

Organic farming serves as a forerunner for the sustainable food production

Finnish Organic Research Institute (FORI)

Dr. Sari Iivonen

www.luomuinstituutti.fi

Organic production is based on an European quality scheme

Organic farmers are the pioneers of the sustainable agriculture of the future. Organic farming can not be kept as an only solution in greening agriculture, but it can be an important part of the toolbox for greater sustainability.

A health-promoting and sustainable food system is one of the cornerstones of EU's Green Deal agenda.

EU From Farm to Fork Strategy

→ 25 % of total farmland being used for organic farming by 2030

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

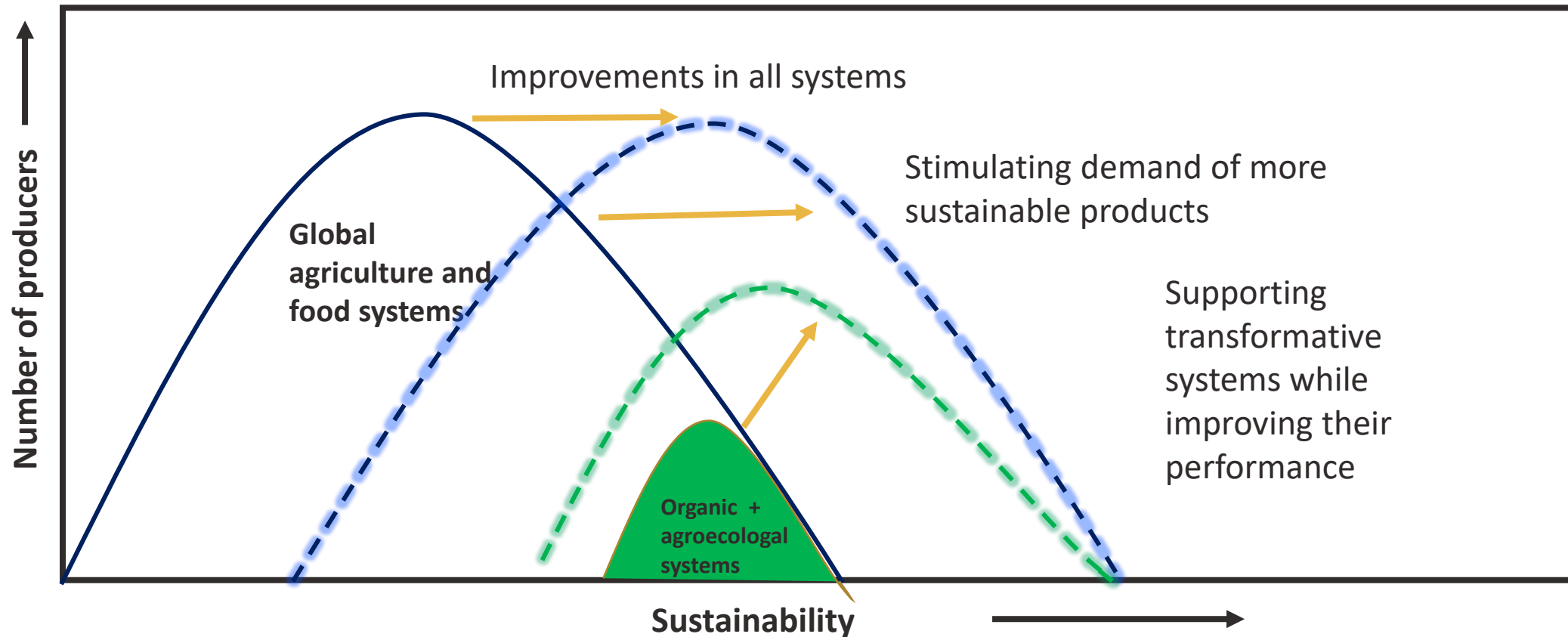
→ increasing organic farming and biodiversity-rich landscape features on agricultural land

