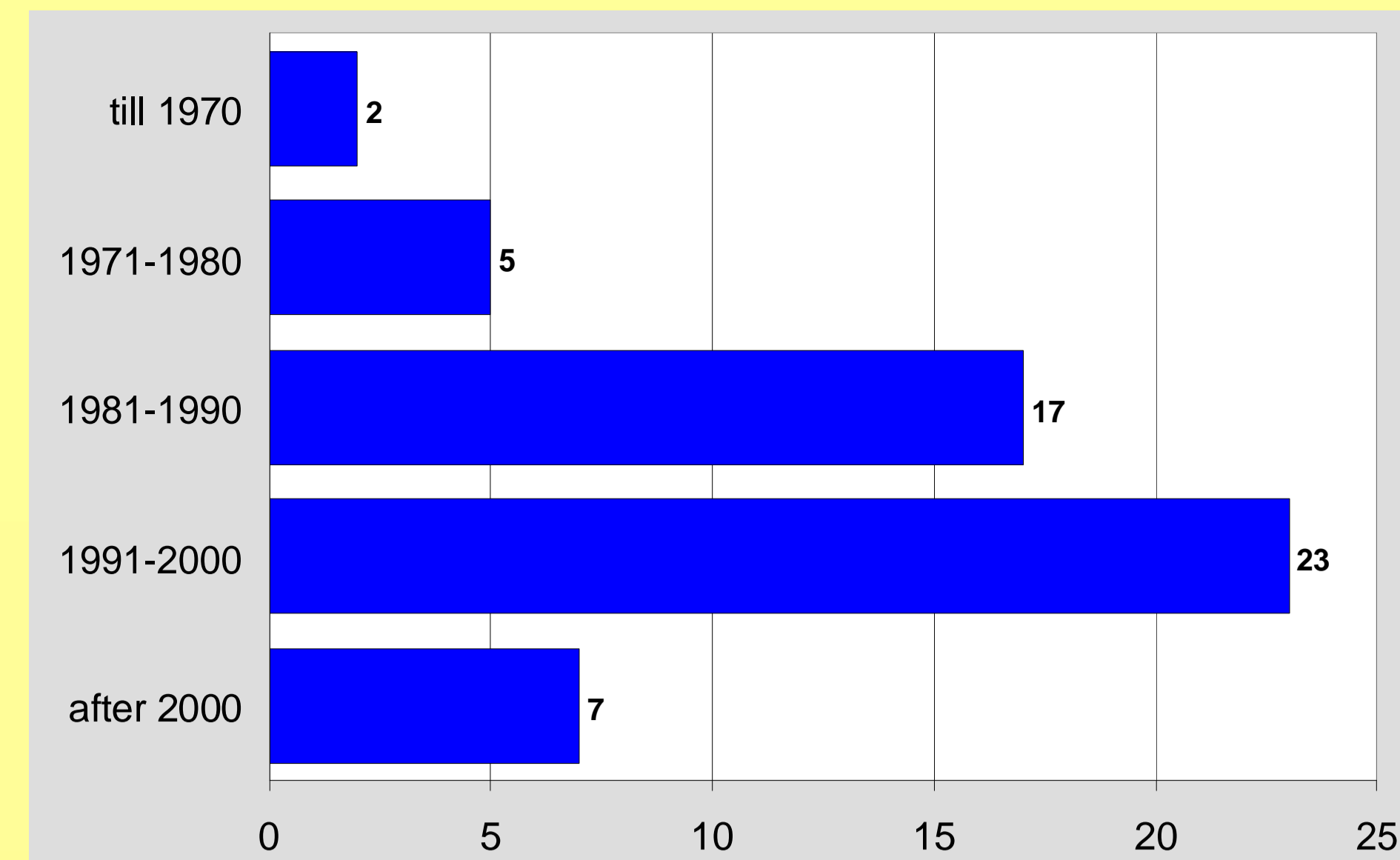
