



**Bio
Monitor
4CAP**

The Future of Farmland Biodiversity and Ideal Farming Future: Farmers-Advisor Perspectives

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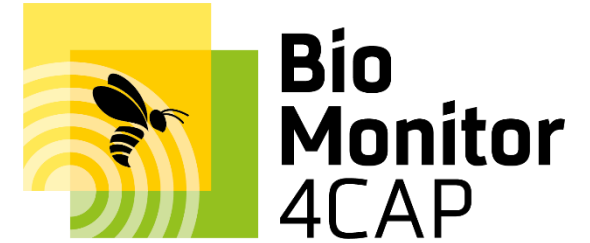
Agriculture is a major driver of biodiversity loss (IPBES).

Strategic documents on biodiversity

- EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Farm-to-Fork Strategy
- Finnish National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan 2024-2035

How is the future of farmland biodiversity perceived by farmers and agricultural advisors?

Research background



❖ BioMonitor4CAP project

❖ Workpackage 4 "Socio-economic proofing of agrobiodiversity measures"

❖ Farmers play a key role in protecting farmland biodiversity (Klebl et al., 2024)

❖ Research on farmers' perceptions on farmland biodiversity includes

❖ **Different perspectives and meanings** (Kelemen et al., 2013; Allen et al., 2018; Moroder & Kernecker, 2022; Klebl et al., 2024).

❖ **Identification of the causes of biodiversity loss and views about conservation practices** (Kelemen et al., 2013; Wezel et al., 2021)

❖ **Farmers' knowledge about soil diversity and ecosystem services provided by insects** scarcely studied (Pauli et al., 2016; Rawluk & Saunder, 2019).

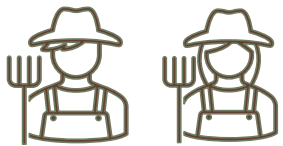
Theoretical approach

- ❖ **Socio-ecological transition** (Loorbach et al., 2017; Brand & Wissen, 2017; Feola & Jaworska, 2019; Elnaklah & AlWaer, 2024) **for enhancing farmland biodiversity**
 - ❖ Examines the **ability of the (agricultural) system to change**
 - ❖ Transition is hindered by **lock-ins** such as institutional structures in the system (Kuokkanen et al., 2017)
 - ❖ **Resilience: capacity** of a system to **absorb disorder and reorganize** while maintaining its core identity (Folke et al., 2010).
- ❖ **Socio-ecological transition as a research perspective**
 - ❖ What are participants' views on ideal future for farming? What are the implications of these views for socio-ecological transition?

