



EUROCASTANEA 2025 - 15th European Chestnut Days

Aracena, Huelva 10th-13th September 2025

Current Situation and Prospects for 2025 Chestnut Production in Greece



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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE
MELIVIA
LARISSA GREECE



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Challenges during the chestnut cultivation

1. Plant diseases and pests

The gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphillus*)

- Fruit rots and worms: fruit losses related to crooked fruit (by *Cydia* sp. and *Curculio elephas*) or affected by rotting, (in particular due to *Gnomoniopsis castanea*)
- The Phytophthora Root Rot (PRR) (due to *Phytophthora* sp.)
- The blight bark disease (due to *Chryphonectrya parasitica*)

Challenges during the chestnut cultivation

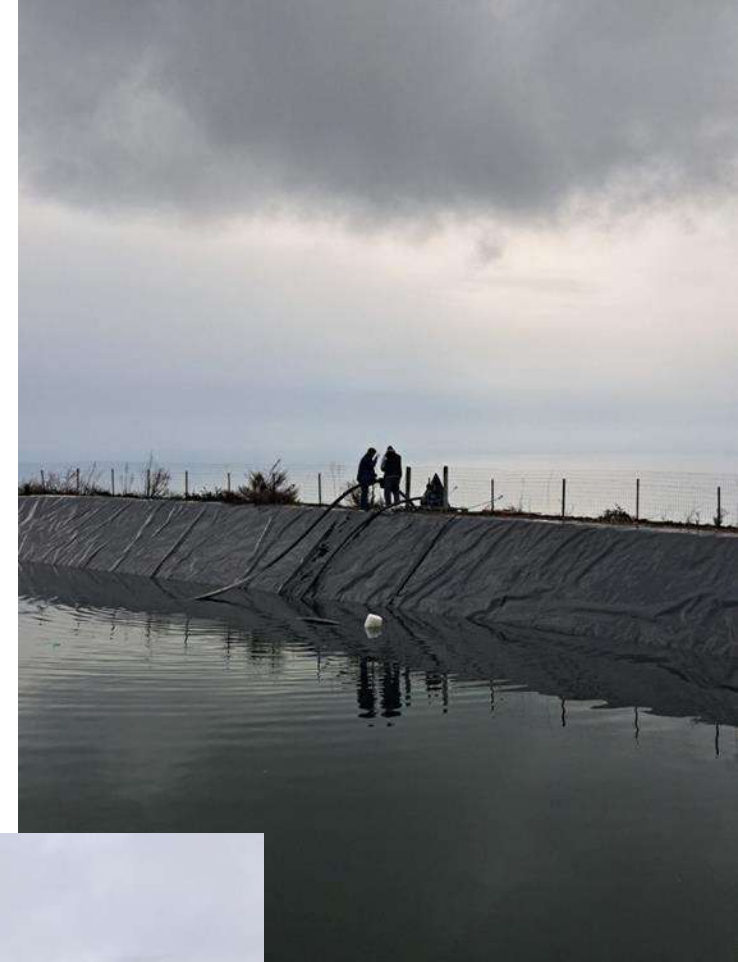
2. Climate change – Extreme weather conditions

Higher temperature all year round, lack of winter conditions, extensive rainfall, droughts, floods, heatwaves, extensive snowfalls, ice, stormy winds



Challenges during the chestnut cultivation

- 4. Surface and ground water quantity and quality (preservation – improvement)
- 5. Soil moisture preservation and soil quality improvement
- 6. Combination of innovative tools & technologies & traditional practices



Measures and practices against plant diseases and pests

1. Gall wasp:

7 years since the release of *Torymus sinensis* has started, chestnut producers from all over the country confirm a significant decline of the wasp population. In addition both quantity and quality have obviously improved.





Measures and practices against plant diseases and pests

2. **Gnomoniopsis castaneae** is right now the greatest concern. Fact is that because of the application of fungicides in combination with the decline of the gall wasp population the farmers expect this year higher quantity and better quality of chestnuts .The farmers of the Agricultural Cooperative of Melivia have followed the instructions that have been decided in the meeting in Porto in January 2025. Very soon we will be able to check the results.



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Measures and practices against plant diseases and pests

3. Potassium Phosphite is used against **ink disease** all over the country in order to prevent the tree loss with very good results.

