



## Comparison of organic and non organic farming systems in the DOK trial

## Sammenligning af økologisk og konventionelt jordbrug i DOK-forsøget

Den Europæiske Landbrugsfond for Udvikling af Landdistrikterne:  
Danmark og Europa investerer i landdistrikterne



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Kolding Denmark

30.11.2017



An aerial photograph of a large agricultural field divided into many smaller plots. The plots are in various stages of growth, with some being green and others brown. A road with a few cars runs horizontally across the middle of the image. The text 'Content' and 'Indhold' are overlaid on the top left and top right respectively. A list of topics is overlaid on the left side, and a corresponding list of Danish topics is overlaid on the right side.

## Content

- Introduction
- Design
- Inputs and Yields
- Soil studies
- Climate
- What next?

## Indhold

- Introduktion
- Forsøgsdesign
- Input og udbytter
- Jordundersøgelser
- Klimapåvirkning
- Hvad nu?



# DOK-trial – farmers, researchers and politicians

## DOK-forsøget – landmænd, forskere og politikere

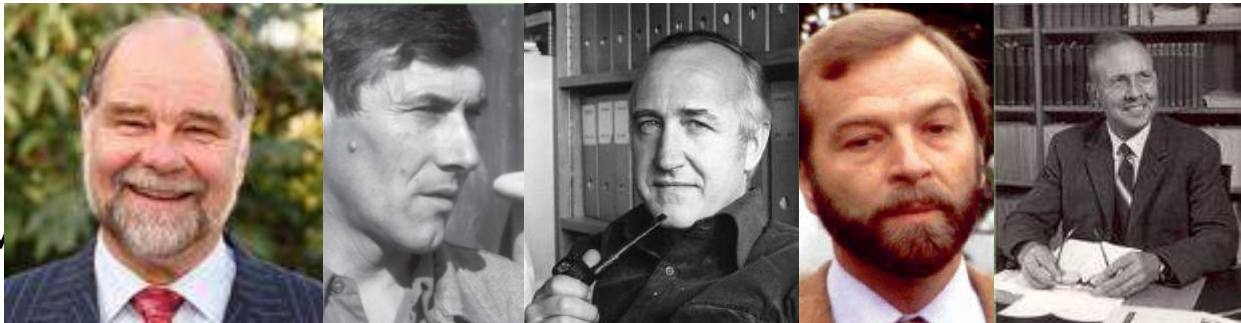
The initiative for a farming systems trial

- Pioneers of organic farming (*Hardy Vogtmann, Fritz Baumgartner*)
- Researchers at ETH (*Philippe Matile*) and Agroscope (*Jean Marc Besson*)
- Negotiations in the national assembly (*Heinrich Schalcher*)

Agroscope and FiBL were assigned to design and rule out a replicated field experiment to compare organic and conventional farming systems

Objective: Is organic farming feasible?

With time the objectives of projects in the DOK trial changed.



# Farmers and Researchers work hand in hand



14 6 2005

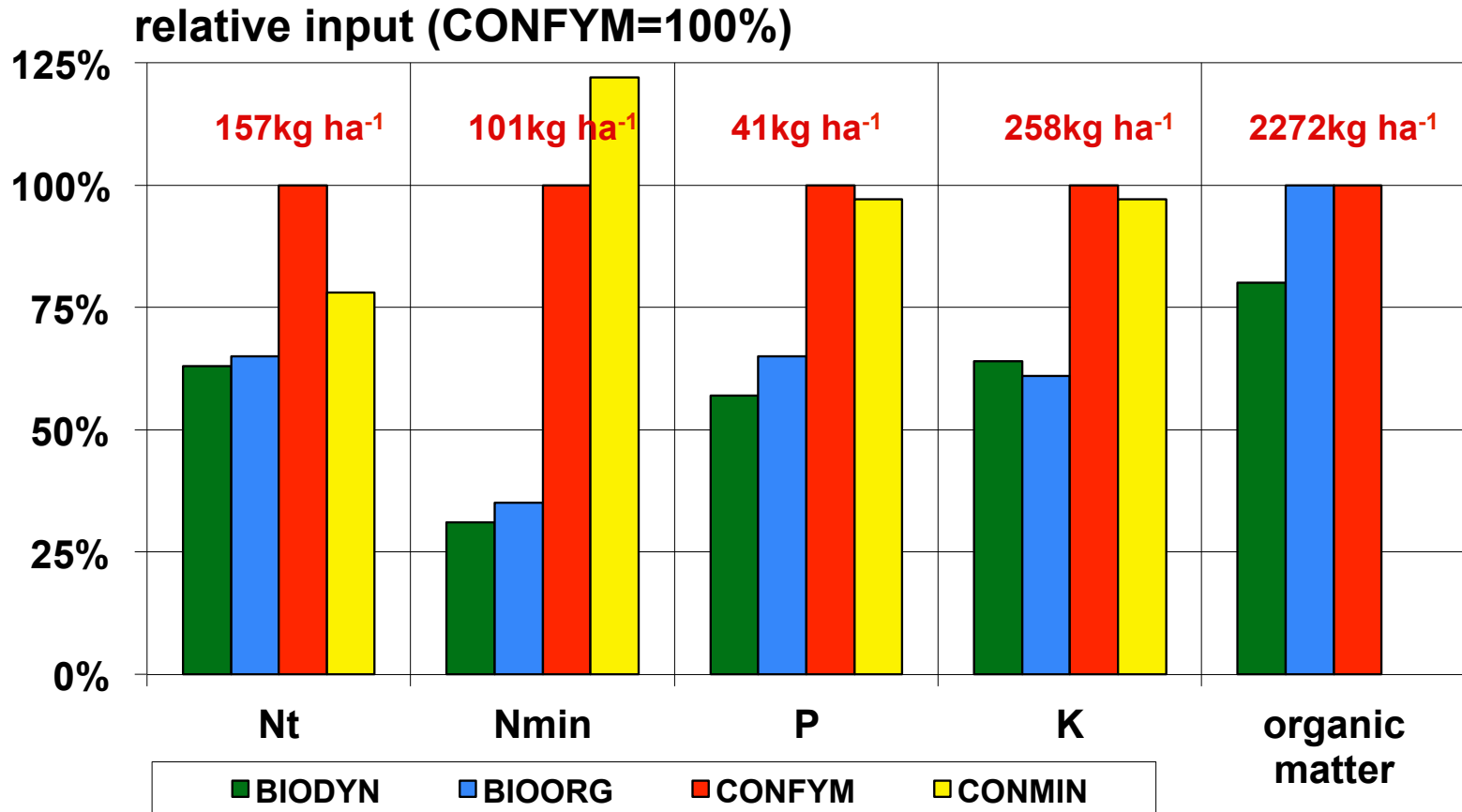
# DOK experiment: system comparison since 1978

## DOK-forsøget har sammenlignet dyrkningsformer siden 1978

Organic		Conventional (integrated)	
<b>BIODYN</b>	<b>BIOORG</b>	<b>CONFYM</b>	<b>CONMIN</b>
<b>N</b> bio- <b>D</b> ynamic	bio- <b>O</b> rganic	<b>K</b> onventional	<b>M</b> ineral
<i>composted FYM and slurry</i>	<i>rotted FYM and slurry rockdust</i>	<i>mixed FYM and slurry NPK</i>	<i>Mineral NPK</i>
<i>Mechanical weed control</i>		<i>Herbicides (thresholds)</i>	
<i>Indirect disease control</i>	<i>Fungicides (thresholds)</i>		
<i>Biocontrol for pests</i>		<i>Insecticides (thresholds)</i>	
<i>Biodynamic preparations</i>	<i>copper- sulphate</i>	<i>plant growth regulators</i>	

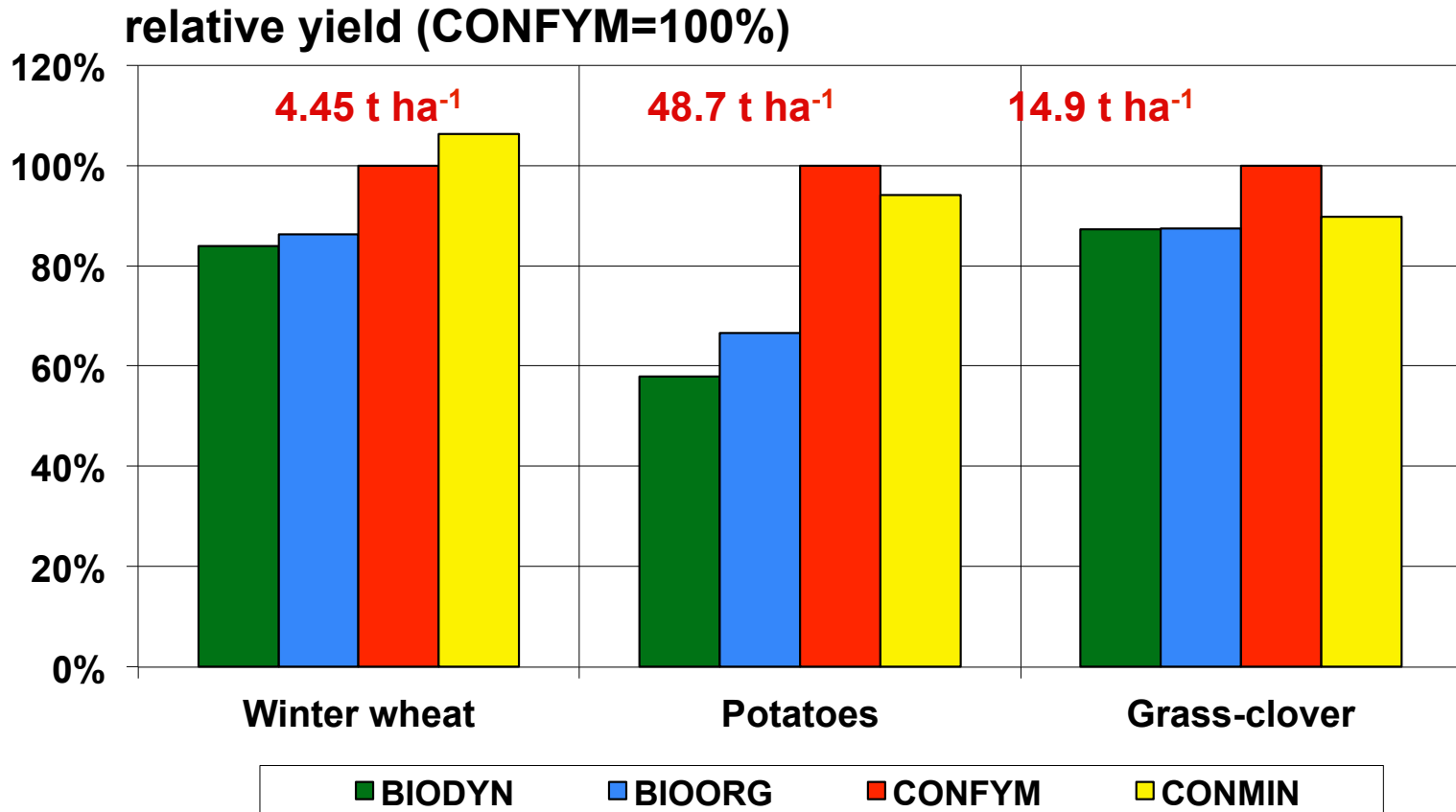
# DOK trial - Input of nutrients (Ø 1978-2005)

## DOK forsøget – gødningstilførsel



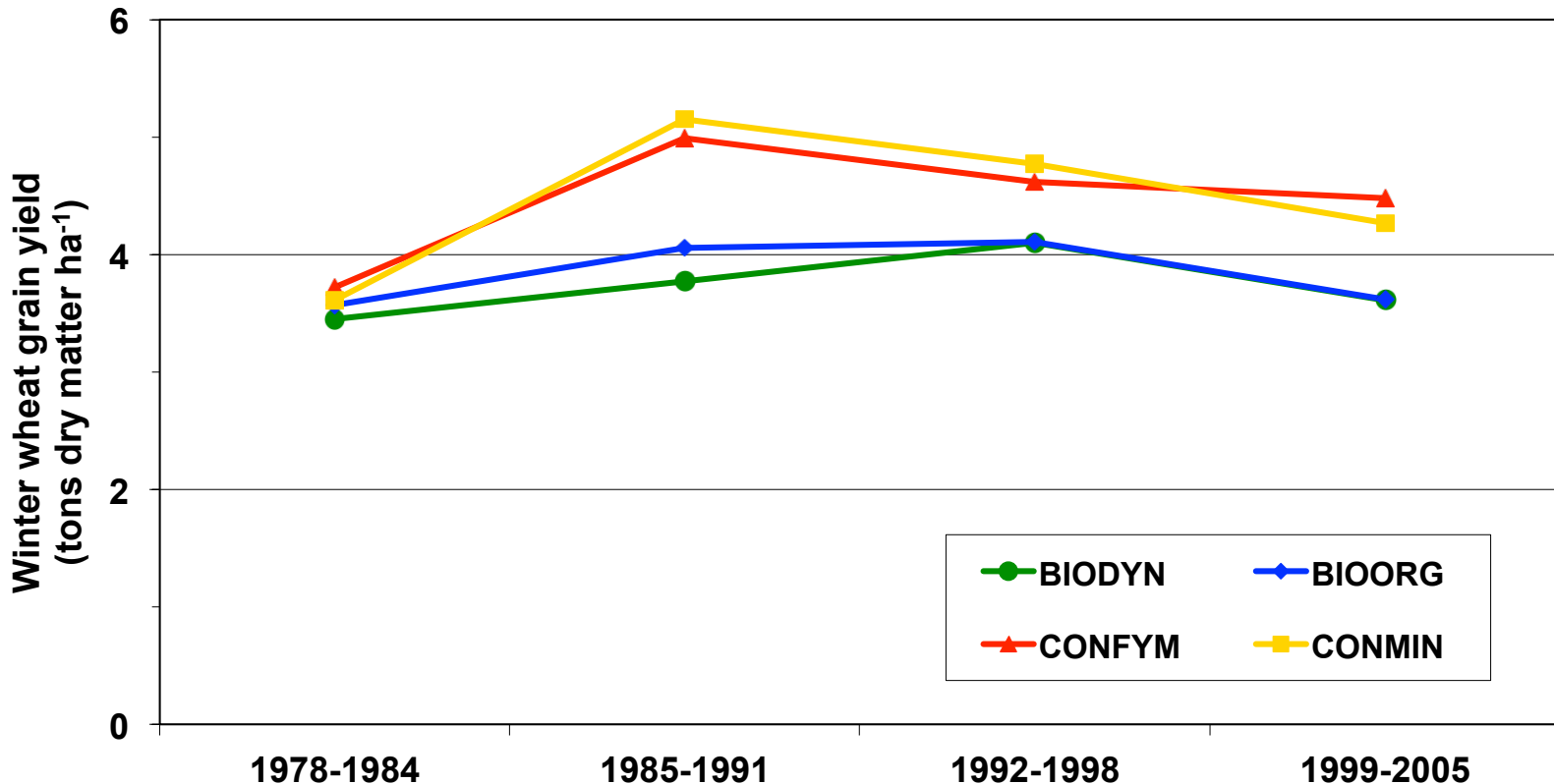
# DOK trial – Crop yield (Ø 1978-2005)

## DOK-forsøget - udbytter



# Development of winter wheat yield (n=6\*4 per CRP)

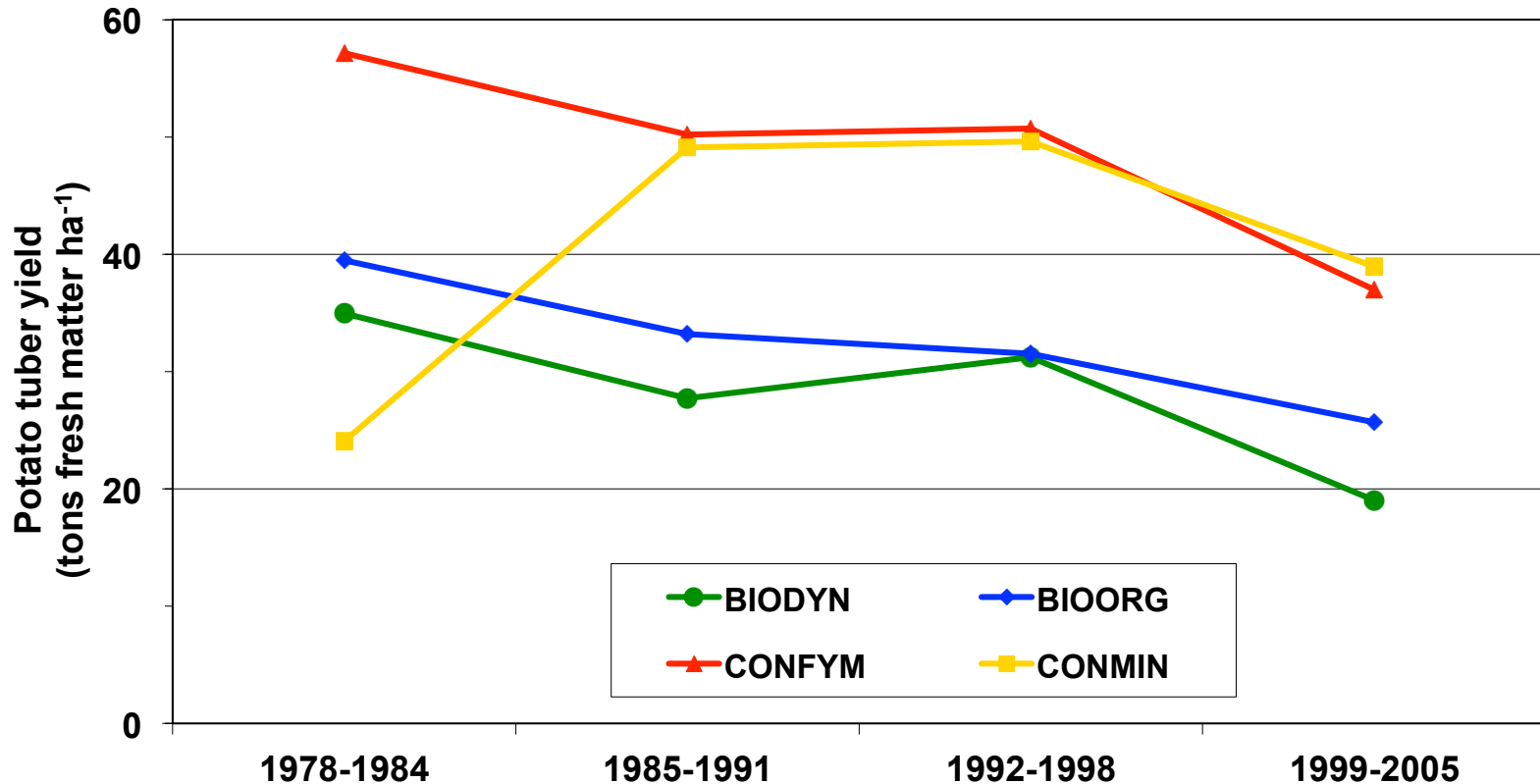
## Udbytter i vinterhvede i 4 sædskifteperioder





