

# Pulses' Sector in the EU and Greece

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# Mapping of Pulses primary production in the EU and Greece

## Introduction

Pulses have many uses as food and feed and often their prices are influenced by cereals' corresponding prices. According to FAO experts in combination with cereals could be a solution to food security, which is a major issue globally today.

From the primary production point of view pulses should be cultivated in combination with cereals as a rotation system, in order to increase the yields and enrich the soil with nitrogen, through plant-microbes' symbiotic mechanisms.

## Pulses Historical Data on a Global and EU basis



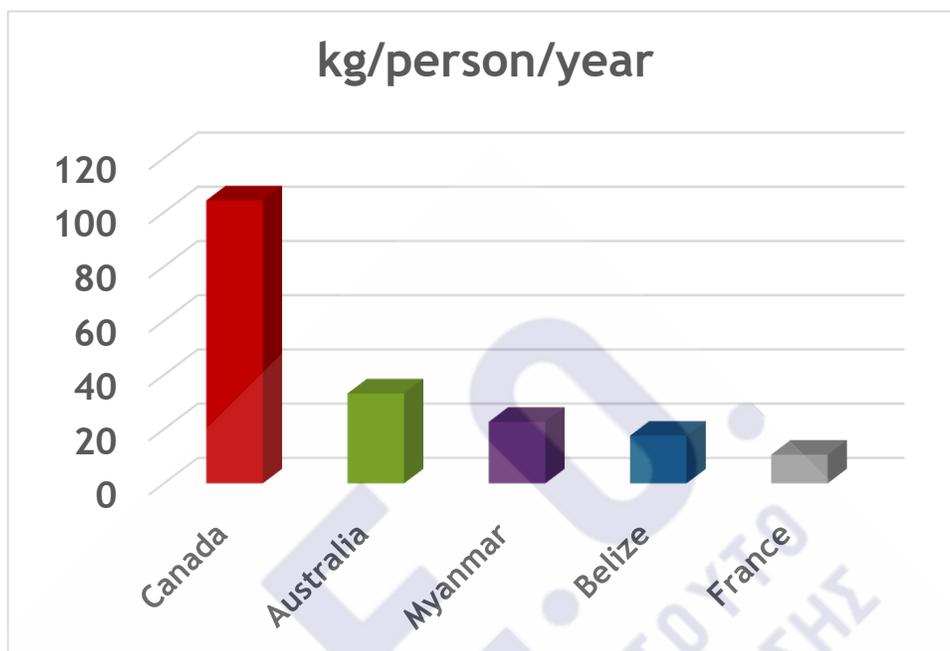
It is estimated that 795 million people are undernourished. Thus, food security is a major issue. Pulses can contribute to meet the challenge of food security. For this reason, FAO declared year 2016 as the year of pulses <http://www.fao.org/pulses-2016/en/>.

The total cultivated area the last 5 years in the EU, according to Eurostat, is presented in the following graph:



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As regards imports and exports per person, which is the amount of imports and exports, in terms of quantity, for each individual in the total population, according to *FAO Food Security Data by Food Groups/Items, June 2012*, the top five countries



are Canada, Australia, Myanmar, Belize and France, which is respectively: 104.4kg/person/year, 33.2, 22.7, 17.6 and 10.6 kg/person/year.

In principle, this covers all movements into the country of a commodity during the reference period. It includes commercial trade, food aid granted on specific terms, donated quantities and estimates of unrecorded trade. As a general rule, figures are reported in terms of net weight, i.e. excluding the weight of the container, and it

For **Greece** this value corresponds to **0.1kg/person/year**, which is one of the lowest, considering that countries with lower values correspond approximately to zero. The bottom five are: Zimbabwe, Gambia, Eritrea, Venezuela, Cuba with zero value.

covers all movements out of the country of a commodity during the reference period.

