

**Science  
for  
Consumers**

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**Agriculture Institute of Canada  
Klinck Lecture  
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# Agenda

## **Forces Driving Change**

**Serving the Customer**

**Sociopolitical Trends**

**New Technologies**

**International Competition**

**Opportunities**

# The Customer

## **Better Educated Customer Base**

**More technically literate, educated,  
demanding**

**Farmer as much a businessman as an  
agronomist**

**Supported by easy access to Information**



# The Technology

## Knowledge is Power

- **Problems are increasingly complex**
- **No “silver” bullet**
- **Integrating technologies is critical**
- **Computing needs  
extensive**



# Tech Transfer

## The “Face” of Science

### Requires broad knowledge base

- Return of the “GP” for triage
- Specialist must work in teams

### TT is science’s point of customer contact

- Marketing is key

### Need unique skill set

- Marketing, not science
- Market not science driven

# **Socio- Political Trends**

**The Politicians Finally Get It!**

**Energy Conservation**

**Environmental Quality**

**Food and Water Safety**

**Government Regulations Remain  
Complex and Contradictory**

# New Technologies

## ICT

- Precision Ag

## Life Sciences

- All of the “omics”

## Mechanics

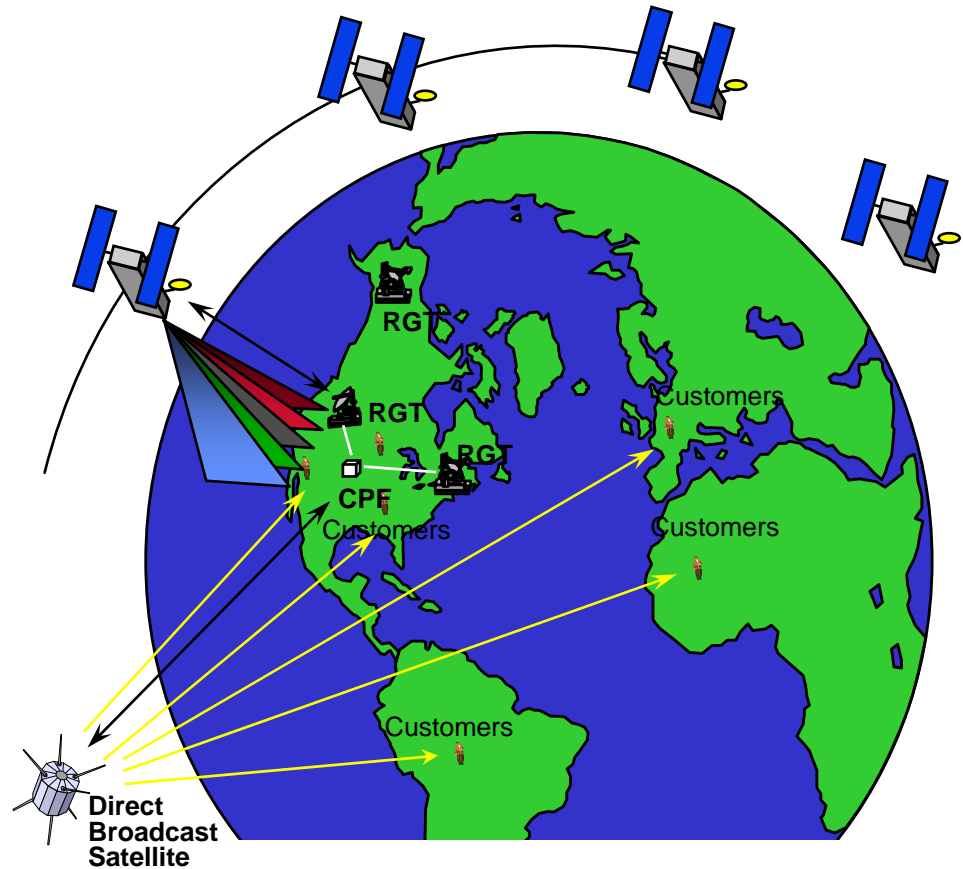
- Despite all of the science, we need to make it work in the field



