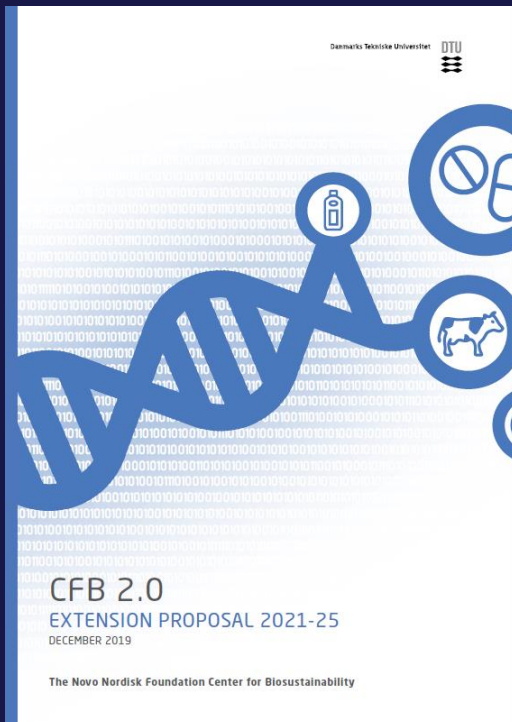




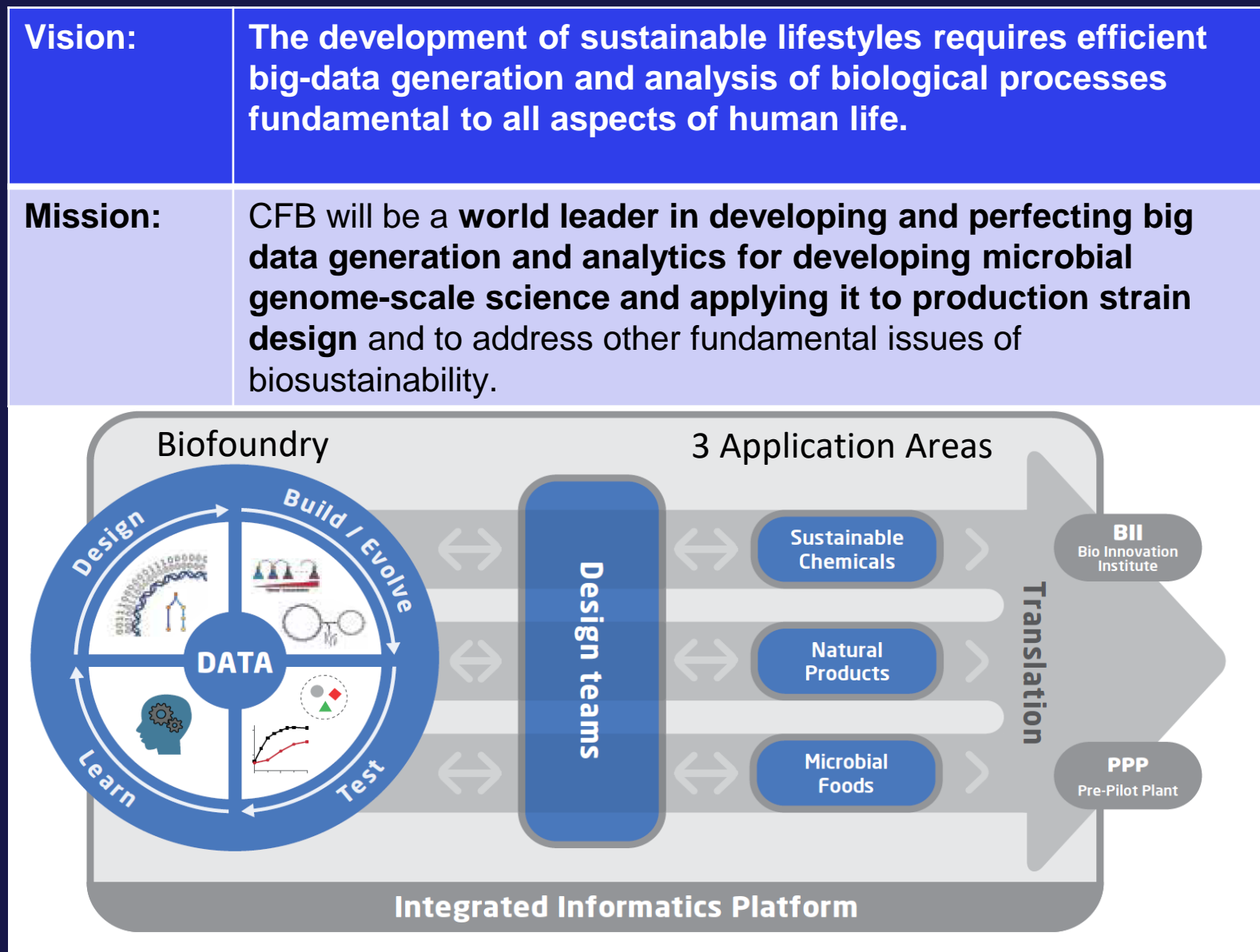
Revolutionising biology through digitalisation

