

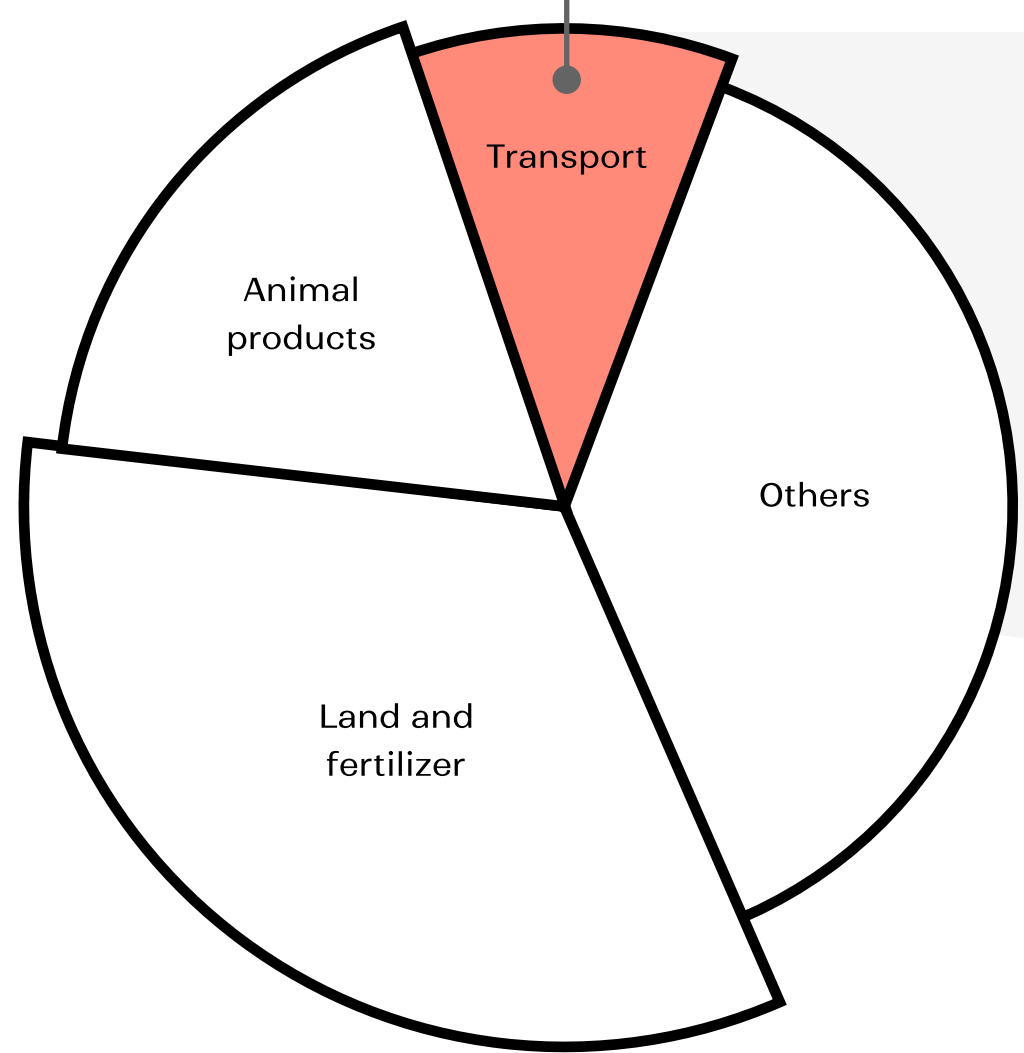
Environmental Impact of Food-Miles and Export driven Monocultures