ICT

# Technology Impact

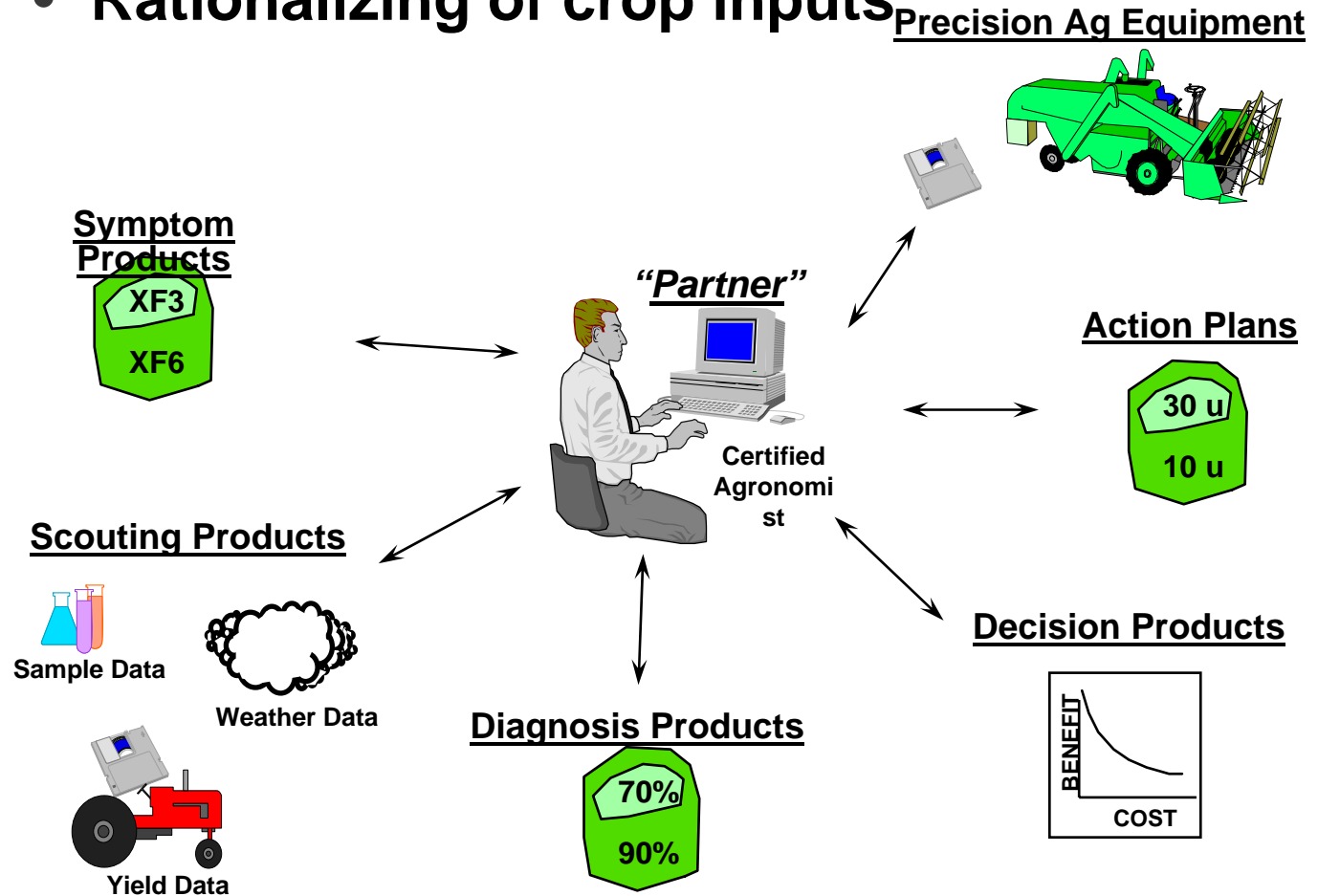
- quantum leaps in technology anticipated
- giving strategic advantage



