

agri benchmark in Tunisia : Achievements and first results on Durum Wheat production

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OUTLINE

1. Establishment of *agri benchmark* in Tunisia
2. Key results on Durum production
3. Next steps

Institutional Setting

Partnership

- Agricultural School of Mograne (ESA-Mograne)
- Farmers association : Association for Sustainable farming (APAD)
- National Institute of Cash Crop (INGC)



Technical Assistance & Funding

- FAO- Sub regional office for North Africa (Fao-SNE)



Achievements

- **Training sessions for the AB tools, in Germany**
- **Panel meetings organized in Tunisia**
- **Results presented:**
 1. **Cash Crop Conferences: Australia in 2010 & Denmark in 2011**
 2. **Beef & Sheep Conference: Austria 2011**
- **Article for the Cash Crop Report 2010**

Achievements

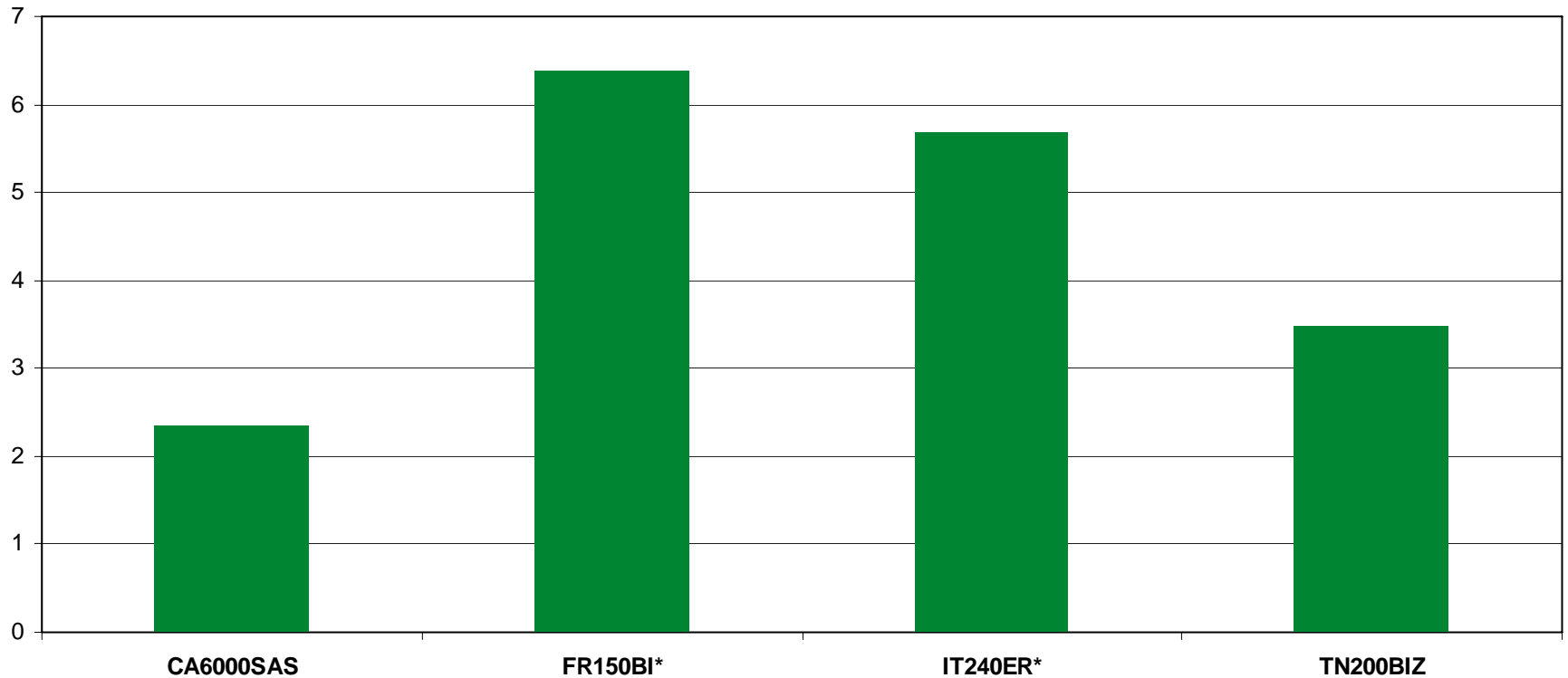
First typical farm : TU200BIZ

- **Northern Tunisia**
- **Intensive tillage system**
- **Precepitation: 450 mm/year**
- **Size bigger than the average size in the region**



