

# Dynamic cost-benefit assessment of aviation biofuels

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presenting joint work with Mark Staples,  
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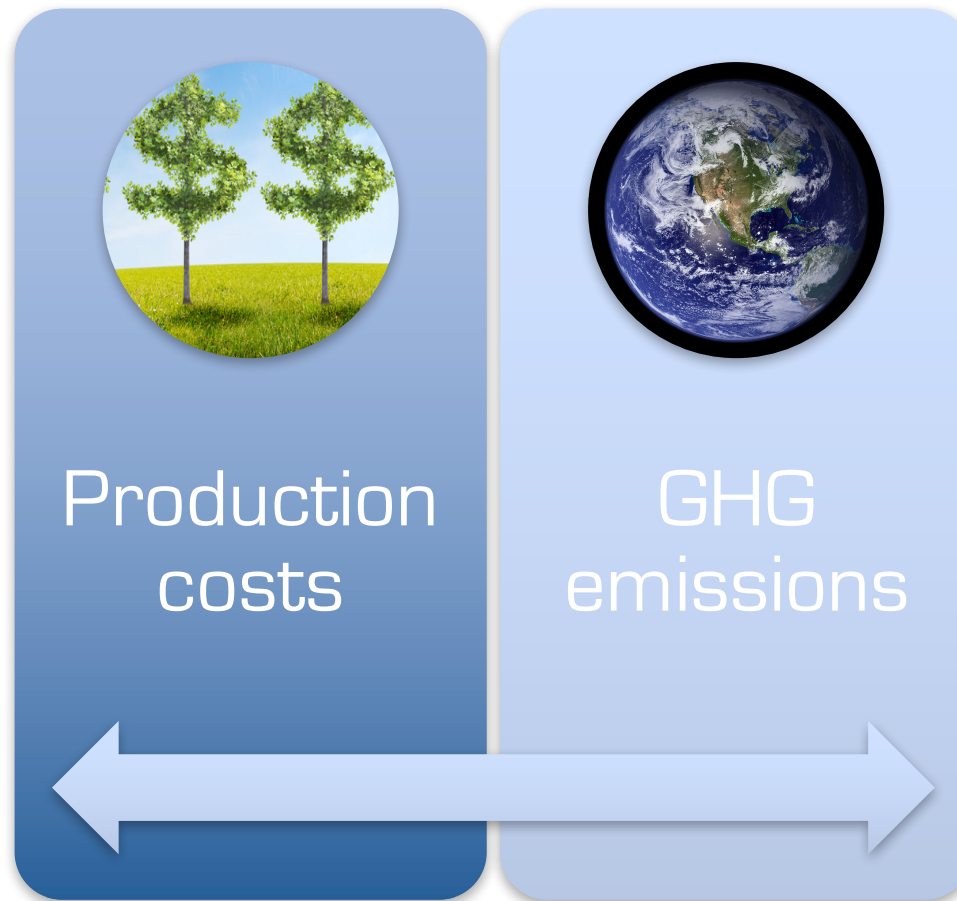


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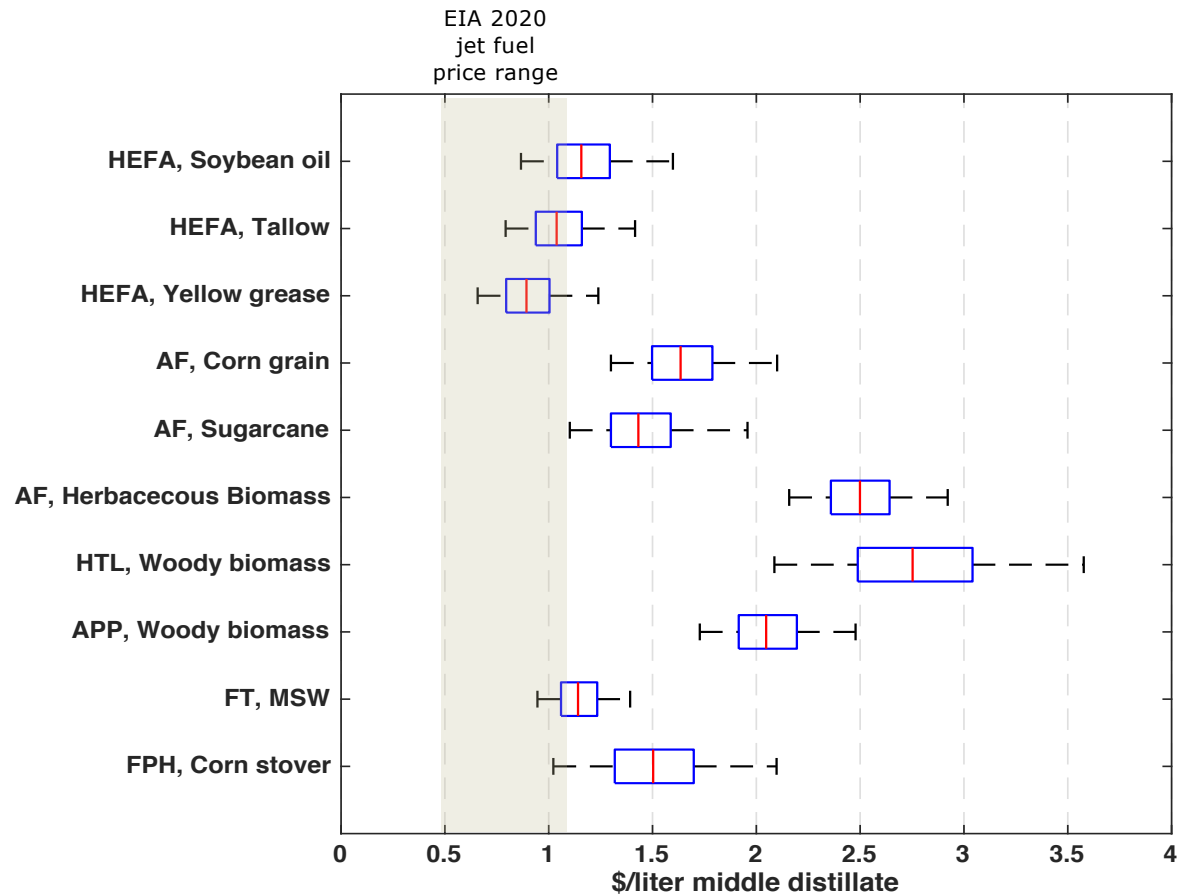
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# Traditional view on Alternative Jet Fuel “viability”