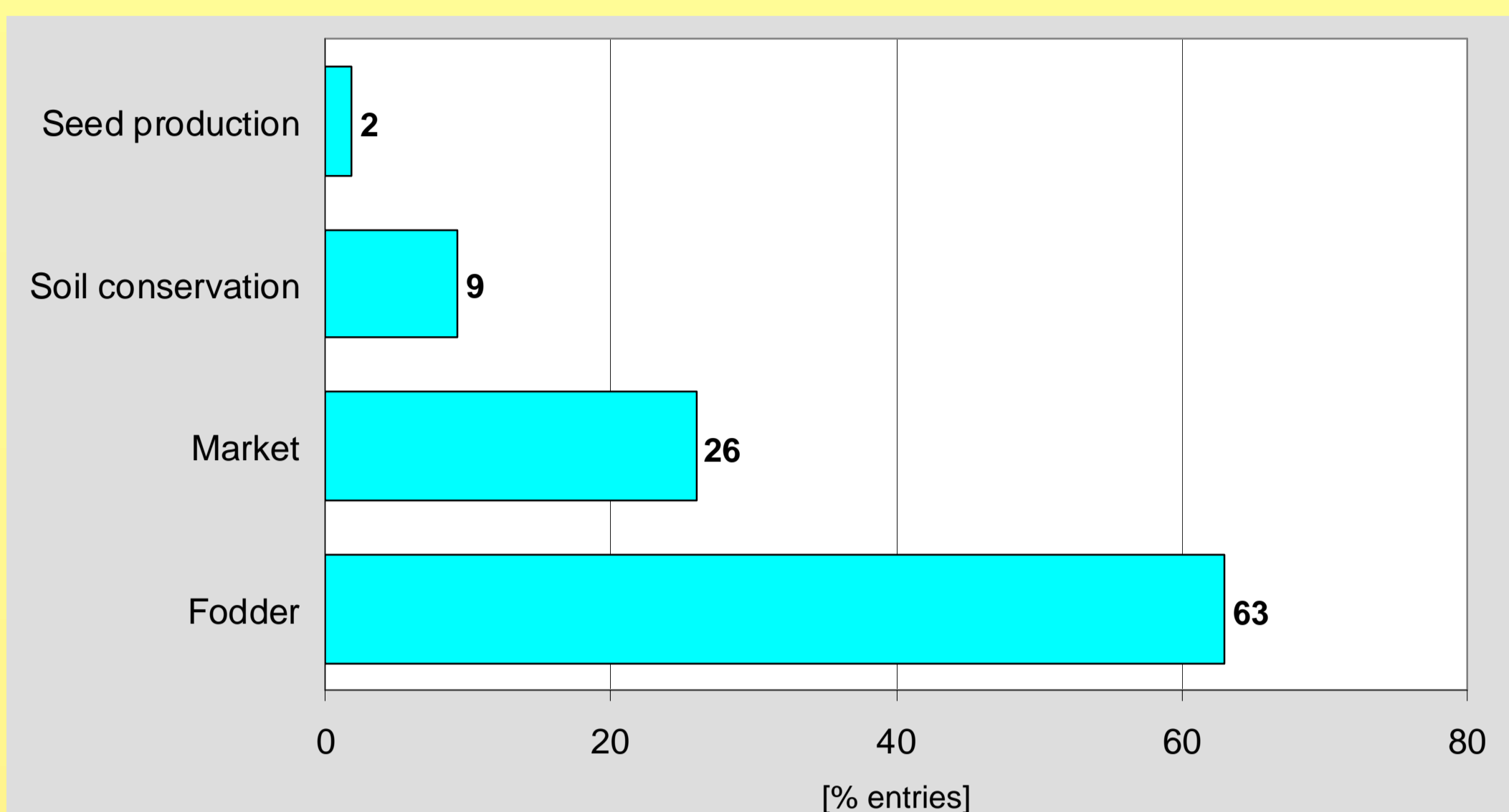


