

# Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022





# Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Fabien SANTINI, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

Ms. Chiara MICELLI, Policy officer, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission



# The role of European small farms in sustainable Food and Nutrition Security



Results from the SALSA project

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## SALSA: “Small farms, small food businesses and sustainable food and nutrition security”

April 2016 – July 2020

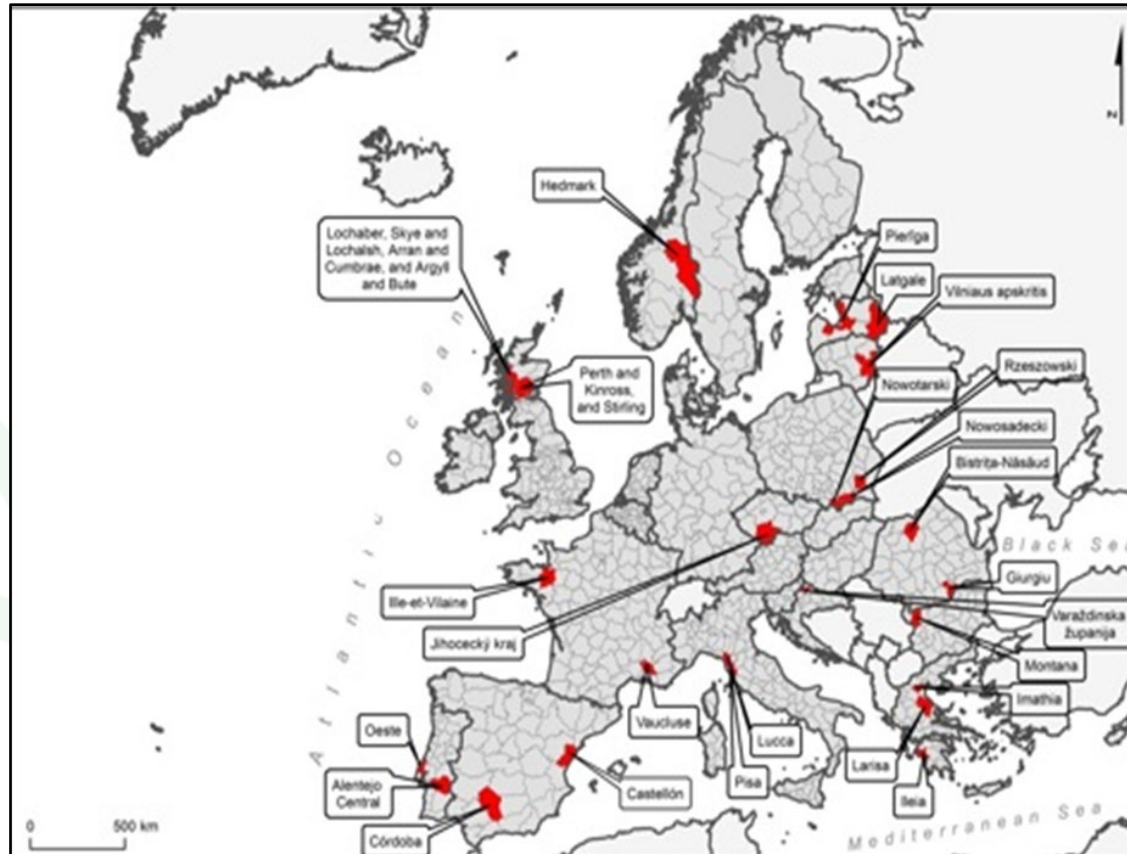
Coordinator



UNIVERSIDADE  
DE ÉVORA

16 partners in Europe and Africa

Europe: 25 regions in 14 countries



## SALSA APPROACH

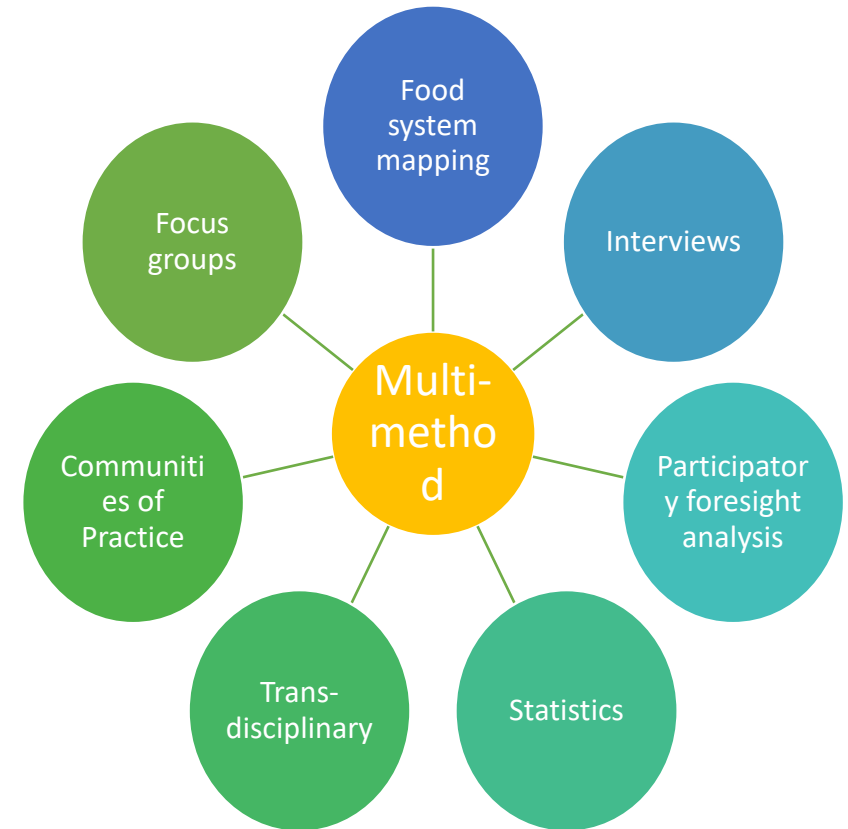
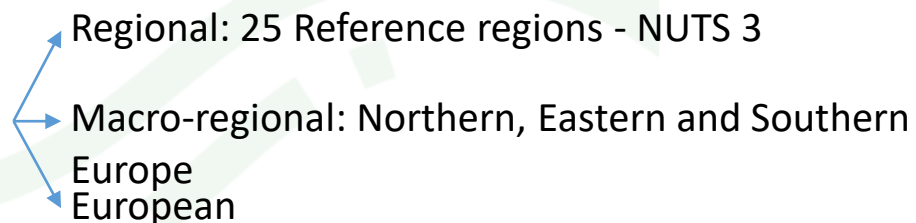
**Research Question:** *What is the contribution of small farms and of the related food businesses to sustainable food and nutrition security in a wide range of food systems?*