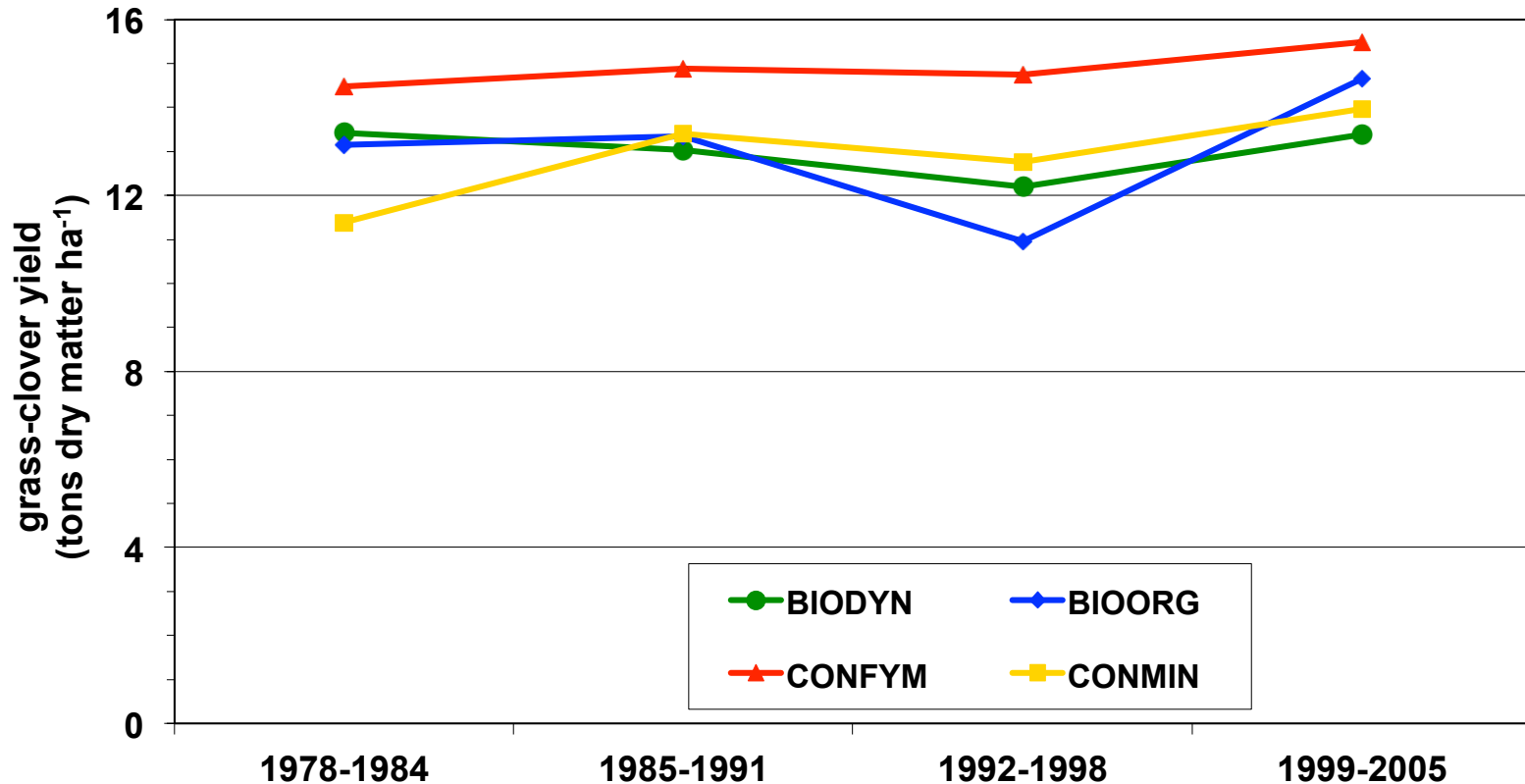
# Development of potato yield (n=3\*4 per CRP)

## Udbytter i kartofler



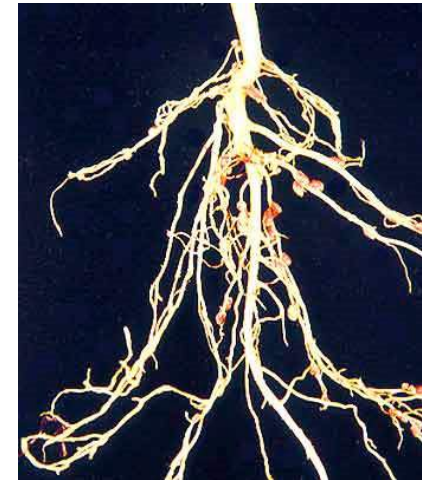
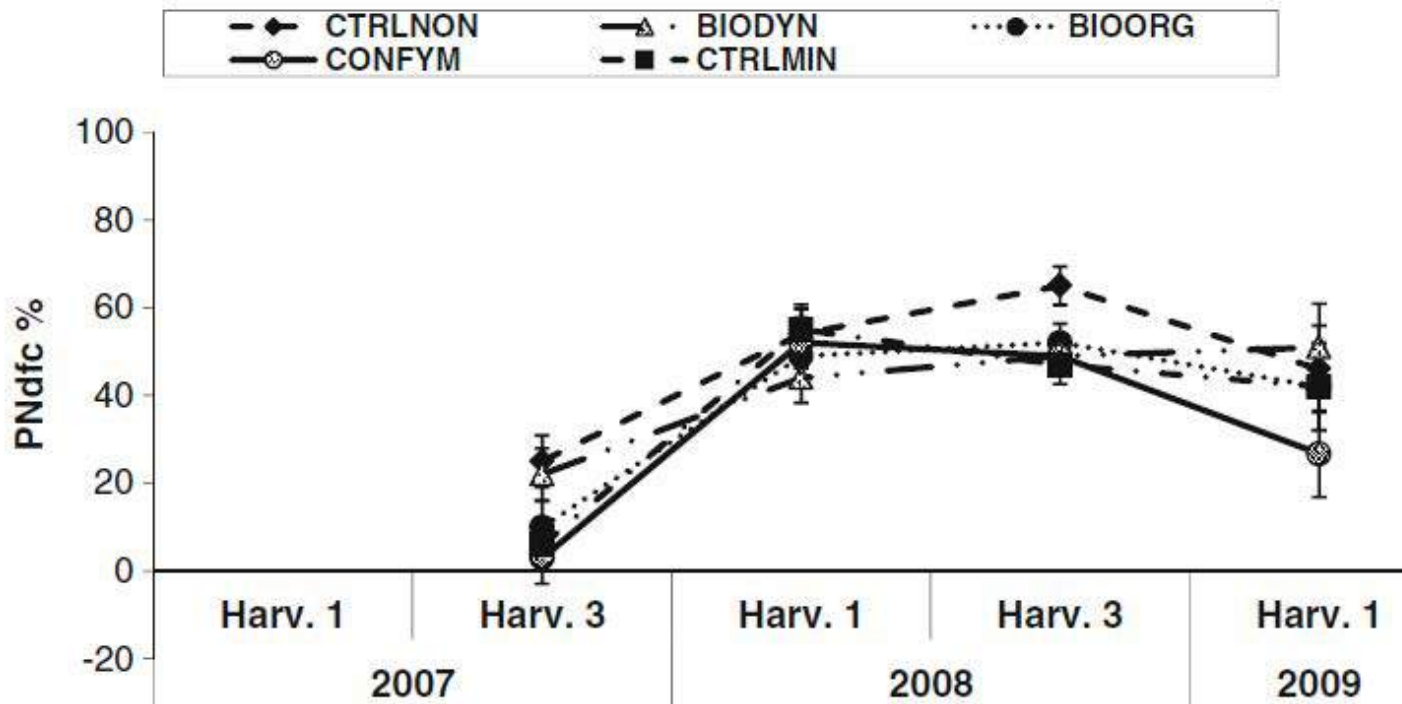
# Development of grass-clover yield

## Udbytter i kløvergræs



# Proportion of nitrogen fixed by clover in grass-clover leys

## Kvælstoffiksering i kløvergræs



- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> grass-clover year 50% of the N is derived from clover
- This corresponds to 40 – 120 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>



# The crop rotations changes over time

## Sædskiftet ændrer sig med tiden

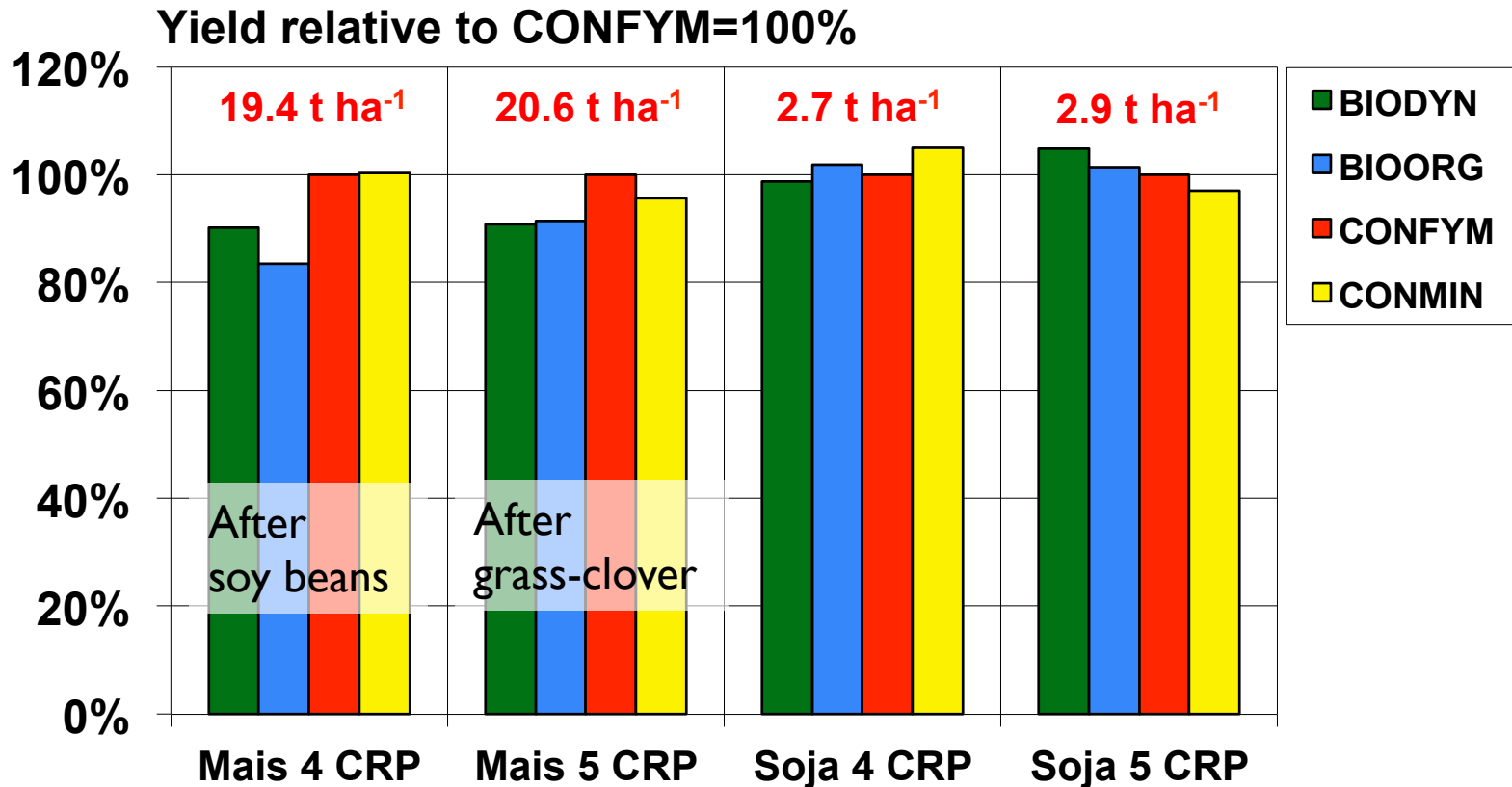
1. CRP (1978-1984)	2. CRP (1985-1991)	3. CRP (1992-1998)	4. CRP (1999-2005)	5. CRP (2006-2012)	6. CRP (2013-2019)
Potatoes Green manure	Potatoes Green manure	Potatoes	Potatoes	Maize	Maize Green manure
Winter wheat Green manure	Winter wheat Green manure	Winter wheat Green manure	Winter wheat Green manure	Winter wheat Green manure	Soy
Cabbage	Red beets	Red beets	Soy Green manure	Soy Green manure	Winter wheat Green manure
Winter wheat	Winter wheat	Winter wheat	Maize	Potatoes	Potatoes
Barley	Barley	Grass-clover 1	Winter wheat	Winter wheat	Winter wheat
Grass-clover 1	Grass-clover 1	Grass-clover 2	Grass-clover 1	Grass-clover 1	Grass-clover 1
Grass-clover 2	Grass-clover 2	Grass-clover 3	Grass-clover 2	Grass-clover 2	Grass-clover 2

**CRP: Crop rotation period**

**CRP: Sædskifteperiode på 7 år**

# DOK trial – Maize and Soybeans

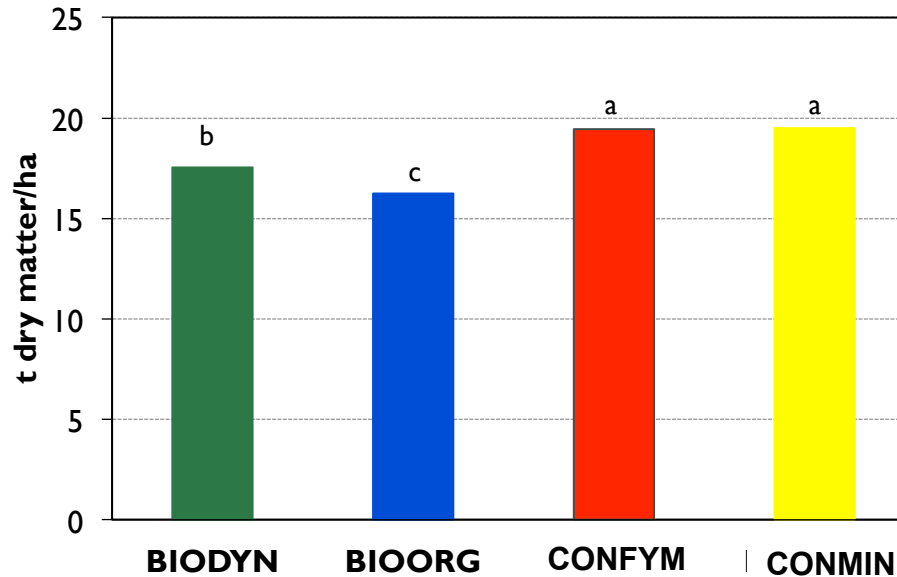
## DOK-forsøget – majs og sojabønner



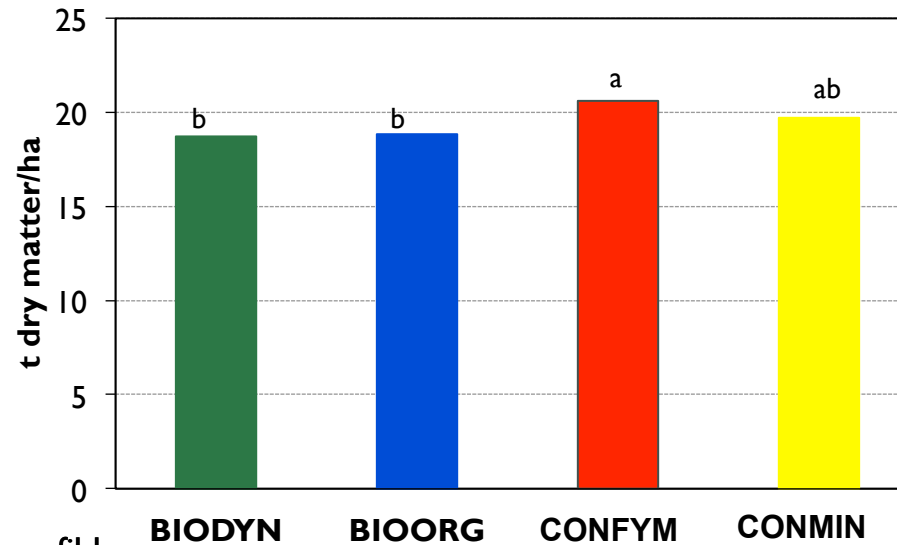
# Maize yield in the 4th and 5th CRP (Ø 3 years)

## Majsudbytter i 4. og 5. sædskifteperiode

4th CRP:  
After  
soybeans



5th CRP:  
After grass-  
clover

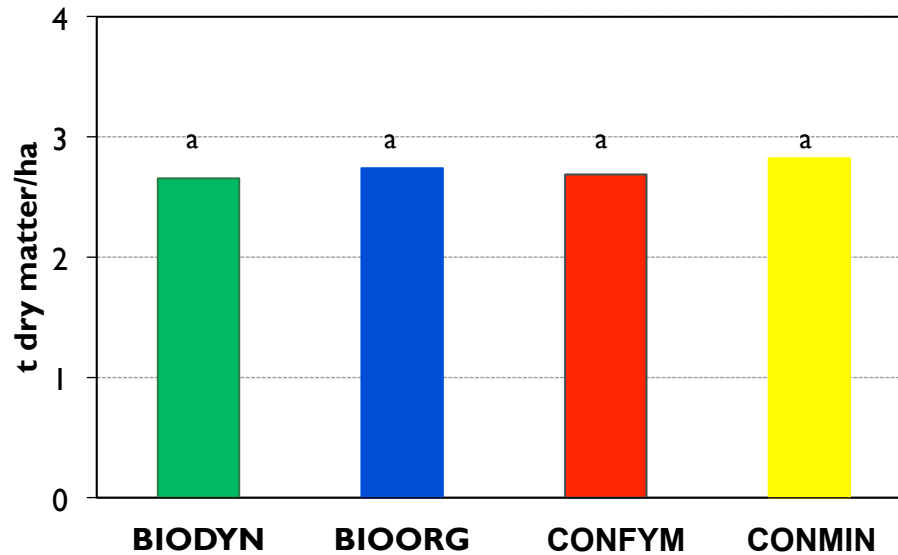




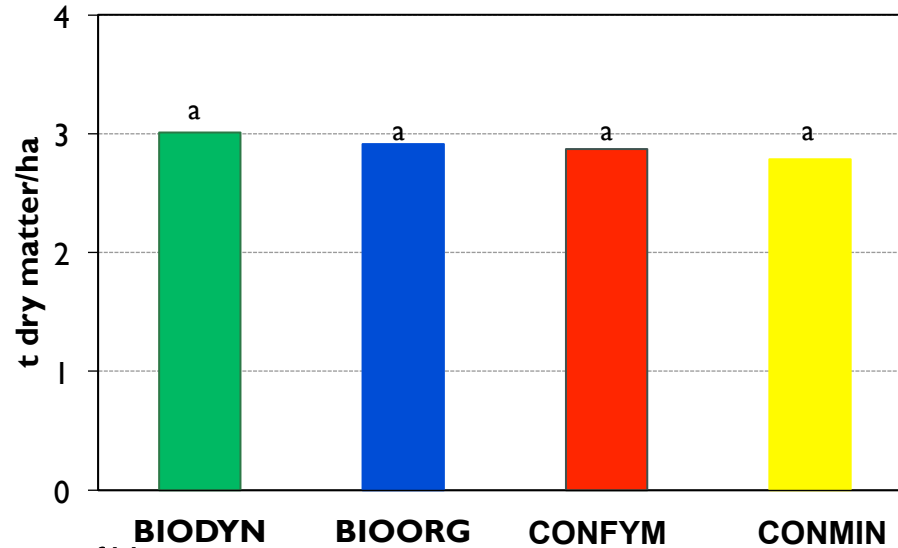
# Soybean yield in the 4th and 5th CRP (Ø 3 years)

