

BIOFRUITNET: Innovative solutions in organic stone fruits production

Cherries, plums, apricots, peaches and nectarines

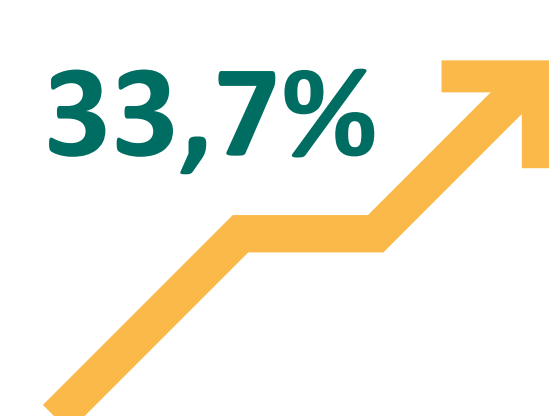
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Organic fruit production

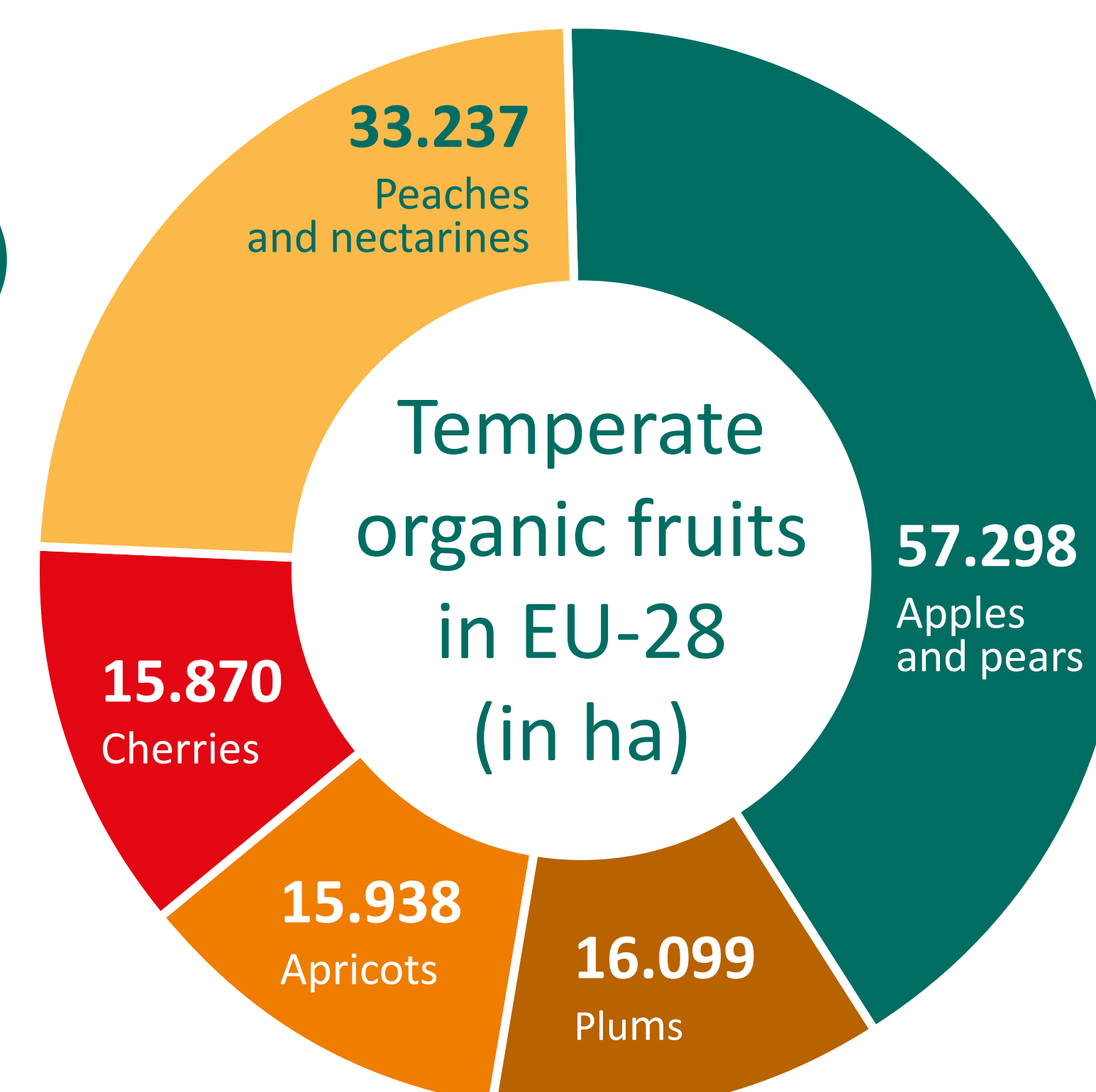
Between 2012 and 2018, the total organic agricultural area in the EU increased by 33,7%. Currently, 138.442 ha are allocated to temperate organic fruit cultivation representing 5,2% of the total temperate fruit area. Strikingly, more than half of the total organic temperate fruits area in EU is dedicated to organic stone fruits.



