

# Carbon-footprint and food exports in Latin America and the Caribbean



NACIONES UNIDAS

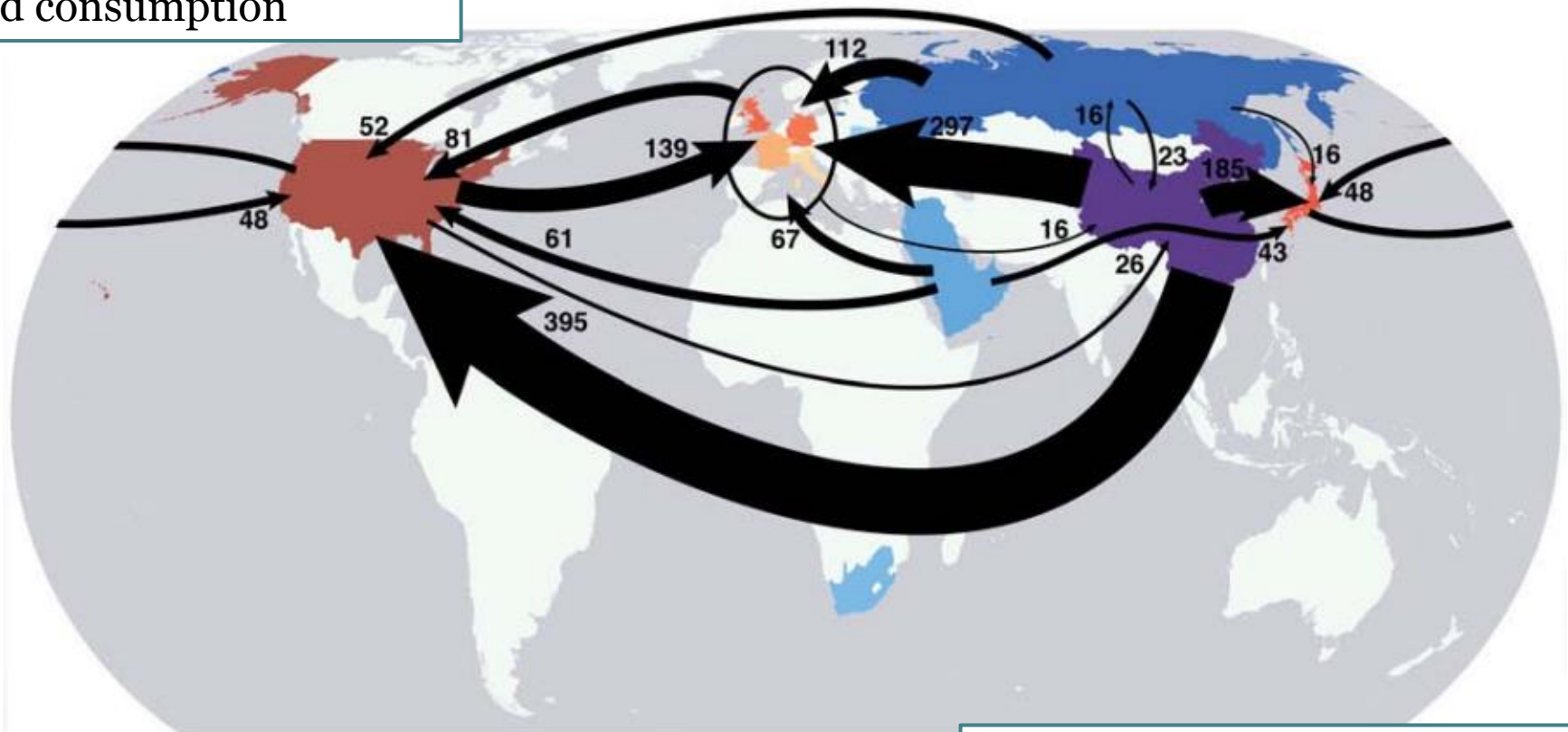
CEPAL

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# Main flows of embedded carbon in international trade

Emissions production  
and consumption



(Carnegie Instituto 2010)

