



# Nitrogen use efficiency in old and modern barley genotypes

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# Content of presentation

- Materials and methods
- Definitions
- Results
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements



# Materials and methods

- 195 barley genotypes
  - 72 NordGen genotypes + 123 cultivars (from 1930's till 2010)
- 2 nitrogen rates: 35 and 70 kg N/ha
  - 3 replicates
  - 9 unfertilized genotypes
- Observations
  - heading, maturity, canopy height, lodging
- Plant samples (50 plants per plot)
  - at heading → biomass and N content
  - at maturity → biomass, grain yield, N content, HI, NHI
- Harvesting
  - grain yield (kg/ha)
  - NUE, NUTE, NUPE
- SNP genotyping
  - 1536 SNP-markers (UCLA)
  - Associate mapping: N use indices, disease resistance

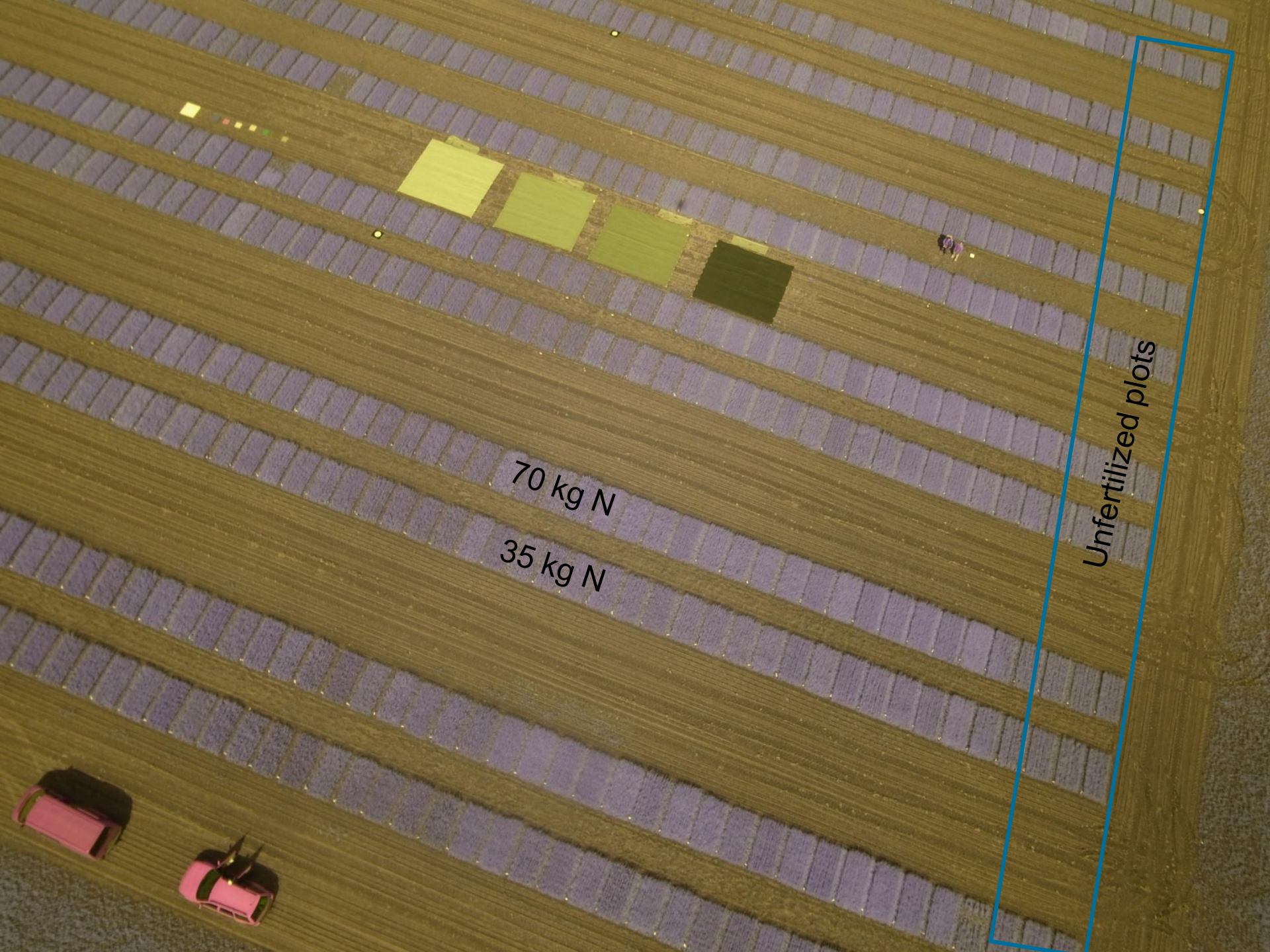




70 kg N

35 kg N

Unfertilized plots



# Definitions

**NUE: nitrogen use efficiency**

**kg grain/kg available N (fertilizer N + soil N)**

**kg grain/kg fertilizer N**

**Subcomponents of NUE:**

**NUPE: nitrogen uptake efficiency**

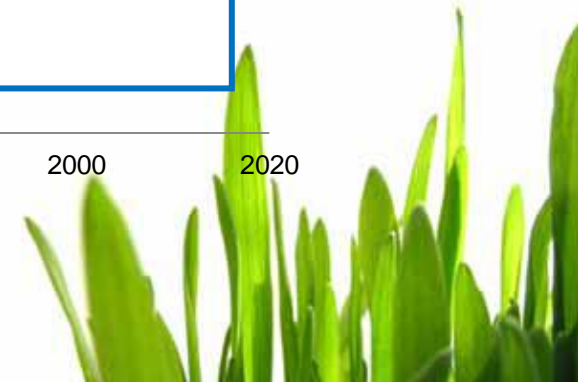
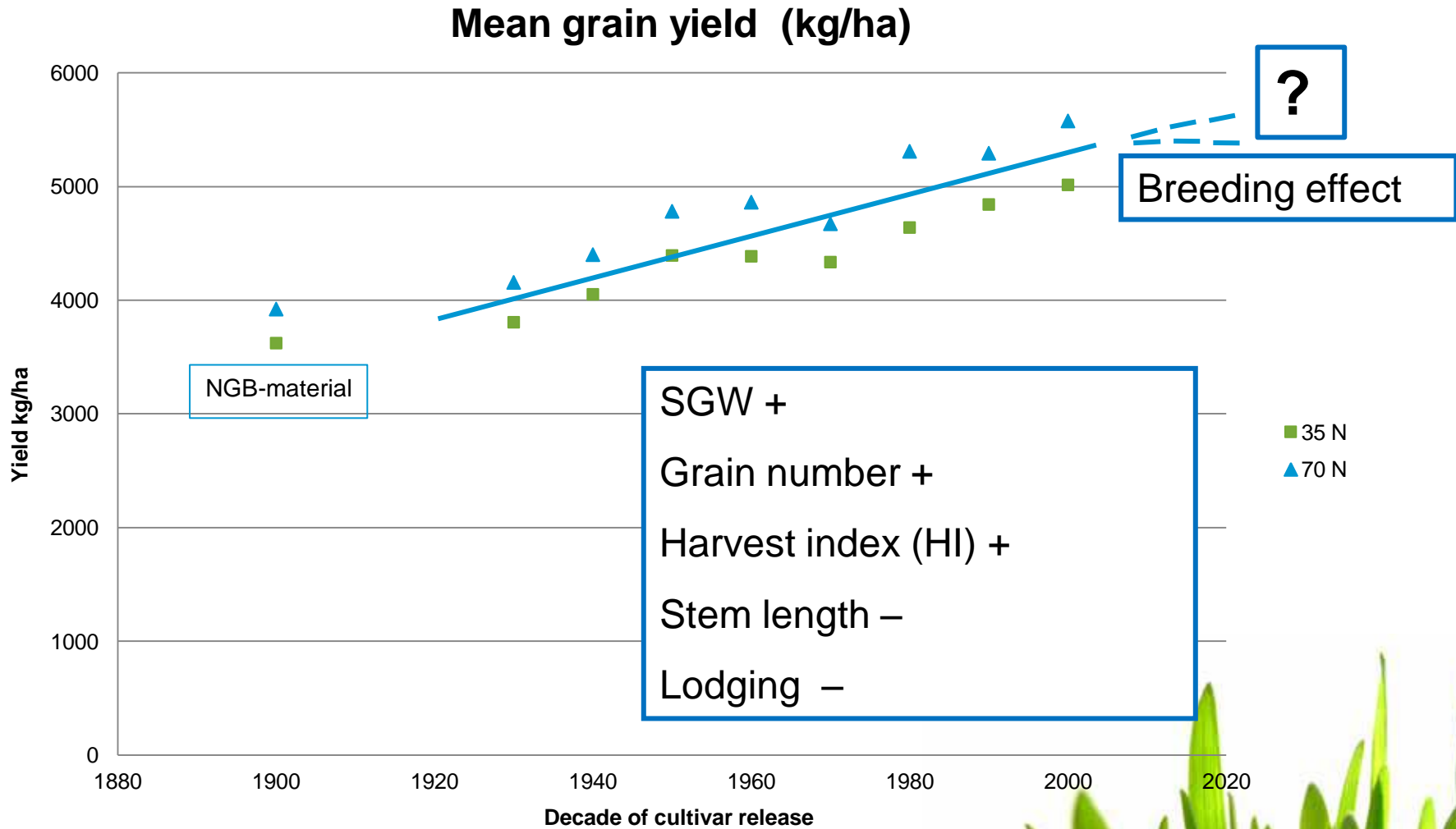
**kg plant N/kg available N (fertilizer N + soil N)**

