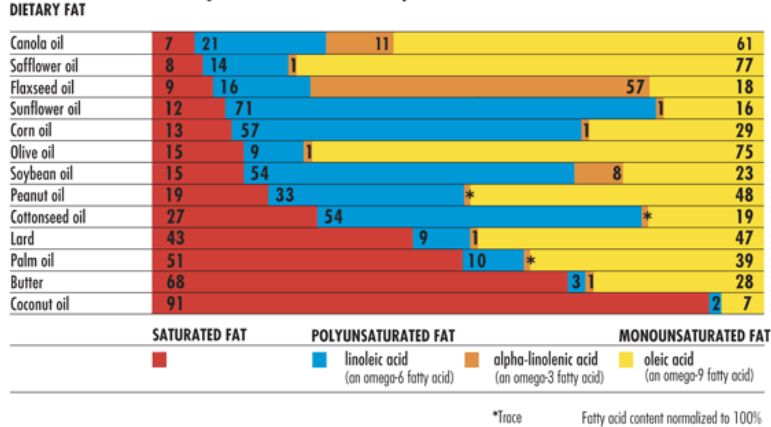


Food Policy & Health Outcomes: A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Health-Sensitive Palm Oil Policy in Thailand

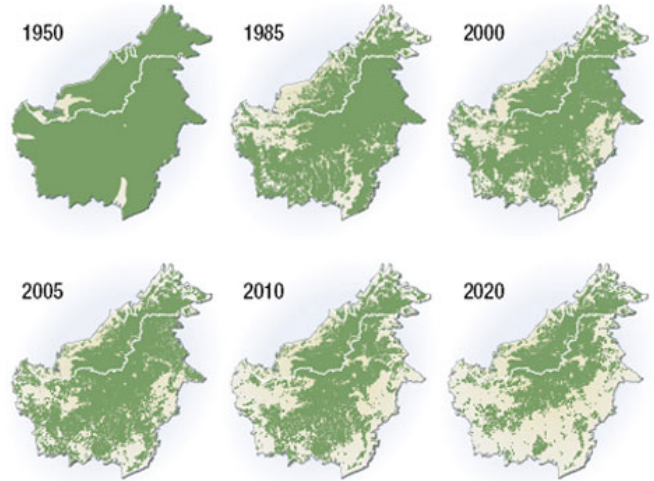


Palm Oil

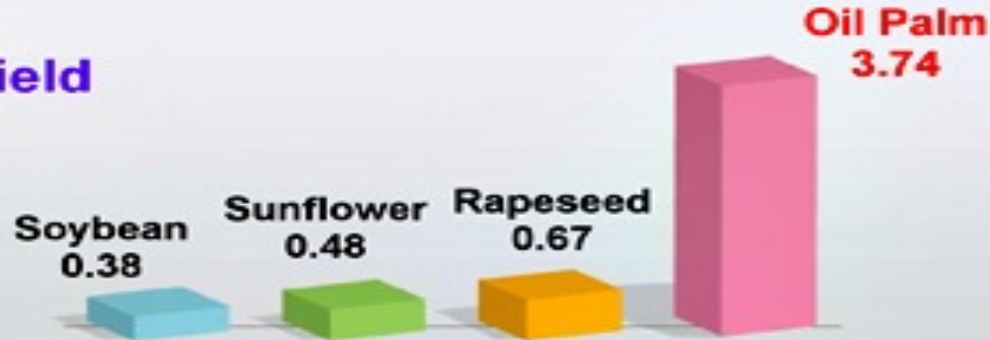
Comparison of Dietary Fats



SOURCE: PDS PALM PLANT CORPORATION



Average Oil Yield (t/ha/year)



