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Facts about peatlands and their cultivation in Latvia – importance of peatlands for agriculture. Existing policy measures for reducing GHG emissions from peatlands

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RESEARCH SEMINAR ON POLICY INSTRUMENTS GUIDING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE USE OF PEATLANDS IN AGRICULTURE
24th-25th September, Helsinki

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Latvia`s Profile

Green territories (rural areas and forests) - **89%** of total land area

Latvia: **2nd** in the EU with **agriculture land hectares per person**

Latvia: **4th most forested** country in Europe

Export share of forest, agriculture and food industry **39,7%** (2017)

Organic soils is significant part or agricultural emissions in Latvia – around 30 %

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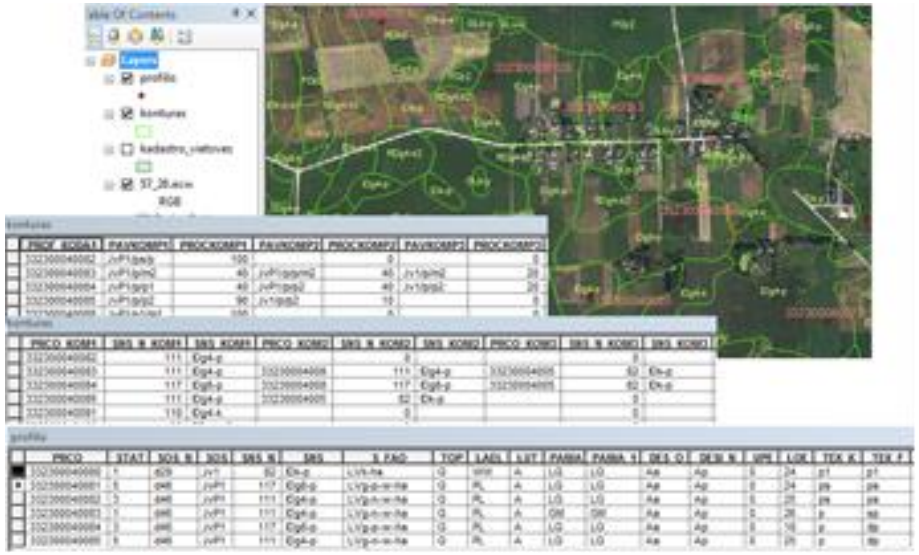
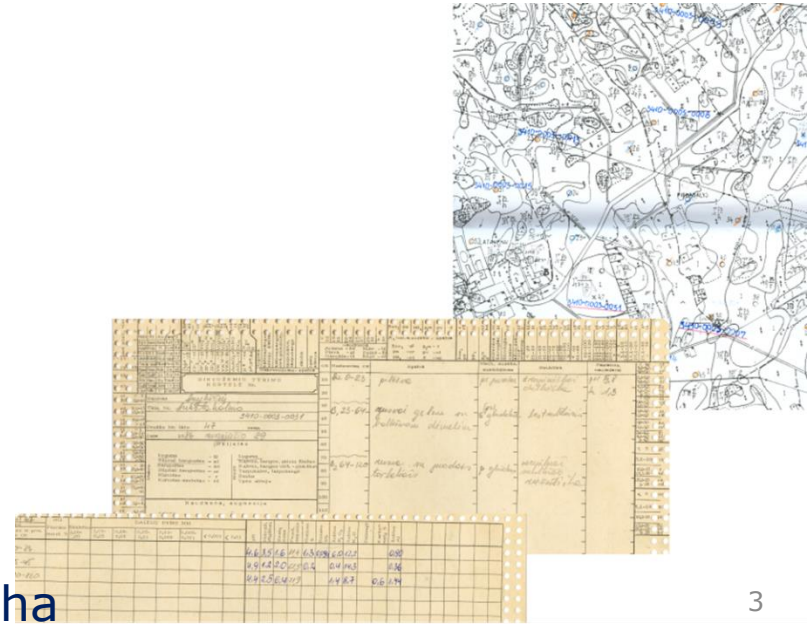
EEA Grants 2009-2014

ICELAND
LIECHTENSTEIN
NORWAY
eea grants

Historical soil maps of Latvia were digitalized within EEA Grants 2009-2014 programme "National Climate Policy" study "Improving the management of sustainable land resources through creation of a digital soil database".
Maps are available for public on Ģeoportāls: https://geolatvija.lv/geo/





