

The voice of Ireland's farming industry

IRISH
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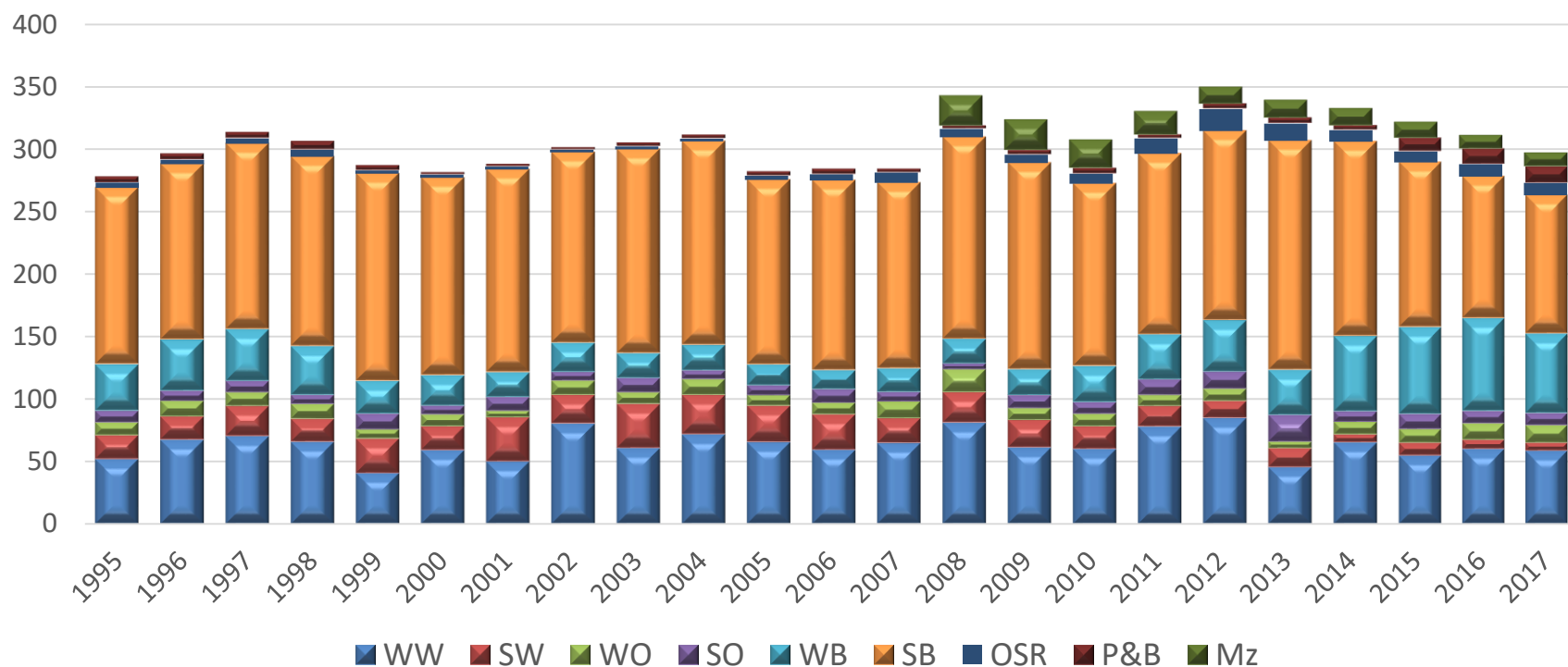
A future in tillage

Today

1. Some background
2. The yield challenge
3. Costs and prices
4. Future constraints and restrictions

1. Background

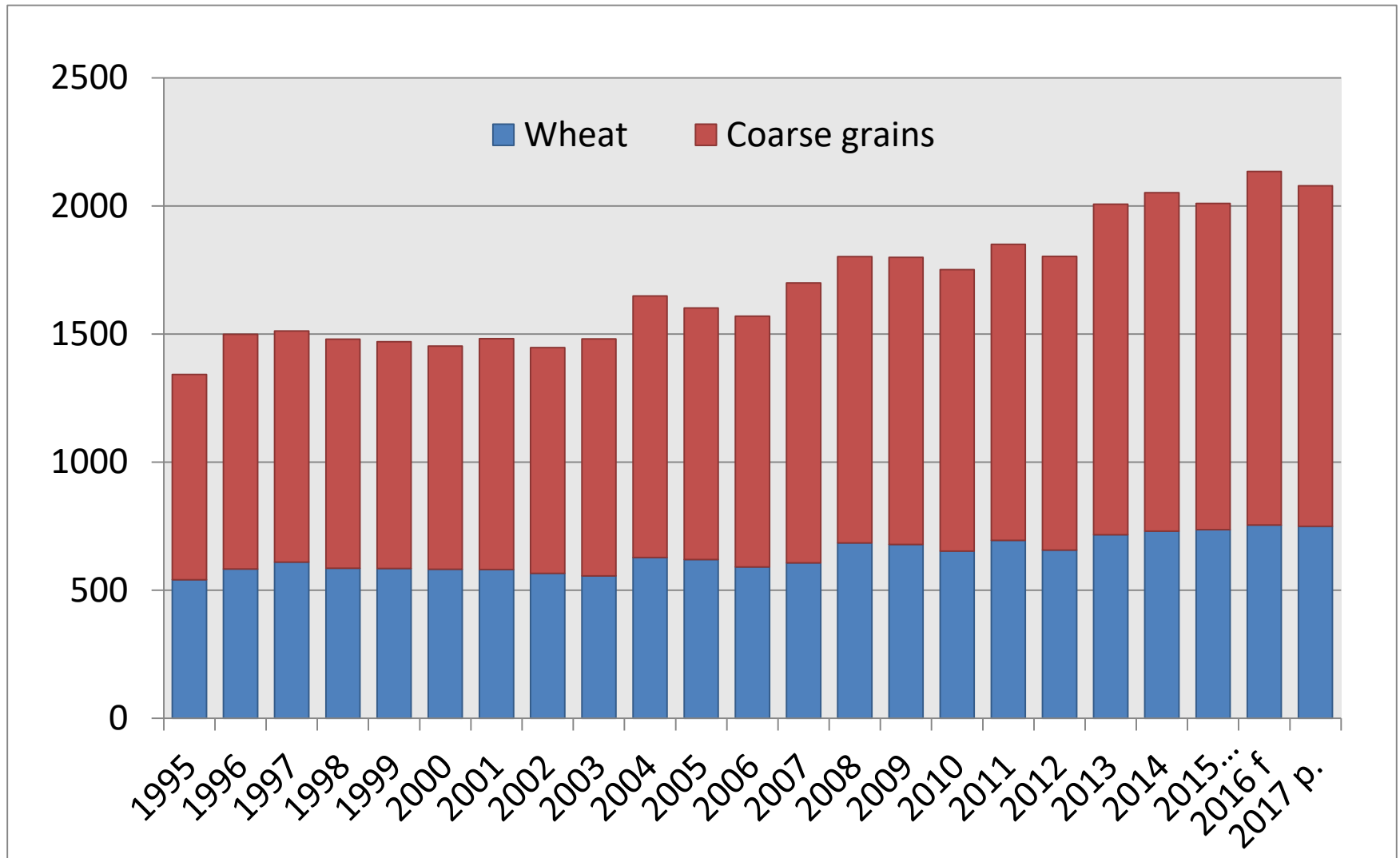
National crop area trend ('000ha)



