



Potato

A world production, a European business

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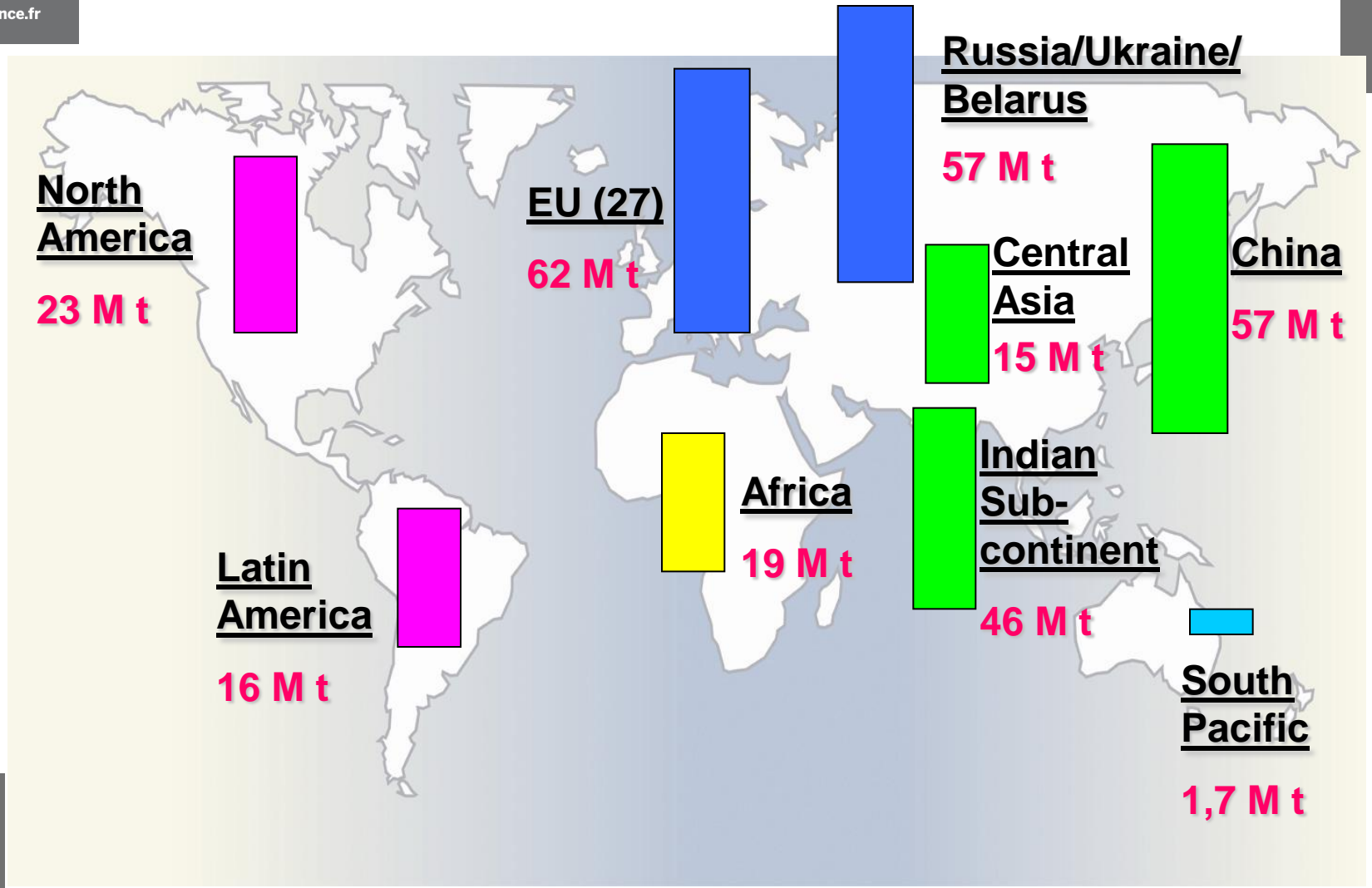
