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# Participation in an organic farm and food network – experiences of HNEE team

**Pre-conference workshop 'Understanding Organic Farming Worldwide', ISOFAR conference, Istanbul/Turkey. 12/10/2014**

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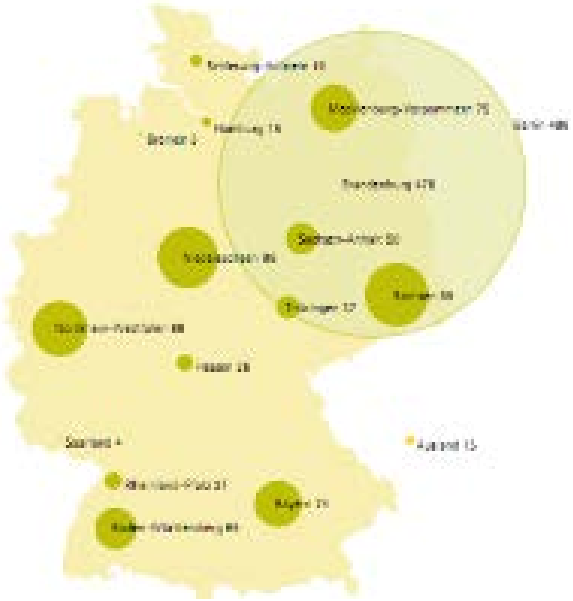
# Outline

- HNEE team working with *agri benchmark* network
- Experiences: an organic crop farm and two sheep farm models
- Conclusions

# Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development

## University of Applied Sciences (FH)

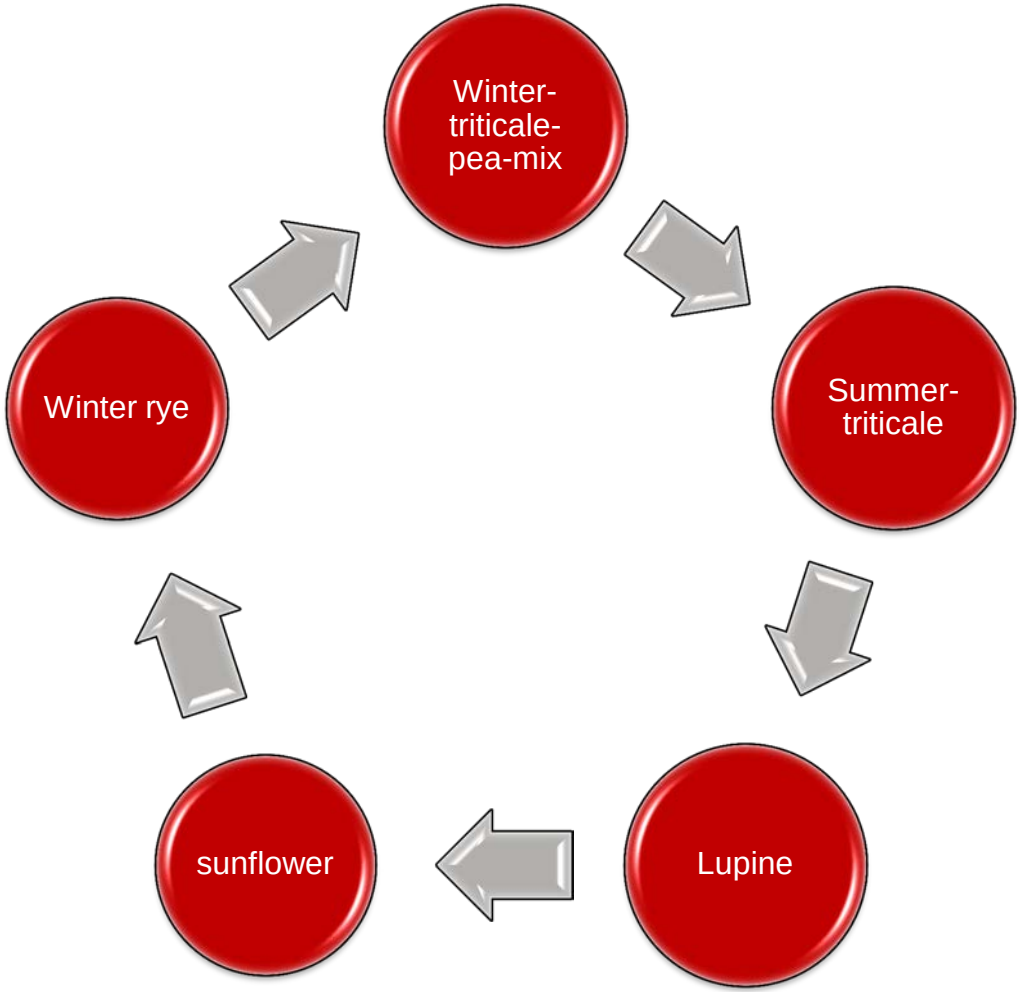
HNE Eberswalde
Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung (FH)