## Sojabønneudbytter i 4. og 5. sædskifteperiode

4th CRP:

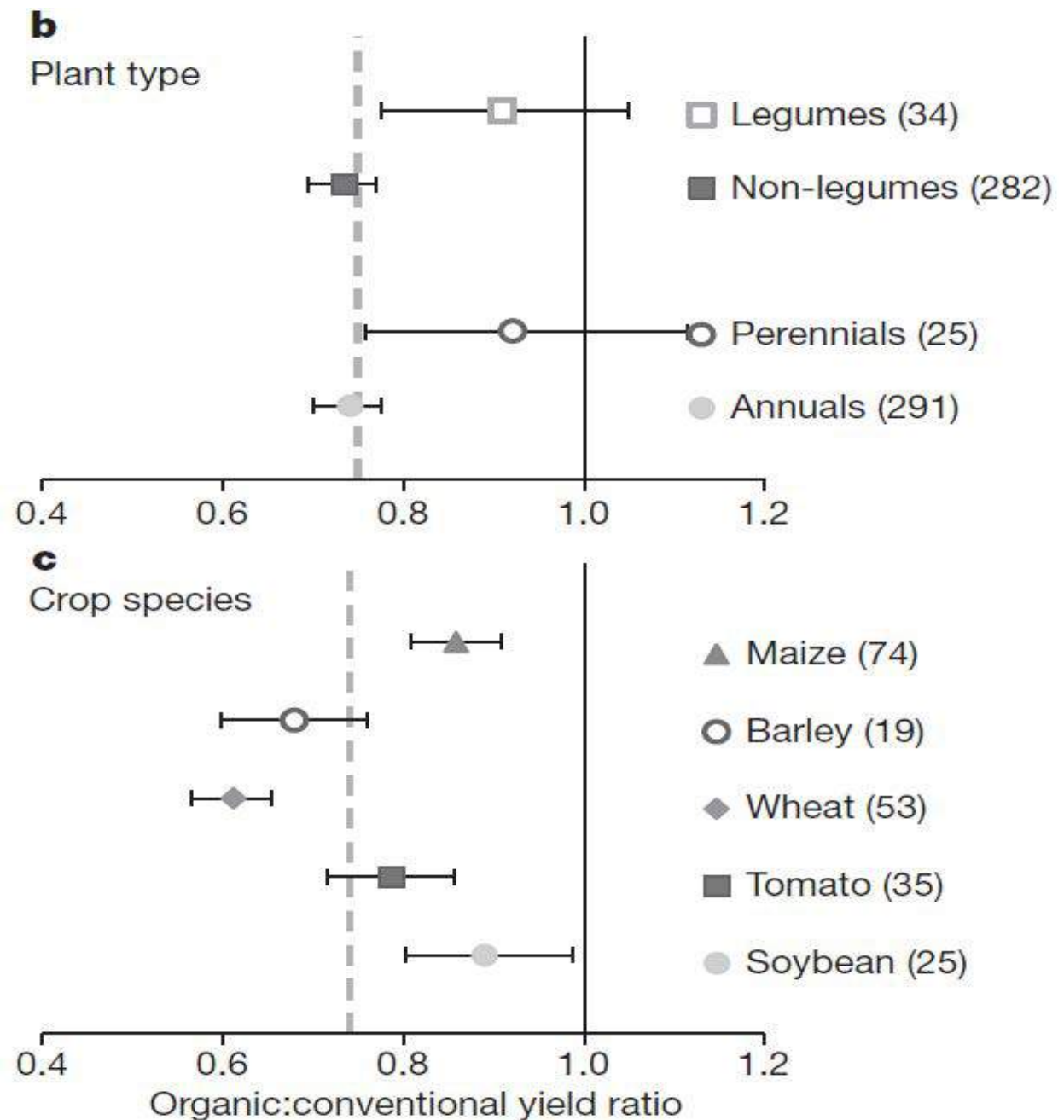


5th CRP:

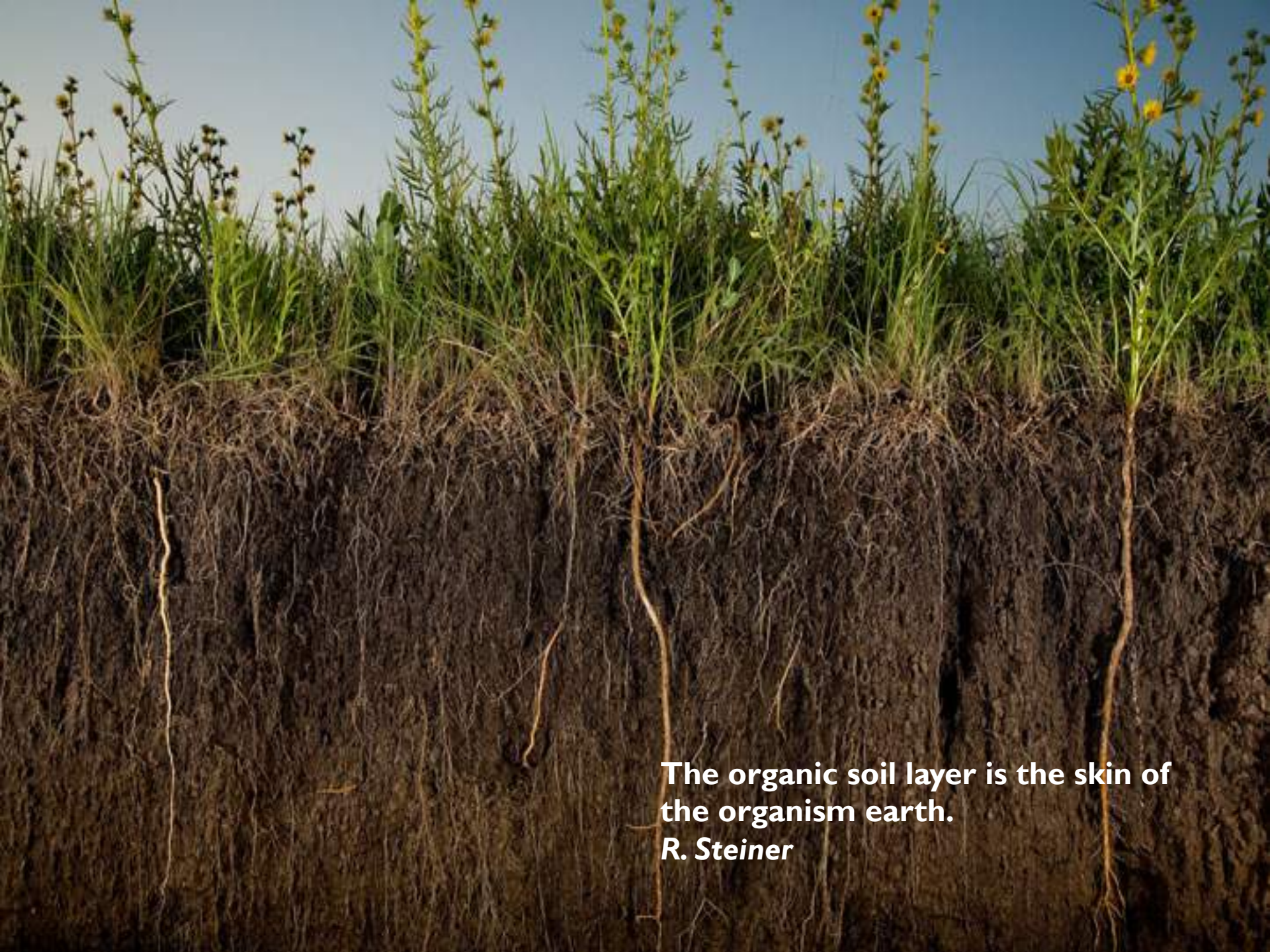


# Crop yields in organic and conventional comparisons Meta-Analysis

## Metaanalyse: Sammenligning af økologiske og konventionelle udbytter







**The organic soil layer is the skin of  
the organism earth.**

***R. Steiner***



**Soil properties in the DOK trial after 21 years ...**

**Jordens egenskaber i DOK-forsøget efter 21 år ...**



**Biodynamic farming  
(BIODYN)**



**Conventional Mineral  
(CONMIN)**



# Soil structure without organic manure and with manure compost in the DOK trial

## Jordstruktur

- uden organisk gødning

- med komposteret husdyrgødning

Fotos: Fliessbach Nov. 2002

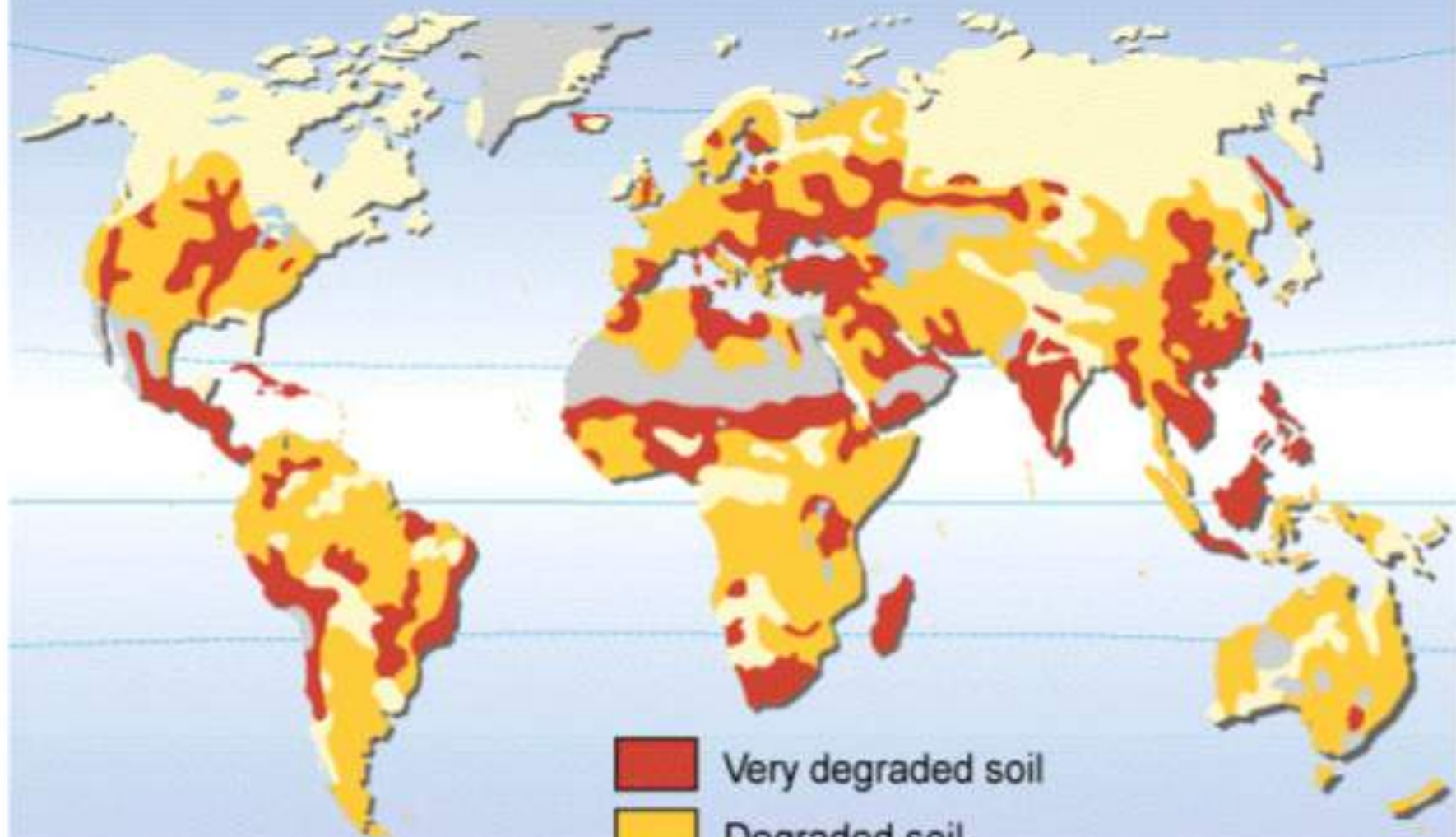



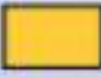

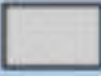
**CONMIN**



**BIODYN**

# Soil degradation

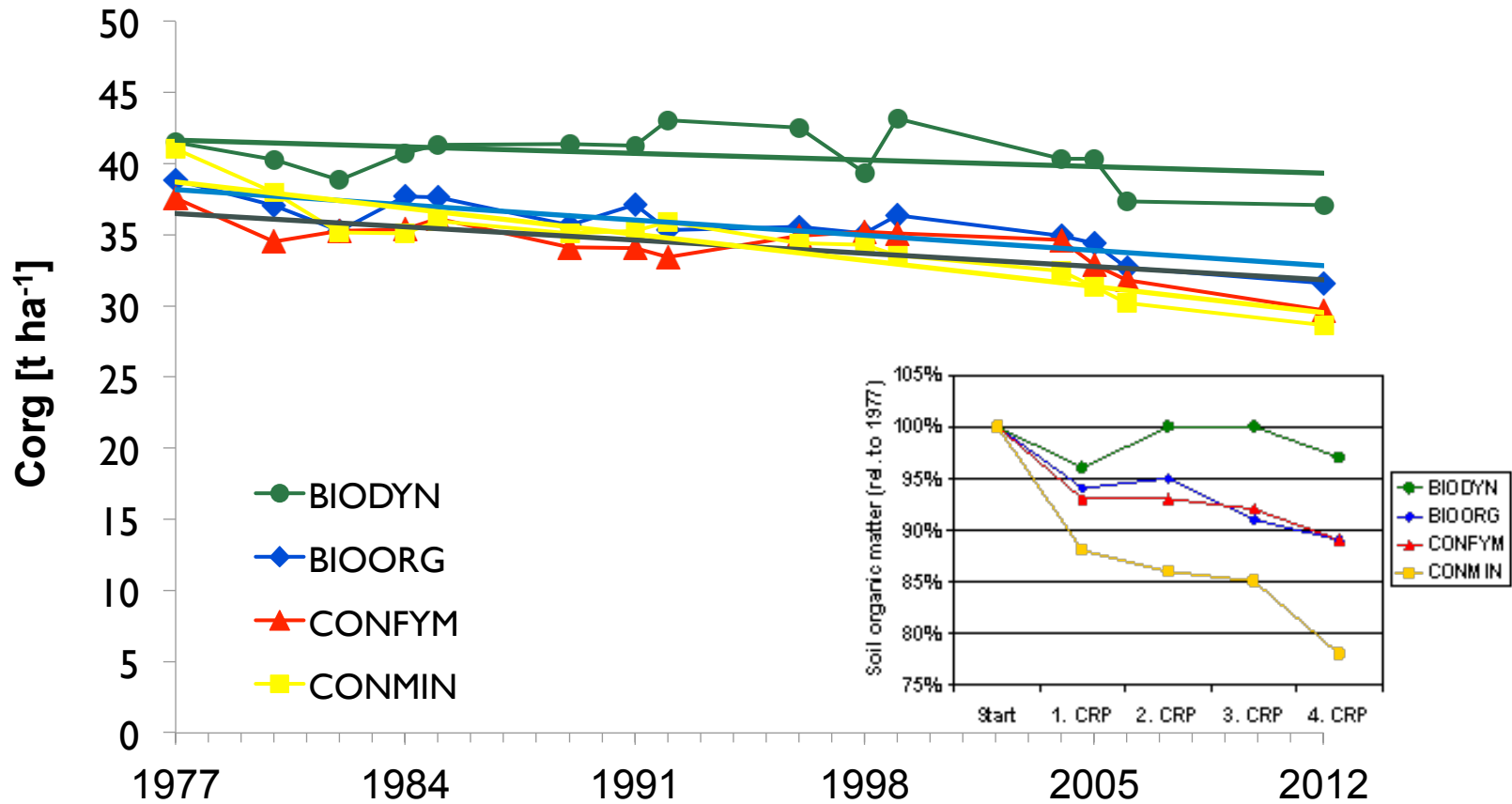


-  Very degraded soil
-  Degraded soil
-  Stable soil
-  Without vegetation



# Development of soil carbon stocks DOK experiment (high intensity plots only)

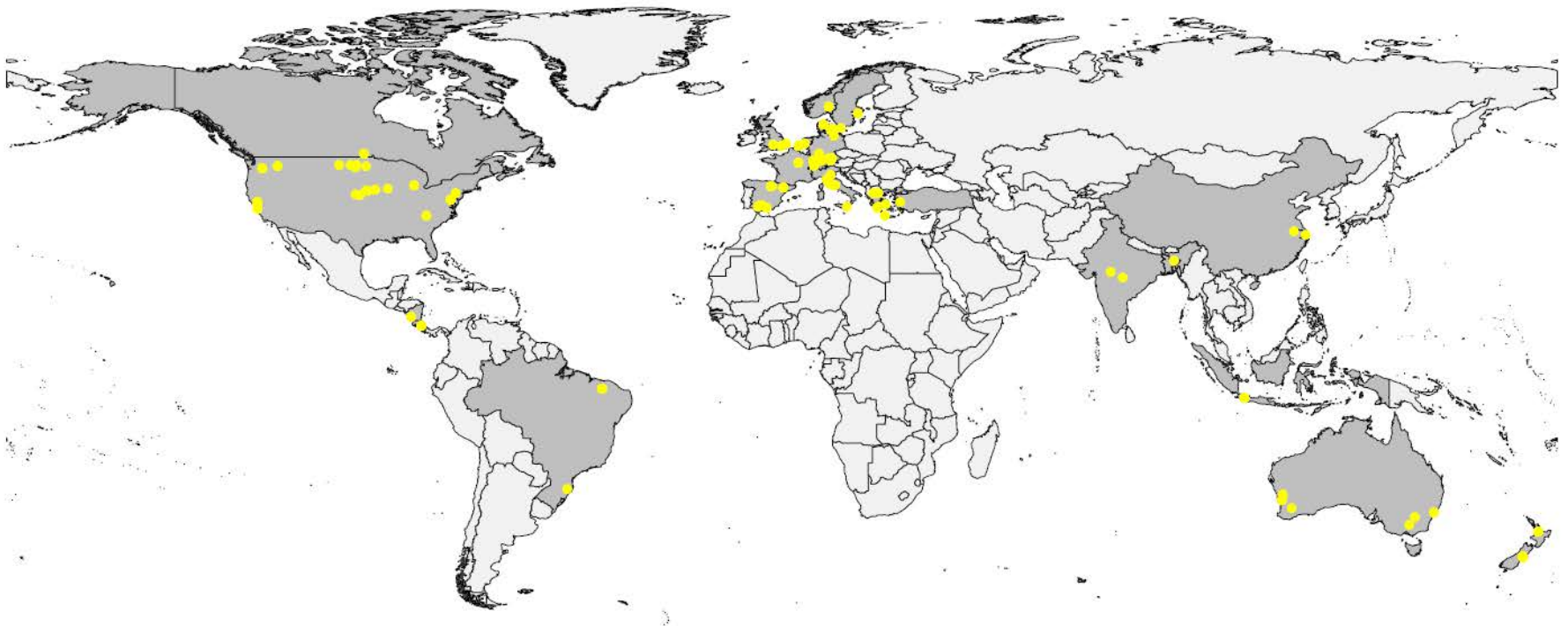
## Udvikling i jordens indhold af kulstof (høj gødningsniveau)



