

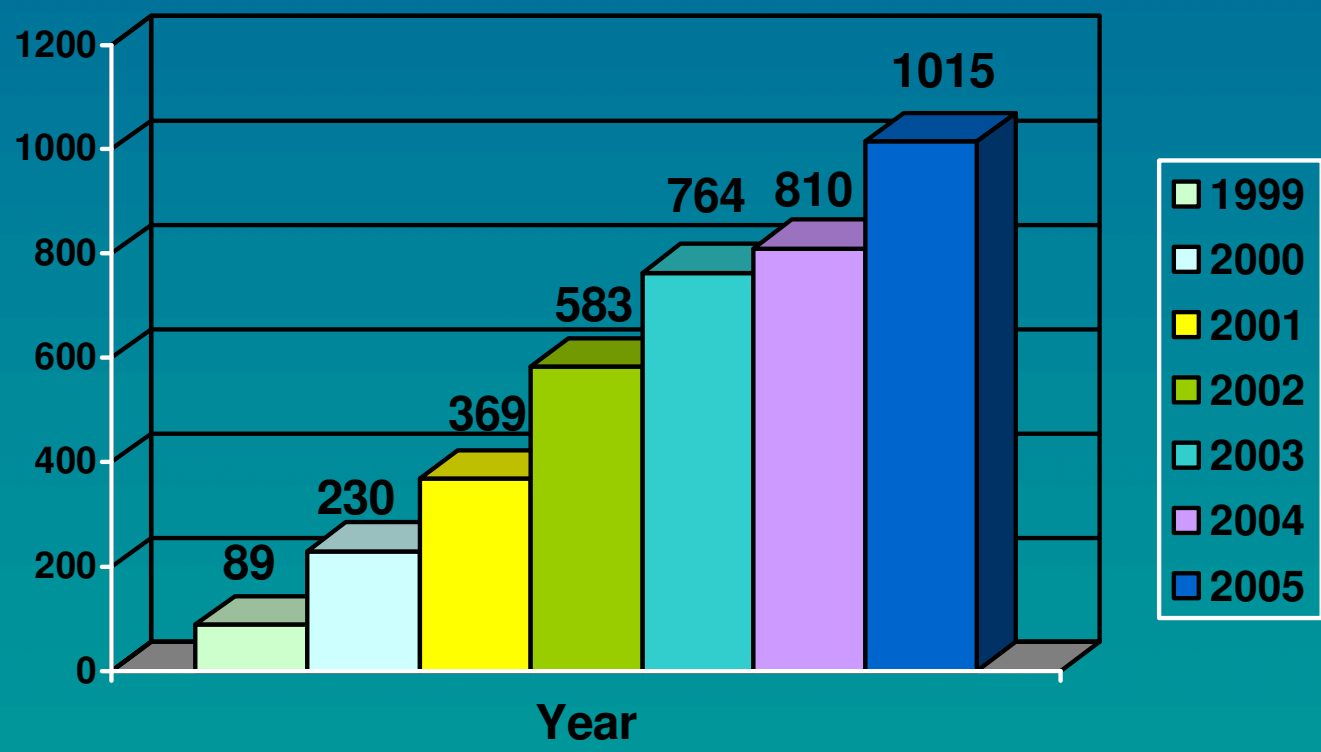


DEVELOPMENT PLAN, TRENDS AND STRATEGY OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN ESTONIA

**Peeter Prass
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Plant Health
Organic Agriculture Bureau**

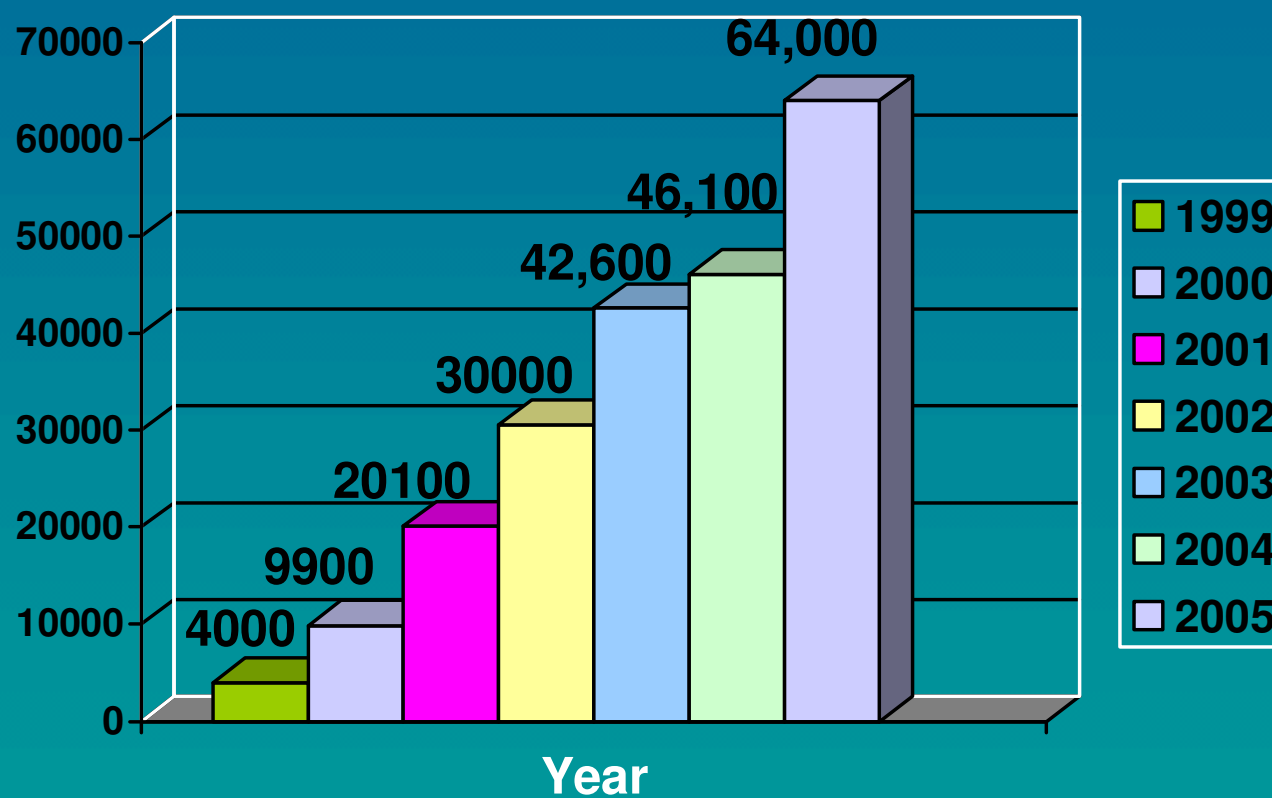


Number of organic farms





Organic land area (ha)