Lars Keld Nielsen, CTO
Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for
Biosustainability

Mission & vision



CFB 2.0 Workflow



The triple challenge: People, Planet, Prosperity

“... to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere”

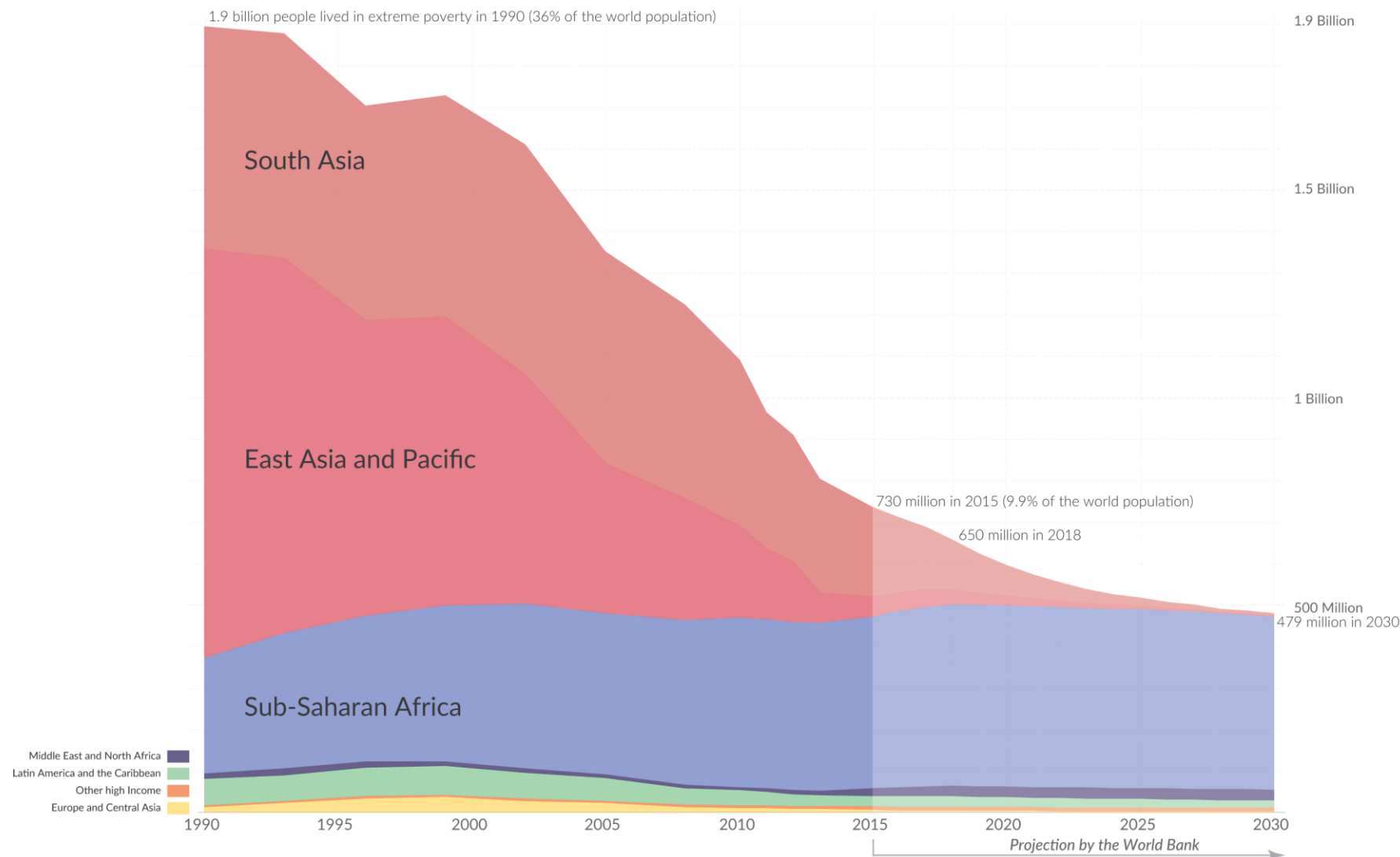
United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The number of people in extreme poverty – including projections to 2030

