



Why choosing for organic Farming?

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Introduction

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Business Units Applied Plant Research

- Floriculture and glasshouse vegetable production
- Nursery stocks (trees)
- Mushroom production
- Bulbs
- Fruits
- Apiculture (bees)
- Arable Farming, Field production of vegetables and Multifunctional agriculture



Organic farming History

- BD-agriculture, Rudolf Steiner 1924
- Sixties, diverse organic movements in Western Europe
- Organic movements organised in IFOAM 1972
- 1991 European legislation for plant production (2092/91)



Organic Farming is (popular version):

- No chemical pesticides
- No chemical fertilizers
- No GMO's



Formal descriptions organic farming

- Described according to:
 - IFOAM (intentional level)
 - EU regulation 2092/91
 - National legislation



IFOAM basic principles (2002)

- Biodiversity/genetic diversity
- Natural cycles
- Avoid pollution
- Renewable resources
- Balance of animal and plant production
- Local or regional production
- Social justice



Other principles

- cyclic
- precaution
- nearness

- holistic
- natural
- integrity



EU- and national legislation

- EU 2092/91 is basis (minimum) voor national legislation
- Basic list of allowed substances
 - fertilisation, crop protection, processing
- No GMO's
- Conversion period
- General guidelines
- (for example a suitable crop rotation)



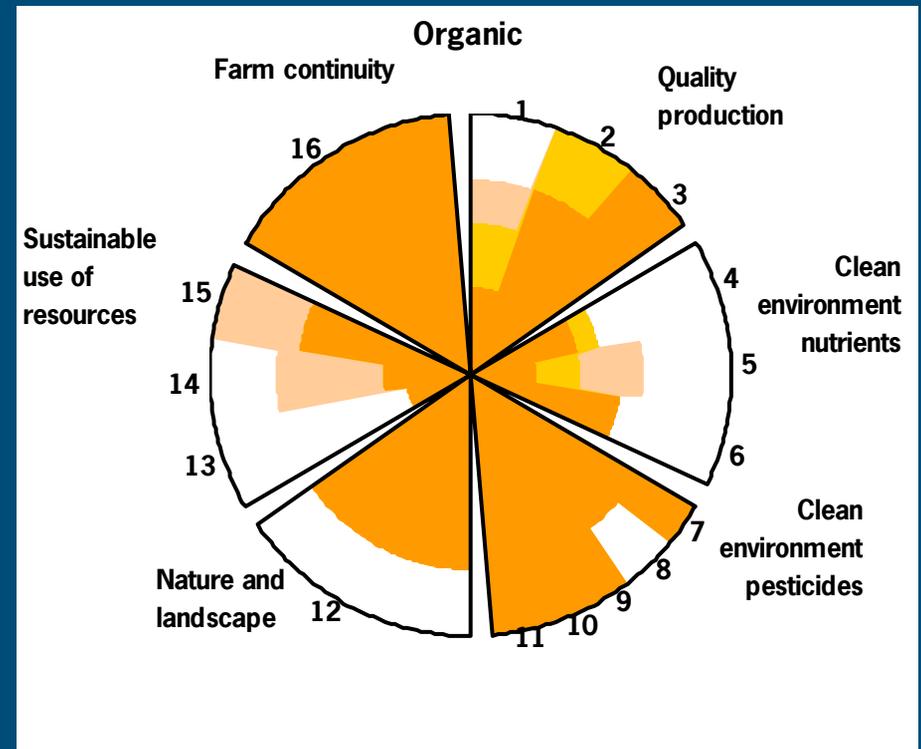
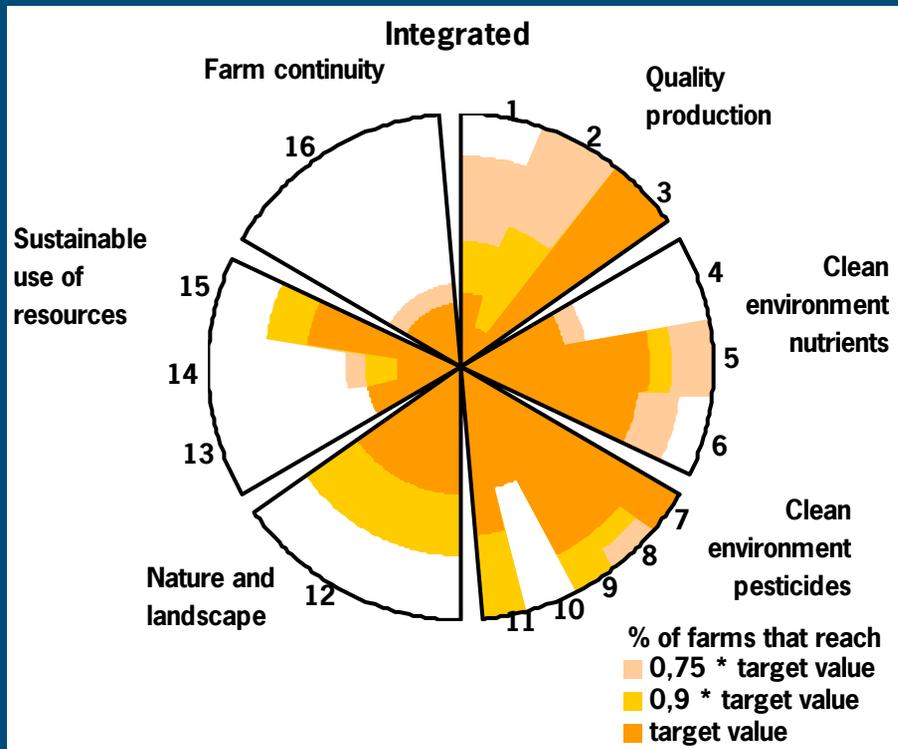
Potential Organic farming

