

Almost two decades of Low Level Presence

Lessons to be learnt: turning challenges into opportunities?

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COCERAL Secretary General

FAO International Technical Consultation on low levels of GM crops in international food and feed trade

Rome, 20-21 March 2014



COCERAL Members

Associate Members

EU association representing the trade with cereals, oilseeds, rice, feedstuffs, olive oil and agrosupply

Grain merchants, storers and/or international traders

30 Member Associations

19 EU countries

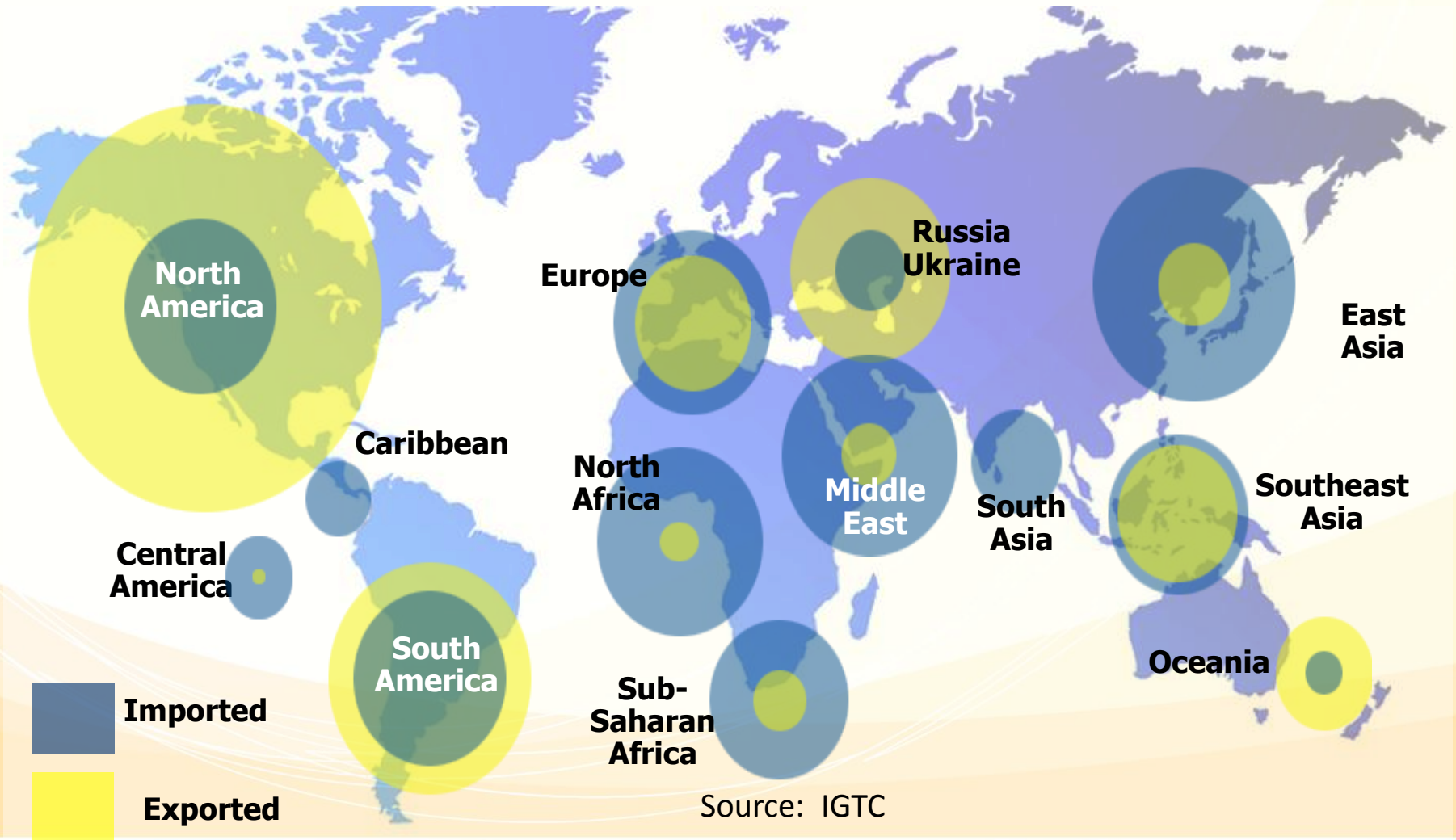
1 Associated in Switzerland

2700 companies



The role of trade

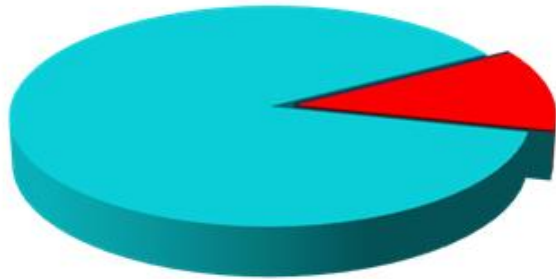
Global sourcing of agricultural commodities to meet food, feed and industrial needs



Production and trade: to double by 2050

2.5 BMT Global Production

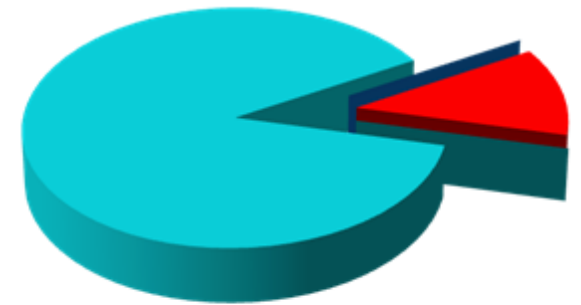
TODAY: Roughly **300 million metric tons** – about 12 % of total demand – enter into world cereal & oilseed trade



■ International Trade ■ Local/Regional

TOMORROW: An estimated **600 million metric tons** of grains & oilseeds from areas of surplus – about **15 %** of total production – will be transformed & delivered for consumer needs.

4.0 BMT Global Production



■ International Trade ■ Local/Regional

Source: Bruinsma, Jell. "The Resource Outlook to 2050"

Grain trade challenges and food security impact

The evolving use of biotechnology and the divergent regulatory approaches to managing GM crops severely complicates the international trade, threatens economic, social and political implications to importing and exporting countries and global food security in general