ICT

# Technology Impact

- Information systems
- Rationalizing of crop inputs



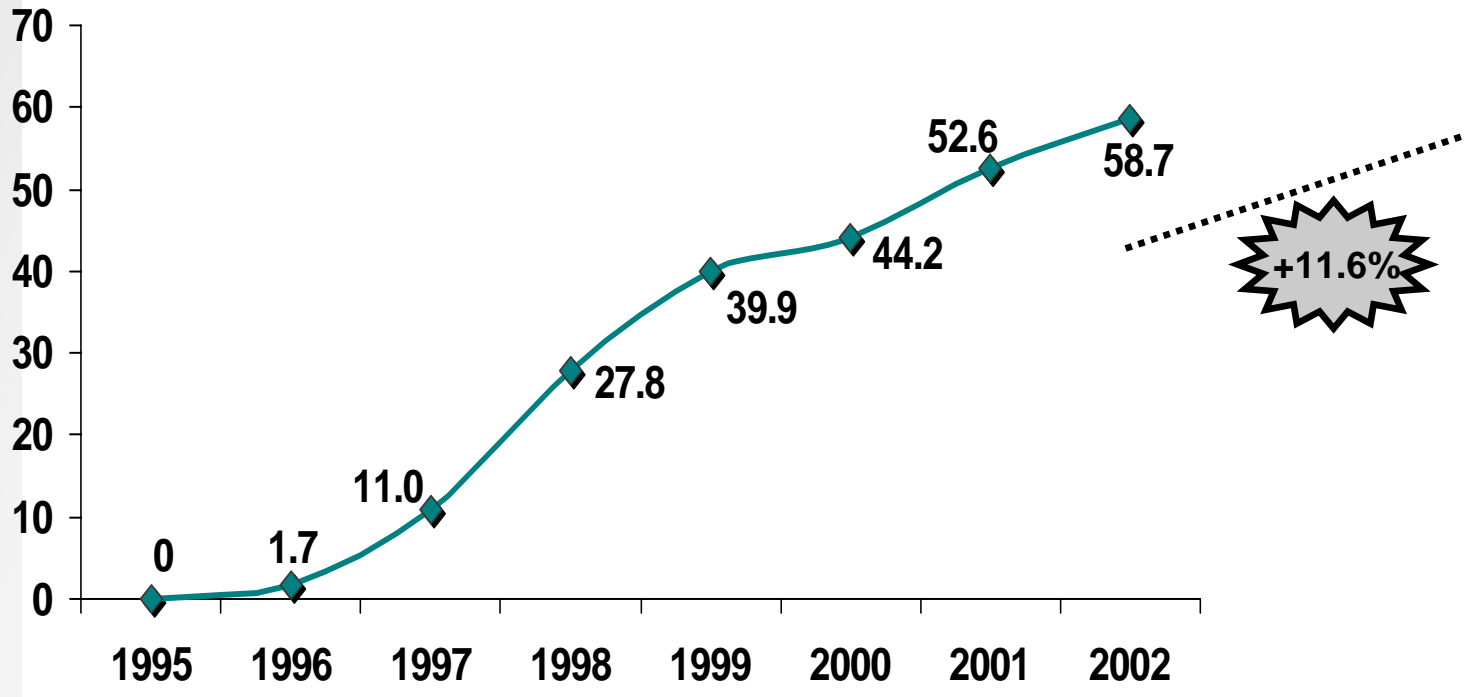
# Genomics Proteomic

Higher yields=more not less fertilizer

## Plant Genetics

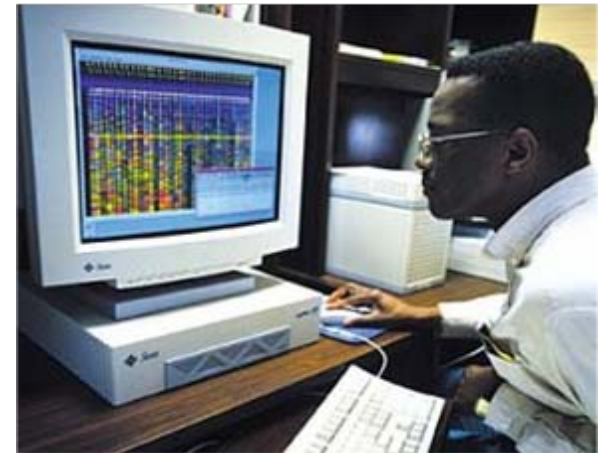
- higher yields
- disease resistance
- herbicide resistance
- quality
- new crops
- new accessible geographies
- hybrids
- increased fertilizer & moisture use efficiency

# Genetically-Altered Crops Are A Fact (M ha)



# “Output” Traits to Come

- Remedy to deficiencies:  
**higher vitamin and iron content**
- Improved nutritional profile:  
**improved amino acid and fatty acid composition**
- Improved processing properties:  
**modified starch, higher solid content,  
improved fiber quality**
- Reduction of post-harvest losses:  
**delayed ripening, improved storage  
capacity**




Courtesy of Syngenta

# **New Crop Traits with Potential Impact on Fertilizer Consumption**


- **Enhanced potassium absorption**
- **Higher bioavailable phosphorus content**
- **Improved protein content**
- **Improved content in essential amino acids**
- **Higher iron content**
- **Other functional foods, nutraceuticals**
- **Tolerance to drought and salinity**
  - Aluminium tolerance
  - Phytase-excreting plants
  - Improved nutrient uptake and metabolism efficiency
  - Genetic control of heavy metals uptake and/or tolerance
  - Improver energy efficiency of energy crops
  - Low lignin
  - C4 genes

