

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN LATVIA

Ligita Melece

Dr. oec., Senior researcher

Ligita.melece@arei.lv

Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)
Latvia



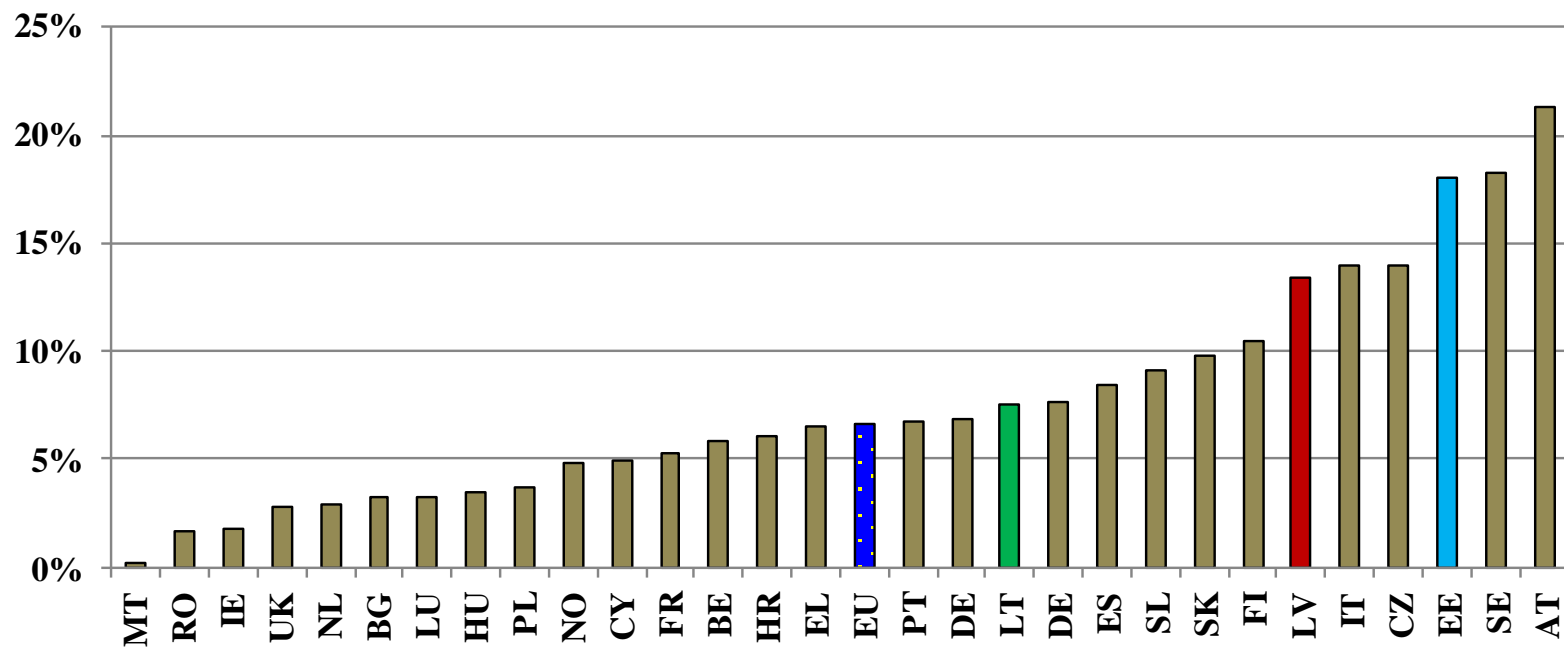
Agroresursu un
ekonomikas
institūts

Nordic – Baltic Seminar/Workshop

April 18-19, 2018

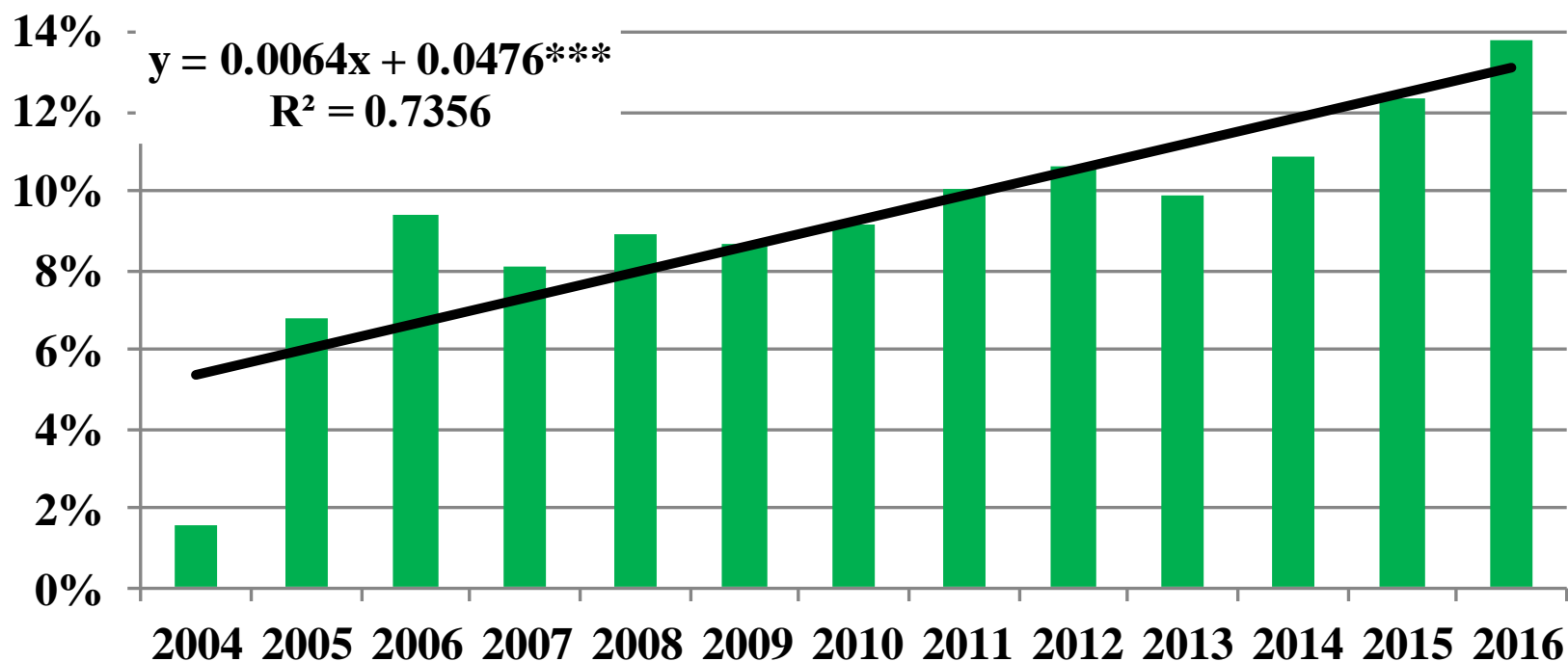
Uppsala, Sweden

The share (%) of total UAA area under organic farming in EU countries, 2016