# Meta-analysis: Soil carbon in organic and conventional farming systems

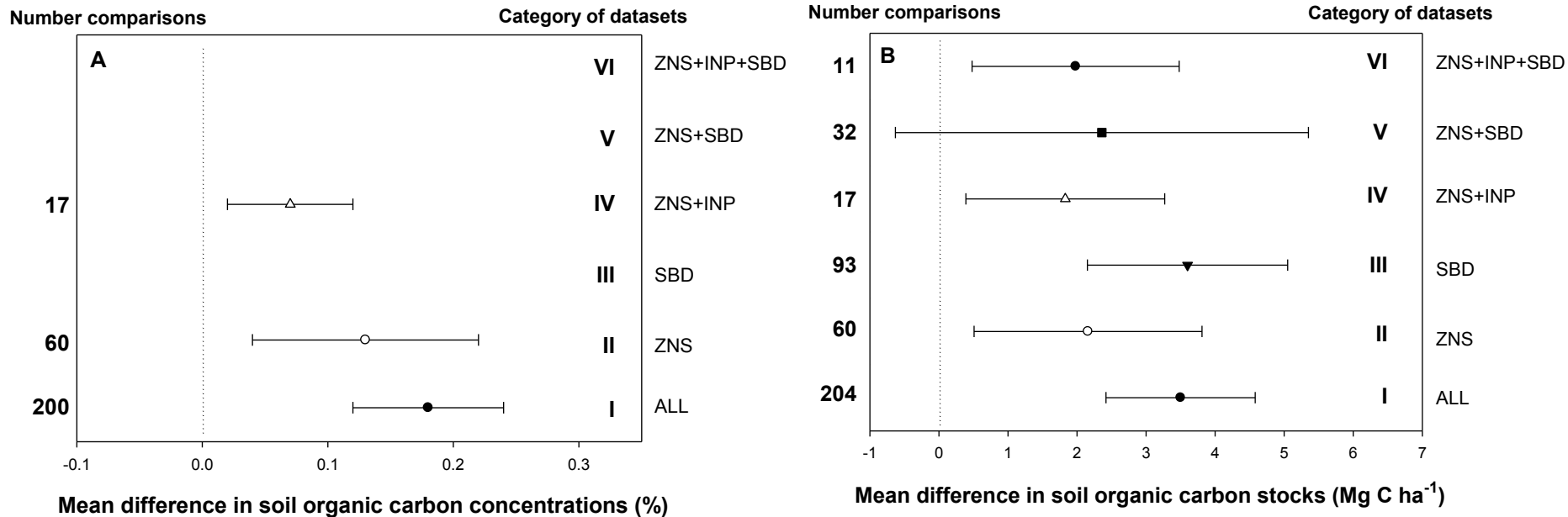
## Kulstof i økologiske og konventionelle landbrug

Geographic distribution of system comparison studies



74 comparisons with up to 211 compared pairs

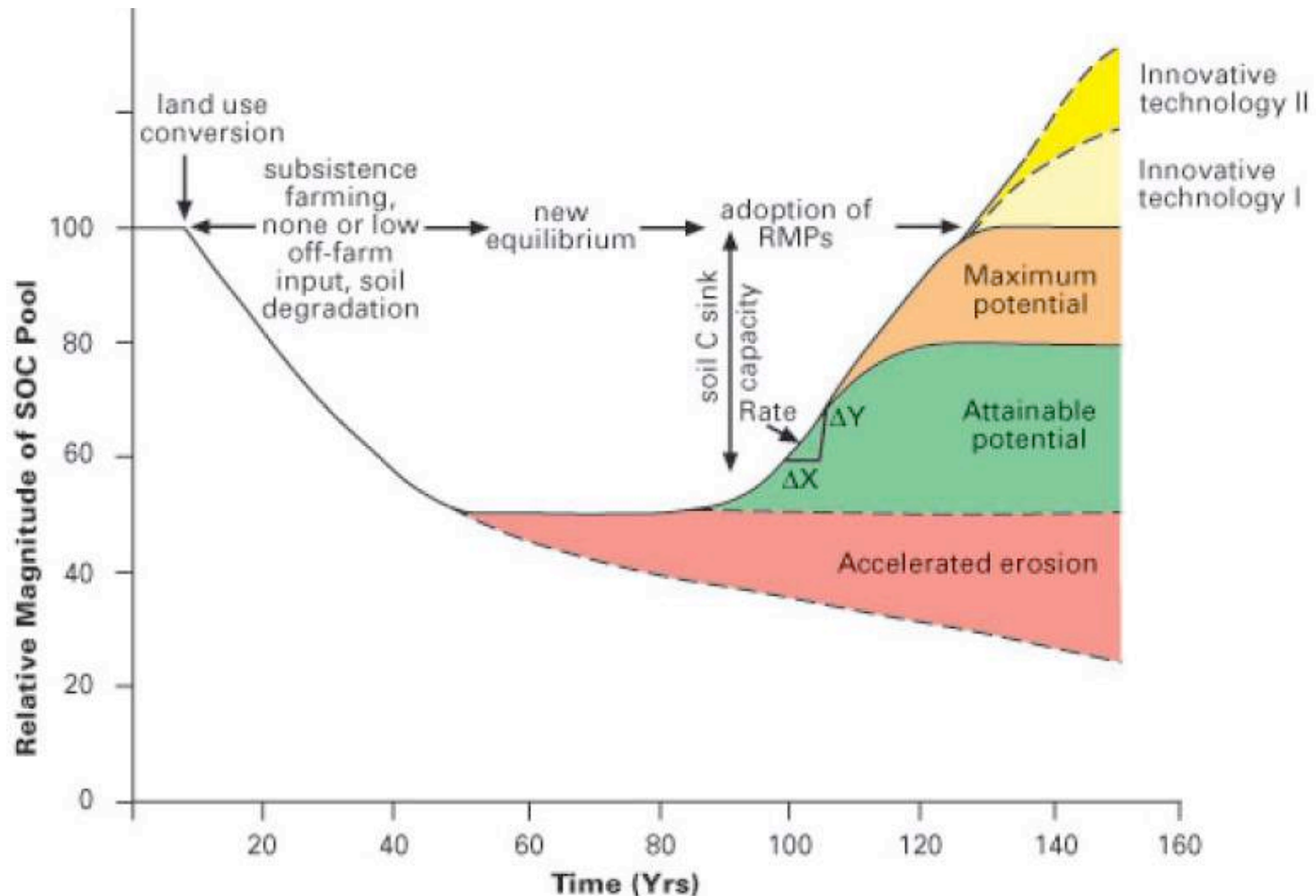
# More carbon in organically managed soils?



Higher carbon concentration ( $0,18 \pm 0,06$  percent points  $C_{org}$ ) and carbon stocks ( $3,50 \pm 1,08$  t  $C_{org}$  ha<sup>-1</sup>) in top-soil (0-20 cm) under organic management.

**Mere kulstof i topjorden (0-20 cm) ved økologisk dyrkning**

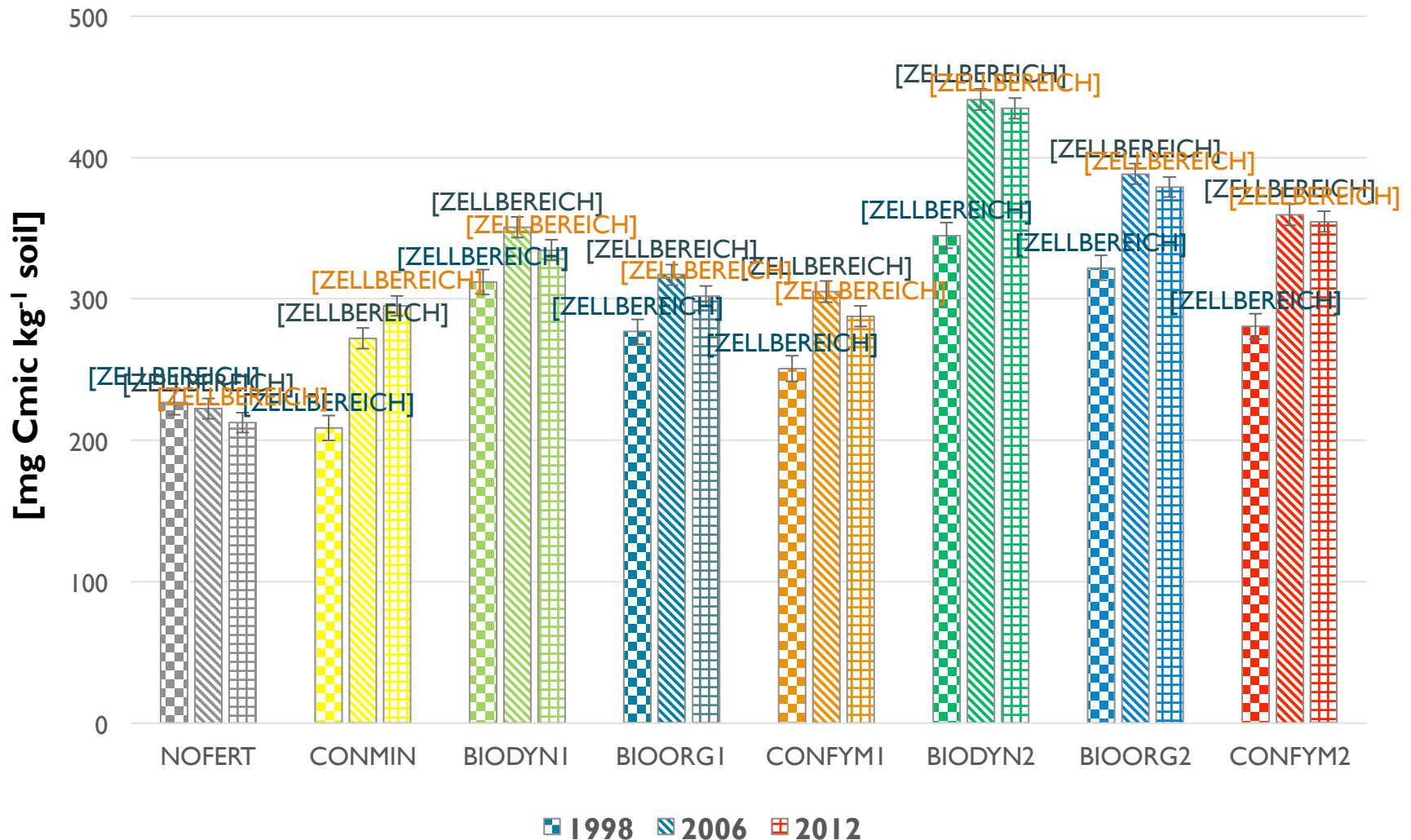
# Soil organic carbon (SOC) dynamics



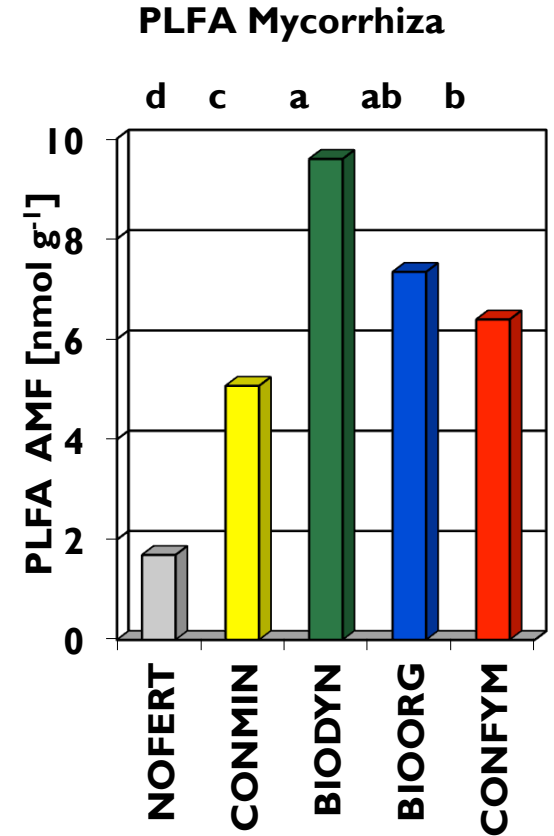
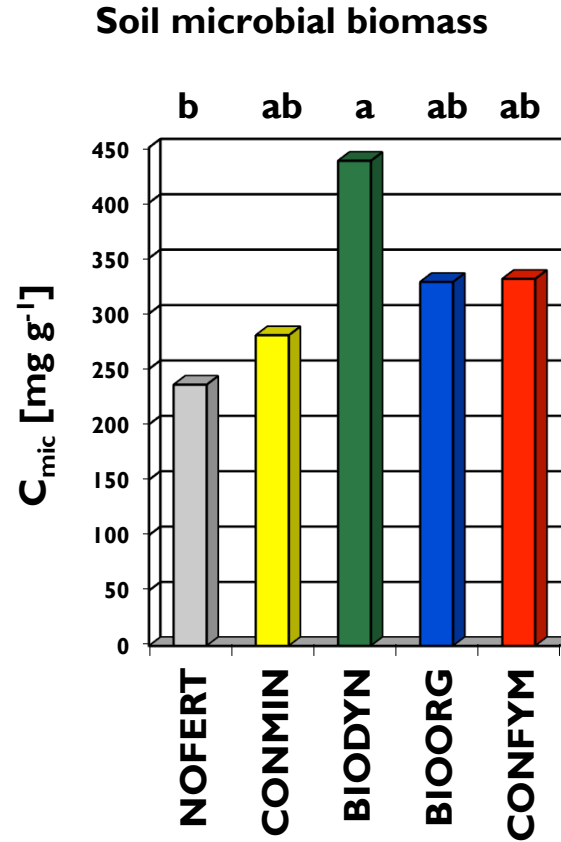
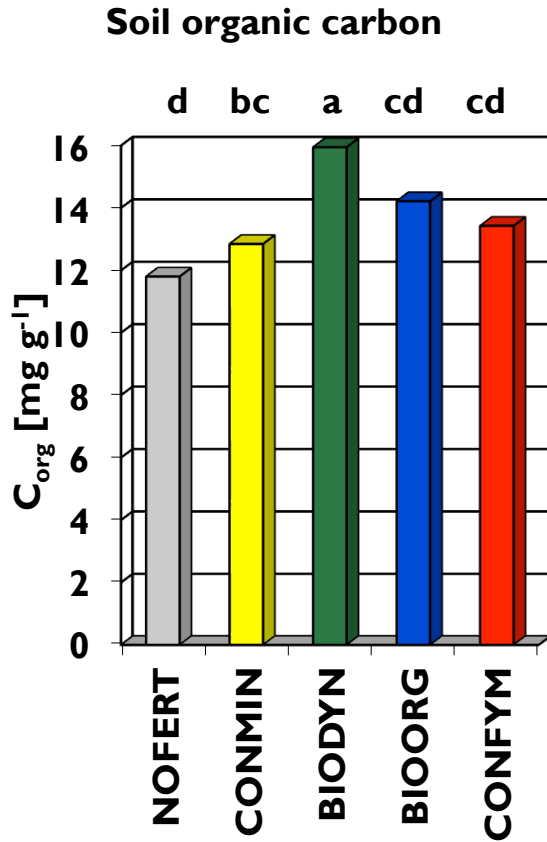


# Soil microbial biomass in 1998, 2006 and 2012

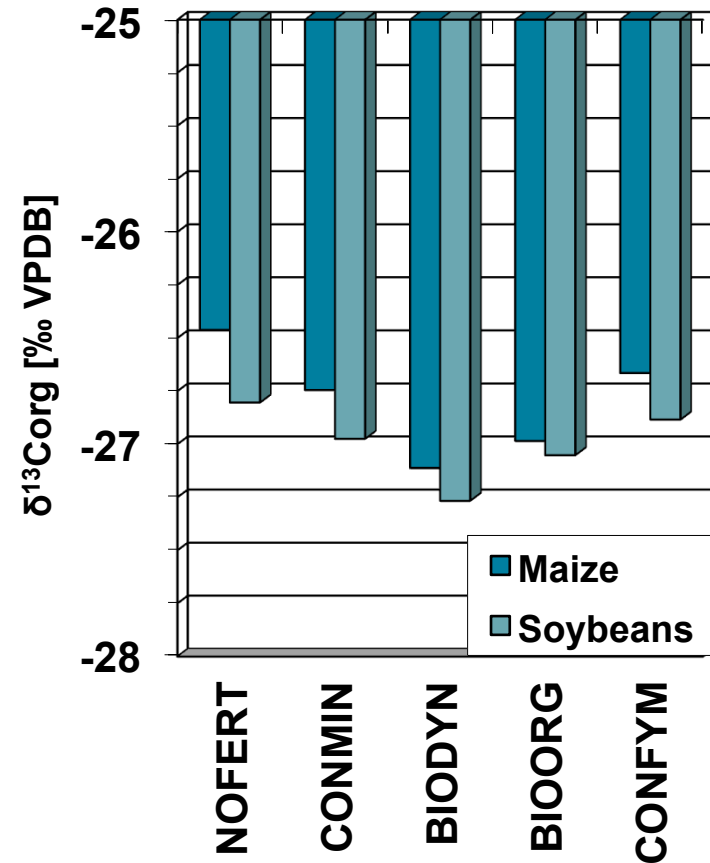
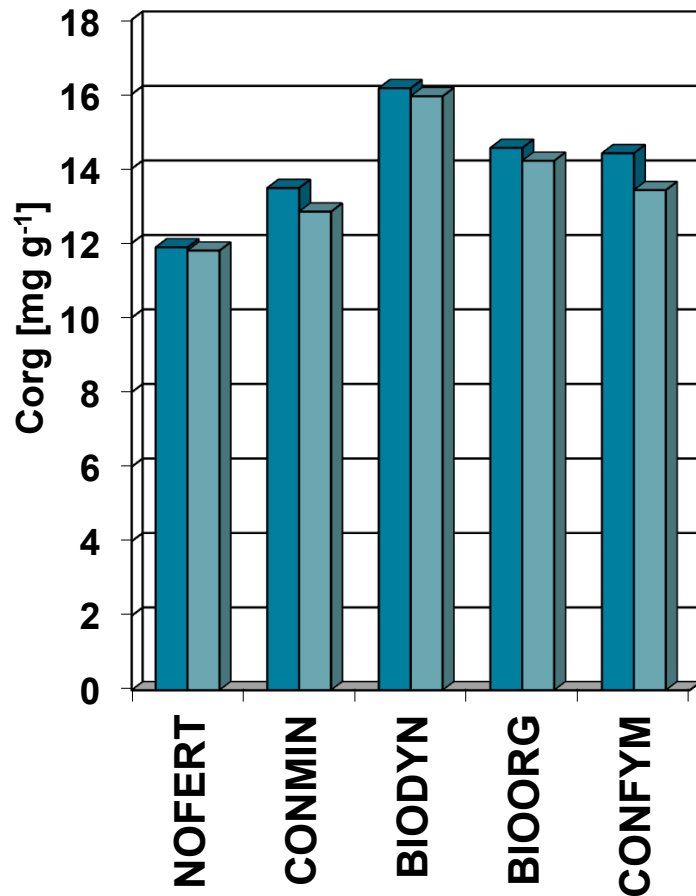
## Mængden af mikroorganismer i jorden i 1998, 2006 og 2012