Territorially-based **Food System** approach

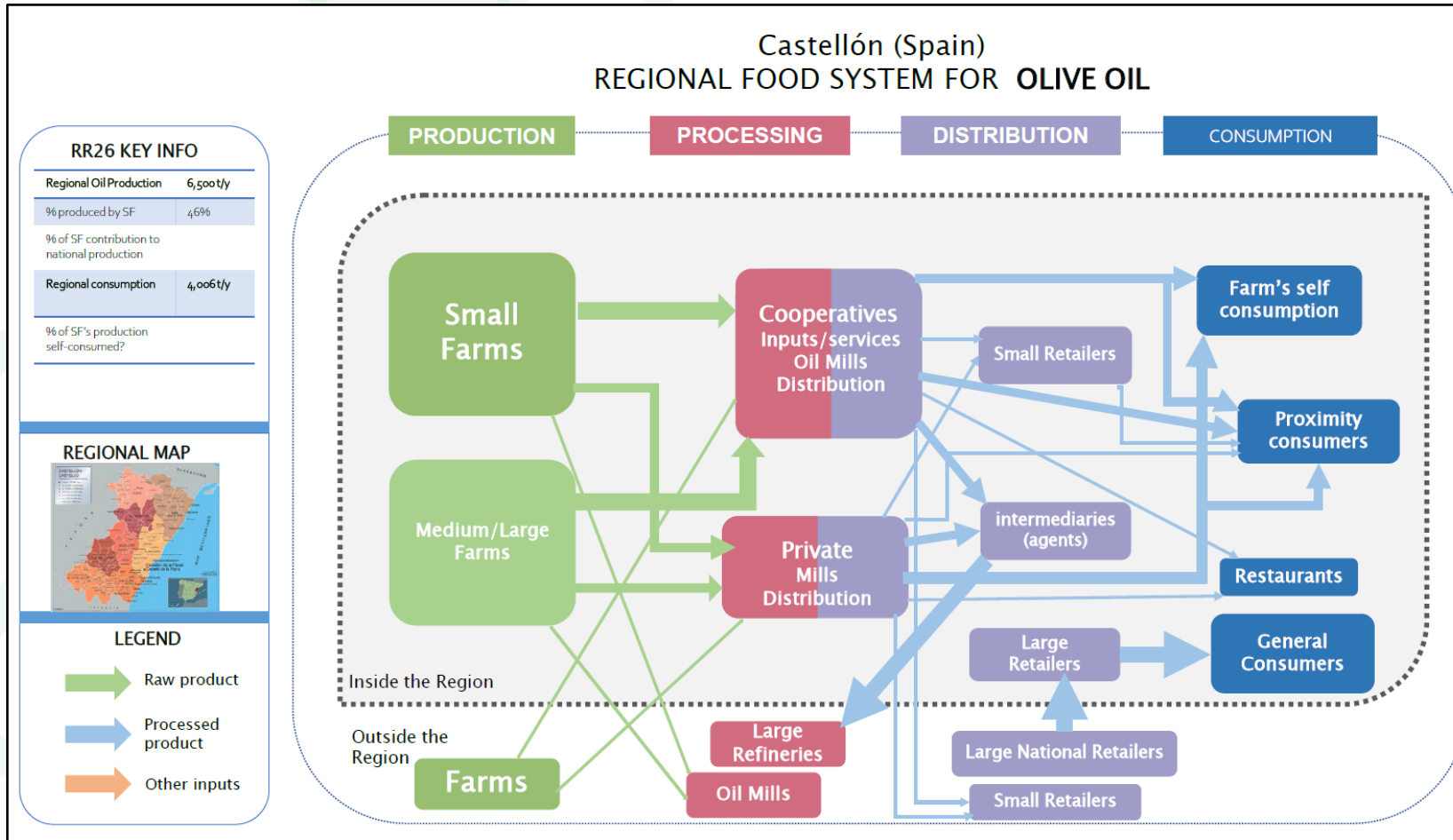
Elements of FNS: **food provision, food availability and food access**

Recognises the **diversity** of small farms & food systems in Europe

Analysis at 3 levels



## ROLE OF SMALL FARMS IN REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

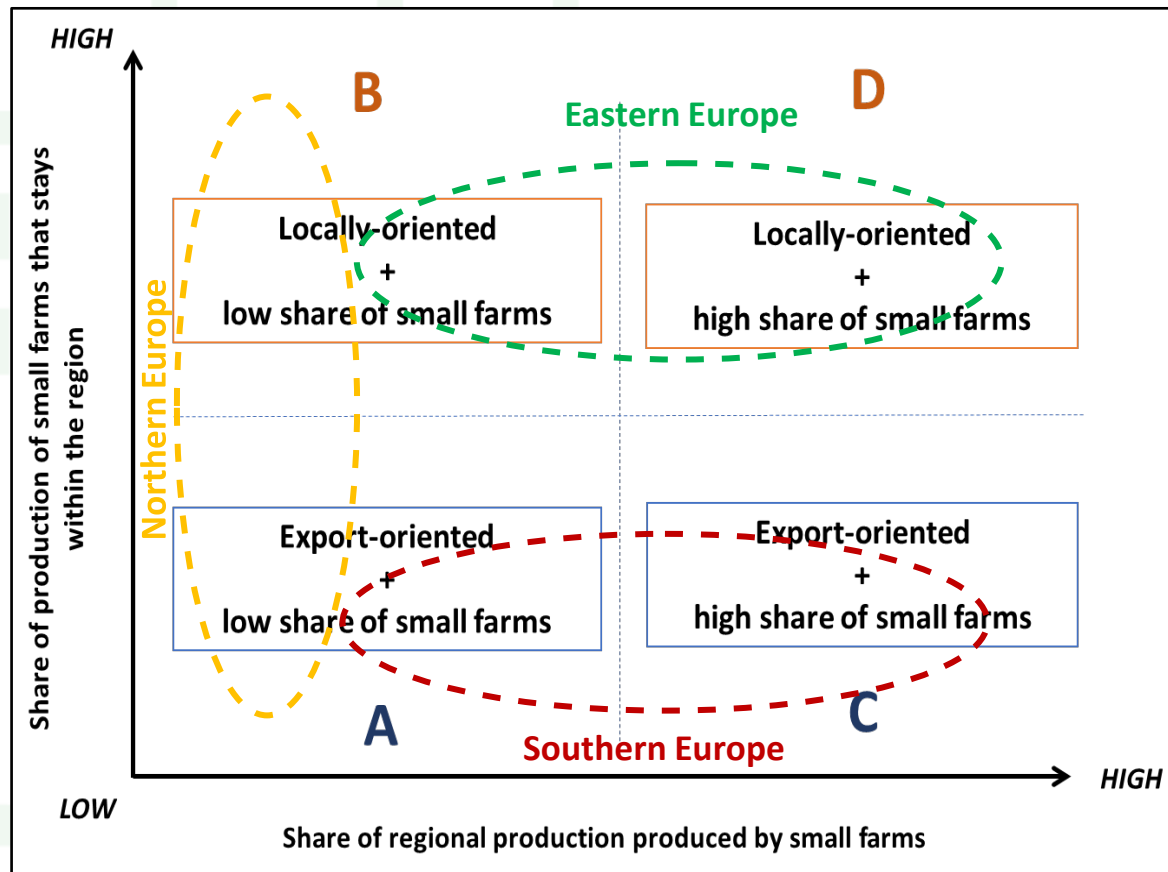


SALSA produced 91 product-specific food system maps for 25 regions in Europe





## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF SMALL FARMS IN REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS IN EUROPE



