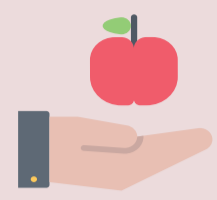


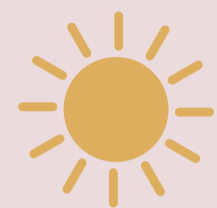
Agriculture stands out from the other economic activities for some specific characteristics, such as:



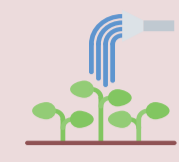
It produces alimentary goods, which are primary ones (goods), essential for the survival of the human species;



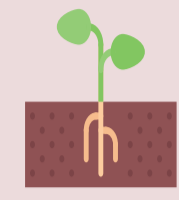
The choice of agricultural products is influenced by climate impact and exposure to sanitary and phytosanitary risks;



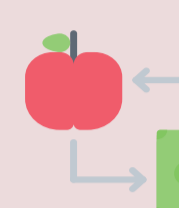
The profitability of this sector doesn't make agriculture attractive, neither in an employment context nor in a business activity context.



It makes use of natural resources, which are limited, and that depends from the morphological, hydrological and orographic aspects of the environment;



An inevitable time gap occurs between the moment when requests from the consumers change and when producers are able to satisfy;



The indexes of productivity could be improvable, in a sustainable way, if having the right skills and if investing in corporate computerization-digitalization and circular economy;

Hypothesis

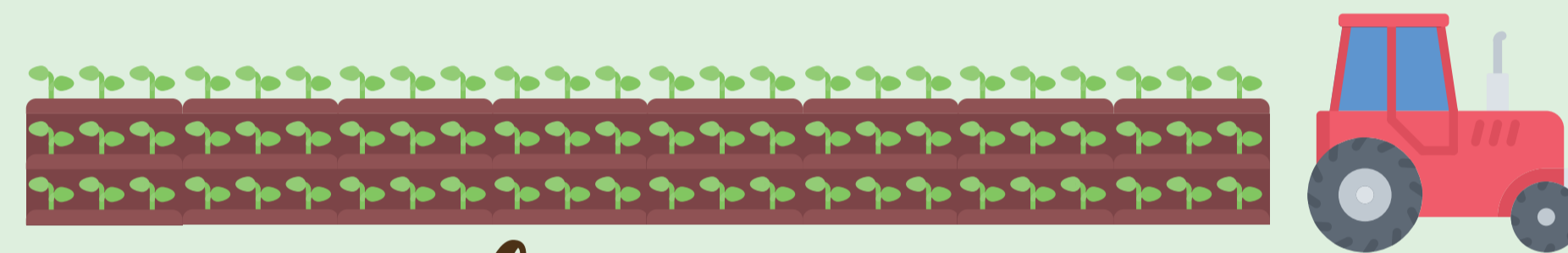
The impacts of climate change, globalisation, migratory flows, the instability of agricultural product's international prices, and the dependence on foreign countries for energy commodities, for fertilisers and fodders are determining deep changes that require a dynamic productive fabric capable of investing and innovating. The analyses carried out start from the hypothesis that structural criticalities regarding business dimension, legal-organisational form adopted, age and level of education-training of managers hinder dynamism and modernization in Italian agriculture.

Method

The used data are from the "Seventh General Census of Agriculture", carried out by ISTAT between January and July 2021 and referring to the harvest year 2019-2020, which allow a picture of the Italian agricultural and livestock sector. In particular, data contained in the tables n.1, n.2, n.23, n.27, n.30, n.31, and n.36 of the census have been reworked and reorganized in several graphical representations.

Target

The goal is to provide an analysis of the Italian agricultural sector that would lead us to reflect on how some factors, such as the small business size, the individual-family enterprise as the prevailing legal form, high age and low level of education-training of managers, are structural problems, sufficient to justify the level of concern assumed, about the ability of Italian agriculture to face the challenges of the future.