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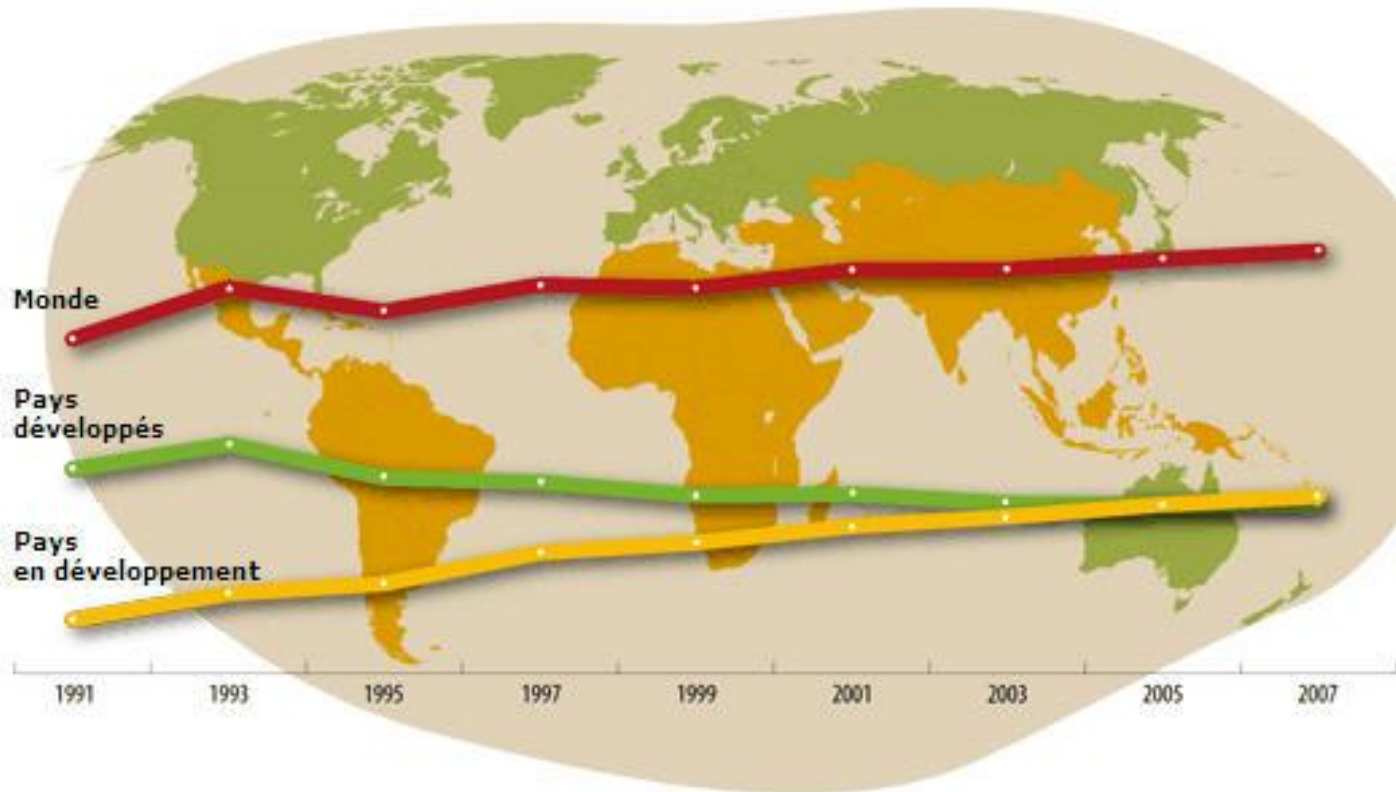
A world production

