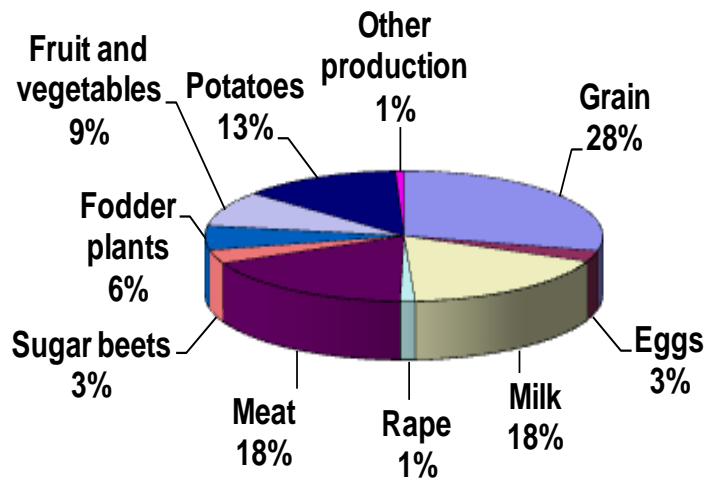


Land Abandonment in Lithuania

Giedre Leimontaite

National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture

**2011
Budapest**



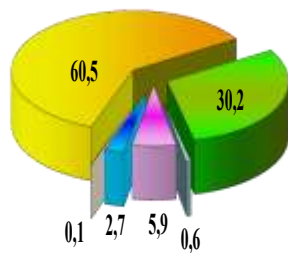
Definition of “Abandoned Land”

- LT: Abandoned land – unused or unsuitable for use farming lands which is in the agricultural land parcel
- (Project of the Law on Taxation)

Abandoned land can be

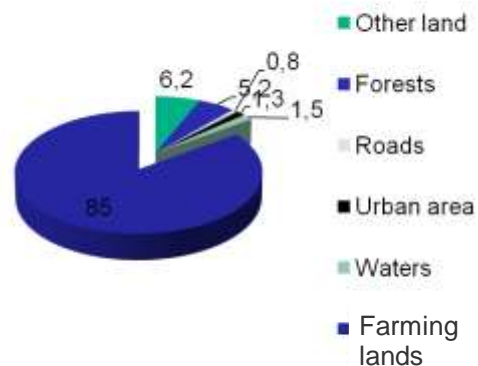
- Unused for long term
- Temporary unused (unused for short period or passive using)

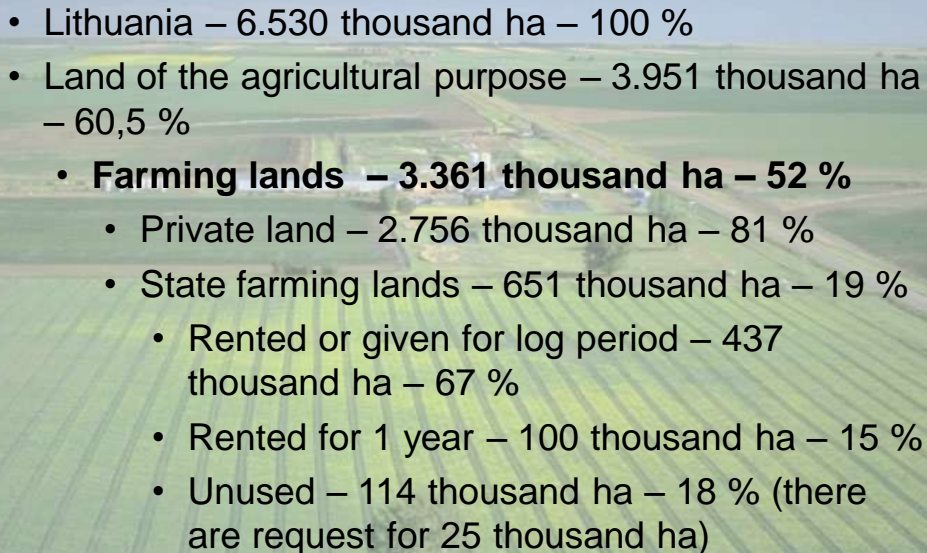
Distribution of land stock according to the land use purpose (%)

