



Coherent Policies Driving Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

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September 18, 2019 | Goesan, South Korea

Food systems provide a key lever for change

From problem....

Greenhouse gas emissions

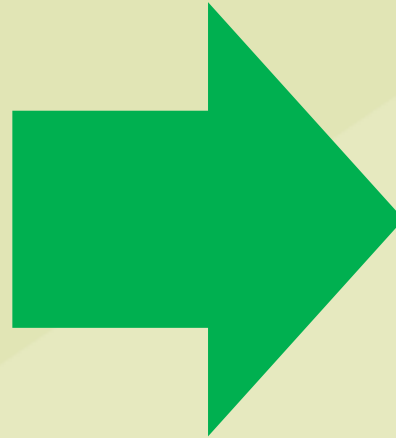
Soil erosion

Biodiversity loss

Water crisis

Poverty

Noncommunicable Diseases



.... to solution

Carbon sequestration

Soil fertility

Agri-biodiversity

Water retention

Rural incomes

Healthy nutrition

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



What kind of change is needed?

Industrial farming
Monocropping, uniformity
Synthetic pesticides
High fertilizer input
GMOs + Hybrids
Animal factories

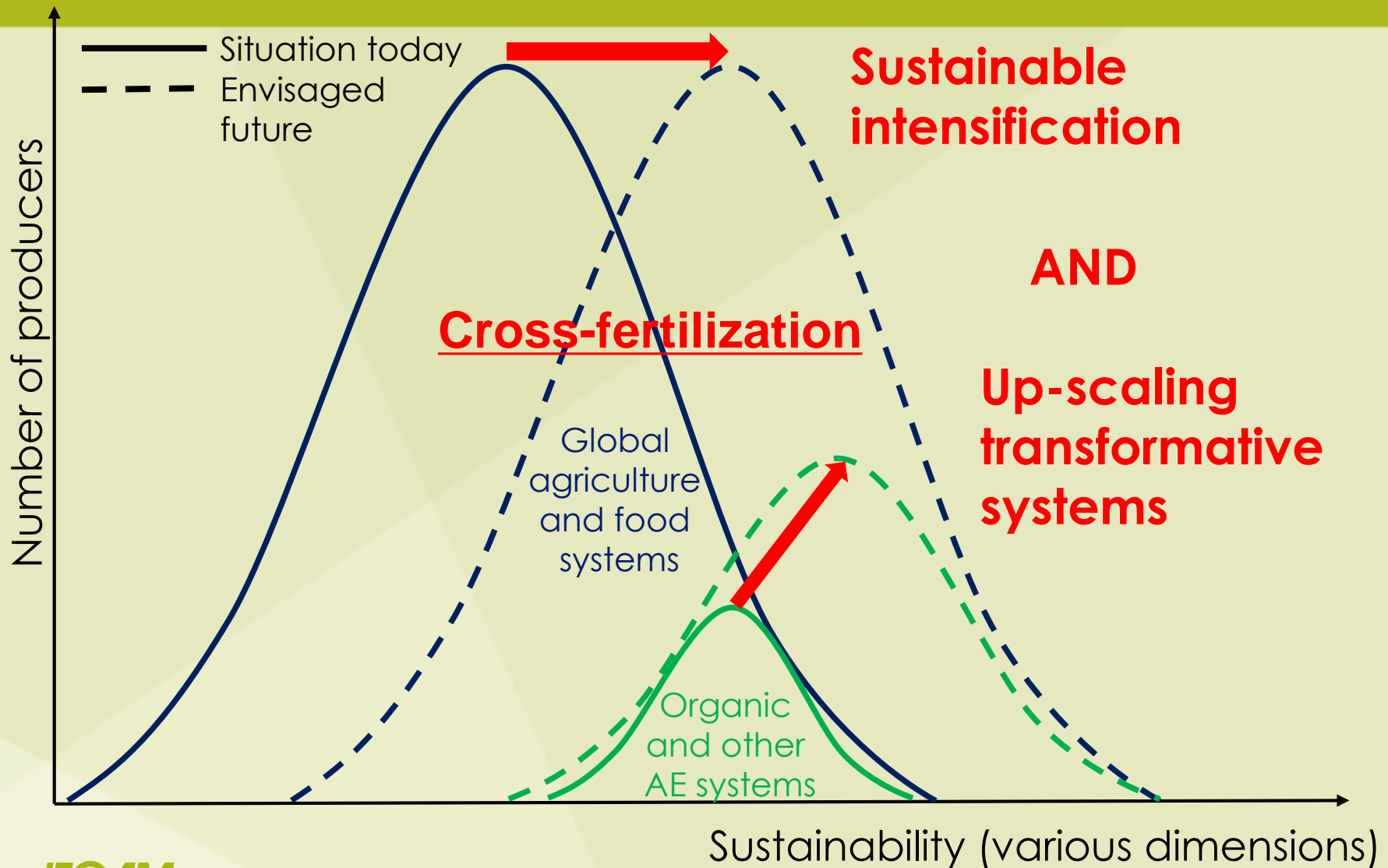


Agroecological systems
Diversity
Biocontrol
Nutrient cycles
Locally adapted varieties
Integrated animal husbandry



