



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
COURT OF AUDIT

AUDIT REPORT

Providing food safety by increasing food self-sufficiency

Performance audit

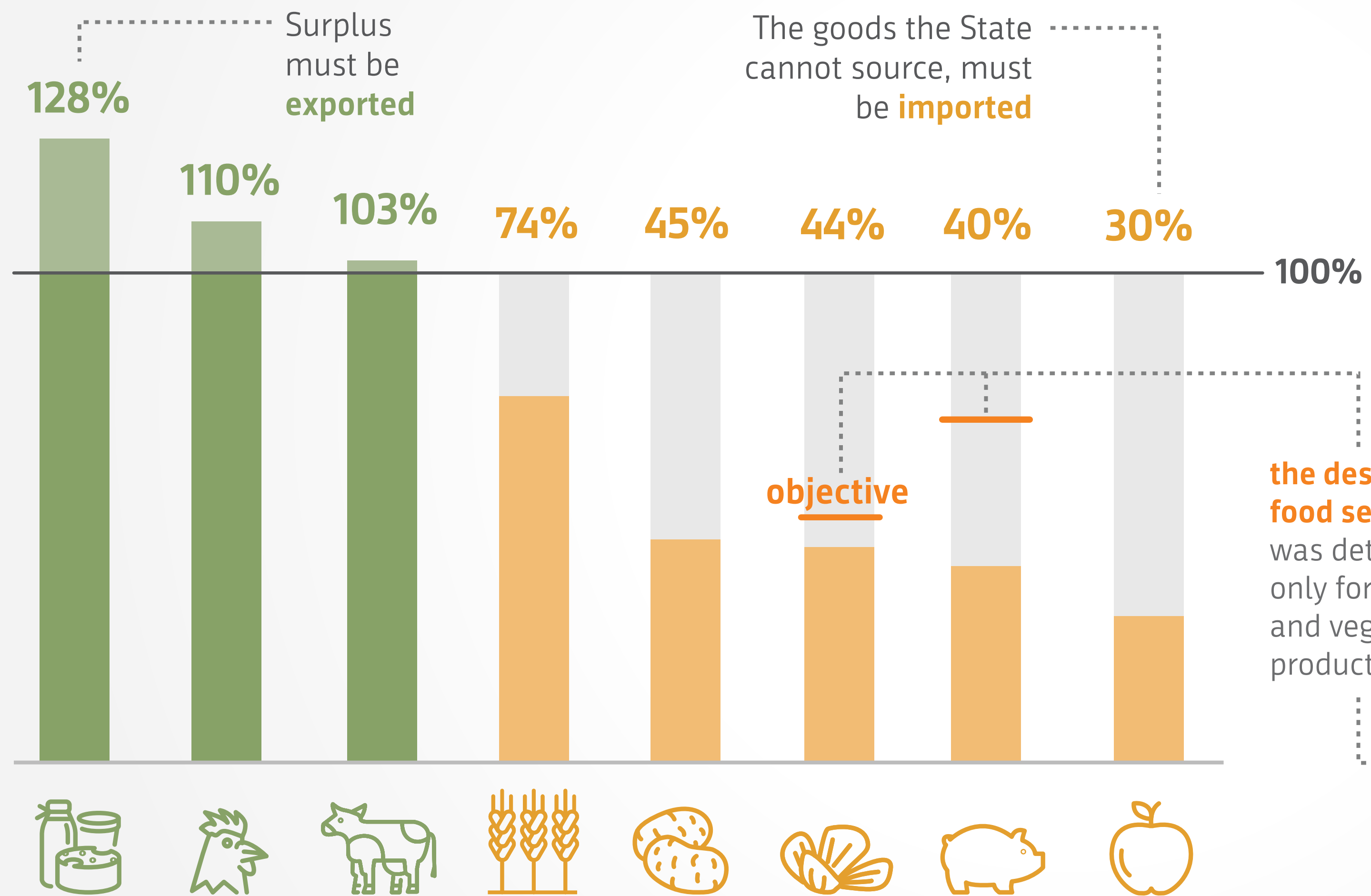
Audit period: 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020



What is the level of food self-sufficiency in Slovenia?