In the EU according to Eurostat it is obvious that there was a rapid decrease of the cultivation as could be seen from the following maps:

From 1955 up to 2014 there was a rapid increase in most EU member states in the cultivation of pulses. In 2014 in production of dry pulses, France was the largest EU producer. Dry pulses are crops sown and harvested mainly for their protein content and include in particular field peas, broad and field beans, sweet lupins as well as other dry pulses such as dry beans, chick peas, lentils, vetches, etc.

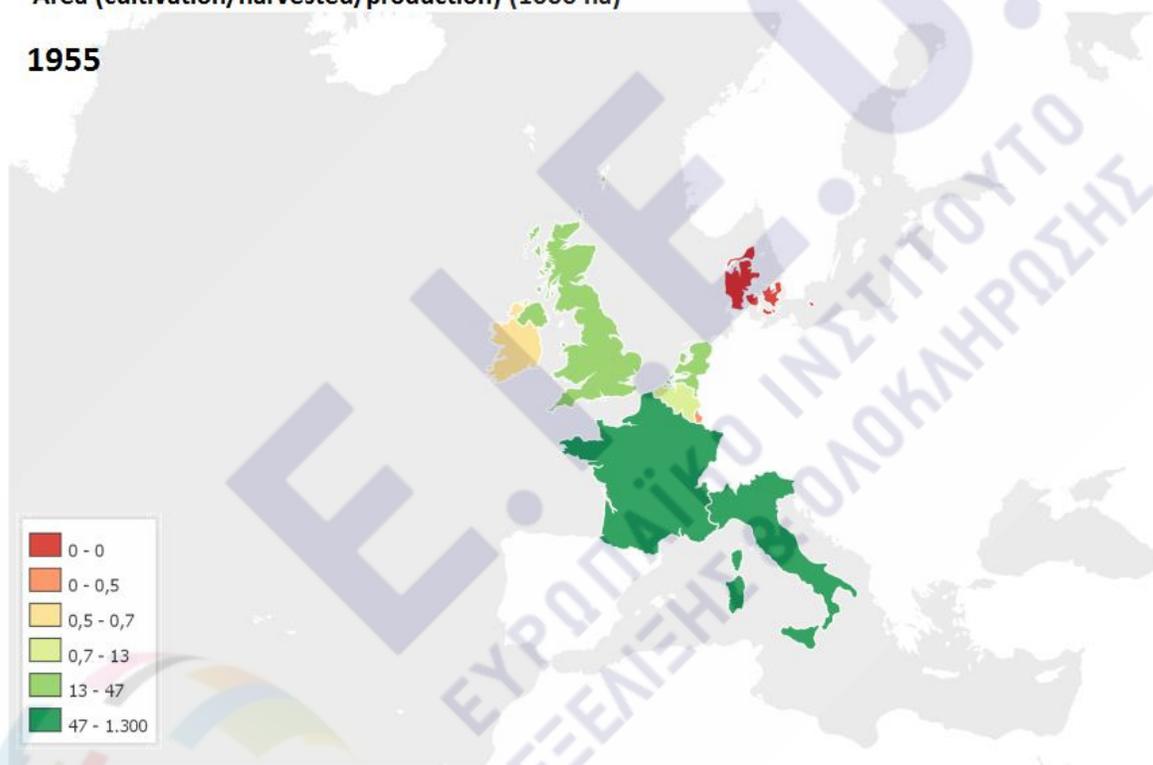
In the EU-28 in 2014, dry pulses were grown on 1.5 million hectares (1 % of total arable land) and their production reached 3.2 million tonnes. The harvested production of field peas and broad field beans was 1.3 million tonnes each. Production and area of dry pulses differed considerably between Member States.

4 In 2014, France was the largest producer of dry pulses (26.6 % of the EU-28 total). French production of field peas accounted for nearly half (41 %) of total EU-28 field peas production in 2014, followed by Germany (12.1 %) and the United Kingdom (9.8 %). The United Kingdom was the leading producer of broad and field beans in 2014, accounting for 35.1 % of the EU-28 total, followed by France (21.9 %) and Italy (10.8 %).

