Tõnis Ajaots
Rannu Seeme family farm | Estonia

24-25 March 2021
EIP-AGRI Workshop "Towards carbon neutral agriculture'

Rannu Seeme

- Family farm, operational since 1993

- Board members
  - Marge, Madis and Meelis Ajaots

- 2300 ha

- Crops for seed production

- Crop list: winter wheat, winter rapeseed, barley, oat, naked-oat, pea, beans, buckwheat, chickpea, phacelia

- Focus on environmentally friendly production

- We strongly believe in science – practice interaction and are very open to different tests and trials
 - Partner of the Estonian Crop Research Institute

Reducing emissions and capturing CO_2

- 200 kW solar plant
  - Green power used in the grain dryer

- Catch / cover crops
  - Farm is part of the Estonian Soil Innovation Cluster (RDP measure 16) – long term field trial fostering innovation and cooperation
  - 50% of the land is covered during winter
  - Every year we grow over 100 ha of catch crops

Reducing emissions and capturing CO$_2$

- Reduce soil cultivation
  - Direct drilling of winter rapeseed
  - Minimum soil cultivation on winter wheat

- Enhancing resource efficiency
  - Use of GPS autosteer (less overlap)
  - Analyse yield maps
  - Own fertilisation trials

- Other
  - Leave all straw on the field
  - Fields with lower potential are converted to grassland or woodland
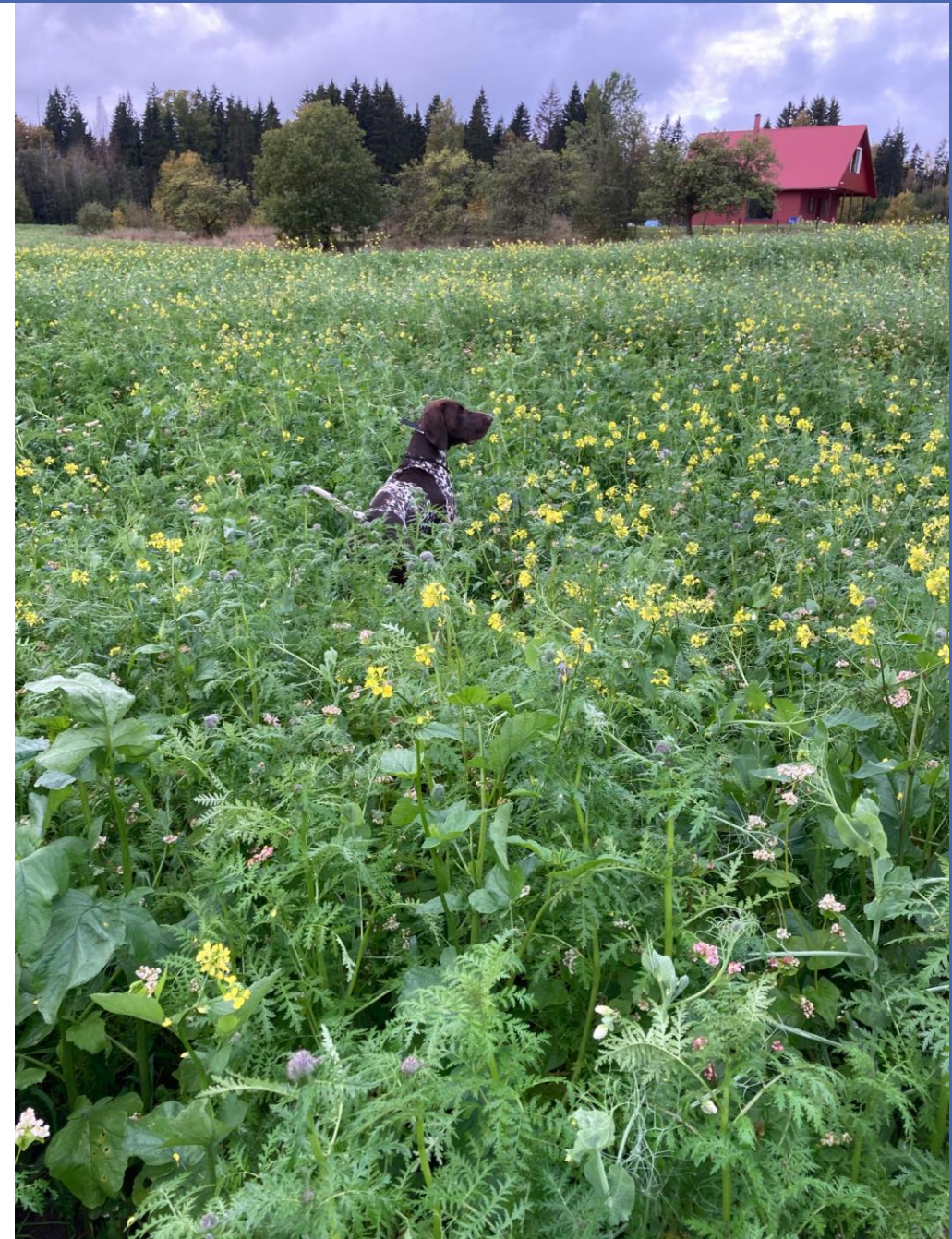
Our challenges

- Further increase of soil fertility = key for healthy production

- How to grow clean and healthy seeds without ploughing.
  Aim is to reduce ploughing

- To reduce emissions without increasing costs or decrease yields/profits

- Which are the activities that really reduce emissions (avoid Greenwashing)

Looking ahead

- Growing more cover crops and catch crops over winter

- Use more satellite imagery to analyse crop health and growth stage

- Controlled Traffic Farming – every year the same tractor track

- Direct drilling on all crops

EIP-AGRI workshop
Towards carbon neutral agriculture

Online 24-25 March 2021

All information about the workshop available on

www.eip-agri.eu

on the event webpage

https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-workshop-%E2%80%98towards-carbon-neutral

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