

# “One Straw Revolution” revisited No-till trials in Japan



## Bioeconomics

### 25. Japanese-German Symposium

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and  
Deutsche Gesellschaft der JSPS-Stipendiaten e.V.



KANEKO Nobuhiro  
Fukushima University





**Soil biodiversity**

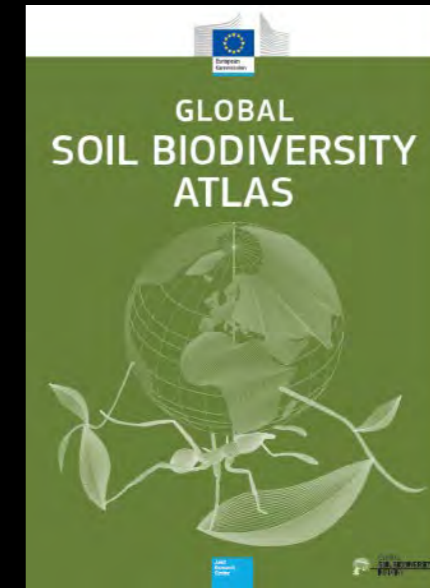
**Fukushima accident and farming**

**“One straw revolution” and soil ecology**

**Rehabilitation of contaminated farm**

# Soil Biodiversity

Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas (2016)



地球規模土壌生物多様性アトラス





BLOG

NEWS

ATLAS



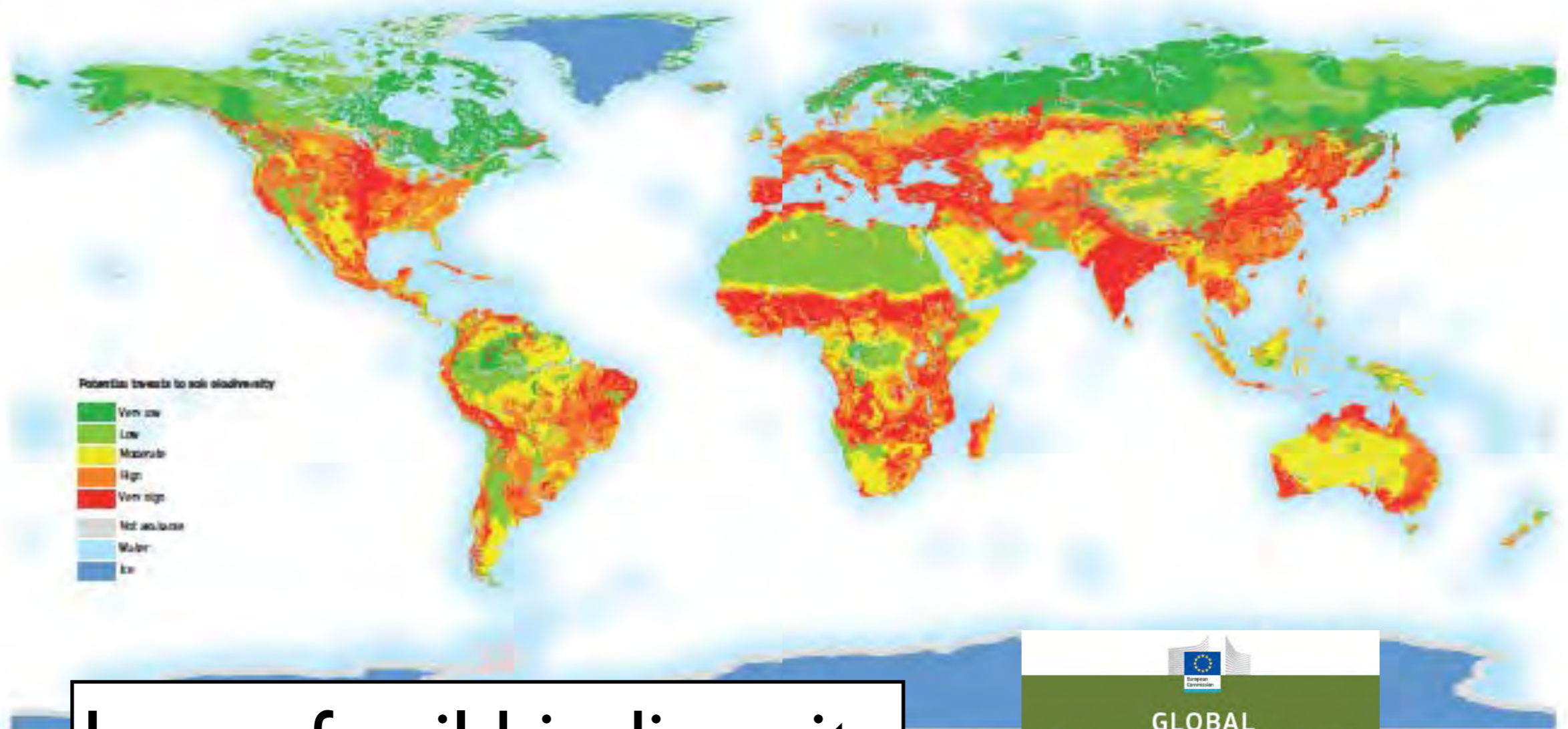
# GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

<https://globalsoilbiodiversity.org>

SEEKING TO PROMOTE EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ON  
SOIL BIODIVERSITY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT  
TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



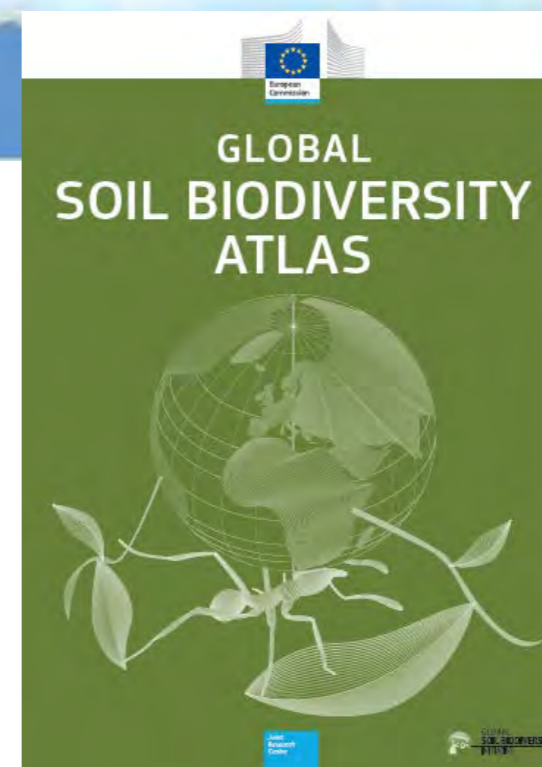
# Potential threats to soil biodiversity