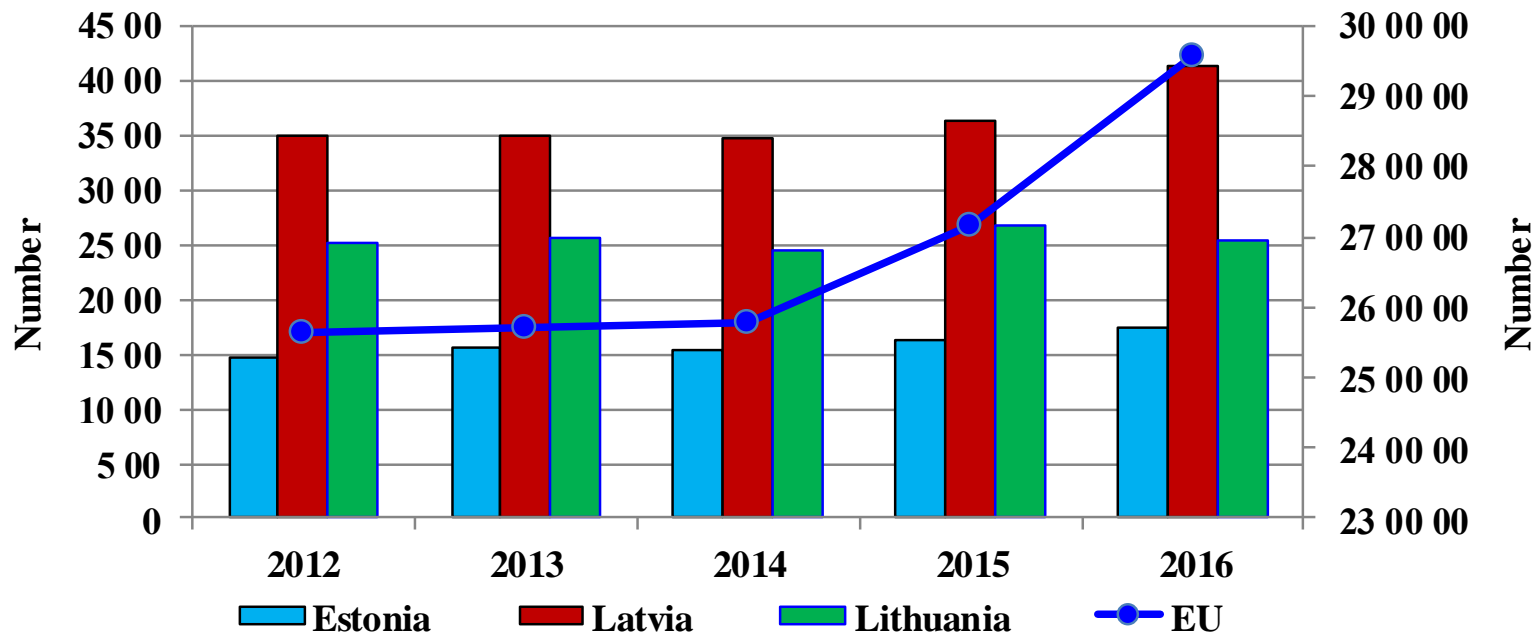
Source: calculations based on the data from Eurostat database

The trend of share of total UAA area under organic farming in Latvia, 2004-2016

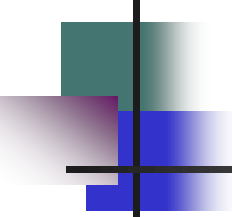


Source: calculations based on the data from CSB database

Producers of organic agricultural products in Baltic States and EU, 2012-2016



Source: calculations based on the data from Eurostat database



