



EVENT

FARMING WITHOUT HARMING: POLICY ACTION FOR RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

26 June 2024, 14:00-17:00 CET
Brussels and online

*Multiburo Brussels EU Parliament,
Square de Meeus 38-40*





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the Earth
Europe**



INTRODUCTION

CLARA BOURGUIN

Friends of the Earth Europe

LILI BALOGH

Agroecology Europe
Hungarian Agroecology Network Association

26 June 2024, 14:00-17:00 CET
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OPENING STATEMENT

JENS BOYEN

Plant Health & Food Safety Attaché at the
Permanent Representation of Belgium to
the EU

26 June 2024, 14:00-17:00 CET
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Pesticide
Action
Network
Europe



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Agroecology
Europe



European
Network of
Scientists
for Social and
Environmental
Responsibility

PRESENTATION

ANDRÁS SZÉKÁCS

The European Network of Scientists
for Social and Environmental
Responsibility (ENSSEER)

26 June 2024, 14:00-17:00 CET
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PANEL I

FUNDING FOR AGROECOLOGY

CAROLINE AMROM

Catholic University of Louvain

FANNY BOERAEVE

Wallonian Ministry for Environment (formerly)
University of Liège (currently)

LILI BALOGH

Agroecology Europe
Hungarian Agroecology Network Association



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PRESENTATION

CAROLINE AMROM
SYTRA, Catholic University of
Louvain

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What financial flows for agroecology in Wallonia ?

26 June 2024

About SYTRA

Research team of 12 members :

- 4 PhD,
- 7 Research Assistants and
- Professor Philippe Baret

Based in Louvain La Neuve

Principles of action

- Inclusivity
- Meso level
- Transdisciplinarity

Thematics of research



Value chain



Production
system



Transition
pathways

A collaboration between research and action



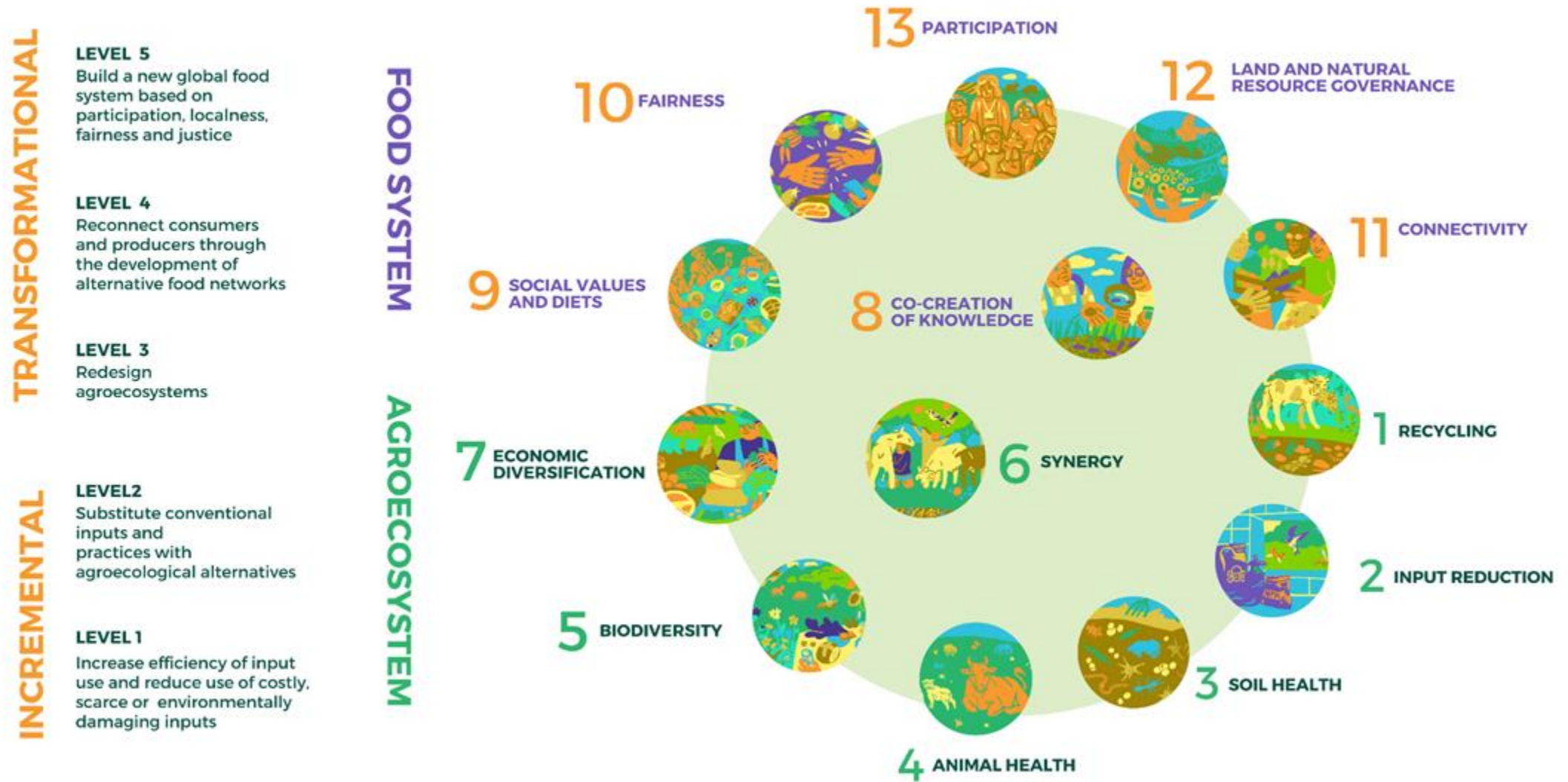
Sytra builds scientific knowledge on agriculture and food systems in a rigorous and interdisciplinary way, with the aim of providing stakeholders with the keys to a transition towards fair and sustainable system



Agroecology in Action represents a broad movement that is taking concrete action to promote the transition to agro-ecological and solidarity-based food systems in Belgium.

Agroecology?

13 principles of Agroecology in regards of the five levels of transition towards Sustainable Food Systems and the related - Source: Gliessman (2007) and HLPE (2019)



Scope of the study

What is the level of funding of agroecology by the Walloon government (2019-2024)?

- **Scope** : agricultural and food related budgets including CAP 2017-2022 & 2023-27
- **Methodology** : based on the framework developed by Research Center Agroecology, Water and Resilience of Coventry University(Moeller, N., et al, 2023)

Methodology

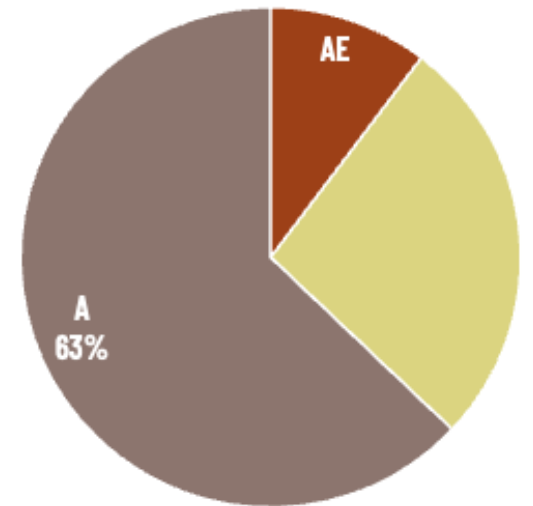
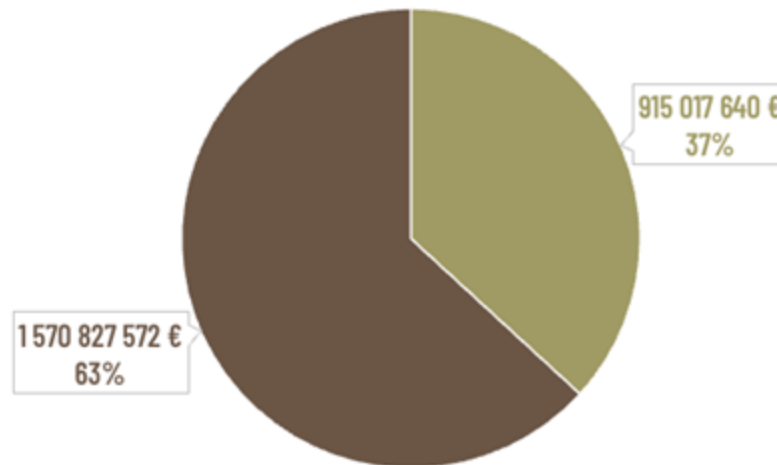
Remark : Only the intention of financing were considered : no check was done on the ground for actual expenses

Step 1 : Building a complete data base (2,485 billion euro for 122 Flows)

Step 2 : Qualifying the financial flows (Agroecological score)

Step 3 : Calculate an effective contribution to Agroecology

ID	Code	Score
022	PRW_01	16,67%
023	PRW_02	0,00%
024	PRW_03	3,85%
025	PRW_04	3,85%
053	BIO_01	33,33%
063	BIO_11	75,00%

