



# Fall 2023 Plant Science Seminar Series

**Fridays 1:25-2:15 pm**  
**Ferguson Bldg Rm 205**

**8/25/23:**

Welcome to the new  
AEPS grad students!

**9/1/23: Kathy Shumac**

Research Support Technologist III  
*Greenhouse worker protection  
training*

**9/8/23: Maisie MacKnight**

PhD Candidate, Ecology, PSU  
*Building inclusive field work  
cultures: you have a right to  
know!*

**9/15/23: Rasmus Emil Jensen**

Specialists in Soil Health and  
Cropping Systems for SEGES  
Innovation  
*Innovation on soil-tillage and  
regenerative farming in a Danish  
context*

**9/22/23: Charlie White**

Assistant Professor, PSU Plant  
Science  
*Improving Nitrogen  
Recommendations for Corn in  
Pennsylvania*

**9/29/23: Ramin SamieiFard**

Ecosystem Science & Management  
*Solid and liquid organic fertilizers with  
developing approaches in future  
agriculture.*

**10/6/23: Jill Hamilton**

Associate Professor & Director, Schatz Center  
for Tree Molecular Genetics; PSU-ESM  
*Title TBD*

**10/13/23: Armen Kemanian**

Professor of Production Systems and  
Modeling PSU Plant Science  
*Title TBD*

**10/20/23: Sohini Guha**

Postdoctoral Researcher,  
PSU Plant Science  
*Perturbation of known Medicago  
symbiosis genes tend to influence host  
traits more than rhizobial fitness in multi-  
strain inoculations*

**10/27/23: Leah Fronk**

AEPS Graduate Student &  
Extension Educator  
*Weeds as hosts to Colletotrichum  
Species affecting strawberry*

**11/3/23: Barney Geddes**

Assistant Professor, North Dakota State  
University  
*Title TBD*

**11/10/23: Katya Bazilevskaya**

Director of Soil Resource Cluster Lab  
*Soil Research Cluster Lab: instrumental  
capabilities and applications*

**11/17/23: Tyler Groh**

PSU Watershed Management Extension  
Specialist  
*Assessing Potential Water Quality  
Benefit & Limitations in Pennsylvania  
Riparian Buffers*

**11/24/23**

Thanksgiving-No Seminar

**12/1/23: Lynn Sosnoskie**

Specialty Crop Weed Scientist, Cornell  
University  
*Novel Weed Management: Precision  
Spraying, Electrical Weeding and Beyond*