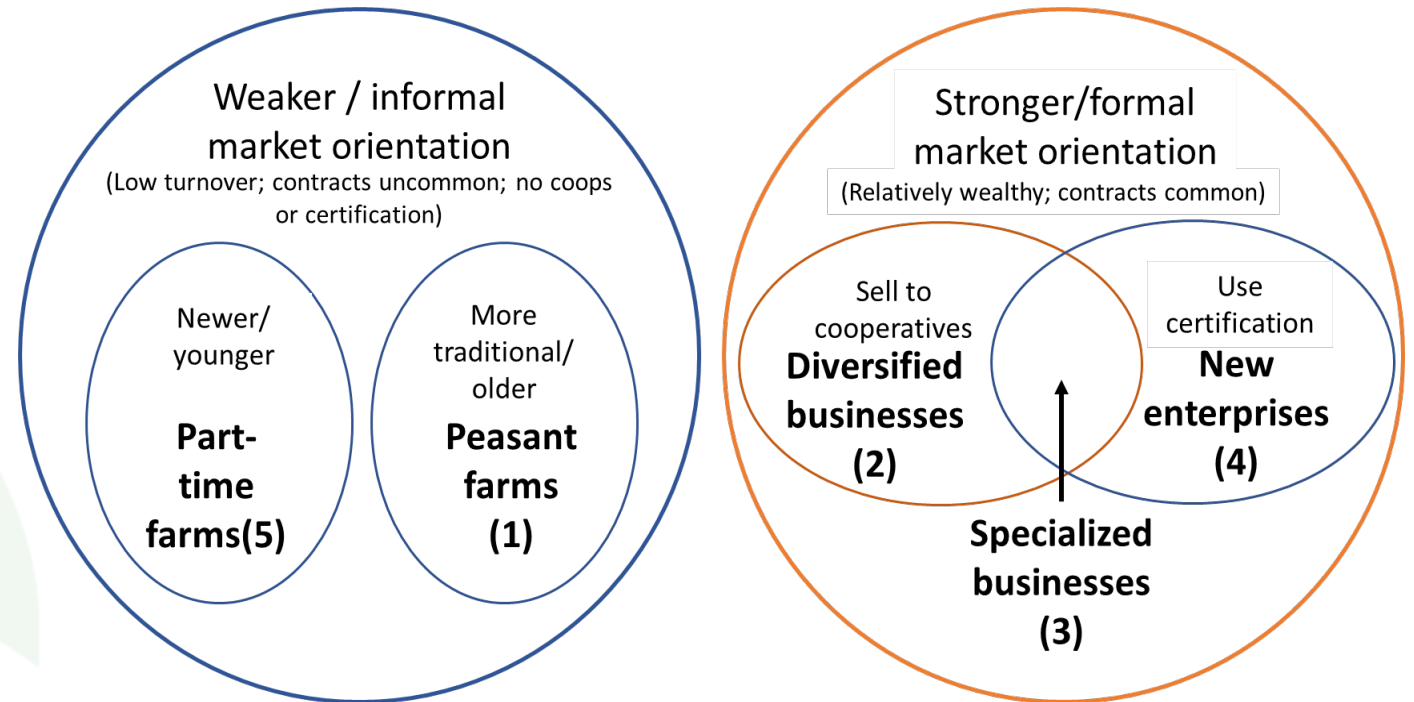
## TPOLOGY OF EUROPEAN SMALL FARMS

Small farm diversity **beyond the subsistence-commercial duality**

Most farms oriented towards the **market**  
+  
they produce for **self-provisioning**

Type prevalence varies depending on  
**region & market context**

No “one-size-fits-all” for policy







## SMALL FARMS CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN EUROPE

**Research Question:** *What is the contribution of small farms to sustainable food and nutrition security in a wide range of food systems?*

### RESULTS FOR EUROPE

SF play important & diverse roles within the food system

In some regions and products, significant SF contributions to food production and availability

Non-market food flows can be crucial for farm households and their communities

Income generated by SF contributes to food access and poverty alleviation

SF safeguard the stability, diversity & resilience of food systems



## MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING THE CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL FARMS TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

### SMALL FARMS NEED A FAVOURABLE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Enabling conditions to exist and produce

- Incentives to **remain in rural areas**
- **Generational renewal** and support to **new entrants**
- Improved **access to land** and land tenure security
- Access to **finance**
- **CC adaptation**

#### Enabling conditions to market

- **Collective action** and **cooperation**
- Access to **diversity of value chains**
  - Innovative approaches to traditional markets
  - Higher value-added supply chains
- **Consumers** involvement

#### Knowledge and Innovation

- Source of **resilience**
- Key for CC adaptation
- Room for retro-innovation
- Greater **access to information and training**
- Building softer skills & **networking**

#### Tailored policy and regulatory frameworks

- More **territorially** based
- **Small-scale** adapted
- Must consider:
  - characteristics of **regional food systems**
  - different **types of SF**



## CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL FARMS TO EUROPEAN RURAL AREAS

Challenges for small farms have an impact on their broader rural settings

### SMALL FARMS' RURAL LINKAGE

Maintaining  
agricultural  
employment &  
preventing  
outmigration

Impact of SF  
dynamics in land  
occupation

Preservation of  
traditional landscapes  
and environmental  
quality

Synergies that  
stimulate broader  
economic activity

Beyond small farms' role as **food producers**, their **role in supporting rural communities and the rural environment**







# Thank you

For more information

Website : [www.salsa.uevora.pt/en](http://www.salsa.uevora.pt/en)

Laura Arnalte Mur - [lauarmur@upv.es](mailto:lauarmur@upv.es)



