



PROFEL

Civil Dialogue Group Fruit & Vegetables

17 April 2024



Evaluating impact of extreme weather events and loss of active substances on crop yield

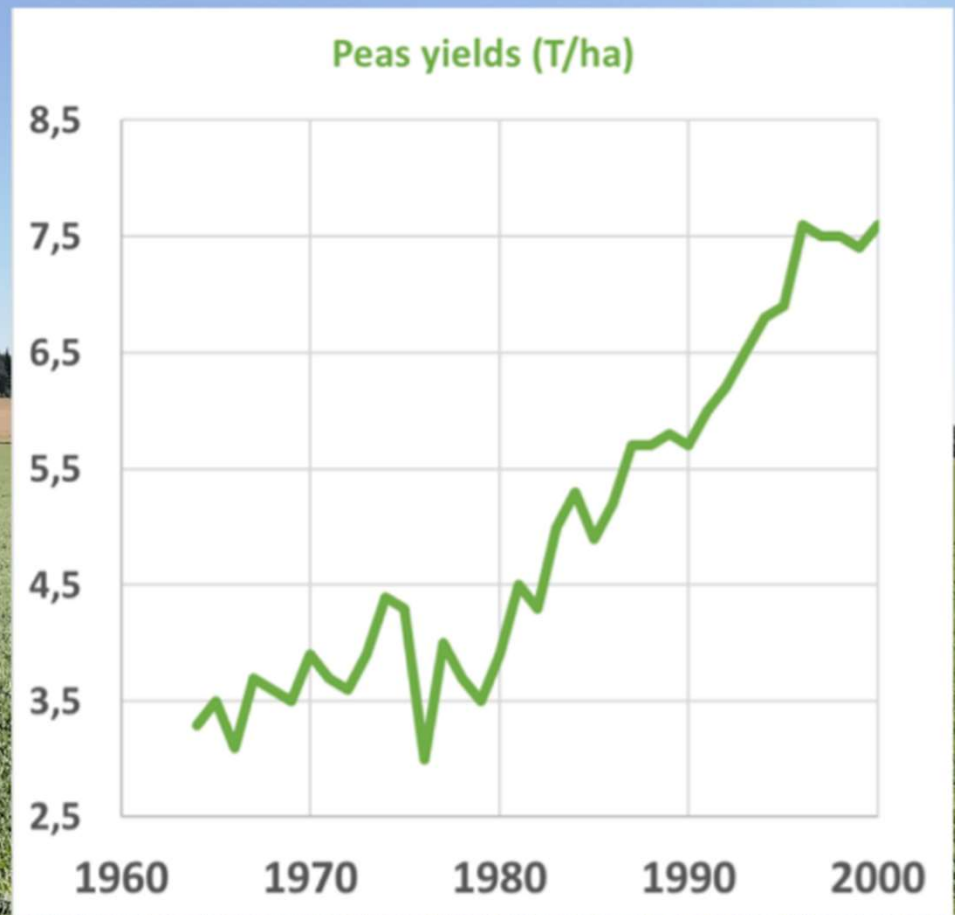
1. Individual company investigation
2. Belgian industry investigation
3. Next steps for the European Association



