



*Better lives through livestock*

# Insights from the transformation of dairy in India

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ICAR lecture series #44 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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# Overview

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- Snapshot of India's dairy transformation (photofilm)
- Unpacking Indian dairy trends and context
- Lessons to learn from Indian dairy
- The future of Indian dairy
  - In India
  - And beyond



# A snapshot of India's dairy transformation



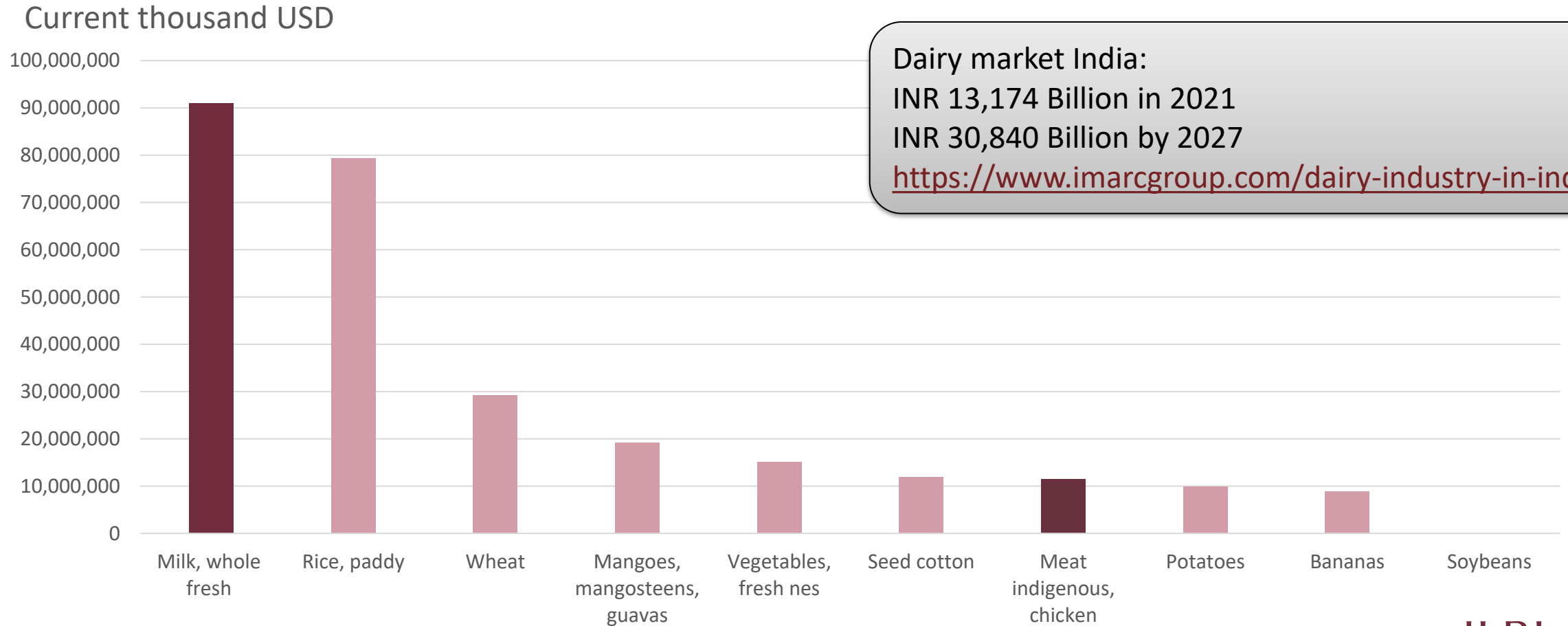
75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



A photograph showing several men unloading large, cylindrical metal milk cans from the back of a truck. The cans are stacked on the truck bed and some are being moved to the ground. The scene is outdoors, with trees and a building visible in the background. The text 'Unpacking Indian dairy trends and context' is overlaid on the image.

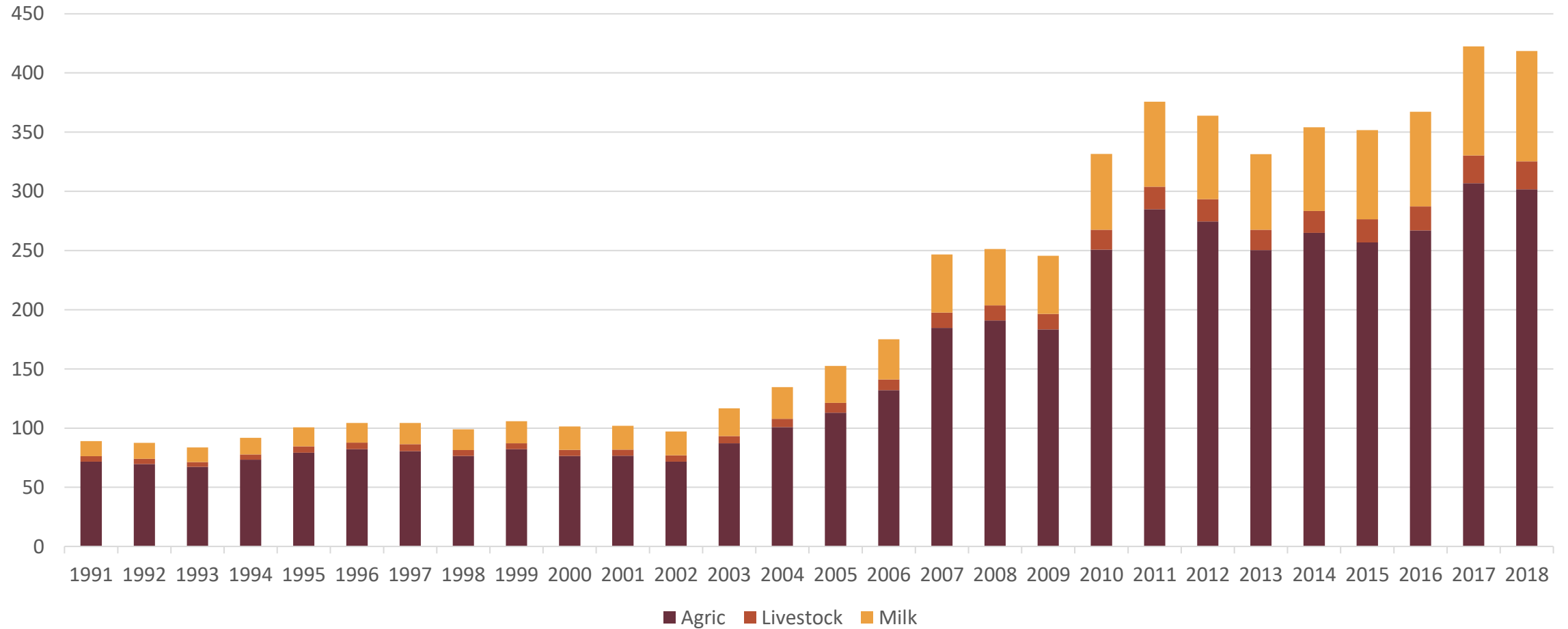
# Unpacking Indian dairy trends and context

# India agricultural commodity values 2018



Dairy market India:  
INR 13,174 Billion in 2021  
INR 30,840 Billion by 2027  
<https://www.imarcgroup.com/dairy-industry-in-india>

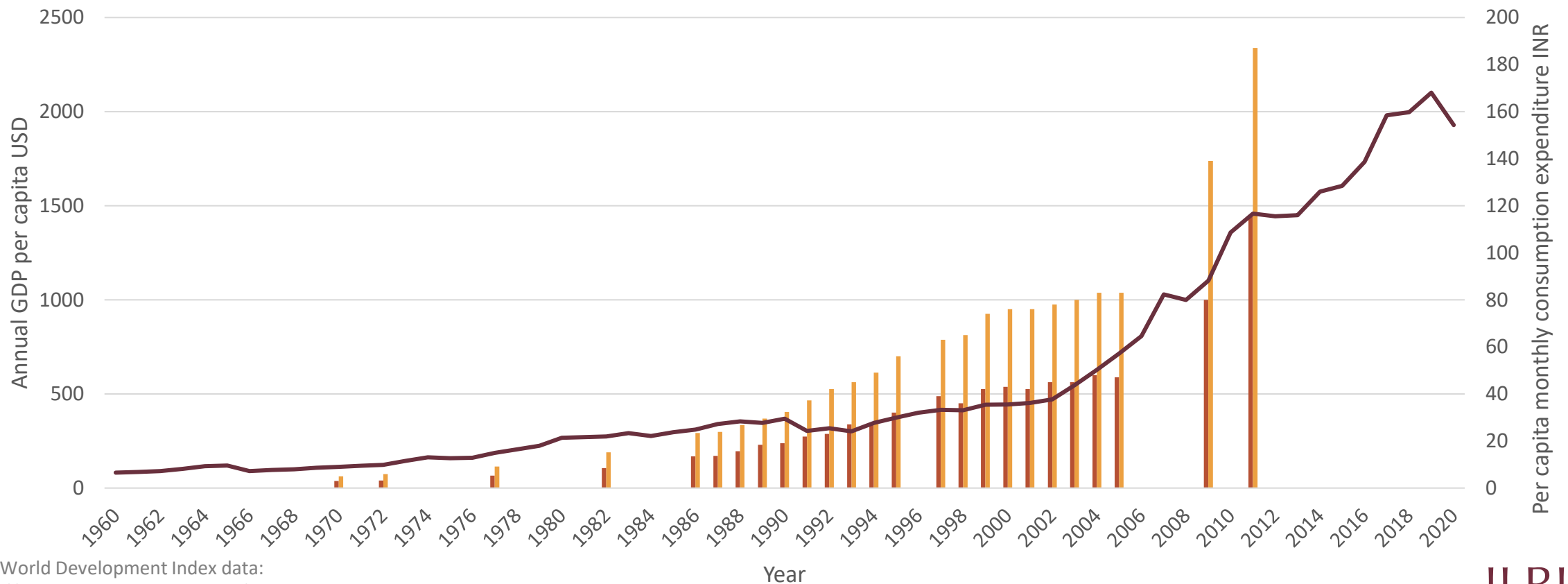
# Value of agricultural production USD billion (India)