- Multifunctionality (production, recreation, care, nature and landscape)
- Sustainable and environment friendly
- Food safety (pesticide residues, allergies)
- Consumers preference (natural, healthy and tasteful)
- Biodiversity
- Employment
- Low input costs



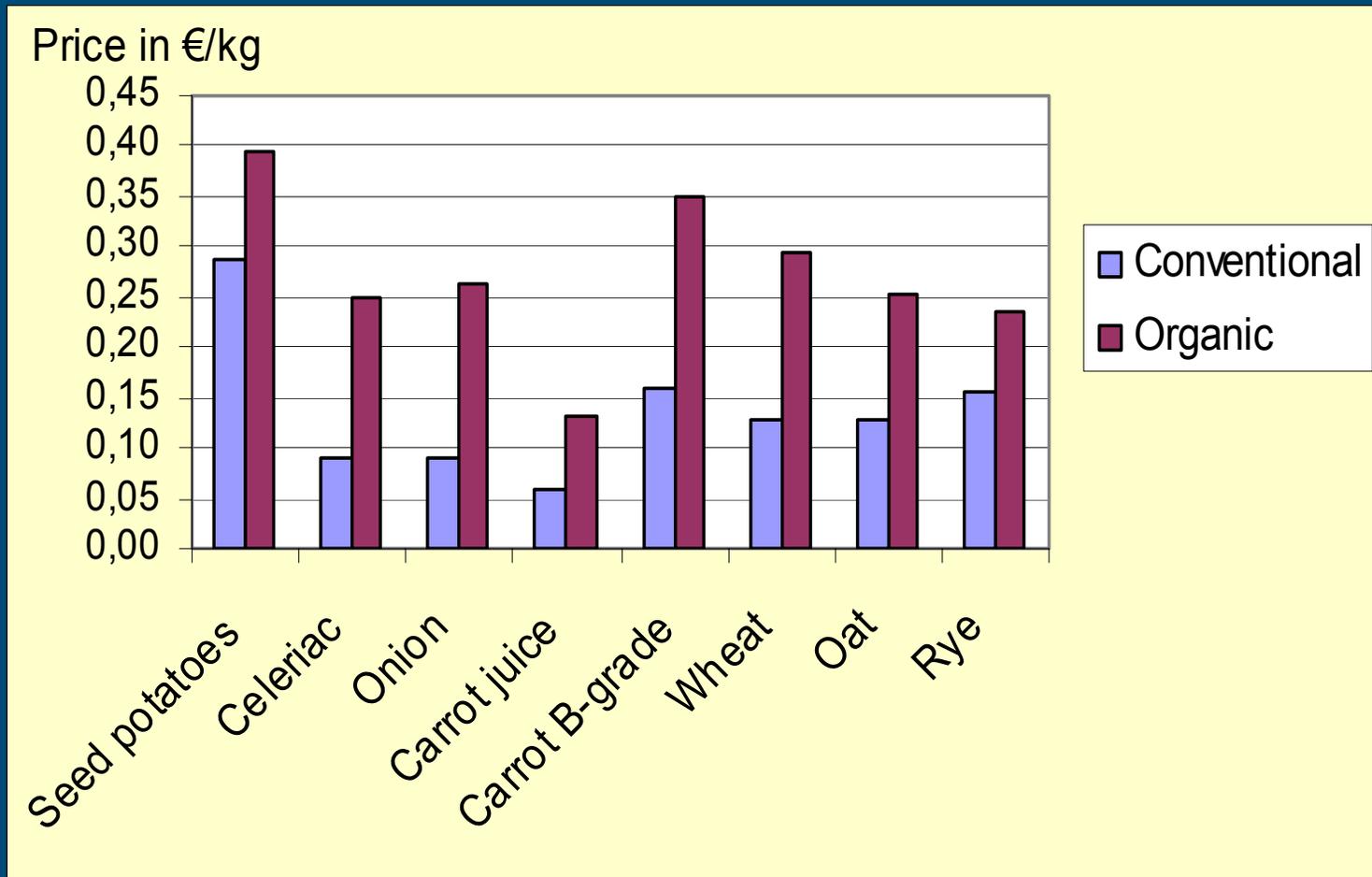
Comparison between integrated and organic systems