4. In cooperation with the Forest Research Institute of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization “Demeter” and especially Dr. Avtzis worms and insects that affect the chestnut trees and nuts are being monitored with the use of pest traps e.g. pheromone traps in order to apply organic insecticides.



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Prospects for 2025

Chestnut Production

- The majority of the chestnut producers **expect higher quantity compared to 2024** (the lowest quantity in years)
- The decline of the gall wasp encourages the producers to expect better quality

BUT:

- due to drought, high temperatures, humidity , the size of the nuts is affected which leads to lower selling prices
- the biggest issue right now is the lack of rainfalls

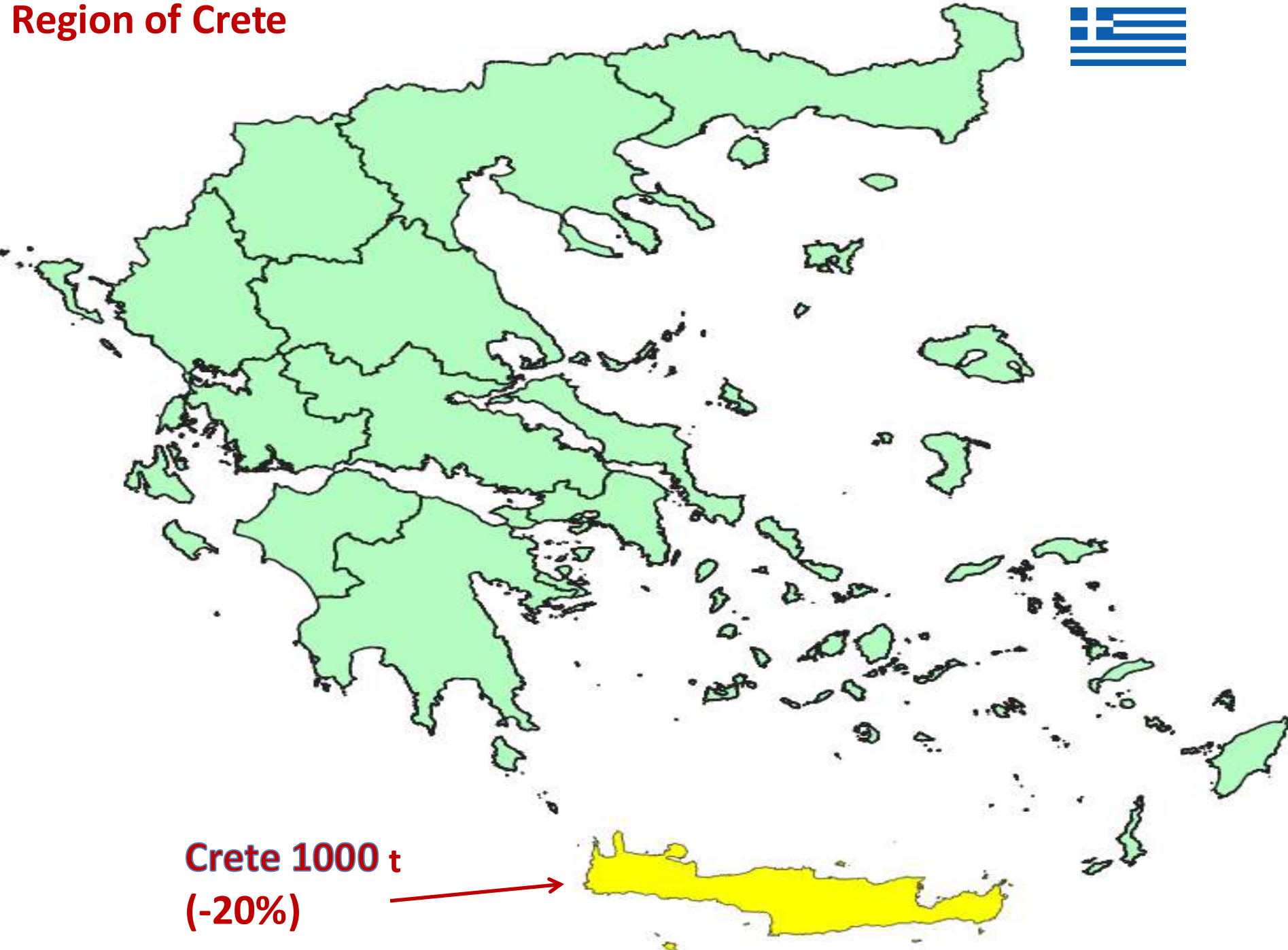


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Region of Crete

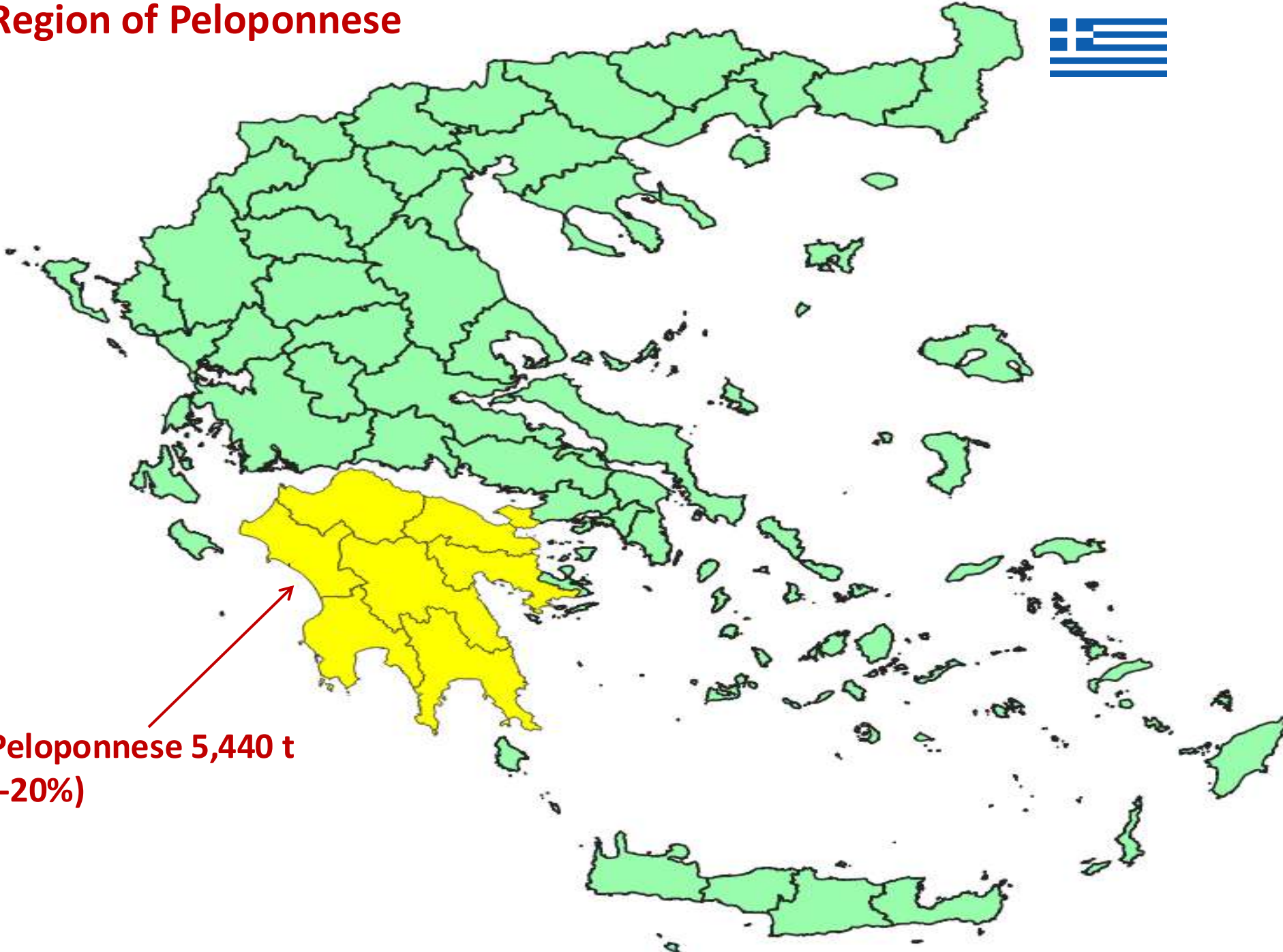


**Crete 1000 t
(-20%)**

Region of Peloponnese



Peloponnese 5,440 t
(-20%)