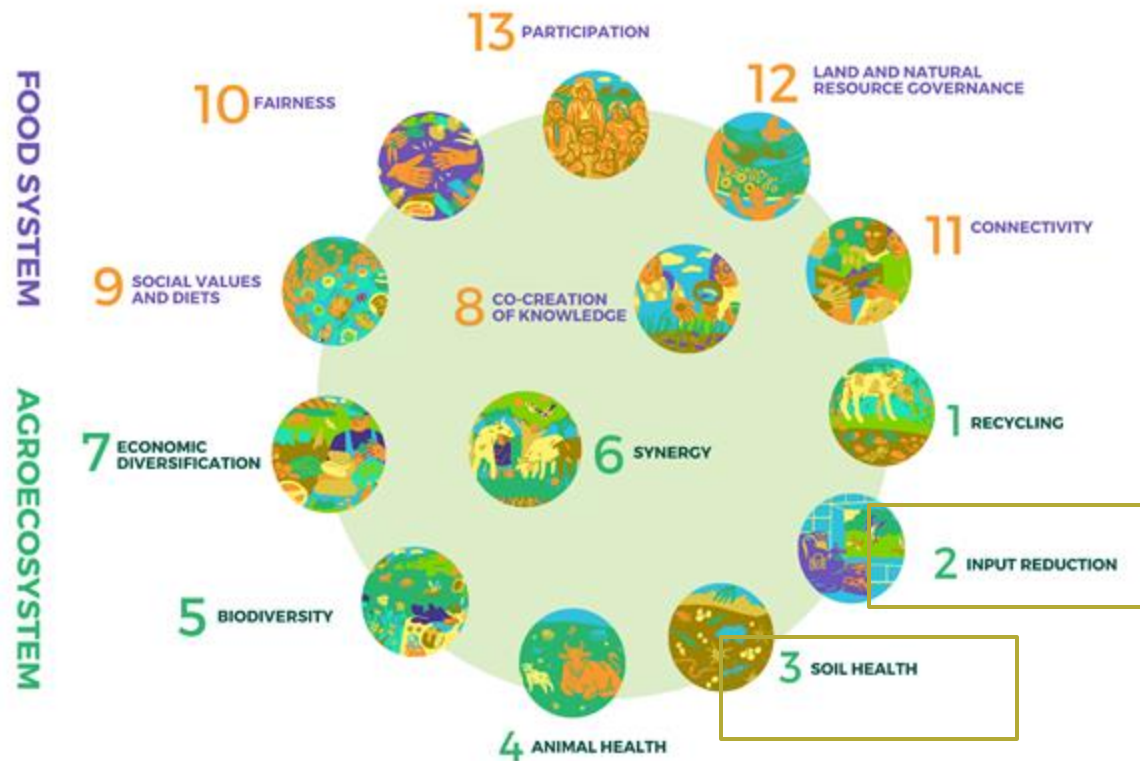




Result 1 - Limited access to data

- Very unsatisfying access to public data
 - Very scattered information (activity reports, strategies, estimation of budget,...)
 - Limited disclosure of financial flows from public bodies and ministries
 - No consolidated financial information on the topic
-
- How does the region pilot, monitor, and assess progress?
 - How do the ministries know if their action contributed to any systemic changes ?
 - Difficult for the civil society to check ministries' accountability

Result 2: Low agroecological ambition of most of the projects

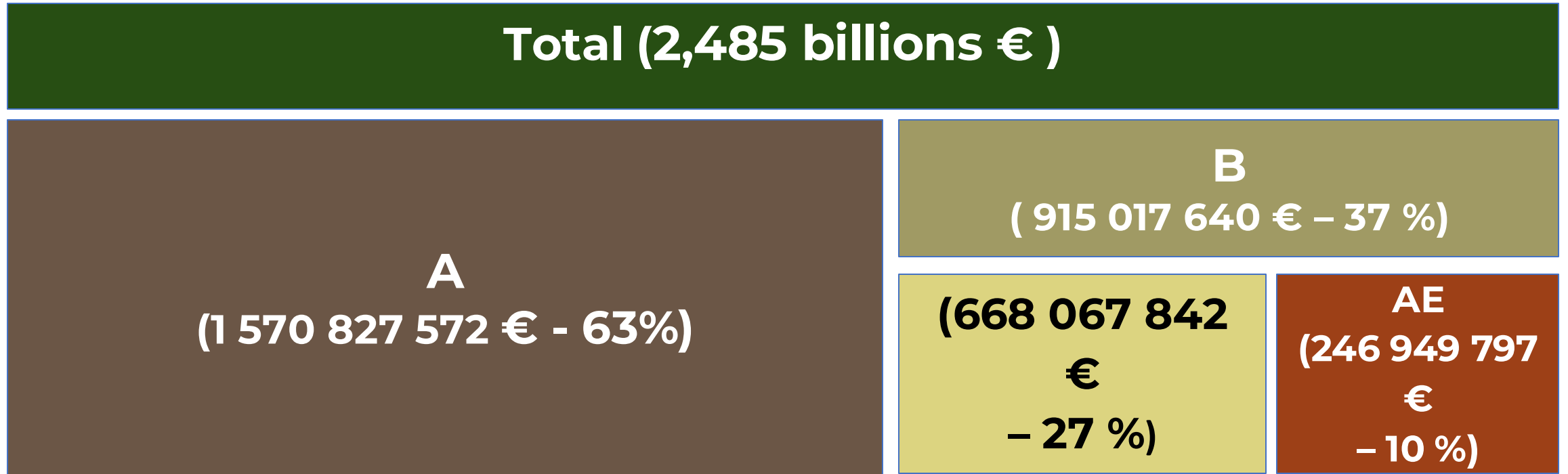


- Agroecological scores are low
- Most of the financial flows obtained low scores as they would only focus on one or two of the 13 principles



A limited amount of financial flows tackles food system and agroecosystem principles

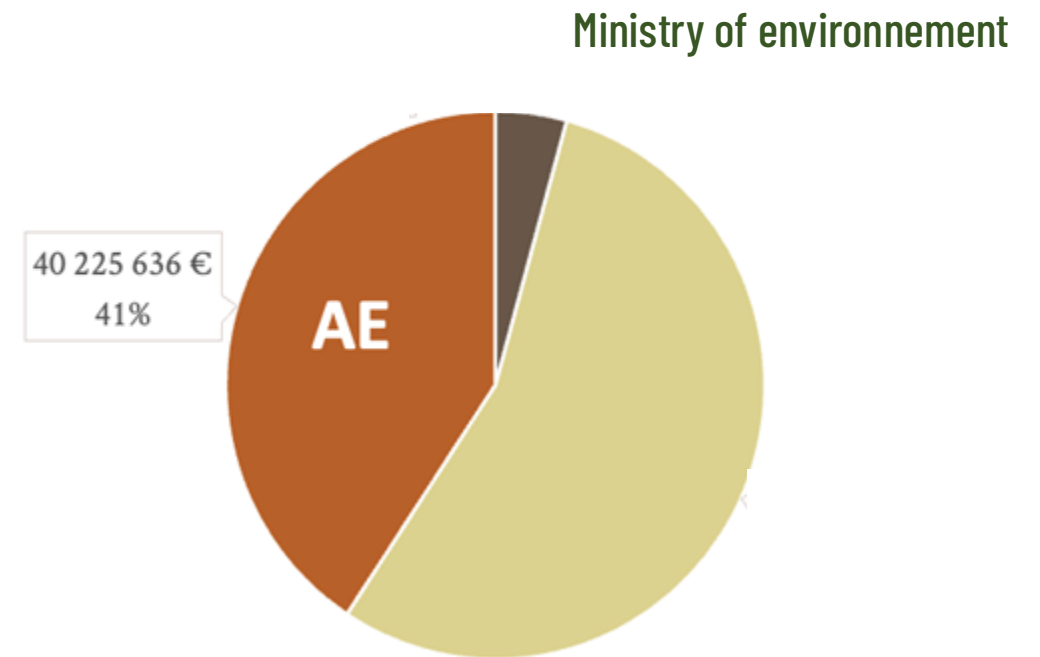
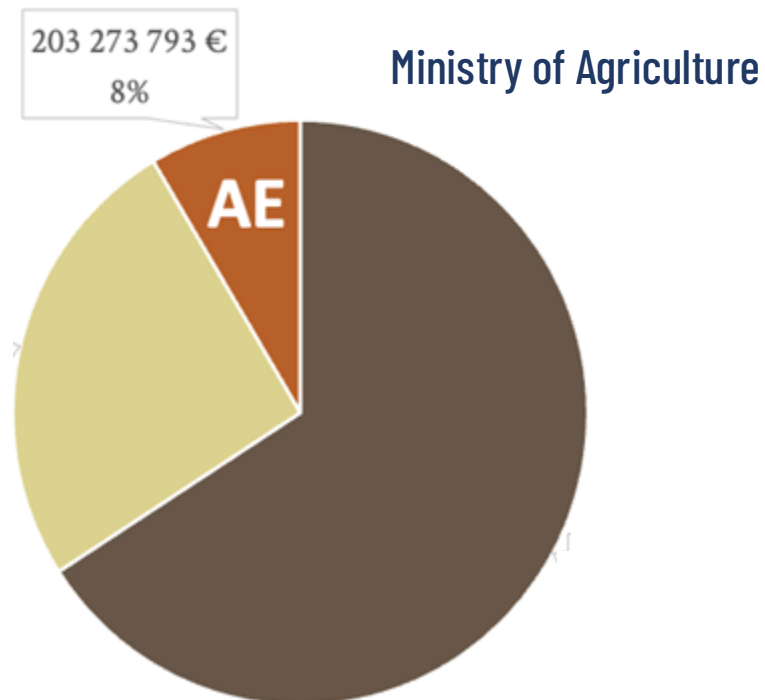
Result 3: Only 10% of the analyzed budget supports the agroecological transition