A diagram illustrating the challenges of grain trade. It features two large blue arrows pointing away from each other, one to the left and one to the right. The left arrow contains the text "Importing country: 'zero tolerance' policy on GM". The right arrow contains the text "Exporting countries increasing GM commercialization". Below these arrows is a large orange oval containing the text "High risk of finding low level of GMOs in imported commodities".

**Importing country:
"zero tolerance"
policy on GM**

**Exporting countries
increasing GM
commercialization**

**High risk of finding
low level of GMOs
in imported
commodities**

Policies must reflect differences in food safety risk

LLP is a non-tariff barrier. Safety is not at stake

YES

Low Level Presence (LLP): low levels of recombinant DNA plant materials that have passed a food safety assessment according to Codex guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants (CAC/GL 45-2003) in one or more countries but may on occasion be present in food in importing countries in which the safety of the relevant recombinant-DNA plants has not yet been determined.

NO

Adventitious Presence (AP): unintentional presence of GMOs that have never been approved anyplace on the basis of the Codex international guidelines for food safety assessment

The EU case

Almost two decades of enduring threats to the supply

Commodity	Source	GM traits	Year	Origin
Maize	LLP from discontinued authorization	GA 21	2007/08	Argentina
Soybean	LLP from asynchronous authorization	LibertyLink, Roundup Ready 2, MON 88017, MIR 604 and others	2008/09	North America
Maize	LLP from asynchronous authorization	Herculex RW Rootworm, MIR 162 and others	1996	North America
Linseed	LLP from asymmetric authorization	CDC Triffid	2009/10	Canada
Rice	LLP from asymmetric authorization	LLRICE601, LLRICE06 and LLRICE62	2006/07	US
Maize	AP	BT 10	2005/06	US
Rice	AP	Kefeng 6, KMD, others	2006/07	Asian countries