Shared but differentiated  
responsibility

# ECLAC Project (2012-2014)

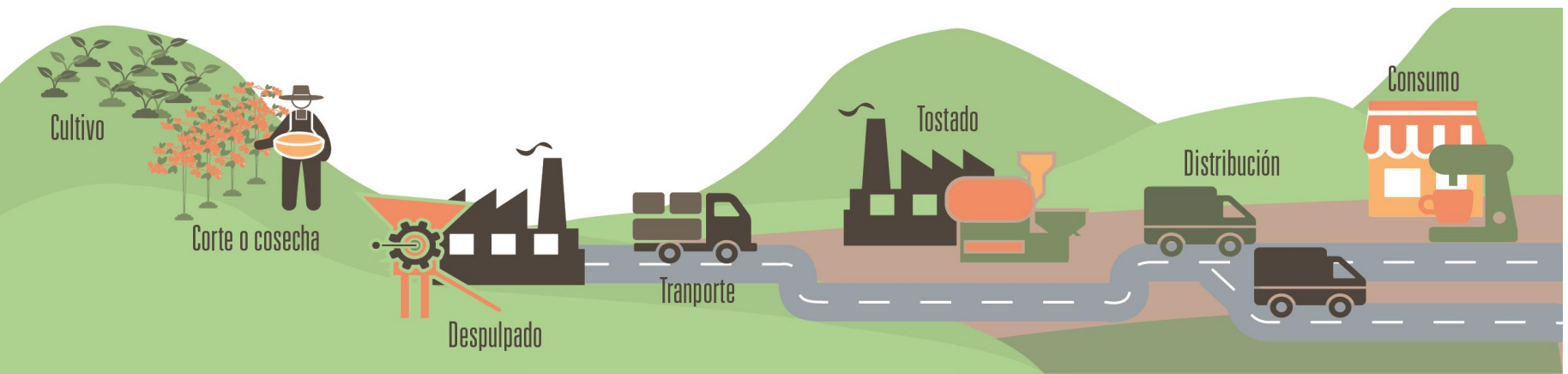
**Motivation:** Address embedded carbon from production end of the food supply chain

**Objective:** Strengthen capacities of governments and food exporters to adapt to climate-change related standards, specifically carbon footprint measurement and ecolabeling

**Countries:** Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua

**Activities:** Information and capacity-building: national workshops, international seminars, good practices, country action plans

**Carbon footprint measurement (benchmark)** of 7 export products (bananas, coffee, cocoa, palm oil, shrimp, stevia and goldenberry) in 45 firms in 5 countries.



# Public private partnerships

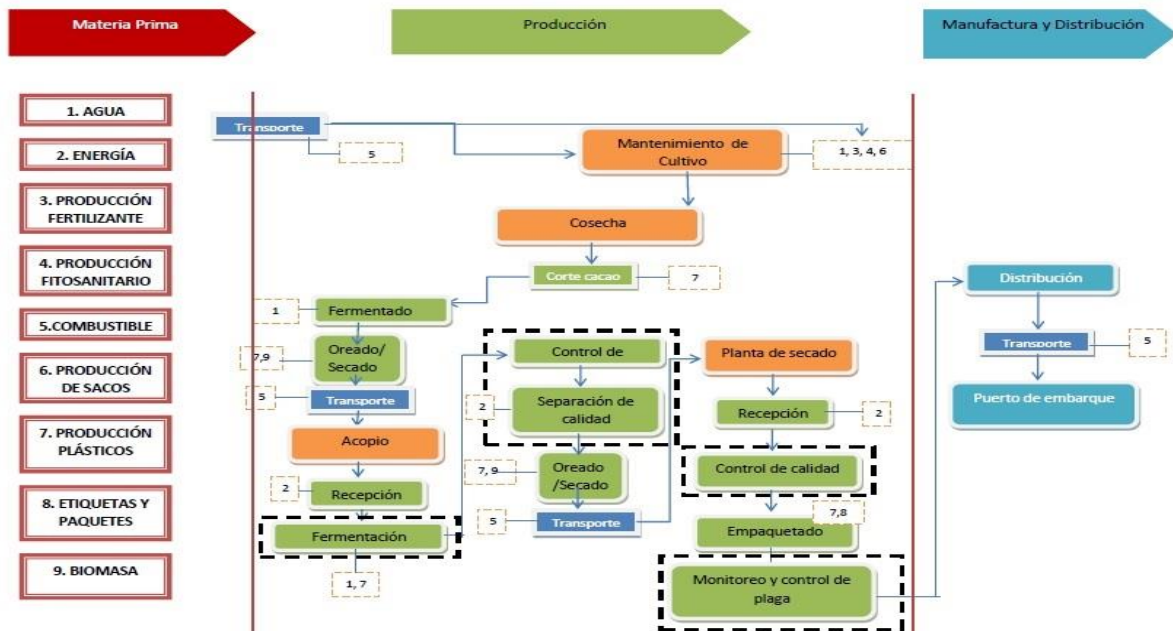
- **Focal points:** Trade promotions organizations
- **Participants:** Government officials, business associations, firms, academia
- **Agenda:** Information, capacity building, local cases and best practices, problem identification, building carbon awareness into export strategies
- **Action plans:** Rule-making and enforcement, information-sharing, carbon-footprint measurement and mitigation



