



Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving

Options to reduce the Dutch footprint of consumption

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Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving

PBL

Netherlands
Environmental
Assessment Agency

Independent public organization
Strategic policy evaluations
Science-to-Policy bridge

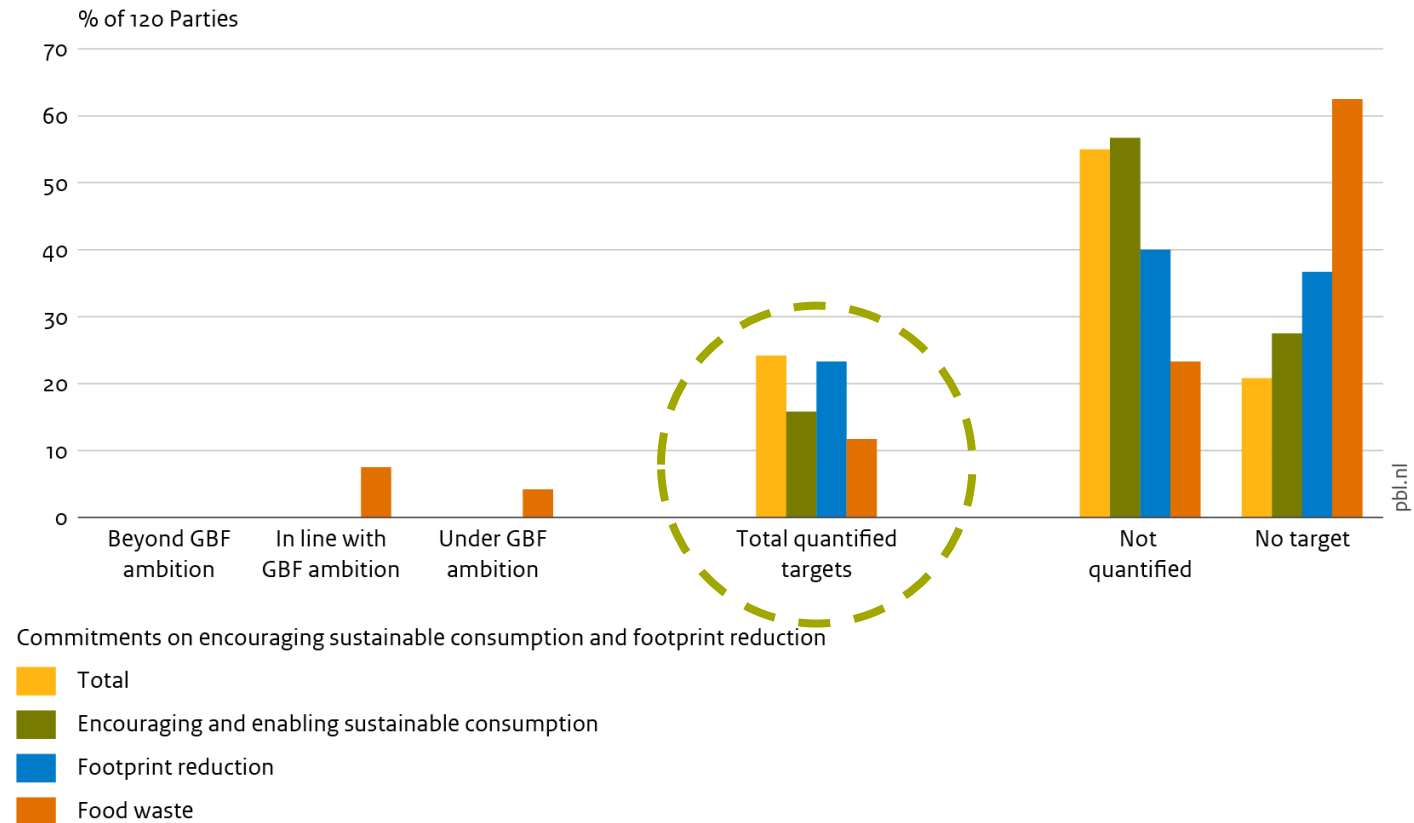




T16 Enabling Sustainable Consumption Choices to Reduce Waste and Overconsumption and reduce the footprint of consumption