Why LLP is a trade issue

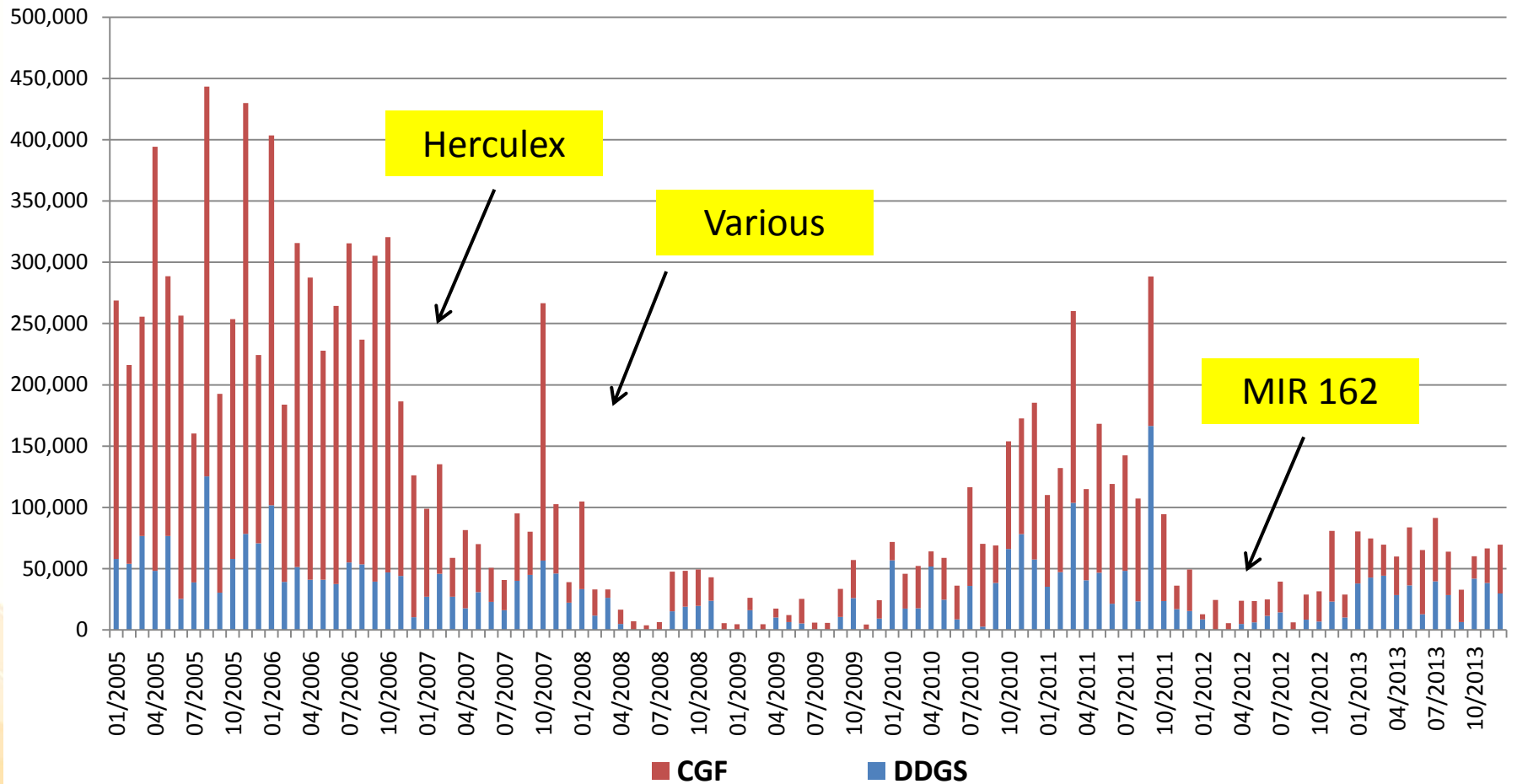
- **Once a GM event is authorized in one or more countries it takes only a matter of time for trace levels to be detected in commercial channels:**
 - Zero thresholds: GM needs to receive full domestic authorization before being accepted
 - Asynchronous authorizations: full synchronization is difficult to be achieved

“Zero thresholds” are impossible to achieve

No bulk handling system, no channeling system, no IP system
can attain zero thresholds

