



Agricultural Policy Forum 2021

Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Commitments and Reality Check

*Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production
Lutz van Elk, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Expert for vine and wine*

20 - 21 October 2021
Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable
grape and wine production



Green Agenda

agri-environmental aspects of
sustainable grape and wine production



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production



please let me split the speech in two parts:

(1) **plans** and **reflections** about it

(2) agri-environmental **aspects** of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production



agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production



please let me

point out only view aspects
because our time is **limited**



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production



please let me

focus on

the **assessment (part 1)** and

the **conclusions (part 2)**

because facts and plans are very well known already



agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production



please let me

start with (1.1)

the **Green Deal**

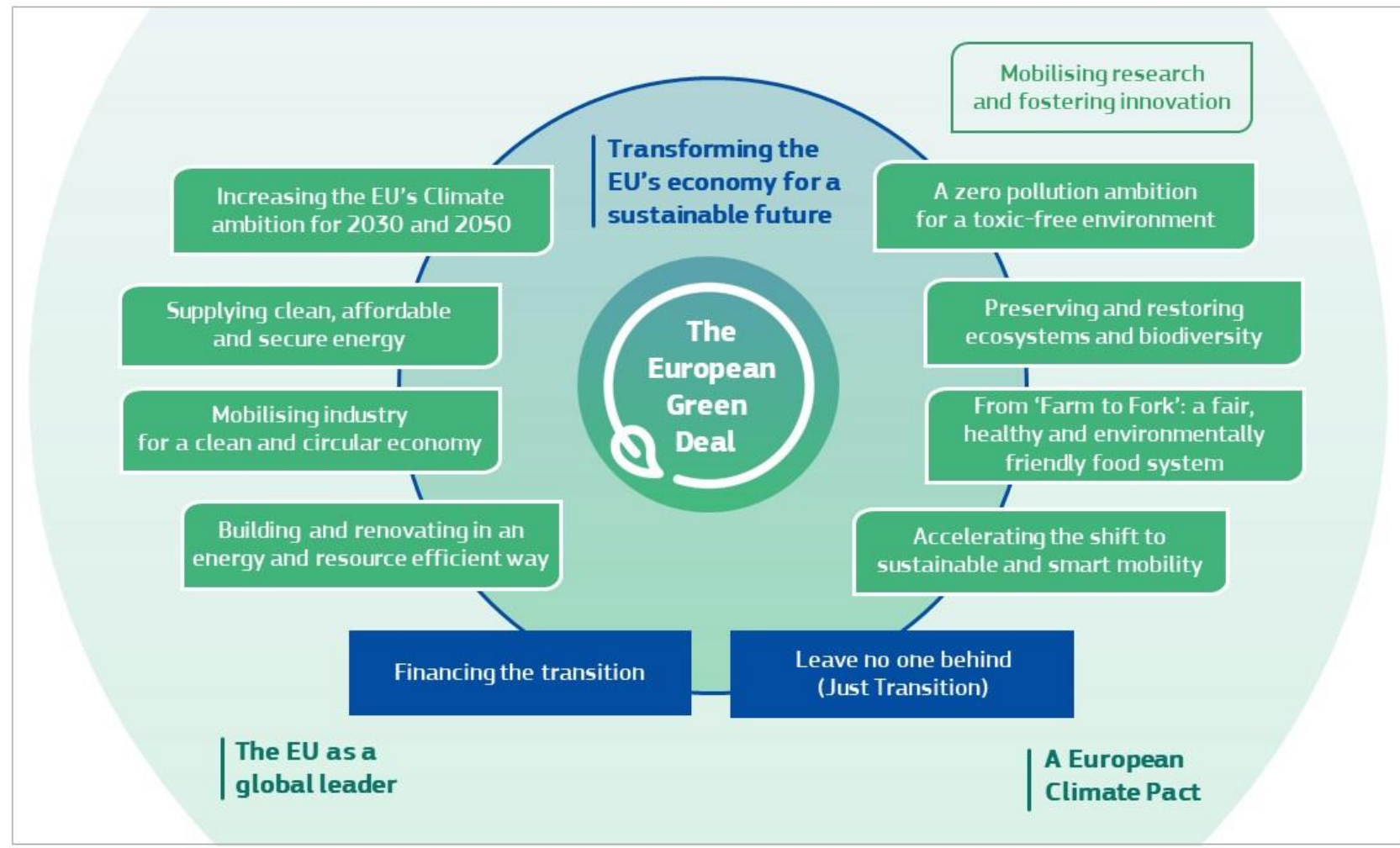


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- COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - The European **Green Deal**
- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2019%3A640%3AFIN>



Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

let's step back and take a look at a simple

fact



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