Extreme poverty is defined by the 'international poverty line' as living on less than \$1.90/day. This is measured by adjusting for price changes over time and for price differences between countries (PPP adjustment). From 2015 to 2030 the World Bank's projections are shown.

Our World
in Data



Data source: World Bank data from 1990 to 2015. The projections from 2015 to 2030 are published in the World Bank report *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2018*.

This is a visualization from [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org), where you find data and research on how the world is changing.

Licensed under CC-BY by the author Max Roser.

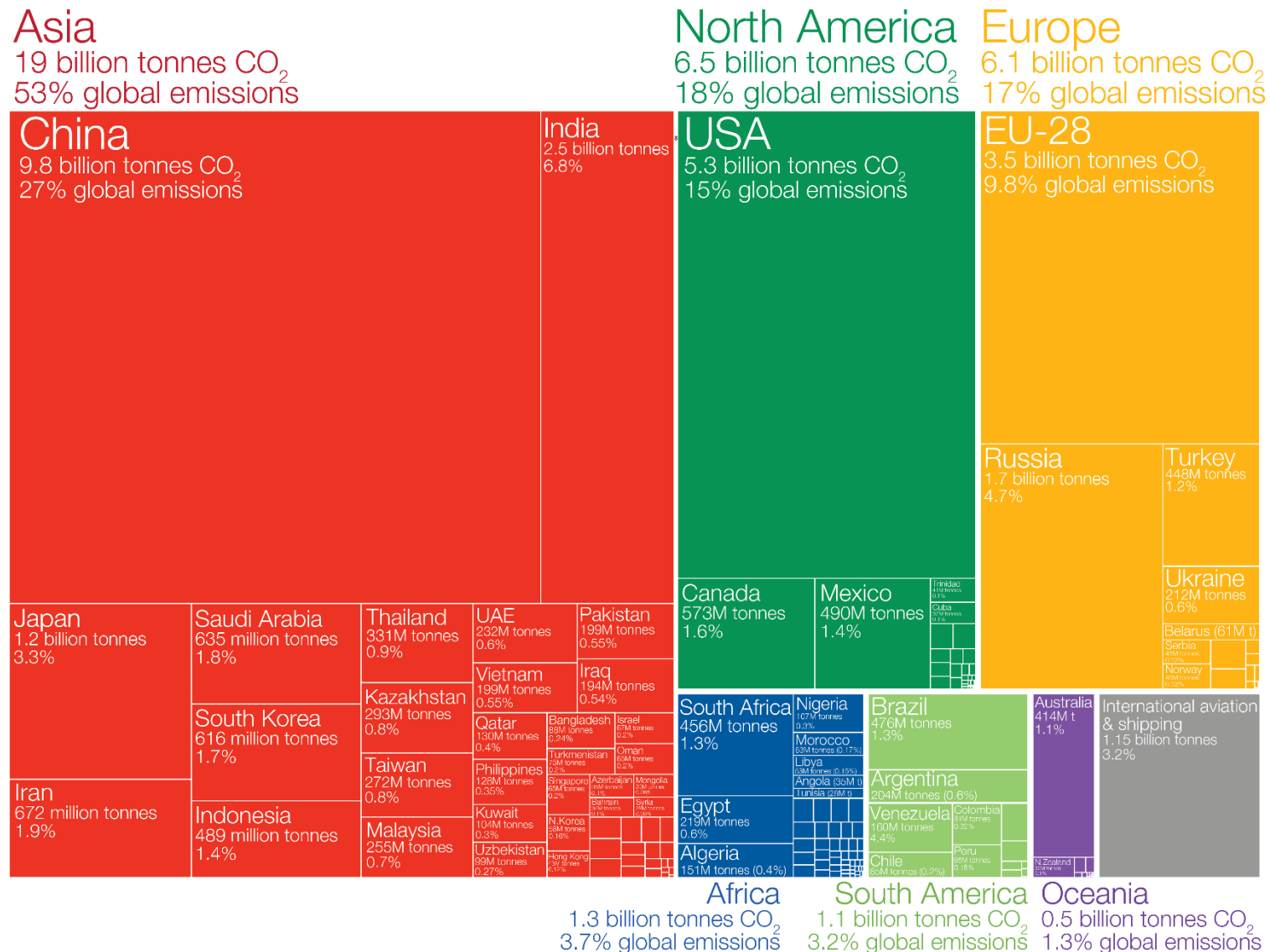
Who emits the most CO₂?

