

# Resilience Capacities of Ukrainian Farms to War-Induced Shocks

EAAE Congress Bonn 2025

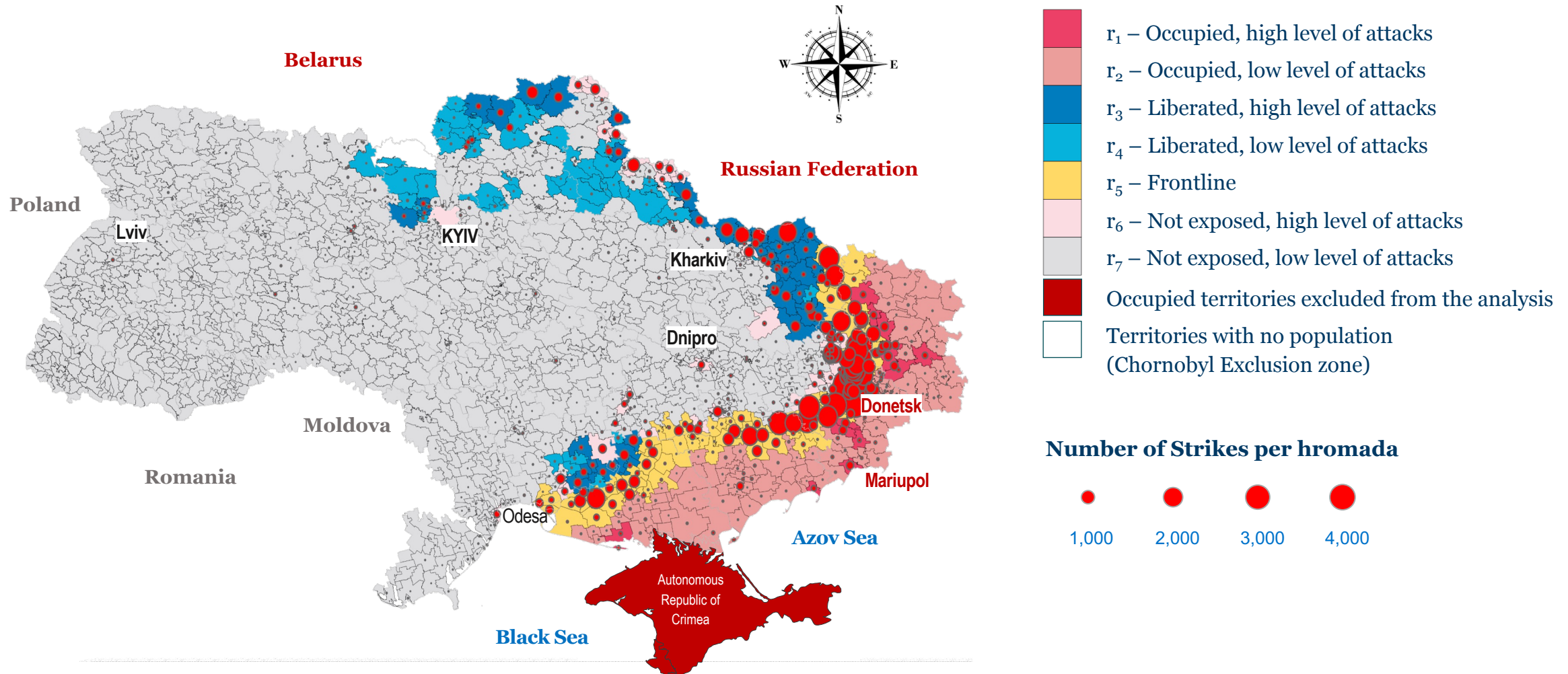
**Valentyn Litvinov**, Ph.D. Candidate at WUR and Researcher at Kyiv School of Economics (KSE)

