

*Green*  
**STEAM**  
*Incubator*

GREEN STEAM INCUBATOR

# Trends and insights of the EU Agricultural Sector

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Date:  
8th - 11th November 2021

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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## THE CONSORTIUM



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# Agriculture in Cyprus

Agriculture today contributes less than five percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) and about ten percent to gainful employment, especially the population in rural areas.

Cyprus produces good quality produce and accounts for 37% of total exports value.

# Can you define Agriculture?

**Tends to either be passed down from generation to generation or exercised by practical experience.**

Modern agricultural practices emphasize production, capital gain, input intensity and crop consistence.

Traditional agricultural practices emphasize localization, biodiversity, shared genetic resources and a cultural appreciation for many different crops.

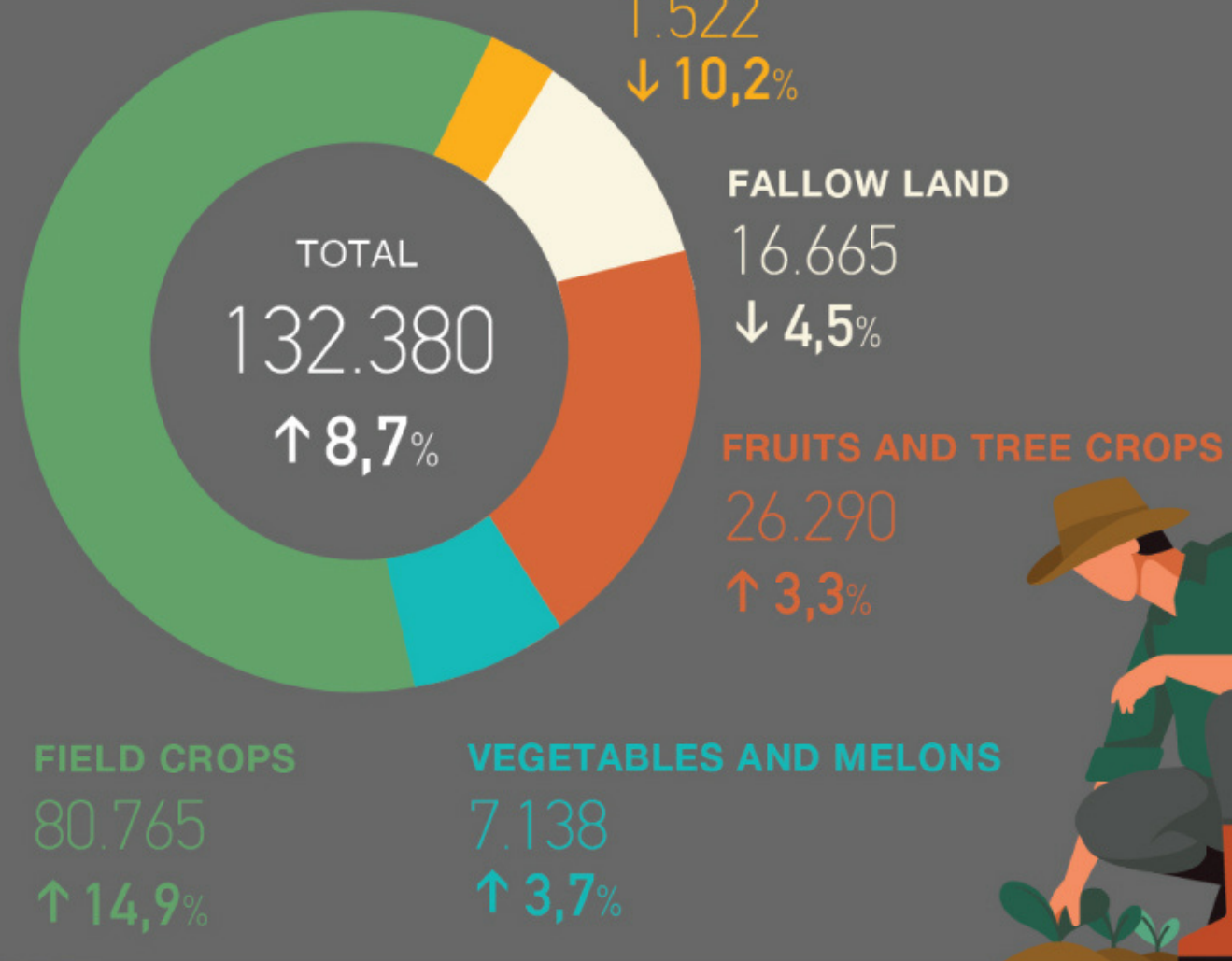




# A snapshot of the Agricultural Landscape, CY

## UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL AREA BY CATEGORY

(hectares, % change 2018/2017)



