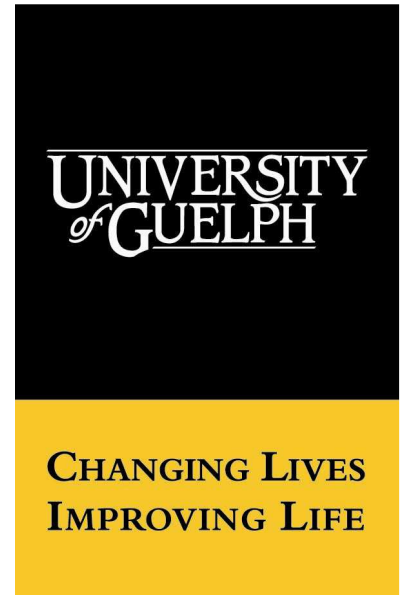




Institute of  
Development Studies




**Food Safety Standards,  
International trade and  
Developing Countries**

**Spencer Henson**



## Overview

- Background
  - Trends in food safety governance
  - Impacts on developing countries
  - Implications
  - Conclusions
- 

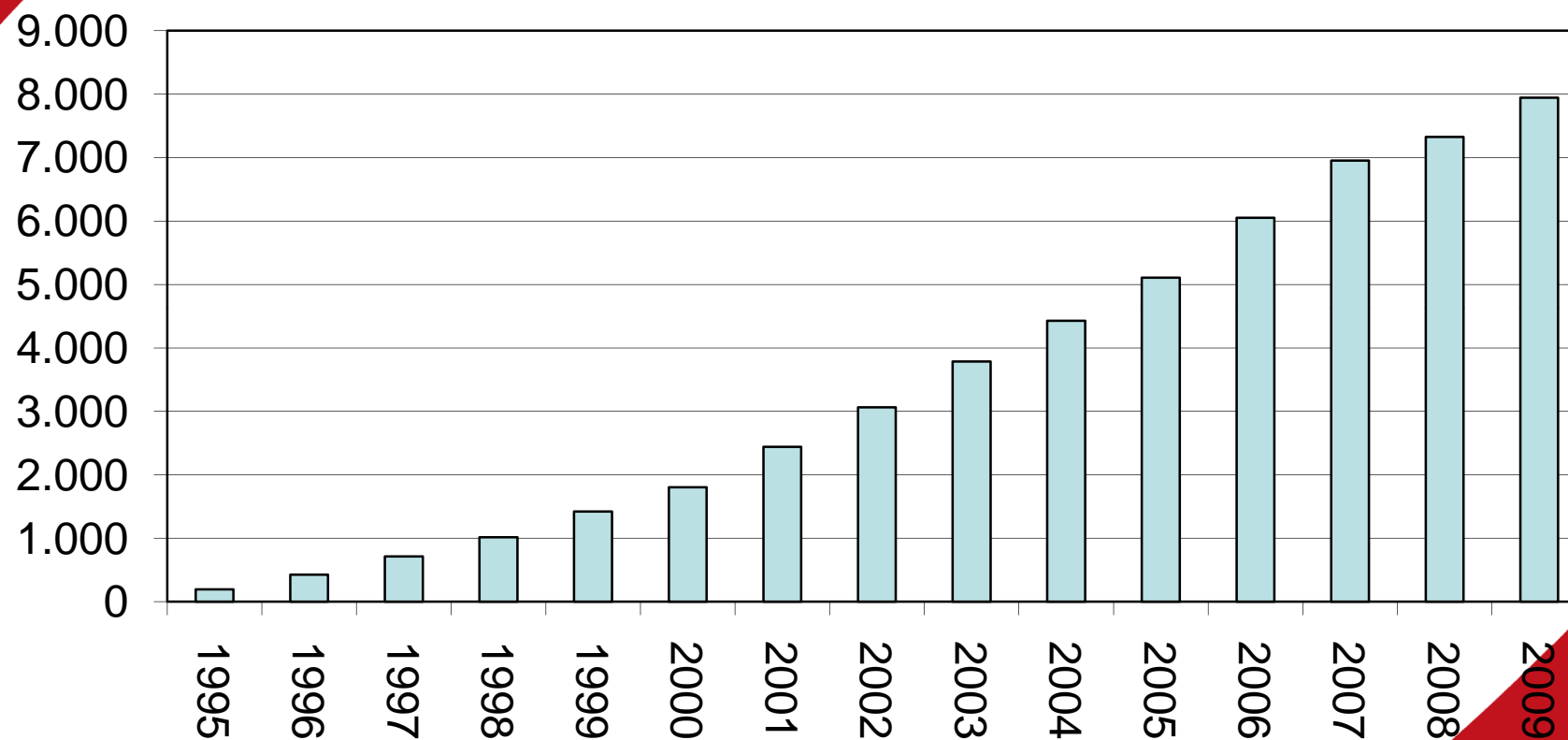
## Background

- Trade in agri-food products promoted as driver of poverty alleviation in developing countries
- Decline in traditional barriers to trade pointed 'spotlight' at 'non-tariff barriers'
- Fundamental changes in governance of food safety
- Lot of fear that compliance with food safety requirements acts to exclude developing countries
- Become major political issue within World Trade Organisation

## Trends in food safety governance

- Increased public oversight:
  - Stringency
  - Scope
- Rise of private standards and conformity assessment:
  - Private standards
  - Third party certification
- Changes in approaches:
  - Process-based controls
  - Managerial systems
- Changes in approaches to enforcement:
  - Where
  - How

