COCERAL

Presentation for EFSA STaDG-ER Meeting

"Impact of the effect of climate change on food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses as a driver to quality and safety issues"

Brussels, 8 November 2023

COCERAL

What is COCERAL?

COCERAL is the European association of trade in cereals, oilseeds, pulses, olive oil, oils and fats, animal feed and agrosupply.
It represents the interest of the European collectors, traders, importers, exporters and port silo storekeepers of the above-mentioned agricultural products.

With almost 3,000 companies as part of COCERAL's national members, the sector trades a considerable volume of agricultural raw materials destined to the supply of the food and feed chains, as well as for technical and energy uses.

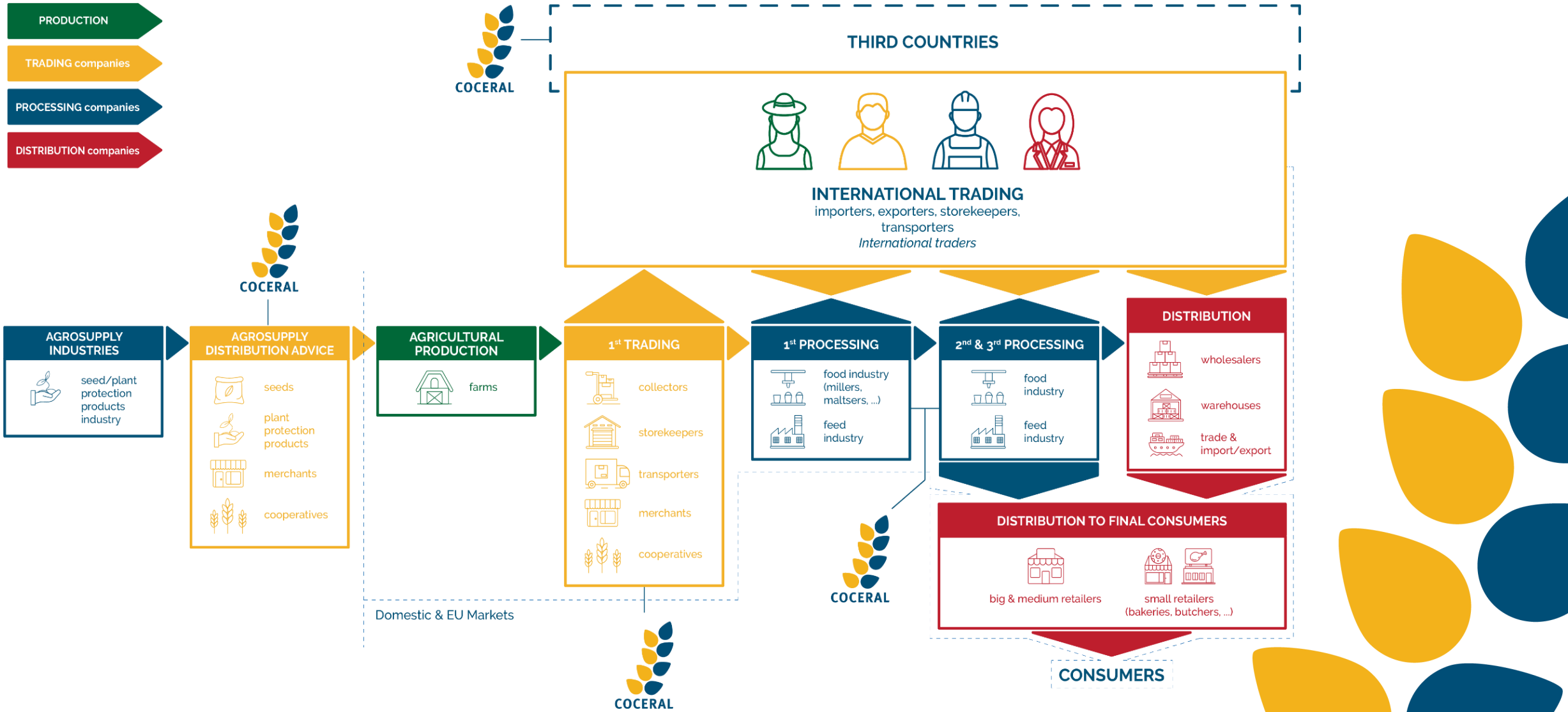
Mission:
to ensure that its members can operate within a policy environment (at EU and International level) that does not hinder trade, while promoting strategies for the supply of safe food ingredients and feed raw materials for downstream industries and consumers.

