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### *Land and Food – find out more...*

A closer look at the impacts of biofuels production on food prices

The report produced by Ecofys in 2013<sup>1</sup> presented the different studies produced discussing the rise in food prices. This was shown against a simpler correlation of increased use of biofuels crop and food prices (Figure 1) and a correlation showing disaggregated food prices into subcategories (Figure 3). The report explains how the food prices increased when fossil energy and fertilizers – main components of biofuels production - also increased (Figure 2). The correlations did not show causal relation to biofuels.

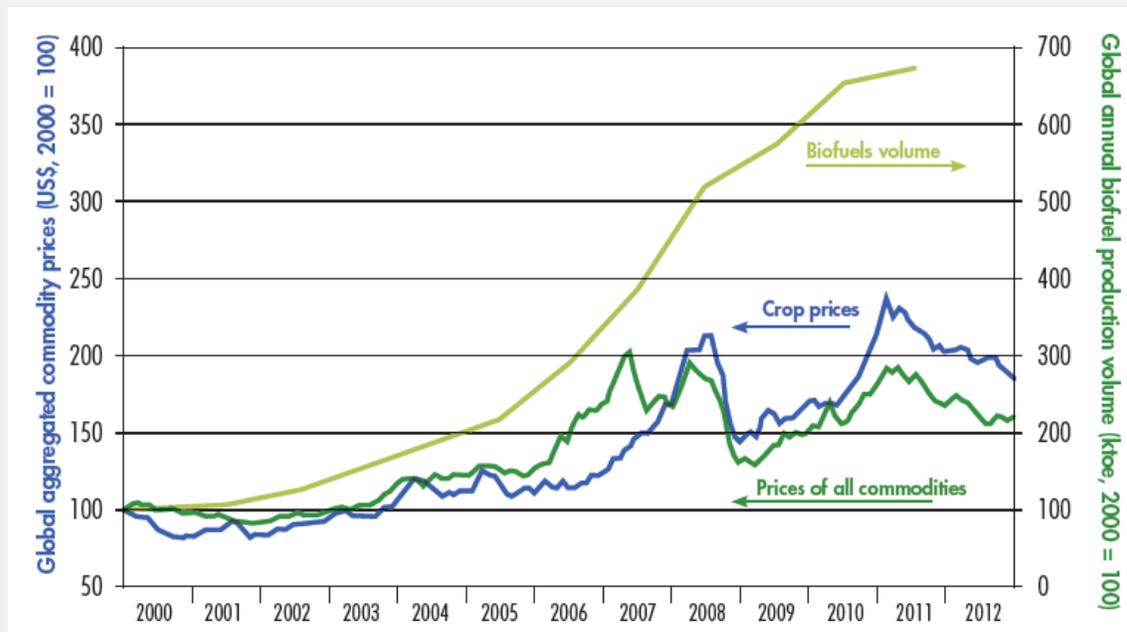


Figure 1. Global crop commodity prices and the aggregated price of all commodities versus global biofuels production volume, both normalised. Source: Hamelinck, C. (2013) [Visit resource centre](#)

<sup>1</sup> Hamelinck, C. (2013) Biofuels and food security. Risks and opportunities. Ecofys. Project number: BIENL13469. [Visit resource centre](#)



