

The
Economist

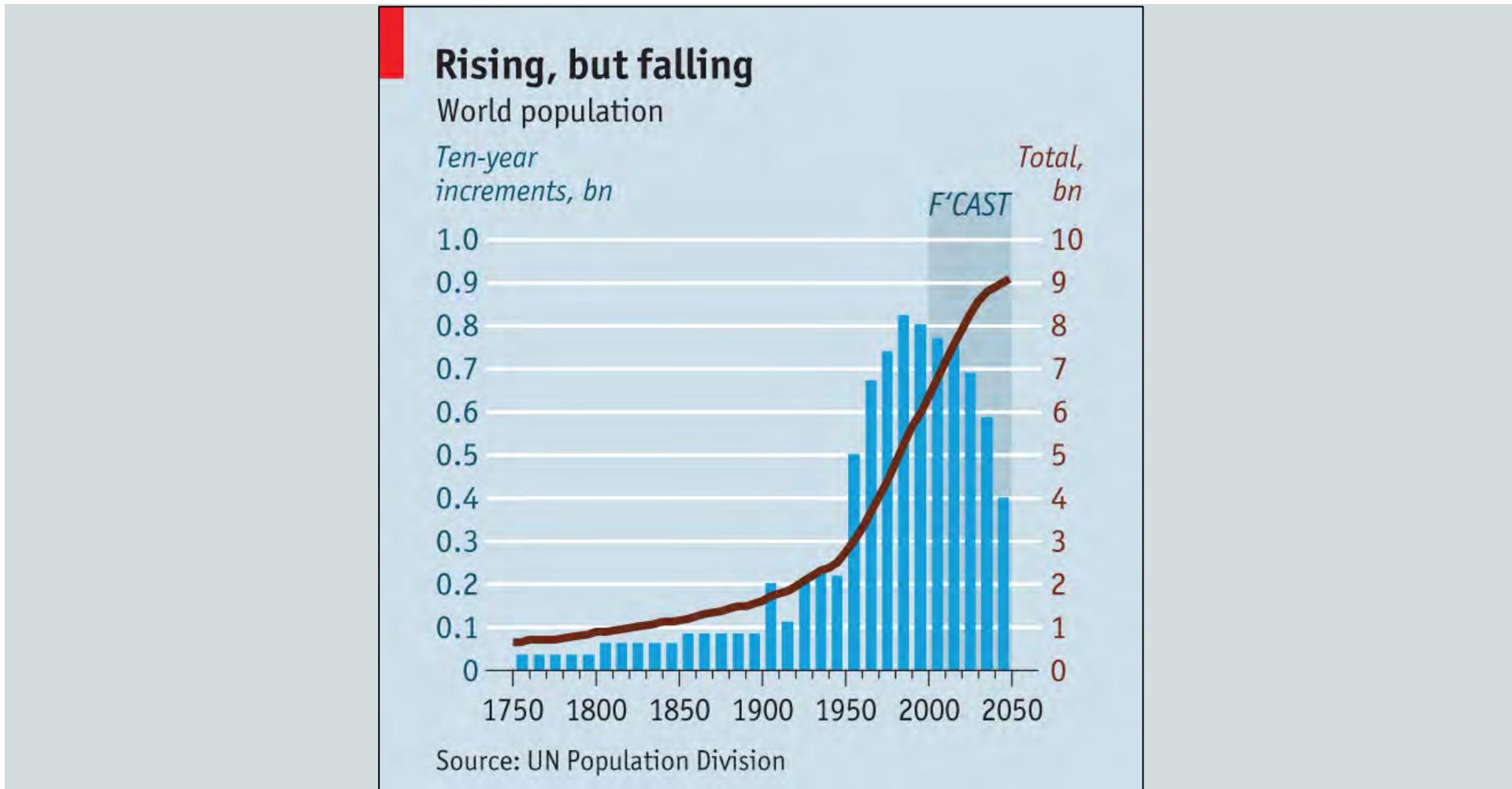
Feeding the world

John Parker