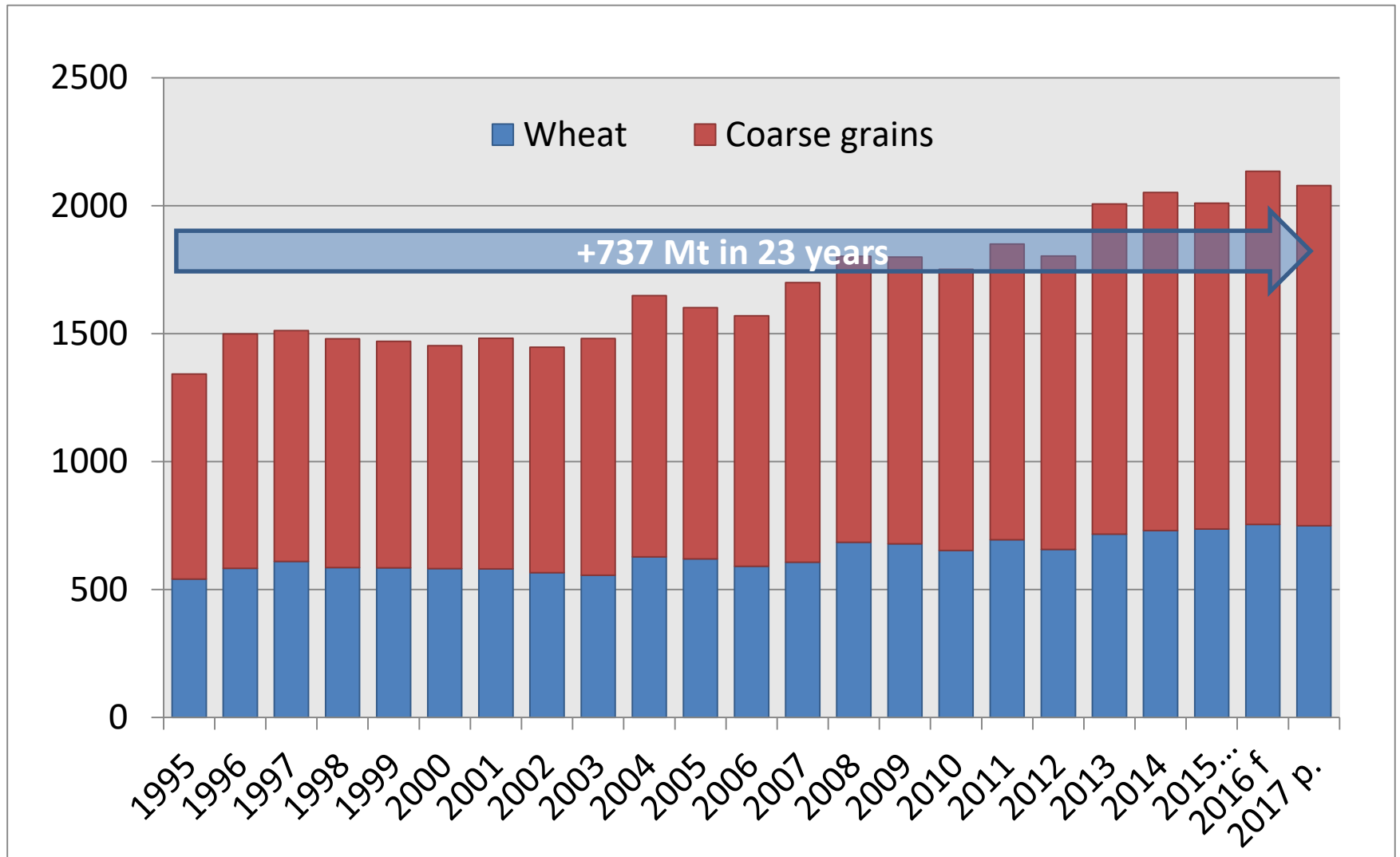
Cereal production

- Ireland: 2.3 million tonnes
- EU 28: 310 million tonnes 0.1%
- World: 2,100 million tonnes

