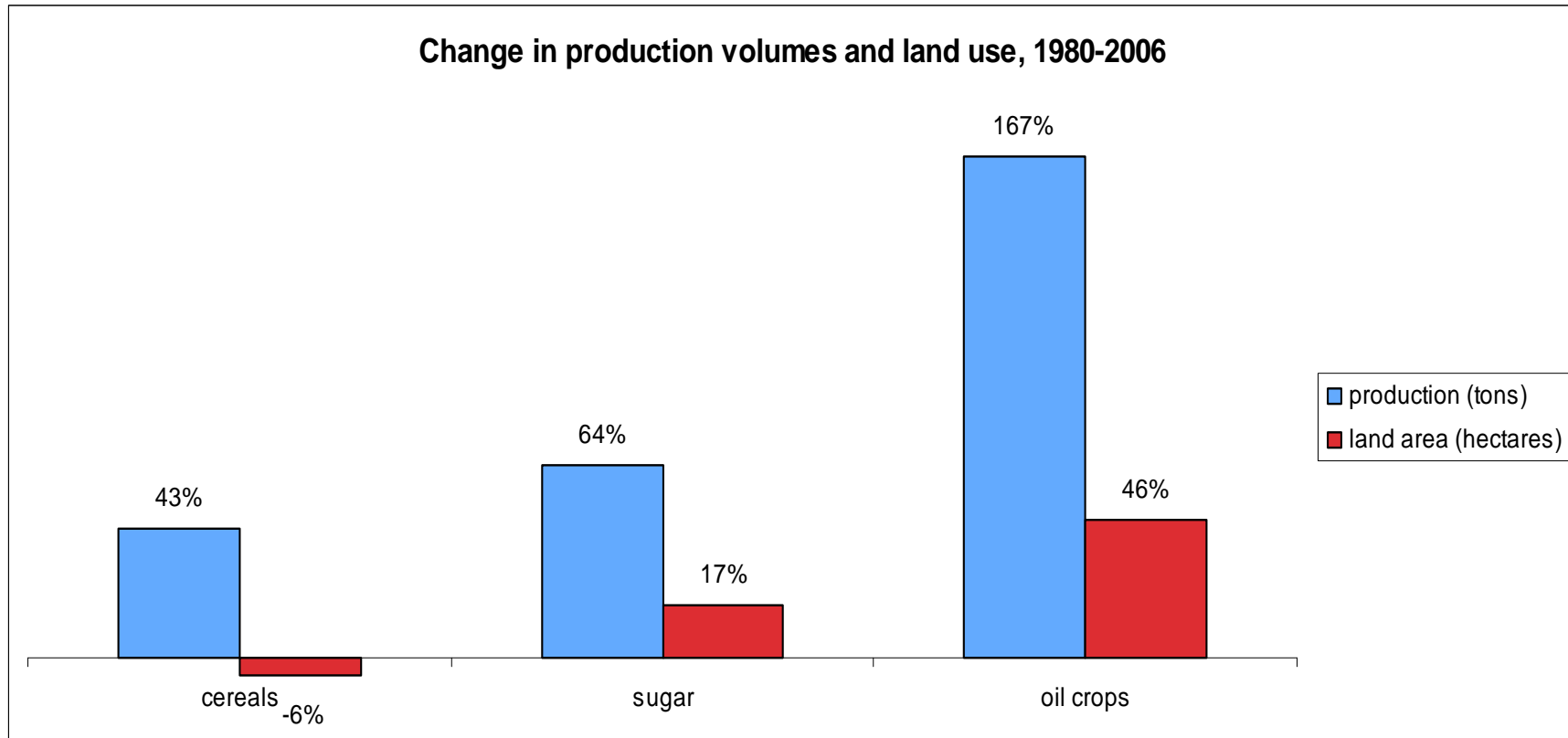


● GHG savings figures



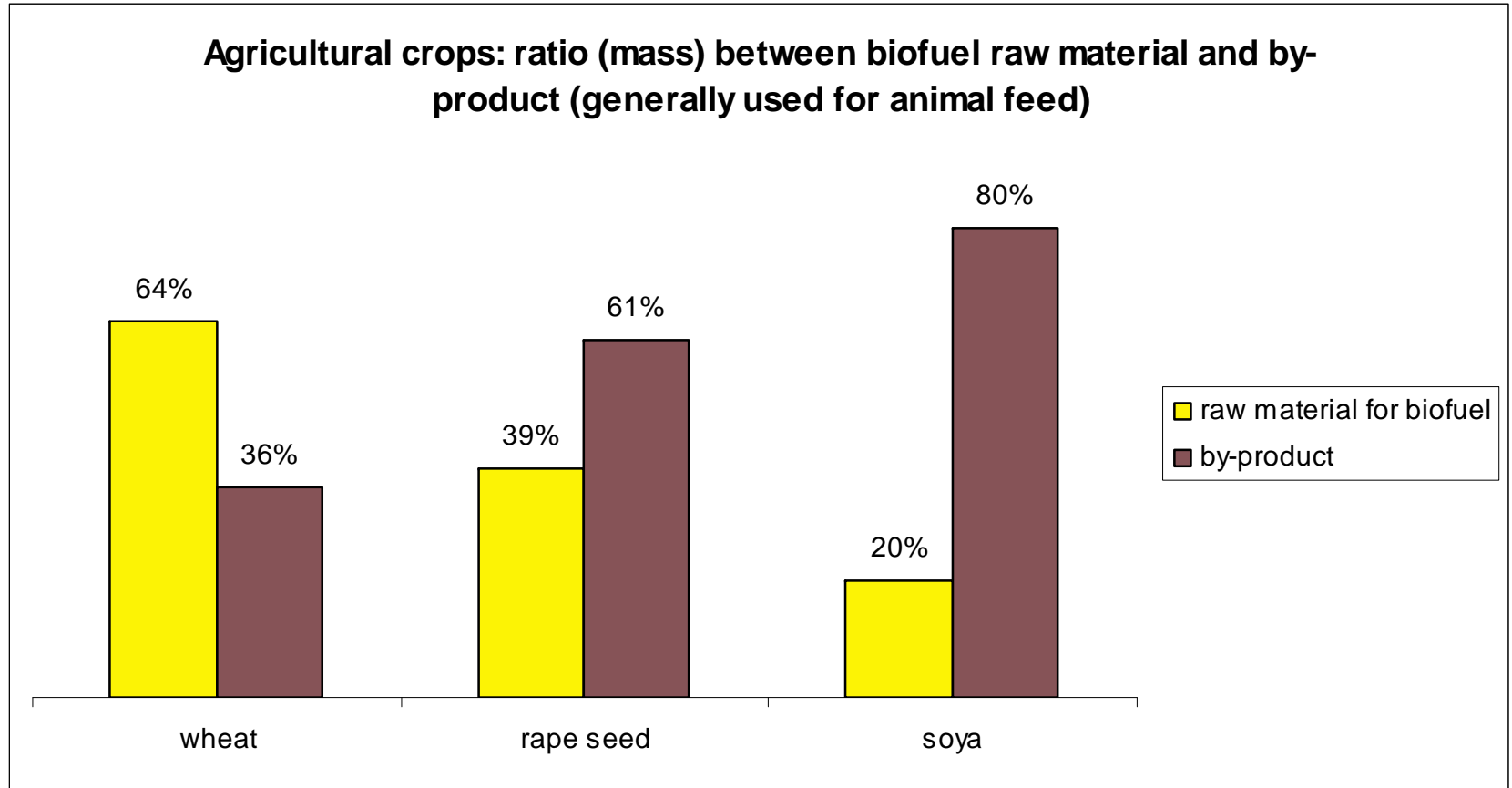
Source: proposed renewable energy directive (data from JEC consortium)

● **To bear in mind:** increased demand for agricultural commodities in general is met mainly through productivity increases, not land use change



Source: FAOSTAT

● **To bear in mind:** for biofuels in particular, some of the extra demand for land is offset by reduced demand for other agricultural products (replaced by biofuel by-products)



Source: Sheffield Hallam University (2004); Technical assistance for various aspects related to the promotion of the use of biofuels in the EU - Eltrop et al. (2007)