**Dr. Rico Ihle**, Associate Professor, Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy Group, WUR

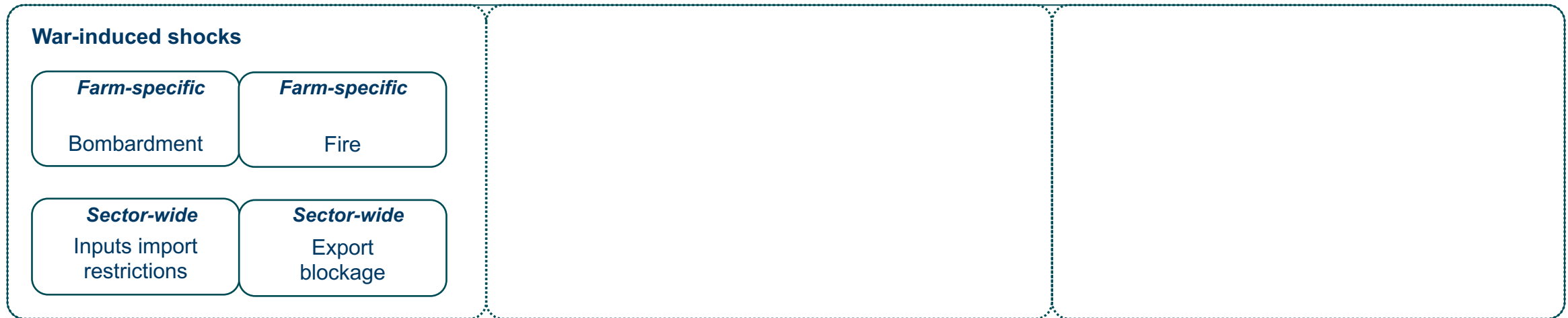
**Dr. Liesbeth Dries**, Associate Professor, Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy Group, WUR