# Carbon-footprint case studies

## Life-cycle analysis (PAS 2050)

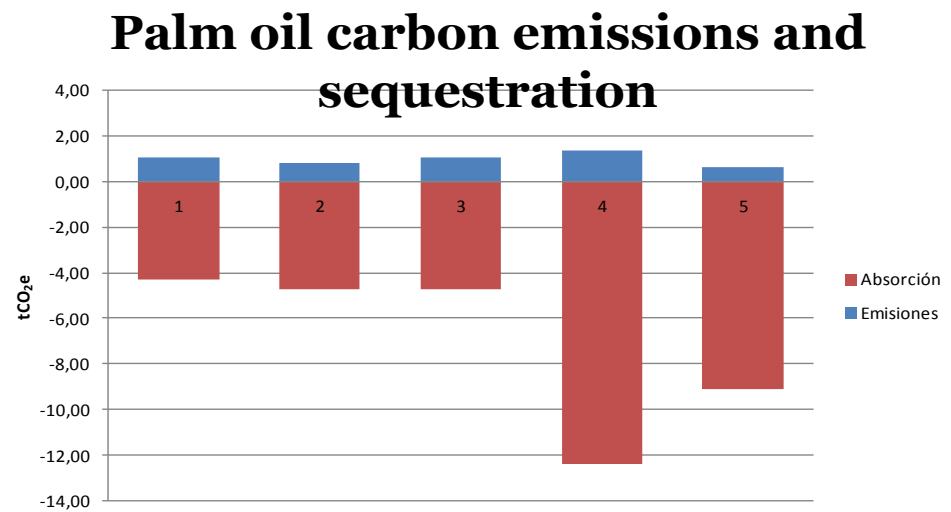
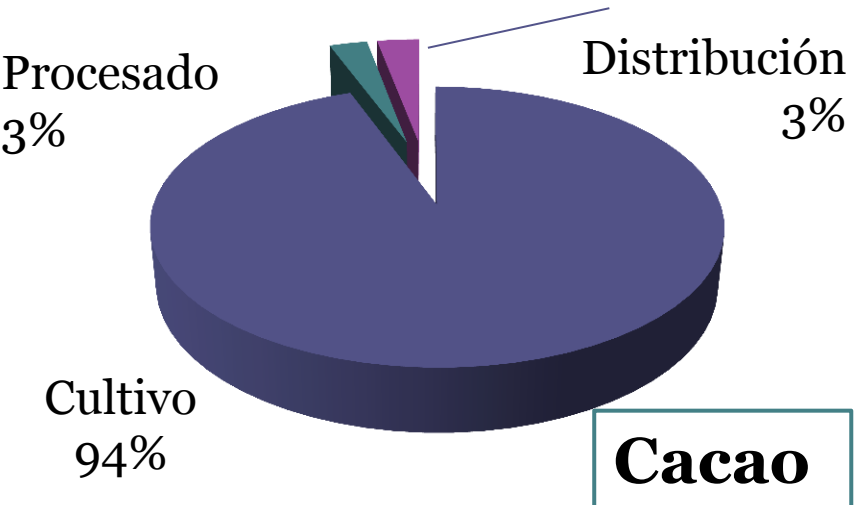
