DETERMINING THE MENU OF INDICATORS AND A CORE SET

- Session 4 -

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS

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Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics

Some remarks to the concept at the beginning

- Generally Germany does support the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics
  - Indeed policy makers at national and international level need comparable data about Agriculture worldwide
  - Agriculture is the main source to reach food security and one of the sources to reach healthiness and welfare
  - Agriculture production has – among others – affects on the environment and global warming
  - Comparing agricultural and rural production and situation all over the world is quite difficult without using indicators
- But the indicators have to be clearly defined and understandable !

Aims to achieve with core indicators
in Agricultural Statistics

Comparable data for countries all over the world

- Overview of agricultural production
  - Food / Feed commodities -› reduce poverty and hunger
  - Material for clothing / fuel / energy / housing
  - Social influences to rural households -› rural development
- But as well information about side effects to
  - Sustain land and water resources
  - Reduce impact of agriculture on environment and global warming
  - Achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Menu of 19 proposed core indicators - are these the right ones ?

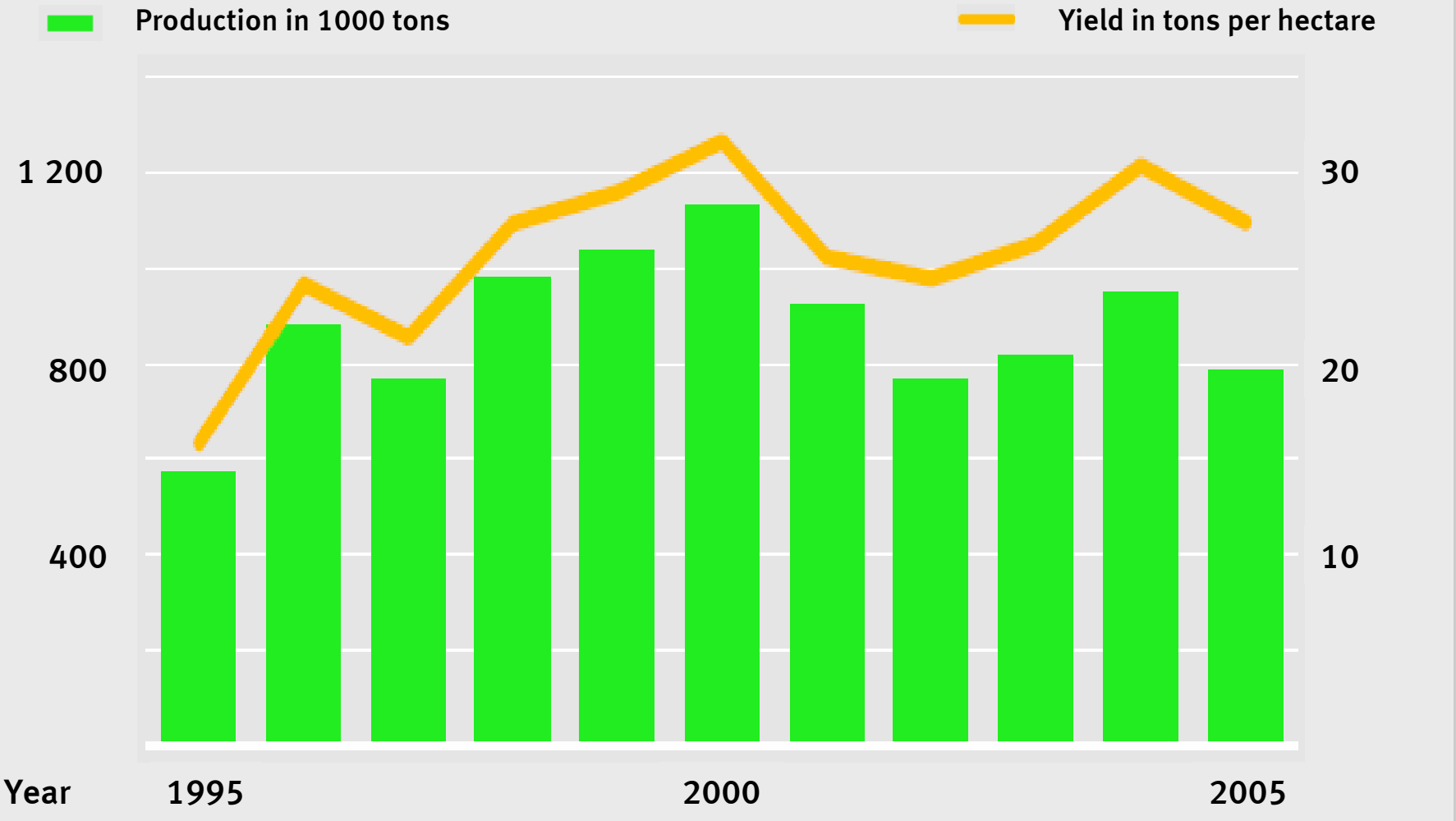
Some attributes, core indicators should have