# FARMING FOR FIBER AND FUTURE

carbon-wise productive use of  
rewetted peatlands

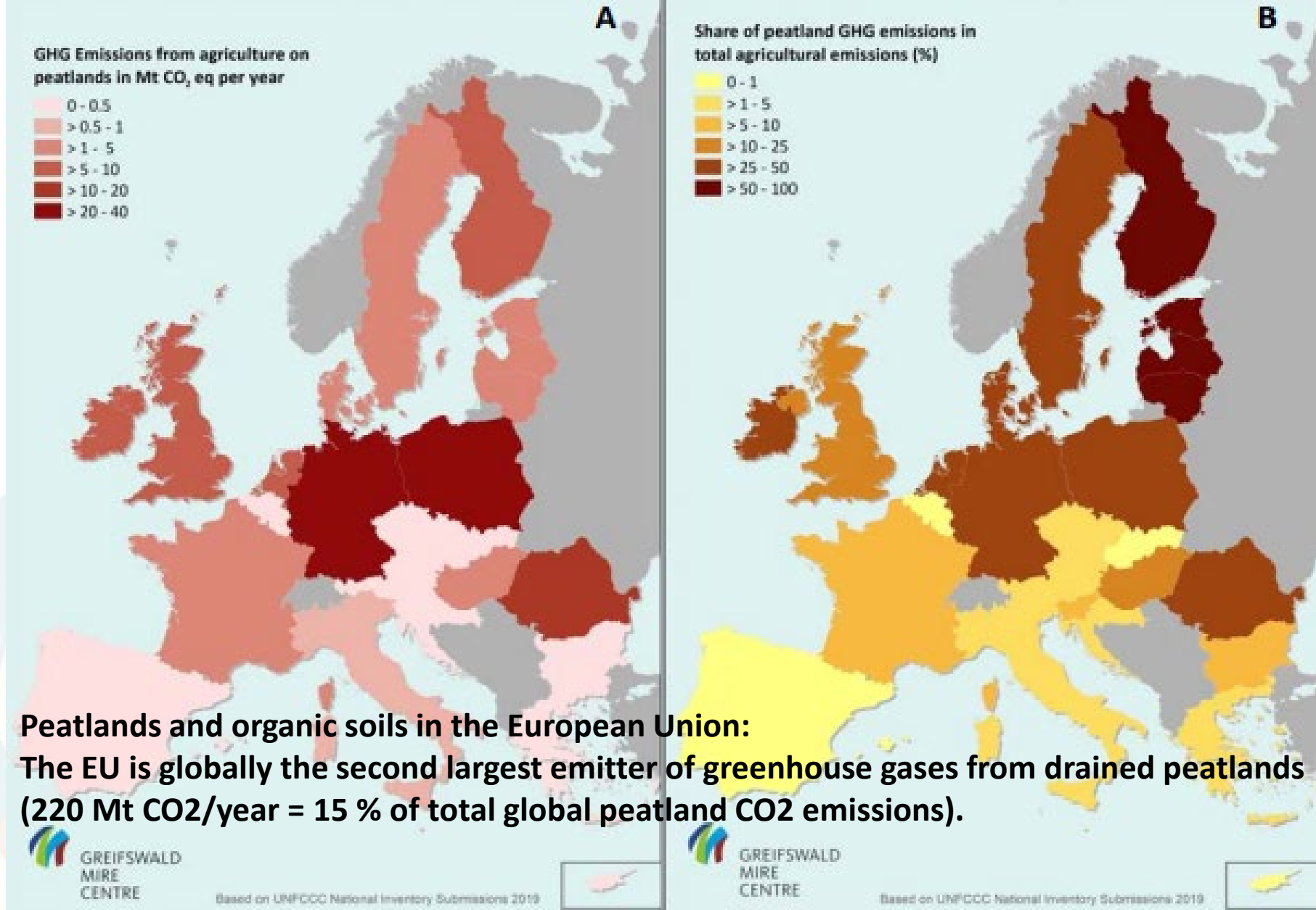
WETLAND PRODUCTS FOUNDATION

BRUSSEL 16 JUNE 2022

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NO EMISSIONS FROM PEATLANDS MEANS WATER ON TOP IN THE YEAR 2050

IN AN ALREADY WET LANDSCAPE EXTREM PERCIPITATION AND CLIMAT-  
CHANGE WILL END TRADITIONAL HIGH-END INDUSTRIAL DIARY FARMING

## THE URGENCY ?????

1.200.000 Hectares drained peatland in Germany

242.000 Hectares drained peatland in the Netherlands

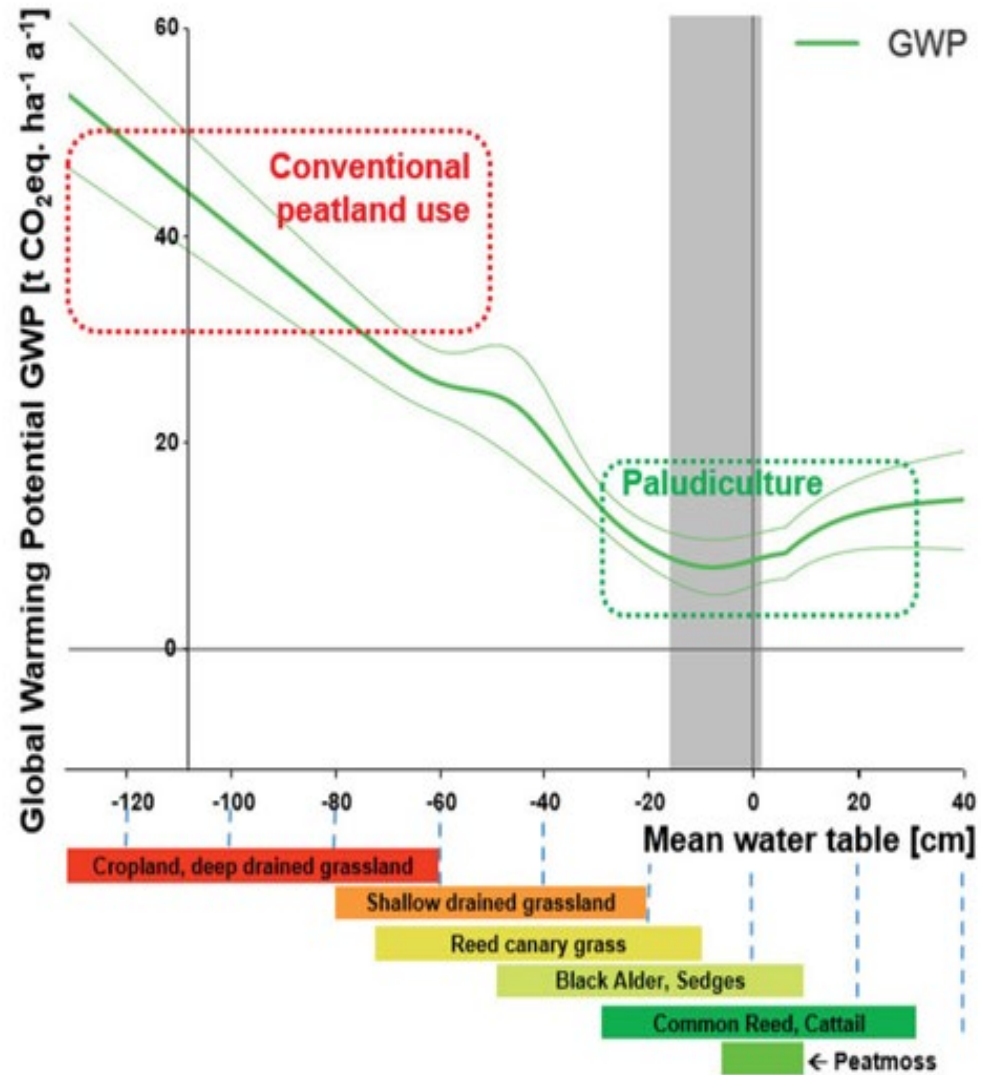
171.000 Hectares of drained peatland in Denmark

We can't change all back to nature-reserves but this is where  
nature-inclusive wet Agriculture or Paludiculture comes in

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Fresh peat moss harvest Germany





**DRAINED PEATLANDS IN NORTHERN GERMANY EMITTING UP TO 15 TONS CO<sub>2</sub>**  
**LOW BIODIVERSITY AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DAMAGE (Soil Subsidence)**  
**HEAVY NUTRIENT LOAD ( imported manure)**  
**GRASS HARVEST FOR BIOGAS.....but that's no bio when from drained Peat!**