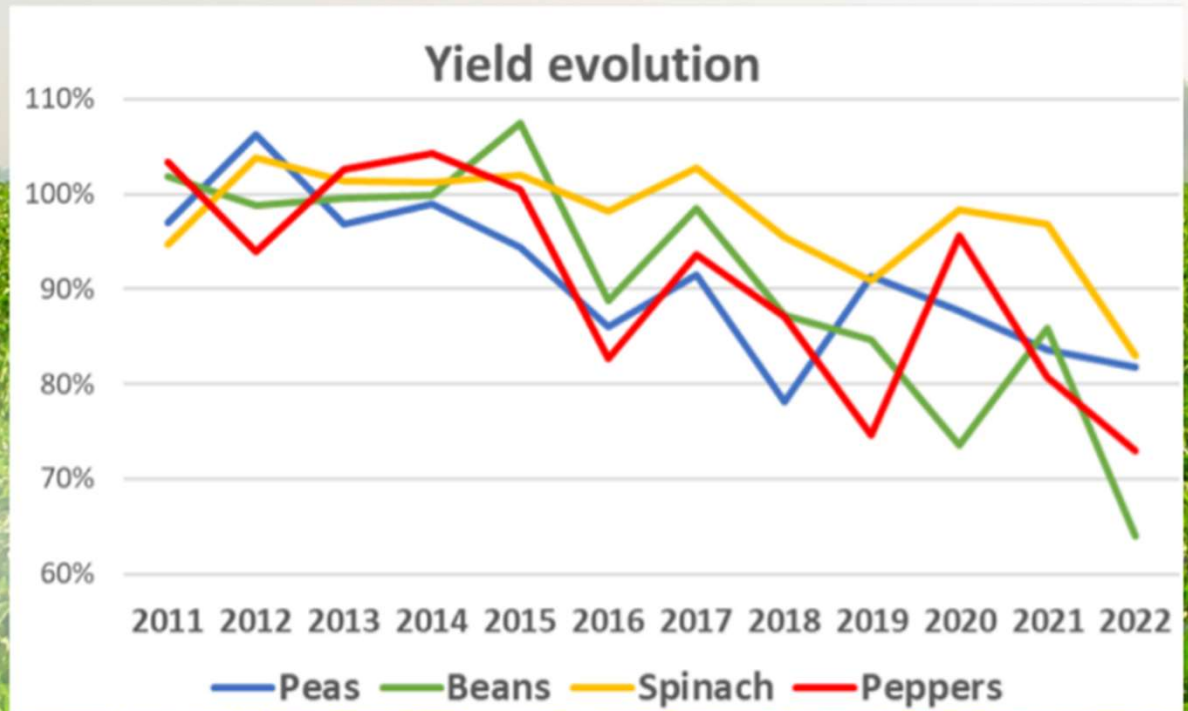


How to feed the future?

**The agro world that we knew:
Always more!**



**The agro world
that we know...**



Reasons

- **Climate change**

- Higher Maximum temperatures → Yield losses
- Longer dry or wet periods → Big impact on short cycle crops
 - Difficulties to drill
 - Difficulties to harvest
- New / increased impact of diseases