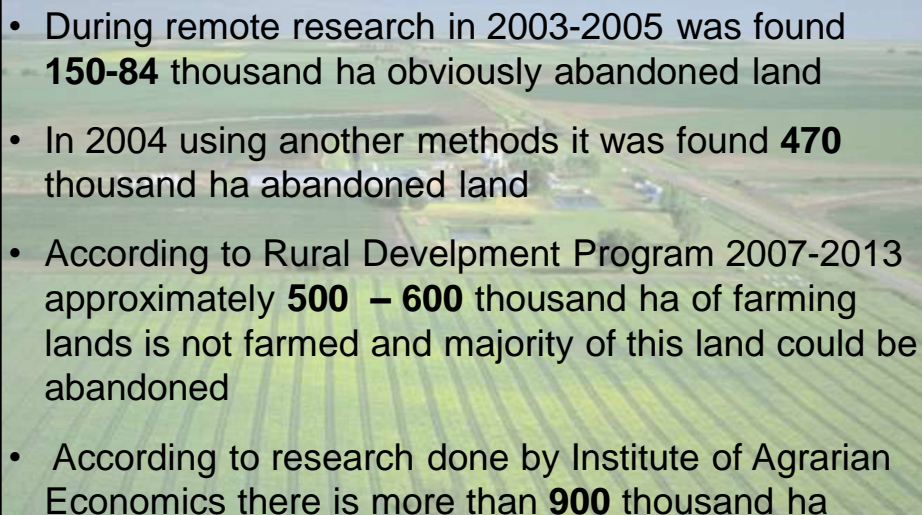


Agricultural land (60,5 %)	Forest land (30,2 %)
Preserved land (0,6 %)	Other land (5,9 %)
Waters (2,7 %)	Free state owned land (0,1 %)

Distribution of land used for agricultural purpose



- 
- Lithuania – 6.530 thousand ha – 100 %
 - Land of the agricultural purpose – 3.951 thousand ha – 60,5 %
 - **Farming lands – 3.361 thousand ha – 52 %**
 - Private land – 2.756 thousand ha – 81 %
 - State farming lands – 651 thousand ha – 19 %
 - Rented or given for log period – 437 thousand ha – 67 %
 - Rented for 1 year – 100 thousand ha – 15 %
 - Unused – 114 thousand ha – 18 % (there are request for 25 thousand ha)

- 
- During remote research in 2003-2005 was found **150-84** thousand ha obviously abandoned land
 - In 2004 using another methods it was found **470** thousand ha abandoned land
 - According to Rural Development Program 2007-2013 approximately **500 – 600** thousand ha of farming lands is not farmed and majority of this land could be abandoned
 - According to research done by Institute of Agrarian Economics there is more than **900** thousand ha