- In general
  - Convincing and significant for what they shall describe
  - Comparable – as well under different or long-term conditions
  - Data requirements should be clear and discoverable
  - Reasonable burden for data suppliers / statisticians
  - They should support reaching the targets of the MDG
- Specific
  - Some indicators are not clear enough (2, 5, 7, 8, 13)
  - Some indicators are not convincing (5, 7, 8, 13)
  - Some indicators are not discoverable (13, 18, 19)

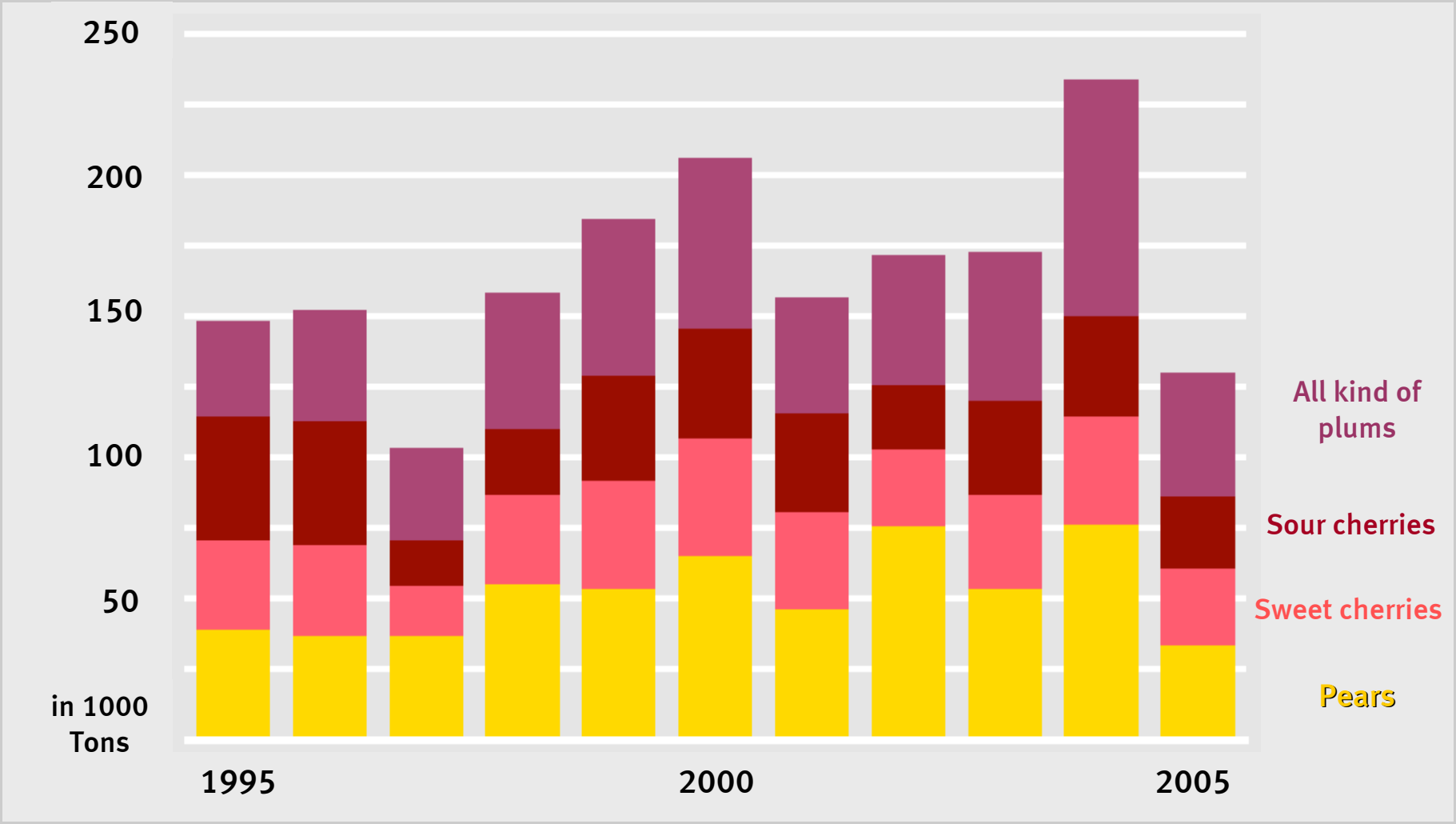
Menu of 19 core indicators - examples to be challenged (1)