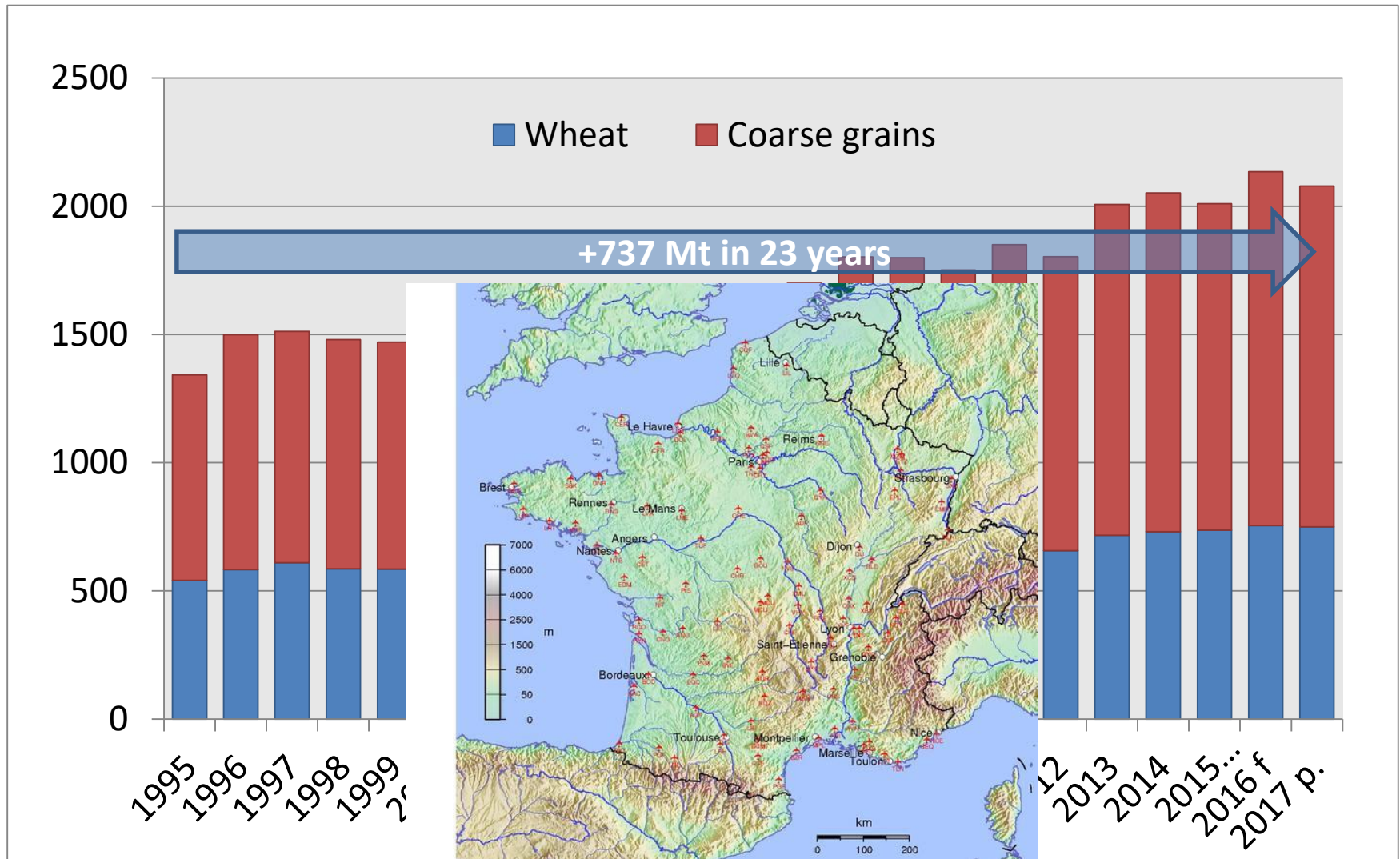
World wheat and coarse grain production (Mt)



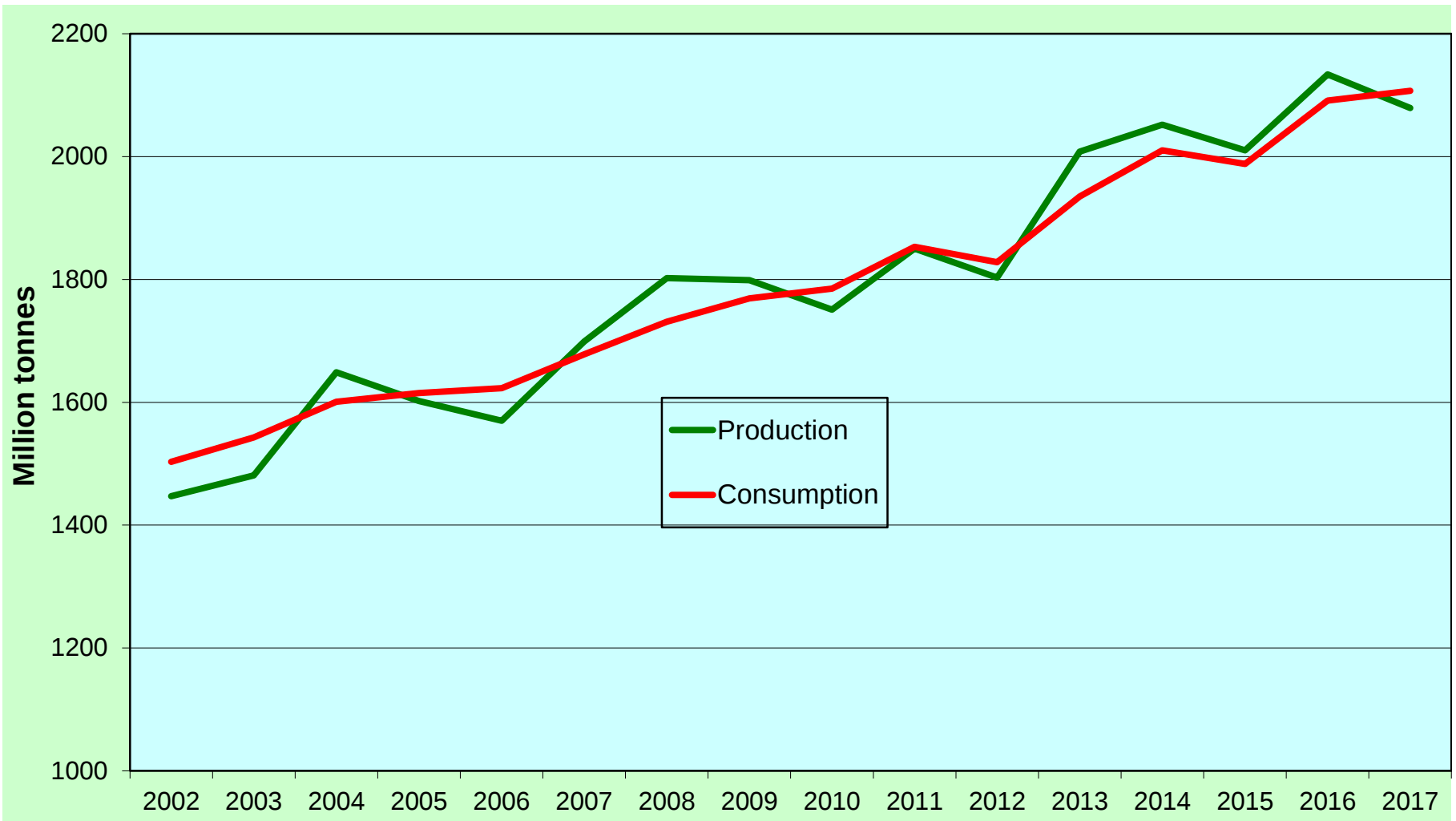
World wheat and coarse grain production (Mt)