EU import of Corn Gluten Feed (CGF) and Dry Distiller's Grains (DDGS) from the US in tons

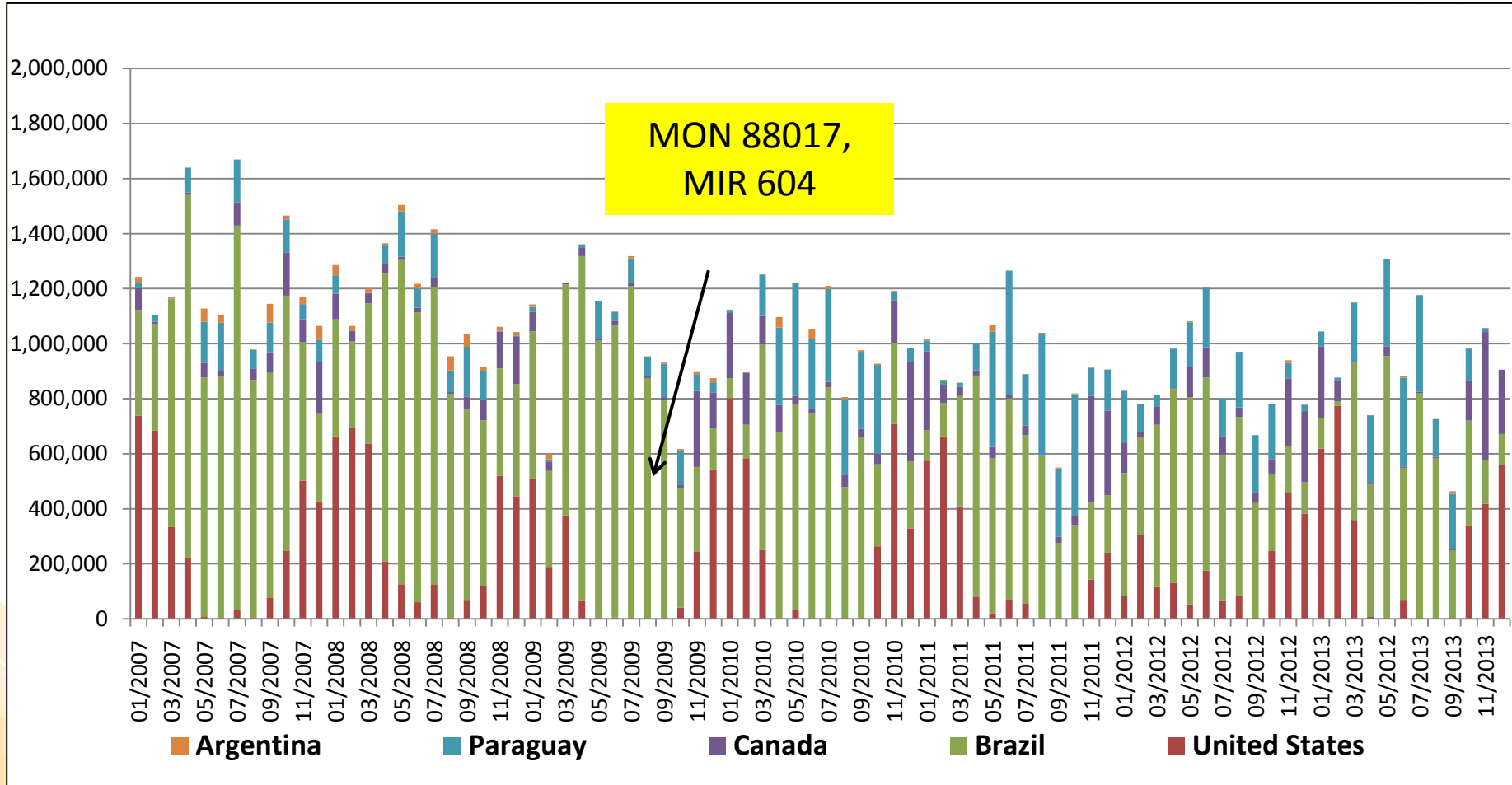
LLP brings enduring trade flows disruptions



