The need for coherence

MDB money flows into intensive livestock farming

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Who we are

Founded in 1950

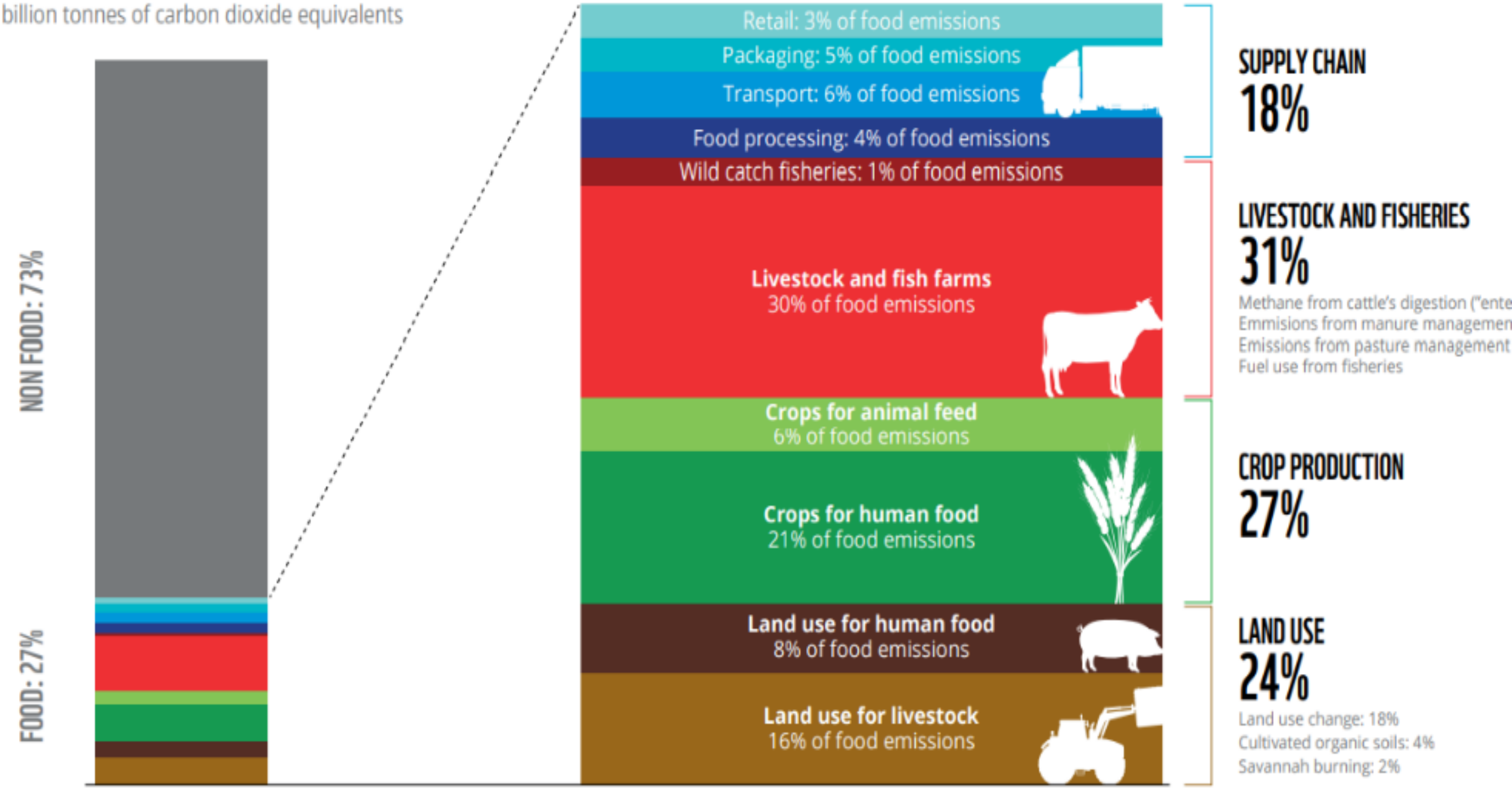
Consultative status for the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health.

Our offices

Environmental impacts of factory farming

GLOBAL EMISSIONS

52.3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents



Environment

Biodiversity

Livestock accounts for around 78 % of agriculture’s negative impact on biodiversity in Europe

Water footprint

The production of livestock feed represents about 41% of total agricultural water use

Pollution

Significant negative impacts on water quality, by polluting water with nutrients that lead to a decrease in water quality and ‘dead zones’

Land use

Replacing animal protein with plant protein would reduce the land used for food by 3.1 billion hectares.

Social impacts of factory farming

Social impacts

AMR

75% of world's antibiotics used in farmed animals. 1.3 million people per year die from drug-resistant bacterial infections. This is set to rise to 10 million people per year by 2050.

Zoonotic disease

Low genetic variation, high stocking density, stressed and unhealthy animals = breeding ground for disease.

Food security

Two thirds of European cereals are used as animal feed – diverting crops from their core purpose of feeding people.

Pollution

The overconsumption of meat has been linked with increased risk of diseases such as coronary heart disease, and several forms of cancer. Finnish case study!

What is the alternative?

Regenerative

Circular

Organic

Agroecological

Public development banks and industrial livestock

The role of MDBs

Supporting other policy frameworks

MDB lending choices can either support or inadvertently undermine other objectives (e.g. those within the EU Farm to Fork strategy, the Paris Agreement).

Research findings

Factory farming hinders SDG progress

Clear links to SDGs including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (Climate action). Also more surprising links, e.g. SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG 10 (Reduced inequality).

Gap between words and actions

Most MDBs have positive statements or visions, but this is not yet being translated into lending practices.

The EIB – a leader, but room for improvement

The 2021-2025 Climate Roadmap states EIB will not support ‘unsustainable animal rearing’ but does not specify what that means

There is no overall exclusion for factory farming.

A call to action

Strategy: Set a clear, time-bound goal to end all funding of intensive livestock

Follow the model set by fossil fuel phase outs, to act as a guiding ‘North Star’ and send a strong message to market participants.

Tools: Use safeguard policies, Paris Alignment methodology etc. to robustly assess projects

The current draft methodology classifies non-ruminant livestock as Paris Aligned.

These tools can be useful – but only if they are robust and applied carefully.

WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

End