Focus group interviews

November-December 2023, 2h/interview, 164 pages transcribed

Five focus groups

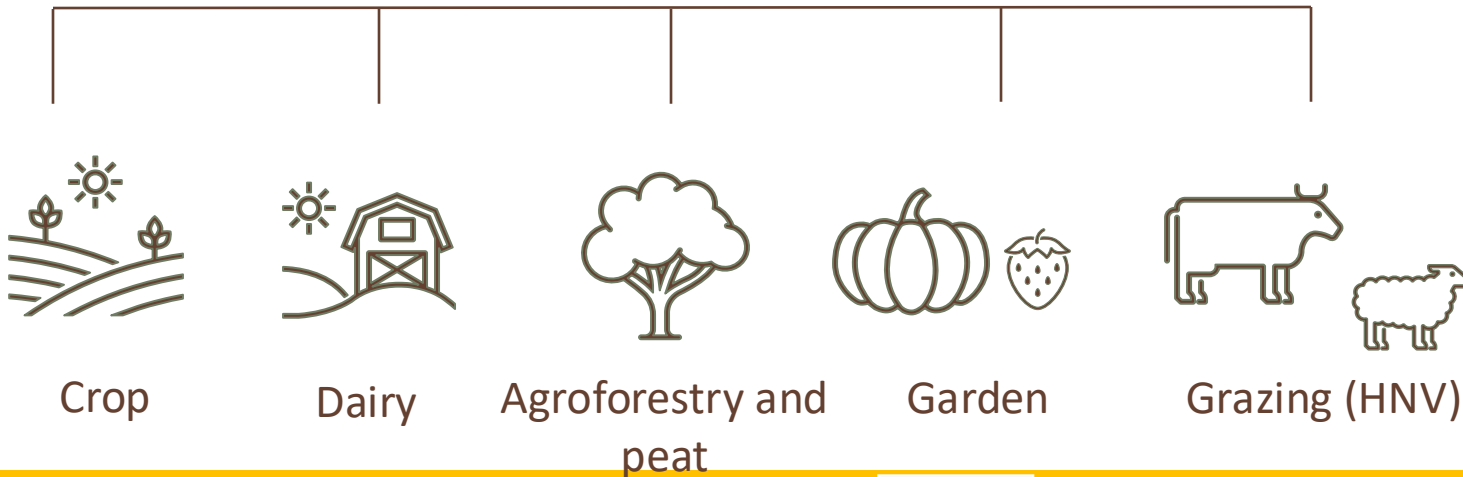


2 farmers 2 advisors

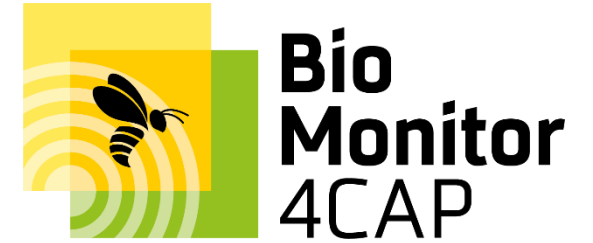


- ❖ 21 participants (10 men, 11 women)
- ❖ 6 conventional, 9 organic

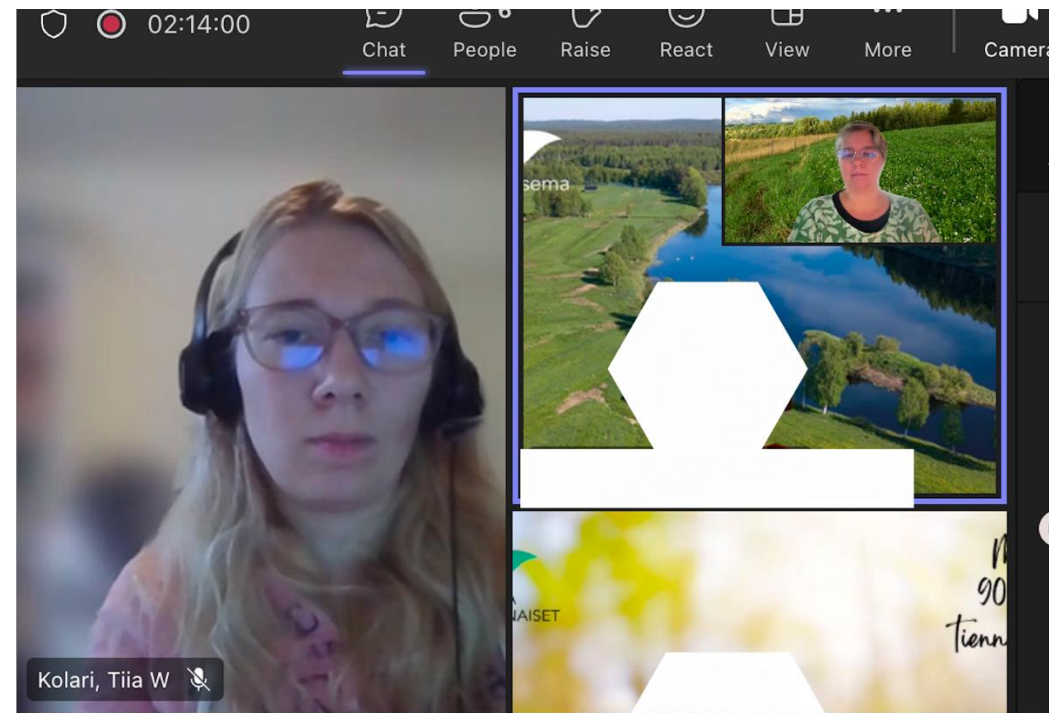
Production sector



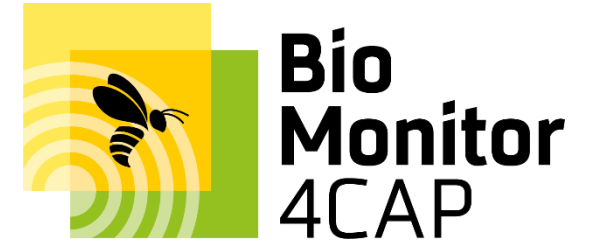
Interview themes



- ❖ Good farmers and good farming
- ❖ Biodiversity, understanding and attitudes
- ❖ Key biodiversity challenges in the sector
- ❖ Monitoring biodiversity on the farm
- ❖ Potential role of agroforestry on the farm
- ❖ **Ideal future, what is needed to achieve it**
- ❖ Farmers' advice for advisors and vice-versa



