## Introduction

“The strategic planning phase within a terminal’s development is rather segregated, in which economists make traffic projections, afterwich a port engineering team translates that projection into a terminal plan, before having the economist re-evaluate the terminal plan and analyse its feasibility. This results in a very coarse feedback mechanism in which the final economic analysis may require the port engineers to redo their initial design, leading to an increase in design costs. Integrating economic analysis into the design process sets out to facilitate this process by supporting port engineers through visualizing the economic impact of their design assumnptions. **Check introduction to Cornelis’ introduction.”**

## Global trends

Global demand for agricultural commodities such as maize, wheat and soybeans has soared in the past decades (USDA, 2018). This trend is set to continue, driven by global population growth accompanied by a substantial increase in welfare. In the 19th century, the German statistician Engel observed a positive correlation between per capita food demand and income, ultimately levelling out at high incomes (Bodirsky, Rolinski, Biewald, & Weindl, 2015). The impact of higher living standards on food consumption can be dissected into three components; increased daily consumption, increased food waste and a dietary shift towards animal products.

The impact of a global dietary shift to animal products should not be underestimated; currently 32% of the world’s yielded grains and up to 68% of the grains used by developed countries are being fed to livestock (Elferink, Nonhebel, & Moll, 2008). This portion is set to increase, as the past 50 years have seen the global demand for animal products and the amount of crop production used for feed approximately triple (330% and 300% respectively) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2014). Examples of clear dietary shifts as a result of increasing GDP can be seen in Brazil, where annual per capita meat consumption rose from 28 to 82 kg between 2000 and 2010(Lee et al., 2012), while GDP rose from 655 to 2209 billion US$(The World Bank, n.d.). Another such example can be found in China, where average meat consumption increased from 3.8 to 52.4 kg per capita and GDP rose from 427 to 1471 billion US$(The World Bank, n.d.) between 1990 and 2002(Lee et al., 2012).

The increase in food demand will be met with limitations on local production due to regional climates, boosting the global trade in agricultural commodities. The global trends seen in Figure 1.1 underscore the industry’s growth potential and are based on the UN’s yearly population assessment(UN Population Division, 2017) and the OECD’s global GDP forecasts(OECD, 2018) noted in real terms (i.e. adjusted for inflation and rising cost of services).

The three commodities that fall within the scope of this research are maize, soybeans and wheat, as they all share two characteristics: they are currently traded in substantial volumes and they all show signs of large growth potential. As shipping will be the main form of transport capable of transporting such trade volumes between global regions, attention should be paid to the efficient design of its corresponding terminals. An efficient design is one that minimizes and postpone costs whenever possible, increases revenues by living up to market demand and expedites revenues to reduce overall project risk.