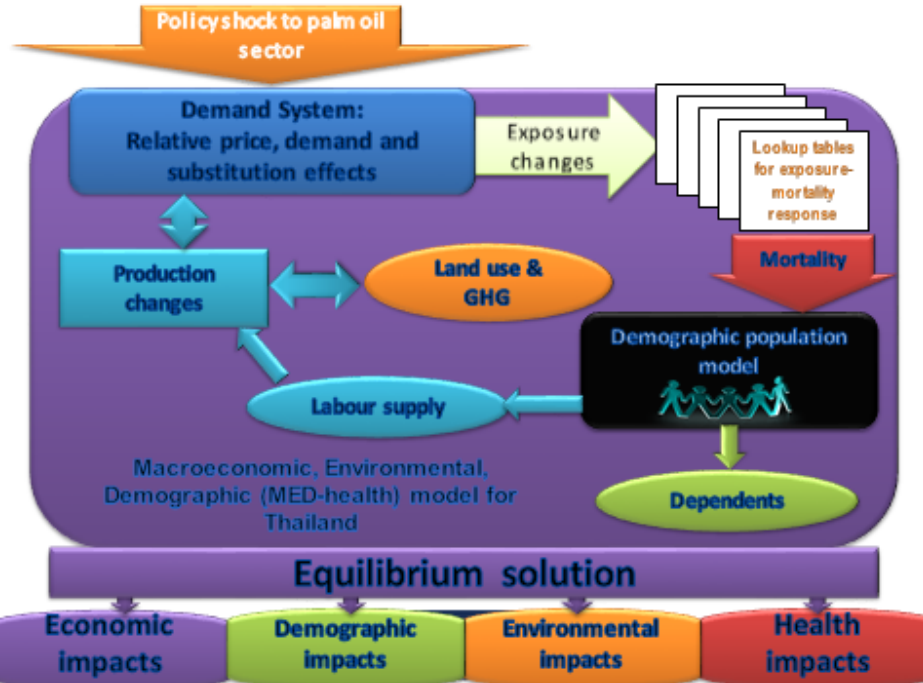
Research Questions

What are the health, economic and environmental implications of policies to reduce palm oil intake in Thailand?

What is a viable strategy for improved outcomes from the edible oil sector?

Methods

Simulation modelling



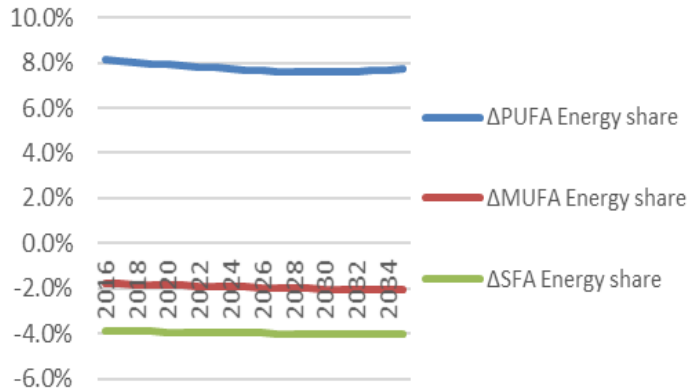
Stakeholder Analysis

- Prospects for health/environment focussed policy reform in the edible oil sector.
- 18 stakeholders from government, private sector, NGOs.

Policy modelling: Palm oil sales tax (1)

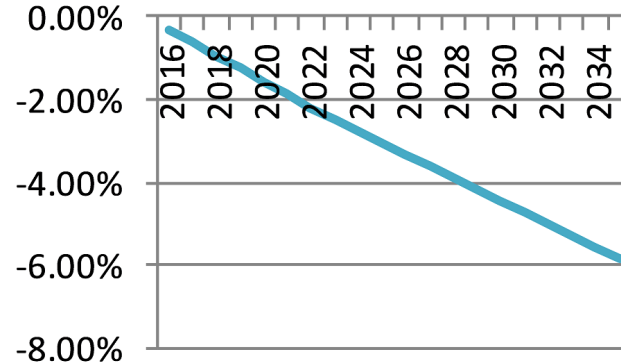
Sales tax consistent with 50% reduction in energy from palm oil

Change in energy shares (%)



Change in Total/HDL cholesterol (%)

Δ Total:HDL ratio, cumulative (%)



Policy modelling: Palm oil sales tax (2)

Economic Impacts

Cumulative 2016-35

Change in real GDP \$ 14 Billion

Change in hh consumption \$ 11 Billion

Policy modelling: Palm oil sales tax (3)

Environmental impact

Palm oil is currently grown on marginal agricultural land in Thailand by smallholders. Palm oil tax results in alternative crops substituting for oil palm in land use. This actually leads to less carbon sequestration if oil palm is restricted to agricultural land.

What if oil palm were to expand into forested land?

Insights from Stakeholder Analysis

- Economic/political considerations paramount
- Oil Palm for biofuels a growth area
- Environment: *“Thailand is not Malaysia or Indonesia”*
- Weak influence of health sector in policymaking.
- But... private sector sees opportunities.

Insights from Stakeholder Analysis

- Economic/political considerations paramount
- Oil Palm for biofuels a growth area
- Environment: *“Thailand is not Malaysia or Indonesia”*
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- But... private sector sees opportunities.

Thought for food

- Economic & health gains to be had by limiting palm oil for food use in Thailand. Innovation in food technology is key.
- Biofuel use can drive the sector's future, but critical to keep oil palm confined to agricultural land.

Ongoing work:

- Modelling Food-Biofuel linkages in more detail.
- Implications of palm oil trade across Asia.