“Ideal future, what is needed to achieve it”



Qualitative thematic analysis

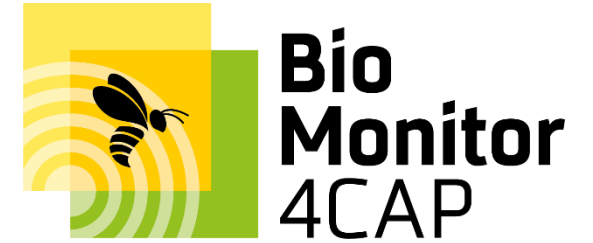
Transcribed data coded using Atlas.ti

Similar codes grouped into 12 categories

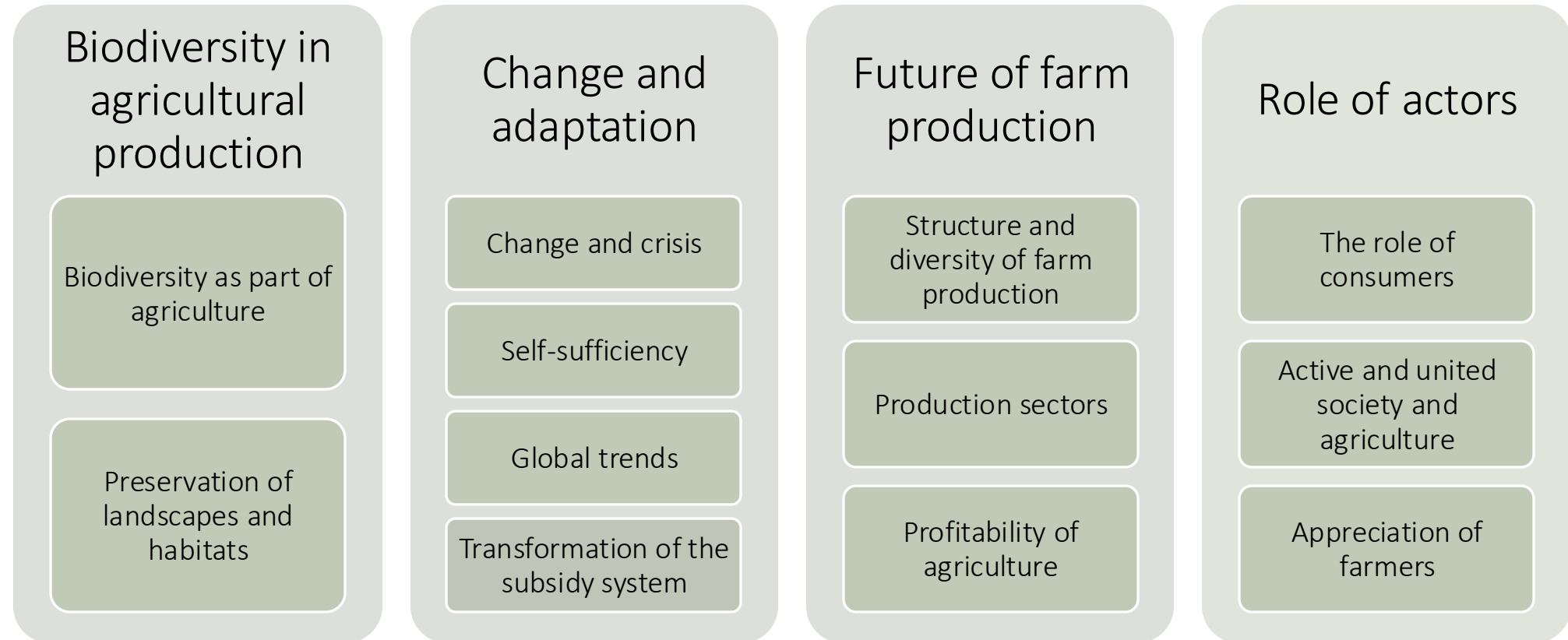
The categories grouped into four themes

74 codes → 12 categories → 4 themes

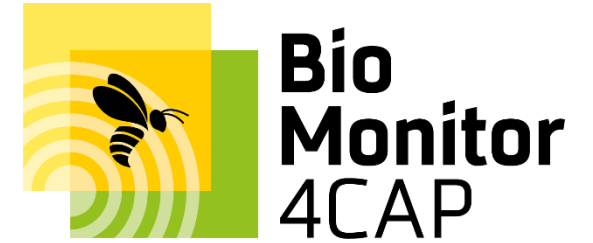
“Ideal future, what is needed to achieve it”



Preliminary results - Themes



Biodiversity in agricultural production



Biodiversity as part of agriculture

Vision: "**Biodiversity would have a foothold and an important role** [in dairy production]" – Advisor, dairy

"...I can't think about what's going to be **the state of biodiversity in 10 years.** That's a really difficult thing..." – Farmer, crop

Conservation of landscapes and habitats

Vision: "... **animals could be found from the landscape, trees could be found from the landscape, crops and flowers could be found from the landscape ...**" – Farmer, agroforestry and peat



Change and adaptation

Change and crisis

"...there has been Covid and the Ukraine situation and other things...**there isn't anything left over for these biodiversity matters.**" – Advisor, crop

Self-sufficiency

"...the danger here is that soon we are **no longer self-sufficient if our farmers quit**" – Advisor, grazing

Global trends

"... [if] the market becomes more polarized, so to say, there will be **a greater diversity of products.**" – Farmer/advisor, garden

Transformation of the subsidy system