**Expected  
Positive  
of Biotech on  
Fertilizer  
Demand**



Today -	<b>Essential amino acids</b>	S++	
	<b>Higher protein content</b>		N++
	<b>Higher iron content</b>	Fe++	
	<b>Functional foods/nutraceuticals</b>	K+, S+, micro+	
2008 -	<b>Tolerance to drought/salinity</b>	All +	
	<b>Tolerance to acid soils</b>		All++
⋮	<b>Improved energy crops</b>	All++	<b>(if policy support)</b>
⋮			
2020 -	Low lignin	All +	
	C4 genes	All ++	

**Expected  
Negative  
Impacts of  
Biotech on  
Fertilizer  
Demand**



Today	<b>Herbicide tolerance</b>	P-	
	<b>Higher phytase production grade)</b>	P--	<b>(feed</b>
2008 -	<b>Essential amino acids</b>	N--	
	<b>Tolerance to acid soils (temporary)</b>		P--
:	<b>Nutrient use efficiency</b>	N--, P---	
:			
2020 -	<b>Nitrogen fixation</b>	<b>N---</b>	<b>(theoretically)</b>

**From Potential  
to Likely  
Impact:  
Some  
to Be Answered**

**Example: Transfer of symbiotic ability to cereals**

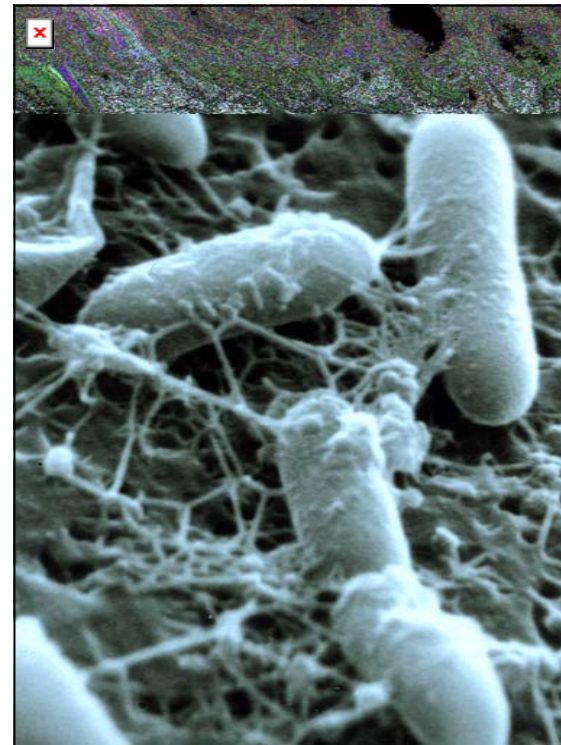
- **Timeframe required for transferring the gene(s)**
- **Expected problems associated with the gene expression**
- **Tentative release date**
- **Expected yield loss associated with symbiosis**
- **Intellectual property issues**
- **Economic benefit for the farmers (by farming system)**
- **Impact of fertilizers with improved use efficiency**
- **Impact of environmental regulations**

## **“Omics” Conclusions**

- Many inventions with potential impact on crop nutrition
  - Impact: either positive or negative
- What about likely impact on fertilizer demand?
  - Probably slightly positive in 15-year timeframe; then reversal
- Shift from fertilizer to plant nutrient to crop input management management suppliers
- Lead by developing disruptive technologies before non-traditional competitors do
- Ensure more fundamental R&D and engineering base in the public sector
- Forge strong links between the seed and fertilizer industry

## Quantum Technical Breakthroughs

- **Potential “disruptive” technologies affecting key product lines**
  - Nitrogen
  - Potassium
  - Phosphorus
  - Sulphur



Only a fraction of the microbial flora can be cultivated

## Biologicals: Harnessing the Rhizosphere

- Focus on “The Hidden Half”
  - **root health critical to nutrient, water uptake**
  - **manipulation of this “source sink” is critical**
- Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR)
- Biological Control Agents (BCA's)



Courtesy of Monsanto

**Improvement  
of  
Microorganism  
and Symbiosis**

- Phosphorus solubilization
- Sulphur oxidization
- Ability to develop symbiosis with nitrogen fixing bacteria
- Improved nitrogen fixation in legumes