EU project Vegineco 1997-2002 (experimental farms)



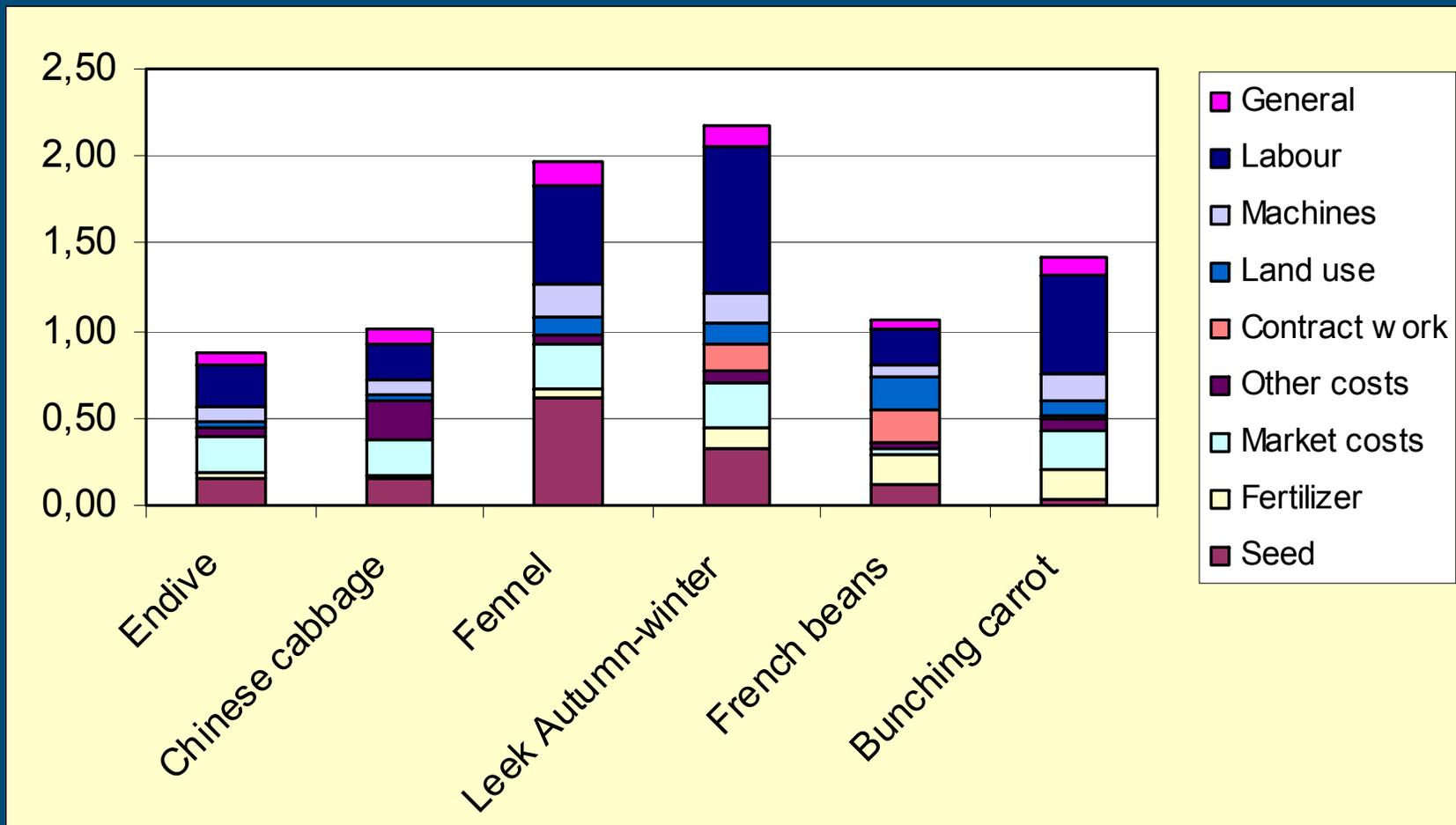


Conventional market prices vs. Organic market prices





Structure of cost prices in organic farming