Loss of soil biodiversity



Loss of ecosystem services



Orgiazzi et al,  
2016



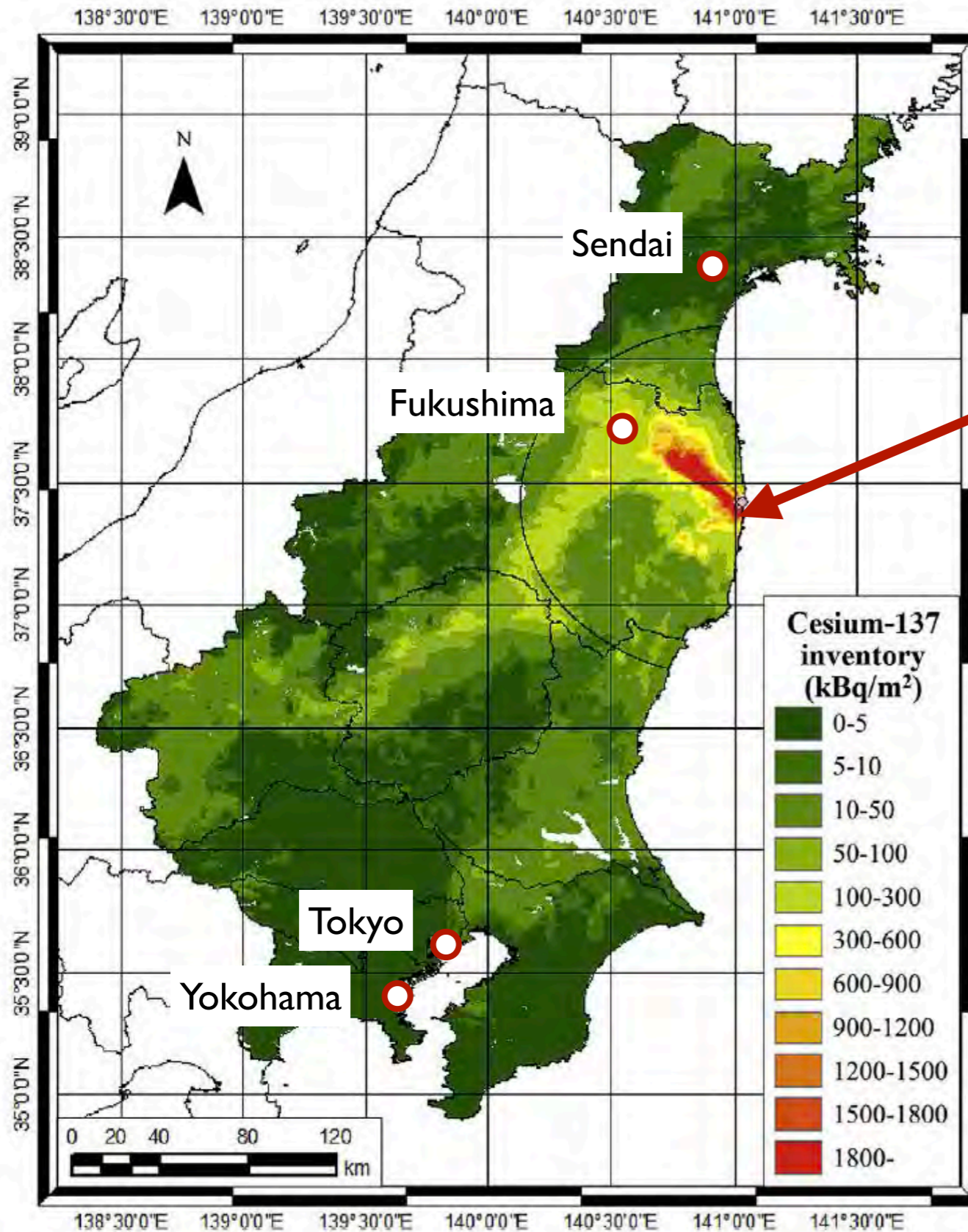
# Fukushima nuclear accident and agriculture

# Estimated environmental releases of radionuclides from the reactors

Nuclear species	Half life (yr)	Chornobyl		Fukushima	
		UNSCEAR (2005)	Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (2011)	UNSCEAR (2014)	
$^{134}\text{Cs}$	2.06	47	18	9.0	
$^{137}\text{Cs}$	30.2	85	15	8.8	
$^{90}\text{Sr}$	28.8	10	0.14	n.a.	
$^{239}\text{Pu}$	24,000	0.013	$3.2 \times 10^{-6}$	n.a.	

PBq ( $10^{15}$  Bq)

# Reconstructed initial $^{137}\text{Cs}$ fallout map

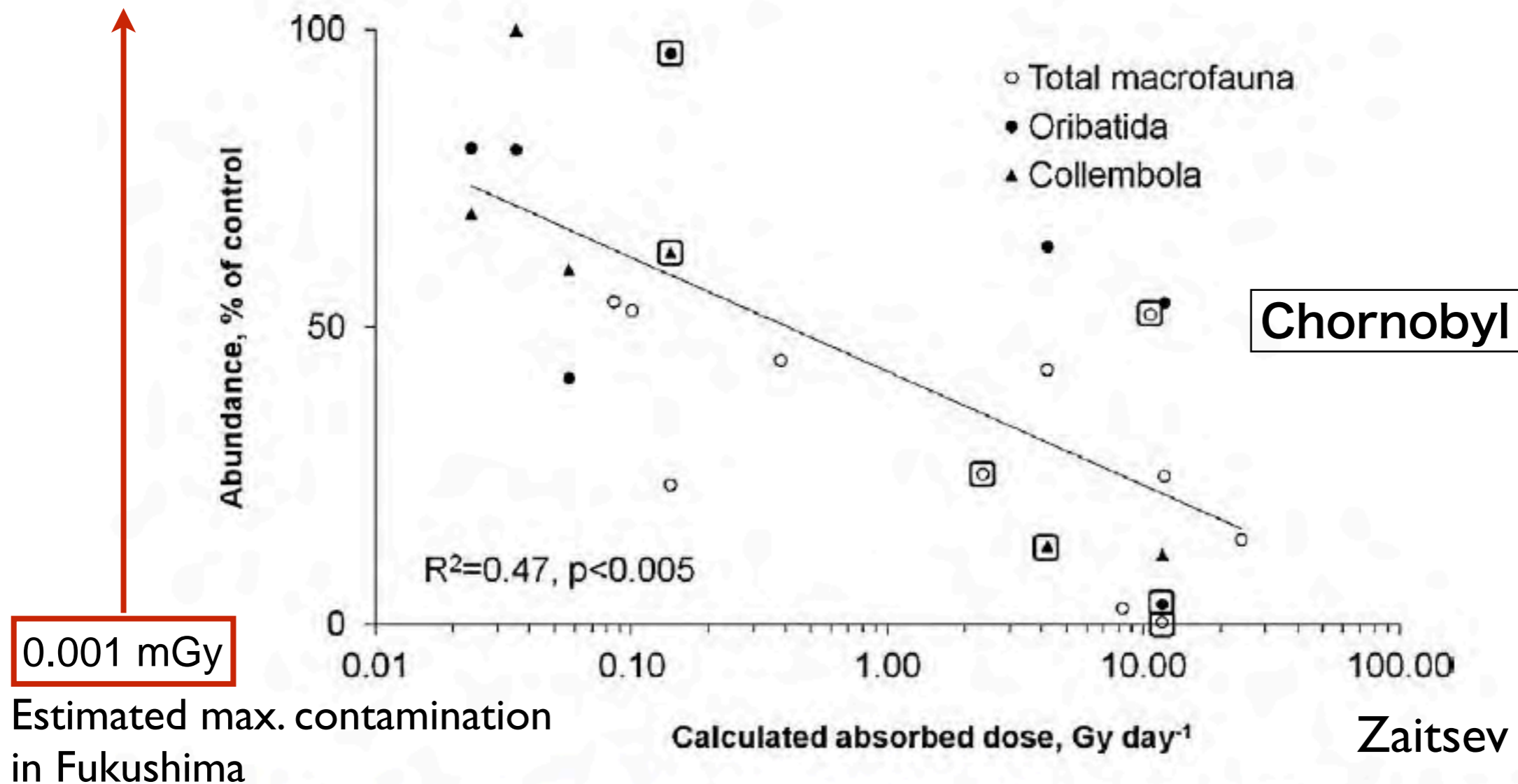


Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

Contamination (kBq/m <sup>2</sup> )	Chornobyl (km <sup>2</sup> )	Fukushima (km <sup>2</sup> )
37- 555	116,900	6,900
185 - 555	18,900	1,400
555 - 1,480	7,200	400
> 1,480	3,100	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,100</b>	<b>8,900</b>

Fig. 6. Reconstructed initial  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  fallout map following the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident in eastern Japan.