Source: GTIS, Toepfer

EU import of Soybean from the US in tons

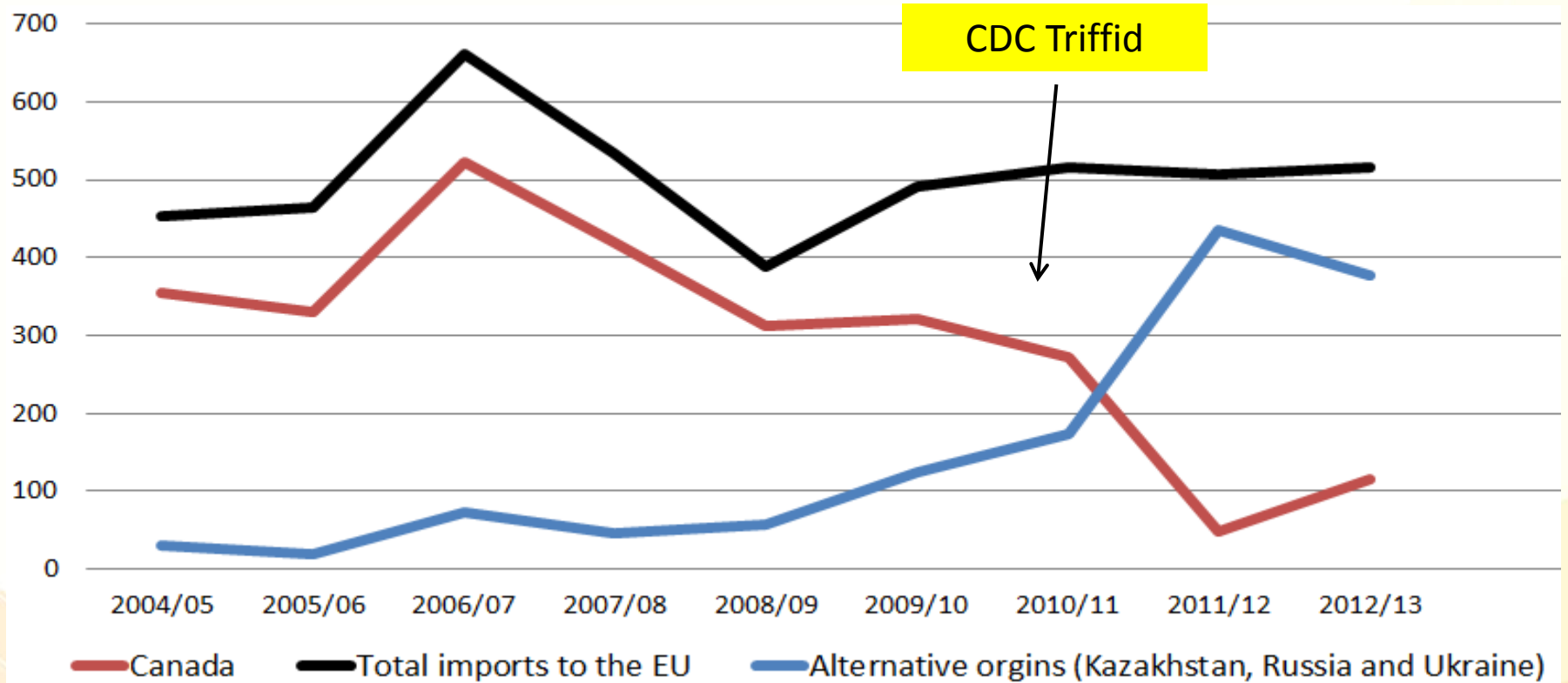
LLP brings enduring trade flows disruptions



