



**LATVIJAS**  
**UNIVERSITATE**  
ANNO 1919



**Institute of  
Agricultural  
Resources and  
Economics**

# **Trends in permanent grassland cover in Latvia in the period from 2007 to 2016**

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# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

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## Aim

To evaluate changes and trends of permanent grasslands cover

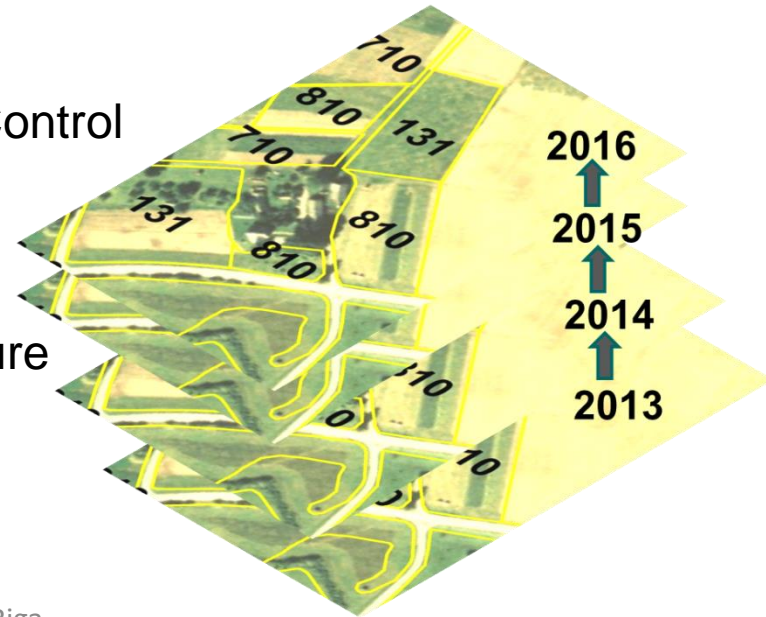
## Materials and methods

The spatial data of Integrated Administration and Control System from Rural Support Service:

- Field blocks 2007-2016 (declared areas)
- Field parcels 2013-2016 (supported areas)

Data of semi-natural grasslands habitats from Nature Conservation Agency (2014)

