



Latvia University
of Life Sciences
and Technologies

Land use: problems and opportunities in Latvia

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Research used in the presentation

LLU (2019). Assessment of Land Use Optimization Possibilities in the Context of Latvian Climate Policy (Financing of Joint Stock Company “Latvian State Forests”)

https://www.lvm.lv/images/lvm/Petijumi_un_publikacijas/Petijumi/zemes-izmantošanas-optimizacija_2018.pdf



LLU (2015). Socio-economic evaluation of different land management models: Determining the factors promoting the development of territories (Financing of the Joint Stock Company “Latvian State Forests”)

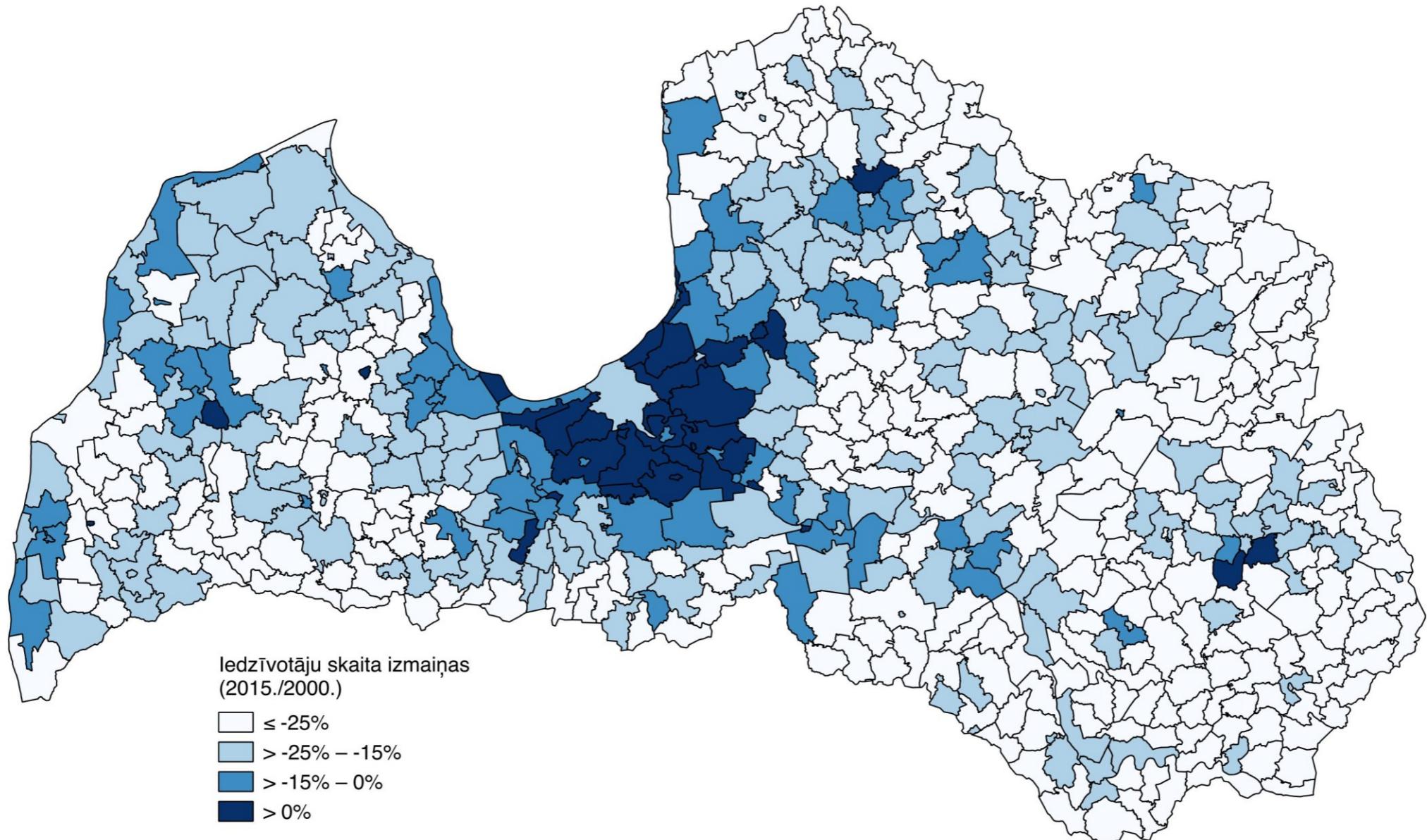
https://www.lvm.lv/images/lvm/Petijumi_un_publikacijas/Petijumi/Zemes_apaimniekosanas_modeli_%20gala%20atskaite.pdf



The population is declining in rural areas

One of the best indicators for assessing long-term trends in rural territorial development in Latvia is the relative changes in the population.

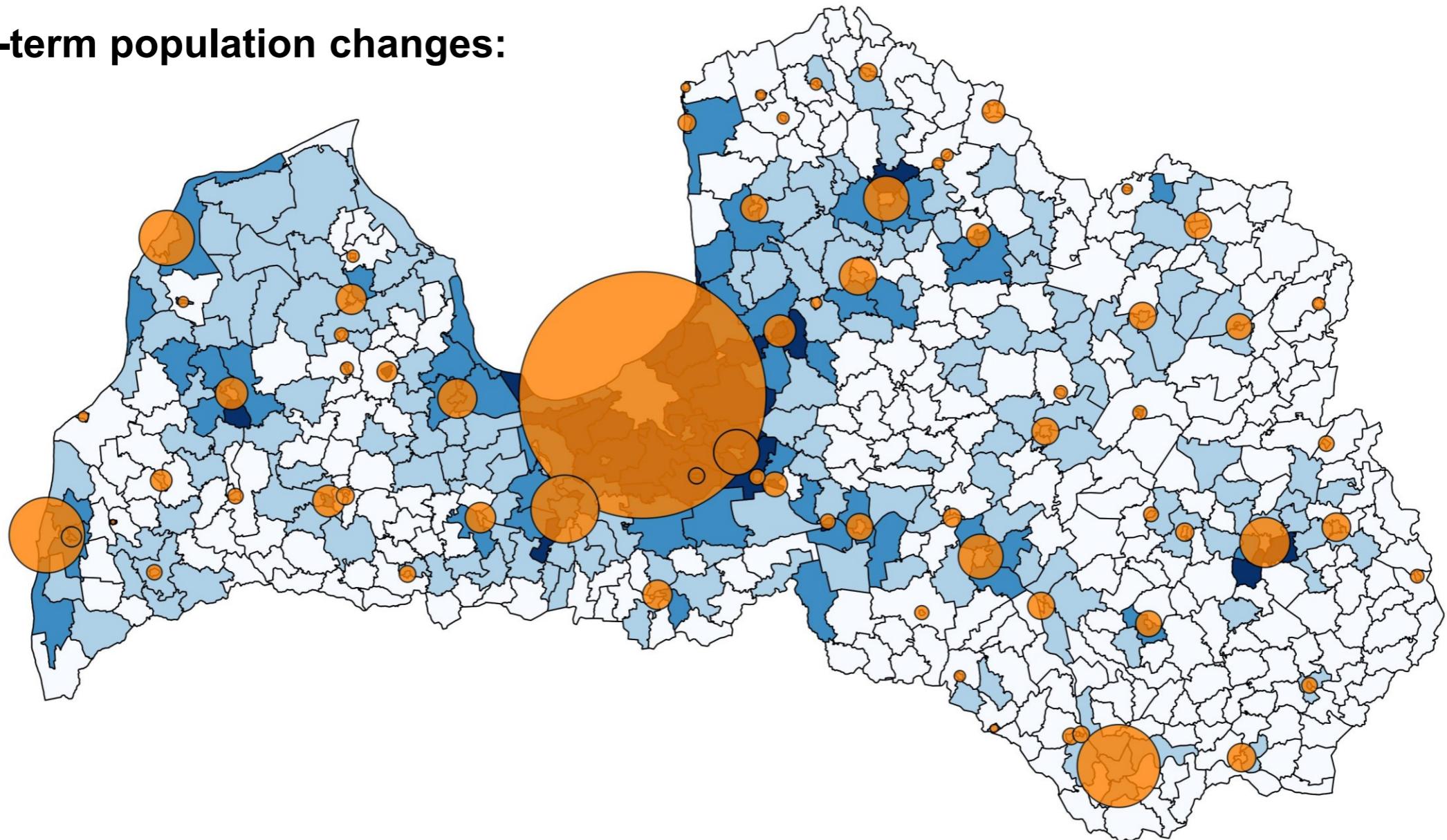
Long-term population changes:



