



SUFISA FINAL CONFERENCE

PANEL DISCUSSION: SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE FARMING STRATEGIES

18th March 2019, Krakow (Poland)

Sarah Creemers and Steven Van Passel



Content

1. Sustainability performance analysis: aim, data, method
2. Presentation of the results
3. Panel discussion

1. Sustainability performance analysis

Aim

Identify sustainability driving factors that lead farmers to adopt a given strategy

Data

Survey → 3 cases



Sugar beet
(Belgium)



Dairy
(UK, Denmark, France, Latvia)



Feta
(Greece)

Method

Multinomial logistic regression

Data overview



	Sugar beet	Dairy	Feta
Observations	191	498	148
Age	51% older than 50 years	58% older than 50 years	16% older than 50 years
Farm size	12.89 ha	160.61 ha	14.66 ha
Education	38% college/university degree	23% college/university degree	0% college/university degree
Region	55% Flanders (Belgium)	39% UK 28% Latvia 17% France 16% Denmark	Only 1 region (Greece)

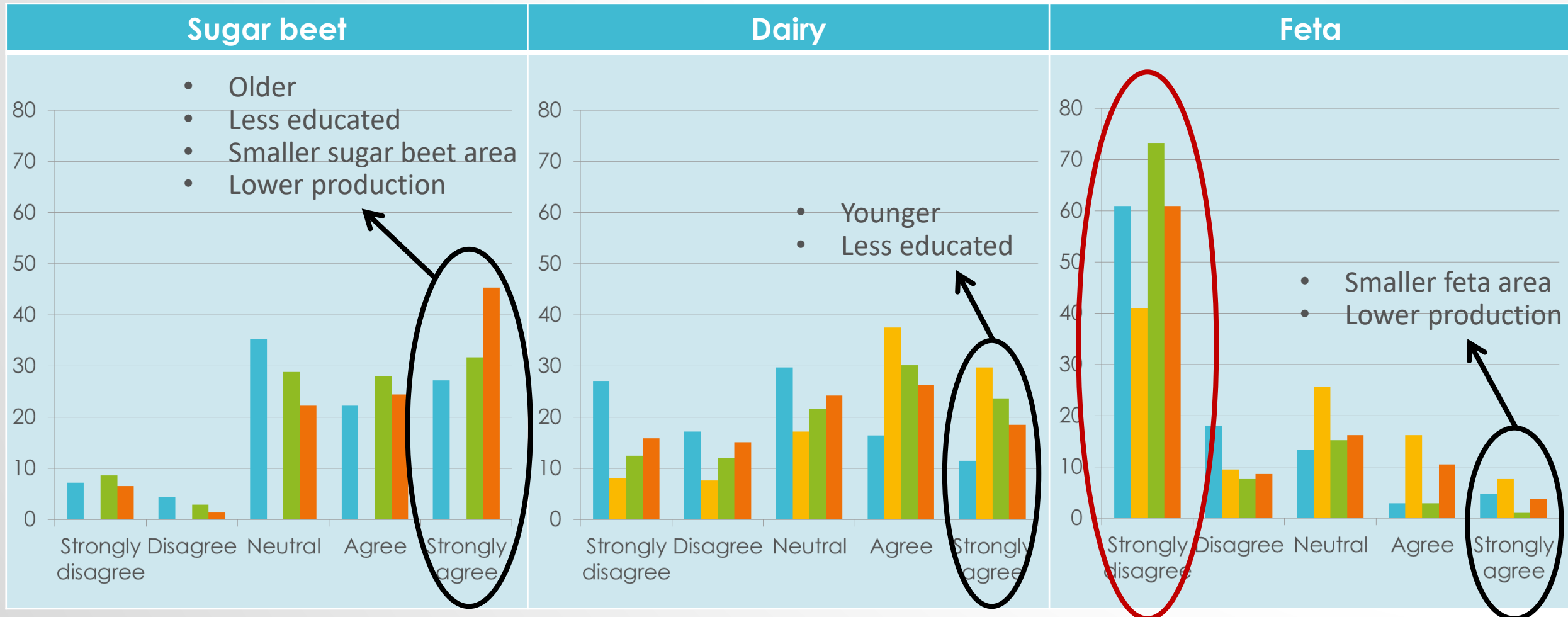
Sustainability → 3 factors (Confirmatory Factor Analysis)