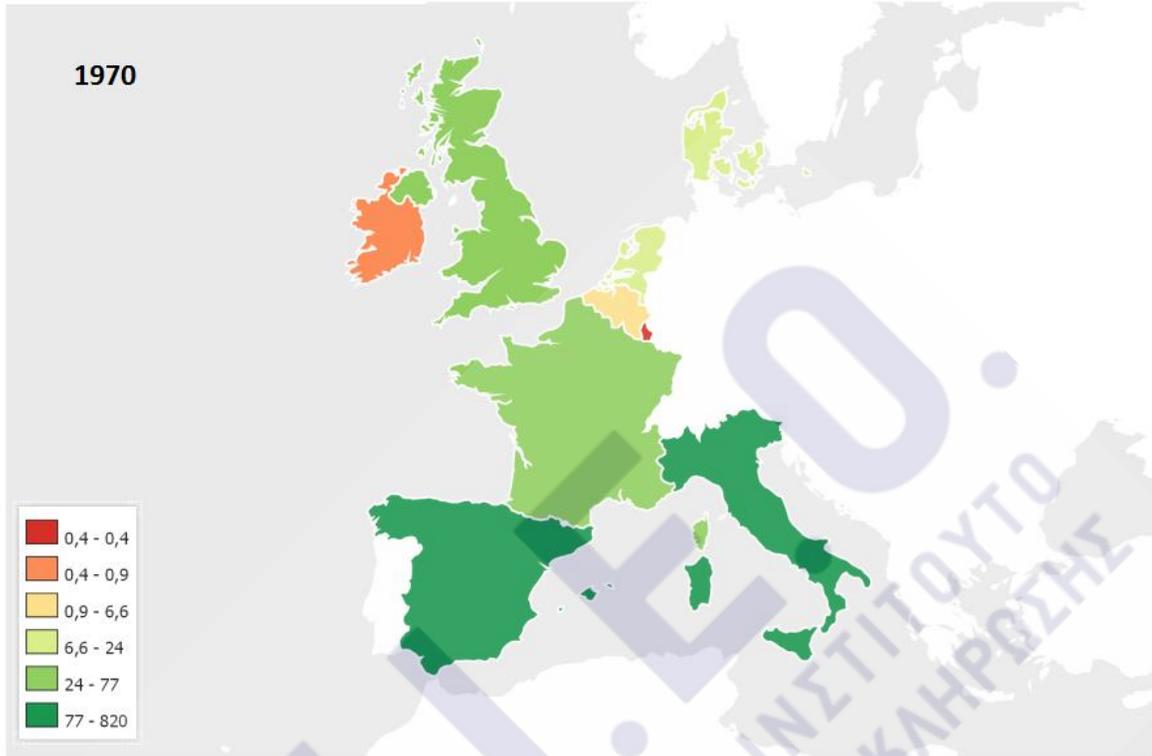
Spain alone accounted for almost one third of the total EU area of dry pulses in 2014 with over 0.4 million hectares. This was almost double the area registered in France.

Area (cultivation/harvested/production) (1000 ha)