# WAR-INDUCED SHOCKS FROM RUSSIA'S INVASION

Community (hrodama) warfare status and shelling intensity

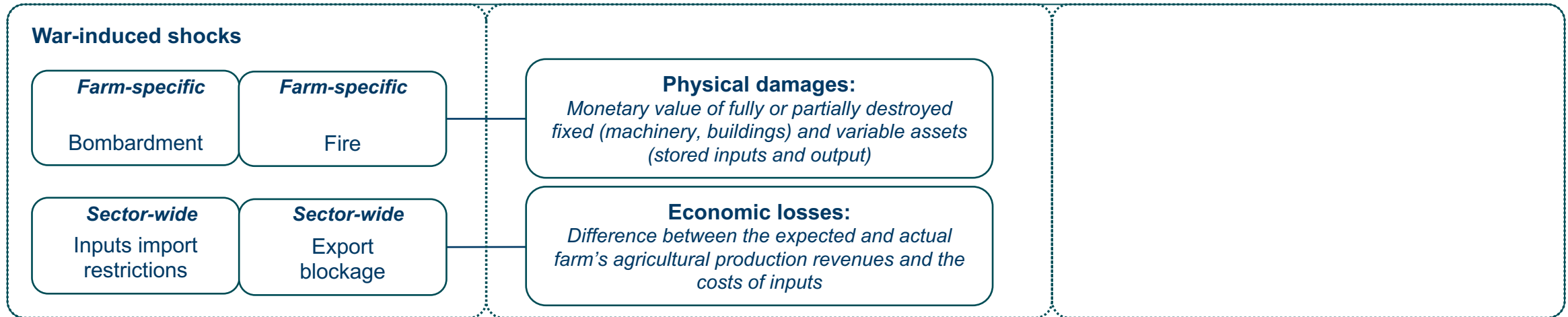


# TYPES OF WAR-INDUCED SHOCKS



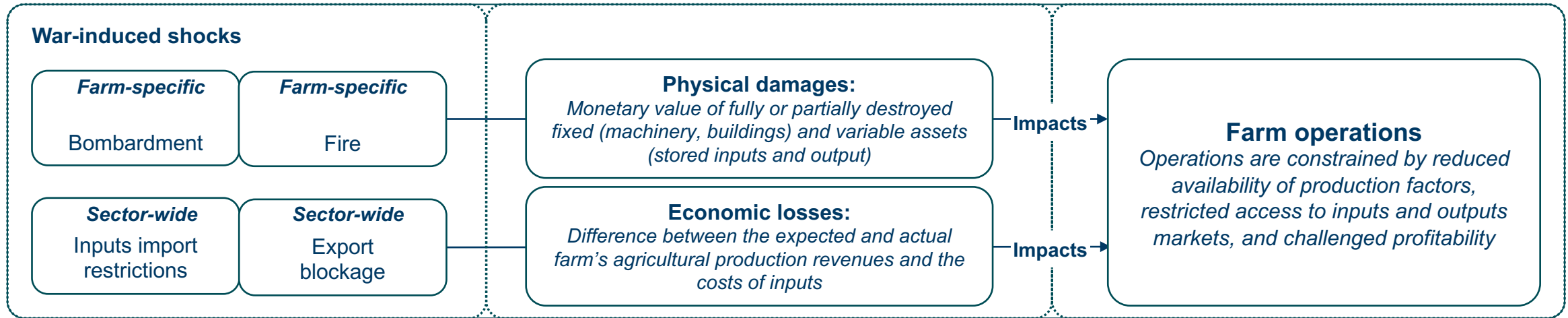
Source: Authors.

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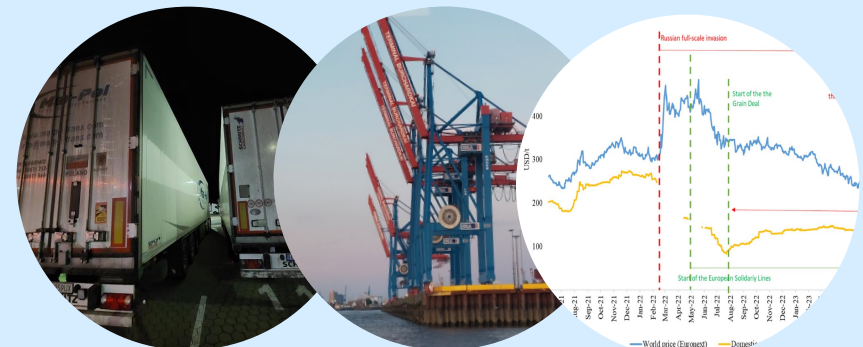


Source: Authors.

Idiosyncratic (farm-specific) shocks causes mostly physical damages of farms



Covariate (sector-wide) shocks mostly causes economic loss of farms



# RESILIENCE CAPACITIES OF UKRAINIAN FARMS

## ROBUSTNESS

Farm tolerates as much shock as it can until it forced to change the production processes or production focus

While facing losses and/or damages, farmer does not alter inputs, capital and labor use or production portfolio

*e.g., farmer is ready to tolerate 20% of earnings drop, 15% of fuel price increase and damage to 20% of crops in field*

## ADAPTABILITY

Farmer modifies existing production processes in response to shock

Farmers alters machinery, labor, inputs usage

*e.g., to switch between export and domestic markets, switch from cashless to cash operations, focus on growing oilseeds instead of leguminous*

## TRANSFORMABILITY

Farmer implements new production processes and/or change in production focus which require investments in new assets, human capital and time

Farmers invest time and resources in new equipment, technology and knowledge

*e.g., to start growing new crops, rearing new livestock or switch from conventional to organic farming*

# MEASUREMENT OF TRANSFORMABILITY

## 1. Identify the production aspects affected by war

Impacts are observed in two dimensions: sectoral effects on costs, prices, and capital, and farm-level effects on production factors

### Affected at sectoral level:

- Production costs (increase)
- Farm-gate (output) prices (decrease)
- Working capital (decrease)
- Availability of employees (decrease)
- Fertilizers/feed price (increase)
- Fuel price (increase)
- Farm earnings (decrease)

