



SUSTAINABLE
RESILIENT
EU FARMING
SYSTEMS

Future farm demographics and intergenerational renewal in EU farming systems

3 key findings

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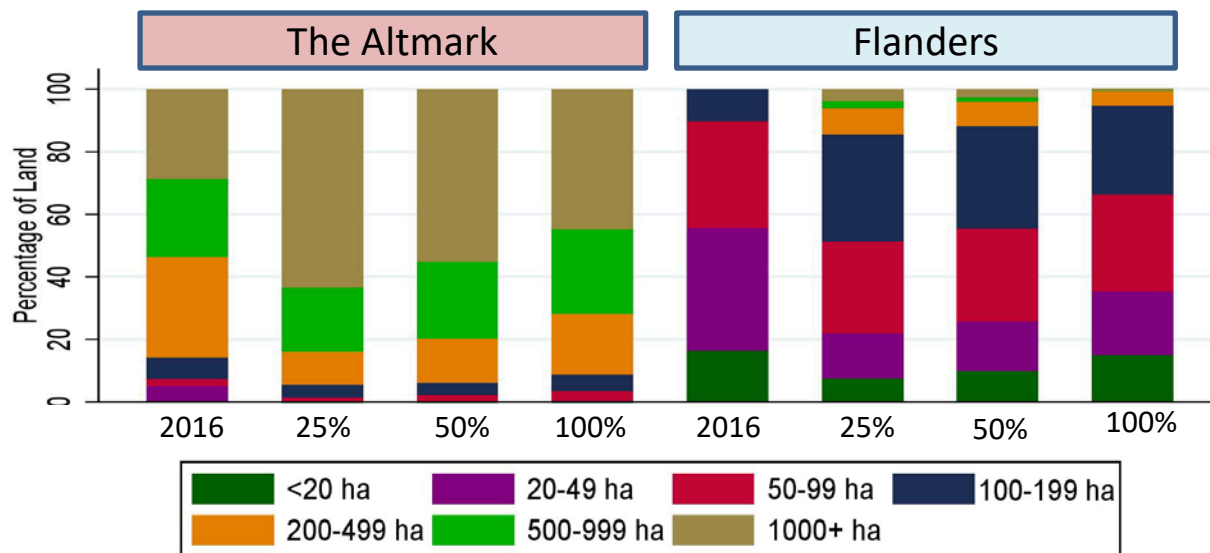
1. Is there a Young Farmers Problem in the EU?

- Baby Boomer Generation will retire within the next 10 to 15 years and cohorts of Generations Y and Z are much smaller in size
 - Many family farms may not have a potential successor
 - Increasing scarcity of qualified labor to hire -> increasing wages
- Agricultural challenges
 - Many (most) farms are neither profitable nor operating state-of-the-art
 - Fierce competition among farms, particularly for land
 - Wages for agricultural employees are rather low
- If there is a Young Farmers Problem
 - ... it is not (just) about farm succession
 - ... it is about qualification for the needs of future farming systems
 - ... it is about attractiveness of working in agriculture



2. Farms without a successor: Societal functions of will be provided by other farms!

- Farm size distribution in 2036 if certain share of farms has no successor



- EU Young Farmer Payments have no substantial effects
 - Widely waste of money, eventually psychological effects for starters
 - Shift the focus from quantity to quality -> support of business plans



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3. Policy recommendations w.r.t. generational renewal

- Policies should be region specific and systemic (policy mix, not instruments)
 - Clear and consistent policies instead of mixed messages as currently
- Improvement of education and training
 - Not just on production, but also management of more complex farms
 - Preparation for live-long learning
- Increase attractiveness of farming as occupation/lifestyle
 - Compatibility of farming as occupation with leisure, work/life balance etc.
 - Infrastructures for young families and migrant workers
- Policies for alternative business models and supporting innovations
 - E.g., shared / co-operative farming, new products and production systems



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