



Value Added for Sustainable Agribusiness

With especial reference to Brazil

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Main Messages

- 1. Brazil's agribusiness is very large. Its development set up a new paradigm and was technology and global market-based*
- 2. Climate change and global warming are real and pose an ominous risk to continuous agribusiness growth and profitability*
- 3. Adding value is a risk management strategy for Brazilian agribusiness involving new disruptive technologies, products, services, markets and creative financing*

Brazilian Agribusiness Scale: 25% GDP

200 million tons/a of grains

Third largest agricultural exporter after US and EU

Top world exporter of:

- ***Beef: 30 %***
- ***Poultry: 40 %***
- ***Sugar: 45 %***
- ***Orange juice: 86 %***
- ***Ethanol: 52 %***
- ***Coffee: 32 %***
- ***Soybeans: 2nd, 40 %***
- ***Corn: 3rd, 10 %***
- ***Pork, 4th, 12 %***

What's behind Brazil's Agribusiness Success?

- *Constructed comparative advantage: global markets, technology, financing (Embrapa, Proalcool, and AMBEV, Embraer, VALE)*
- *Industrialized agriculture: “factory farms” capital intensity, technology sophistication*
- *Combination of state public policies and private initiative, domestic and foreign*
- *Pivotal role of Embrapa conquering cerrado, and shifting grain production paradigm*

Hopewell, Kristen (2016). The accidental agropower: constructing comparative advantage” <https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2016.1161614>

The Economist (2016). The Future of Agriculture, Vorsprung durch Technik, 11 June, p. 16

What's behind Brazil's Agribusiness Success ?

- *Private R&D and investment*
- *Import substitution industrialization, urbanization, increased food demand, scarcity, higher prices, higher food supply*
- *Expanding agri exports, foreign exchange to pay for capital goods, technology imports*
- *Brazil's WTO assertiveness with Australia, India, Thailand, et al.*

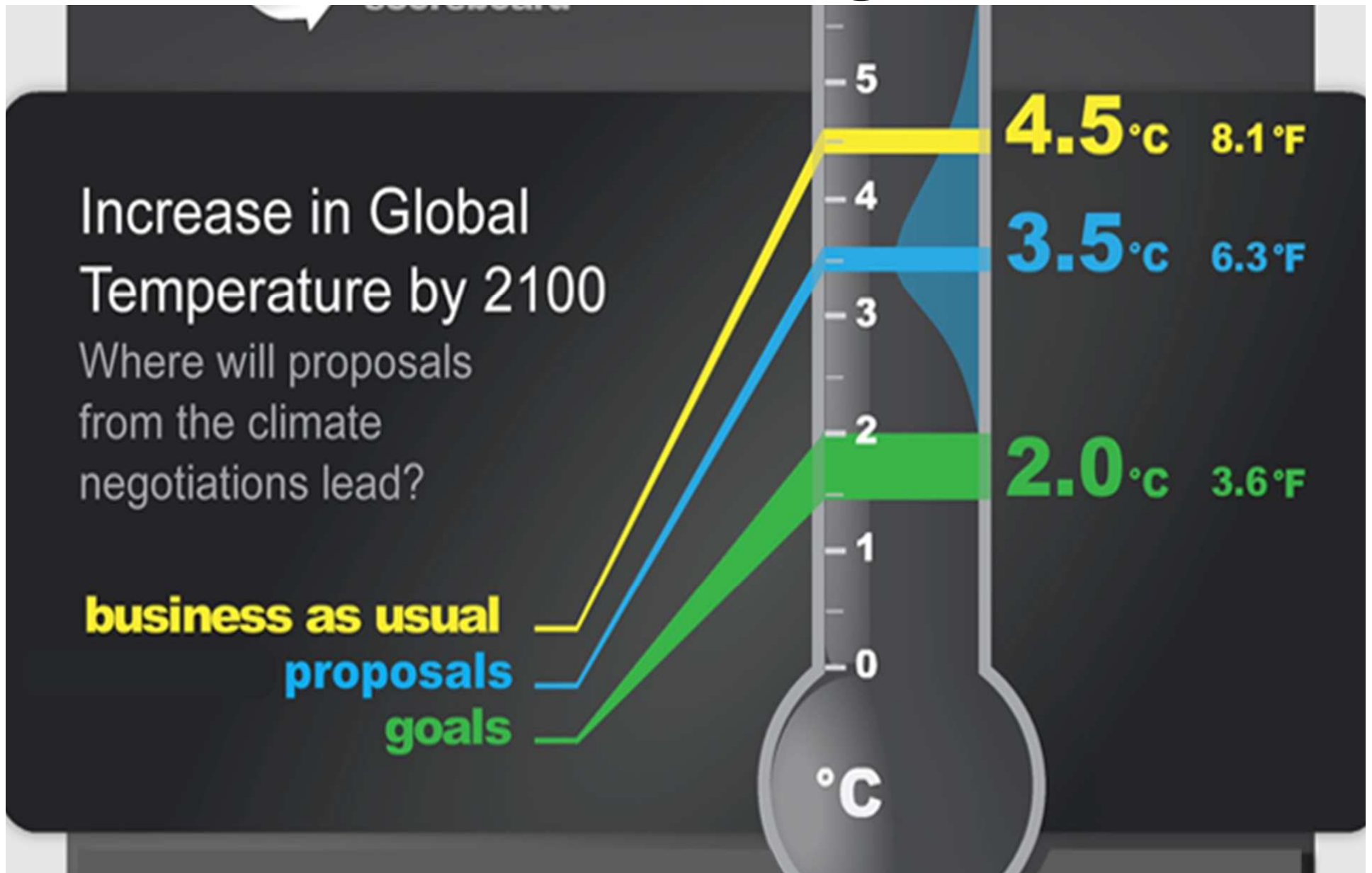
Downside of Brazil's Agribusiness Success ?