COCERAL members

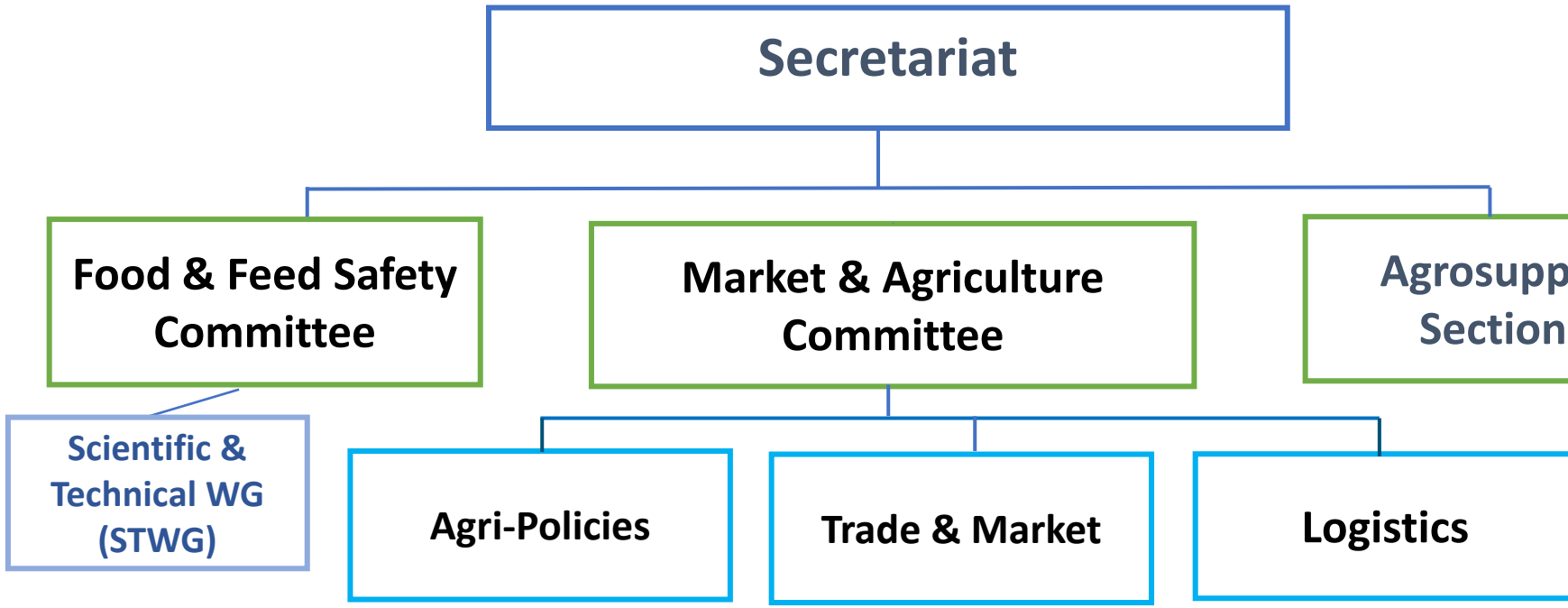
- 20 national trade associations
- 16 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden) + UK, Switzerland
- 15 corporate members: ADM, Ameropa, Bunge, Cargill, Cefetra, Cerealcom, CHS, Copenhagen Merchants, InVivo, LDC, Schepens & co, Vanden Avenne Commodities, Viterra, Zitni Terminals.
- Associate member: UNISTOCK – agri commodities port silos
- Extraordinary member: GAFTA
- Service Agreement with Ukrainian Grain Association (UGA)

FOOD & FEED CHAIN

COCERAL Representation



COCERAL Structure



Sustainability WG* ⟷ Biotech WG*

Organic WG ⟷ Feed Safety Advocacy WG

*Joint with Fediol

COCERAL Activities (1)

Intelligence

- S&D analysis, crop forecasts, information and anticipation of policy and regulatory developments
- Data collection on storage insecticides and mycotoxin management strategies
- Regular updates on discussions taking place in the European Parliament's Plenary Sessions and relevant Committees, which debate EU policy proposals.