In 2021 three Laureates share the Nobel Prize in Physics for their studies of complex phenomena. All complex systems consist of many different interacting parts. They could also be chaotic, like the weather, where small deviations in initial values result in huge differences at a later stage. Professor Klaus Hasselmann created a model that links together weather and climate, thus answering the question of why climate models can be reliable despite weather being changeable and chaotic. He also developed methods for identifying specific signals, fingerprints, that both natural phenomena and human activities imprint in the climate. His methods have been used

to prove that the increased temperature in the atmosphere is due to human emissions of carbon dioxide.

<https://www.nobelprize.org/uploads/2021/10/popular-physicsprize2021.pdf>



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

goals

UN- Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
Sustainable Development

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development

<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<https://sdgs.un.org/publications/transforming-our-world-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-17981>



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

the

<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<https://sdgs.un.org/publications/transforming-our-world-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-17981>



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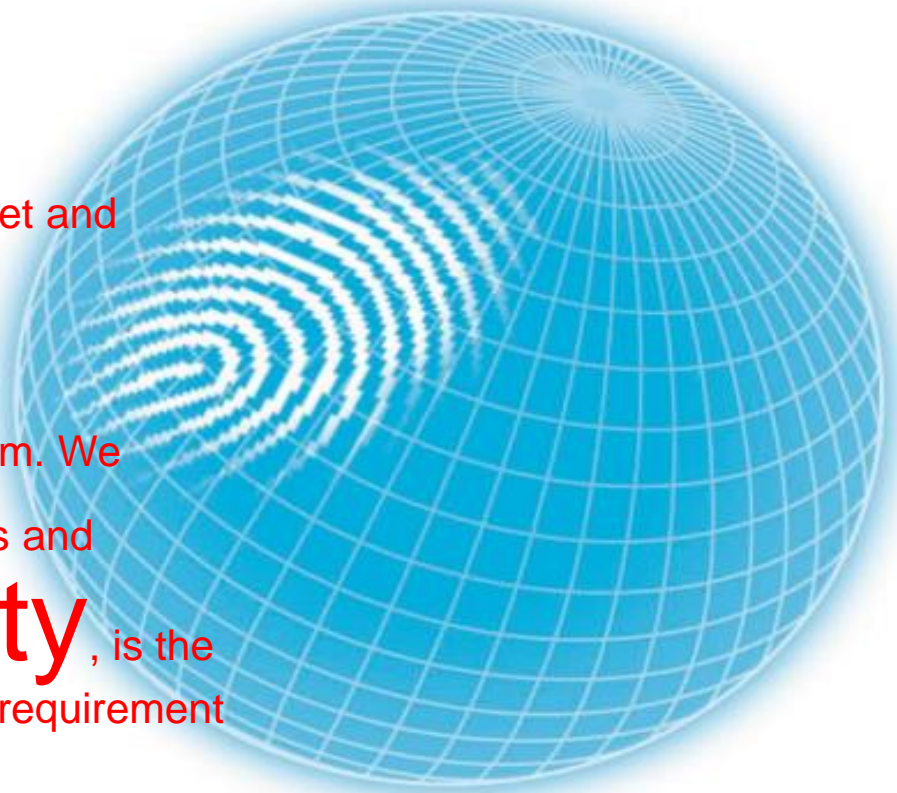
Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

“This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal

peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and

dimensions, including extreme **poverty**, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.”



