

# Evaluating the impact of digital technologies on future food supply chains

## Implications for developed and developing markets

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# Evaluating the impact of digital technologies on future food supply chains

## Developed markets: Rapid growth of e-Commerce

- Consumer benefits of convenience and speed but is this unchecked consumerism environmentally sustainable?
- Do digital platforms provide new opportunities to connect consumers with their local retailers and farmers offering personalisation, a more informed shopping basket and less waste?

## Developing markets: Sustainable economic development

- Building attractive markets for farmers without compromising available resources
- Technology solutions e.g. through precision agriculture

## Understanding international flows to ensure authenticity and quality

- Complexity of international trade is challenging traceability and provenance

# E-Commerce: consumer benefits of convenience and speed

- 2 hour delivery from order placement as is being offered by the pioneers of e-commerce such as Amazon Fresh grocery, Deliveroo and Ocado
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iogFXDWqDak>



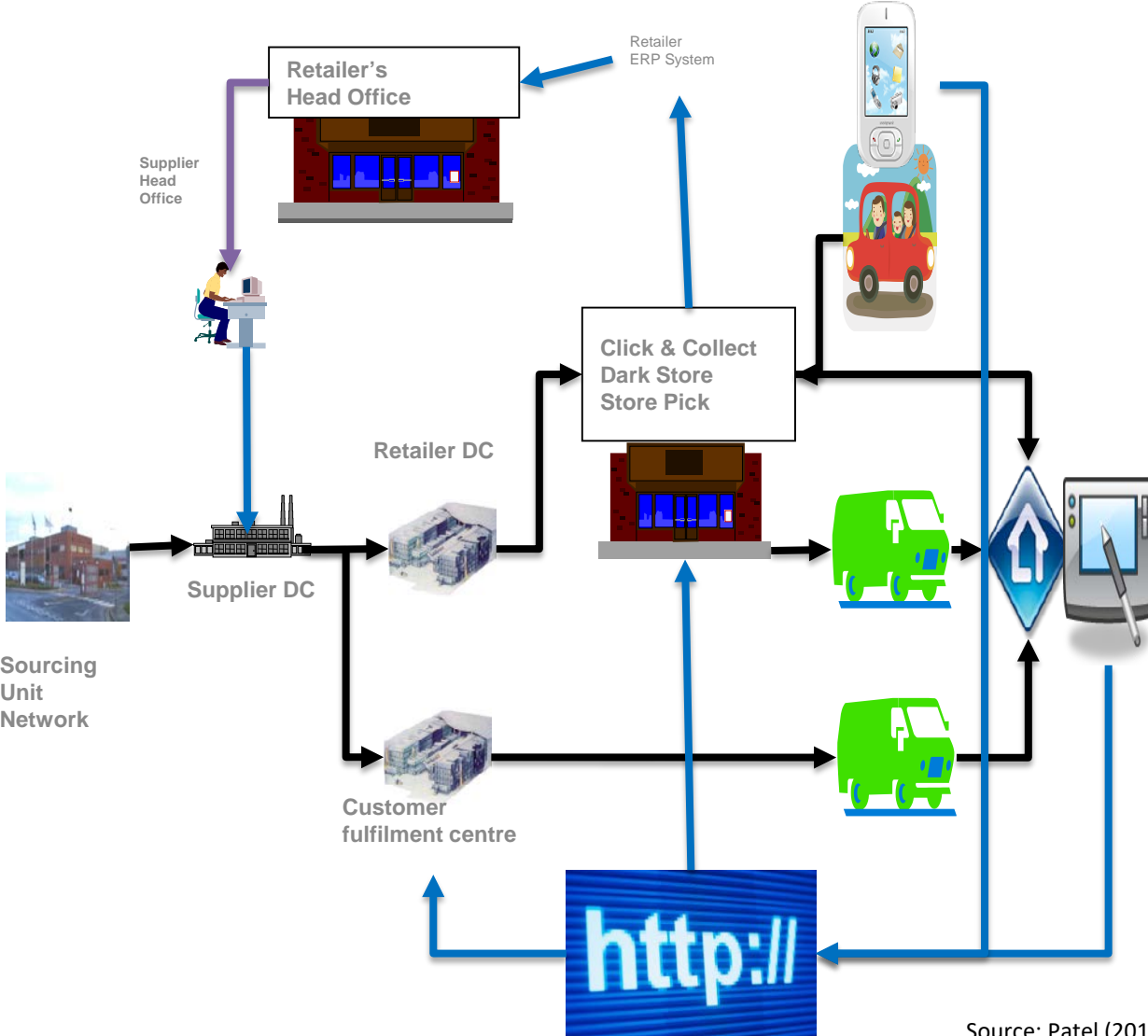
# Last Mile Configurations

## c.a. 1860 Last Mile Configuration



Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pony\_ExpressAdvert.jpg

## 21C e-Commerce Last Mile Configurations



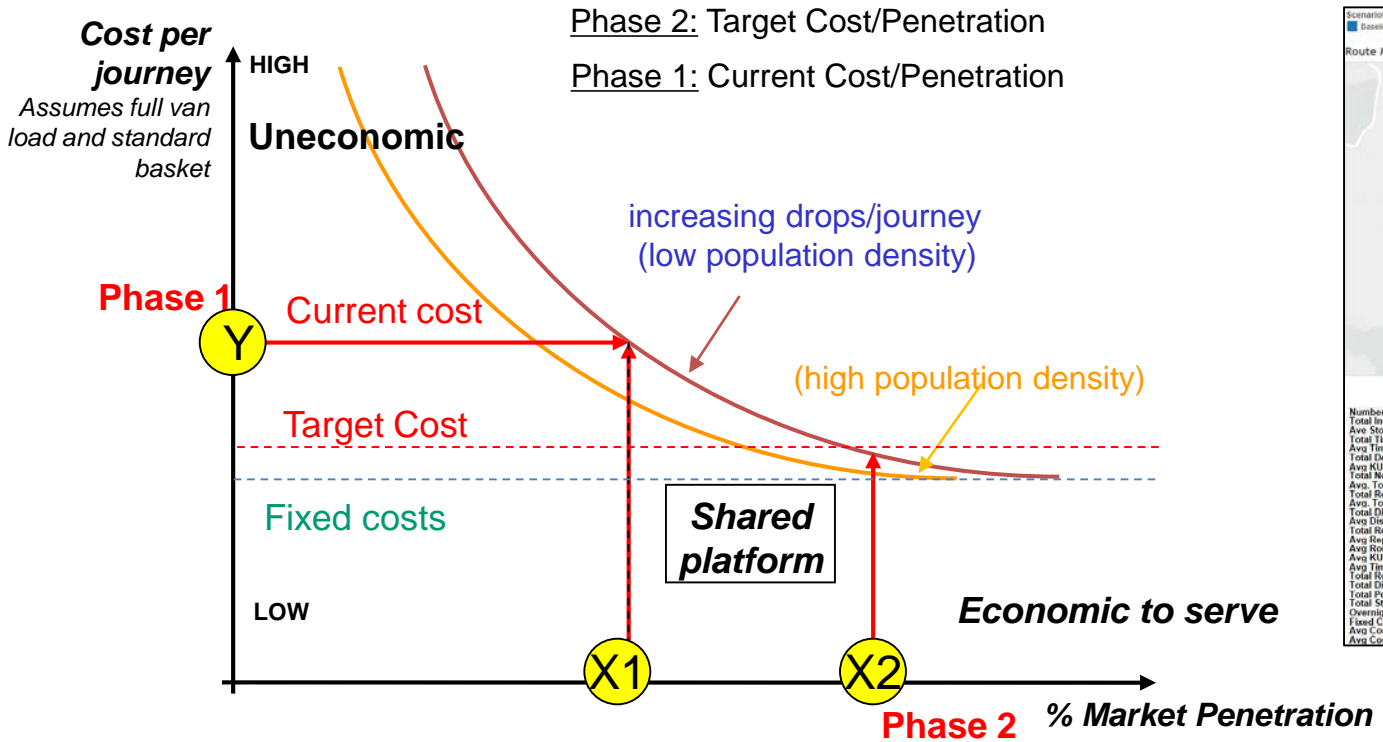
Source: Patel (2013)