# Contamination and density change



**Fig. 1.** Relative decrease in abundance of soil macro- and mesofauna in relation to the calculated absorbed daily dose in different locations contaminated with radionuclides (natural abundance in respective control plots was taken as 100% for each of presented data points). Data points derived from radioecological research near Chernobyl NPP are framed. The regression line is based on all data points.

Source: Data was collected from multiple sources (Krivolutsky, 1987a,b; Krivolutskii and Pokarzhevskii, 1992; Krivolutsky et al., 1992; Vershinin and Seredyuk, 2000; Gongalsky, 2003; Kolesnikova et al., 2005; Geras'kin et al., 2007; Asvarova and Gazaliev, 2009).

# Decontamination policy of croplands

Contamination (Bq/kg)	Paddy (ha)	Upland (ha)	
0 - 1,100	59,942	22,022	Deep tilling and potassium application
1,000 - 5,000	39,164	14,658	
5,000 - 10,000	1,958	796	Selection of tilling/ soil replacement
10,000 - 25,000	2,575	751	Soil replacement
> 25,000	1,646	581	



# Decontamination of croplands



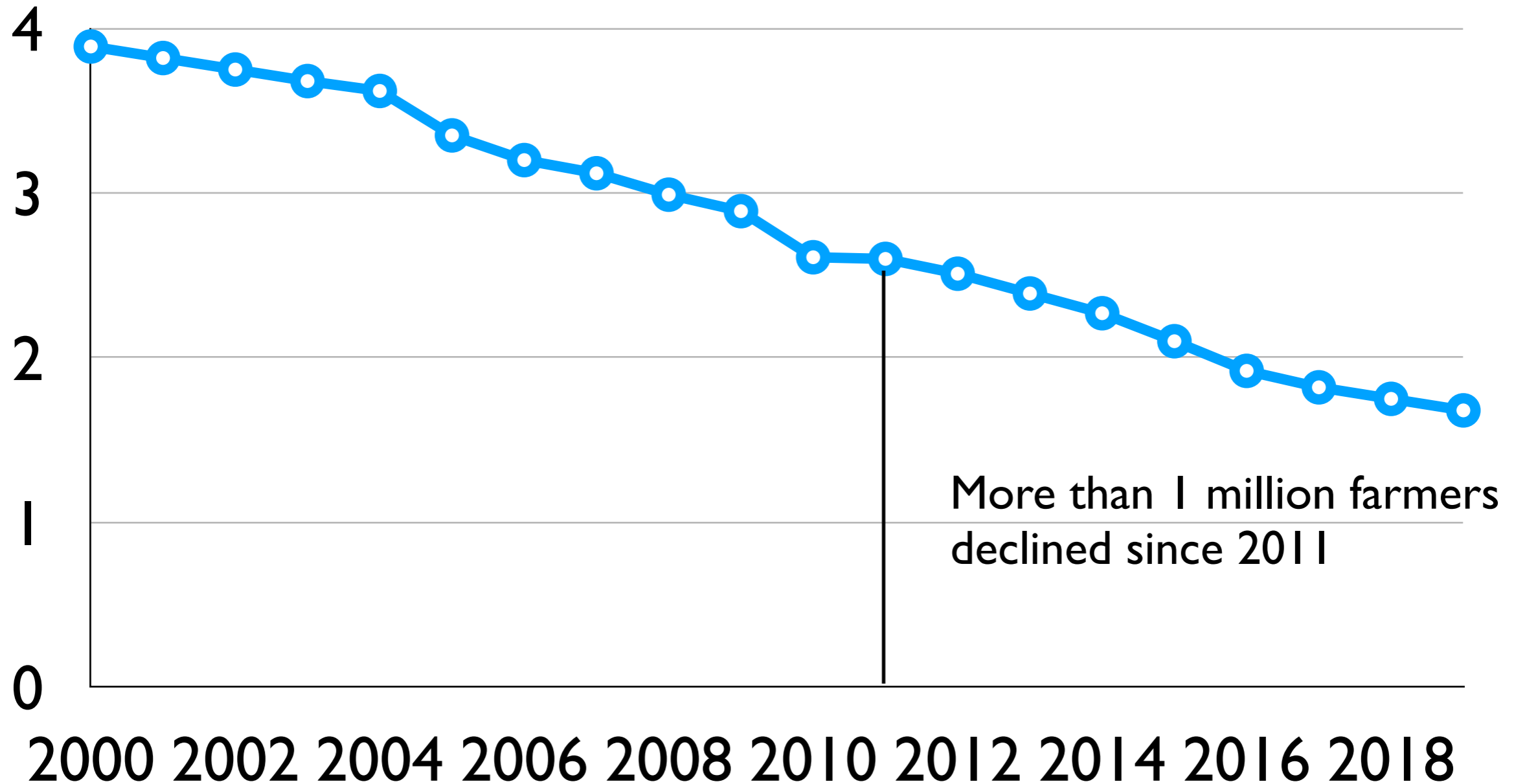
Scraping surface soil



Covering by clean sand

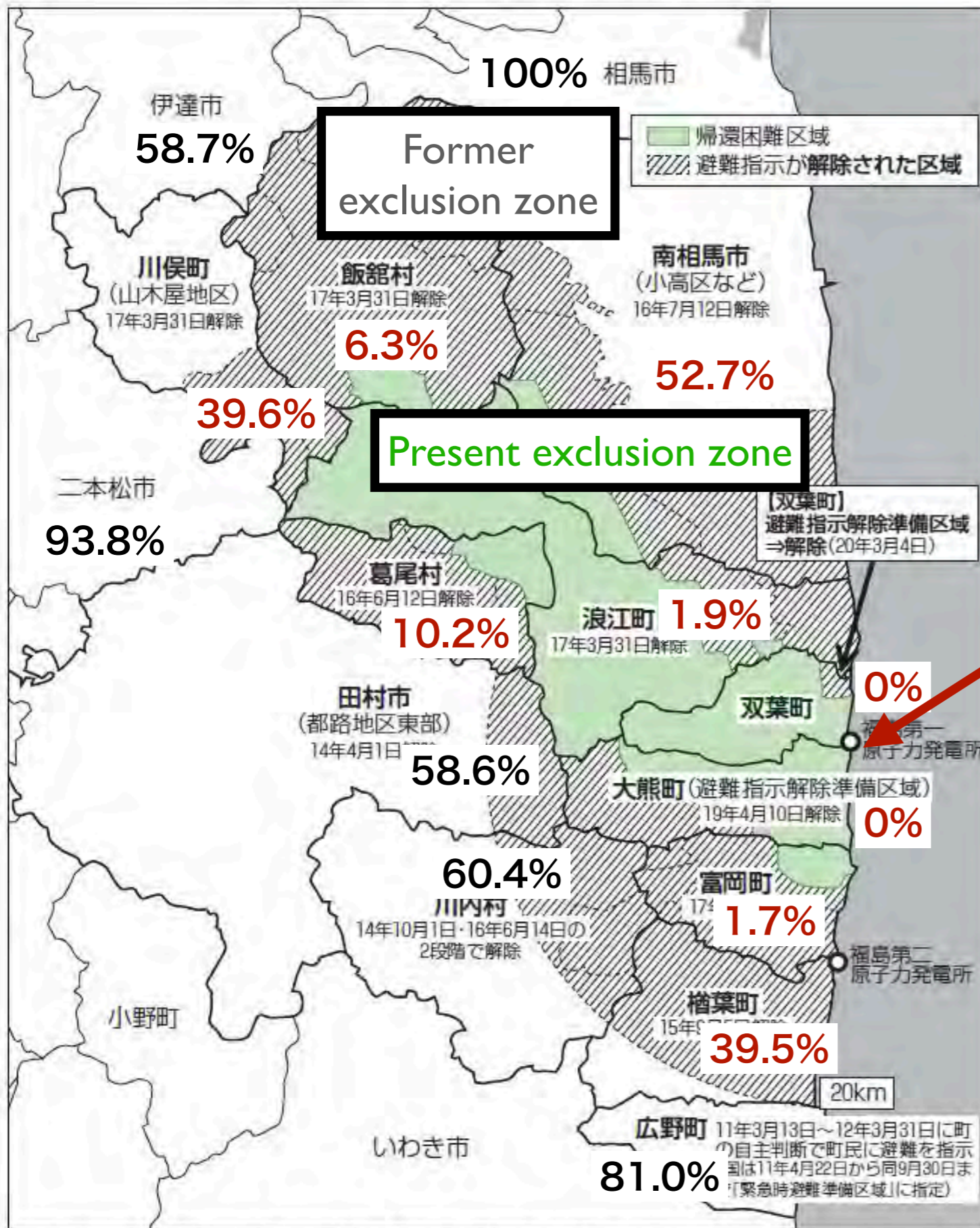
