



Universiteit Utrecht

Copernicus Institute of  
Sustainable Development



## The viability of renewable jet fuel – a general overview

*Sierk de Jong, Utrecht  
University*



# Are renewable jet fuels (RJF) viable?

This depends on its



Technological  
viability



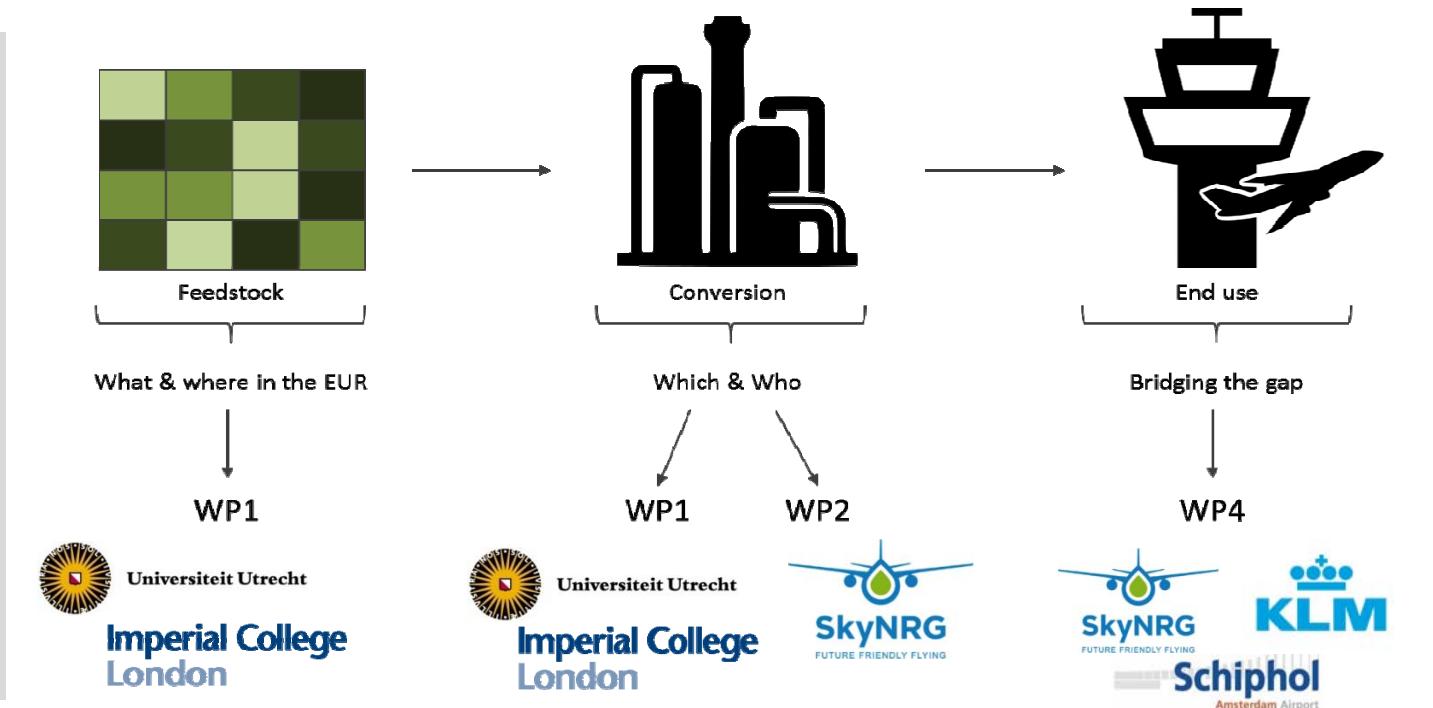
Sustainable  
viability



Economic  
viability



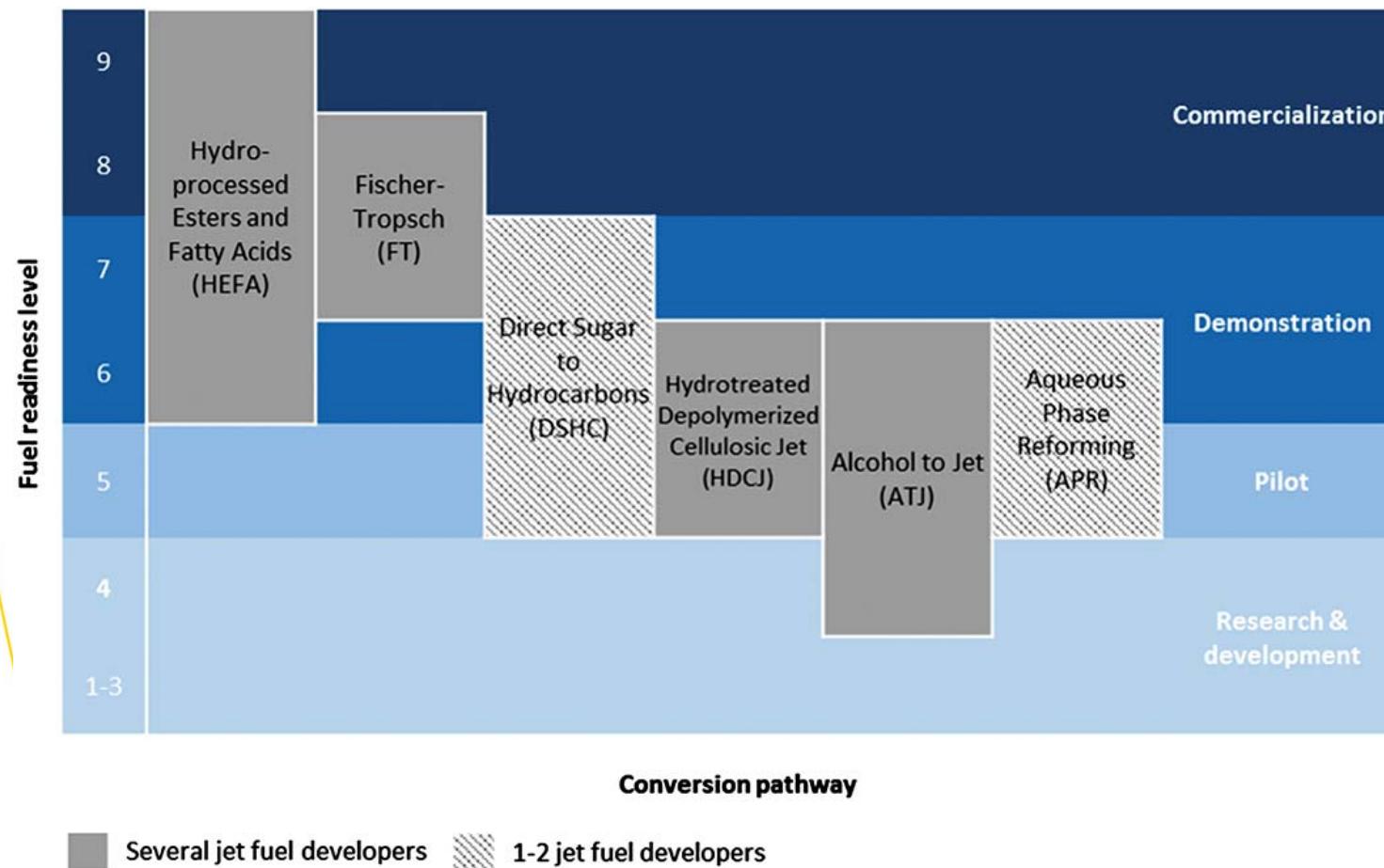
# The RENJET project assesses the viability of RJF and showcases promising concepts





