



Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet  
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture | Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau

European Conference  
on Crop Diversification

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# Organic seed production and use in Hungary

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European Conference on Crop Diversification

# LIVESEED H2020 project

- **Boosting organic seed and plant breeding in order to improve the performance, sustainability and competitiveness of the organic sector**



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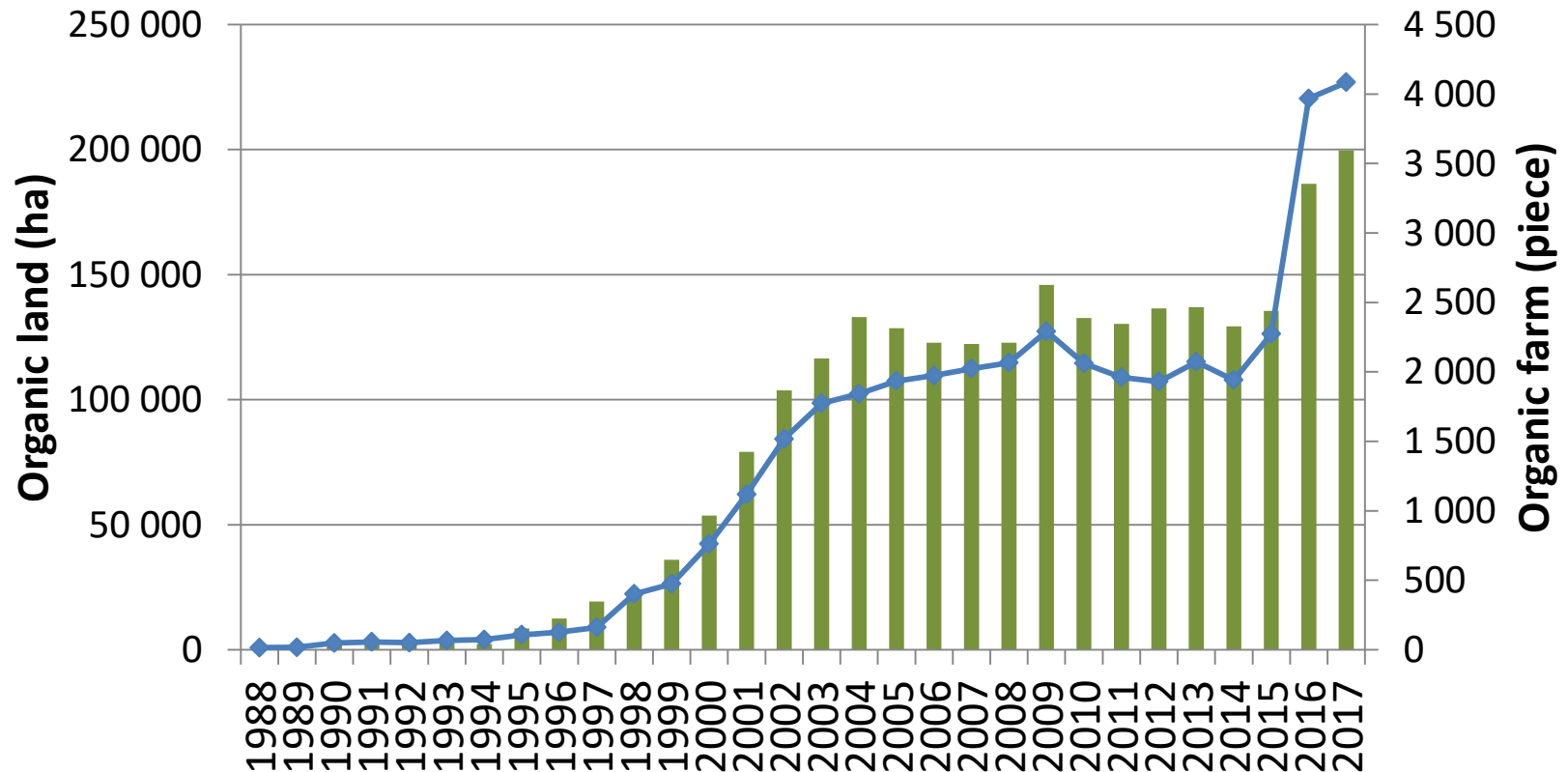