Are we cultivating the agriculture's future in Italy?

CONCLUSIONS

From 1982 to 2020, the number of farms has gone from 3,133,118 to 1,133,023. The amount of hectares in U.A.A. ratings has gone from a total of 15,833,000 to 12,535,000, equal to 11.1 hectares per company, **way less than France (69.6), Germany (55.8)**. This report not only results lower than recorded, but to European average of 17.3.

Almost 94% of the companies are represented by individual or family holdings and this also justifies **the high prevalence of family labour over non-family labour**, with an incidence equal to 53% in 2020.

52% of non-family workers are employed on an occasional basis and those employed on a continuous basis contribute with an average of 90 per-capita standard working days.

In 2020, farm heads over 60 years of age represent 57% of the total, while those under 45 years of age are just 13%. These percentages are similar to those representing manager's qualifications: **those with a qualification up to a middle school degree or no qualification at all reach a percentage of 59%**; those relating to managers with a degree are equal to 10%.

If we consider that for 93.5% of the cases, the manager of the company coincides with the entrepreneur of an individual or family holding and that 75% of them manage about 11.1 hectares of U.A.A., **the farm head is probably also the oldest of the members who work in the family farm and has a low level of education**.

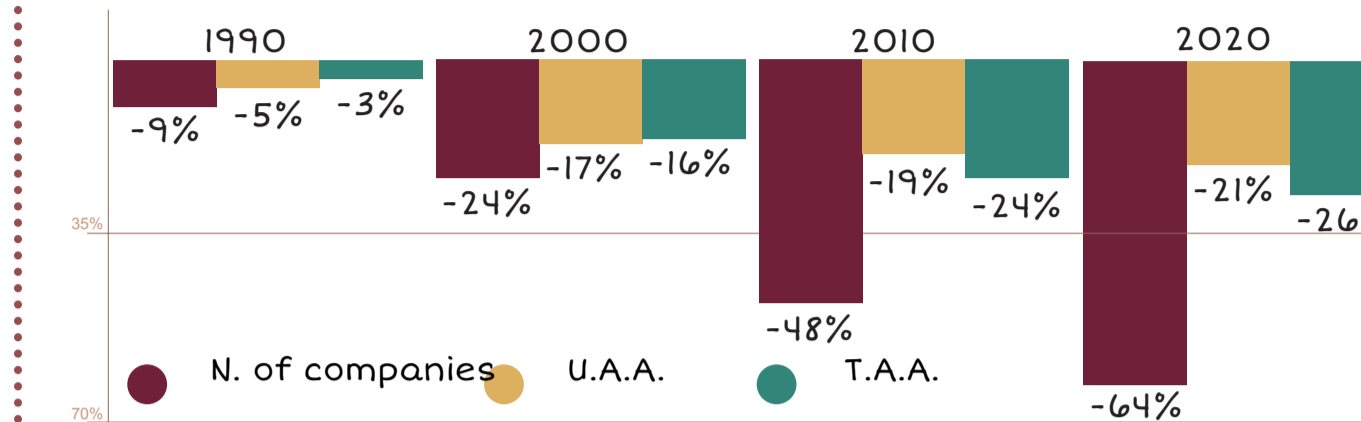


Data confirm the hypothesis: the information obtained highlights structural problems that could hinder the modernization process necessary to overcome the challenges of the future.