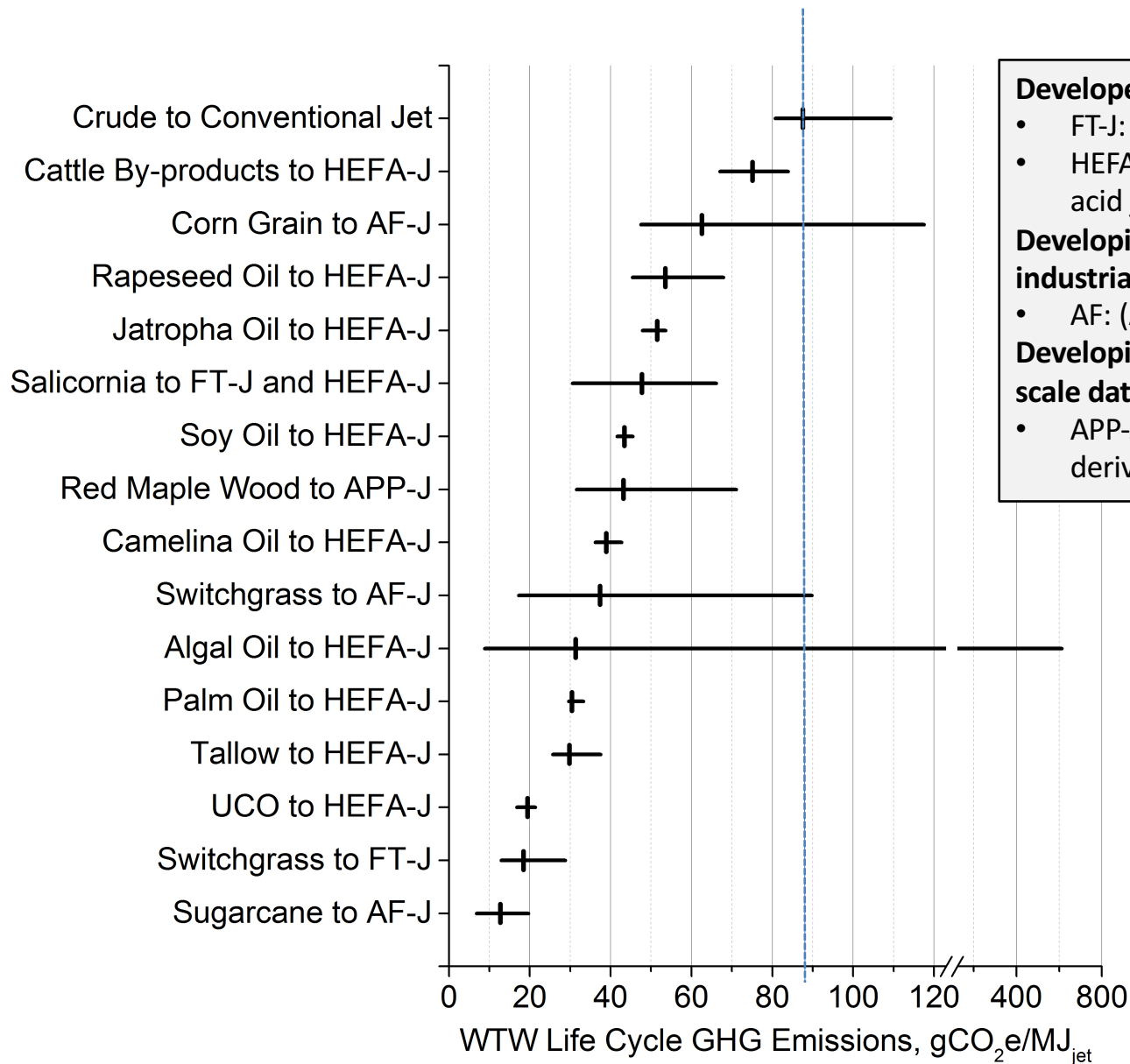


# Static costing perspective



No RIN credits or other subsidies included.  
**Do not cite, as preliminary.**

# Static GHG emissions perspective



**Developed technologies**

- FT-J: Fischer-Tropsch jet fuel
- HEFA-J: Hydroprocessed esters and fatty acid jet fuel