The population is declining in rural areas

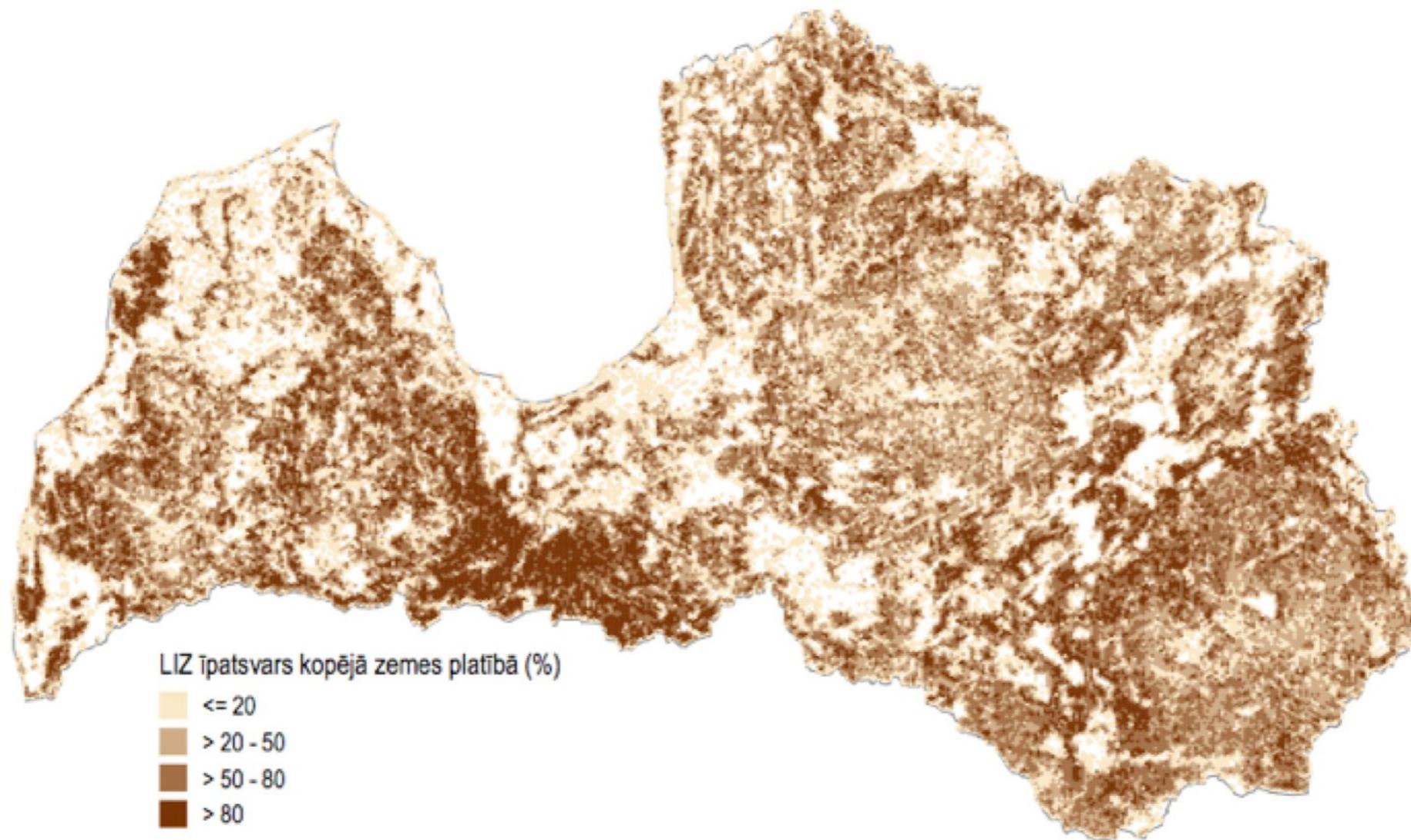
One of the factors promoting the development of a rural area is the common border with the city, larger settlements ...