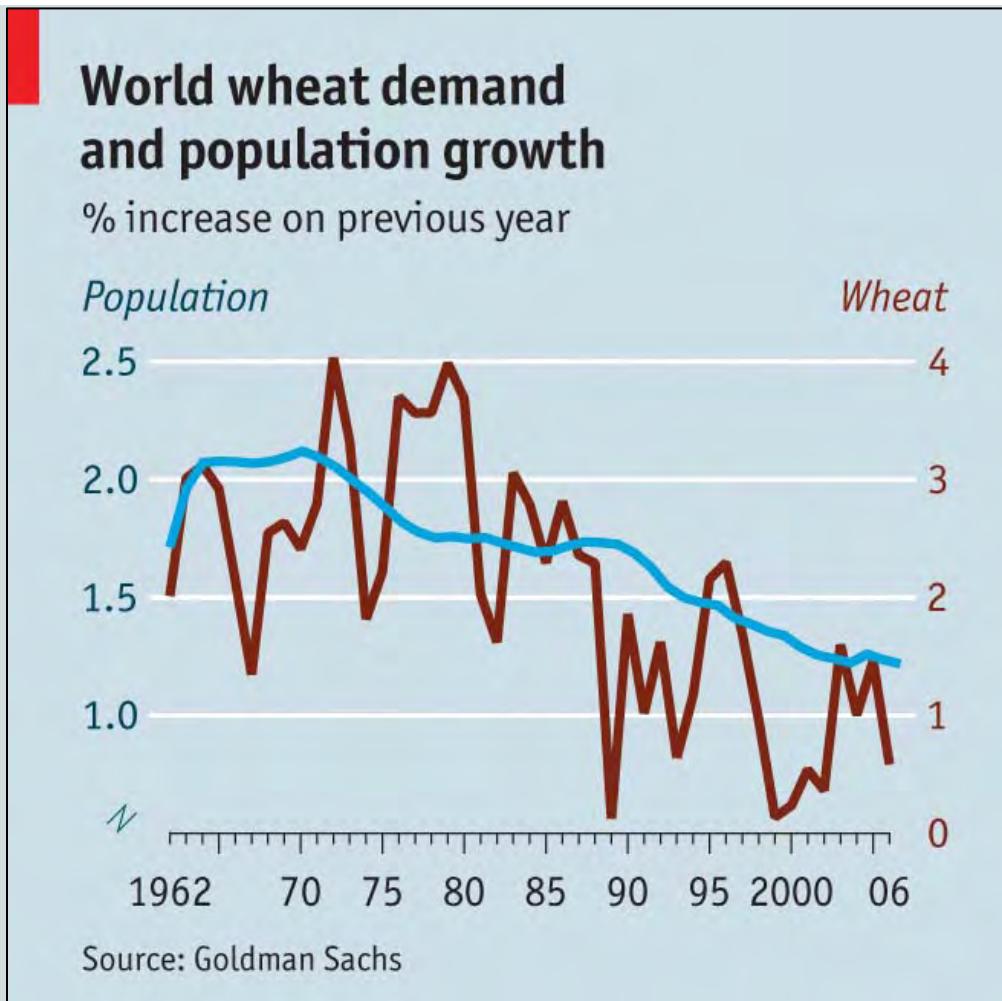
Globalisation Correspondent, *The Economist*

January 2010

More people...