Source: GTIS

EU import of linseed from Canada in 1,000 tons

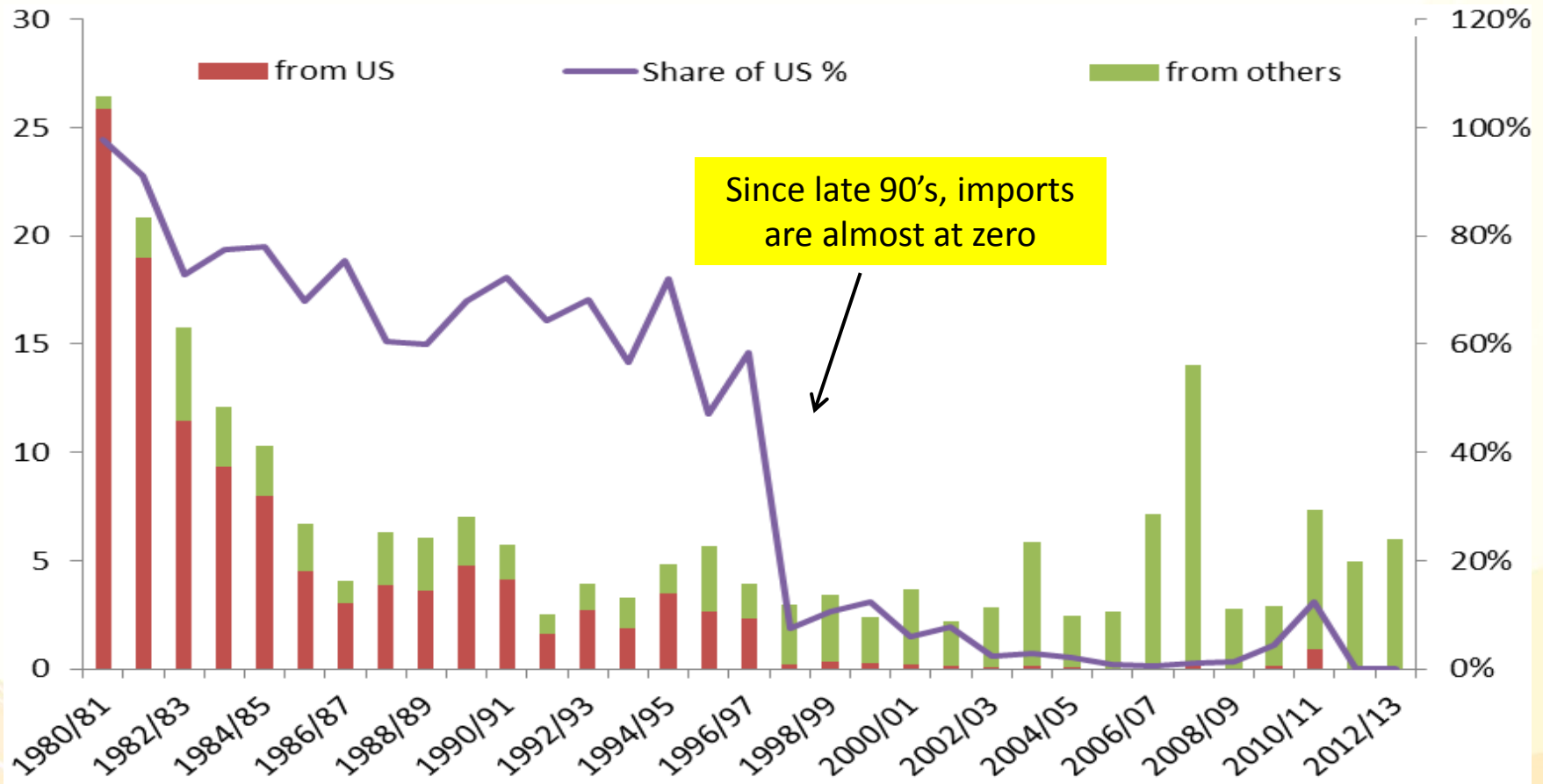
LLP brings structural changes to trade



Source: GTIS

EU import of maize from US in mln tons