Environmental sustainability

The production choices I made in relation to my main sale agreement helped me

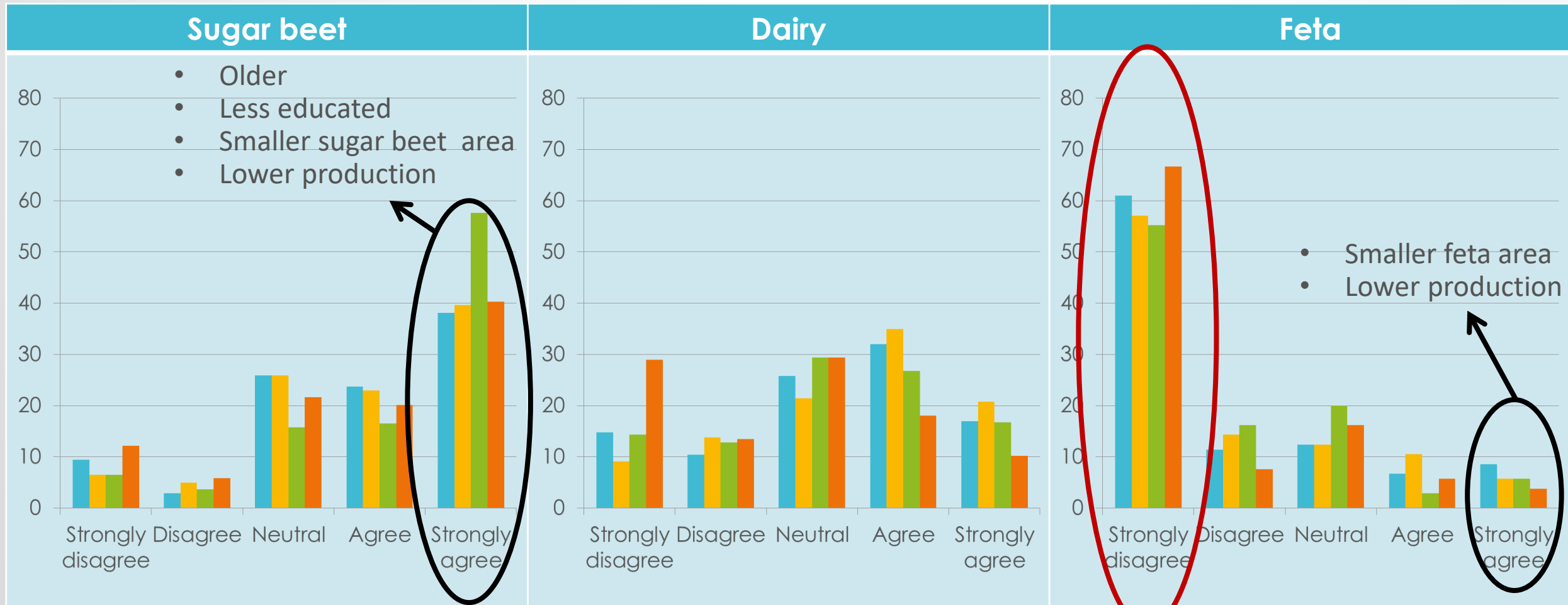
■ to maintain biodiversity ■ to support animal welfare ■ to maintain water quality ■ to maintain soil matter



