



In Europe, two agricultural holdings in five specialise in arable or permanent crops

With 23% of holdings growing arable crops and 18% permanent crops, French farms were close to the European average in 2005.

In France, as in the rest of the European Union, two agricultural holdings in every five specialise either in arable crops (cereals, oilseeds, industrial beet, etc.), or permanent crops (mainly vines and orchards). However, there are considerable differences between Member States. In the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland and Sweden), almost 60% of holdings specialise in arable crops. At the other extreme, 70% of holdings in Cyprus and half of all Spanish, Greek and Italian holdings specialise in permanent crops. In Ireland, over 80% of units are livestock farms, and more than half in Luxembourg.

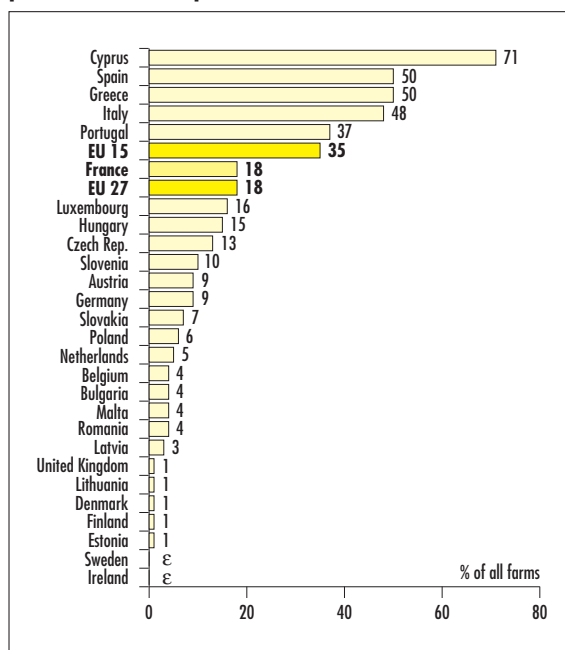
Conversely, in Slovenia, as in the majority of the new Member States, most holdings are mixed, combining crops with livestock farming.

Definition

The European classification of agricultural holdings according to principal type of farming (**OTEX**) is based on the Standard Gross Margin (SGM). Total SGM for a farm is obtained by applying to each hectare of crops or each head of livestock a factor called the "SGM coefficient" and then adding up all the resulting partial SGMs. The principal type of farming on a holding is determined on the basis of the relative contributions of the partial SGMs to the total SGM figure.

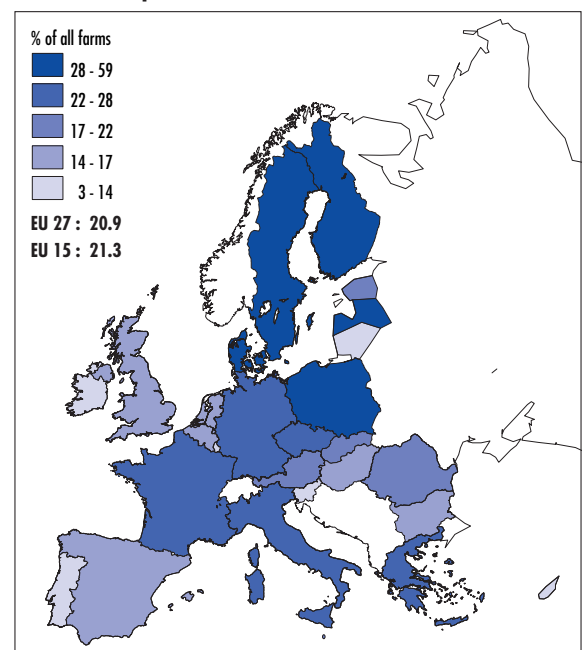
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Farms specialising in permanent crops



Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005

Farms specialising in arable crop



Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005



Nearly 50% of plant production value is concentrated in France, Italy and Spain

The value of France's plant production places it in the very first rank in Europe. France is also the biggest producer of wine, accounting for half of all European production.

The value of plant production in the European Union stood at €168 billion in 2006. Four Member States accounted for 60% of that total: France, Italy, Spain and Germany. Market gardening and horticulture generated nearly 30% of total plant production. The latter predominate in the Netherlands and Malta, where they account for over 60% of all plant production. Market gardening and horticulture put the Netherlands in second place among Member States, behind Italy but ahead of Spain.

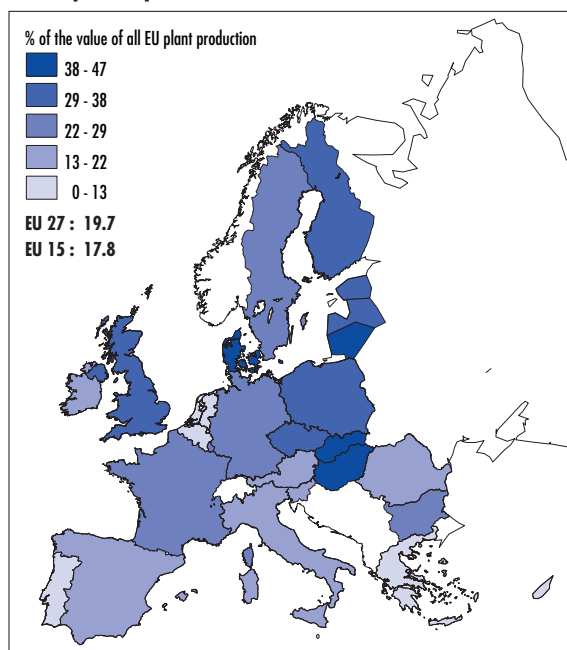
In addition, 20% of European plant production relates to cereals, 13% to fruit and 9% to wine, with half of all production coming from France.