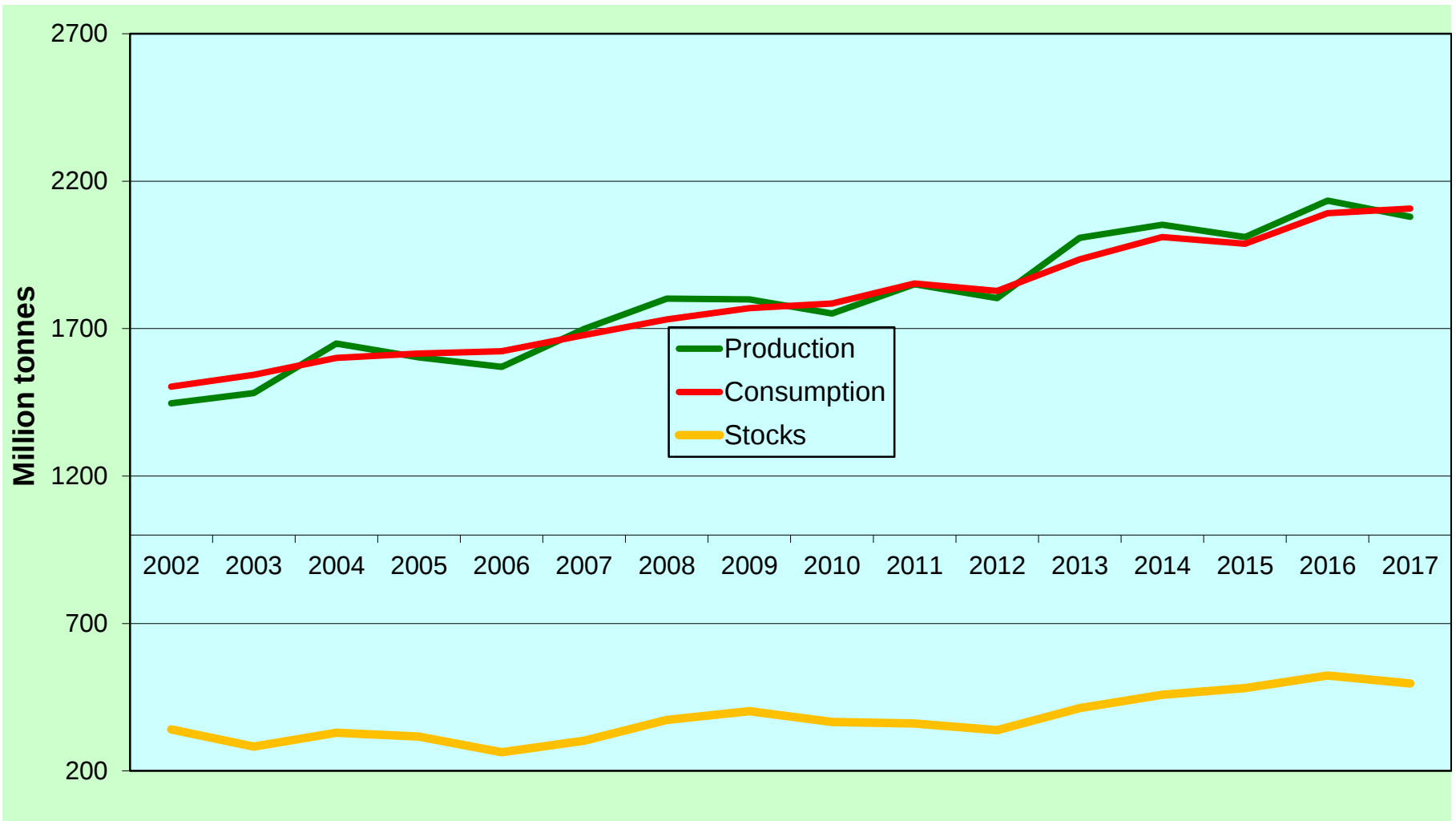
World wheat and coarse grain production (Mt)