Share of organic livestock number and organic crop production in the total volume of organic production in Latvia, 2015

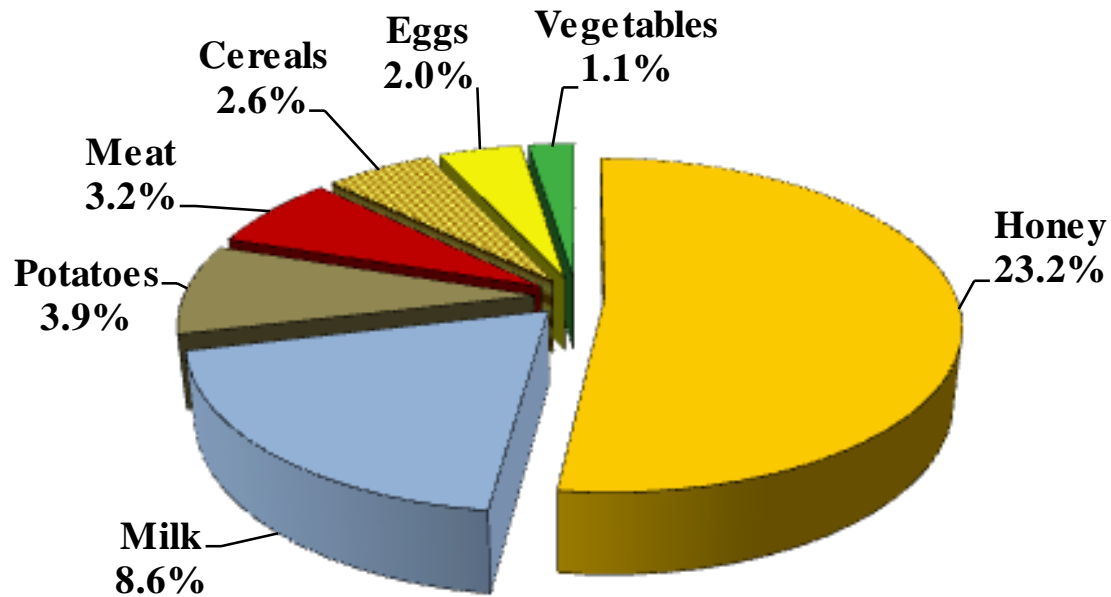
Animals	Share	Animals	Share	Crop	Share
Other cattle	28.1%	Rabbits	3.3%	Oats and spring cereals	40.3%
Sheep	21.1%	Pigs	1.7%	Common wheat	30.2%
Poultry	18.1%	Goats	1.5%	Rye and winter cereals	10.3%
Cattle (slaughter)	14.2%	Horses	0.7%	Barley	9.6%
Dairy cows	11.2%	Bees (hives) - 27482		Other cereals	9.6%

Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture

Share of organic vegetables, fruits and berries in the total volume of organic production in Latvia, 2015

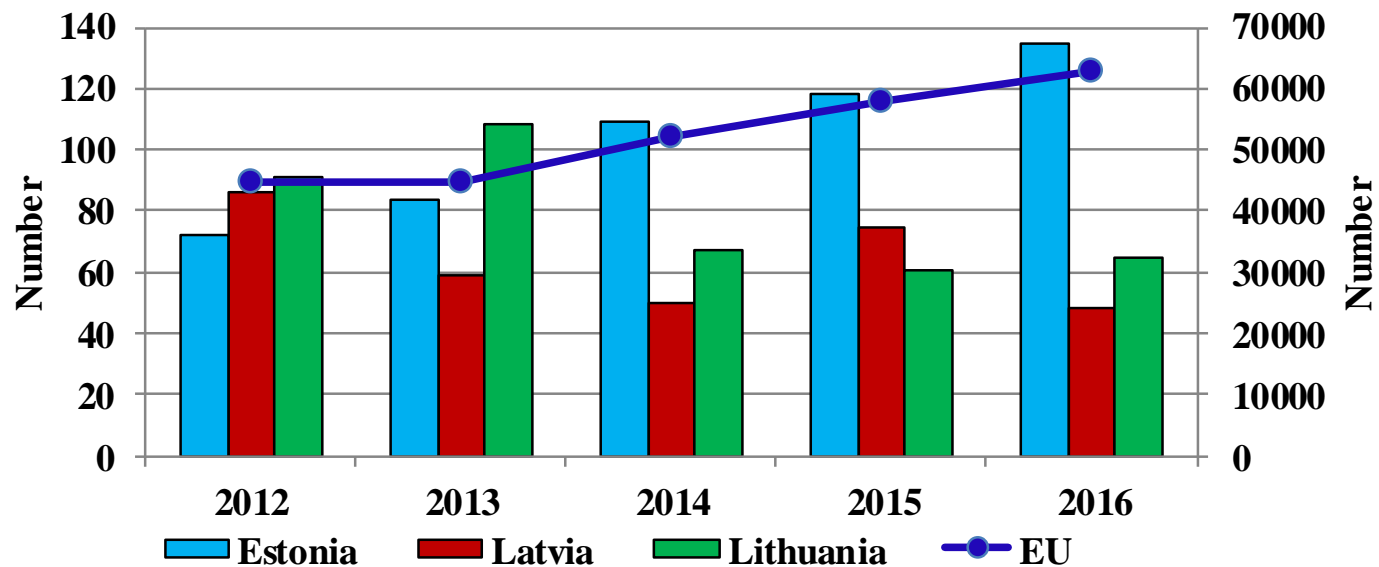
Vegetables	Share	Fruits and berries	Share
Root, tuber and bulb vegetables	46.7%	Apples	66.1%
Vegetables cultivated for fruit	39.9%	Berries (excl. strawberries)	21.1%
Brassicas	11.4%	Strawberries	5.5%
Leafy and stalked vegetables	2.0%	Pears	3.8%
Fresh pulses	0.1%	Cherries, plums and other	3.5%

Share of organic production in the total agricultural production by main types of products in Latvia, 2015



Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture

Processors of organic products in Baltic States and EU, 2012-2016



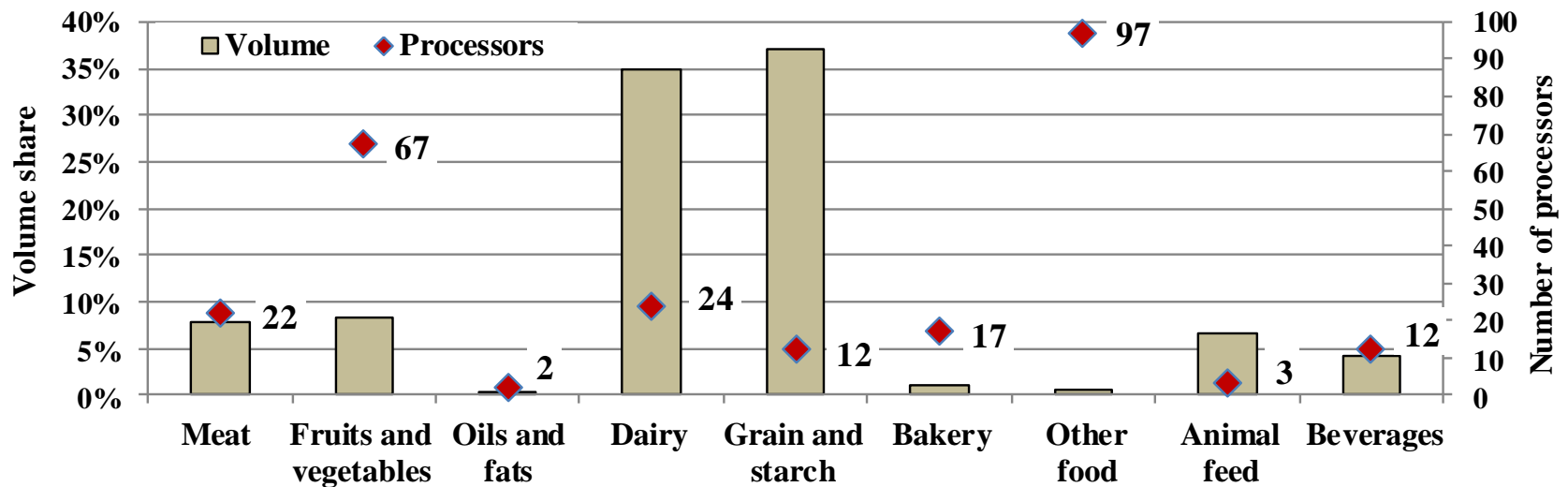
Source: calculations based on data Eurostat database

Processors by main type of organic products and the share of production volume in Latvia, 2015

Type of organic products	No of processors	Share of volume
Other food products	97	0.44%
Fruit and vegetables products	67	8.21%
Dairy products	24	34.86%
Meat and meat products	22	7.75%
Bakery and farinaceous products	17	0.96%
Grain mill and starch products	12	36.99%
Beverages	12	4.23%
Prepared animal feeds	3	6.55%
Vegetable and animal oils and fats	2	0.02%

Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture

Processors by main type of organic products and the share of production volume in Latvia, 2015



Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture



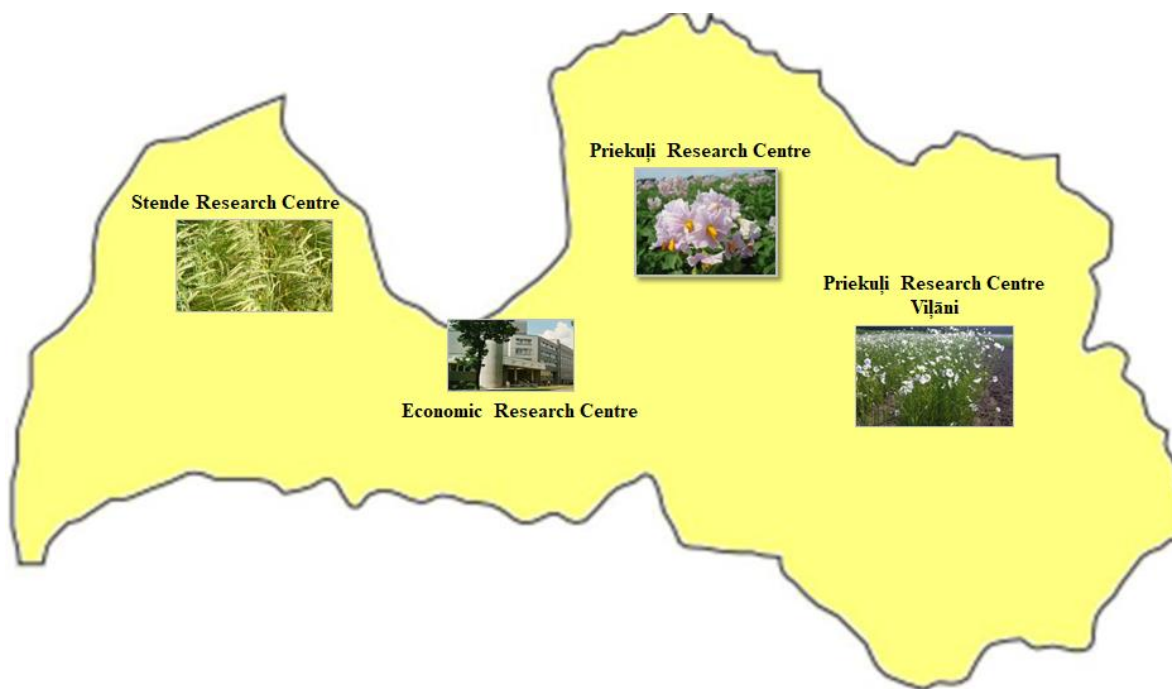
Research

Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

Institute was founded on January 1st, 2016 by combining several institutes:

- State Priekuļi Plant Breeding Institute;
- Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics;
- State Stende Cereals Breeding Institute;
- Latgale Agricultural Science Centre.

AREI is supervised by the Latvia University of Agriculture (LUA)





Research

Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

- Research on diversity of plant genetic resources including cereals, legumes, potato, fibre plants etc.;
- Introduction molecular markers and other biotechnology techniques in crop breeding;
- Investigation of crops' nutrition quality and factors of plant resistance;
- Estimation of crop breeding varieties, and development of sustainable and resource efficient crop production technologies for integrated and organic farming, as well as evaluation of socio-economic impact;
- Impact evaluation of agro-ecological activities on soil properties and crop productivity; as well as agronomic, ecological and economic assessment of such activities for integrated and organic farming system;
- Development of rational crop rotation, efficient nutrients usage and planting patterns for prevention soil degradation, pollution, ammonia and GHG emissions;
- Ecological and economic aspects of the fodder and feed production;
- Research on local food systems and their implementation options;
- Research on enhancing the competitiveness (productivity, efficiency, low environment) of and innovative solutions for agri-food sector.



Research

Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

EU projects:

- H2020 “Improving the performance of organic agriculture by boosting organic seed and plant breeding efforts across Europe - **LIVESEED**”, 2017-2021.
- 7FP “Enhancing of legumes growing in Europe through sustainable cropping for protein supply for food and feed - **EUROLEGUME**”, 2014-2017.
- H2020 “Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems Cofund — **CORE Organic Cofund**”, 2016-2021.
- 7FP “Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems Plus – **Core Organic Plus**”, 2013-2018.
- FP7 ERA-NET Core Organic Plus:
 - “Crop diversification and weeds - **PRODIVA**”, 2015-2018.
 - “Improving soil conservation and resource use in organic cropping systems for vegetable production - **SOILVEG**”, 2015-2018.
- Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020, Project “Optimal catch crop solutions to reduce pollution in the transboundary Venta and Lielupe river basins”, 2017-2019.

Research

Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

National projects (some):

- “Evaluation program of selection material of wheat, barley, rye, oats, potatoes, peas, flax and hemp for implementation the integrated and organic crop cultivation technologies”.
- National Research Program “SUSTINNO” (tasks of project 1 and 2: organic farming development; local food systems or short food chains, eco-innovations).
- “Conservation programme for crop genetic resources”.
- “Demonstration of leguminous plants, including non-traditional species and varieties in Latvia under organic farming conditions”.
- “Demonstration of varieties of potatoes and cereals in different regions of Latvia, which are perspective for organic farming”.

Barley variety for organic farming RUBIOLA





Research

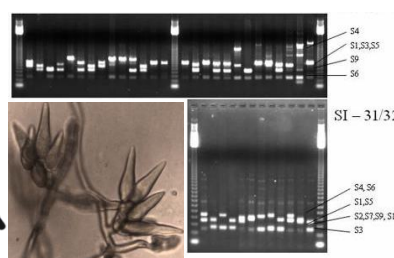
Institute of Horticulture (DI)

The **main directions** of research are:

- Diversification and **breeding** of horticultural crop cultivars suitable for organic growing;
- Environmentally-friendly (incl. organic) horticultural **production systems**;
- **Storage and processing** technologies of horticultural crops;
- **Biological basic research** for horticultural science.