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Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)



“We are determined to end poverty and **hunger**,
in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all
human beings can fulfil their potential in **dignity**
and equality and in a **healthy**
environment.”



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

only one aspect of the
F2F strategy

... “to **reduce** the overall use and risk of chemical **pesticides by 50% by 2030.**”



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

only one aspect of
the action plan to
“boost the production
and consumption of
organic products, to reach
25% of agricultural land
under organic farming by
2030.”



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)



**the action plan
to boost the
organic sector is
excellent,** however



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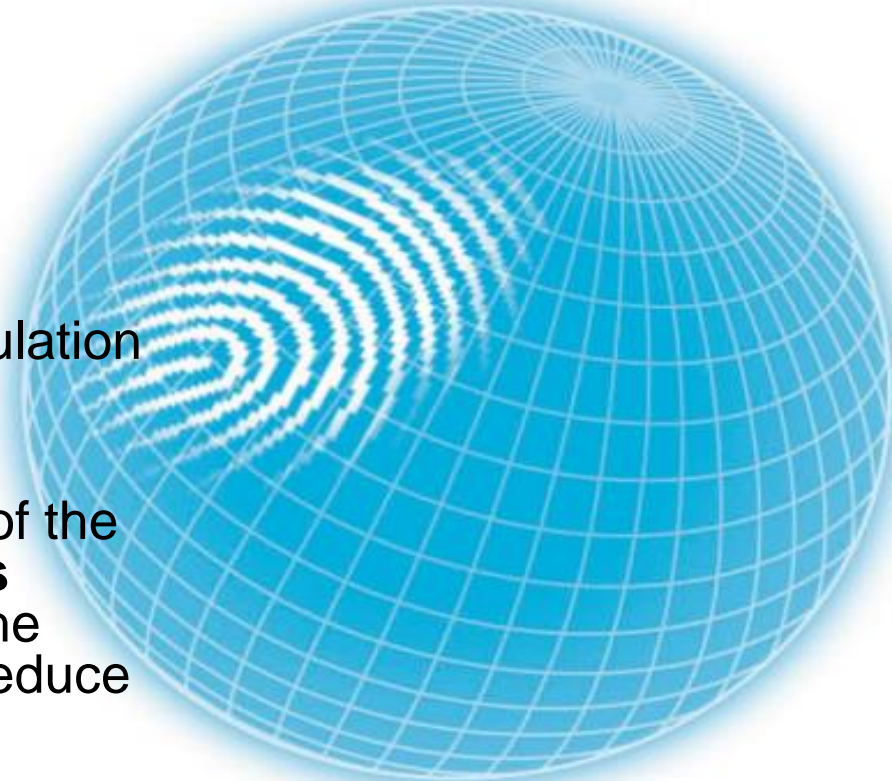


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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.1)

Europe's **Beating Cancer Plan** ...

- “a tobacco-free generation: ensuring that less than 5% of the population uses tobacco by 2040
- **reduce harmful alcohol consumption** in line with the targets of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (relative reduction of at least 10% in the harmful use of alcohol by 2025) and reduce young people’s exposure to alcohol marketing (...)”



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.2)

Technical report by the **Joint Research Centre** (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service, exploring the potential effects of selected Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies targets in the framework of the 2030 Climate targets and the post 2020 Common Agricultural Policy <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en>

“The EU net trade position for cereals is worsening, due to the combination of larger imports (+39%, substituting EU domestic production) and smaller exports (-38%, as **domestic supply drops of -22% and higher EU prices become less competitive**).”