**Developing technologies assessed using industrial- & lab scale data**

- AF: (Advanced) fermentation jet fuel

**Developing technologies assessed using lab-scale data**

- APP-J: Aqueous phase processing derived jet fuel

- Results shown for production scenarios without land-use change

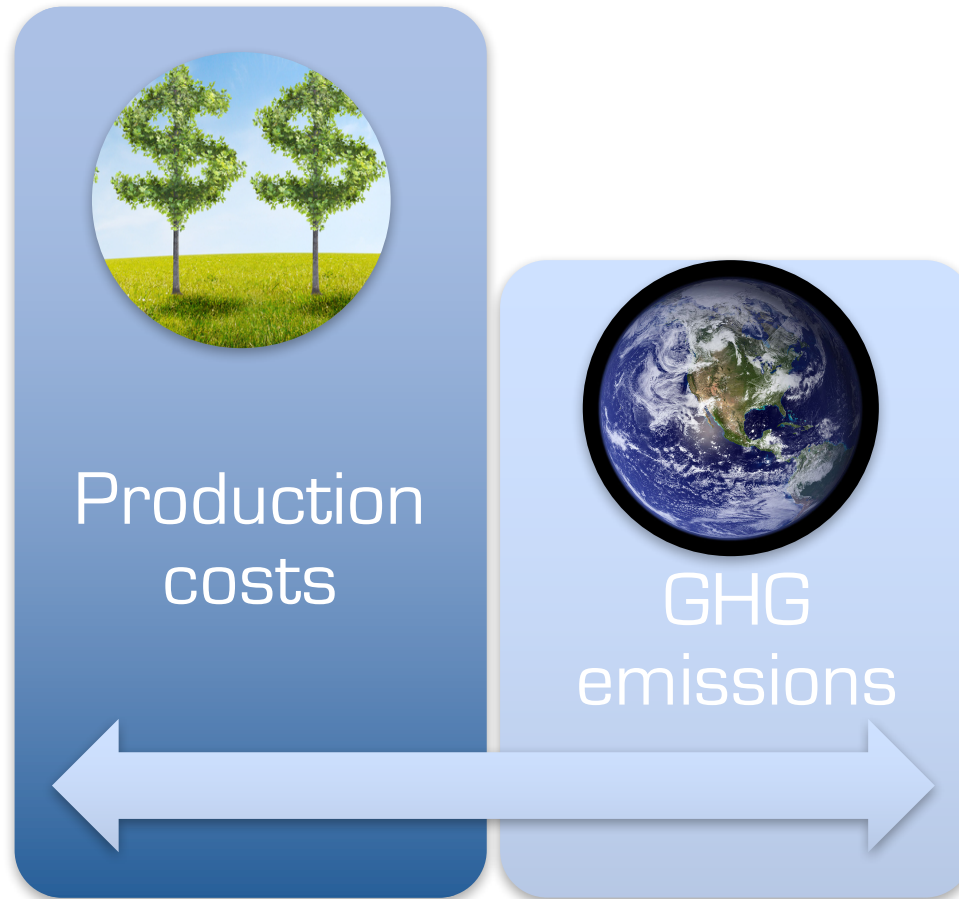
Results from Stratton et. al. (2011), Carter (2012), Staples et al. (2014), Seber et al. (2014), Bond et al. (2014) and on-going work. All data peer-reviewed with exception of APP results