**12/8/23**

No seminar



# Innovation on soil-tillage and regenerative farming in a Danish context

Rasmus Emil Jensen and  
Janne Aalborg Nielsen

Penn State University 15th September 2023

STØTTET AF  
**Promille**afgiftsfonden for landbrug

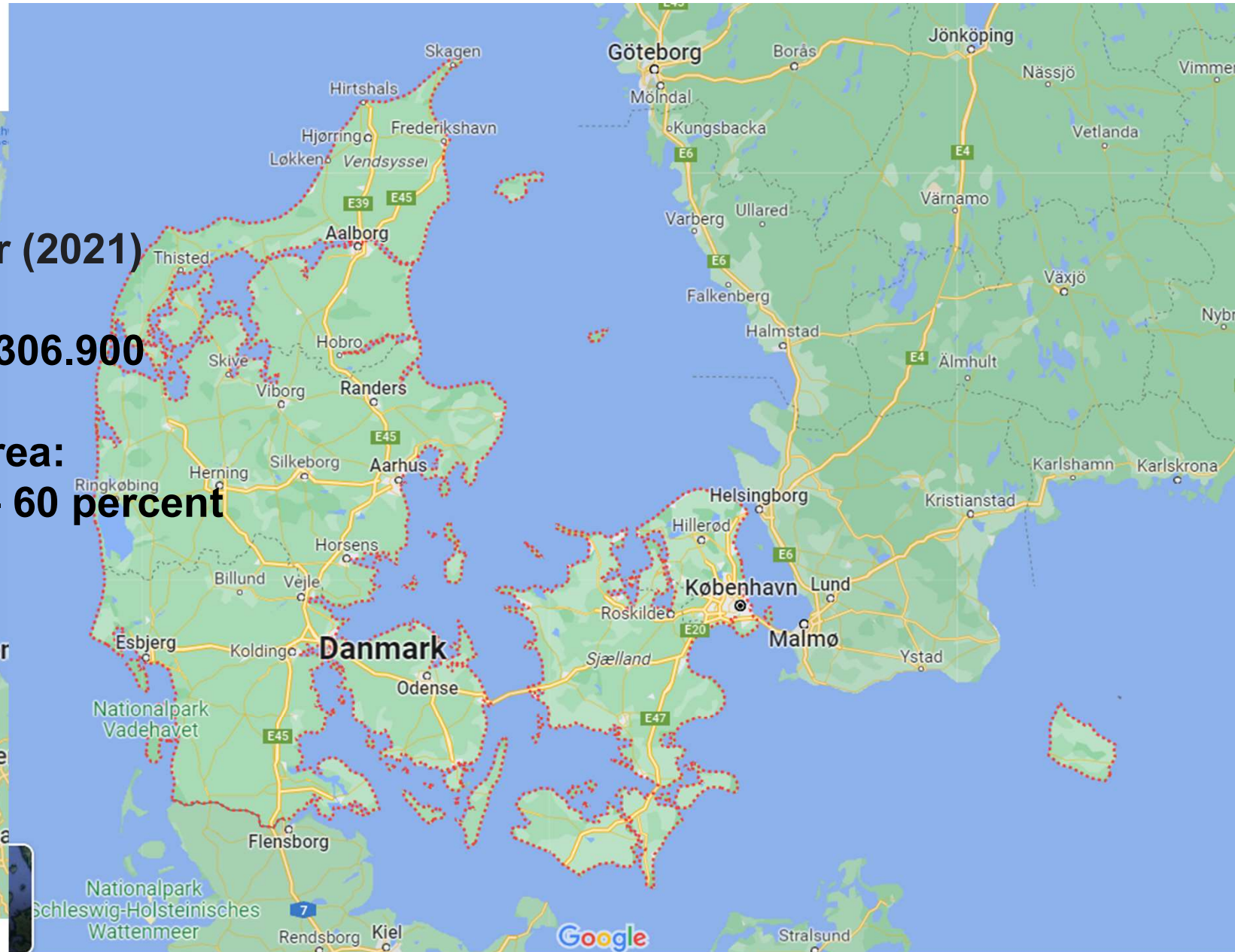
**SEGES**  
INNOVATION

# Denmark

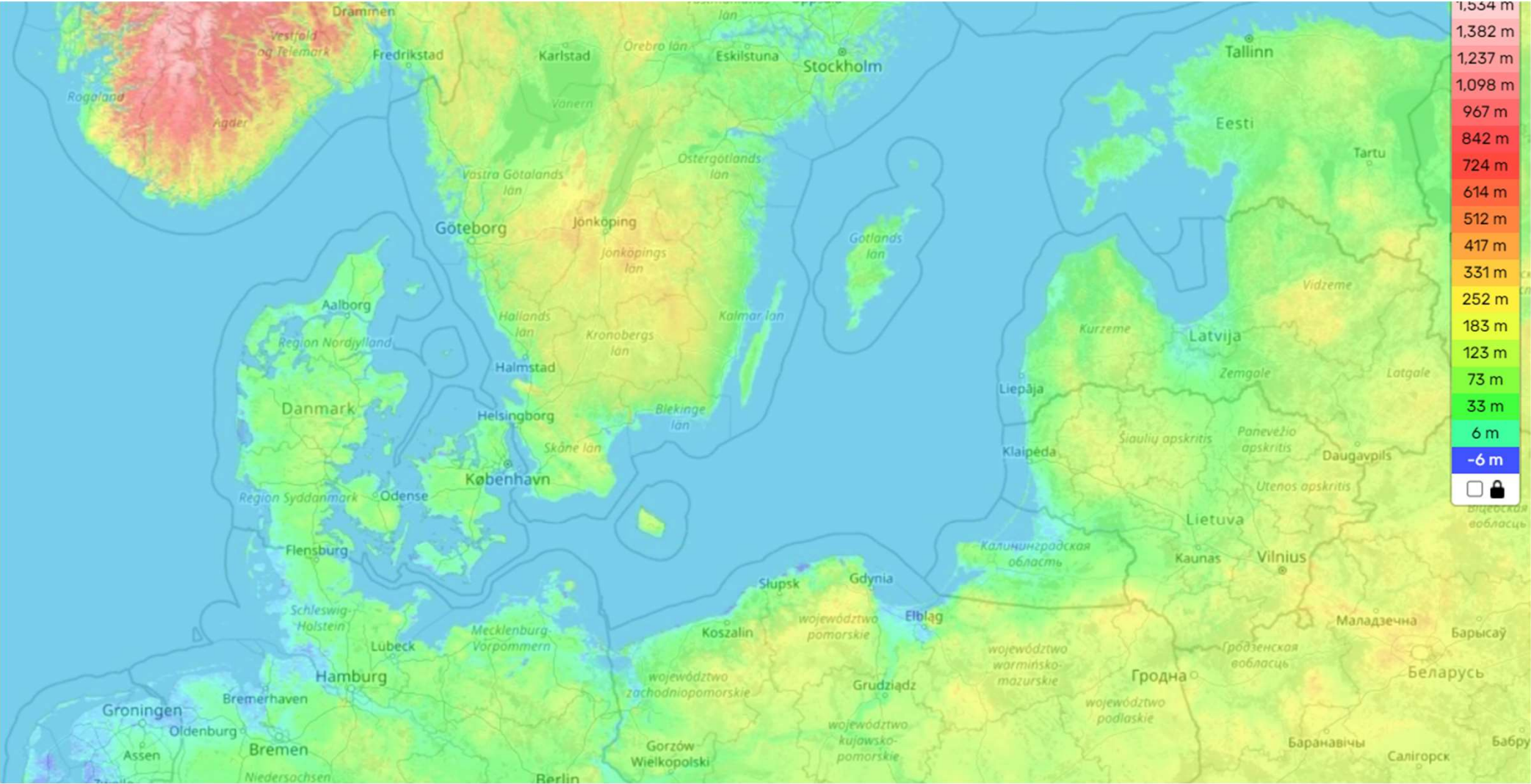
**Population:**  
5,857 millioner (2021)

**Area:**  
43.069km<sup>2</sup>/ 4.306.900  
hektar.

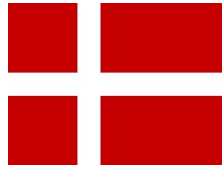
**Agricultural area:**  
2.601.531 ha – 60 percent



# Denmark is a flat country



## Denmark



- A flat, seaside country with an average elevation barely above sea level.
- “Møllehøj” is the highest spot in Denmark – with an elevation of just **171 meters** (561 feet).
- And the coastline is never more than 50 kilometers (30 miles) away from any spot in the country.



Photo: Janne Aalborg Nielsen

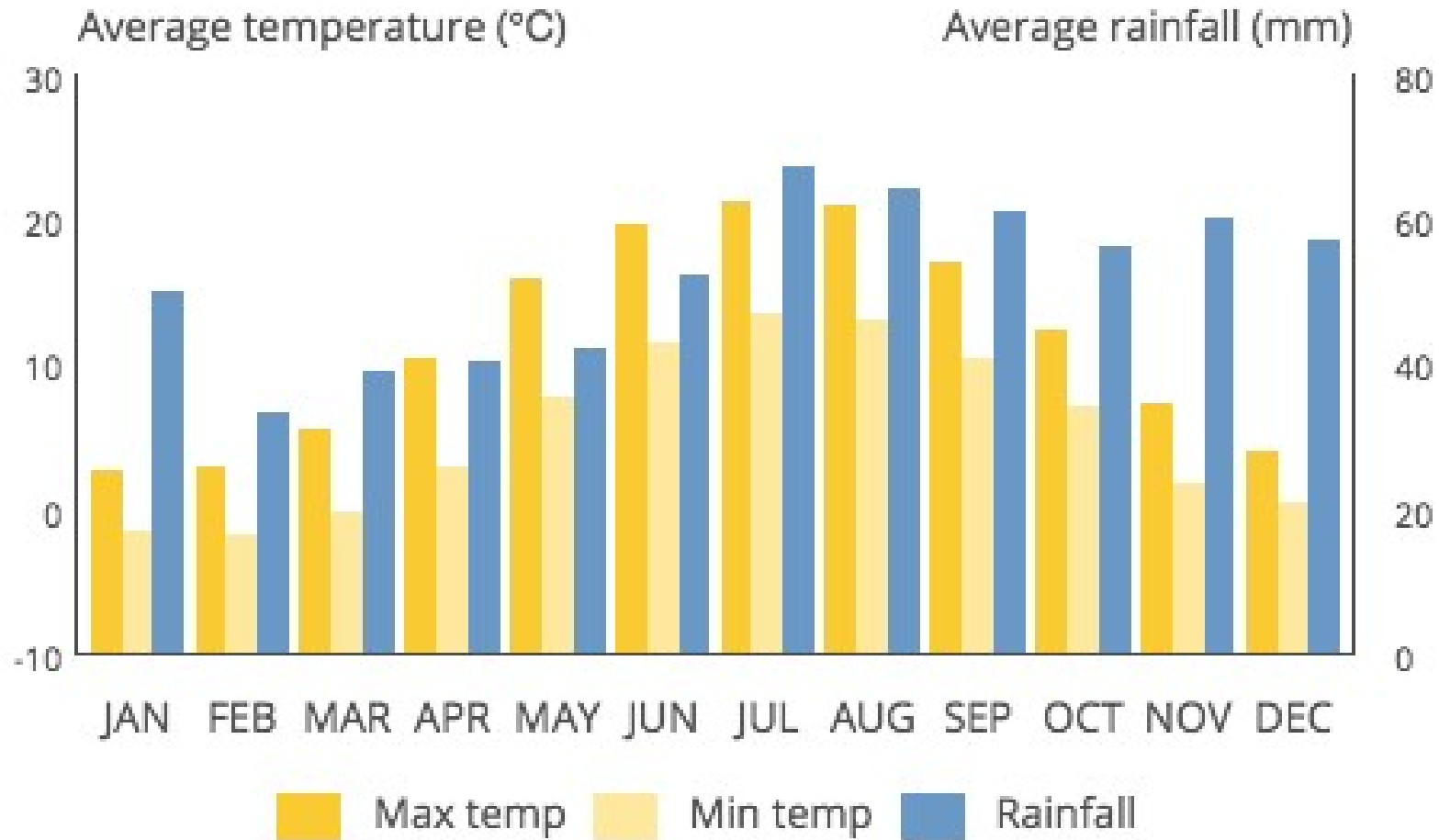
# Denmark

- The Danish climate is temperate with precipitation evenly distributed over the year
- Mean annual temperature is 8.3°C
- Mean annual precipitation is 746 mm.