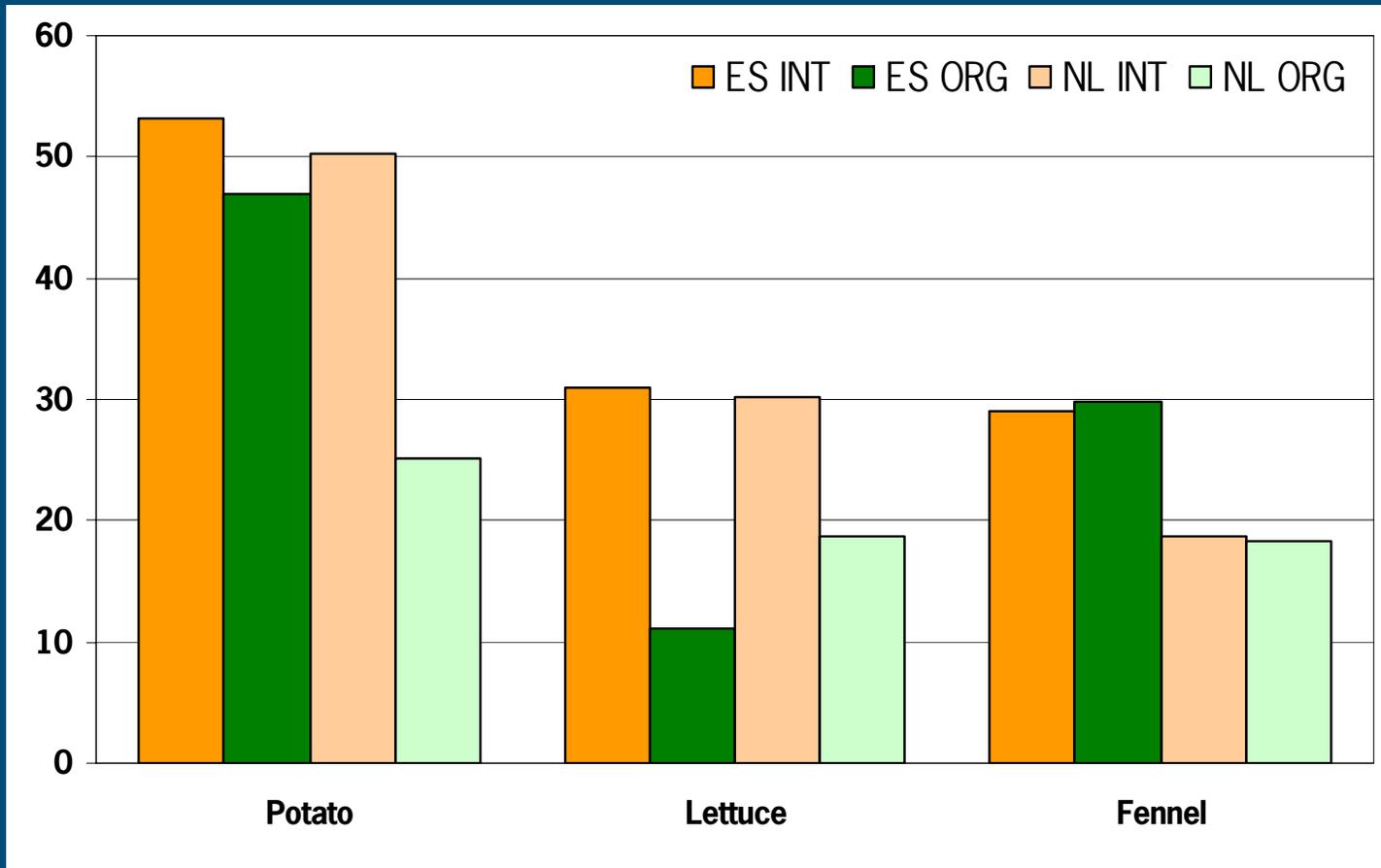


Weaknesses organic farming

- Lower yields
- Lower cosmetic quality
- Higher product price
- High labour input
- Higher craftsmanship