Long-term population changes:



Land resources - for the production of bioresources

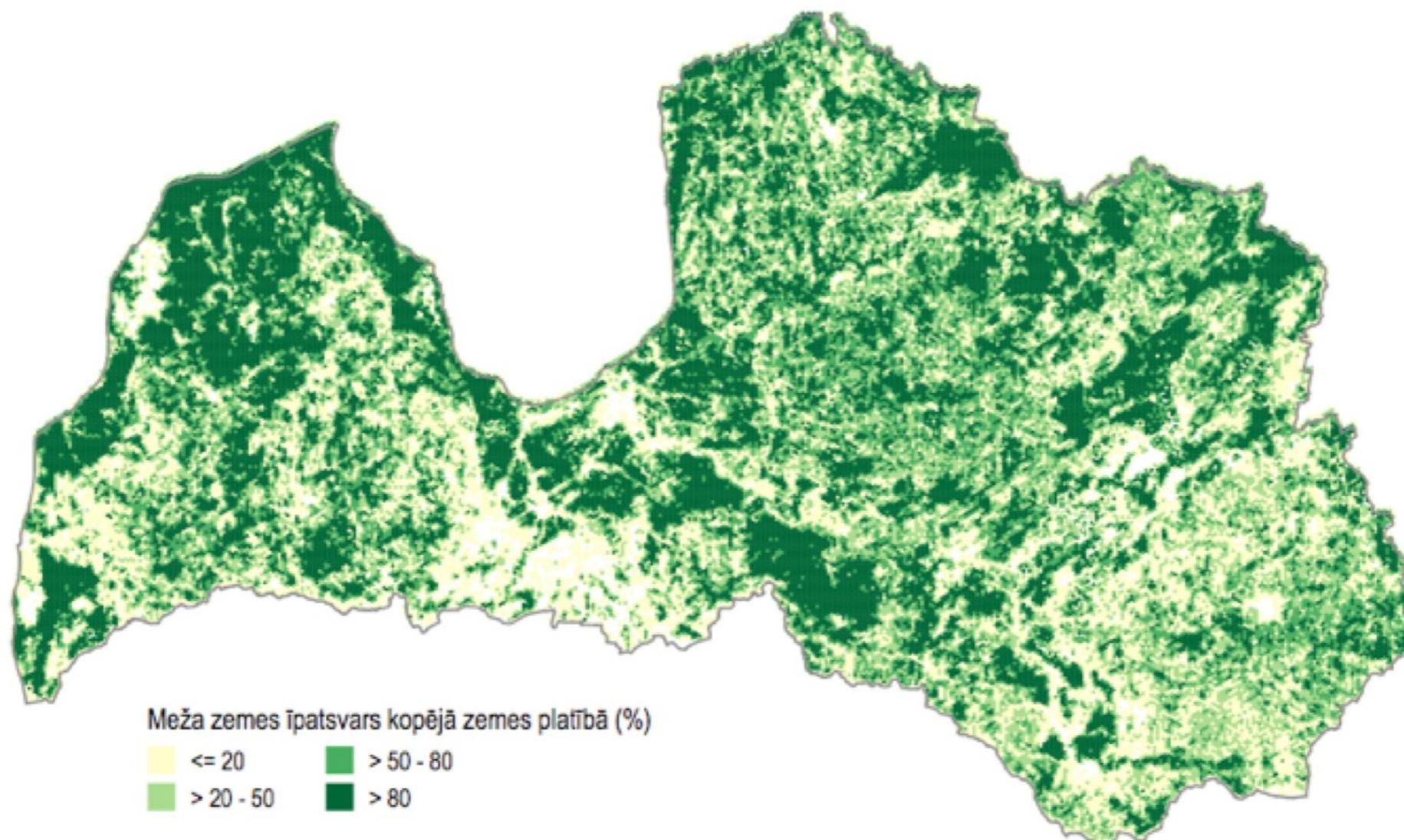
Latvia ranks 2nd in the EU in terms of agricultural land resources per capita (after Lithuania).



The amount of land used in agriculture has a positive effect on the changes in the population of this parish. Other factors being equal, an additional 2 ha of agricultural land per capita provides 1.5 pp. more positive population changes.

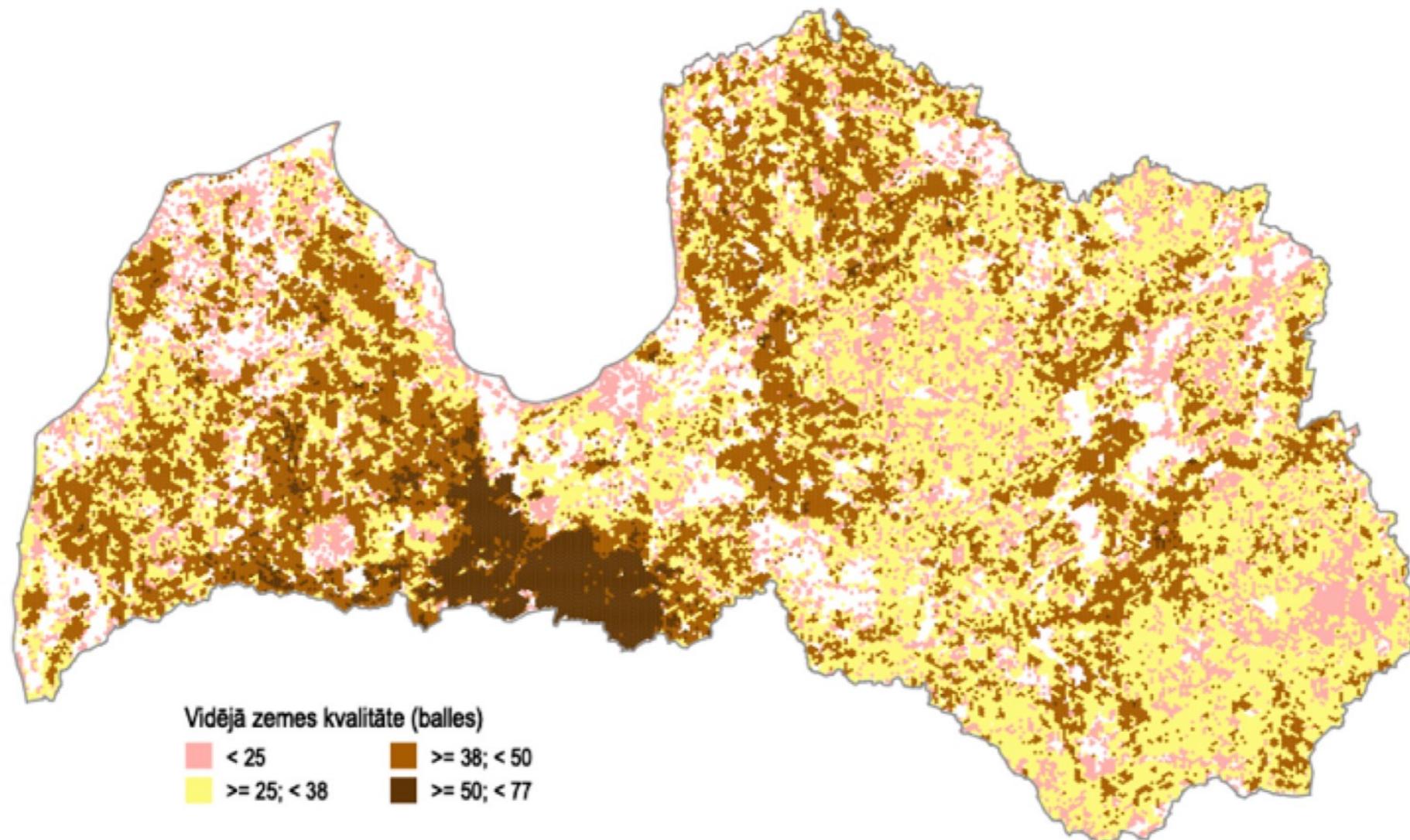
Land resources - for the production of bioresources

Latvia ranks 4th in the EU in terms of forest land resources per capita.
Agriculture and forestry are the main sectors that provide jobs in rural areas.