Photos: Janne Aalborg Nielsen

# Temperature and rainfall through the year



## Danish soil types

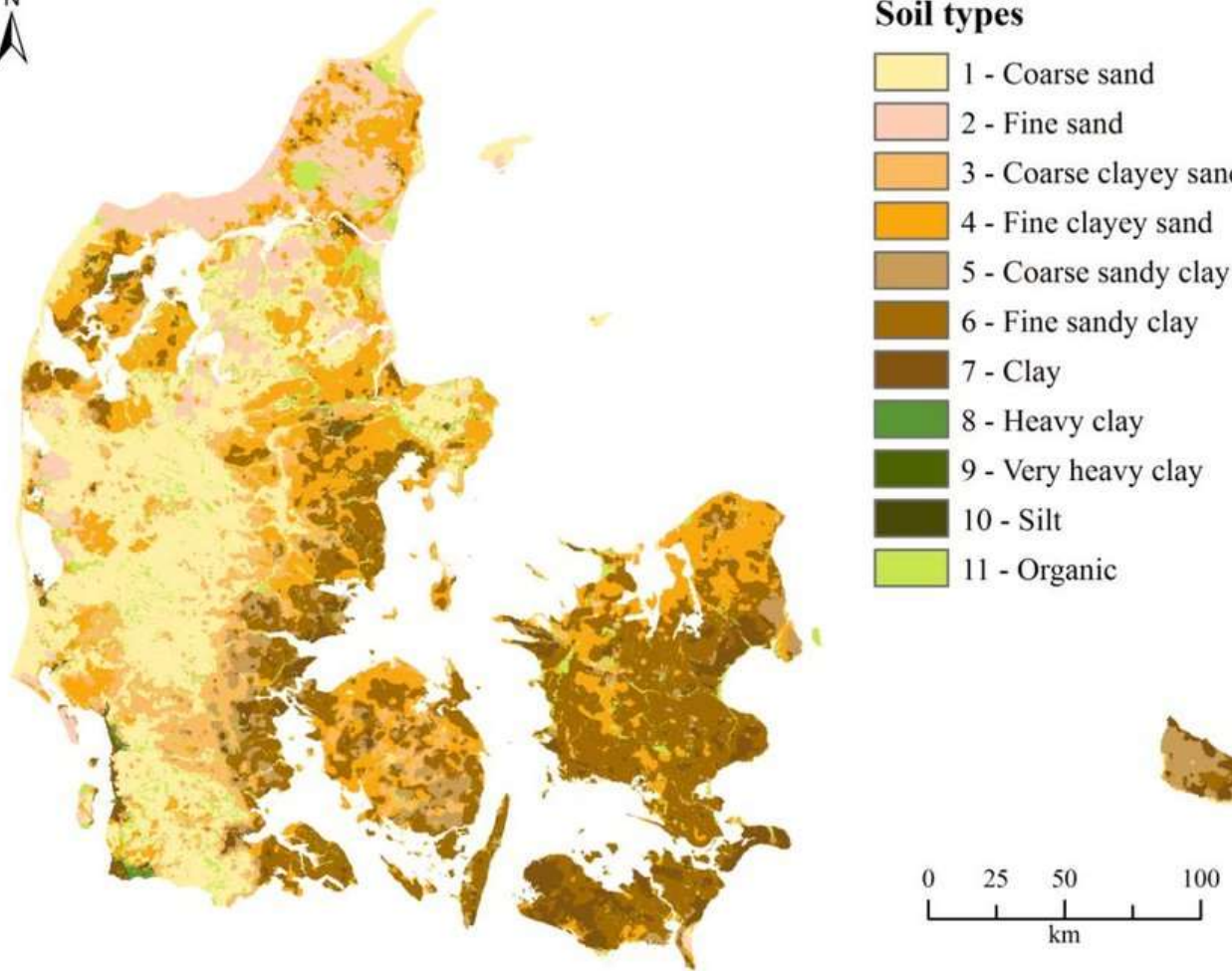
- Major soil type of Denmark: coarse sand (mostly in the west of the country)
- Fine sandy clay to clay soils occupy a major part of the centre and towards the south-east.
- Northern parts of Denmark are rich in fine sands and fine clayey sand.



Photo: Janne Aalborg Nielsen



# Soil types in Denmark



## Danish soil types

	"JB-number"	Percentage by weight				
		Clay less than 2 $\mu\text{m}$	Silt 2-20 $\mu\text{m}$	Fine sand 20-200 $\mu\text{m}$	Sand, in total 20-2000 $\mu\text{m}$	Humus 58.7% C
Coarse sand	<b>1</b>	0-5	0-20	0-50	75-100	Less than 10
Fine sand	<b>2</b>			50-100		
Loamy sand	<b>3</b>	5-10	0-25	0-40	65-95	
Loamy sand	<b>4</b>			40-95		
Sandy loam	<b>5</b>	10-15	0-30	0-40	55-90	
Sandy loam	<b>6</b>			40-90		
Sandy loam or sandy clay loam (clay>20pct)	<b>7</b>	15-25	0-35		40-85	
Sandy clay loam	<b>8</b>	25-45	0-45		okt-75	
Clay or Silty clay	<b>9</b>	45-100	0-50		0-55	
Clay or Silty clay	<b>10</b>	0-50	20-100		0-80	
Peat or Muck	<b>11</b>					More than 10

## Danish agriculture

- Danish agriculture is a large net exporter of agricultural products
- The contribution of agriculture plays an important role in the country's economy  
The primary sector accounts for 1.5% of Denmark's total Gross Value Added (GVA).
- Pigmeat and dairy are the most important sectors in terms of production value.
- Denmark is responsible for 7% of the EU's production of pigmeat and 4% of the production of raw milk.

\$



## Crops

- The main crops in Denmark are **small grains**, mainly wheat and barley, **covering more than half** of the agricultural area.
- Fodder crops, mainly **grass** and maize for silage, amounts to 780,000 hectares.
- Denmark is also an important producer of sales crops such as **rape seed, sugar beets and grass seeds** of various types.



## Farm size in Denmark

### Farms by region, unit, type of farm, area and time

	2022
All Denmark	
Farms (numbers)	
All farms	
Total	30 678
No cultivated area	643
0.1 - 4.9 hectares	1 393
5.0 - 9.9 hectares	6 632
10.0 - 14.9 hectares	3 166
15.0 - 19.9 hectares	2 063
20.0 - 24.9 hectares	1 569
25.0 - 29.9 hectares	1 171
30.0 - 39.9 hectares	1 740
40.0 - 49.9 hectares	1 312
50.0 - 59.9 hectares	988
60.0 - 74.9 hectares	1 301
75.0 - 99.9 hectares	1 623
100.0 - 124.9 hectares	1 144
125.0 - 149.0 hectares	900
150.0 - 174.9 hectares	767
175.0 - 199.9 hectares	597
200.0 - 249.9 hectares	920
250.0 - 299.9 hectares	637
300.0 - 399.9 hectares	801
400.0 hectares and over	1 310

Source: Danish Statistics

# Min Till, No till and Conservation Agriculture in Denmark

- Around 12 percent of the Danish agricultural area is without ploughing
- Min till/direct seeding: 38.000 ha
- Conservation agriculture ? – under 10.000 ha



Photo: Janne Aalborg Nielsen

## Some facts about non-ploughing farmers in Denmark

- Is typically younger than the average farmer: 28 per cent of plough-free farmers are under 50, while 22 per cent of farmers are generally under 50.
- The plough-free farms are larger than the average Danish agriculture: 52 per cent of farms that cultivate without ploughing have 200 or more hectares of agricultural land, while 22 per cent of farms are generally that large.
- Plough-free land is most common among conventional farmers: 98 per cent of the plough-free area in Denmark is cultivated conventionally, while 2 per cent of the plough-free area is organic.
- All in all, the organic agricultural area accounts for 10 per cent of the Danish agricultural area.

Source: Kilde: Danmarks Statistik, [www.statistikbanken.dk/AFG5](http://www.statistikbanken.dk/AFG5)