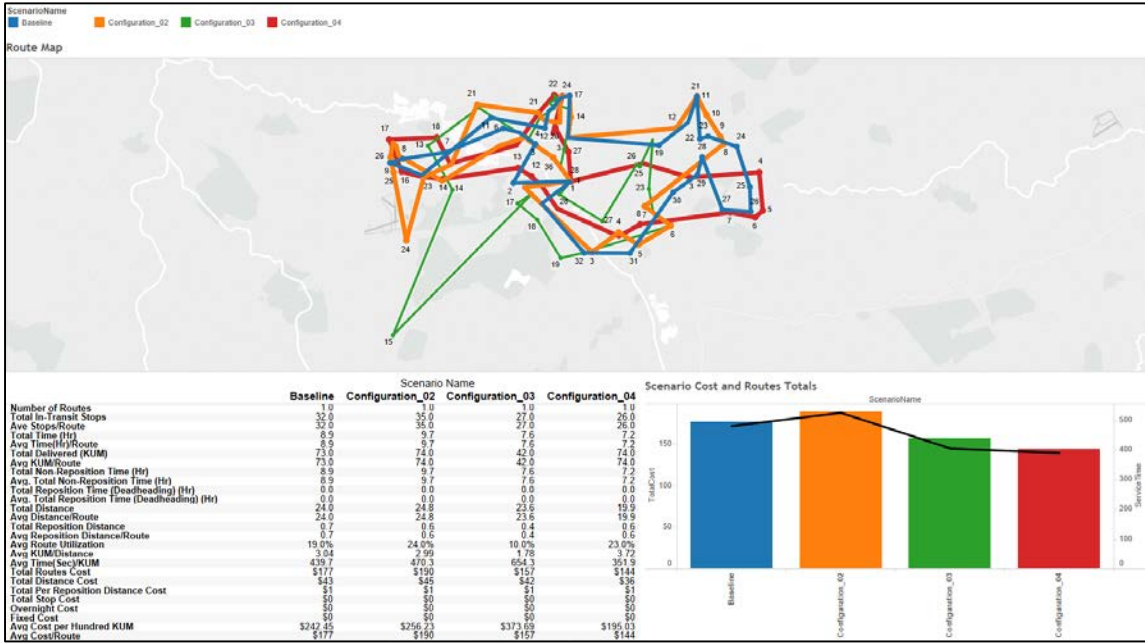
# Can this be a sustainable supply model?

Traditional retailers have had to follow suit and develop their own 'omnichannel' on-line offerings that sit alongside their store

e.g. From a Cost-to-Serve and resource perspective



e.g. Increasing market penetration scenarios

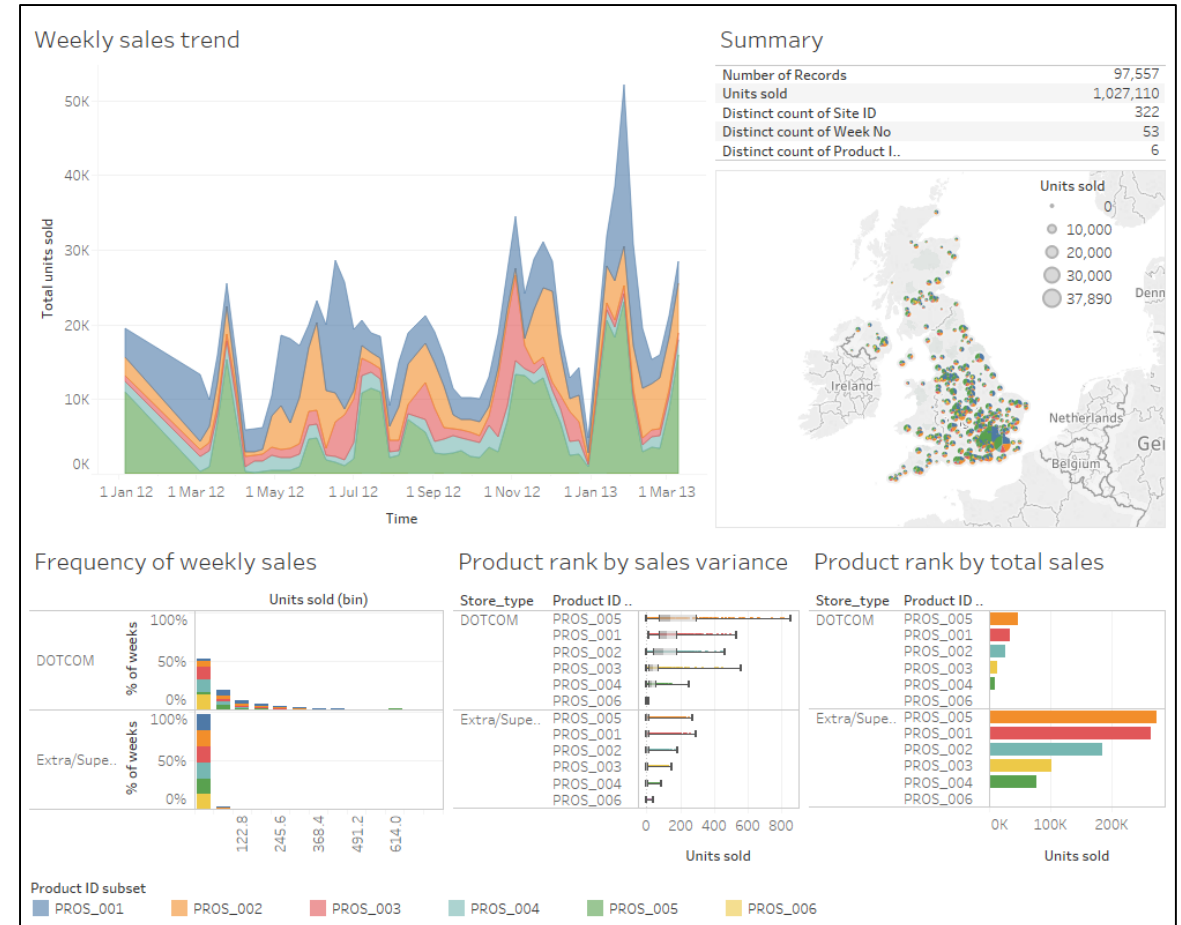
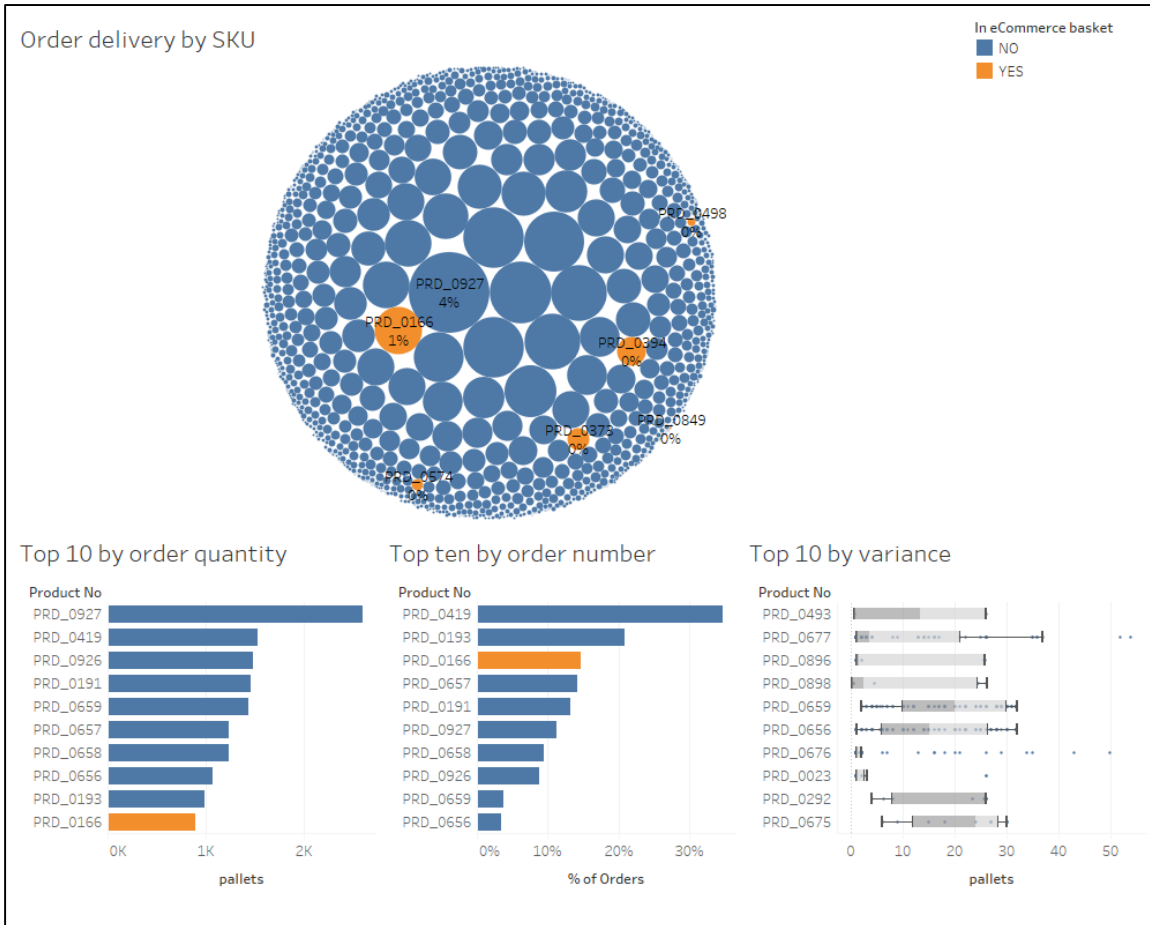


**Home delivery OR in-store shop, Click & Collect, Local pick-up points?**

# Analysing consumer purchase habits

Consumer shopping baskets increasingly delivered direct to doorsteps

(In 2015 e-commerce: 14% of retail and wholesale turnover in UK (c. 21% in the US).)