2018: milk 80% of the total value of livestock and 22% total value of agriculture

# GDP and expenditure on dairy per capita

- The amount spent on dairy increased over 30-fold between 1970 and 2011
- The consumption expenditure shares remained constant: 38% rural, 62% urban

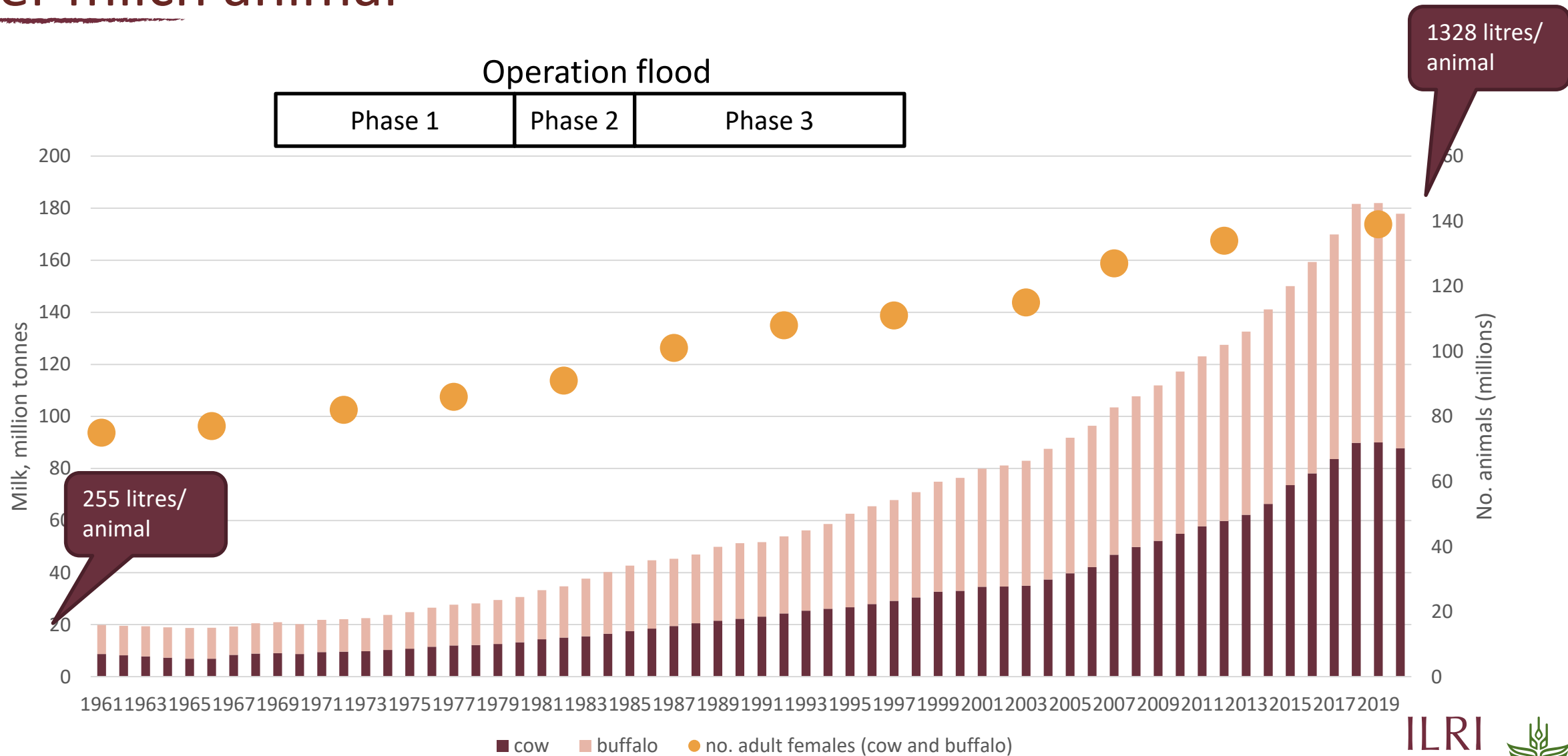


GDP: World Development Index data:  
<https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/public-licenses#cc-by>

Dairy expenditure:  
<https://www.nddb.coop/information/stats/percapitacomsp>

exp dairy rural exp dairy urban GDP per cap

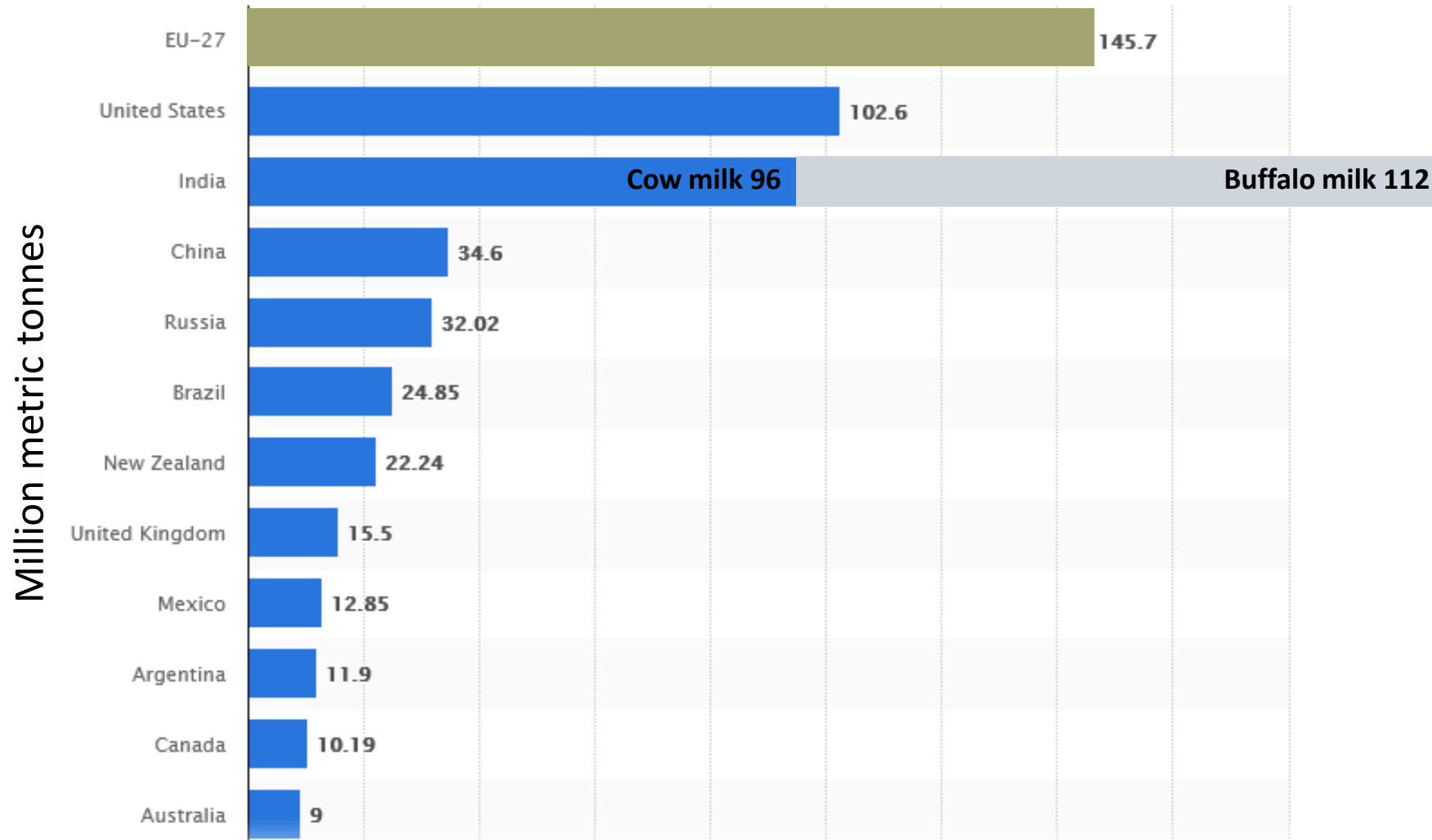
# Milk production, million tonnes; increase in productivity per milch animal