## This is **SEGES** Innovation

- <https://www.seges.tv/video/83641897/this-is-seges-innovation>



# Find us here



**GRØNHØJ**  
Grønhøj test station

**SKEJBY**  
SEGES Innovation's head office is situated in Agro Food Park

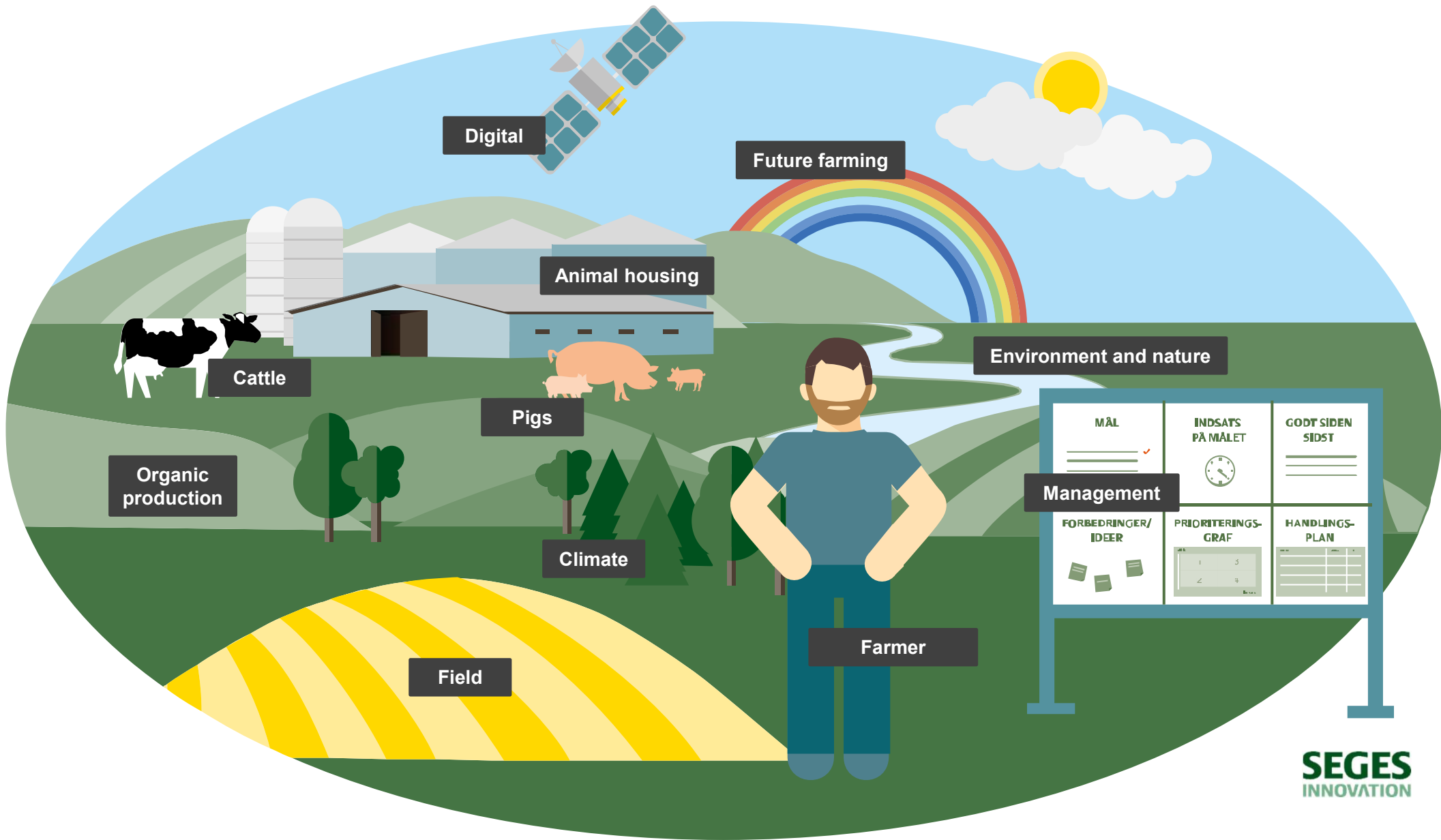
**COPENHAGEN**  
SEGES Innovation has several employees based at the office in Copenhagen

**SEGES**  
INNOVATION



## Employees within R&D

- Total employees in SEGES Innovation: **529** (as of January 1)
- Employees within R&D (activities within innovation for the agricultural sector): **Approx. 250**



Digital

Future farming

Animal housing

Cattle

Pigs

Environment and nature

Organic production

Climate

Management

Farmer

Field

MÅL ✓	INDSATS PÅ MÅLET 🕒	GODT SIDEN SIDST ✓
FORBEDRINGER/IDEEER 📄	PRIORITERINGSGRAF 1 5 2 4	HANDLINGSPLAN 📅

# Innovation

## LICENSE TO PRODUCE

Environment / nature / climate / antibiotic / phosphorus/ animal welfare etc.



## KNOWLEDGE AND TESTING

National trials/feeding standards/Rule info/Warning network/The Danish Applied Pig Research Scheme/conferences etc.

## NEW PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS

Software/guidelines, courses/Business Intelligence, etc.

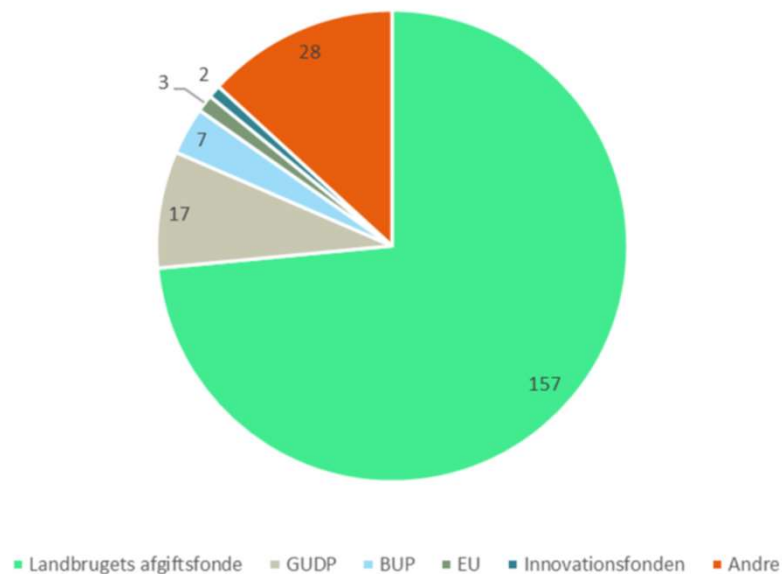
## PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS

Bottom line/Legal & tax/financial analysis/strategy etc.

# Revenue

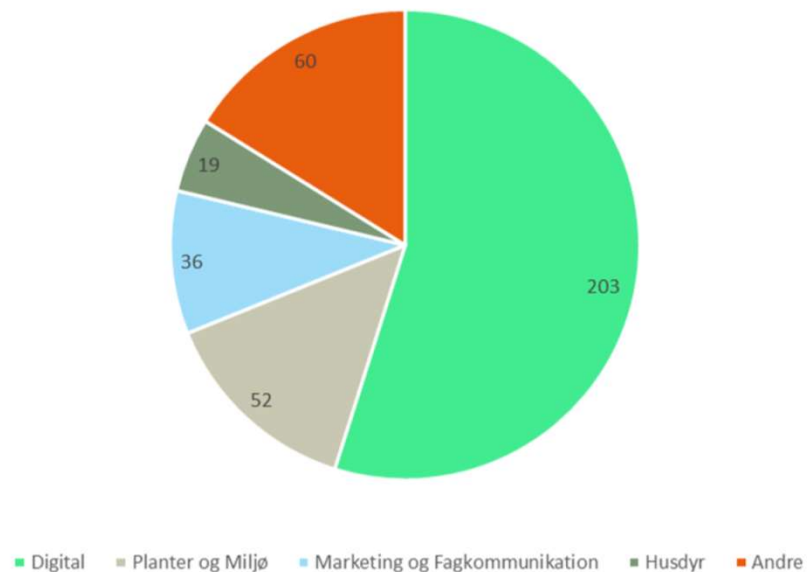
Total net revenue in 2022: 621 MDKK = **90 million USD**

Research and development (MDKK)



Research and development:  
Around 35 million USD in approx. 300 R&D projects.

Commercial activities (MDKK)



Commercial activities:  
Around 55 million.

# Succes med Conservation Agriculture

- PAF 2021-2023



**Promille**afgiftsfonden for landbrug

## Purpose of the project

Optimization of CA so yields are maintained, and soil health improves

- **WP1:** National trials with different establishment methods in CA cultivation.
- **WP2:** Targeted crop protection in CA.
- **WP3:** Optimization of fertilization and liming strategy in CA.
- **WP4:** Development of the economy at transition to CA.
- **WP5:** Dissemination and exchange of experience between farmers and advisors.