Advantages of local food production:

- **efficient use of resources** (land, workforce, equipment)
- could be of **better quality, more healthy and more environment-friendly** (lower transport costs and lower environmental impact, shorter chain from farm to fork, lower possibilities for infections)
- **reduced dependence** on other countries



Strategic guidelines mostly **do not envisage objectives for increasing** food self-sufficiency


Provisional data for 2019

High-quality agricultural land is a precondition for self-sufficiency

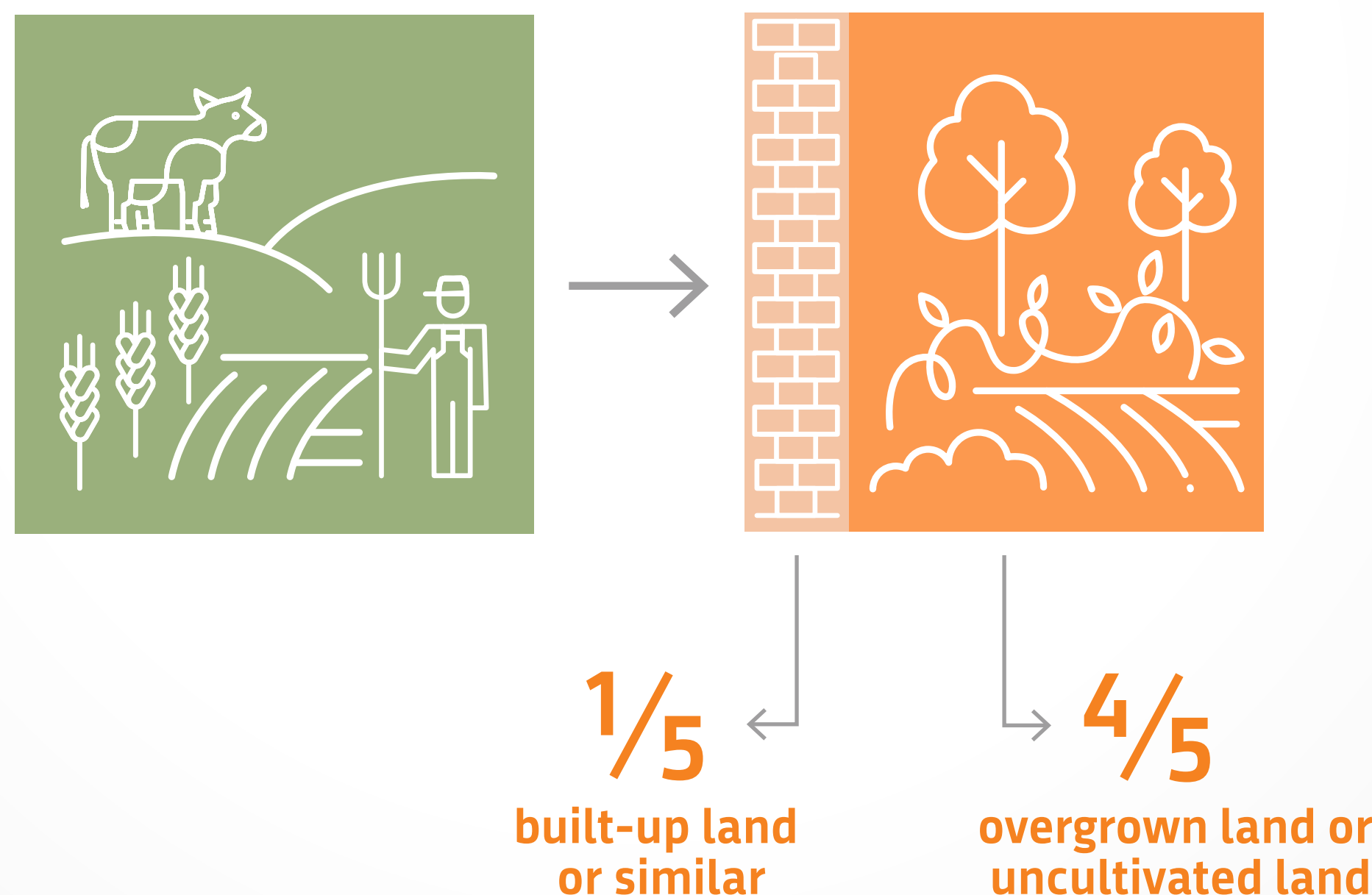
Measures for **protecting the scope** of agricultural land

  The Ministry **fulfilled all necessary conditions to start determining permanently protected agricultural land** with the aim to protect the best agricultural land **only in June 2020 (after 9 years)**.