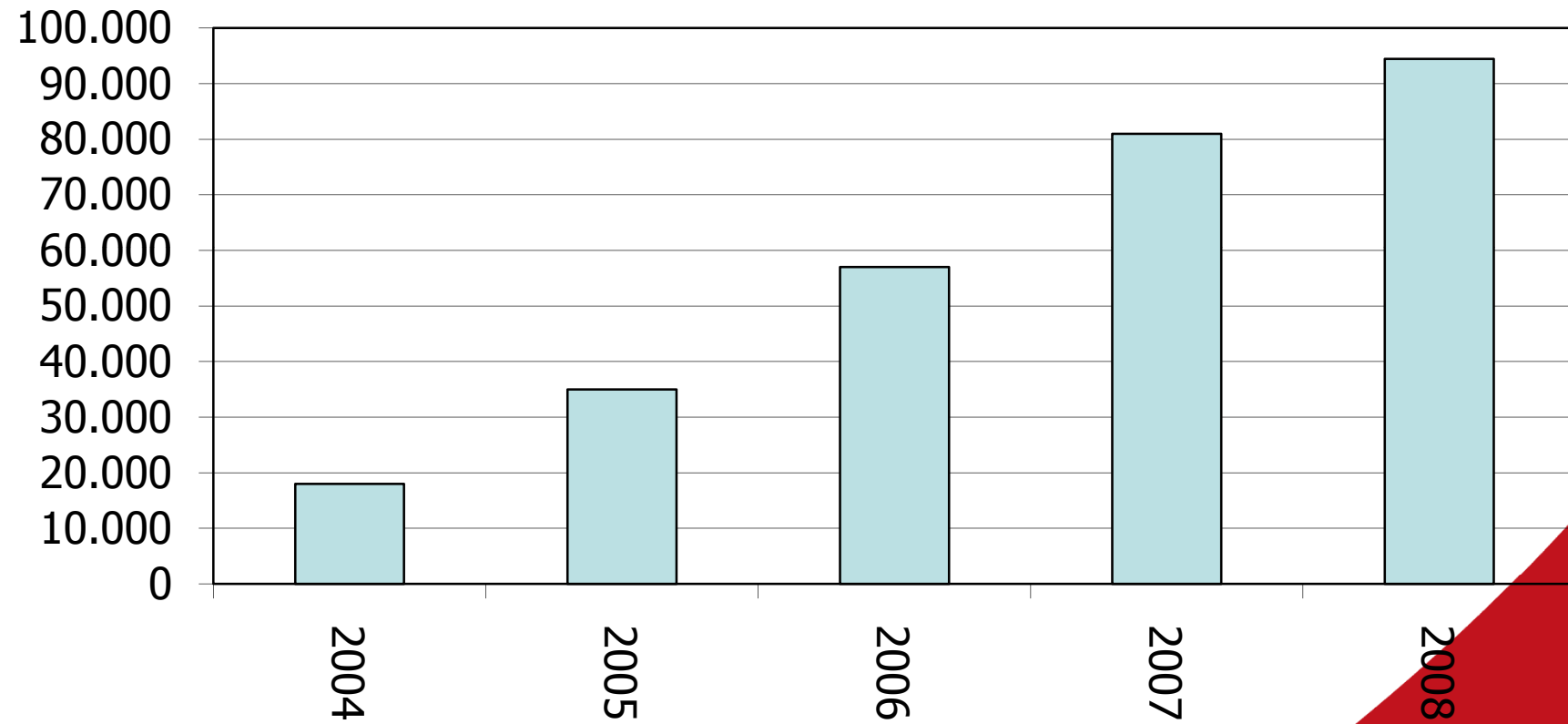
## Notifications to SPS Committee, 1995-2009



## Trends in food safety governance

- Increased public oversight:
  - Stringency
  - Scope
- Rise of private standards and conformity assessment:
  - Private standards
  - Third party certification
- Changes in approaches:
  - Process-based controls
  - Managerial systems
- Changes in approaches to enforcement:
  - Where
  - How

## Certification to GlobalGAP, 1995-2008



## Trends in food safety governance

- Increased public oversight:
  - Stringency
  - Scope
- Rise of private standards and conformity assessment:
  - Private standards
  - Third party certification
- Changes in approaches:
  - Process-based controls
  - Managerial systems
- Changes in approaches to enforcement:
  - Where
  - How