CALL TO ACTION

- Targets for (in)direct drivers receive least attention
- Few quantified national targets
- No headline indicator
- Low reference to external footprints and fair shares



Source: CBD ORT, 1 december 2025

Source: Immerzeel et al 2026



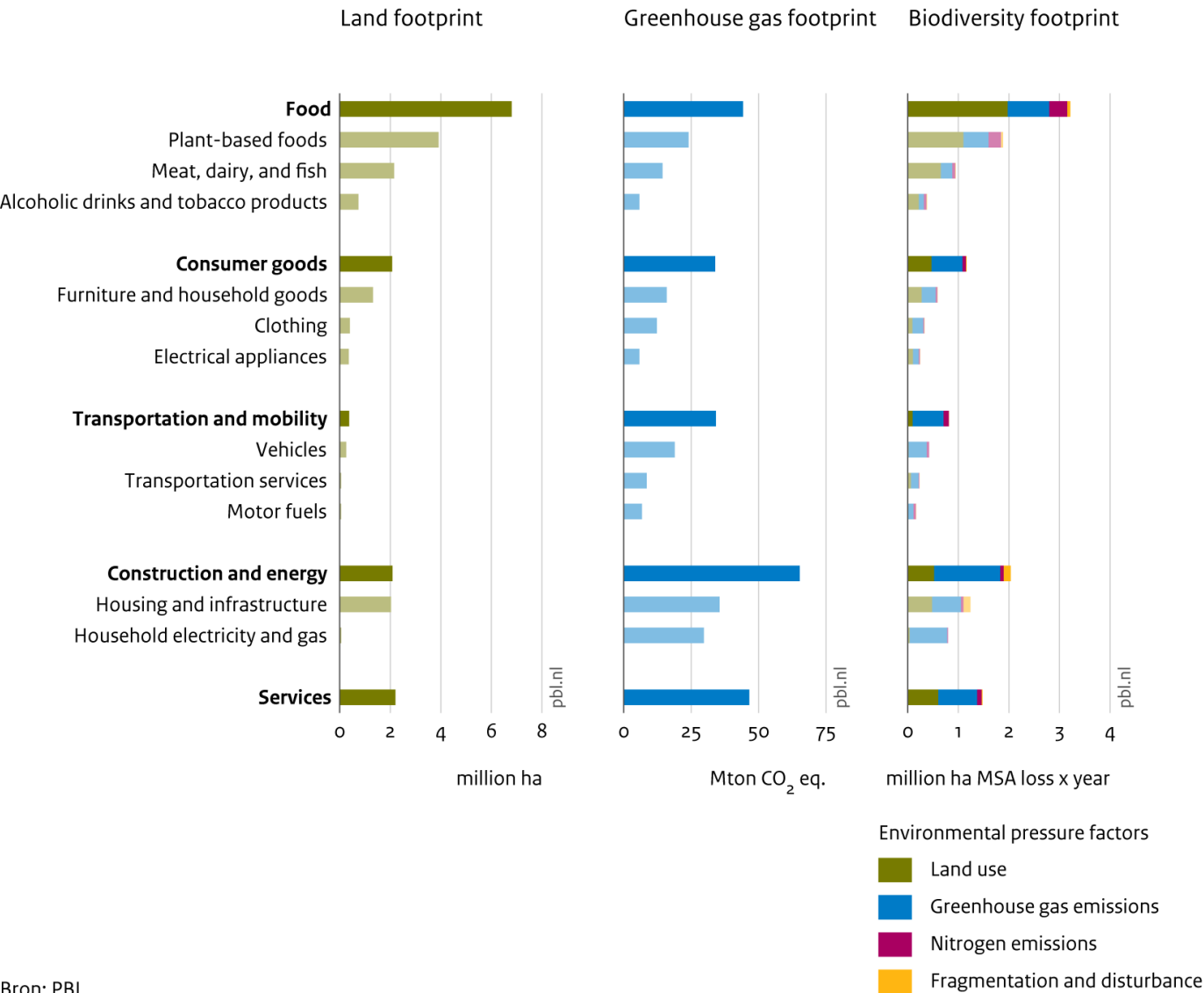
Profile of the Dutch biodiversity footprint