# Number of farmers in Japan

Million



第1図 避難指示区域の概念図

# Percentage of resumed farmland area in 2019



Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

- Local population has been declining in these area.
- All croplands were decontaminated irrespective of farmers willingness for agriculture.

出典 福島県ホームページ「ふくしま復興ステーション」資料に筆者加筆  
 (注) 南相馬市を除く6町村の帰還困難区域内にはそれぞれ特定復興再生拠点区域が設定され、23年春までの避難指示解除を予定。双葉町・大熊町・富岡町ではその一部が20年3月に先行解除された。

不  
耕  
起

To till or not to till

# No-till problems and solutions

Till → No-till → + Herbicides

Soil erosion

Weeds

Herbicide  
tolerant weeds

Soil erosion

Conservation agriculture  
no-till with cover crops

“Natural farming”  
no-till with cover weeds

Soil conservation

# Conservation agriculture

Direct seeding

Crimper



**1** Continuous no-till

Mulching

Cover crops



**2** Preservation of crop residues

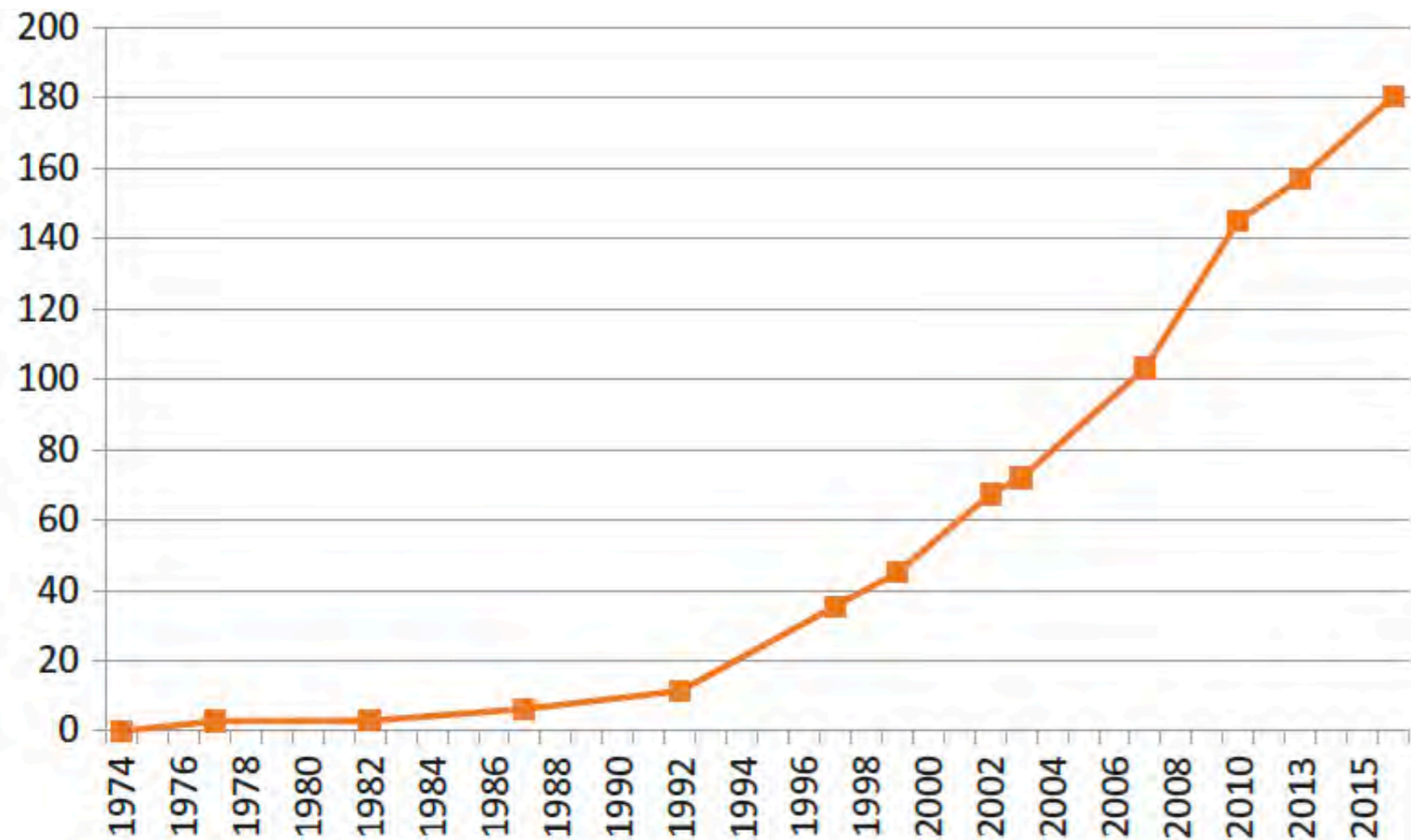
Rotation

Mixed cropping



**3** Diversification of crop system

# Annual expansion of conservation agriculture



2015/2016

- 180 million ha
- 12.5% of global croplands
- Annual increase 10 million ha
- Adopted in 78 countries
- China: 9 million ha
- Korea: 23 thousand ha