World grain supply/demand/ Stocks



World grain supply/demand/ Stocks



Supply / Demand / Stocks

- Where is the supply
- Where is the demand
- Where are the stocks

2. The yield challenge

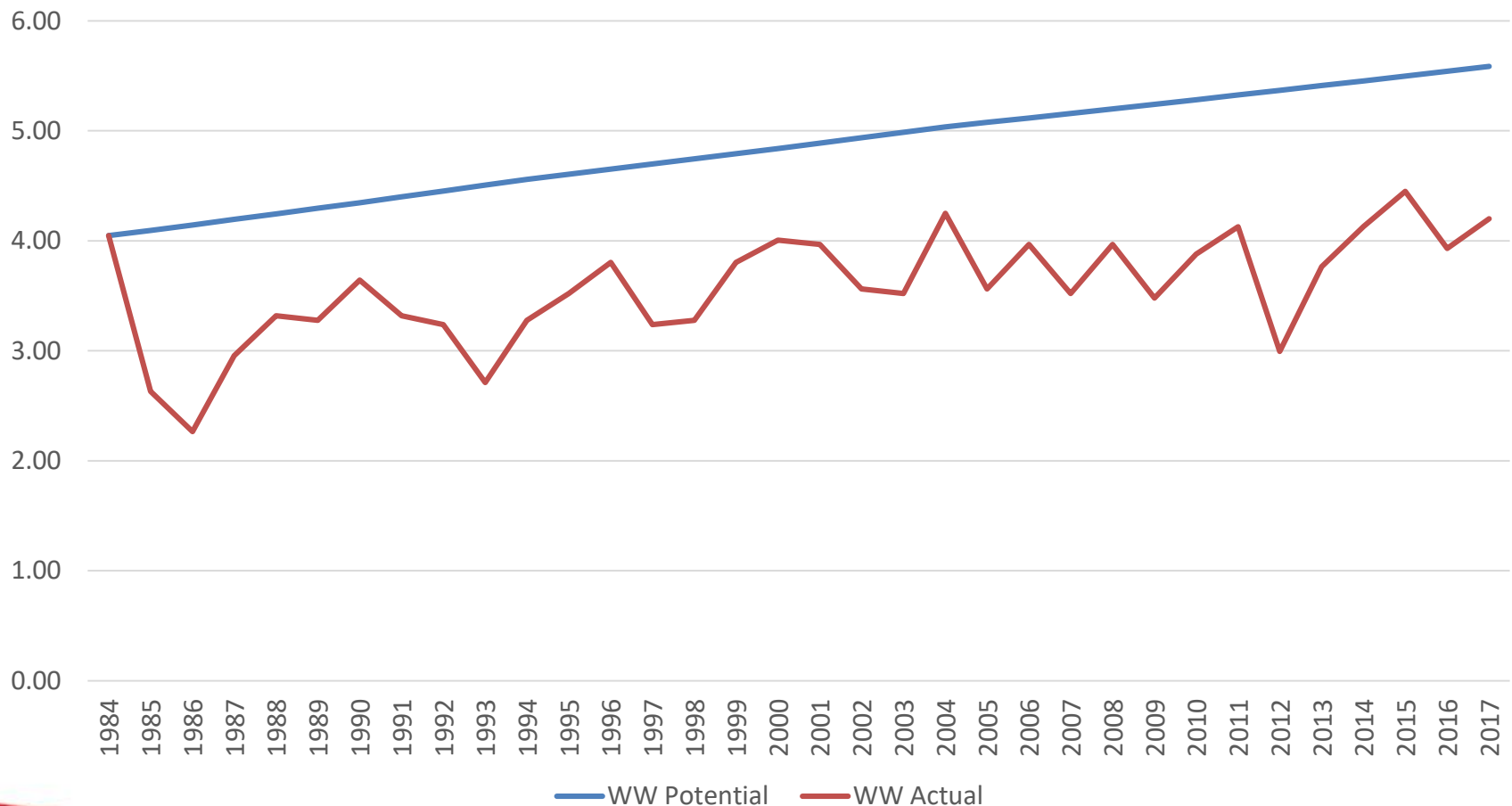
The need for increased output

- Yield potential is one of our few natural advantages
- Fill the yield gap - the 10t club must target 15t/ha
- The square meter challenge
- Help your land work harder for you