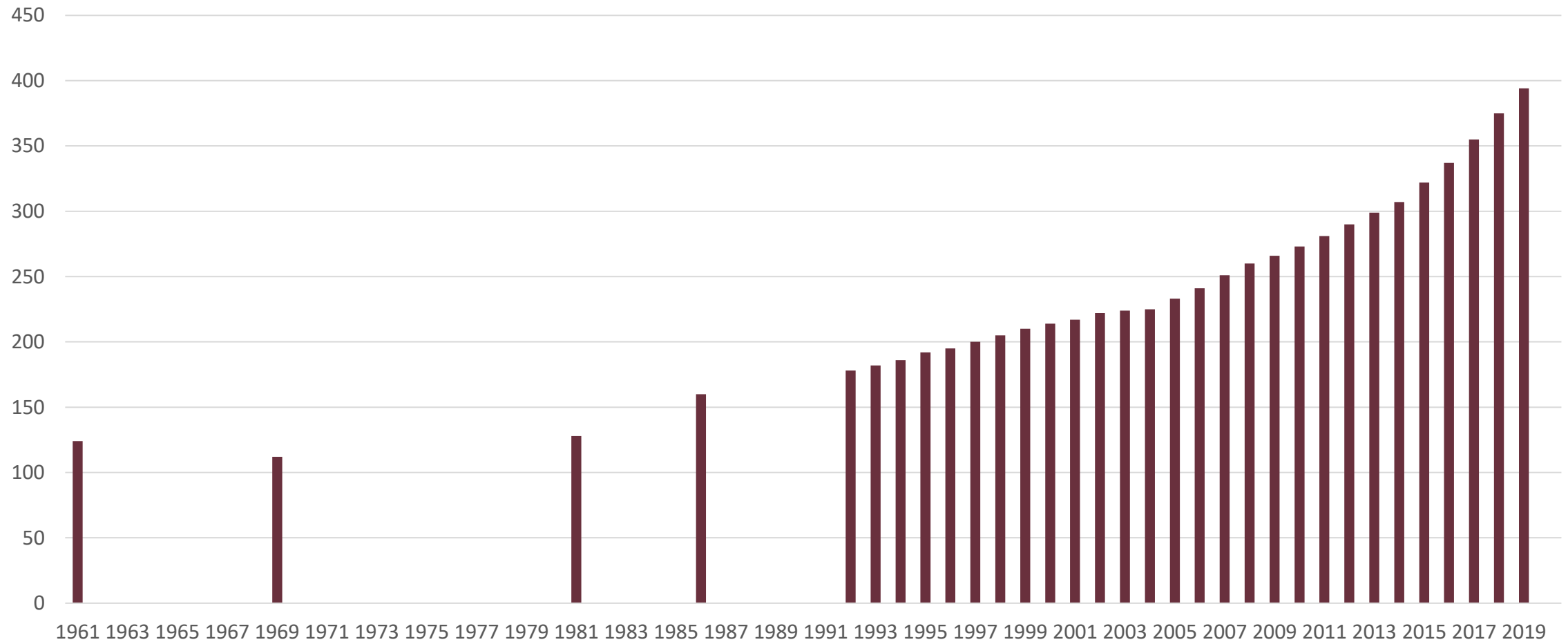
Source: FAOSTAT (production)  
 Animal numbers: NDDDB, from Livestock Census data DAHD&F, GoI



# Major producers of cow milk worldwide in 2021



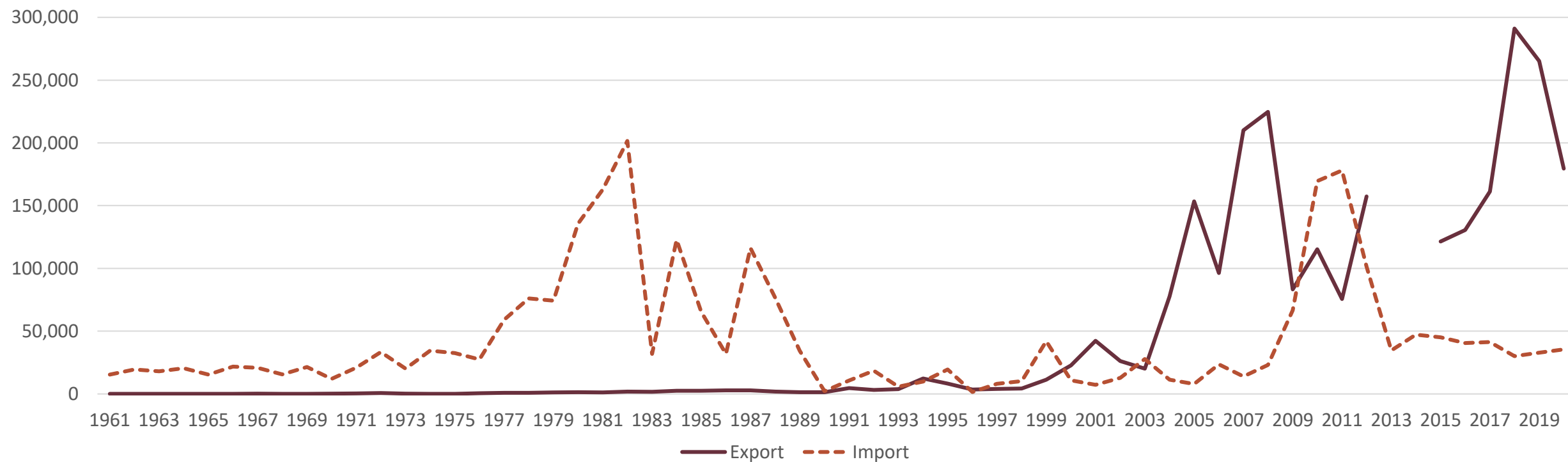
# Per capita milk availability g/day (India)



Source: NDDB from Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, DAHD&F, GoI