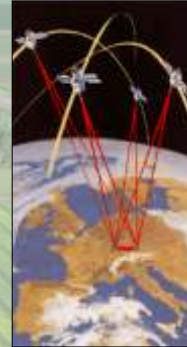
Methods to identify abandoned land



Measurements



Orthohoto maps

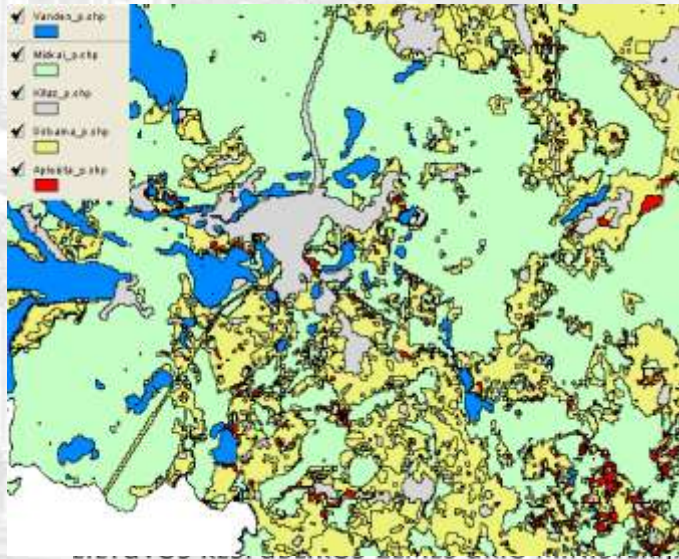


Satellite images

Methods for identify abandoned land

<i>Criteria</i>	Measurements	<i>Orthohoto maps</i>	<i>Satellite images</i>
<i>Precision</i>	to 10 cm	2-3m	2-10m
<i>Expenses</i>	Big	Middle	Low
<i>Time input</i>	Big	Big	Little
<i>Objectivity</i>	Subjective	Objective	Objective
<i>Validity</i>	1 verification	3-5m period	Seasonal and 3 years history

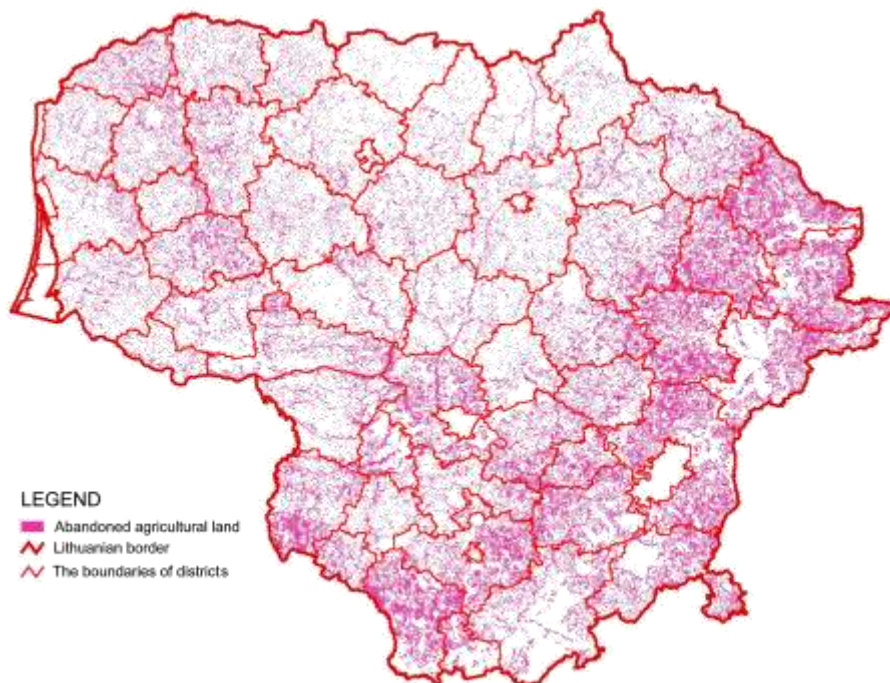
Obviously abandoned land identified using satellite
images
(LADSAT data 2003 and 2005)



Obviously abandoned land identified
using orthophoto maps
at scale M 1:10 000 (1998 – 2005)



Obviously abandoned land identified using satellite images



Satellite RapidEye photo



Abandoned land – bushes, trees, old grass



This data should be checked

Abandoned land – bushes and trees



This data should be checked

Orthohoto maps



Abandoned land – bushes, trees and old grass



This data should be checked

Abandoned land – bushes and trees



This data should be checked

Why????????

1. One of the main problems – certain provisions of land reform, when land ownership was restored to previous owners, even if they do not live in countryside and do not intend to use it for agriculture
2. Owners do not intend to sell the land and keep it as an “investment” or “security” for the future expecting increase in value
3. Small land plots and average size of land for one owner, which do not allow efficient and profitable farming
4. Migration of young people from countryside to urban areas and increased number of old farmers.
5. Bad quality of soil and erosion leads to unprofitable agricultural activity







Directions of Government Programme 2008-2012

Directions of Government Programme 2008-2012

- **Established State Land Fund** which besides other tasks implements measures related to improvement of shape of land parcels and reduction of abounded land
- **Prepared programme for abandoned land reduction**
- **Fines according to Administrative code for unused/abandoned agricultural land**