**NUTE: nitrogen utilization efficiency**

**kg grain/kg plant N (straw + grain N)**



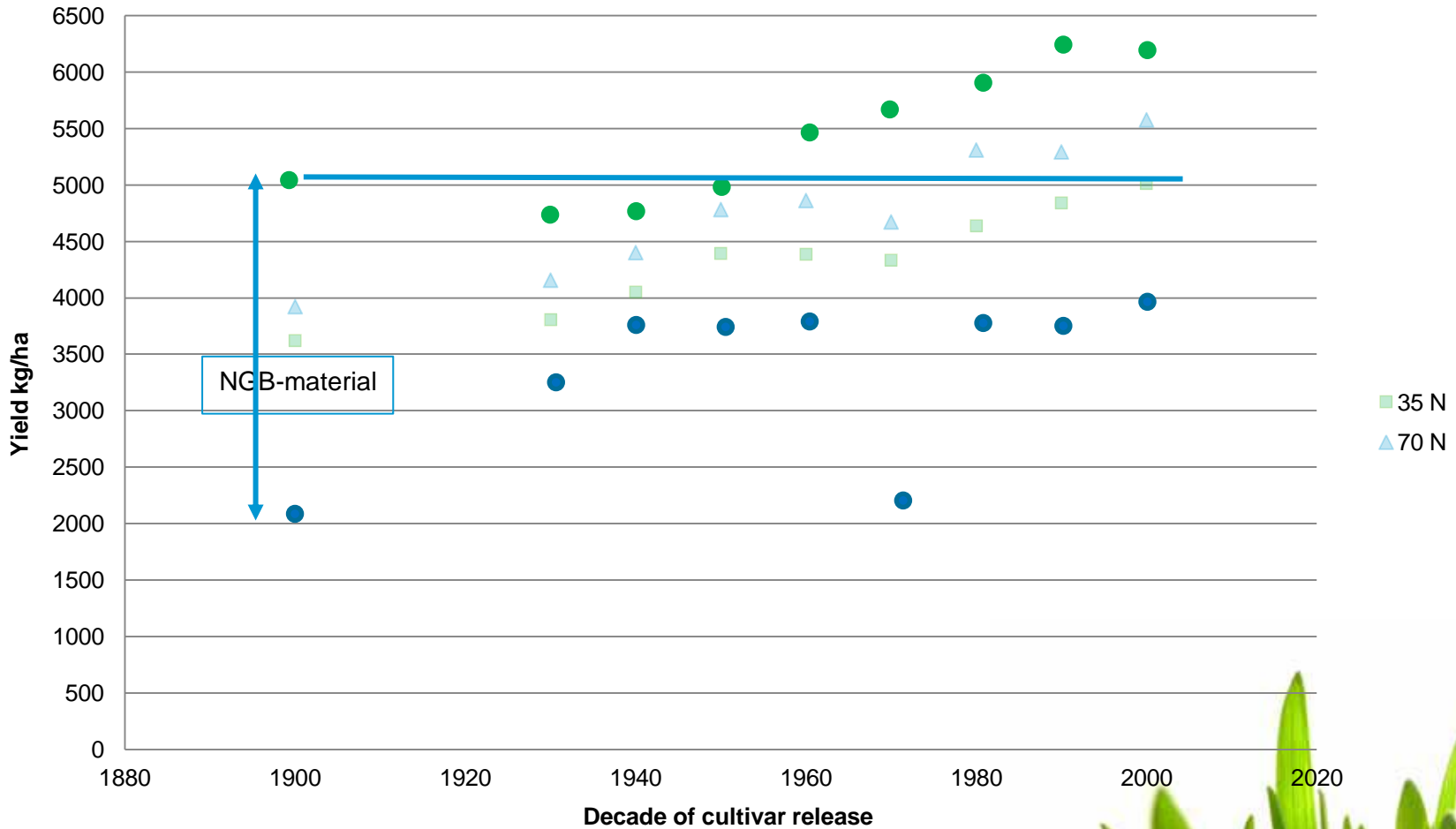
# Grain yield (kg/ha) 2011+12





# Min-max grain yield (kg/ha) 2011+12

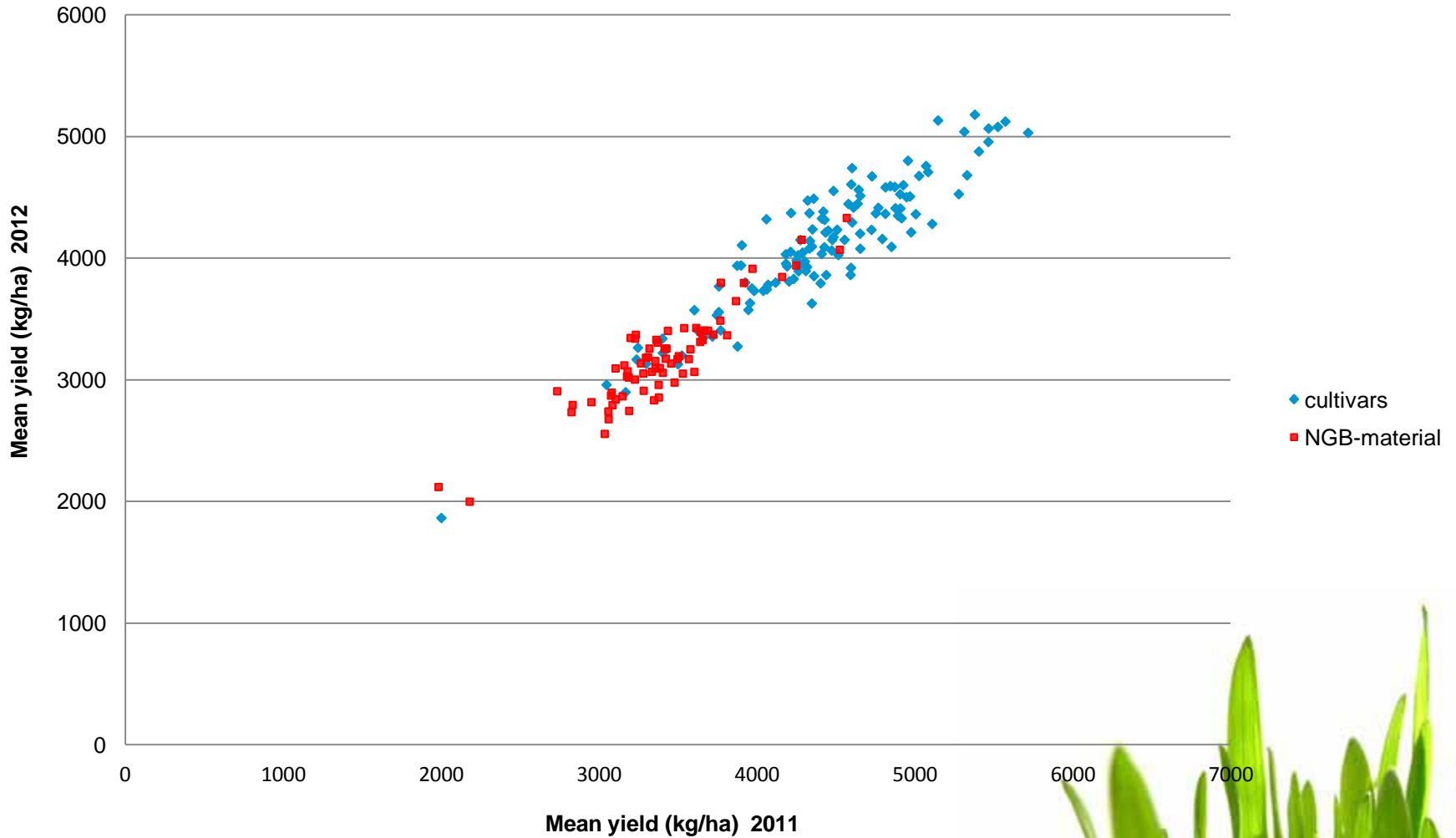
## Min-max grain yield (kg/ha)