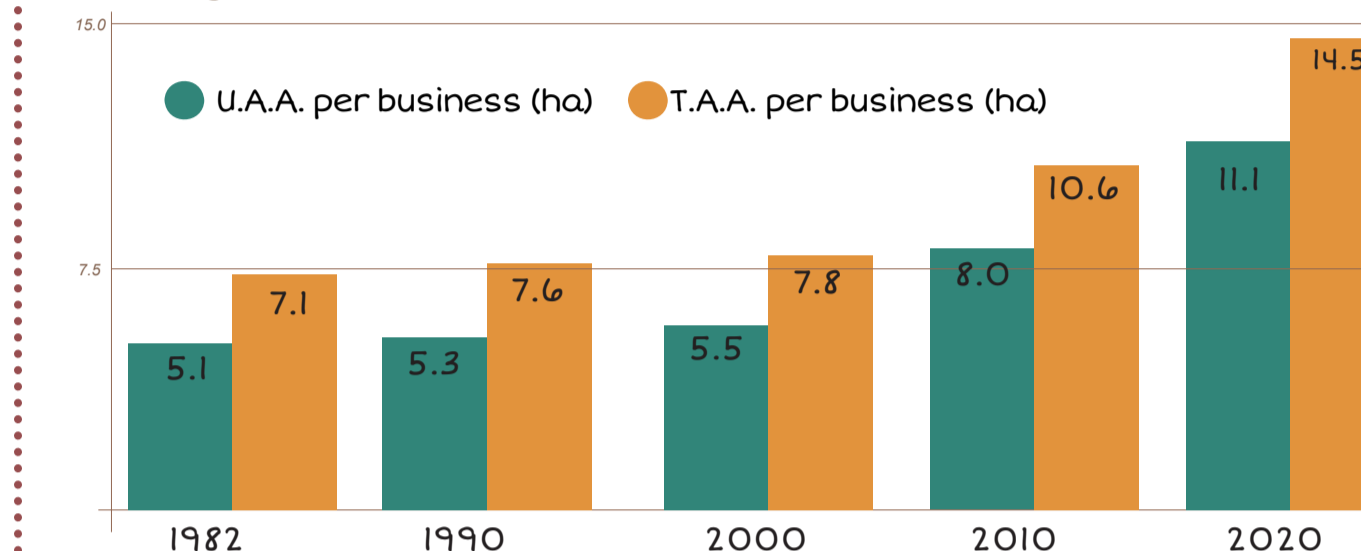
The competent institutions should take more action by promoting more structured and larger forms of organisation, encouraging lifelong learning, facilitating investment in research and innovation and encouraging generational change.

the analysis

Farms U.A.A. (Utilised Agricultural Area) and T.A.A. (Total Agricultural Area), data from the last 5 censuses. Percentage variations from 1982

