



ICAO: UNITING AVIATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**ACT>>>  
GLOBAL**

# ICAO Colloquium on Aviation and Climate Change

## Aviation alternative fuels

**Paul Steele**

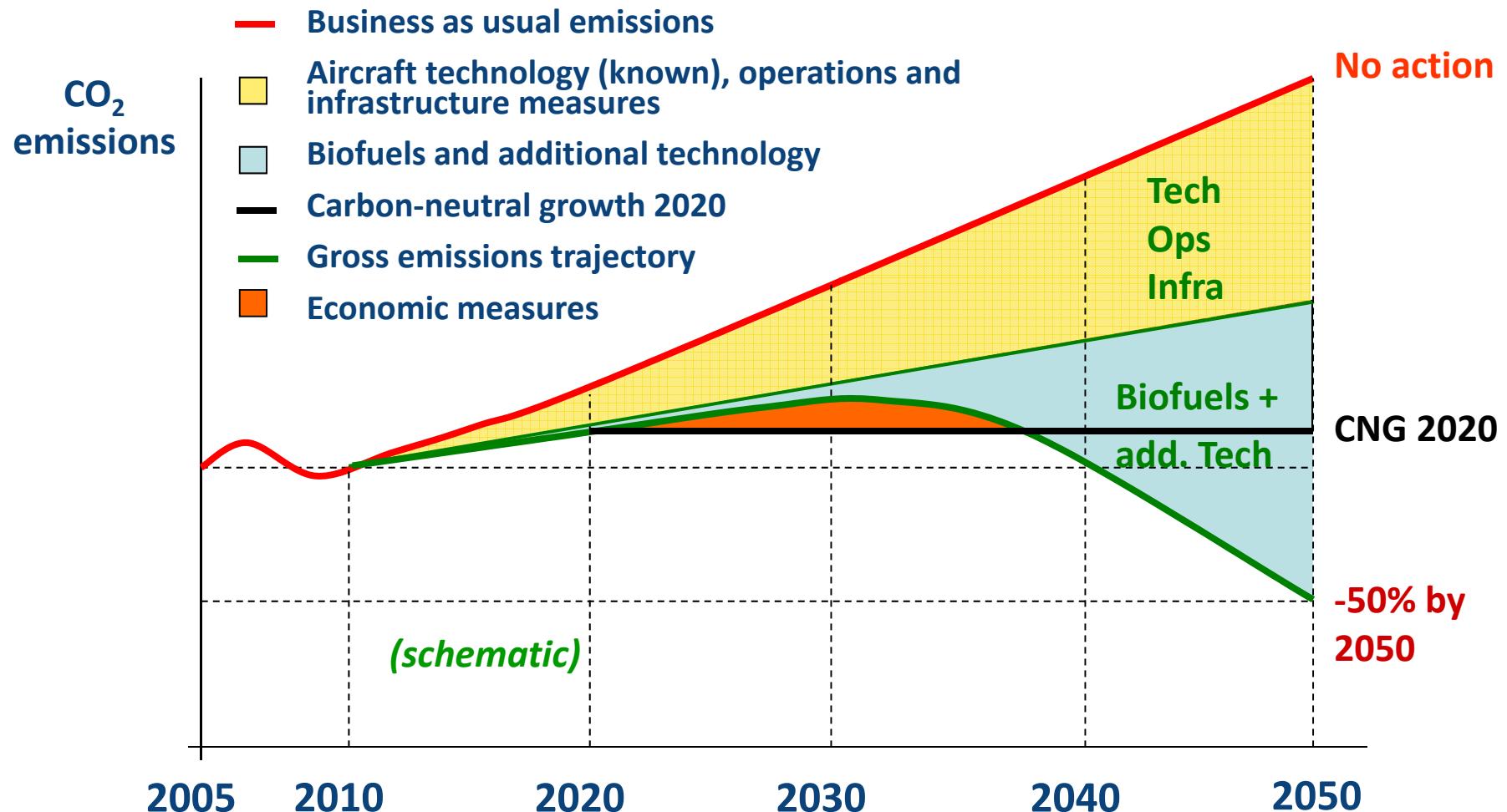
Executive Director, Air Transport Action Group



ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, Canada, 11- 14 May 2010



# Why turn to alternative fuels?





## Stringent performance specifications

- Safe
- Drop-in
- High energy density
- High flash point / low freeze point
- Net benefit on full carbon lifecycle basis