1. Food Miles Impact

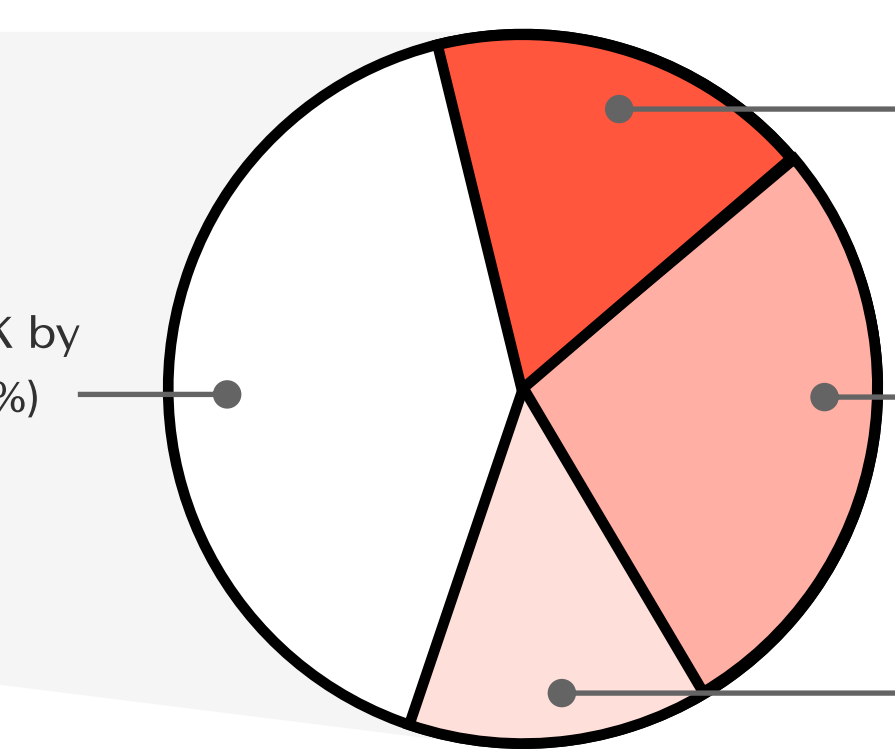
Food-miles is the distance between where something is produced to where it's eaten. More advanced studies also account for the import of chemicals, machinery, animal feed, etc. used to produce that food.

CO2 emissions

10-12% of emissions from the entire food system in UK are due to food miles.

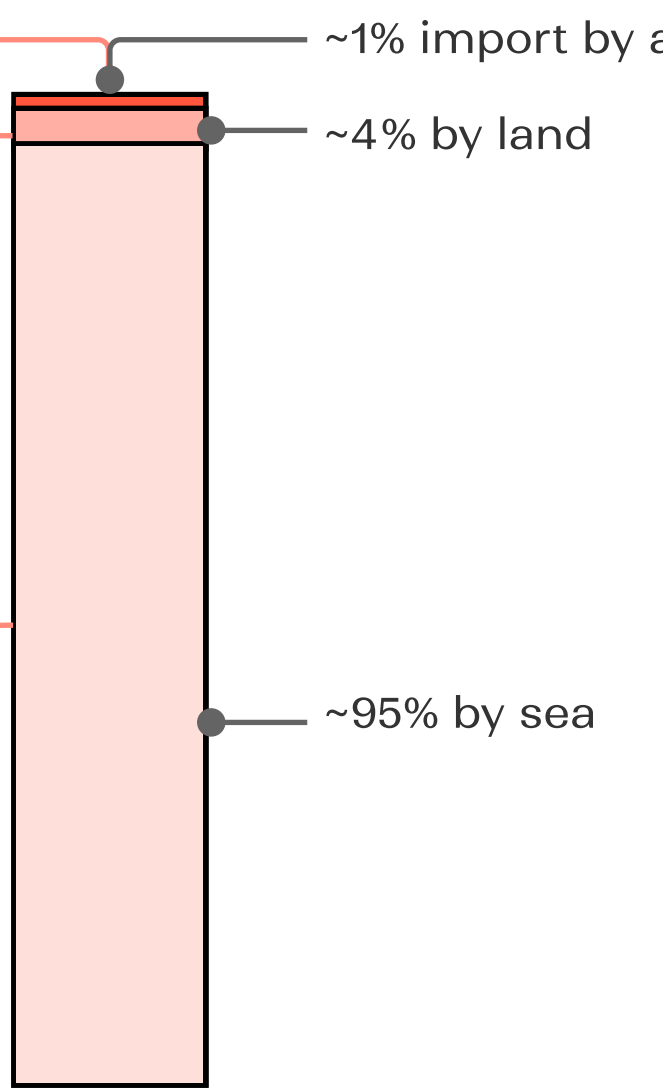


Breakup of food miles emissions in the UK via different modes:



Only 1% of food imports in the UK are by air yet it contributes to ~17.5% of food-miles emissions

Amount of food imported via different modes:



Temperature control in transit and sales accounts for 5% of global food system emissions.

Vegetables and fruits account for 36% of food miles emission globally.

85% of fruits and 47% of vegetables consumed in UK are imported.

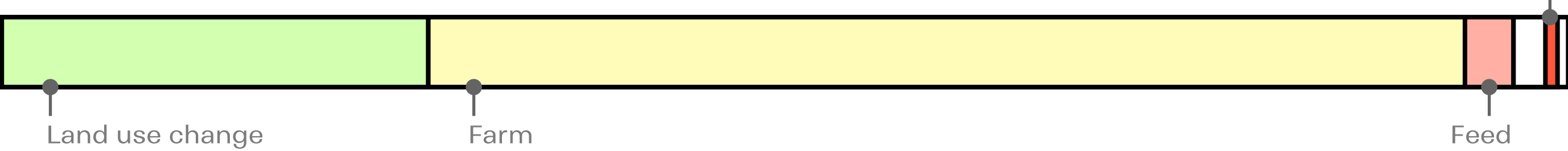
Causes for high fruits and vegetable imports:

- Unsuitable UK climate
- Multi-culture demographic
- Year-round habit/ non seasonal

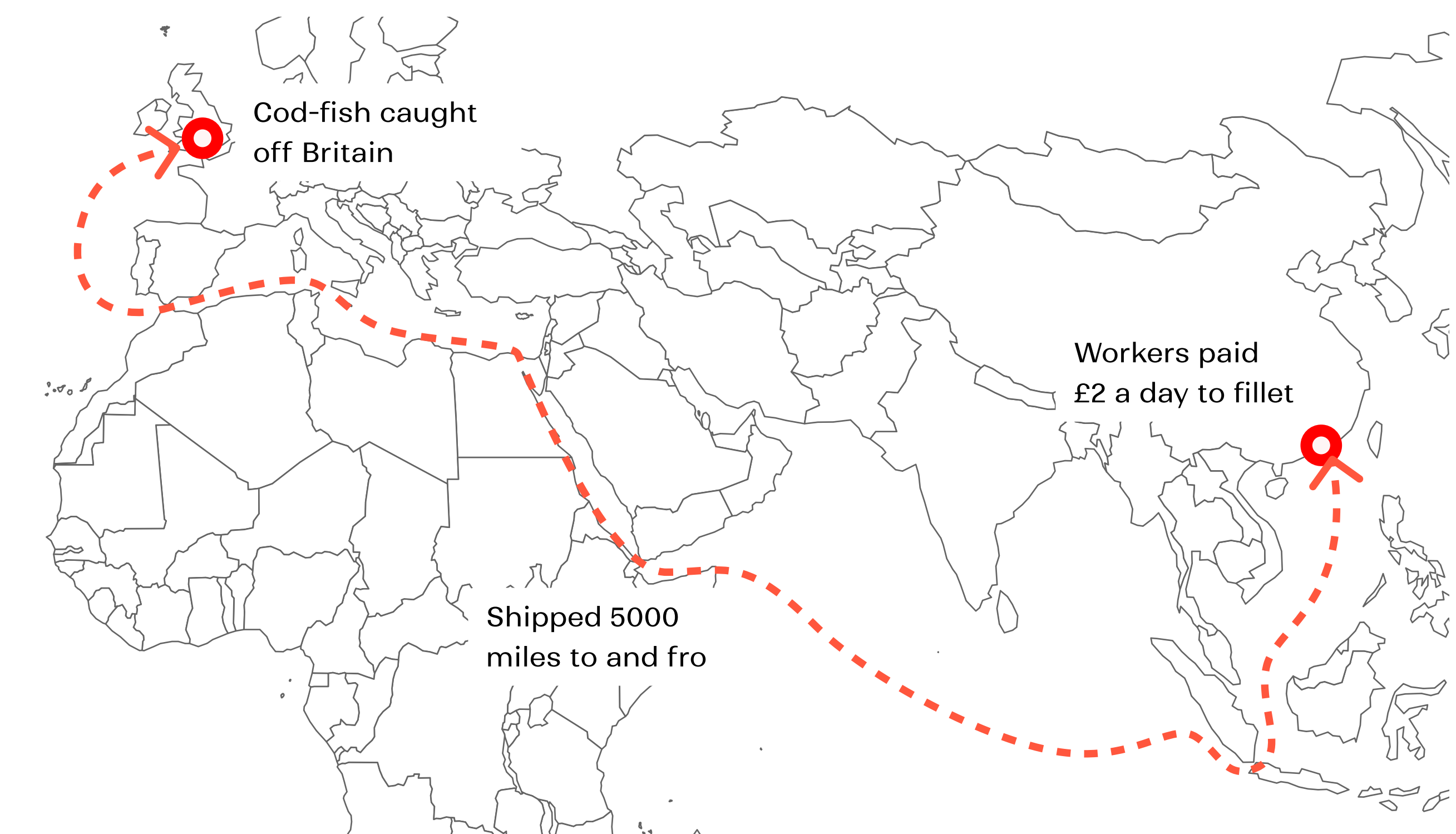
2. Imported vegetables better than local meat?

While fruits and vegetables lead to a significant portion of food-miles emissions, it is advocated that meat products, local or not, are less sustainable than vegetables imported even from the furthest point.