Farm survey in European countries Numbers of farms visited and farm sizes

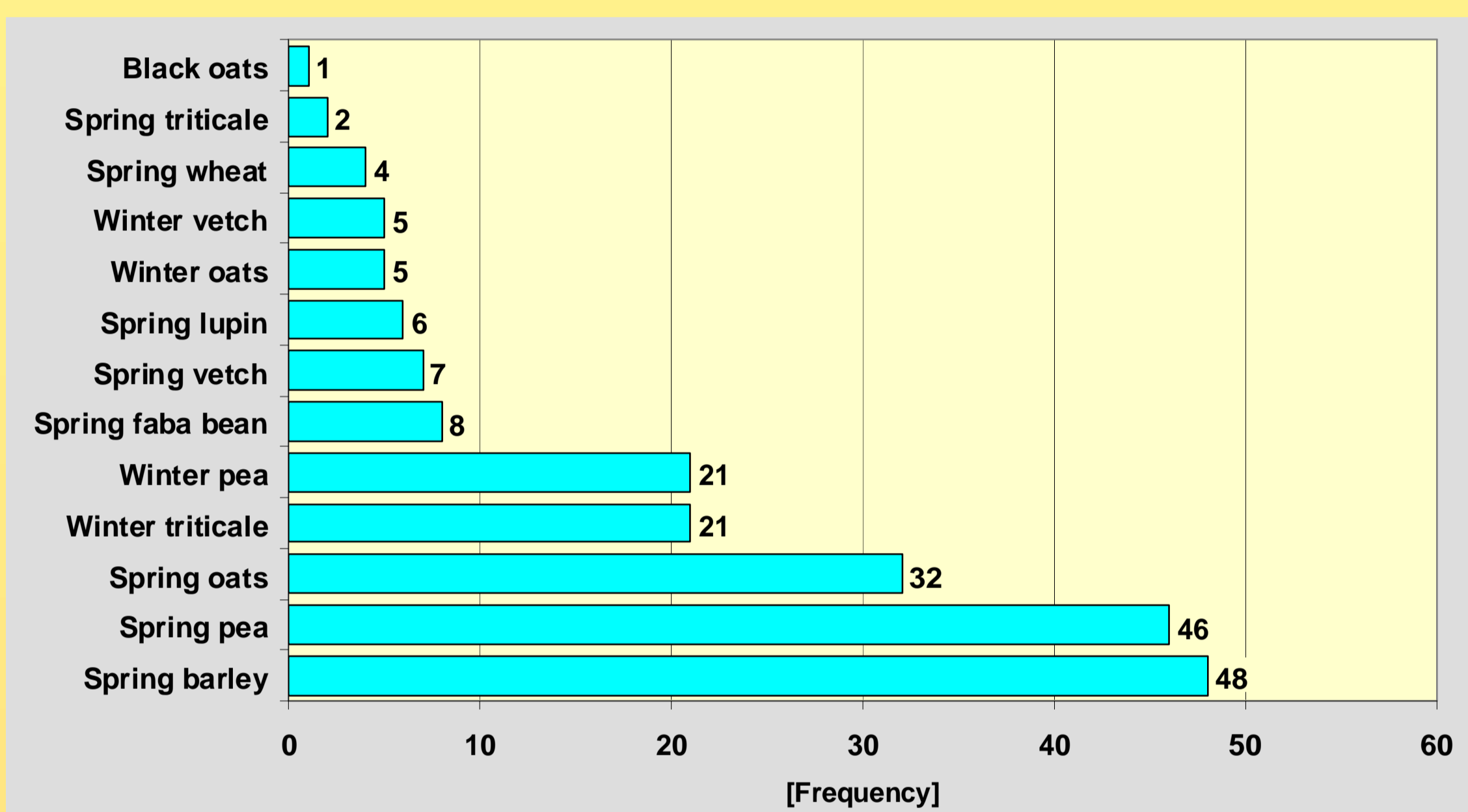
Country	Partner	Farms [N]	Farmsize [ha]	
			from	to
Denmark	1	11	28,8	357,1
United Kingdom	3	2	23,0	910,5
France	4	20	23,5	290,0
Germany	5	19	10,0	135,0
Italy	7	11	16,5	578,5