# EU nature restoration targets

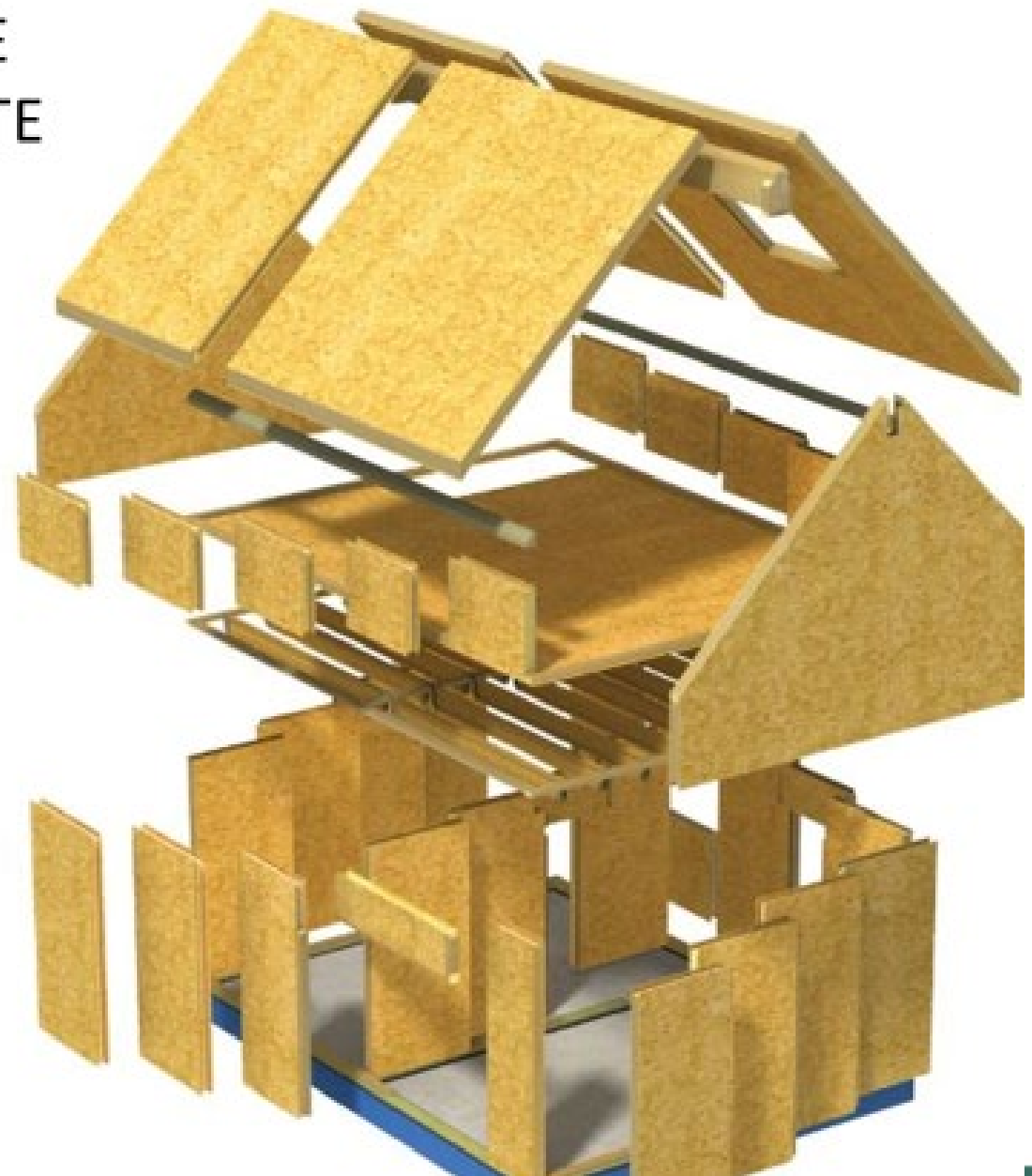
- capture and store carbon
- prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters
- deliver further benefits, such as soil health and pollination
- improve knowledge and monitoring of ecosystems and their services







PARTICLES OR EXTRUDED PLANTFIBERS MAKE  
FOR PARTICLE-BOARD, MDF, HDF, or LAMINATE  
FROM WHICH WE CAN CREATE ANYTHING  
BIOBASED AND CIRCULAR







**MICROFIBRILATED PLANTFIBERS FOR MDF/HDF**

**OR SINGLE USE TABLEWARE**



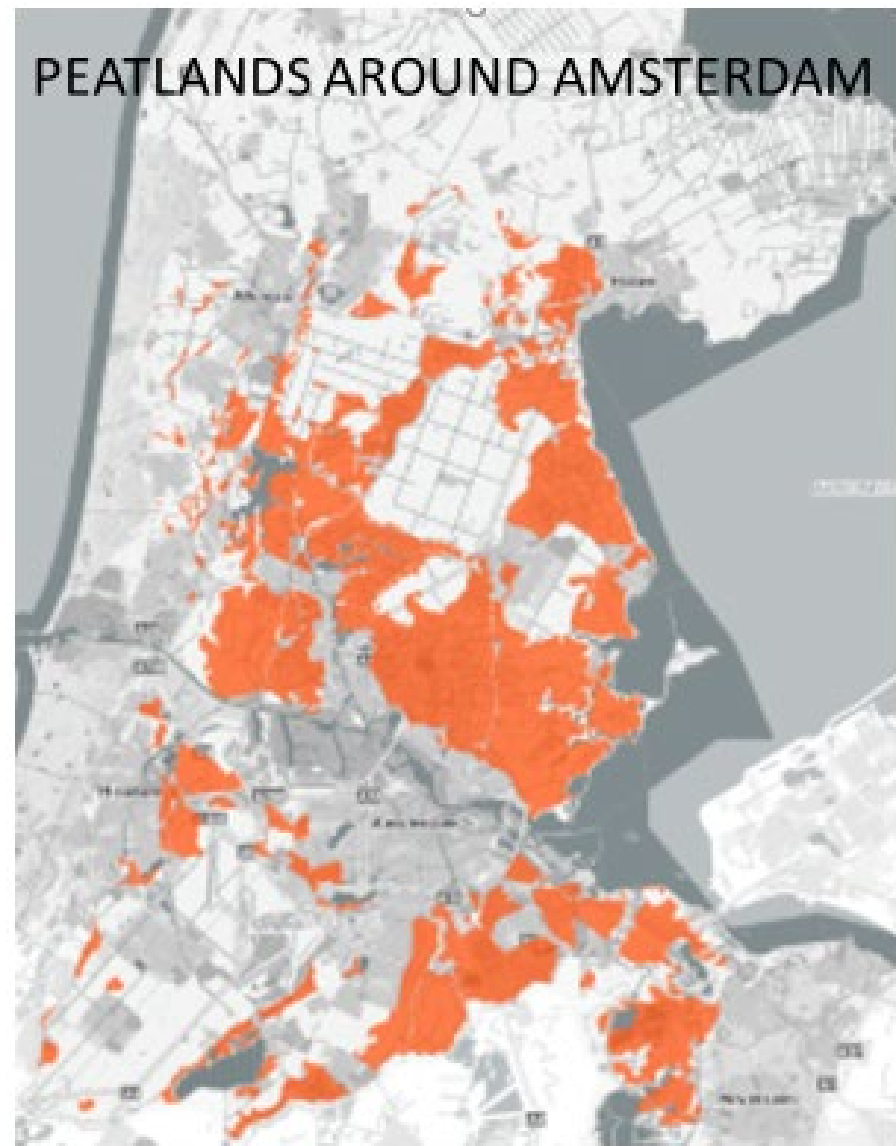
**REED FOR THATCHING ( 90% is imported)**



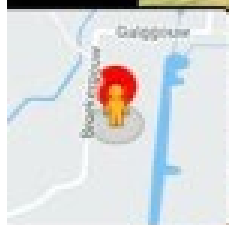
WE STARTED HERE WITH THE PROMISE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BE  
ABLE TO PRACTISE PALUDICULTURE IN A PEAT-REWETTING AREA

BUT OVERNIGHT THE PROMISE WAS TAKEN BACK AND THE AREA  
WAS A ECOLOGICAL Nordstream 2 compensation ( without any  
additional effect on nature or biodiversity.....