– Trustees of state owned land:

- **National Land Service** of the free state land;
- **State Land Fund** of the free state land parcels involved in territory of land consolidation project or by State Land Fund (in a name of state) purchased land parcels from private persons for the **implementation of State Land Fund functions related to improvement of farm structutes, land consolidation and reduction of abounded land.**

Functions of State Land Fund

- State Land Fund is responsible for the development of a land consolidation project;
- Collection of data on land fund conditions, execution of monitoring land resources;
- Conducting of land information system;
- Pursuing auctions for selling or renting free state land.
- **Implementation of measures related to improvement shape of land parcels and reduction of abounded land;**

National Land Service Territorial Land Management Divisions

- Implements the State policy on territorial planning, land use and protection;
- Sells or transfers in other way the state-owned land into the private ownership;
- Grants the state-owned land for use in gratis or for lease, except the land transferred to municipality under the right of trust;
- Settles the issues of taking of land for public needs and changing the principal specific purpose of land use;
- Implements the land reform;
- **Organises and conducts the state control on land use**

Activities in 2010

- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania has initiated **a study on land abandonment in Lithuania** in order to investigate more in depth the issue of land abandonment and to define the measures to bring this land back into production.
- International seminar „New approaches to land use in order to minimize abandoned agricultural land“



Activities in 2011

- Public tender buying satellite images of 3 years – 2010, 2011, 2012

- Integrated rural development project in one district:

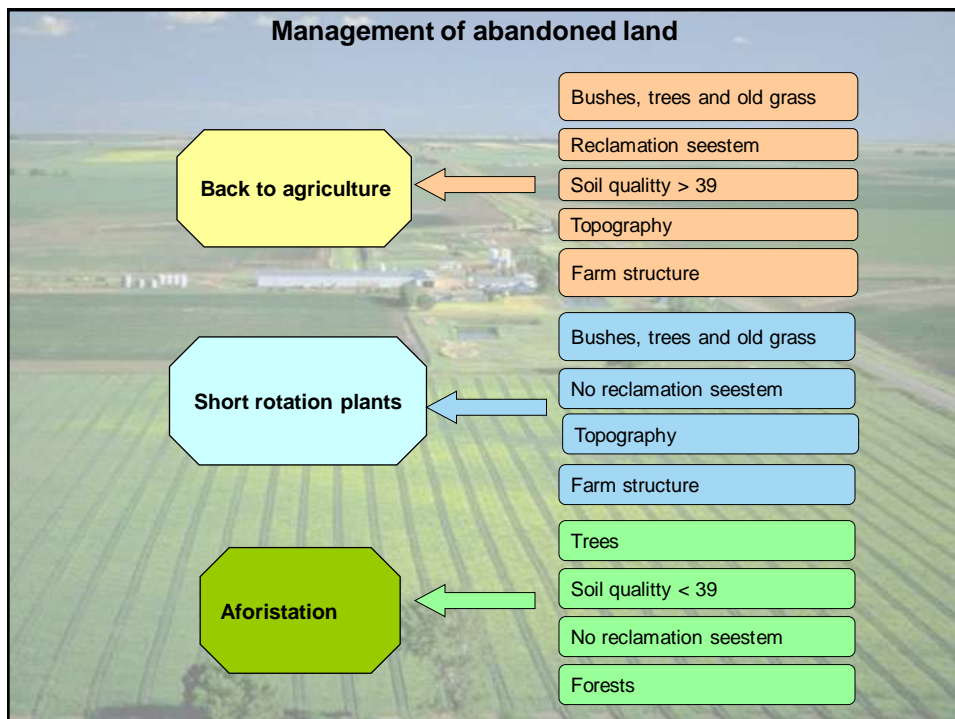
Aims of this project:

- to analyse existing territorial development strategies and plans;
- to analyse Local development strategy (prepared under the Rural Development Program);
- to combine the territorial development strategies and plans with Local Development Strategies;
- to develop proposals for the future implementation of similar projects.