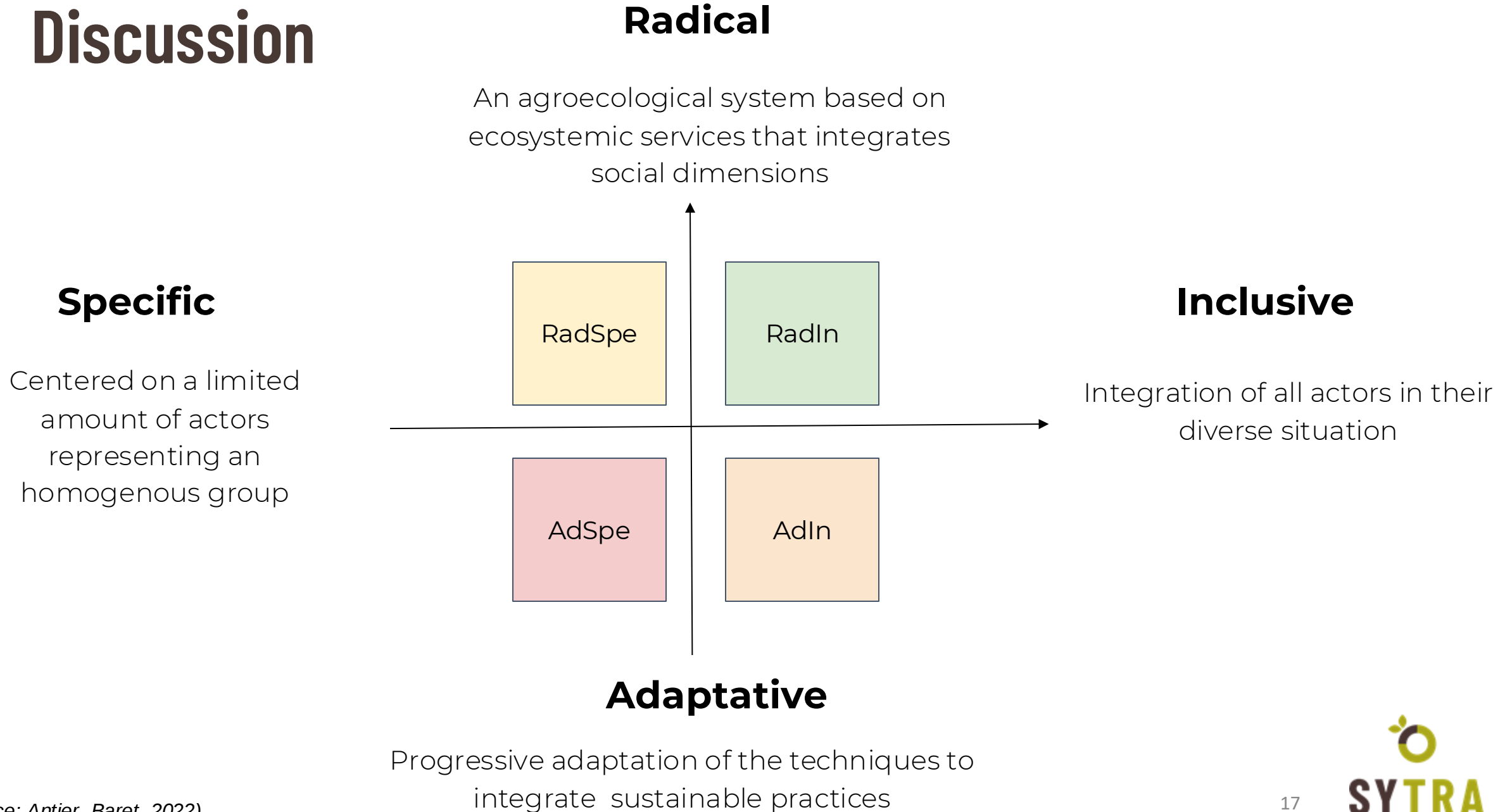
Result 4 - Unbalanced support between the Ministries

Share of budget of Ministry of Agriculture for AE : 8 % - 203 millions

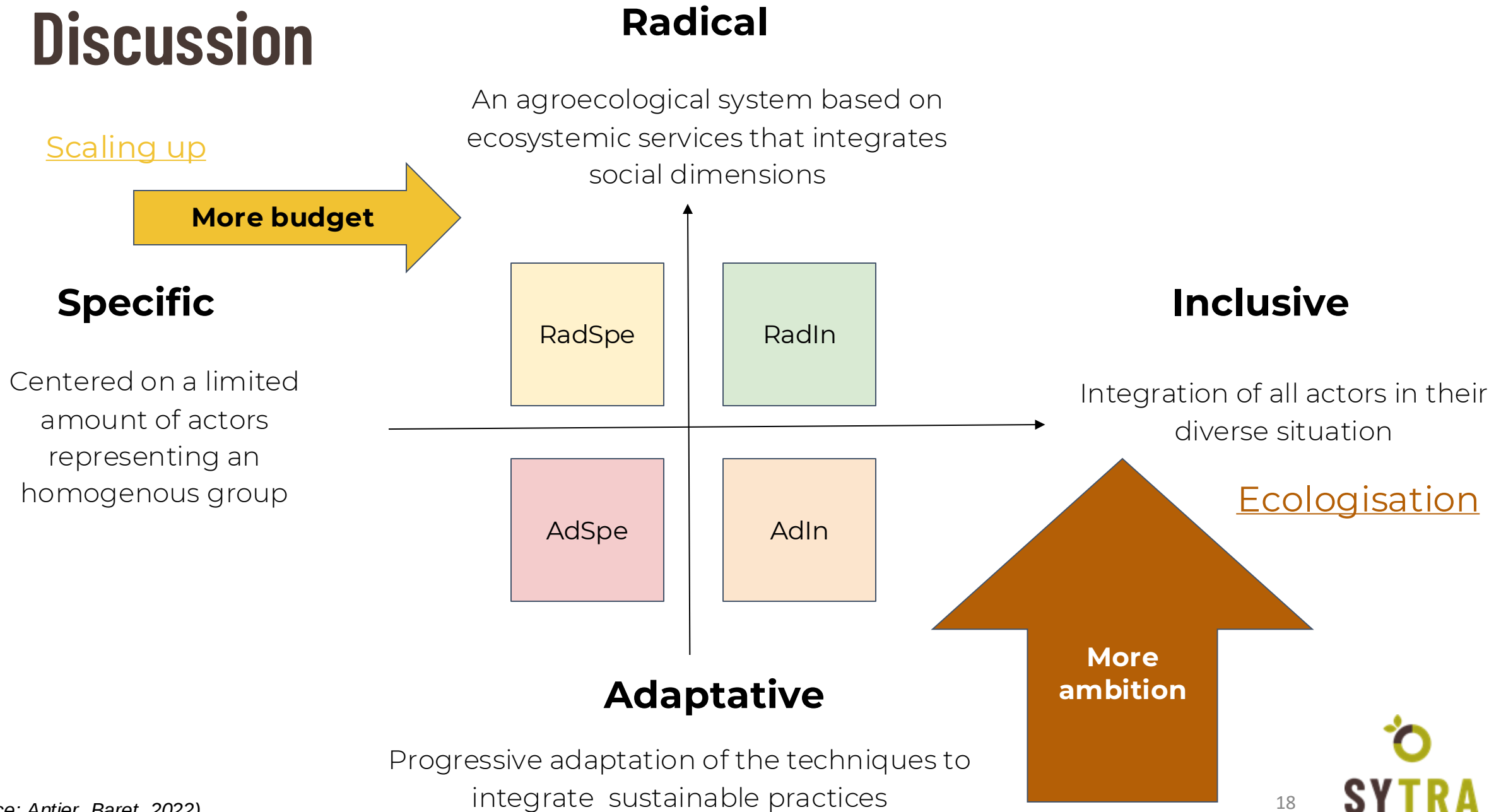
Share of budget of Ministry of Environment for AE : 41 % - 40 millions



Discussion



Discussion



Policy recommendations

- **Greater access to data**

Defend a greater transparency and accountability of our government

- **Greater ambition**

Defend the development of a proper agroecological transition plan that involves a support to projects and programs that include radical and inclusive approaches

- **Larger perimeter**

Pursue the research at different scales and governance level (Flanders, Europe, etc)

Remark : Organic + ...

The organic agriculture remains a priority thanks to success of the specifications, let's search and support "organic plus" and not instead of organic



SYTRA

transition of
food systems

WWW.SYTRA.BE



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PRESENTATION

FANNY BOERAEVE

Wallonian Ministry for Environment (formerly)
University of Liège (currently)

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Walloon Agroecological Transition Plan TERRAE

26.06.2024

Fanny Boeraeve



The Origin of Terrae: 'Get Up Wallonia!'



