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# THE AUSTRIAN AECM PROGRAMME 2015-20

Paris, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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Less-Favoured Areas, Organic Farming

# STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRIA

- family-farm-based agriculture – linked to forestry, Ø 18,7 ha UAA
- ~ 115.000 IACS-farms, ~ 60 % part-time farmers,
- high proportion of less-favoured areas (3/4 of the area)
- high diversity of production sectors, main sectors in terms of agricultural production value are milk (16,5%), cereals & oil fruits (13,6%), beef (12,5%), pigs (10,7%), fruits & wine (10,7%) vegetables & potatoes (9,7%)
- high proportion of organic farming (1/5 of agricultural area)
- regional food important for consumers, export important for Austrian agriculture
- relatively low production intensity, ~ 80 % of the agricultural area in agri-environment, basically good environmental situation
- CAP-payments have high share on farm income



















# RURAL DEVELOPMENT: STRUCTURES & PROCESSES IN AUSTRIA

## General framework

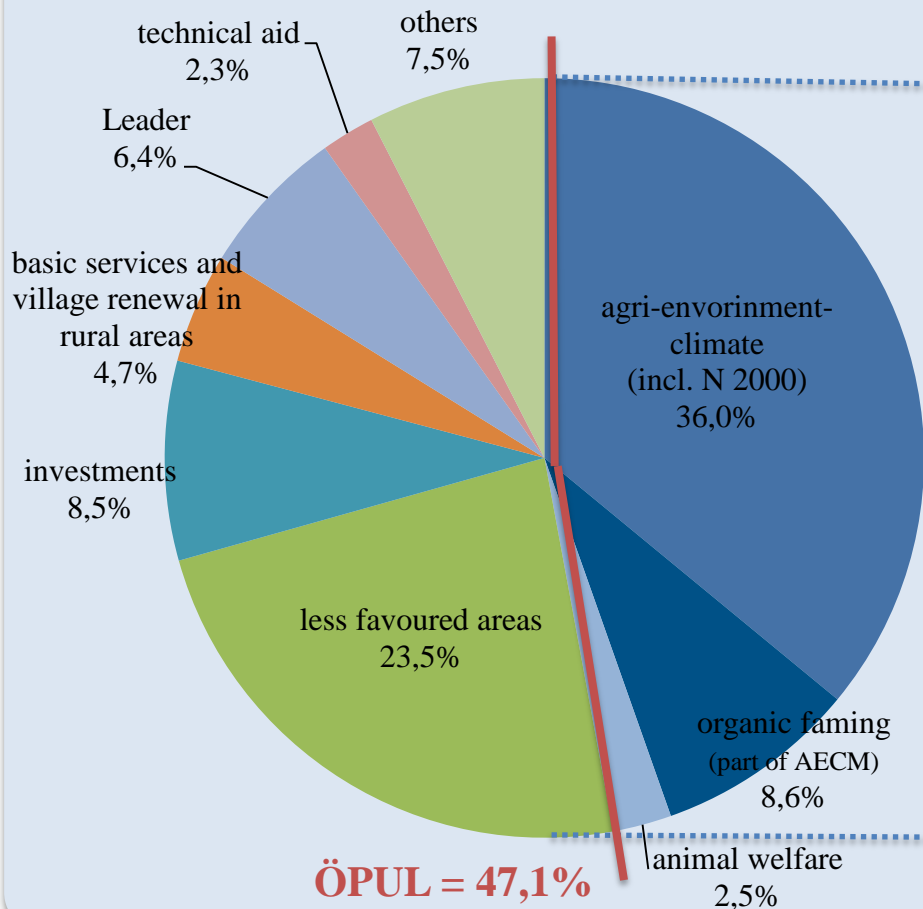
- As a **federal republic**, Austria is divided into nine states (Bundesländer)
- **One single Rural Development Programme** since 2000 with funding from federal (60%) and regional level (40%); national co-financing ~50%
- **~2/3 of payments for pillar 2** (1.100 Mio. out of ~ 1.800 Mio. CAP-payments)

