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Republic of Latvia

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



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 Geoportāls: <https://geolatvija.lv/geo/>

The screenshot shows a GIS interface with a map of a rural area. Below the map are several data tables. The top table lists soil profiles with columns for profile ID, soil type, and other identifiers. The middle table lists soil orders with columns for order ID, soil type, and other identifiers. The bottom table is a detailed soil profile table with columns for profile ID, soil type, soil order, soil series, soil horizon, soil texture, soil pH, soil organic matter, soil bulk density, soil porosity, soil water content, soil moisture, soil temperature, soil depth, soil color, soil structure, soil compaction, soil erosion, soil salinity, soil toxicity, soil nutrients, soil microorganisms, soil fauna, soil flora, soil biota, soil biodiversity, soil sustainability, soil resilience, soil adaptability, soil flexibility, soil robustness, soil redundancy, soil resilience, soil recovery, soil regeneration, soil restoration, soil rehabilitation, soil remediation, soil reclamation, soil revegetation, soil reforestation, soil afforestation, soil agroforestry, soil silvopastoralism, soil agroecology, soil agroforestry, soil agroecology, soil agroforestry, soil agroecology.

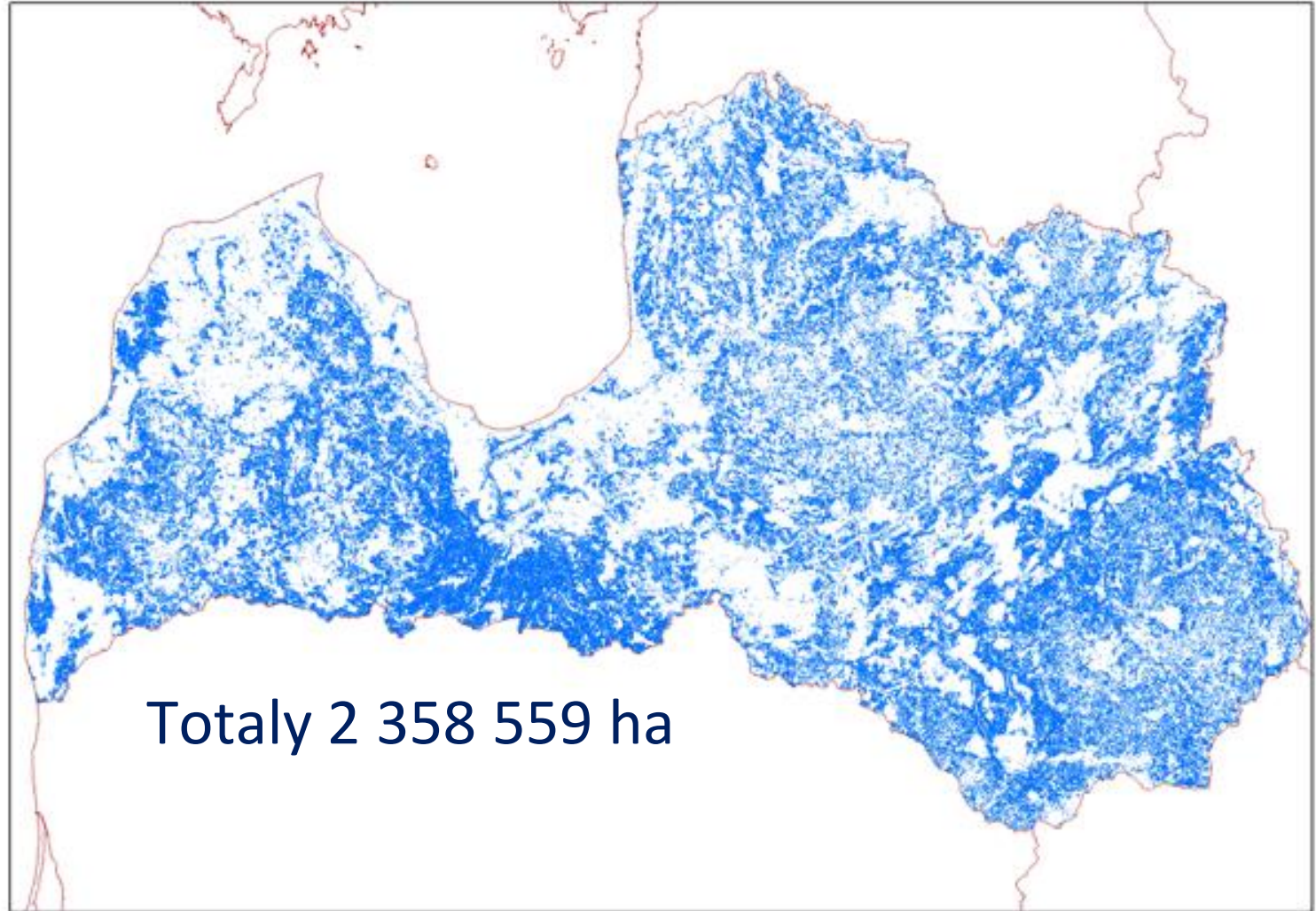
This block contains three images: a topographic map on the right, a large data sheet in the middle, and a smaller data sheet at the bottom. The topographic map shows a landscape with roads, fields, and water bodies. The data sheets are yellowed and contain handwritten notes and printed text, likely related to soil sampling or mapping data.