- PPPs: Very limited effect until now, but fears for the future

- Herbicides getting concerning

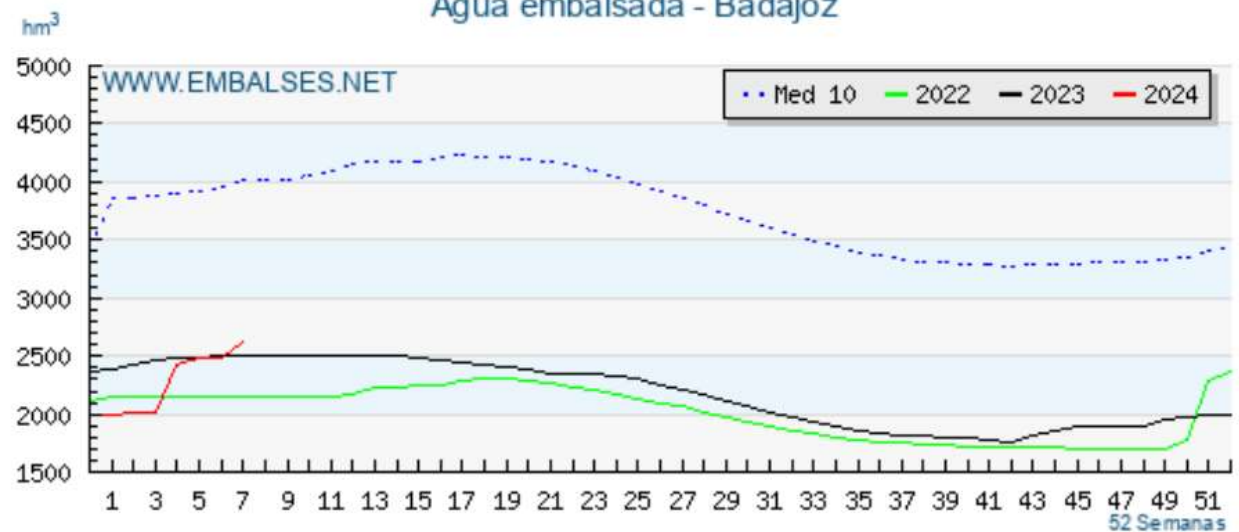


Water availability

Agua embalsada - Andalucía



Agua embalsada - Badajoz

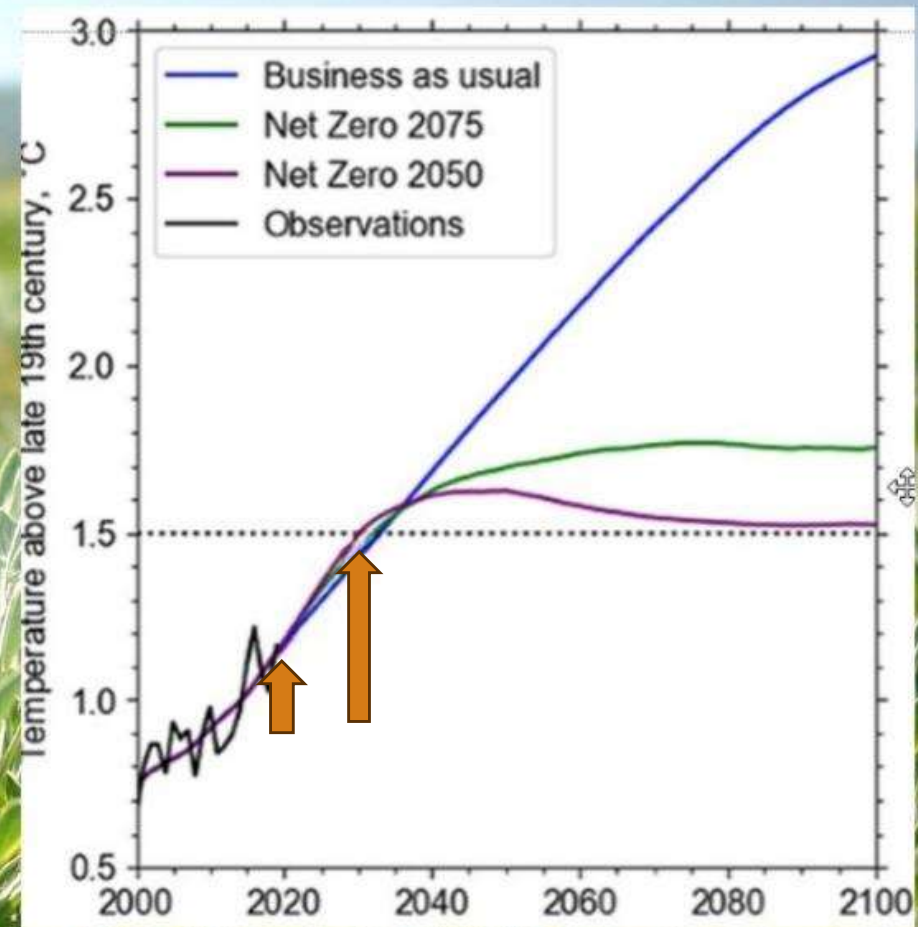




Water availability



**Climate change will
continue, and faster...**

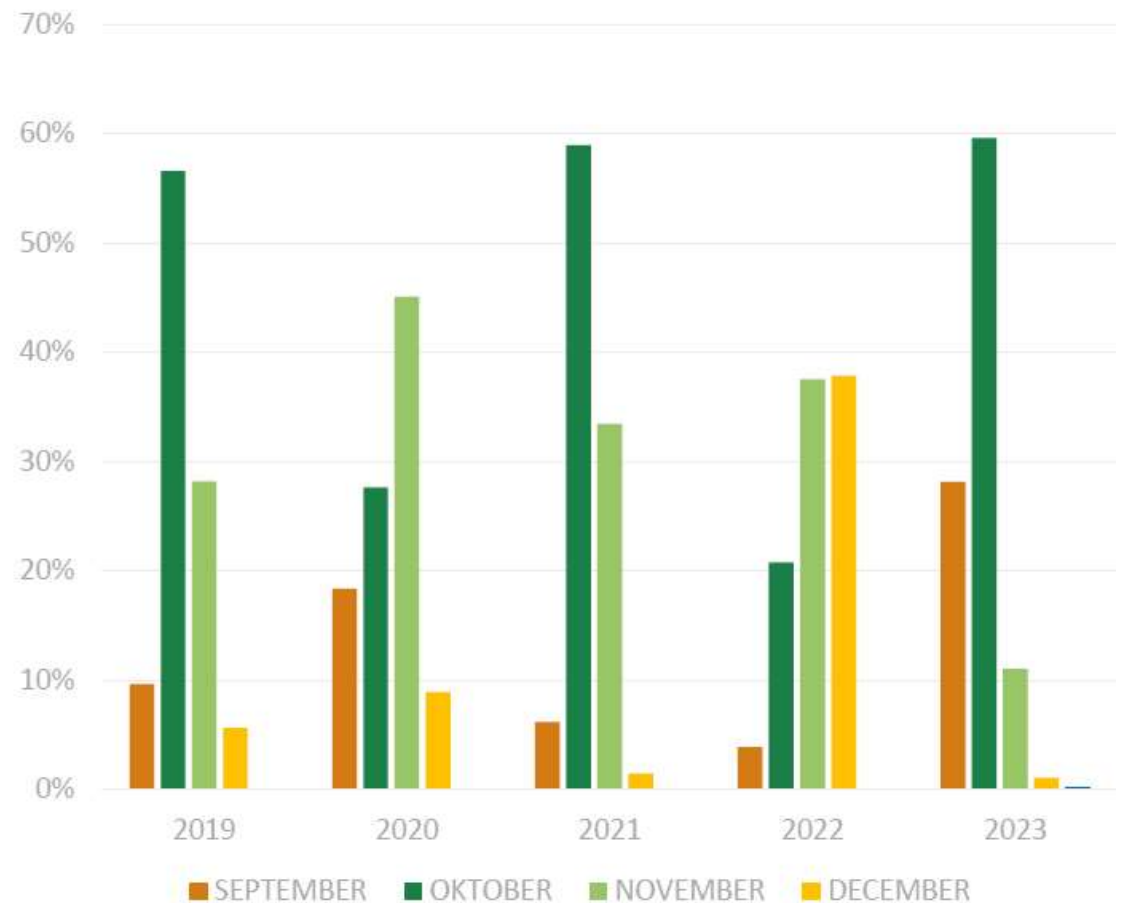


From one extreme to another



Impact on planning of production

Example 2. Cauliflower 2nd crop



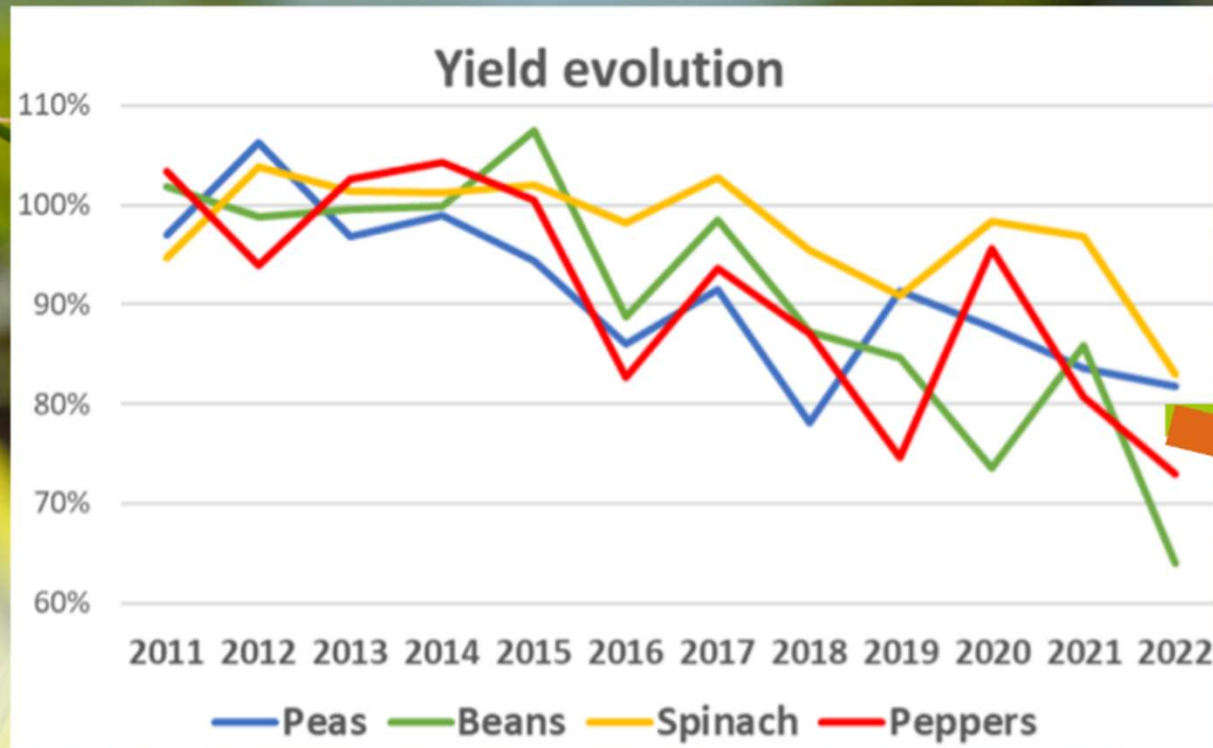
Impact of climate change on pests & legislation PPPs



Weed control getting concerning



**Which agro world
for our children ?**



Next steps ?

- Evaluate seriously the situation in the sector ?
- Map the constraints throughout the EU ?
- ???



Union of the Belgian vegetable
processing sector and the trade in
vegetables for processing

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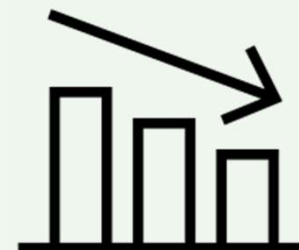
What is the impact of climate change and the loss of key active substances on crop yields over the years?

Why this exercise?

- Knowledge building and benchmark for companies
- Useful outcomes for lobby purposes (EU & national level)

Vegebe data collection

- Launched December 2023, anonymity guaranteed
- Yields (tonnes/ha) per crop per year
 - Time period: 2013-2023
 - Crops: peas, green beans, winter spinach, winter carrots, cabbages



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What is the impact of climate change and the loss of key active substances on crop yields over the years?