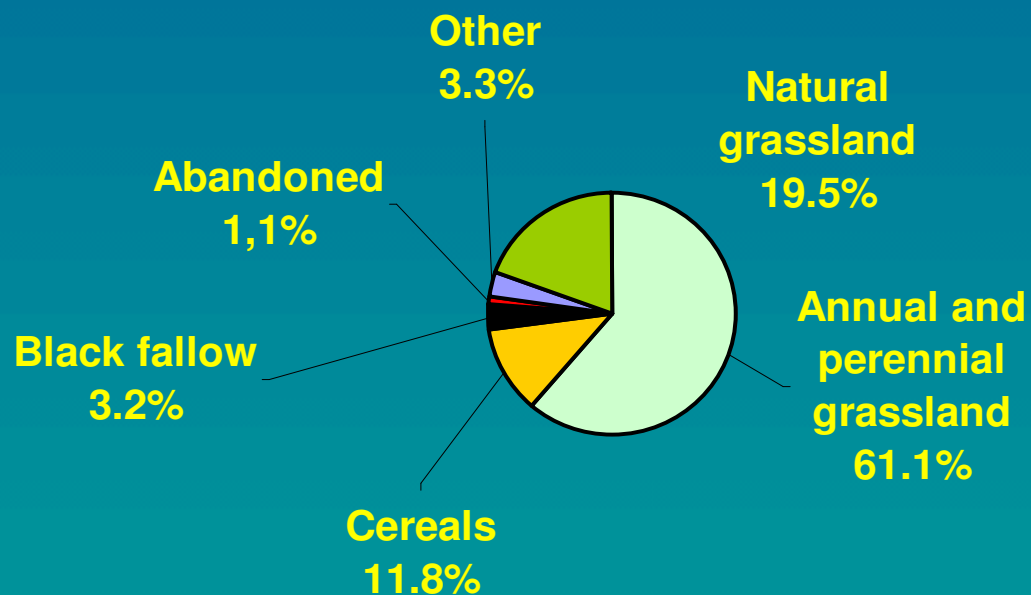
Organic agriculture – an option?



- Relatively high share of ecologically clean nature resources
- Subsidising organic production
- Enlargement of market
- Valuating the meaning of “ecological”
- Organic farming can be well integrated with alternative activities (e.g. tourism) in rural areas