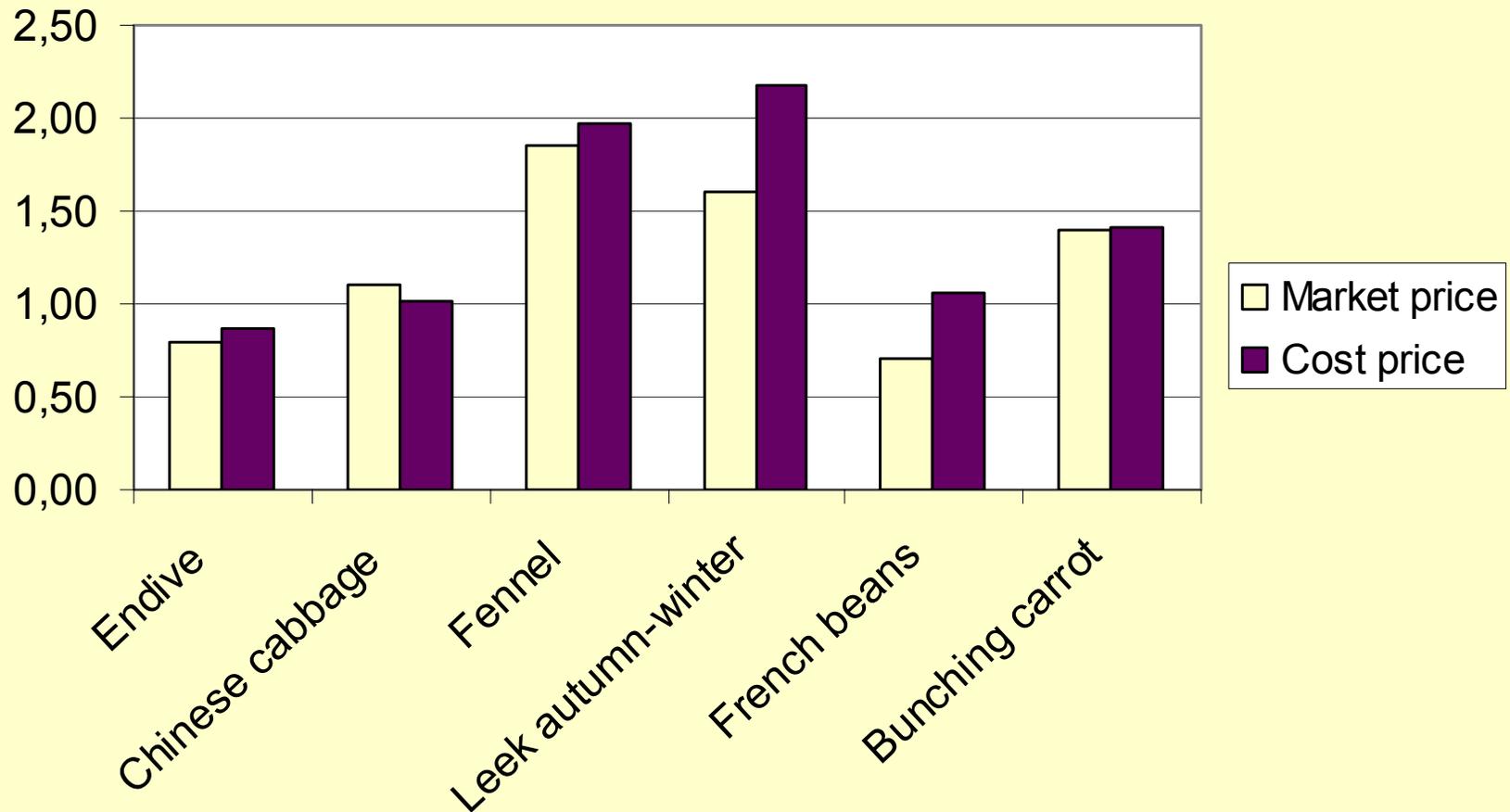


Yields in Spain and the Netherlands



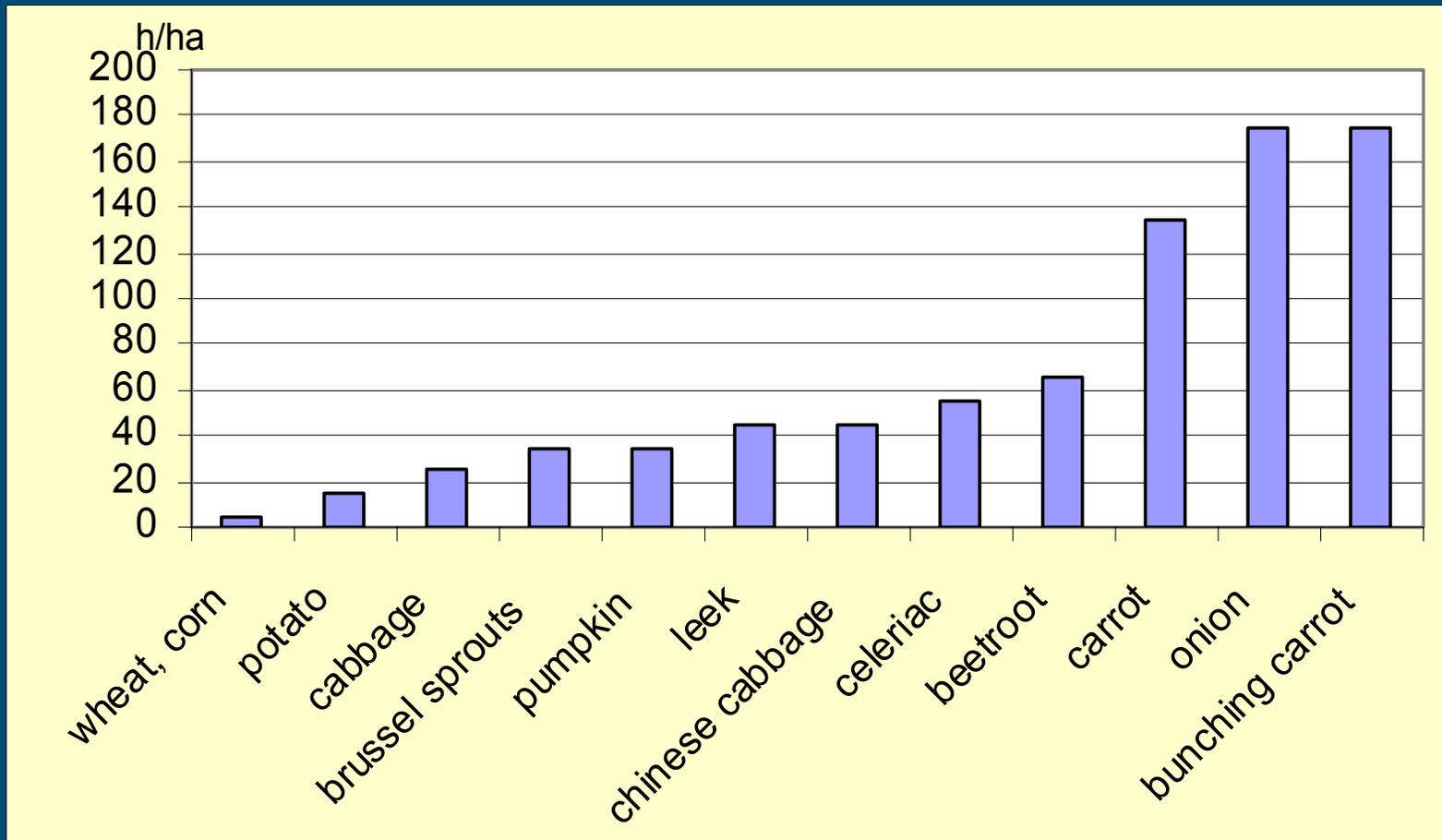


Marketprice vs. Costprice



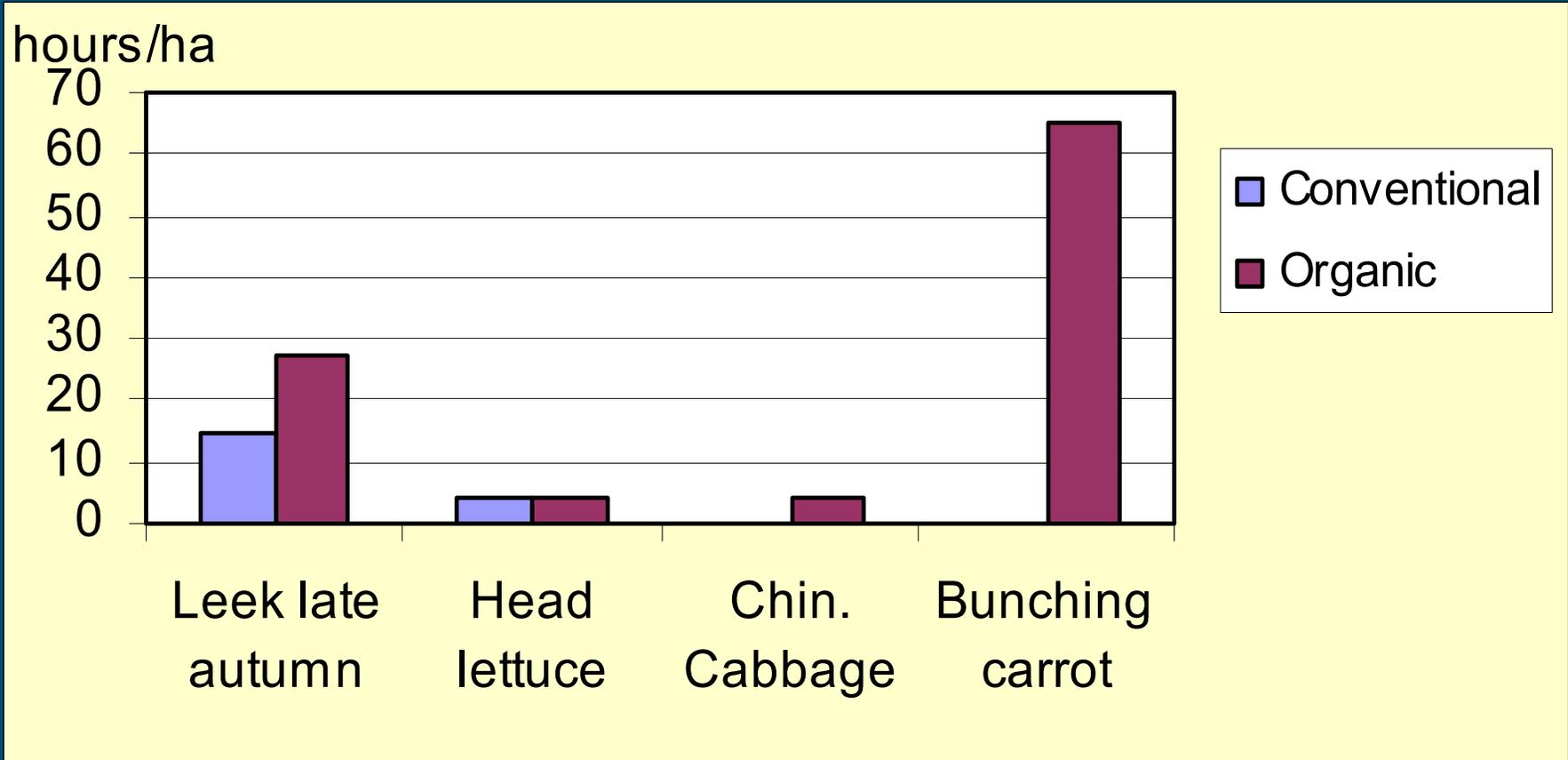


Weeding hours in organic grown crops





Handweeding in organic growing vs. conventional





Opportunities Slovak Republic

- High labour availability
- Low land cost
- Combination with tourism/recreation
- Low input costs



Stimulating/introducing Organic farming

- Hardware
- Orgware
- Software



Hardware

- Land
- Farmers/farms
- Mechanisation
- Knowledge
- Labour
- Transport/logistics



Weeding techniques in organic farming



50 years ago



Nowaday's Mechanisation



But Weeding still needs handlabour



Software

- Vision
- Motivation
- Philosophy
- Power
- Conviction



Orgware

- Research and Development
- Knowledge circulation and education
- Farmers associations
- Certifying bodies
- Controlling bodies
- Legislation
- Trading organisations



R&D and extension

- EU Action plan for organic food and farming
 - 69% of respondents consider effective funding of research in organic farming on several topics very important.
 - 80 % finds it very important that Common AGRIC. Policy supports organic farming development
 - 64% finds it very important to encourage exchange of technical info between farmers

R&D and extension

- Czech draft action plan for ecological and organic farming.
 - Improve education, consultancy and research in organic farming.
 - State administration priorities:
 - Supporting in a systematic way research, education and consultancy in organic farming, to give priority to organic projects.
 - Create within the Min. Of Agric. a coordinating place for research, education and consultancy development.
 - Coordinate the current research and education activities