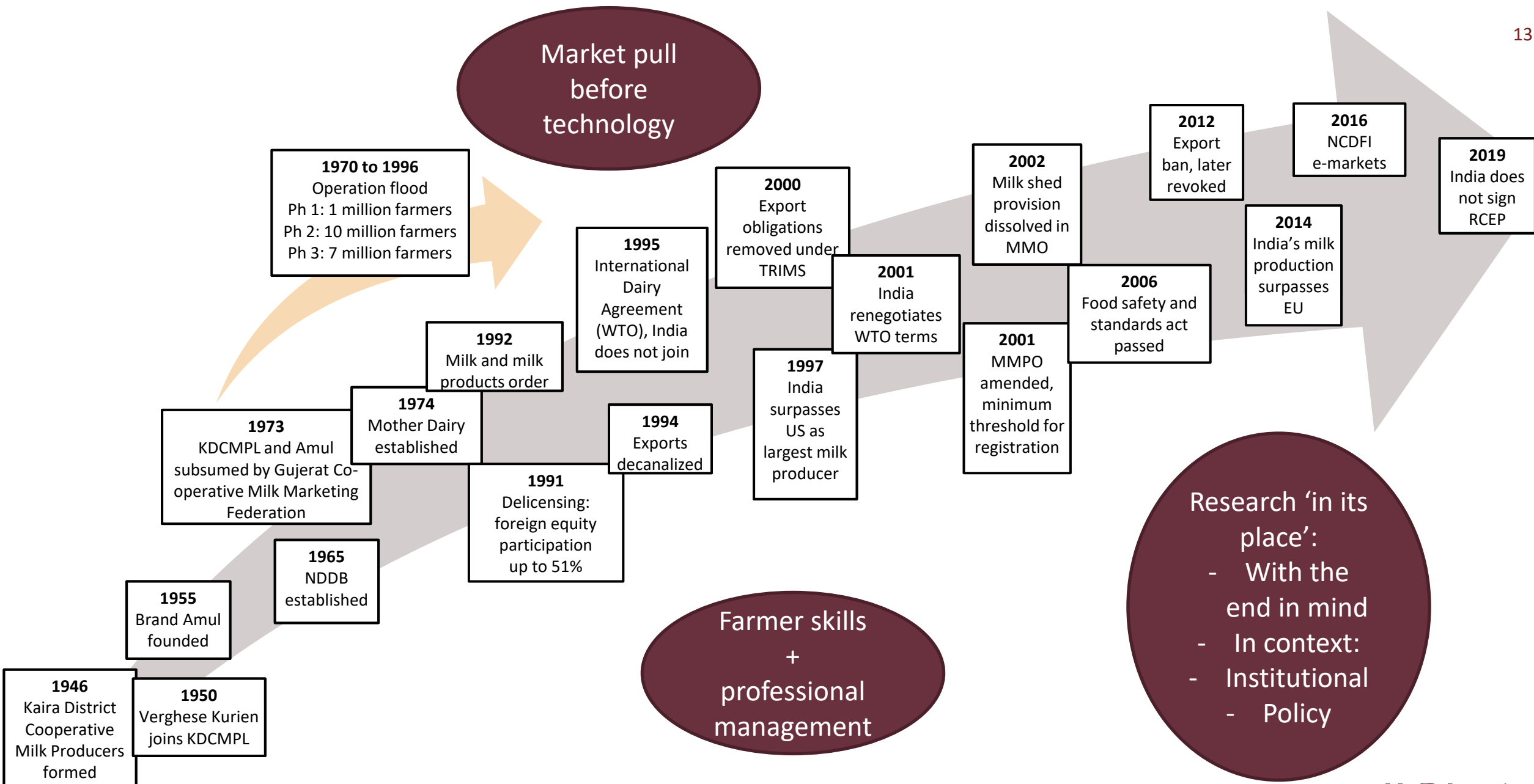
# India dairy: import and export

Export and import, USD, 000s

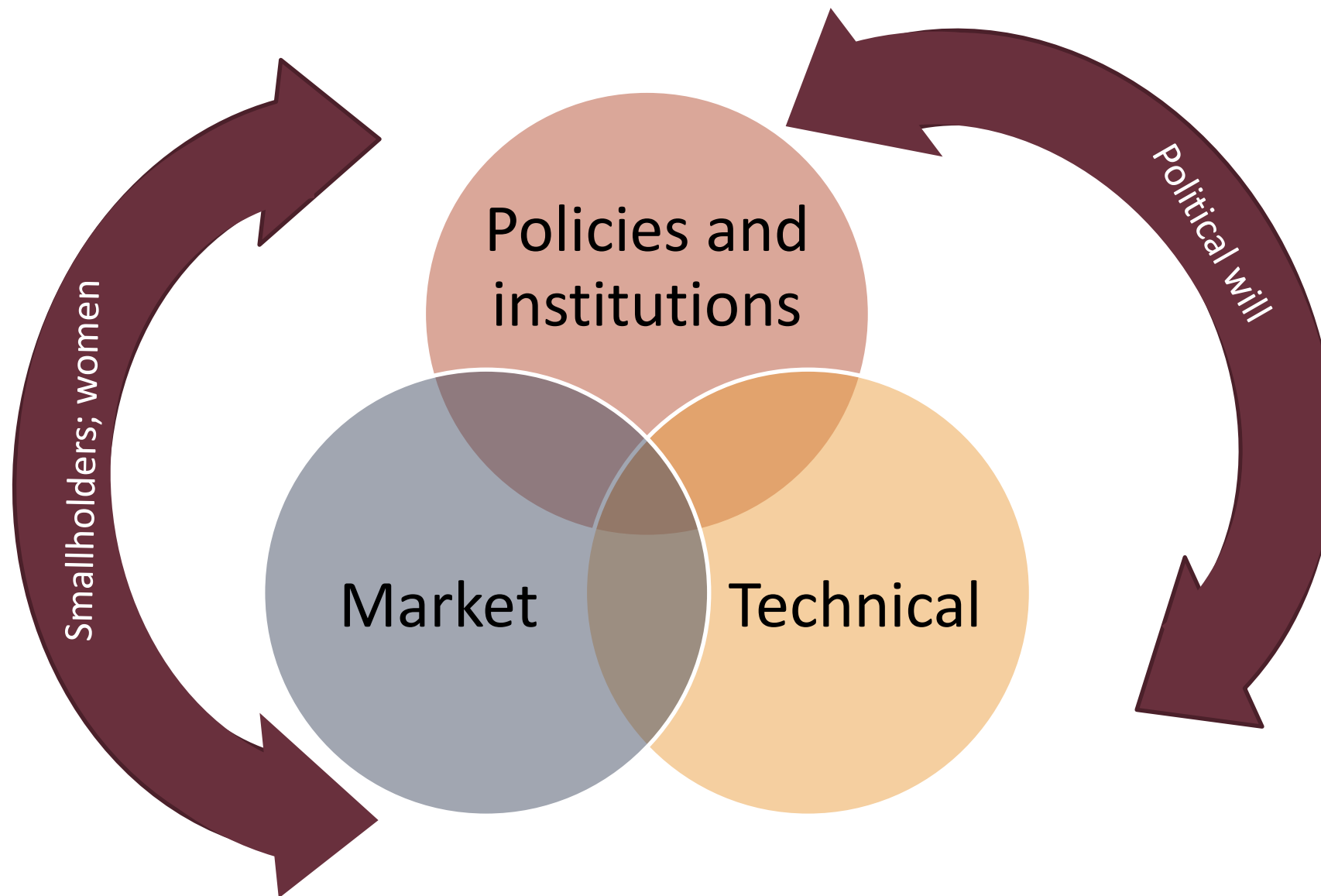


# Lessons to learn from Indian dairy

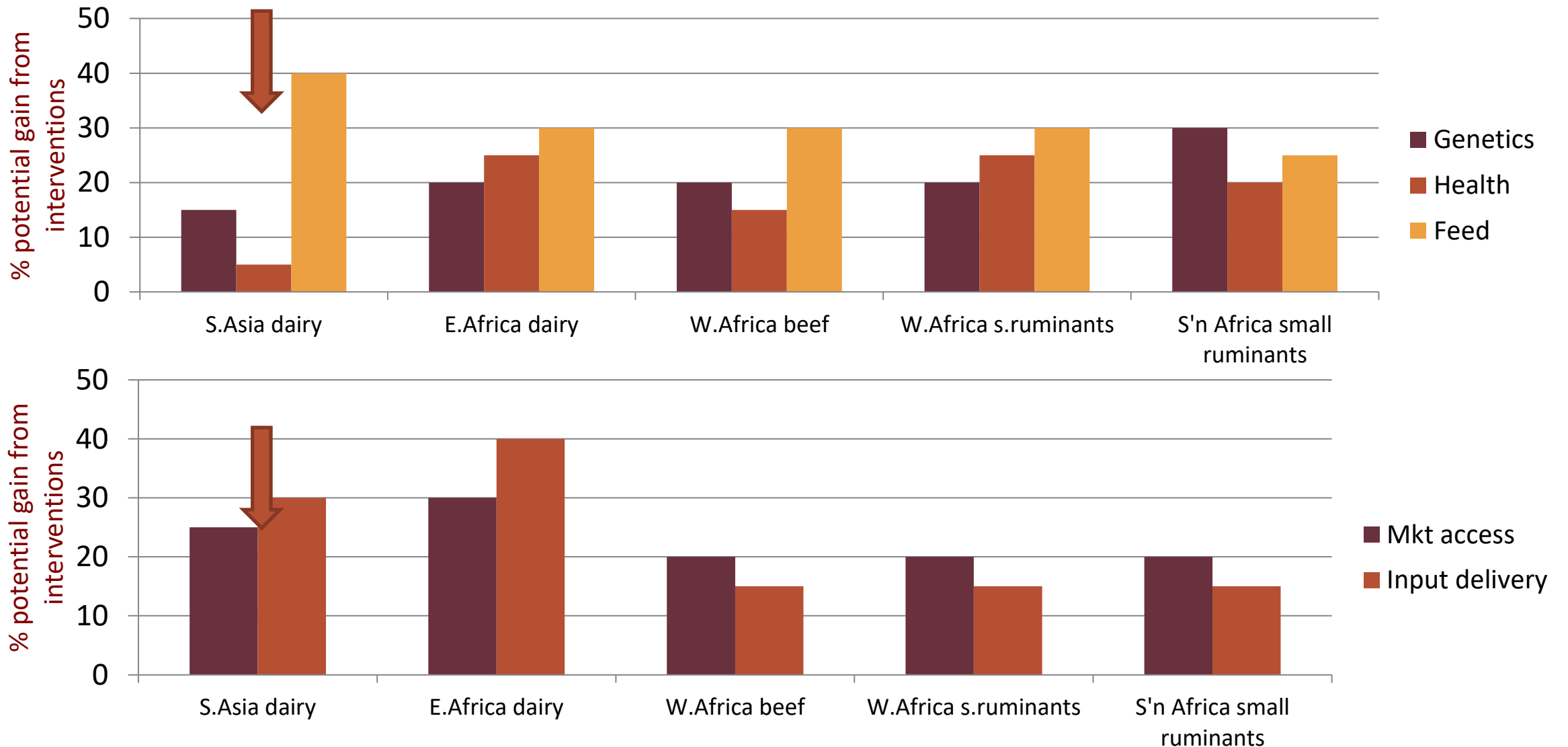








# Yield gaps remain: technical, market and institutional



Staal, S., Poole, J., Baltenweck, I., Mwacharo, J., Notenbaert, A., Randolph, T., Thorpe, W., Nzuma, J. and Herrero, M. 2009. Targeting strategic investment in livestock development as a vehicle for rural livelihoods. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – ILRI Knowledge Generation Project Report. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI.

# Research elements

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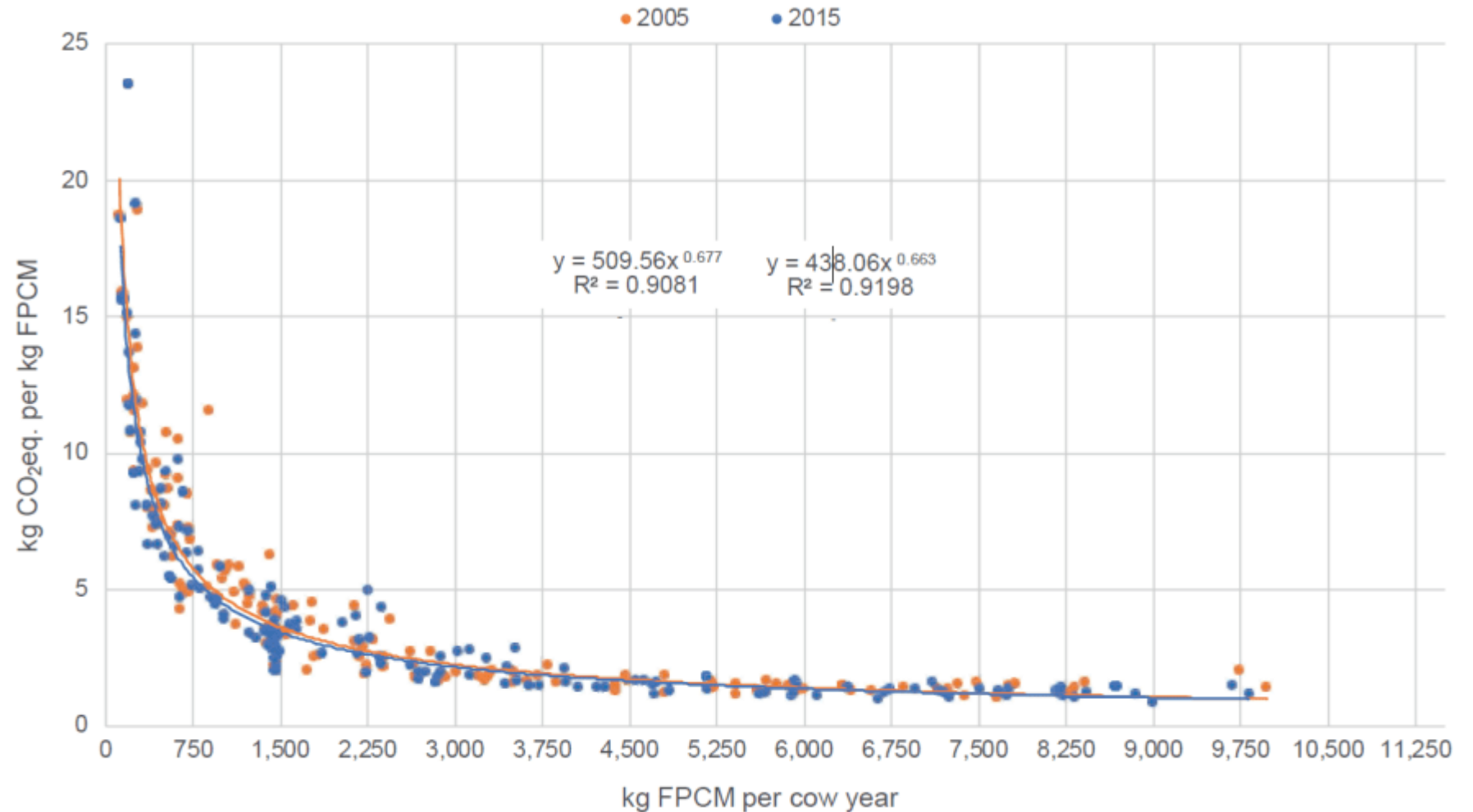
- Opportunities—market pull on productivity drivers:
  - I. Genetics
  - II. Health
  - III. Nutrition (feeds)
- Challenges:
  - I. Livestock and the environment
  - II. One Health:
    - I. Zoonotic diseases
    - II. Antimicrobial resistance
    - III. Food safety
- Market and policy:
  - I. National government policies
  - II. Livestock master plans