# GRObund – testing of cultivation systems

## Objectives

- To investigate whether CA is a more sustainable form of cultivation
- To uncover effects on soil health
- Testing 'new ways'
- To provide *a platform for research and testing*





## GRObund – Field Day – Birkelse 13th June 2022



# GRObund: 3 fantastic test areas and hosts

Halgaard, Holstebro



Foto: Poul Madsen, Agri Nord



Niels-Erik Halgård  
Landmand og indehaver, Nørre Halgård Foto: Syngenta



Foto: Annette

Simon Christensen Rødkildegaarden, Slagelse

JSJ Agro, Birkelse



Foto: Syngenta



Foto: Annette

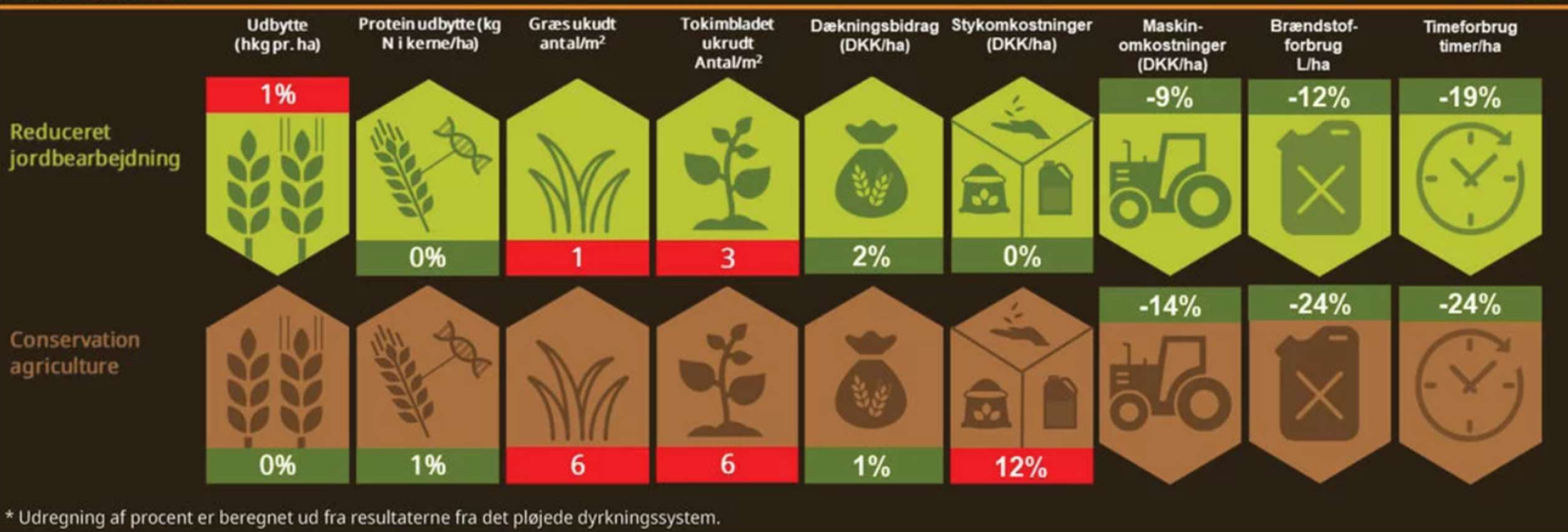


Foto: Syngenta

# Syngenta key figures for 2022 in DK – winter wheat

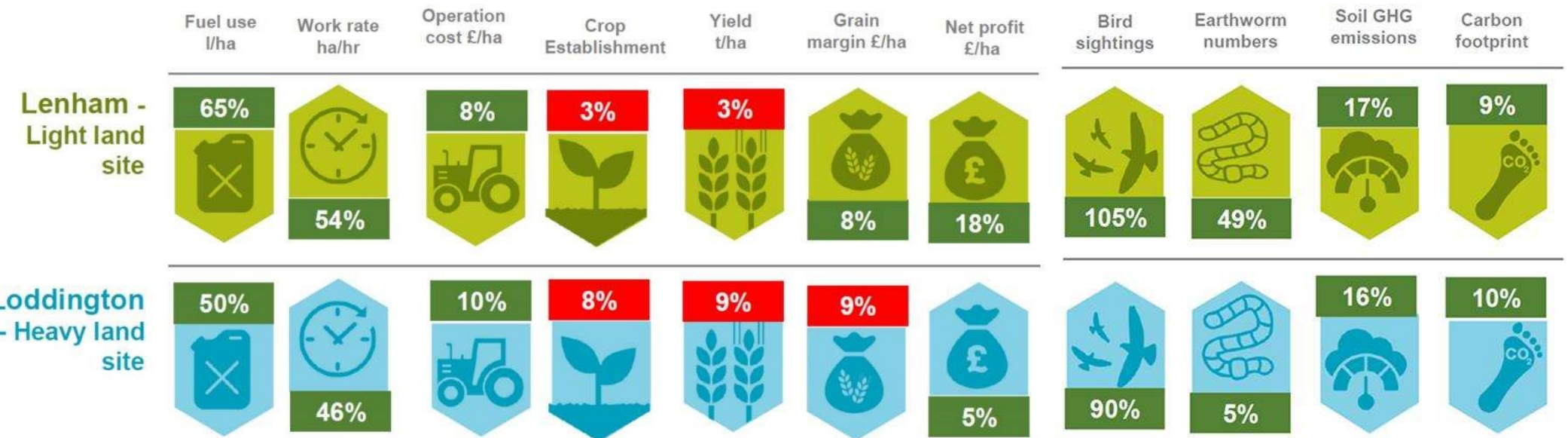
ÅR 2

GENNEMSNI



# Syngenta and CA – International results

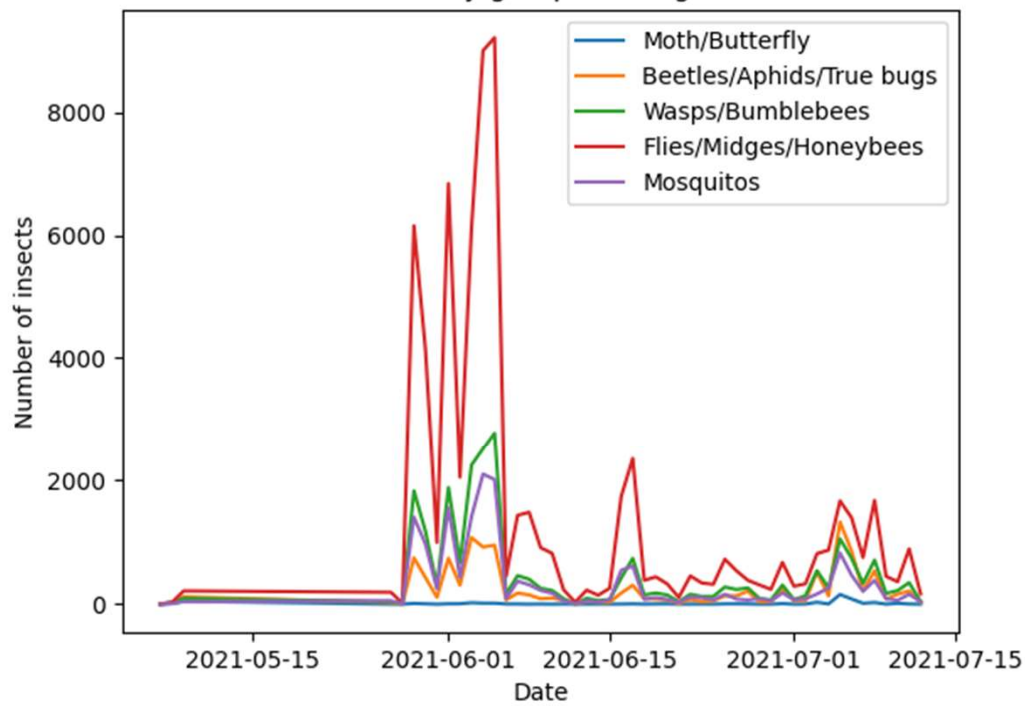
## Syngenta Sustainable Farming Initiative (2020 data)