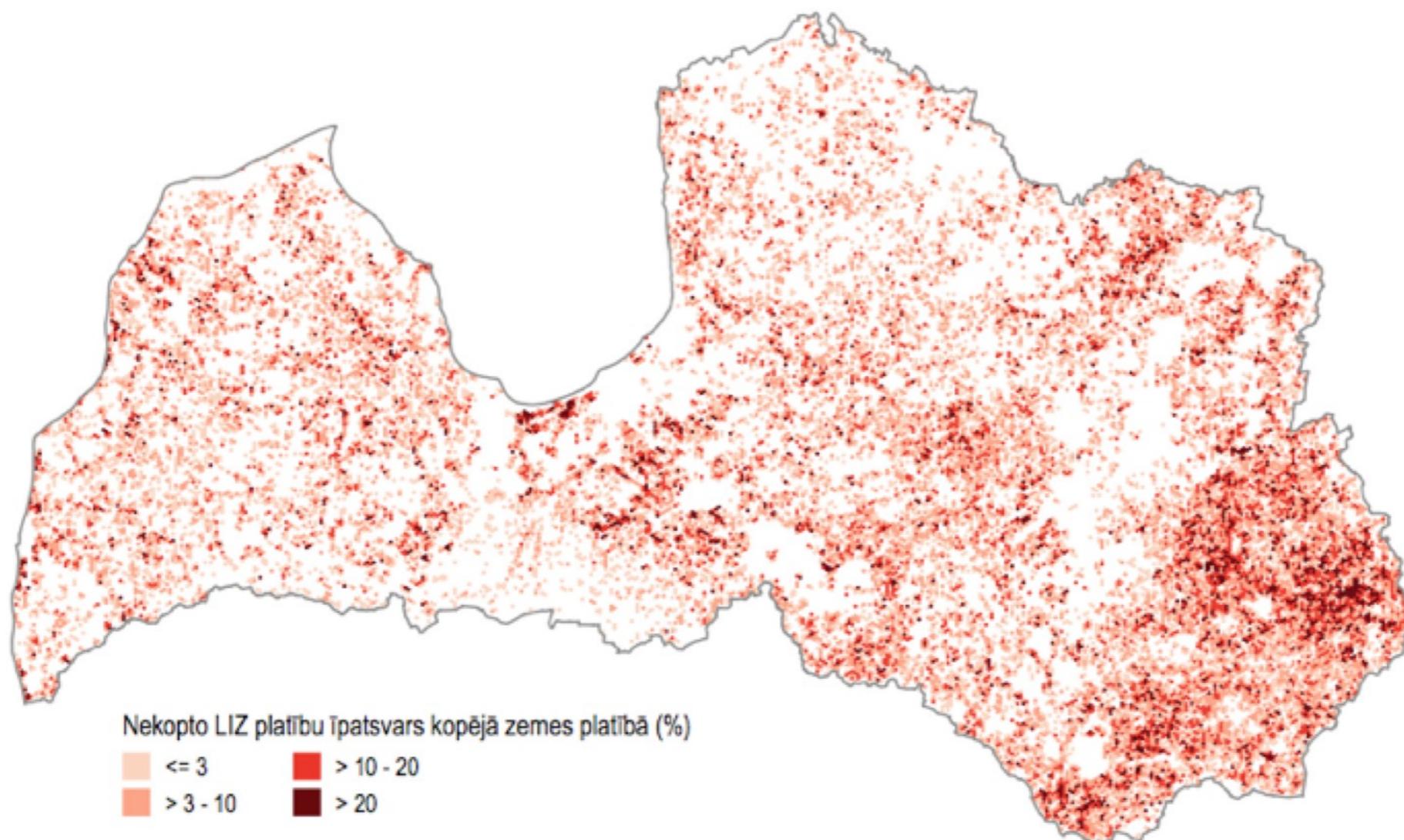
Agricultural land resources - quality

Land quality - not homogeneous, but in general land quality in northern and eastern part is lower than the national average.



Land resources - uncultivated land

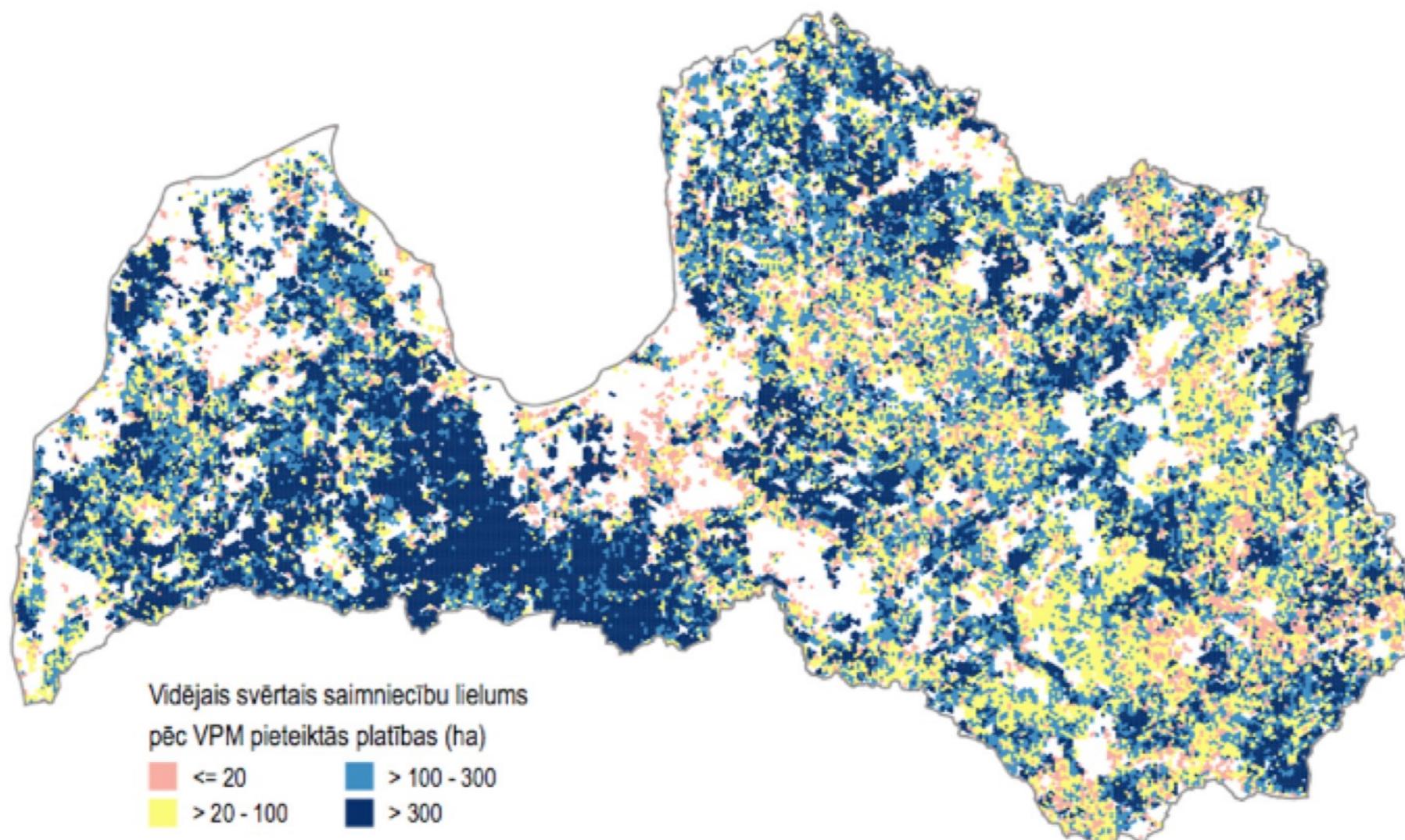
Land quality and distance from markets - some of the reasons why the area in eastern part is not cultivated more. In 2020 more than 240 thous.ha are uncultivated in Latvia.