Sustainability (various dimensions) →

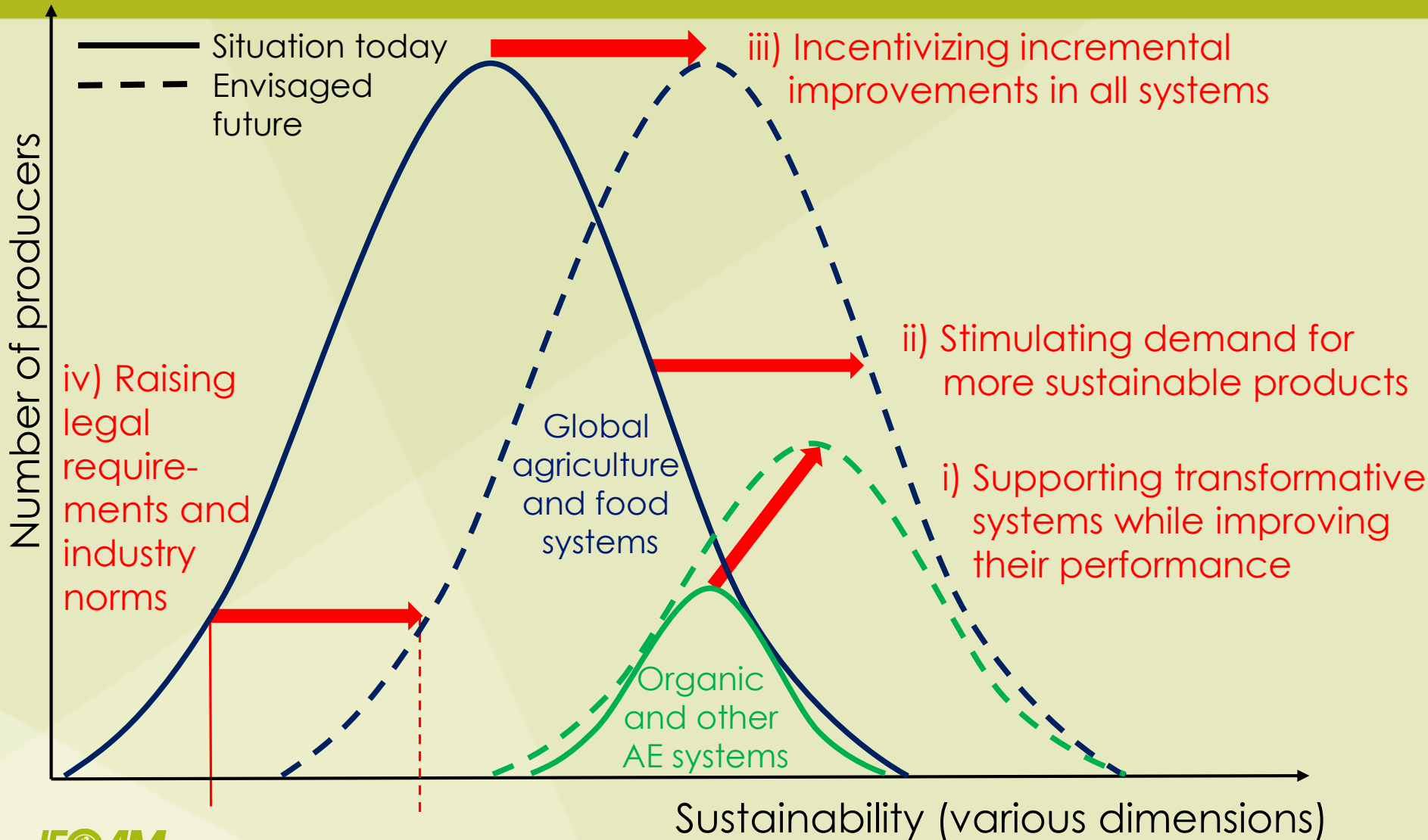
Reconciling competing narratives



Why policy matters so much

- Defines “the rules of the game”
 - Steers through taxes, subsidies, and support programs
 - Influences business practices and prices
 - Triggers research and innovation
 - Influences public awareness and consumer behaviour
- Perpetuating unsustainable practices and behaviours**
- OR**
- Triggering more sustainable ones?**

Policy levers to drive sustainability



1) Support and enhance transformative systems

Push-measures:

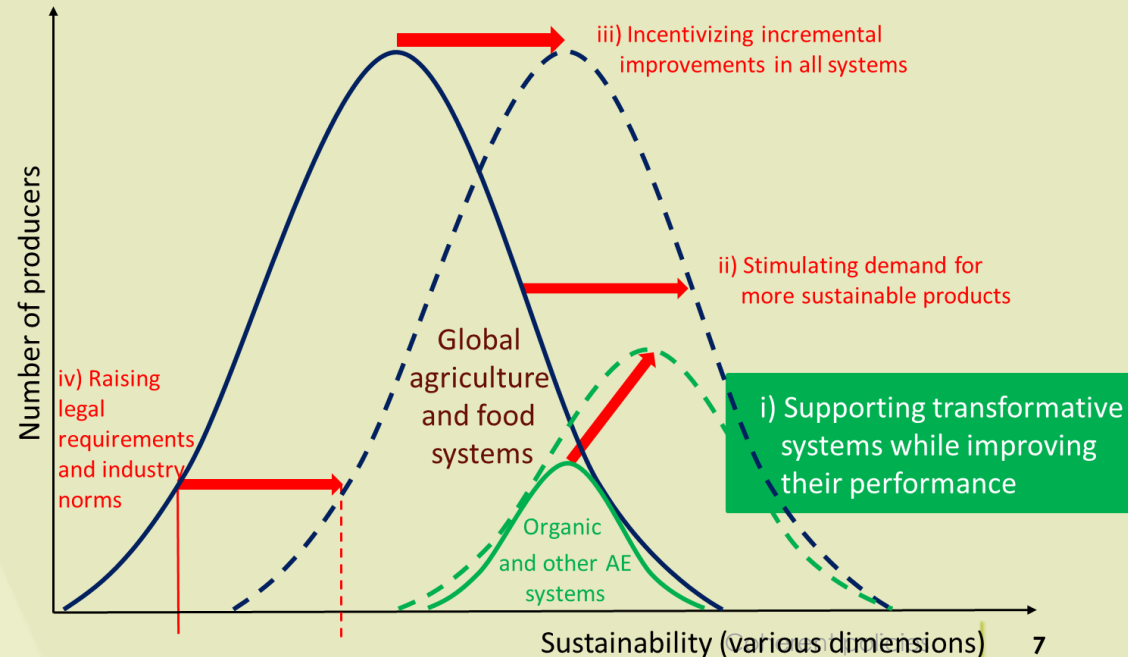
- Training & advisory services related to organic farming
- Area-based payments to support organic conversion

Pull measures:

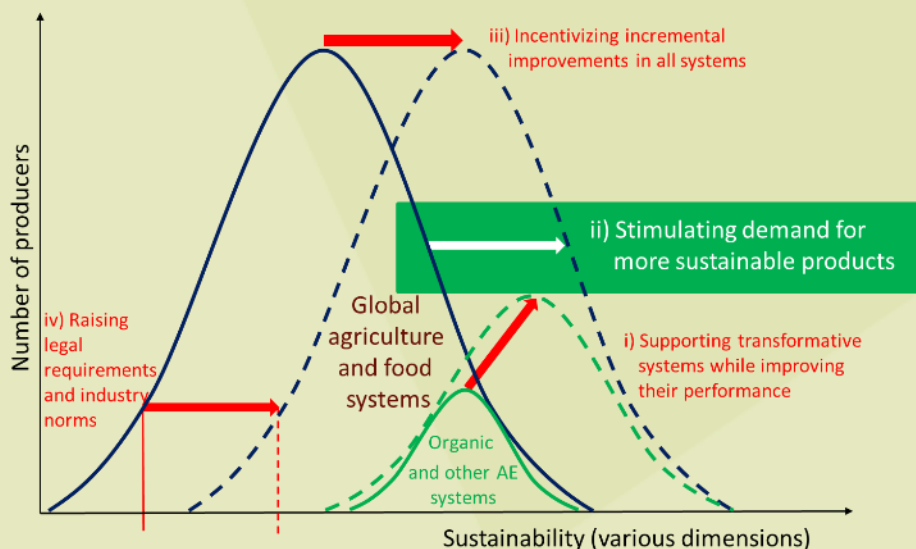
- Promoting organic products / label
- Public procurement of organic products

Enabling measures:

- Collecting data
- Research
- Supporting institutions



2) Foster the demand for sustainable products



Raising consumer awareness on the linkages between agriculture, environment, health and social wellbeing:

- Support informational campaigns on “good food”
- Include “food literacy” in educational curricula

Enhancing the commitment of market actors to offer sustainable products:

- Encourage businesses to promote sustainable options to consumers
- Green public purchase based on sustainability standards