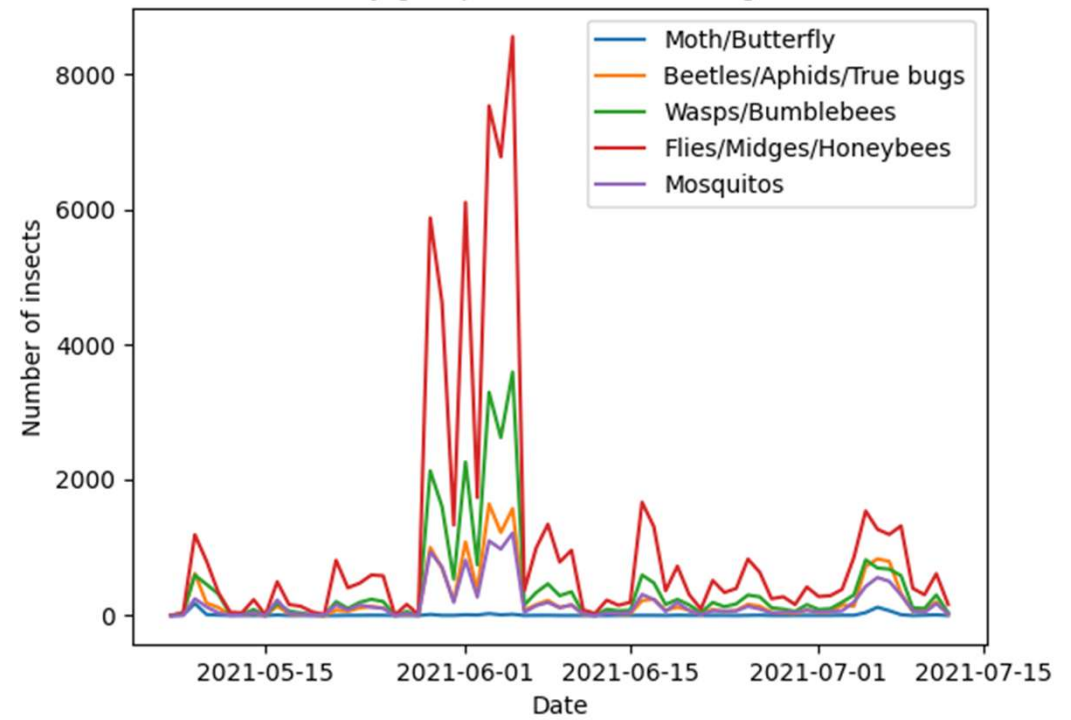
# Insects by groups



Insects by group in Ploughed



Insects by group in Conservation Agriculture



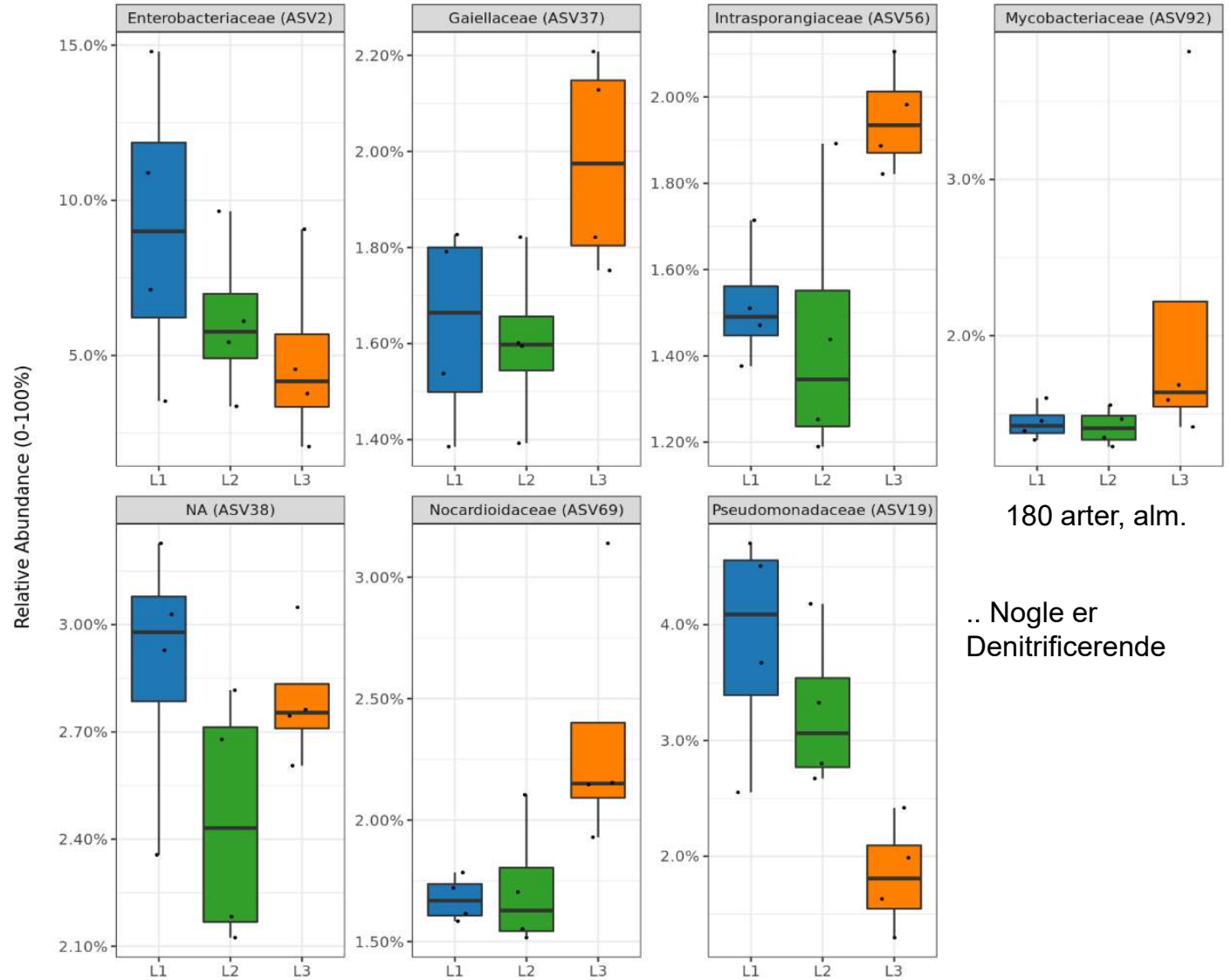
# Microbiology

Ploughed

Reduced tillage

CA

Top associated taxa for N-12

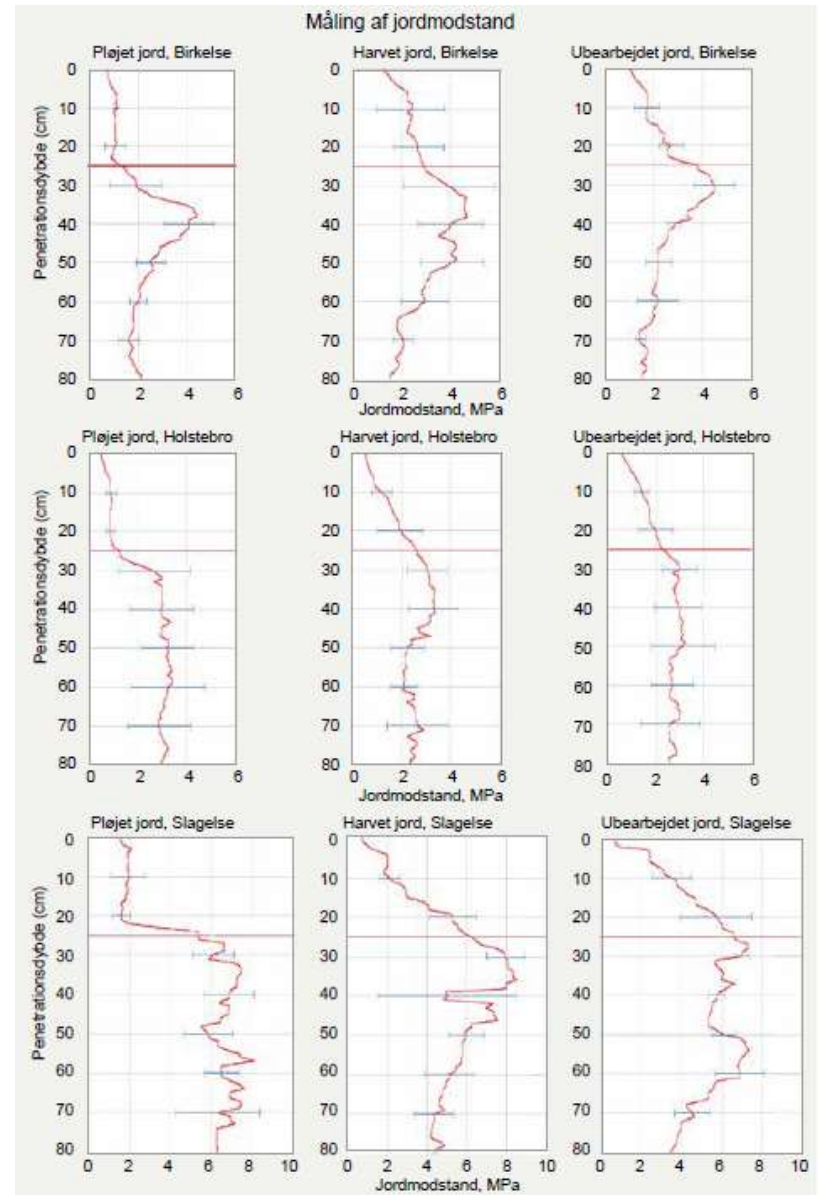


180 arter, alm.