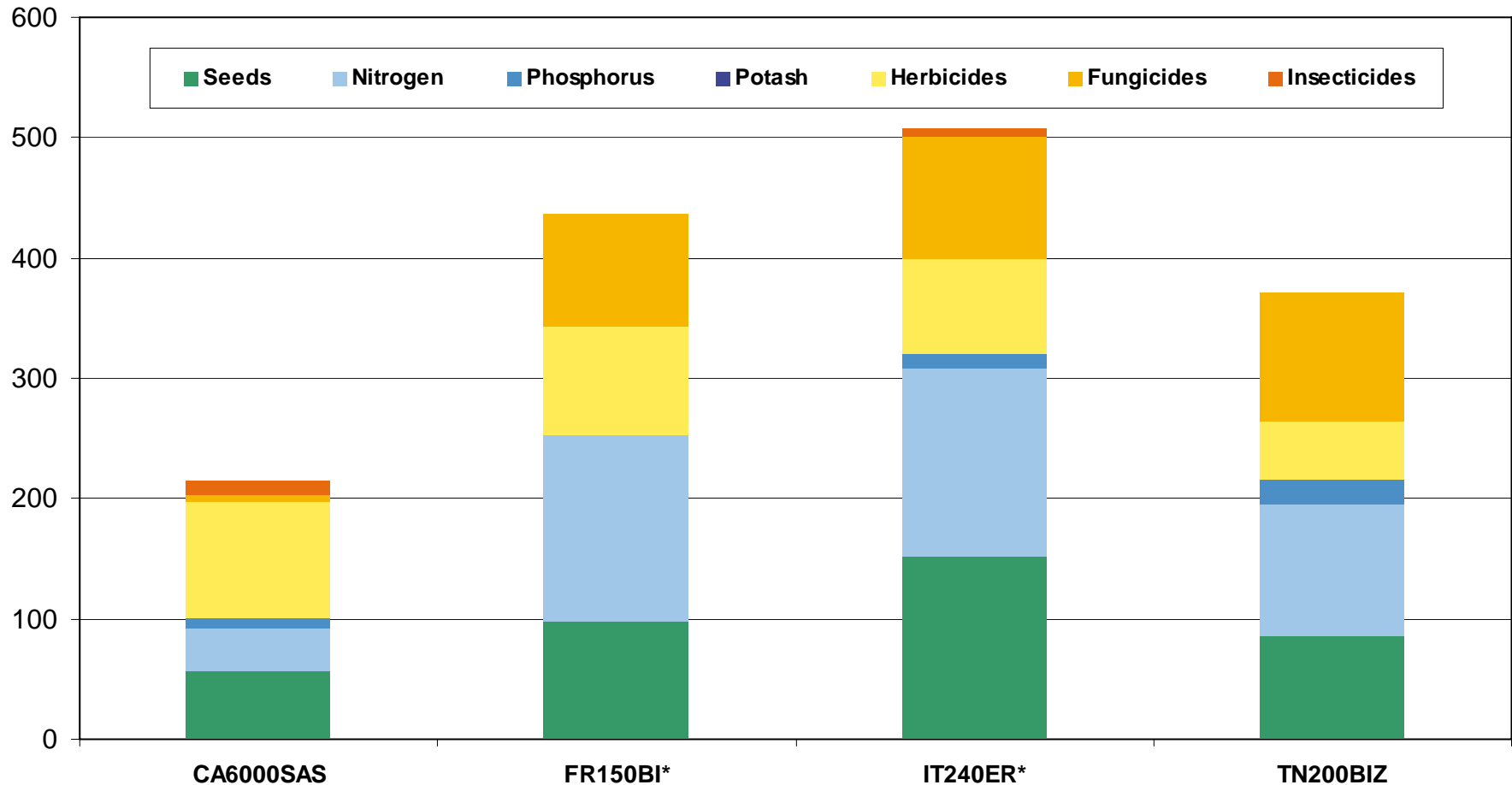
**FIRST RESULTS ON DURUM
WHEAT PRODUCTION
(2010)**

Durum Wheat yields (t/ha)