# Agri benchmark working steps

- Contacting/inviting key farmers and competent advisors!
- Analysis of regional statistics and information
- Organisation of a workshop
- Definition of “typical” systems
- Data collection
- Model calculation
- Adjustments of models
- Interpretation of results
- International comparison

# Crop rotation system: Triticale – legume crops (land typ IV)




Five-year rotation:

1 Winter-triticale-pea-mix
   - ➢Intertillage: Pea regrowth

2 Summer-triticale
   - ➢Undersown clover-grass-mix

3 Lupine
   - ➢Intertillage: Phacelia

4 Sunflower

5 Winter rye

# Profitability of the organic typical crop farm

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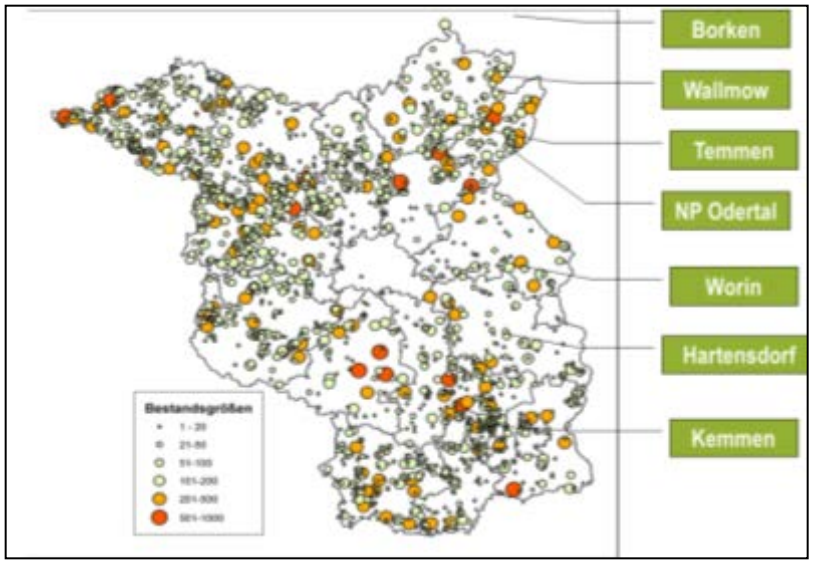
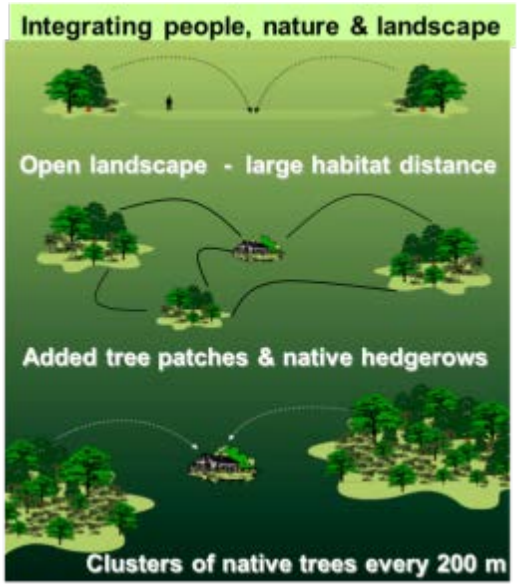
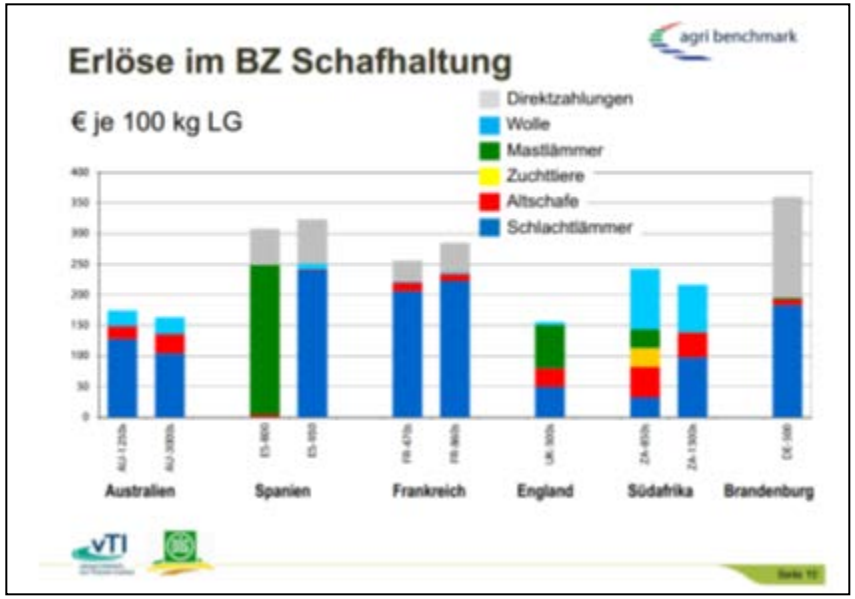
| | Euro/ha u. year |
|---|---|
| Market return ( arable crops) | 798,20 |
| Direct payments | 387,00 |
| Depreciation for machinery and buildings | 195,62 |
| Total expenses (without salaries) | 686,87 |
| Economic result of the farm (without subsidies) | -84,29 |
| Economic result including subsidies | 302,71 |
| Salary payments | 107,14 |
| **Profit for the enterpreneur** | **195,57** |
| Total opportunity costs (for family labour, land and capital) | 199,67 |