**Regulatory space complexity**

**Mandatory**

**Public**

**Private**

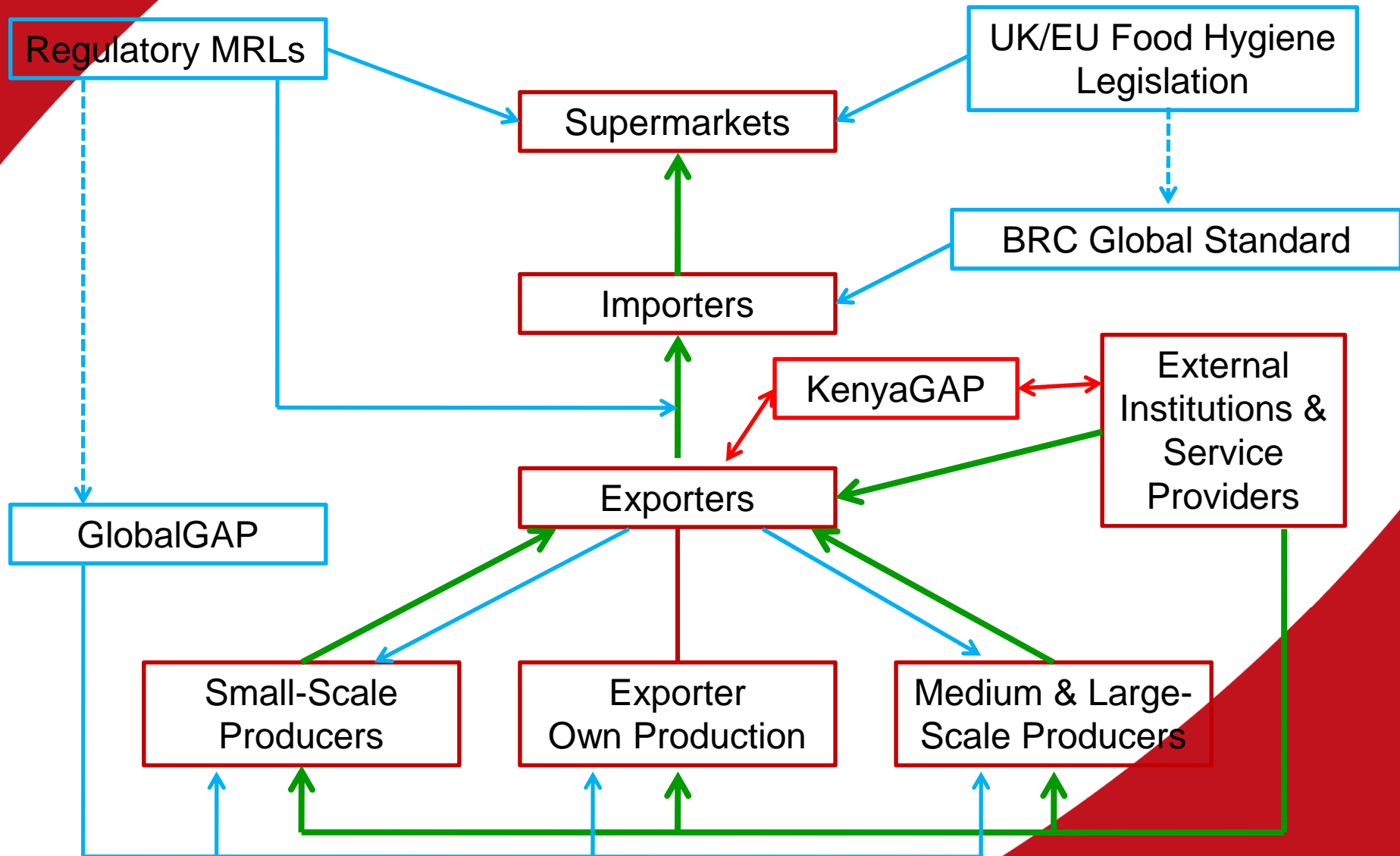
**Voluntary**



## Drivers of food safety governance

- Globalisation of agri-food systems
- Restructuring of global agri-food value chains
- Efficacy of food safety controls
- Concepts of economic efficiency
- Retreat of state controls/new approaches to regulation
- Public concerns & demands
- Trade law

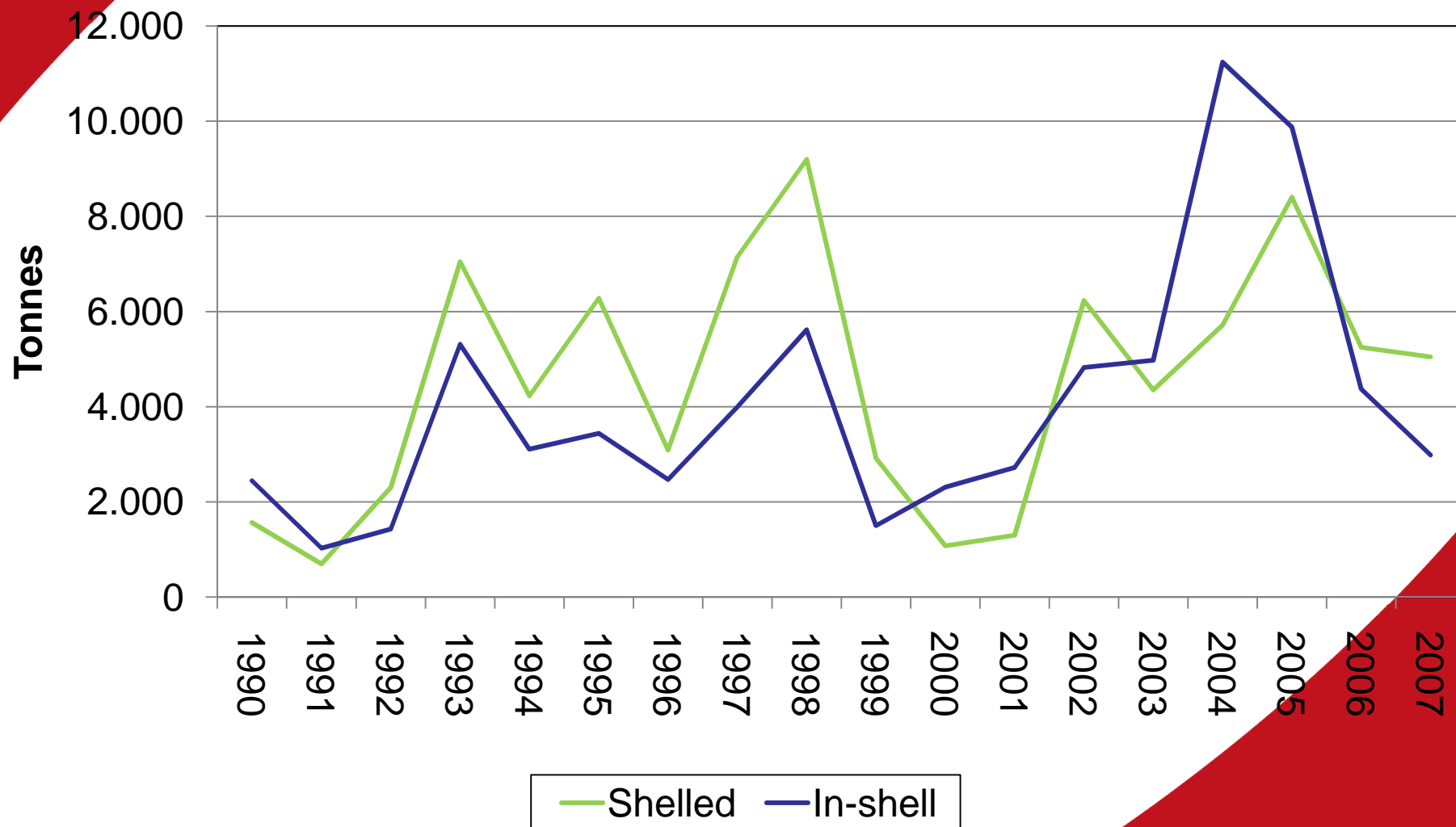
# Regulatory and standards compliance for fresh vegetable exports to the UK