**Participate in:**

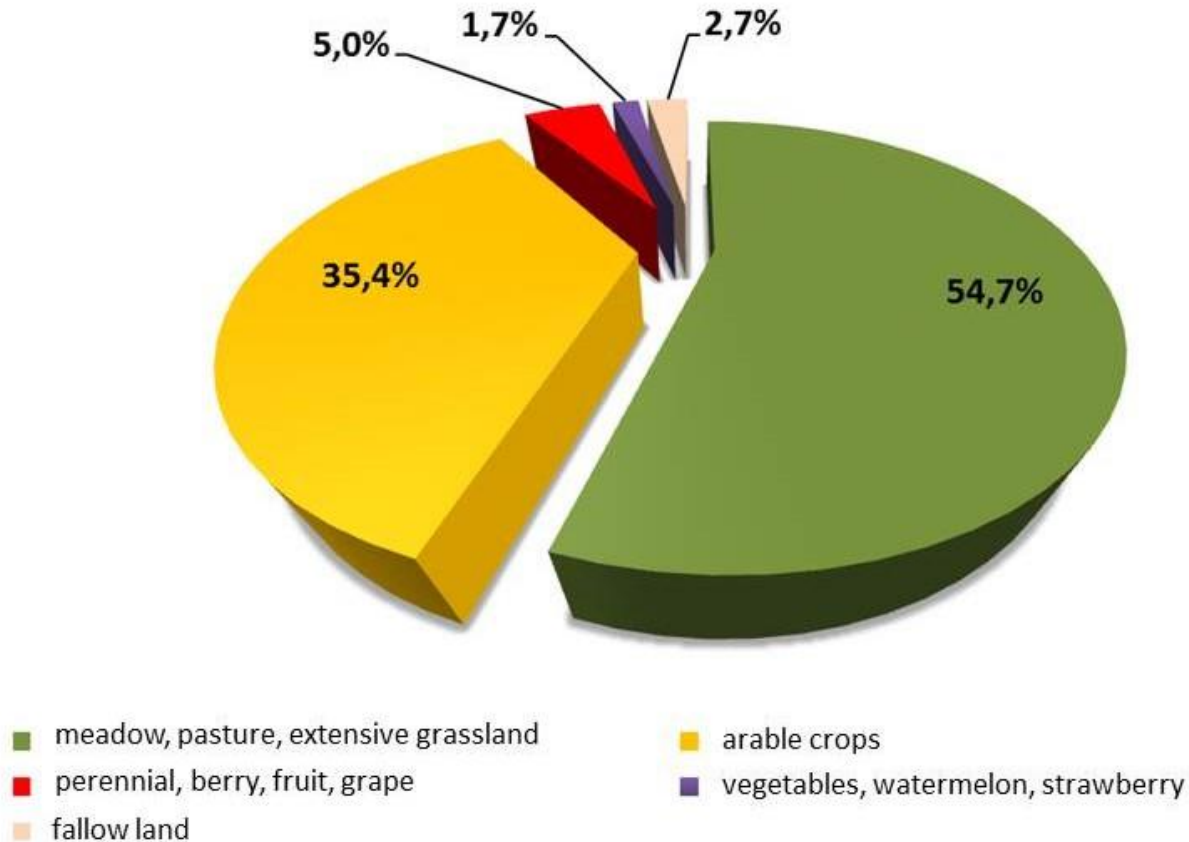
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Workshops
- Events

# Organic agriculture in Hungary

- In **2017**: ca. 200.000 ha organici area and 4100 farms



# Organic crop production



# Seed production

- Seed producing companies >400
- Seed producing farmers >160
- Seed traders, retailers > 240
- **Only 30-40 organic seed producer! (Farmers and Research Institutes )**

# Seed market

- Low market share of organic seeds
- Production is frequently based on contracting
- Production is generally for export
- **Organic farmers often use farm-saved seeds – as it is also organic!**

# Seed database

- Organic seed database managed by NÉBIH (National Food Safety Authority) according to the regulation
- The database is hardly used (neither seed producers nor farmers use it)
- It's not up to date, updated approx. every six months
- Limited number of species/varieties are available in organic
- Derogation available for all species, but never automatic, requires individual application (administrative overload)

# Organic breeding and variety test

- Only one organic breeding program (MTA ATK) (einkorn, emmer, wheat, spelt, durum)
- Post registration organic variety tests are not available

# Main conclusions/suggestions of the workshop

- Development of organic (participatory) **breeding/testing programs** for regional variety recommendations;
- **Organic seed expert group** for coordination and knowledge-share
- Improving the **quality of farm-saved seeds** (education and proper equipment)
- **Field days** with variety demonstration and trainings
- Real-time update, **improved database**
- Rationalized derogations



# Next steps



- Farmer-miller-baker workshops and field-days
- Pilot: participatory emmer and einkorn population breeding





# ÖMKi

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## Thank you for your attention!