Opportunities for livestock or forestry.

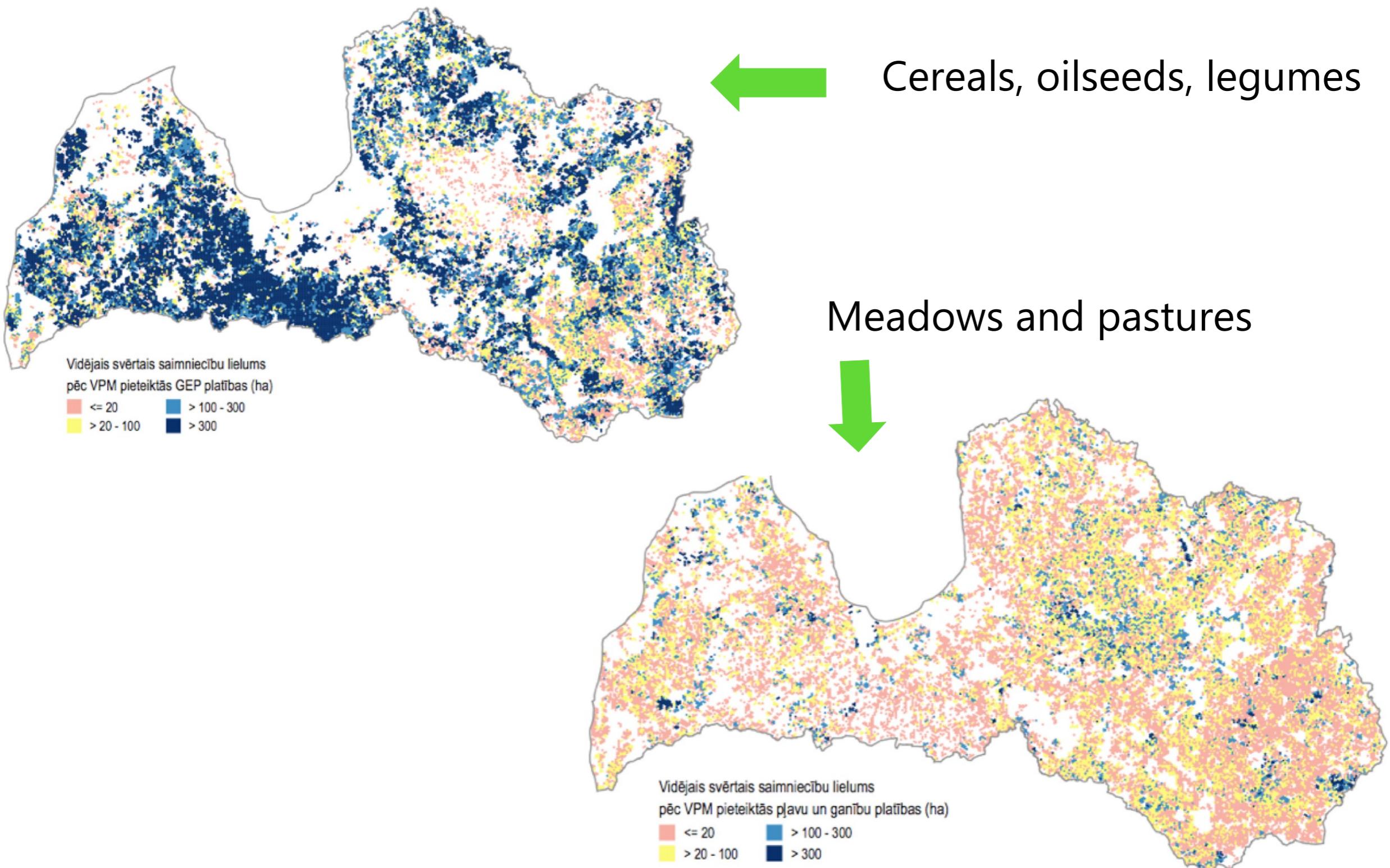
Farm size

In 2016 in Latvia were 69 933 farms, average farm size was 29 ha agricultural land.



Farm size

Average farm size per 100 ha in hexagons in 2016.



Farm size - earning income

The calculations use the minimum income level (MIL) based on the average gross wage rate in the country.