# Mean grain yield (kg/ha) 2011 vs 2012



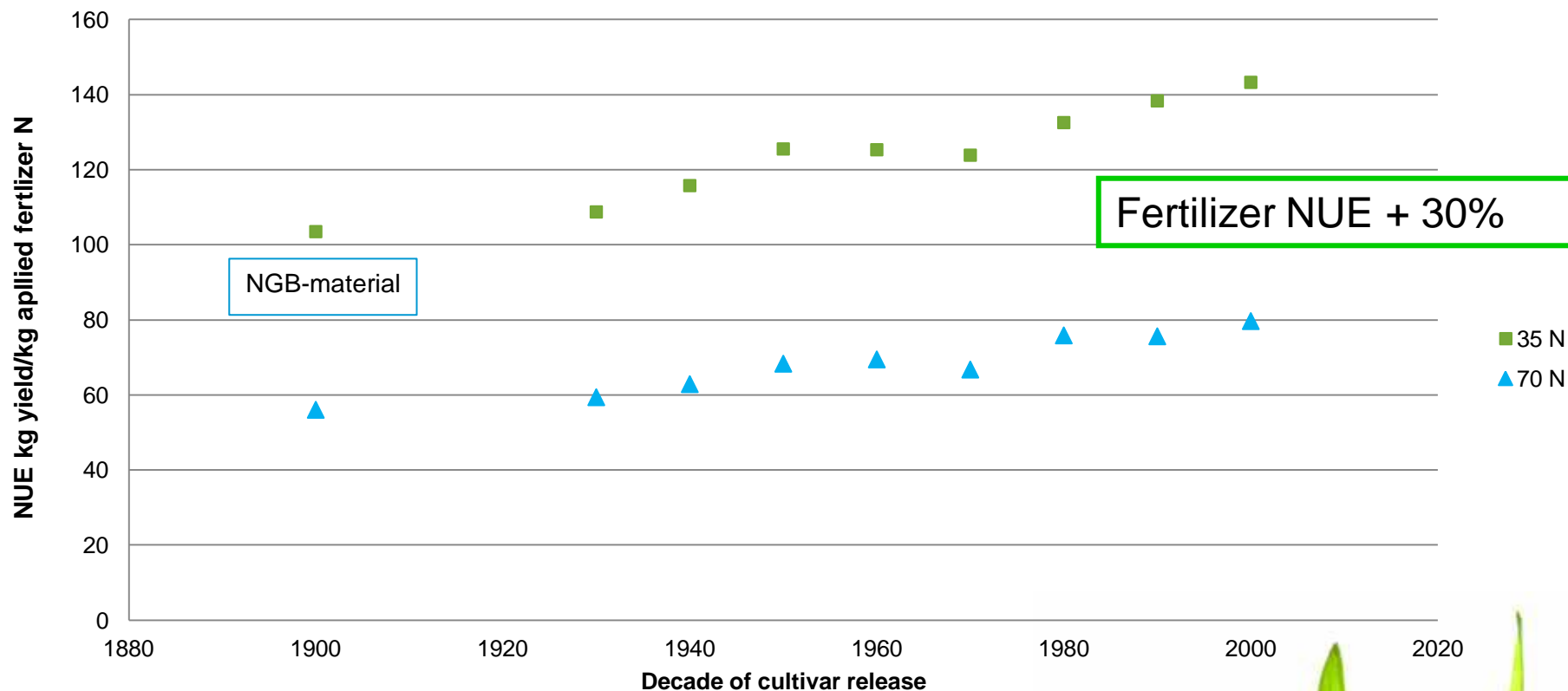
## Grain yield 2011 vs 2012





# Fertilizer N use efficiency: 2011+12

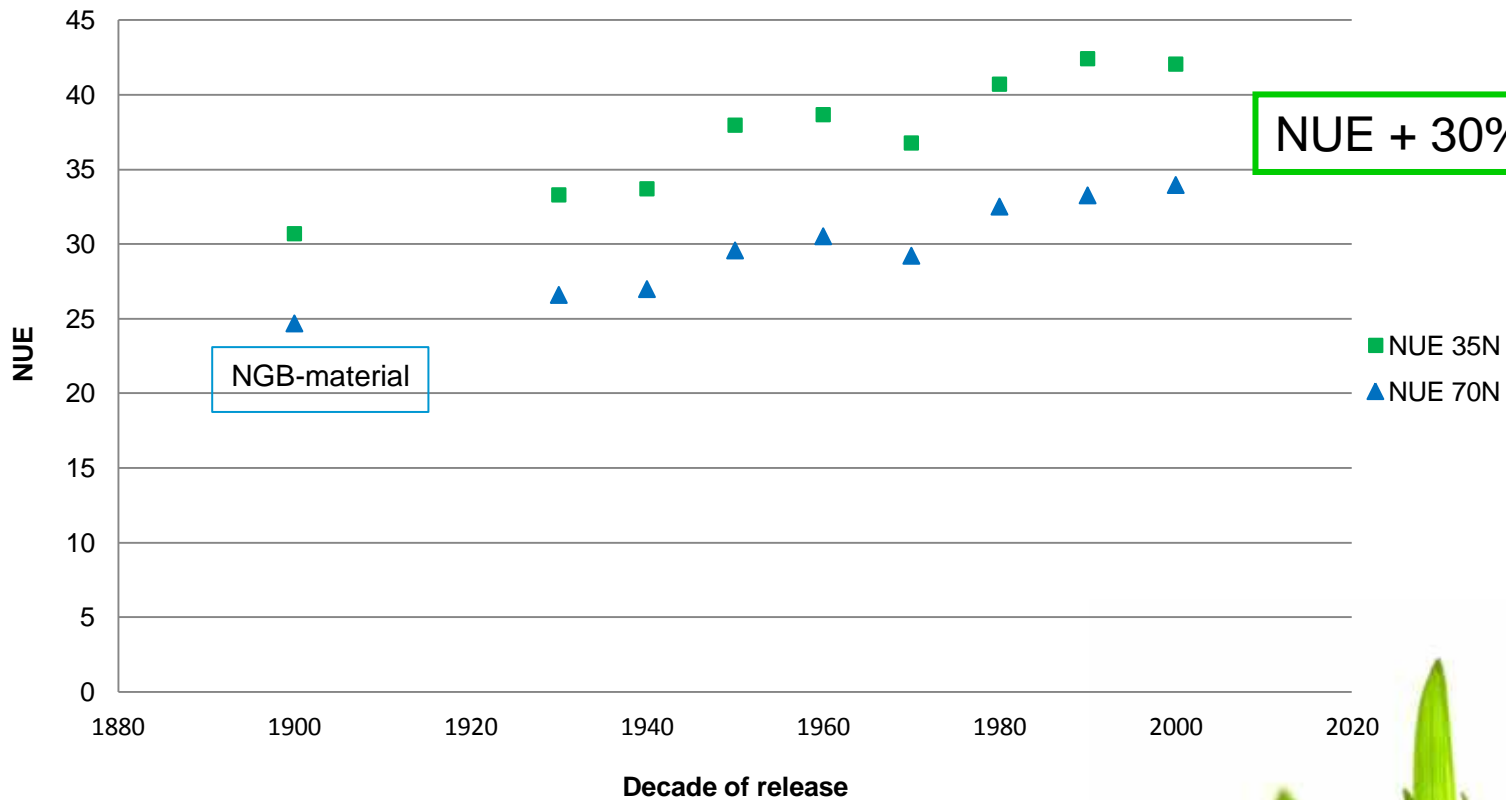
## Mean fertilizer NUE (kg yield/kg applied fertilizer N)