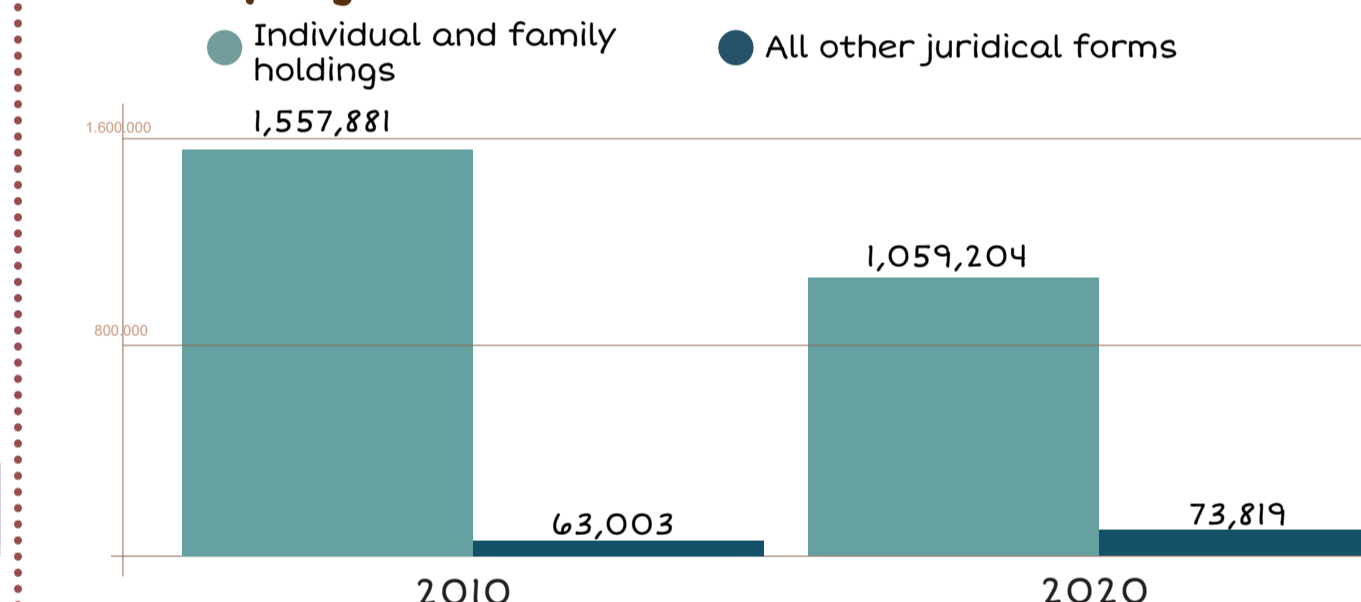


Averages of U.A.A. and T.A.A. in hectares (ha) per farm



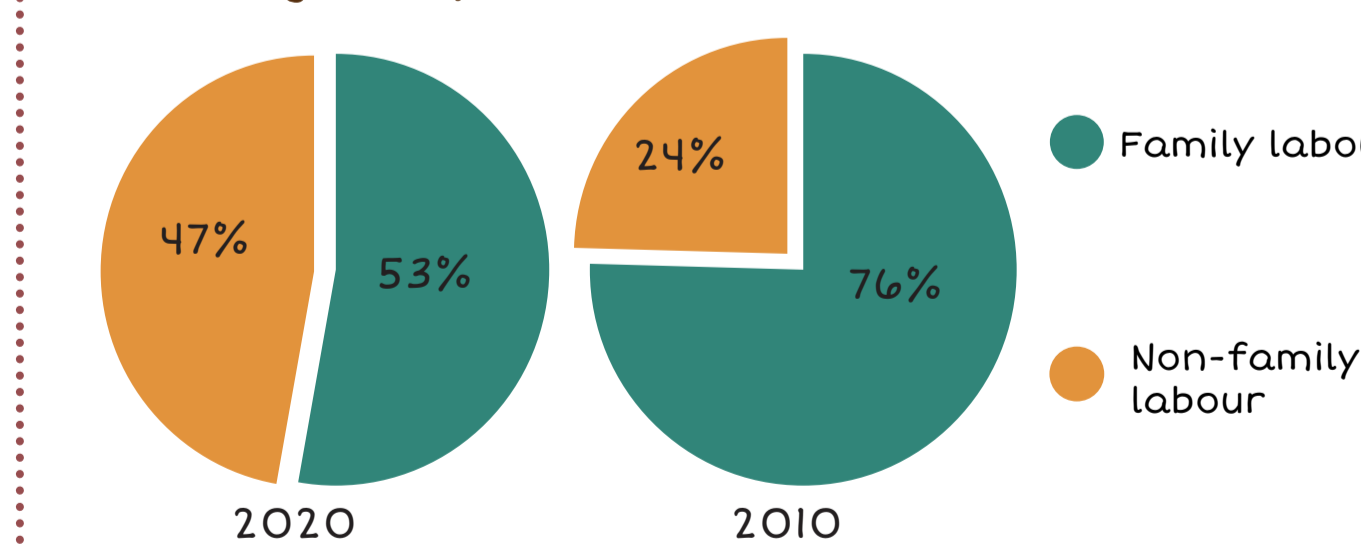
From 1982 to 2020, **2 farms out of 3 disappeared: the bend is equal to 68.3%**. In terms of U.A.A. and T.A.A., reduction appears much more limited. The average size of farms is more than doubled, going from 5.1 in 1982 up to 11.1 hectares in 2020 (U.A.A.).