10 619 EUR per year per employee *

	Income level in 2013	
	1 MIL, ha	2 MIL, ha
Cereals	65,5	108,9
Dairy farming	48,3	84,4
Grazing livestock breeding	53,7	100,8
Vegetable growing	5,4	10,8
Fruit growing	3,5	7,0

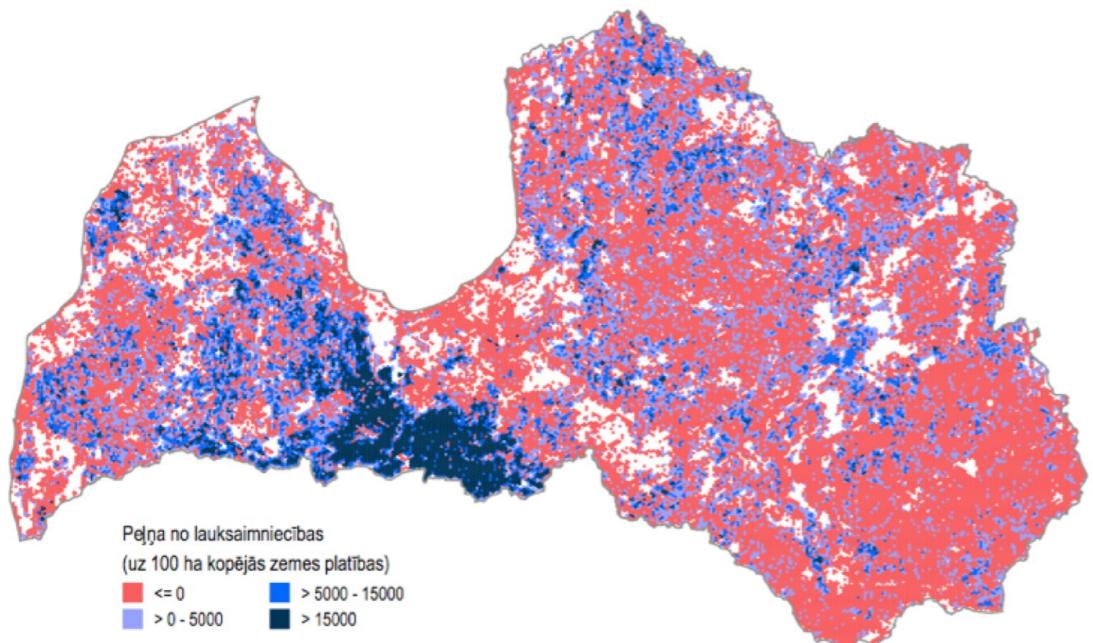
16246 EUR per year per employee*

	Income level in 2019	
	1 MIL, ha	2 MIL, ha
	100	167
	74	129
	82	154
	8,3	16,5
	5,4	10,7

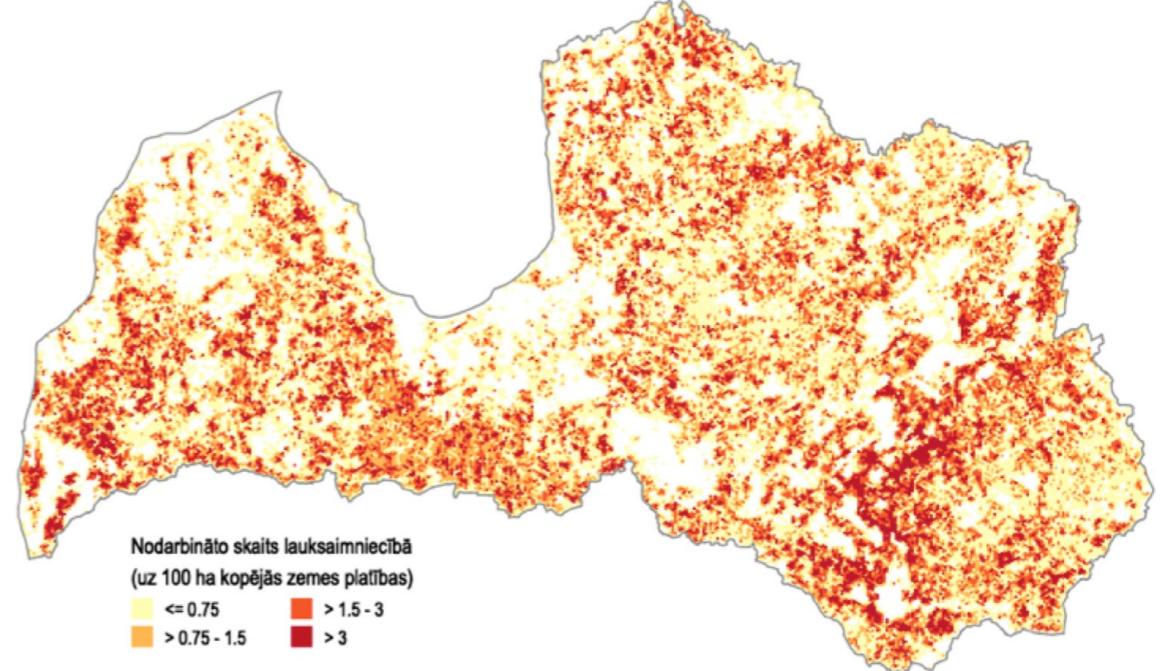
* adopted on the basis of the average gross salary level in Latvia in 2013 (716 EUR / month) and 2019 (3rd quarter 1091 EUR / month), respectively (CSB data), plus the corresponding employer's mandatory state social insurance contribution rate

4 land functions (agriculture)