Definition

The concept of **production** in the EU's agricultural accounts corresponds to the value of production sold, stored or temporarily unavailable during the reporting period, plus own consumption by farm personnel and livestock on the holding. Production is valued at base price, meaning that product subsidies are included.

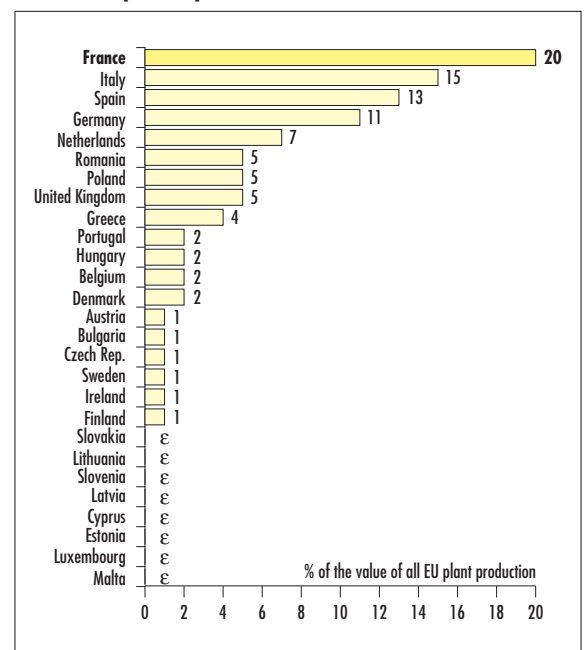
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Percentage of cereals in total plant production



Source: Eurostat 2006

Contribution of each Member State to total EU plant production



Source: Eurostat 2006



Europe: 57 million hectares of cereals 2 million hectares of vegetables

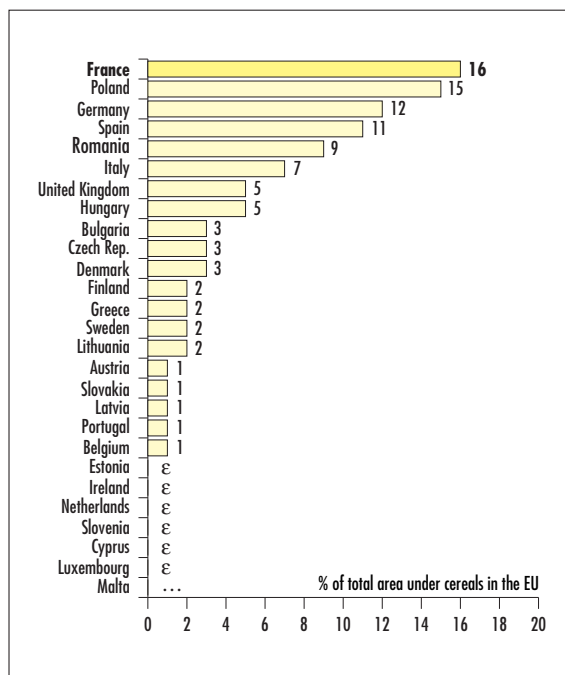
**France farms 16% of the 57 million hectares of cereals in Europe.
France ranks third behind Italy and Spain among the countries of the Union for land area given over to fresh vegetables.**

In 2006, the twenty-seven countries of the European Union were growing cereals on 57 million hectares of land. Over 60% of this area is concentrated in the EU of 15, including 16% in France. Poland ranks second with 15% of the total, ahead of Germany (12%) and Spain (11%). Spain is also one of the main producers of fresh vegetables, along with Italy. However, plant pro-

duction can change significantly over time, one main reason being climatic conditions in any given year.

More statistics on page 30.

Percentage of each country in total land area under cereals in the European Union



Source: Eurostat 2006

Areas used to grow fresh vegetables and vines

Thousands of hectares

	Fresh vegetables	Vines		Fresh vegetables	Vines
EU 27	...	...	Latvia	13.4	0.0
EU 15	...	...	Lithuania	11.0	...
			Denmark	9.8	0.0
Italy	476.4	786.3	Slovakia	8.8	11.8
Spain	397.9 ¹	...	Finland	8.6	0.0
France	254.5	842.4	Sweden	7.2 ¹	0.0
Poland	197.9	0.2	Ireland	7.1	0.0
Greece	116.0	112.8	Cyprus	4.2	9.1
United Kingdom	111.8	0.0	Slovenia	4.1	16.4
Germany	106.4 ¹	...	Estonia	1.4	0.0
Hungary	91.1	83.7	Luxembourg	0.1	1.4
Netherlands	81.2	0.1	Malta	...	...
Belgium	53.4 ²	0.0	Czech Republic	...	15.6
Portugal	45.2 ³	222.6	Romania	...	184.7
Bulgaria	37.9	...			
Austria	13.8	45.7			

1. 2005 figures.
2. 2004 figures.
3. 2003 figures.

Source: Eurostat 2006