Kassam, Friedrich, Derpsch 2018

# FUKUOKA Masanobu (1975)

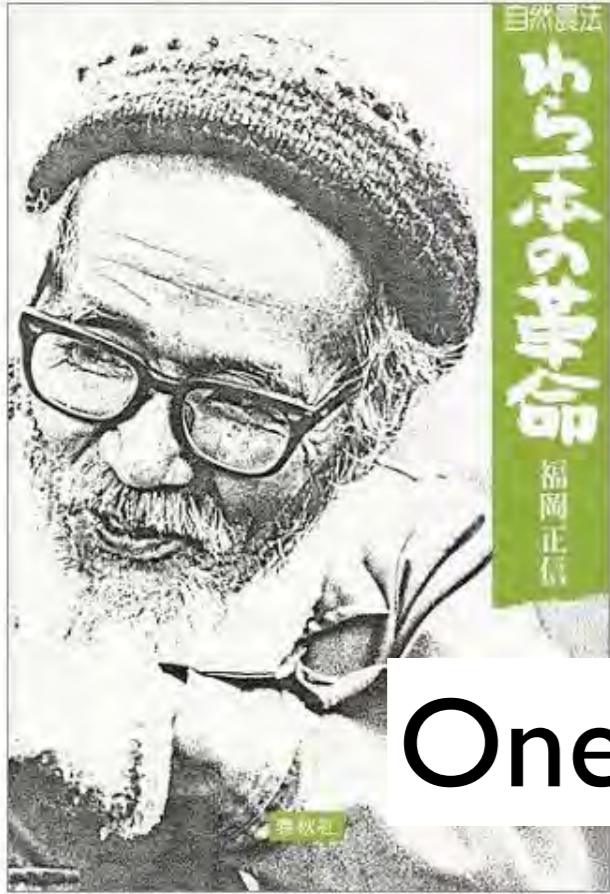
“One Straw Revolution”



- No-tillage
- No-fertilization
- No-pesticide
- No-weeding

No-till continuous rice-wheat rotation

# No-tillage with extensive weed management “Natural farming”



福岡正信

FUKUOKA Masanobu (1913-2008)

One straw revolution

岡田茂吉

OKADA Mokichi (1882-1955)



川口由一

KAWAGUCHI Yoshikazu (1939-)





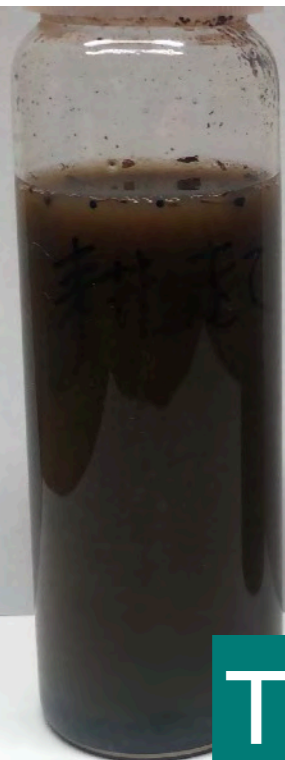
**Tillage**

**No-till + weeds**

a)

**Tillage**

**No-till**



**Time 0**

b)

**Tillage**

**No-till**

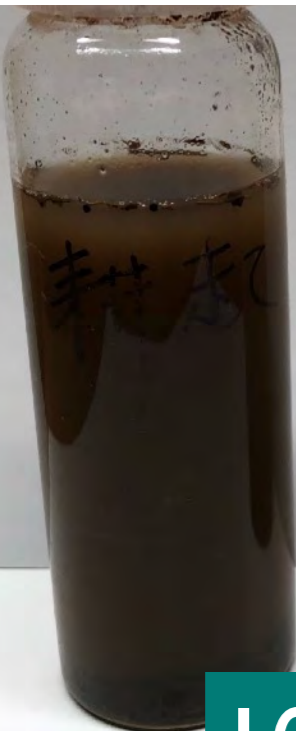


**5 min.**

c)

**Tillage**

**No-till**

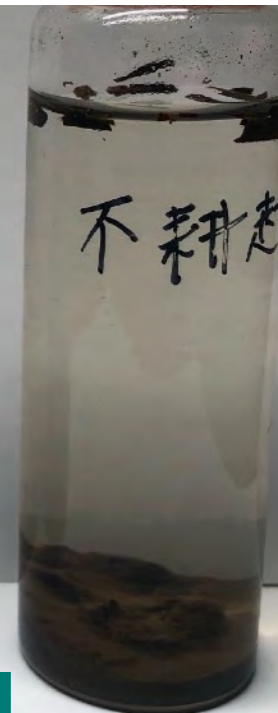
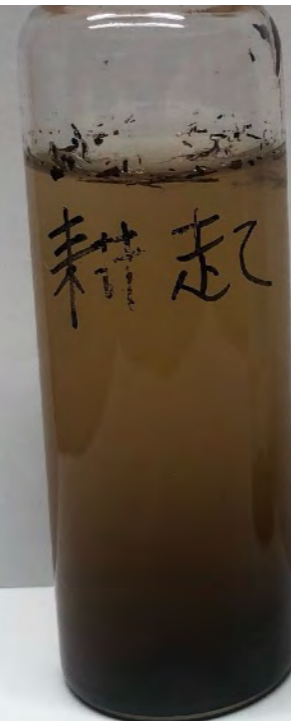


**10 min.**

d)