# N use efficiency 2011

soil N = mean plant N uptake in unfertilized plots

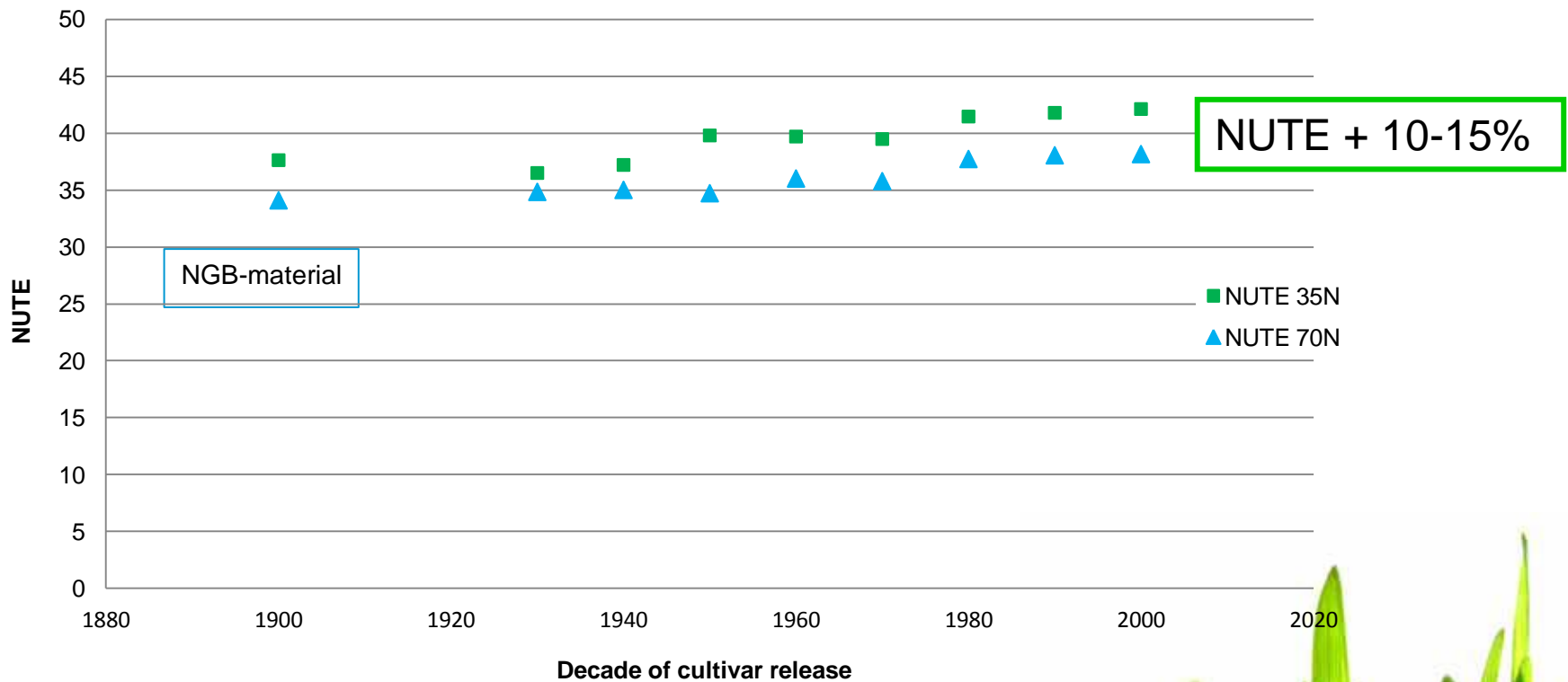
NUE : kg grain/kg soil N (estimated) + fert N