Durum yields in Tunisia much lower than in Europe but higher than in Canada

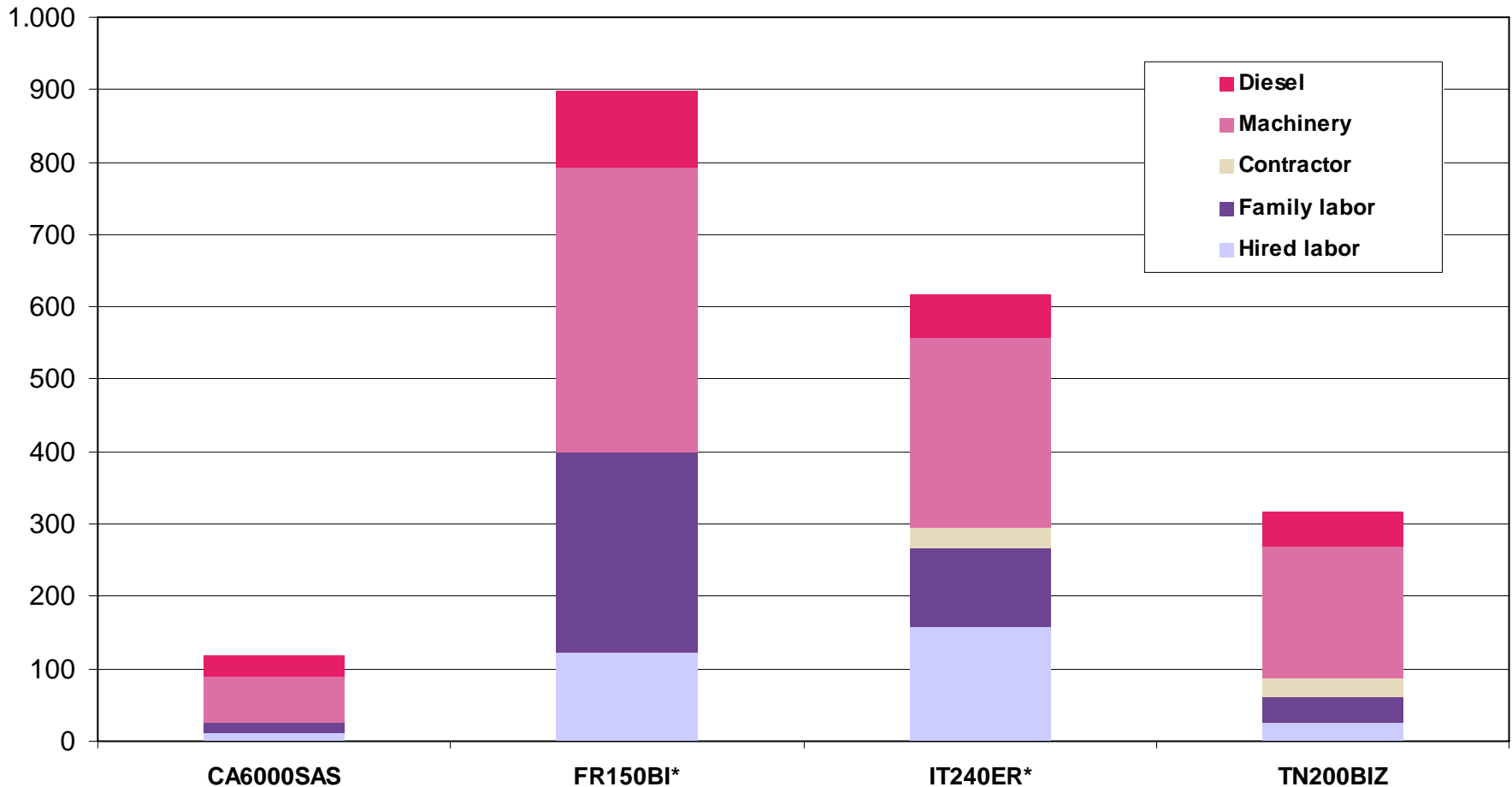
Crop establishment cost Durum (USD/ha)