The above excludes many first generation fuels  
e.g. Biodiesel, Ethanol made from food crops



# Alternative fuel types

## Fuels from Fossil Sources

|                      | Energy Source  | Process         | Benefits /Issues   |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Jet Kerosene         | Oil            | Refining        | Compact/High Energy Fuel                                       |
| Coal-to-Liquid (CTL) | Coal/Shale     | Fischer-Tropsch | Reduces oil-dependency<br>Needs CCS* to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> |
| Gas-to-Liquid (GTL)  | Gas/Coal/Shale | Fischer-Tropsch | Reduces oil-dependency<br>Needs CCS* to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> |



# Alternative fuel types

## Fuels from Renewable Sources

|                                  | Energy Source   | Process                          | Benefits /Issues                                      |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Biomass-to-Liquid (BTL)          | Camelina/Jatropha<br>Halophytes/Algae/<br>Urban Waste | Gasification/<br>Fischer-Tropsch | CO <sub>2</sub> Lifecycle benefits/<br>Sustainability |
| Hydrotreated Renewable Jet (HRJ) | Camelina/Jatropha<br>Halophytes/Algae/                | Hydrogen treatment               | CO <sub>2</sub> Lifecycle benefits/<br>Sustainability |
| Fermented Renewable Jet (FRJ)    | Sugars  | Fermentation                     | CO <sub>2</sub> Lifecycle benefits/<br>Sustainability |



# Sustainability requirements

- Aviation determined not to repeat the experience with first-generation biofuels

| CO <sub>2</sub>   | Land use   | Food security  | Water and air quality                          | Society  | Soil and biodiversity   |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Has a net reduction in carbon emissions over its full lifecycle | Do not use land previously used for food<br><br>Do not cause deforestation | Do not impact food supplies<br><br>Do not compete with food crops for water supplies | Do not negatively impact water and air quality | Provide benefits to communities growing feed sources | Do not negatively impact soil quality or introduce invasive species |

- The industry is working with the **Sustainable Biofuels Roundtable** on sustainability criteria



## We've come a long way

- **2006:** biofuels for aviation thought “unlikely”
- **2010:** 5 x biofuels test flights have taken place, 2 x gas to liquid flights
- The industry has driven development of this exciting initiative
- ASTM certification for biofuels within a year
- Commercial flights on biofuels 3-5 years away



# Alternative fuels test flight programme

| Carrier              | Aircraft | Partners                                | Date          | Alternative fuel                | Blend            |
|----------------------|----------|---|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Virgin Atlantic      | B747-400 | Boeing, GE Aviation                     | 23 Feb 2008   | Coconut & Babassu               | 20% one engine   |
| AIR NEW ZEALAND      | B747-400 | Boeing, Rolls-Royce                     | 30 Dec 2008   | Jatropha                        | 50% one engine   |
| Continental Airlines | B737-800 | Boeing, GE Aviation, CFM, Honeywell UOP | 7 Jan 2009    | Algae and Jatropha              | 50% one engine   |
| JAL                  | B747-300 | Boeing, Pratt & Whitney, Honeywell UOP  | 30 Jan 2009   | Camelina, Jatropha, Algae blend | 50% one engine   |
| QATAR AIRWAYS        | A340-600 | Airbus, Shell                           | 12 Oct 2009   | Gas to liquid (not biofuel)     | 50% four engines |
| KLM                  | B747-400 | GE, Honeywell UOP                       | 23 Nov 2009   | Camelina                        | 50% one engine   |
| UNITED               | A319     | Rentech                                 | 30 April 2010 | Gas to liquid (not biofuel)     | 40% two engines  |



**ACT>>  
GLOBAL**

## ICAO Colloquium on Aviation and Climate Change

# Test flight programme, scheduled flights

| Carrier                               | Aircraft | Partners                                | Date    | Alternative fuel | Blend |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---|---------|------------------|-------|
| <b>TAM</b><br>AIRLINES                | A320     | Airbus, CFM                             | 2H 2010 | Jatropha         | TBC   |
| <b>jetBlue</b><br>AIRWAYS             | A320     | Airbus, IAE, Honeywell                  | 2010    | TBC              | TBC   |
| <b>*interjet</b>                      | A320     | CFM, Safran, EADS,<br>Airbus, Honeywell | 2011    | Salicornia       | TBC   |
| <b>Azul</b><br>Linha Aérea Brasileira | E190     | Embraer, Amyris, GE                     | 1H 2012 | Sugars           | TBC   |



ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, Canada, 11- 14 May 2010



# Key findings from test flight programme

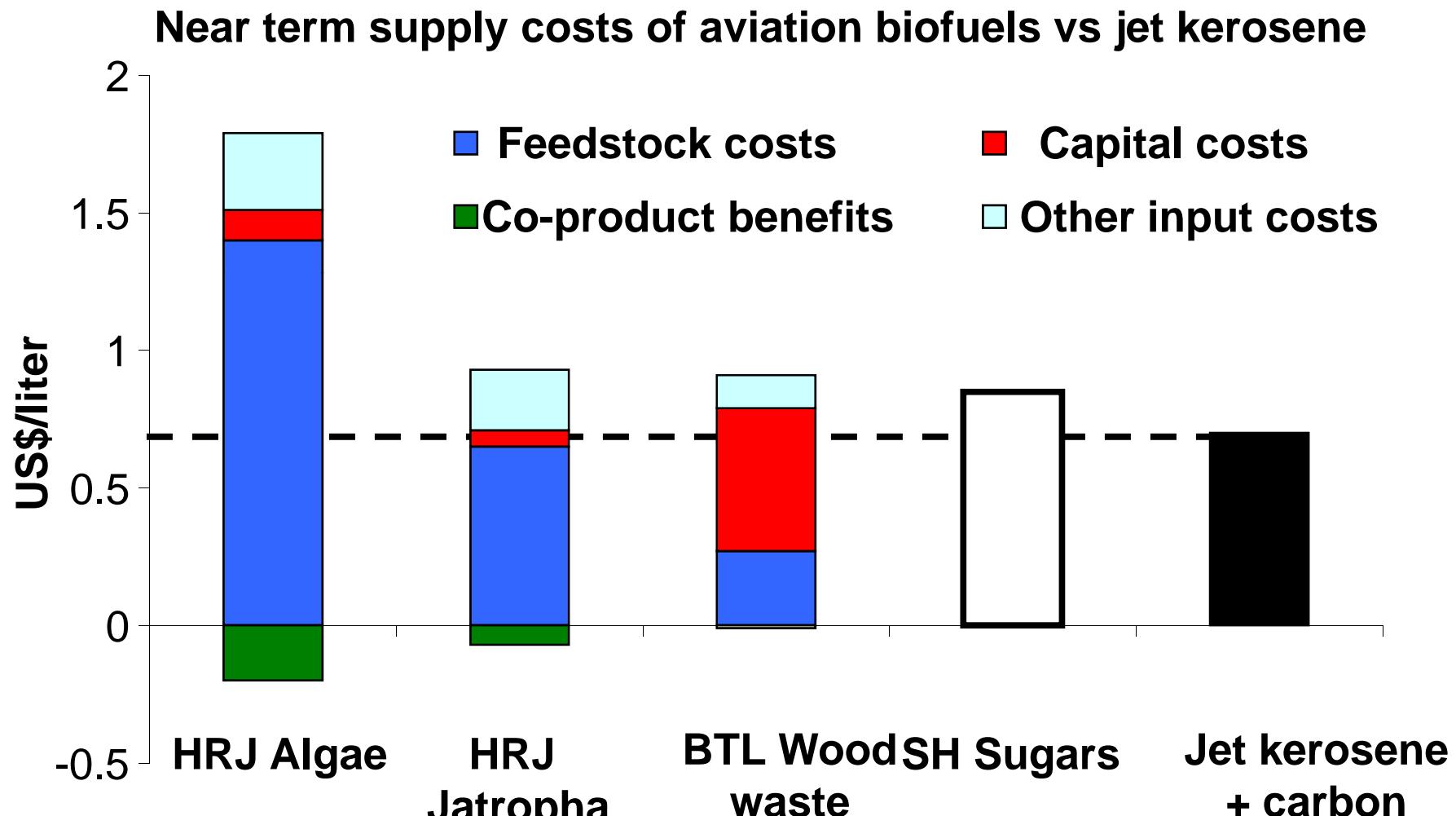
- Efficiency

- Energy density up to 48 MJ/kg (more than JetA1 average of around 43 MJ/kg)(Continental)
- Saving of 1.4 tonnes fuel on a 12 hour 747-400 flight (Air New Zealand)