**SO A NEXT OPPORTUNITY WITH THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM WHO WANTED TO TAKE THE LEAD**



## REASONS FOR REWETTING POLDER BURKMEER

- STOP CO2 EMISSIONS
- STOP SOIL SUBSIDENCE
- BETTER BIODIVERSITY
- BIOMASS PRODUCTION TO KICKSTART A BIOBASED CIRCULAR LOCAL INDUSTRY

Google

Image capture: Oct 2021 Images may be subject to copyright. Pictaso Netherlands Terms Privacy





# OVERAL PROBLEM FOR A PARIDIGMA CHANGE FROM DRAINED TO REWETTED PEAT:

- NO FADING OUT OF GAP SUBVENTIONS ON DRAINED PEAT (we pay for the emitted carbon)
- DEPRECIATION/LOS OF VALUE 90% emitting peat 50.000 € per hectare , rewetted carbon stock only 5.000 €
- NO PAYMENT SCHEMES FOR WET BIODIVERSITY
- NO PAYMENT FOR WATERRETENTION AND WATERFILTRATION
- NO REAL KICKOFF-STRCUTURE TO START THE BIOBASED CIRCULAR ECONOMY

## SO LETS TALK

CONTACT

[ALDERT@WETLANDPRODUCTS.COM](mailto:ALDERT@WETLANDPRODUCTS.COM)



# Thank you







# The strategic role of rural areas for climate and food security

The experience of Italian biodistricts

*Monica Coletta – AIAB – Associazione italiana per l'agricoltura biologica*



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## ***What is a biodistrict?***

*“ A biodistrict is a geographical area where farmers, citizens, associations and local administrations **make a deal for sustainable resources management**, where organic farming and food consumption represent a starting point for a new model of local development.”*

*(AIAB – biodistricts guidelines)*

### **ORGANIC FARMING**

a certified production method based on IFOAM's principles of health, ecology, fairness and care

**Creates community and becomes a driver for local rural development**

Protecting environment, natural resources and biodiversity

Promoting transition to responsible consumption and production patterns

Safeguarding health of workers and local communities

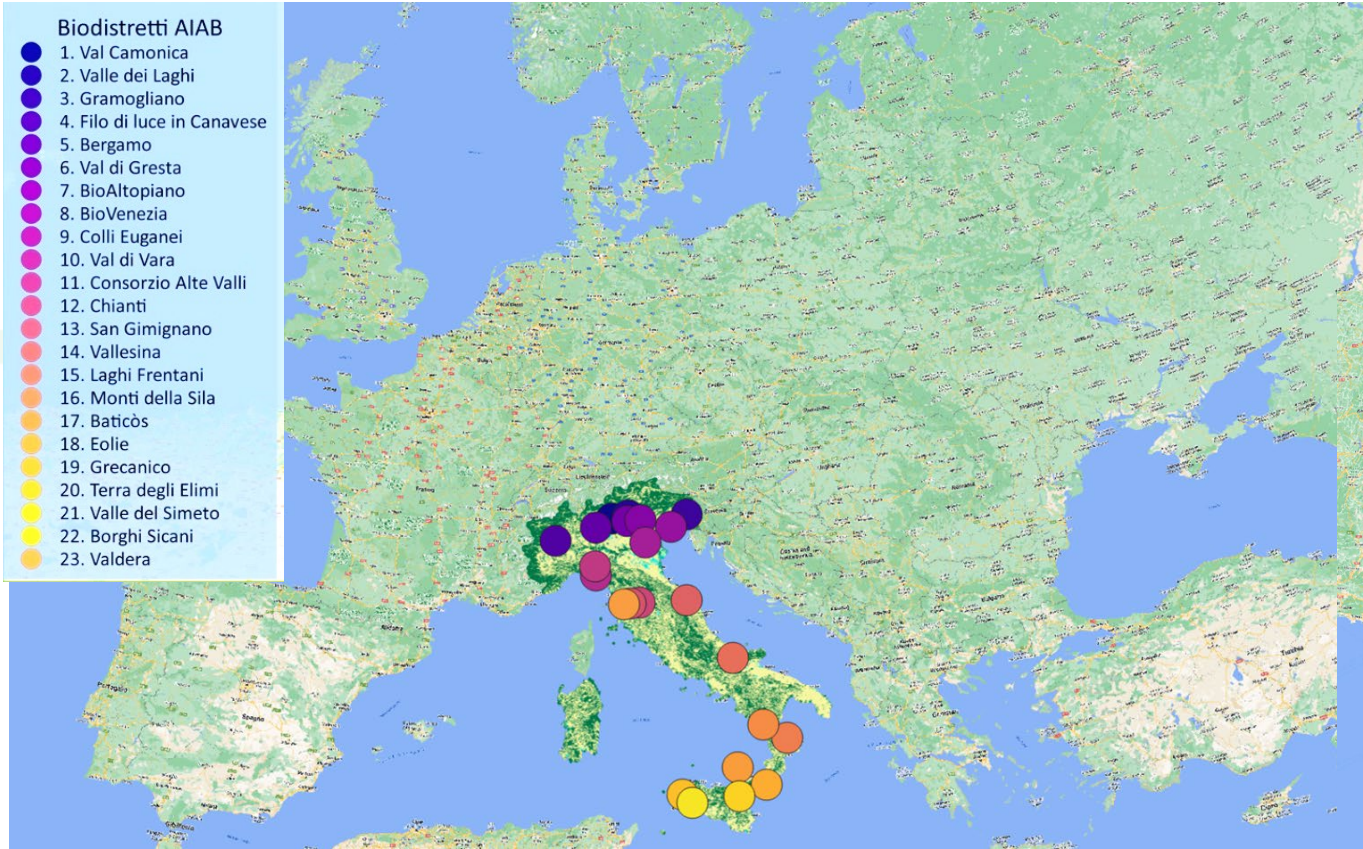




## ***AIAB Guidelines and criteria***

- ✓ **Bottom up** and participatory approach
- ✓ Representativeness of the **organic sector**
- ✓ **Prevalence of organic farmers**
- ✓ Leading role of the private sector
- ✓ **High environmental values**
- ✓ Appropriate **territory scale** to foster collaborations with local communities and institutions
- ✓ **Networking**