## FARMER DEMOGRAPHICS

Practical experience  
**72,5%**



Basic agricultural training  
**26,9%**

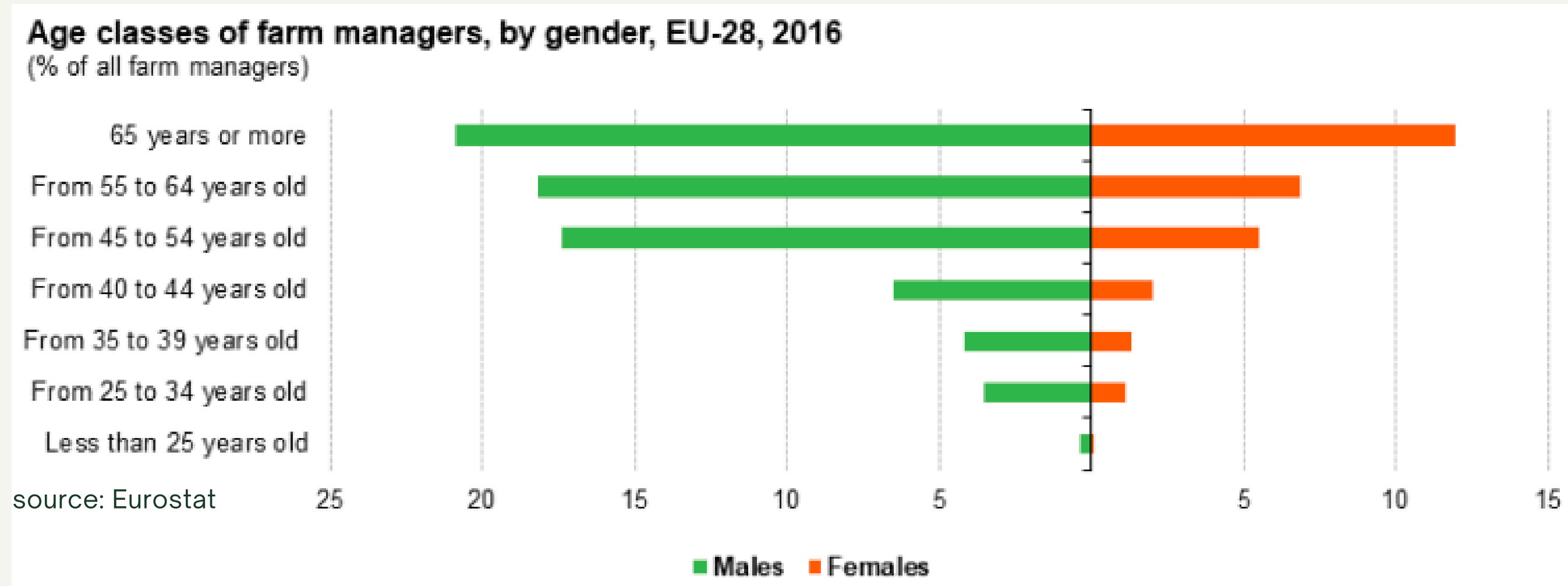


University degree training  
**0,6%**





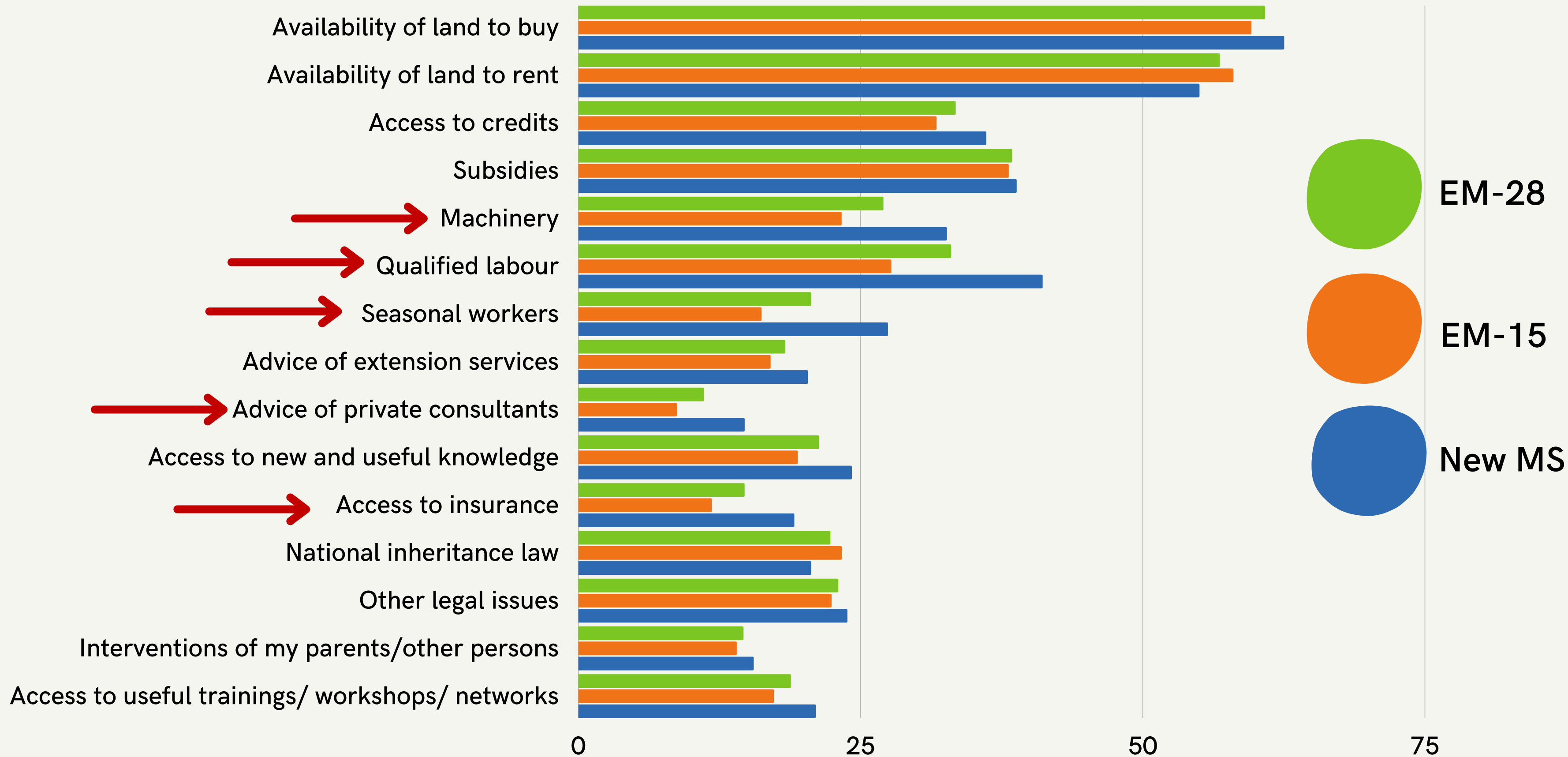
# Ages Involved



- ✓ Nearly 6 out of 10 former managers in the EU were 55 years old or more
- ✓ Less than 1 in 10 young people under the age of 34 working in the same position



# Challenges for young farmers, EU Level





# Reasons for low knowledge from young farmers

## Insights from Focus Groups from Cyprus



Farmers are farmers 'by tradition' and do not see why they need additional knowledge, especially because their farms are small and relatively easy to manage, have little law enforcement and no requirements in terms of quality standards.



It is perceived as difficult to select the right and trustworthy sources of information and knowledge in a time-efficient manner



Although access to the internet is not problematic, the skills to use it are lacking



Looking at individual countries reveals that, in all EU countries except Cyprus, more than 50% of the interviewed young farmers like to use other farmers as an information source. Percentages of young farmers using other farmers as an information source in the remaining EU countries ranged between 72–100%.