Advocacy

- Constant interaction with EU officials and MEPs to convince them to take the interests of traders into account when making legislative decisions
- Active involvement in EU stakeholder meetings – Trade SPS, EFSA, Commission Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs), etc.
- Close cooperation with other associations along the value chain and building of alliances across the supply chain
- Interaction with third country Embassies to the EU to understand their perspectives on EU policy and own plans on trade policy
- Interaction with non-EU based trade associations with the objective of cooperating to maintain free trade flows
- Observer Status in the Codex Alimentarius
- Registered stakeholder with EFSA (since 2019), and member of the STADG-ER (since 2023)
- Active participation in CELCAA (representing retail and wholesale of agri and agri-food products)
- Active participation in IGTC (International Global Trade Coalition)
- Other..

COCERAL Activities (2)

- **Analysis**
  - Debriefing members on upcoming policy and legislative proposals and their potential impact on trade
  - Translating decision-making and implementation of EU legislation into practical concepts
- **Education**
  - Educating EU institutions and other policy makers on the essential role of traders in food security and each of their activities along the supply chain
  - Translating decision-making and implementation procedures into practical concepts
- **Communication**
  - Communication to members through daily updates by emails and a monthly Newsletter
  - Communication to policy makers through Twitter @COCERAL_EU, and LinkedIn posts, with almost daily tweets, #DidYouKnow Wednesdays, #MonthlyCOCERAL, and targeted campaigns
- **Workshops, Seminars & Field trips**
  - Regular guest speakers from EU institutions and adjacent sectors to trade in COCERAL meetings, to discuss specific issues and find joint solutions to policy challenges
  - Field trips to Strasbourg's EU Parliament for face-to-face meetings with Members of the Parliament
  - Seminars on Organic production, Official controls, NGTs, etc.

(some of) COCERAL outputs

- Creation and regularly update of Databases *(only available for members):*
  - COCERAL (EU) contaminants tracker
  - COCERAL PPP database
  - COCERAL (EU) PPP/MRL tracker
  - COCERAL mycotoxins and contaminants database *(only for Secretariat use*)*
- Publication of guidelines and reports *(publicly available in COCERAL website)*:
  - COCERAL crop forecast
  - COCERAL mycotoxins management strategy (biannual) reports
  - COCERAL-UNISTOCK-COGECA European Guide to Good Hygiene Practices
- Other intelligence sharing exercises *(only available for members):*
  - Joint COCERAL-FEDIOL-FEFAC overview of national official control policies on Salmonella in feed materials and compound feed
  - Joint COCERAL-FEDIOL-FEFAC overview of GM traits not yet authorized in the EU at risk for trade disruptions
  - Scientific information from EFSA (COCERAL is registered stakeholder and member of their Emerging risks Group)

Impact of the effect of climate change on food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses as a driver to quality and safety issues

- Some key considerations*:*
  - effect of climate change might impact **in unpredictable way** food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses, throughout altered capacity to produce and deliver food and feed of minimum quality and safety standards, at a time when analytical performance criteria are improving, with an ongoing decrease of limit of detection for several agricultural contaminants, including mycotoxins
  - More studies might be needed to evaluate the impacts on food and feed security and safety.