- Figures in 2008 (FAO)
 - 18 millions hectares
 - 314 millions tonnes
- Potato is grown on all continents
- Potato is the 3rd most important food crop in the world after rice and wheat

Areas of cultivation

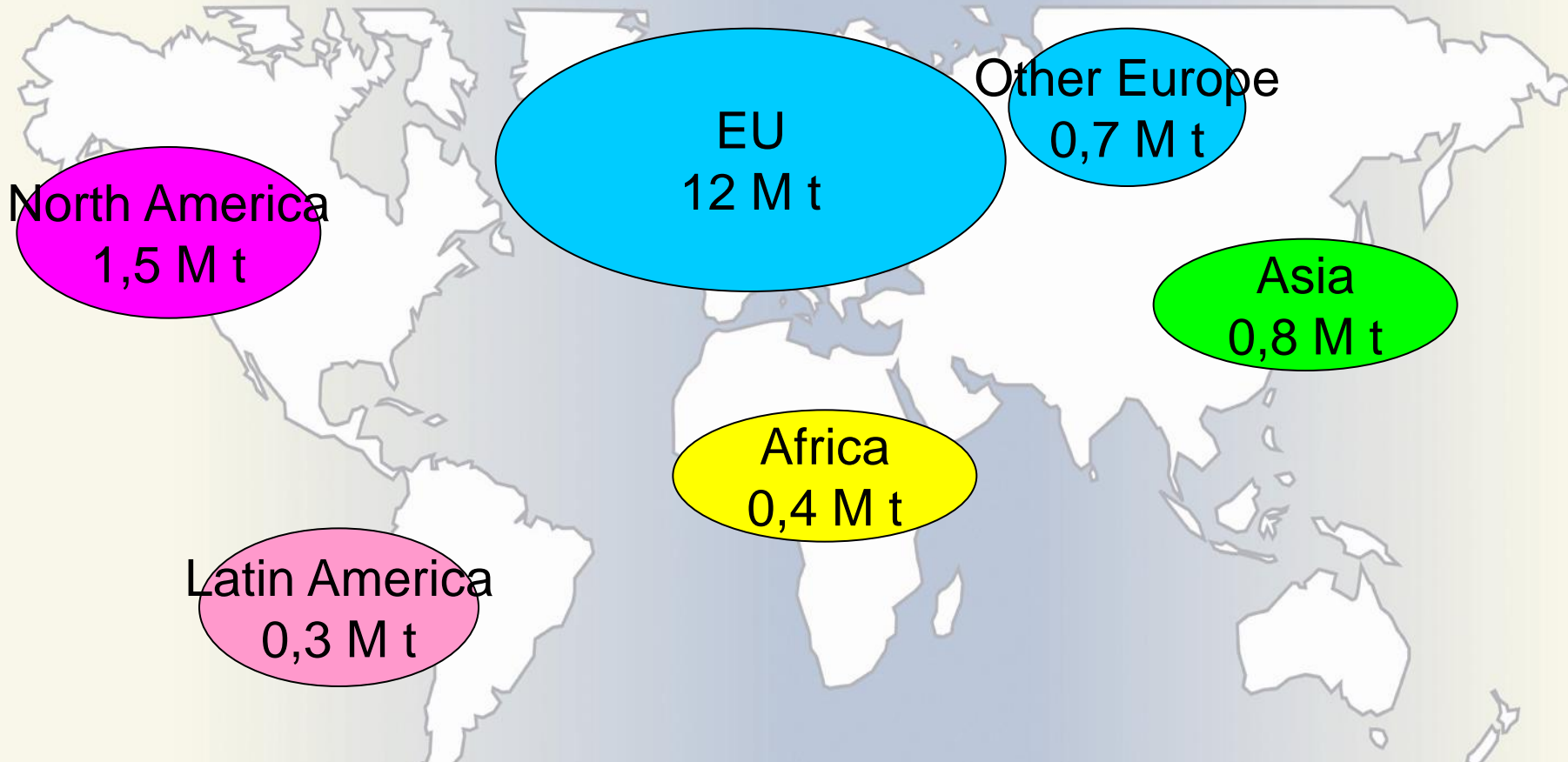


Highlights on potato production



International trade

European leadership for table potatoes



2008 : 16 M t – 3,3 billion €

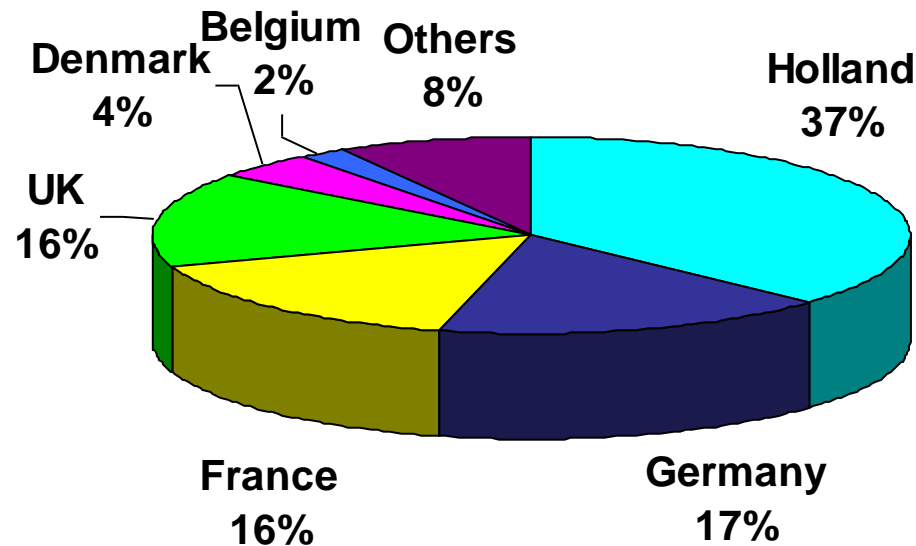
Top 5 importing/exporting countries

Imports		Exports	
Belgium	15 %	France	24 %
Netherlands	15 %	Germany	19 %
Spain	9 %	Netherlands	11 %
Germany	7 %	Belgium	9 %
Italy	6 %	Canada	7 %