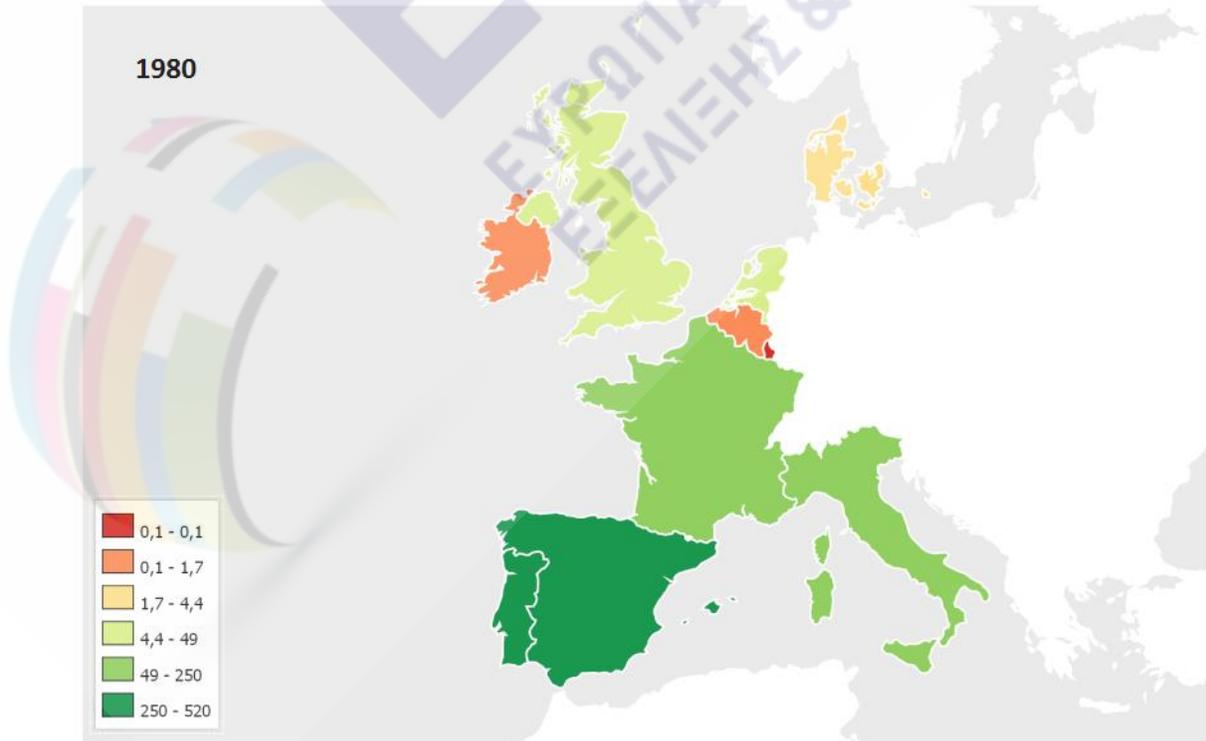
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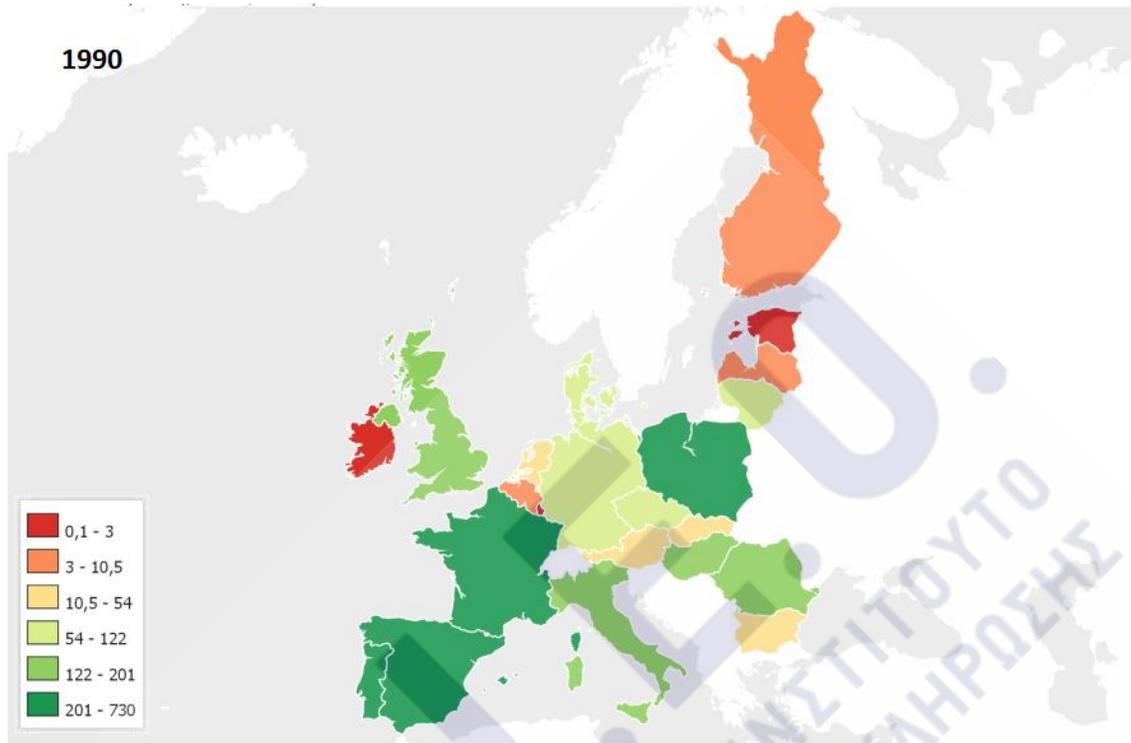
Area (cultivation/harvested/production) (1000 ha)