Total area from the soil maps 3,88 millions ha

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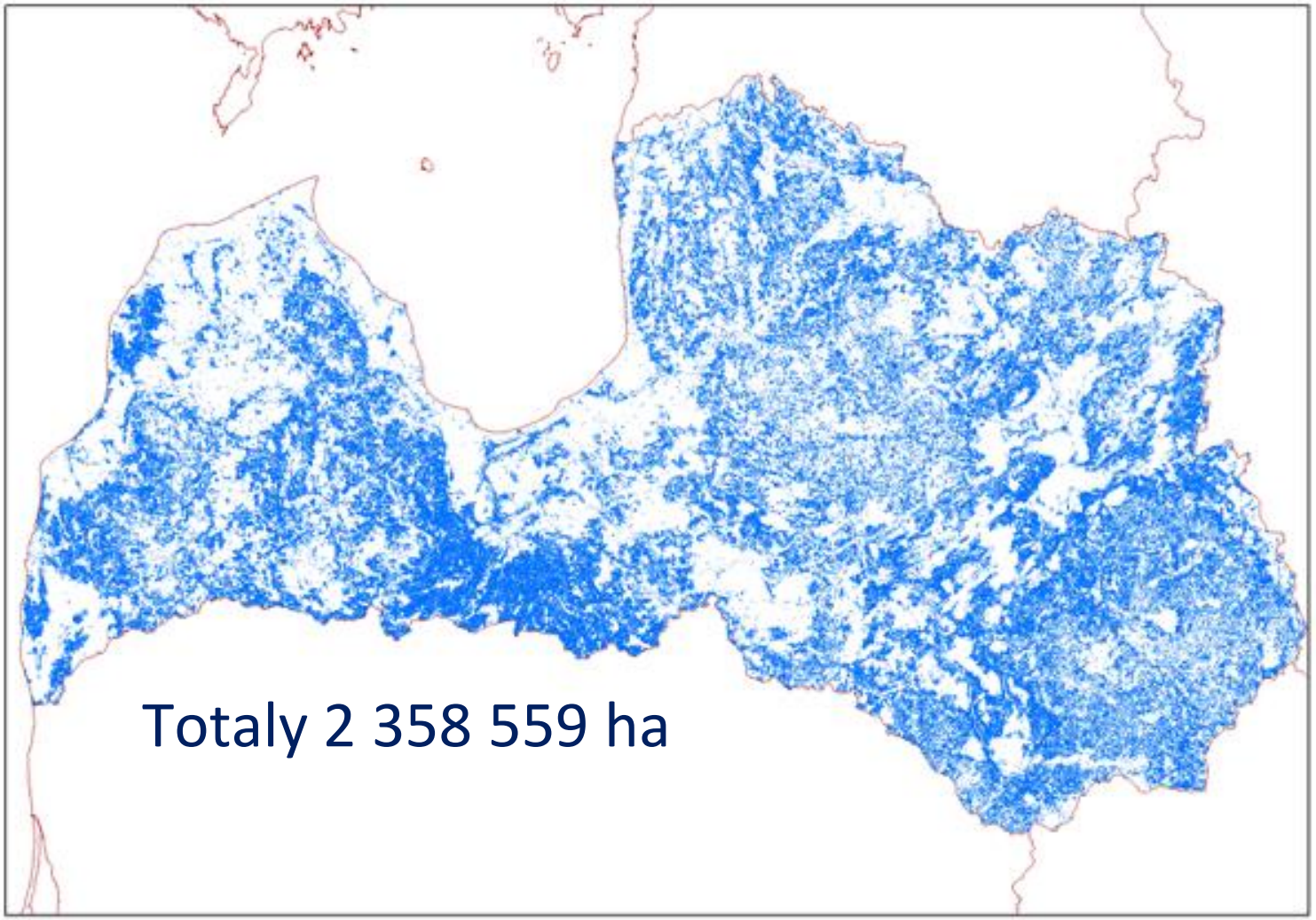
Area of agricultural land