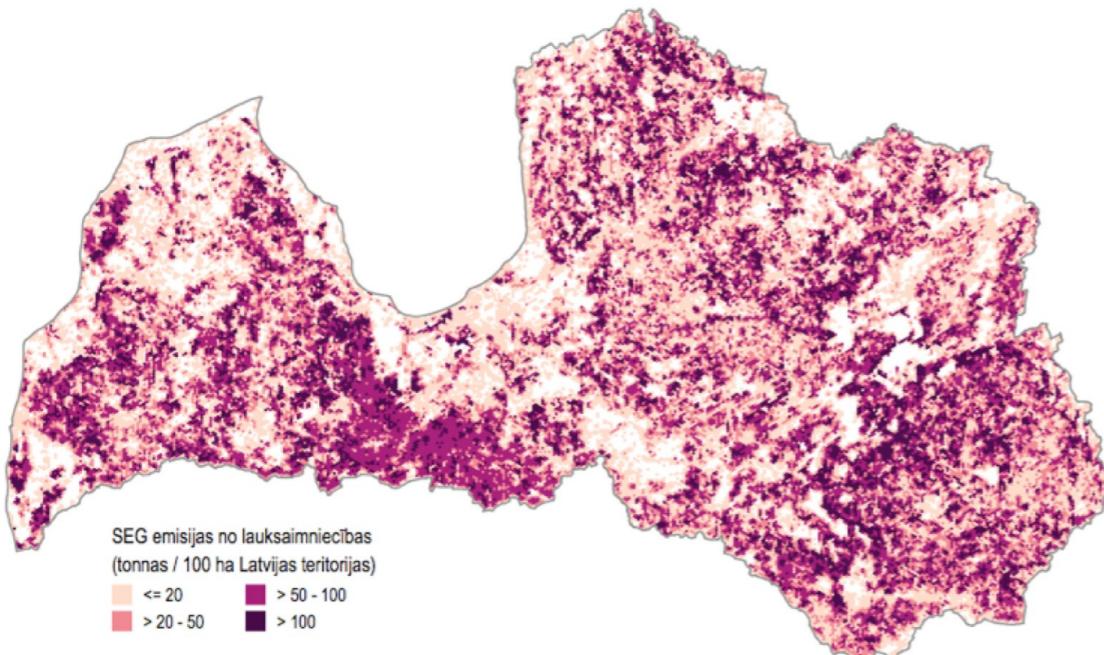
Profit



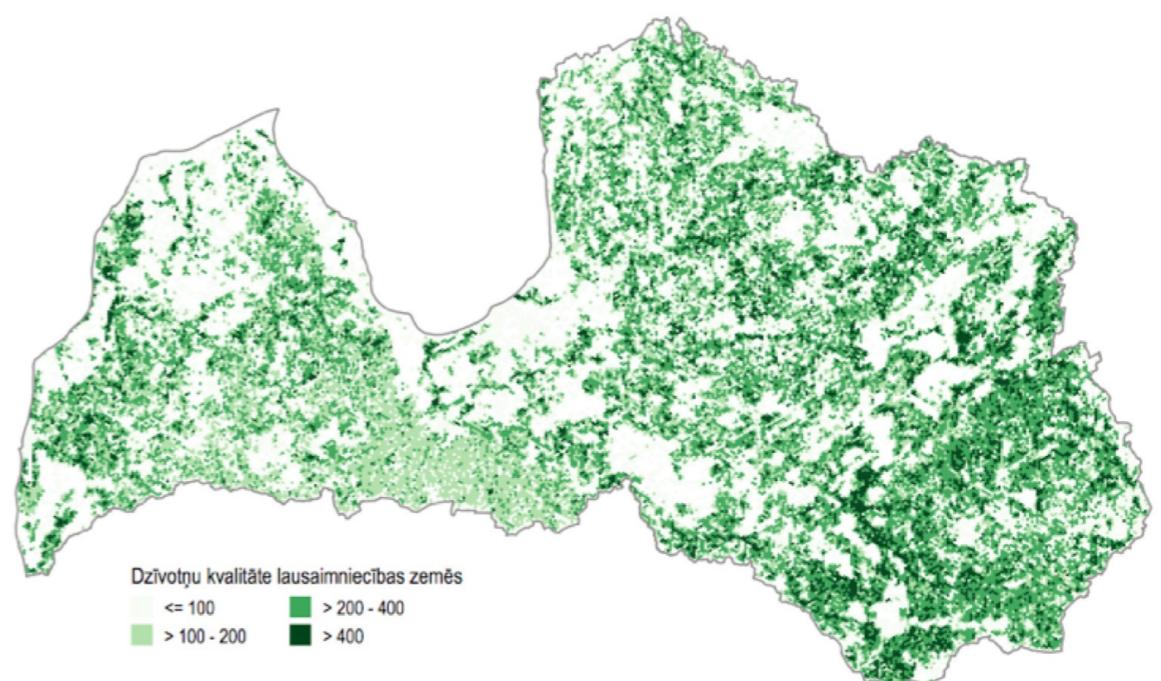
Employment



GHG emission / C sequestration

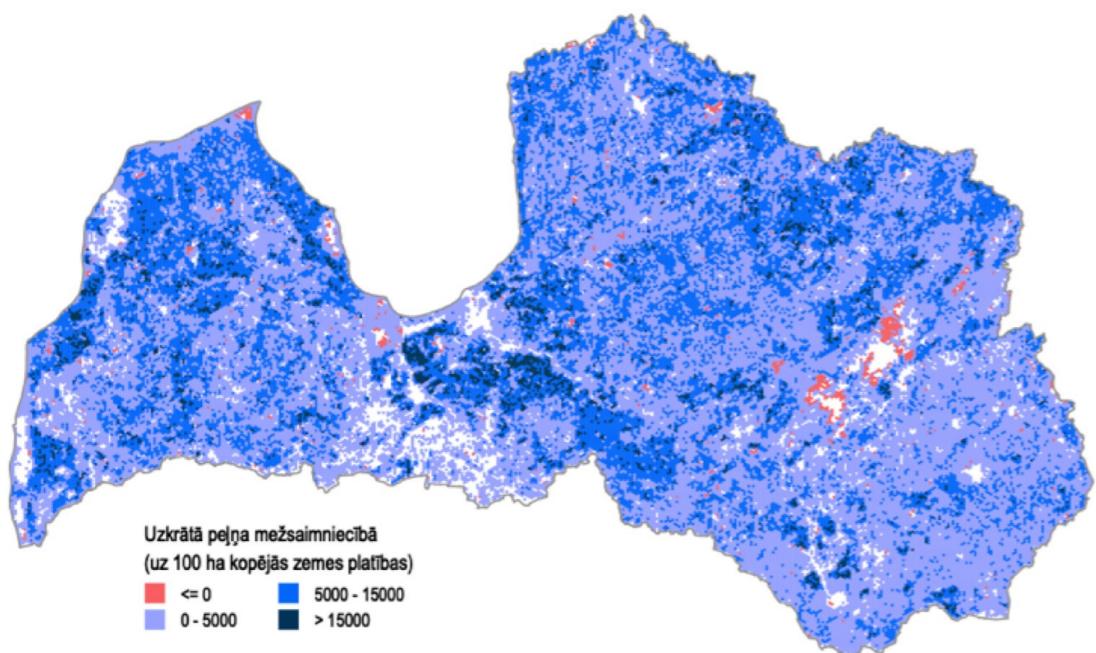


Nature quality (rural birds)

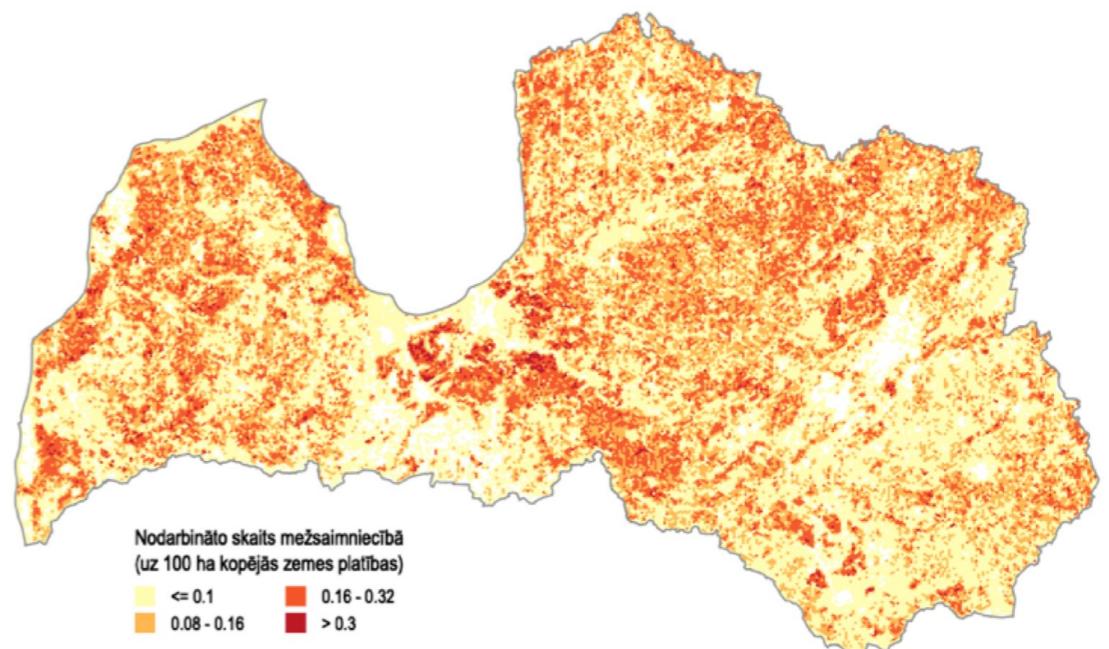


4 land functions (forestry)