## Some Developments in Other Technologies

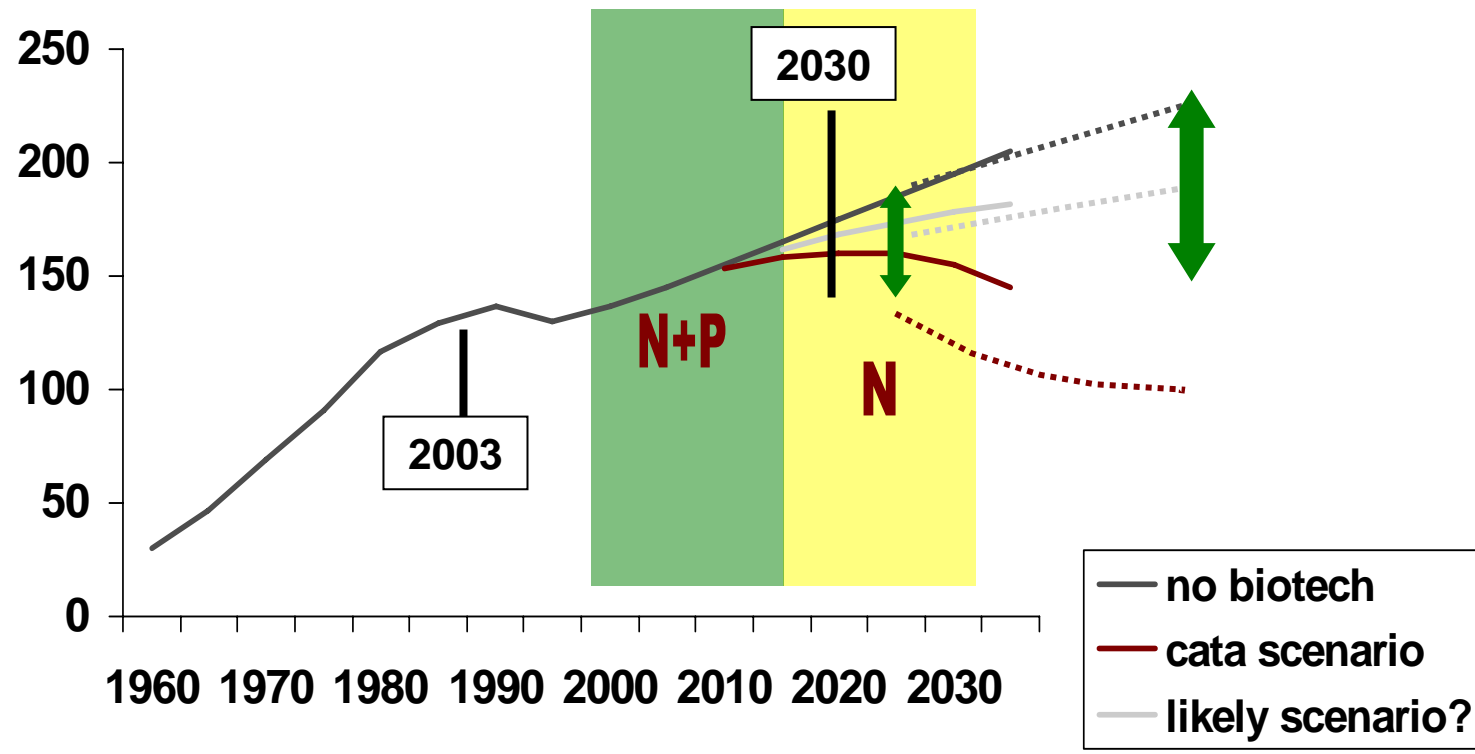
- Conservation farming
- Seed coating with phosphorus
- Improved FUE:
  - polymers, inhibitors
- Improved catalysis:  
transition metal chemistry
- Solar-powered urea plants in LDC's



Courtesy of Monsanto



# Fertilizer Demand Forecasts (Mt) The Scenarios



# What Does Ag Chem Mean?

## **Competitive environment changing**

- **Consolidation in seed and ag chem**
- **But not in fertilizers (most gov't owned)**
- **more R&D in industry**



## Types of Fertilizer

A hand is shown holding a large pile of brown, granular fertilizer. The granules are small and irregular in shape, and they are being held in a way that some are falling away from the pile. The background is a light, textured surface.

- **Controlled release fertilizer**
  - less need for post-emergence fertilization
  - increased fall fertilization opportunities
- **Higher analysis fertilizers**
  - new chemical technologies  
(high S, higher solution N, etc.)