"A bit of **long-term thinking with the agricultural policy**, that would be a big thing. These **five-year periods are quite short-term**...when the rules are turned upside down every five years, it's difficult." – Farmer, grazing

The future of farm production

Structure and diversity
of farm production

Vision: "Farm sizes would be **smaller**. Production would be more **diverse**." – Farmers, agroforestry and peat

Production sectors

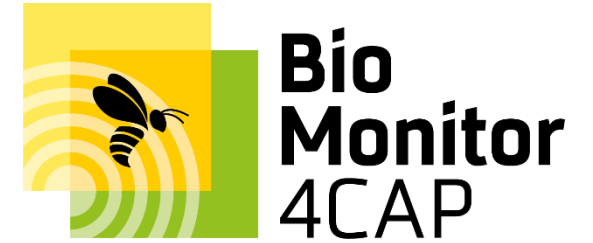
"...I do see that **organic farming has a place in the [supply] chain and [it] leads the way**, that conventional farming follows..." – Farmer, dairy

"...I see **the future of dairy production quite bright**..." – Farmer, dairy

Profitability of
agriculture

"...I **would like to see farming truly become profitable** so that our farms and farmers would endure and continue so that in that way we would attain self-sufficiency" Advisor, grazing

Role of actors



Role of consumers

"I would want to shake these **Finnish people and consumers' perceptions** about agriculture a little, they are not well aware of these issues..." – Advisor, grazing

Appreciation of farmers

Vision: "... **cooperation between schools and farms would be in the future utopia** where children would learn and grow food and build things..." – Farmer, agroforestry and peat

Active and united society and agriculture

"... I made the mistake of reading a **wolf discussion where the farmer was totally dragged** for 'why do you do grazing' and 'you have done nothing' and 'you let the wolves eat the sheep' and completely unbelievable..." – Advisor, grazing

What is needed for socio-ecological transition towards an ideal future in farming?