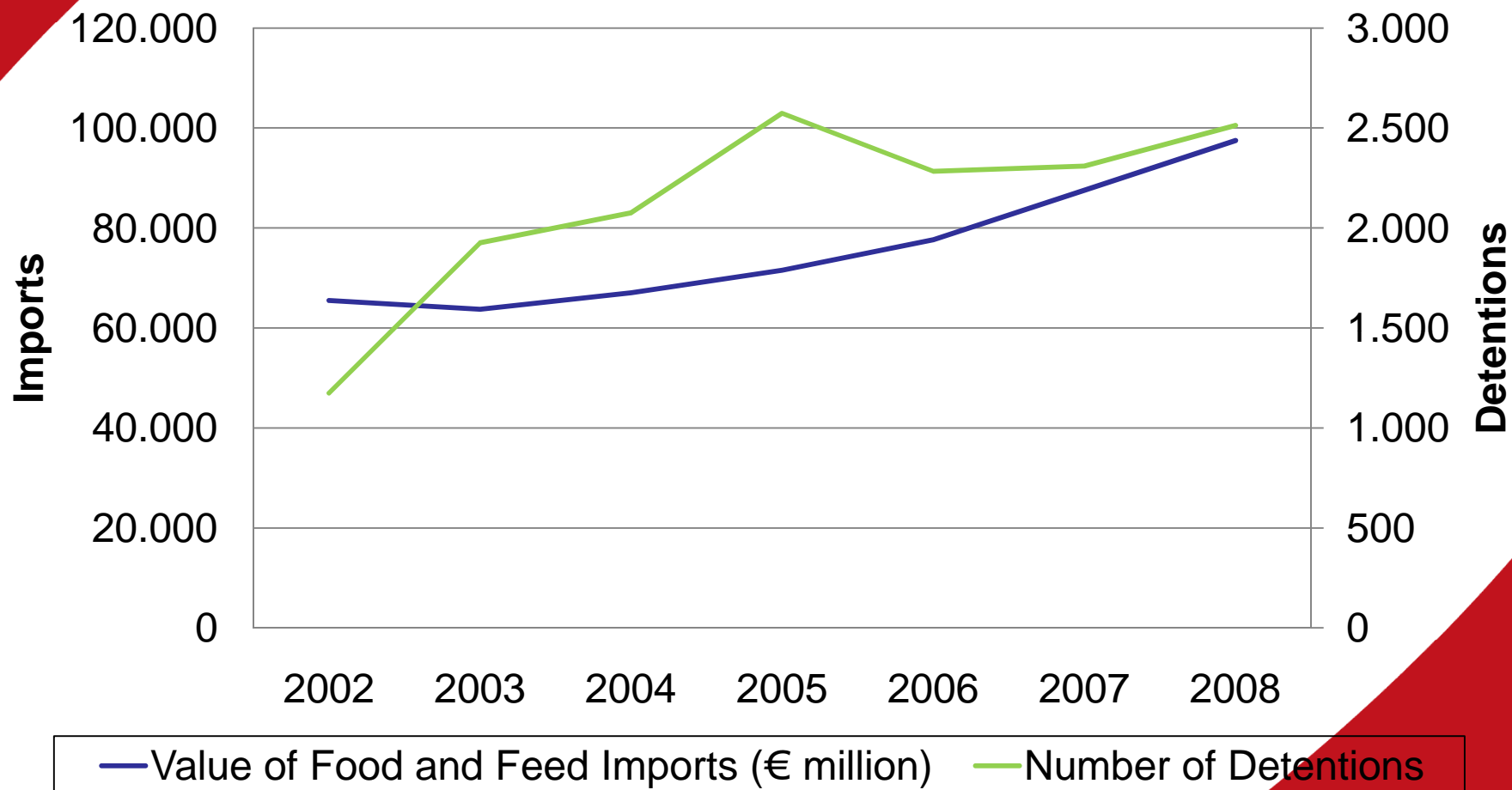
## Impact on developing countries

- Absolute barrier to trade
- Erosion of competitiveness
- Exclusion of vulnerable actors:
  - Smallholder producers
  - Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Livelihood impacts
- Developing country 'voice'