Land and GHG footprints
most important pressures

Product group priorities

- Food
- Construction and Energy
- Consumer goods
- Transport and mobility

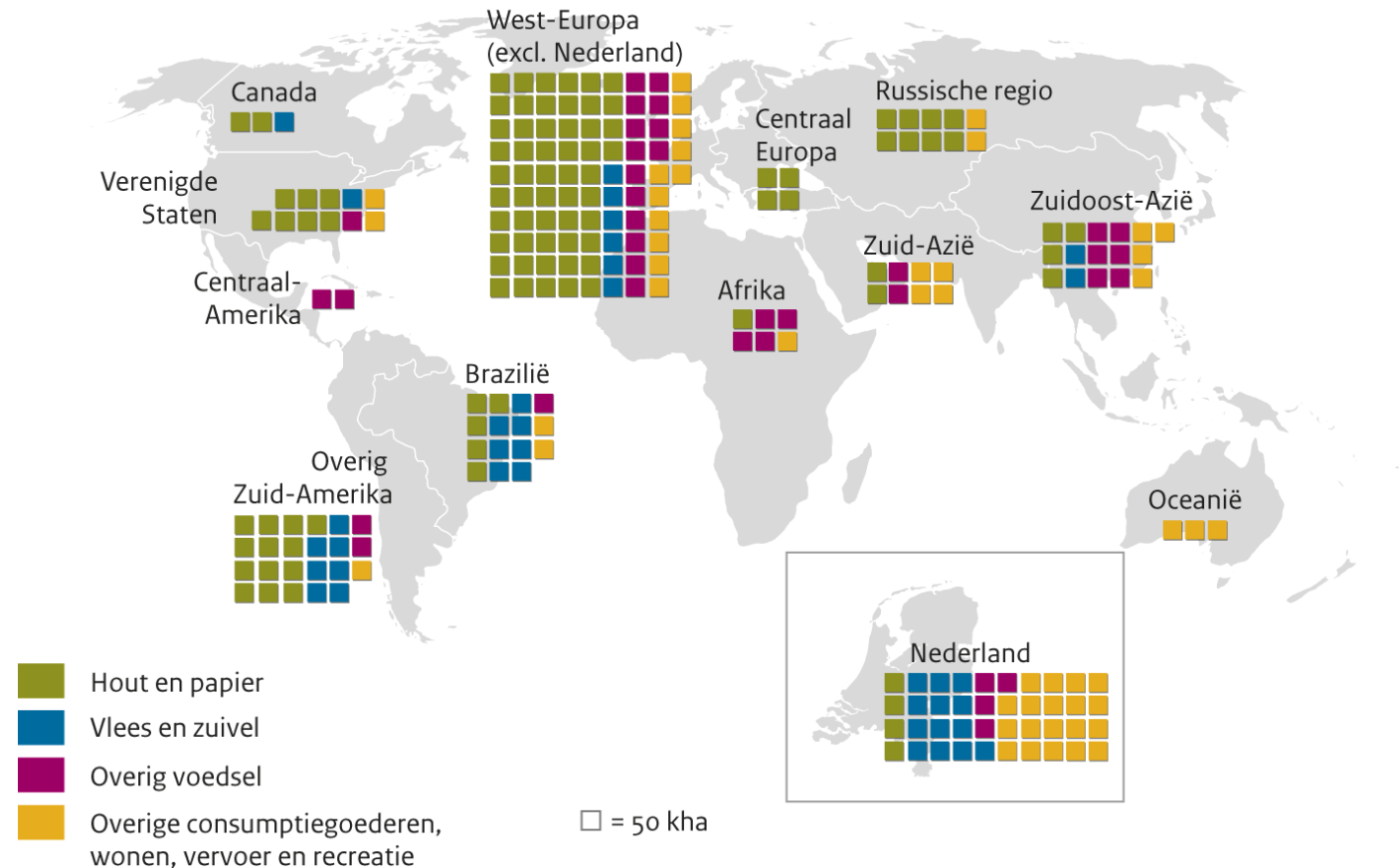
Footprints of Dutch consumption, 2020



Largest part of the
Dutch land footprint
of consumption
lies abroad (90%)