# Missing facets



## 1. Weighing up of costs and emissions



# Missing facets

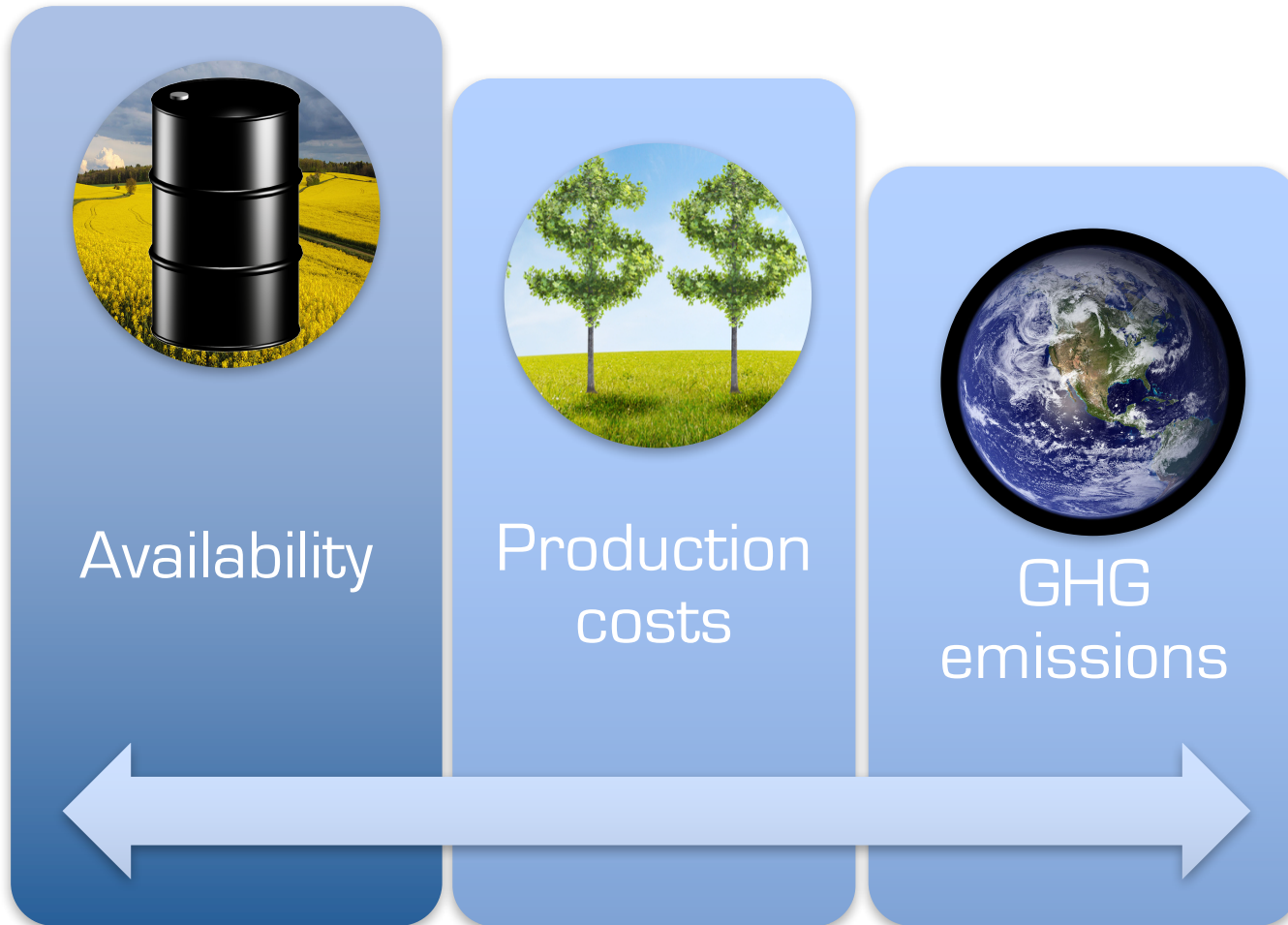
## 2. Inclusion of fuel availability





# Missing facets

## 3. Changes of viability over time

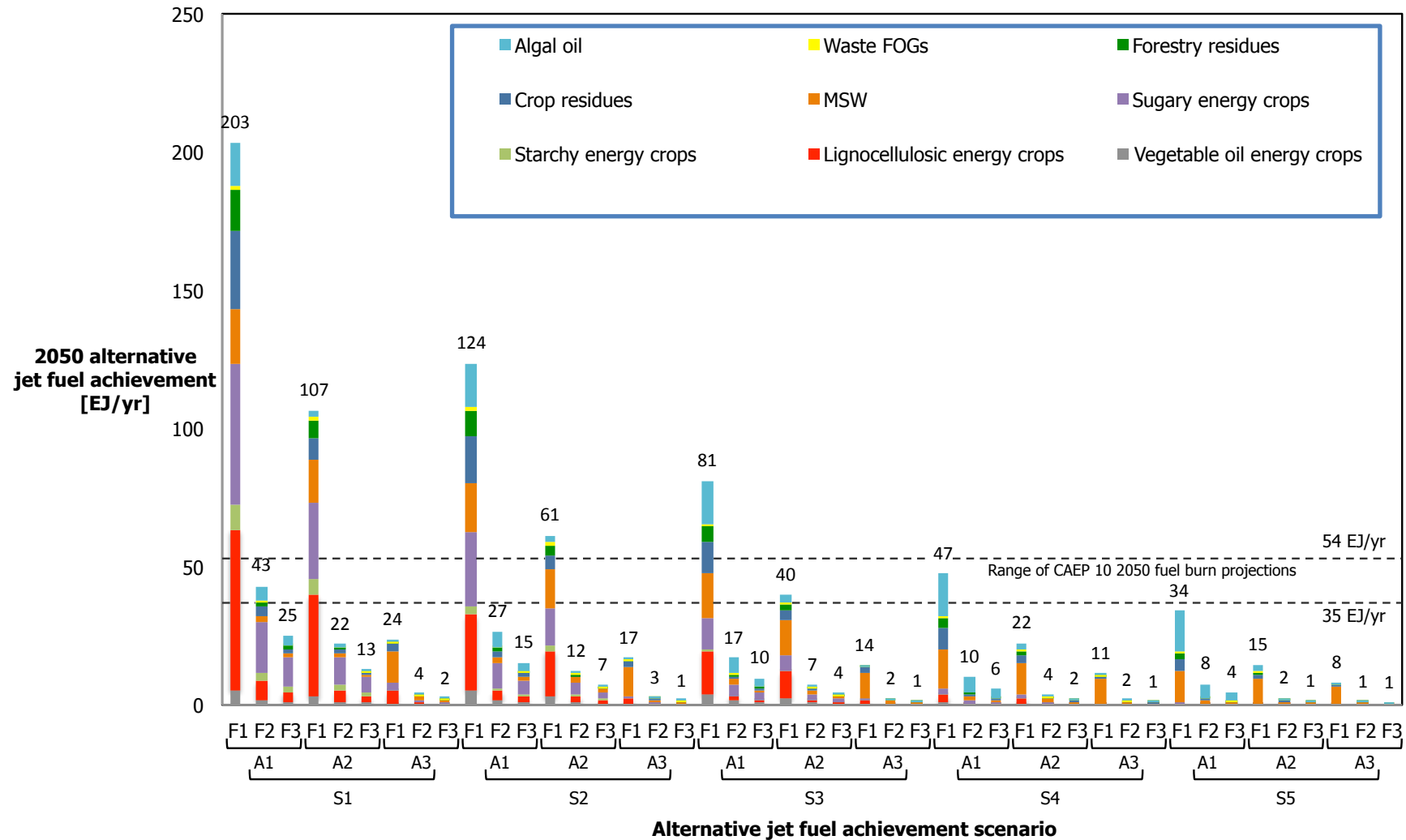




# Future availability of alternative jet fuel and production ramp-up over time

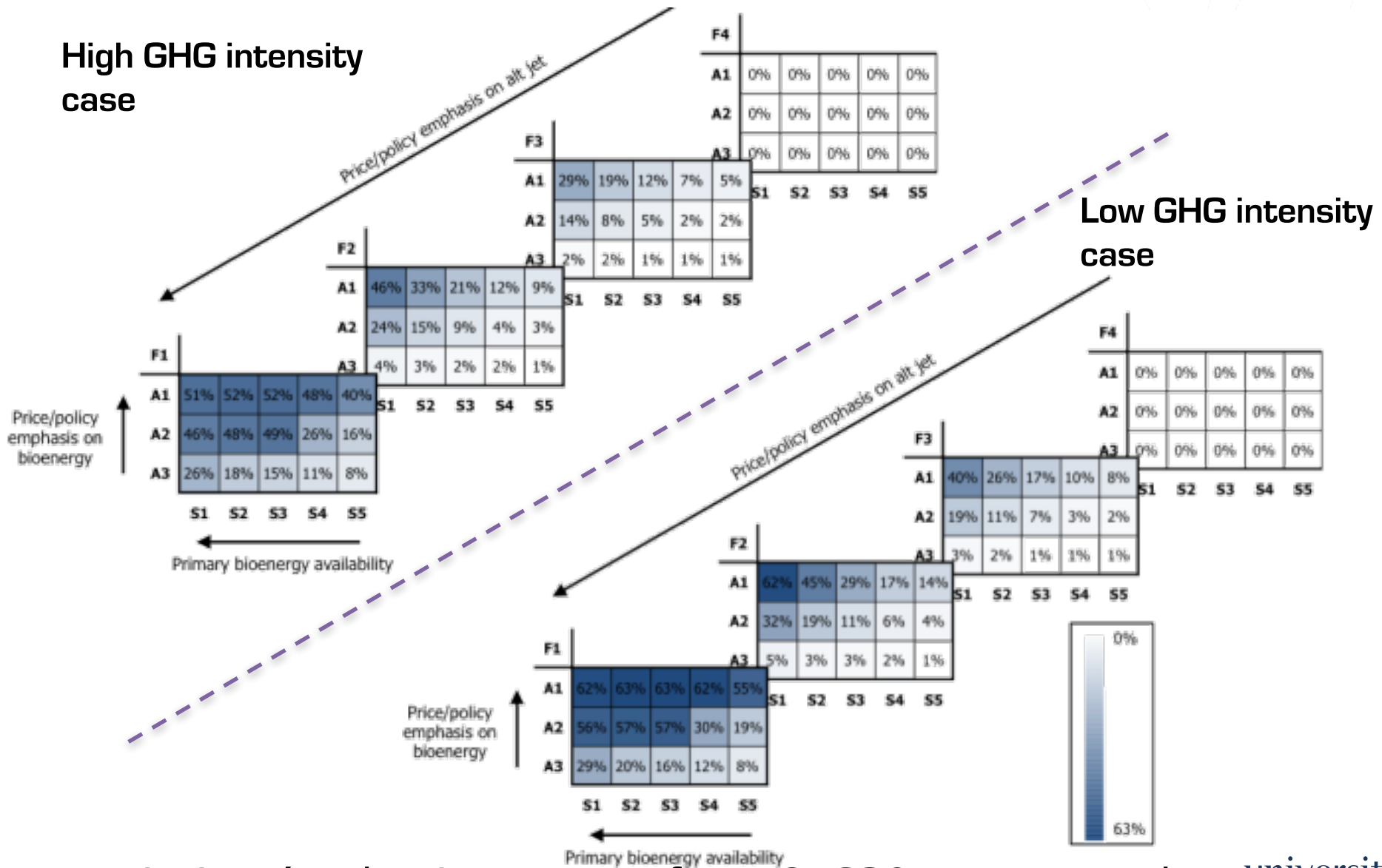


# 2050 global AJF production scenario results



- AJF achievement range from **0-203 EJ (4,600 Mt)** in 2050, replacing **up to 100%** of 2050 jet fuel demand

# 2050 global AJF GHG emissions reduction



- Emissions' reduction ranges from **0-63%**, compared to petroleum-derived jet fuel usage only.