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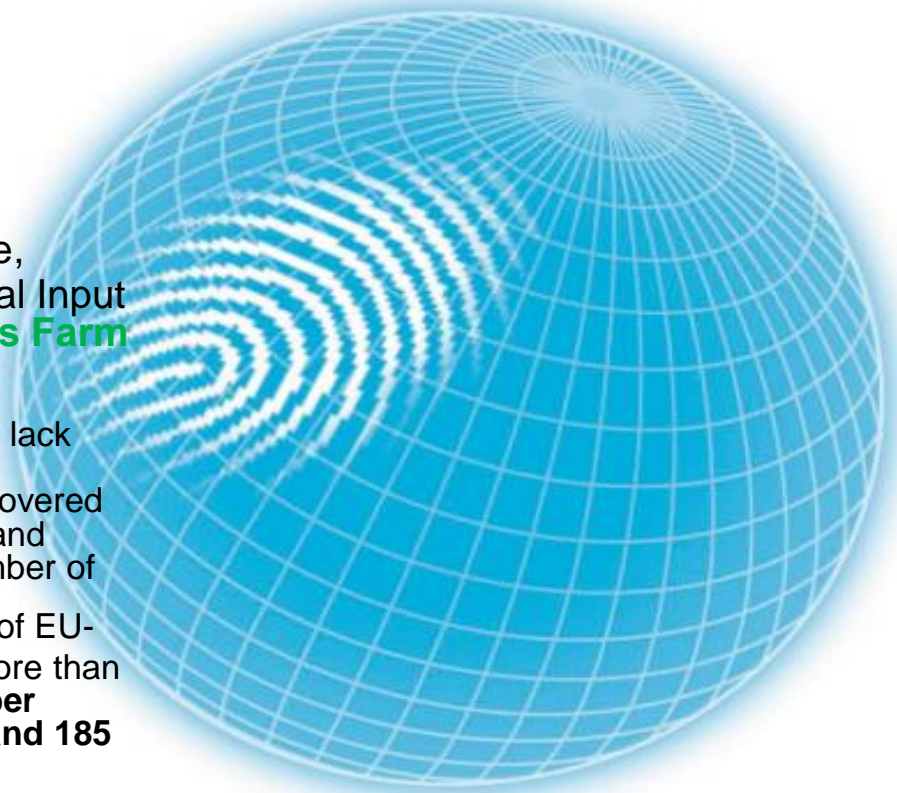


Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.2)

USDA, United States Department of Agriculture, Economic and Food Security Impacts of Agricultural Input Reduction Under the European Union **Green Deal's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies**

“**Food insecurity**, measured as the number of people who lack access to a diet of at least 2,100 calories a day, **increases significantly** in the 76 low- and middle-income countries covered in our analysis due to increases in food commodity prices and declines in income, particularly in **Africa**. By 2030, the number of **food-insecure people** in the case of EU-only adoption would increase by an additional 22 million more than projected without the EC's proposed Strategies. The **number would climb to 103 million under the middle scenario and 185 million under global adoption.**”



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.2)

USA launched a

Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Coalition-Sustainable-Productivity-Growth-background-and-proposal.pdf>

“Increasing agricultural productivity growth is one of the only ways— if not the only way — to solve this multi-objective optimization problem.”