Social sustainability

The production choices I made in relation to my main sale agreement helped me

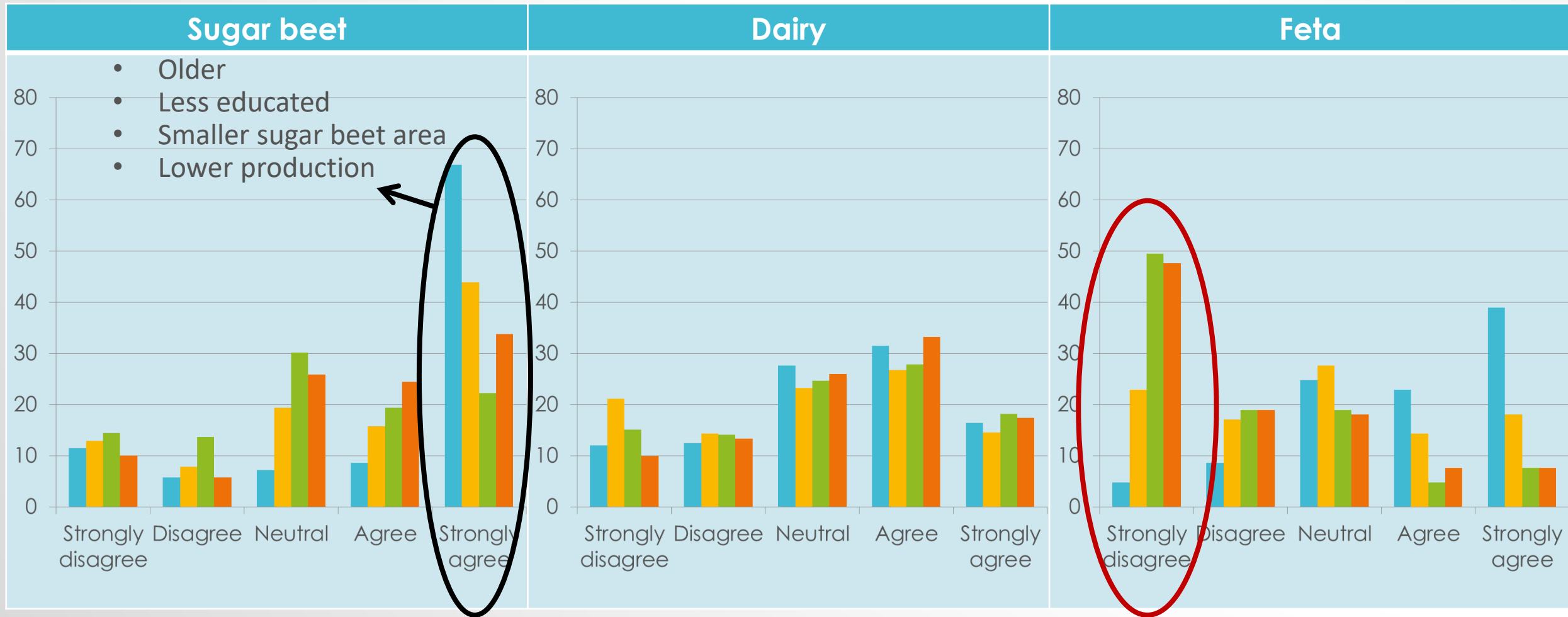
■ to create good connection ■ to connect with other farmers ■ to achieve recognition ■ to secure a successor



Economic sustainability

The production choices I made in relation to my main sale agreement helped me

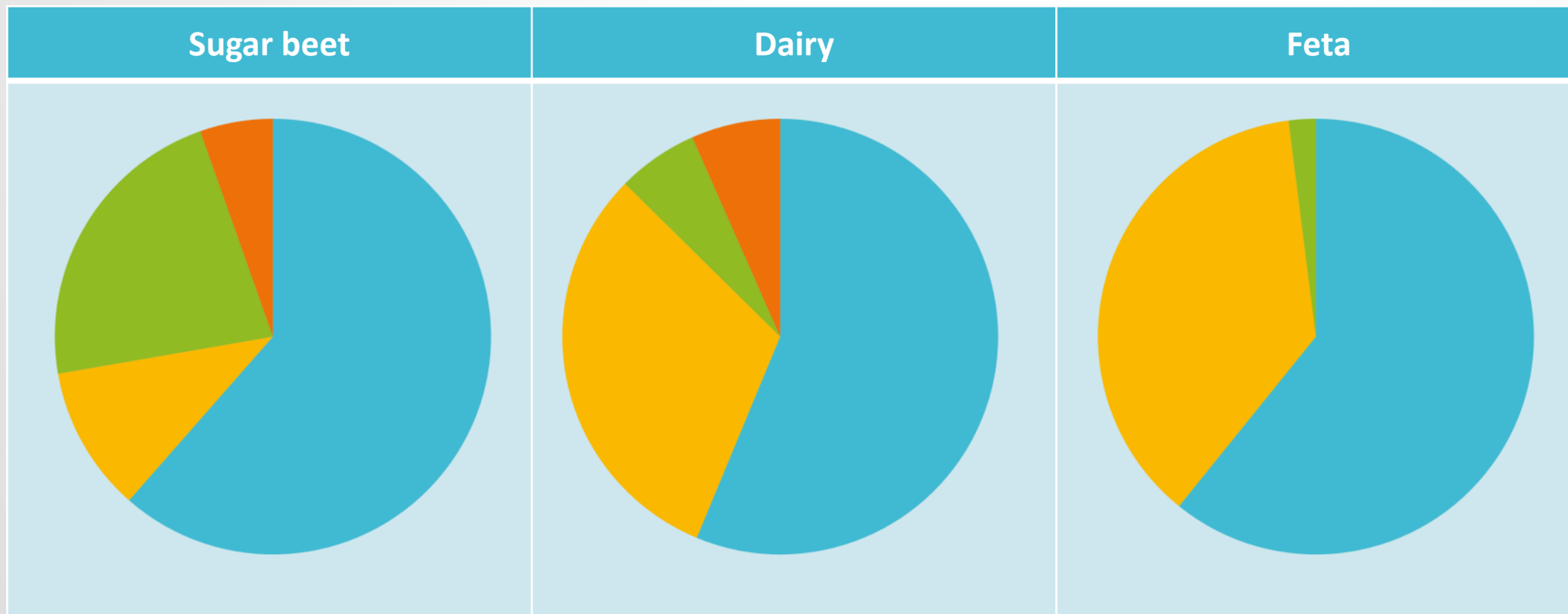
■ to maintain profitability ■ to invest ■ to sell in difficult periods ■ to cope with changing market conditions



