



**MINISTERIUM
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**TENTH ANNUAL WORKING MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE 2016**

25TH NOVEMBER 2016, BEČIĆI, MONTENEGRO

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRIA

CHRISTIAN BRAWENZ

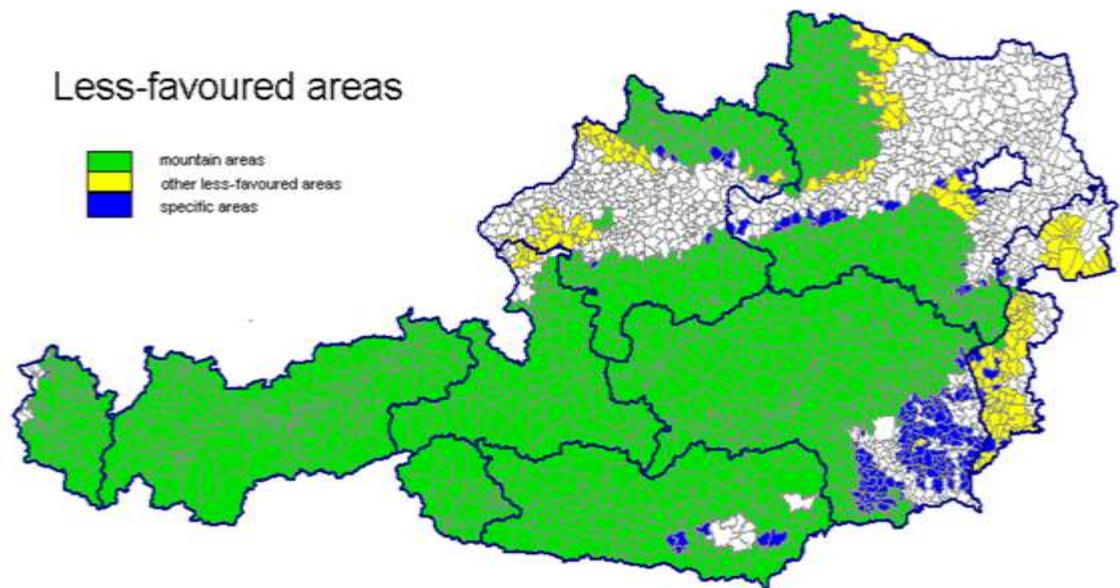
Austrian Agricultural and Environmental Attaché, Belgrade

STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRIA

- small structured, family-farm-based agriculture – linked to forestry
- high proportion of less-favoured areas (3/4 of the area)
- high proportion of organic farming (1/5 of agricultural area)
- production of high-quality food / regional food important for consumers
export important for Austrian agriculture
- ~ 170.000 holdings, ~ 60 % part-time farmers
- relatively low production intensity
- CAP-payments have high share on farm income

FACTS ON AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE

- Austria is a mountainous country, around 1/2 the country is covered with forests (3,8 mio. ha)
- 2/3 of agricultural holdings are in less-favoured areas