Wood and paper
Meat and dairy
Other food
rest

Mondiaal landgebruik door Nederlandse consumptie, 2024



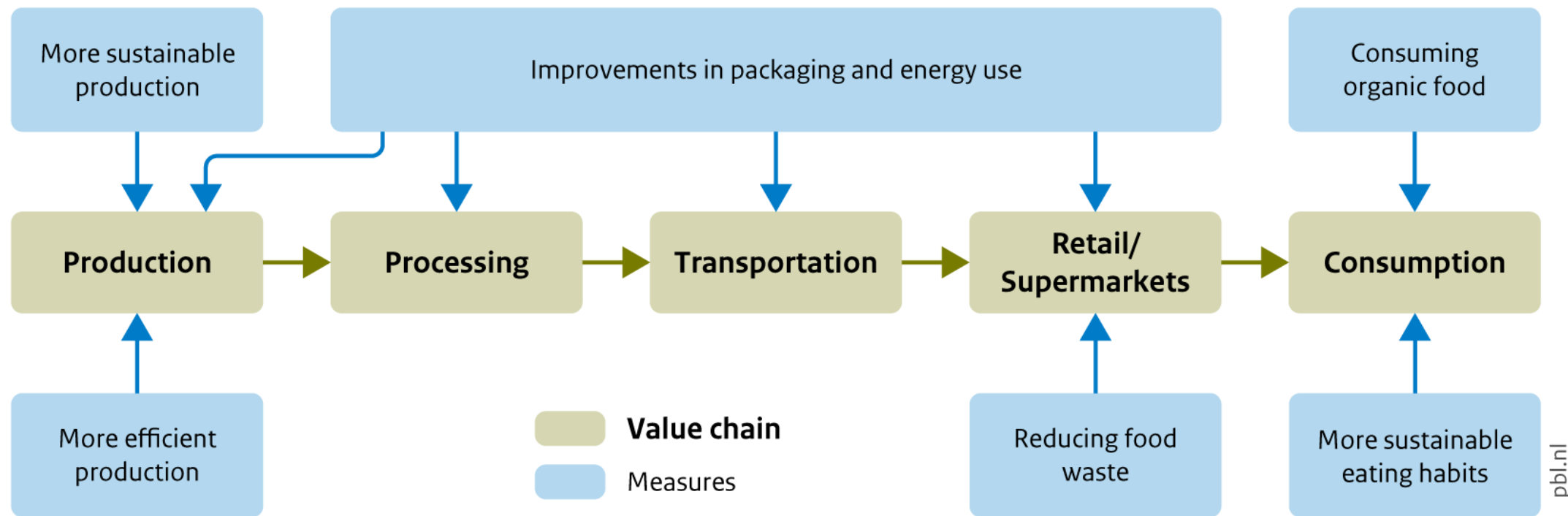
Bron: PBL, WUR, FAO, CBS en Probos

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www.clo.nl/nl007513

Food supply chain



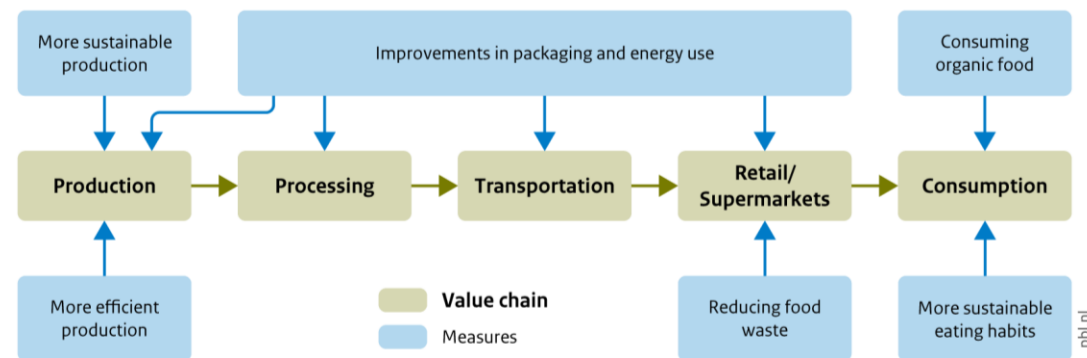
Options available for the whole food supply-chain



Source: PBL