## Responsibilities for AECM-payments (inkl. organic farming, animal welfare)

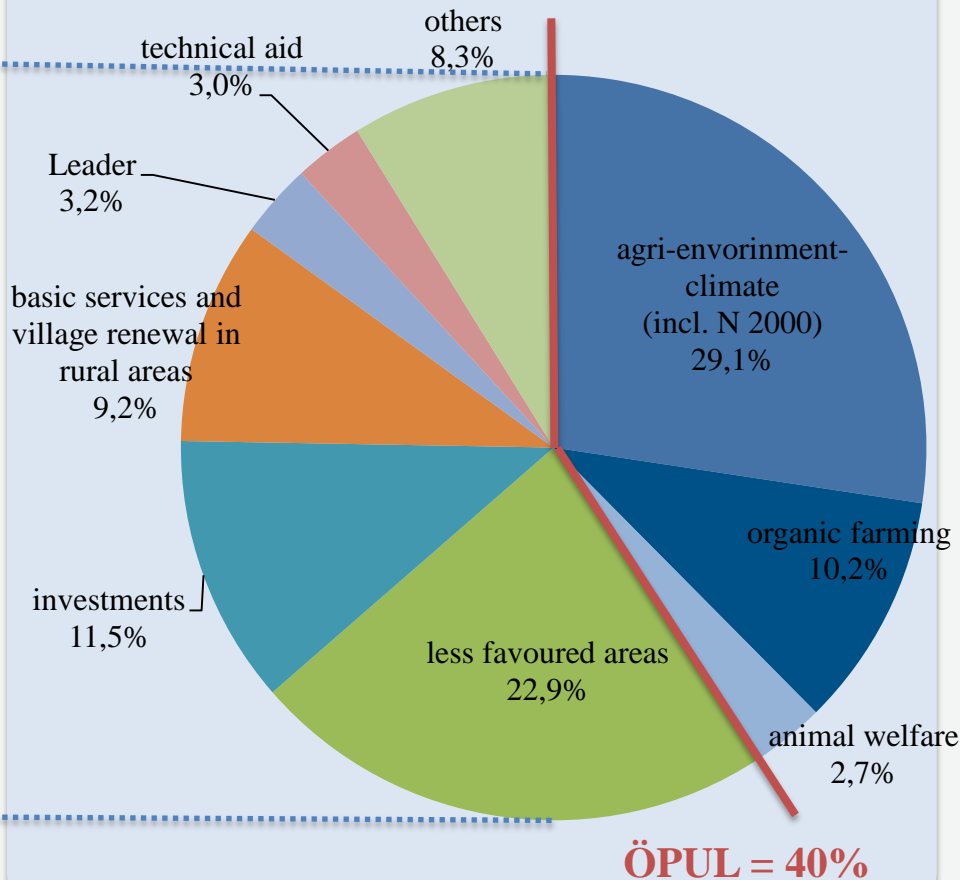
- Programming of RDP is done by the **Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management**
- **Agrar Markt Austria (AMA)** is the federal paying agency and responsible for receiving and check applications, to contract commitments, to control compliance to commitments and pay/reclaim payments to farmers;
- **Bundesländer** are involved in programme development and execution of project-measures

# AUSTRIAN RDP 2014-2020 (LE 14-20)

**RDP 2007-13: share in finance plan**  
(total = EUR 1 133 m/year)



**RDP 14-20: share in finance plan**  
(total = EUR 1 100 m/year)





# TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

## Intensification



## Abandonment



agriculturally used land gets scarce and  
potential high yield land is intensified



low-productive areas are at risk of  
abandonment of agricultural usage

# STRATEGY FOR AEP

## Targets

- **Continuing and target-orientated evolution** of the existing programme, adaptation to new baseline and establishing an equivalent measure (EFA)
- **Prevention of environmental risks** through broad, preventive measures and **improve environment situation in regions / on areas with poor conditions**
- **Keep high participation rates** and a broad land-coverage
- **Clear requirements** for application, implementation, controls and calculation

## Challenges

- **Participation rate in high productive areas**
- **Calculation of premias** – targeting and avoidance of windfall gains, calculation of preventive measures (baseline)
- Develop an approach **together with farmers organisations and NGOs**

