
JOINT DYNAMIX/POLFREE POLICY PLATFORM

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Policy Stations

Dynamix Policy Mix for Land Use

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LAND USE POLICY MIX

- A double objective:
 - To decrease the land footprint at the global level due to European **consumption** of food and bioenergy;
 - Reduce the environmental impacts related to agricultural land use (**production**) in the EU.
- Focusing on either issue alone would fail to address the overall problem adequately; we have, however, found it difficult to develop credible linkages between policies on consumption and policies on production.

DRIVERS AND CHALLENGES

Overall

- EU consumption used c. 0.31ha per capita at global level (Bringezu, 2012); one third more than the cropland globally available per capita
- EU virtual land exports declined by 17% in decade to 2008 (to 14m ha); virtual land imports increased 15% (to 49m ha). Net footprint is roughly one third of the EU arable area.

Production

- EU Agricultural land declining probably at 0.2%-0.7% a year to 2020. Intensification in some areas, and extensification/abandonment in areas operating at margins of profitability

DRIVERS AND CHALLENGES (CONT)

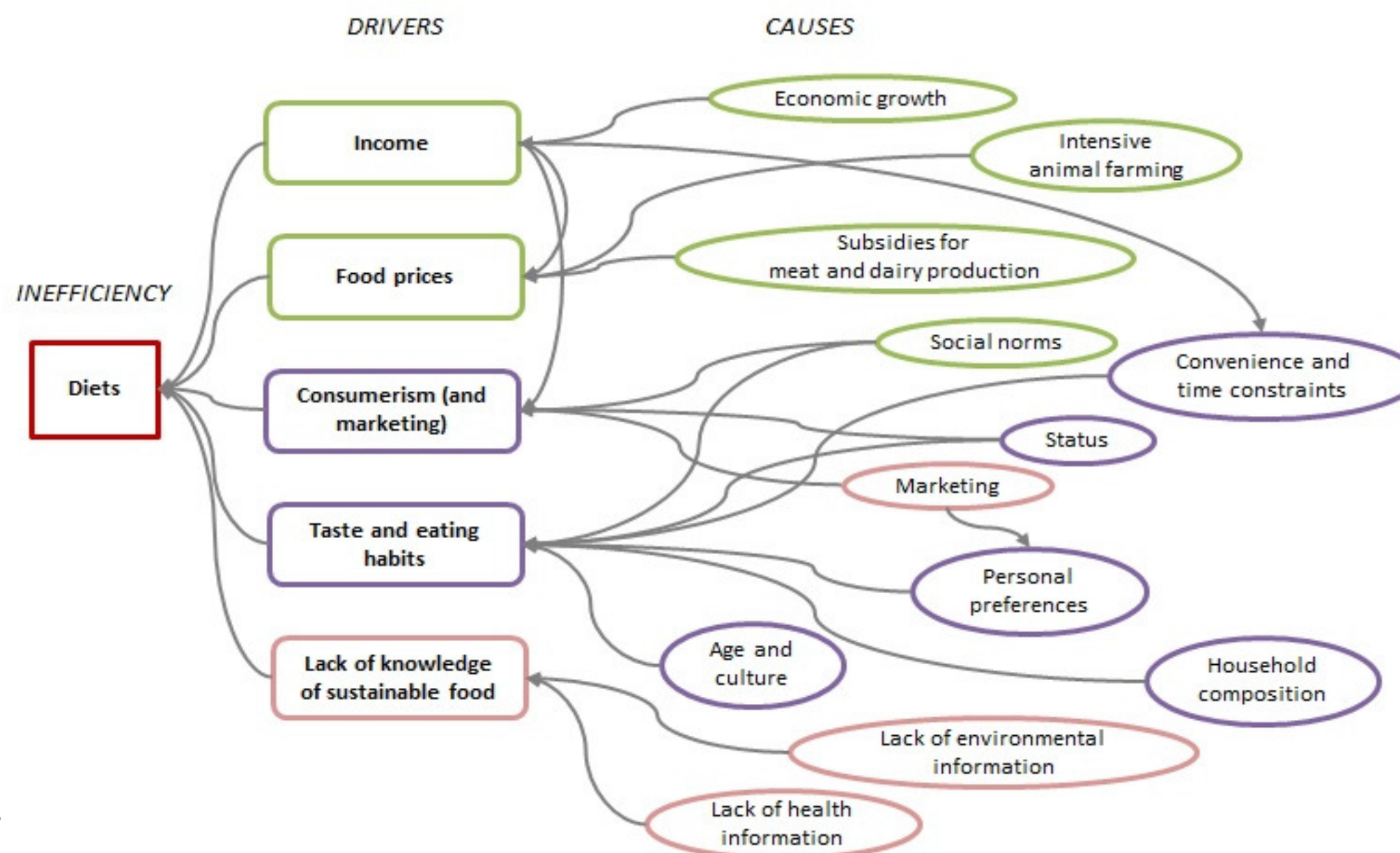
Production (cont.)

- Increases in productivity beneficial in limiting EU virtual land imports; but overusing finite resources (eg water), and not compliant with eg biodiversity objectives

Consumption

- Increase in EU per capital meat and dairy consumption of around 50% since 1960s
- Food waste of est 179 kg/per capita a year; an estimated 60% of which is avoidable
- Land also affected by biofuels (and biomass). In 2010, 5.7 m ha (3.2m in the EU) needed to meet demand for biofuels alone.

DRIVERS FOR HIGH CONSUMPTION OF MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS



Tan et al, 2013

PROPOSED POLICY MIX

Production:

- More environmentally effective Common Agricultural Policy
- Improved nitrogen management, including through revised targets under the National Emissions Ceilings Directive
- Stronger pesticide reduction targets, and provision of guidance to farmers on integrated pest management.
- Promotion of Payment for Ecosystem Services programmes financed by private actors
- Setting targets for net carbon emissions from the land use sector.

Consumption

- A targeted information campaign on changing diets, and on reducing food waste;
- The development of food redistribution programmes; and
- VAT on meat products.

In addition, a range of accompanying measures, including information measures, R&D, regulation.

POLICY EXAMPLE 1: TAX ON MEAT PRODUCTS

Most EU member states currently apply a reduced rate of VAT: the proposed measure would require all to introduce full rate.

- **Initial assessment findings:**
 - Severe public acceptability challenges
 - Potentially significant health benefits, but a problem of regressivity
 - Challenge of securing MS agreement to tax measures
- **Questions**
 - Any recommendations for facilitating implementation,?
 - Should we look at measures to palliate negative reactions; or should we look at alternative instruments, and if so, which?
 - Can other, voluntary, measures help to prepare the ground for such a change?

POLICY EXAMPLE 2: SETTING GHG TARGETS FOR LAND USE

- “Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry” emissions and sinks of carbon are currently not included in EU targets. Proposal would include them, in order to create incentives for improved carbon management.
- Initial assessment findings:
 - Legal challenges, (inc WTO), to subsidies to encourage improved performance; but no significant public acceptability issues identified.
 - Concerns around environmental impact, given (i) risk of displacing mitigation effort in other sectors; and (ii) need for greater certainty in emissions measurement.
- Questions:
 - Should land use, land use change and forestry be included in EU climate targets? What impacts does doing so/not doing so, have on land use choices?
 - Are there approaches to setting targets which should be investigated further?