  The Ministry **oriented spatial development towards preferential use of non-agricultural land**; the agricultural land whose land-use changed, mostly represented the best agricultural land.



  The Ministry implemented the **measures to eliminate overgrowth on agricultural land** but some of them were undertaken only in 2017 and others in 2020.



In just 4 years, utilised agricultural land in Slovenia was reduced by 11,120 ha*
which equals **40% of the surface area of the Municipality of Ljubljana**



Measures for **improving the quality** of agricultural land

  The Ministry **supported the growth of productive potential** by implementing the measures for improving soil properties, access to and integrity of agricultural land.

  **Indicative objectives** regarding the surface area of the concerned agricultural land were set but **only partially achieved**.

  **Poor overview of the data** on the implementation of measures for improving the quality of agricultural land.

No significant increase in crop production and livestock production

Activities of the Ministry did not contribute to any major changes regarding the level of self-sufficiency



The Ministry identified the reasons for poor self-sufficiency (for example insufficient transfer of knowledge, weak integration among producers, technological backwardness)



It only partially defined objectives and implemented measures (for example investments, promoting and encouraging integration among producers)



By providing financial resources, it supported imbalance between crop and livestock production*



73% livestock production

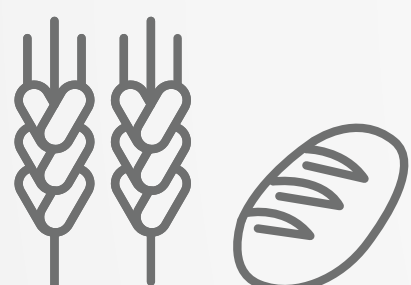


23% crop production

4%

unallocated

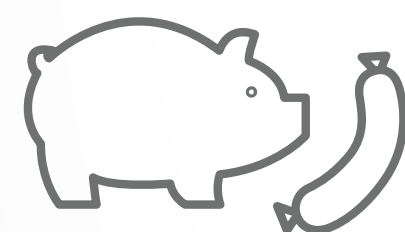
SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BY INDIVIDUAL SECTORS



CEREALS

▼ **-3.3%**

- Measures not oriented towards cereal production intended for human consumption resulting in decline ▼ **-19.2% wheat**
- Measures had no impact on integration among producers



PIG FARMING

▲ **+2.1%**

- No official data on the number of piglets born in Slovenia
- The Ministry failed to stimulate integration among breeders



VEGETABLES

▲ **+15.6%**

- The actual scope of greenhouse areas is half of the target size
- Slight progress was made towards integration among producers



COW'S MILK

▲ **+6.0%**

- Insufficient consideration of future trends (organic production)
- No measures for coherent spatial development related to cattle farming



SEEDS

?

- Due to the lack of data there is no single assessment of the level of seed self-sufficiency
- Modest measures relating mostly to organic production

*The assessment is based on the amount of funds earmarked for rural development unambiguously attributed to a particular field of production.
Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia – audit report Providing food safety by increasing food self-sufficiency

Opinion of the Court of Audit



The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food was **partially efficient** in ensuring food safety by increasing food self-sufficiency in the period 2014–2020.

The Court of Audit proposed to the Ministry 16 recommendations, among others:



Better **verification of actual utilisation** of agricultural land



Examining the **implementation of measures**, namely guidelines, especially in the field of **knowledge transfer**



Setting measurable objectives in the field of self-sufficiency and developing indicators for their monitoring



Developing **special measures** applied to those sectors with poor **integration among producers**



Consumers themselves may also contribute to self-sufficiency by **demanding quality domestic products.**