.. Nogle er Denitrificerende

Field N-12  
P-value < 0.2 selected for illustration.

# Measurement of soil compaction (year 2)



Org



AGROINTELLI



AARHUS UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



FRISK



# CARBON FARM



Sustainable cropping systems in plant production

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark

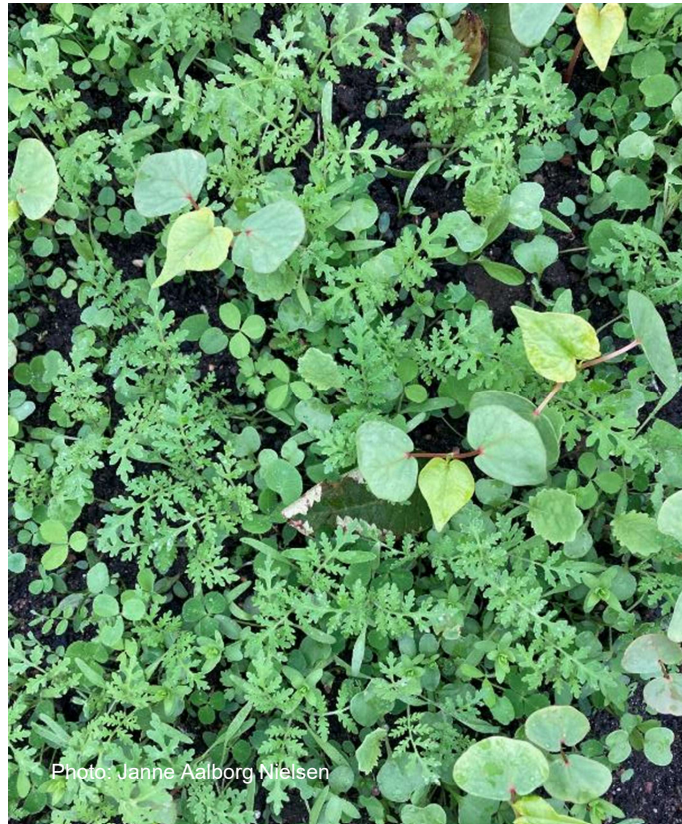


EGES  
NOVATION



## Organic no till, the holy grail?

- Diverse covercrop mixtures to control weeds



## Winter kill



Photo: Janne Aalborg Nielsen

# Micro clover between rows

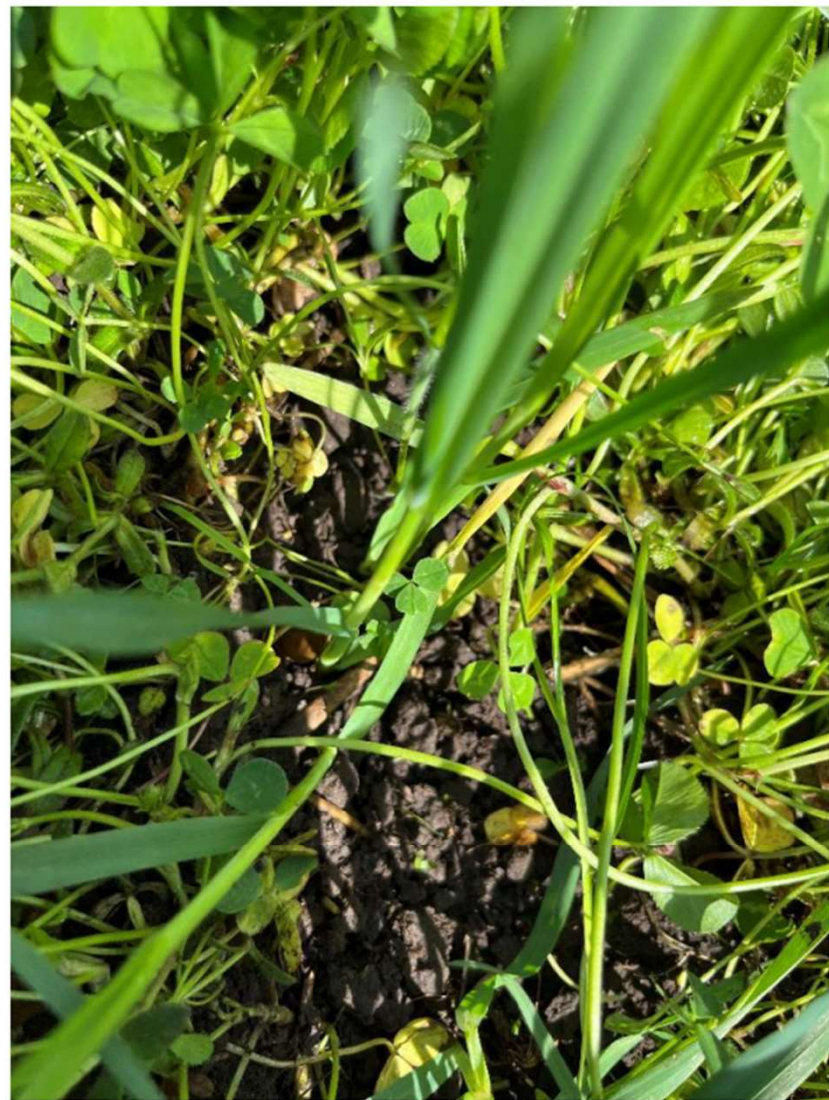
## Row mowing



## Row mowing



Maj



# June



# Harvest



Organic ploughed



Organic row-mowed

# Not much succes yet, but the microclover has effect on minimizing the weeds

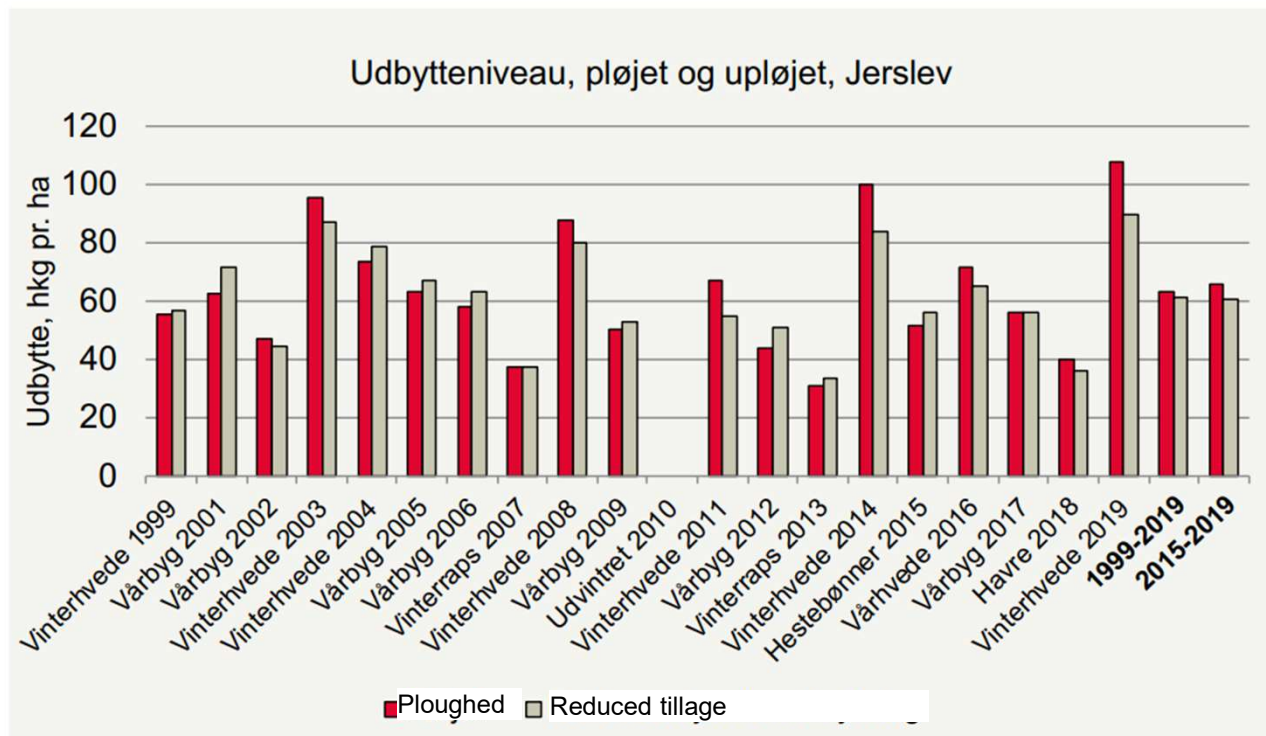