- No. 2: Public spending on agricultural subsidies as a percentage of total agricultural public spending
  - What is meant with public spending in each case ? (in Germany there is European, national and regional spending)
  - What does the resulting percentage state, when total agricultural spending is low (?) in comparison to a country, where the total agricultural spending is high ???
- No. 5, 7, 8: % annual growth/change in yields of major crops, agricultural value added (in livestock sub-sector)
  - Not the “growth rate” – but the “growth level” should be compared
  - Especially with crop production there are many interacting influences which farmers normally are not able to modify, like weather conditions -› therefore long-term comparisons or basic data should be preferred

Harvested production and yield of apples in Germany



Harvested production of pears, cherries and plums



Menu of 19 core indicators - examples to be challenged (2)

- No. 7: % change in yields of major crops of the country
  - The pictures show the strongly fluctuating yields in fruit production – although sometimes a slightly increasing tendency is to be seen
  - This underlines the proposal using the "growth level" as the significant indicator – yearly change rates are not convincing /useful
- No. 13: % of users who report significance increase in crop yields as a result of provision of irrigation and drainage service
  - This is a quite subjective question and therefore difficult to interpret
  - There is no information about irrigation and drainage service at all, which would be more interesting
    Proposal -› % arable area with irrigation and drainage service
    (or % of utilised agricultural area)

Menu of 19 core indicators - examples to be challenged (3)

- No. 18: % change in soil loss from project watersheds
  - What does the change in soil loss state, when you know nothing about the level of soil loss in this context ? How to gain this data ?
  - How is this soil loss defined ? Is it comparable between countries ?
- No. 19: % land area for which there exists a legally recognized form of land tenure
  - How is “legally recognized form of land tenure” defined ?
  - Do developing countries have a chance to get this information ?
- What information is less represented by the proposed indicators ?
  - % of (rural) population living from work in the agricultural sector
  - Indicator of land use type (% utilised agricultural area of total land area)

Menu of 19 core indicators - conclusion

- Most of the proposed core indicators are applicable
  - But: besides the explained examples some of the intentions should be defined clearer and understandable
  - It should be described what information is used to define which goal of the Millennium Declaration (kind of comparison)
- Whether the data requirement can be fulfilled totally, is to be clarified when the needed data requirements for the core indicators are defined

Some ideas to the core data items and data requirements underlying the core indicators :

- First of all the core indicators have to be mostly fixed and defined
  - All countries worldwide should be able to meet the requirements basically
  - The possibility of misunderstanding or -interpreting should be unacceptable
- Secondly it has to be cleared, what core data items are needed to describe the core indicators
  - The data items should be discussed and verifyed with regard to definition and relevance referring to the terms of all countries
  - It should be agreed and well-known, what data items are determining the core indicators and how they are used to calculate the indicators (table)
  - Methodology to obtain the core data items shall be almost comparable