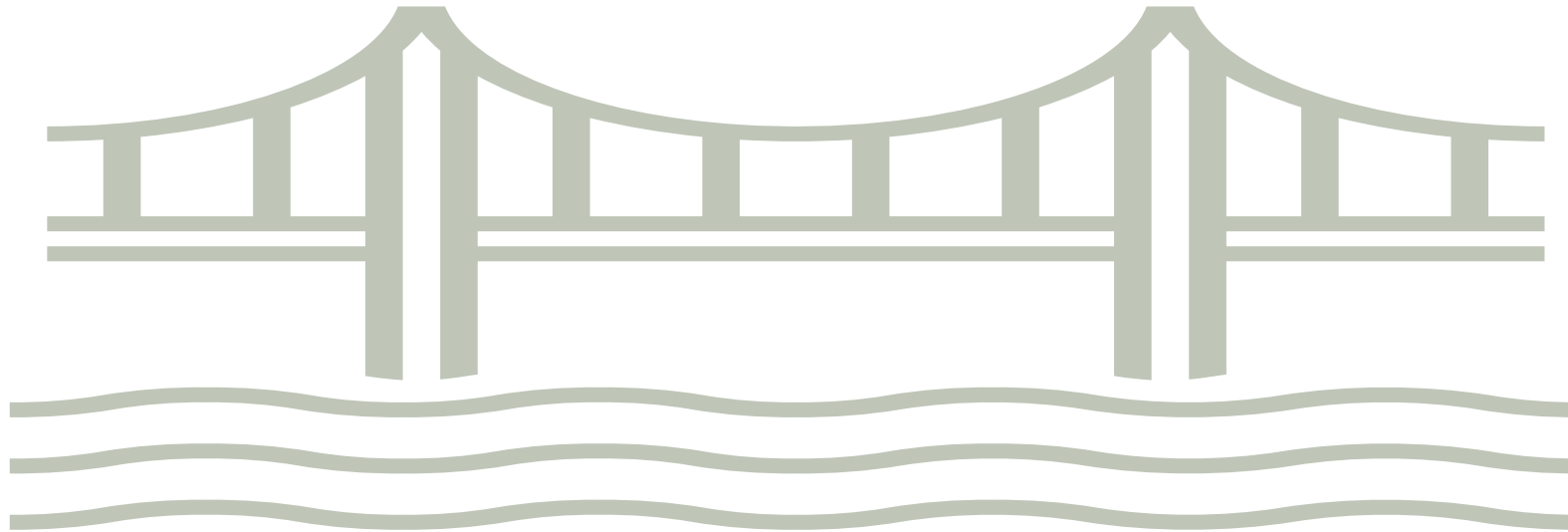
Maintain grazing and semi-natural areas

Resilience and adaptation

Transformation of the subsidy system

Consumer engagement

Current regime



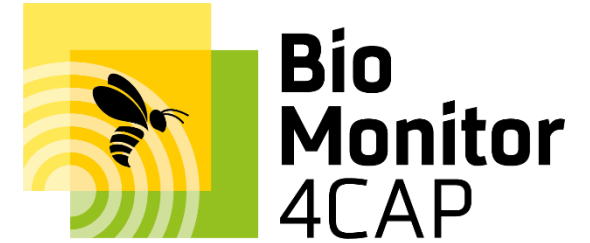
Lock-ins and hindering factors

economy, crisis, extreme events, agricultural policy, pests and predation, consumer attitudes, blaming

Ideal future

Biodiversity in the landscapes
More semi-natural areas
Diversity of farms
Profitability of farms
Self-sufficiency
More people in agriculture
Co-operation between farms and stakeholders
Export of products

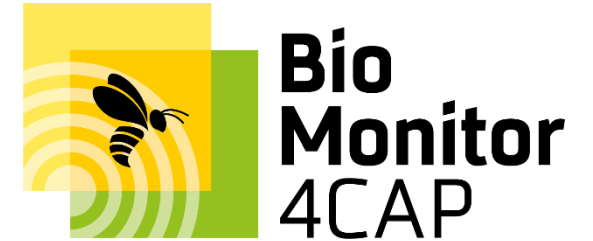
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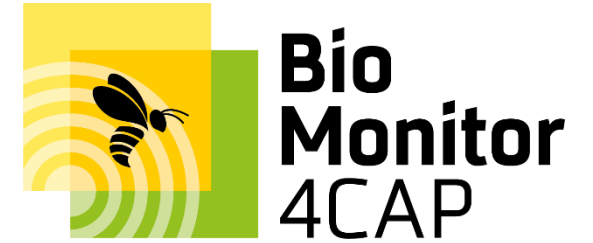
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Thank you! 



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