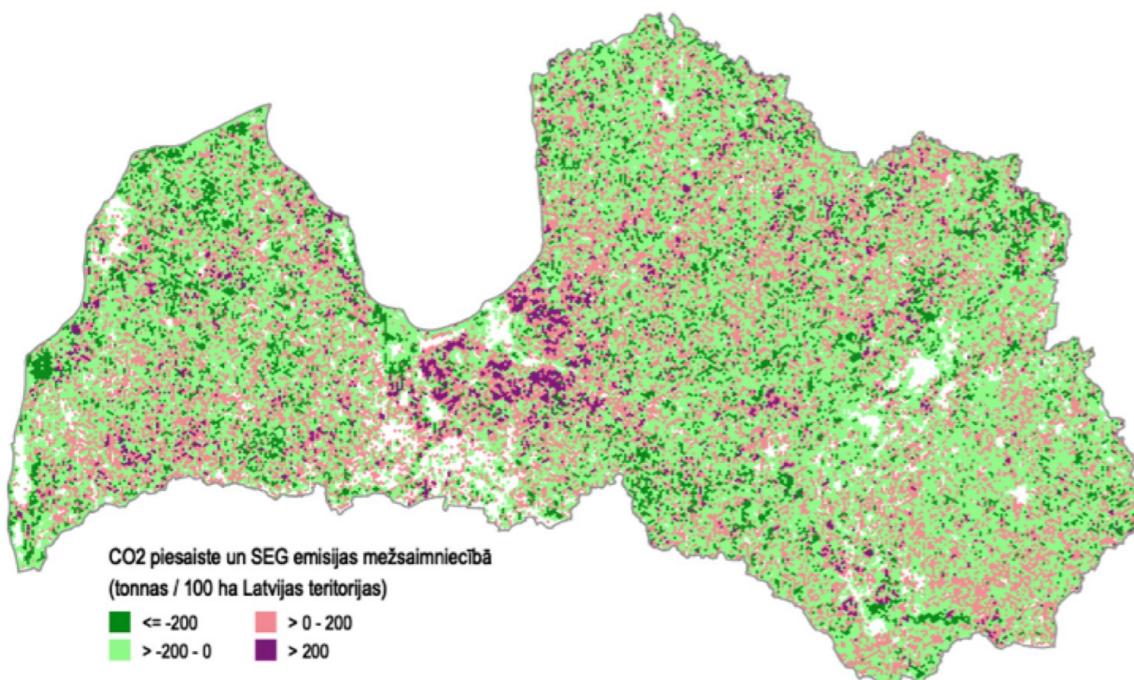
Profit accumulation per year



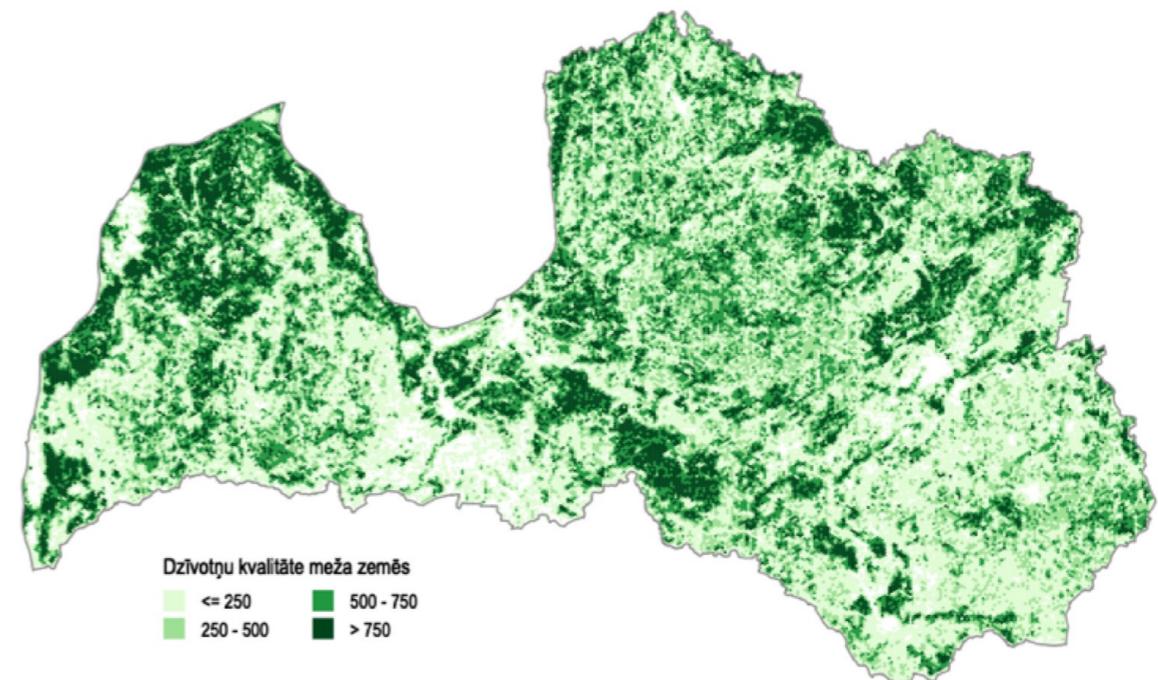
Employment



GHG emission / C sequestration



Nature quality (forest birds)



Opportunities for future development

- ✓ Try to improve land use so that there is as little uncultivated space as possible.
- ✓ Municipalities, when developing territorial development plans, remember that land use has different functions, not only production and profit-making.
- ✓ Choose the most suitable directions of agricultural production depending on the quality of the land, location, etc. (vegetable growing, fruit growing).
- ✓ It is necessary to calculate the potential income of farms and try to create as much added value as possible for products (home production, tourism ...).
- ✓ Think about what to do with the land, if its quality rating does not exceed 25 points



Thank you!

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