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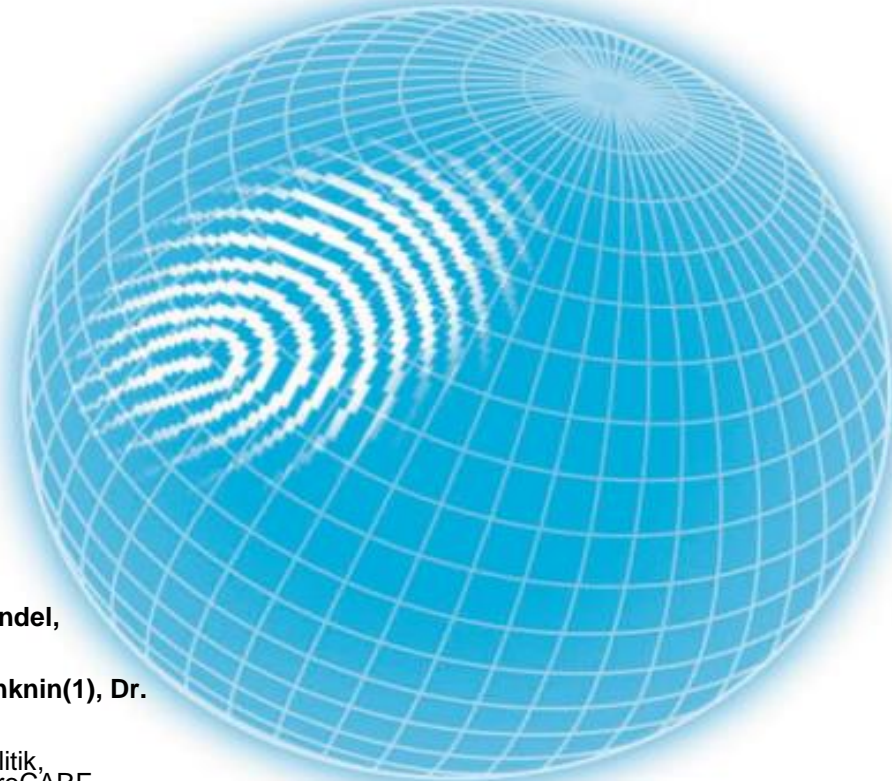
Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.2)

Ökonomische und ökologische Auswirkungen des Green Deals in der Agrarwirtschaft

Eine Simulationstudie der Effekte der F2F-Strategie auf Produktion, Handel, Einkommen und Umwelt mit dem CAPRI Modell

Prof. Dr. Dr. Christian Henning(1), Dr. Peter Witzke(2), MSc agr. Lea Panknin(1), Dr. Michael Grunenberg (1)

Final REPORT, 15.8.2021, (1) Institut für Agrarökonomie, Abteilung Agrarpolitik, Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Wilhelm-Seelig-Platz 6/7, 24118 Kiel, (2) EuroCARE, Bonn



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Agri-Environmental aspects of sustainable grape and wine production (1.2)

“...F2F Strategy would lead to a significant **decline in production** and a respective **price increase** within the EU...”



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production



part 2

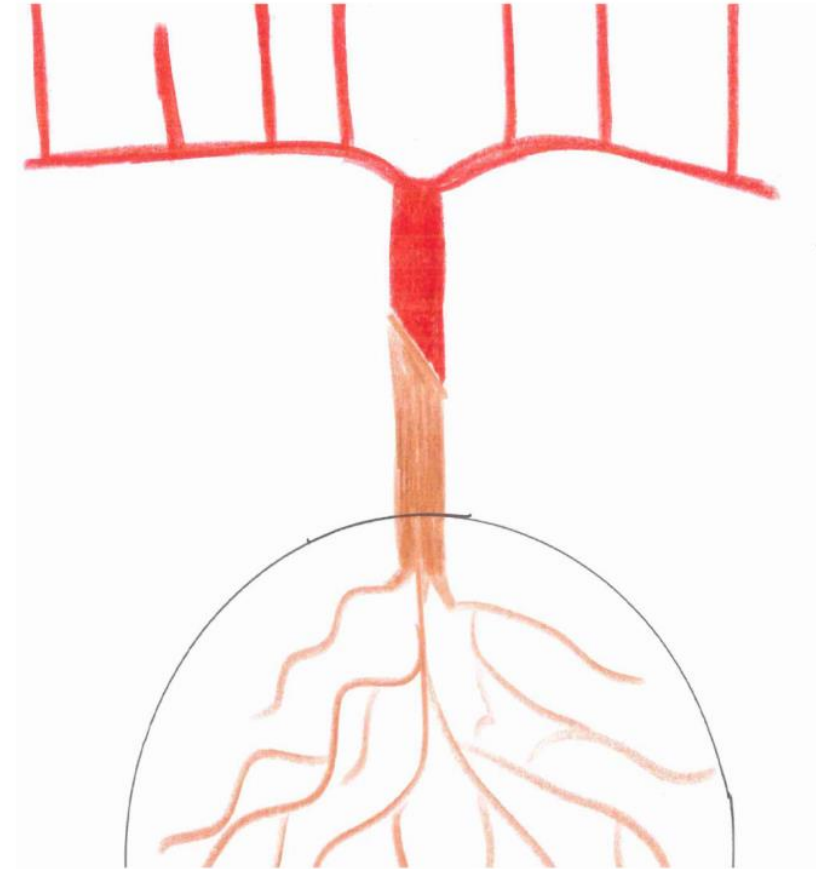
agri-environmental **aspects** of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production



agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production (2.1.1)



what is **that**
and why is **that**?