Novembre 2020: Public consultation after COVID crisis

☐ 'Plan de Relance de la Wallonie'

= 7 billions € and >300 projects

Among which the project: « Terrae »

- ✓ 6 millions €
- ✓ 7 projects
- ✓ 4 years

The Walloon Agroecological Transition Plan

Communication
website

Network of 40 farms
accompanied to
undergo AE transition

Tool to assess functional
biodiversity on farms



Participatory action research: 18
farmer groups

Reference framework
for agroecological
practices

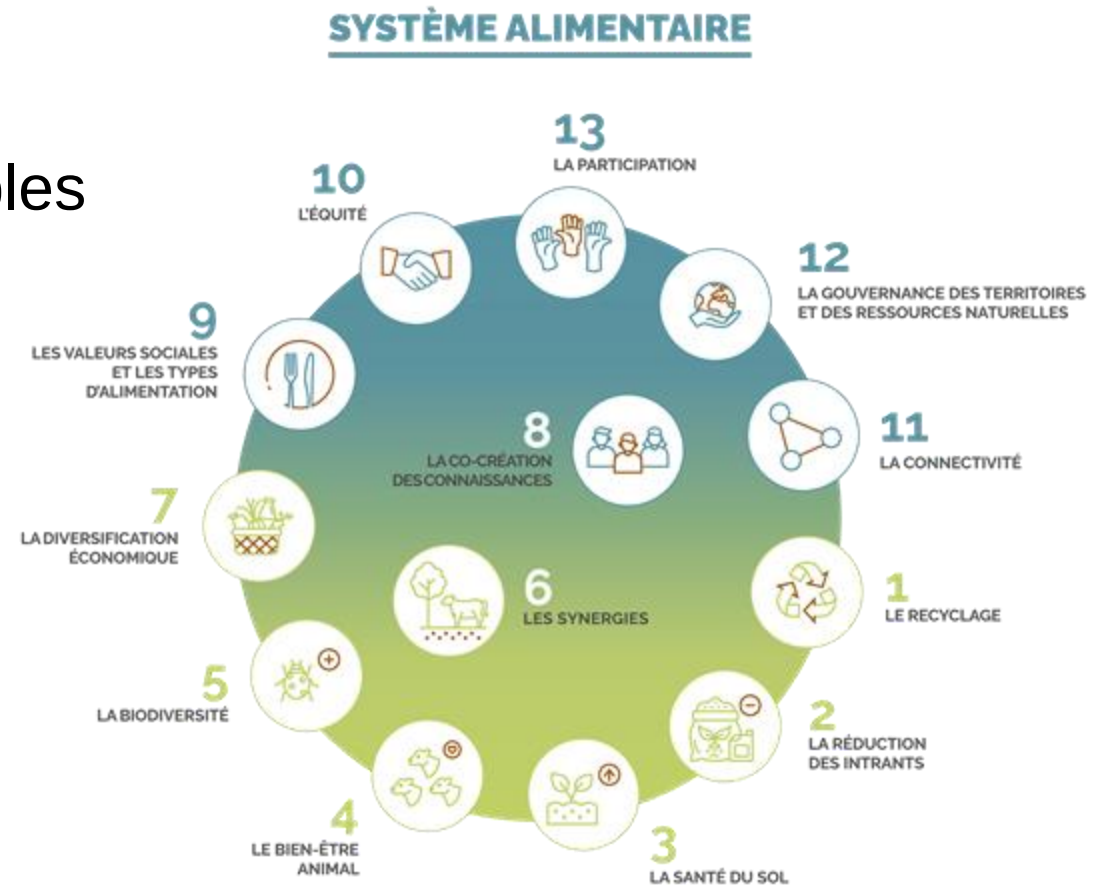
Feasibility study on the payment for
ecosystem services to farmers

Further development of the
tool DECiDE

1. Agroecology framework

Objectives :

- ✓ Definition: define the concept and principles
- ✓ Agroecological practices catalogue
- ✓ Agroecological diagnostic tool



The Walloon Agroecological Transition Plan

Tool to assess functional
biodiversity on farms



Reference framework
for agroecological
practices



Service public de Wallonie **agriculture ressources naturelles environnement**

➤ [Le plan de transition agroécologique](#)

2. Functional biodiversity assessment tool



- Objectives: Develop operational expertise in assessing functional biodiversity on farms, with a strong focus on biological control and soils, on the scale of entire farms and in their landscape context.



The Walloon Agroecological Transition Plan

Communication
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Tool to assess functional
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Reference framework
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Service public de Wallonie **agriculture ressources naturelles environnement**

➤ [Le plan de transition agroécologique](#)

3. Communication website

👉 <https://www.terrae-agroecologie.be/>

- Testimonials
- Technical references
- Science popularisation
- Collaborative content submission system
- Links to other initiatives
- Agenda



The Walloon Agroecological Transition Plan

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Service public de Wallonie **agriculture ressources naturelles environnement**

➤ [Le plan de transition agroécologique](#)

4. The network 'Terraes'

- A network of **40 farms** supported in their agro-ecological transition.
- A wide **variety of agricultural systems** and are **at different stages of the agroecological transition**.
- On a **voluntary** basis
- Agroecological **diagnosis** > **Action plan** > **Experimental setups** on the farms
- **Collective support** including training, network days, field tours and other collective events.

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Participatory action research: 18
farmer groups

Service public de Wallonie **agriculture ressources naturelles environnement**

➤ [Le plan de transition agroécologique](#)

5. Farmers groups

- 18 groups
- >20farms per group
- 1 steering institution per group



Comice du
Gondroz

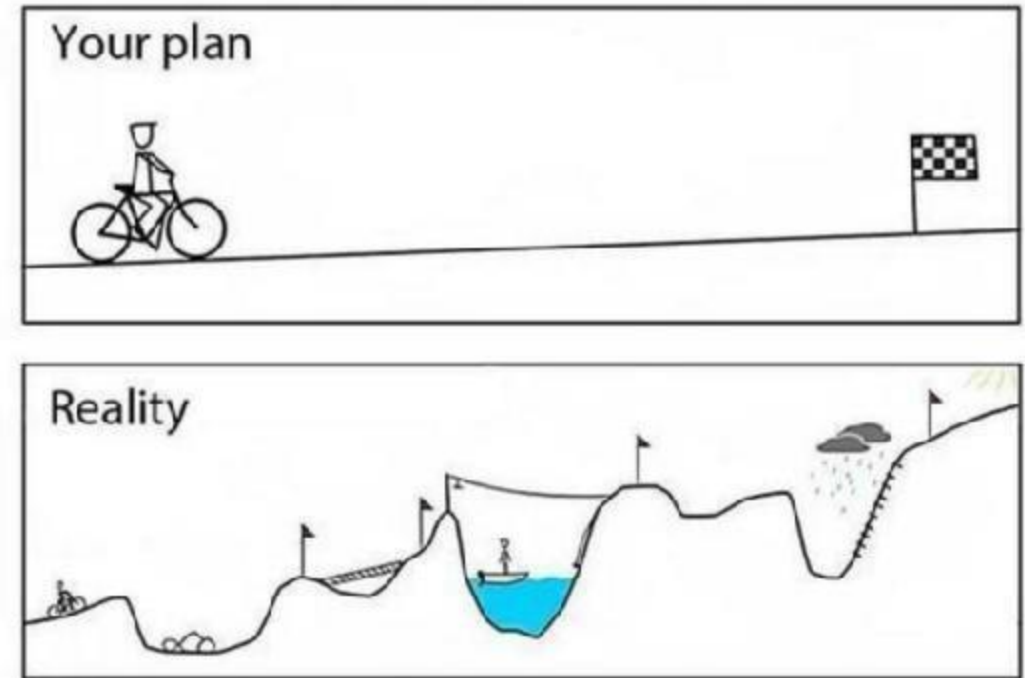


Service public de Wallonie agriculture ressources naturelles environnement

5. Farmer groups

Objectives

- Participatory Action Research
- Transition = a real challenge
- Getting together, sharing and capitalising on each other's experience
- Getting support
- Farmers also become researchers: they enter a process of questioning and trial and error/success



The Walloon Agroecological Transition Plan

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Participatory action research: 18
farmer groups

CLIMACT

Feasibility study on the payment for
ecosystem services to farmers



Service public de Wallonie **agriculture ressources naturelles environnement**

➤ [Le plan de transition agroécologique](#)

6. Feasibility study of paying farmers for ecosystem services - objectives

- Define interests, weaknesses and feasibility of remunerating farmers who produce environmental services.
- Services studied: carbon reduction and storage, biodiversity and soil health.
- ☐ Development of a best practice guide for such payments in Wallonia.

The Walloon Agroecological Transition Plan

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Tool to assess functional
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Reference framework
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practices



Further development of the
tool DECiDE



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➤ [Le plan de transition agroécologique](#)

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Participatory action research: 18
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CLIMACT

Feasibility study on the payment for
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7. Further development of the tool 'DECiDE'



- Assessing the farm's sustainability based on:
 - GEG emissions
 - Ammonia
 - Energy use
- Specific to the Walloon context
- Based on LCA approach
- Integrating the 3 pillars of sustainability:
 - Social
 - Economic
 - Environmental

□ <https://decide.cra.wallonie.be/fr/about>

TERRAÉ in conclusion

- Helping farmers through participatory action research, the dissemination of practical knowledge on agroecological practices.
- The birth of a fertile ground for agroecology, of a community of practices.