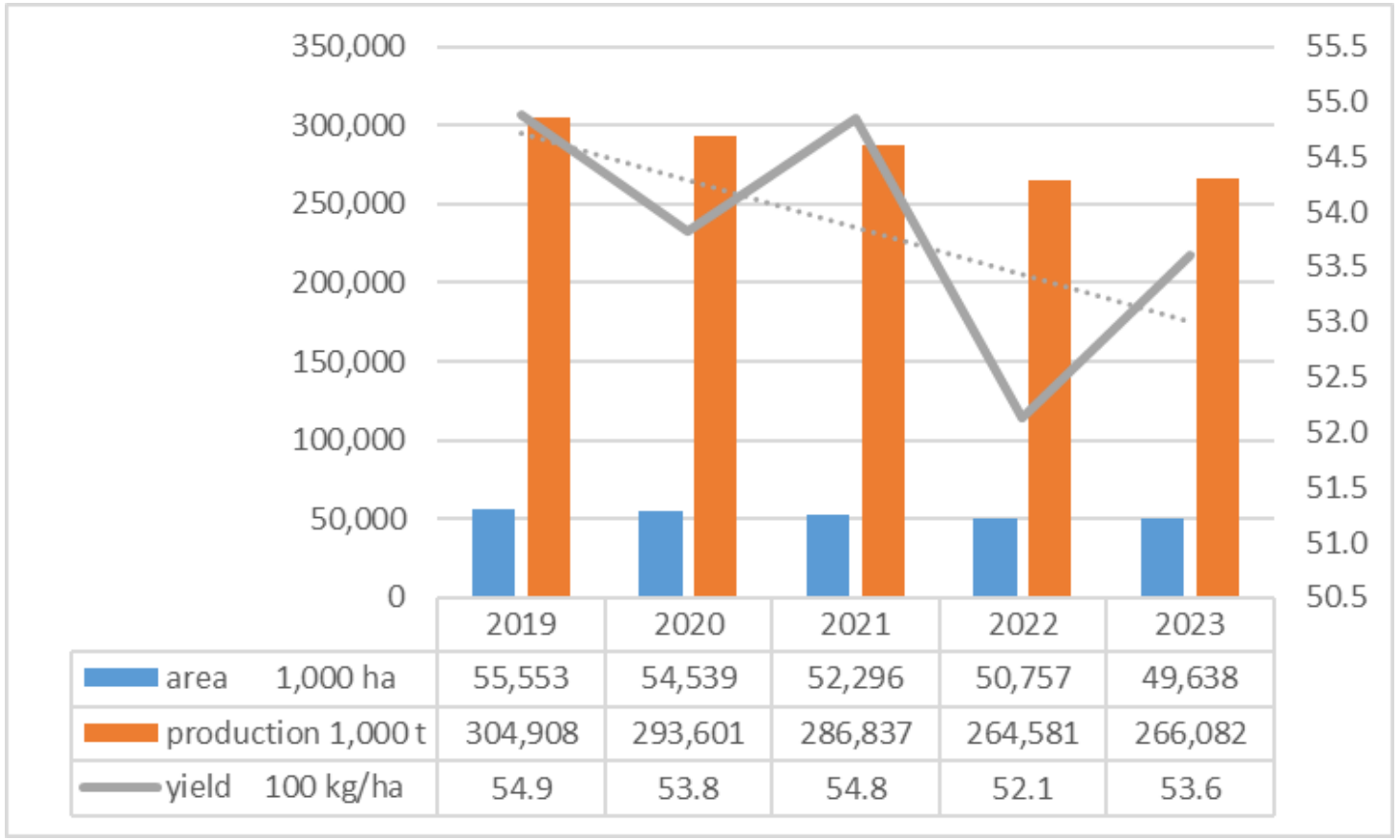
- What could be the potential impact on humans, animals, and the environment? *(economic indicators)*
  1. Changes in crop yields, hence rentability of farm operations in some parts of the world and the EU (depending on unpredictable change in weather patterns).
  2. Changes in crop patterns (use of different crops and cultivars, more adapt to changed agri-environmental conditions)
  3. Changes in international and EU trade patterns for grains, oilseeds and pulses

Impact of the effect of climate change on food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses as a driver to quality and safety issues