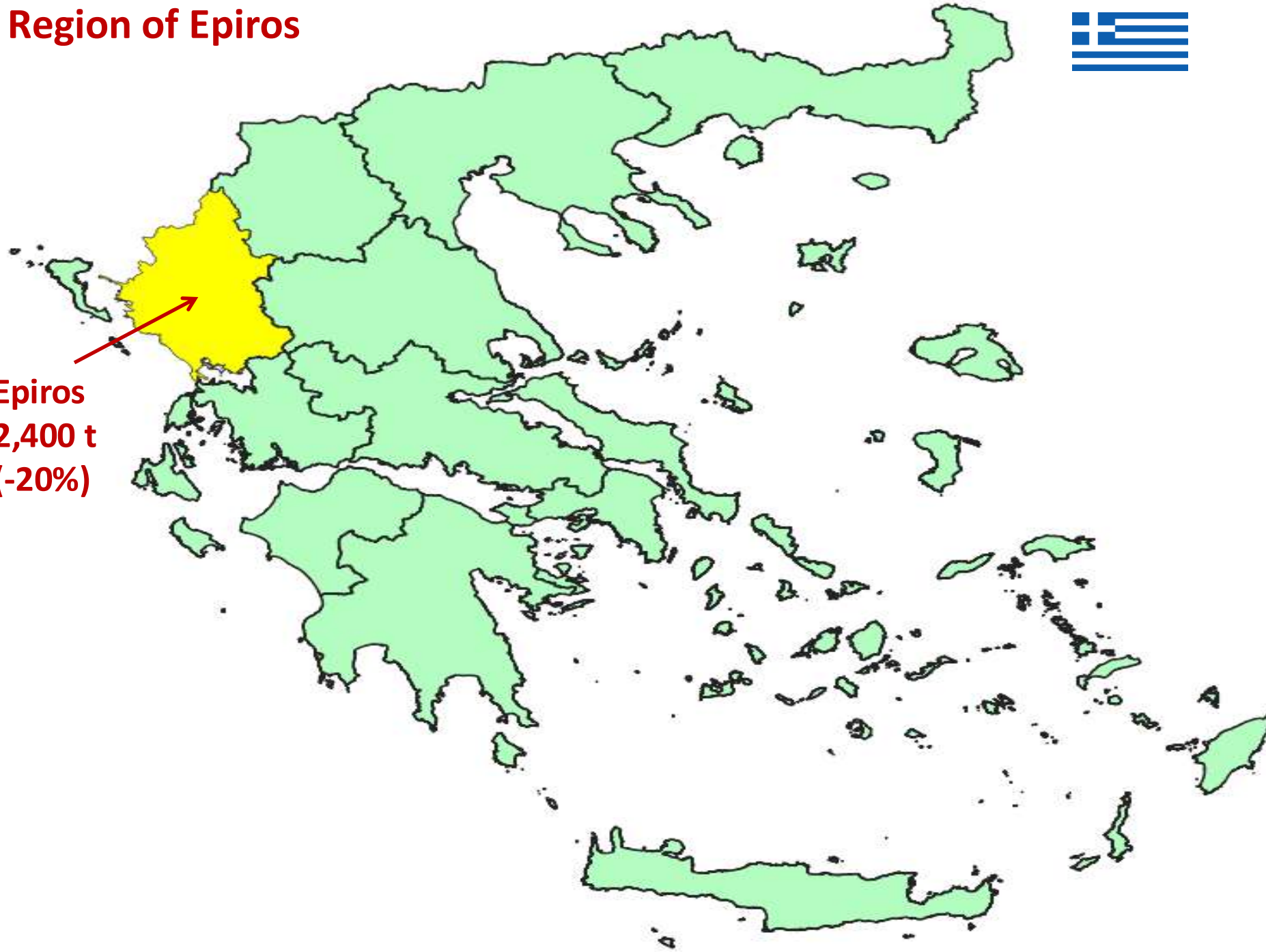
Region of Central Greece