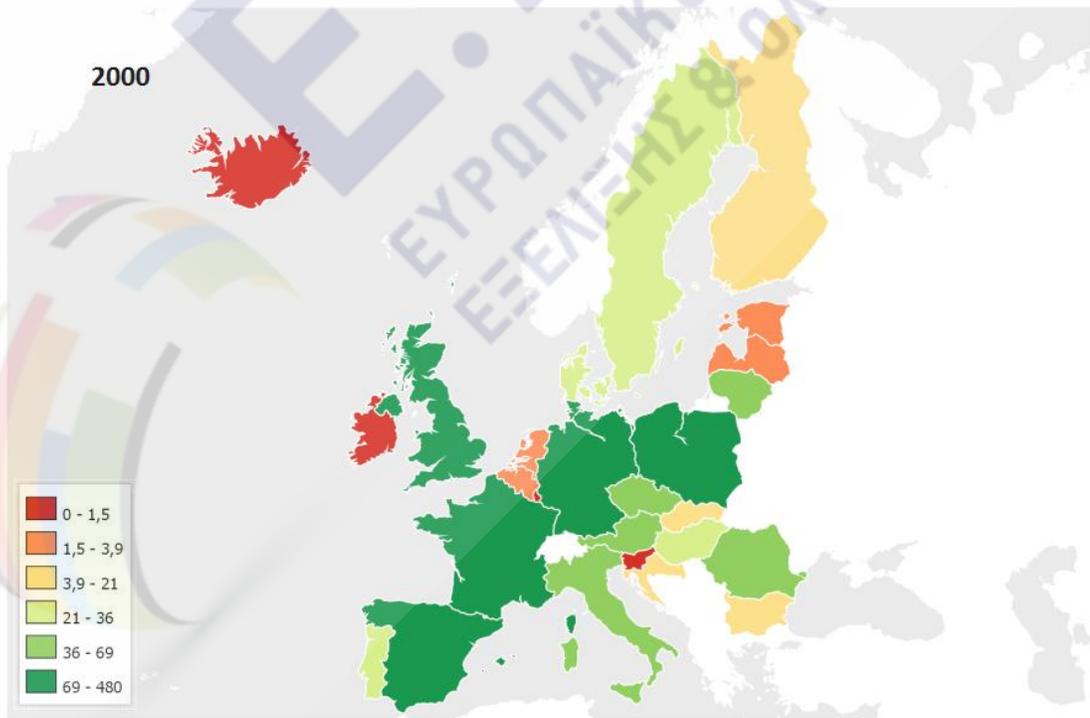
Area (cultivation/harvested/production) (1000 ha)