- *Displacement of peasants*
- *Loss of biodiversity*
- *Environmental impacts: soil, water, air, deforestation*

Downside of Brazil's Agribusiness Success ?

- *Unequal land distribution: 53% agri land to 1.5% landowners*
- *Fertilizer intensity increase*
- *Limited direct impact: income redistribution, hunger, poverty*
- *Climate change risk, a challenge*

Climate Warming to 2100



*The High Latitudes Are Changing the Most
with Global Warming*



Hotter Fields, Lower Yields

Climate Change is a Real and Ominous Threat

- *Destructive storms, pests, weeds, diseases, ozone pollution will cause further damages to agriculture from global warming*
- *Carbon Business Plan. Agriculture can help reduce impacts and promote the transition to a clean energy economy (Brazil Paris commitment: 50 million m³/a biofuels!)*



Hotter Fields, Lower Yields

Climate Change is a Real and Ominous Threat

- *Focus on clean energy to help rebuild world's economy and stop the worst effects of global warming*
- *Improved farming practices can reduce global warming emissions and keep more carbon in soils, and reward farmers*

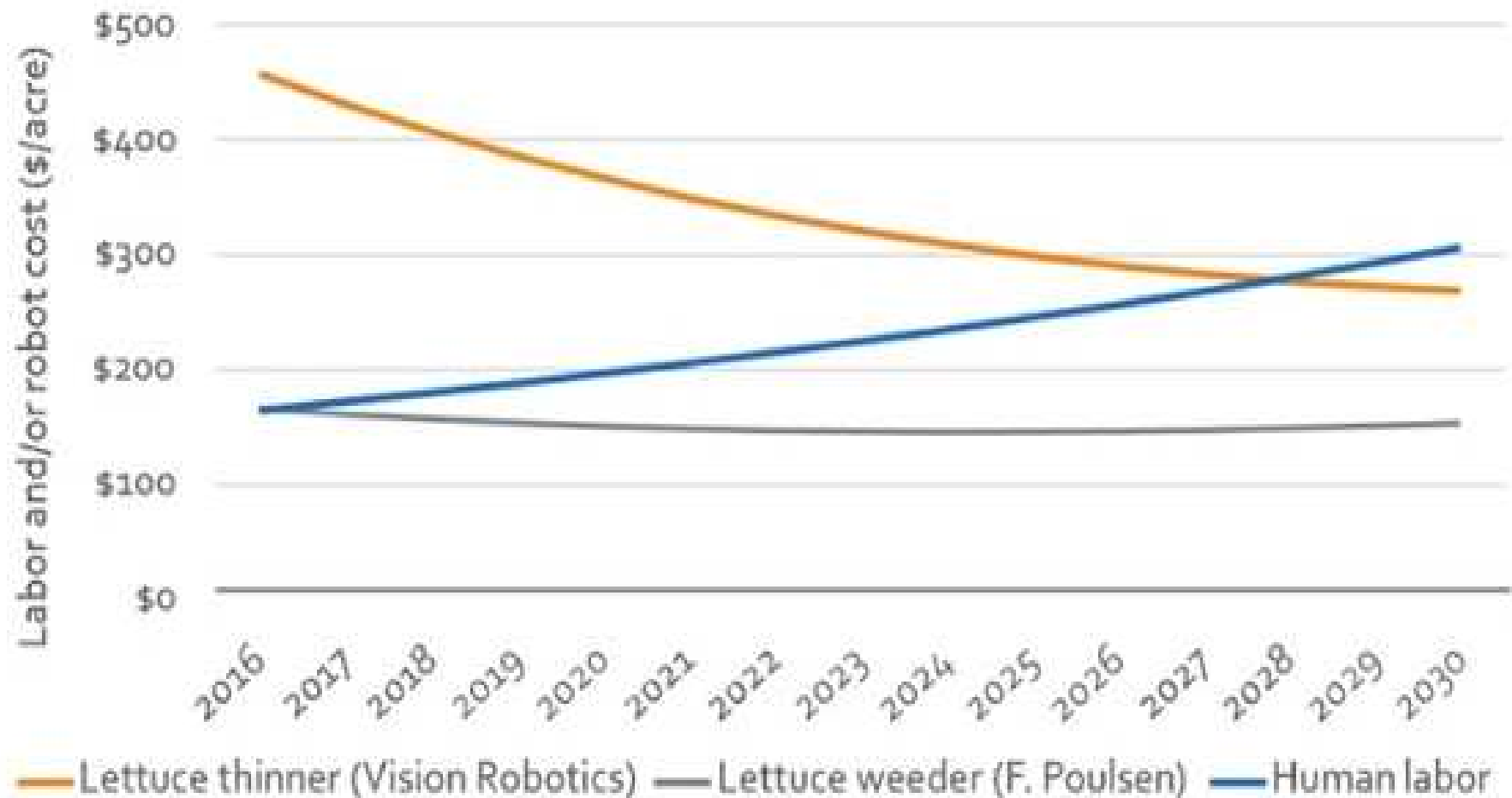
A black and white cow stands in a lush green field filled with numerous small yellow wildflowers. The cow is facing slightly to the right, with its head turned towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Value Added in Large/Small Scale: More with Less

- *Precision Agriculture based on information and many disruptive technologies for higher efficiency (e.g. C4 rice development)*
- *STI: Sustainable Trade Index. STI trade to monetize value-added from Sustainable Agribusiness*

Robots and Drones on the Farm are part of Precision Agriculture

Weeding and Thinning in the Europe Lettuce Case



Source: Lux Research, Inc.

A close-up photograph of a large group of yellow chicks, likely in a farm setting. The chicks are densely packed, and their fluffy yellow feathers are the dominant color in the image. They are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others away. The background is slightly blurred, showing more chicks and possibly some greenery.