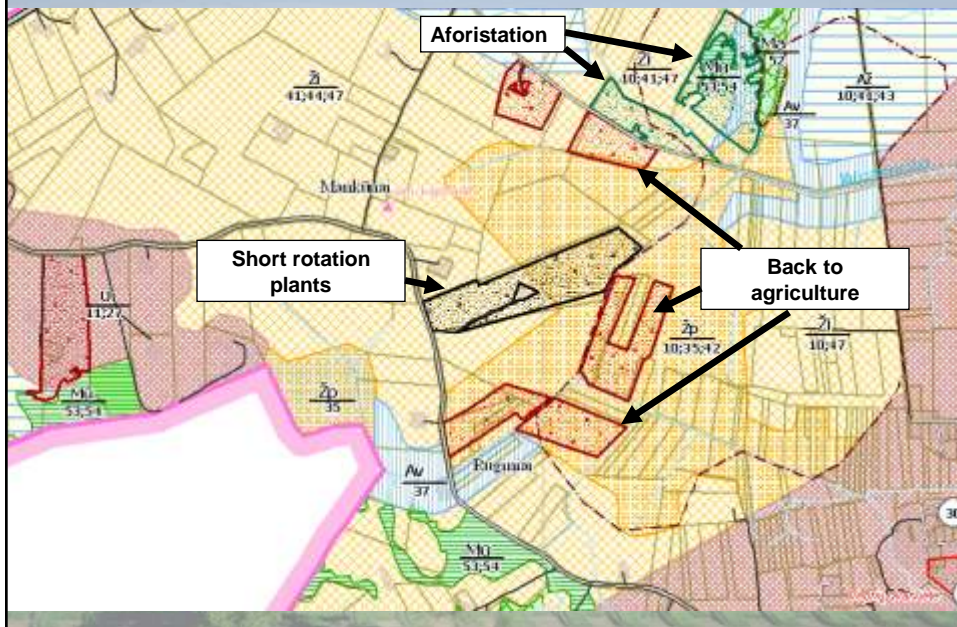
Reduction of abandoned land

- back to agriculture, afforestation, green energy, bio diversity, tourism (rural), recreation areas, investment...)
- Improvement of farm structures (size, shape ...)
- Land consolidation (farm structure, rural development, infrastructure, environment protection, public needs...)

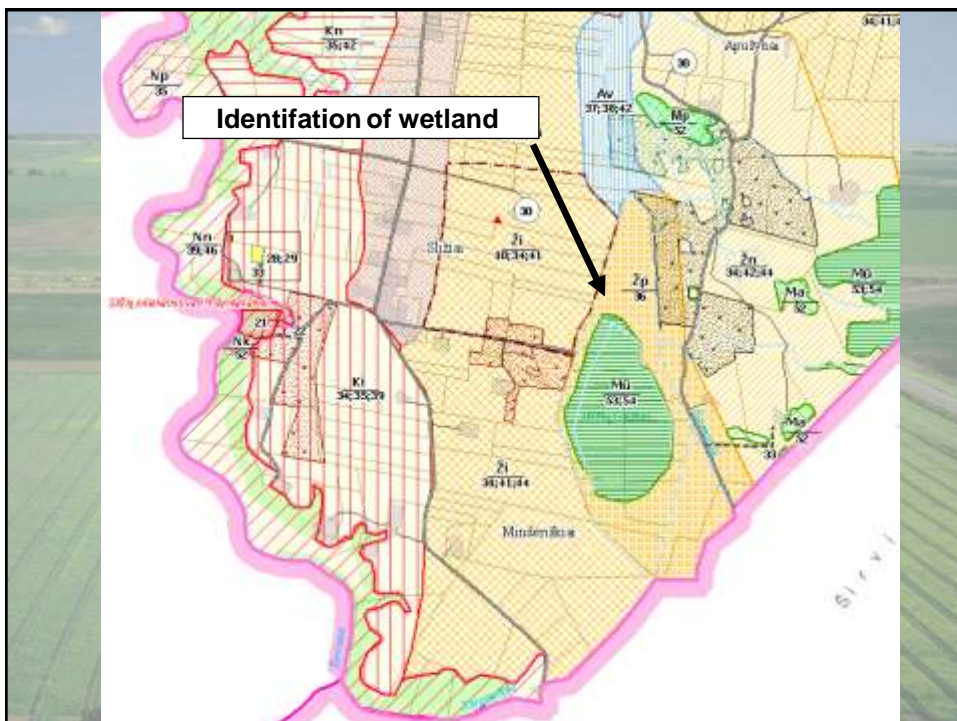
- According to Lithuanian Forestry and its Implementation Strategy :
 - state and private forestry development in the context of common rural development;
 - increasing Lithuanian forest coverage by 3 percent in next 20 years are designated as the most important strategical goals of forestry development;
 - it is planned during the period of 2007-2020 to afforest **7000** hectares of new forests every year **in abandoned state and private owned land** using European Union finance support.