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Back than (30’s) and today

Source: https://ainavasruna.lv/toreiz-un-tagad

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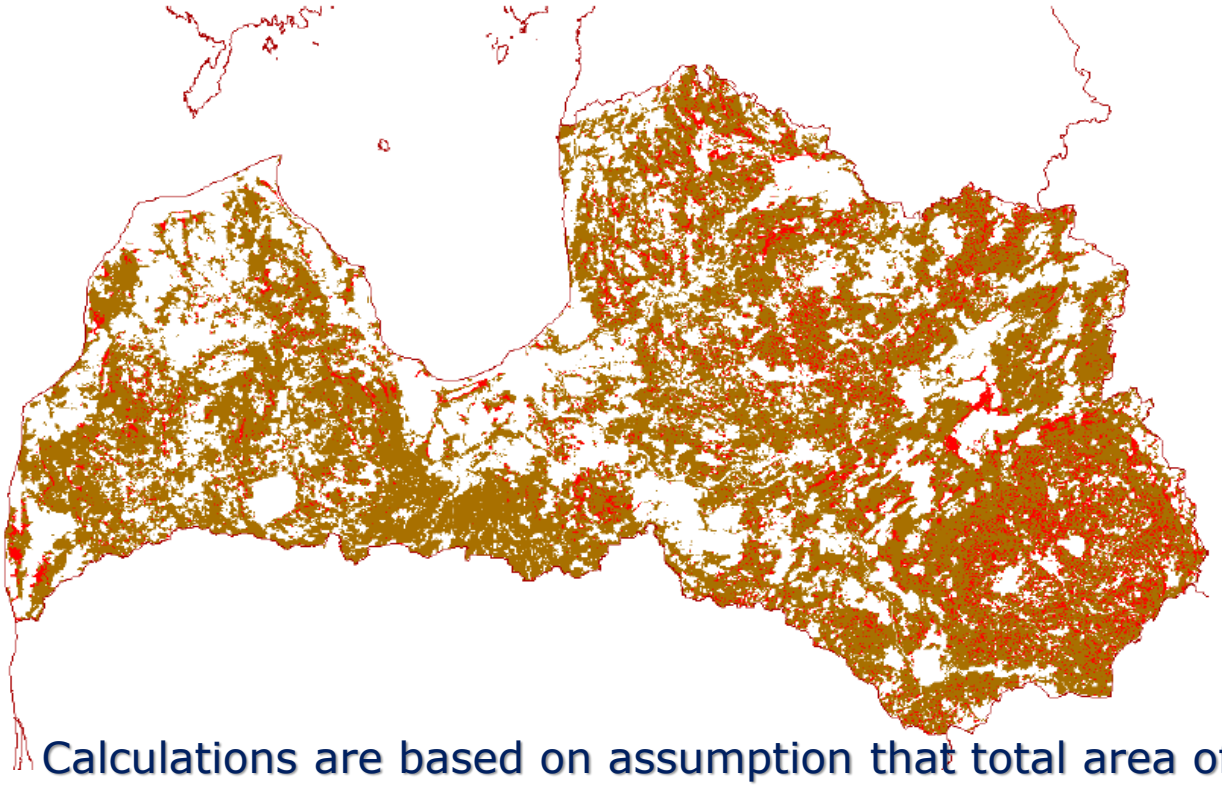
Distribution of organic soils in Latvia

Overall significance of organic soils in agriculture:

~ 10% of all value added in Latvian agriculture

~ 120 mln EUR output per year



Calculations are based on assumption that total area of organic soils in agriculture is 138,1 thou ha

BIO4ECO
Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

Source: https://www.interregeurope.eu/bio4eco/

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Norway Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

norway grants

Planned activities under the NFI programme "Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Environment" **project "Enhancement of sustainable soil resource management in agriculture":**

1. Improvement of reliable, country-specific soil information in agricultural land:
   - Update of historical soil database;
   - Development of national soil classification system;
   - Development of soil mapping methodology;
   - **Mapping of peat soil distribution;**
2. Establishment of national soil carbon monitoring system;
3. Improvement of national GHG emission calculation system.

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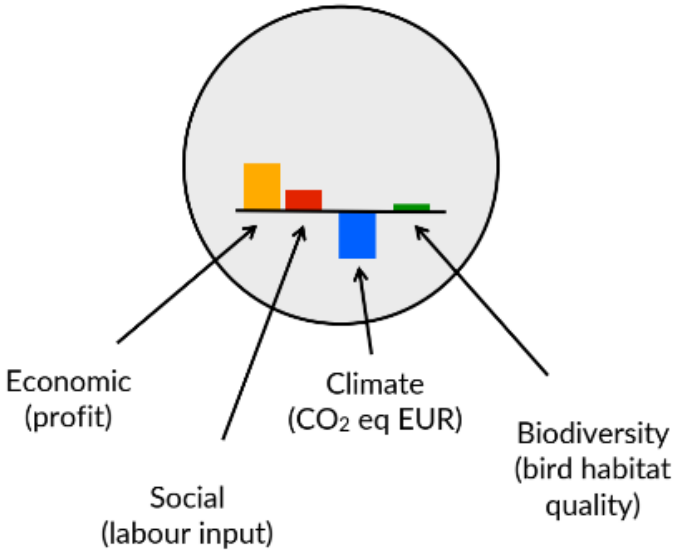
Functional land use of organic soils



- We evaluated areas of organic soils, but soil information is 31-56 years old
- Additional research and up to date information is needed about organic soils

- To promote higher production from organic soils

  e.g., output from extensive dairy is 400 EUR/ha, output from cranberries 30 000 EUR/ha, GHG are similar!?

- Highly extensive and non-producing organic soil should either to be used for production or to change land use

- To consider afforestation of uncultivated organic soils of low agroeconomic quality with productive forest
- To consider afforestation of organic soils already covered with trees with productive forest

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Kiitos!