Crop establishment cost in Tunisia in the same range as in France

Almost twice as high as in Canada

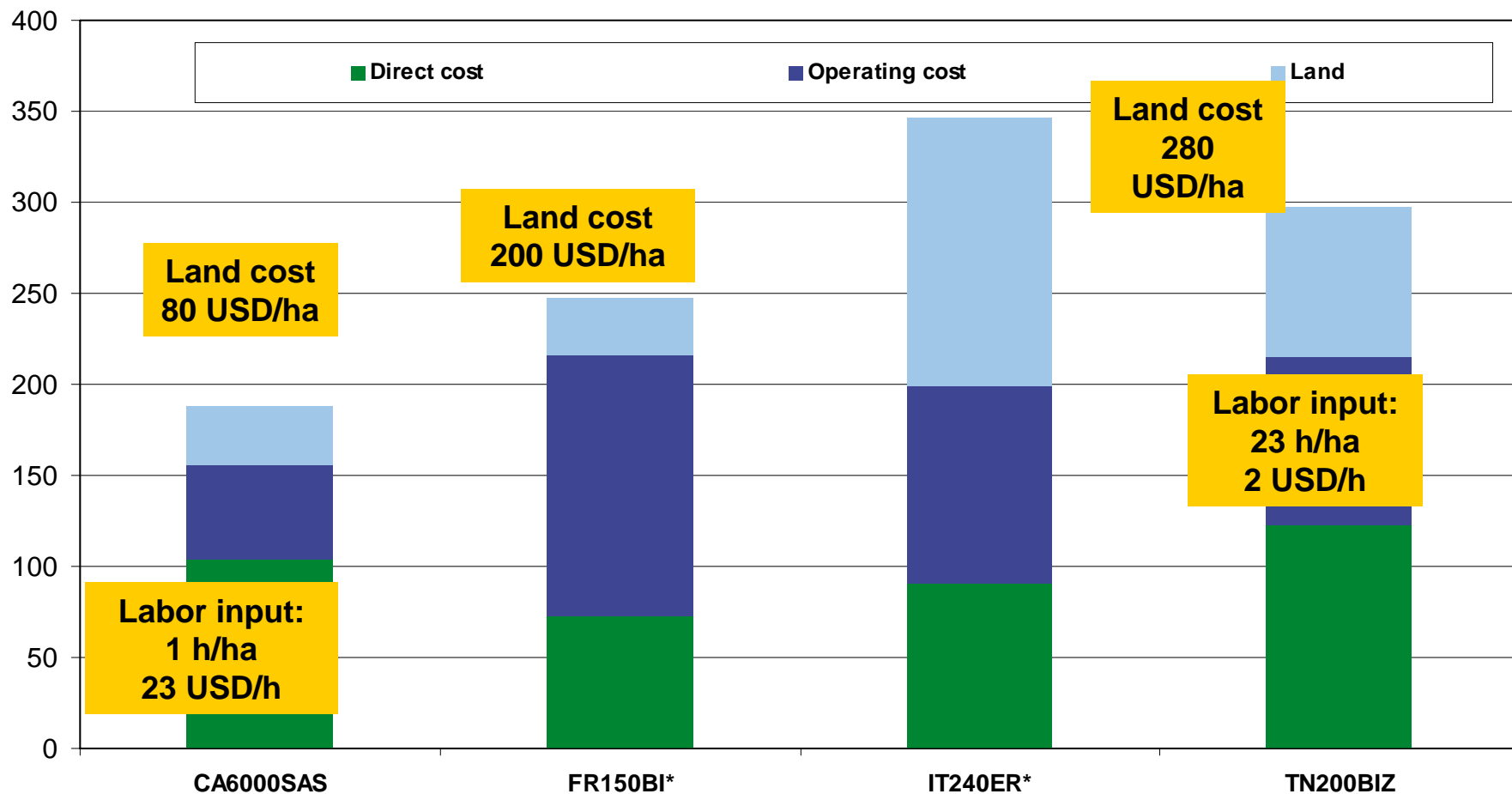
Operating cost (USD/ha)



Compared to French and Italian farm Operating cost much lower in Tunisia.