LLP brings structural changes to trade

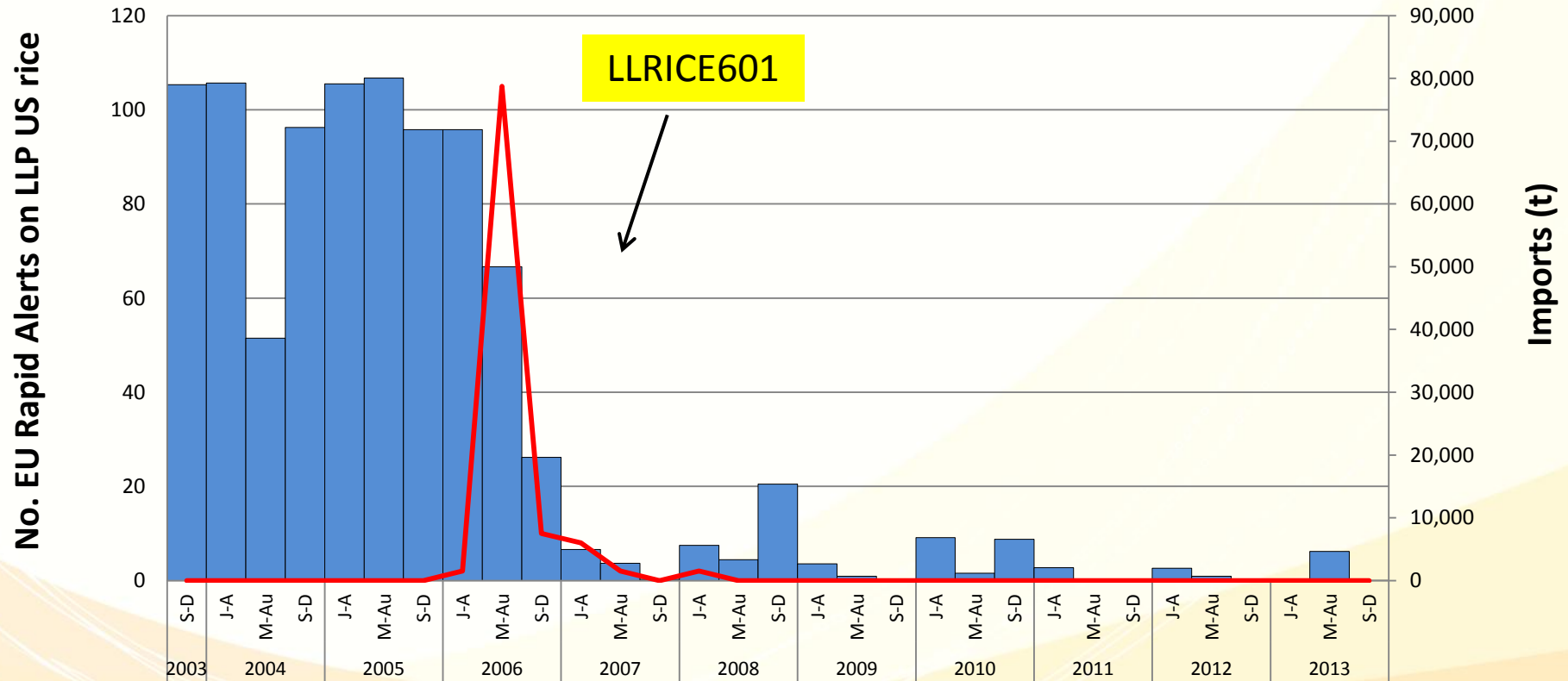


Source: GTIS

EU import of rice from US in tons

LLP brings structural changes to trade

EU import of US origin husked rice (2003-2013)



