

What policy mechanisms can support organic farming?

From design to effective implementation

VISIONARY Webinar 24 April 2024, 10.30 – 12.00 CET

Hosts: Katrin Prager, Shadi Hashem, University of Aberdeen

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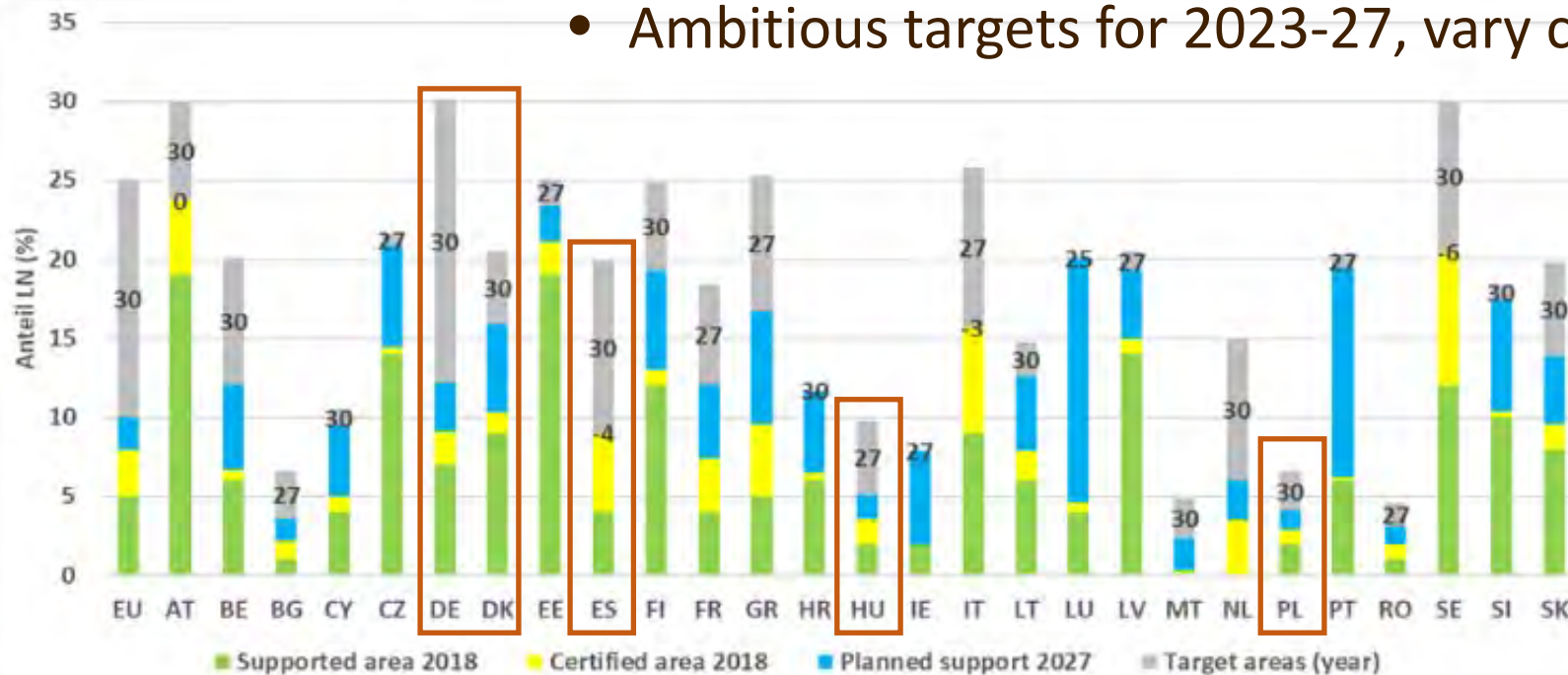


Webinar outline

- 10.30** Welcome to VISIONARY webinar and research undertaken on organic food & farming
- 10.40** Paul Holmbeck: Policies driving organic breakthroughs: Lessons from Denmark
- 11.00** David McKay: Organic Action Plans and the Scottish example
- 11.20** Discussion and Questions from participants
- 12.00** End

Organic farming policy and trends

- EU regulations defining organic farming since 1991
- Most EU member states supported conversion and maintenance, albeit at different levels
- Continuous growth overall but incl downward trends in individual countries
- Ambitious targets for 2023-27, vary considerably by country



OrganicTargets4EU

<https://organictargets.eu/national-cap-strategic-plans-a-big-step-on-the-road-to-25-organic-2/>



Research on organic food and farming

Task 5.2 – Transition towards 25% agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 (Lead FiBL)

- To enhance evidence base regarding the conditions (barriers and drivers) and potential of support schemes for expansion of organic farmland
- Factorial Survey Experiment in preparation for DE, UK, PL, HU

Data source	DE	UK	PL	HU	ES	DK
Farmer interviews	x	x	x	x		
Mental models	x	x			x	x
Science-Policy Interfaces	x	x	x	x	x	

Emerging findings related to policy

- Demand side, supply side and political economy factors
- Issues linked to policy:
 - Lack of policy integration and co-ordinated leadership at national level
 - Lack of consistent messaging in support of organic farming (e.g. Undermining organic through ambiguous terminology ,regen ag‘)
 - Lack of willingness to commit necessary funding, limited budgets for public procurement of organic
 - Lack of adequate marketing channels, e.g. many coops not interested
 - Limited or no access to competent advisory support to producers

→ Consensus: need for government intervention

Emerging findings related to policy (cont'd)

- Bespoke action plans, organic regulations/ standards flexibility, policy interventions to balance the market
- Create demand via public procurement policy alignment, support market development more broadly
- Defined and enhanced budgets
- Enabling regulations to influence consumer decision making
- Create specific government department, improve staff knowledge of organic farming
- Ensure scientific and industry input into strategies and programs – Knowledge hub to promote interaction

How to best to go about this? Let's hear some examples

visionary

Towards more sustainable food provision

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