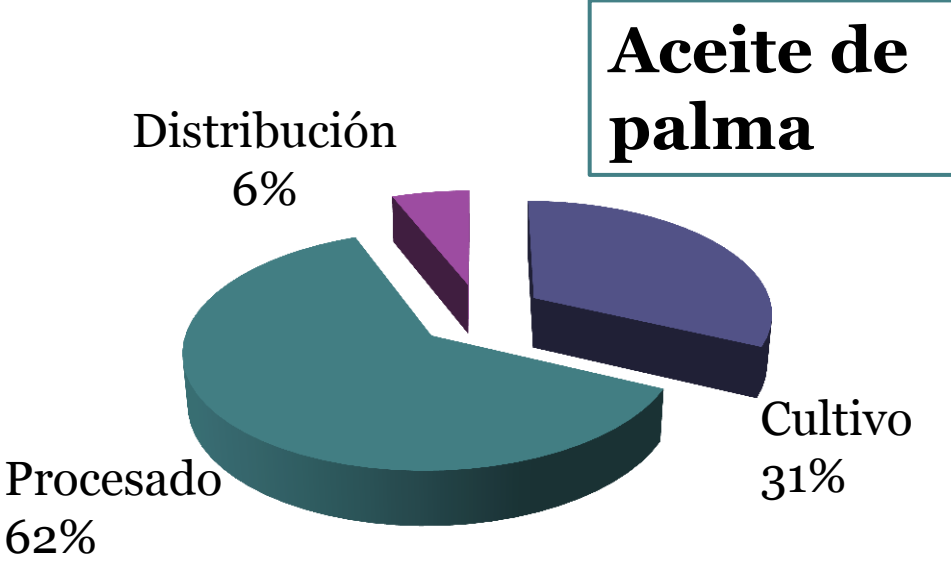
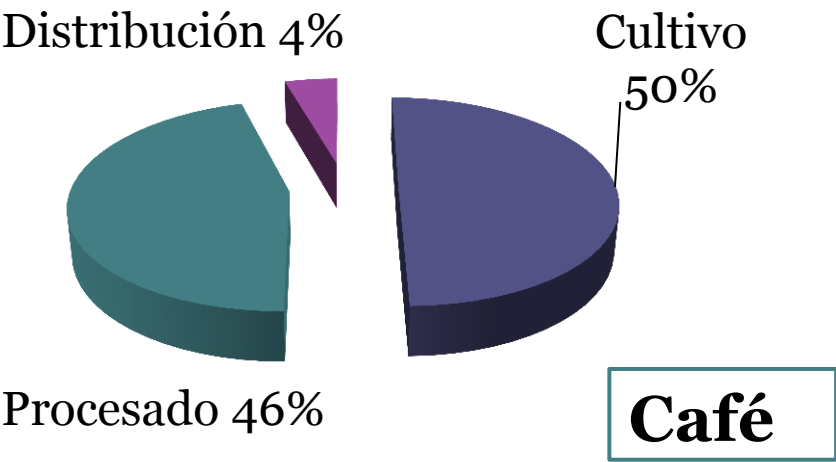
Scope: “from cradle to gate”