- Biodistretti AIAB**
1. Val Camonica
  2. Valle dei Laghi
  3. Gramogliano
  4. Filo di luce in Canavese
  5. Bergamo
  6. Val di Gresta
  7. BioAltopiano
  8. BioVenezia
  9. Colli Euganei
  10. Val di Vara
  11. Consorzio Alte Valli
  12. Chianti
  13. San Gimignano
  14. Vallesina
  15. Laghi Frentani
  16. Monti della Sila
  17. Baticòs
  18. Eolie
  19. Grecanico
  20. Terra degli Elimi
  21. Valle del Simeto
  22. Borghi Sicani
  23. Valdera



## ***AIAB biodistrict network***



***23 biodistricts based on  
AIAB guidelines***



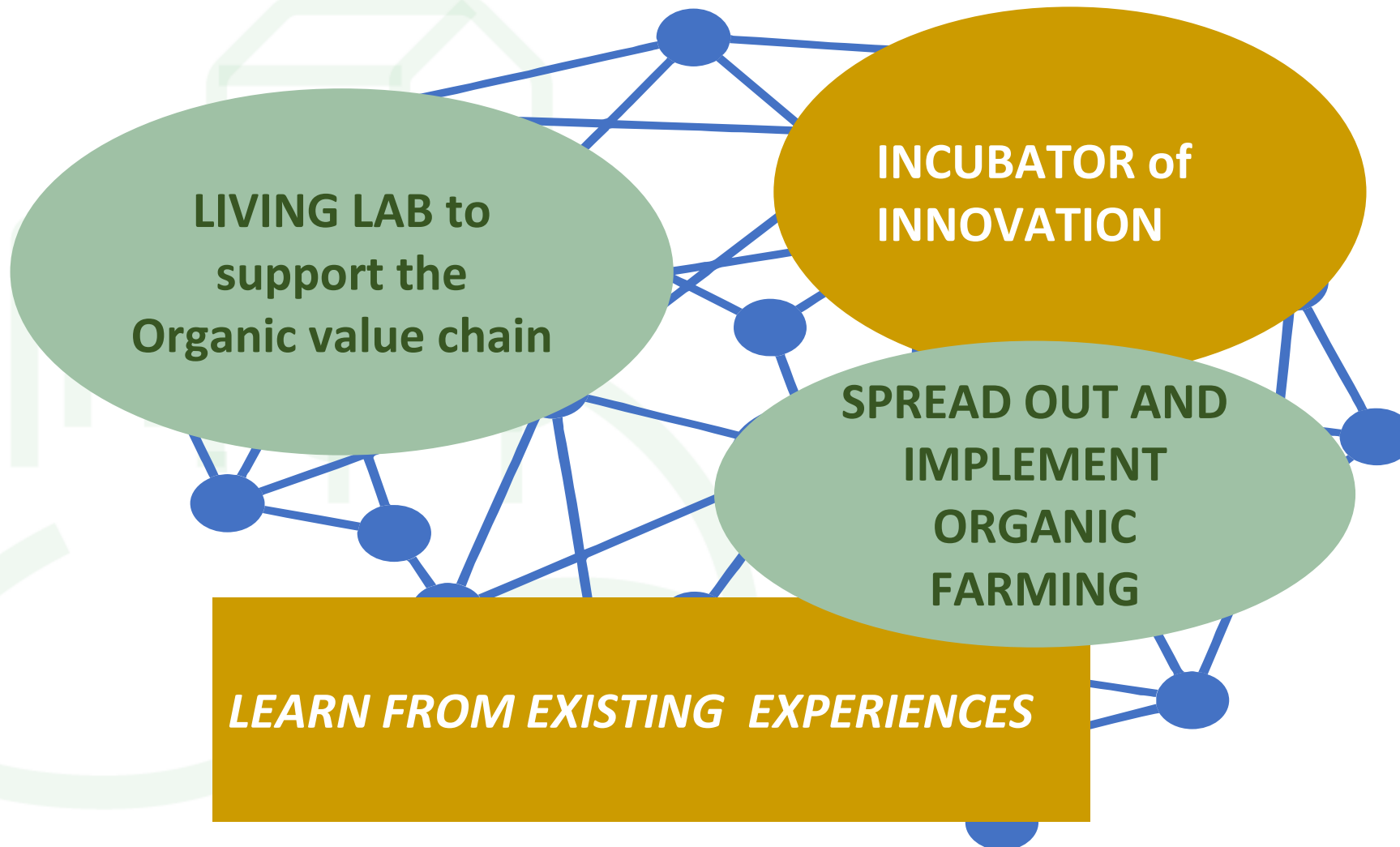


## ***Reasons to promote biodistricts***

- **SHARE knowhow locally**, fill the gap and build capacity to support organics with dissemination, demonstration activities and high level **AKIS**
- **CONTEXTUALIZE SOLUTIONS and PRACTICES** - participated research and innovation
- **CREATE SINERGIES and REDUCE EMISSIONS** : develop local vocations, enhance circular economy, soil-based carbon sequestration practices
- **SUPPORT YOUNG and SHORT SUPPLY CHAIN INITIATIVES** : lively territories, green public procurement, local food supply chains, food education initiatives
- **SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY** : Pollinators, agrobiodiversity and crop diversification