# N utilization efficiency NUTE: 2011



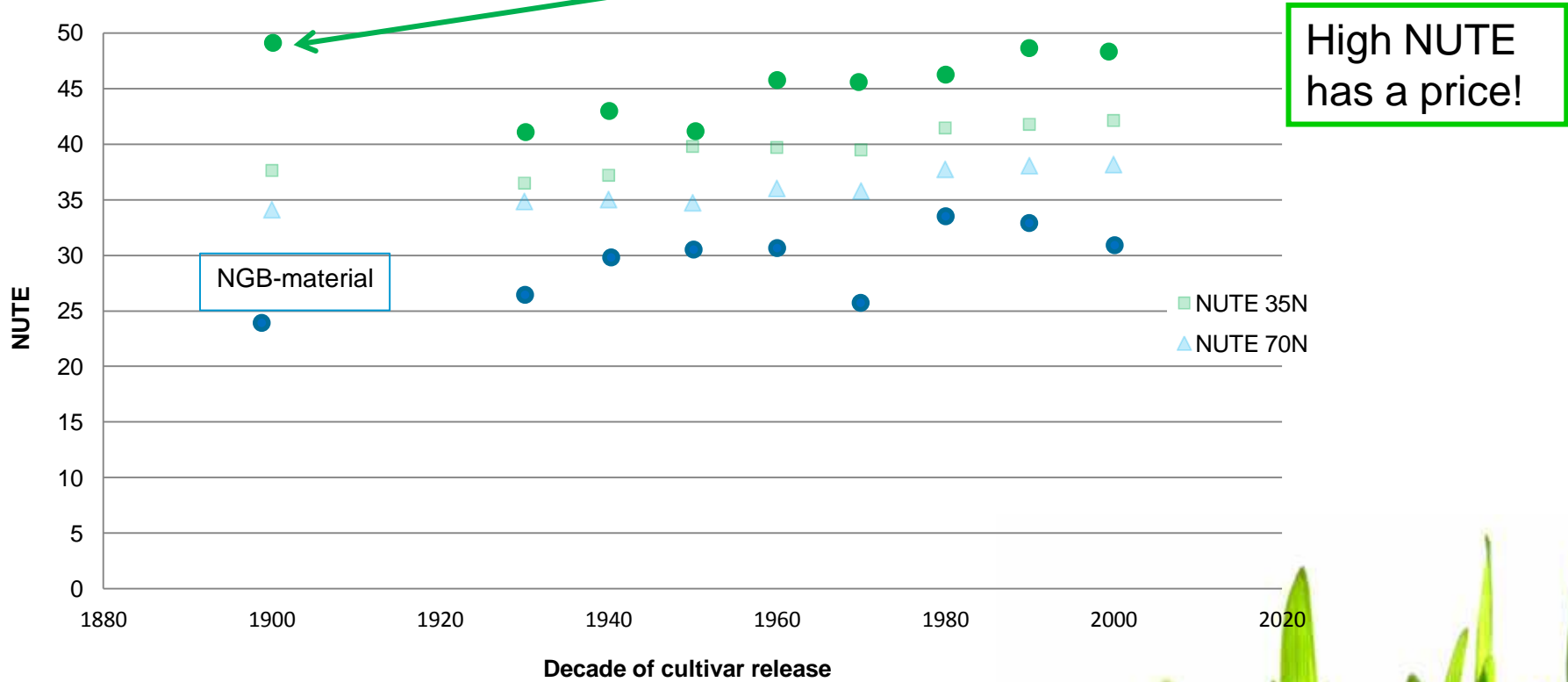
NUTE : kg grain/kg plant N



# Min-max NUTE: 2011

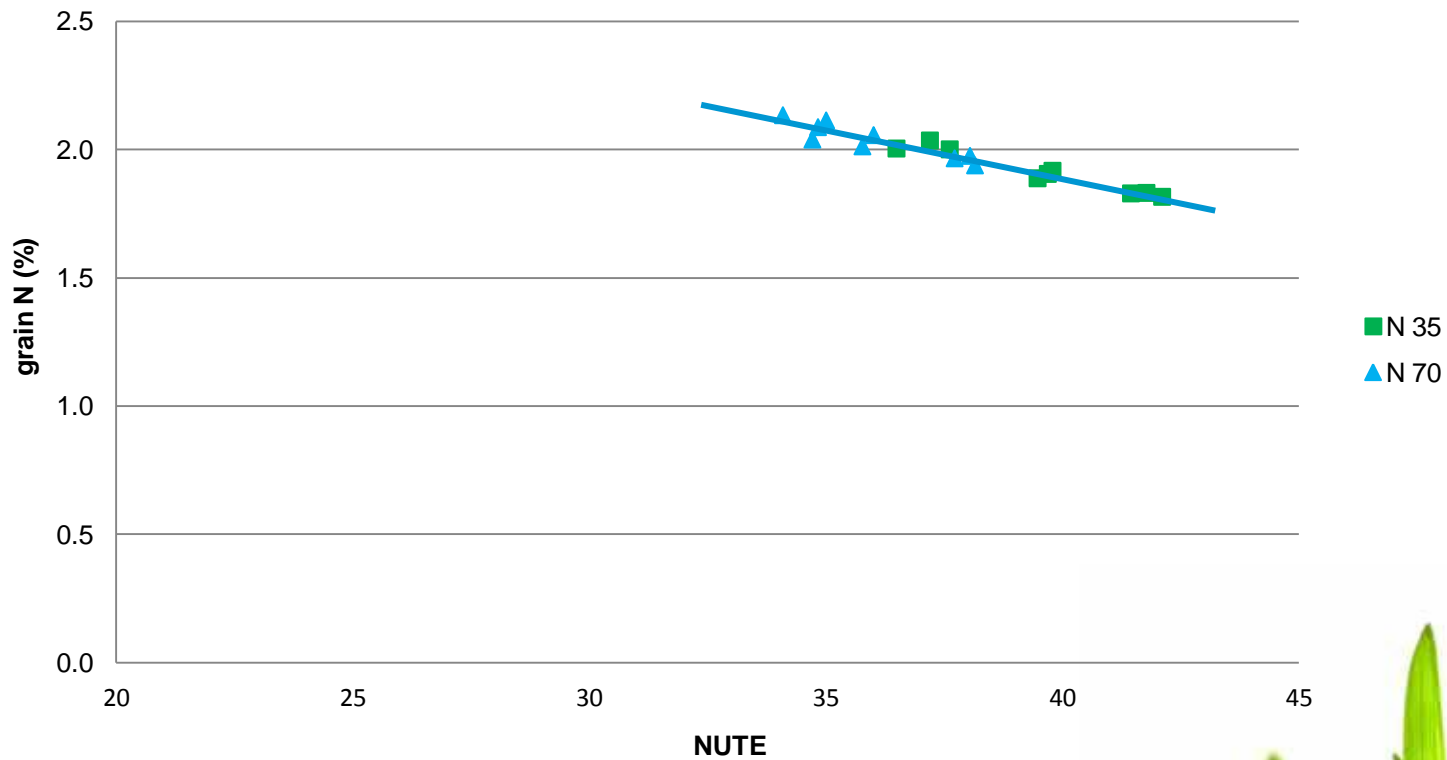