EU-28 total organic agricultural area (in ha)



2012	10.047.896
2018	13.438.168



Rhagoletis cerasi



Monilinia laxa



Covered orchard

Challenges in organic stone fruits growing

Stone fruits are severely affected by pests and diseases. Since organic growers cannot always rely on synthetic inputs, they face difficulties to compete with the conventional fruit market. Some specific challenges are:

- Plant protection against key diseases and pests such as brown fruit rot (*Monilinia laxa*), cherry fruit fly (*Rhagoletis cerasi*)
- Weed management
- Higher initial costs in organic stone fruit orchards in comparison to conventional (e.g. establishment of covering systems against rain induced cracking)

BIOFRUITNET innovative solutions

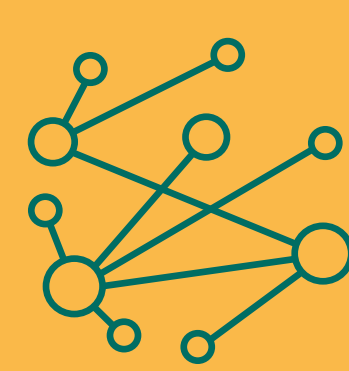
- Evaluate new disease resistant cultivars suitable for organic growing
- Use of innovative strategies of plant protection, plant nutrition and weed management
- Use of covering systems to increase fruit quality, size and weight and improve marketability of production (e.g. reducing the rain induced fruit cracking)



BIOFRUITNET objectives



Collecting locally found best practices and making them available to stone fruit growers across Europe



Strengthening networks and collaborations among stone fruits growers, advisors and researchers



Fostering the flow of practical information



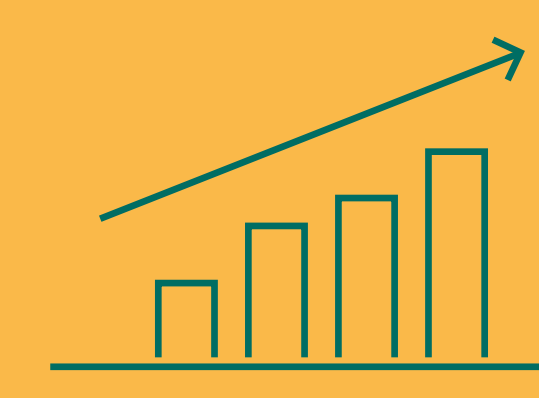
Supporting growers in achieving higher yields and quality of organic stone fruits



Providing innovative plant protection solutions against key diseases and pests in stone fruit growing



Sharing existing practical knowledge to improve stone fruit economy



Improving management strategies (e.g. precise timing and reduction of number of applications)

BIOFRUITNET expected benefits

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