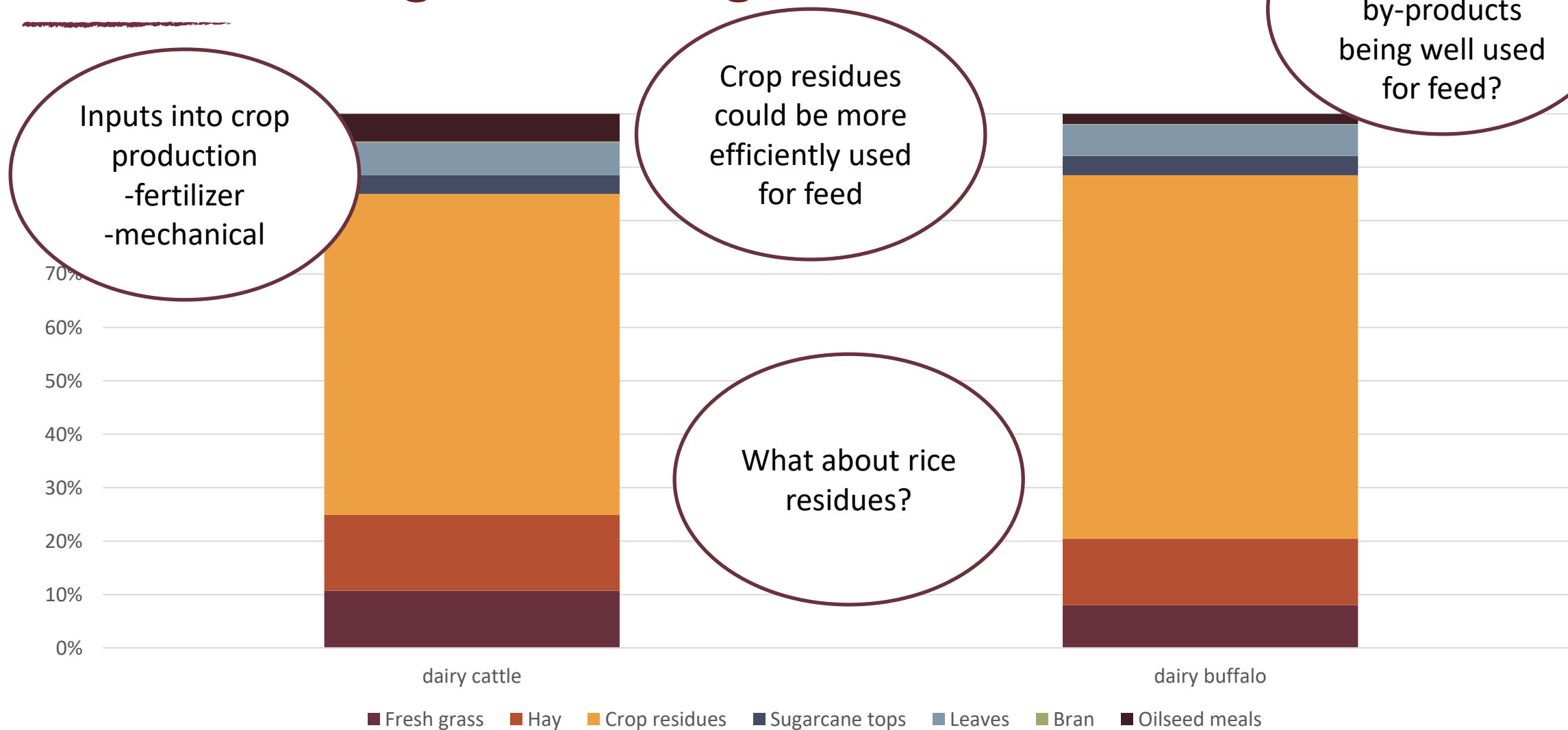
# Win-win opportunity

Doubling milk yield through better feeding, genetics and health could reduce India's total methane emissions by 25%

## Emission intensity and milk yield



# South Asia: regional average feed rations





# Opportunity: more and better feed options from crop residues

- Small changes in crop residue quality have a significant impact on milk production: *'... a 1% increase in digestibility of sorghum stover fed to dairy cows leads to a 6-8% increase in milk production ...'*
- **Improve feed quality:**
  - Inclusion of feed quality parameters in crop breeding parameters (conventional breeding, genomic selection)
  - Significant increase in crop variety uptake, milk yields
- **Improve feed utilization through processing**
  - By manufacturing feed blocks
  - By leveraging spin-off technologies from 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation biofuel technologies for deconstructing ligno-cellulosic biomass (2-CCT = 2-Chemical Combination Treatment; developed by ILRI with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology)

# New cultivars and varieties

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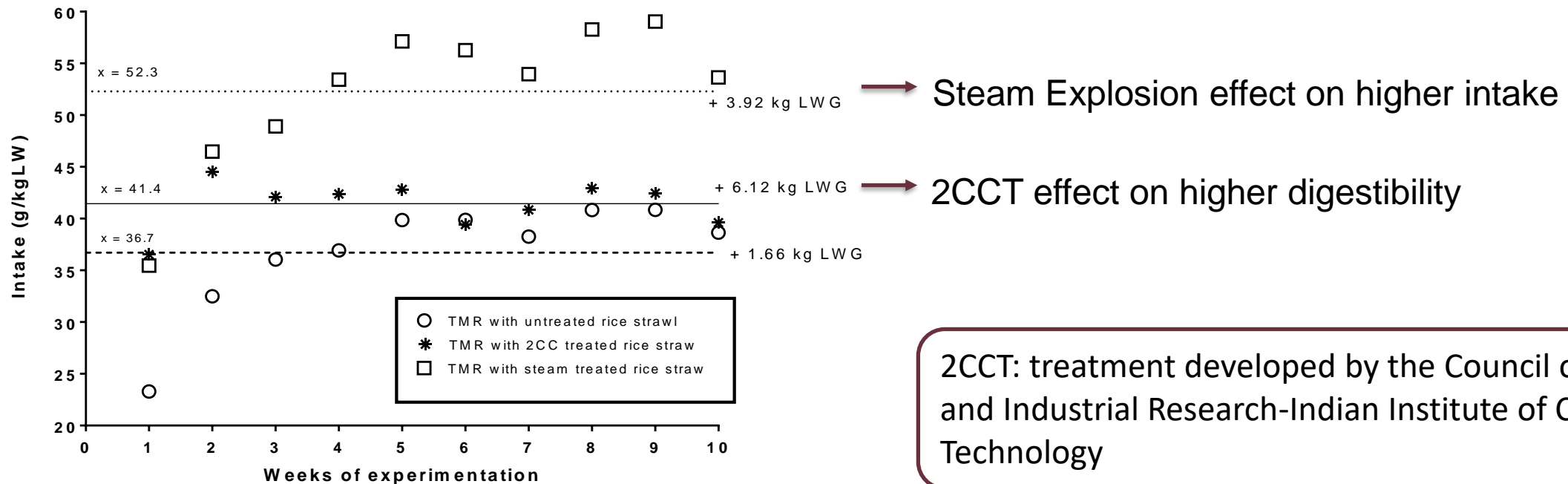
India leads by exploiting existing cultivar variations for targeted genetic enhancement

- Developing new dual-purpose cultivars of, e.g., pearl millet, sorghum, groundnut, maize, wheat and rice
  - ICRISAT groundnut variety grown on 160,000 ha
  - Three superior dual-purpose sorghum varieties registered in India
  - Released maize hybrid most popular in India



# Processing technologies

Use of spin-off technologies from 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation biofuel technologies can turn crop residues from 'wastes' into high-quality concentrates



Response of sheep fed total mixed rations containing 70% of untreated, 2CCT treated and steam treated rice straw

( Blümmel et al. 2018)

# Would rice straw with a digestibility of more than 60% continue to be burnt?

Wasted inputs

160 million tonnes rice straw  
At least 60% burnt producing  
7,300 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/ha/year

Negative  
climate impact

Better residue quality:  
Genetic enhancement  
and processing, eg  
2-CCT treatment