First step: Process map

- Local environmental data
- In-firm record-keeping
- National emission-factors

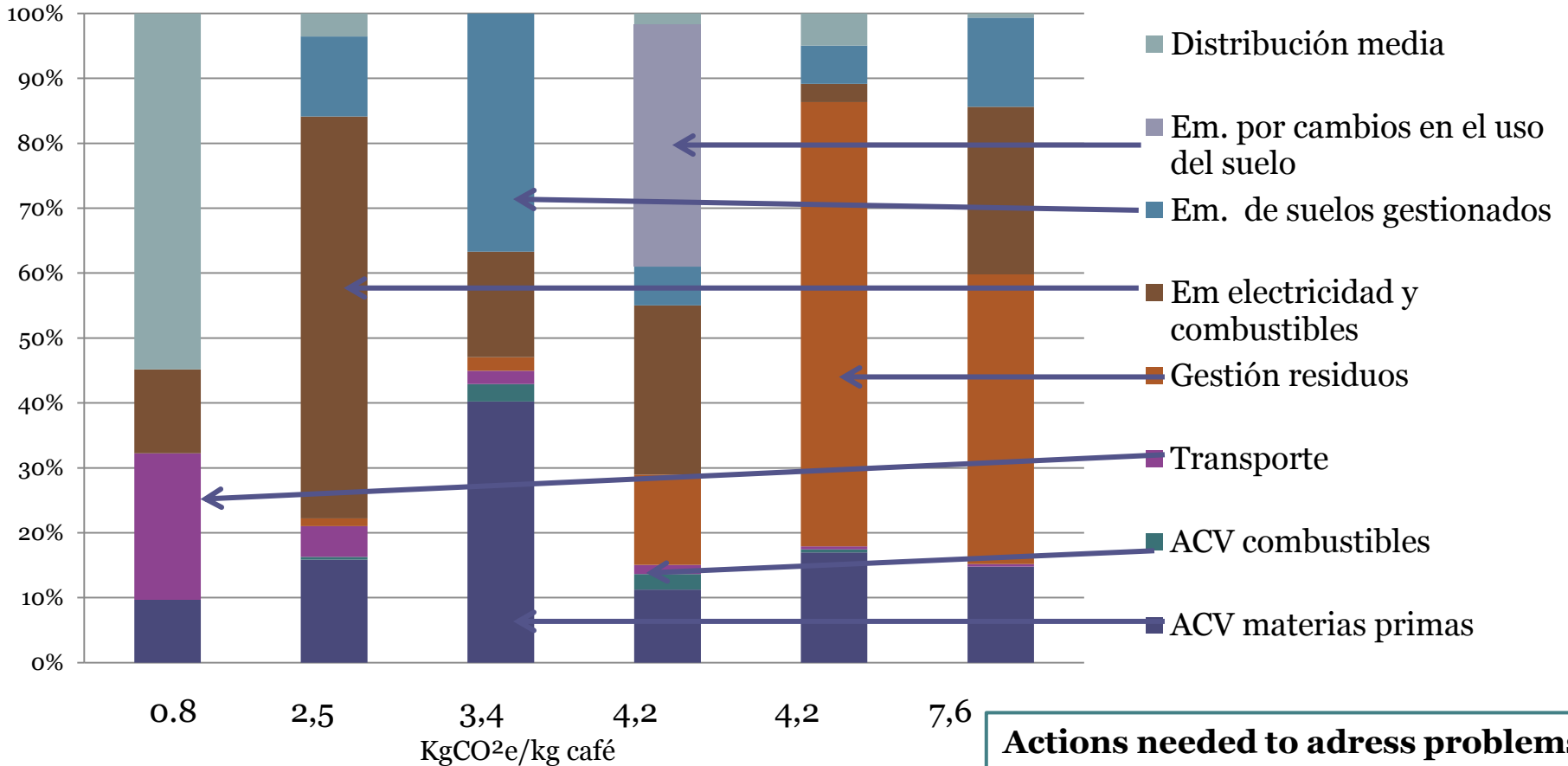
# Emissions by stage of production



Fuente: CEPAL

# No standard pattern of emission sources

## Coffee production firms

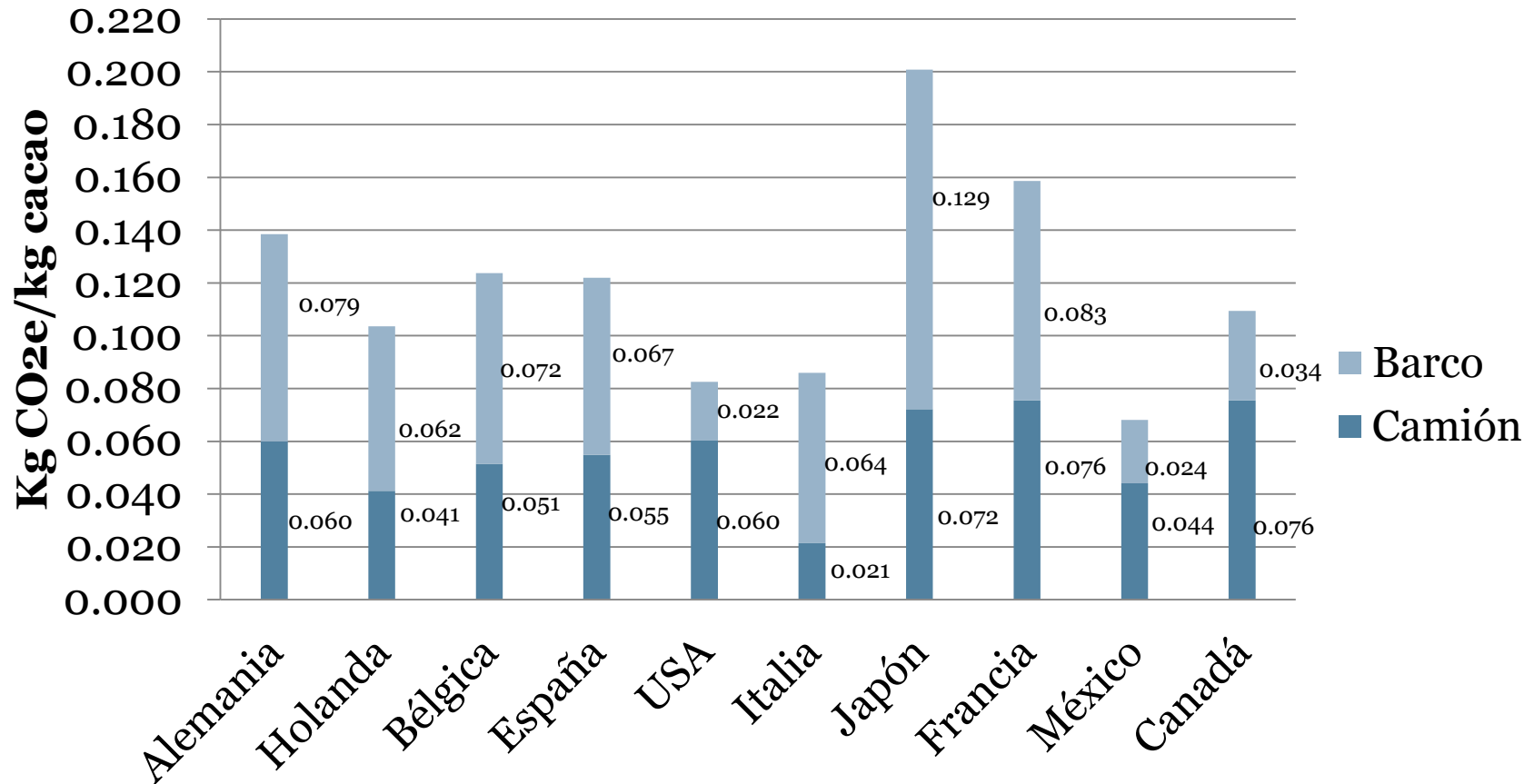


### Actions needed to address problems

**Business:** management, logistics, energy efficiency, waste

**State:** land-use management, soils, energy, transportation, fuel, incentives

# Maritime transportation of cocoa





# Issues in carbon-footprint calculation

- **Process map:** Necessary start
- **Gradual implementation:** Learning process both by firms and industry
- **Relevance of continuity:** Carbon measurement and mitigations is a process, NOT a one-time effort
- **Mitigation and compensation:** Compensation should not be payment for being able to make carbon emissions.
- **Industry association:** Spill-over effect of benchmark cases, measure sector footprint, publication of process map and carbon calculator. Share results.
- **Communication:** Actions and initiatives should be informed in a transparent and positive manner
- **Beware of comparison and generalization:**
  - Footprint is product and firm-specific, varies in time
  - Proliferation of methodologies and standards makes comparison difficult

# Export firms and climate change

- Climate change is relatively new on the business agenda
- Businesses measure their carbon footprint because:
  - Cost reduction
  - Identify efficiency problems
  - Adapt to or anticipate market environmental standards
  - Improve their brand
- Should business be reactive (fear of “green protectionism”) or proactive (privilege a “positive agenda”)
- Our conclusion: it is better to be proactive
  - To invest in sustainability (including carbon measurement and reduction) is not only good for the environment but also for business
  - Pressure to transit towards a green economy will only increase

# Next step: participation of producers in the definition of environmental standards in developed markets

- EU Pilot Program 2014-2016 for the definition of product environmental standards (PEFCR)
- 11 products from the food sector: beer, coffee, dairy, animal feed, fish, beef, bottled water, pasta, pet food, olive oil and wine.
- Open to all stakeholders to participate in the definition of standards which will be applied on the European market.
- ECLAC initiative to coordinate the participation of producers from Latin America and the Caribbean in the PP technical secretariat, in the consultations and commentaries on the draft rules, and to disseminate information.



**Coffee Environmental Footprint Network:** Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Peru

# Public policies to promote environmentally sustainable export strategies

- Implementation of public policies which deliver the correct signals: taxes, subsidies, regulations, land-use management, enforcement
- Leadership in the development of national emissions factors
- Support carbon calculation projects in export sectors
- International fund-raising
- Promote public-private partnerships to engage in projects.
- Public certification of experts that measure, verify and certify the carbon footprint
- Deliver information about environmental initiatives which impact trade with export markets

Thank you  
Muchas gracias