Source: Eurostat

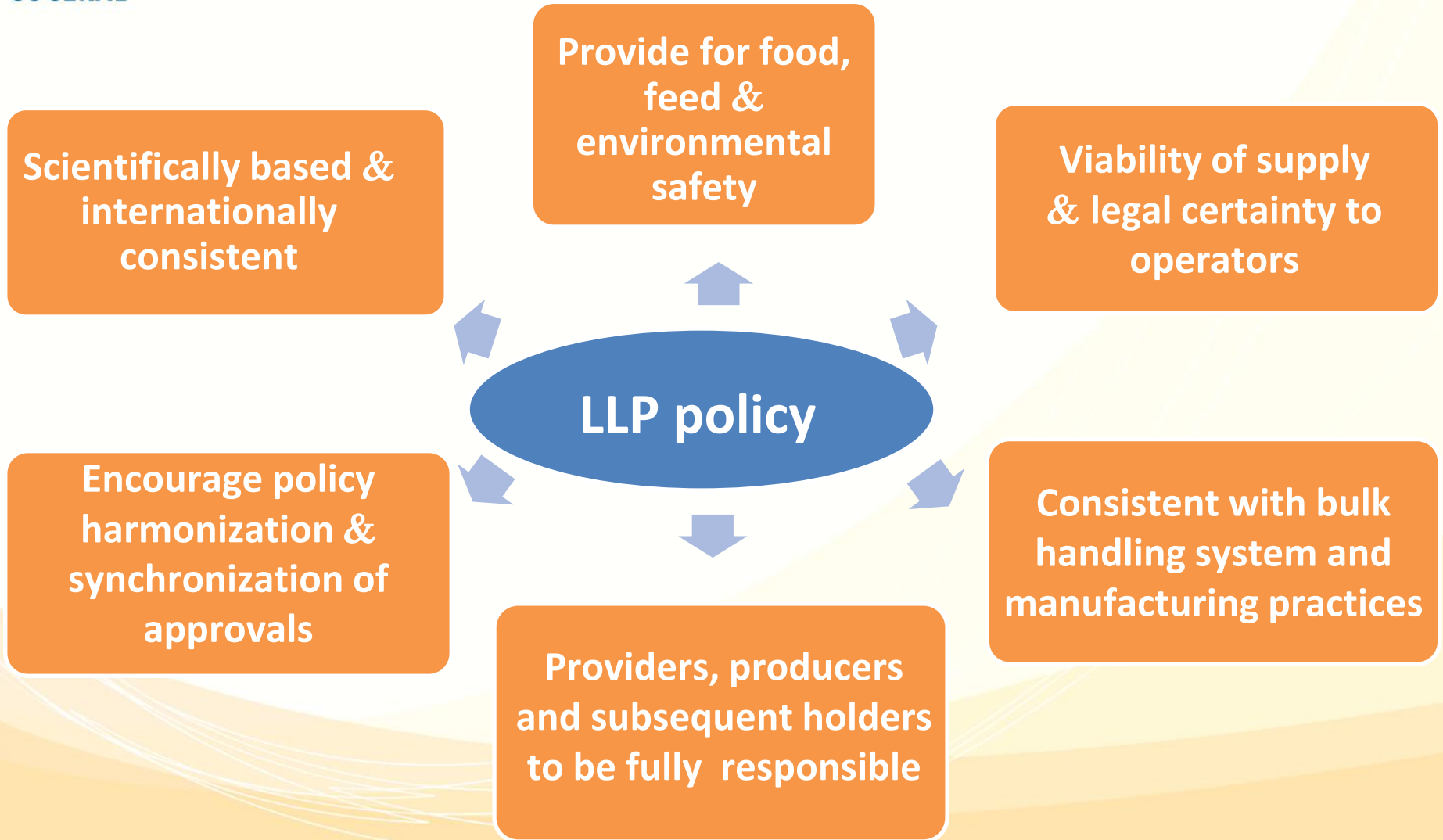
How to move forward?

International Statement on Low Level Presence, Vancouver 2012

- a. **Reducing asynchronous approvals** the most effective way of reducing trade disruptions due to LLP.
- b. Immediate **need to address the risk to trade arising from LLP** occurrences, a risk that impacts importing and exporting countries alike, and global food security in general.

Long-lasting policies for the management of LLP

A need for trade and supply





Long-lasting policies for the management of LLP

A need for trade and supply

LLP policy must cover:

- a. All food and feed domestically produced and imported
- b. All GM products fully authorized by one or more exporting countries based on the plant Codex risk assessment guidelines
- c. In the importing countries, all GM products that:
 - i. Went through a LLP Codex risk assessment and resulted in **no risks to human and animal health at low levels**
 - ii. Were assigned an LLP marketing threshold

DRAFT



Conclusions

Low Level Presence

An international approach to a global issue is needed

- Exporting and importing countries to work together to find global and practical strategies for the management of LLP and reduction of asynchronous GM authorizations
- Regulatory cooperation instead of “too much ado”
- Domestic long-lasting approaches on LLP policy based on international recognized food safety standards and mechanism:
 - to continue moving goods from areas of surplus to areas of deficit
 - to ensure availability of agricultural commodities at affordable prices
 - to provide legal certainty for business operators

Thank you for your attention

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