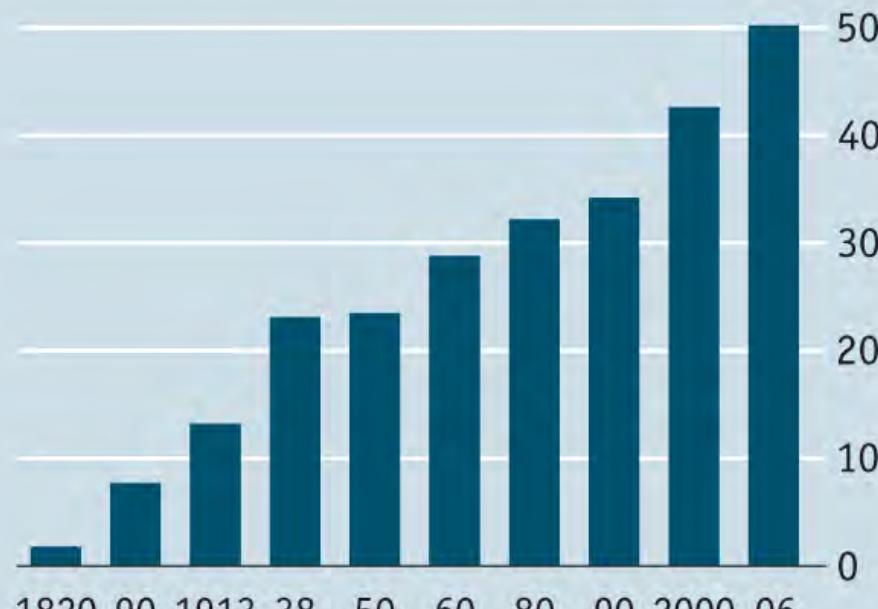
...means more grain



More middle class...

Relentless rise

Middle-class population as % of world total



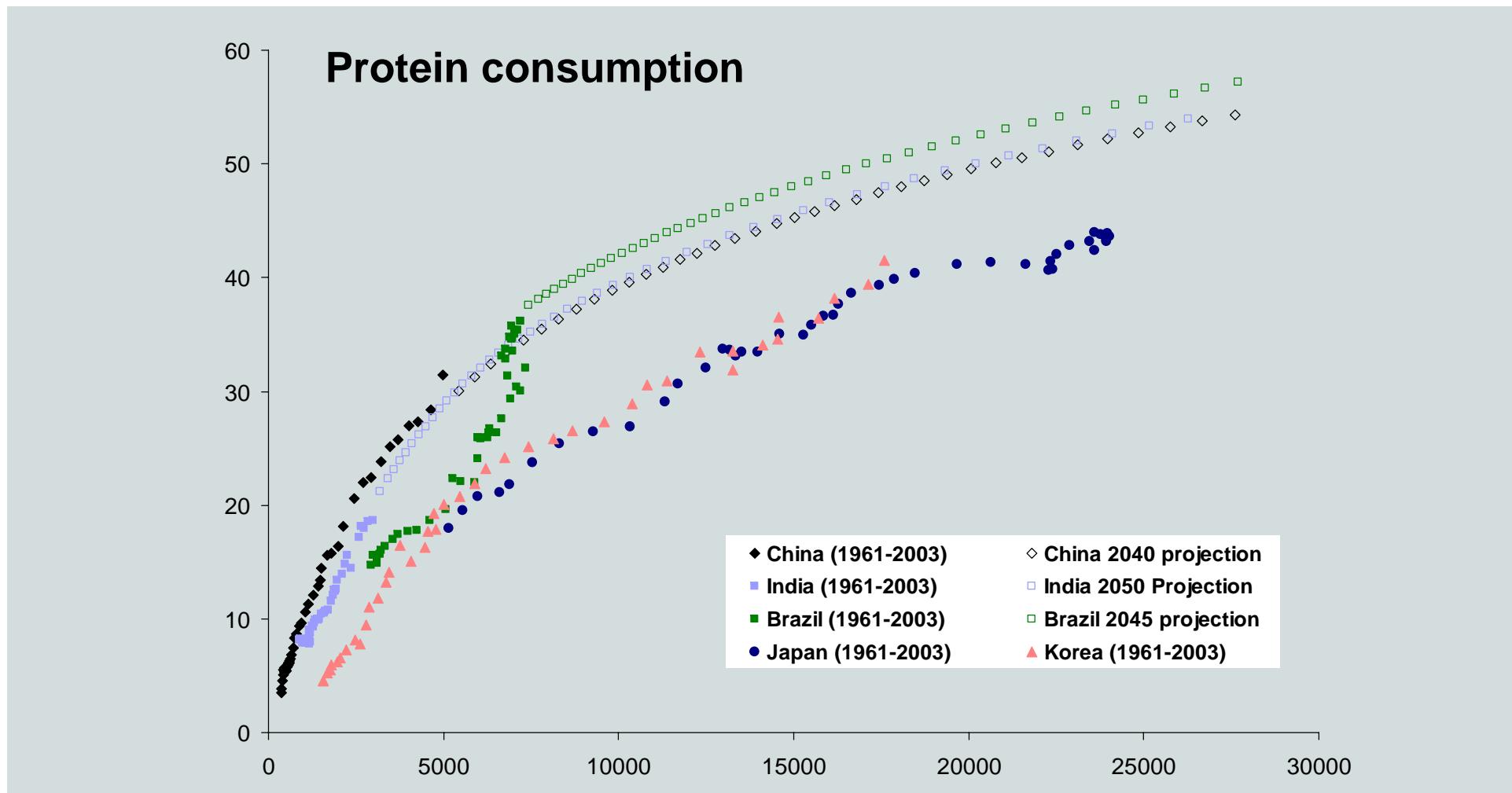
Source: Surjit Bhalla, "The Middle Class Kingdoms of India and China" (forthcoming)