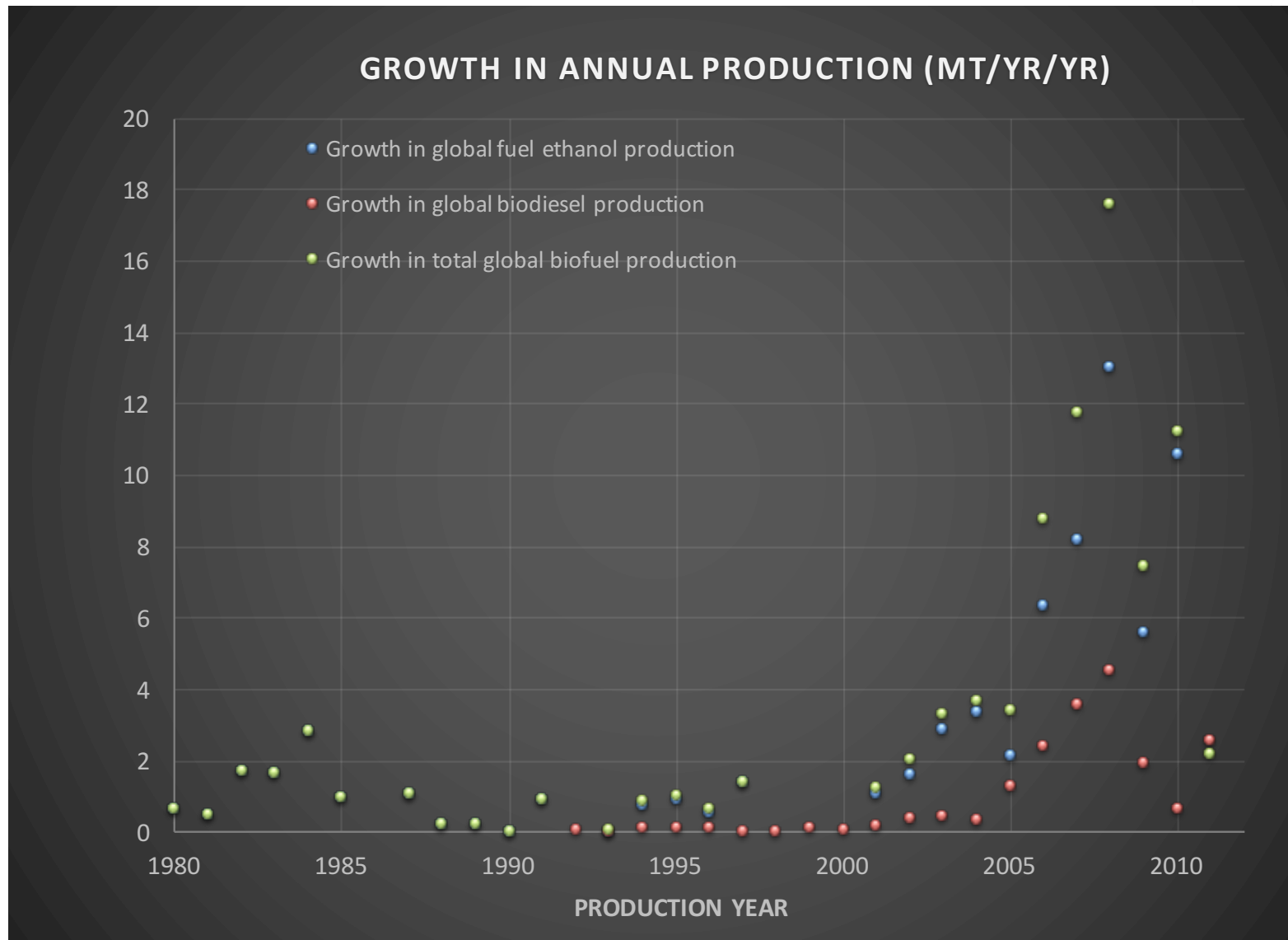
# Production-ramp up assessment (1 of 4)



| Aviation GHG emissions reduction | Required AJF production volume in 2050 (Mt/yr) | Number of additional biorefineries/yr | Capital investment/yr |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>2%</b>                        | 30   | 10                                    | \$2B - \$12B          |
| <b>10%</b>                       | 130  | 40                                    | \$6B - \$28B          |
| <b>17%</b>                       | 220  | 70                                    | \$12B - \$50B         |
| <b>40%</b>                       | 570  | 170                                   | \$30B - \$120B        |
| <b>63%</b>                       | 870  | 260                                   | \$40B - \$180B        |

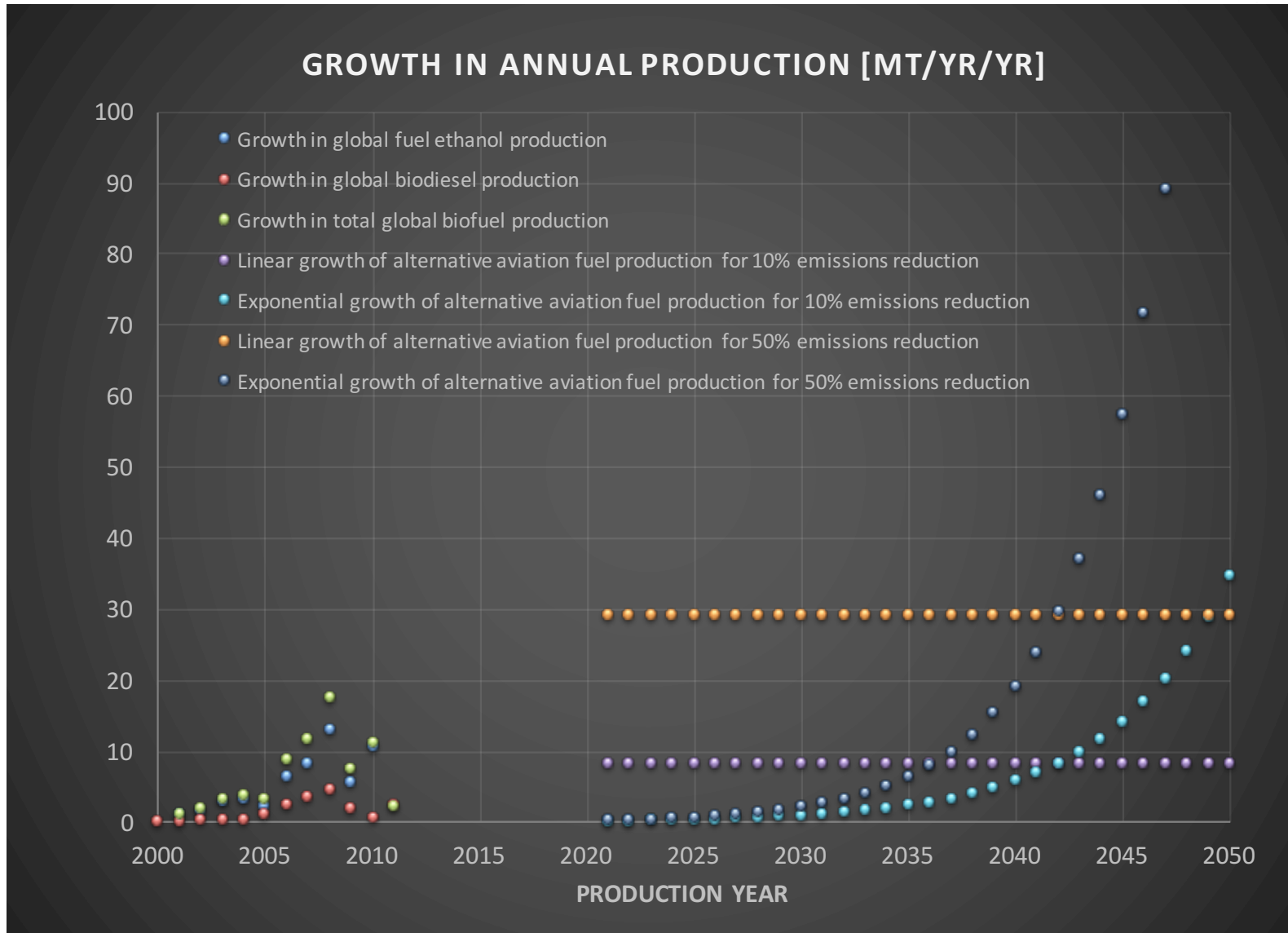
Assumptions: 5,000 bpd biorefinery with 50% jet fuel output share, capex range \$35,000-140,000/bpd. Capex values are provided based on total biorefinery investment, not just jet-fuel portion. Fuel demand projections based on ICAO forecasts.