# Mechanics

## Machinery

- Minimum or zero tillage
- Planting precision
- Precision Farming



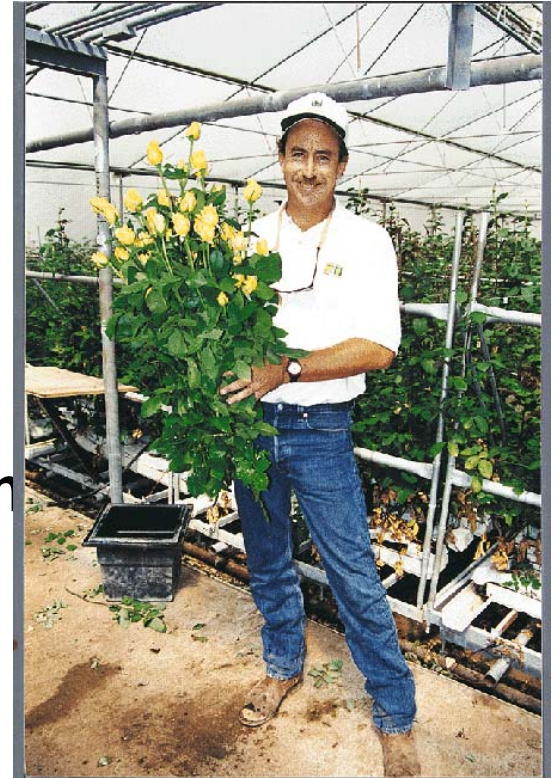
# Don't Forget the Basics

## Agronomic Practices

- Right Product
- Right Place
- Right Time

## Results

- Reduced losses
- Increased nutrient uptake
- Moisture conservation
- Uniform seedling emergence
- Better ROI



## BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China)

### Common themes

- Vast amounts of rich, low cost land (Brazilian cerrado)
- Low labour costs
  - **I repeat : Low Labour Costs**
- Less need for mechanization
- Economic growth comes before the environment
- Rapid adoption of new technologies
- Export oriented

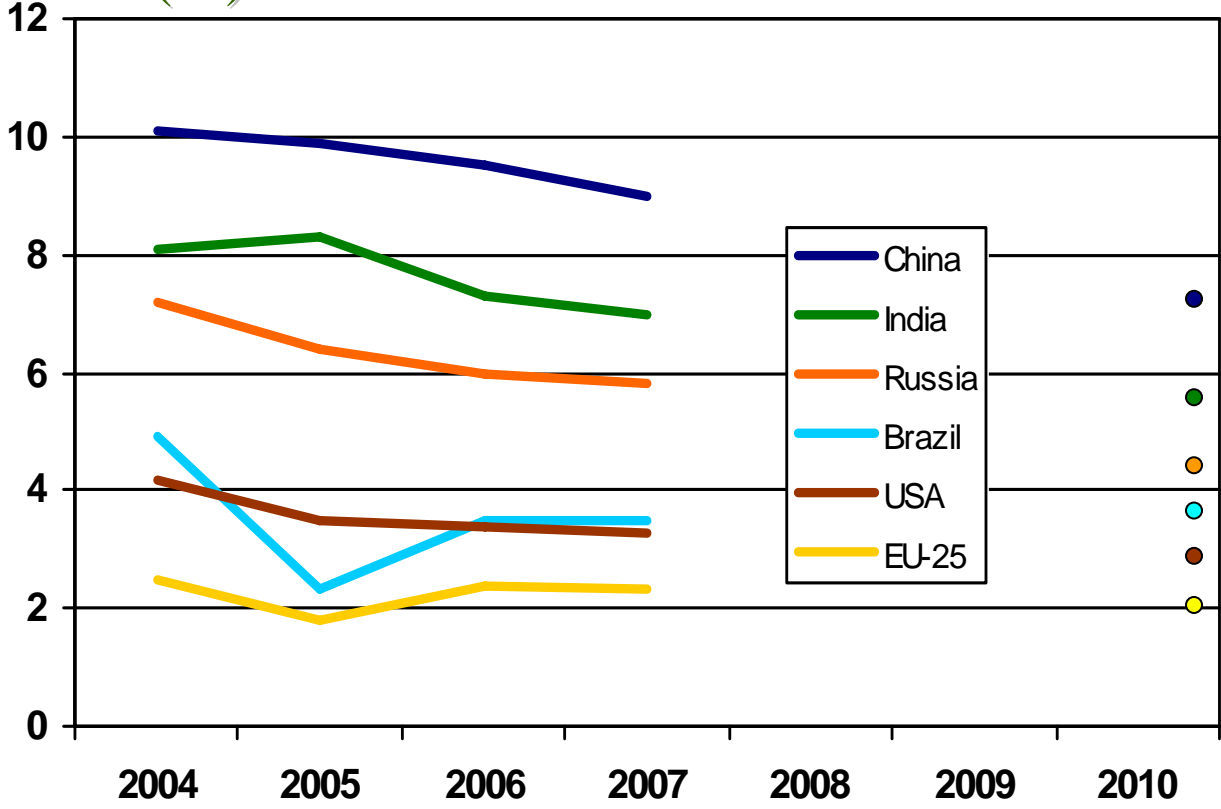
## **Population & Economic Growth**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Population Growth</b>	<b>Expected GDP 2006</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>1.3 billion</b>	<b>8-10 %</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>1.1 billion</b>	<b>5-10%</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>241 million</b>	<b>4-5%</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>186 million</b>	<b>4-5%</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>40 million</b>	<b>7-8 %</b>