## Groundnut exports from Egypt, 1990-2007



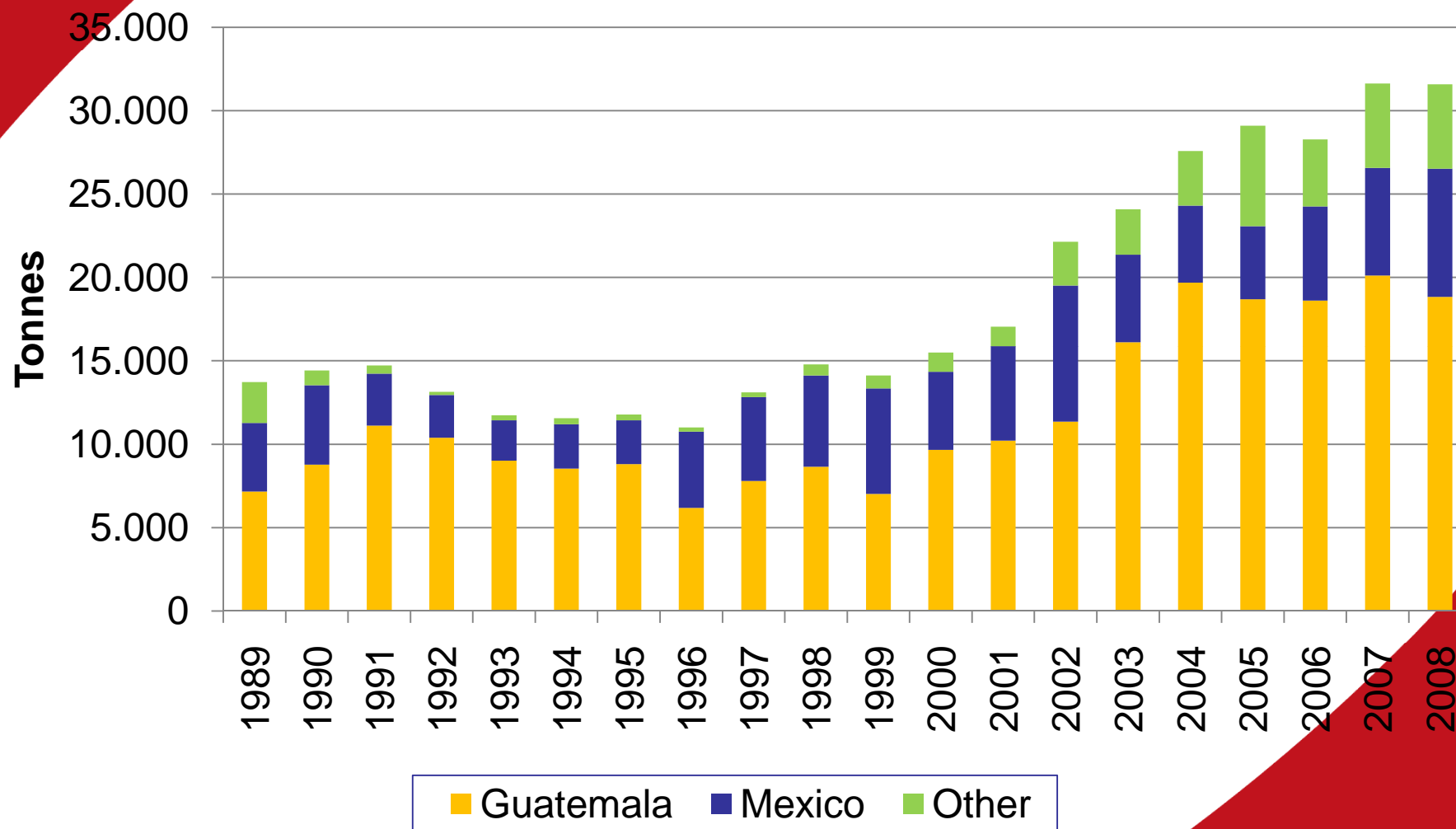
## EU Border detentions of food and feed products from developing countries, 2002-2008