# Project work “sheep models”



# ‚Design' of two 'typical' low-intensity grazing systems

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| Model farm - sheep | „Lamb fattening“ DE-600 | „Landscape“ DE-1200 |
|---|---|---|
| Ewes (culled in %) | 600 Merino local (23 %) | 1200 low-intensity (15%) |
| Labour. family + hired | 1.5 AWU + 0.5 AWU | 1.5 AK + 2.0 AK |
| Own land + rented land | 40 ha + 160 ha = 200 ha | 70 ha + 670 ha = 740 ha |
| Nature conservation | 35 ha (17%) 165 €/ha | 560 ha (75%) 280€/ha |
| Lamming season | February/March | April/May |
| Forage system | Own machinery | Contract work |
| Current value<br>- Machinery<br>- Building | <br>275 000 €<br>350 000 € indoor | <br>199 000 €<br>200 000 € outdoor |
| Total output | 35+19 kg LW/ewe a | 30+9 kg LW/ewe a |
| Weight of lambs | 35 kg (2.10 €/kg) | 30 kg LG (1.50 €/kg) |
| Concentrate for lambs | 0.5 kg/day | If needed |

# Economic key figures in €/100 kg LW of sold animals. 2010/2011

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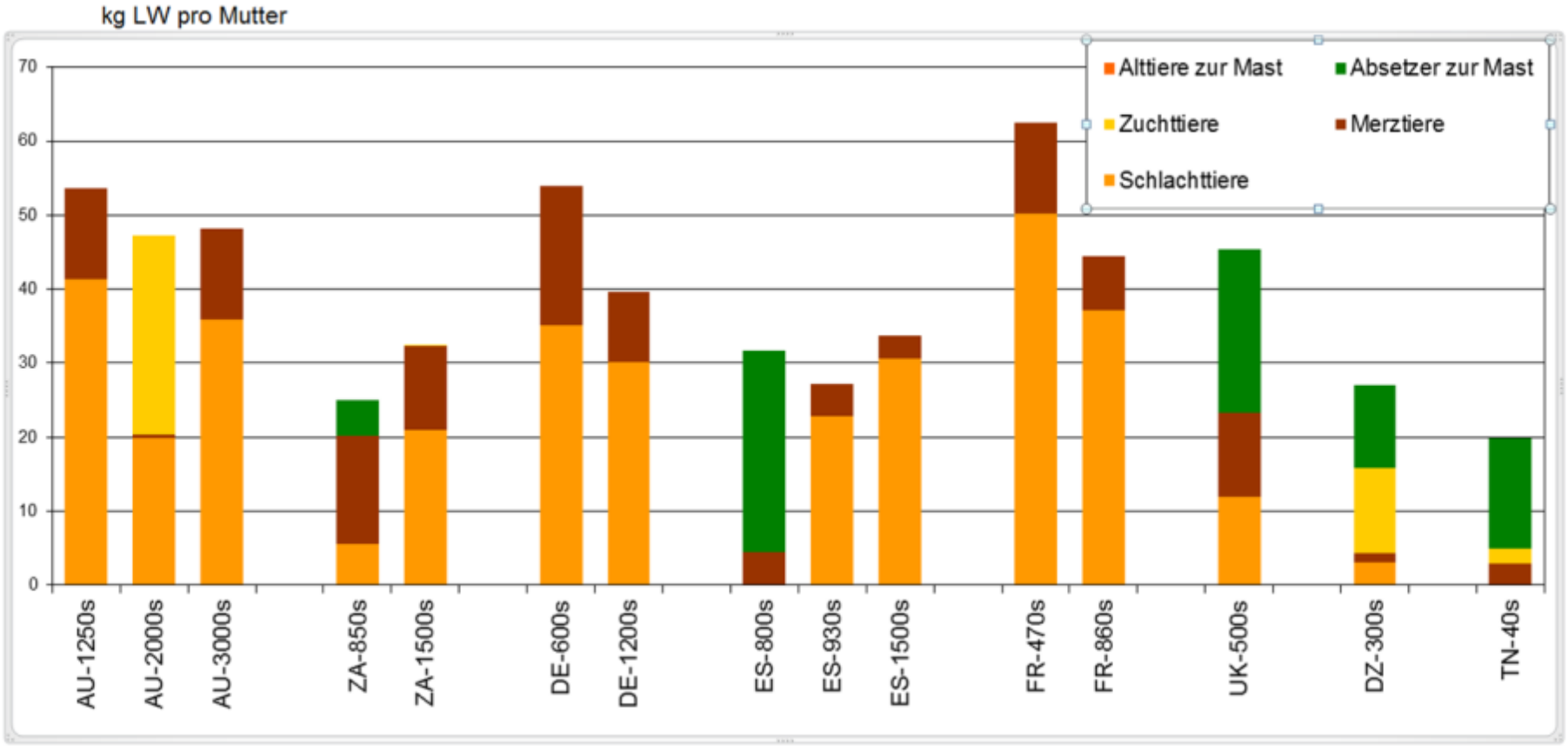
| Euro/100 kg LW | DE-600 | DE-1200 |
|---|---|---|
| Sold adult sheep and lambs | 158.00 | 122.40 |
| Agri-environmental schemes | 71.80 | 375.10 |
| Farm payments | 158.70 | 183.80 |
| Other income | 34.90 | 12.30 |
| Total results | 423.50 | 693.50 |
| Variable costs herds | 3.00 | 22.60 |
| Variable costs grassland | 101.30 | 88.30 |
| Results – variable costs | 319.10 | 582.60 |
| Fix costs without salaries | 266.00 | 249.50 |
| Profit for labour input | 53.10 | 333.10 |
| Salaries for hired work | 44.80 | 121.90 |
| Profit for enterpreneur | 8.30 | 211.20 |