Options available for the whole food supply-chain

- › With a combination of options, a potential reduction of almost 50% is possible
- › Consumer willingness is limited
- › Effective implementation of a broad policy package needed
- › Use a *supply-chain approach* for policy development



Source: PBL

Effects of options

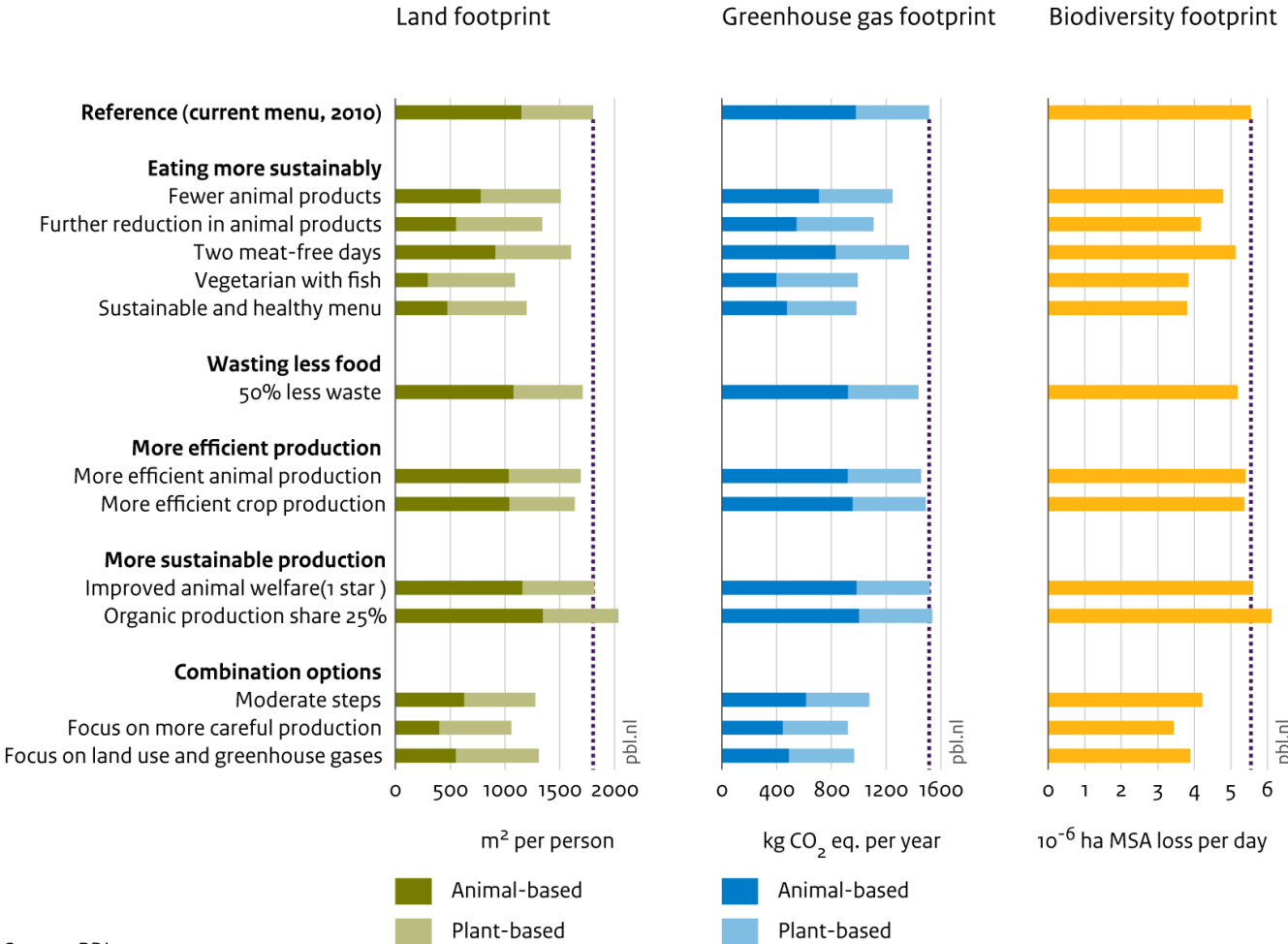
Consumer choice: a
potential large effect