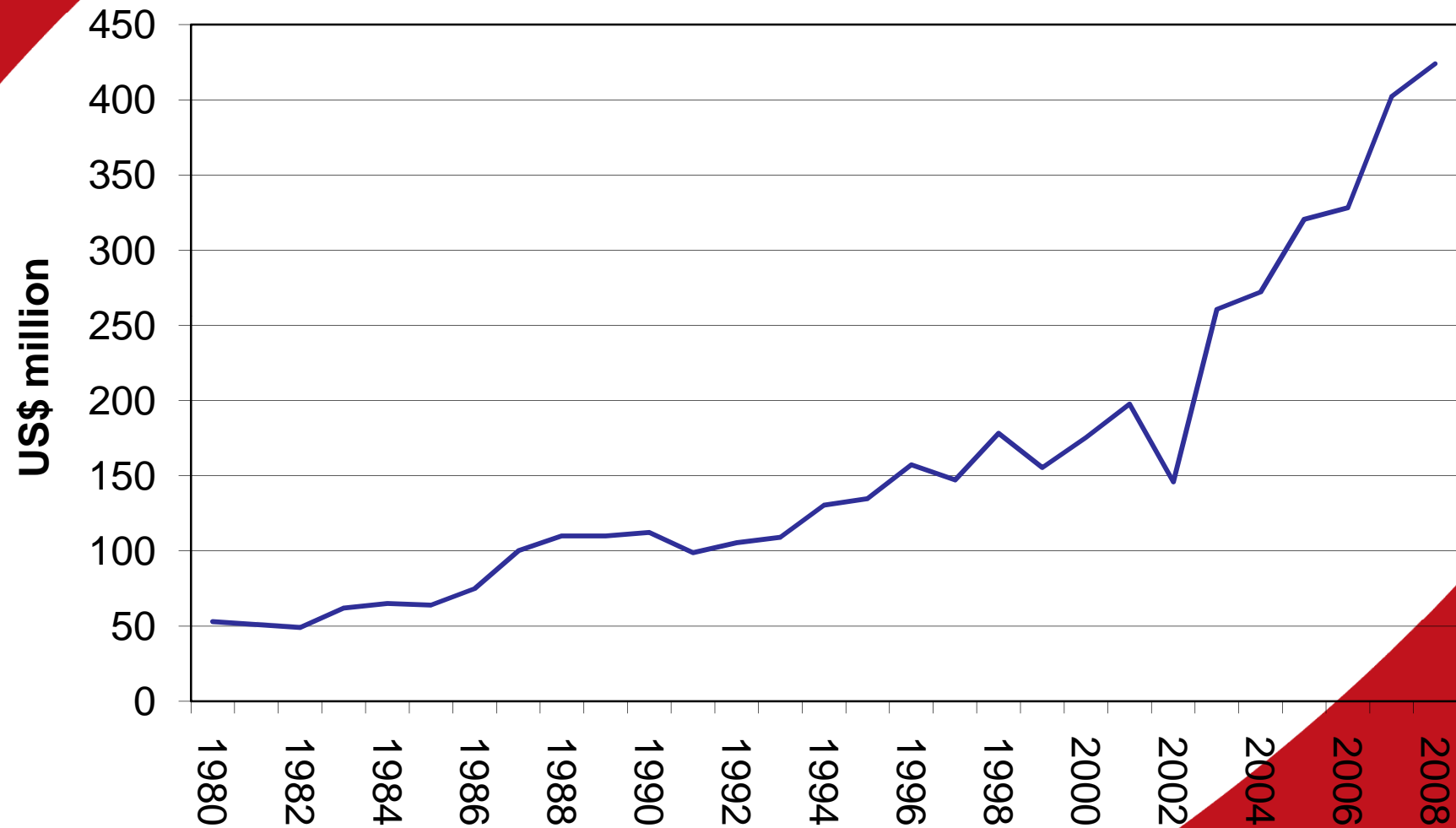
## Impact on developing countries

- Absolute barrier to trade
- Erosion of competitiveness
- Exclusion of vulnerable actors:
  - Smallholder producers
  - Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Livelihood impacts
- Developing country 'voice'

## US fresh pea imports by origin, 1989-2008



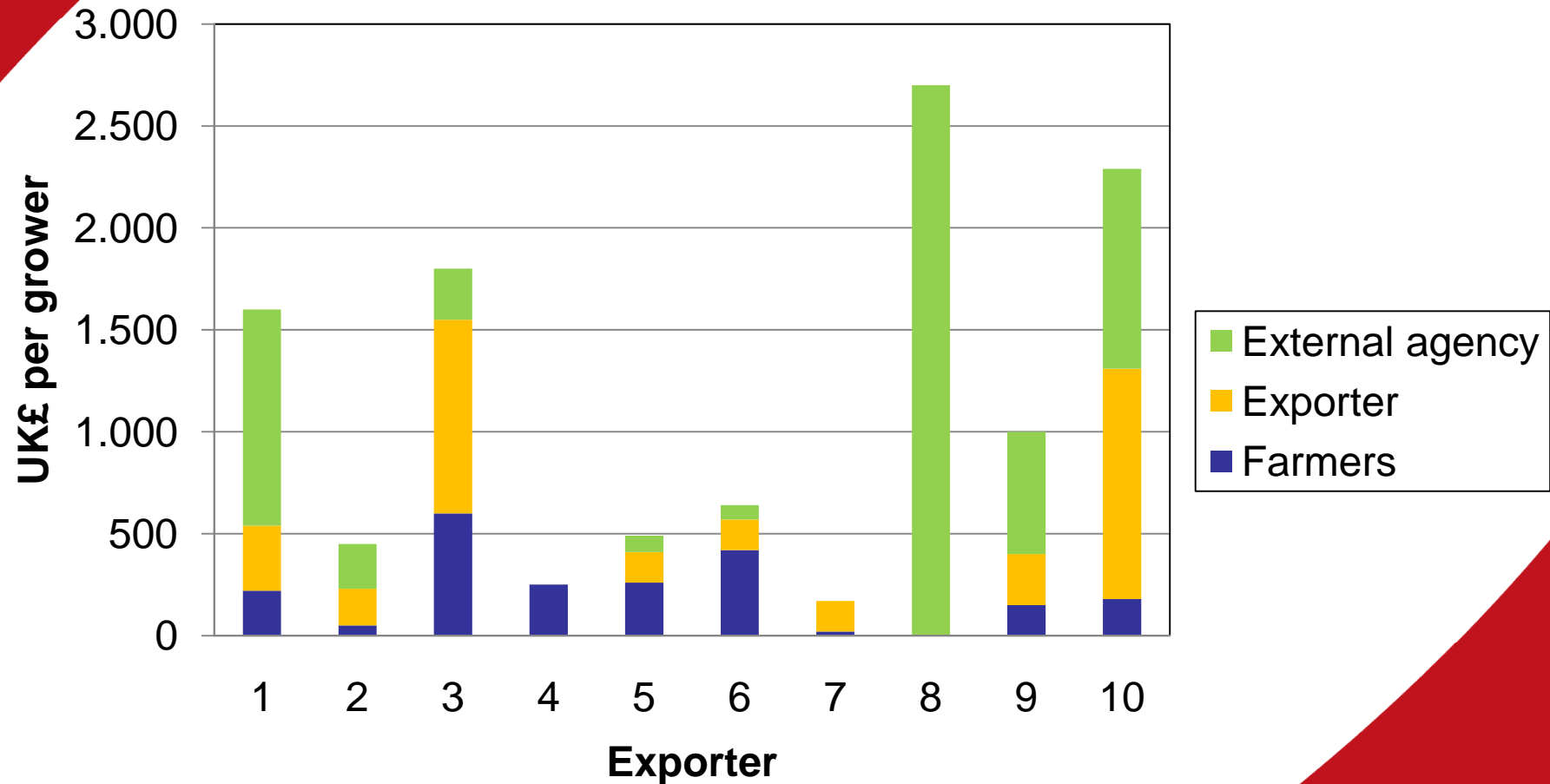
## Kenyan Exports of Horticultural Products, 1980-2008