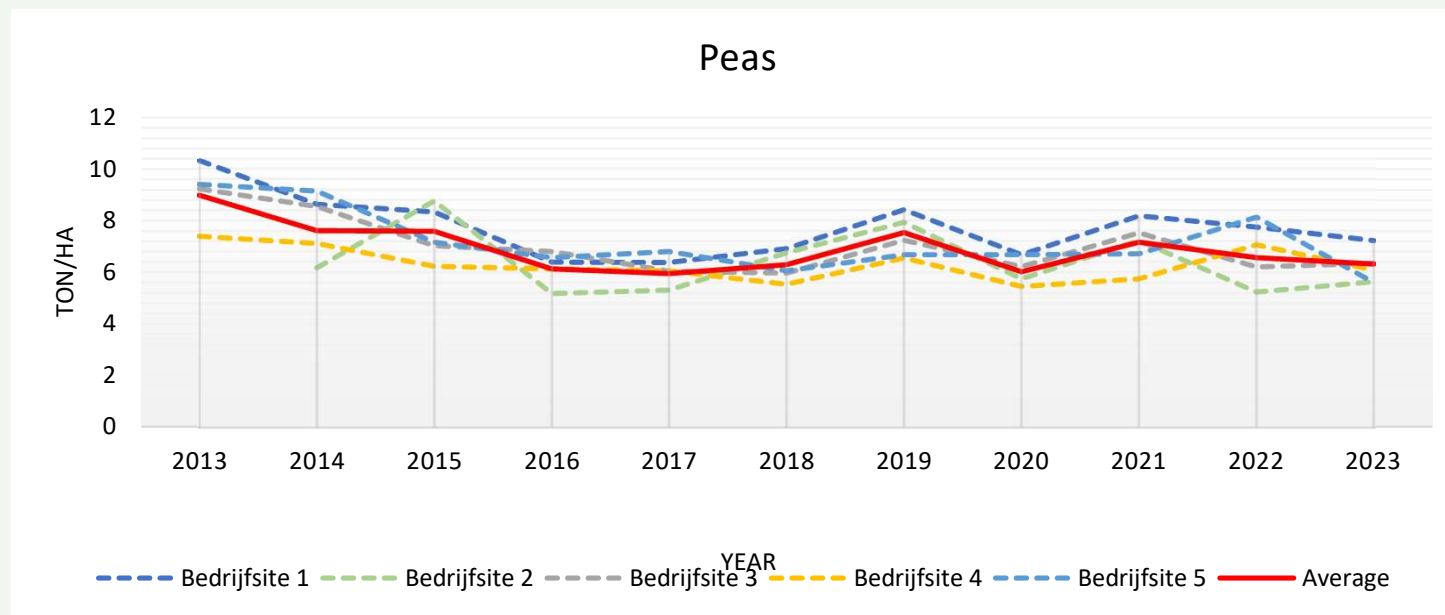
Results of the data collection

- Data received from three companies: 5 company sites
- Issues encountered
 - Data only available for “hectare contracts” (tonnes/ha)
 - Differences in submitted data, e.g. missing data, different time periods submitted or terminology used: “coarse/fine peas”, “spring/winter” spinach, “small/large/disk/yellow” carrots etc.
 - *Future: be more specific (e.g. define seasons and predefined crop categories)*
 - Not all companies process the requested crops and/or they produce it in different EU growing regions
 - *Comparability of the data?*
 - Were the vegetables irrigated (yes/no/partially?)
 - Suggestion: increase time period in order to see cleared trend? E.g. 15 years, 2008-2023

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What is the impact of climate change and the loss of key active substances on crop yields over the years?

Results of the data collection



(slightly) decreasing average trend

Differences between companies



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What is the impact of climate change and the loss of key active substances on crop yields over the years?

Next steps

- Meeting with agronomists to discuss the data collection and results
→ fine tuning of the dataset
- Investigate potential reasons for fluctuations
e.g. why in certain years marked in/decreases? Loss of active substances/drought?

Next steps for the European Association

Establish an Agri Supply Chain Working Group, which:

- Provides guidance for Agri-Data Collection exercises, incl. member survey on impact of climate change and loss of active substances on crop yield
- Assists in development of industry positions – drawing on knowledge and real-life scenarios for different crops in different regions
- Supports PROFEL secretariat in meetings with European institutions and with other stakeholders incl. COPA COGECA Working Party Fruit & Vegetables
- Ensures that PROFEL is primed and ready to respond to the demands of the new era and the changes within EU institutions



Next steps for the European Association

Launch membership survey investigating impact of climate change and loss of active substances on fruit and vegetable crop yields from 2008-2023