Farms by legal form in 2010 and 2020



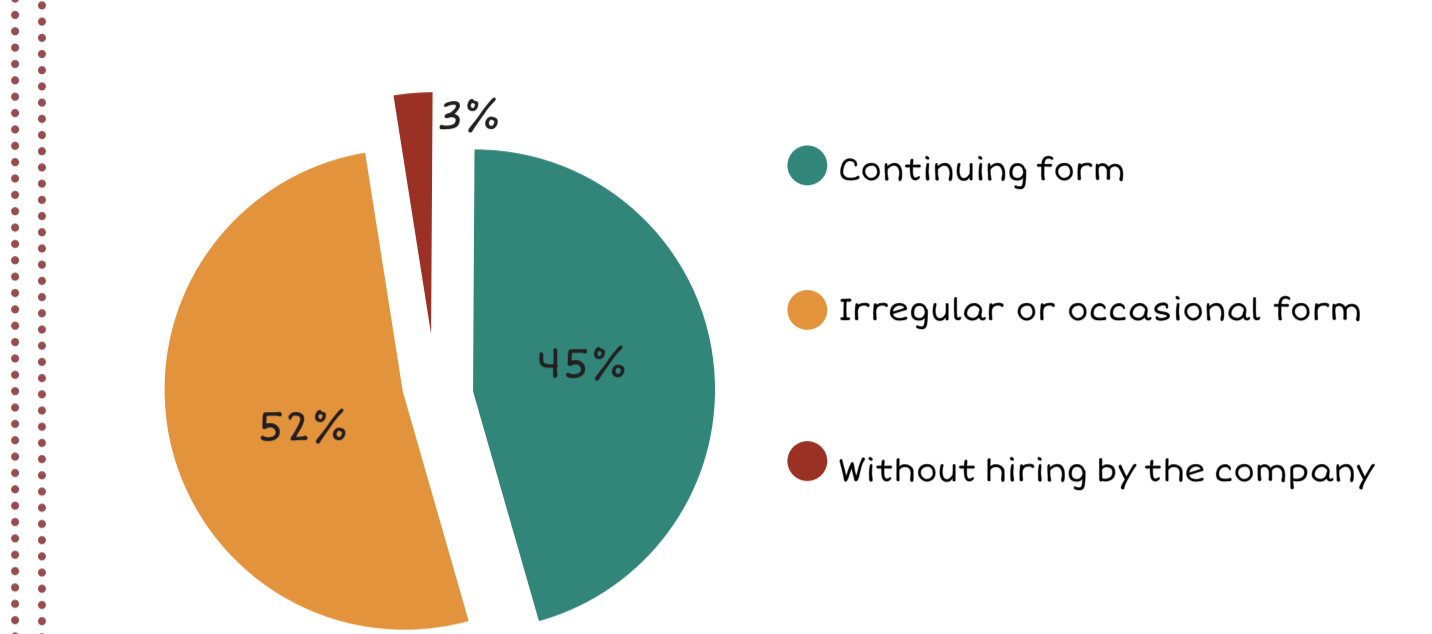
In the decade from 2010 to 2020 the percentage of partnerships companies, capital companies, cooperatives, collective property and other legal forms, has increased even if in a slight way. **Individual and family holdings**, (even decreasing from 96.1% to 93.5%), **represent the most widespread legal forms of ownership in Italian agriculture**.