Spatial analysis in GIS



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

**Permanent grassland**  
(semi-natural habitats)



**Permanent grassland**  
(improved grasslands, ...)



**Sown (temporary) grasslands**



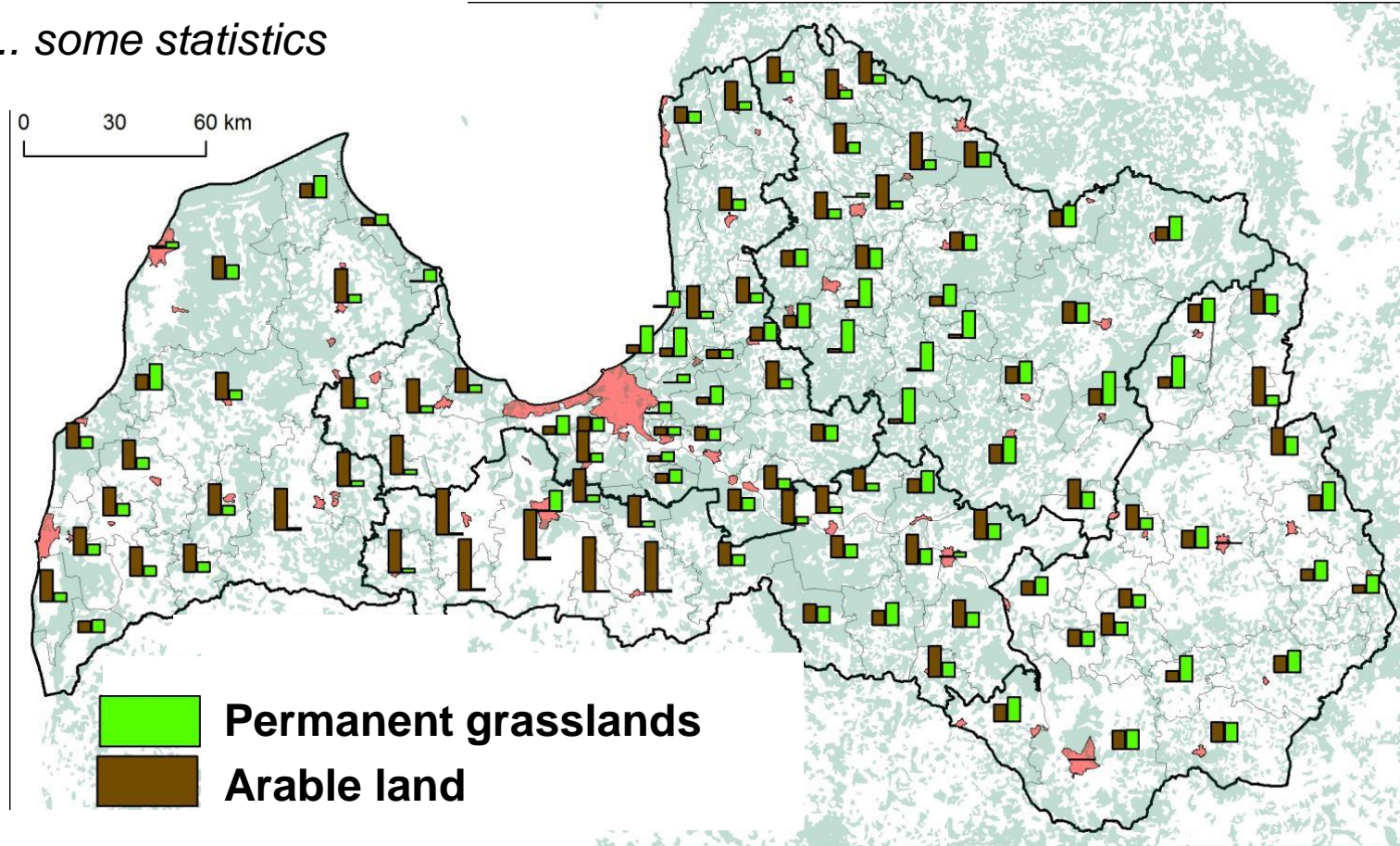
**n.d.**





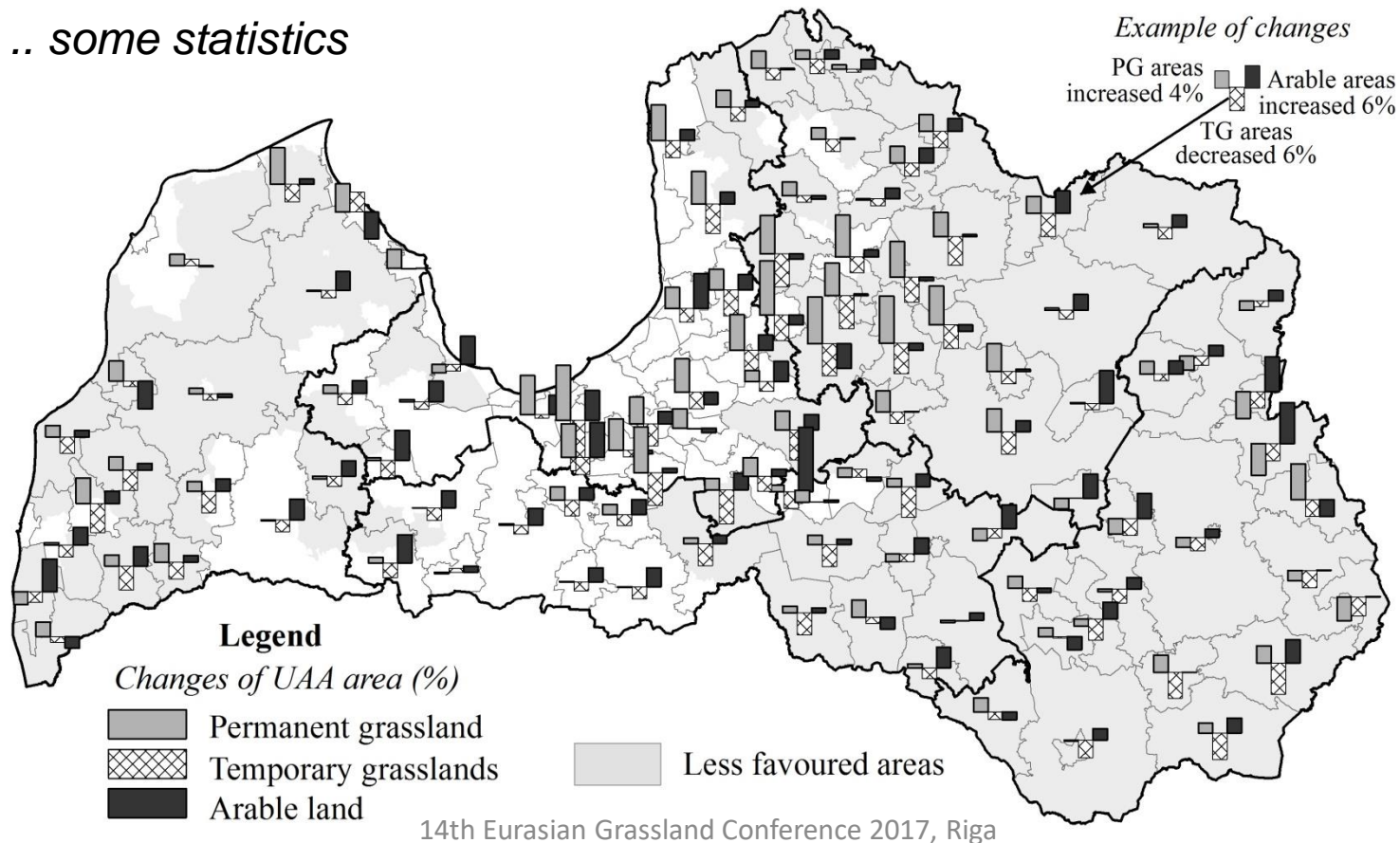
# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