CarbonFarm field trial organic no till, replication 1 and 2 (out of four)



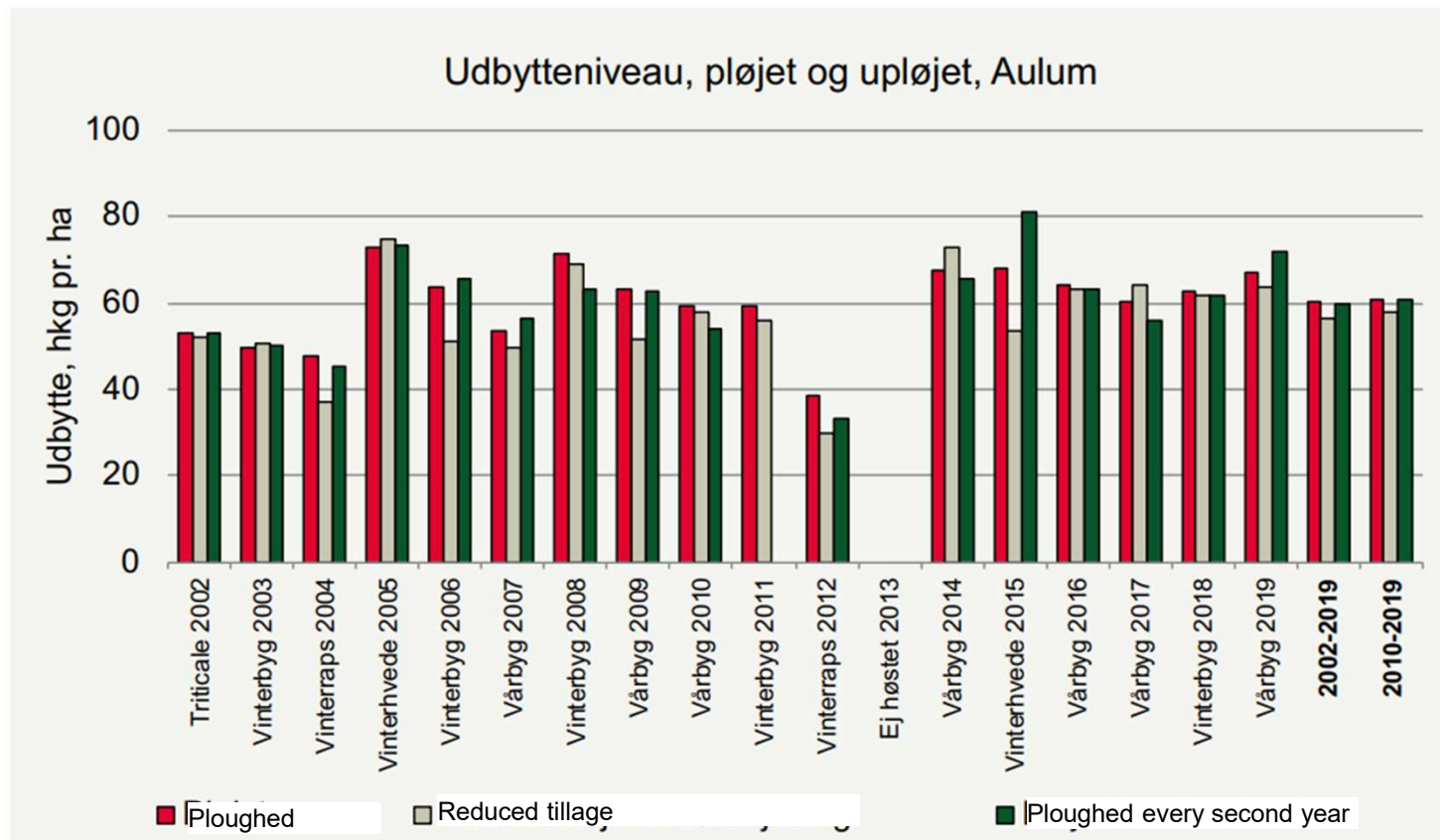
# Long term field plots in Denmark 1999-2022, location 1

## With and without plough



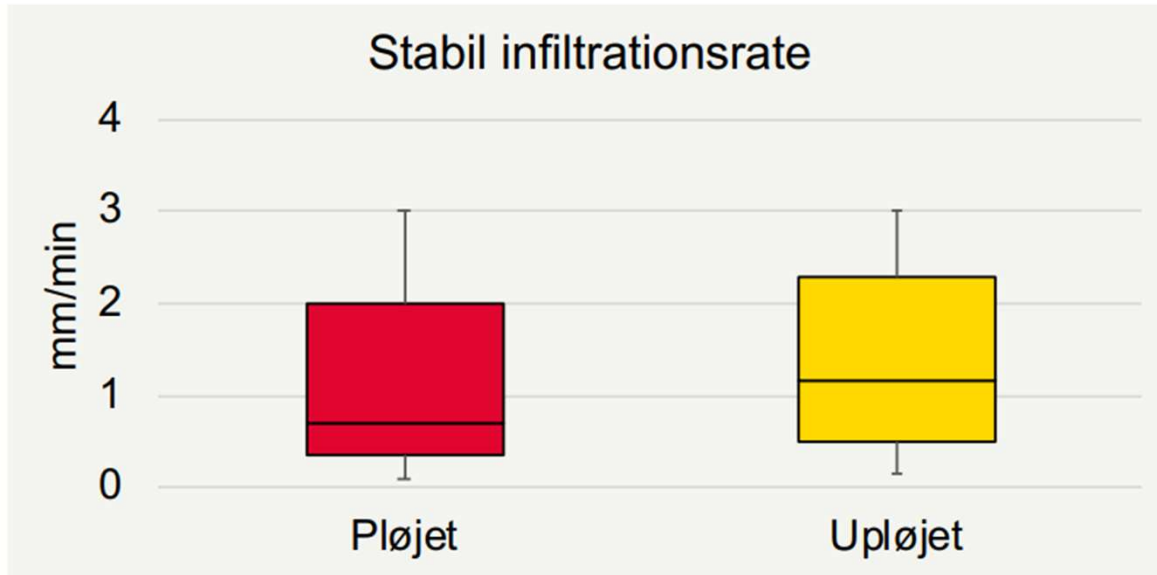
FIGUR 1. Udbyttensniveau i Jerslev over tid. pløjet i forhold til reduceret jordbearbejdning/direkte såning.

## Long term field plots in Denmark 1999-2022, location 2



FIGUR 2. Udbytte niveau i Aulum over tid. Pløjet i forhold til reduceret jordbearbejdning og pløjning hvert andet år.

## Infiltration rate location 1



**FIGUR 3.** Resultat af infiltrationstest i forsøget i Jerslev. Stregen i hver søjle viser medianen

National Danish Field Trials, 2019

Most of the measured infiltration rates in both ploughed and unploughed plots are within 0.2-2.5 mm/min, which are appropriate percolation rates for agricultural soil





Photos: Janne Aalborg Nielsen