# Do these digital platforms provide new opportunities?

- To connect consumers with their local retailers and farmers offering personalisation
- A more informed shopping basket
- Less waste?



## EIT Food Programme

- A £340 million EU Innovation programme to change the way we eat, grow and distribute food;
- A consortium of 55+ partners from leading businesses, research centres and universities across 13 European countries;
- A vision to put Europe at the centre of a global revolution in food innovation and production, and its value in society.

## Programme pillars

- Overcome low consumer trust
- Create consumer-valued food for healthier nutrition
- Build a consumer-centric connected food system
- Enhance sustainability through recourse stewardship
- Educate to engage, innovate and advance
- Catalyse food entrepreneurship
- Accelerate and customize innovation

# Using predictive analytics and 'nudge' techniques in eCommerce

- Personalisation
- Using predictive analytics to anticipate consumption & reduce waste through inventory management strategies
- Exploring the use of 'nudge' techniques
- Consolidation centres – combining deliveries
- Building shared platforms and leveraging adjacency
- Ability to process and analyse data has become a critical ownership advantage



<http://pxhere.com/en/photo/1583503> [CC0]



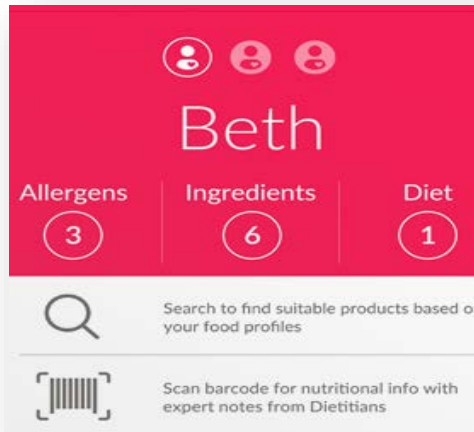
Project GLAD - Green Last Mile Delivery: a more sustainable way for food home delivery tailored to consumer needs

- <https://www.eitfood.eu/programmes/glad-green-last-mile-delivery-a-more-sustainable-way-for-food-home-delivery-tailored-to-consumer-needs>

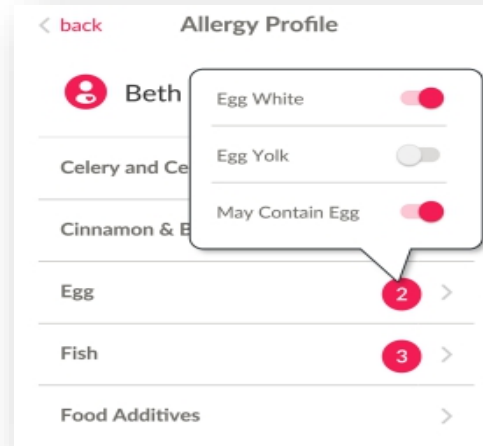


# Engaging the Consumer – personalisation

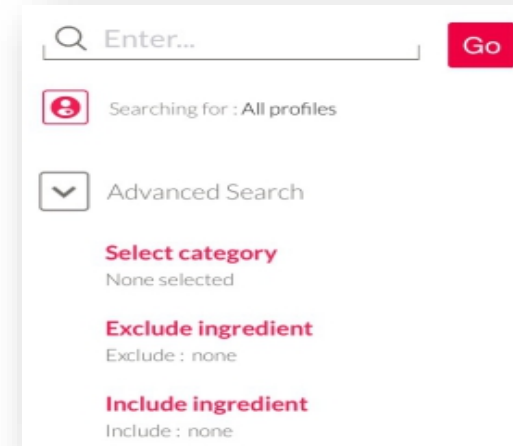
## Food App



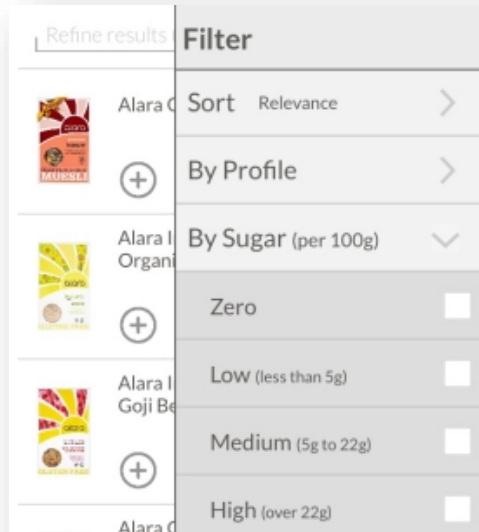
## Setup profile



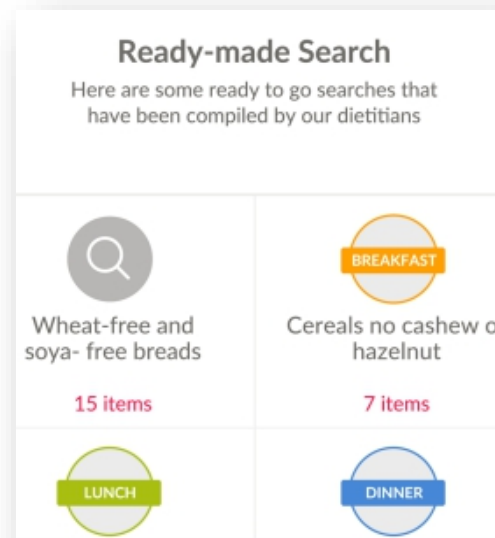
## Search or Scan food



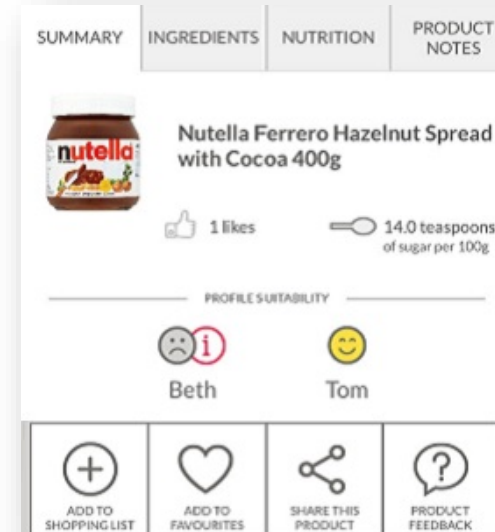
## Sugar filters and more



## Ready-made lists



## Ingredients & nutritional info



# Developing markets

## Sustainable economic development

- GCRF-funded £7.8 million programme;
- A collaboration of 19+ partner institutions across India, Pakistan and the UK;
- TIGR<sup>2</sup>ESS aims to improve livelihoods and farming in India:
  - Empower, educate and improve nutrition for farmers
  - Identifying crop types and practices for contrasting climatic regions



**TIGR<sup>2</sup>ESS**  
Transforming India's Green Revolution  
by Research and Empowerment for  
Sustainable food Supplies



Structure: Flagship Projects and leads

FP1: START: Sustainable and Transformative Agrarian and Rural Trajectories	FP2: Improving Water Use and Yield Stability in Millet and Sorghum; Enhancing Photosynthesis	FP3: Heat and Drought Resilience in Wheat	FP4: Water Use and Management in a Changing Monsoon Climate	<b>FP5: Supply Chains: Modelling Water Use for Sustainable Livelihoods</b>	FP6: Impacting Wellbeing in Rural and Urban Communities
UoC: Geography	ICRISAT	NIAB	UoC: Archaeology	UoC: IfM	UEA/UoC/NNEdPRO

Includes a 2-way knowledge exchange partnership by growing research capacity to address food security Issues