# Production-ramp up assessment (2 of 4)



Source: Data from Brown (2012) .

# Production-ramp up assessment (3 of 4)



Source: Historical data from Brown (2012) , other values own calculations.

## Production-ramp up assessment (4 of 4)

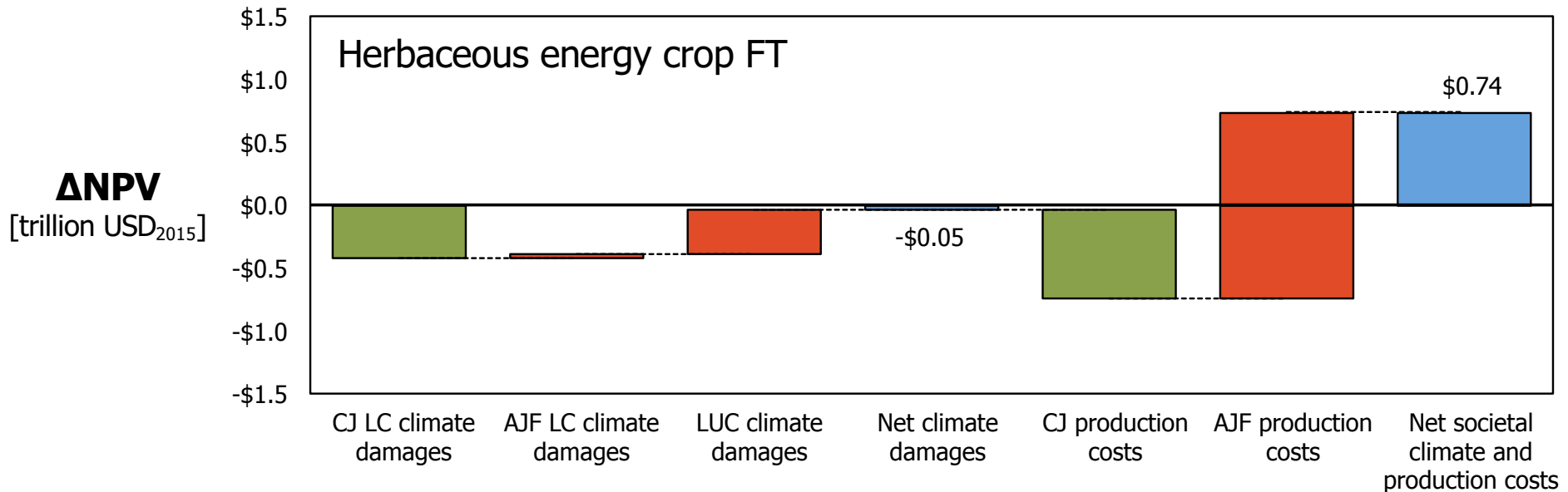
Annual **growth in AJF production** out to 2050 needs to be on the order of recently observed growth of 5-15 Mt/yr (**100k-300k bpd**) in global biofuel production capacity to **achieve between 10% and 20%** emissions reduction by 2050

Growth needs to **significantly exceed** historical global biofuel production growth rates for total GHG emission reductions of **greater than 20%**.



# Weighing up additional production costs and GHG emission benefits

# Herbaceous FT jet fuel example



Do not cite, as preliminary.