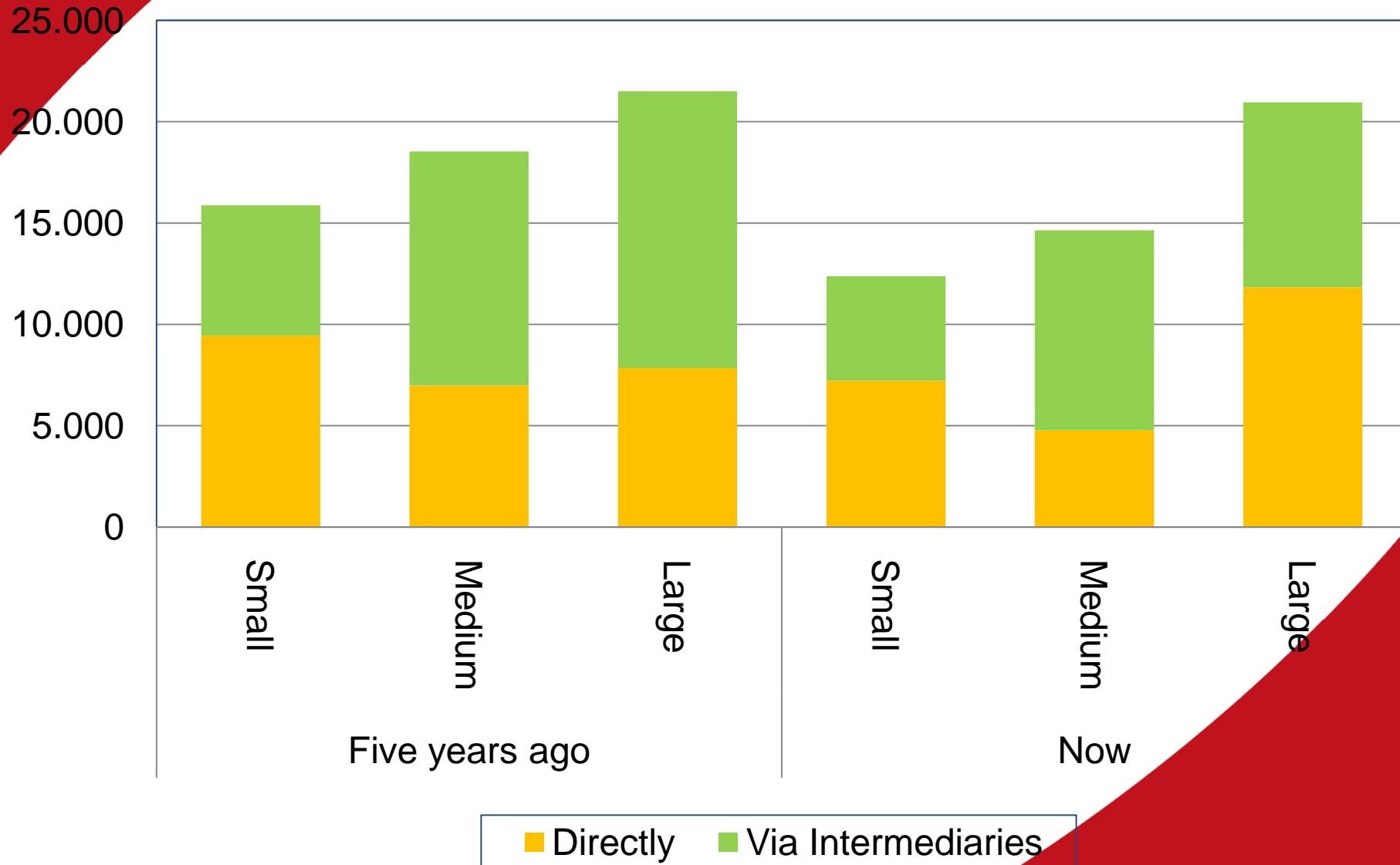
## Impact on developing countries

- Absolute barrier to trade
- Erosion of competitiveness
- Exclusion of vulnerable actors:
  - Smallholder producers
  - Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Livelihood impacts
- Developing country 'voice'