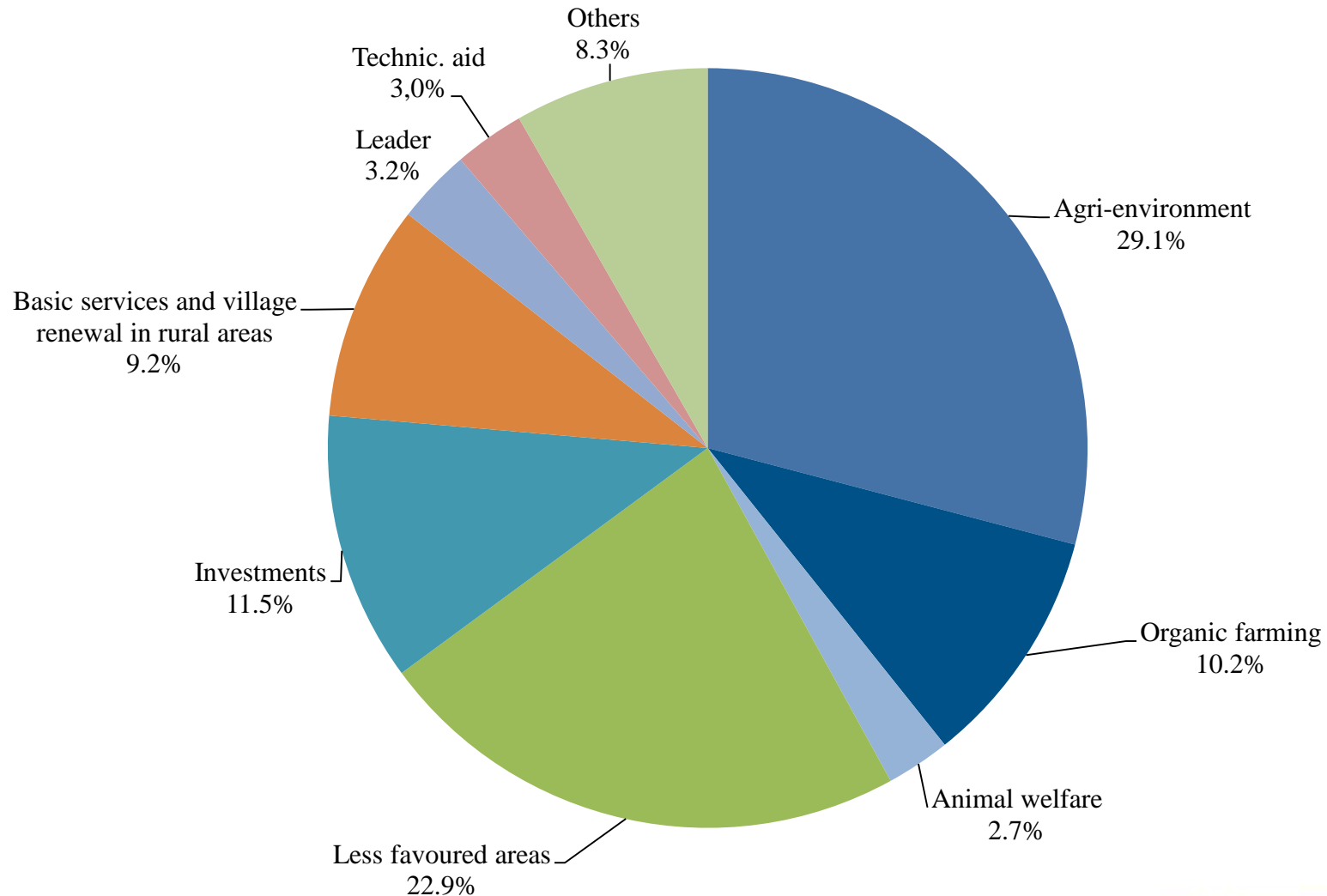


FACTS ON AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE

- Number of holdings 166.317
- Work force/agriculture and forestry 5,2 %
- Average size managed by holding 44,2 ha
- Utilised agricultural area per holding 18,8 ha
- Use of land by agricultural holdings 2,73 mio. ha
- Arable land 1,35 mio. ha
- Use of land by forest management 3,88 mio. ha

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PAYMENTS 2014-20

TOTAL = 1.100 MIO/YEAR



AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME – ÖPUL TARGETS

- Protecting, maintaining and enhancing biological diversity
- Improving water management, including use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- Reduction of greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture and promotion of carbon storage and carbon sequestration in agriculture and forestry
- Promotion of innovation, cooperation and development of the knowledge base in rural areas

AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME – ÖPUL FINANCING

- ÖPUL 2015 is at about 50% financed from EU funds and at about 50% from national funds (60% Federal Government and 40% Provinces).
- 455 million € annually is intended for ÖPUL 2015
- of this amount 112 million € annually are dedicated to the measure organic farming.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Intensification