Value Added in Large/Small Scale: More with Less

- *Carbon Trade: corporate, national, regional and global markets*
- *Integrated performance in-out side the farm: from the field to the final consumer everywhere*
- *Disruptive technologies and professional management: key*

Value Added in Large/Small Scale: More with Less

- *Commodity price fluctuations vs steadier prices of value-added derived products*
- *Smaller scale higher value from existing crops: e.g. caffeine from coffee; sucro/ethanolchemicals*
- *Human rights and ethical approach: e.g. palm oil sustainability certification pros and cons*



Value Added in Large/Small Scale: More with Less

- *Need for water management and conservation (70% global water consumption in agriculture)*
- *Embrapa-like initiative on low carbon agriculture/agroforestry for value-added products and services for domestic and foreign markets*

Value Added in Large/Small Scale: More with Less

- *Creative financing (green bonds, insurance, carbon trade, etc.) to support development of value-added products and services*
- *Value added services: disruptive tech, logistics, infrastructure, trading, marketing, distribution, insurance*
- *Value added in diversification within and outside agribusiness*

A woman in traditional Indian attire, including a colorful sari and jewelry, is holding the head of a white cow. The cow has a prominent orange and red tilak on its forehead. The background is a dark, patterned fabric.

Risks and Opportunities of Agribusiness

- ***Huge growth opportunities***
- ***More control over own future: market intelligence, investment finance, risk management, trade***
- ***Higher value added in niche markets beyond commodity markets***



Risks and Opportunities of Agribusiness

- ***Requires investment on intensive factors: knowledge, disruptive innovation, r & d***
- ***Continuous adaptation and proactive response to challenges***
- ***Especially coming from Climate Change and Sustainability***