

# **Environmental and Agricultural Grounds for Restriction of GMO Cultivation in Bulgaria**

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# Background

- **Bulgarian GMO Law is in power since 2005 and last substantial amendment was done in 2011**
- **Around one third of Bulgarian territory is covered by protected areas (National Parks, Reservations, Natura 2000 zones)**
- **Bulgarian agriculture is still dominated by large number of relatively small farms**
- **Government policy is to encourage organic farming but that sector is still relatively underdeveloped**

# Size of Farms in Bulgaria

	2003	2005	2007	2010
Farms, thousands	654810	520540	493140	370490
0 - < 1,9 ha	591710	456620	428600	308120
2 - < 4,9 ha	41860	40,490	39,240	30390
5 - < 9,9 ha	9720	10440	10060	10730
10 - < 19,9 ha	3980	4760	5480	6820
20 - < 29,9 ha	1,260	1,570	1,940	2950
30 - < 49,9 ha	1,190	1,330	1,630	3060
50 - < 99,9 ha	1,220	1,510	1,970	2930
>=100 ha	3,880	3,820	4,220	5490
Used Agricultural area, thousands ha	2 904480	2 729390	3 050740	4 475530
0 - < 1,9 ha	312790	241350	191100	144180
2 - < 4,9 ha	121710	116930	115460	90450
5 - < 9,9 ha	64210	66900	66550	72700
10 - < 19,9 ha	52720	60480	73030	92450
20 - < 29,9 ha	29800	36090	45520	70040
30 - < 49,9 ha	44350	49400	61370	11,180
50 - < 99,9 ha	83,00	101110	139480	20,670
>=100 ha	2 195800	2 057120	2 358230	3 687860

# Organic Farming in Bulgaria

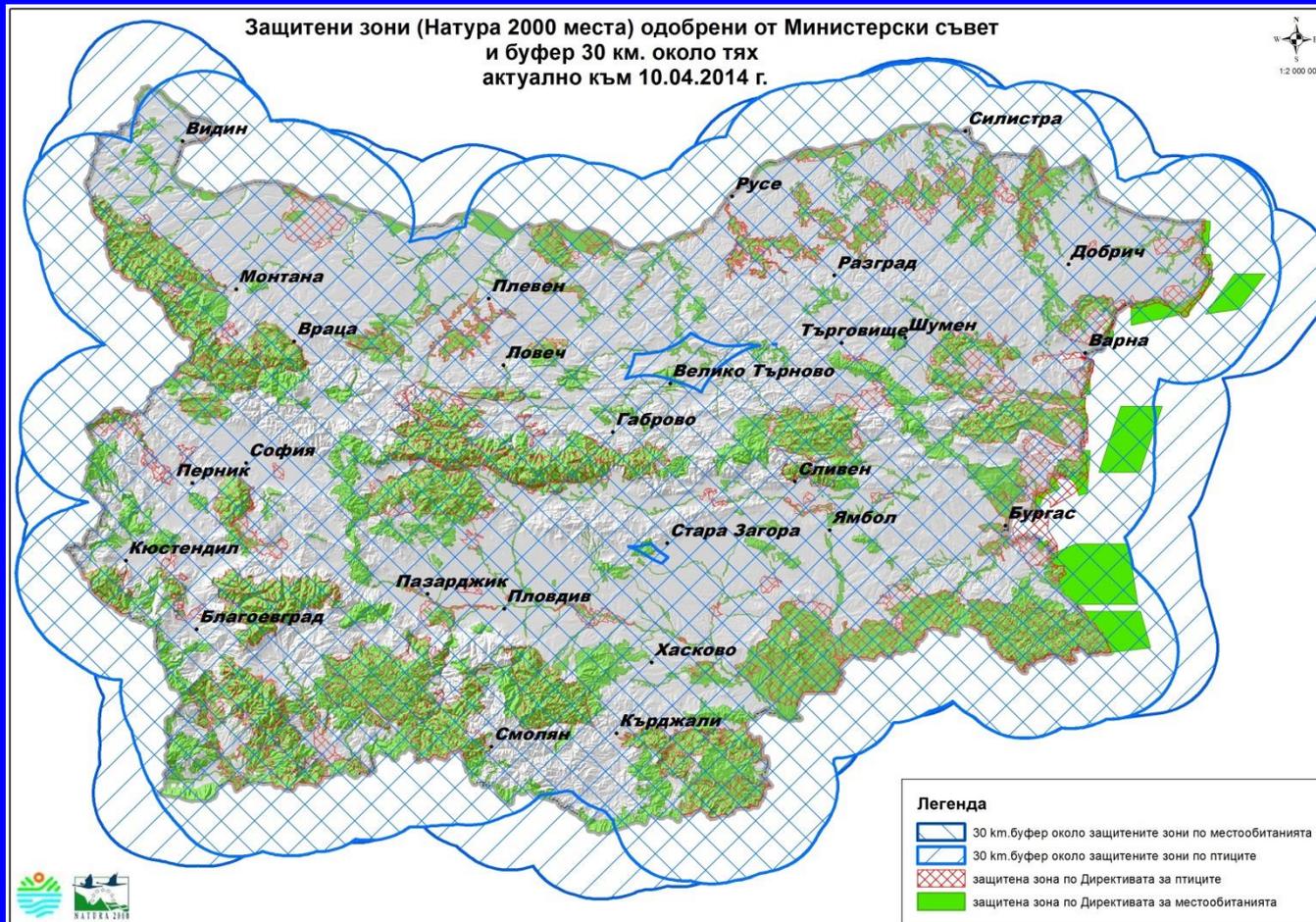
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Operators	214	339	311	476	820	1 054	2 016
Area under cultivation (ha)	4 691	13 646	12 738	8 163	20 320	20 618	30 106
Permanent Meadows and Pastures (ha)	-	-	2 486	1 843	3 611	4 491	7 957
Free and fallow land (ha)	1 261	1 578	1 438	1 783	1 716	1 513	2 315
Total (ha)	5 952	15 224	16 662	11 789	25 647	26 622	40 378

# **Restrictions of Specific Plants Species and GMO carrying Specific Traits**

- **GMO cultivation is not allowed for tobacco, roses, vines, fruits, vegetables**
- **Additional species can be added by the Ministers of Agriculture and of Environment**
- **GMO cultivation is not allowed when antibiotic resistance genes are present**
- **All species and traits whose cultivation is restricted to be decided by the Ministers of Agriculture and of Environment**

# Restrictions in Protected Areas

- Inside protected areas (National Parks, Reservations, Natura 2000 zones) and within 30 km around them



# **Restrictions around Conventional and Organic Cultivation Areas**

- **GMO Cultivation is prohibited within around:**
- **10 km around Registered Beehives**
- **7 km areas under Organic (Biological) Cultivation**
- **0.15 – 3 km areas under Conventional Cultivation (Size depends on the Species under Cultivation)**
- **Zones within around Borders**

# **Decision-making Mechanism for Restriction of Cultivation**

- **Ministers of Agriculture and/or of Environment request change of geographical scope in all above cases**
- **When the request is rejected or in emergency, Council of Ministers (Government) imposes restrictions or prohibition of cultivation**
- **European Commission should be consulted before restrictions or prohibition are imposed**

**Thank you**