

The structure of Austrias Agriculture and CSA

A short overview by
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Farmsize

- Farmland: 3,1 Mio ha (1,3 arable, 2,8 meadow)
- Farms(Nr): - 3.500/yr. = 10/d
Total: 132.000 (2010) <> 165.500 (2000)
- Farmland(ha)/farm (without woodland)
9,4 (1951) < 19,3 (2007)
- Other countries: 4,7 (GR) 7 (HU) 28 (SK) 45 (D) 52 (F) 53
(UK) 90 (CZ)
- 60% have < 20ha, 4% > 100ha
- □ 12 cows/milkfarm, □ 100 pigs/pigfarm

Structural Development

- small-scale dominated structures and large remote and alpine areas (37% mountainfarmers)
- 1970s growing disparity between farmers' incomes in dif. Regions (40% main income farms)
- 80 % of □ income dependant on subsidies. 35,5% get 5000€, 47,1% get 5.000-20.000;15,6% get 20.000-50.000; 1,8& get >50.000; 260 farms get >100.000 €/yr (□322ha / farm)
- Last 10 years decline in direct sales and farmers markets → extra invest, complex food regulation + controls, labour intensive

Organic Agriculture in Austria

- **Pioneers:** already from 1920 (biodynamic) and increasing from 1940 (organic) on until 1960s

Small farmer's networks

- **Qualitative growth:** 1970/80 associations, public media, research, producer-consumer-initiatives
- **First Boom:** begin of 1990s (state subsidies)
- **Second Boom:** mid 1990s (EU, ÖPUL, Supermarket-Marketing)
- **„Konventionalisierung“:** end of 1990s - decreasing numbers of farms, imbalanced market, de-ideologisation @ consumers and producers, professionalisation, functionalisation,...

source: Groier, M.; Gleirscher, N. (2005) Bio-Landbau in Österreich im internationalen Kontext. Hrsg. Bundesanstalt für Bergbauernfragen, Wien. Forschungsbericht 54, Band 1

Gemeinsam Landwirtschaften/CSA



Gemeinsam Landwirtschaften/CSA

- Ochsenherz: Gänserndorf<>Wien: 20km
- 2,5ha vegetables 8ha total (rented), lots of different and old sorts, own plant and seed-production, much handwork (5+3 gardeners, 15.000 wh/yr)
- Total costs: 260.000 (2/3 work; 1/3 other)
- 210 Harvest-shares: +215.000€/yr (+20.000 Seed, +20.000 plants, +5000 ...)
- Market as a place for social interaction



CSA as a chance to

- Maintain lokal, peasant agriculture
- Develop low input food production
- Increase public understanding for Agriculture needs
- less Support of corporate foodsupply by CAP