# Sensitiveness of indicators (2004)

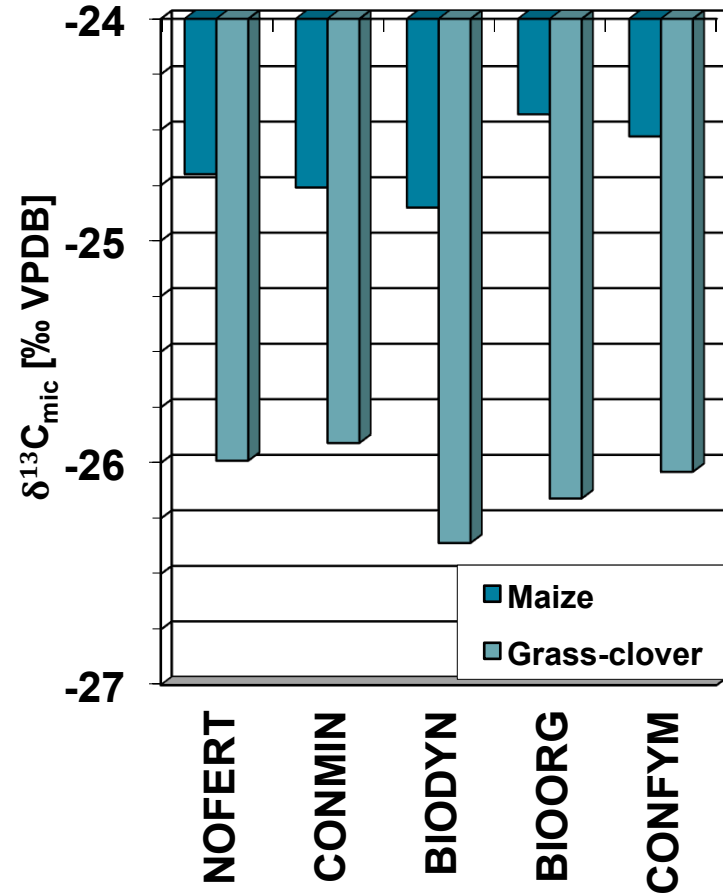
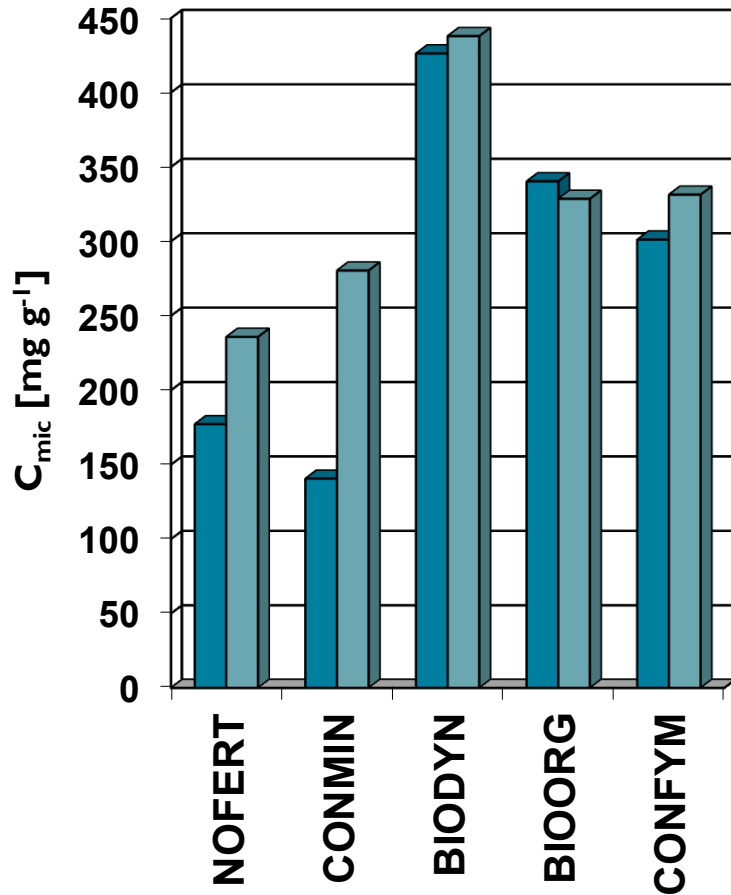


# Soil organic carbon ( $C_{org}$ ) in the farming systems of the DOK-trial under maize and soybeans



# Microbial biomass ( $C_{mic}$ ) in the farming systems of the DOK trial under maize and grass-clover

## Mængden af mikroorganismer i jorden under majs og kløvergræs i DOK





# Increased soil microbial biomass and activity under organic agriculture worldwide?

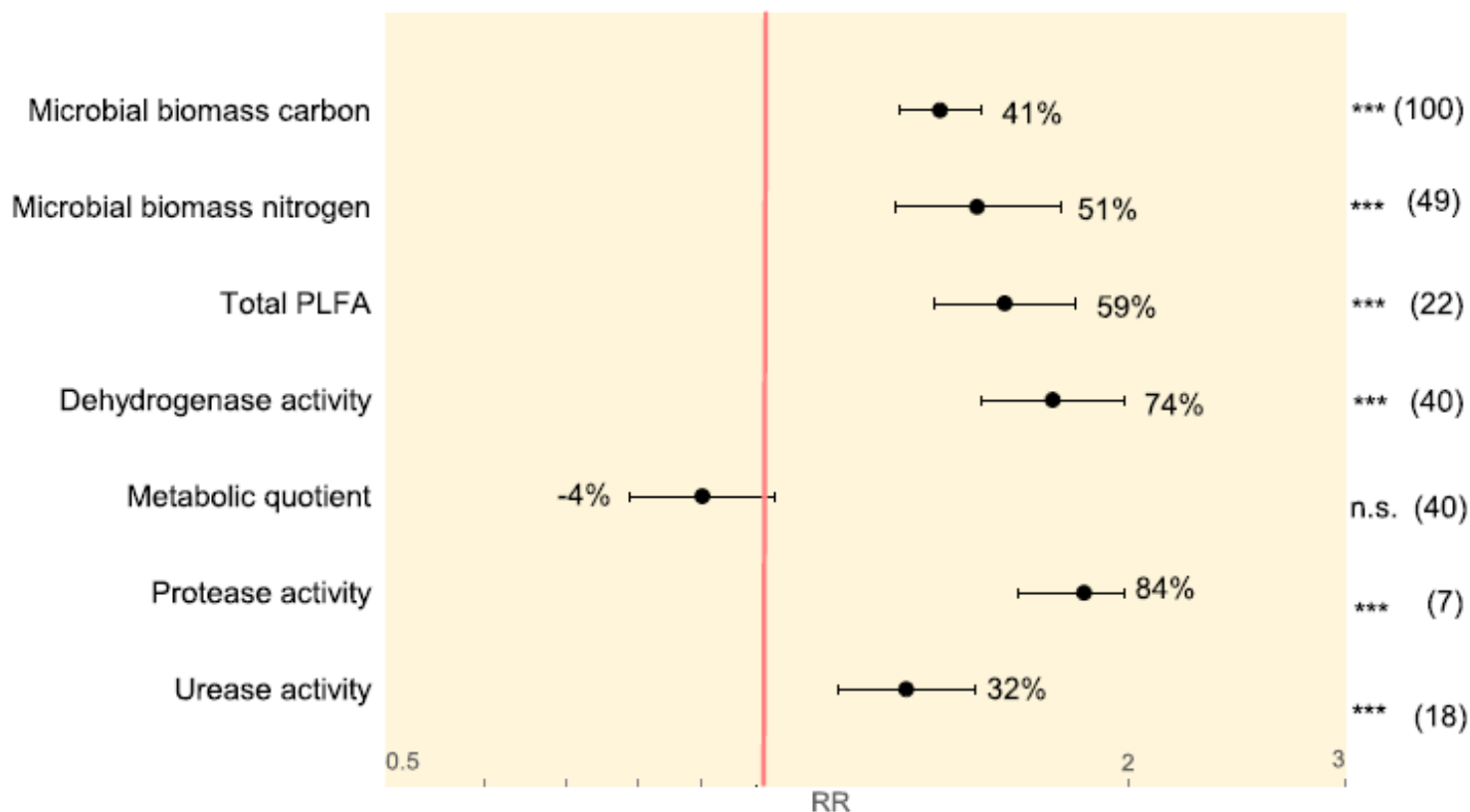
Er mængden af mikroorganismer større i økologisk jord, og er mikroorganismene her mere aktive?



57 eligible studies globally with  
up to 148 pairwise comparisons

# Increased soil microbial biomass and activity under organic agriculture worldwide?

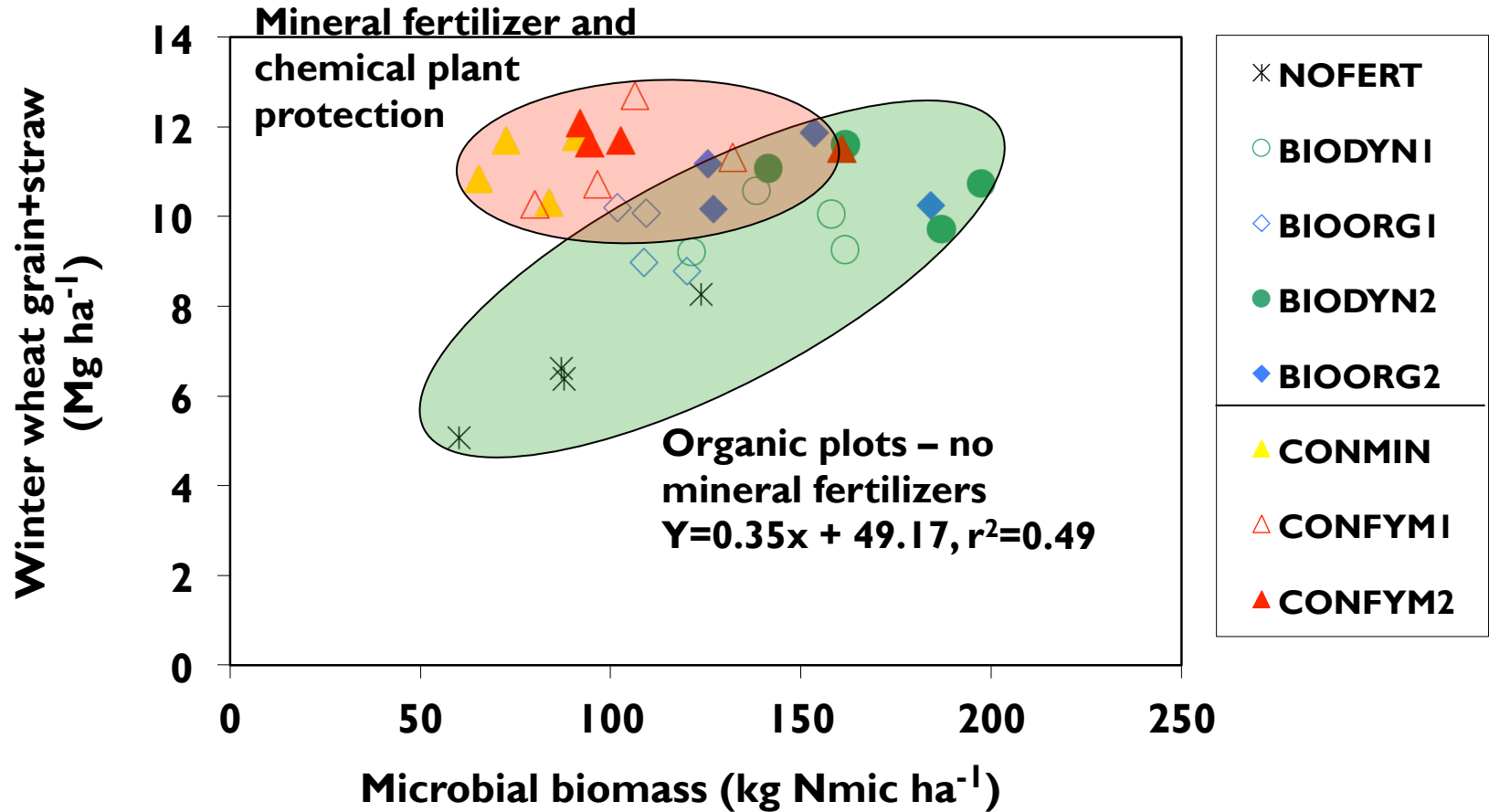
Er mængden af mikroorganismer større i økologisk jord, og er mikroorganismene her mere aktive?



Random effects model with a Z-Distribution and a 95 % confidence interval. Numbers in brackets display the number of pairwise comparisons included in each calculation. \* $\geq 0.05$ , \*\* $\geq 0.01$ , \*\*\* $\geq 0.001$ , n.s.=not significant

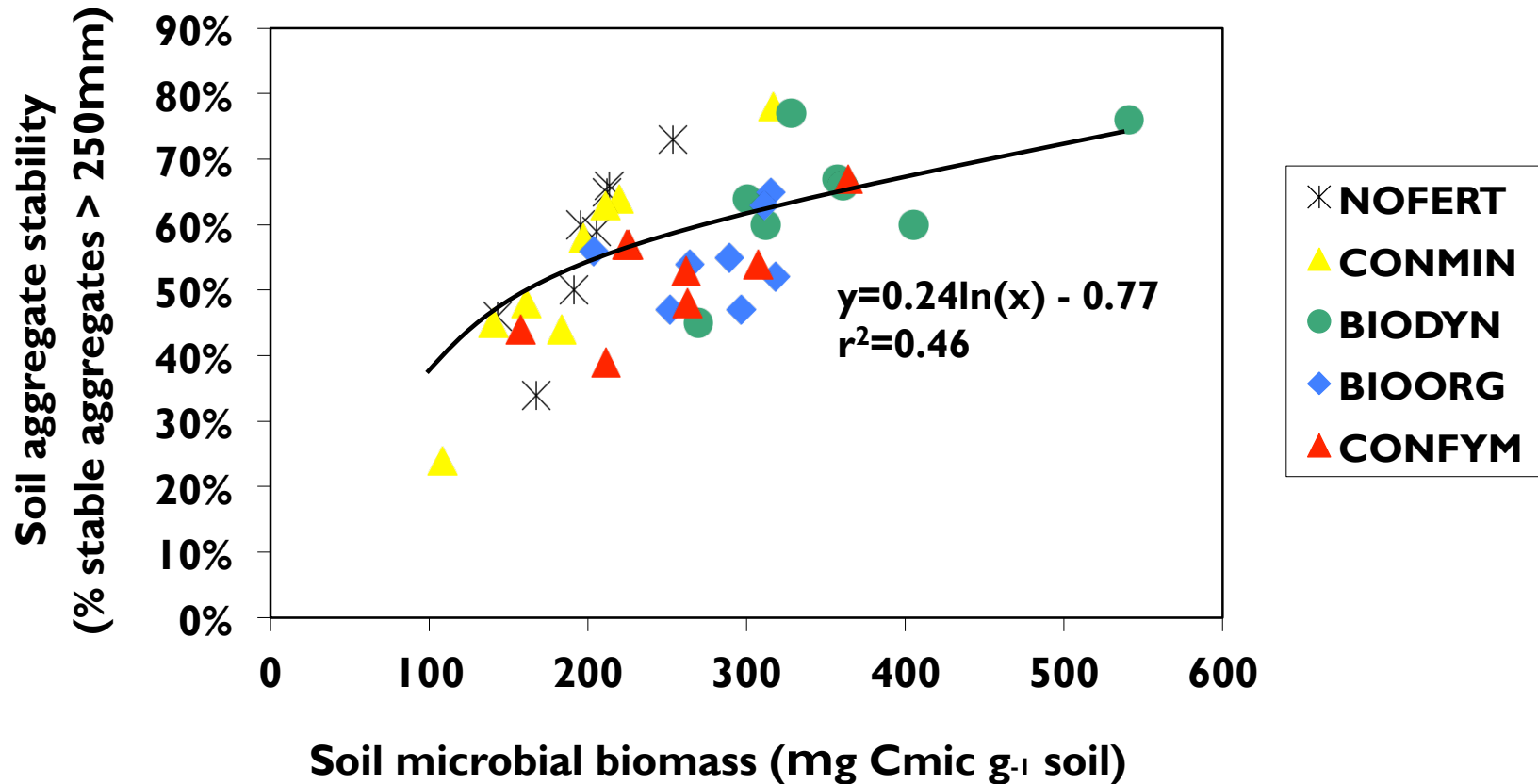
# Correlation soil microbial biomass – yield

## Sammenhæng mellem udbytter og mængden af mikroorganismer



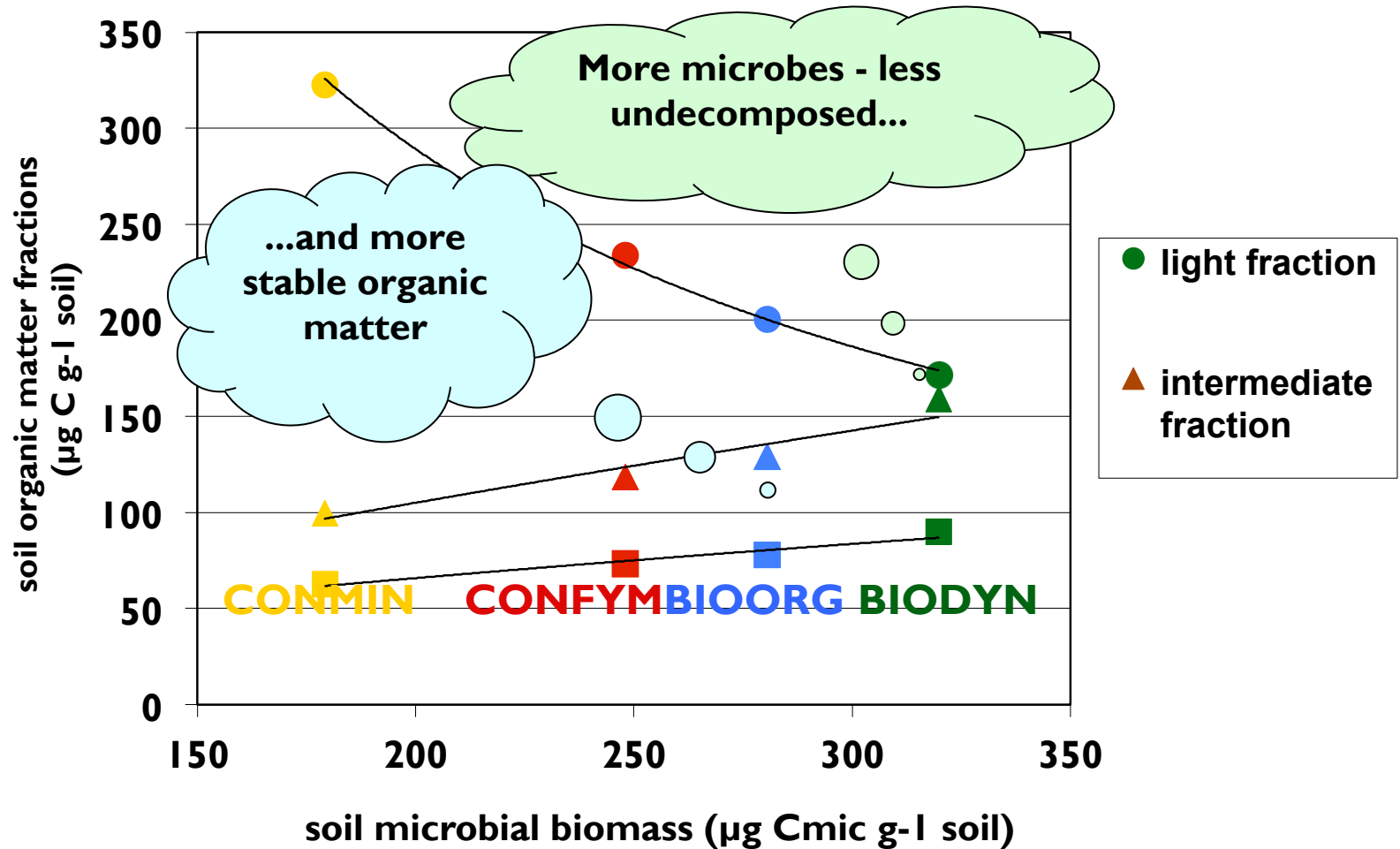
# Correlation soil microbial biomass – aggregate stability