**Tillage**

**No-till**






**24 hr**

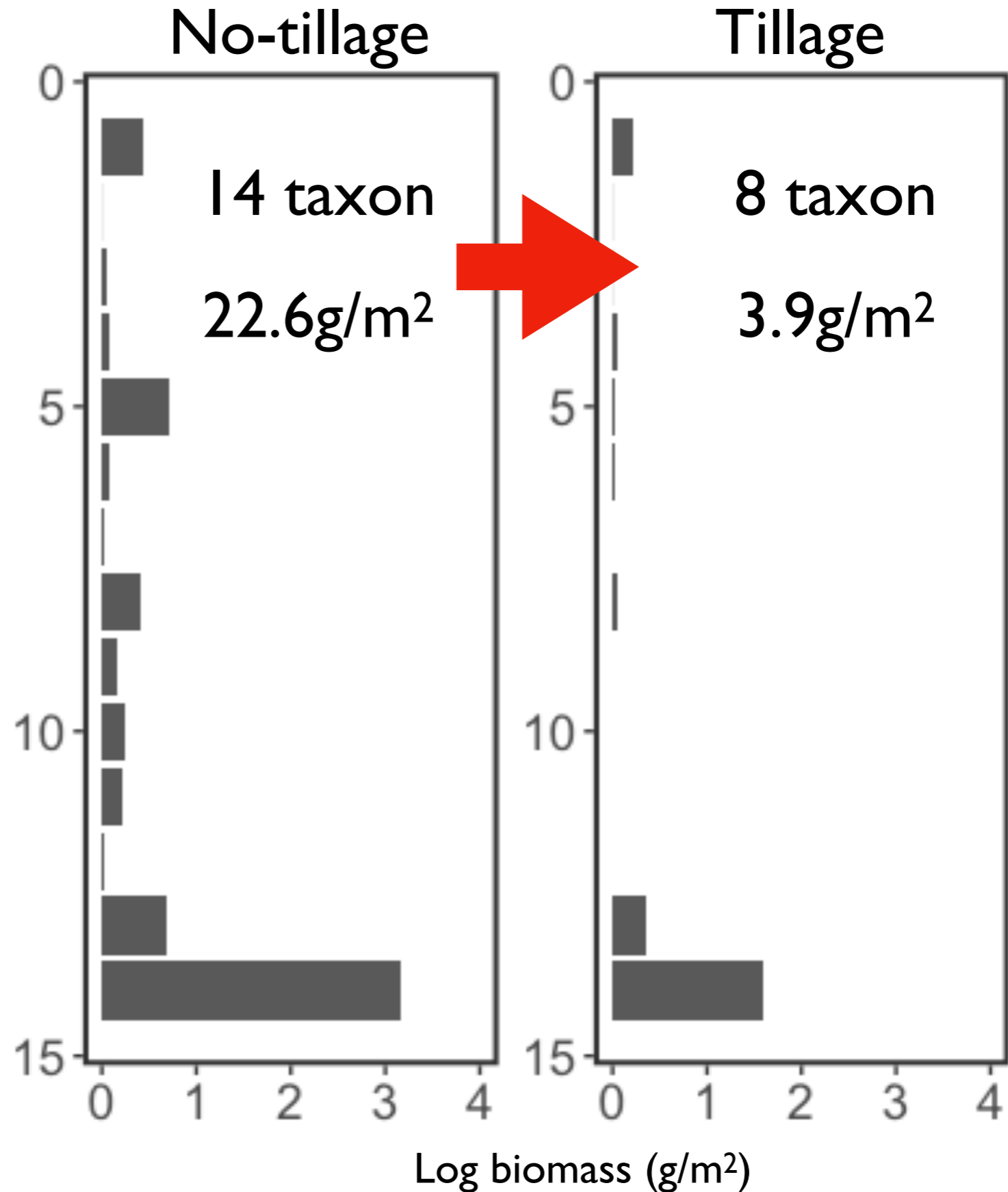


Tillage destroys soil ecosystem

# Decline of soil biodiversity by tillage

## Soil macrofauna

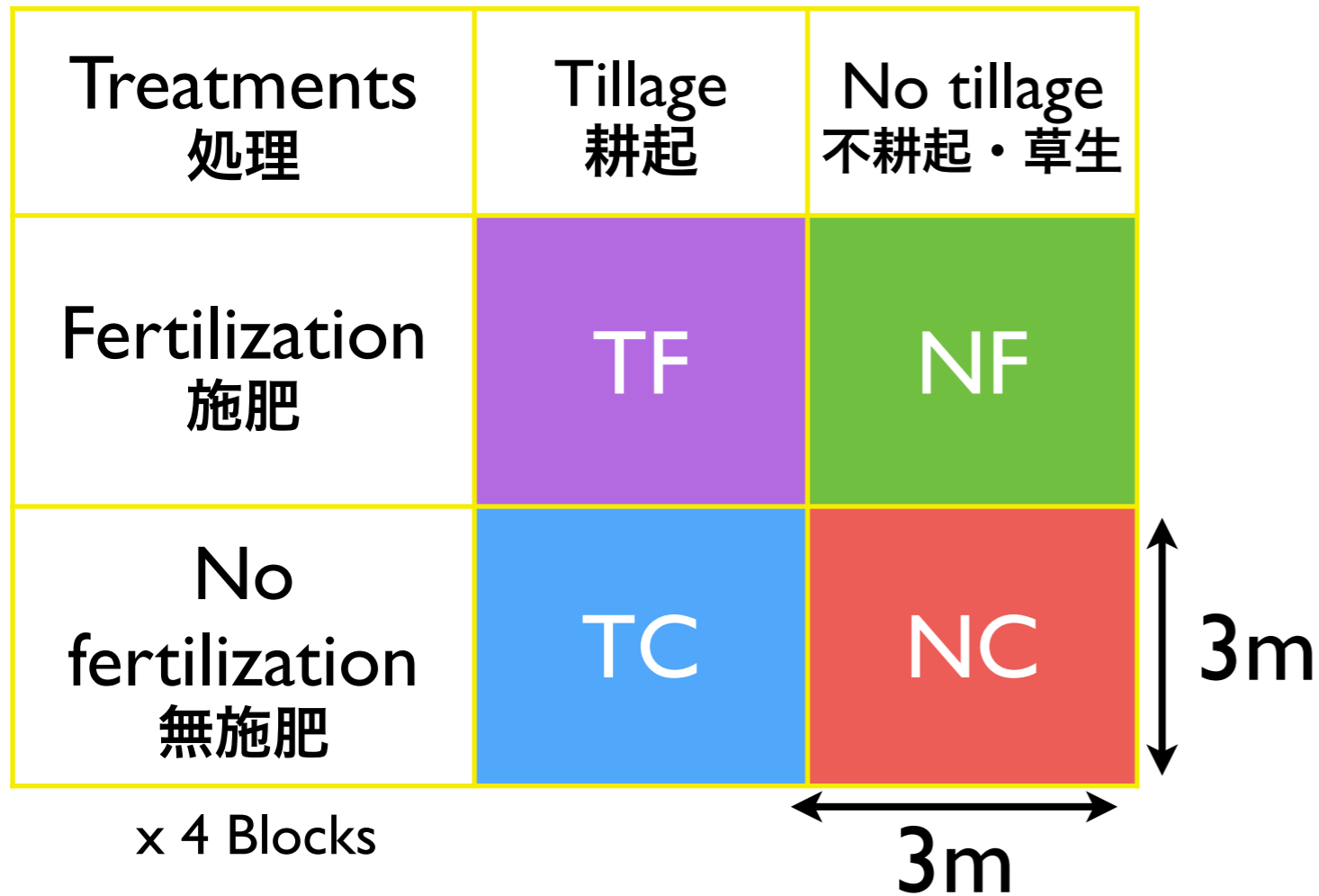
- Aranea 
- Chilopod
- Ants 
- Hymenoptera
- Adult Coleoptera
- Dermaptera
- Hemiptera
- Juvenile Coleoptera
- Gastropoda 
- Isopoda
- Juvenile Diptera
- Amphipoda
- Diplopoda
- Annelida





Do weeds help farmers?