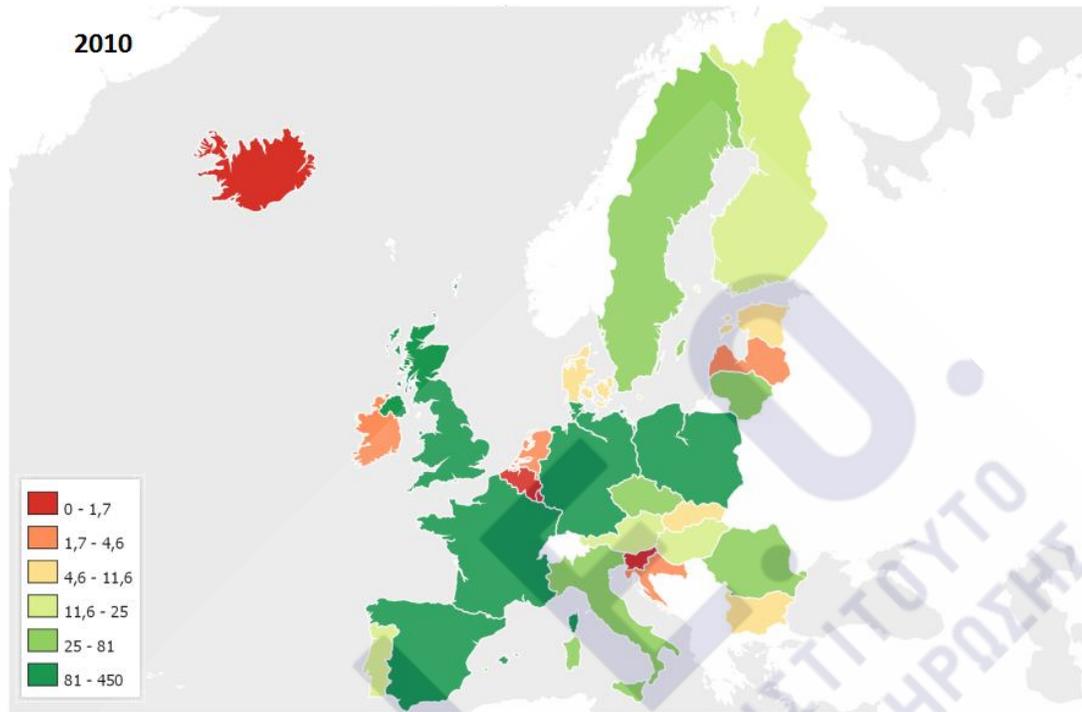
Area (cultivation/harvested/production) (1000 ha)



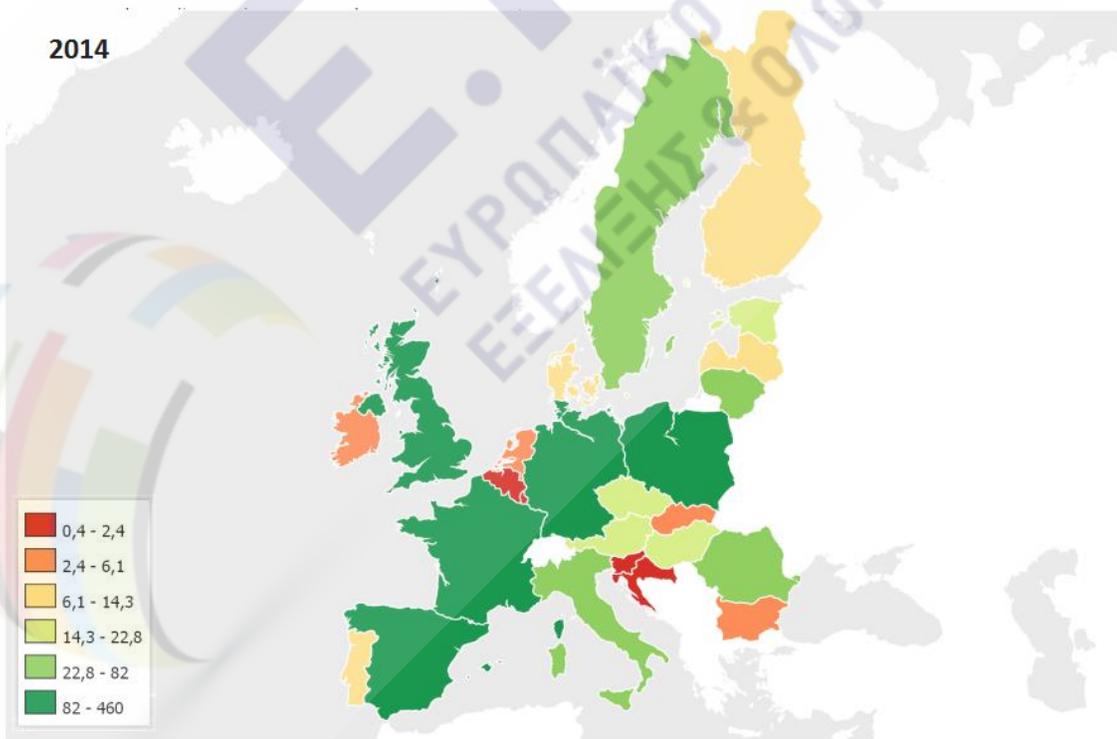
Area (cultivation/harvested/production) (1000 ha)