## Sammenhæng mellem jordkrummernes styrke og mængden af mikroorganismer

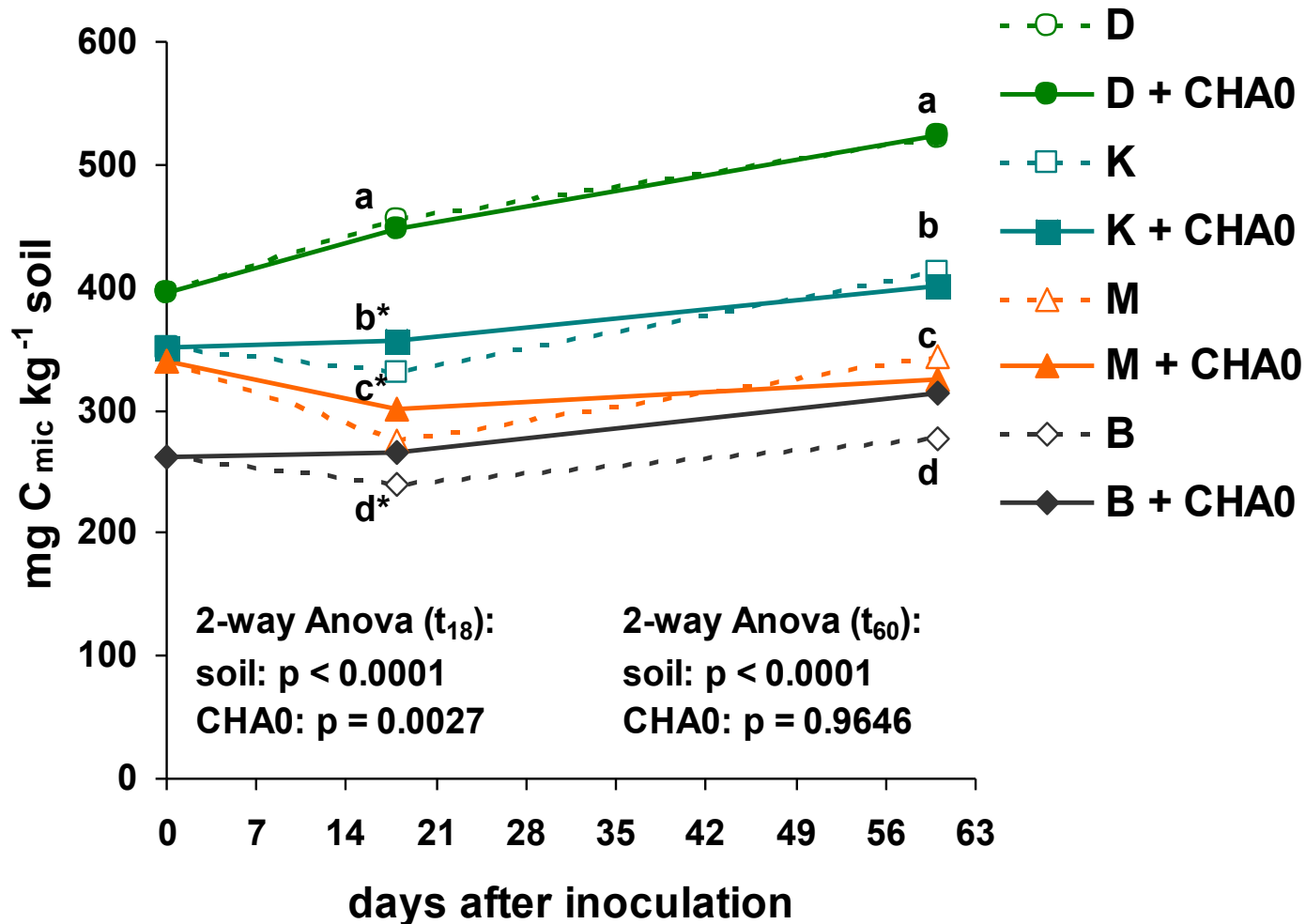




# Density fractions



# Resilience: Effect of soil amendment with *P. fluorescens* CHA0 on the microbial biomass ( $C_{mic}$ )



# Suppressiveness of soils towards plant diseases

## Jordens evne til at modstå plantesygdomme

lav søjle = mindre sygdom

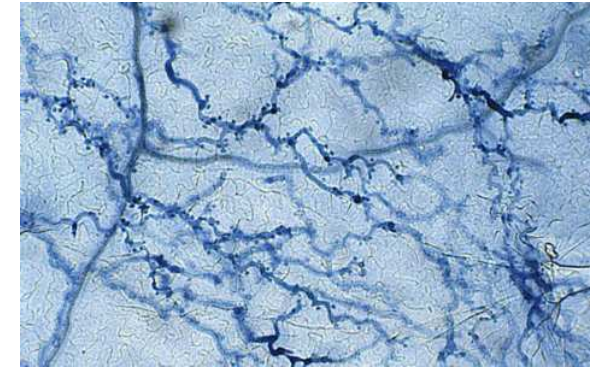
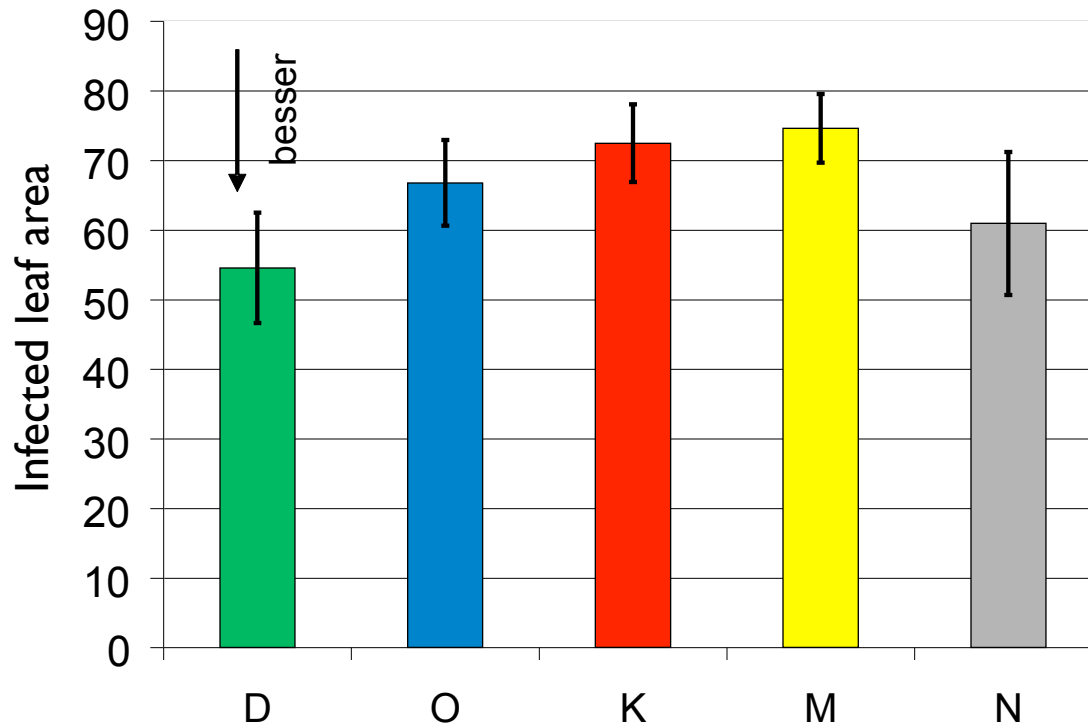


Foto: Barbara Thürig

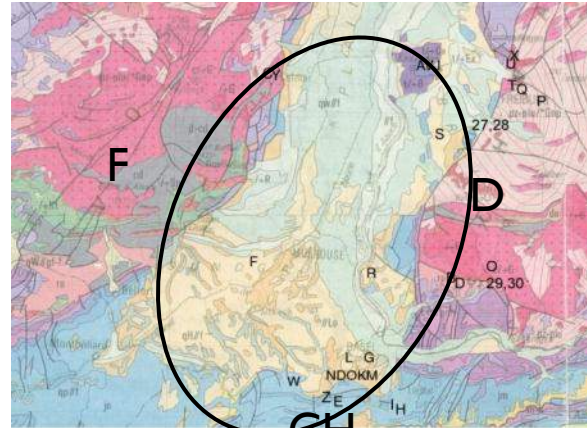
# Influence of land use intensity on mycorrhiza communities in Central Europe

## Betydningen af dyrkningsintensitet for mycorrhiza dannelse i Centraleuropa

Region: Upper Rhine Valley, Three country corner: France-Germany-Switzerland



Altitude: 250-400 m a.s.l.



Geology: periglacial Loess sediments (~12'000 years)



Soil types: Calcaric Regosols, Haplic Luvisols

### Dyrkningsintensitet



Ekstensiv græsning

Økologi

Sædskifte

Integreret

Monokultur

Extensive Grasslands

Swiss Organic Farming

Rotations

Swiss

Integrated Production

Mono-Cropping

Maize

Land use intensity

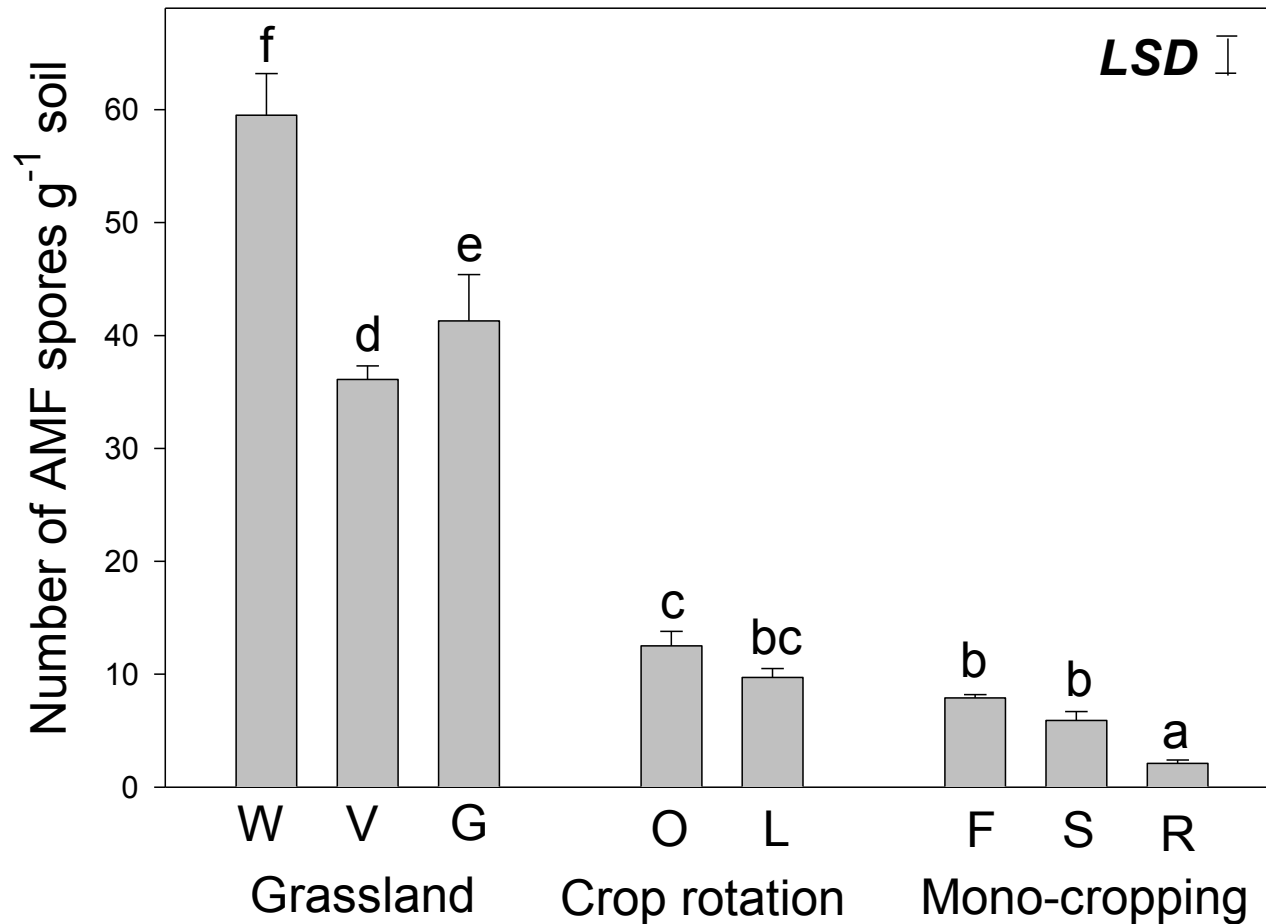
**FiBL**

[www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)



# Mycorrhiza spore numbers in agricultural soils

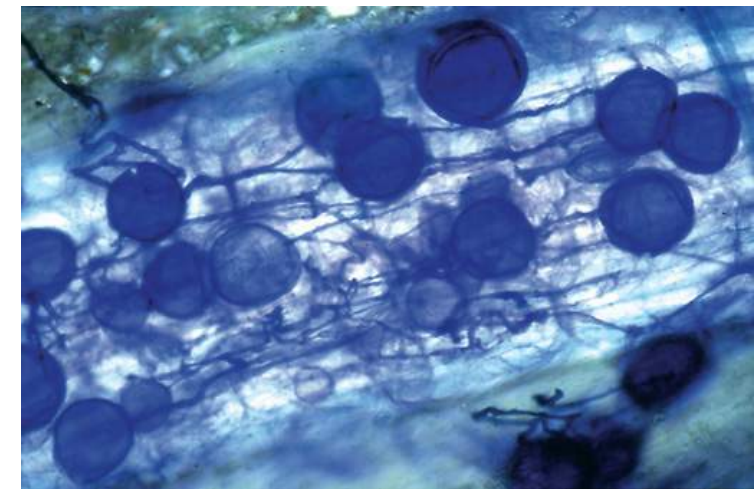
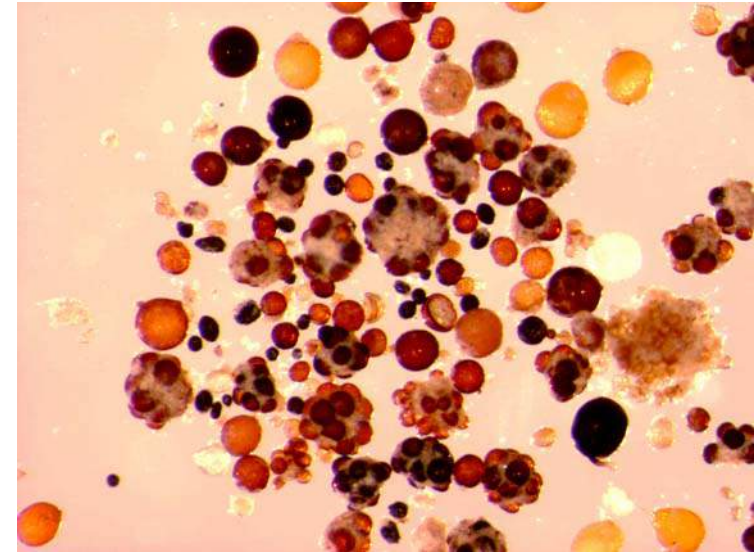
## Antallet af mycorrhiza svampesporer i landbrugsjord



# Mycorrhiza species (microscopy)

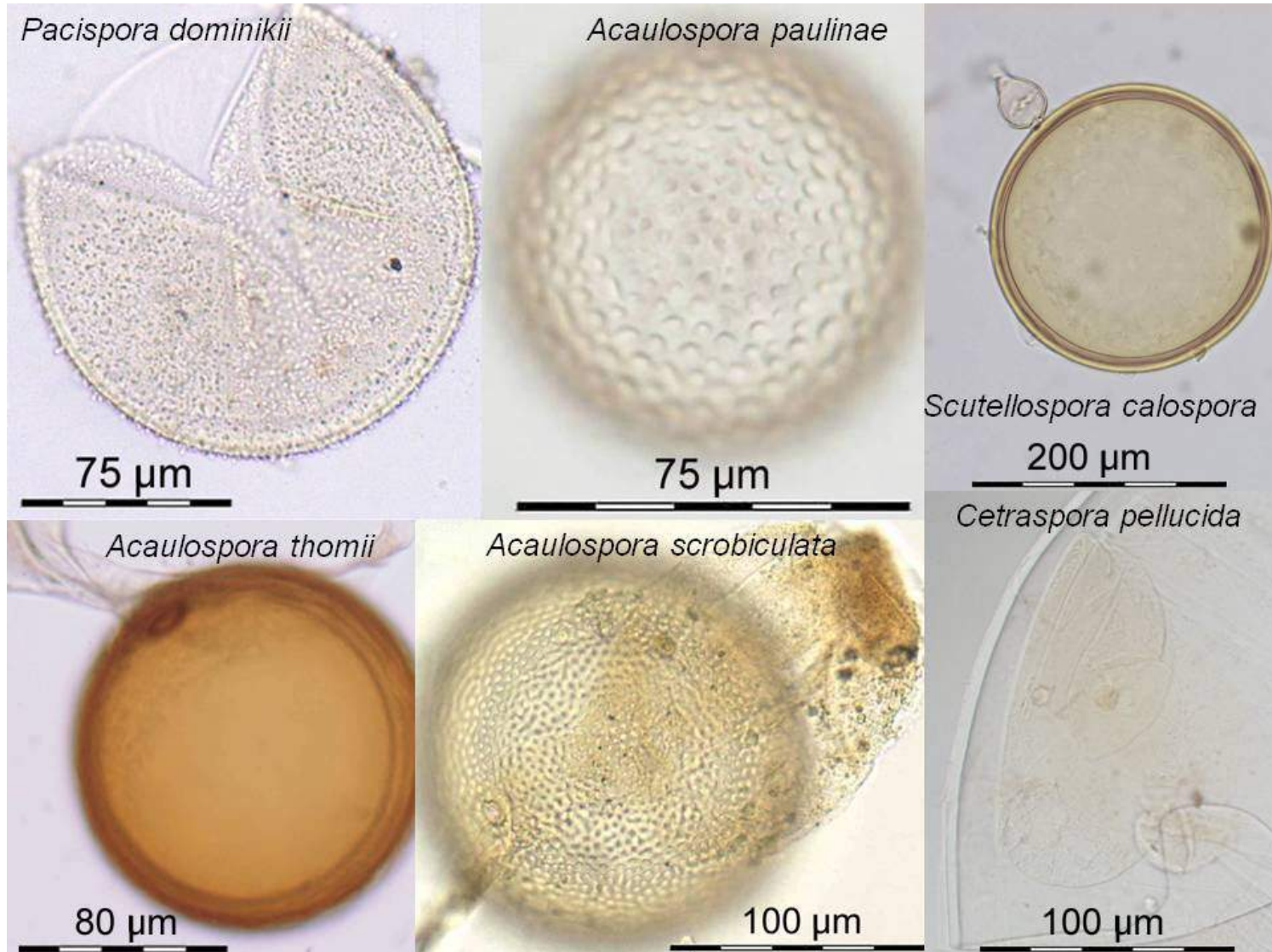
## Mycorrhiza arter

Mycorrhiza on loess sites in the DOK region:	Site	Nr of spore types
Grassland	1	26
	2	27
	3	26
Crop rotation	organic	26
	integrated	18
Monocropping maize	1	13
	2	10
	3	8