BUT
willingness to change is
limited

To make a substantial
change, action from all
actors needed

Policies required to make
that work

Footprint of Dutch consumption per person per consumption pattern

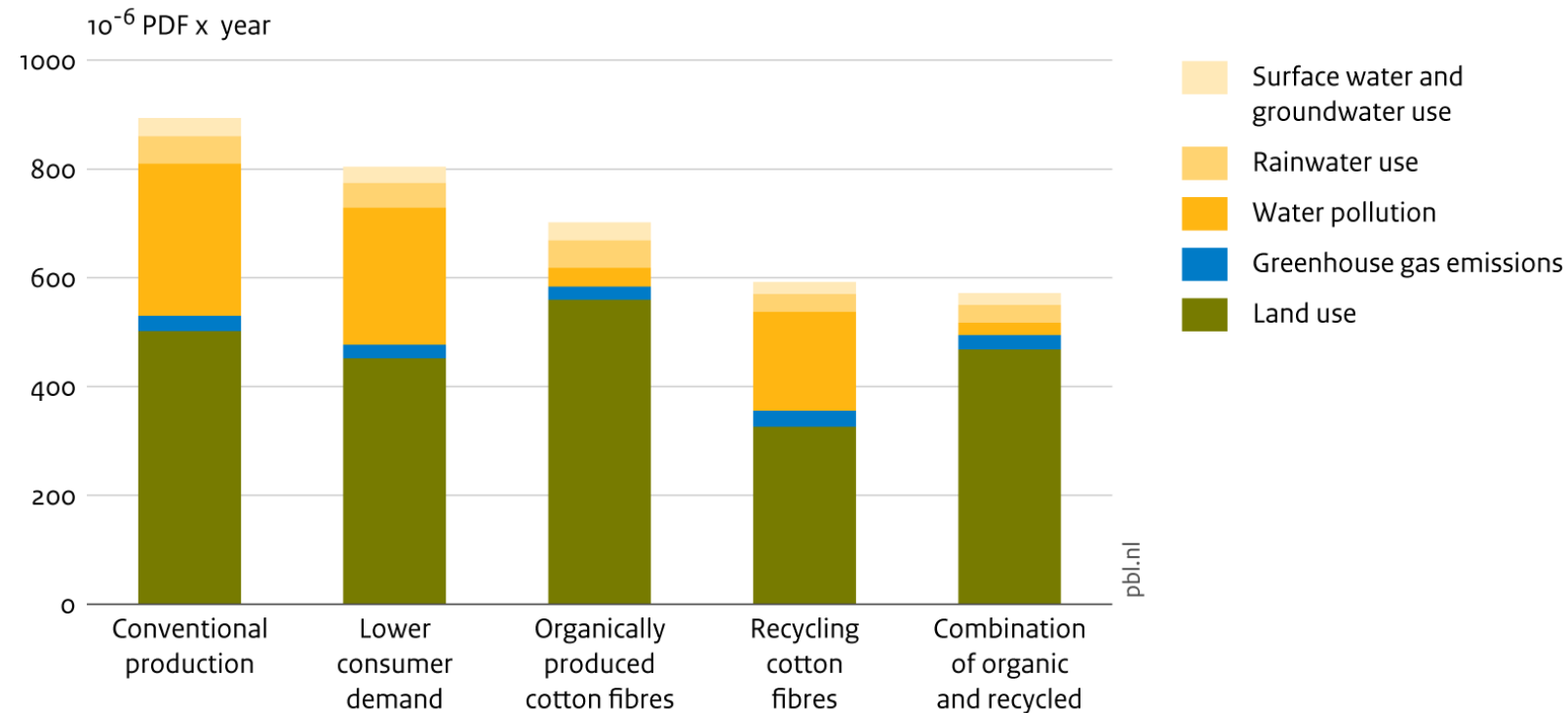


Source: PBL

Source: Westhoek (2019) & Wuyinga (2022)

Circular options for the cotton supply chain

Biodiversity footprint of Dutch consumption of cotton jeans by circular strategy, 2021



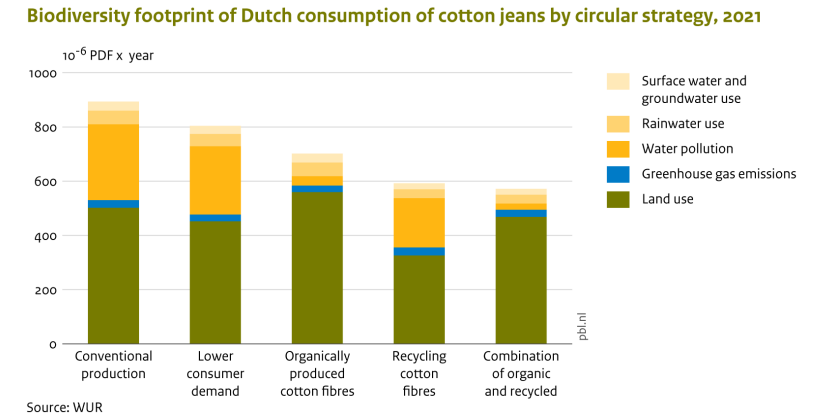
Circular options for the cotton supply chain

Recycling large potential effect

Organic cotton: less water pollution but more land use

Consumer willingness to consume less limited

With a combination of options, a reduction of around 30% is possible for the biodiversity footprint, while trade-offs can be mitigated



Dutch NBSAP – Actiedoel 16

- Building blocks for policy
 1. Harmonising indicators and monitoring
 2. Broad package of already existing policies
 3. Strive for interdepartmental policy coherence

- Missing elements
 - Roel of other actors than consumer
 - Protein transition (animal => plant-based)
 - Policies for sustainable international Trade & Development
 - Vision on coherence between policies of different ministries





Options for NBSAP revision

- › Break-down of footprint and policies
 - Product groups, sectors, locations
- › For further policy development
 - Apply GBF principles : *whole-of-society* and *whole-of-government*
 - Use a supply-chain approach : connections
- › Explicit policies for impacts abroad
 - International cooperation (public, private and societal)
- › Vision for long-term transformative policies
 - Mainstream biodiversity in transitions for Energy, Food, Fibers, Materials,
 - Joint ambition for a substantial reduction by 2050



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