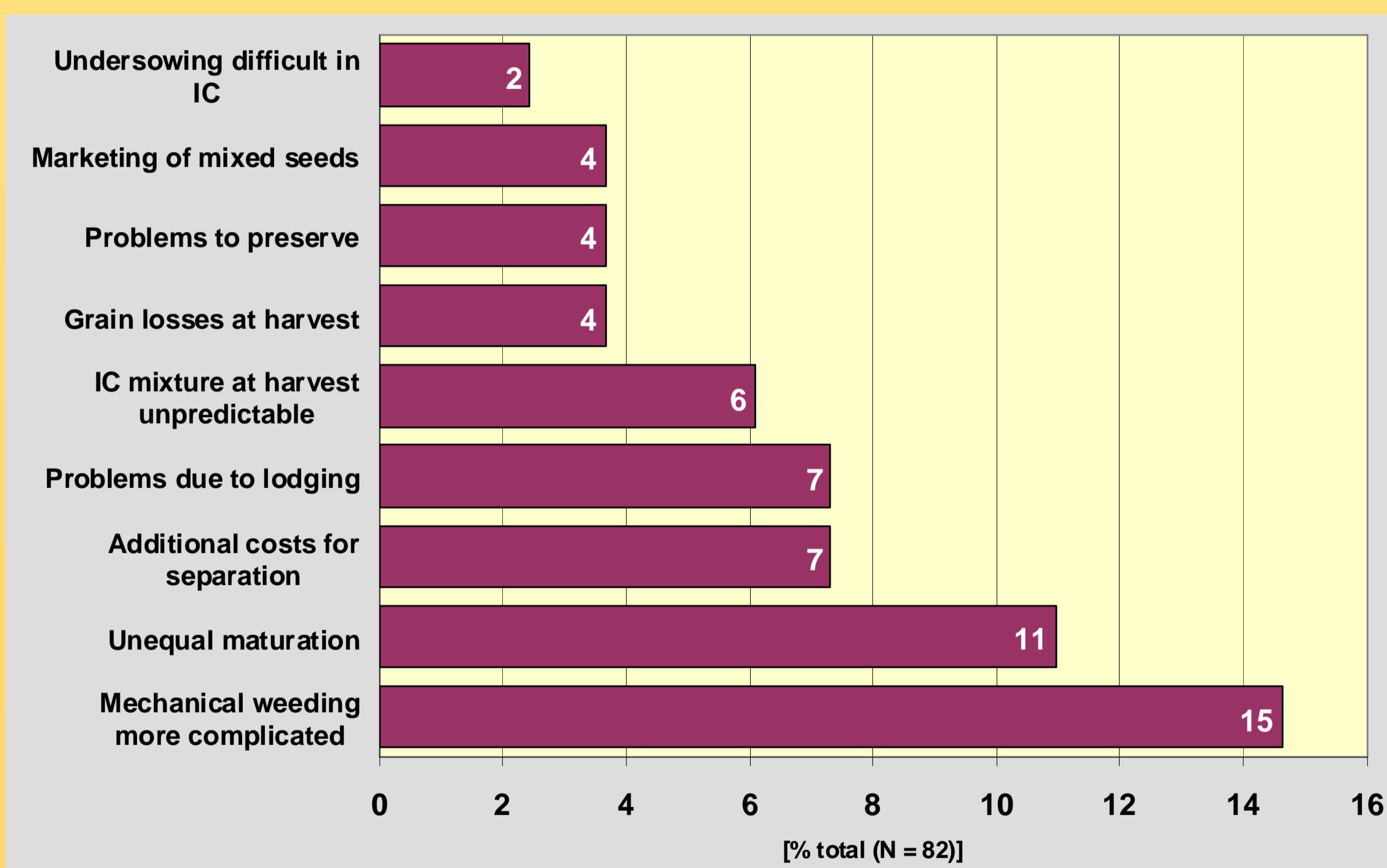
Since when was intercropping part of the crop rotation?