→ reducing the use and harmfulness of pesticides by 50% by 2030



EU's euroleaf logo for organic products

Sustainability in global agriculture driven by organic farming



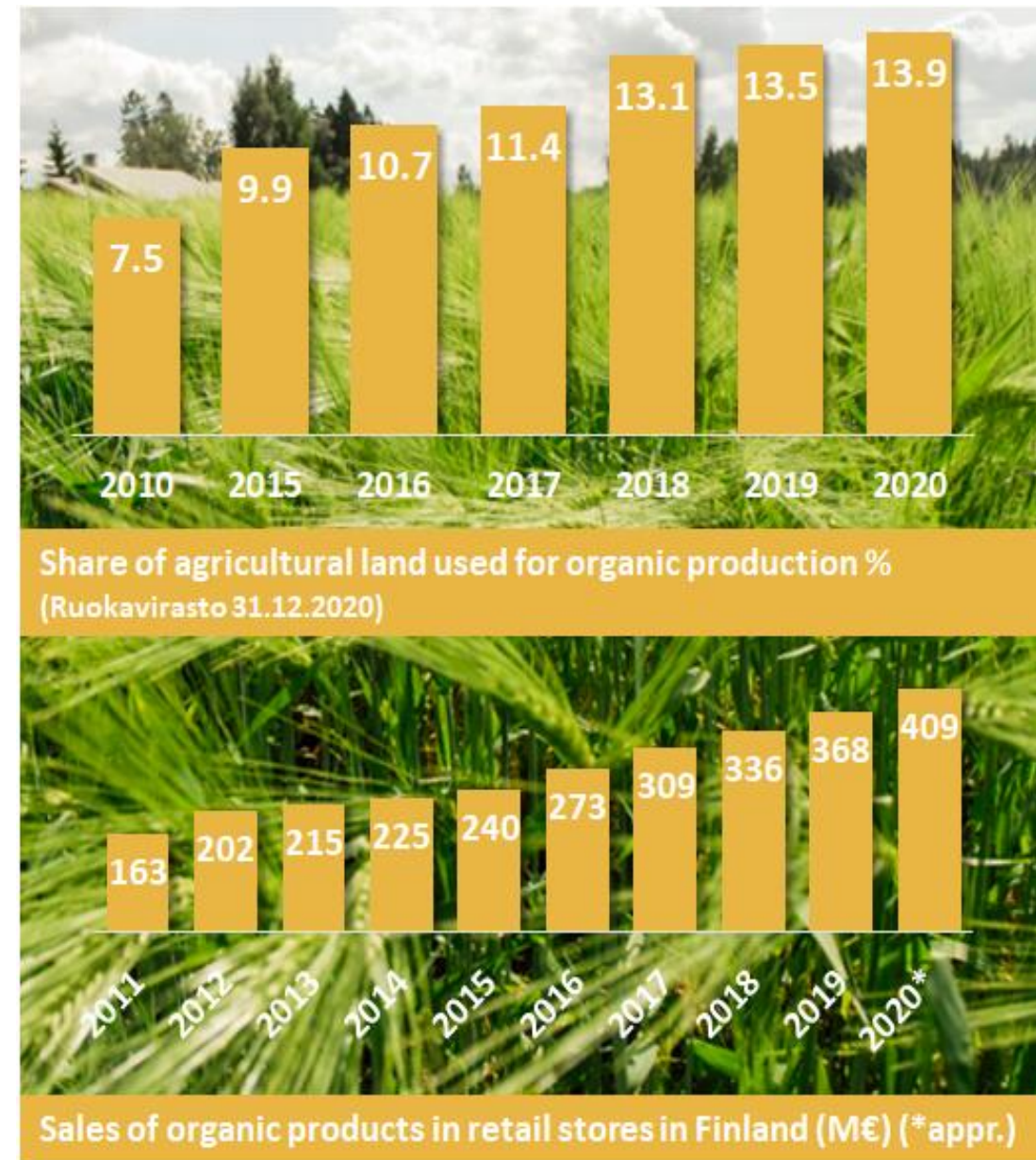
Source: Eyhorn et al. 2019. Nature DOI: 10.1038/s41893-019-0266-6