# biofuels for europe

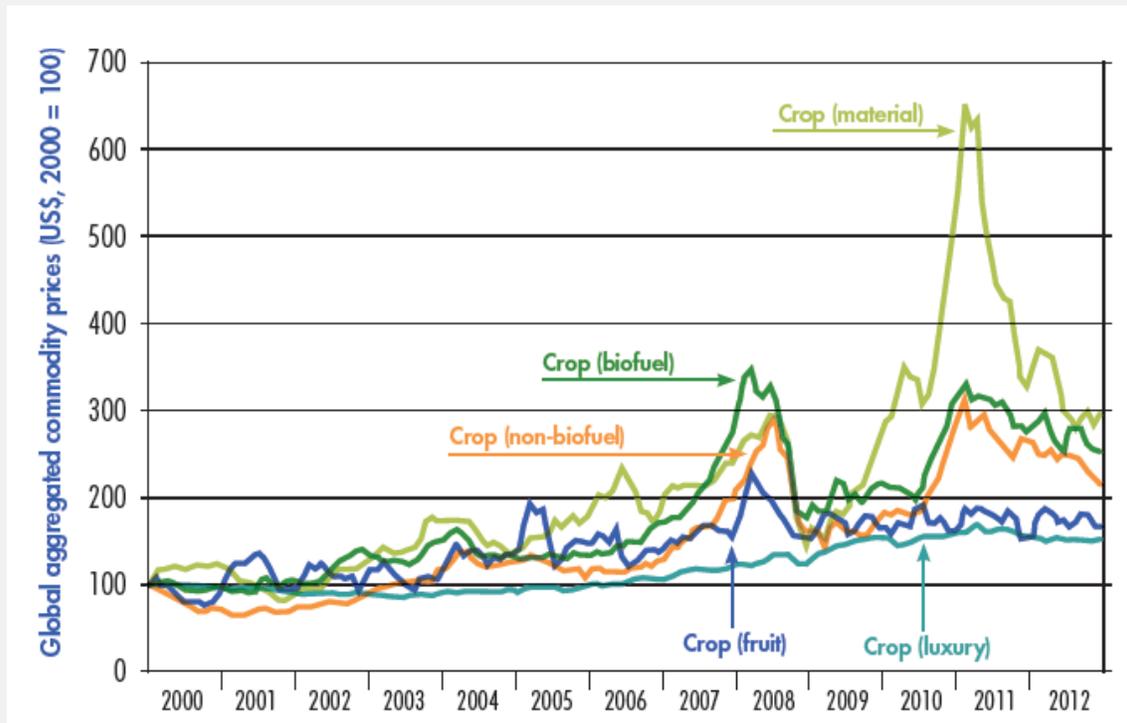


Figure 2. Global crop commodity prices split into subcategories, normalised. 'Biofuel' indicates crops and derivatives that are typically – although not mainly – used for biofuel production (maize, palm oil, soybean oil, sorghum, sugar, wheat). 'Non biofuel' indicates major food/feed crops that are not rarely used for biofuels (coconut oil, copra, groundnut oil, palm kernel oil, rice, barley, soybean meal). 'Material' indicates crops that mainly have material use (cotton, rubber). 'Fruit' indicates fruit (bananas, oranges). 'Luxury' is a basket of cash crops (cocoa, coffee, tea, tobacco). Source: Hamelinck, C. (2013) [Visit resource centre](#)



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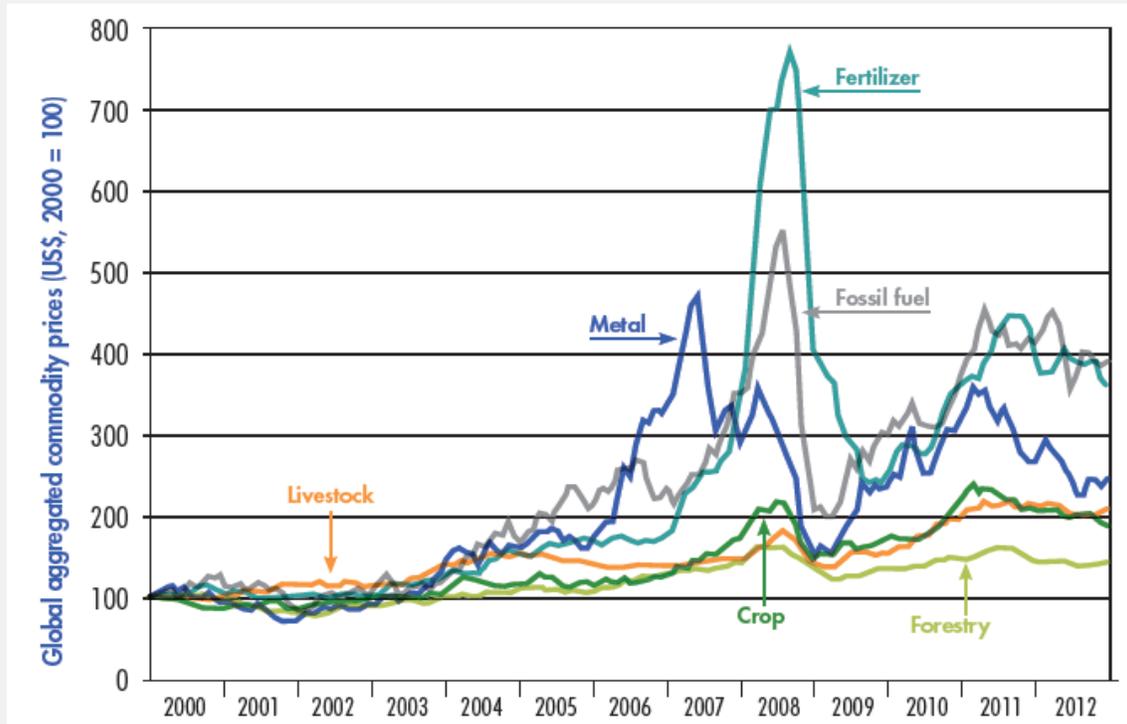


Figure 3. Global aggregated commodity prices, normalised. Source: Hamelinck, C. (2013) [Visit resource centre](#)

As shown in the charts produced in the Ecofys report<sup>2</sup>, oil price movements also explain most of the price rise in biofuel feedstock prices over the past decade, with demand side factors (biofuels, expanded population, changing diets and stocks together) altogether accounting for less than 10% of the price increase<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Hamelinck, C. (2013) Biofuels and food security. Risks and opportunities. Ecofys. August 2013. Project number: BIENL13469. [Visit resource centre](#)

<sup>3</sup> Baffes and Dennis (2013) Long term drivers of food prices. [Visit resource centre](#)