Agroecology beyond TERRAE



Food system



Organic agriculture



Pesticides

Barriers to the agroecological transition

- Having distinct Ministries for Envi and Agri
- Division of power/competencies between Federal and Regions
- Difficulties to report at EU level on a joint Belgian position

Levers to the agroecological transition

- Develop independent farm advisory services
- Ensure long term investment despite short/mid term political agendas
- Integreate agroecology as the mainstream agricultural model
- Focus should be on acting: research, projects, etc. sould not prevent action and regulation

Thank you

- Fanny BOERAEVE: f.boeraeve@uliege.be, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Liege University
- Arnaud STAS: arnaud.stas@spw.wallonie.be, Cellule Intégration Agriculture-Environnement, Service Public de Wallonie (SPW)



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PRESENTATION

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Agroecology Europe
Hungarian Agroecology Network Association

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HOW TO VALUE AND FUND AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

AE4EU
April 25, 2023

MAIN FINDINGS

- Agri-environment measures can be **potentially supportive**, but might be **'perverse incentives'**
- **Local scale**: crucial to effecting agroecological transitions, important role of municipal governments in the distribution of funds
- **Smaller amounts of funding for small initiatives**: small groups or cooperatives generally have a stronger impact on enhancing agroecological development than large-scale funding for large programmes



HOW TO VALUE AND FUND AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

AE4EU
April 25, 2023

MAIN FINDINGS

- Most fundamental barrier remains the **unequal playing field** which is geared towards large-scale farms: The problem is not just **lack of support** for small-scale or agroecological farmers, but the **existing support** for conventional, large-scale, industrial production.
- Receiving subsidies through the CAP comes with **administrative difficulties** for small-scale farmers (transaction costs, time, effort and the complexity of bureaucratic processes)

Distorted power relations aggravated by the access to funds: Who influences EU policy making on agriculture and food?

Stakeholder	Persons involved	Funding involved
AEEU 	2 persons 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	70.000 euro



Stakeholder	Persons involved	Funding involved
Croplife Europe 	16 (3 FTE)	1 mio euro
BASF 	65 (22 FTE)	3-3,5 mio euro
Bayer 	79 (23,4 FTE)	6-6,5 mio euro

Policy recommendations

1. Use the holistic concept of agroecology and not reduce it to a set of practices.
2. Fund projects that are dedicated to all levels and dimensions of food system change.
3. Avoid projects that are too large (beyond 10-15 million), as it could concentrate power.
4. Integrate long-term thinking into funding strategies and allow transformative results over time, including the continuation of successful projects after reassessment and amendments.
5. Develop results-based payments that reward evidenced results (e.g. increasing soil carbon content and insects, less pollution, higher welfare).
6. Increase the understanding and capacity of agroecology by supporting participatory agroecological research; introducing agroecological expertise into agricultural colleges and training programmes; and create farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchanges and field schools.

Policy recommendations

7. Create intelligent and responsive funding mechanisms with simplified application processes; free or low cost agroecological advisory services for small farmers to access funding; more small-scale funding opportunities; and more flexible funding schemes which empower applicants to experiment with agroecological principles.
8. Empower local governments and municipalities to dispense funds to local initiatives, and continue to build and provide funding via the LEADER approach.
9. Create an enabling environment for agroecology by strengthening the development of short food supply chains (including public procurement); value and support small agroecological farms and enterprises, including those under 1 ha in size; support new entrants to use agroecological practices; and educate advisory services and bank personnel on the potential of agroecology.
10. Think and act systemically by overcoming siloed conversations, connecting institutions and ministries, and building integrated thinking and funding.

=> actively engage with civil society

**Thank you for
your attention!**





SHORT BREAK

BACK IN 10 MIN



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PANEL II

**REDUCING PESTICIDE DEPENDENCY:
INSPIRATION FROM THE FIELD**

NICOLAS MUNIER-JOLAIN

French National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and
Environment (INRAE)

KOEN WILLEKENS

Flemish Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries
Research (ILVO)

ELISE VAN BROECKHOVEN

Flemish Farm 'Plukboerderij Grondig'

RAFFAEL BUONATESTA

IBMA Belgium/FytoFend



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NICOLAS MUNIER-JOLAIN

French National Institute for Agriculture, Food,
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IPMWORKS

a European network
of pioneer farmers
engaged to demonstrate
cost-effective
IPM-based strategies
with low pesticide use

Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE) *Coordinator*

Program H2020 – CSA
(2020-2024)

Farming without harming:
policy action for resilient agriculture

26 June 2024



THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM
THE EUROPEAN UNION' HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME
UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT N. 101000339

Objectives of IPMWORKS

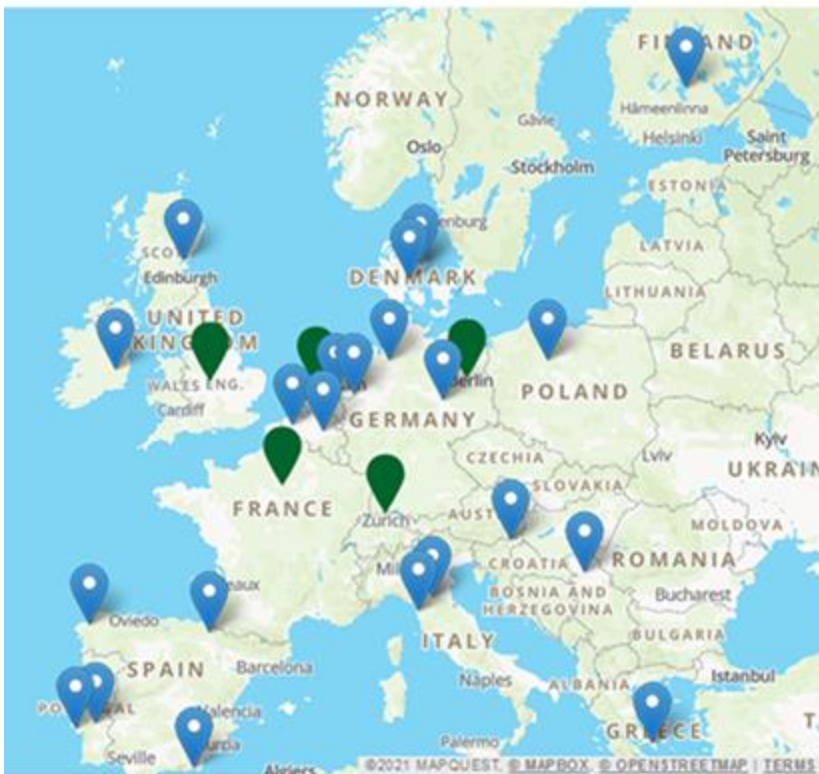


Demonstrate (with 'pioneer' farmers) that

- **Reducing drastically pesticide use and impact is possible...**
- **...is cost-effective...**
- **... and does not impair food security in EU**



The network of IPMWORKS demo farms



5 agricultural sectors



31

Partners



16

Countries

22

Hub coaches

246

Demo

264

Farmers
Demo events
planned

The diversity of approaches to holistic IPM

IPM is highly site-specific



A mixed farm (cereals and dairy cows)

reducing pesticide use thanks to holistic IPM

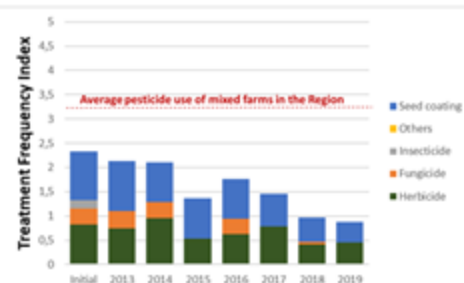
The farm

- Region : Normandie (North-Western France)
- Area : 85 ha
- 90 dairy cows
- Specificity : on-farm marketing



The strategy for pest/disease/weed management

- Crop rotation including temporary grass lands + maize and wheat
- Mechanical weeding (harrow + hoe) in maize
- Mixture of wheat cultivars, resistant to diseases
- Delayed sowing of wheat (escape weeds and diseases)



Low and decreasing pesticide use



A specialised farm (potatoes)

reducing pesticide use thanks to technology

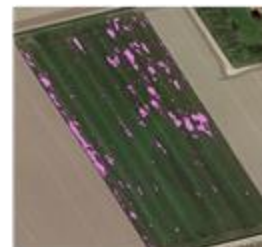
The farm

- Region : Dutch polders
- Area : 135 ha
- Main crop : potatoes (+sugar beet, wheat, onions...)
- Specificity : on-farm marketing