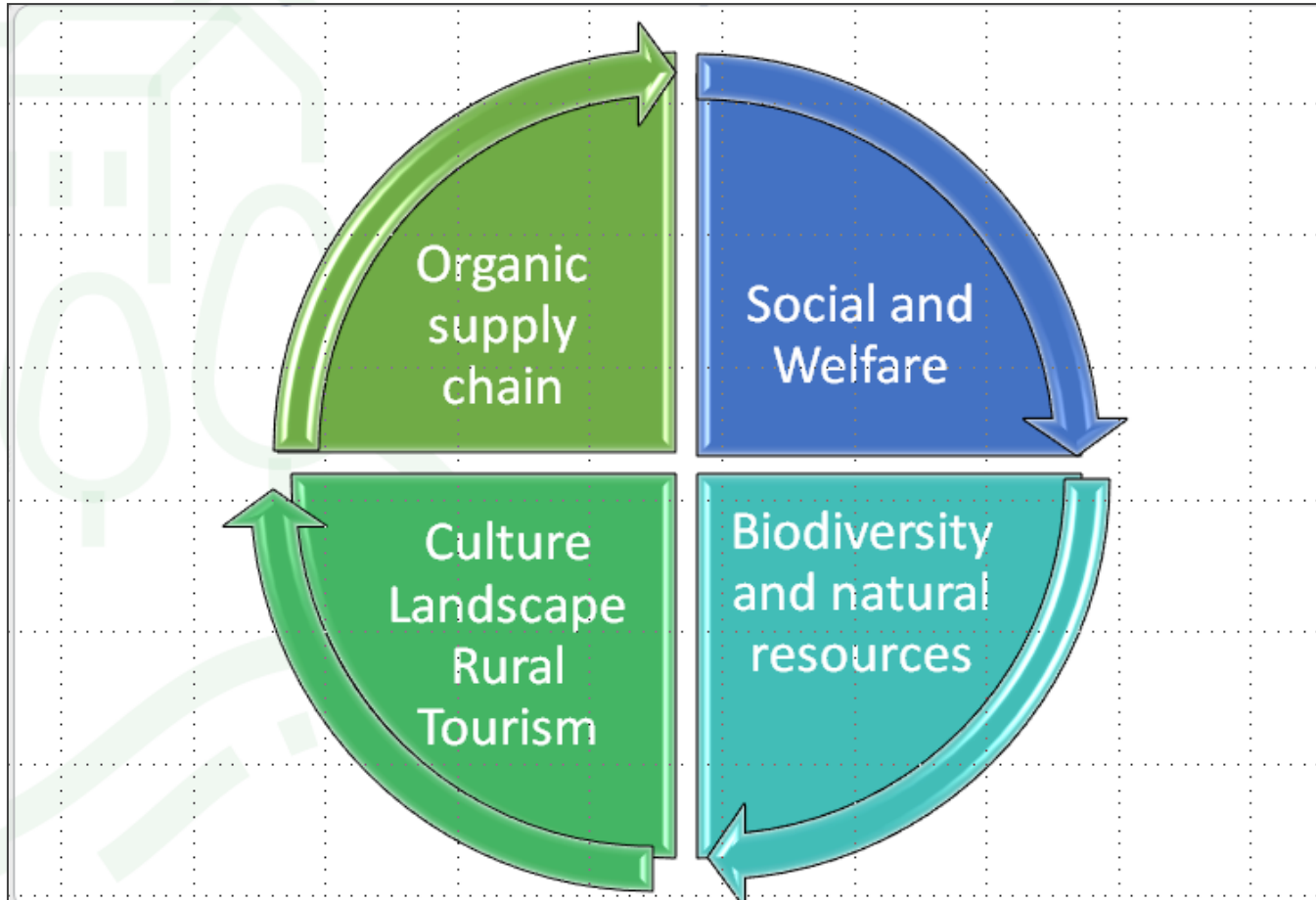
**PROMOTE RESILIENT LOCAL ORGANIC FARMING AND FOOD SYSTEM**

## ***A network to up-scale organics***





## *Strategic axes of rural development in biodistricts*





## ***Observed effects of biodistricts***

- **Increased number of Organic Producers and of Organic farmed surface area**
- **Empowerment Of Producers and Adoption of Climate Friendly Practices**
- **REPUTATION of the BIODISTRICT and of ORGANIC FARMERS**
- **CO-CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL POLICIES FOR BIODISTRICTS**
- **GROWTH of the local SUPPLY CHAIN**



# Thank you





# Time for your voices





# How can we contribute to the Rural Pact?



# Conversations in small groups

1. Introduce each other and share any activities you already have related to the session topic
2. Exchange ideas and take notes on the Template



# Template

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## How can we contribute to the Rural Pact?

Session topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants:

### Key Ideas:

What new ideas emerged from the presentations? What key ideas can you share from your own context?

### Opportunities for collaboration:

What opportunities for collaboration do you see?

### Concrete actions (name, organisation, action)\*:

What concrete actions are you willing to take to contribute to the Rural Pact?



# Don't forget to submit a commitment!

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## COMMITMENT CANVAS

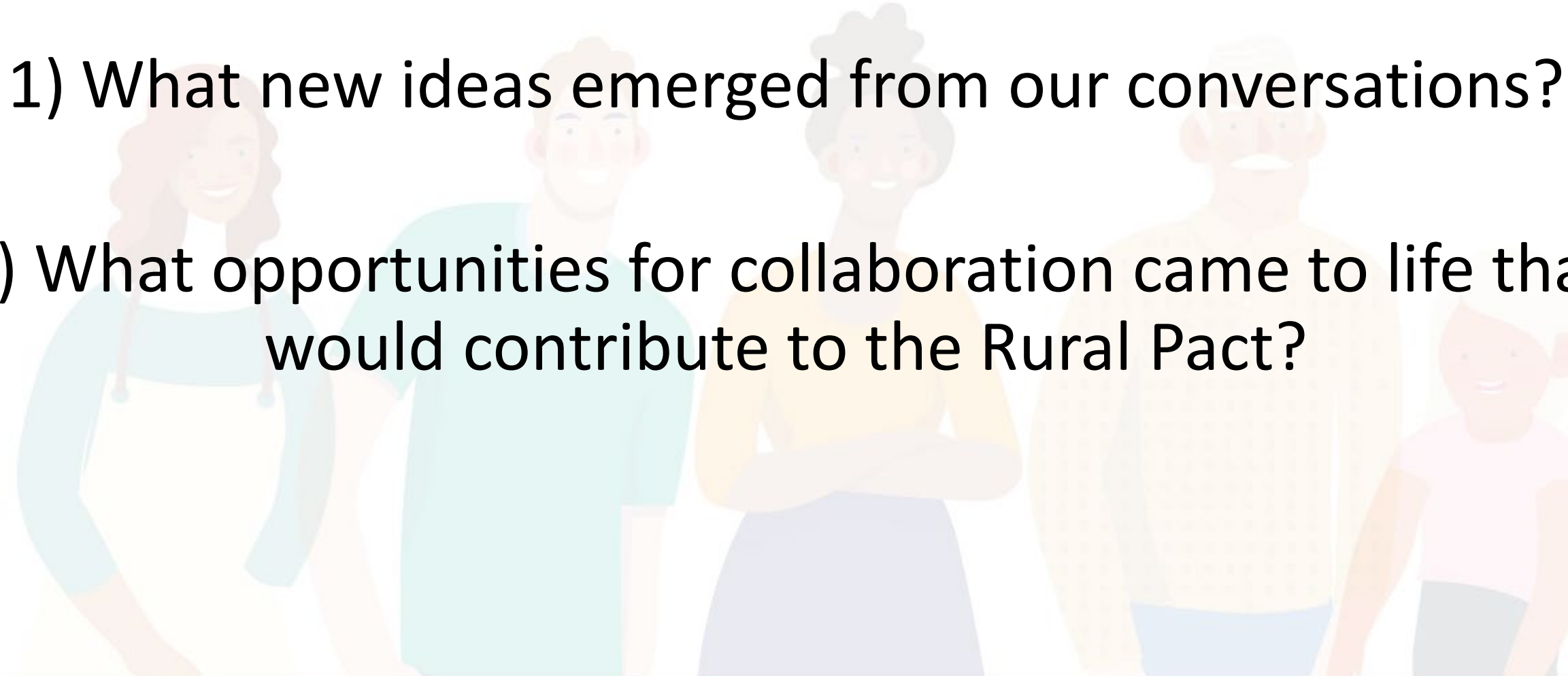
What concrete actions am I / is my organisation willing to take to contribute to the Rural Pact?

*Please fill out one canvas for each commitment you are willing to submit*

<b>This is:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> An idea for a commitment / <input type="checkbox"/> A formal commitment	
<b>Name:</b> <b>Name of organisation:</b> <b>Sector/type of organisation:</b>	
<b>Contact email:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
Are you a member of the Rural Pact Community? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Description of the commitment:</b>	
<b>Key milestones you are planning:</b>	
<b>Which objective does the commitment contribute to?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Amplify rural voices <input type="checkbox"/> Networking & collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Acting for rural areas	





- 
- 1) What new ideas emerged from our conversations?
  - 2) What opportunities for collaboration came to life that would contribute to the Rural Pact?

# “Harvesting” from our conversations

Go to:  
**SLI.DO #ORCHARD**



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# Thank you