- What could be potential impacts on human and animal health, and the environment? *(other indicators)*
  1. Climate change can impact water quality, and contaminated water sources used for irrigation or processing can introduce pathogens and contaminants. This might lead to an increase in prevalence of different agricultural contaminants, which might not be fully predicted (depending on unpredictable changes in weather patterns)
  2. Climate change may increase the presence of pests and diseases in crops (in the field).
  3. Climate change can affect the conditions in which grains are stored. Increased temperature and humidity can create a favourable environment for the growth of moulds and bacteria in storage facilities leading to spoilage and contamination of grains, oilseeds (and their by-products) and pulses
  4. Climate change can alter the nutritional content of grains. Increased CO_2 levels in the atmosphere can lead to a decrease in the concentration of essential nutrients like iron, zinc, and protein in some grains, which can have adverse effects on human nutrition*

Impact of the effect of climate change on food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses as a driver to quality and safety issues

- Data from COCERAL's crop forecast (last 5 years) – grains (EU 27 + UK)

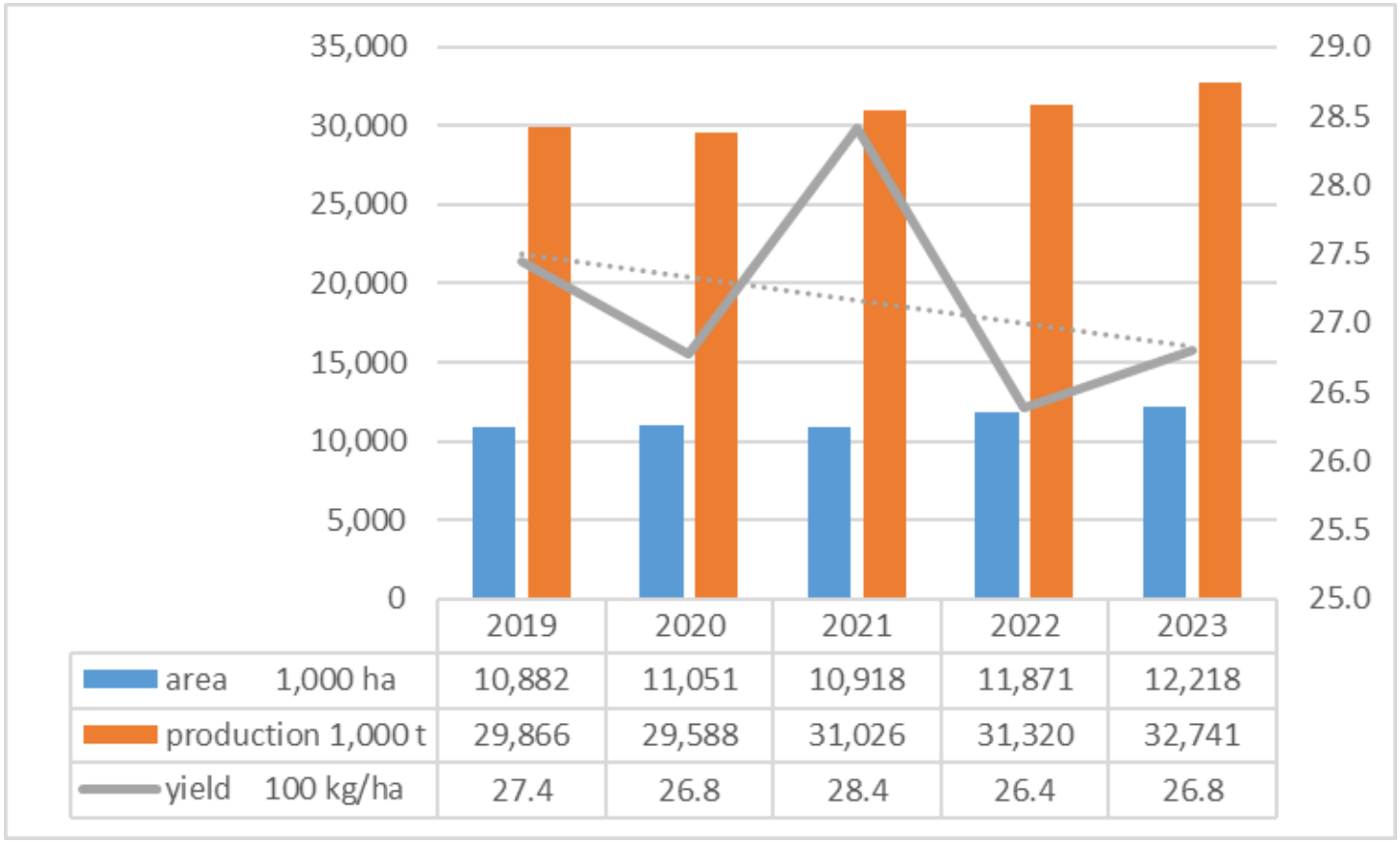


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
area 1,000 ha	55,553	54,539	52,296	50,757	49,638
production 1,000 t	304,908	293,601	286,837	264,581	266,082
yield 100 kg/ha	54.9	53.8	54.8	52.1	53.6

- Our data show a declining trend in EU grains yields, due to different factors such as:
  - Abundant rains during the planting season
  - Hot and dry weather during pollination
  - Extreme heat and drought during the vegetative phase (Southern Europe)