# Participation in exchange Schemes, CY

The main reasons for low participation are lack of time and having no replacement on the farm followed by high costs, EU



A language barrier is also mentioned as an important reason in several countries, including Cyprus.



The transferability of knowledge is limited, for example because of different farming conditions in other countries



The knowledge obtained through an exchange scheme is not always practically applicable for the young farmer or does not fit his/her knowledge needs entirely



Exchange schemes should combine theoretical and practical training but should be focused on practical training and the acquisition of hands-on experience. The 'destination' countries/areas should have similar climate conditions and farm structures to those in the country from which the young farmer comes



Exchange programmes should be specifically tailored to the time and financial constraints of those interested in participating



# Hindrances to getting information, CY

Lack of time is the main hindrance for young farmers, EU



Lack of interest is also mentioned several times



selecting the right and trustworthy information and knowledge sources in a time-efficient manner.



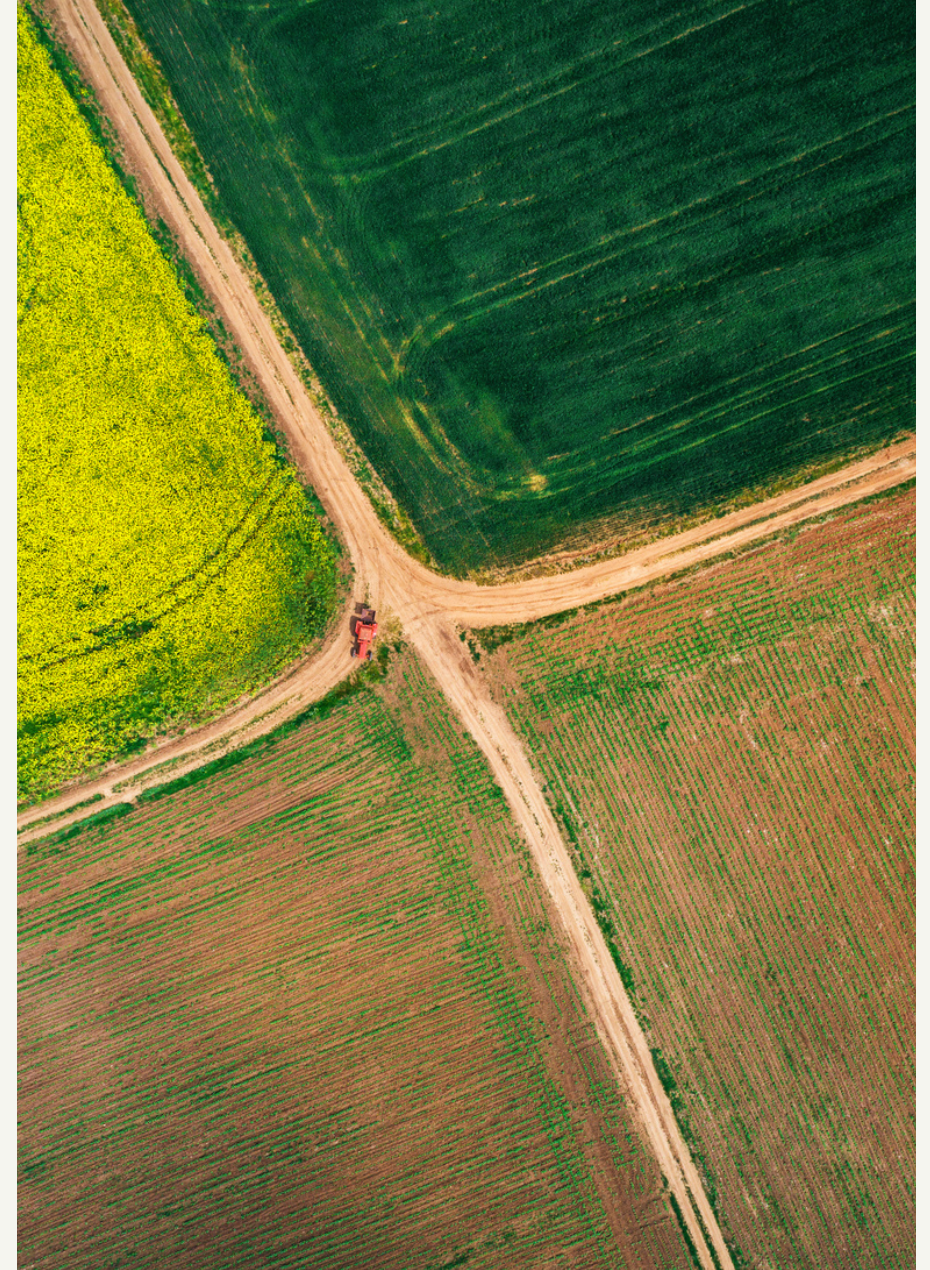
the lack of skills on how to use the internet are also mentioned.