# FP5 Deliverables

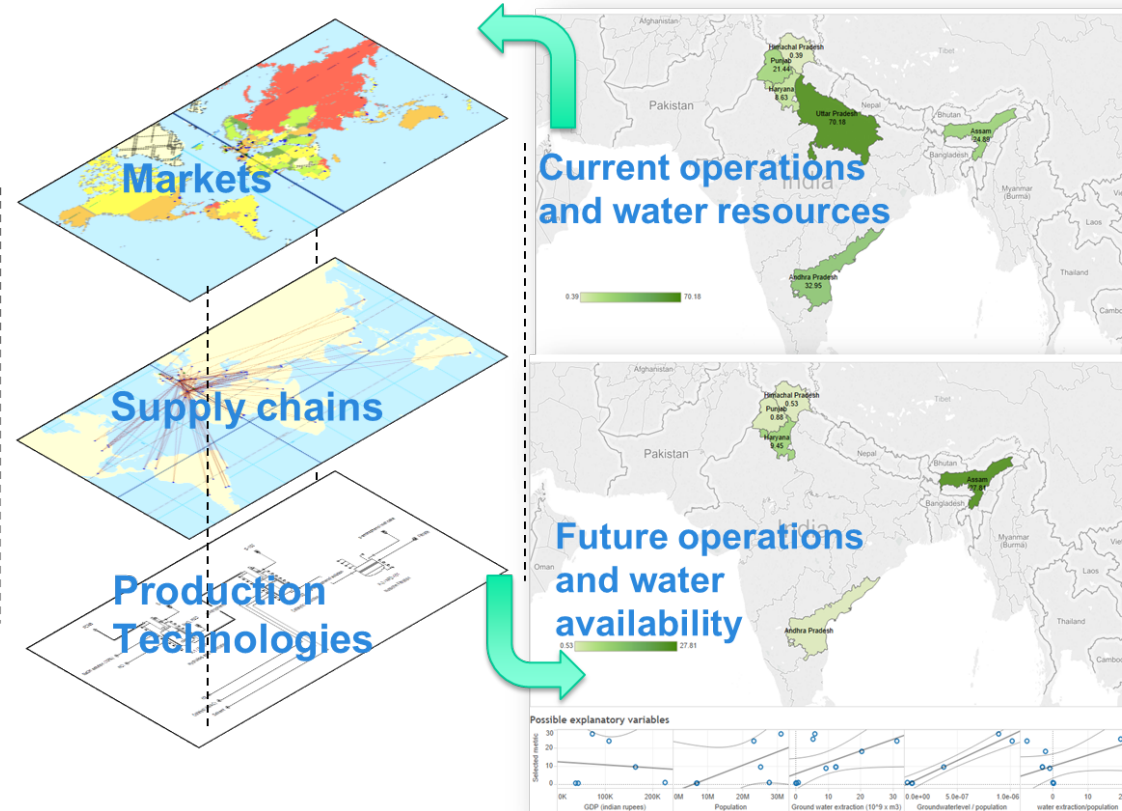
## Objectives

- Analyse, design and operate more resilient (resource efficient) food supply network models;
- enabled by new crop, production process and digital technologies

## Outputs

- Food supply network design, water-resource assessment, resource/water stewardship,
- suggest interventions for future regional (State) products and their e-Commerce supply chains

## Multi-echelon Supply Network modelling

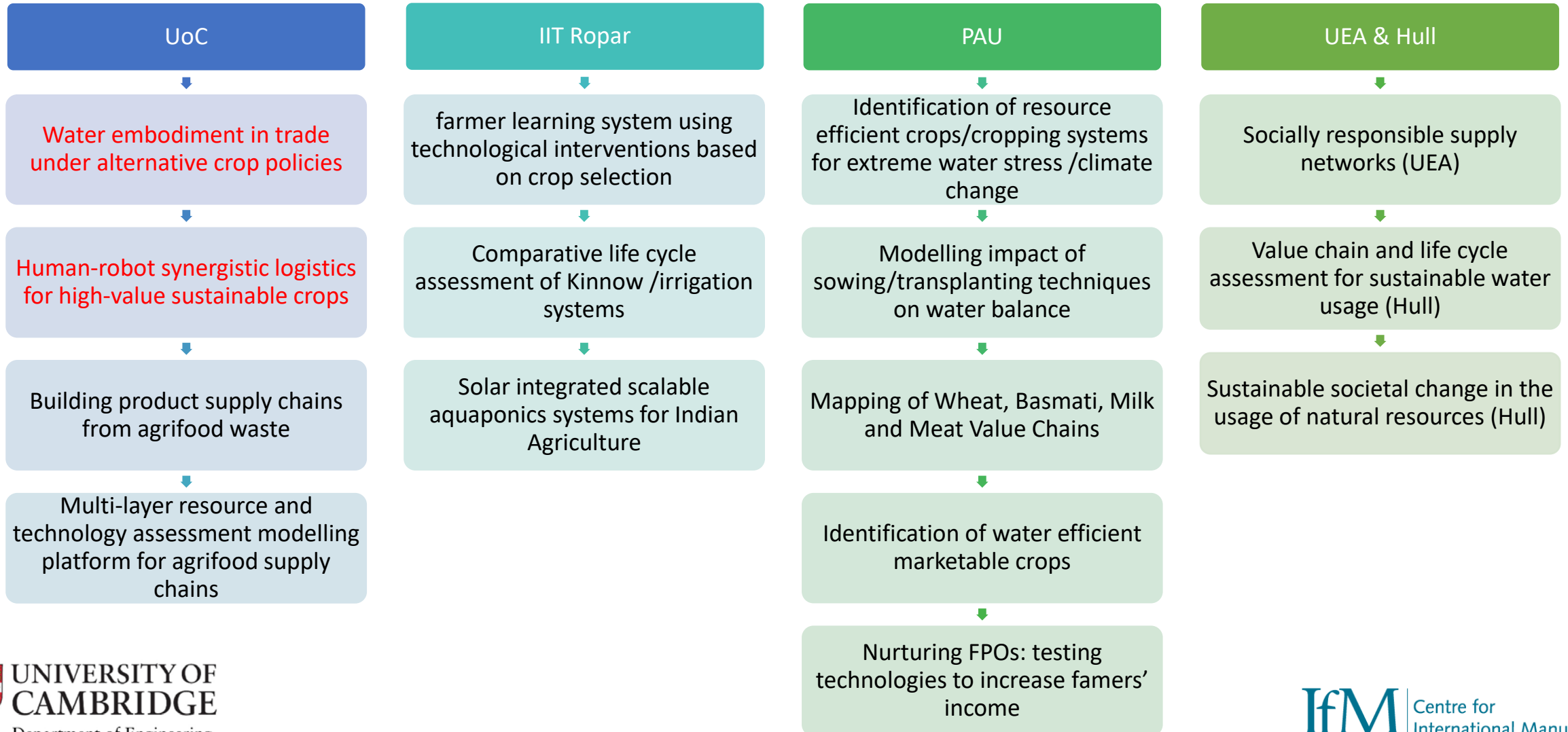


**Deliverables** are linked to the analysis and design of alternative food supply network models enabled by new crops, production processes and digital technologies to support more resilient, resource efficient food systems

# FP5 Supply Chains: Modelling Water Use for Sustainable Livelihoods



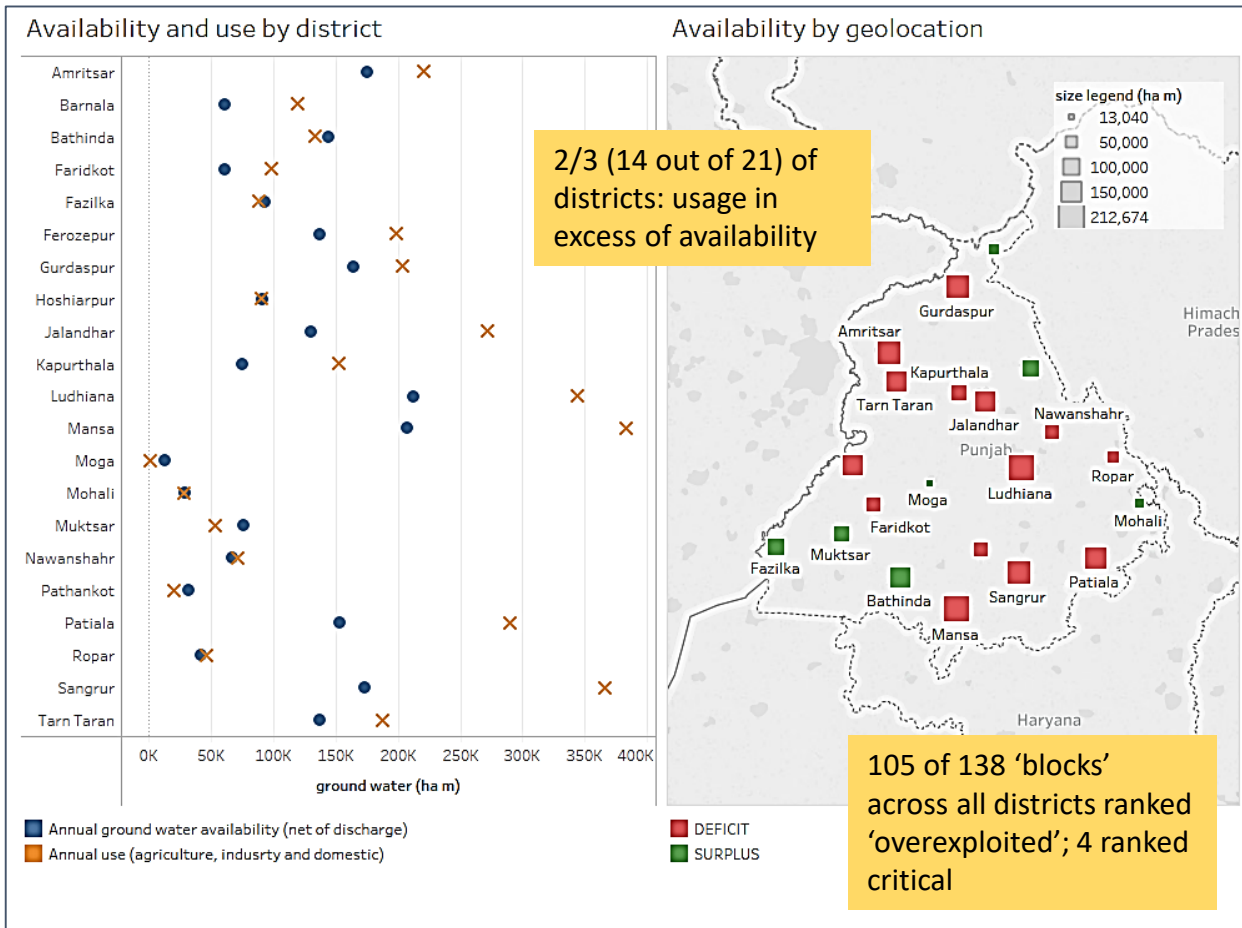
- Inform the sustainable use of water, and build resilience in supply chains for food producers and consumers alike.
- Future regional (State) interventions to influence institutional/industrial/user behaviours and transform livelihoods