# Experimental study on “Natural Farming”



## Tillage



## No-tillage + weeds



# Wheat experiment

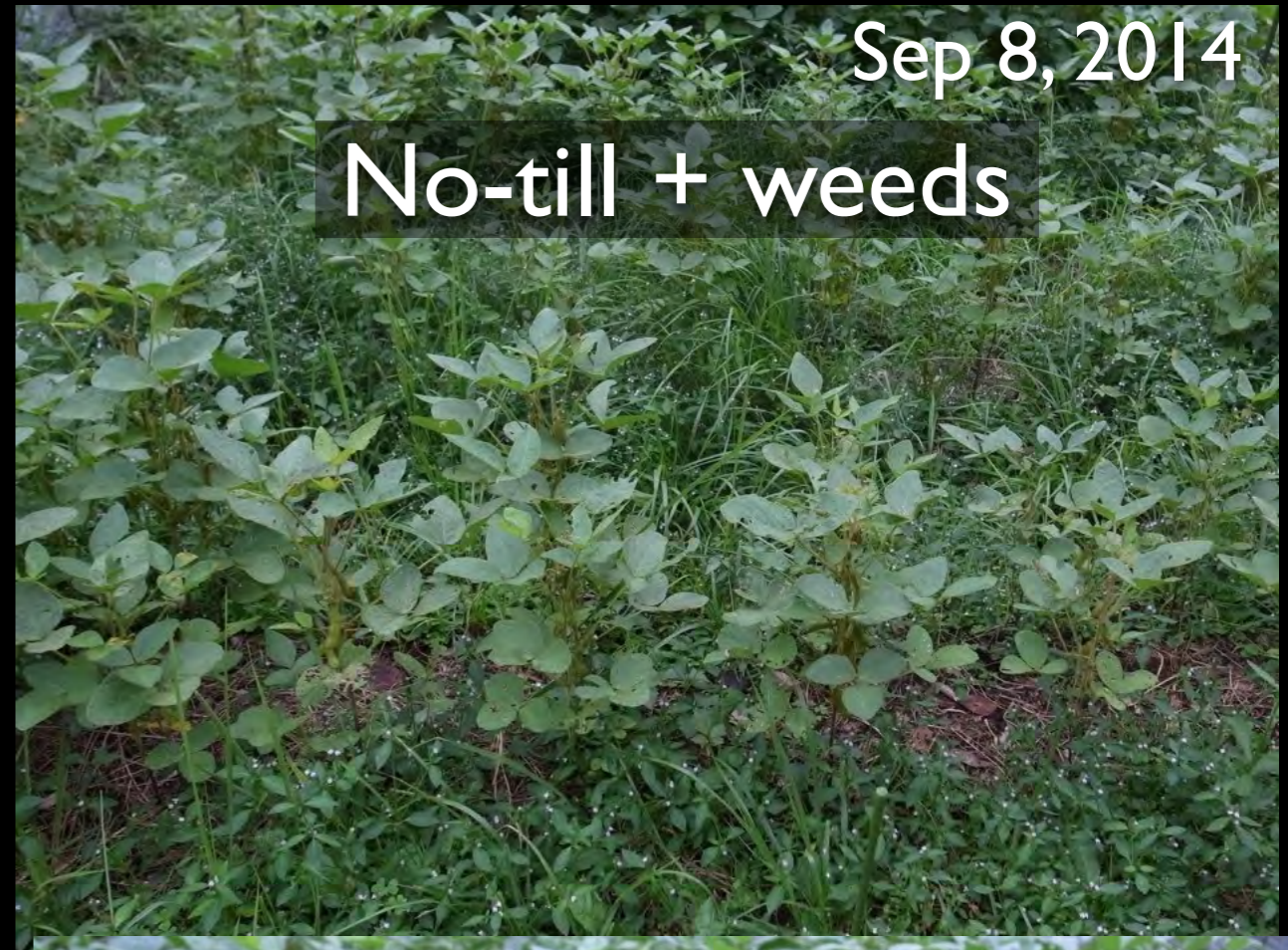


# Soybean experiment

Day 67



Tillage



Sep 8, 2014

No-till + weeds



Tillage + fertilizer

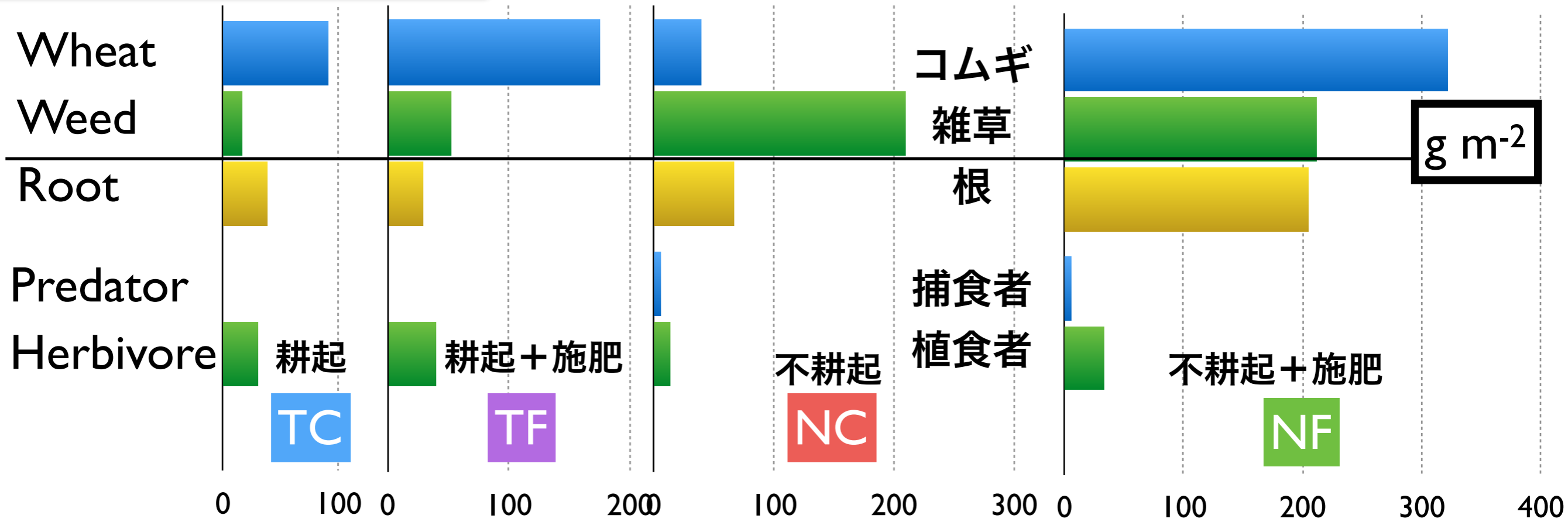


No-till + weeds + fertilizer

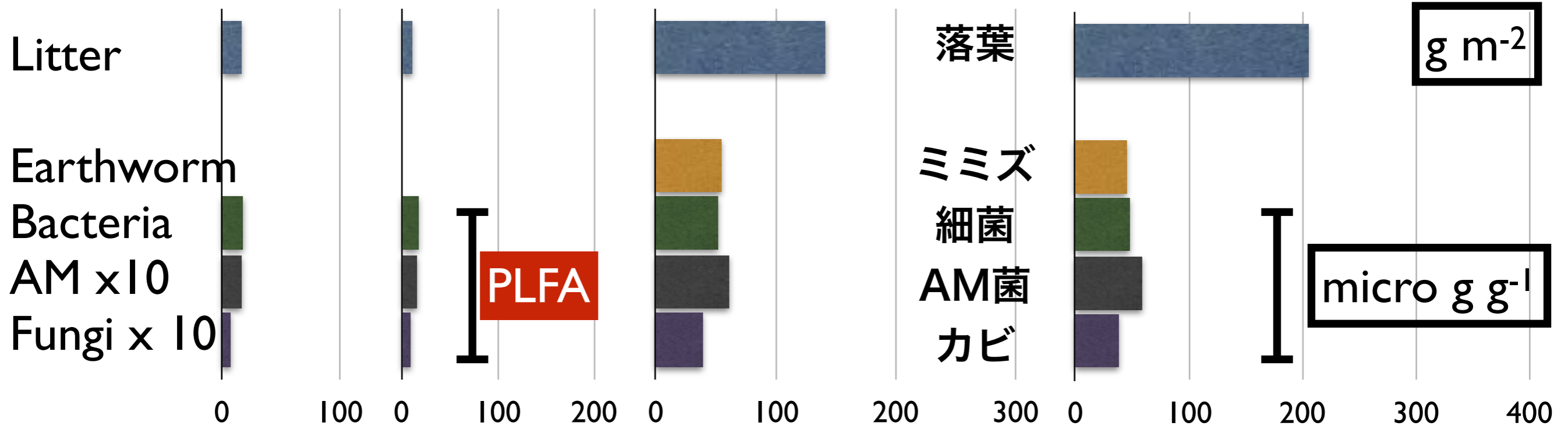
# Green Food web

# Soil food web structure

2012



# Brown Food web





**Rehabilitate the decontaminated farmlands**

# Farmland rehabilitation using “Natural farming”

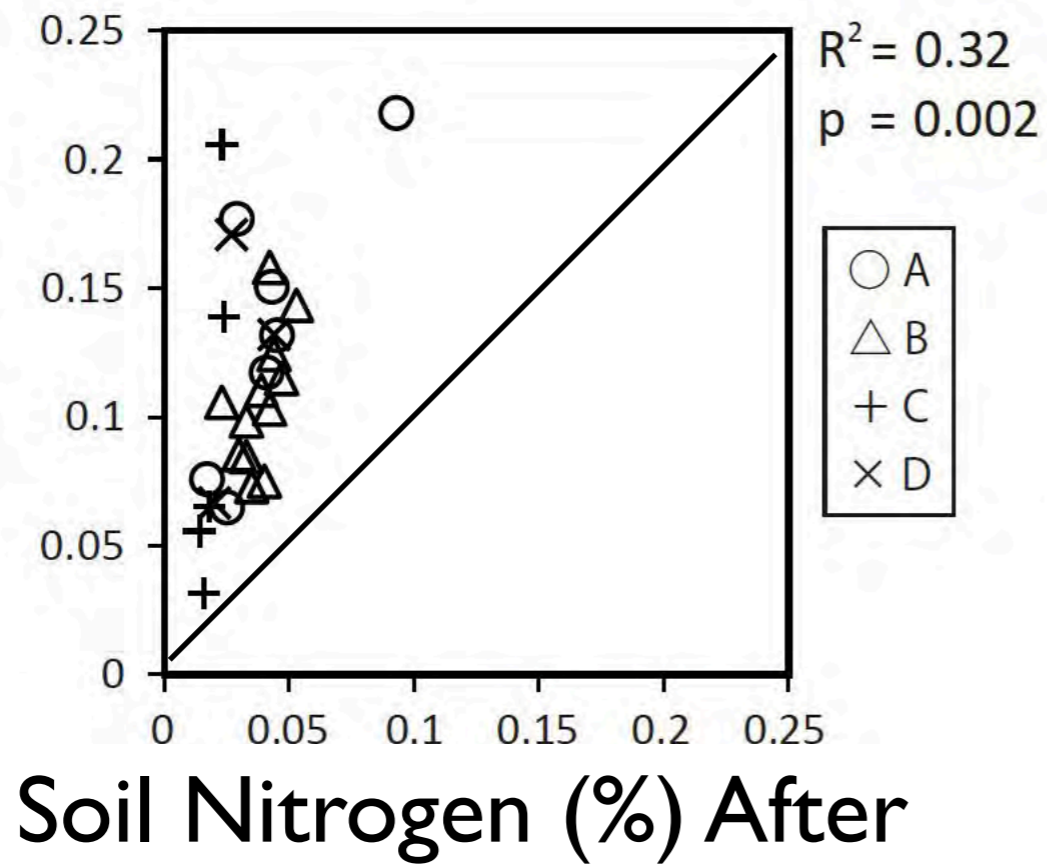
No-tillage

No-tillage

Tillage

Tillage

Soil Nitrogen (%) Before

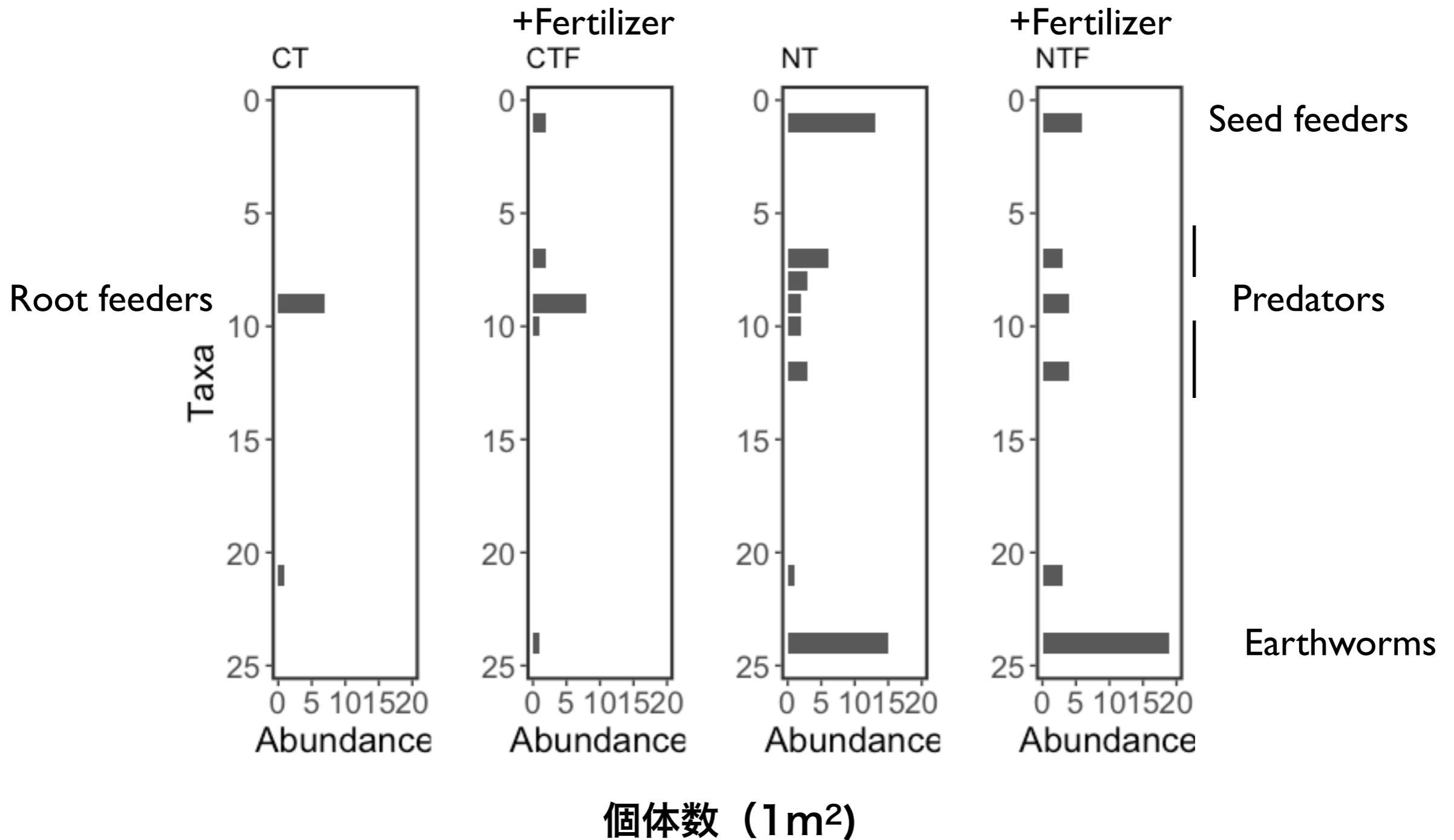


# Comparison of food web

July 14, 2020

**Tillage**

**No-tillage**



# One straw revolution revisited

- Soil ecologists showed that soil biodiversity is sustaining ecosystem functioning.
- Tillage (cultivation) destroys soil biodiversity, hence soil ecosystem functioning declines.
- Conservation agriculture enhances soil biodiversity thus farmers can sustain their production.
- Fukuoka's idea of no-tillage with weeds (natural farming) is now supported by sound scientific evidences.
- Rehabilitation of decontaminated farmlands in Fukushima can be accelerated by adoption of Fukuoka's idea.



**FREEDOM IS OUR RELIGION!**

**August 20, 2017, Kiev**