Some of the NGB genotypes in top NUTE-ranking

Min-max NUTE : kg grain/kg plant N



# NUTE and grain N: 2011

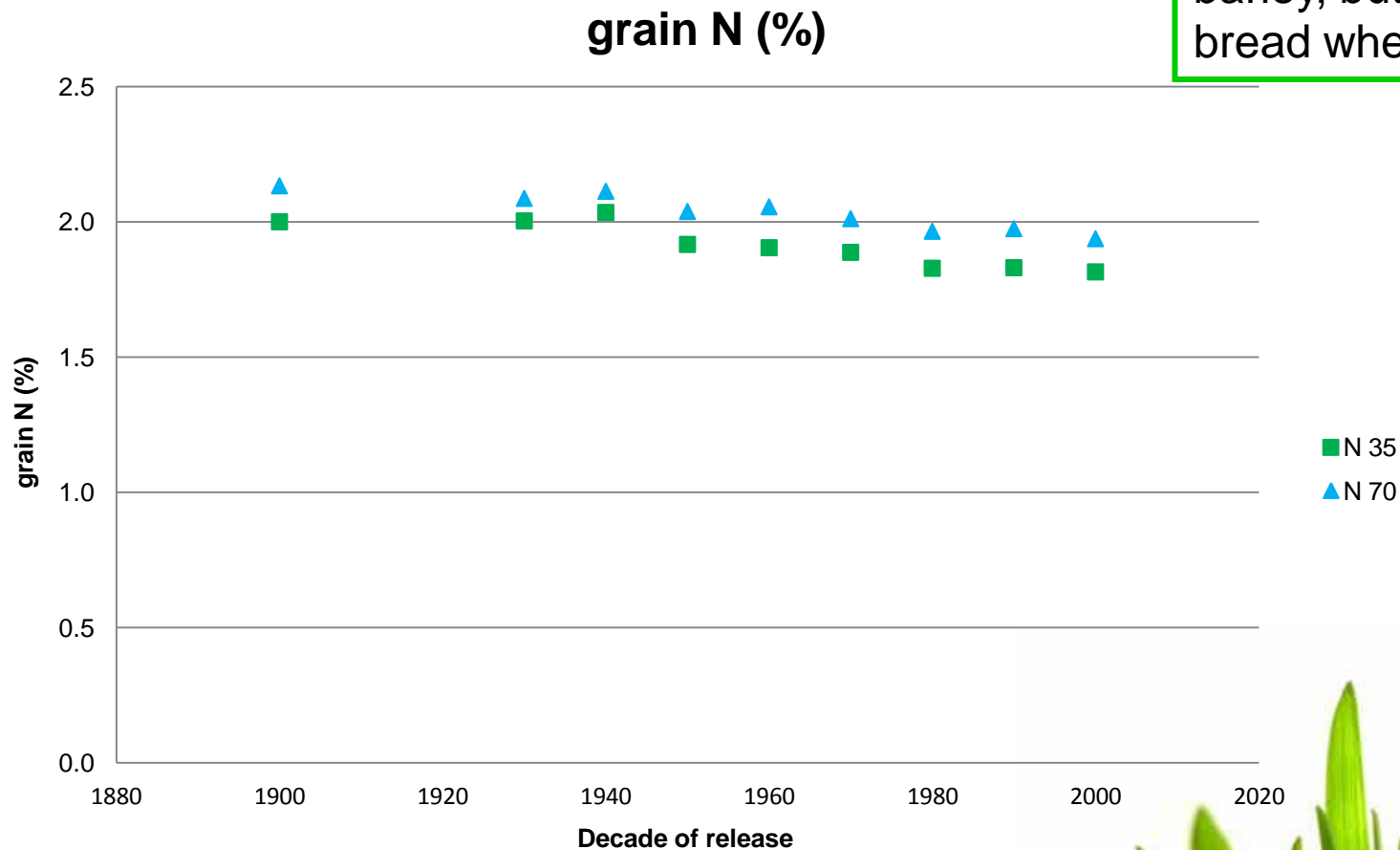
NUTE: kg grain/kg plant N (grain + straw) and grain N (%)