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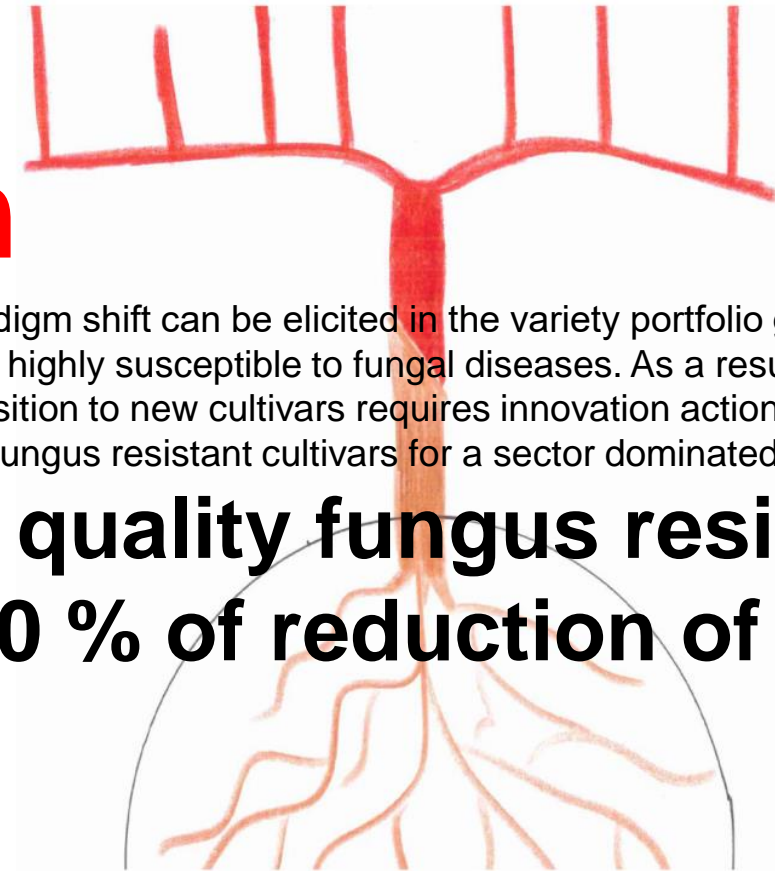
agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production (2.1.1)



that's the problem

“Grape production will comply with Green Deal goals only if a paradigm shift can be elicited in the variety portfolio grown in EU-vineyards. Without exception, traditional table and wine grapes are highly susceptible to fungal diseases. As a result, viticulture consumes approx. 60 % of the fungicides applied in the EU. A transition to new cultivars requires innovation action across all stakeholders. For decades, breeders have developed high quality fungus resistant cultivars for a sector dominated by

traditionalism. Breeding progress resulted in numerous **high quality fungus resistant cultivars permitting up to 80 % of reduction of fungicides** (JKI, Geilweilerhof).



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production (2.1.1)

that's the problem

the transformation to more **fungus resistant cultivars** permitting up to **80 % of reduction of fungicides** takes time and cannot be achieved till **2030** (Lutz van Elk, BMEL).