## Costs of implementing GlobalGAP by small-holders in Kenyan green bean production



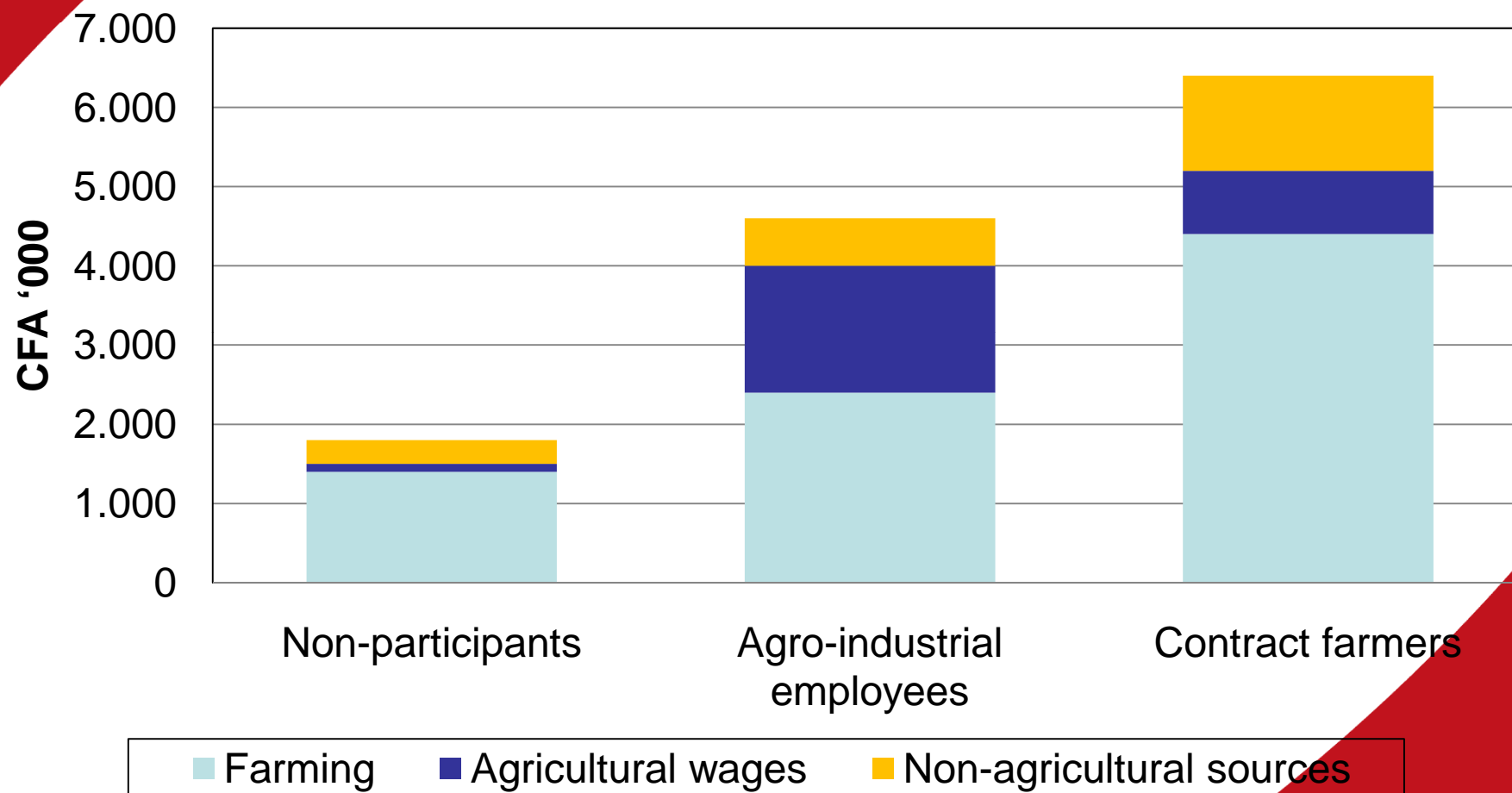
## Total number of smallholders supplying fresh produce exporters in Sub-Saharan Africa



## Impact on developing countries

- Absolute barrier to trade
- Erosion of competitiveness
- Exclusion of vulnerable actors:
  - Smallholder producers
  - Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Livelihood impacts
- Developing country 'voice'

## Income of participants and non-participants in French bean production in Senegal



## Impact on developing countries

- Absolute barrier to trade
- Erosion of competitiveness
- Exclusion of vulnerable actors:
  - Smallholder producers
  - Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Livelihood impacts
- Developing country 'voice'

## Implications

- 'Aid for Trade' agenda
- Global cost-benefit analysis?
- Harmonisation:
  - International standards
  - Benchmarking
- Technical assistance

## Conclusions

- Global governance of food safety complex
- Major implications for developing countries
- Are inevitable losers.....
- .....but also some winners
- Often impacts are over-simplified or misunderstood
- Must recognise major challenges for developing countries