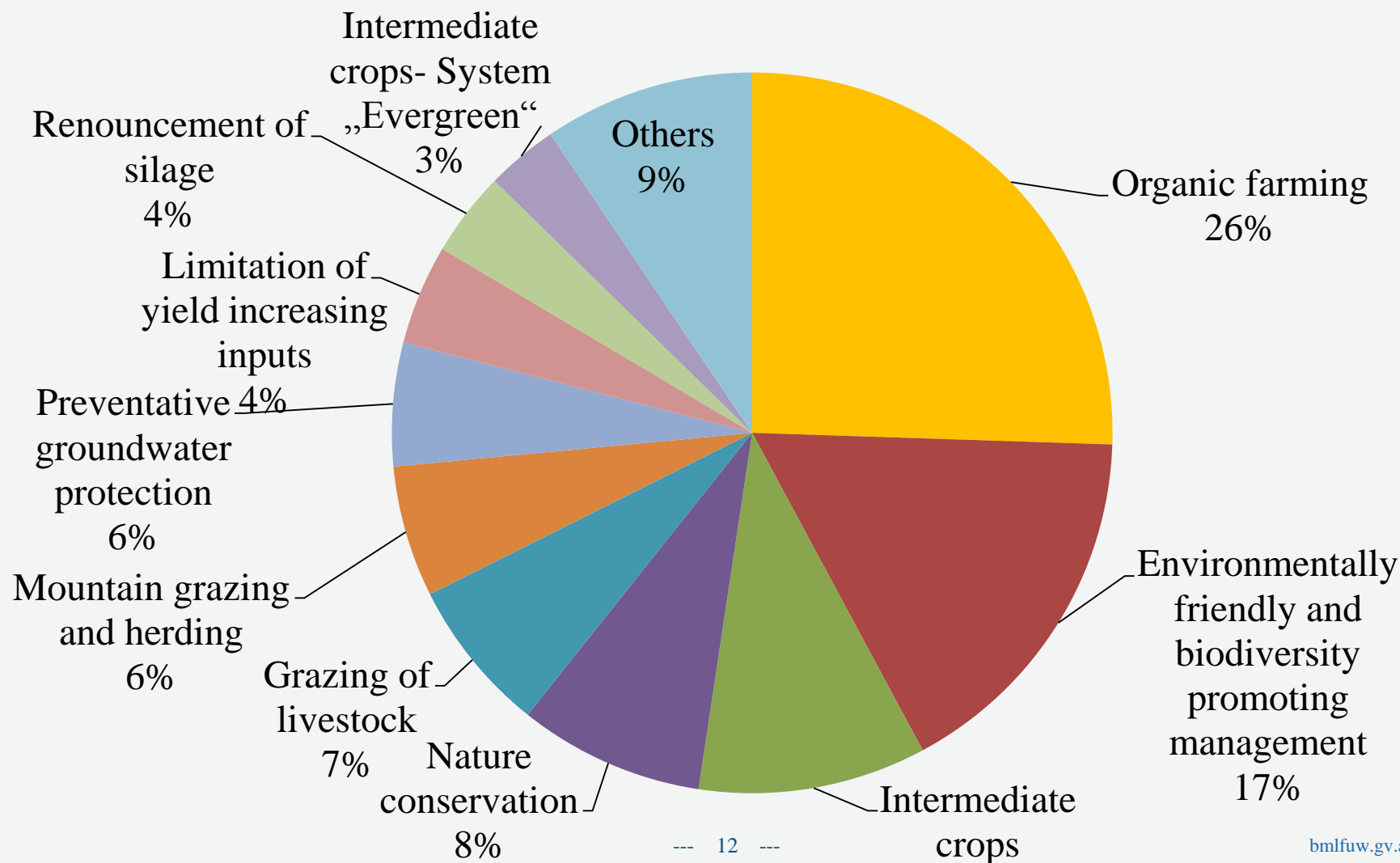


# ÖPUL 2015 - MEASURES

Art. 28 Agri Environment Climate Measure						Art. 29 Organic Farming	Art. 33 Animal welfare	Art. 30 Natura 2000
General	Arable land		Grassland		Permanent Crops			
Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management	Greening of arable land/ intermediate crops	Preventative groundwater protection (regional)	Mountain grazing and herding	Renouncement of silage	Erosion protection in vineyards, fruits and hops	Organic Farming	Animal welfare - Grazing of livestock	Natura 2000 - Agriculture
Nature conservation *	Greening of arable land/ system "Evergreen"	Preventative surface water protection on arable land (regional)	Cultivation of mowed mountain grassland	Maintenance of endangered livestock breeds	Pesticide renouncement in vineyards and hops		Animal welfare - stable	
Surface-near spreading of liquid farm manure	Direct seeding and seeding on mulch	Management of arable areas particularly threatened by leaching			Use of beneficial organisms in greenhouses			
Limitation of yield increasing inputs *	Cultivation of rare agricultural plants	Renouncement of fungicides and growth regulators *	* Mandatory combination with measures "Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management" ** Mandatory combination with measure "Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management" or "Organic Farming"					

# SHARE OF MEASURES ON AEP 2015

Payments total 382,7 Mio. Euro, average 4.200 Euro/farm, 220 Euro/ha UAA







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# Questions?

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