*.. some statistics*



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

.. some statistics



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

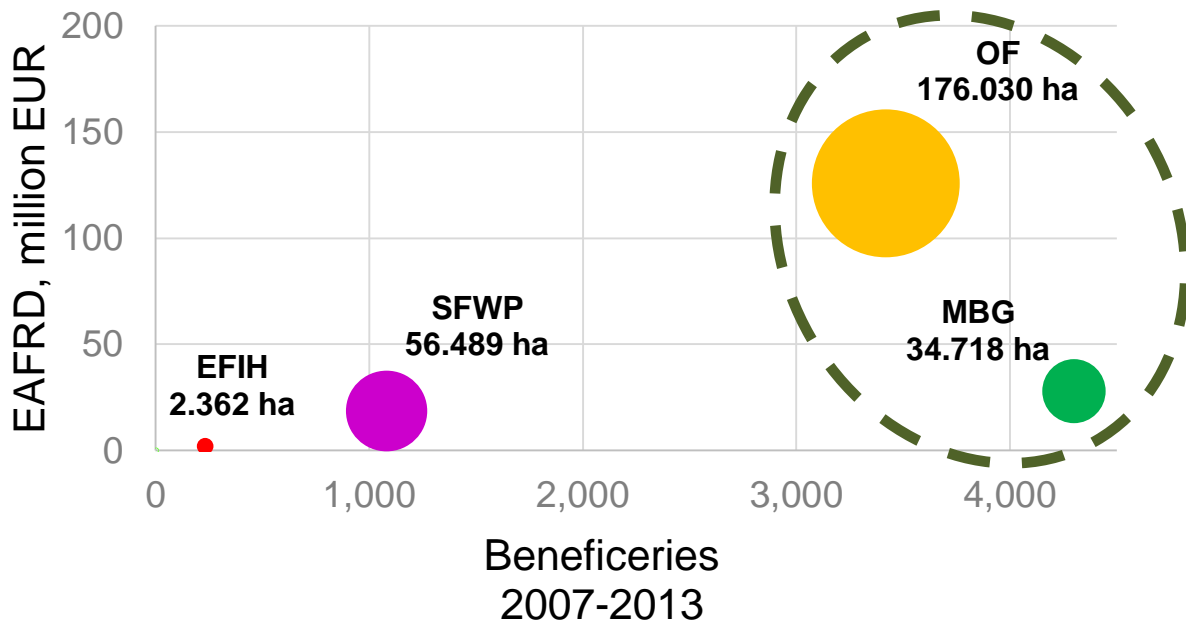
.. some statistics

## M10.1: Agri-environment

### payments

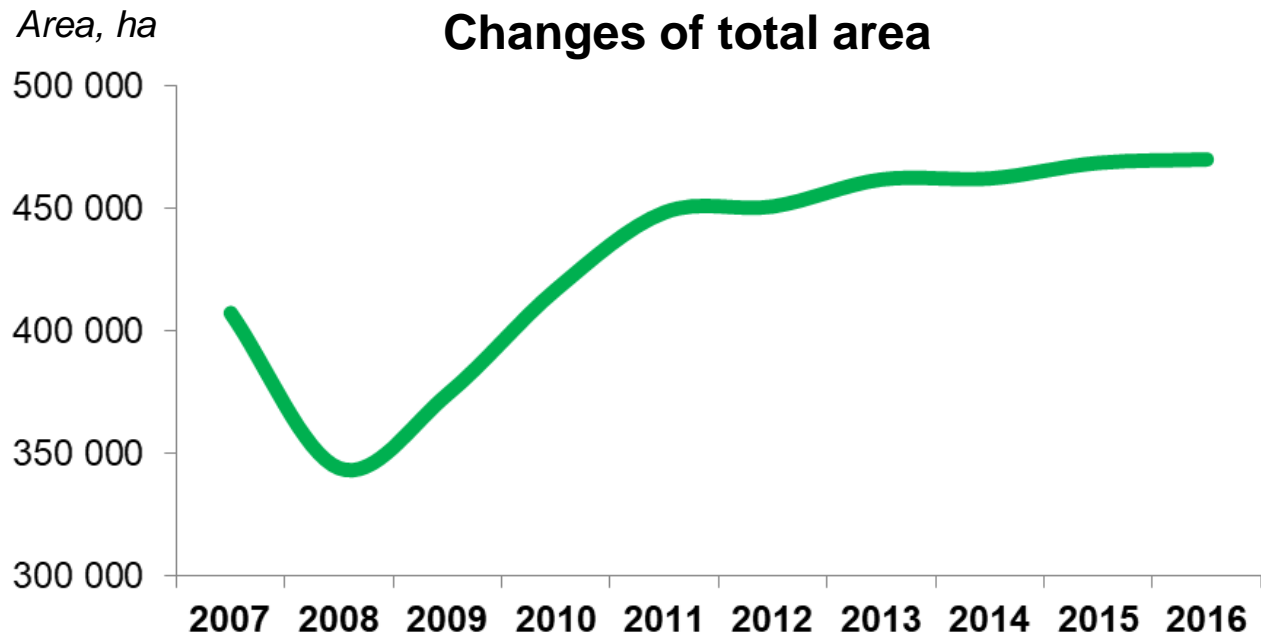
- ☐ M10.1.1: Maintaining Biodiversity in Grasslands (MBG)
- ☐ M10.1.2: Environmentally friendly integrated Horticulture (EFIH)
- ☐ M10.1.3: Stubble field in winter period (SFWP)
- ☐ M10.1.4: Environmentally friendly nectar plant growing

