

Be Ready for Food Crises

A new strategic research area at SLU

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No society can function with food

- Food = Basis for safety, stability and trust
- Food provision is a key part of the 'total defence' concept
- But: historically it has not received much attention



Preparedness and risk perspectives in the Nordic and Baltic countries

Risks in focus

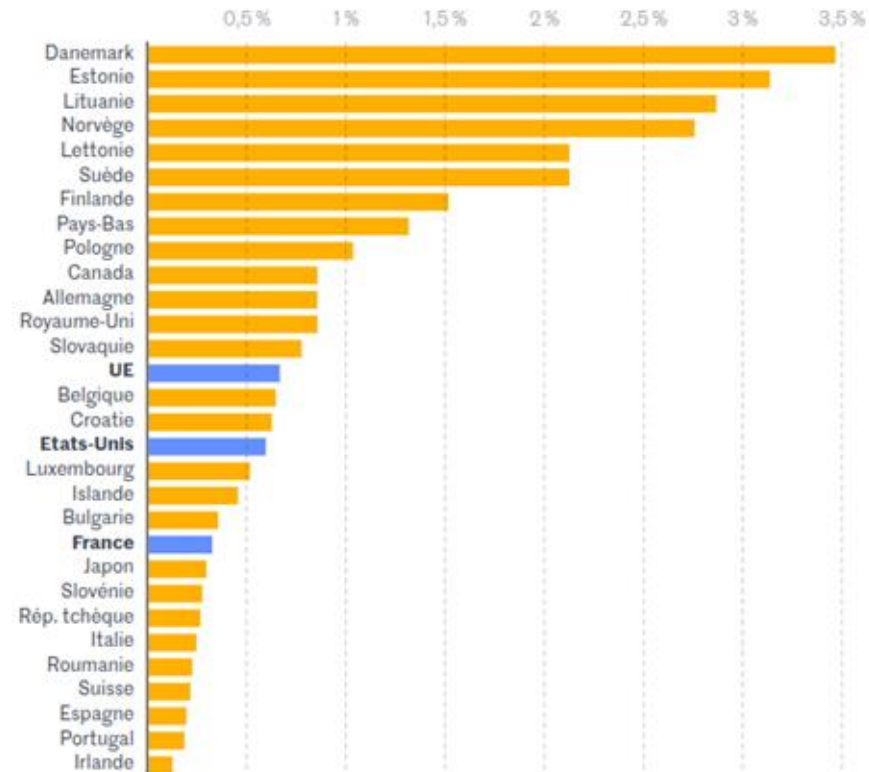
1. Military conflict
2. Technological breakdown
3. Economic crisis
4. Pandemic
5. Climate change
6. Biodiversity decline

Solutions discussed

1. Military defense
2. Stocks
3. Technological solutions
4. Any kind of more transformative system change

Le flanc nord et est de l'Europe aux avant-postes

Ce graphique représente le niveau de l'aide effectivement allouée à l'Ukraine depuis février 2022 jusqu'en juin 2026, pour les 30 premiers pays du classement, en pourcentage du PIB.



Source : [Kiel Institute for the World Economy](#)

We have an efficient but vulnerable food system

- Depending on imports:
 - Energy and fuel
 - Fertilizer, feed, and seed
- Highly specialized: few alternatives when disruption happens
- Few companies in processing and retail



Multiple hazard affecting food systems

Environmental

climate change
biodiversity loss,
ecosystem degradation

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Social

geopolitical instability
economic upheaval
pandemics
conflicts

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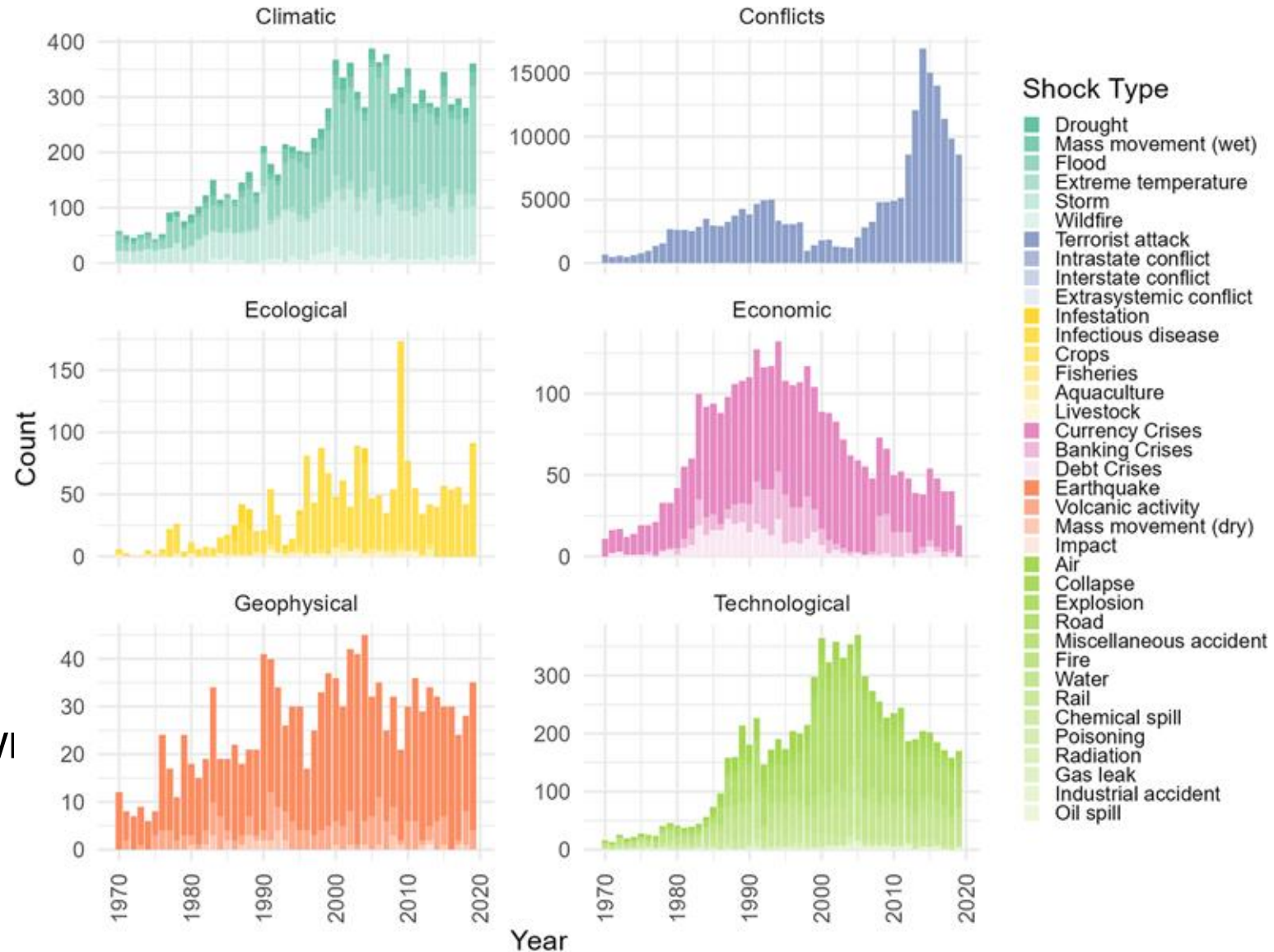
Technological