# Punjab – 2/3 of districts in water distress!

## Local groundwater availability and use (ref. year: 2013)



Raw data source: Central Ground Water Board, Government of India (2017) Dynamic ground Water resources of India as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. Faridabad

- Contributes major share of rice and wheat production
  - 19% of India's wheat; 10% of rice
  - Ranks 7<sup>th</sup> as gross producer of wheat in the world
- However Punjabi Agriculture is facing a crisis
  - Unprofitable: declining contribution to the State's VA (**15.4%** in 2017-18)
  - Issue of small and marginal farmers debt linked to worrying suicide rates: introduction of Crop Loan Waiver Schemes
  - Excessive dependence on rice and wheat, and over-exploitation of resources: rapidly depleting water table calls for micro-irrigation solution
  - Over-use of fertilizers and pesticides contributing to cancer and kidney failure.
  - Paddy straw burning widespread practice is causing major air pollution

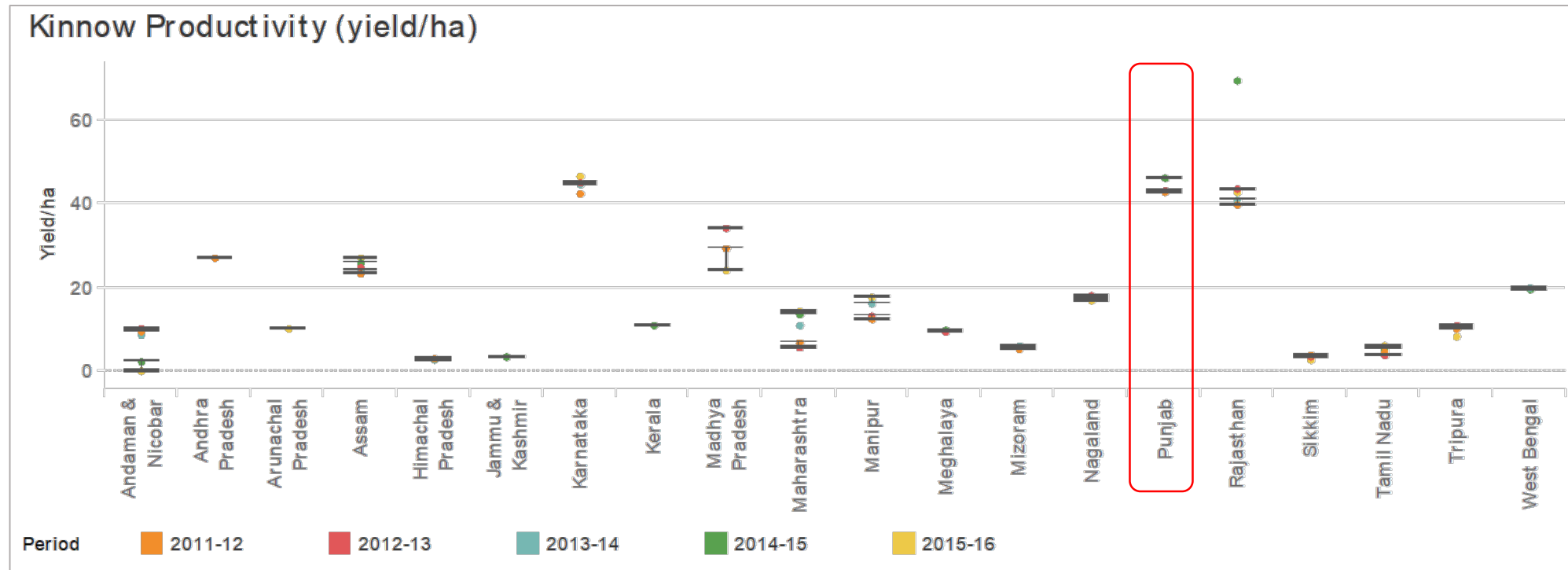
# High-value Crops in India: The case of Kinnow

- Fruit & vegetables regarded as viable diversification options for 'paddy-wheat' rich Punjab
- Case Example (PAU\*): kinnow
  - high productivity in Punjab – see chart
  - target: exporting 20,000 tonnes
- However, potentially high water requirement:
  - **539 - 1,276 liters** p.a. for a 6-year old Kinnow tree
  - 2,000+ trees/orchard: ~ **225-247 trees/ha**;
  - **Need for precision irrigation** to ensure **increased yields** and **fruit quality**.

## \*PAU Kinnow



- Less seeds
- 48.5% juice content



# Precision agriculture 'digital twin': simulation model (cyber-space)



TIGR²ESS

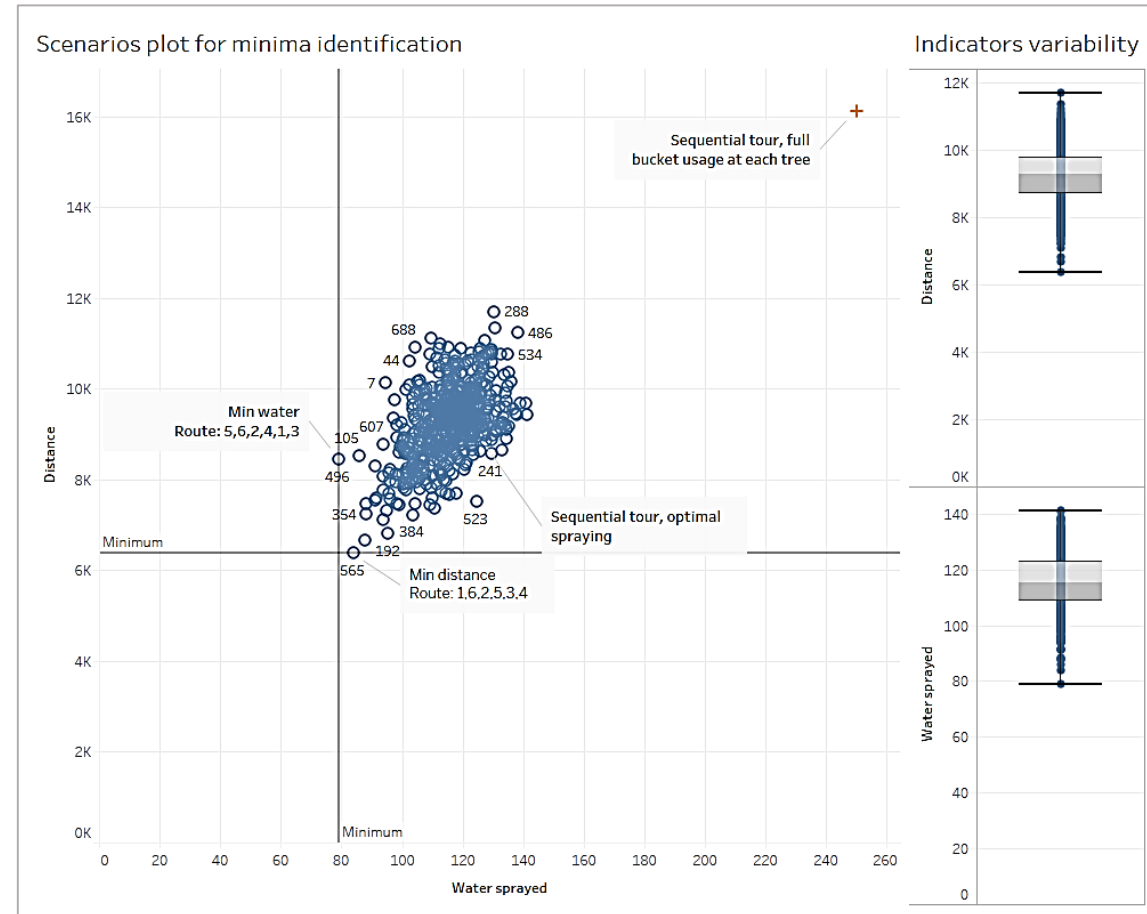
- Use of sensors and AGV to evaluate each plant's specific water requirement