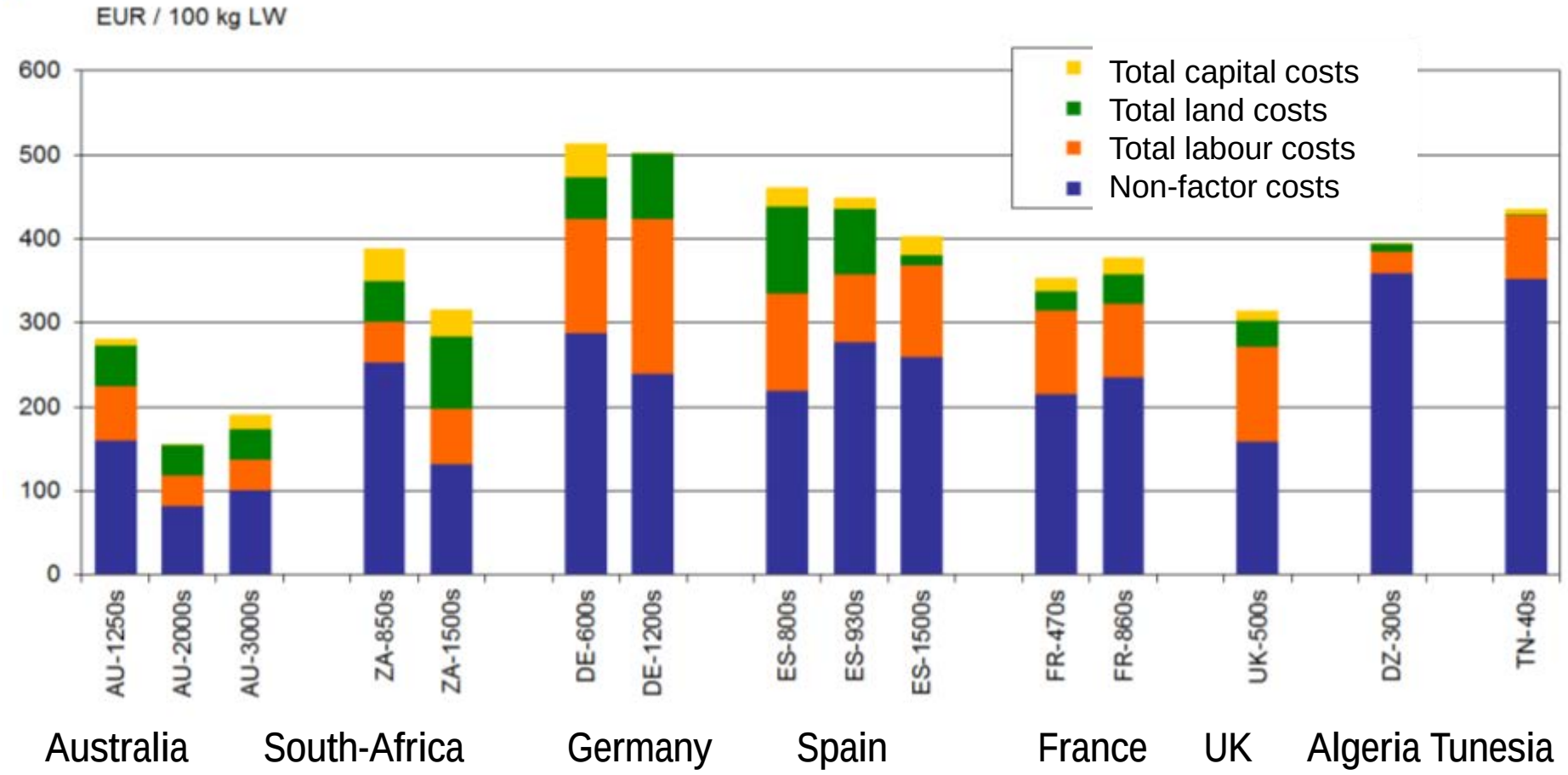
# International comparison

## e.g. liveweight sold per ewe and year




Australia South-Africa Germany Spain France UK Algeria Tunesia

# Costs for capital, land, labour and non-factor costs



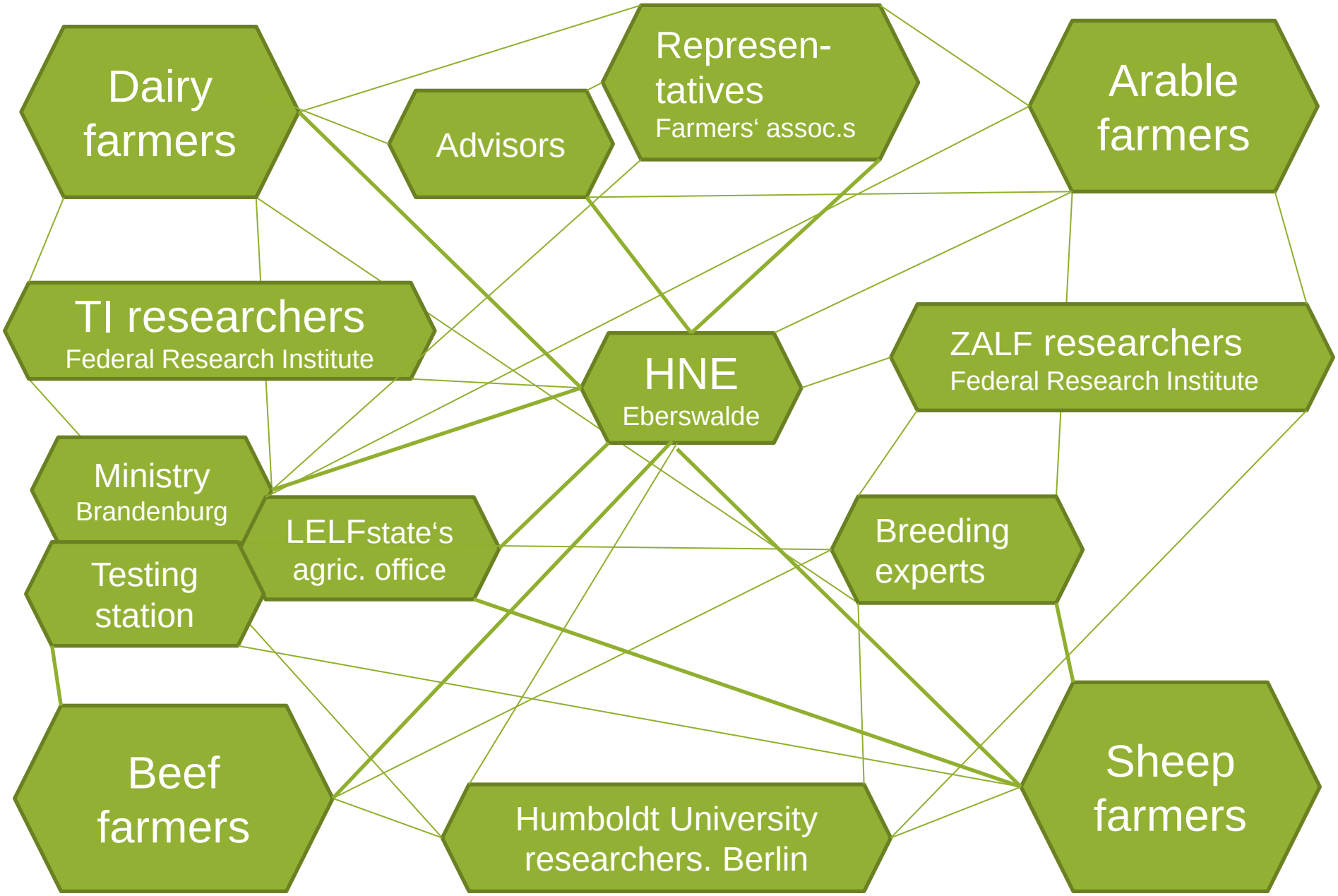
# Main challenges

- Finding the “right” partners
- What is “typical” or how to deal with diversity on the regional and on the farm-level?
- Delineation of different production systems within the farm
- Data availability (work hours, tractor use, energy costs etc.)
- Different teams - different knowledge and assumptions
- Interpretation of figures and validation of results

# Conclusions

1. *agri benchmark* is about…

# … network building and close cooperation, and…



| Economics | Knowledge transfer | Science/learning |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

**… contributing to the sector's development and competitiveness.**

# More conclusions

2. It takes its time …
   - Permanent staff guaranties continuity in cooperating with farmers. farming businesses and other stakeholders.
   - Farmers and advisors have to profit from the project work.
   - Data analysis and model calcultions are time consuming.
   - *agri benchmark* work is competing with other projects or duties.

3. Organic stakeholder teams
   - can report into other national networks or thematic working groups (policy advice)
   - can bridge the gap research and practical farming… opening doors for other projects. innovative ideas and new cooperations!

# Thank you!

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www.coreorganic2.org/healthygrowth

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