Structure of agricultural holdings in Germany

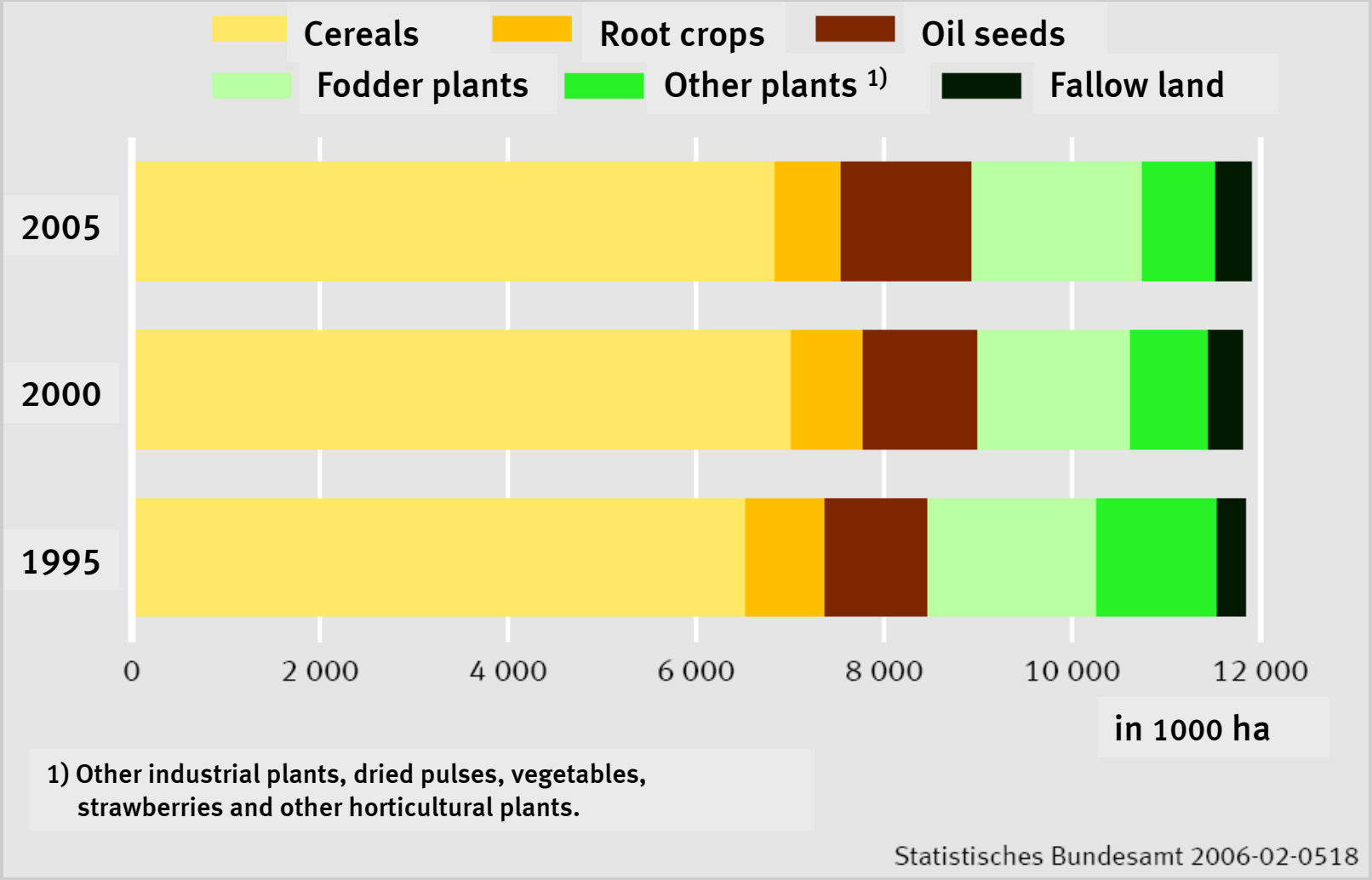
Utilised agricultural area	1949	1971	1991	2007
Total	2 500 000	1 200 000	650 000	375 000
under 10 ha	2 000 000	720 000	320 000	140 000
10 - 50 ha	520 000	420 000	276 000	150 000
50 - 100 ha	16 000	18 000	44 000	53 000
100 ha and more	4 000	12 000	12 000	32 000

Average size of agricultural holdings in Germany

(utilised agricultural area)

Year	1949	1971	1991	2007
Agricultural holdings	2 500 000	1 200 000	650 000	375 000
Average size	8 ha	12 ha	26 ha	45 ha

Arable land by main groups of crops in Germany



Plantation of pears

Flowers
and in the
background
asparagus

Adresse http://www.destatis.de/jetspeed/portal/cms/Sites/destatis/Internet/EN/Navigation/Homepage__NT.psml

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Number of employees in manufacturing increasing by 2.7% in February 2008

Press release No. 149 / 2008-04-14 - At the end of February 2008, 5.3 million persons worked in local units of manufacturing with 50 or more employees. As further reported by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), that were about 141,000 persons or 2.7% more than in February 2007. The number of hours worked in February 2008 increased 6.1% from a year earlier, reaching 714 million.

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Economic and Financial Data for Germany

The actual data corresponding to the data described on the International Monetary Fund's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) is available here.
For a fuller explanation of the DSBB and the statistical standards to which Germany has committed, please click on DSBB Home Page.

Interactive Applications

We are offering interaction and communication applications typical of online environments, such as our interactive applications of the Animated population pyramids on the population forecast, the Atlas of Regional Statistics, the Personal inflation calculator, the Atlas of foreign trade data and the Air transport atlas (the interactive applications are only in German). Get an easy overview of complex matters by using the new forms of presentation you can alter as required.

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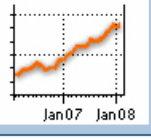
Statistics Portal
- Federal Returning Officer
- The German Council of Economic Experts
- Federal Institute for Population Research
- EDS European Data Service

Research and development
- Scientific forum
- Research Data Centre
- Standard Cost Model

Data collection
- Online methods (german)
- Intra/Extra-EU trade

Census 2011

Price monitor



Thank you for your attention !

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