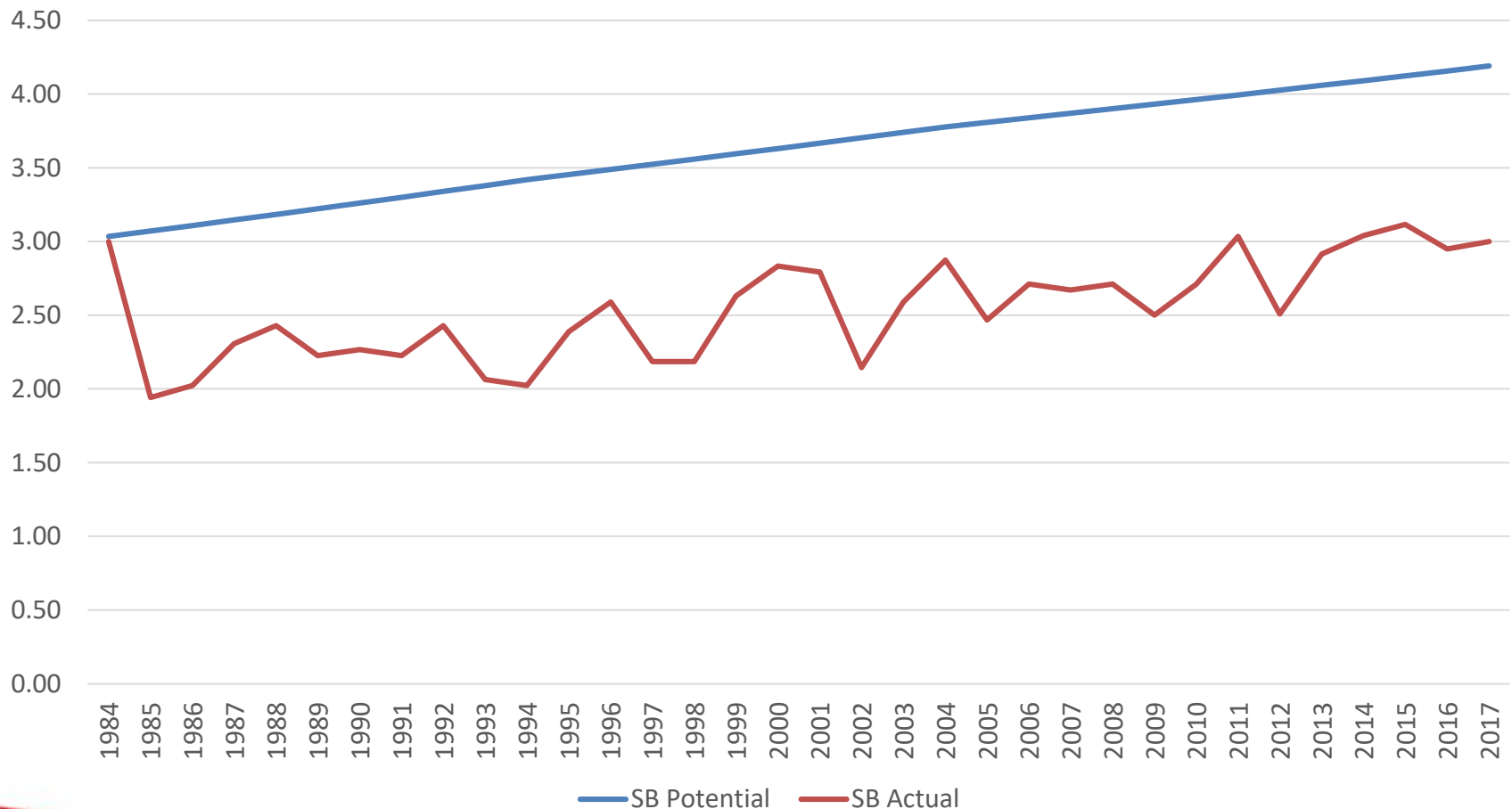
Remember 1984

- Dream yields
- Slow spring
- Fresher land
- Great summer
- Low moistures
- Great backend

Actual versus potential yields from winter wheat 1984 to 2017



Actual versus potential yields from spring barley 1984 to 2017



QUESTION

14 FEBRUARY 2018,
12.00am to 2.00pm,
TEMPERATURE 12°C

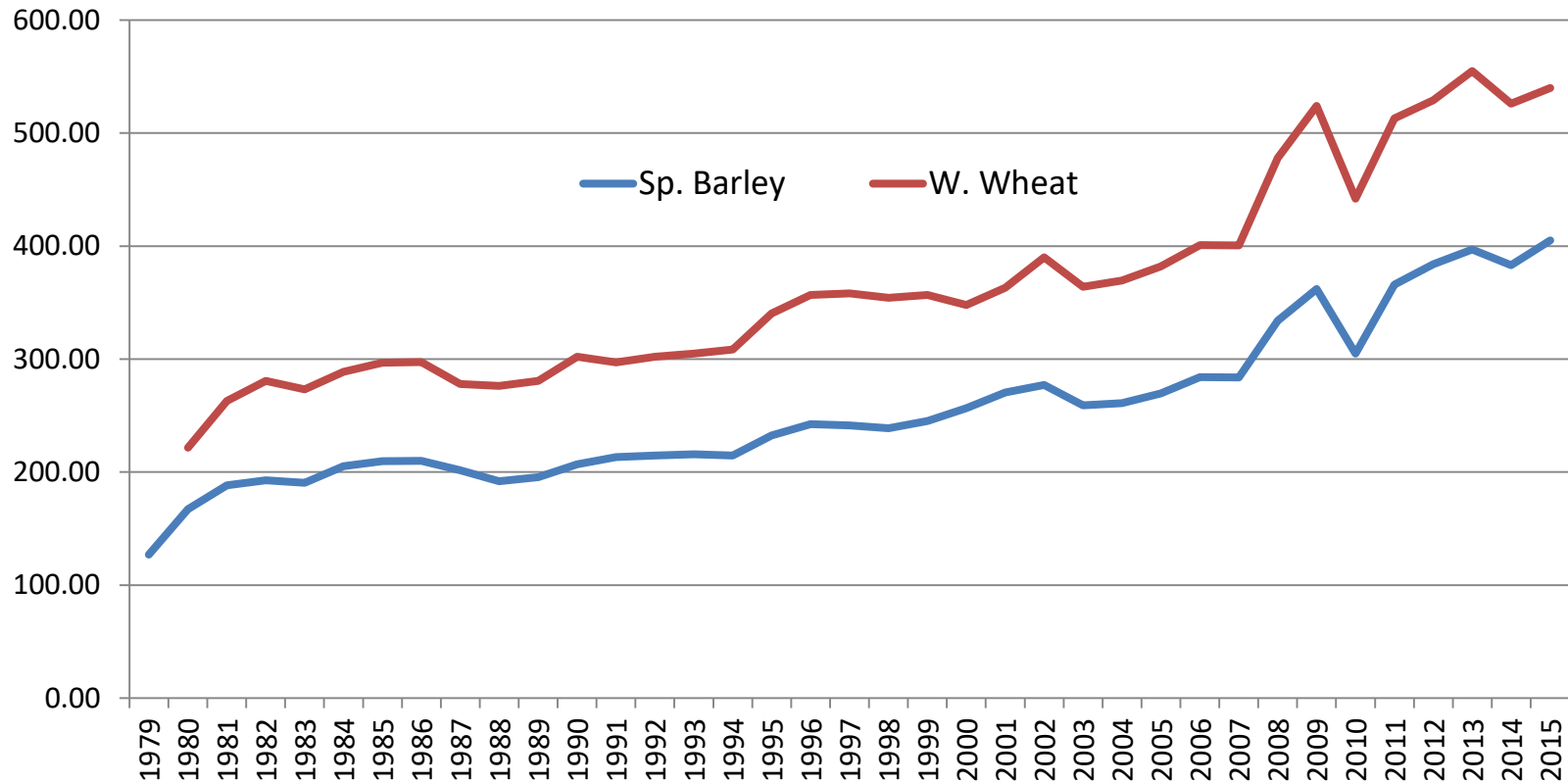
GROW OR NOT?