# It is technically viable to produce renewable jet fuel (RJF), but further technology development is required

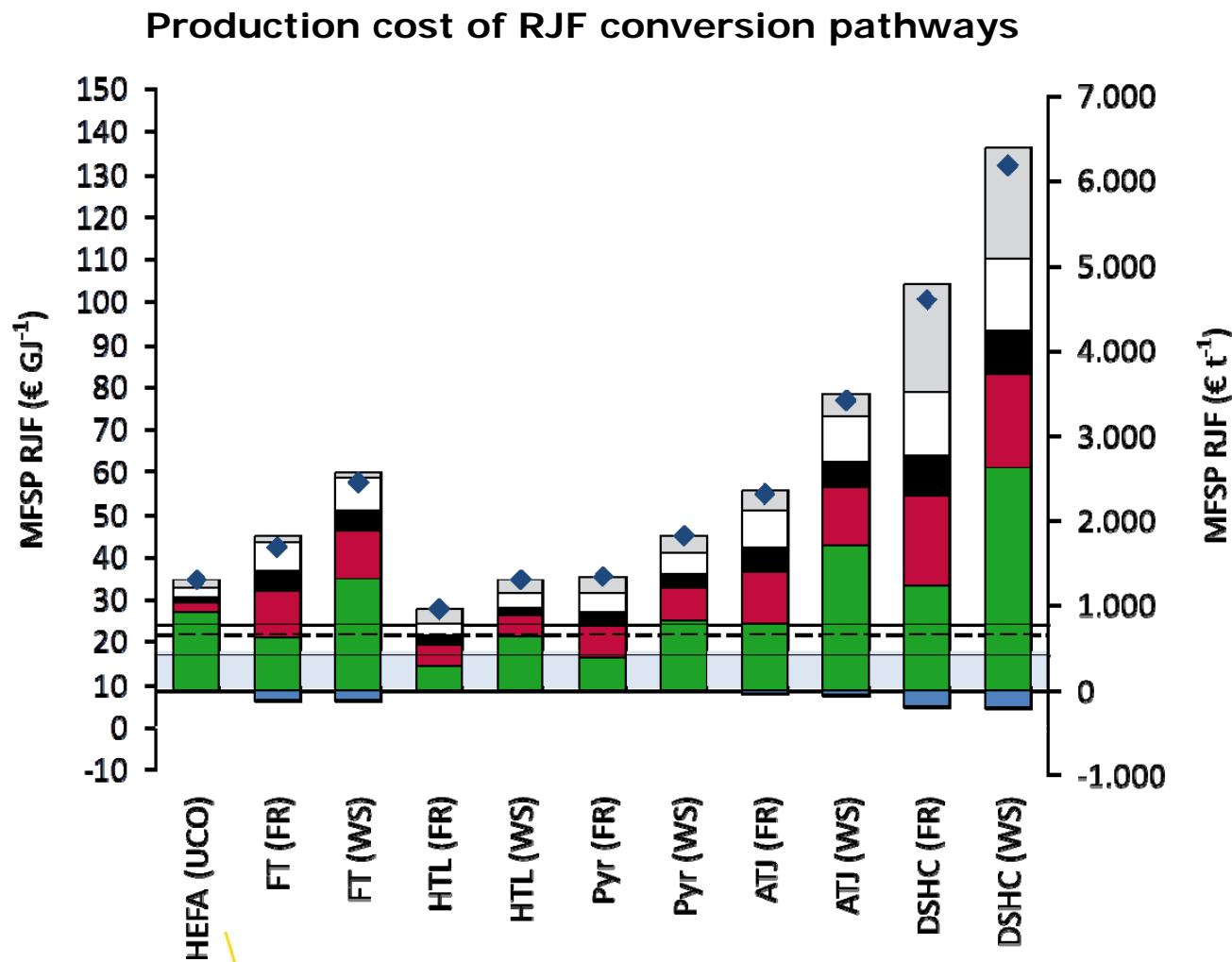
## Fuel readiness level assessment of RJF conversion pathways



Mawhood et al. "Production pathways for renewable jet fuel: a review of commercialization status and future prospects". Biofuel, Bioprod. Bioref. (in press) DOI: 10.1002/bbb.1644



# None of the assessed conversion pathways can reach fossil jet fuel prices



De Jong et al. "The feasibility of short-term production strategies for renewable jet fuels – A comprehensive techno-economic comparison". Biofuel, Bioprod. Bioref. 9:778–800 (2015), DOI: 10.1002/bbb.1613

## Legend

- ◆ MFSP
- Utilities & other raw materials
- Other OPEX (incl. corporate taxes)
- Maintenance and repairs
- CAPEX
- Feedstock
- Non-hydrocarbon co-products

Top tenth percentile of the fossil jet fuel in the period 2005-2014

Average fossil jet fuel price 2014

Bottom tenth percentile of the fossil jet fuel in the period 2005-2014

## Abbreviations

- HEFA = Hydroprocessed Esters and Fatty Acids
- FT = Fischer-Tropsch
- HTL = Hydrothermal Liquefaction
- Pyr = Pyrolysis
- ATJ = Alcohol-to-Jet
- DSHC = Direct Sugars to Hydrocarbons