**Source: Economist Intelligence Unit**

# GDP Growth of Selected Countries (%)

## GDP Growth of Selected Countries (%)



Source: IMF + FAPRI





***TANGO 1914***



***TANGO 2001***



# Agricultural Profile of Brazil

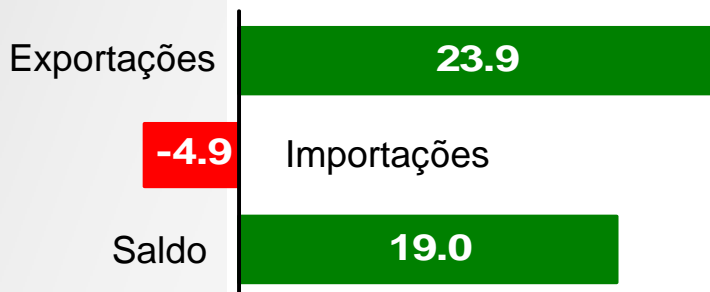
## Posição do Brasil no Ranking Mundial

### *Produção Agrícola*

- √ **1º** em Cana, Laranja e Café
- √ **2º** em Soja
- √ **3º** em milho

## Balança Comercial do Agronegócio

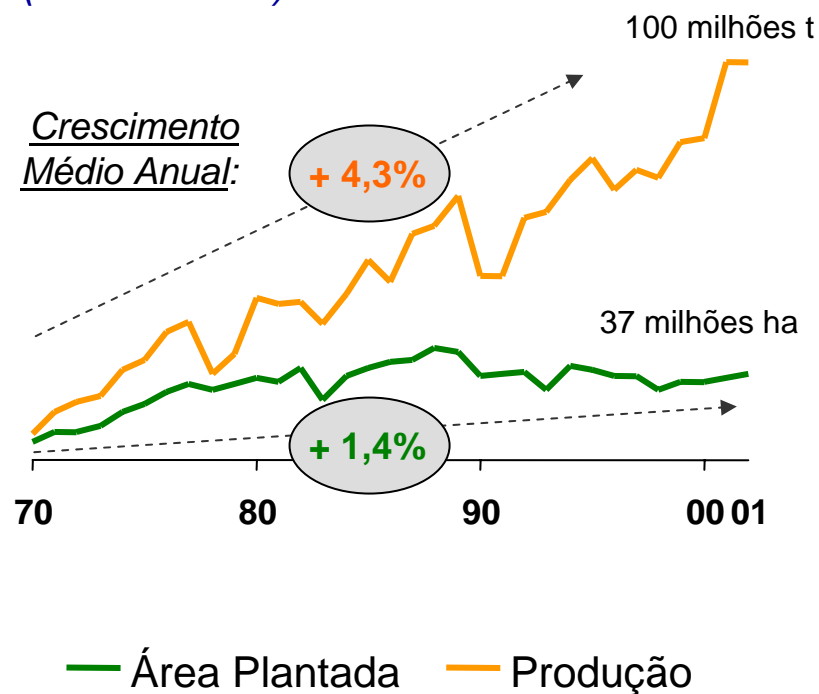
(US\$ bilhões)