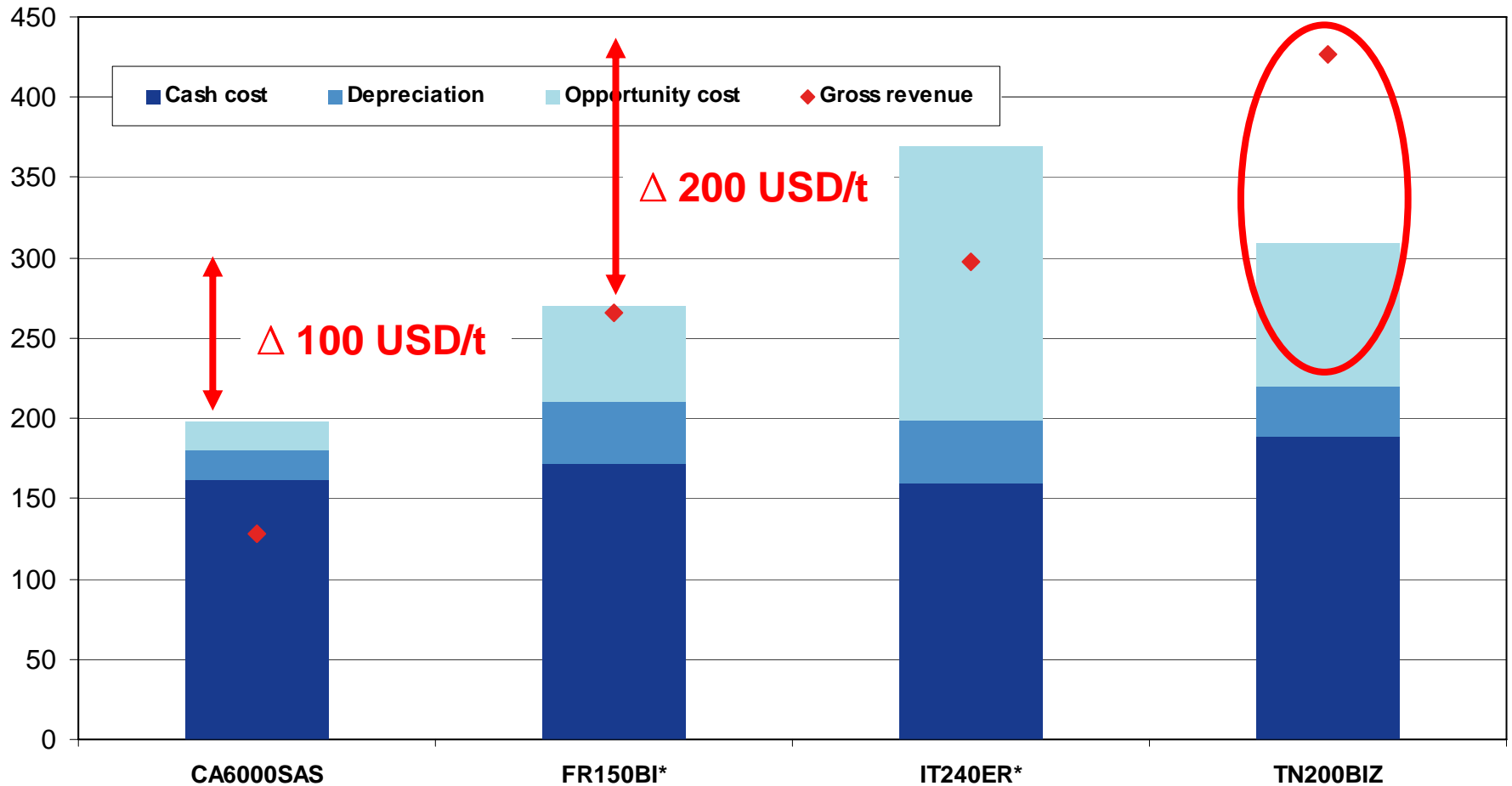
Machinery by far the most important component.

Key cost elements in Durum (USD/t)



Tunesia is a high cost producer (USD/t); land cost being one of the key factors
Operating cost not a clear cost advantage, despite very low wage rates
Maschinery cost the big issue

Total cost and gross revenue Durum (USD/t)



Due to extremely high prices Durum is very profitable for TN farm
But total CoP is higher than in France and +100 USD/t higher than Canada

Conclusions and next questions regarding Tunisian Durum Wheat production

- 1. High land cost create a major cost disadvantage for typical Tunisian farm.**
- 2. Due to relative low yields and high labor input operating cost are not as low as assumed (given low labor cost per hour).**
- 3. Due to massive political price support, high cost of production are not a problem now.**
- 4. But: Are price premiums of 200 USD/t compared to EU sustainable?**
- 5. Question: Is Durum Wheat the right crop for this location?**

What I have learned

- 1. Discussions with farmers, researchers and advisors have built a national network**
- 2. People with whom we have already worked started to be convinced by the importance of documentation and traceability at the farm level**
- 3. Involving farmers into the panel discussions give a more precise idea about the cost structure**
- 4. For Tunisia, it's the first time that the country is involved in an international network on farming systems**

Next steps

- 1. Comparison between conventional vs. no-till farming.**
- 2. Comparison on small and medium-sized farms.**
- 3. Analyze policy interventions on the farm level by using focus groups with growers & advisors**

THANK YOU



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