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR POWER IN THE GROUND

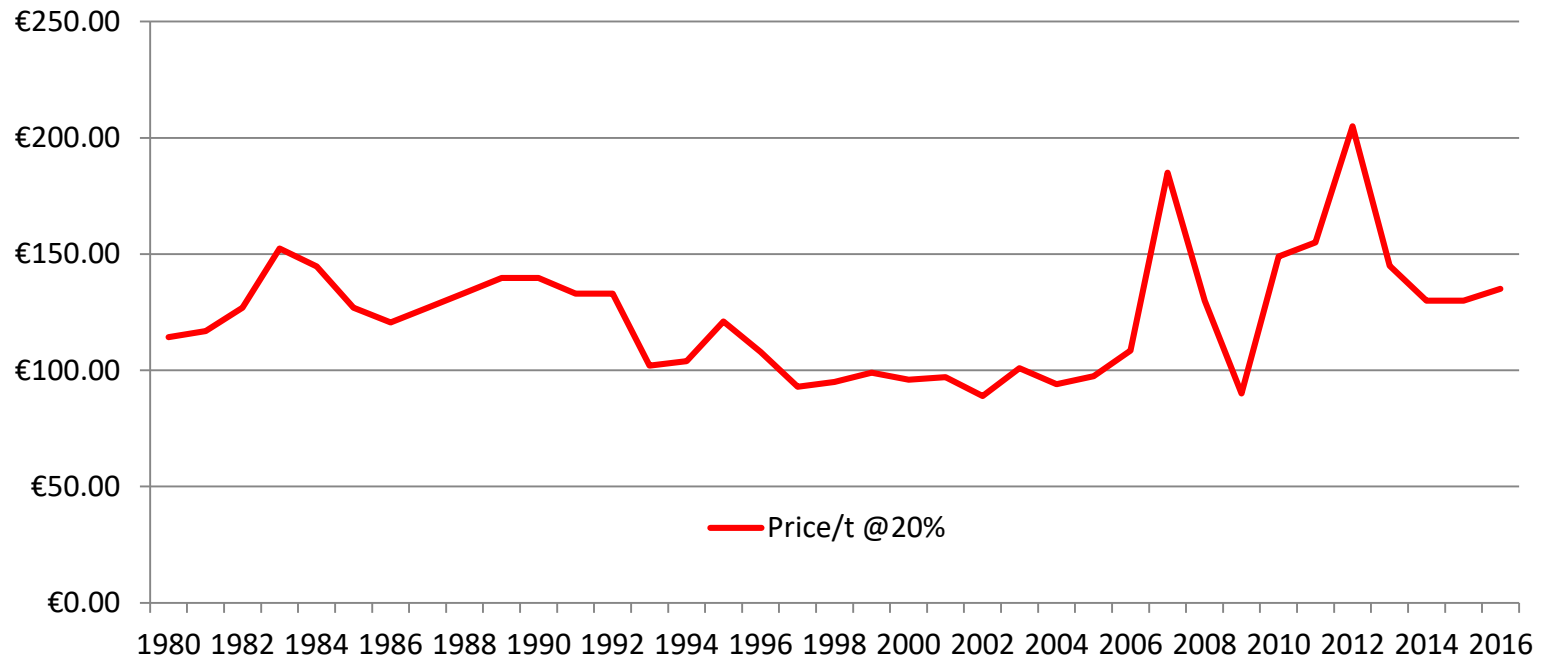
Healthy soil / Rotation / Mineralisation / Organic matter

3 & 4. Prices & costs

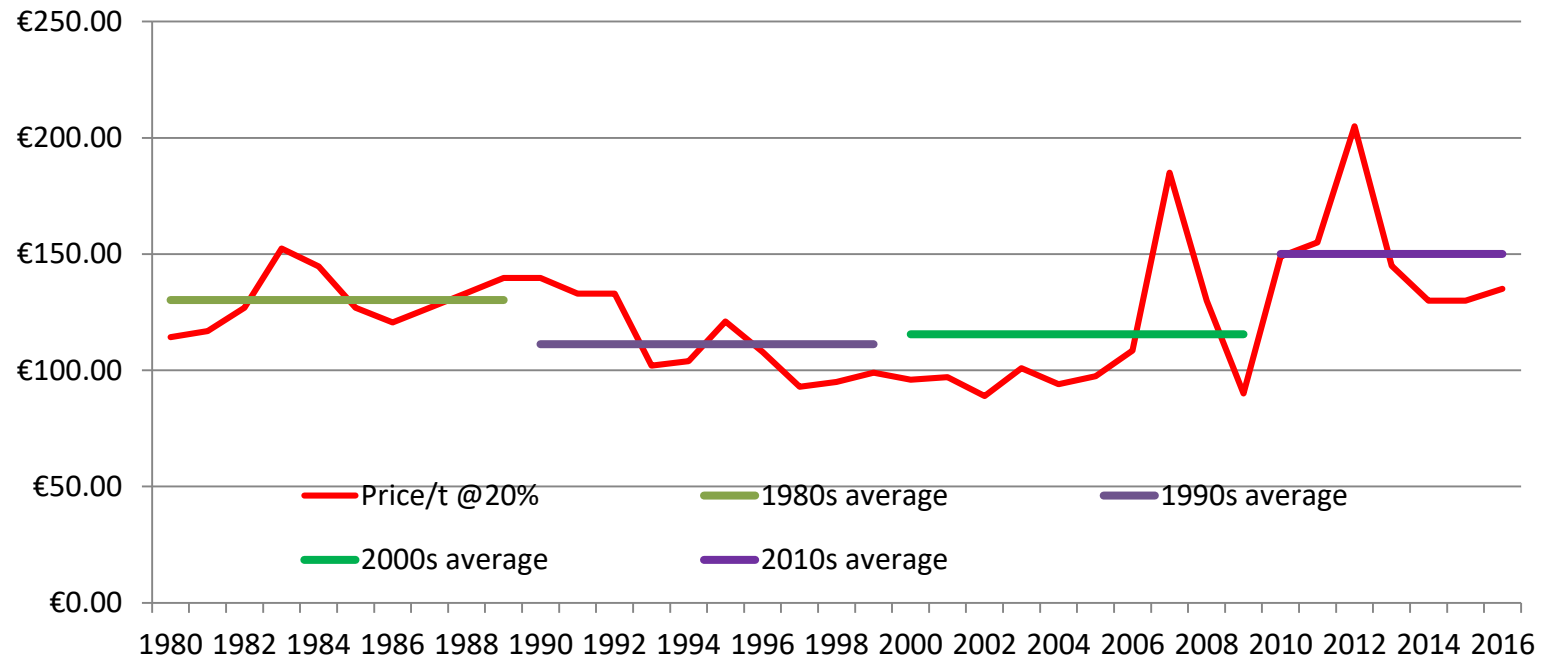
Teagasc production costs for spring barley and winter wheat 1979-2015 (€/ac).