# Grain N (%): 2011

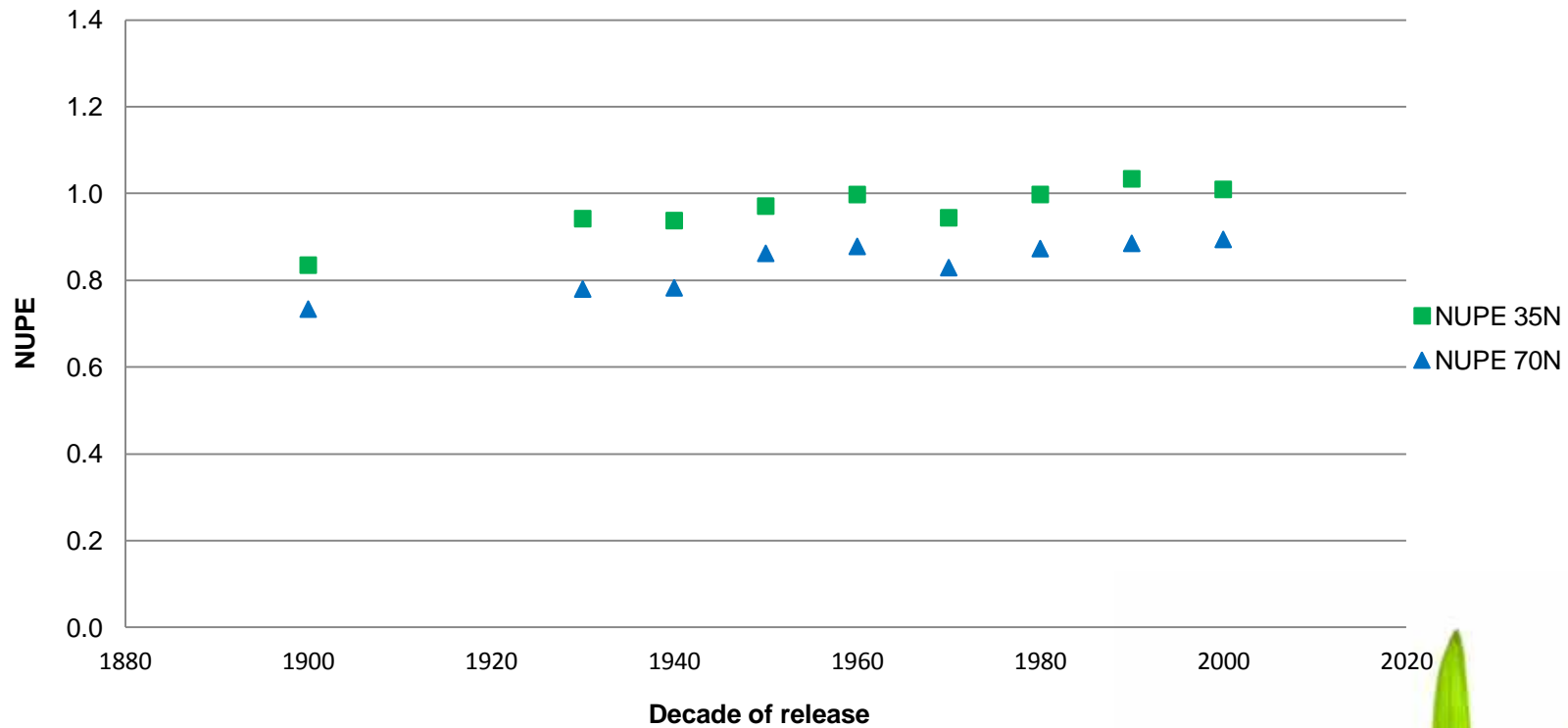
Not a major concern in barley, but in bread wheat, yes



