



# Investments in education of organic farmers in Estonia

Airi Vetemaa,

Estonian Organic Farming Foundation

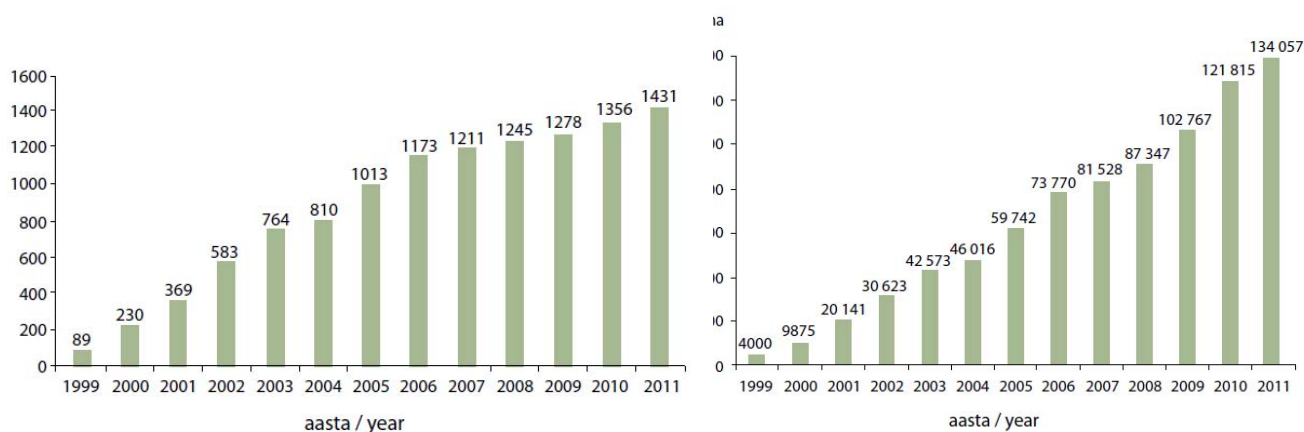
Anne Luik,

Estonian University of Life Sciences

Jurmala, March 22



## Organic farms and area



**2011**

1431 farms

134 057 ha



# What kind of education and educational materials are offered?

- No curricula in university or vocational education, only single subjects – basic principles of organic farming, organic animal husbandry, in other subjects just certain aspects of organic farming
- Nova-Bova University master courses in organic farming for Baltic students (2 weeks courses)
- **Short 1-2 days trainings**
- **Study trips (local and abroad)**
- **Informational booklets, handbook, guidelines, magazine**



**BERAS** implementation  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society



Baltic Sea Region  
Programme 2007-2013

- There is training requirement in organic farming support scheme – 2 days in the first year of conversion, 2 days additional training in 5-years period
- All trainings are free of charge
- Information materials (incl. Organic Farming Magazine) are free of charge
- Study trips include own contribution



**BERAS** implementation  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society



Baltic Sea Region  
Programme 2007-2013

# Short trainings 1

- Procurements by the Ministry of Agriculture (yearly 2009-2011):
  - Regular information days for those, who are planning the conversion (in total 10 days)
  - Regular 2-days trainings for farmers starting the conversion. (in total 14 days)
  - Regular short 1-day trainings (different topics, in total 24 days)
  - Other short 1-2 days trainings (incl. with foreign lecturer, up to 10 days)



**BERAS** implementation  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society



**Baltic Sea Region**  
Programme 2007-2013

# Short trainings 2

- Other trainings (mostly 1-2 days) depending of the initiative of different organisations (ca 40-60 days)



**BERAS** implementation  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society

# Short trainings 3

- Total number of training days yearly – ca 100
- Total human days of trainings yearly – ca 2500



## Study trips

- 2009 – Denmark
- 2010 – Austria
- 2011 – France, Finland
- planned in 2012 – Germany, Sweden, Finland
- + trips incl. some organic aspects
- + local trips

Topics – production,  
processing, marketing



# Organisations providing organic farming training

- **Estonian Organic Farming Foundation, ca 50% of all training days**
- Estonian University of Life Sciences, incl. Research Centre of Organic Farming
- Centre for Ecological Engineering
- Hiiumaa Vocational School
- Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute
- Agricultural Research Centre
- Viljandi Agricultural Advisory Union
- Tartu Farmers Union
- etc



**BERAS** implementation  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society



Baltic Sea Region  
Programme 2007-2013

## Topics covered

Mainly:

- Organic plant production, incl. on farm trainings
- Organic animal production, incl. on farm trainings

Also:

- Processing,  
incl. practical trainings
- marketing,
- co-operation
- etc.



**BERAS** implementation  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society



Baltic Sea Region  
Programme 2007-2013



# Financing of training 2009 / 2010

No special line for organic farming; no exact data

- Ordered by the ministry, RDP Technical assistance ca 15 000 €/ 40 000 €
- RDP Measure 1.1 – Training and information activities ca 30 000 €/ 40 000 €
- Market development support, Estonian state budget (study trips) ca 18 000 € / 22 000 €
- **Other sources ? €**
- Average cost of the training day (local lecturers) – 1000 €



## Information materials 1

### Printed materials

- Organic farming magazine since 1996 (Mahepõllumajanduse leht); 2009 - MoA, RDP TA ; 2010, 2011 - RDP 1.1
- Guidelines
  - Explanations of organic regulation; 2009, 2011 - RDP TS



# Information materials 2

## Printed materials

### Brochures

- Sheep and goat farming, Pig farming, Potato growing, Vegetables growing, Fruit and berries growing, Quality and added value – 2010 MoA, RDP TA
- Beef cattle farming, dairy farming, poultry farming, Cereal and oil crops growing, Organic farming for beginners – 2011 MoA, RDP TA

All printed materials can be found also electronically at **[www.maheklubi.ee](http://www.maheklubi.ee)**



# Information materials 3

**Portal [www.maheklubi.ee](http://www.maheklubi.ee)** – created with EEA grants/Norway grants, no financing for updating

## Electronic materials

- Guidelines
  - Small scale processing of fruits, berries and vegetables; 2011 - RDP TA
  - Small scale processing of meat; 2011 - RDP TS
- Brochures: Cereal growing in wide rows; 2010 - RDP 1.1

All materials can be found at **[www.maheklubi.ee](http://www.maheklubi.ee)**



# Further needs

- Development curricula in University and vocational education
- Promotion of motivation for agricultural /organic farming studies among students
- Knowledge in specific areas, promotion of research of organic farming, co-operation with other countries
- Promotion of general awareness of sustainable development
- More trainings according to the demand



**BERAS** implementation  
Baltic Ecological Recycling  
Agriculture and Society



**Baltic Sea Region**  
Programme 2007-2013

## Thank you!