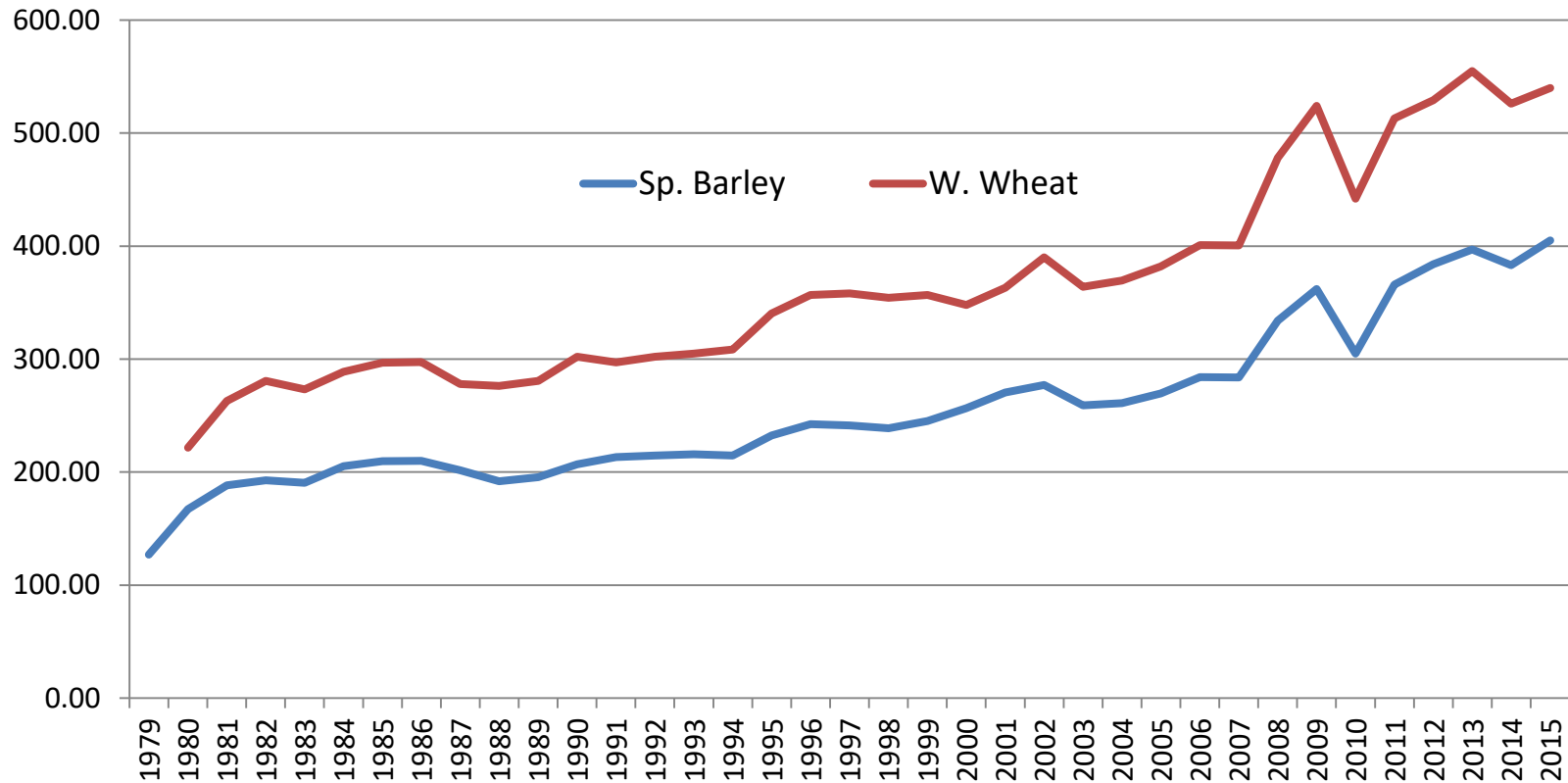
Green barley price movements since 1980.



Green barley price movements since 1980 with decade price averages.



Teagasc production costs for spring barley and winter wheat 1979-2015 (€/ac).



5. Future constraints and restrictions

Challenges

- Availability of agrochemicals
- Restrictions on timings and rates (spray, fert., etc.)
- Pest resistance
- Varieties and NBTs
- Price and premium
- Legislative framework -- CAP payments
- Climate change – environmental drivers
- Soil improvement

Challenges

- Mechanisation
- More precision farming technologies
 - DSS + tools
- Currency
- Learn to depend less on chemicals
- Scale??
- More fodder production
- Win the battle for the public

Summary

- There is a future in tillage
 - but for fewer people?
- Will depend on being able to exploit our yield potential and having plant protection tools
- Must try to add price premium options
- Commodities will remain a challenge
- We must be politically clever and active

Thank you.