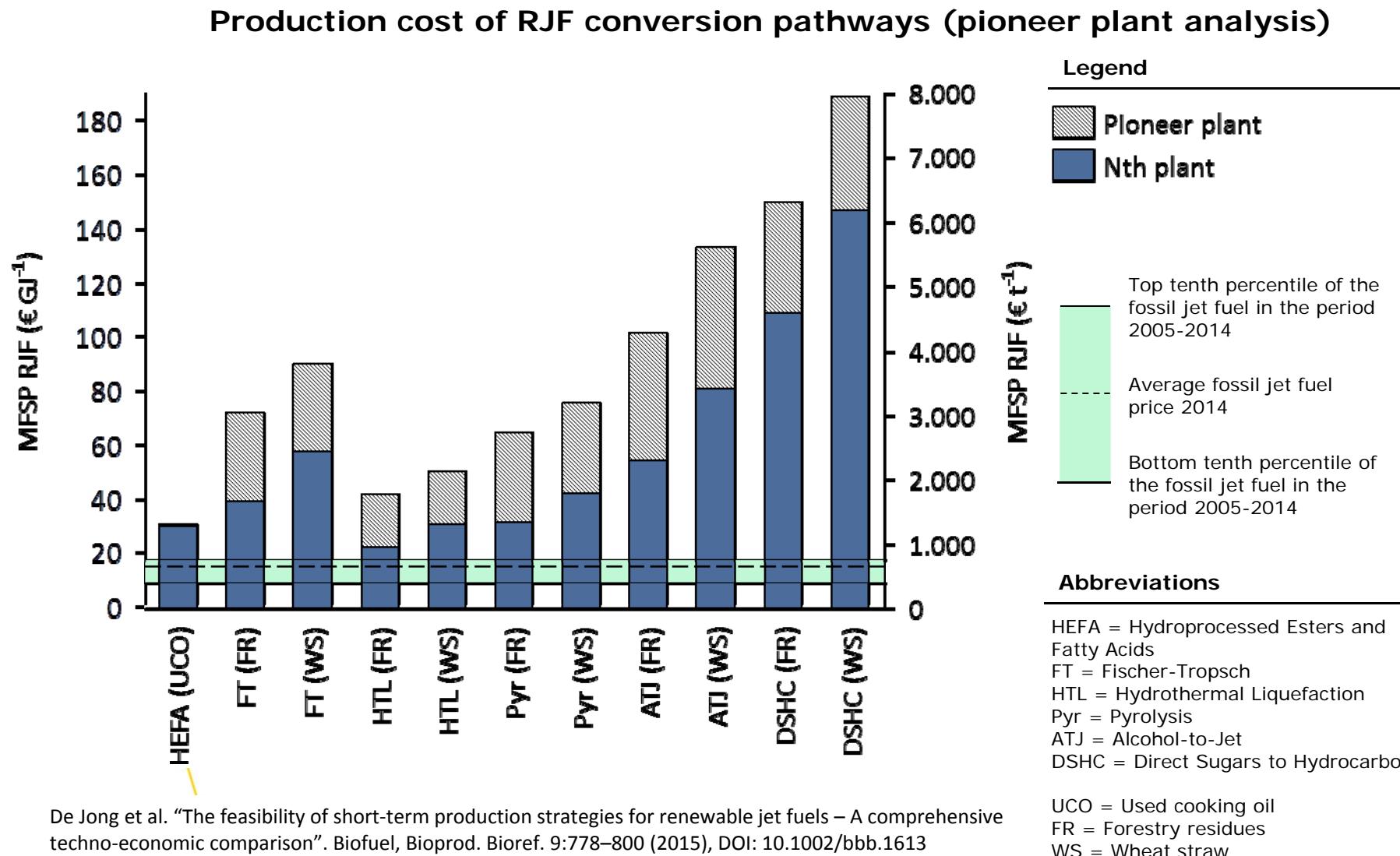
UCO = Used cooking oil

FR = Forestry residues

WS = Wheat straw

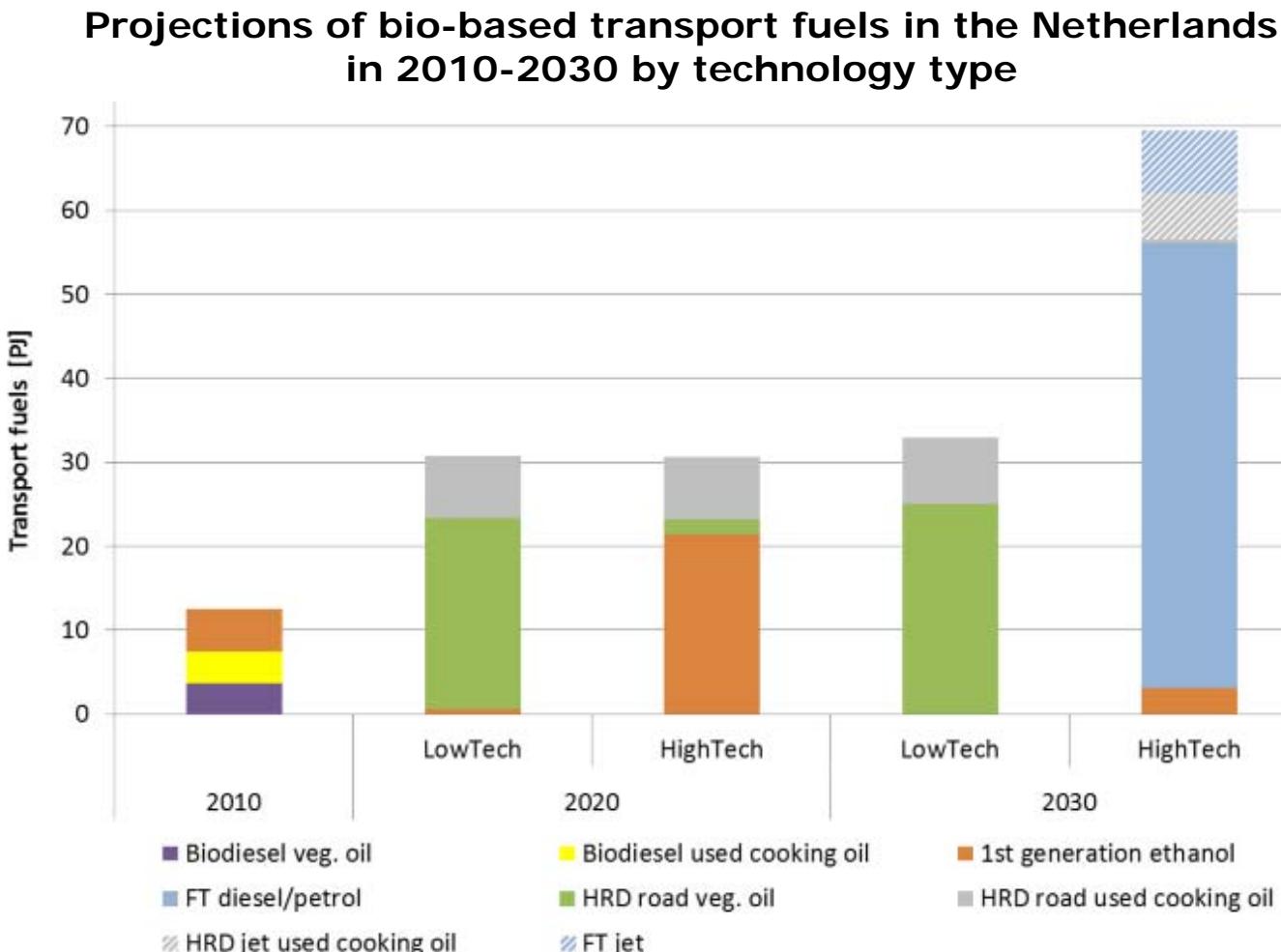


# HEFA shows the best economic results on the short