Emissions from beef food cycle:



Complicated food journeys



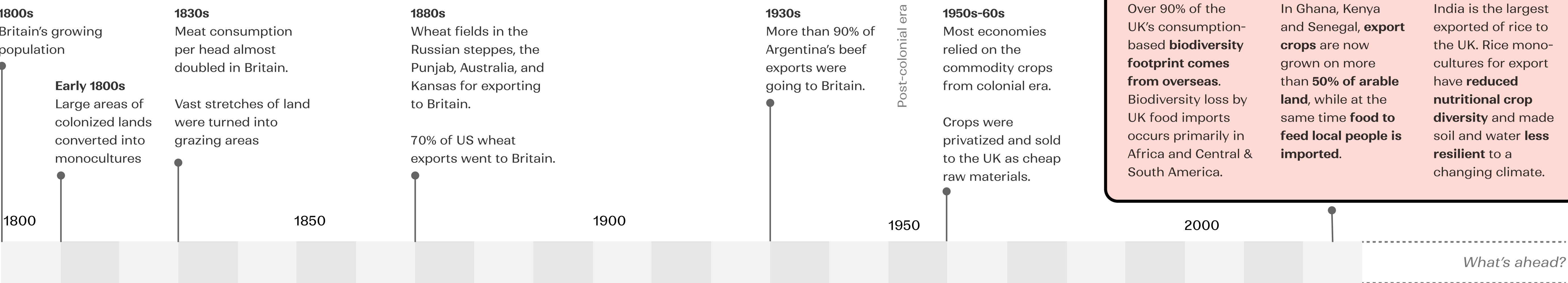
Most fishes and prawns caught off North Atlantic are shipped 5000 miles to China to fillet and store at cheap rates before shipping 5000 miles back to the UK.

Animal feed imports

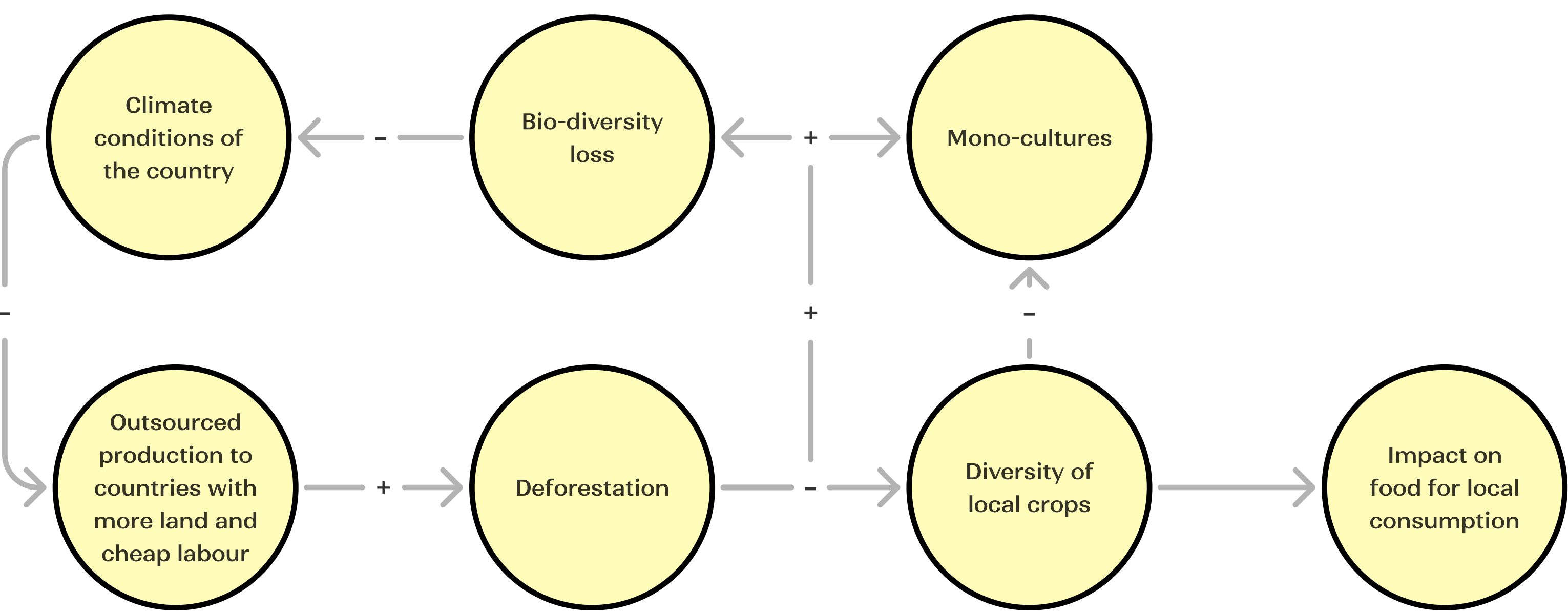


Animal feed like soy comes from large monocultures, meant specifically for export, in Brazil which itself imports fertilizers from Canada and North-Africa. This has led to extensive deforestation.

3. Export driven monocultures (single-crop cultivation)



Causal loops for export driven monocultures :



Sources:

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