# Indicator mycorrhiza species for intensive agriculture

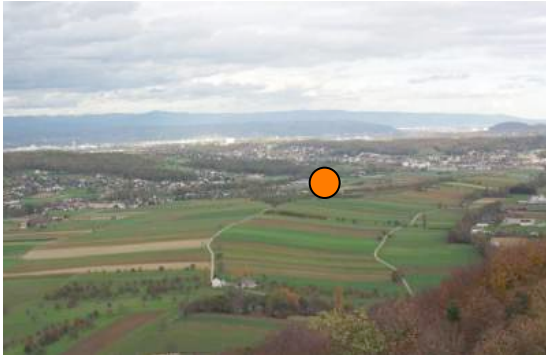
## Indikator arter af mycorrhiza i intensivt landbrug





# Mycorrhiza as affected by organic and conventional farming

## Hvordan mycorrhiza påvirkes af øko og konventionelt landbrug



Geology: periglacial Loess

Soil type: Haplic Luvisol

Site: DOK field trial, Therwil (BL)



Land use intensity



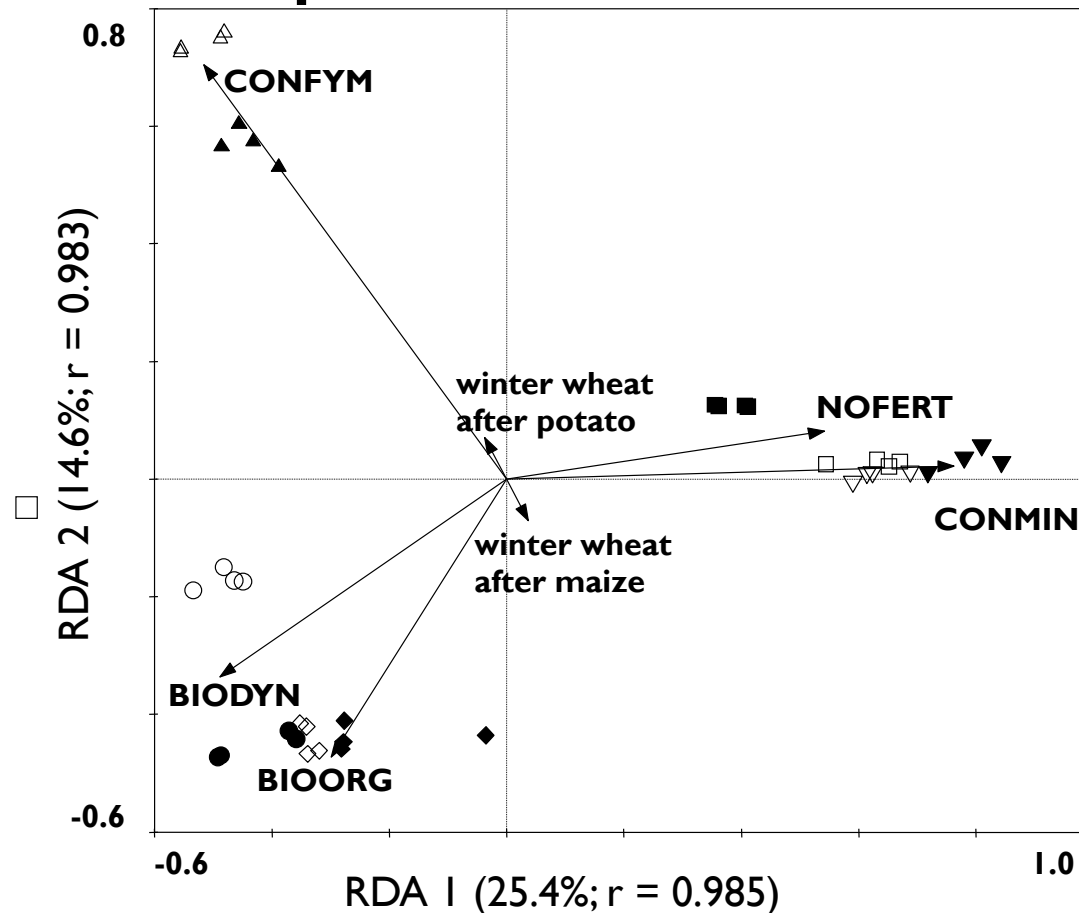
**More *Scutellospora*-, *Acaulospora* species in organic systems**



# Molecular phylotype diversity of AM fungi in arable soils

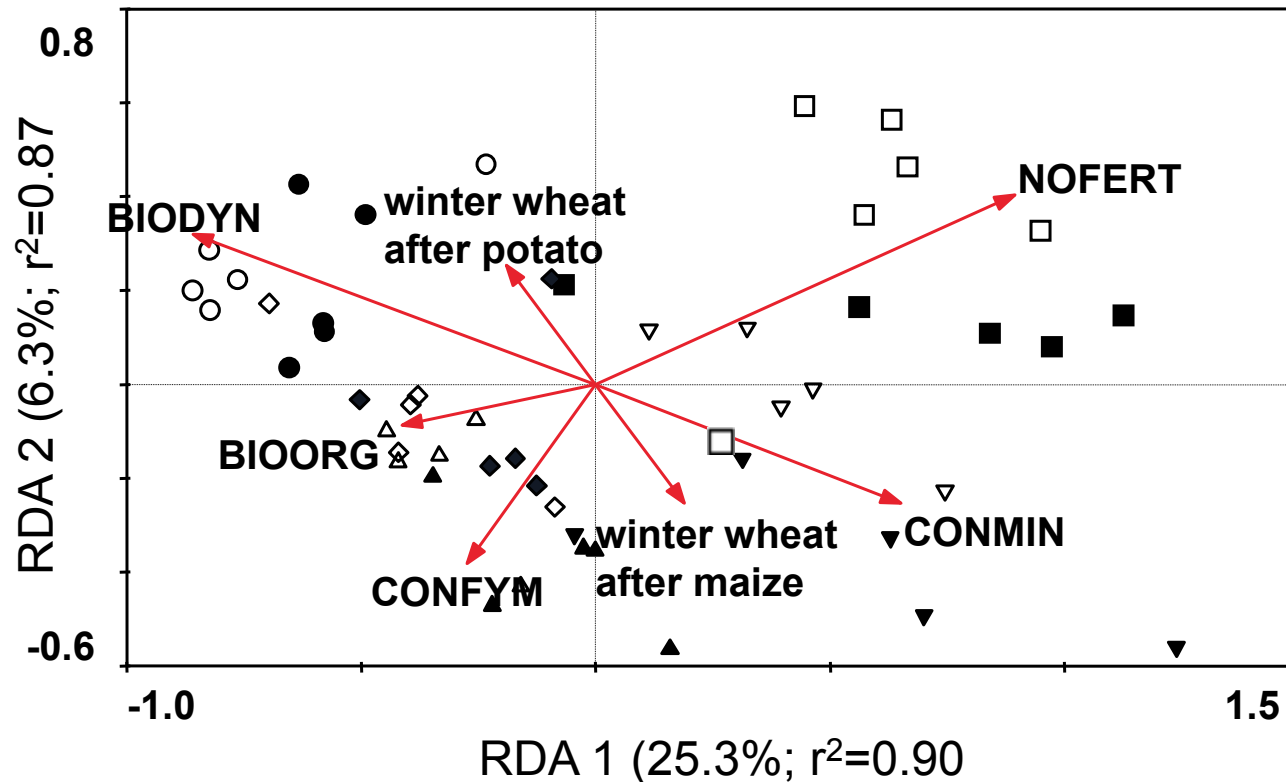
Field	Acaulospora- ceae	<i>Archaeospora/ Paraglomus</i>	Gigasporaceae	<i>Glomus</i> group A	<i>Glomus</i> group B
maize monoculture (R)	-	-	-	<b>GLOM-A1,</b> <b>GLOM-A3,</b> <b>GLOM-A5</b>	-
organic leek field (U)	-	-	-	<b>GLOM-A1,</b> <b>GLOM-A3,</b> <b>GLOM-A4</b>	-
maize, conventional/Swiss integrated (K62)	-	<b>PARA-1</b>	<b>GIGA-1</b>	<b>GLOM-A1,</b> <b>GLOM-A2,</b> <b>GLOM-A3</b>	<b>GLOM-B1</b>
wheat, conventional/Swiss integrated (K64)	<b>ACAU-1</b>	<b>PARA-1</b>	<b>GIGA-1</b>	<b>GLOM-A1,</b> <b>GLOM-A2,</b> <b>GLOM-A3</b> <b>GLOM-A4</b>	-
maize, mineral fertilization (M)	-	<b>PARA-1</b>	<b>GIGA-1</b>	<b>GLOM-A1,</b> <b>GLOM-A3,</b> <b>GLOM-A4</b>	-
maize, organic (O)	<b>ACAU-2</b>	<b>PARA-1</b>	<b>GIGA-1</b> <b>GIGA-2</b>	<b>GLOM-A1,</b> <b>GLOM-A3</b>	-

# Phospholipid fatty acid fingerprints: Redundancy analysis of PLFA profiles



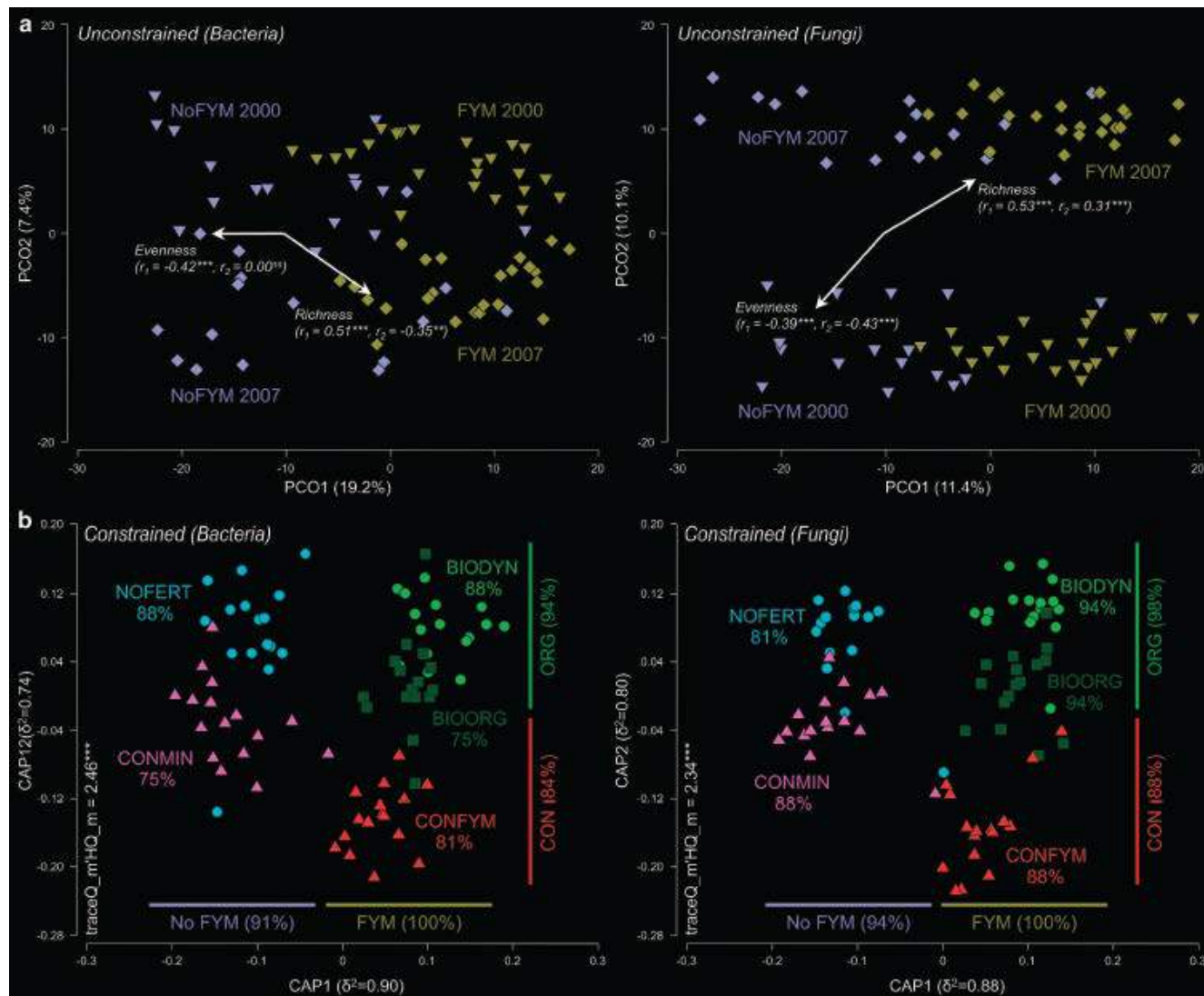
Constrained ordination of PLFA profiles in soils under winter wheat after potatoes (empty symbols) and after maize (filled symbols) in the DOK farming systems ( $\square$ ,  $\blacksquare$  : NOFERT;  $\nabla$ ,  $\blacktriangledown$  : CONMIN;  $\circ$ ,  $\bullet$  : BIODYN;  $\diamond$ ,  $\blacklozenge$  : BIOORG;  $\triangle$ ,  $\blacktriangle$  : CONFYM)

# Redundancy analysis of bacterial T-RFLP profiles



Constrained ordination of T-RFLP profiles in soils under winter wheat after potatoes (empty symbols) and after maize (filled symbols) in the DOK farming systems

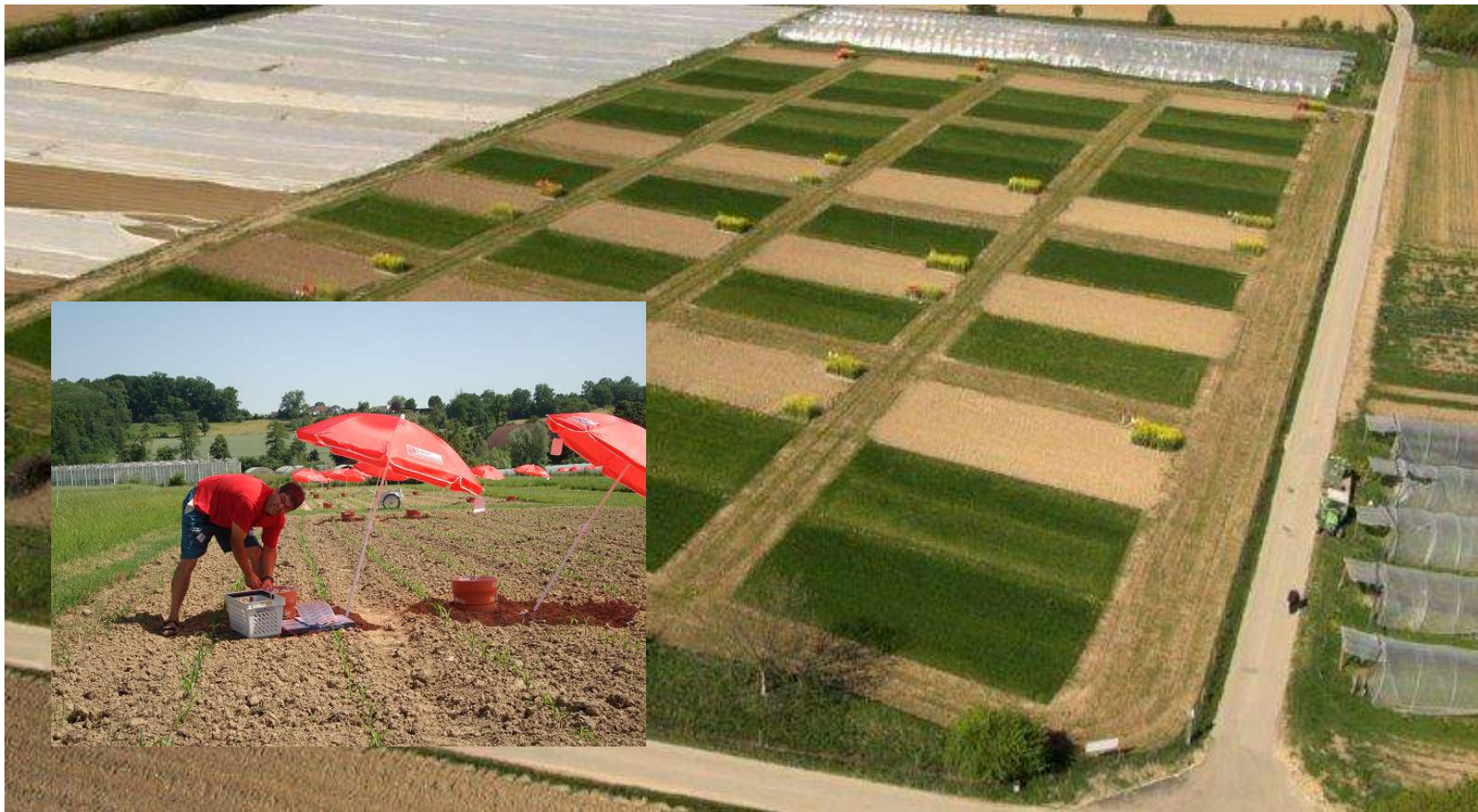
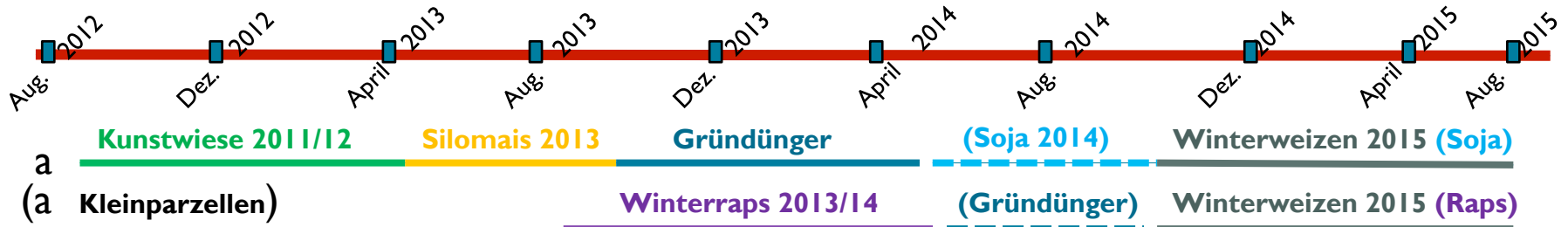
# Effects of farming systems and year on bacterial and fungal communities