term; liquefaction routes are promising alternatives





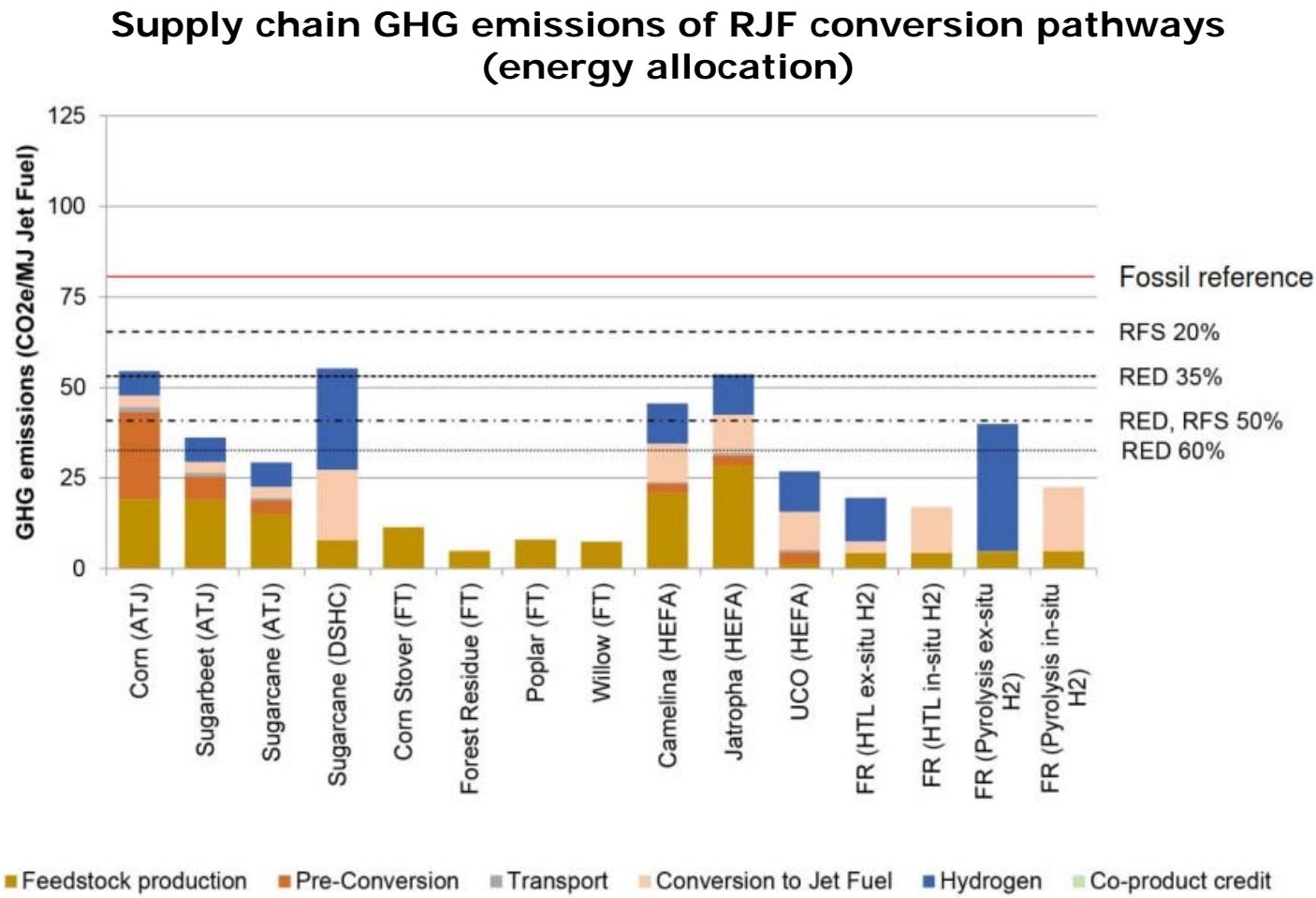
# A mixed technology portfolio and high technology development is essential to get RJF to scale



Tsiropoulos et al. "Emerging bioeconomy sectors in energy system modeling – integrated systems analysis of electricity, heat, road transport, aviation and chemicals: a case study for the Netherlands". Preliminary results