# Agricultural pressures

## Times are changing

1. Urbanization
2. Quick paced and technologically-pervasive way of life with aging population of farmers.
3. Alternating environmental conditions/climate change
4. Increasingly demands for food production/overpopulation
5. Technology grows faster than knowledge transfer





# Farmer pressures.

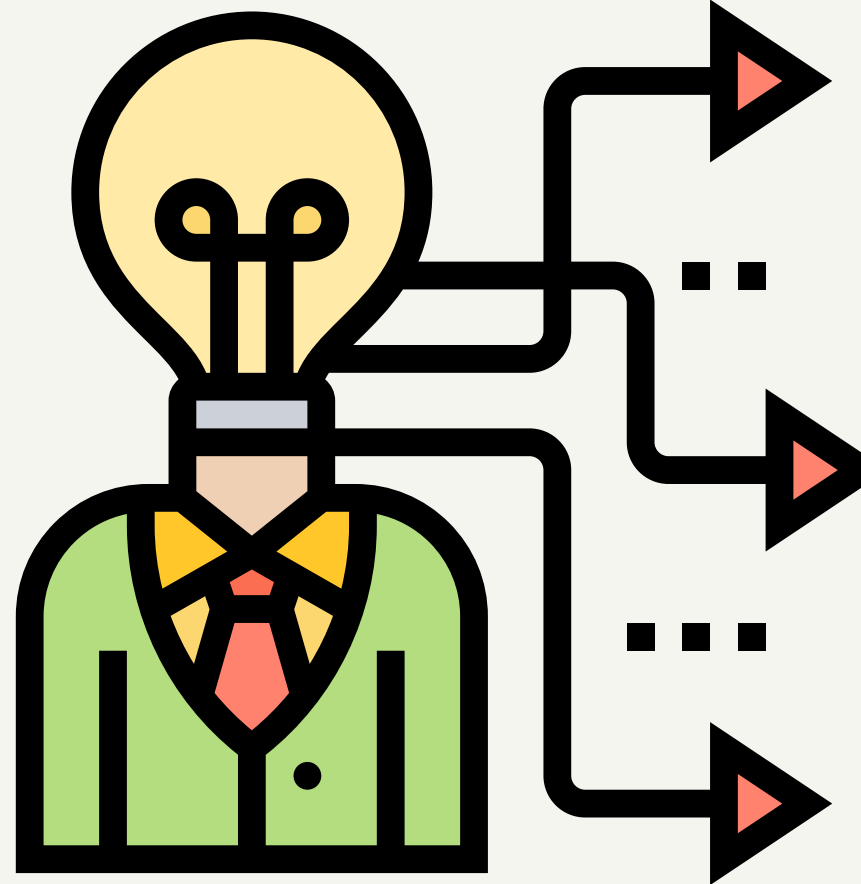
Farm incomes can vary substantially over time. In the EU, every year at least 20% of farmers experience an income loss of more than 30% compared with their average income in the three previous years.

DG AGRI, Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN),  
DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit Farm Economics 2018



# Environmental Sustainability & Conservation

Eco-friendly farming practises



Agro-ecological approaches: Organic Farming, Permaculture, Vertical Farming, Aquaponics

Crop rotation and polycultures, traditional agriculture methods

Limited or no waste production, Reduced Energy Inputs - Renewable Energy sources



# How does Technology fit into this?

Analysis of 2,700 active start-ups in this sector were selected and 9 trends were identified linked to the following megatrends.