...means more meat...

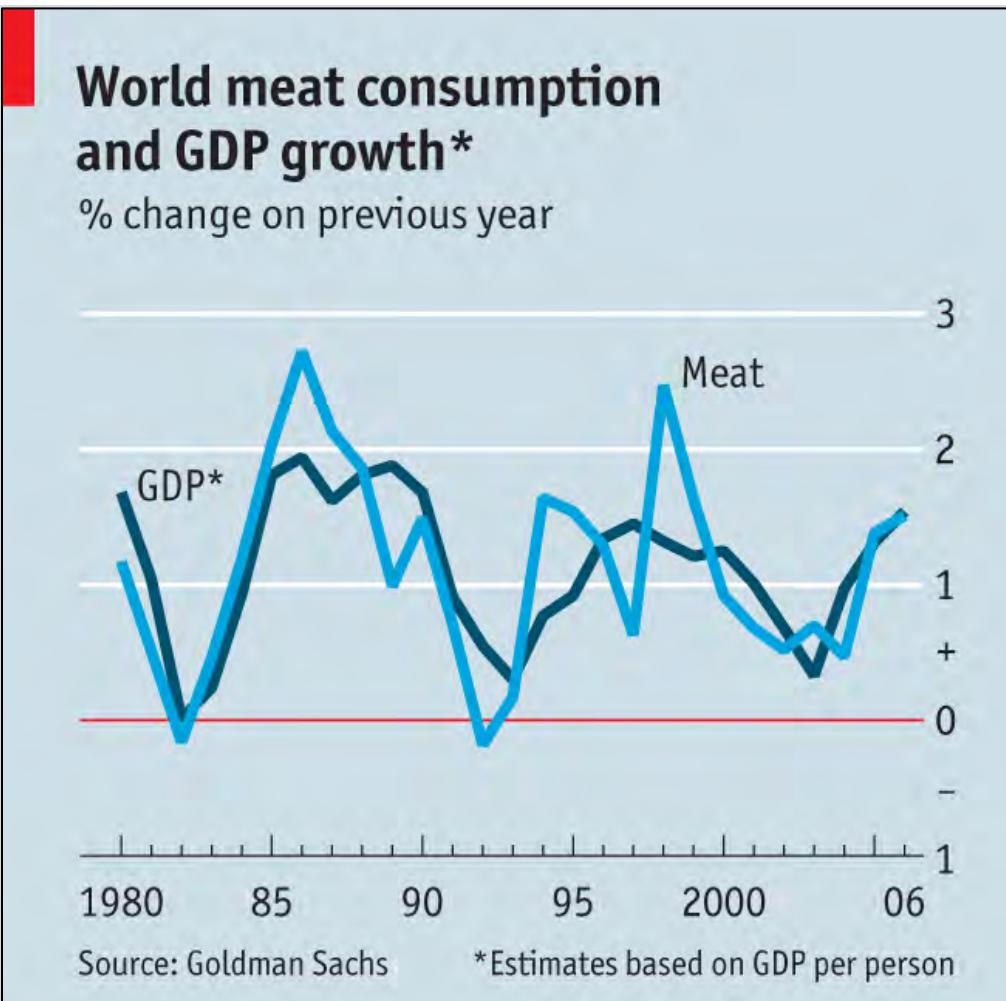
China:

- average meat consumption,
1985: 20 kg
- average meat consumption,
2007: 50 kg

...and yet more meat



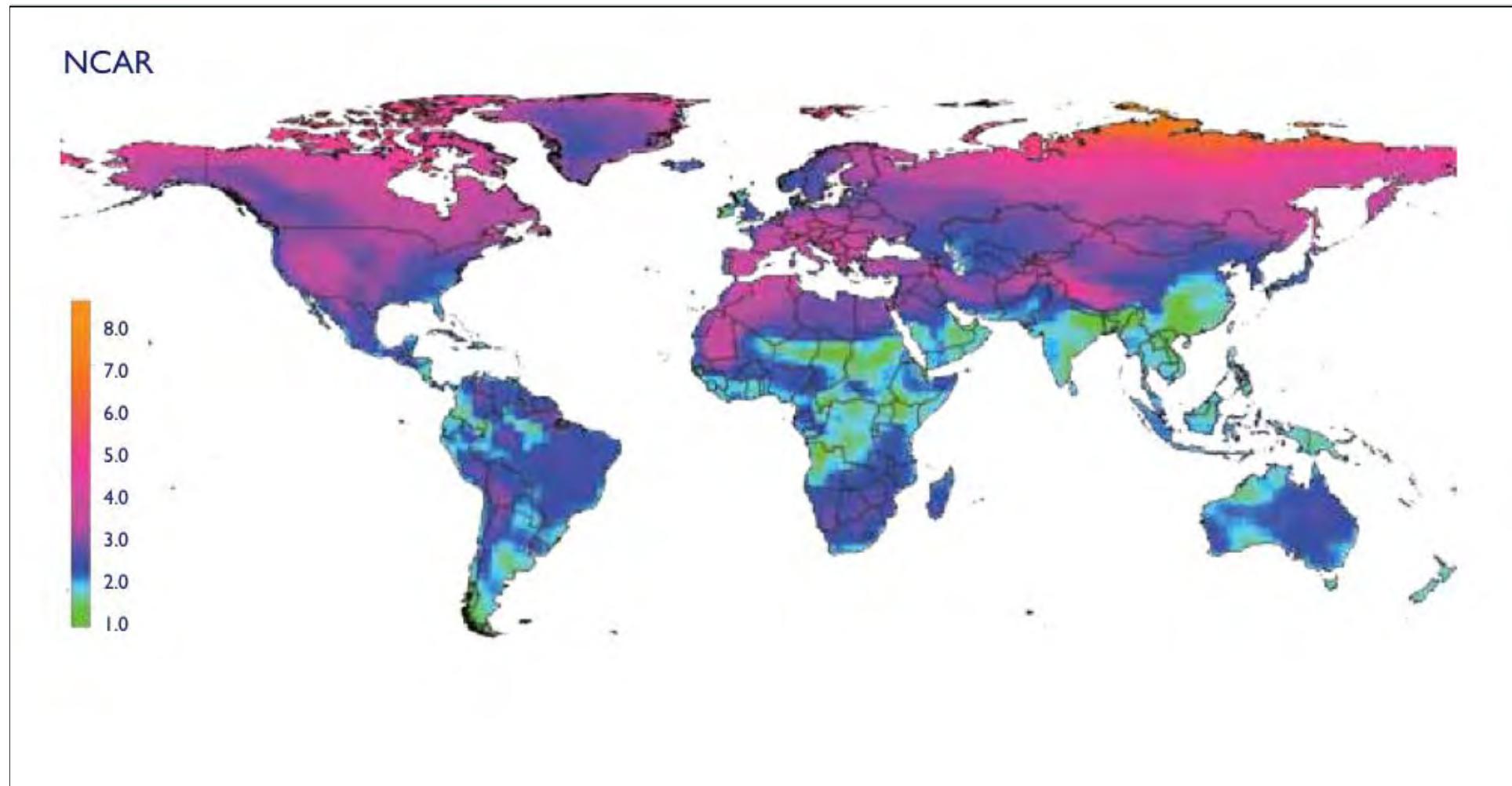
Growth means meat



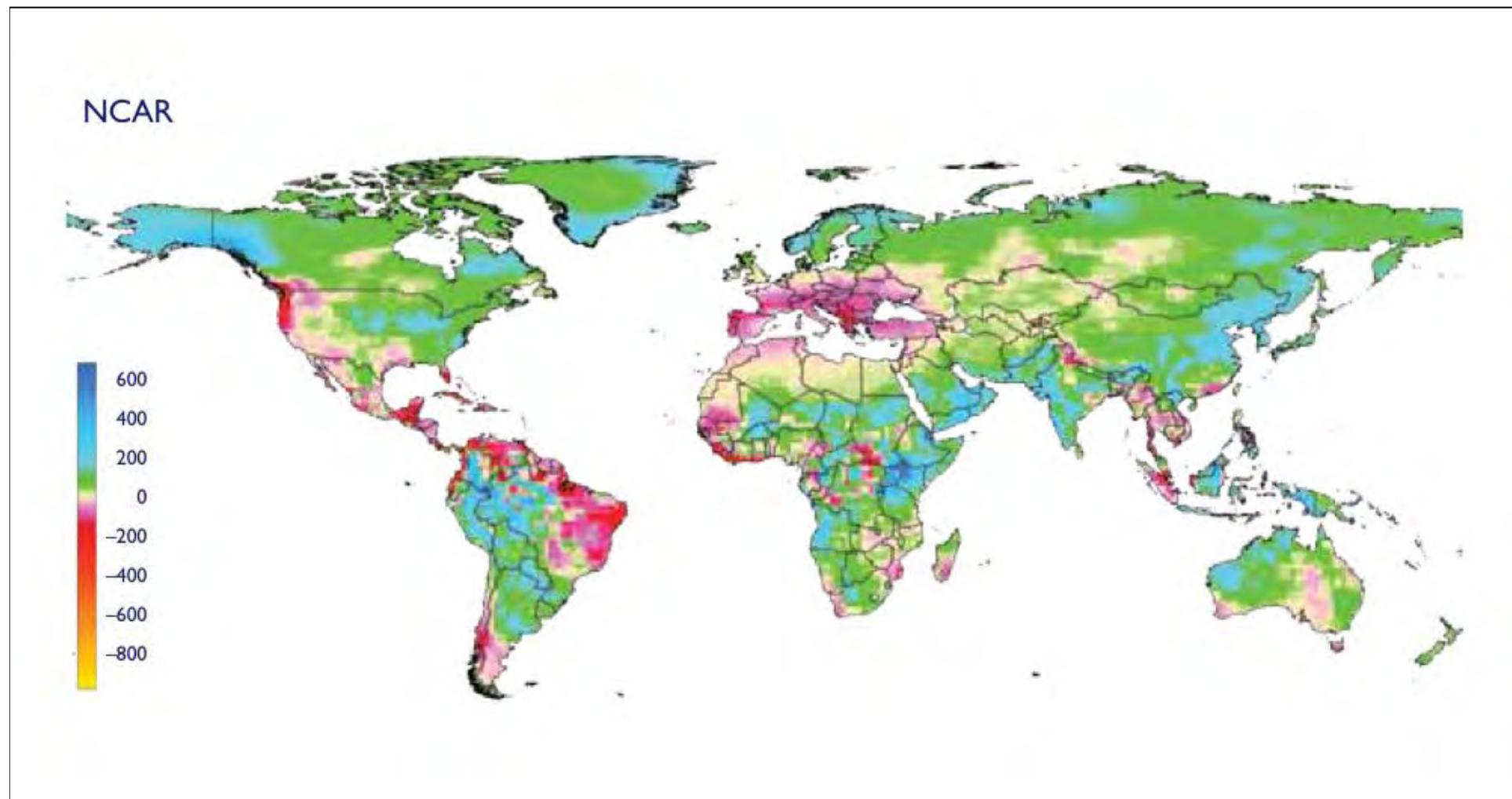
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Agriculture and climate change

Warmer Canada, Europe, Russia; stable Africa, India, China



Wetter Asia, North America; drier Europe



Harvests of sorrow

Wheat yield changes between 2000 and 2050*

Forecast scenarios, %

Developing countries

CSIRO†-Australian
NCAR‡-American

Developed countries

CSIRO‡
NCAR‡

40 30 20 10 - 0 + 10

Irrigated

30 20 10 - 0 + 10

Rain fed

10 - 0 + 10

*Assuming no CO₂
fertilisation

†Commonwealth
Scientific & Industrial
Research Organisation

‡National Centre for
Atmospheric Research

Source: International
Food Policy Research
Institute

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