accidents and breakdown

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Combinations of the above

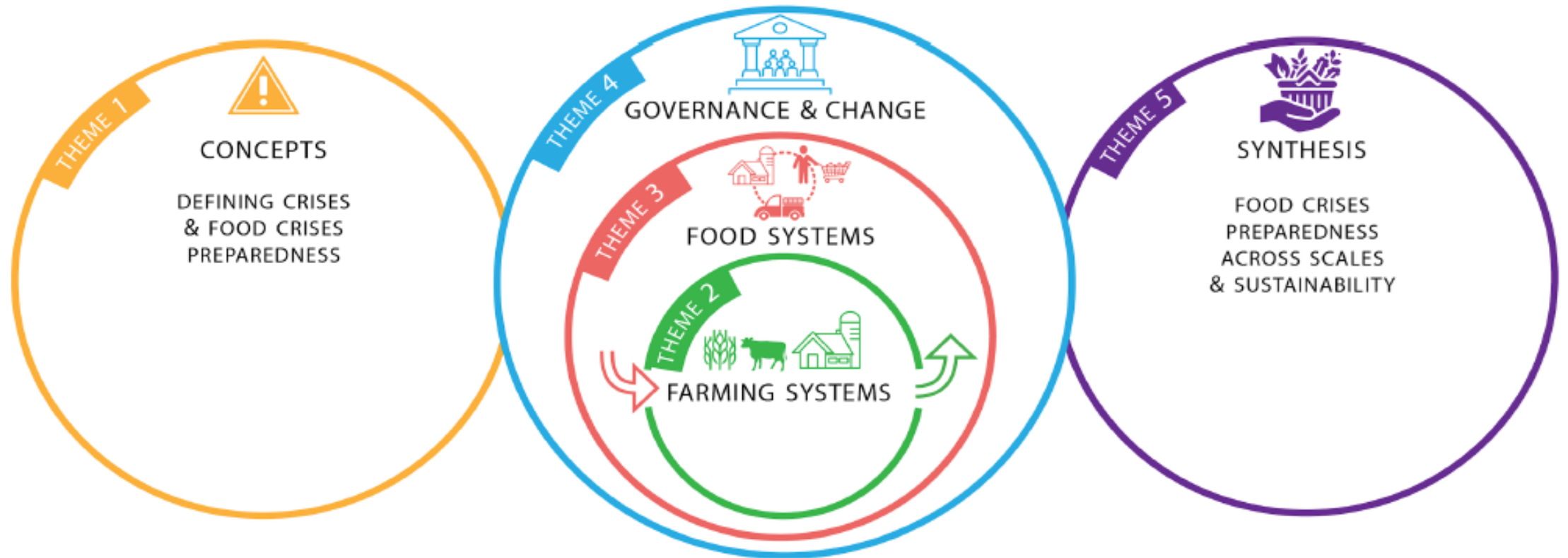
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SLU Food crisis preparedness

Strategic research environment

BeREADY FOR FOOD CRISES



Be Ready for food crises

- Nation research programme
- Transdisciplinary
 - Agriculture
 - Economy
 - Environment
 - Governance and policy
- Focus: before, during and after crises



What do we mean with preparedness?

Three properties of a well-prepared food system

- **Robust**
 - Can handle disturbances
- **Flexible**
 - Can change the way of working quickly
- **Adaptable**
 - Can change fundamentally when a long-term crisis happens

What will Be Ready deliver?

- **Clear basis for decision making**
 - What farming systems can handle crises best?
 - How to reduce dependency on imports?
 - How does the value chain affect preparedness?
 - What measures work locally and regionally?



Thank you!
Special thanks to Be Ready Team led by
Riccardo Bommarco

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