## Example of single simulation run

Plants

Possible irrigation paths

## Example of multiple simulation runs: distance/water use plot



# Precision agriculture 'digital twin': physical model (application)



TIGR²ESS

- Industry 4.0 Technologies in Agriculture: from computer simulation to physical system application!
- Mock-up: recreate environment (e.g. orchard) & construct/program intelligent vehicles for testing
- Colour recognition (e.g. tree needing water) + real-time collision detection (vehicle 'knows' when to turn)

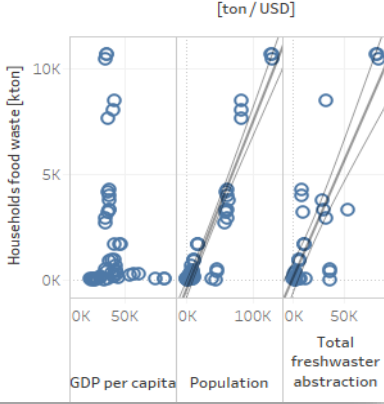
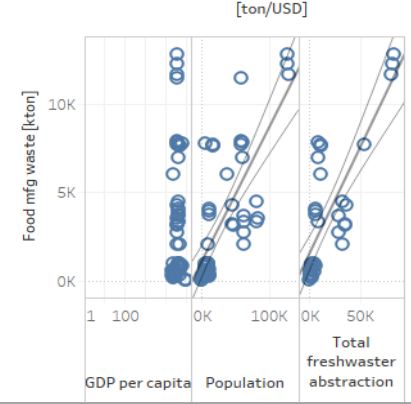
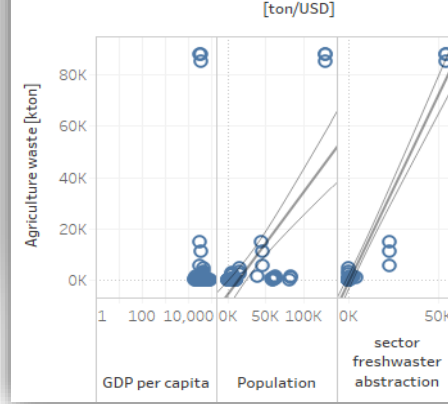
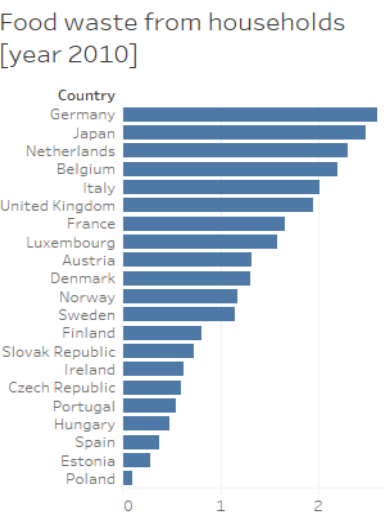
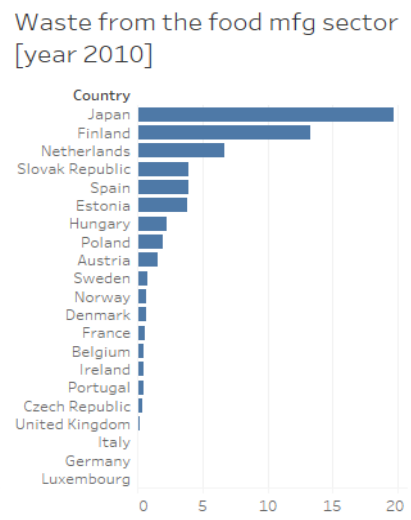
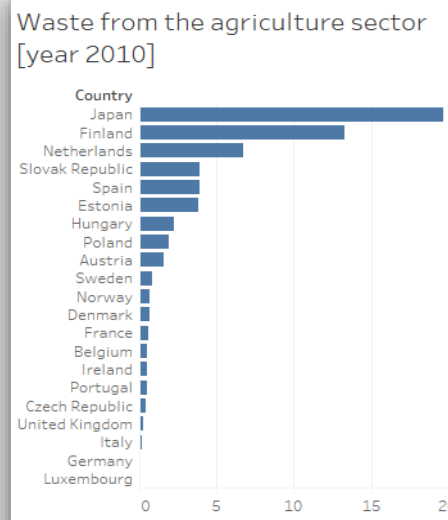
Blue canopy: no  
water needed

Red canopy: water  
needed (audio/visual  
clues to signal action  
needs to be taken)

Real-time recording and  
display of sensory data



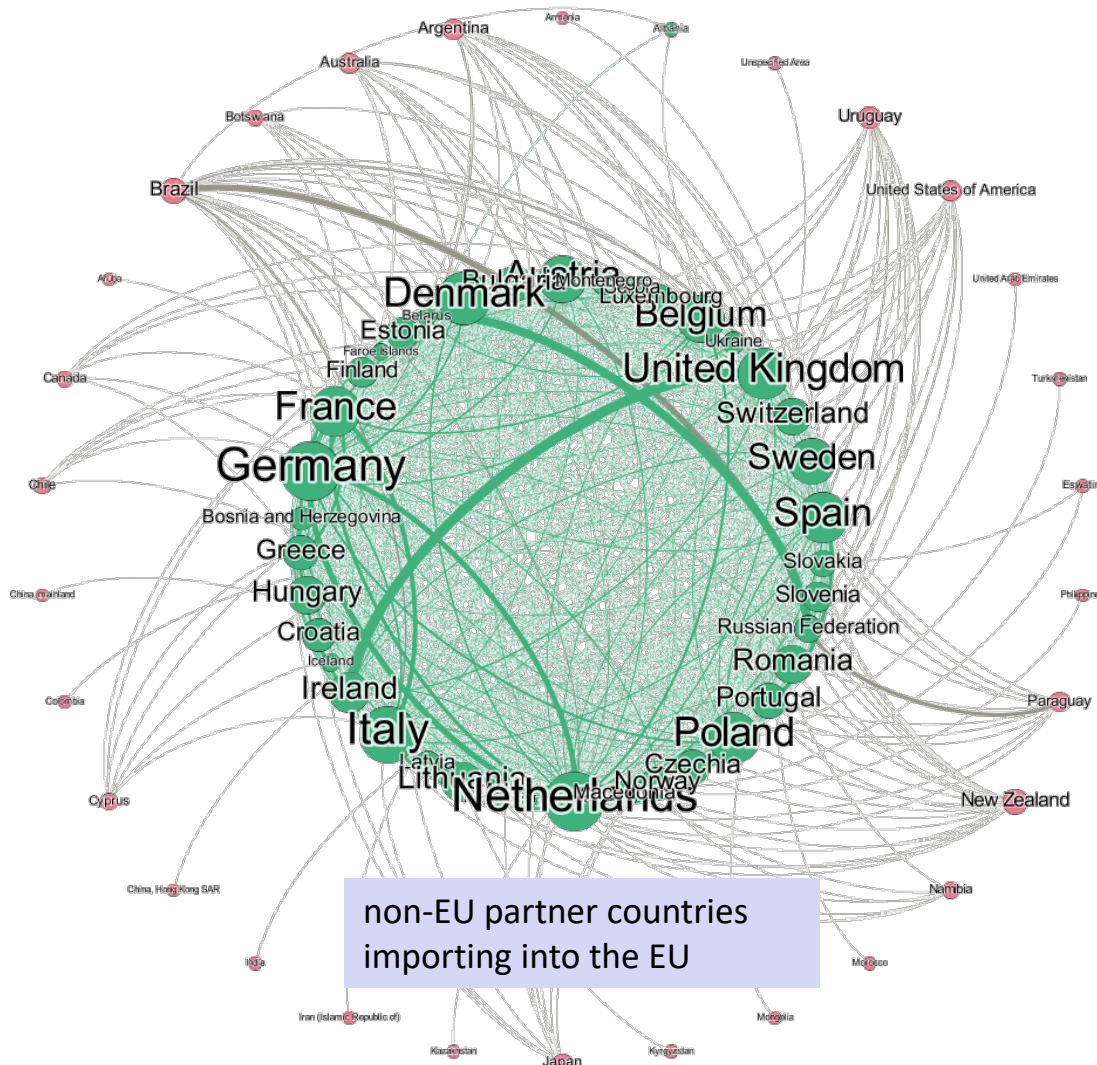
# Reducing Waste in Food Supply Chains



World Food Wastage. Image credit: Infographics by FAO

CIM Analysis on OECD data

# International trade – food product (supply chain adjusted)



Example focuses on Imports into the EU in 2016

- physical quantities of specific products imported for domestic consumption or processing shipped into a country.
- Includes re-imports