### Affected at farm level:

Decrease in physical availability of on-farm:

- Land
- Livestock
- Crops
- Inputs (seeds, feed, fertilizers, PPPs)
- Buildings
- Machineries



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## 2. Identify and quantify the thresholds

Subjectively defined benchmark level of shock that can be tolerated i.e., robustness

### Threshold measurement:

Farm is able to tolerate shocks at sectoral level:

- xx% increase of production costs
- xx% decrease of farm-gate prices
- xx% decrease of working capital
- xx% decrease of employee availability
- xx% increase of fertilizer/feed prices
- xx% increase of fuel price
- xx% decrease of farm earnings

### and at farm level:

- xx% decrease of land availability
- xx% decrease of livestock herd
- xx% decrease of crop availability
- xx% decrease of input availability (seeds, feed, fertilizers, PPPs)
- xx% decrease of usable buildings
- xx% decrease of machinery availability



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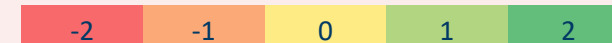
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- xx% decrease of usable buildings
- xx% decrease of machinery availability

## 3. Measure the subjective willingness to transform if shock surpasses threshold

e.g., if working capital decreases by more than xx%, how willing is the farmer to transform the production to stay operational

Likert scale



Not willing at all

Fully willing

# RESULTS OF TRANSFORMATIVE CAPACITY ANALYSIS

## R1 Occupied high

Shock	Score
Not feasible to collect	N/A

## R2 Occupied low

Shock	Score
Not feasible to collect	N/A

## R3 Liberated high

Shock	Score
Lower working capital	0,25
Higher production costs	-0,06
Less availability of crops	-1,00
Less availability of buildings	-1,13

## R4 Liberated low

Shock	Score
Lower working capital	0,13
Less avail. of machineries	0,07
Less earnings	-0,67
Less availability of livestock	-1,35

## R5 (Frontline)

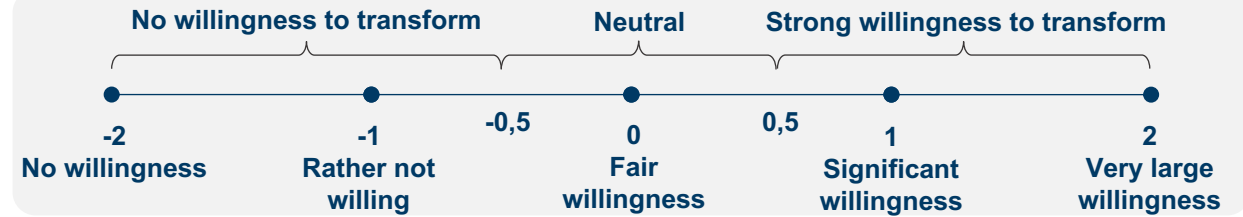
Shock	Score
Higher production costs	1,57
Less employees	1,39
Less availability of inputs	0,22
Less availability of livestock	-0,39

## R6 Not Exposed high

Shock	Score
Less avail. of machineries	0
Less employees	-0,31
Less availability of livestock	-1,46
Less availability of crops	-1,54

## R7 Not Exposed low

Shock	Score
Less avail. of machineries	0,23
Lower working capital	0,17
Higher fuel prices	-0,77
Less availability of livestock	-1,38



## Small crop farms

Shock	Score
Less avail. of machineries	0,21
Higher production costs	0,07
Less avail. of usable land	-0,81
Higher fuel prices	-0,85

## Big crop farms

Shock	Score
Lower working capital	0,38
Less avail. of machineries	0,22
Less earnings	-0,61
Less avail. of usable land	-0,63

## Small livestock farms

Shock	Score
Higher production costs	0,60
Higher price fertilizers, feed	0,60
Higher fuel prices	-0,88
Less earnings	-1,05