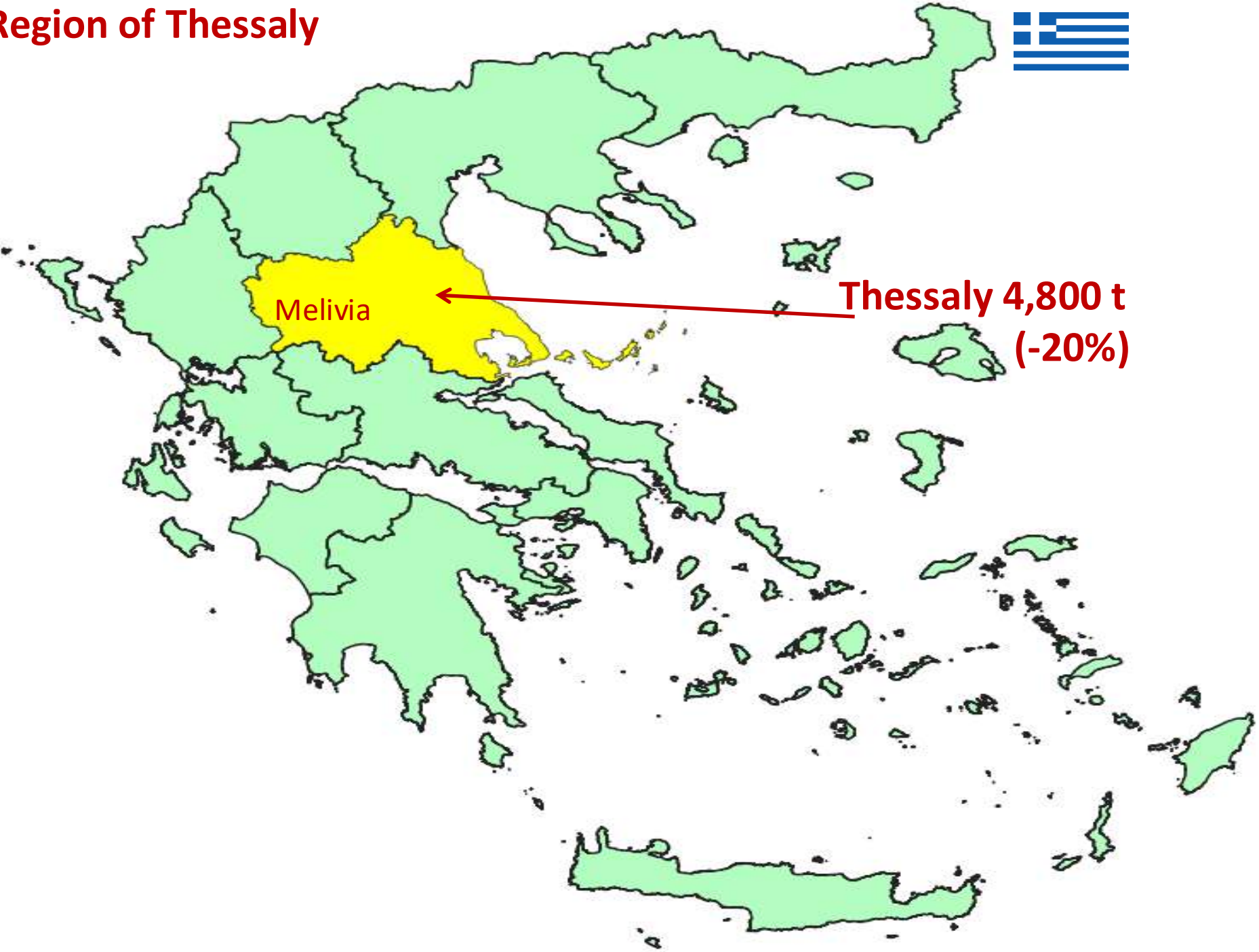
Region of Epiros



Epiros
2,400 t
(-20%)