Global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions were 36.2 billion tonnes in 2017.

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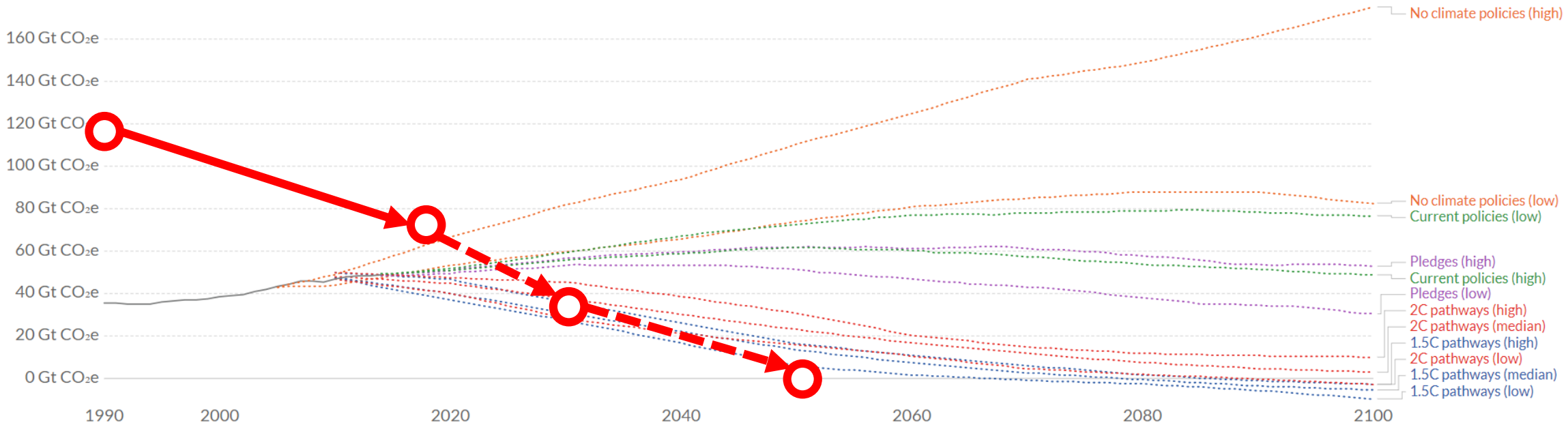


What the world needs now ...