Strategy in coming 5 years

What are your strategies for the development of your commodity within the context of your farm business in the coming 5 years?

■ Maintain scale ■ Expand scale ■ Reduce scale ■ Abandon farming



2. Presentation of the results

Method

Multinomial logistic regression

1 outcome variable → 4 strategies

3 predictors → environmental, social, economic sustainability impact factor

4 controls → farmer age, farm size, farmer education, region

2. Presentation of the results

Baseline = maintain existing scale

	Sugar beet	Dairy	Feta
Environmental sustainability	Less likely to reduce scale	More likely to expand or reduce scale	No significant results
Social sustainability	No significant results	No significant results	No significant results
Economic sustainability	No significant results	Less likely to abandon farming	More likely to expand scale

Sugar beet farmers who made **environmentally**-sustainable production choices are **less likely to reduce** the existing scale than to maintain the existing scale, ceteris paribus.

2. Presentation of the results

Baseline = maintain existing scale

	Sugar beet	Dairy	Feta
Environmental sustainability	Less likely to reduce scale	More likely to expand or reduce scale	No significant results
Social sustainability	No significant results	No significant results	No significant results
Economic sustainability	No significant results	Less likely to abandon farming	More likely to expand scale

Dairy farmers who made **environmentally**-sustainable production choices are **more likely to change (expand or reduce)** the existing scale than to maintain the existing scale, ceteris paribus.

2. Presentation of the results

Baseline = maintain existing scale

	Sugar beet	Dairy	Feta
Environmental sustainability	Less likely to reduce scale	More likely to expand or reduce scale	No significant results
Social sustainability	No significant results	No significant results	No significant results
Economic sustainability	No significant results	Less likely to abandon farming	More likely to expand scale

Dairy farmers who made **economically**-sustainable production choices are **less likely to abandon farming** than to maintain the existing scale, ceteris paribus.






2. Presentation of the results

Baseline = maintain existing scale

	Sugar beet	Dairy	Feta
Environmental sustainability	Less likely to reduce scale	More likely to expand or reduce scale	No significant results
Social sustainability	No significant results	No significant results	No significant results
Economic sustainability	No significant results	Less likely to abandon farming	More likely to expand scale

Feta farmers who made **economically**-sustainable production choices are **more likely to expand** the existing scale than to maintain the existing scale, ceteris paribus.

3. Discussion of the results with the partners

- **Mauro Vigani**, Senior Research Fellow at University of Gloucestershire
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- **Egon Noe**, Professor at University of Southern Denmark
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- **Sébastien Treyer**, Executive Director at Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales
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- **George Vlahos**, Professor at Agricultural University of Athens
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- **Steven Van Passel**, Professor at Antwerp University and Hasselt University
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3. Panel discussion: results at commodity-level

How case-specific are the results?

	Sugar beet	Dairy	Feta
Environmental sustainability	Less likely to reduce scale	More likely to expand or reduce scale	No significant results
Social sustainability	No significant results	No significant results	No significant results
Economic sustainability	No significant results	Less likely to abandon farming	More likely to expand scale
Baseline = maintain existing scale			

3. Panel discussion: future farming strategies



How important will **sustainability** be for future strategies?



What are the key **strategies** and institutional arrangements towards sustainable farming strategies?



What are possible implications for the **Common Agricultural Policy**?



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