The strategy for pest/disease/weed management

- Resistant cultivars
- Decision Support Systems for optimizing decision making
- High technology for treatments of seeds (more water, less PPP)
- High technology for foliar treatments
fungicides on potatoe leaves
herbicides on patches of perennial weeds



here for
mechanical weeding

Objective of halving
pesticide reached



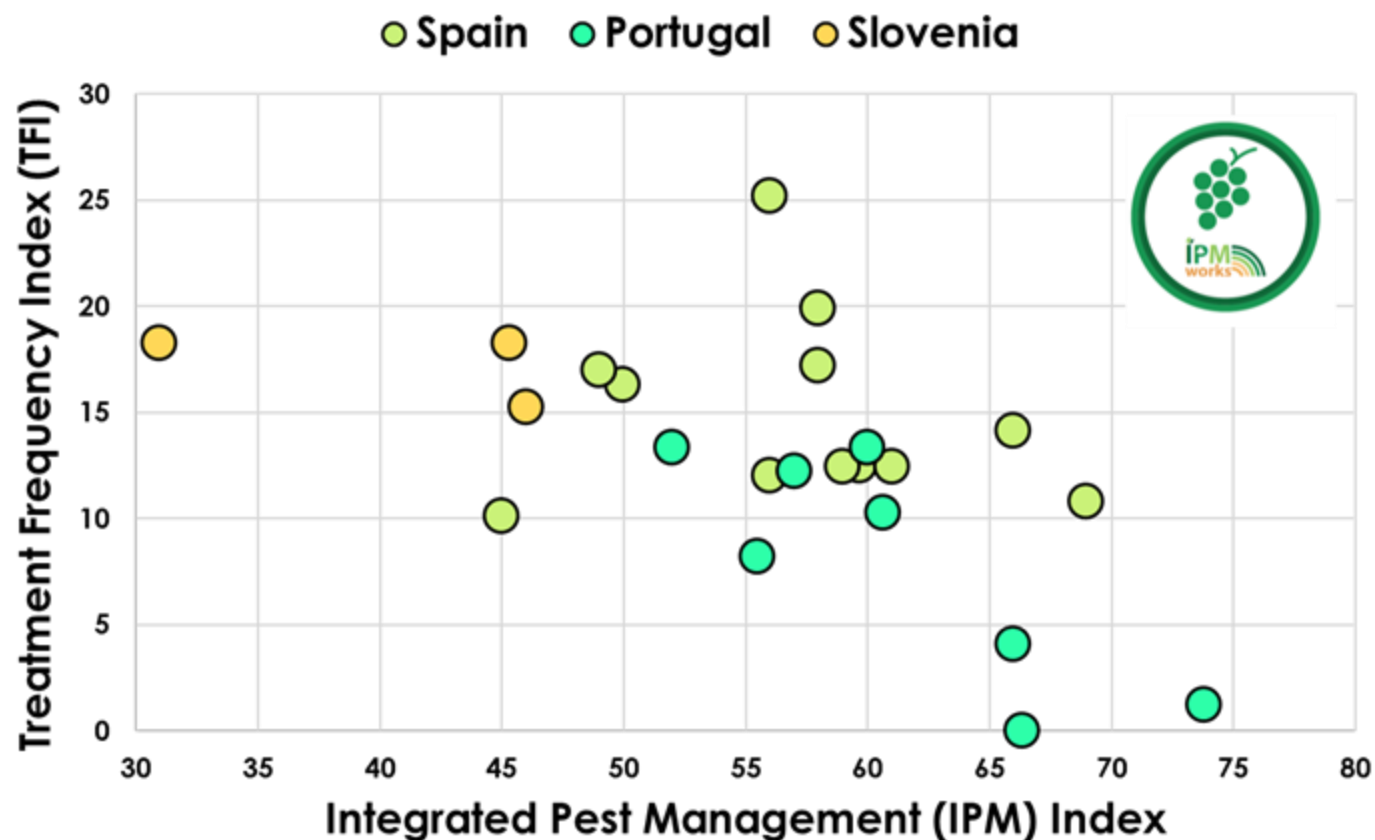
Surveys & results from IPMWORKS farms

1

Survey #1 : 2021

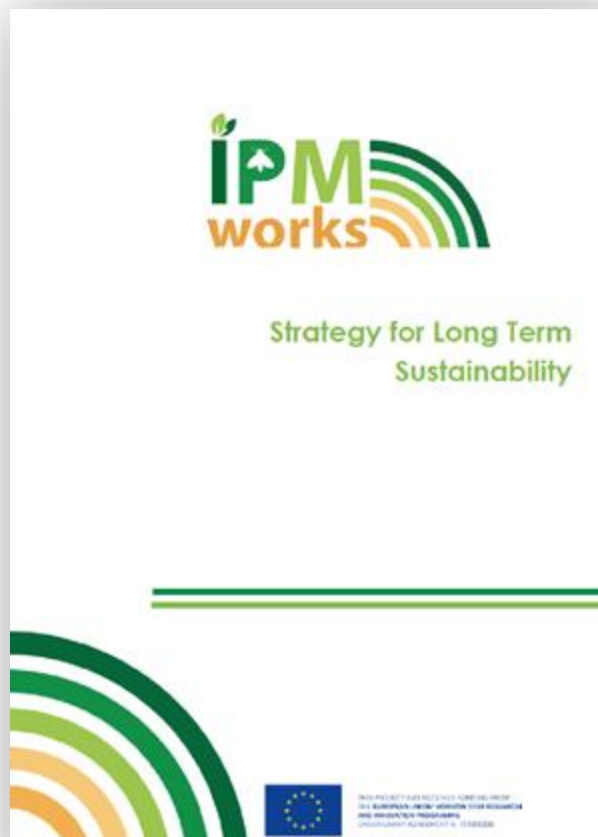
Qualitative data : IPM awareness, IPM adoption, rough estimate of pesticide use, and self-assessment

IPM indeed reduces PPP use
A tentative index of IPM adoption



Challenge for the future Long Term Sustainability

The project ends on September 30th, 2024 **Demande d'extension de 6 mois en cours**
« We would like the network to continue, and extend »



- ❓ Target for medium term
 200 Hubs, 2500 farmers throughout Europe
 22 hubs + 5 national networks + new welcomed hubs (including launched from other initiatives)
- ❓ Funding
 - Funding the coordination of the network
Working plan, capacity building, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, communication, data collection, data analysis
No funding solution yet !
 - 'Self-funding' of each Hub
Budget : adviser half-time, travel, functioning, rewards to farmers
Attract CAP funding dedicated to Farm Demo whenever possible

THANKS for your attention!



The IPM**WORKS** Hub Coach 'Capacity building', March 2022, Toulouse, France

Surveys & results from IPMWORKS farms

2

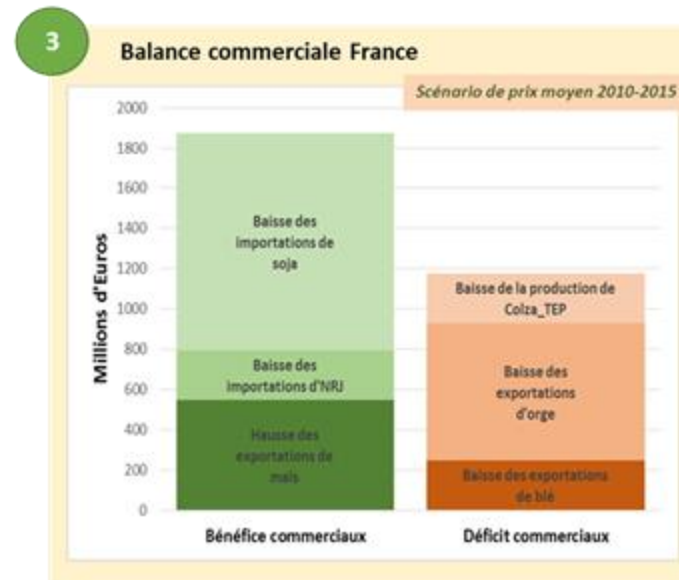
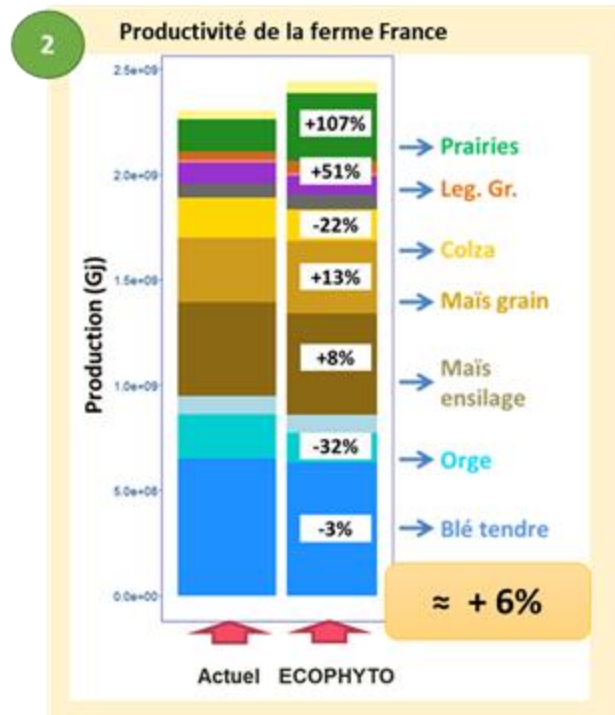
Survey #2 : toujours en cours ! Difficile

Quantitative data : quantitative indicators of PPP use, impact and cost-efficiency

Simulation de scénario de généralisation du changement

résultats DEPHY

Que se passerait il si tous les agriculteurs de France adoptaient les pratiques de l'agriculteur DEPHY le plus économe dans un contexte similaire ?