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





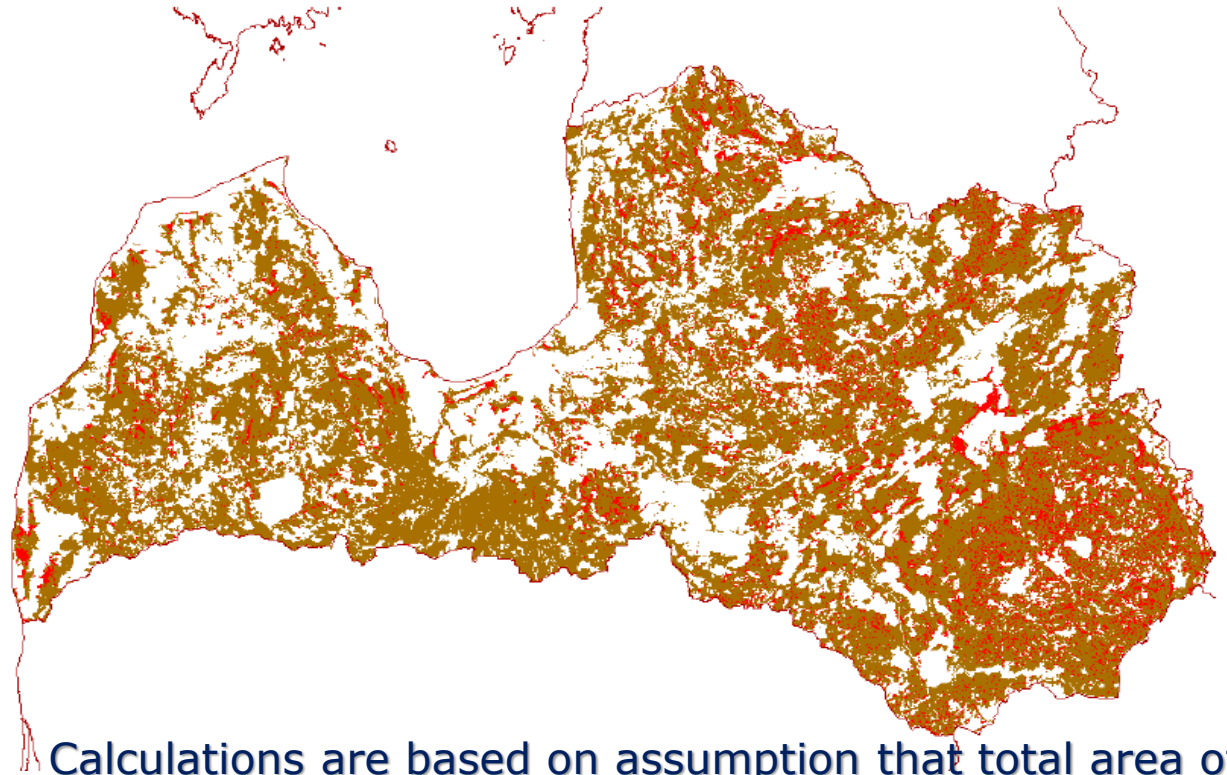
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Distribution of organic soils in Latvia

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



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Norway Financial Mechanism 2014-2021



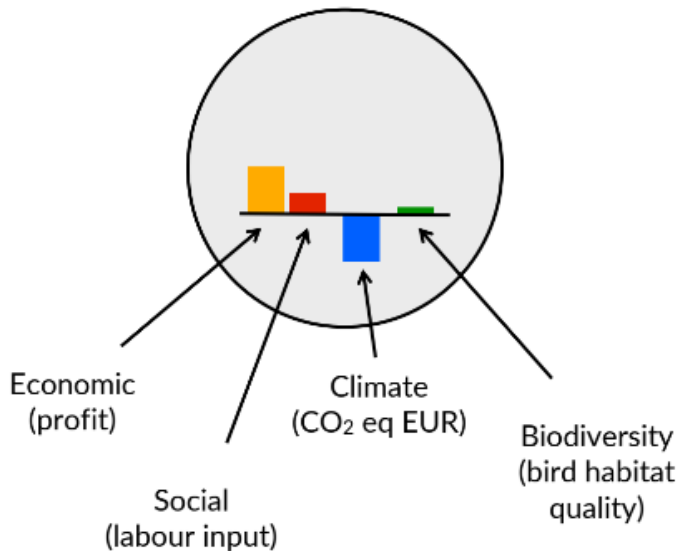
Planned activities under the NFI programme “Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Environment” **project “Enhancement of sustainable soil resource management in agriculture”**:

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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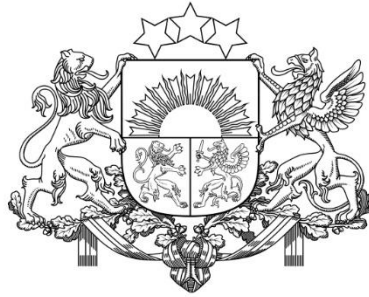
Functional land use of organic soils



- 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!