- CO<sub>2</sub> gas savings

- Camelina, up to 85% (Michigan Technological University)

# Need to support several types of biofuel

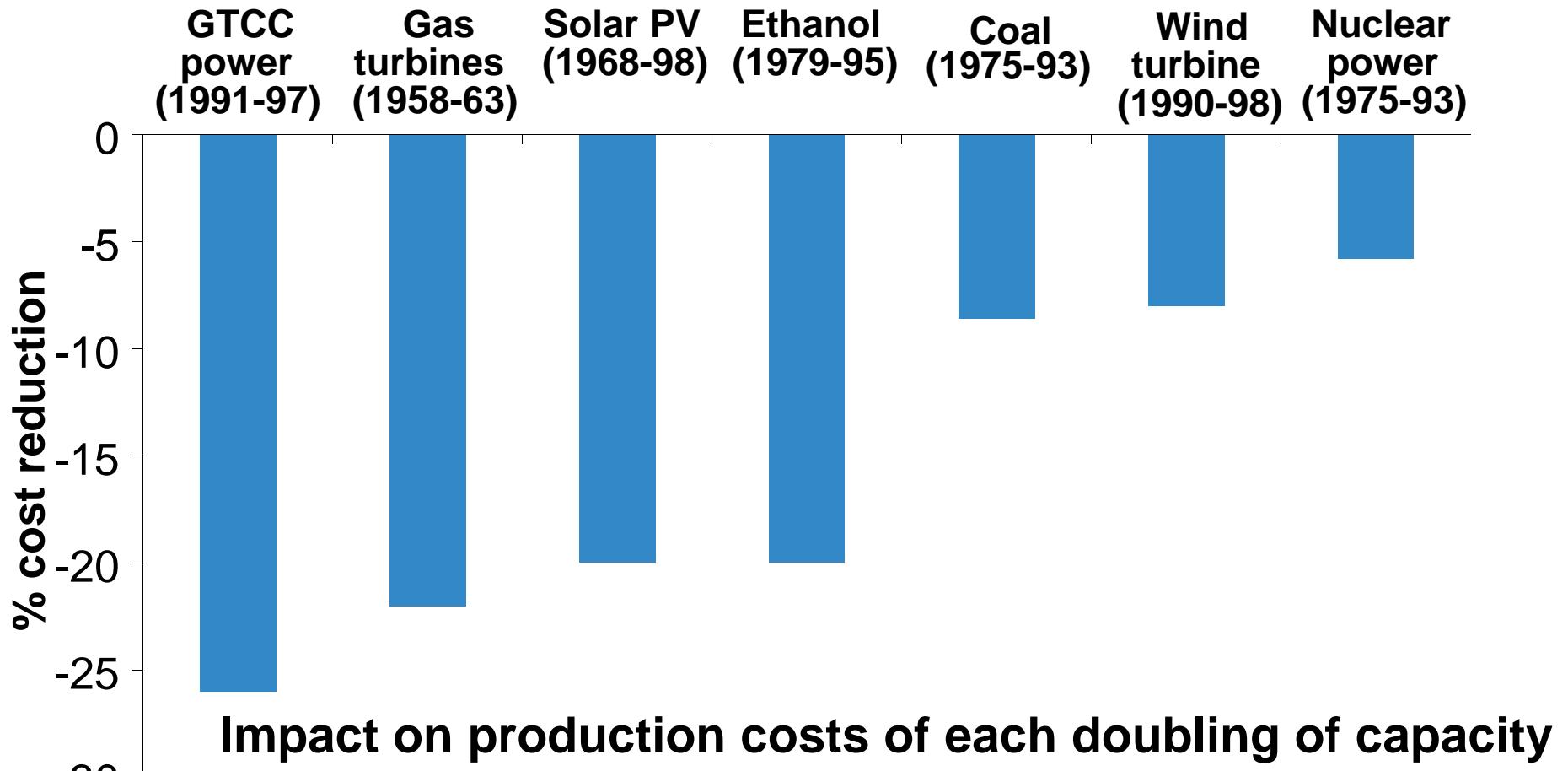


Source: IATA, IEA, various biofuel studies

ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, Canada, 11- 14 May 2010

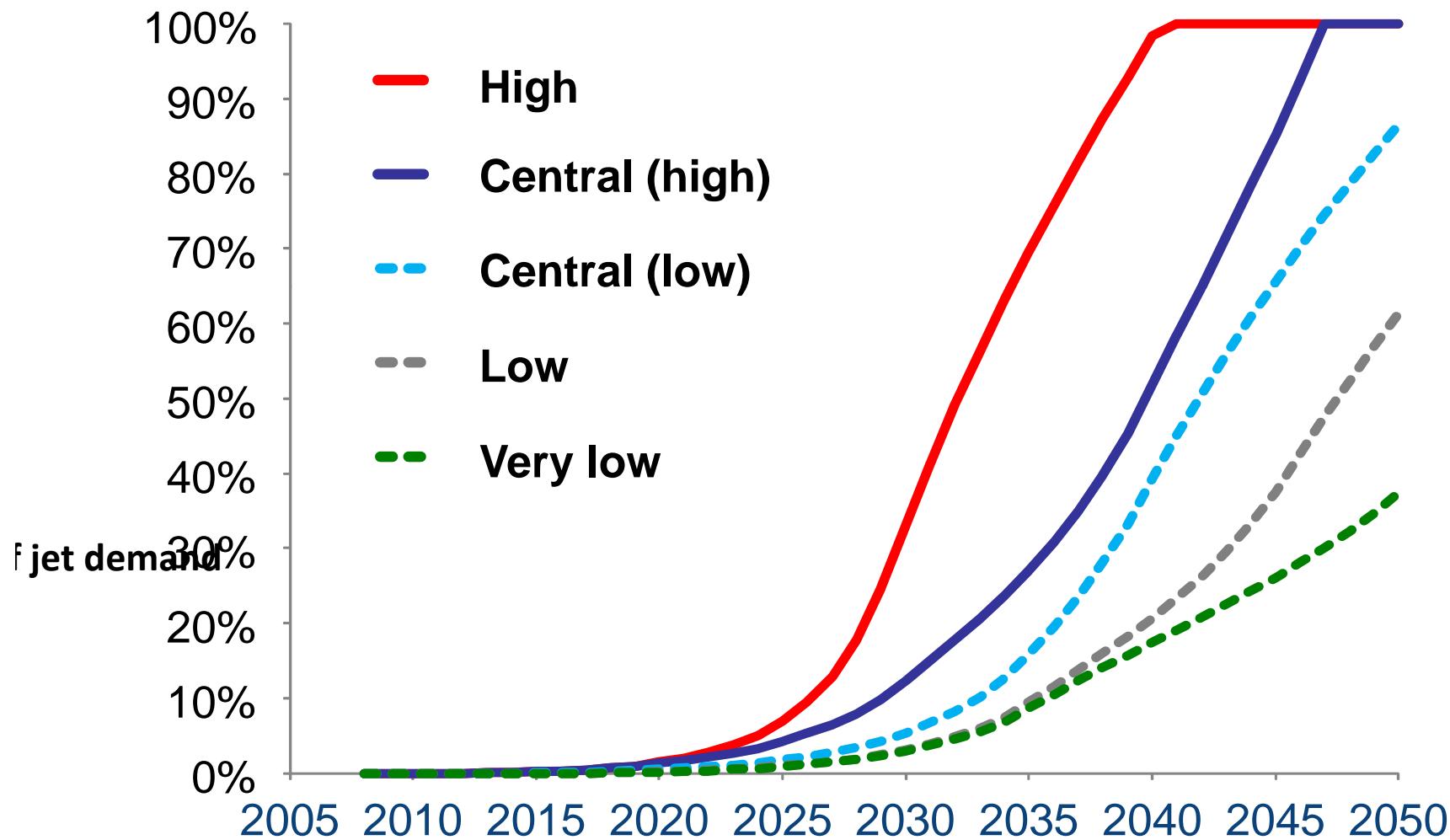


# Scaling up could reduce costs substantially





# Biofuels could completely replace Jet A-1





## The way forward

- Consolidate aviation business case
- Agree common sustainability standards
- Agree standard methodology for carbon lifecycle calculations
- Support development of diversity of biofuel feedstock
- Improve biomass productivity – more R&D
- Scale up capacity
- Demonstration plants – World Bank
- Commercialisation / implementation support from governments