Impact of the effect of climate change on food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses as a driver to quality and safety issues

- Data from COCERAL's crop forecast (last 5 years) – oilseeds (EU 27 + UK)



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
area 1,000 ha	10,882	11,051	10,918	11,871	12,218
production 1,000 t	29,866	29,588	31,026	31,320	32,741
yield 100 kg/ha	27.4	26.8	28.4	26.4	26.8

- Our data show also a lighter (than for grains) decline trend in EU oilseeds yields

Impact of the effect of climate change on food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses as a driver to quality and safety issues

- Climate change and effects on mycotoxins prevalence and co-occurrence (actions, and challenges by grain collectors and traders)
  1. Sampling and testing protocols are integrated part of the traders' routine in view of ensuring the safety of raw materials against presence of mycotoxins (see next slide to see the details of most tested ones)
  2. International recognised standards for sampling are followed as a general practice together with the EU legislation and other internal/contractual methods drafted in collaboration with multiple organizations to be consistent with the worldwide, EU included, operators' practices
  3. Particular years of incidence lead to strengthened monitoring and increased frequency of analysis, **and subsequent recalls in case EU regulatory levels for food and feed are exceeded.**
  4. Challenges
     - Mycotoxins are not uniformely distributed, neither within the content of the cargoes nor in the collected samples (Importance of using international recognized sampling methods)
     - Reliability of quick tests for mycotoxins detection
     - Co-occurrence of several mycotoxins (also in combination with other contaminants)