## M11: Organic Farming (DOF)



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

## Results



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

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*Results 2013-2016*

**658 734 ha - total  
area of permanent  
grasslands in 4  
years**

**465 581 ha -  
total area in  
2016**

**71%**

**286 544 ha - total  
area of permanent  
grasslands all 4  
years**

**43%**

**31 022 ha - total  
area of supported  
semi-natural  
habitats**

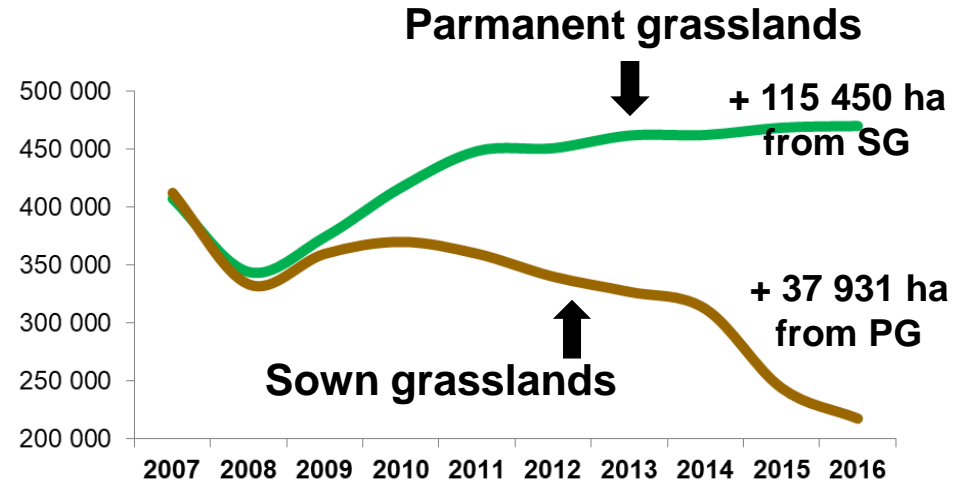
**5%**



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

## Results

- The total areas of permanent grasslands is «confused» due to dynamic changes even in last 4 years. Important changes are related to – grassland abandonment, improving of grasslands and transformation into arable land.
- Most part of permanent grasslands areas formed from sown grasslands