**Digitization**  
**40%**



**Internet of Things (IoT)**  
**49%**



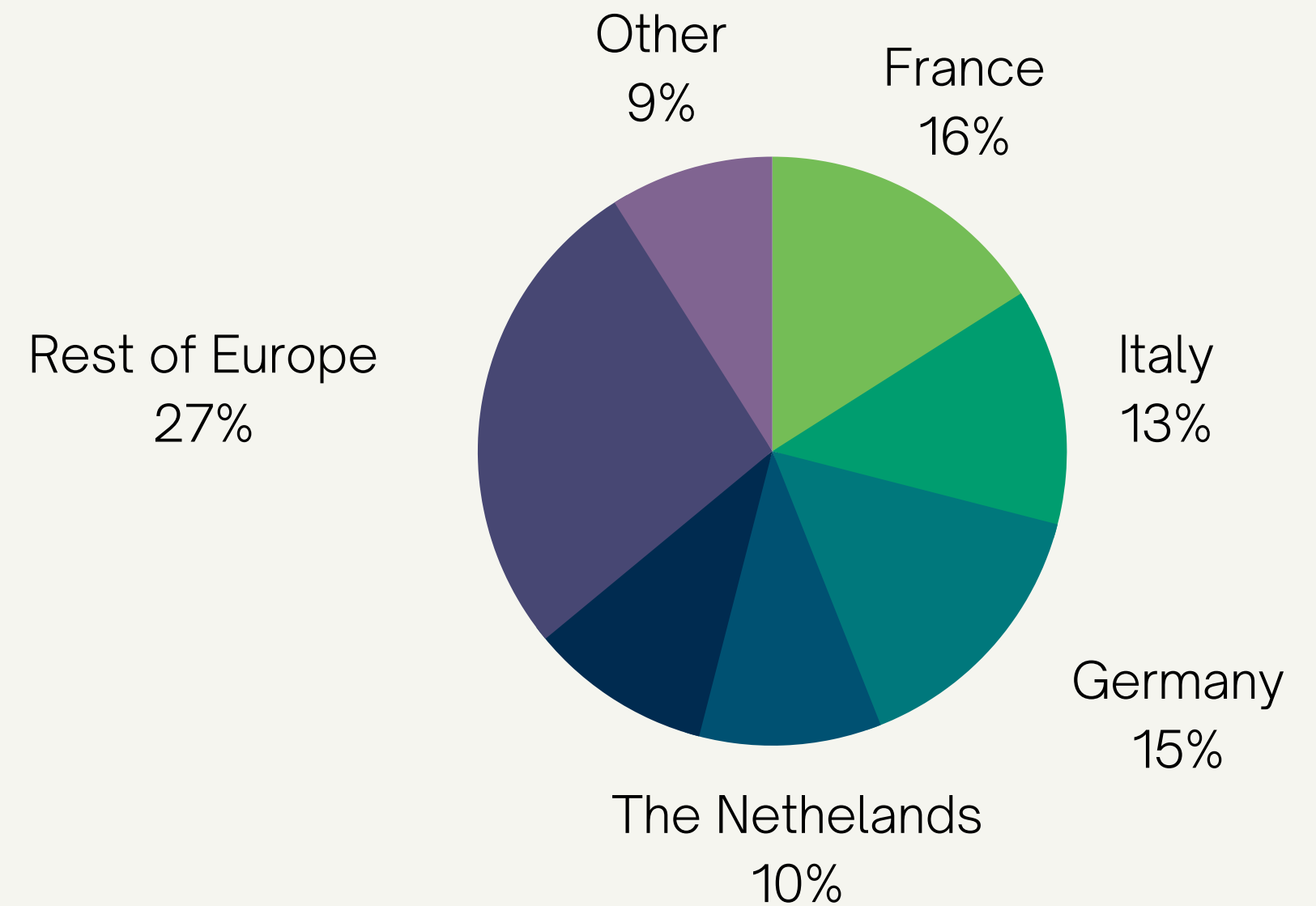
**Sustainability**  
**Circular Economy**  
**13%**

# Major trends.

As analyzed by 2,700 active start-ups in this sector.