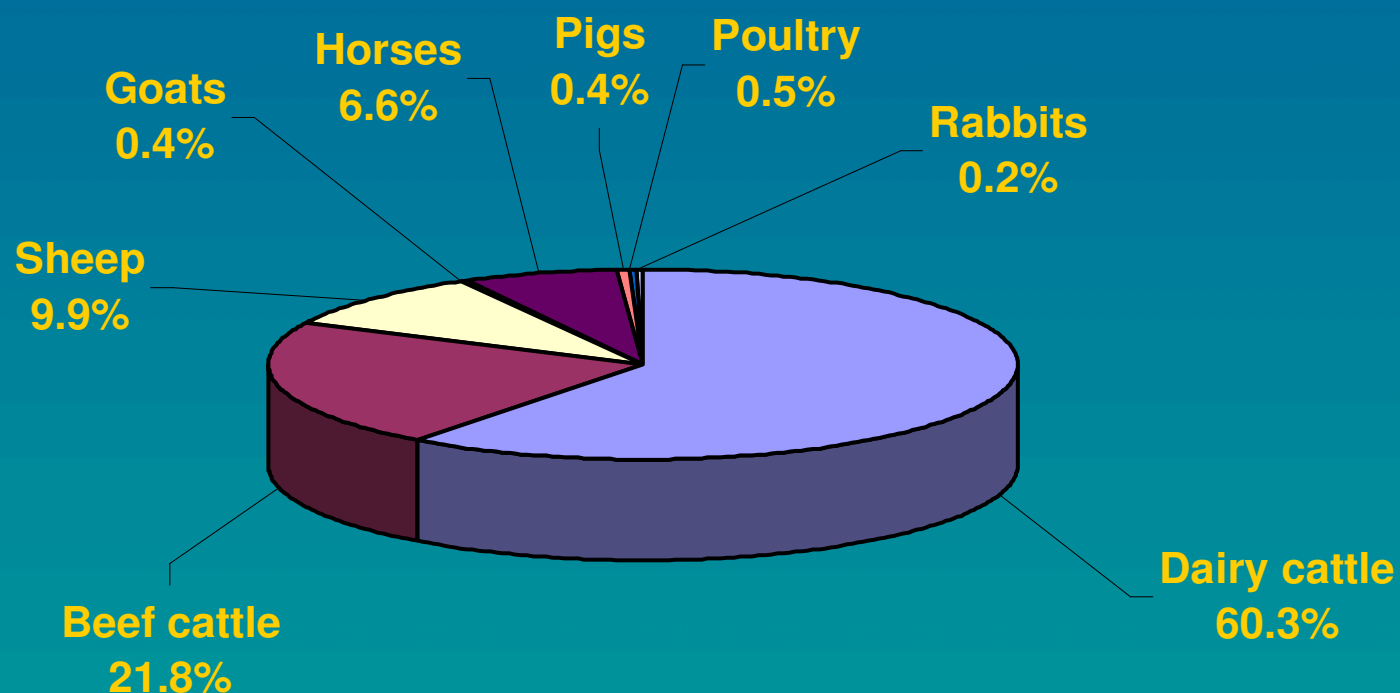


Organic land use in 2004





Organic animal production in 2004



Share of different species from total number of organic animals (presented as animal units)

Organic logo



Estonian



European Union



Development plan of organic agriculture in EU



- **EU development plan – 21 activities**
- Member States have supported following activities:
- Educating consumers and promoting the logo
- Collecting of statistical data
- Strengthening of research in organic farming
- Additional support from CAP
- Regulating of GMO issues



Main problems

- Awareness low amongst consumers
- Low quantities of organic products
- Many farms still in conversion period
- Very small number of processors, much paperwork, high level of investments, high taxation
- Marketing is not coordinated

Development plan of organic agriculture in Estonia 2005 - 2010



- Development plan devised for five years
- Based on reports from nine working group meeting for different stakeholders
- Development plan includes more detailed action plan and budget for the first 1-2 years
- Different activities are to be implemented by the projects of public, private and third sector

AIMS



- At least 95% of consumers should recognise and know the meaning of organic logo
- By the year 2010 the largest marketing chains should include organic vegetables, berries, meat and milk products

Developing of processing



Production of home made and traditional organic products

- Ensuring better production and processing possibilities for small producers, applying distinctions in small processing
- A separate abattoir for organic animals and introducing of mobile slaughterhouses
- Promotion of rental kitchens



Developing of production

- Standards for rabbits, nutria, fish, brewing etc.
- Establishment of presentation farms
- Continuous transmission of information about organic issues to producers and processors
- Improving of advisory service
- Improving of control system
- Promoting of cooperation between organic producers

Organic farming is expensive?



- Ensuring low interest loans and better initiate support for organic producers and processors
- Investigating tax burden of organic enterprises
- Investigating the extent of paperwork in organic enterprises

Promoting the market, educating publicity



- Promoting the market by different activities
- Labelling organic products and logo campaigns for broader consumer groups
- Integrating organic farming and rural tourism
- Introducing organic food products in kindergartens, schools and hospitals
- Export
- Import



Other activities

- Avoiding GMOs in organic farming, informing about possible risks in coexistence of GMOs and organic farming
- Research activities:
 - Health issues
 - Suitable varieties, breeds, crop rotations etc. for organic farming



Proposals

- Waiting for your proposals and comments on **development plan of organic agriculture**
Address: **mahe@agri.ee**
- Development plan is available on Ministry of Agriculture webpage:
www.agri.ee



Thank you for
attention!