## Whereas FT can reduce GHG emissions by 90%, other pathways struggle to meet RED or RFS thresholds



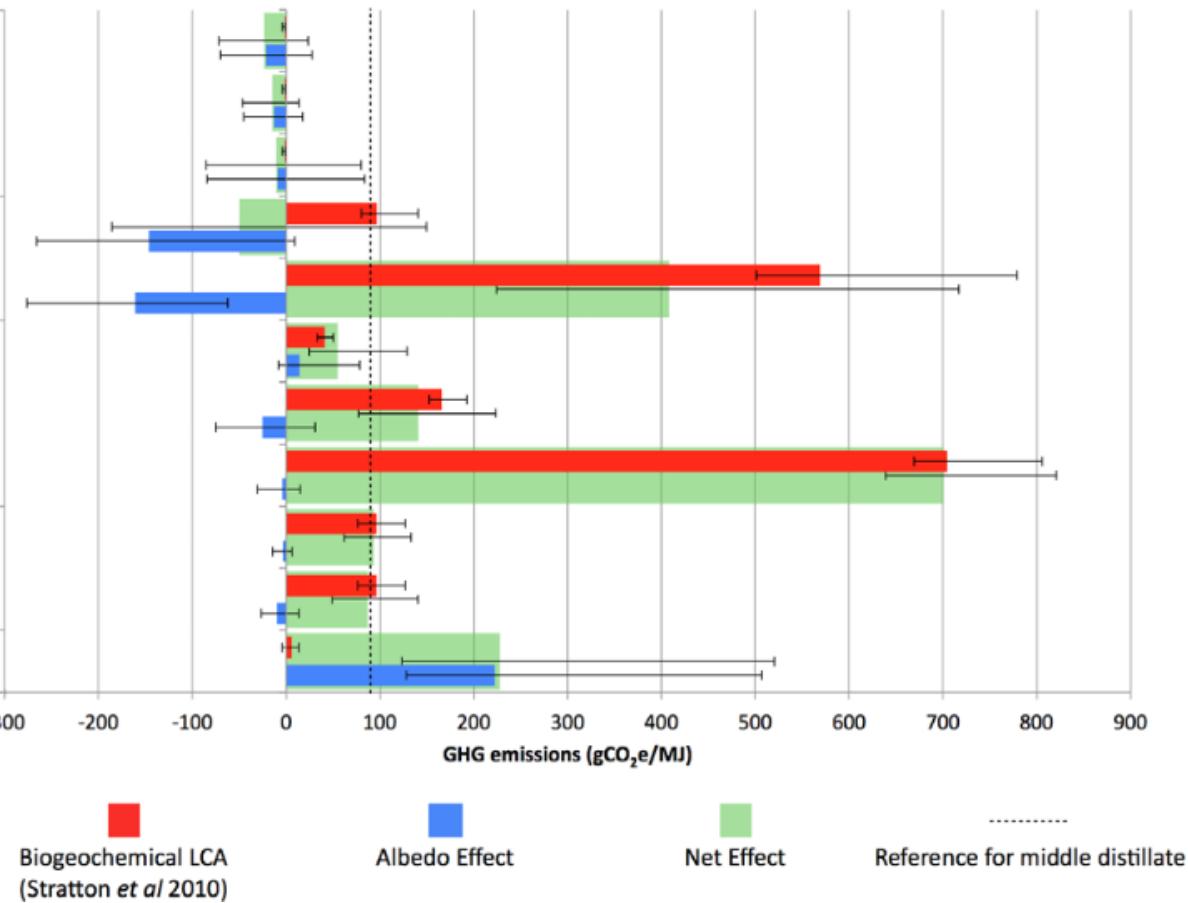
Antonissen et al. "Greenhouse gas performance of renewable jet fuel: a comparison of conversion pathways". Preliminary results



# Besides supply chain GHG emissions, other (local) sustainability criteria should be taken into account

GHG emissions of different conversion pathways under different land use change scenarios

Biomass	Original land	LUC Code	Fuel
Switchgrass	Corn	B1	F-T MD
Switchgrass	Soy	B2	F-T MD
Switchgrass	Barren	B3	F-T MD
Soy	Cerrado	S1	HEFA-MD
Soy	Rainforest	S2	HEFA-MD
Palm	Logged forest	P1	HEFA-MD
Palm	Rainforest	P2	HEFA-MD
Palm	Peat land	P3	HEFA-MD
Rapeseed	Corn	R1	HEFA-MD
Rapeseed	Uncultivated	R2	HEFA-MD
Salicornia	Desert	H1	F-T MD/ HEFA-MD



Caiazzo et al. "Quantifying the climate impacts of albedo changes due to biofuel production: a comparison with biogeochemical effects". Environ. Res. Lett. 9 (2014) DOI:10.1088/1748-9326/9/2/024015