Future greenhouse gas emission scenarios

Potential future emissions pathways of global greenhouse gas emissions (measured in gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents) in the case of no climate policies, current implemented policies, national pledges within the Paris Agreement, and 2°C and 1.5°C consistent pathways. High, median and low pathways provide the range for a given scenario.

Our World
in Data



Source: Climate Action Tracker (CAT)

CC BY

Creating a renewable carbon economy: Fuel, Food, Fibre

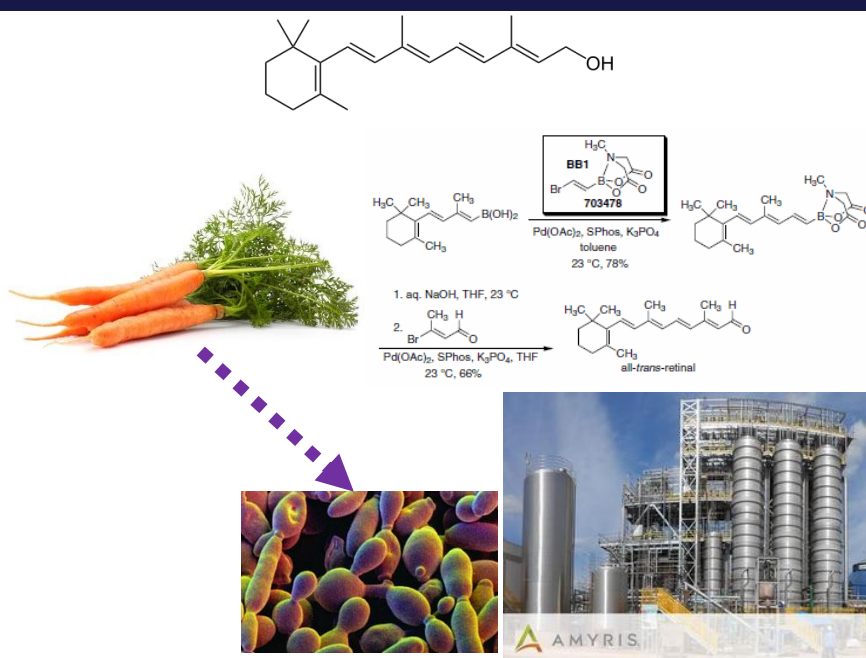
Our ultimate ambition must be to completely replace our reliance on fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources for the production of food, fibre and transportation fuel with a sustainable alternative.

World production	Million tonnes per annum	Million TOE	
Cereal	2600		} 37%*
Corn	1000		
Sugar	174		
Wood	1600		**
Total biomass	5374	1750	
Olefin		250	} 20%***
Liquid fuels		4000	

* Food production accounts for 37% of world GHG emissions (57% animal-based accounting for 35% protein)

** Only 11.3% of global wood production is FSC certified

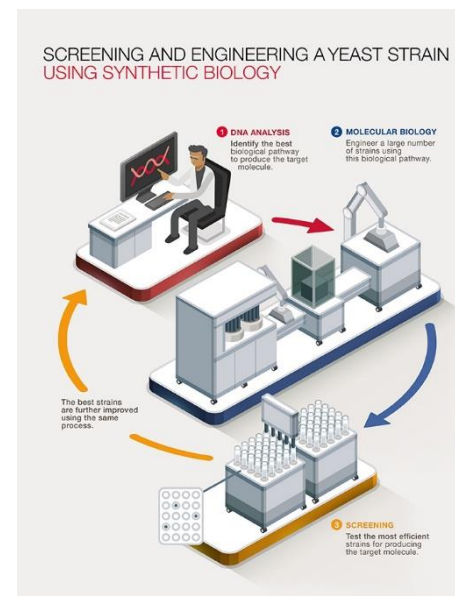
*** 50% readily replaced with electricity



BioIndustry 4.0



Automated
Strain
Engineering



The Age of Digital Biology

- Established companies
 - Genomatica (2002)
 - Amyris (2006)
 - LanzaTech (2007)
- 2015-: B2B technology companies
 - Ginkgo Bioworks
 - Zymergen
- Naïve model of R&D
 - Zymergen: We take a systematic test-everything, data-driven approach, letting the data speak for itself.