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

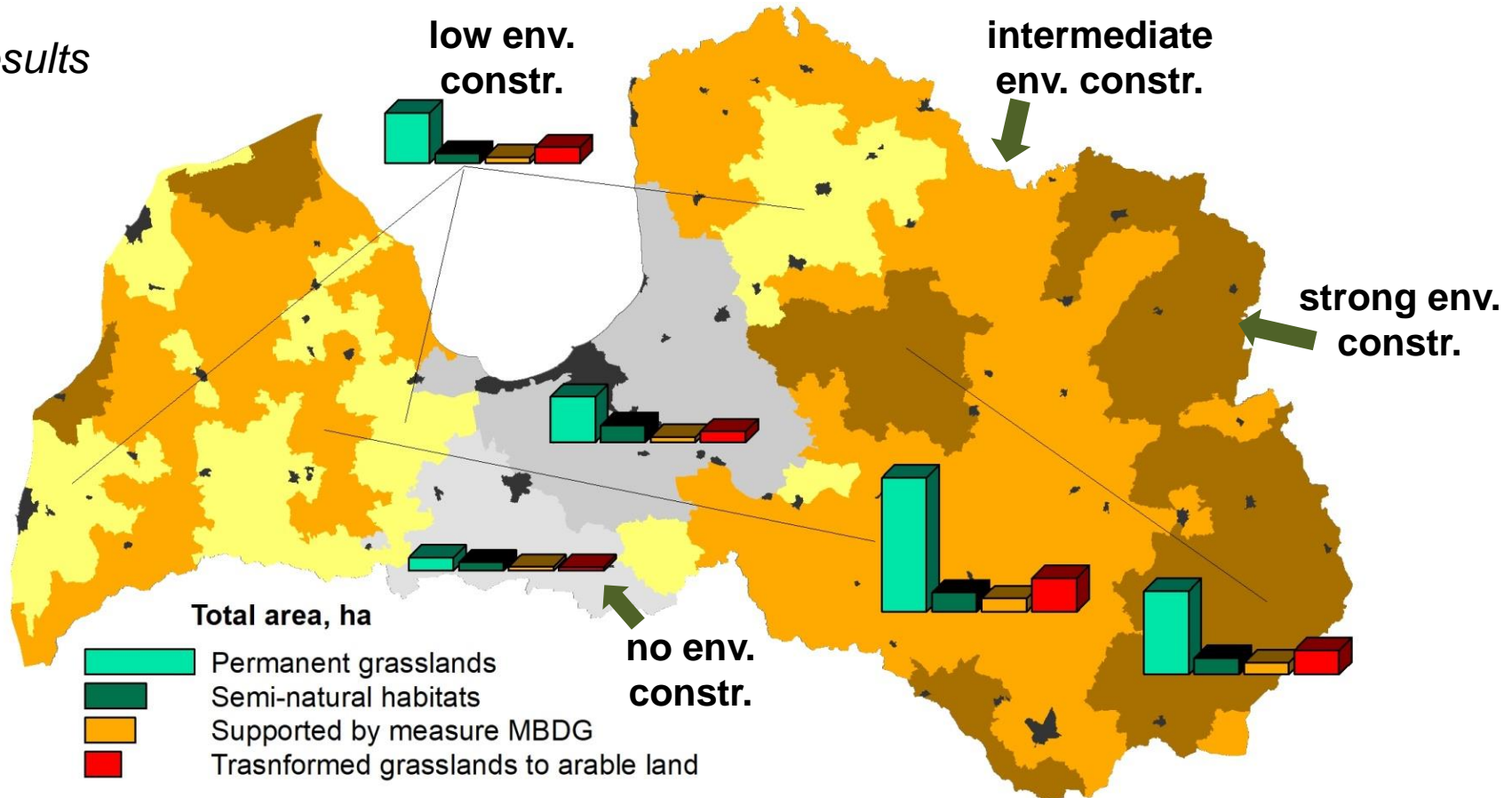
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## *Results/Cognitions*

- The second most important form of permanent grasslands transformation for last years was fallows (in 2015 – 22 598 ha!, average in 2014 and 2016 - 5 914 ha)
- The results show that permanent grassland is short intermediate stage before transformation to arable land (153 943 ha; 23%)
- 1 390 ha (2.6%) of semi-natural grasslands was transformed to arable land in last 4 years
- Spatial analysis show that grasslands transformation to arable land are evenly typical for all Latvia