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KOEN WILLEKENS

Flemish Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries
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Biocontrol, Game-Changer for Competitive and Sustainable Agriculture in the EU



*Raffael Buonatesta
Brussels, 26th June 24*



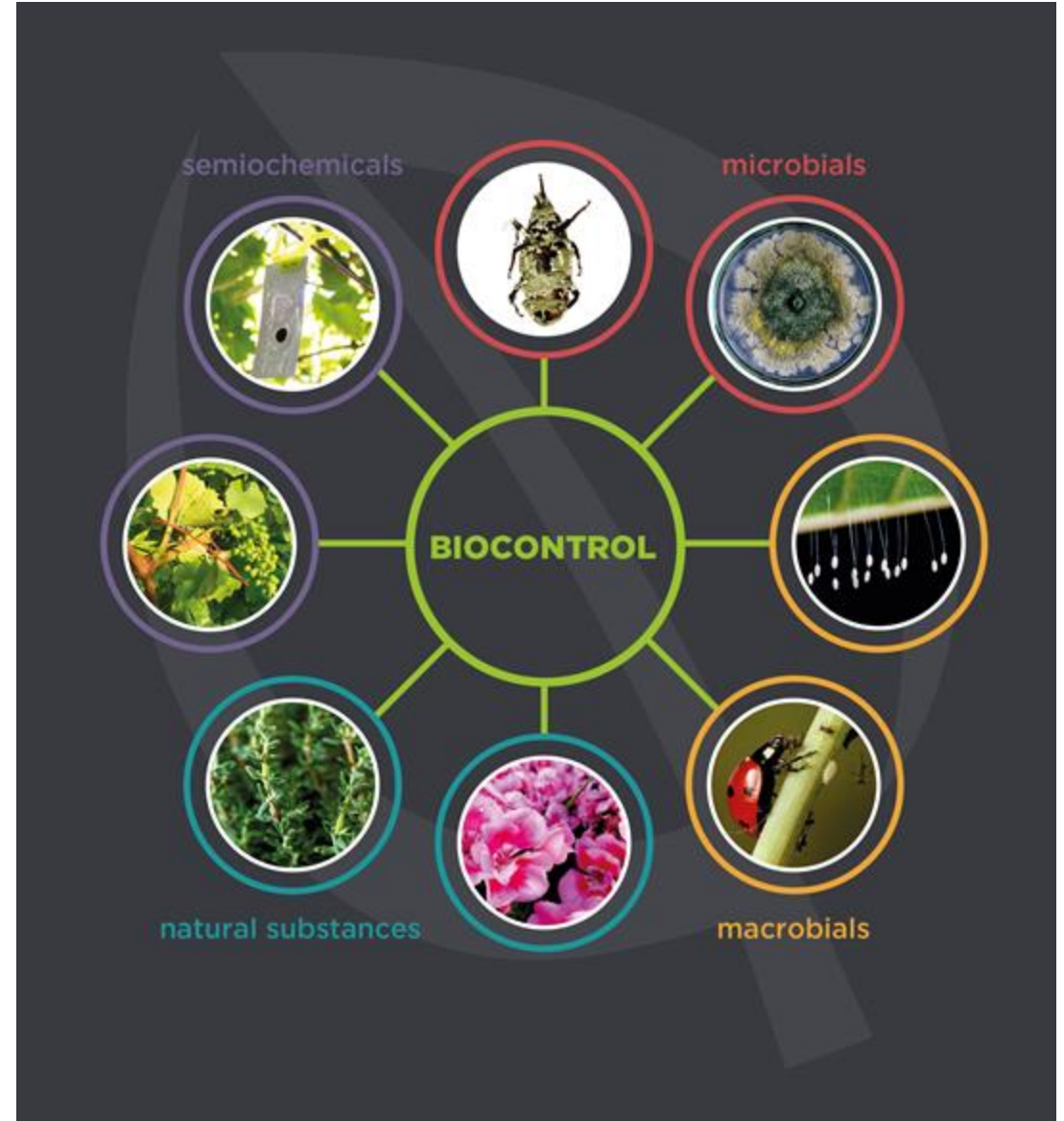
Farmers' challenges

- Across Europe, farmers have been under strong pressure to reduce their use of chemical PPPs – but facing international competition
- They lack sufficient access to effective, economically viable and safe alternatives such as Biocontrol
- Gap in farmers' toolbox that threatens their ability to control pests and diseases and remain productive



Biocontrol solutions

- Food security is an EU priority, and it goes hand in hand with sustainability
- EU plays critical role in meeting food needs
- EU must enable farmers to work sustainably and provide high-quality products for our tables



Biocontrol is so much more than just pest and disease control



BIODIVERSITY

- Biocontrol respects non-targeted fauna and flora
- Example of organic farming



FARM ECONOMICS

- Proven efficacy of biocontrol
- Response to chemical pesticide ban/restrictions
- High benefit/cost ratio

SOIL

- Biocontrol enhances soil life and soil health
- It reduces risks of chemical contamination