Network analysis of these data can help identify where most products of interest originate

Emerging applications of inter-industry trade models:

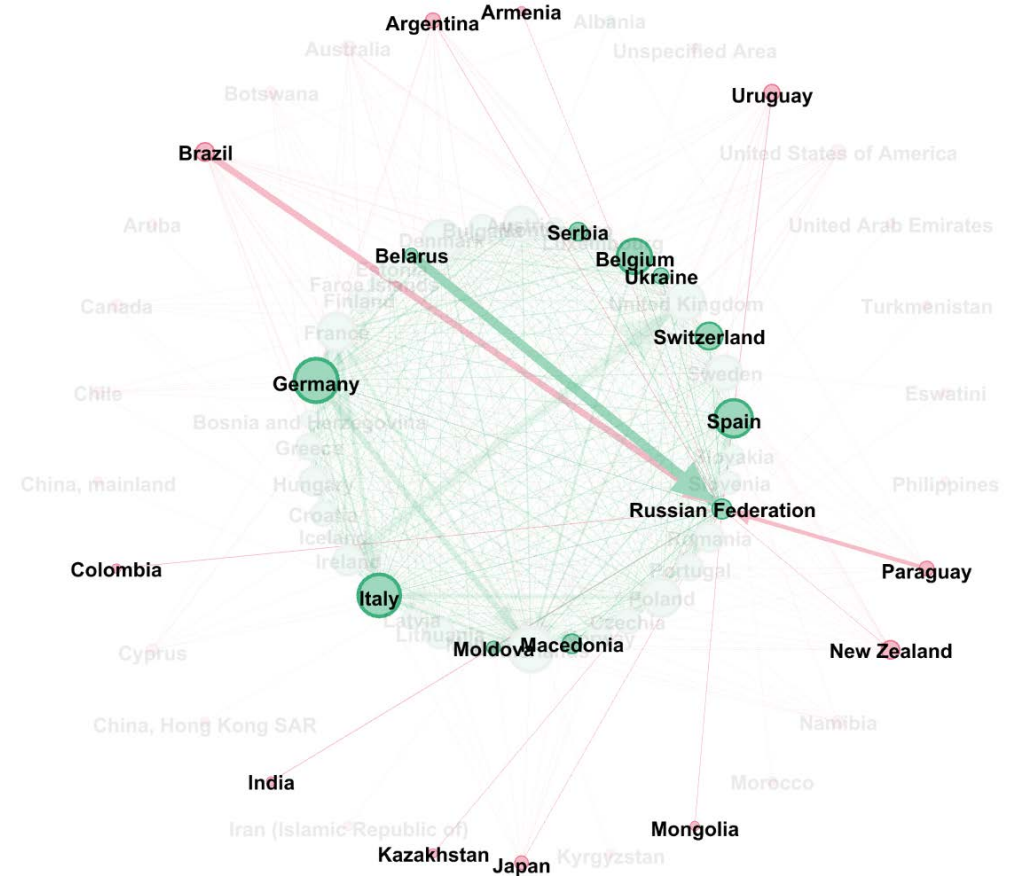
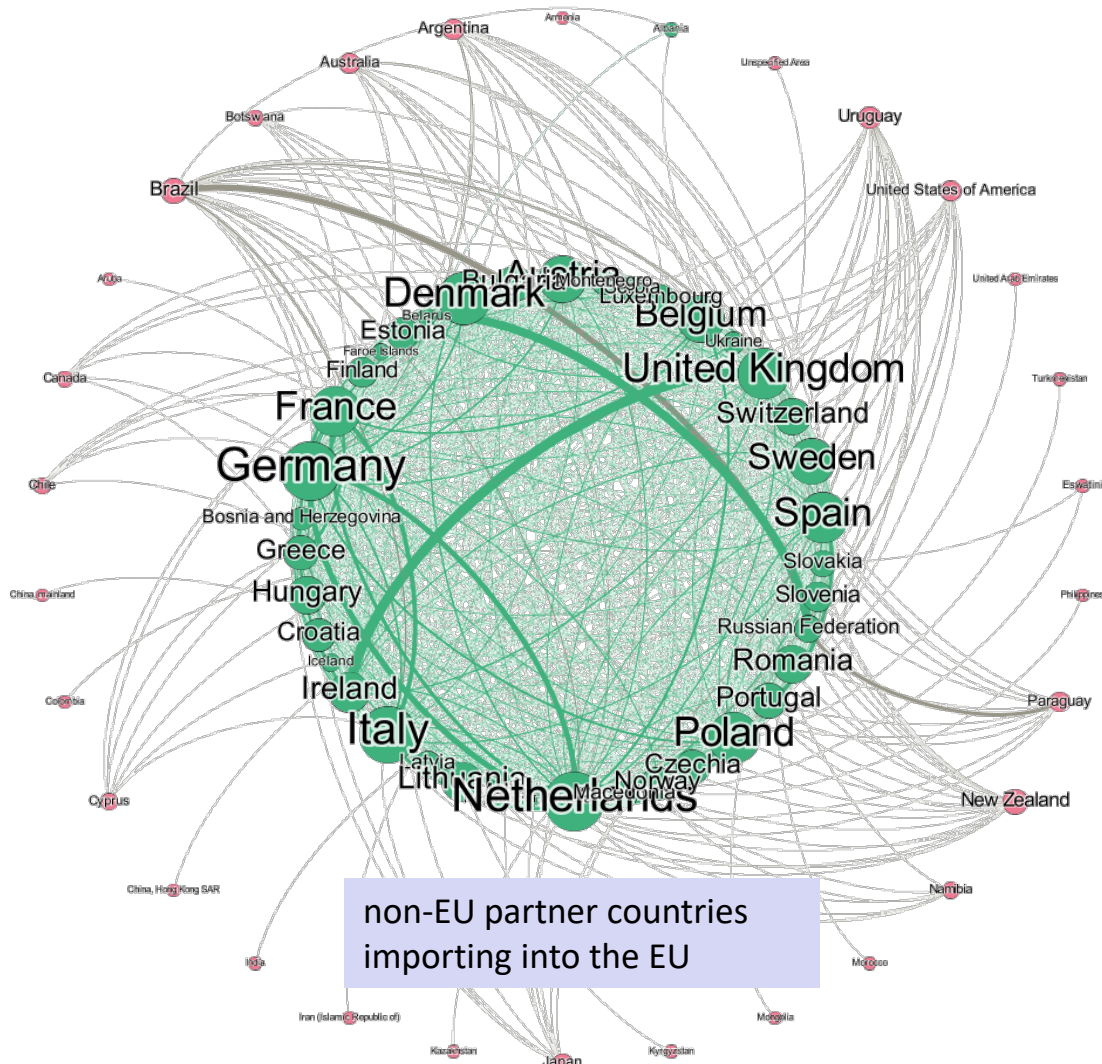
- Estimate natural resource use (e.g. water) through global trade (e.g. [www.materialsflow.net](http://www.materialsflow.net))
- Evaluate the composition of foreign VA (e.g. 2018 World Investment Report, Ch I, section C.2)

Elaboration based on raw data from: [www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TM](http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TM)