Organic production is of interest to consumers and producers

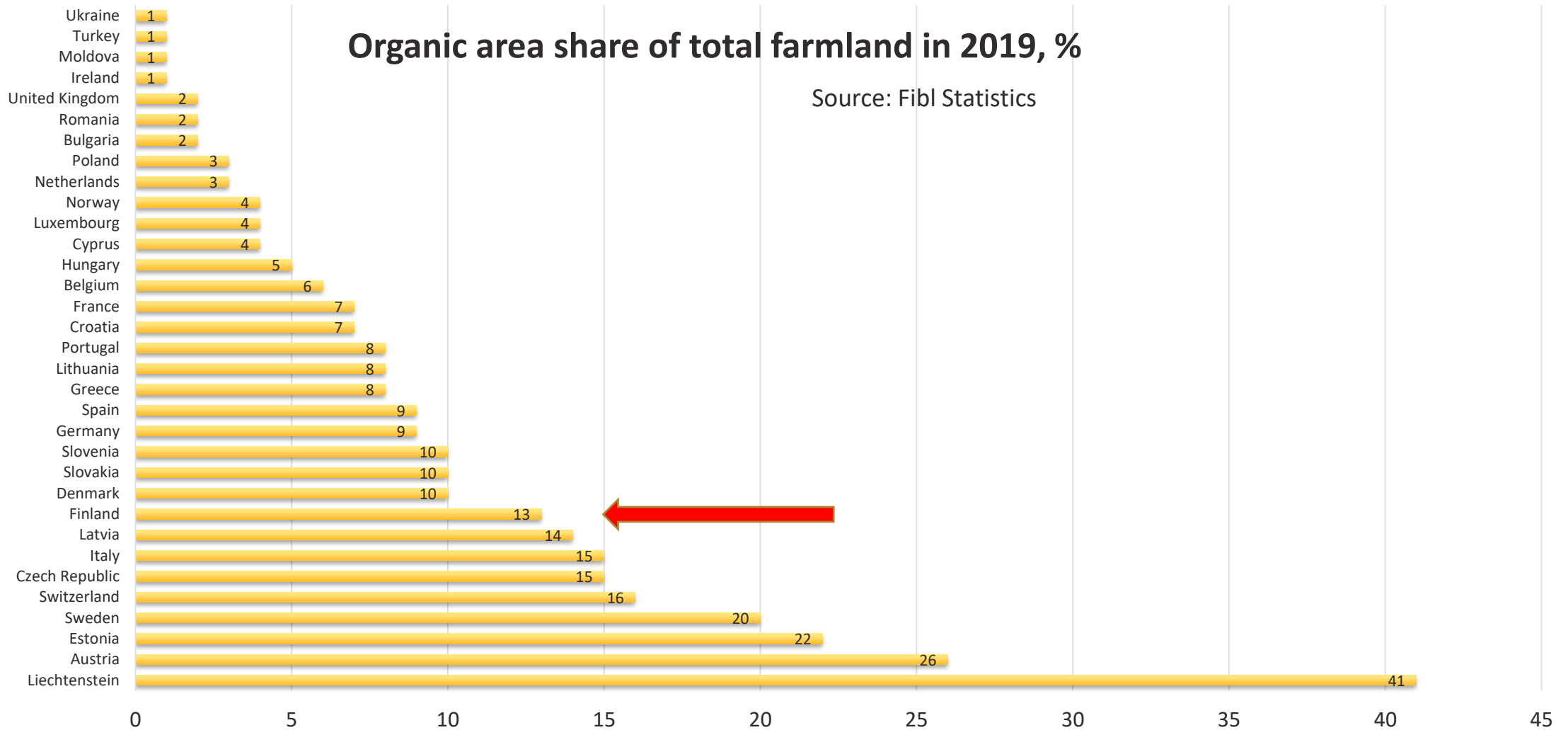
The number of organic producers has grown steadily in Finland. At present, there are **5,010** farms in organic production, which means that about **11%** of the Finnish farms are in organic production.

Organic production accounts for 13.9% of the Finnish agricultural land (31.12.2020)

More and more organic production methods, regarding especially in soil and nutrient management, carbon sequestration and plant protection, are used also in conventional production. There is a wider demand for agroecological know-how.