DI is supervised by the Latvia University of Agriculture (LUA)

www.darzkopibasinstitut.lv





Research

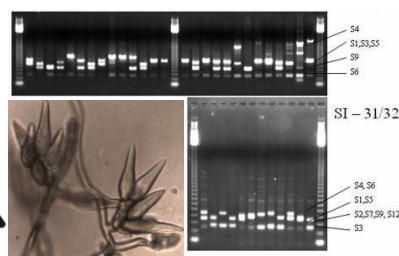
Institute of Horticulture

EU projects

- FP7 ERA-NET CORE Organic Project “**SUREVEG** - Strip-cropping and recycling of waste for biodiverse and resoURce-Efficient intensive VEGetable production”.
- “New vegetable development - vegetable soybean (edamame) farming technology development in organic production”.

National projects:

- “Introduction of sustainable technologies for growing vegetables for soil fertility and efficient use of resources”.
- “Examination of apple, plum and cherry varieties and rootstocks suitable for integrated and organic cultivation in different regions and development of their cultivation technologies”.





Research

Ltd. Latvian Plant Protection Research Centre (LPPRC)

FP7 ERA-NET Core Organic Plus “Innovative design and management to boost functional biodiversity of organic orchards - **ECOORCHARD**”, 2015-2017



Co-operative society “Zaļais grozs” (Green Basket)

The distribution network of organic products started with creation an ASCS* “Zaļais grozs” (brand was patented in 2009) by 20 organic farmers.

The aim was:

- to generate products’ sales opportunities; and
- to increase added value generating income.

It offers more than 100 organic products, as well as rural tourism services.

The growth of turnover from 2010 till 2014 was **66%** but for individual farmers the highest growth was **526%** and **171%**.

The experience of “Zaļais grozs” is adapted by the farmers’ groups in other Latvia’s regions.

* - *Agricultural services co-operative society*










Distribution network of organic products “Zaļais grozs” (Green Basket)

Currently the distribution network consists of varied channels:

- direct sale - at cooperative storehouse; at farmers’ or ‘green’ markets as well as festivals and fairs;
- delivery of boxes or products based on the consumer’s order (via internet or phone) for individual consumers;
- delivery to Consumers’ purchasing groups;
- intermediate sale – to eco-stores; to online shop of organic and eco-products “Dabas bode”;
- fresh fruits and vegetables to schools under the programme School Fruit Scheme;
- distributing of processed products under the brand of ASCS* „Saimes galds” to biggest retail chains - supermarkets, and to other retail points.

Stores in Riga selling organic products of “Zaļais grozs”

Name	Logo	No.
Farmer's Grocery Store “Klēts” (Barn) in Rimi Supermarket		7
Eco-store “Dabas dobe” (Nature Bed);		1
Store “Bioss”; http://www.bioss.lv/		3
Store “Zaļā govs” (Green Cow); http://www.zalagovs.lv/		1
Eco-store “122 lakstīgalas” (122 Nightingales); https://yellow.place/es/122-lakst%C4%ABgalas-riga-latvia		1
Store “Daba” (Nature); http://dabadaba.lv/		1
Eco-store “UNCE” https://www.facebook.com/UNCE.eko		1
Eco-stores		6



RDP 2014-2020

Regulation No. 60 (3.02.2015) of the Cabinet of Ministers “Procedure for granting state and European Union support for the measure “ Creation of producer groups and organizations”” prescribed that the **minimum turnover** of agricultural products and services between the company and its members is **7000 EUR** and the turnover of agricultural goods and services between the company and its members is **not less than 75%** of the total turnover of agricultural goods and services of the company.



Further development

There are main restrictions to the further development of short supply food chains, inter alia, organic and local farms' food production:

- financial support from RDP 2014-2020 funds and state are suspended for small cooperatives;
- hygiene regulations, because exemptions for small and traditional producers are not approved on state level.

It allows inspectors themselves to interpret and take a decision that does not promote a uniform approach.



Thank you for attention!