Example: morphine in yeast

Possible designs

20 genes, 5 levels:

- $5^{20} = 6.6$ billion years

2000 candidates/gene

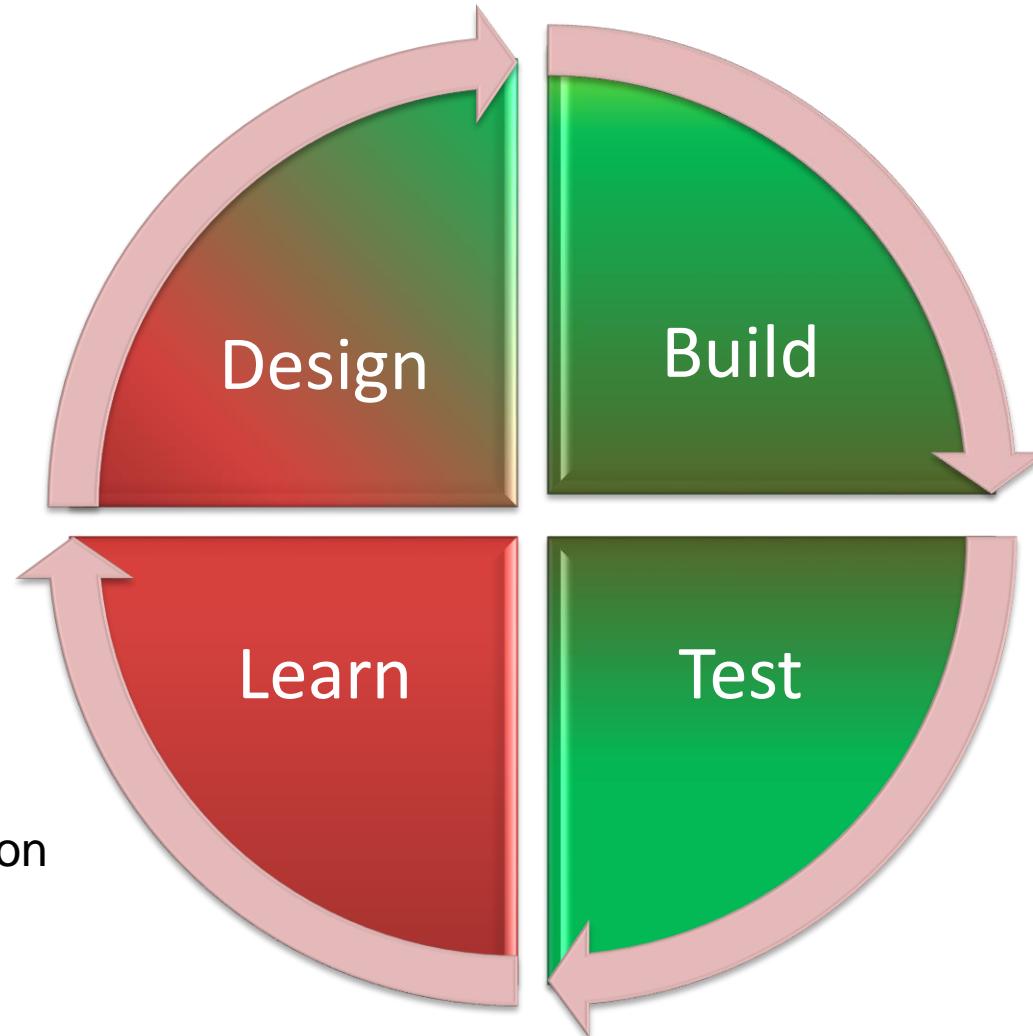
- $(5)^{20}(2000)^{20} = 10^{80}$

Enzyme engineering

- 20^{400} sequences

Naïve statistical design

- Complex response function
- Poor performance



Rational

- 20 genes
- 1200 strains/month

Robotics

- Accurate growth & titre

Low cost HT Chemistry

- Transcriptomics
- Proteomics
- Metabolomics

Biofoundry fundamentals

- Inexpensive, base-perfect genome editing in combination with automation, analytics and data integration enables Biofoundries
- A biofoundry is a **computer peripheral**
- Efficient data integration remains a major challenge; data volume, heterogeneity, time scales make this a **Big Data problem**
- Biofoundries do **not accelerate** strain engineering, they **escalate** strain engineering
- Designing informative experiments remains a challenge (*Design to Learn, Learn to Design duality*)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO

novo
nordisk
fonden

*“... to end poverty, protect the planet
and improve the lives and prospects of
everyone, everywhere”*

United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Merton's Law of Unanticipated Consequences

Three types:

1. Unexpected benefits
2. Unexpected drawbacks
3. Perverse results

Five principle causes:

1. Ignorance
2. Error
3. Short-termism
4. Basic value bias
5. Inertia

EU biodiesel mandate

- 2003: 5.75% by 2010
- 2009: 10% by 2020, demand for palm oil ↑
- 2015: EU report demonstrates tropical biodiesel production cause 3X more emissions than diesel
- 2021-2031: expected decline in palm oil import from 6.5 to 4 million tonnes as palm oil phase out 2023-2030



“Running on Orangutan blood”

Application Areas

- **Sustainable Chemicals**
- **Natural Products**
- **Food**

Sustainable chemicals

Sustainable potential

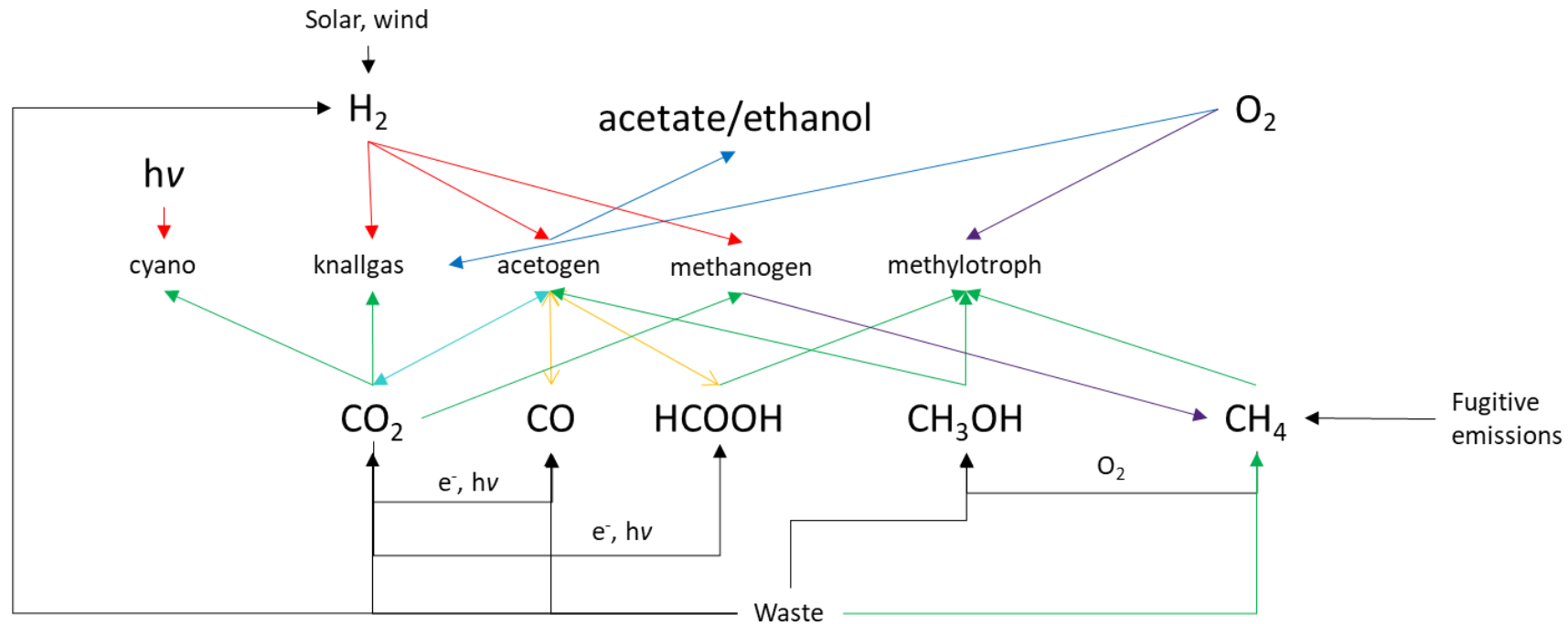
- Chemicals from renewable feedstock
- Reduced pollution from process and disposal
- Access to novel chemistry with better function