# One Health: ICAR and ILRI research on three key issues at the animal-human health interface

## 1. Diagnosis: zoonoses (Assam, Bihar, Odisha and Haryana)

Many zoonotic diseases present, varying incidence

Presenting risks to human health, milk productivity and farm economics

## 2. Diagnosis: antimicrobial resistance (Assam, Haryana and Karnataka)

AMR residues and resistance genes detected

Farmers largely unaware of risks

### Solutions to reduce risks

One Health approach at all levels

Strong awareness, motivation, good production practices, vaccination and improved biosecurity

Training/solutions: improve handling, marketing and consumption practices



# One Health: ICAR and ILRI research on three key issues at the animal-human health interface

## 3. Food safety

- Informal dairy sector critical for nutrition, health and livelihoods
- 97% of milk produced passes through the informal sector
- Essential to improve the quality and safety of milk without jeopardizing livelihoods



### Research-based drivers of change:

- Training, monitoring & certification (TMC) of informal market actors
- Consumer awareness building
  - Incentive mechanisms
  - One Health approach



## Improve – not ban – informal markets

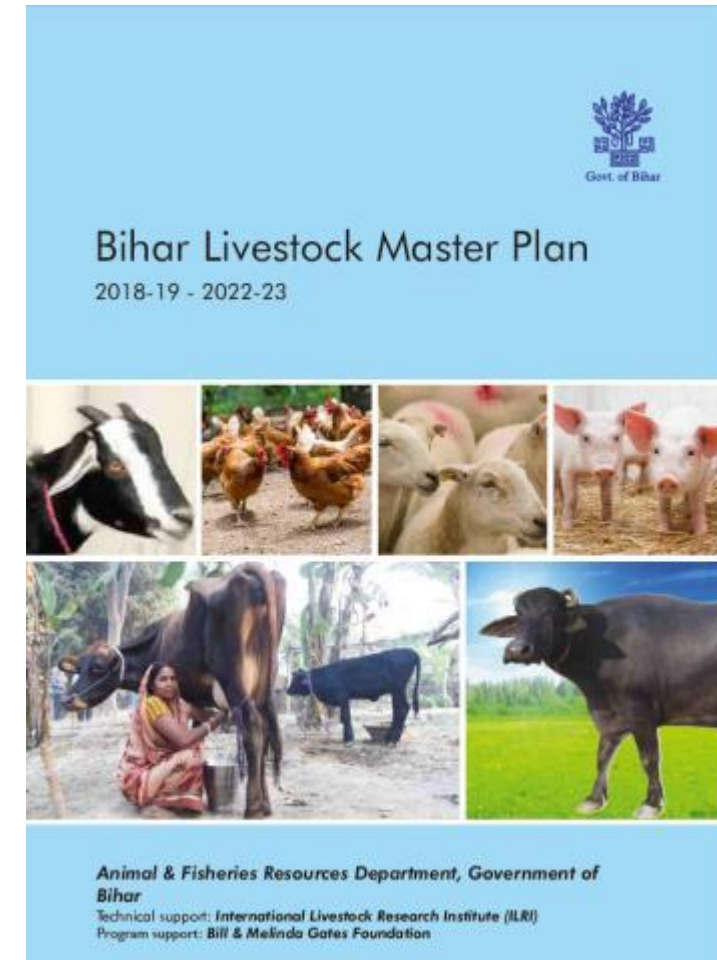
- Producers, traders, market agents: improved knowledge, attitude and practices; increased productivity
- Safer milk for about 1.5 million consumers
- Benefits: USD5.6 million, IRR 224%
- New govt and World Bank multi-million dollar project in Assam to scale out to 16 project districts

# Planning future investments: Livestock master plans for Bihar (complete) and Odisha (under way)

## Cow and buffalo dairy—priority

- Technical interventions and investments:
  - Improving feed availability and quality
  - Selection and crossbreeding
- Inclusion of women and marginalized communities in all interventions
- Increased processing of milk and marketing of milk products
- Demand-pull strategy of encouraging more public and private investment in value-adding processing to create assured markets for the additional milk
- Training, price incentives, private investment, AI facilities, feed market options

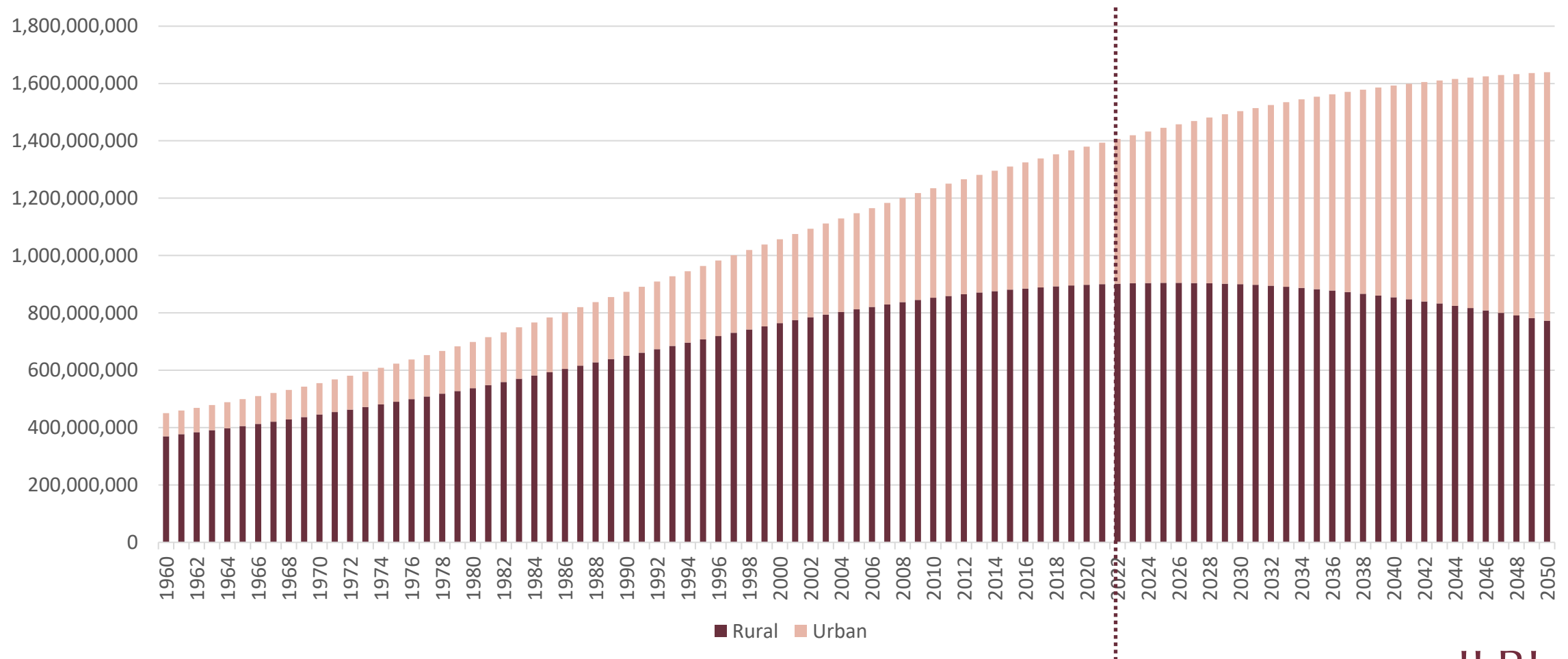
<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/100538>