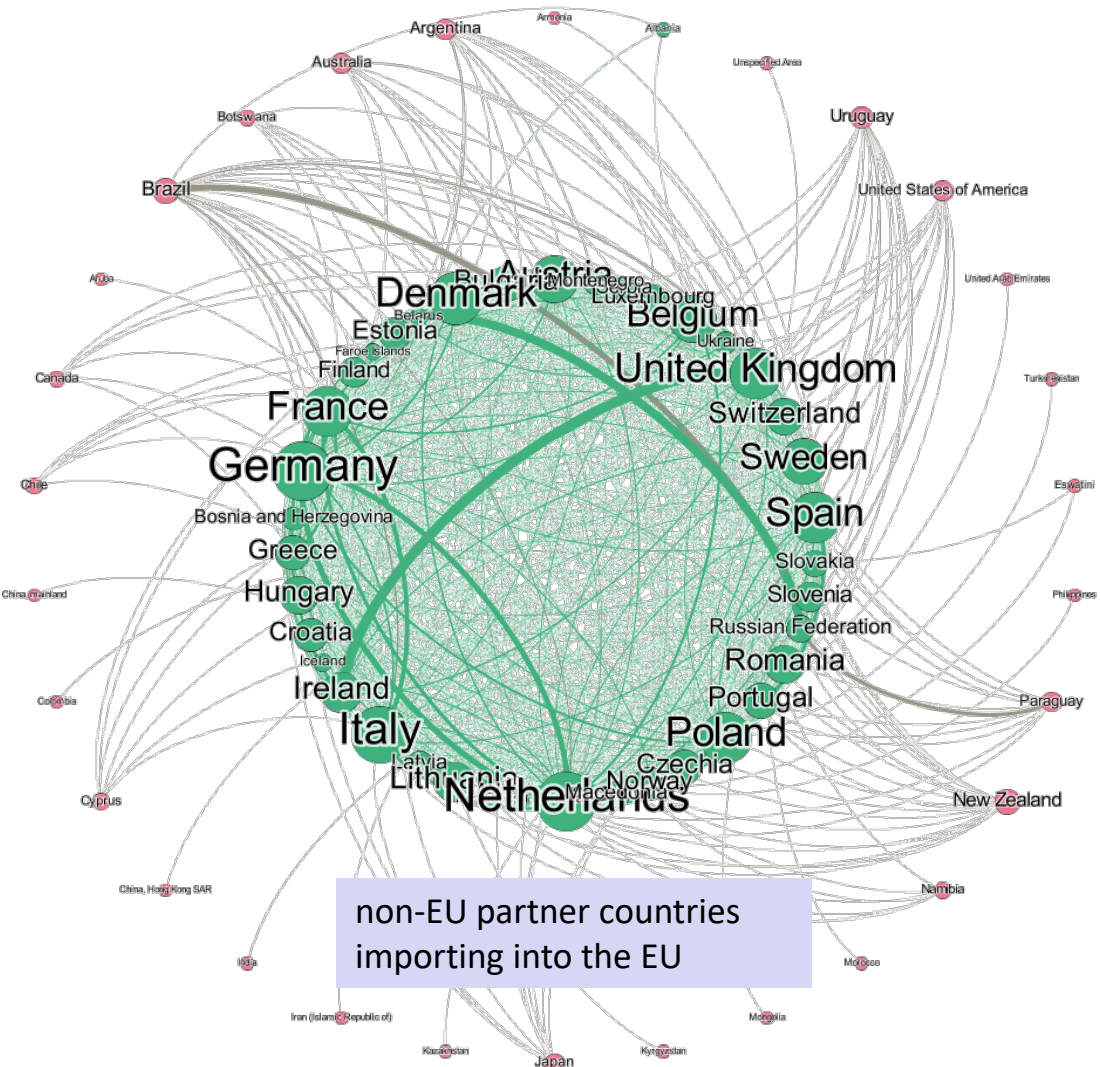
# International trade – food product (supply chain adjusted)

e.g. No direct trade between Russian Federation and Poland

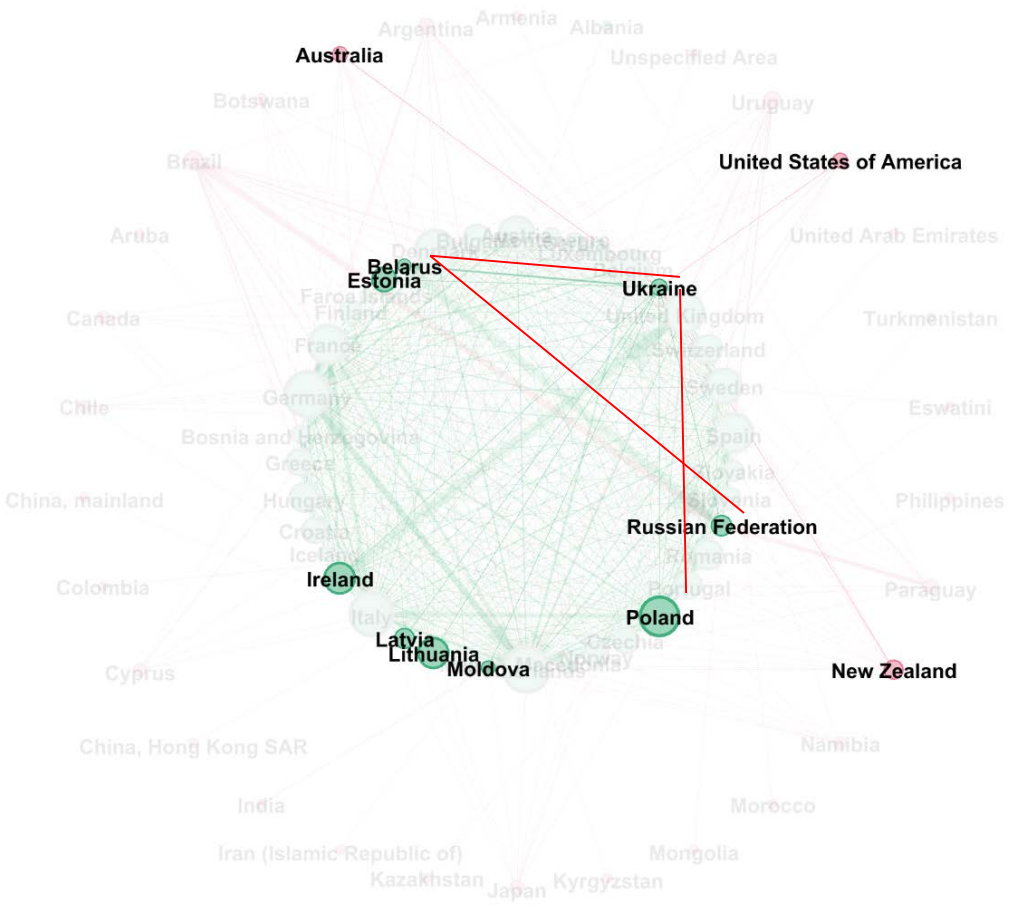


Elaboration based on raw data from: [www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TM](http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TM)

# International trade – food product (supply chain adjusted)



e.g. BUT possible indirect trade pathways





# Concluding summary:

## Evaluating the impact of digital technologies on future food supply chains

### Developed markets: Rapid growth of e-Commerce

- Consumer benefits of convenience and speed but is this unchecked consumerism environmentally sustainable? ***Integrate a sustainable dimension!***
- Do digital platforms provide new opportunities to connect consumers with their local retailers and farmers offering personalisation, a more informed shopping basket and less waste? ***Are Digital platforms with consumer involvement and appropriate governance an answer?***

### Developing markets: Sustainable economic development

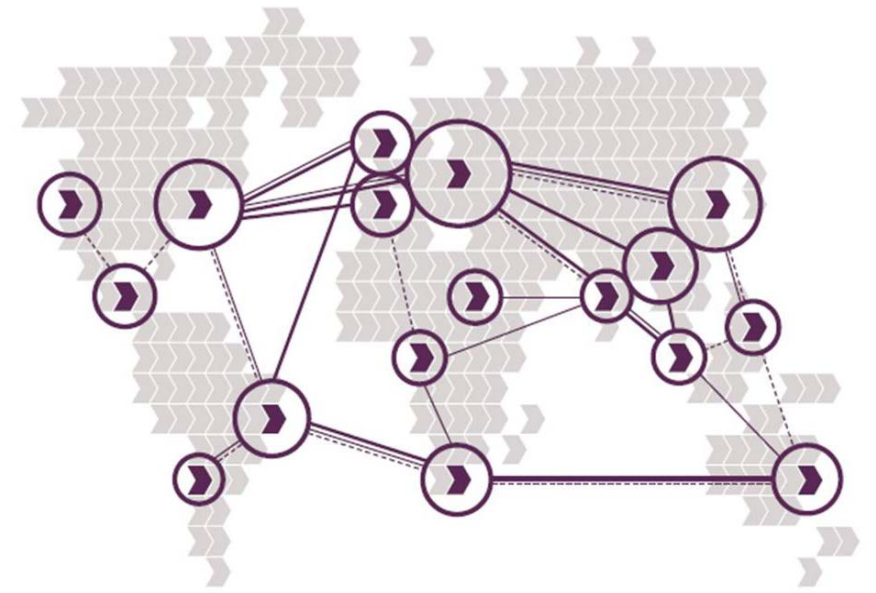
- Building attractive markets for farmers without compromising available resources; **Informed crop-land allocation**
- Technology solutions e.g. through precision agriculture ***Is more technology the solution?***

### Understanding international flows to ensure authenticity and quality

- Complexity of international trade is challenging traceability and provenance **Can we use digital technologies to avoid fraudulent activity?**

# Acknowledgements

Dr Ettore Settanni  
Dr Naoum Tsolakis



## and Questions