- FAO figures (2008) : 31 millions tonnes
- Most farmers still plant next season's potatoes using part of last season's crop
- Need for planting material
 - With high yield
 - With better resistance to pests and diseases
- European breeders are world leaders

Potato seeds production in Europe

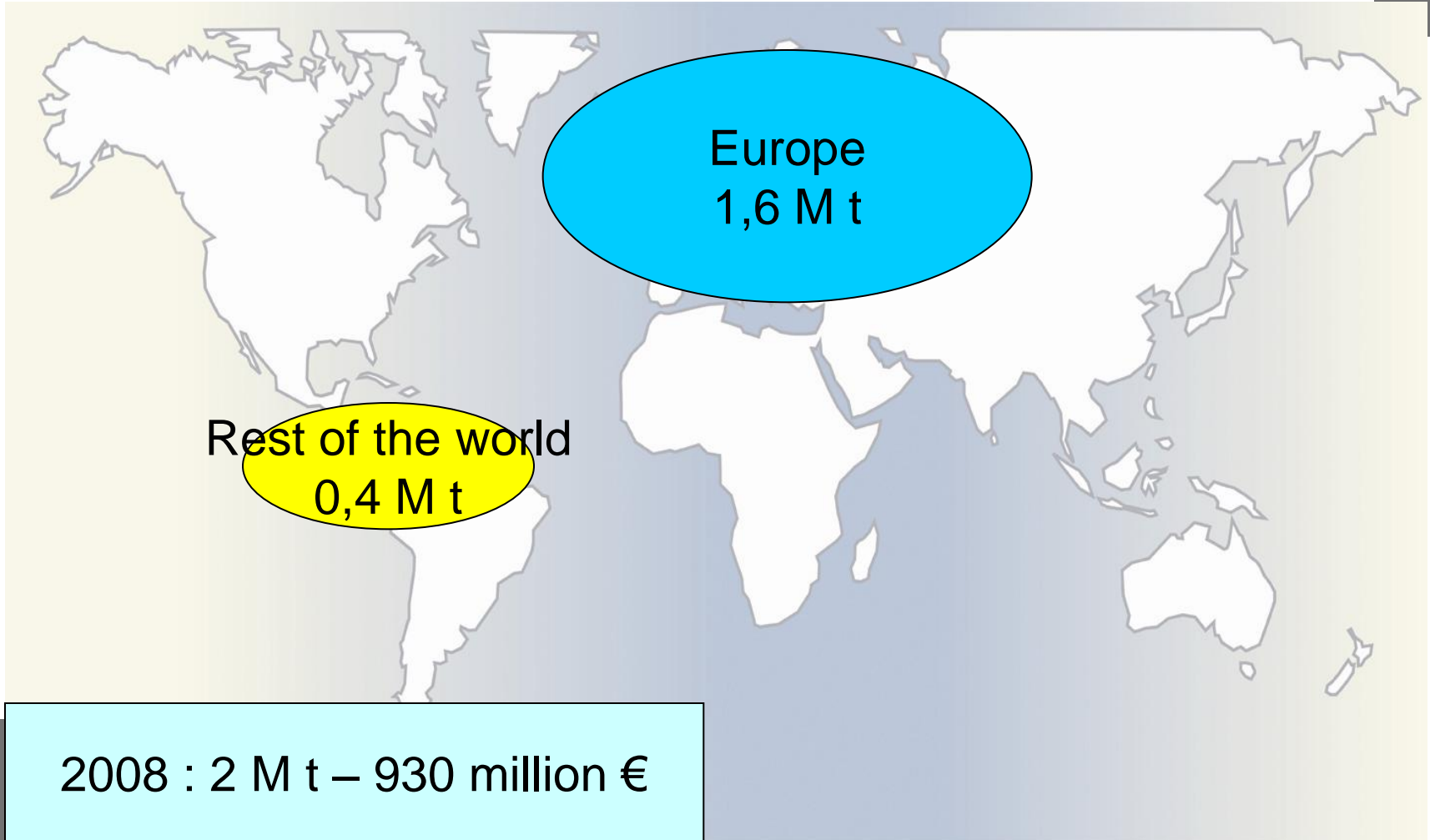
Propagation area in EU 27 : 110 000 hectares



Main countries in eastern Europe : Poland, Czech Republic, Romania

International trade

European leadership for potato seeds



Top 5 importing/exporting countries

Imports		Exports	
Algeria	10 %	Netherlands	55 %
Spain	7 %	France	12 %
Egypt	7 %	UK	8 %
Germany	6 %	Canada	6 %
Italy	6 %	Germany	5 %

- World demography
 - Growth of the world's population
 - Growth of urban dwelling
- Change of consumption patterns
- Climate change, environmental issues
- Pests and diseases
- Storage