Focus

- Sustainable carbon through C1 metabolism
- High Density Physiology - addressing scale-up challenge
- New chemistry and materials, e.g., organic LED, electronics

C1 Global Metabolic Atlas

The Global Metabolic Atlas will describe core and auxiliary metabolism across the known range of bacterial C1 metabolism, while providing in-depth information on regulation and thermokinetics for deeply characterized strains. The Global Metabolic Atlas will be used to guide the design of heterologous C1 hosts. Additionally, techno-economic and life cycle analysis models will be developed for all major production strategies using a common set of assumptions to aid comparison.



Natural products

Sustainable potential

- Access to novel, sustainable chemistry

Focus

- Access to full streptomyces complement of natural products for use in e.g. control agents, including biopesticides
- Yeast platform for heterologous production of sustainable products from plants and fungi

Biopesticides

Insecticides

- Insect pheromones
- Spinosyn

Fungicides

- 10-16% food lost in field
 - Rice blast causing losses of food for 60 million people and catastrophic loss for farmers
 - Fusarium (ie soil based) such as Panama disease in banana; cost the near loss of Gros Michel (used to be main production variety) and now causing loss of Cavendish
- No new pesticides due to high cost and risk; managed by rotation and broad spectrum e.g. copper
- Pesticides being withdrawn due to human and eco-toxicity further reducing management

CFB approach: finding new products and synthons

- Crispr based BASE editor for actinomycetes
- Genome reduced streptomycete hosts for heterologous production
- Large cluster capture strategies and transfer
- Novel biopesticides from various DTU programs and 1000 danish strain library

Transformation of the Food Sector

Data for New Foods

- Fully sequenced and characterized lactobacillus library
- Yarrowia genomes
- Fungal genomes

Alternative Dairy

- Plant-based cheese
- LAB analysis for new starter cultures
- Plant-based yogurt. Recombinant production of milk proteins
- In situ fermentation of milk proteins to enrich plant-based dairy
- Sustainability assessment of recombinant milk

Alternative Meat

- Yummowia – enhanced yeast based meat alternative
- Fungal mycelium as meat alternative
- Fungal seafood alternative
- Exploration of rapeseed protein as alt protein source
- In situ TF production and co-culture for sustainable lab grown meat

Feed stock

- Protein (Feed for Fish, Cattle, Pigs and Poultry, based on underutilized C1-based feedstock)

Flavor formation by microorganisms

- Potential of LABs to generate flavor
- Understanding of flavor (especially kokumi/umami) formation in plant-based ferments

Impact Assessment

- Assessment of the impact of microbial foods on planetary health
- Recombinant protein production on waste streams
- Plant-based dairy from waste streams
- Upcycling of different waste streams including CO₂, endive root, orange peel, cascava, BSG and bran