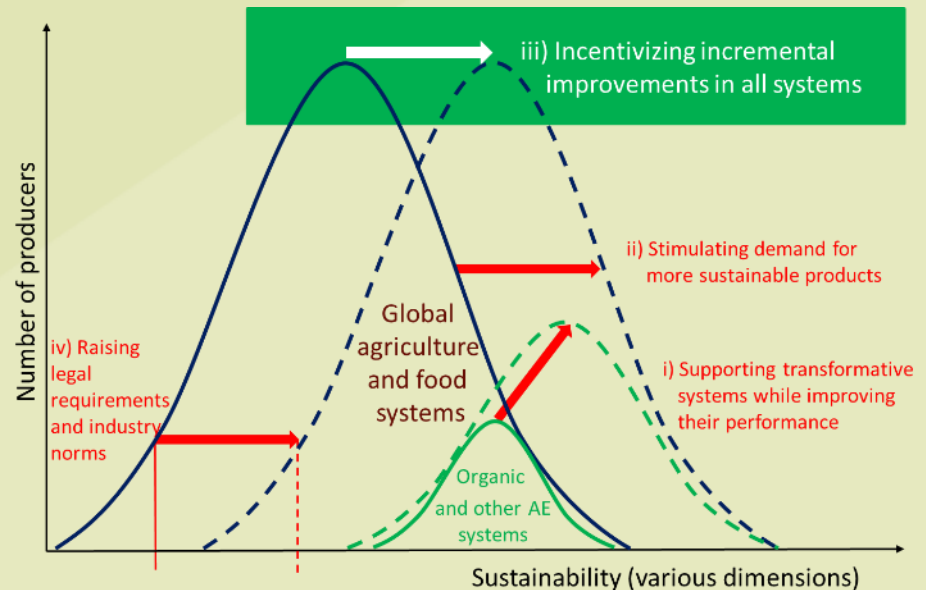
3) Incentivize improvement of mainstream systems

Incentivize sustainable practices:

- E.g. payments for ecosystem services

Dis-incentivize unsustainable practices:

- E.g. taxes on harmful pesticides or on external nitrogen input



➔ Internalize externalities

➔ Apply True Cost Accounting

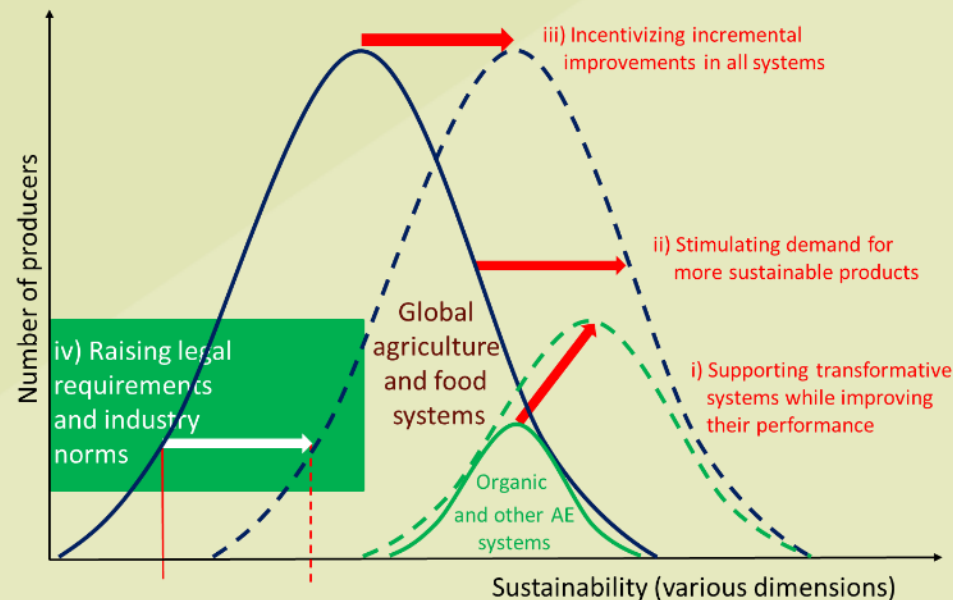
4) Raise legal requirements and industry norms

Rule-out particularly unsustainable practices:

- Ban highly hazardous pesticides
- Prohibition of clearing primary forests
- Etc.

Key market players agree to adhere to minimum requirements:

- Referring at least to standards such as the Round Table on Responsible Soy or the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil.



Ways forward

- Coherently align policies with the SDGs
- Only support systems that deliver to the SDGs
«Public funds for public goods!»
- Address vested interests that influence policies
- Recognize that transformative systems are important drivers for:
 - Developing more sustainable options
 - Changing consumer demand
 - Inspiring mainstream systems
 - Lifting the bar of what is acceptable

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THANK YOU!
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