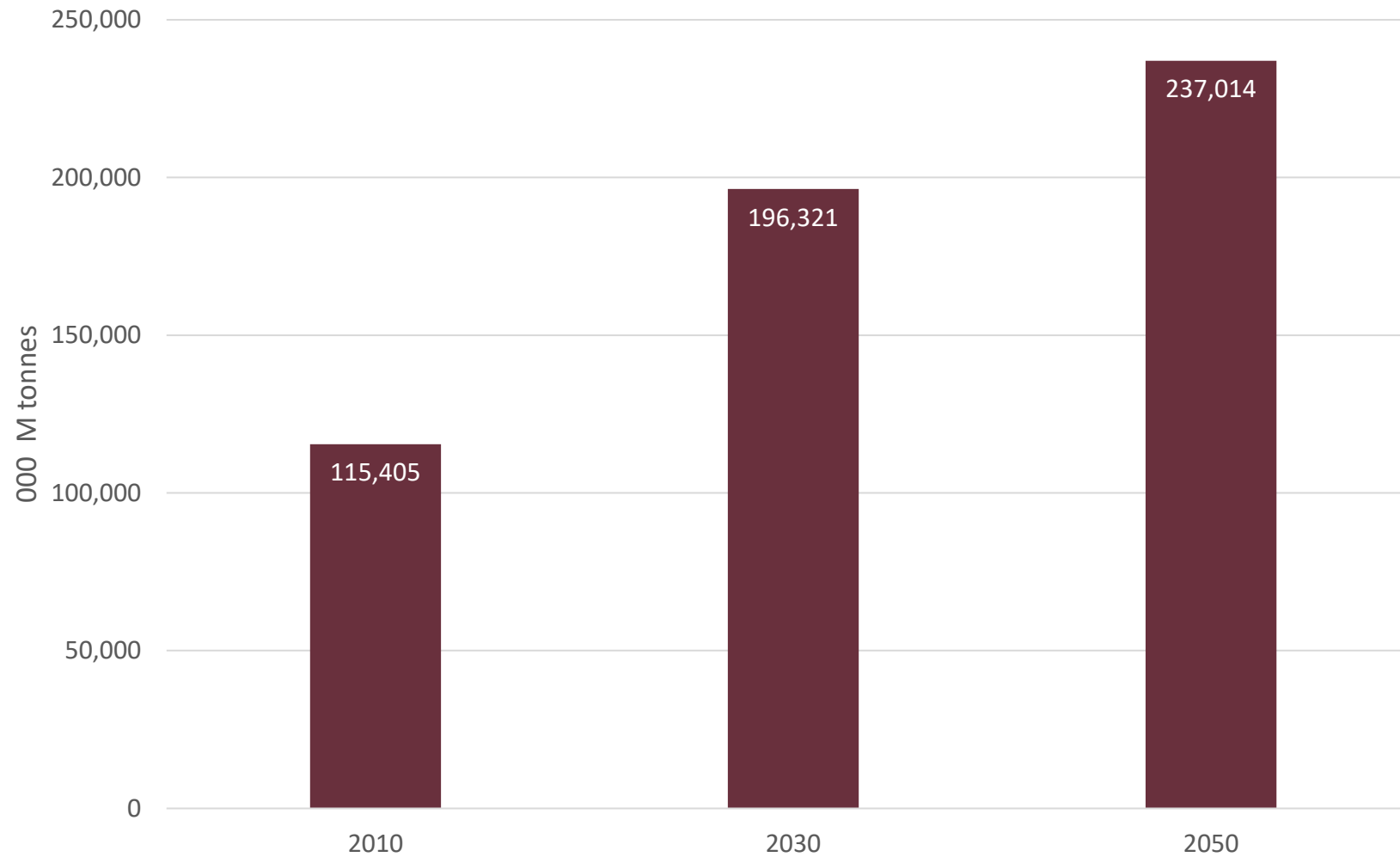
The future:  
Dairy in India and beyond

# India's population 1961 to 2050: dairy demand continues to grow (more people and more urban dwellers)



<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/population-estimates-and-projections#>

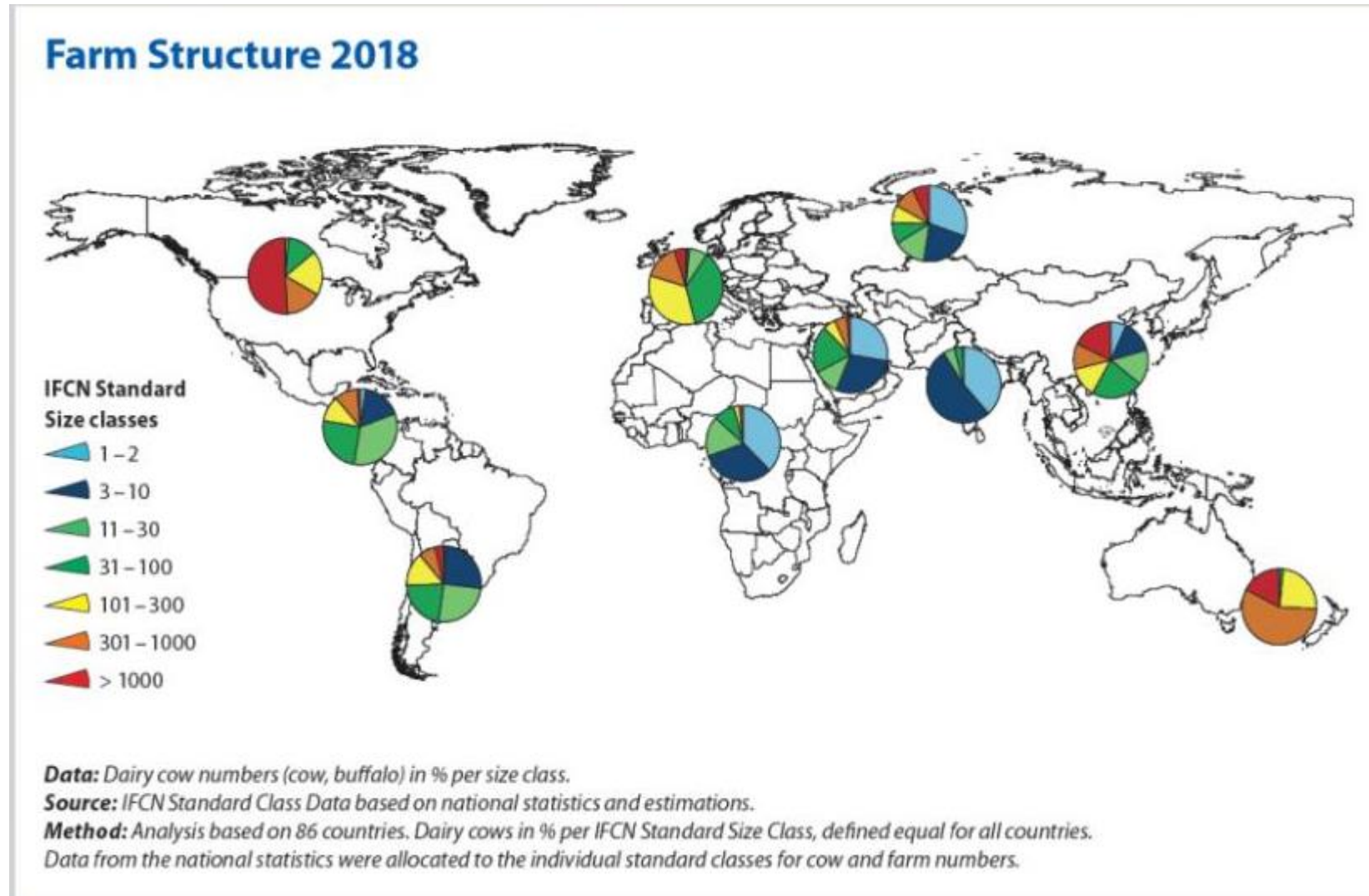
# Dairy demand in India



Source: Impact model predictions under moderate climate change in 2050 with assumption of moderate economic and population growth, with thanks to Dolapo Enahoro (ILRI)