Management of abandoned land

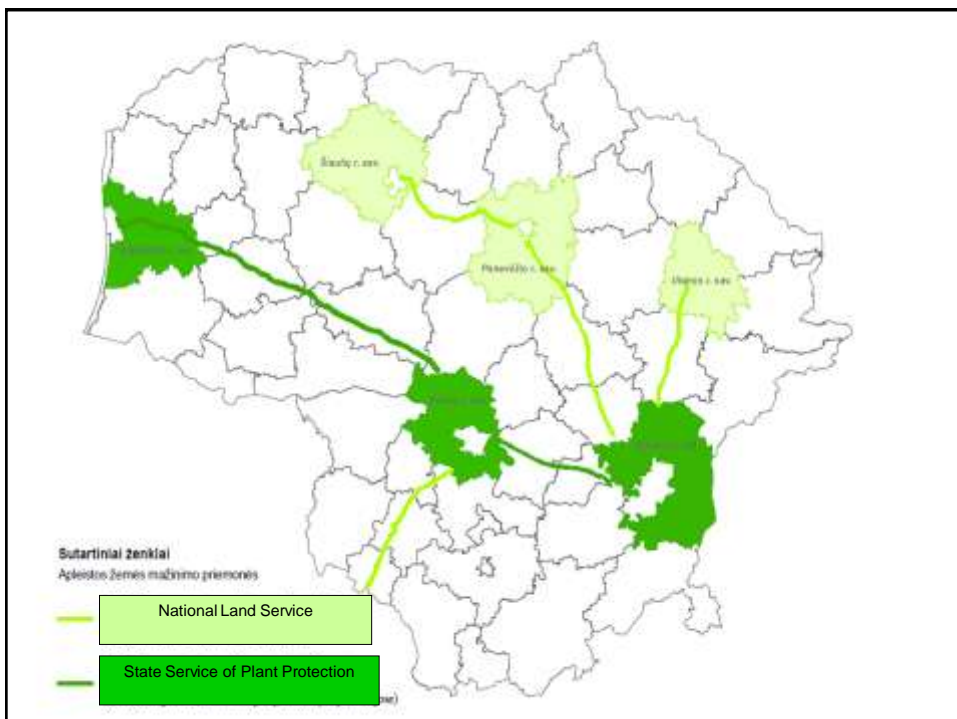


Identification of wetland



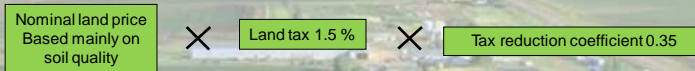
Motivation to use land

- Priorities of EU support allocation and intensity
- Differentiation of land tax
- Concessions of land tax in the beginning of agricultural activity
- Concessions of State land rent
- Fines according to Administrative code for unused land (400 fines yearly) defined by:
 - National Land Service
 - State Service for Plants Protection

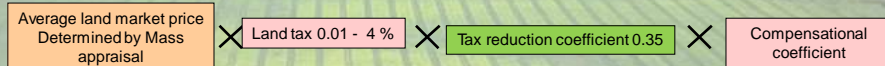


Project of Law on Taxation

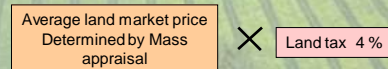
Existing Taxation system



Proposed taxation system



Proposed taxation for abandoned land



Thank you ☺