## Mercado Brasileiro de Grãos

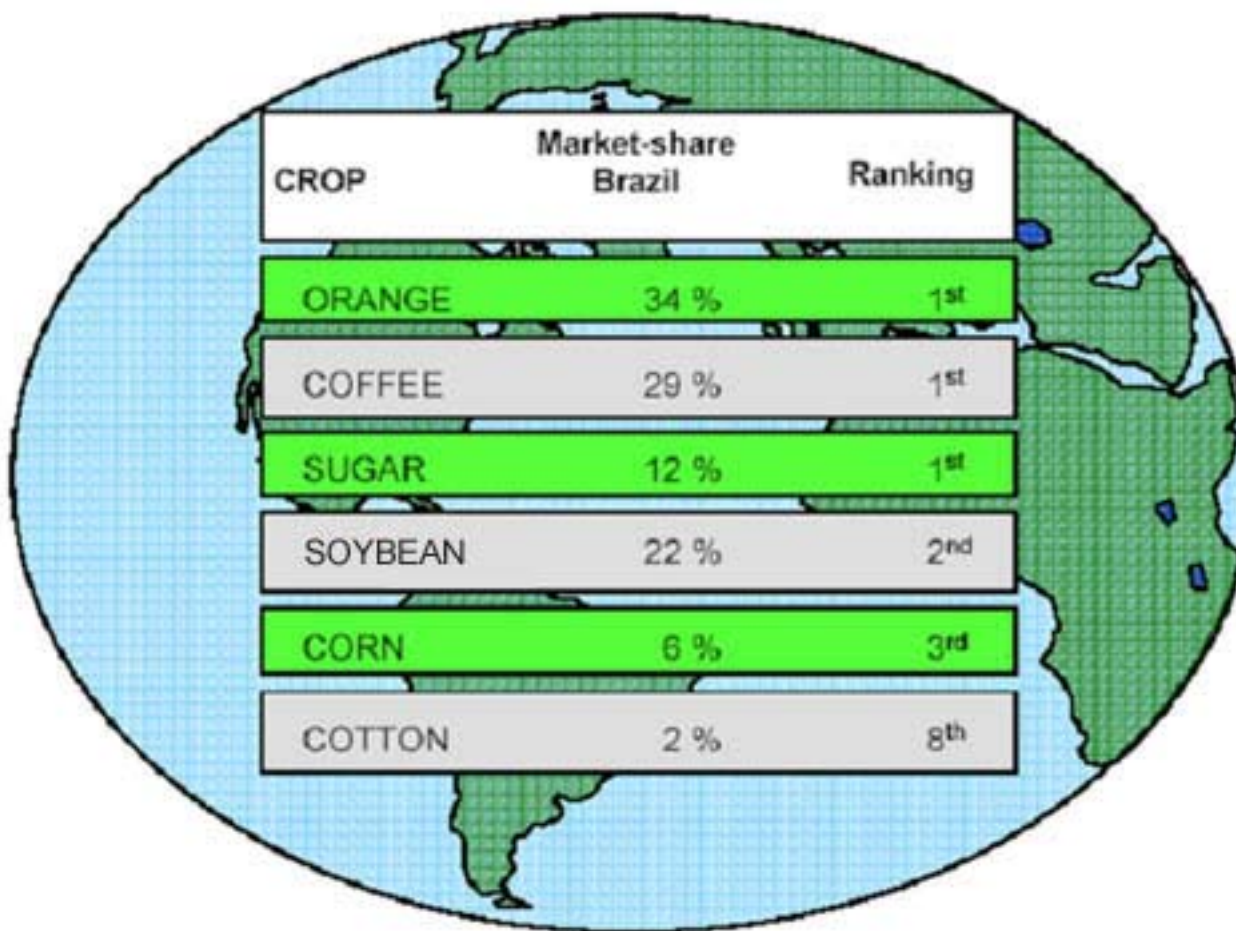
### *Produção x Área Plantada*

(1970 a 2001)



*Fontes:* USDA / FAO / IBGE / SECEX

## Brazilian Market-share



# Posição

## Ranking do Consumo de Fertilizantes

(1999 / 2000)

	NPK	Nitrogênio	Fósforo	Potássio
1º	China (26%)	China	China	EUA
2º	EUA (14%)	EUA	Índia	China
3º	Índia (13%)	Índia	EUA	<b>Brasil</b>
4º	<b>Brasil</b> (4%)	França	<b>Brasil</b>	Índia
5º	França (3%)	Paquistão <b>Brasil (9º)</b>	Austrália	França

Total do

Consumo:

140 milhões t

85 milhões t

33 milhões t

22 milhões t

Participações:

- 5 maiores

60%

61%

62%

58%

- Brasil

4%

2%

6%

10%

*Fontes: ANDA / IFA*

# The Cerrado



# International Competition

## Names to Watch For

### Brasil

Bunge



CVRD



### China

Sinofert



CNOOC



## Where We Cannot Compete

- × **Low labour cost**
- × **Low land cost**
- × **Low natural gas cost**
- × **Low \$CDN to stimulate exports**

## Where Can We Still Win?

- ✓ **Economies of scale**
  - Land area
  - Mechanization
  
- ✓ **Transportation & Logistics Efficiencies**
  - ✓ Rail, road, water
  
- ✓ **Rich natural resources**
  - ✓ Need to be upgraded with market focus