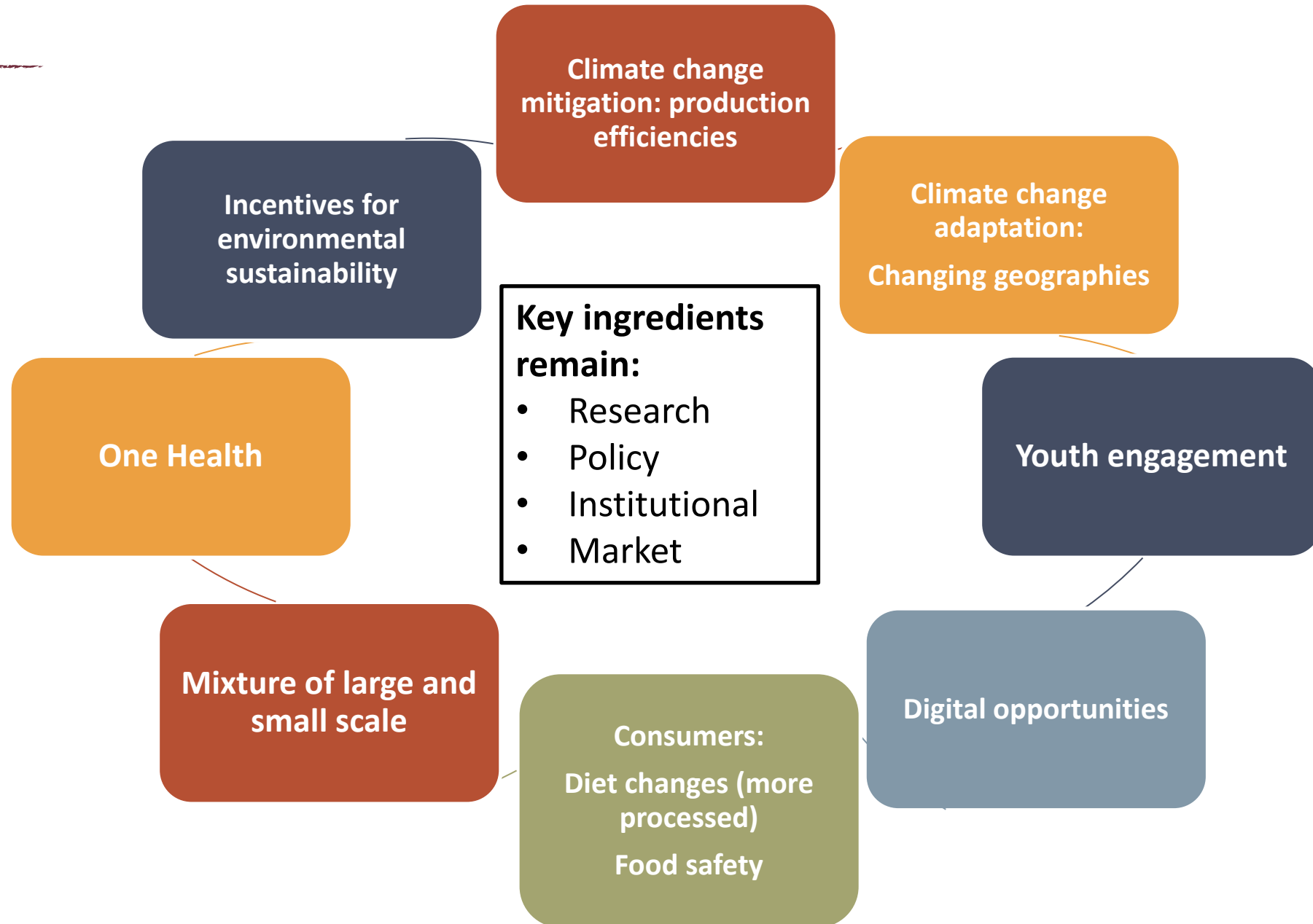


# Most dairy farms in India raise fewer than ten animals— but produce 70% of the country's dairy

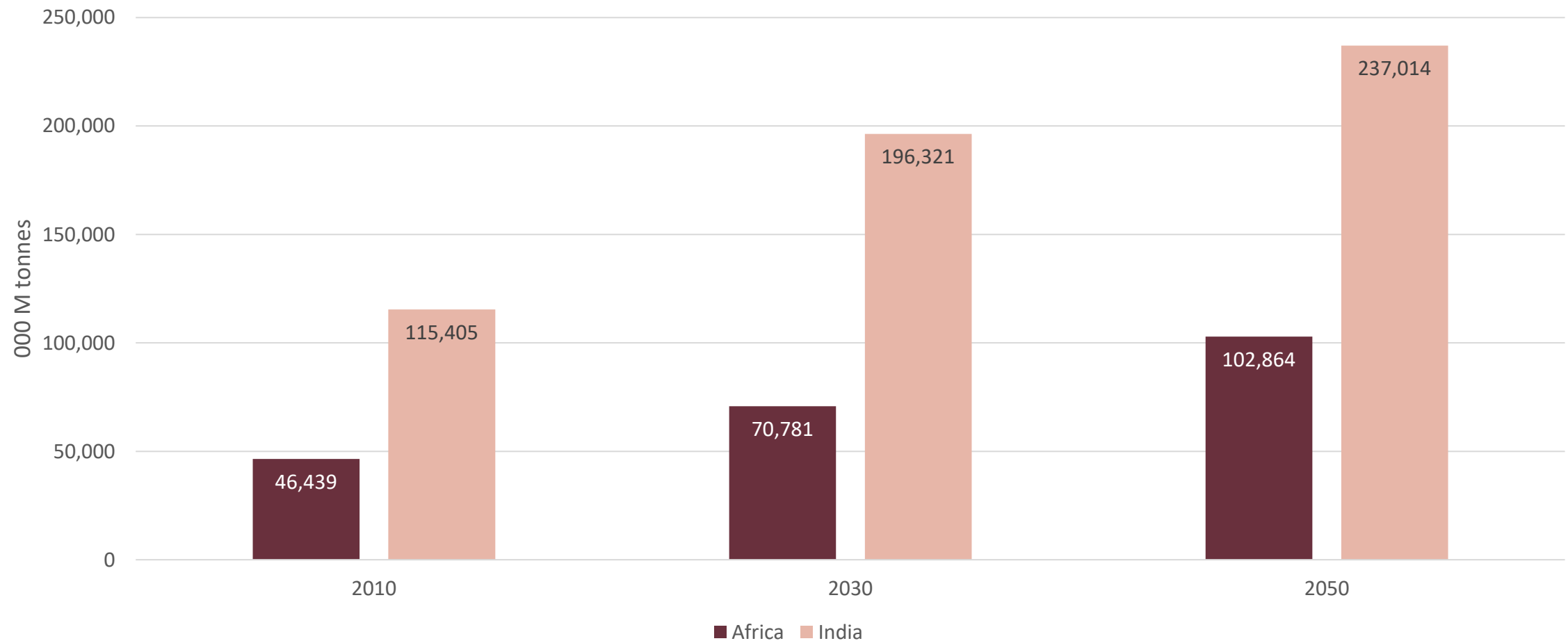


- Still some 75 million smallholders engaged in dairy sector
- Many women
- Multiple (new) cooperative-type models

# Changing contexts and drivers: the transition continues



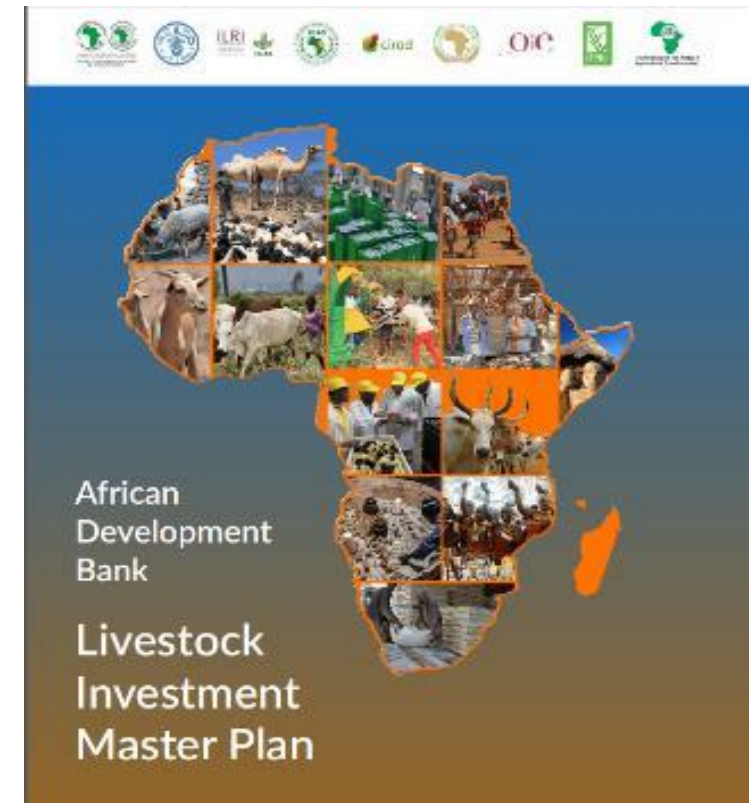
# Although lower in total, dairy demand in Africa will rise slightly faster than India



Source: Impact model predictions under moderate climate change in 2050 with assumption of moderate economic and population growth, with thanks to Dolapo Enahoro (ILRI)

# Many other countries face rapid rises in dairy demand: opportunities for South-South learning

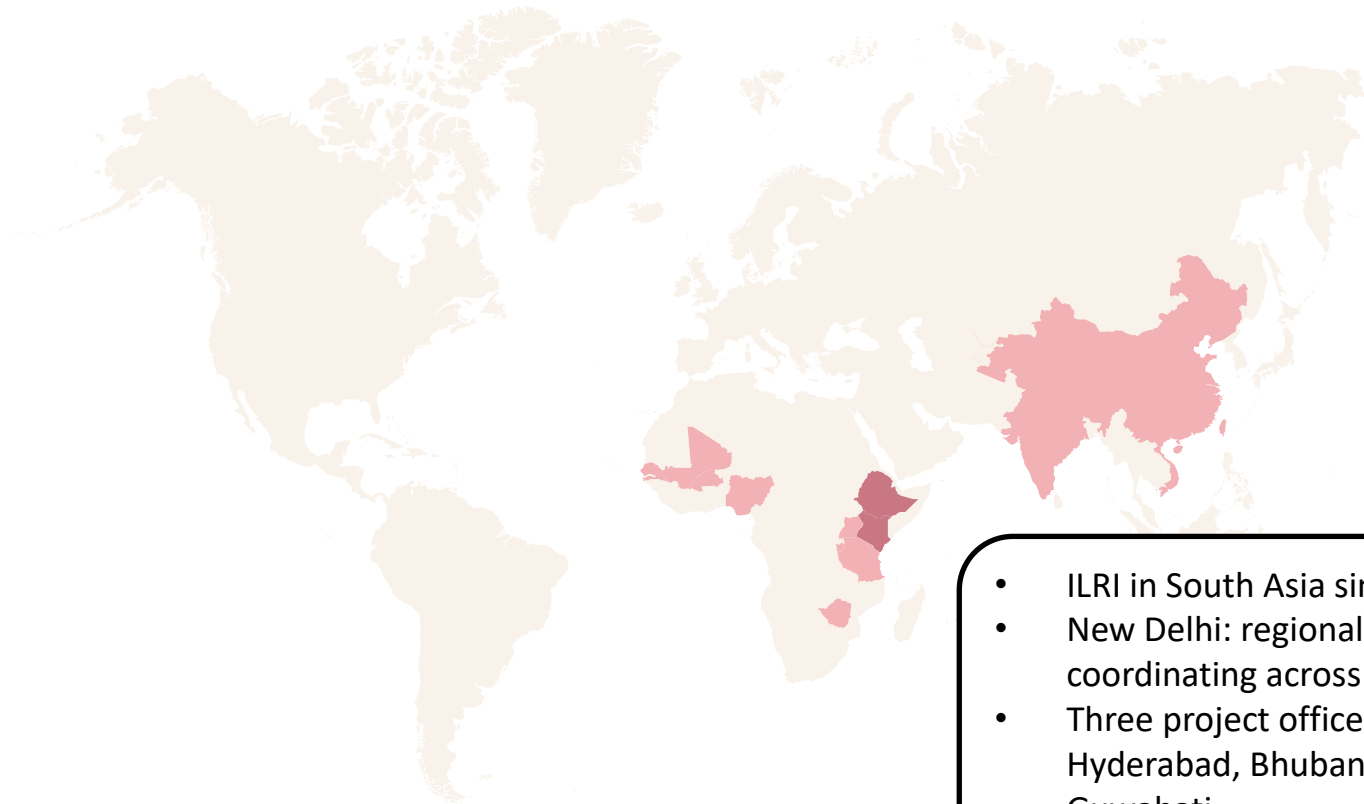
- ✓ Political will
- ✓ Policy and institutional environment
- ✓ Connecting farmers to market (technology 'push' doesn't work)
- ✓ Building dairy industry from its current smallholder base
- ✓ Enabling and improving safe informal markets
- ✓ Technology elements that work for smallholders, women, youth:
  - ✓ improved feed
  - ✓ genetics and AI
  - ✓ animal health
- ✓ Addressing climate challenges (mitigation and adaptation)



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ILRI is co-hosted by both the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, with offices in 8 other countries in Africa (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe); 4 countries in Asia (China, India, Nepal and Vietnam).

ILRI has approximately **650 permanent staff** (with a gender breakdown of 40% female and 60% male).




- ILRI in South Asia since 2004
- New Delhi: regional office; coordinating across South Asia
- Three project offices in India: Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati



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