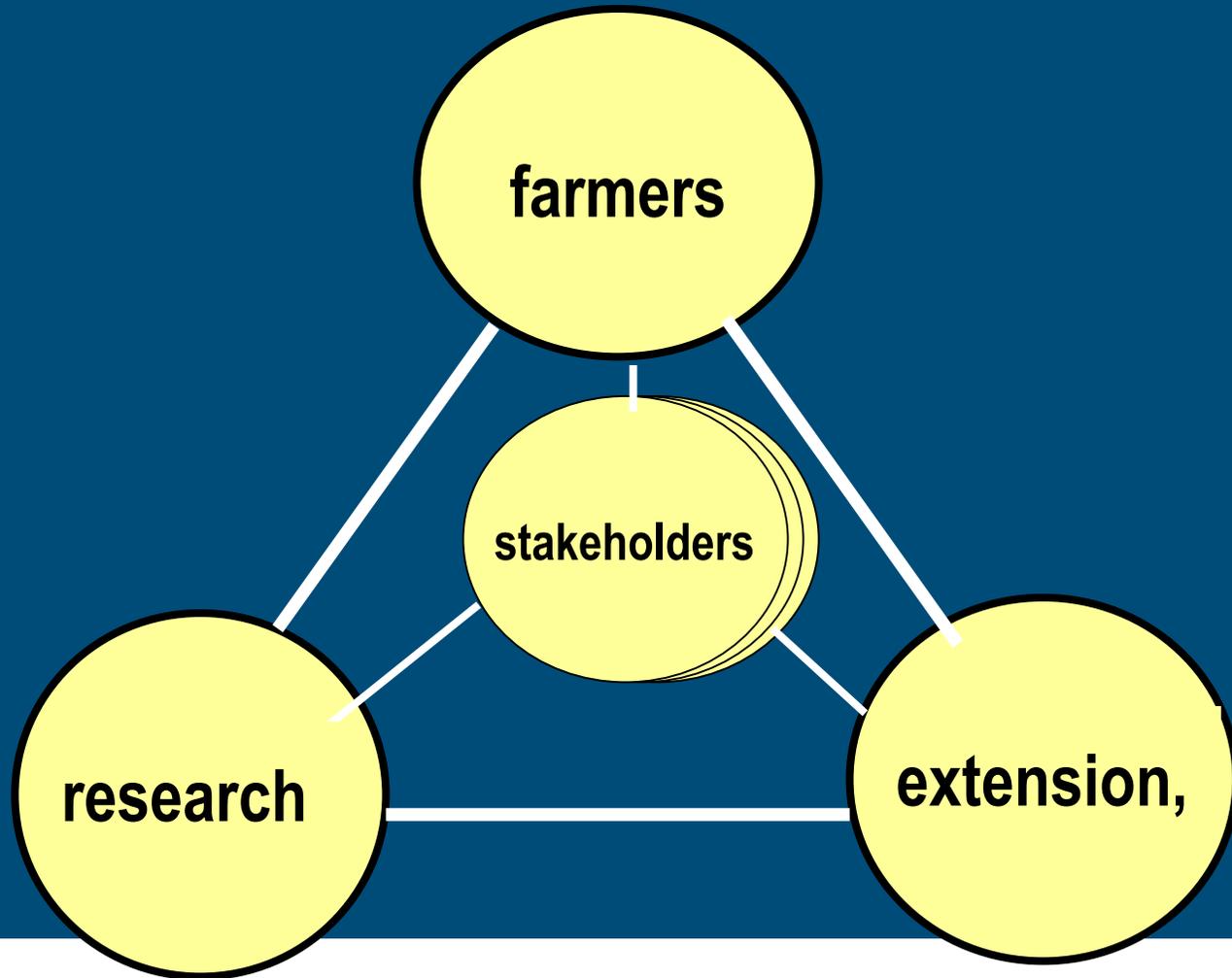


Please not this way





Ideal?





Organics Project, problem

- Need for capacity building on R, D & KC (Knowledge Circulation) in PPA-countries
- Tradition and experience in R, D & KC for organic farming in several EU member states
- R, D & KC is national organised and stays within borders



Organics Project, delineation

- 2003 -2006
- Organic farming
- Focus on outdoor vegetable crops
- Research methodology and innovation
- Knowledge circulation



Organics Project, participants

- Applied Plant Research
- International Agricultural Centre
- Agricultural research and extension organisations in Pre-accession countries
 - Poland, Czech R, Slovak R, Hungary, Slovenian R
- Contributions of diverse national research organizations



Long term objectives:

- Improvement of research and knowledge circulation
- Improvement of organic quality production and sustainability by improved set of farming methods
- Contribution to a competitive and strong organic farming sector



Short term objectives:

- Identification of relevant knowledge sources
- Establishment of a platform to:
 - exchange knowledge
 - katalyse innovation and co-operation
- Exchange of knowledge, focus on:
 - research organization and methodology
 - technical knowledge organic vegetable farming
 - methodology of knowledge circulation



Project Methodology:

- Inventory situation organic farming PPA-countries
- Base line survey: needs and visions
- Establishment organics platform
- Program for knowledge circulation
 - tailor made courses
 - workshops
 - farm visits
 - involvement of stakeholders



Looking forward to a fruitful partnership

Wijnand Sukkel