Results are specific to the assumptions below and cannot be generalized

CJ: Conventional jet fuel from petroleum  
 AJF: Alternative jet fuel  
 LC: Lifecycle  
 LUC: Land-use change

## Assumptions used:

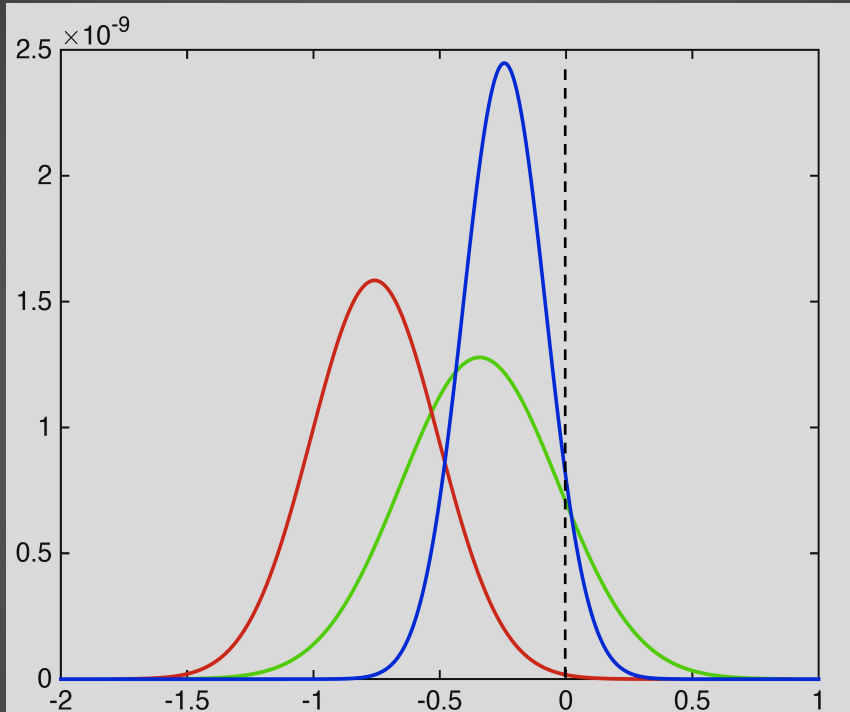
- 150 Mt/yr. AJF mandate for 2035 (~30% global jet fuel burn)
- Learning curve effects for alternative jet fuels as production increases
- Increases in agricultural productivity
- Changes in carbon intensity of conventional jet fuel



# MSW to jet example



## Investor perspective:

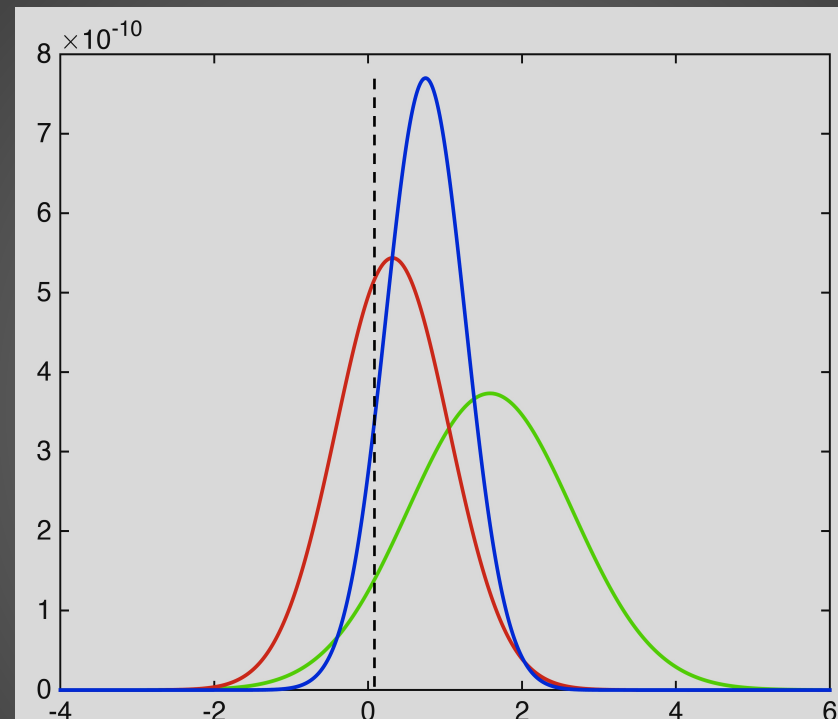


Net present value (\$B) \*

Probability of NPV>0:

14% 0.1% 7%

## “Societal” perspective:

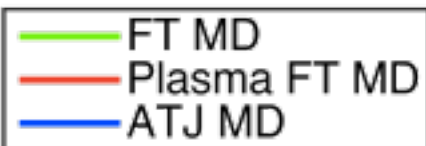


Net present value (\$B)

Probability of NPV>0:

93% 67% 92.5%

Results are specific to the assumptions below and cannot be generalized



\*No RIN credits included

### Assumptions used for societal case

- Costs of carbon based on US EPA social costs of carbon
- Societal costs of capital of 3.2%
- Taxes and subsidies excluded as they constitute transfers

# Summary statement



- There is a **large alternative jet fuel potential** whose usage could significantly **reduce** aviation **GHG emissions**.
- Aviation biofuels, on average, will remain **more expensive** than conventional jet fuel in the **short to medium term**, therefore, in order to get fuels into the market, **policy incentives** will be required.
- **Significant investment** is necessary in order to achieve a substantial aviation biofuel market penetration:
  - Annual capital investment **similar** to **highest** annual **investment** in **road transportation biofuels** for **10-20% emissions' reduction** out to 2050
- **Higher costs** for aviation biofuels are **justified** from a societal perspective as long as the environmental benefits **compensate** for the additional costs. In order to achieve this, **significant cost** savings will need to be realized for many pathways.



# Funding Acknowledgement

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Work presented here may not represent the views of the FAA.





**Thank you for your attention!**

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