# Permanent grasslands in Latvia

*Results*



# Permanent grasslands in Latvia – influencing factors

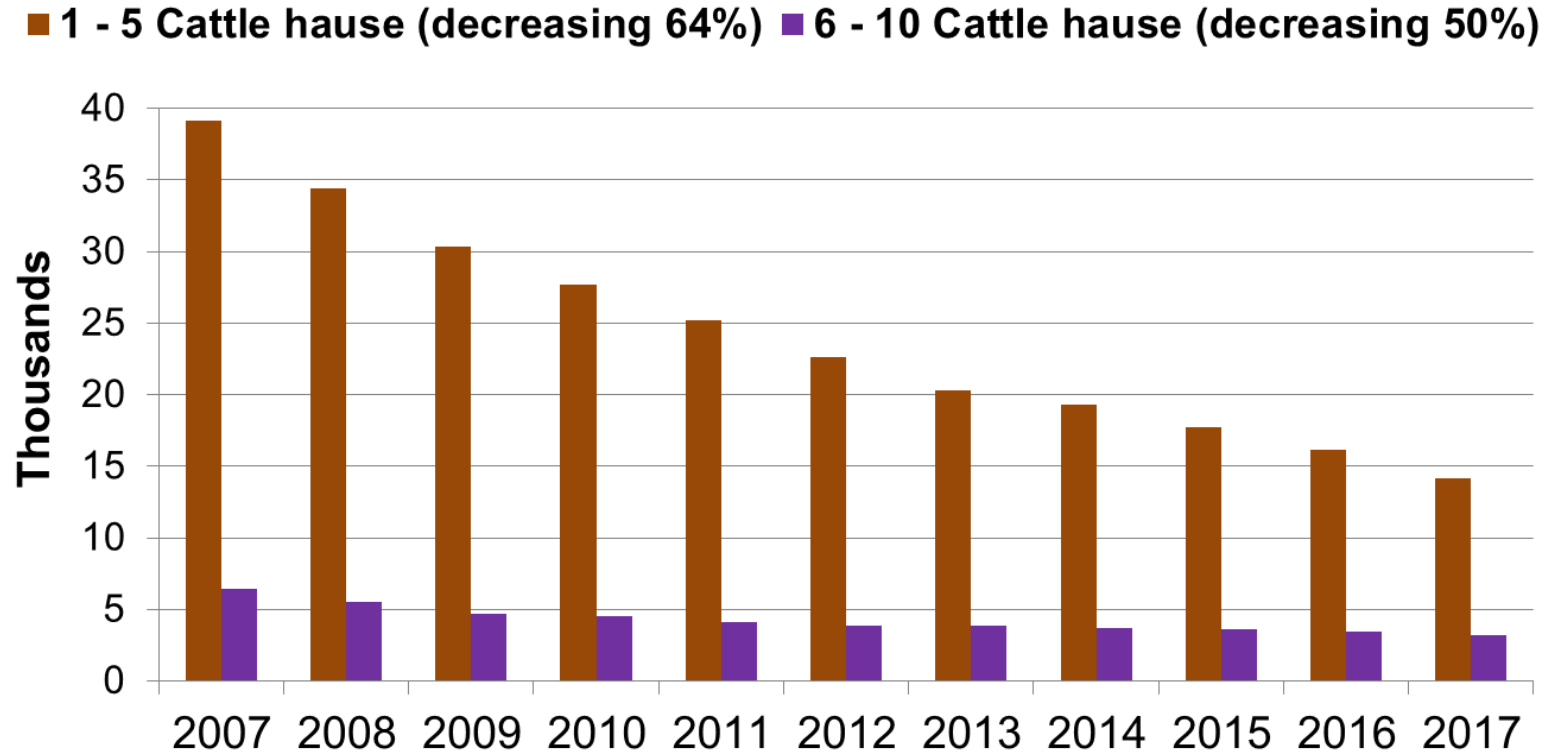
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## *Cognitions/Conclusins*

- Since 2008, it is required to ensure a minimum livestock density (LU/ha) and a defined revenue threshold (EUR/ha) to receive the area payments.
- From 2015 greening conditions have been introduced. Significantly that due to implementation of *greening* conditions permanent grasslands were not protected from conversion into the fallows.
- Important changes in the management conditions of permanent grasslands (incl. semi-natural habitats) from 2015: mulching/shcreding not allowed any more, no mowing start date, higher LU/ha etc.
- Targeted policy (support) for economically most competitive (intensive) farms in the crop sector, respectively, an increase in demand for arable land.

# Permanent grasslands in Latvia – influencing factors

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**Thank you for attention!**