Reasons for the cultivation of intercrops



Components of intercrops



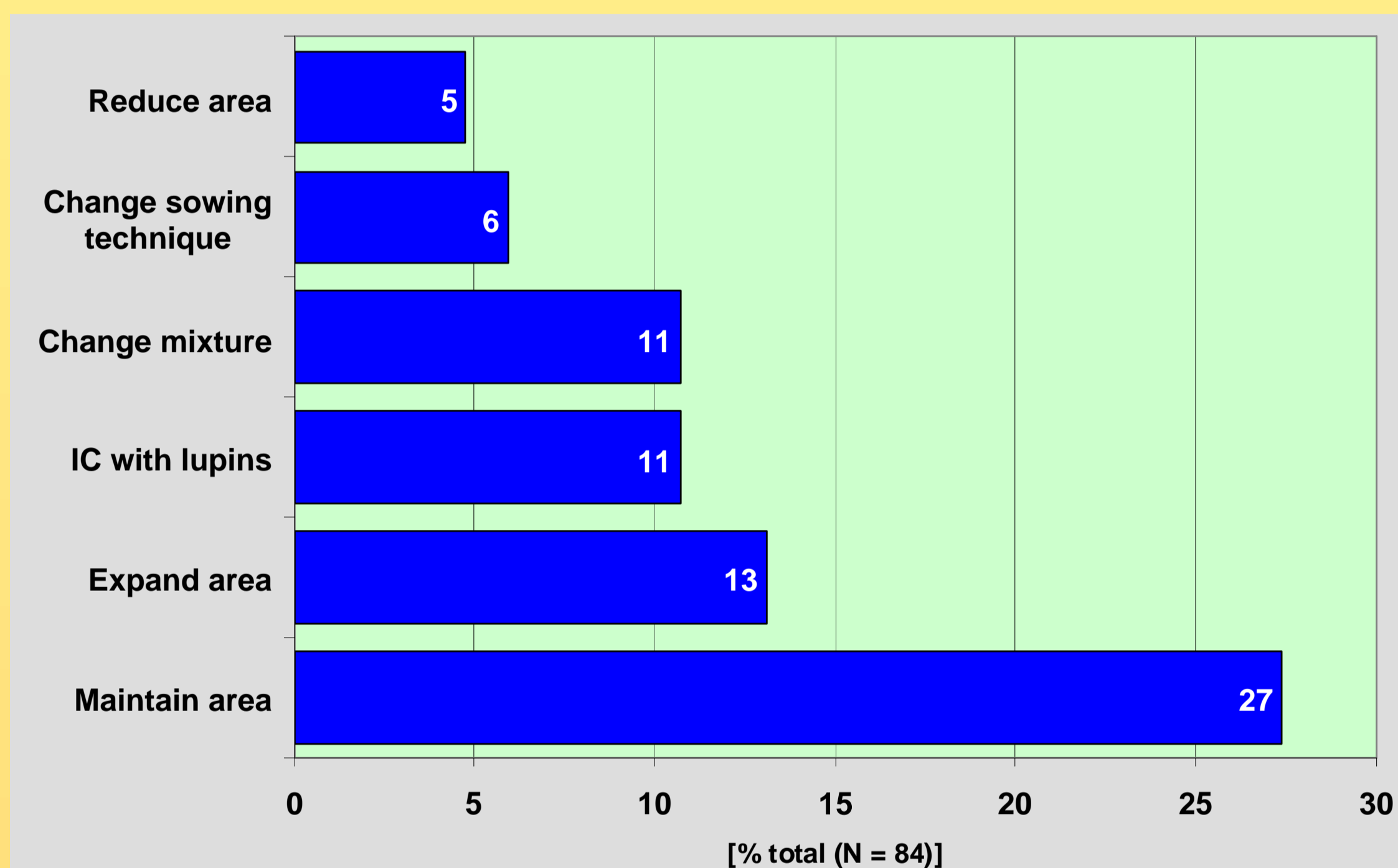
Negative comments about intercropping (N = 82)