CLIMATE

- Potentially less emissions
- Enabler for sustainable farming



HUMAN HEALTH

- Less exposure to pesticides for farm workers
- No chemical residues in food



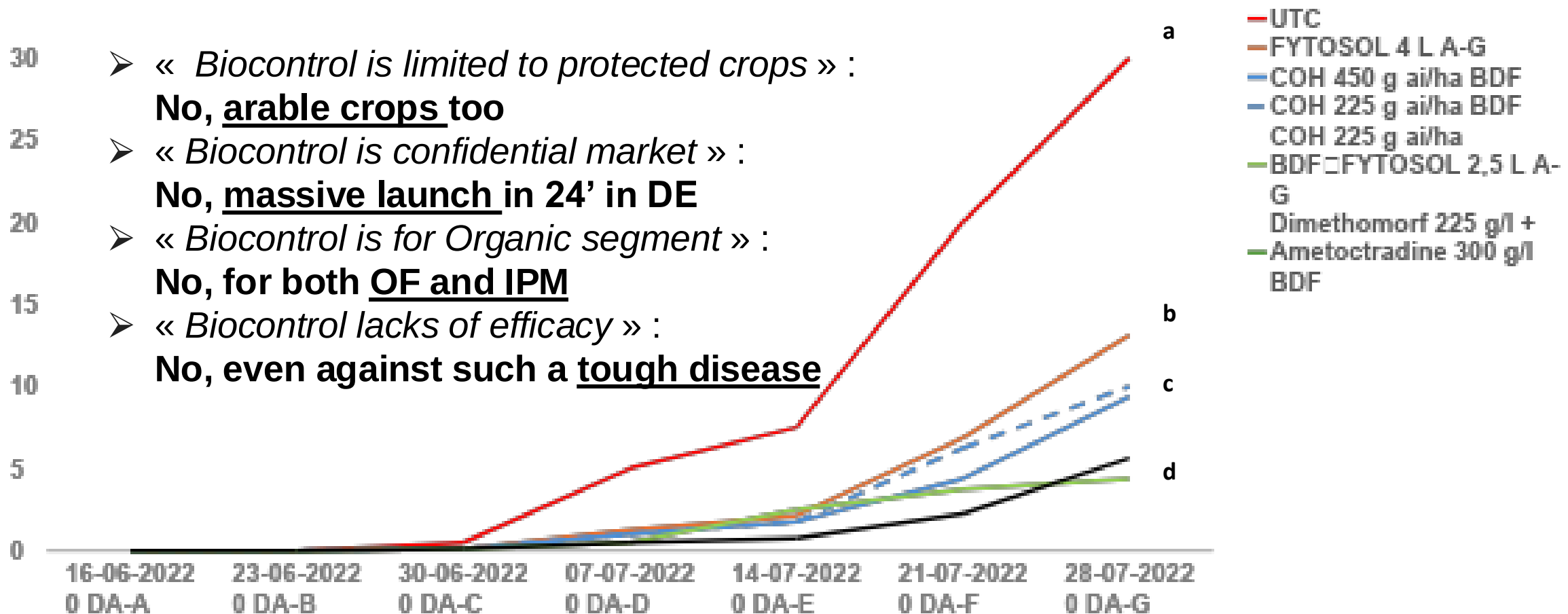
GOVERNANCE

- Biocontrol goes together with ecosystem knowledge and holistic approach



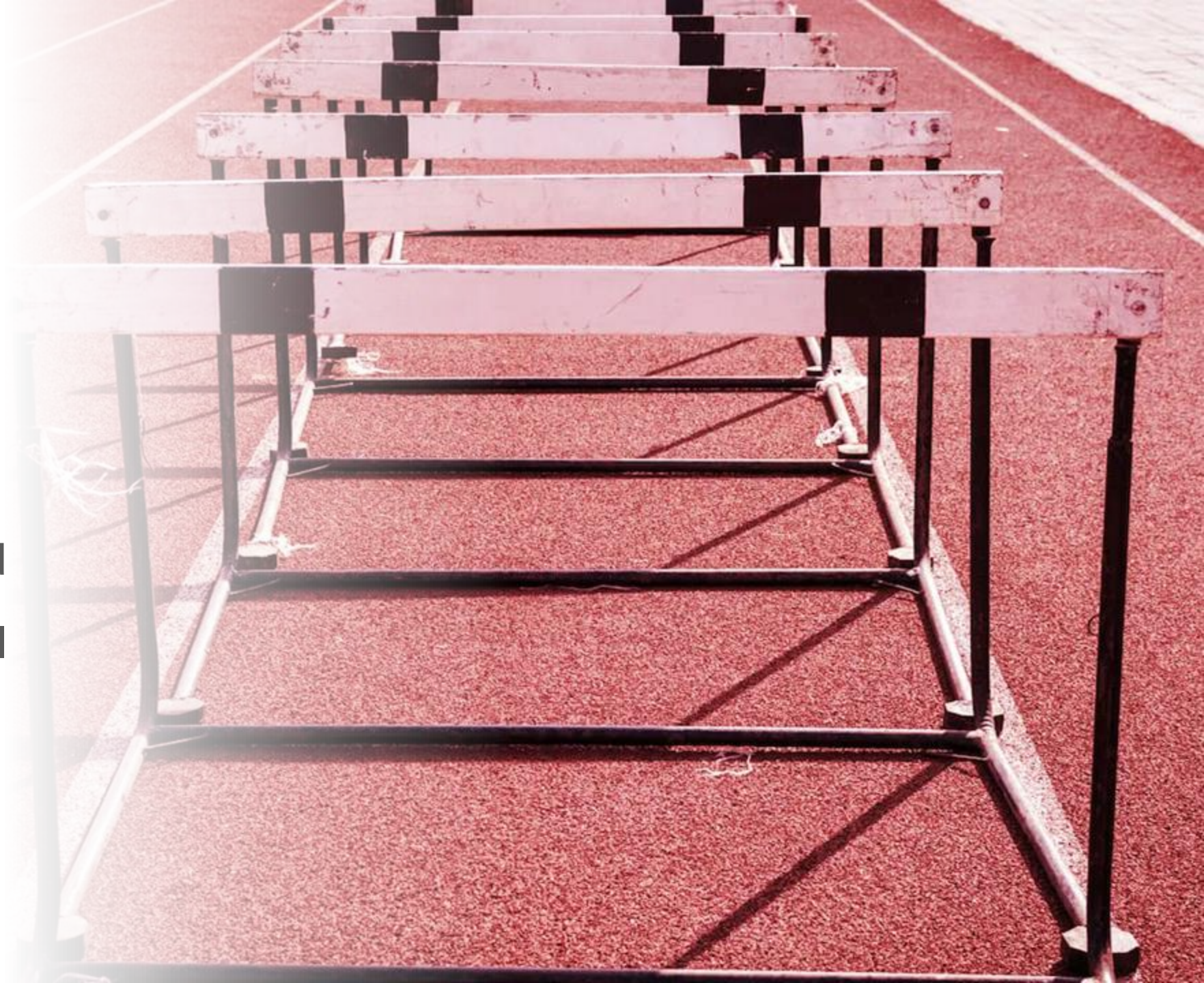
fytoSol, Biocontrol example against potato late blight

Pest Severity (PHYTIN) on leaves %



EU authorisation process

- Is unduly long, especially compared to competitors like Brazil and USA
- Urgently needs to speed up so that alternative PPPs such as biocontrol can reach farmers' toolboxes



Is the EU the most attractive market for ROI?

A world map illustrating the time required to obtain a biocontrol registration in various countries. The map is color-coded according to the following legend:

- 7-10 years (Red)
- 3-5 years (Orange)
- 2-3 years (Green)
- 1-3 years (Blue)

Key observations from the map:

- Red (7-10 years):** Includes most European countries, including the EU member states.
- Orange (3-5 years):** Includes countries like Mexico, Argentina, South Africa, and several nations in Africa and Asia.
- Green (2-3 years):** Includes the United States, Canada, Australia, China, India, and several countries in South America and Africa.
- Blue (1-3 years):** Includes several countries in South America and Africa.

Is the EU the most attractive market for ROI?

A world map illustrating the time required to obtain a biocontrol registration in various countries. The map is color-coded according to the following legend:

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Things are
moving...
(but slowly)

(ZAPID, Braunschweig,
2023)

“Given the policy goals, **PRIORITY** should obviously be given to:

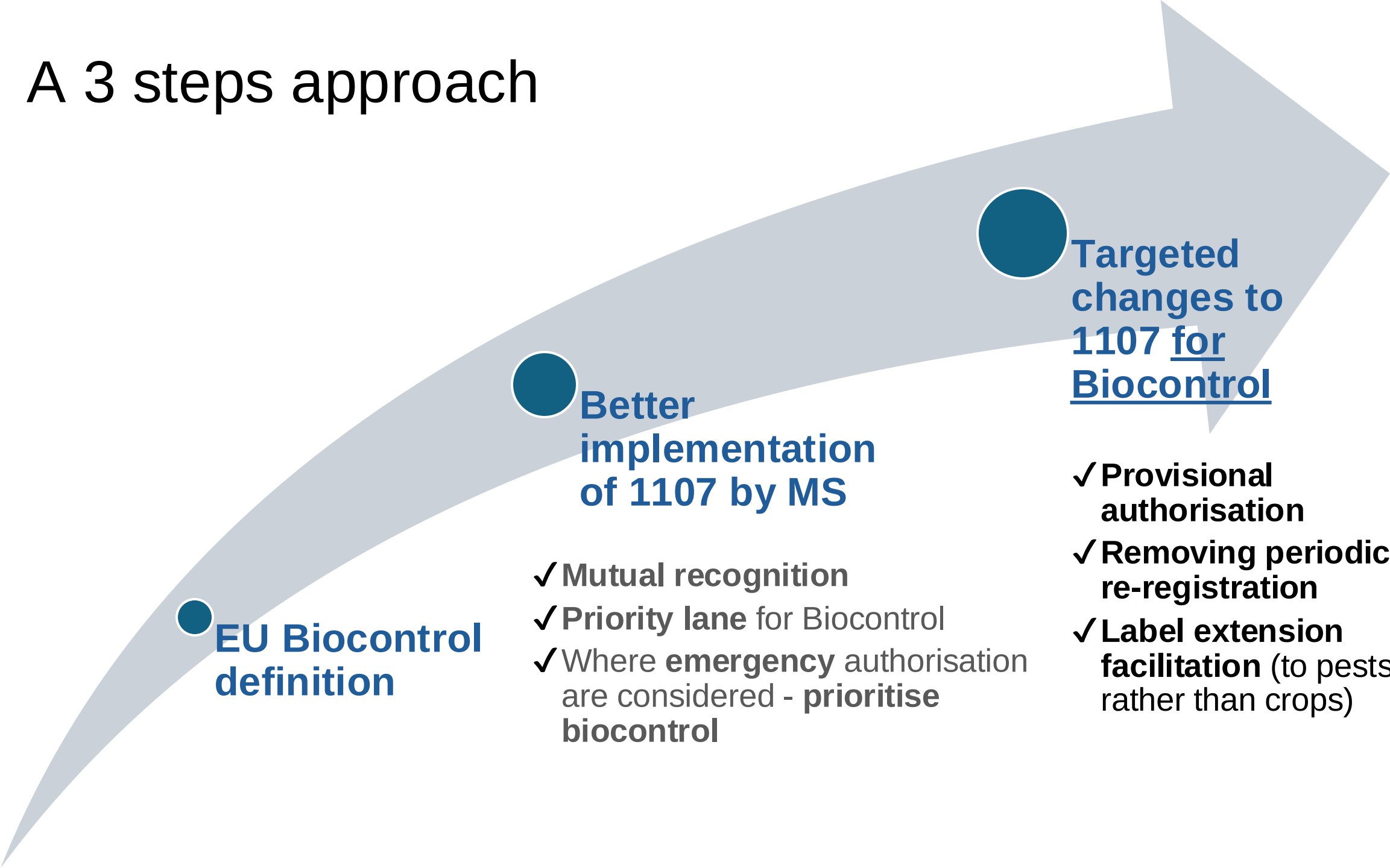
- Applications for new substances and products that contribute to sustainable plant protection and the farm-to-fork goals, such as **low-risk and "green" substances/products (...)**.
- To make room for this, work must be taken out of the system. This can be done as follows:
 - **Delay the reassessment of non-priority substances by several years.**
 - **Give low-risk substances an unlimited approval period** (as with basic substances) and give "green" (bio-control) substances a much longer approval period, thus eliminating the need for capacity to reassess. Given the risk profile of such substances, this is justifiable.”

A supportive regulatory framework for Biocontrol

- The European Commission should establish a more favorable legal framework for Biocontrol
- It should be designed to streamline the registration and approval procedures



A 3 steps approach



**EU Biocontrol
definition**

- ✓ Mutual recognition
- ✓ Priority lane for Biocontrol
- ✓ Where **emergency** authorisation are considered - **prioritise biocontrol**

**Better
implementation
of 1107 by MS**

**Targeted
changes to
1107 for
Biocontrol**

- ✓ Provisional authorisation
- ✓ Removing periodic re-registration
- ✓ Label extension **facilitation** (to pests rather than crops)

Farmers and the Biocontrol industry in the same boat

- Robust regulation of PPPs is needed
- However, farmers and Biocontrol industry face excessive administrative burden
- Other regions (USA, Brazil) are more competitive, threatening our food and farming industry and ability to innovate



We need more Biocontrol to **Populate farmers' toolboxes**

🔍 **Increase crop value** while reducing residues, health and environmental impact



Thank you



THE
FUTURE
IS NOW



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**



STATEMENT

GÉZA GÁBRIEL

Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary

26 June 2024, 14:00-17:00 CET
Brussels and online

*Multiburo Brussels EU Parliament,
Square de Meeus 38-40*



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**



CLOSING STATEMENT

MARTIN DERMINE

Executive Director at Pesticide Action
Network Europe

26 June 2024, 14:00-17:00 CET
Brussels and online

*Multiburo Brussels EU Parliament,
Square de Meeus 38-40*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION AND
ATTENTION!**



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**



**Agroecology
Europe**