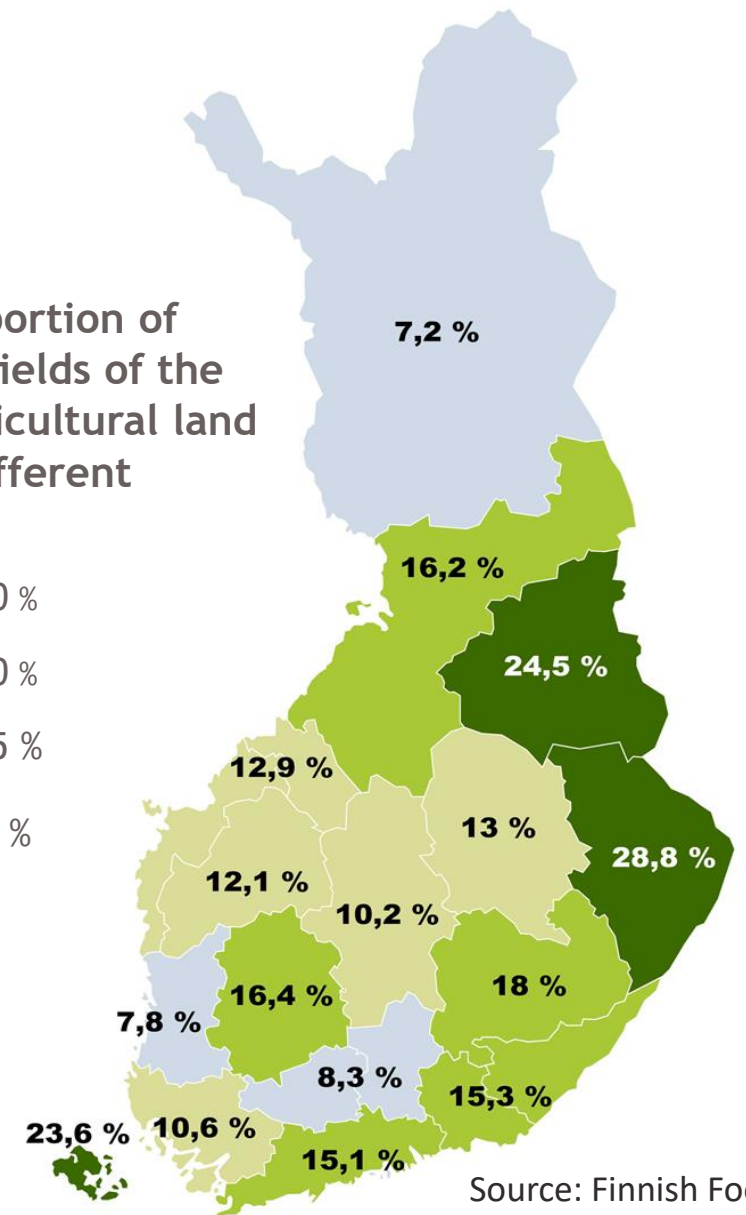
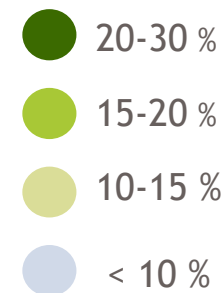
Finnish organic production in European context



Organic production in East and North Finland

- ✓ Special environment for the agricultural production characterised with hard winter and very intensive growing season.
- ✓ An added value of organic production has been largely recognised in this area. In South-Savo, Karelia and Kainuu regions, 18-28 % of the agricultural fields are certified organic.
- ✓ Most of the organic wild collection areas are located in Northern Finland.
- ✓ All the regions have special features in the organic production.

The proportion of organic fields of the total agricultural land in the different regions



Source: Finnish Food Authority

All the regions have special features in the organic production

North Savo & North Ostrobothnia have especially organic milk and meat production.



South Savo is a forerunner in organic vegetable production. New insights in utilization of organic brand in sustainable tourism.



North Karelia is specialised in berry and honey production in addition to milk and meat production



Organic forests are a treasure trove of possibilities

Finland is the leading country in organic forests: our certified organic wild collection area is the largest in the world.

The use of organic wild collection is being studied and developed actively. More than 90 per cent of Finland's forests would already meet the criteria set for organic wild collection areas.







Lapland has invested in organic wild collection.



Organics can be seen as an important driver for changes in sustainability

The sustainability of organic production must be developed continuously so that its promises of added value towards consumers and society can be kept.

Finnish Organic Research Institute's research strategy for 2021–2024

Organic primary production	Organic production and the environment	Organic food and nutrition	Organics in society and on the market
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversification of organic production systems and methods • Improving environmental sustainability • Animal welfare in organic farming • Improving the supply of organic seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of environmental sustainability assessment methods • Reducing the environmental impact • Promoting biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research related to the processing and quality of organic food • Supporting the competence of food businesses to take into account the requirements of organic production (e.g. changes in consumer demand and product development) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating conditions and position of the organic sector in society • Development of business models • Organic awareness, appreciation and buying behavior
			

Our pure environment offers us possibilities to produce high quality organic products

- ✓ Our fresh water resources are among Europe's most abundant in relation to the population.
- ✓ In international comparisons, the Finnish food chain is very clean of bacteria.
- ✓ Food farmed in Finland contains very small quantities of pesticide residues compared to that of many other European countries. This is because of smaller amount of chemical pesticides used in conventional production. > Decreases risks of organic products' contamination
- ✓ Finland's soil is among the cleanest in Europe with regard to heavy metals, for example.

Thank You!