Region of Thessaly



Melivia

**Thessaly 4,800 t
(-20%)**

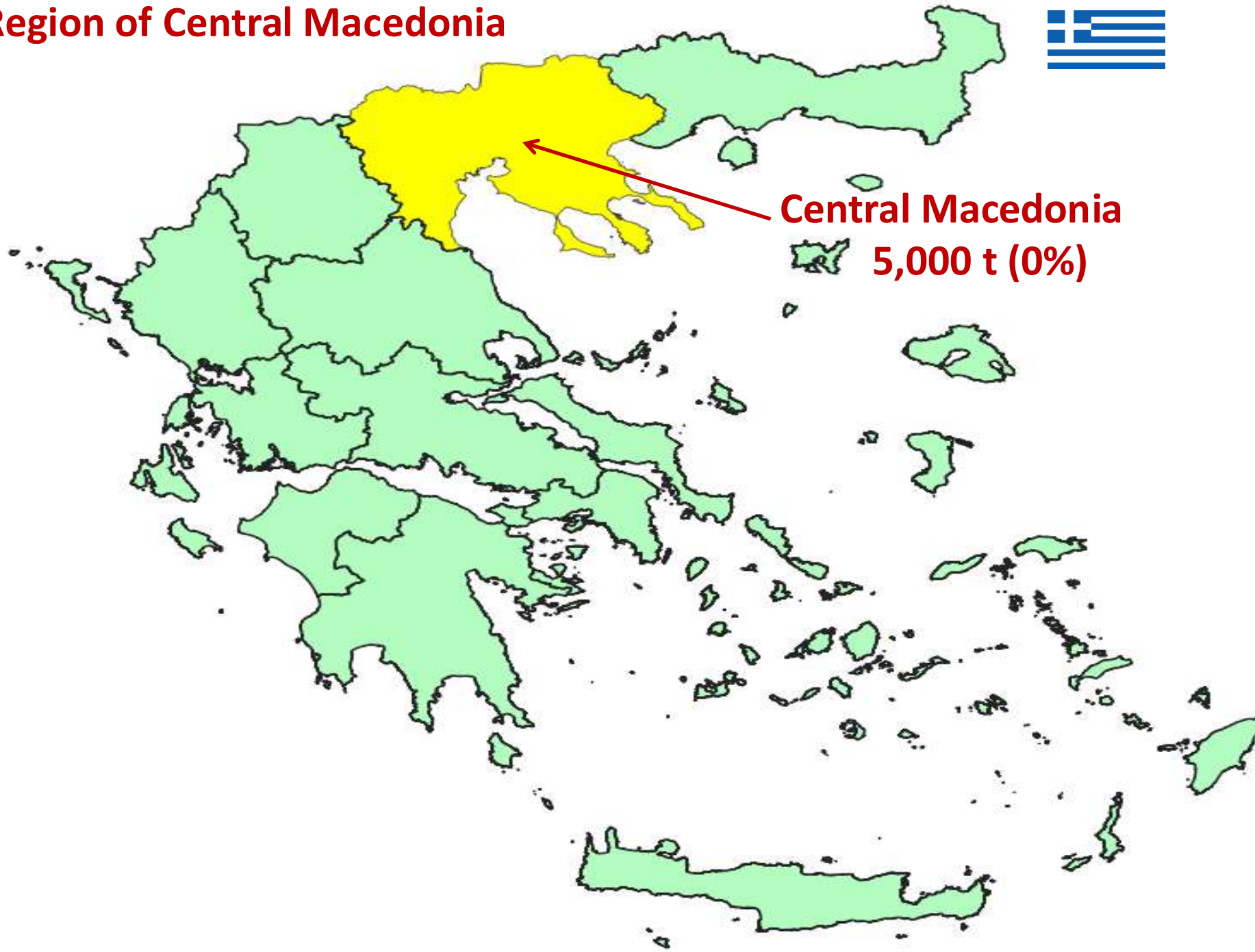
Region of Western Macedonia



W. Macedonia
2.250 t
(-10%)



Region of Central Macedonia



Central Macedonia
5,000 t (0%)



East Macedonia & Thrace 2,400 tons (-20%)

Region of East Macedonia & Thrace

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

- Cooperation among local stakeholders
(authorities, public services, private companies, NGOs, citizens, farmers etc.)
- Infrastructure (maintenance & restoration)
- Long – term planning & investments
- Consumers' purchasing power decline
- Cost reduction
- Farming must be a profitable activity



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VISION

Plant Protection
Efficient Cultivation Practices

Water & Soil Protection

Access to knowledge, technology & funding

***SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE
NATURE***

THANK YOU!