# Are renewable jet fuels viable?



**Technological  
viability**



There is no silver bullet; technology development remains essential



**Sustainable  
viability**



Yes, depending on local circumstances



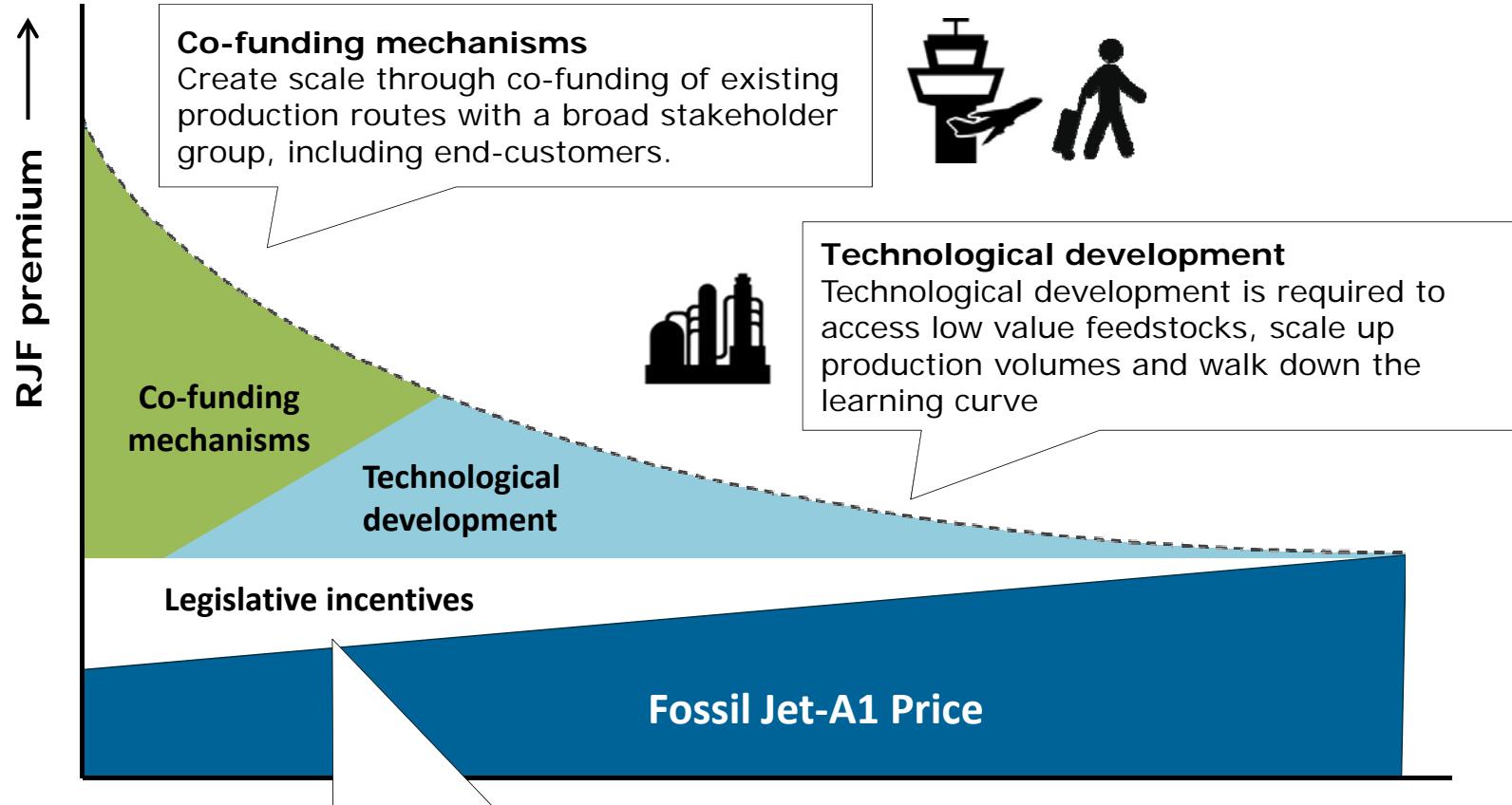
**Economic  
viability**



Mechanisms to bridge the premium are necessary on the short term



# Getting this industry to scale requires cooperation of multiple stakeholders





Universiteit Utrecht

# Thank you for your attention!

## Contact details

Sierk de Jong

Utrecht University & SkyNRG

The Netherlands

[s.a.dejong@uu.nl](mailto:s.a.dejong@uu.nl)

[sierk@skynrg.com](mailto:sierk@skynrg.com)



Universiteit Utrecht



## Publicly available RENJET outputs

- De Jong et al. "The feasibility of short-term production strategies for renewable jet fuels – A comprehensive techno-economic comparison". *Biofuel, Bioprod. Bioref.* 9: 778–800 (2015), DOI: 10.1002/bbb.1613
- Mawhood et al. "Establishing a European renewable jet fuel supply chain: the technoeconomic potential of biomass conversion technologies". Report (2014)
- Mawhood et al. "Production pathways for renewable jet fuel: a review of commercialization status and future prospects". *Biofuel, Bioprod. Bioref.* (in press) DOI: 10.1002/bbb.1644
- Antonissen et al. "Greenhouse gas performance of renewable jet fuel: a comparison of conversion pathways". (forthcoming)



## Supply chain GHG emissions of RJF conversion pathways (energy allocation)