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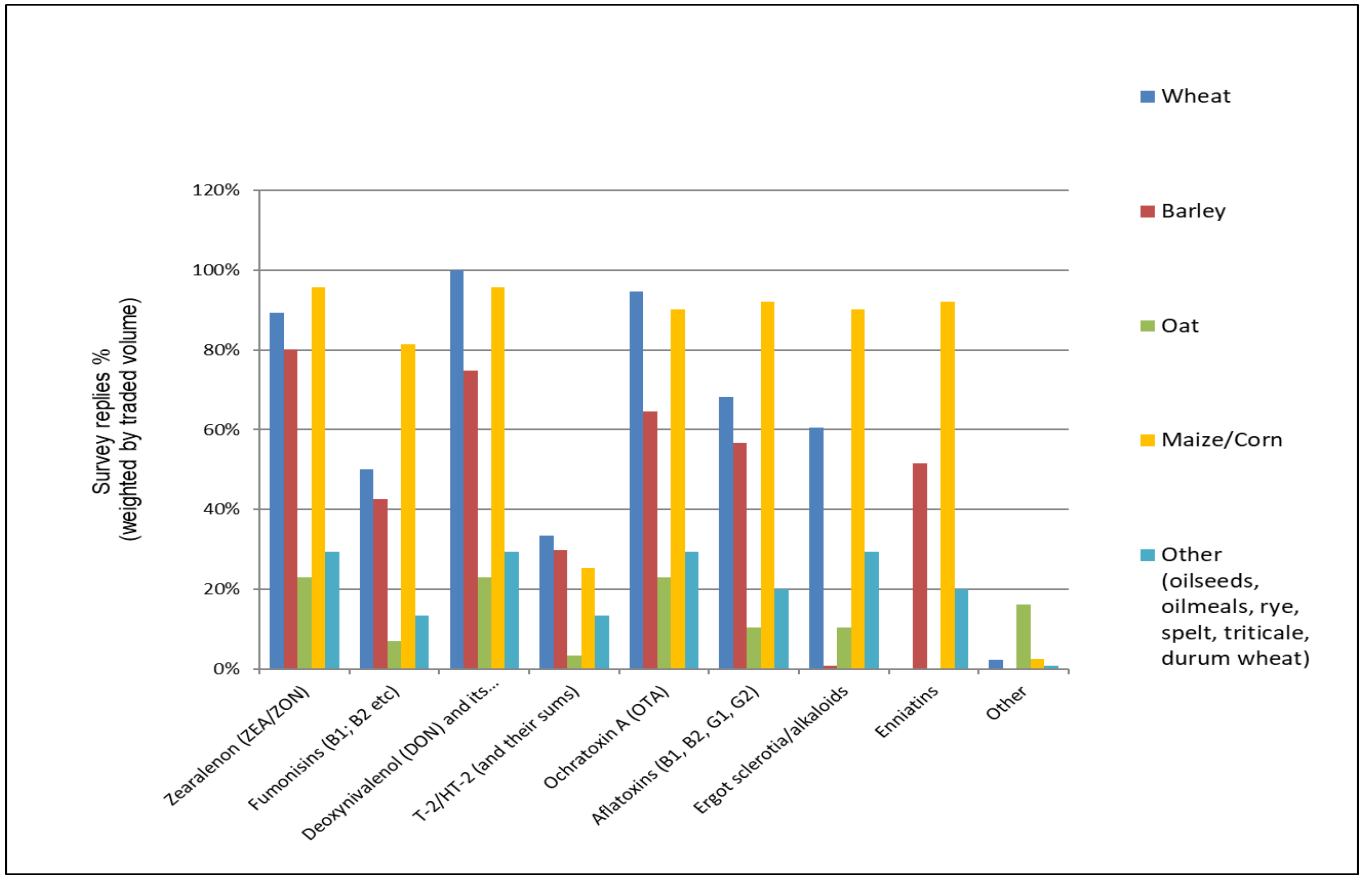

- Most frequently tested mycotoxins (survey 2021), showing the complexity of mycotoxins sampling and testing practices our members need to adopt to meet EU food and feed safety regulatory (and customer) standards

Impact of the effect of climate change on food security and trade patterns for grains/oilseeds/pulses as a driver to quality and safety issues

- Climate change and effects on mycotoxins prevalence and co-occurrence (actions, and challenges by grain collectors and trader)
  1. An increased prevalence and occurrence of mycotoxins will lead to unpredictable food and feed safety issues, and the huge economic repercussions for our members (increased sampling, testing, recalls, rejections etc.), leading ultimately to food and feed insecurity at EU and international level.
  2. To this extent, our next edition (2023) of the COCERAL Mycotoxins management strategy report will try to dig into the challenges brought by climate change, by asking our members to estimate which mycotoxins might become more prevalent in the future (next 10 years) in the country/ies where they source grains and oilseeds, also in relationship with effect of climate change. This report, and its findings, when ready, will be shared with EFSA and STaDGER members.
  3. More cooperation with the EFSA CLimate change and Emerging risks for Food SAfety (CLEFSA), the scientific community, and other STaDGER members, is sought, especially regarding the forecast models to understand how climate change effects and mycotoxins prevalence and co-occurrence are related

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