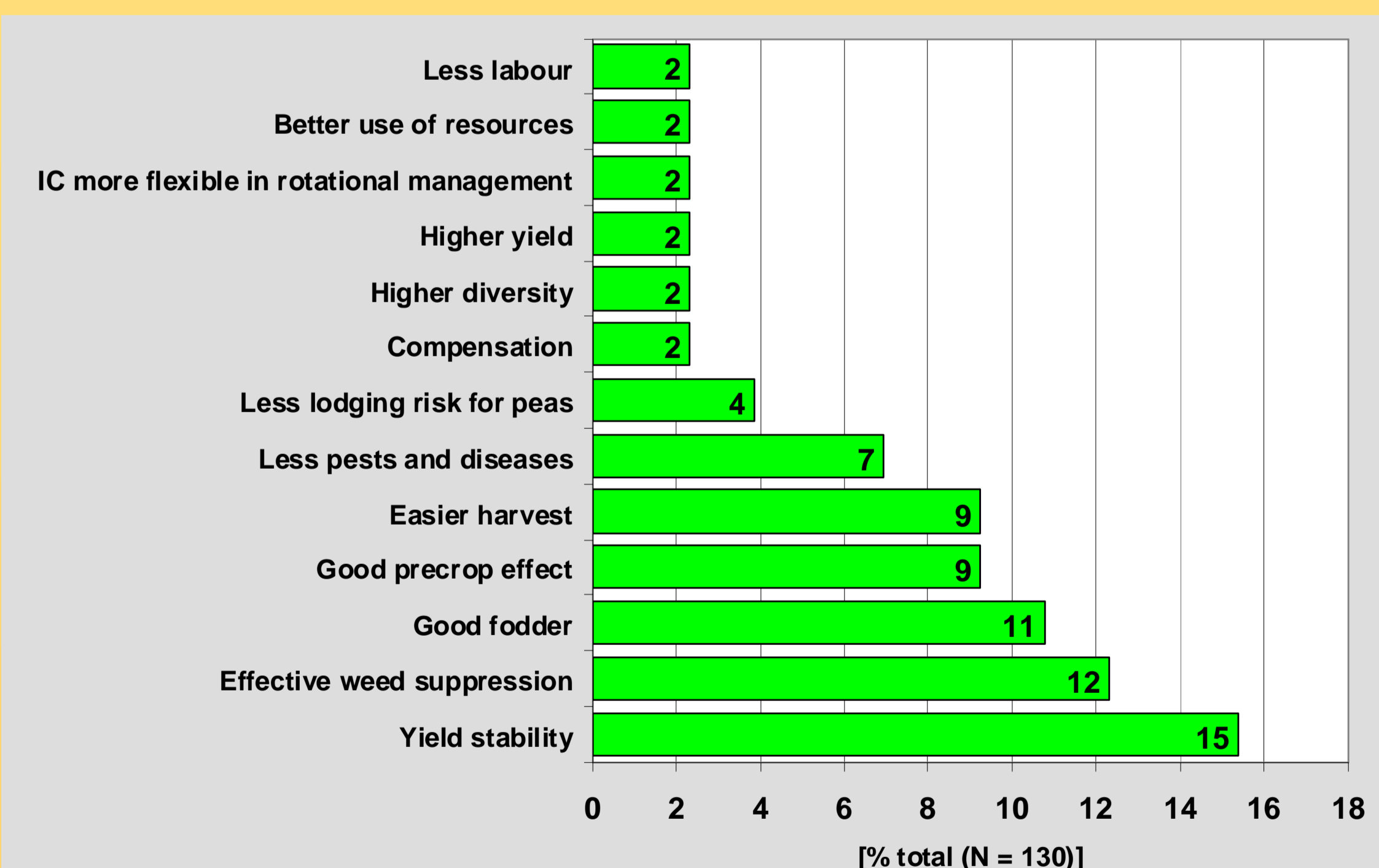
Examples for intercrops, frequency and relation to farm size and arable land (N = 89)

Intercrop	N	% farmsize		% arable land	
		min	max	min	max
winter triticale/winter pea	21	2,7	31,0	3,5	100,0
spring barley/spring pea	20	0,0	30,0	0,0	30,0
spring oats/spring barley/spring pea	10	0,0	15,0	0,0	30,8
winter oats/winter vetch	5	11,8	29,0	12,5	50,9
spring oats/spring pea	5	2,0	15,0	4,9	30,0
spring oats/spring barley	3	1,5	6,9	2,3	15,0
spring barley/spring oats/spring pea	3	1,9	21,5	2,2	5,3
spring barley/spring oats/spring vetch	2	9,2	63,1	10,2	70,0
spring barley/spring lupin	2	5,8	30,2	6,0	32,7
spring faba bean/spring pea	2	0,0	10,0	0,0	16,7
spring barley/spring oats/spring lupin	2	1,7	12,6	2,2	14,0
spring triticale/ spring pea	2	6,3	6,5	11,5	12,1
spring wheat/spring lupin	2	3,0	10,7	3,1	11,9
spring barley/spring oats/spring pea/ spring faba bean/ vetch	2	1,9	9,1	2,1	9,7
spring oats/spring faba bean	2	1,4	5,4	2,9	5,9
spring barley/spring vetch	2	0,9	2,9	1,0	2,9
spring oats/black oats/ spring barley/ spring pea	1	6,1	6,1	14,3	14,3
spring barley/spring oats/spring wheat/ spring pea	1	3,4	3,4	9,0	9,0
spring wheat/spring oats/spring faba bean	1	3,6	3,6	6,7	6,7
spring wheat/spring vetch	1	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0

0,0 equals to **not cultivated in 2003**, but years before



Prospects of intercropping (N = 84)



Positive comments about intercropping (N = 130)



Intercropping of cereals and grain legumes for increased production, weed control, improved product quality and prevention of N-losses in European organic farming systems

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Conclusions

Intercropping is a valid system for stabilizing the performance of fodder crops in quantity and quality. Due to the fact of limited weeding during the growing period the sowing design and the soil management before crop establishment is of high importance. Suitable species and cultivars for intercropping have to be selected; an interesting field for plant breeding. Technical problems like harvest losses and difficult seed purification do not seem to be unsolvable. Farmers should be encouraged and supported to choose growing systems of higher complexity, biodiversity, and stability.