1. Software-as-a-service solutions for orchard management
2. Yield monitoring and estimation
3. Farm management platforms
4. Utilization of drones
5. IoTs in farming
6. Smart agriculture machines
7. Water management
8. Packaging
9. Eco-friendly plant production products

# Where?





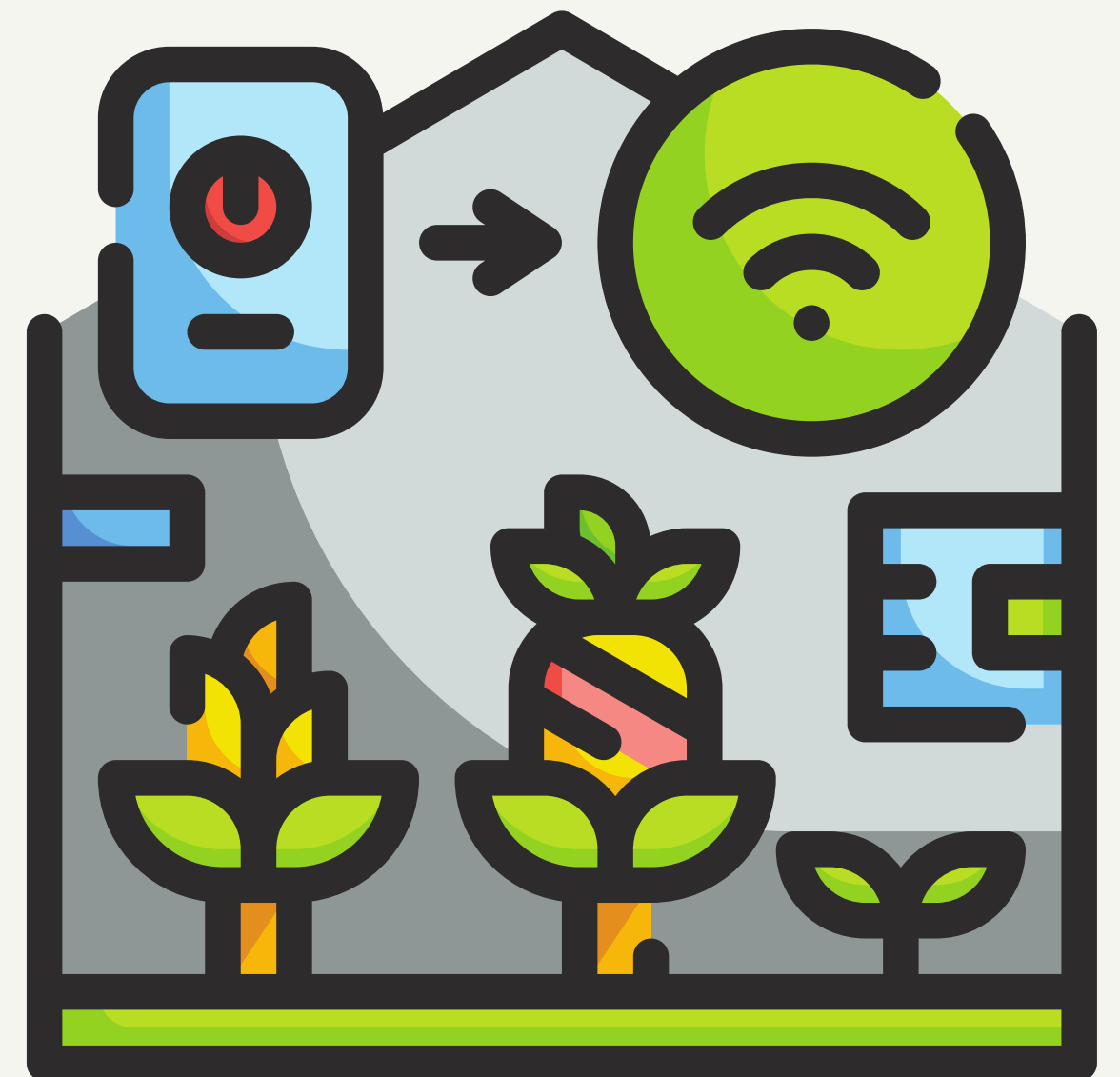
# Agro-ecology with scientific methodologies & technology

A way of life, not just a set of technologies or production practices, and must be adapted to local contexts.

To understand the complexity of the Food systems I would encourage you to go and check out these sources:

[Reference 1](#)

[Reference 2](#)



# Thank you!

## QUESTIONS?



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