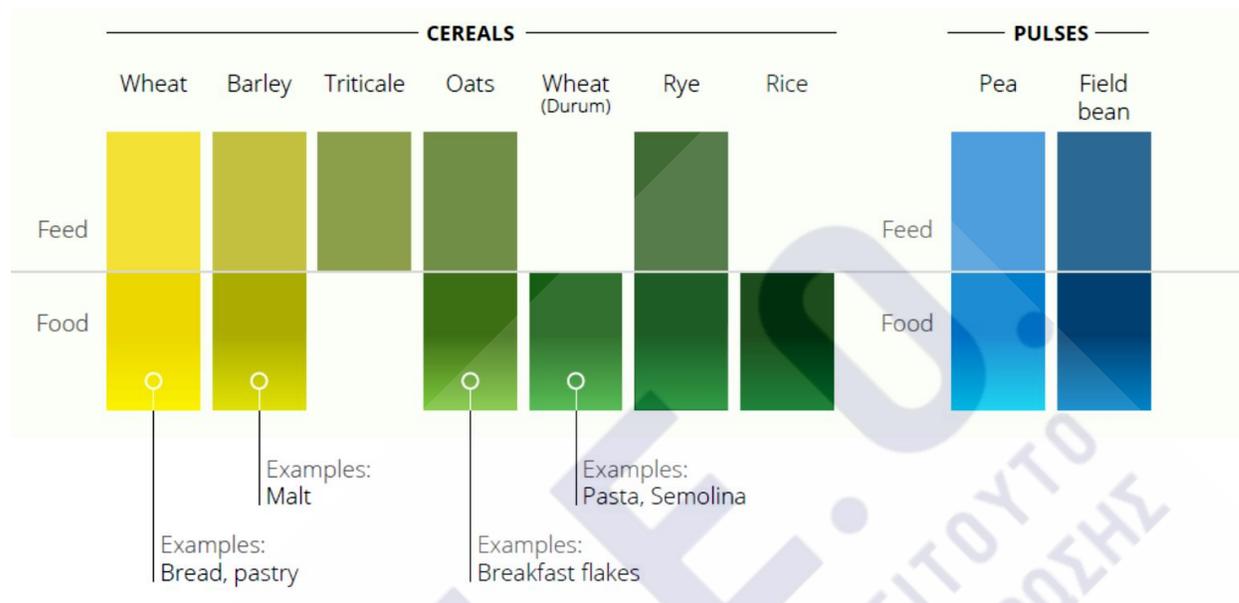
Area (cultivation/harvested/production) (1000 ha)



Area (cultivation/harvested/production) (1000 ha)



Seed production in relation to cereals and pulses (Most important crops), is described in the following diagram by the **European Seed Association (ESA)**:



ESA believes that due to the greening measures according to the new Common Agricultural Policy the area of pulse crops is expected to increase.