Workforce employed by category. Percentage composition for 2020 and 2010



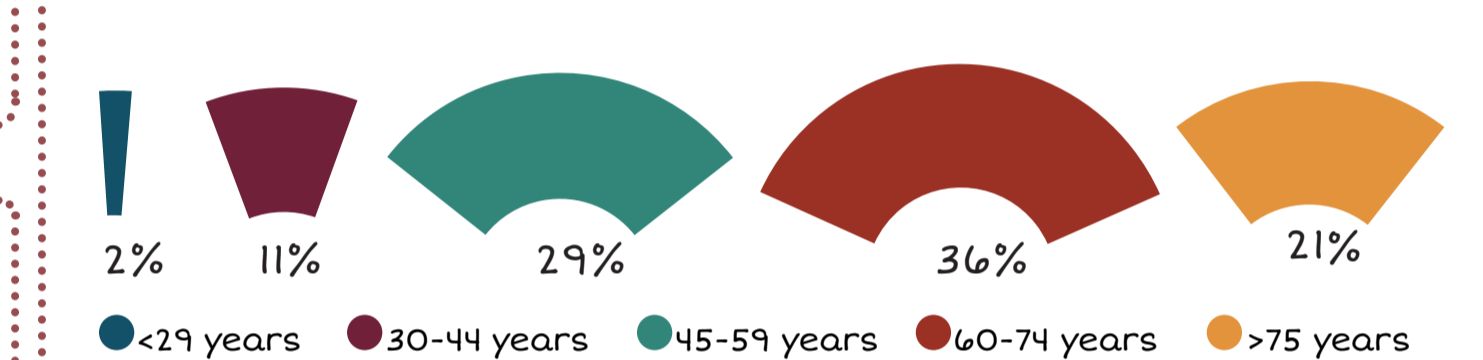
The predominance of family labour over non-family labour is confirmed, even if the impact decreases from 76% (2010) to 53% (2020).

Contractual type for standard working days (8 hours) of non-family labour, 2020 percentage

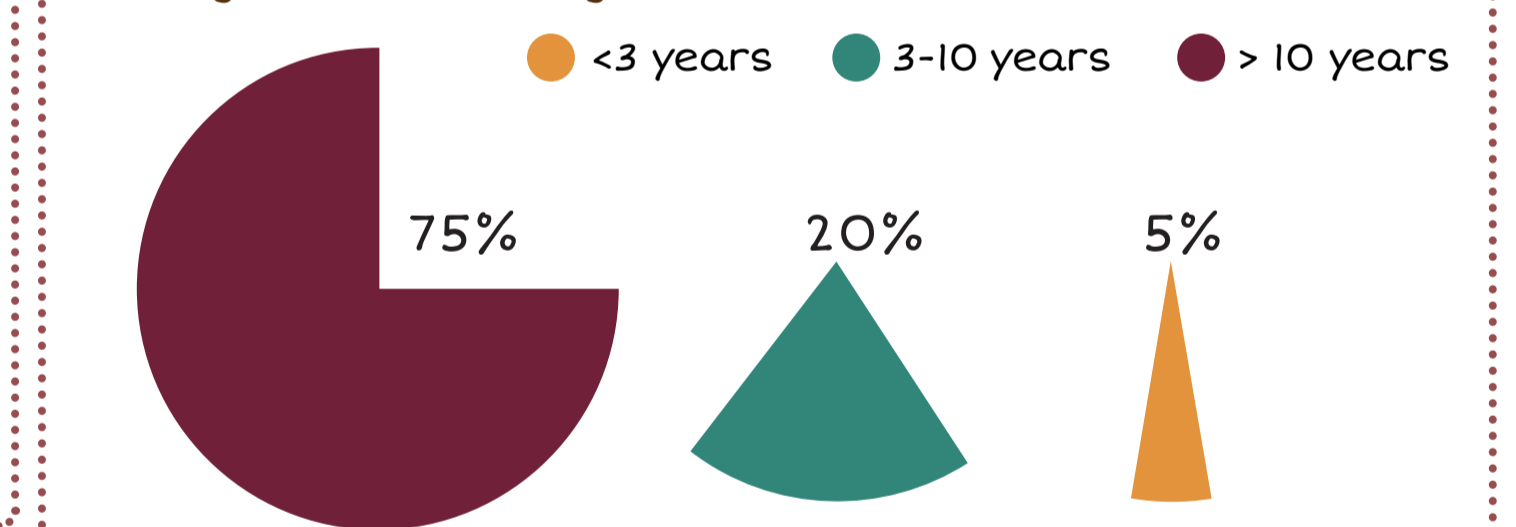


The most common contractual type of 2020 is "irregular or occasional". Within a total of 1,295,753 non-family labour, 860,884 workers have an occasional contract. We have to consider that the total number of standard working days for non-family workers on an occasional basis is 35,663,160, their contribution per-capita is small, in fact the national average is 41. Instead, workers that have a continuing contract (347,279), with a total standard working days of 31,196,153, the average national number is 90.