## Big livestock farms

Shock	Score
Higher production costs	1,57
Higher price fertilizers, feed	1,43
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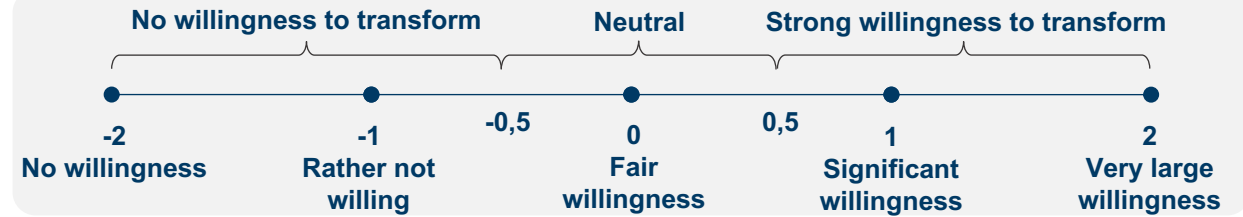
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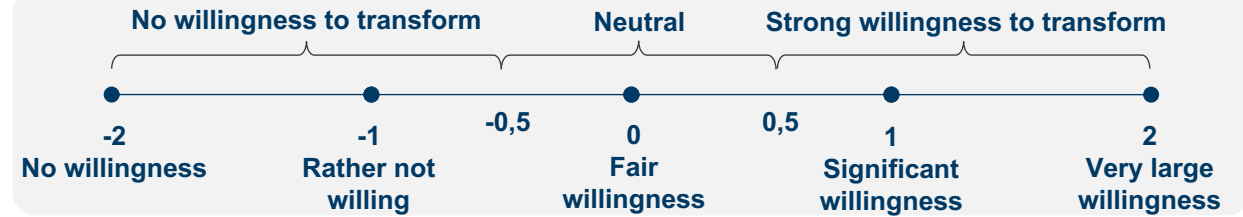
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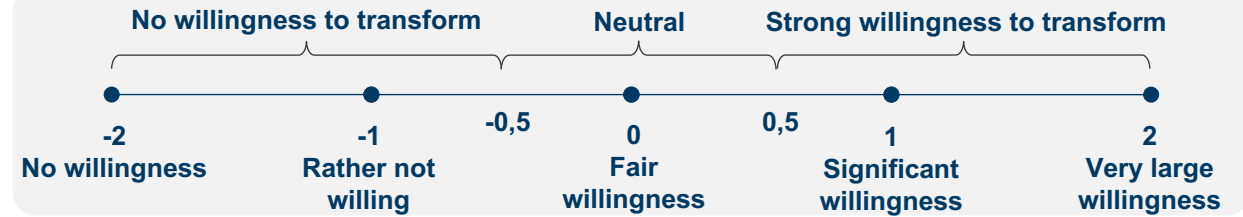
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# SUMMARY

- **Impact of warfare is not uniformly distributed, but depends on shelling intensity & territorial control**
- **Shocks impact farm operations via direct damages & sector-wide losses**
- **Farms possess three resilience capacities: withstand, adapt, transform**
- **Transformability = readiness to significantly change production (invest in new products, technologies and knowledge) beyond tolerable shock level**
- **Drivers of transformability differ by exposure intensity & farm type:**
  - Not exposed and liberated areas: low willingness to transform & driven by mainly idiosyncratic damages
  - Front-line areas: highest willingness to transform driven by mainly economic losses
  - Crop farms: low transformative capacity
  - Large livestock farms: high transformative capacity presumably due to high production costs
- **Reasons not to transform also differ by exposure intensity & farm type:**
  - Across all zones: idiosyncratic shocks are strong reasons not to transform operations (except frontline where transformability is generally more preferred in comparison to other zones)
  - Land damage is a weak reason to transform for crop farms (while large farms reveal higher willingness)
  - Less earnings for small livestock farms is a strong reason not to transform