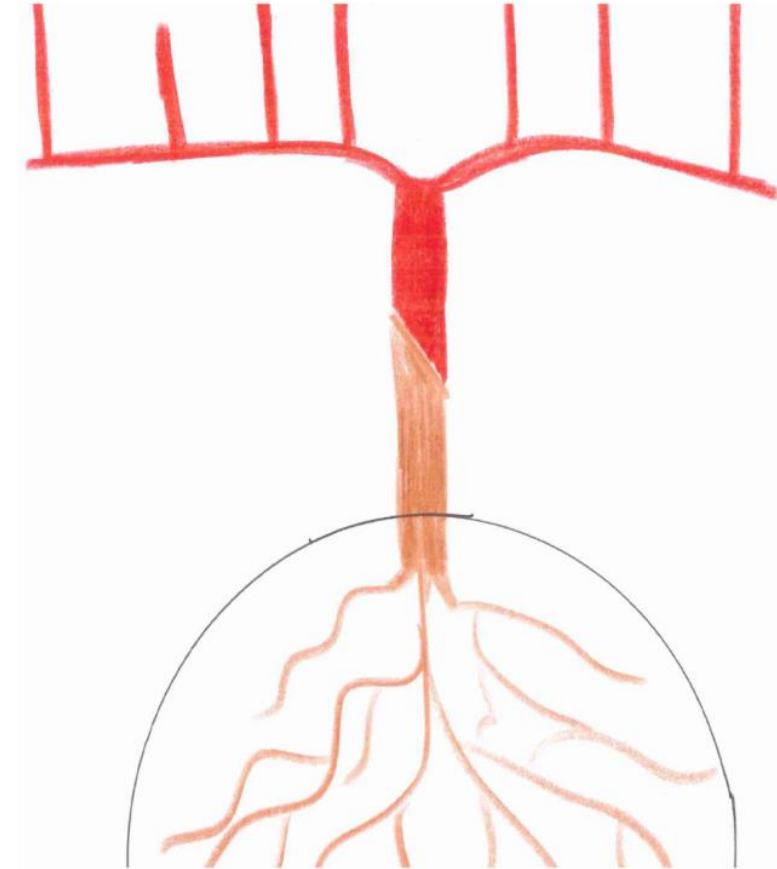


agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production (2.1.1)

that's not the only problem

there are also problems regarding

- **the use of fertilisers,**
- **losses of nutrients from fertilisers,**
- **soil erosion,**
- **biodiversity loss,**
- **water use and**
- **many others.**



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production



part 2.2

agri-environmental aspects of sustainable grape and **wine production**



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production



part 2.2

the glas bottle



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable
grape and wine production (2.3)



conclusions

- ✓ facts are clear
- ✓ plans are made
 - food production might decline
 - food prices might increase



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable
grape and wine production (2.3)



conclusions

but it is not as simple as that,
the reasons need to be better understood,

therefore see for example also

<http://www.fao.org/nr/sustainability/full-cost-accounting/en/>



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production (2.3)



As I said before, **without exception, traditional wine grapes are highly susceptible to fungal diseases. As a result, viticulture consumes approximately 60 % of the fungicides applied in the EU** (JKI, Geilweilerhof) ■



agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine production (2.3)**



Furthermore,

the goals pursued by the European Commission a) 25% organic farming by 2030 and b) - 50% use of pesticides by 2030 cannot be achieved in the German wine sector.

Organic viticulture in the European Union is fragile. In years with exceptionally unfavorable weather conditions, the harvest is in danger.

A significant reduction of pesticides is only possible gradually and only in the long term. Otherwise there will be no “reduction”. Giving up vineyards / winemaking is not our goal.



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production (2.3)



Therefore,

I focused on **fungus resistant grape varieties**, because wineries starting now to plant fungus resistant grape varieties would work - from my perspective - in a more sustainable way, than others.

From my perspective these wineries would be the future **benchmark** for sustainable grape production.



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agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape and wine** production (2.3)



However,

I have to admit, that fungus resistant grape varieties are not popular and other experts might have a **different understanding from sustainable grape production**. Decreasing grape- and wine-production would not be, what I consider sustainable.

Because from my perspective,

a loss in viticulture would be a loss.



agri-environmental aspects of sustainable **grape** and **wine** production



Thank You!



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