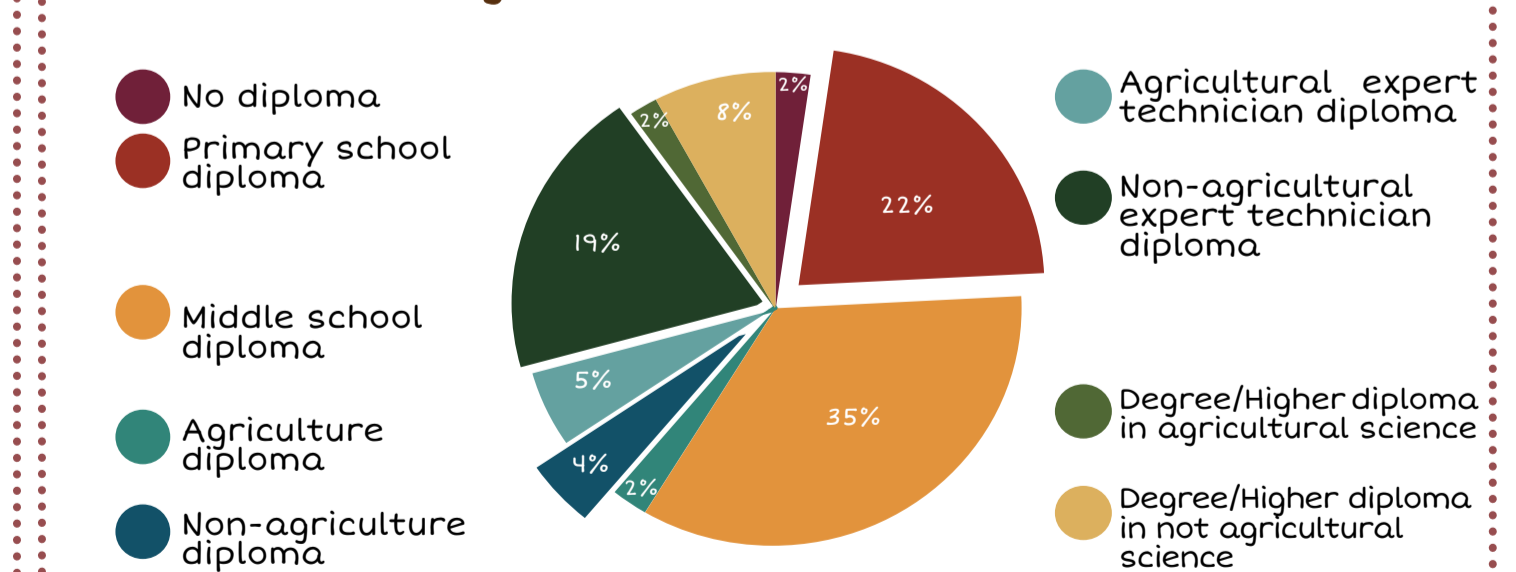
Farms rated by the manager's age (collective holdings excluded), in 2020



Generational turnover, number of farms (only for entrepreneurial or individual or family farm and partnership legal forms) in 2020. "How long has the manager been running the farm?"



Farms rated by the manager's degree or qualification (collective holdings excluded), 2020



In 2020, the farm heads over 60 years of age represent 57% of the total, while those under 45 years of age are just 13%. **The managers with an educational qualification up to a middle school degree or no qualification at all are equal to 59%**; those with a degree are only 10% and the rating of those who have studied in agricultural field is around 9% of the total. 75% of managers have been running the farm for over 10 years.