# NUPE: 2011

soil N = mean plant N uptake in unfertilized plots

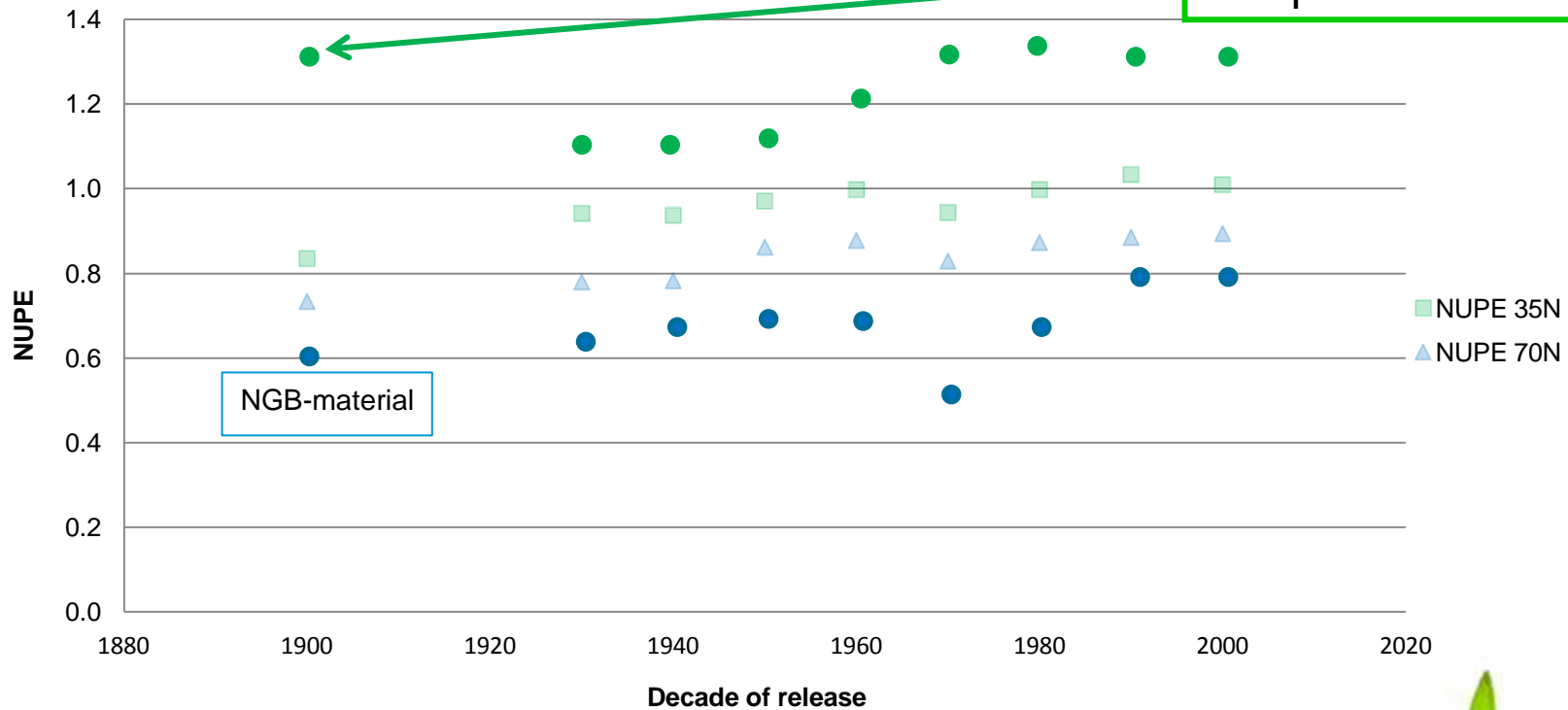
NUPE : kg plant N/kg soil N (estimated) + fert N



# Min-max NUPE: 2011

NUPE : kg plant N/kg soil N + fert N

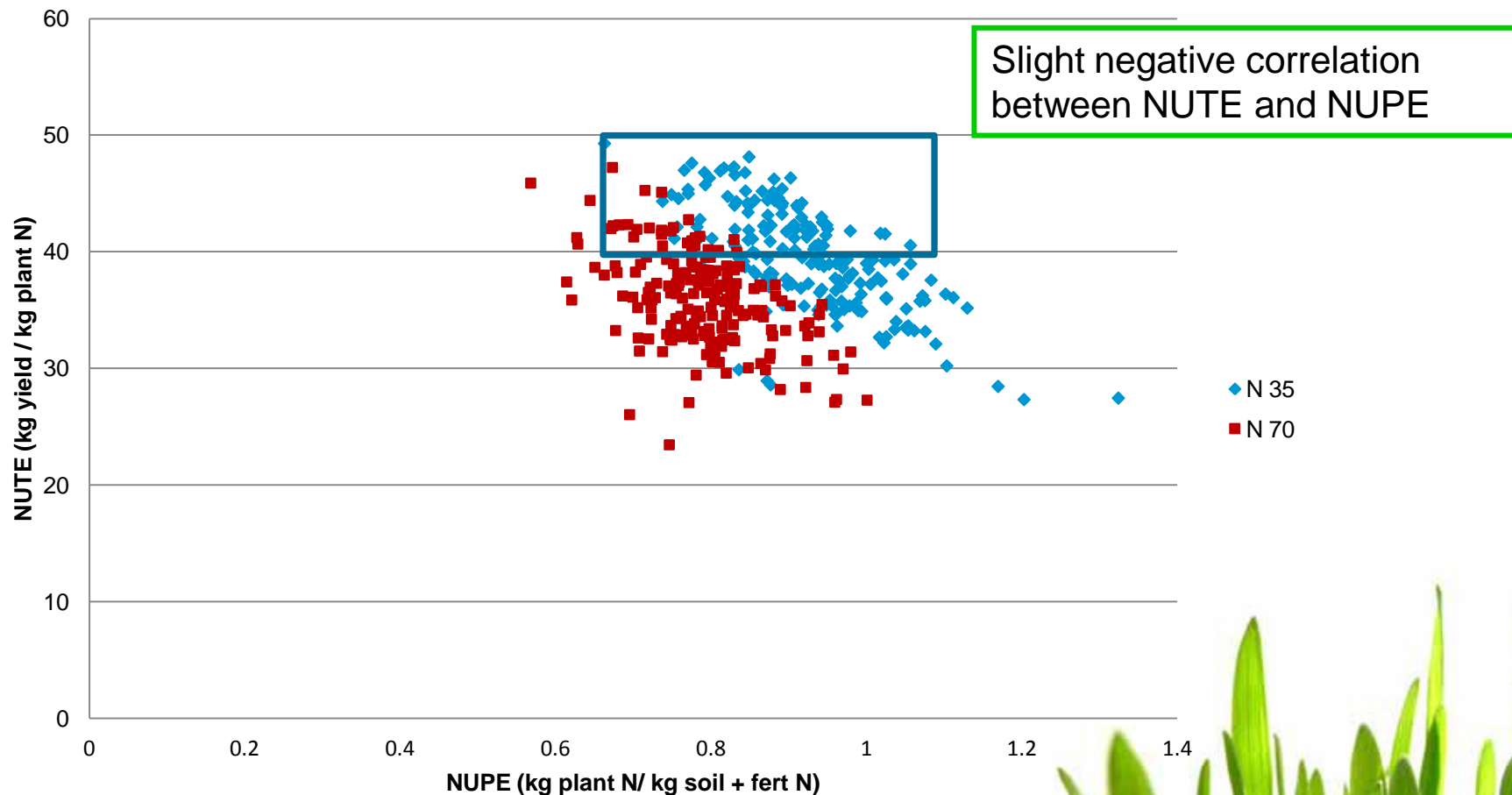
Some of the NGB genotypes in top NUPE-ranking



# NUPE and NUTE 2011

NUTE (kg yield/kg plant N) ja NUPE (kg plant N/kg soil + fert N)

## NUTE and NUPE



# Conclusions

- Breeding has greatly improved agronomic traits and yielding capacity
- Modern cultivars outperformed the land races in N use efficiency
- However, some of the landraces had high N utilization or uptake efficiency → potential crossing material for breeding programmes
- Some DNA-markers (SNP) associated with N use efficiency indices. These markers may fasten the backcrossing process in plant breeding





# Acknowledgements

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- People involved

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All together over 30 people







**Thank you!**