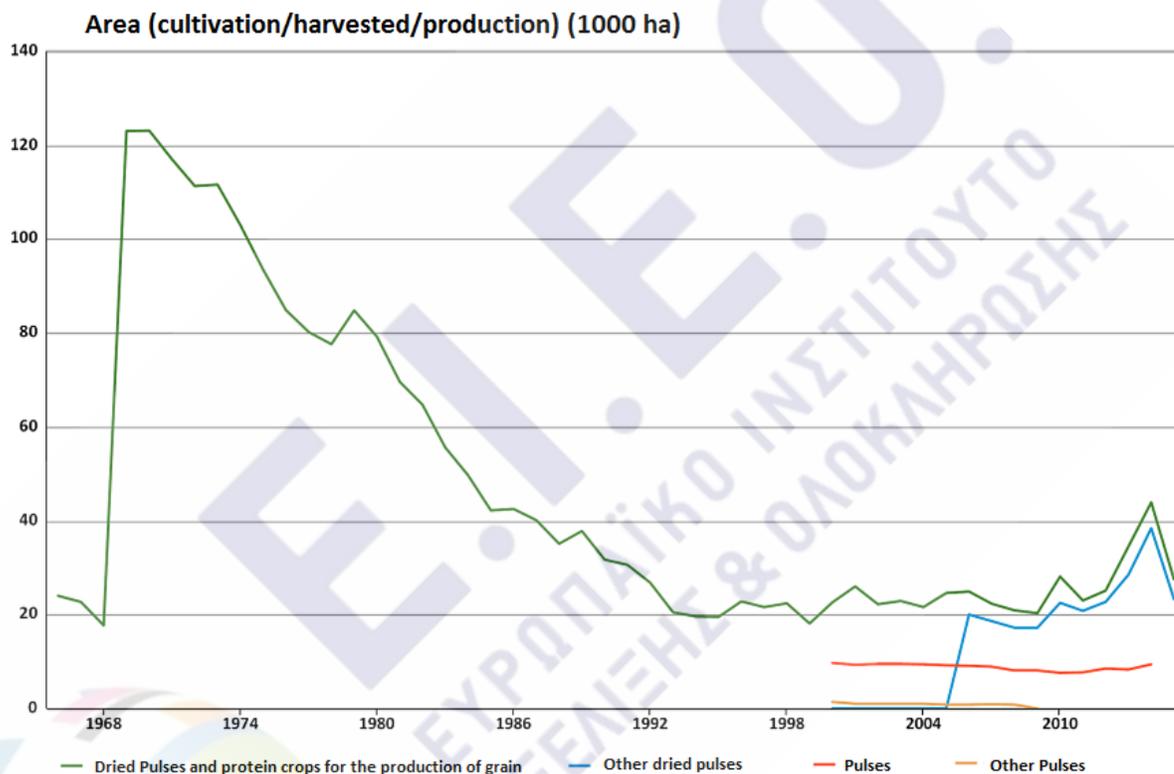
The estimated value of certified seed for sowing of cereals and pulses in the EU28 is estimated at 2.5 billion Euro. The value of commodity production of cereals and pulses in the EU28 is estimated at approximately 40 billion Euro.

Regarding the research targets in seeds breeders according to ESA are targeted improving characteristics such as protein content and specific baking qualities. Additional targets in breeding are abiotic stress factors such as lodging, drought resistance and pest resistance, in order to achieve the general goal of further yield increase in various geographies all over Europe.

## 6 Cultivation and Production of Pulses in Greece

The following graph represents the production of pulses in Greece from 1955 to 2015. It is obvious that there is a huge gap the last 30 years in the production of pulses establishing a potential to develop the sector and increase the cultivation area (Source: Eurostat).

Taking into account that the yields in 1955 were much lower than today someone could imagine the potential to increase the current production.



## References

Data obtained from the Intellectual Output O1 of the Erasmus+ KA2 VET project Green Logistics e-Training in Cereal/Rice Sector.