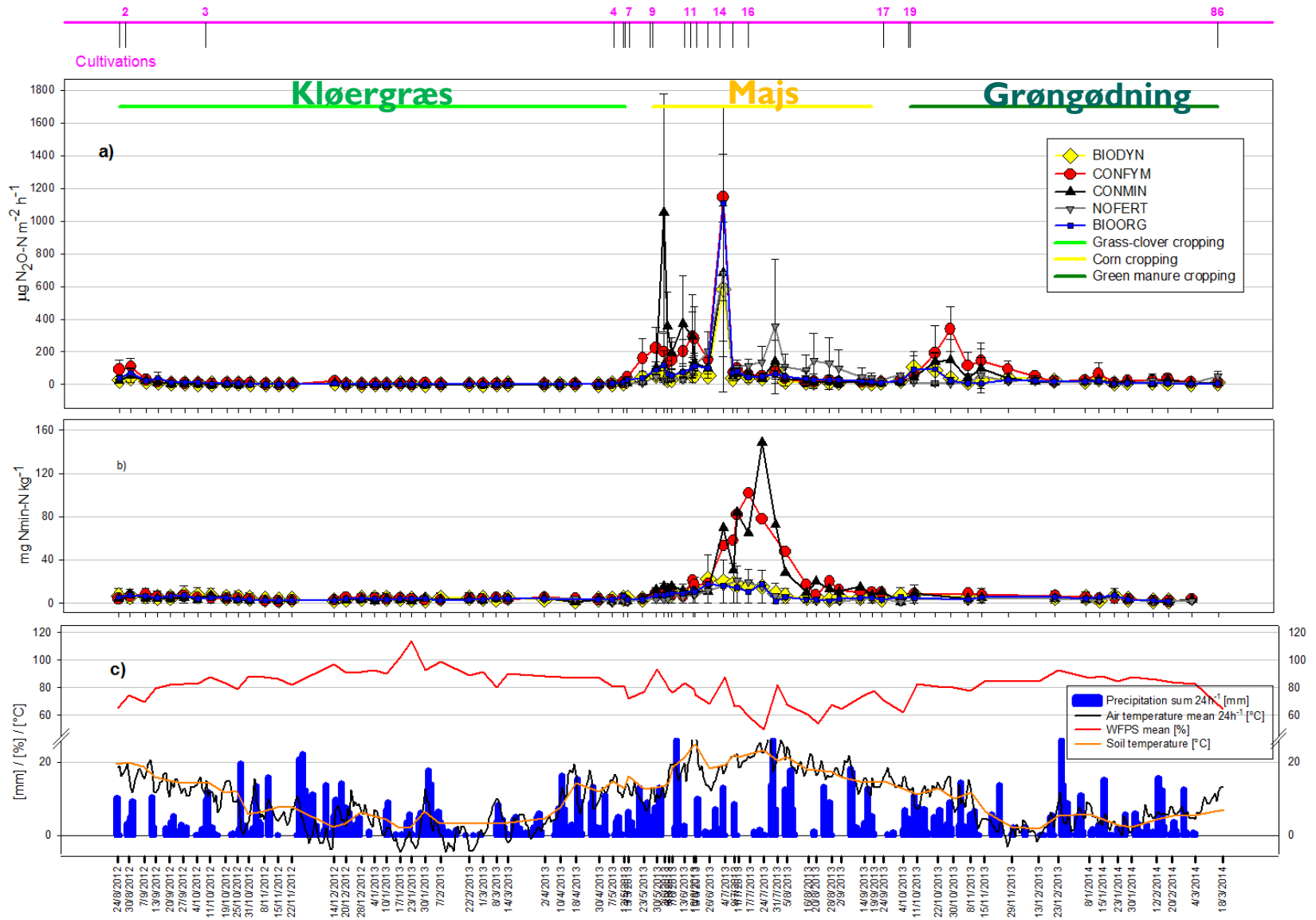
# Greenhouse gas emissions 2012 – 2015

## Udslip af klimagasser 2012 - 2015



# DOK-trial: N<sub>2</sub>O-fluxes between 8.2012 and 3.2014

## Udslip af lattergas i DOK-forsøget fra aug 2012 til marts 2014

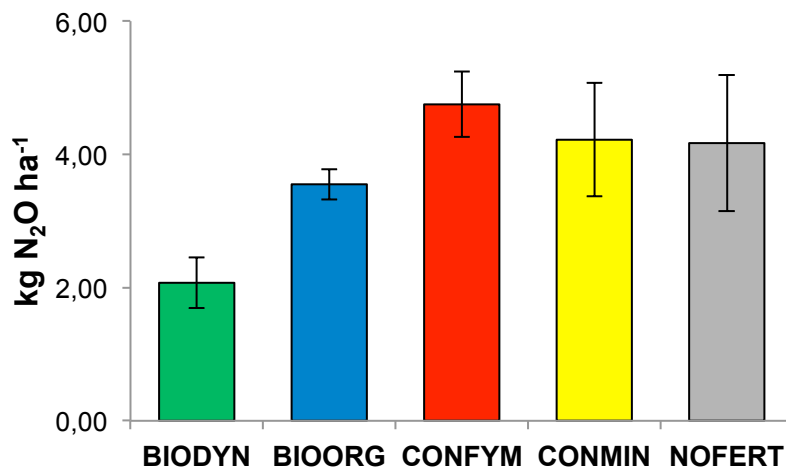


# Nitrous oxide emissions under maize (114 days)

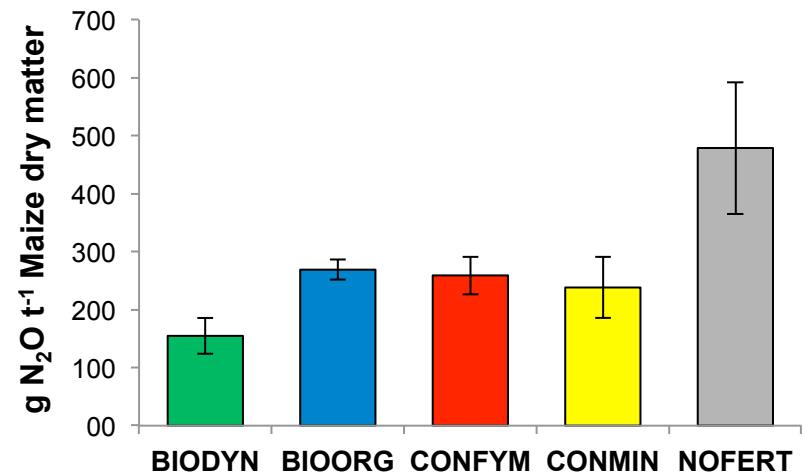
## Udslip af lattergas under majs hen over 114 dage

Area and yield scaled  $N_2O$  emissions in biodynamic system are lower

Udslip er både lavere pr areal og pr udbytte ved biodynamisk dyrkning



Udslip pr areal



Udslip pr udbytte



# Soil Fertility and Biodiversity in Organic Farming

Paul Mäder,<sup>1\*</sup> Andreas Fließbach,<sup>1</sup> David Dubois,<sup>2</sup> Lucie Gunst,<sup>2</sup> Padruot Fried,<sup>2</sup> Urs Niggli<sup>1</sup>

Plant Soil (2007) 290:69–83  
DOI 10.1007/s11104-006-9122-3

ORIGINAL PAPER

## Symbiotic N<sub>2</sub> fixation by soybean in organic and conventional cropping systems estimated by <sup>15</sup>N dilution and <sup>15</sup>N natural abundance

A. Oberson · S. Nanzer · C. Bosshard · D. Dubois · P. Mäder · E. Frossard



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“Productivity, quality and sustainability of winter wheat under long-term conventional and organic management in Switzerland”

Jochen Mayer<sup>a,\*</sup>, Lucie Gunst<sup>a</sup>, Paul Mäder<sup>b</sup>, Marie-Françoise Samson<sup>c</sup>, Marina Carcea<sup>d</sup>, Valentina Narducci<sup>d</sup>, Ingrid K. Thomsen<sup>e</sup>, David Dubois<sup>a</sup>

## Enhanced top soil carbon stocks under organic farming

Andreas Gättinger<sup>a,1</sup>, Adrian Müller<sup>a</sup>, Matthias Haeni<sup>a,b</sup>, Colin Skinner<sup>a</sup>, Andreas Fließbach<sup>a</sup>, Nina Buchmann<sup>b</sup>, Paul Mäder<sup>a</sup>, Matthias Stolze<sup>a</sup>, Pete Smith<sup>c</sup>, Nadia El-Hage Scialabba<sup>d</sup>, and Urs Niggli<sup>a</sup>

Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture

J Sci Food Agric 87:1826–1835 (2007)

## Wheat quality in organic and conventional farming: results of a 21 year field experiment

Paul Mäder,<sup>1\*</sup> Diana Hahn,<sup>1,2</sup> David Dubois,<sup>3</sup> Lucie Gunst,<sup>3</sup> Thomas Alfeldi,<sup>1</sup> Hans Bergmann,<sup>2</sup> Michael Oehme,<sup>4</sup> Renato Amadò,<sup>5</sup> Hanna Schneider,<sup>5</sup> Ursula Graf,<sup>6†</sup> Alberta Velimirov,<sup>7‡</sup> Andreas Fließbach<sup>1</sup> and Urs Niggli<sup>1</sup>

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Organic farming enhances soil microbial abundance and activity—A meta-analysis and



per<sup>1,2</sup>

## Response of soil microbial biomass and community structures to conventional and organic farming systems under identical crop rotations

Jürgen Esperschütz<sup>1</sup>, Andreas Gättinger<sup>2</sup>, Paul Mäder<sup>3</sup>, Michael Schloter<sup>1</sup> & Andreas Fließbach<sup>3</sup>

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Soil organic matter and biological soil quality indicators after 21 years of organic and conventional farming

Andreas Fließbach<sup>a,\*</sup>, Hans-Rudolf Oberholzer<sup>b</sup>, Lucie Gunst<sup>b</sup>, Paul Mäder<sup>a</sup>



# Publications – Agronomy

## Agronomy:

- Mäder, P. et al. 2002. Soil fertility and biodiversity in organic farming. *Science* 296, 1694-1697.
- Oberson, A. et al. 2007. Symbiotic N<sub>2</sub> fixation by soybean in organic and conventional cropping systems estimated by <sup>15</sup>N dilution and <sup>15</sup>N natural abundance. *Plant Soil* 290, 69-83.
- Mayer, J. et al., 2015. Productivity, quality and sustainability of winter wheat under long-term conventional and organic management in Switzerland. *European Journal of Agronomy* 65, 27-39.
- Skinner, C. et al. 2014. Greenhouse gas fluxes from agricultural soils under organic and non-organic management — A global meta-analysis. *Sci. Total Environ.* 468–469, 553-563.
- Mäder, P. et al. 2006. The DOK experiment (Switzerland). In: Raupp, J. et al. (Eds.), *Long-term field experiments in organic farming*. Koester, Bonn, pp. 41-58.

## Product quality:

- Langenkämper, G. et al. 2006. Nutritional quality of organic and conventional wheat. *Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality* 80, 150-154.
- Arncken, C.M. et al. 2012. Sensory, yield and quality differences between organically and conventionally grown winter wheat. *J. Sci. Food Agric.* 92, 2819-2825.
- Mäder, P. et al. 2007. Wheat quality in organic and conventional farming: Results of a 21-year old field experiment. *J. Sci. Food Agric.* 87, 1826-1835.

# Publications – Soil – Climate

## Soil quality:

- Fließbach, A. et al. 2007. Soil organic matter and biological soil quality indicators after 21 years of organic and conventional farming. *Agric. Ecosys. Environ.* 118, 273-284.
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## Biodiversity:

- Birkhofer, K. et al. 2008. Long-term organic farming fosters below and aboveground biota: Implications for soil quality, biological control and productivity. *Soil Biology & Biochemistry* 40, 2297-2308.
- Esperschütz, J. et al. 2007. Response of soil microbial biomass and community structures to conventional and organic farming systems under identical crop rotations. *FEMS Microbiology Ecology* 61, 26-37.
- Hartmann, M. et al. 2014. Distinct soil microbial diversity under long-term organic and conventional farming. *The ISME Journal* 9, 1177.

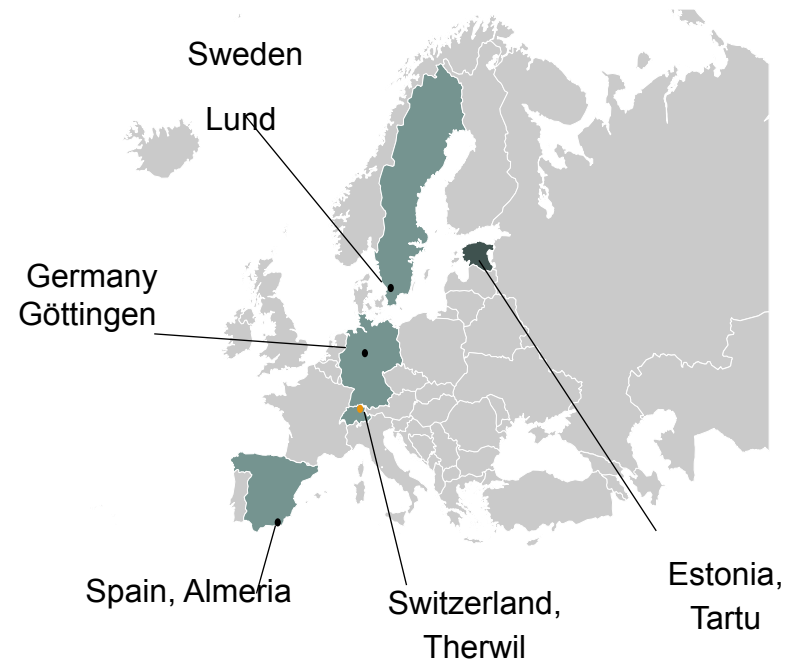
## Climate:

- Skinner, C. et al. 2014. Greenhouse gas fluxes from agricultural soils under organic and non-organic management — A global meta-analysis. *Sci. Total Environ.* 468–469, 553-563.
- Gattinger, A. et al. 2012. Enhanced top soil carbon stocks under organic farming. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 109, 18226-18231.

# Current project: Managing soil biodiversity and ecosystem services in agroecosystems across Europe under climate change



Rain-out shelters in the DOK trial to simulate the expected drought scenarios



## Partners

### Lund, Sweden

PI: Klaus Birkhofer,  
coordinator

### Tartu, Estonia

PI: Jaak Truu

### Göttingen, Germany

PI: Stefan Scheu

### Almeria, Spain

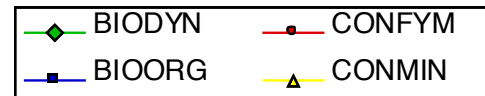
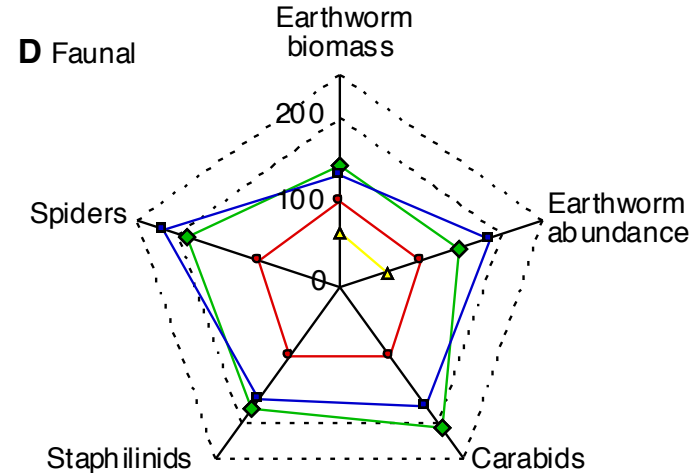
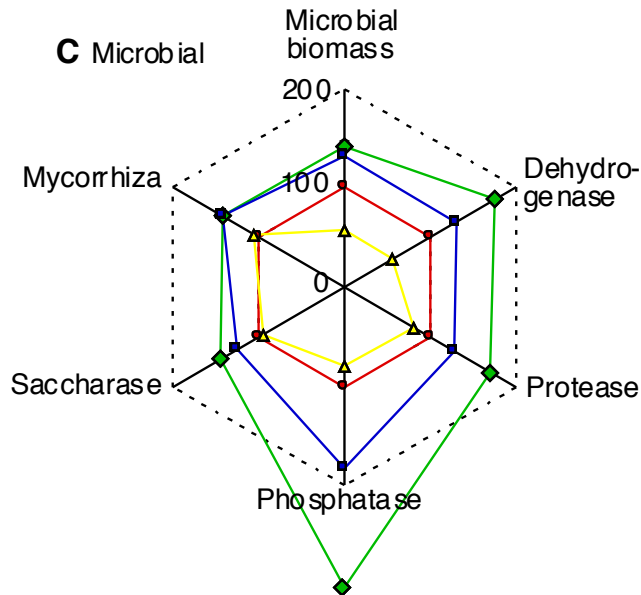
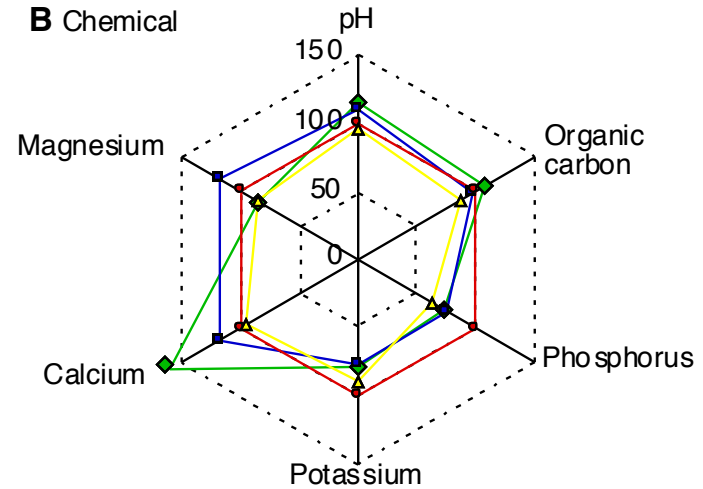
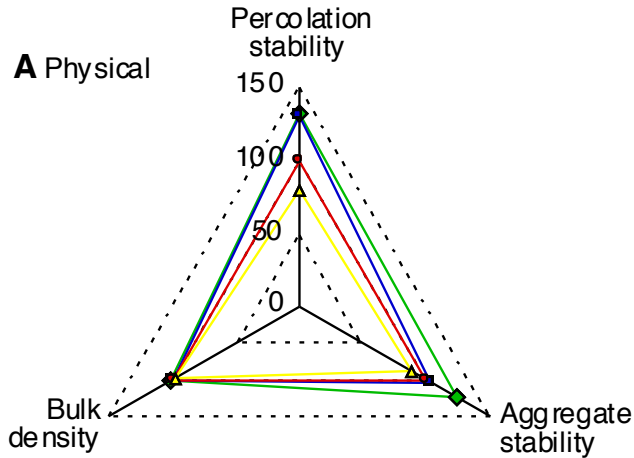
PI: Jordi Moya-  
Laraño

### Frick, Switzerland

PI: Paul Mäder

# Overview on soil properties

# Overblik over jordegenskaber



## Synthesis

Crop yields in the organic systems of the DOK trial are lower by 15-25 % as compared to conventional.

Soil quality has improved in farming systems with organic fertilizers.

Among the farming systems with organic fertilizers the biodynamic systems shows the highest soil quality.

The microbial communities in soils of organic farming systems are different from the ones of conventional.

Nitrous oxide emissions are lower in the biodynamic system as compared to conventional.

## Opsamling

I DOK-forsøget er udbytterne i de økologiske dyrkningssystemer 15-25% lavere end de konventionelle.

Jordens kvalitet øges i dyrkningssystemer med økologisk gødning.

Af de landbrugssystemer, der får økologisk gødning, opnår den biodynamiske jord den højeste kvalitet.

Økologiske dyrkningsmetoder medfører andre mikroorganisme-samfund end konventionelle dyrkningsmetoder.

Der er mindre tab af lattergas til atmosfæren fra biodynamisk jordbrug end fra konventionelt jordbrug.







**Thank you for your attention!**



**Tak for opmærksomheden!**