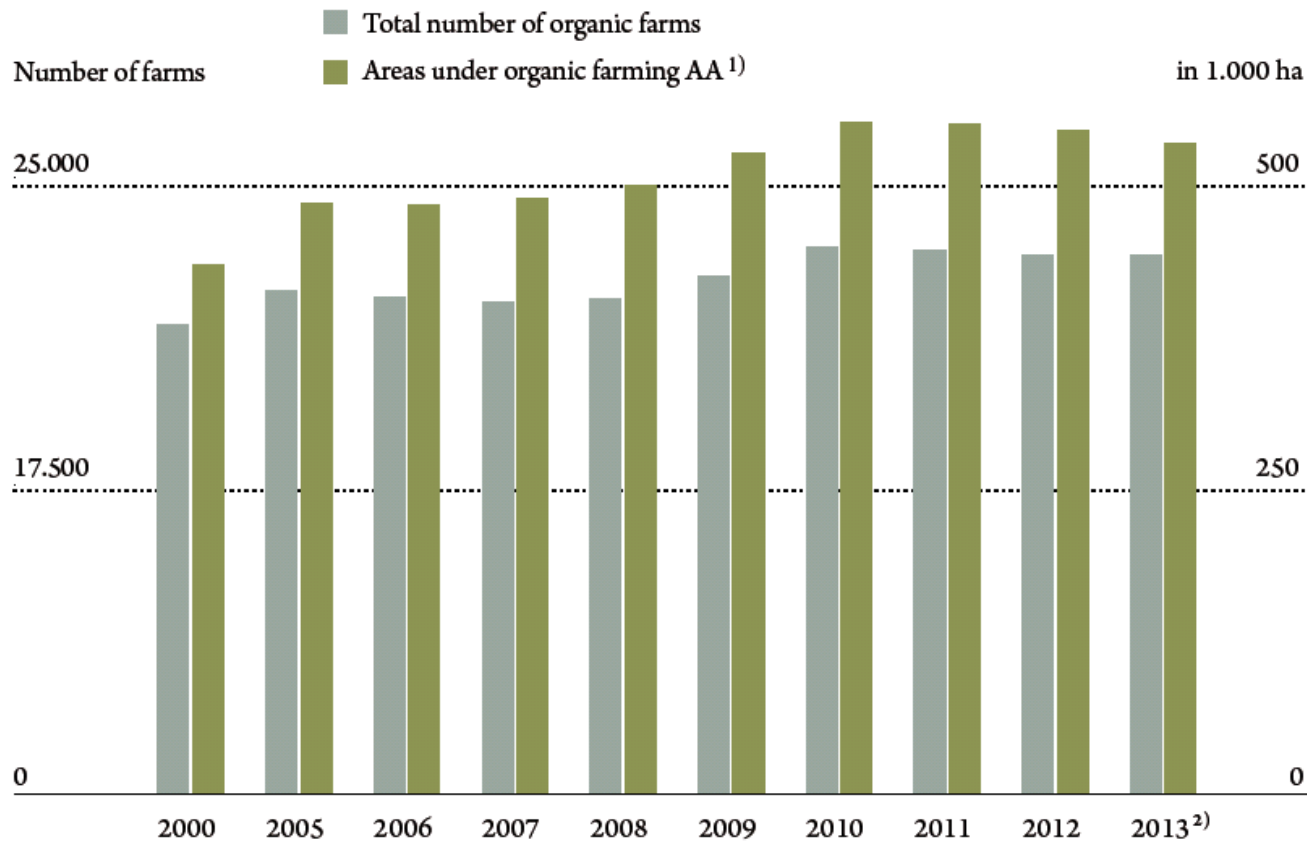
Abandonment



agriculturally used land gets scarce and potential high yield land is intensified

low-productive areas are at risk of abandonment of agricultural use

Development of organic farms in Austria



1) AA = Agriculturally utilised area

2) Preliminary figures

Source: Food authorities

ORGANIC ACTION PROGRAMME

- Agro-environmental programme - ÖPUL
- Extension service, education, counselling
- Support of investments on farm
- Cooperation
- Schools
- Support of processing
- R&D
- PR-work

FUTURE NEEDS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Infrastructure e.g. roads, public transport, schools, medical help, internet
- Environmental protection, climate change, natural hazards
- Biological diversity (e.g. alpine pastures)
- Organic farming
- GMO free production
- Animal welfare
- Local specialties in foodstuff
- Competitiveness in agriculture
- Rural tourism
- Cultural heritage

AUSTRIA'S COOPERATION IN SEE

- Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment installed Agricultural and Environmental Attaché, now operating from Belgrade plus Support Team in Agram
- Contributing to EU projects - Twinning
- Austrian Agricultural Cluster/AAC
- Danube Soja



THANK YOU
FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!