



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
COURT OF AUDIT

## AUDIT REPORT

# Efficiency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food in adapting agriculture to climate change

**Performance audit**

Audit period: 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2022



# Climate change increasingly affects agriculture

## CLIMATE CHANGE

refers to **long-term shifts in weather patterns** caused by natural processes and human activities.

- raising temperatures
- changing precipitation patterns

- extreme weather conditions
- longer growing seasons



## ADAPTING AGRICULTURE

reduces vulnerability of agriculture to climate change.

## NECESSARY BECAUSE:

- agriculture is **one of the most sensitive sectors**
- only **reducing greenhouse gas emissions\*** will not be enough to combat climate change
- climate change has a negative impact on **food self-sufficiency\***

\*The Court of Audit has already implemented audits: [reducing greenhouse gas emissions](#) and [food self-sufficiency](#).

# The Ministry failed to pay enough attention to strategic planning

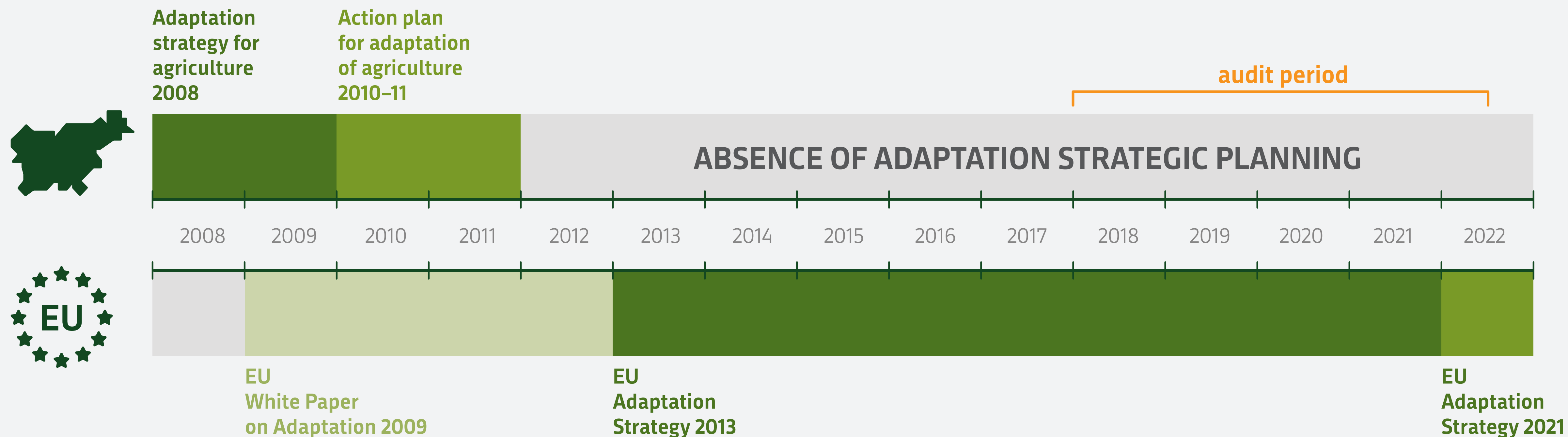
- The Ministry **failed to monitor** impacts of climate change on agriculture. It had only the data about damage caused by natural disasters.
- The Ministry **failed to develop vulnerability assessment** which is the basis for the strategy and it **failed to develop the adaptation strategy** for agriculture.
- **Measures were planned** in other documents, mainly **to achieve other objectives** of the agricultural policy.

## CONSEQUENCES:

- Adapting agriculture to climate change is **not planned** fully and systematically.
- **Possible differences** in vulnerability of agriculture across Slovenia are **not considered**.



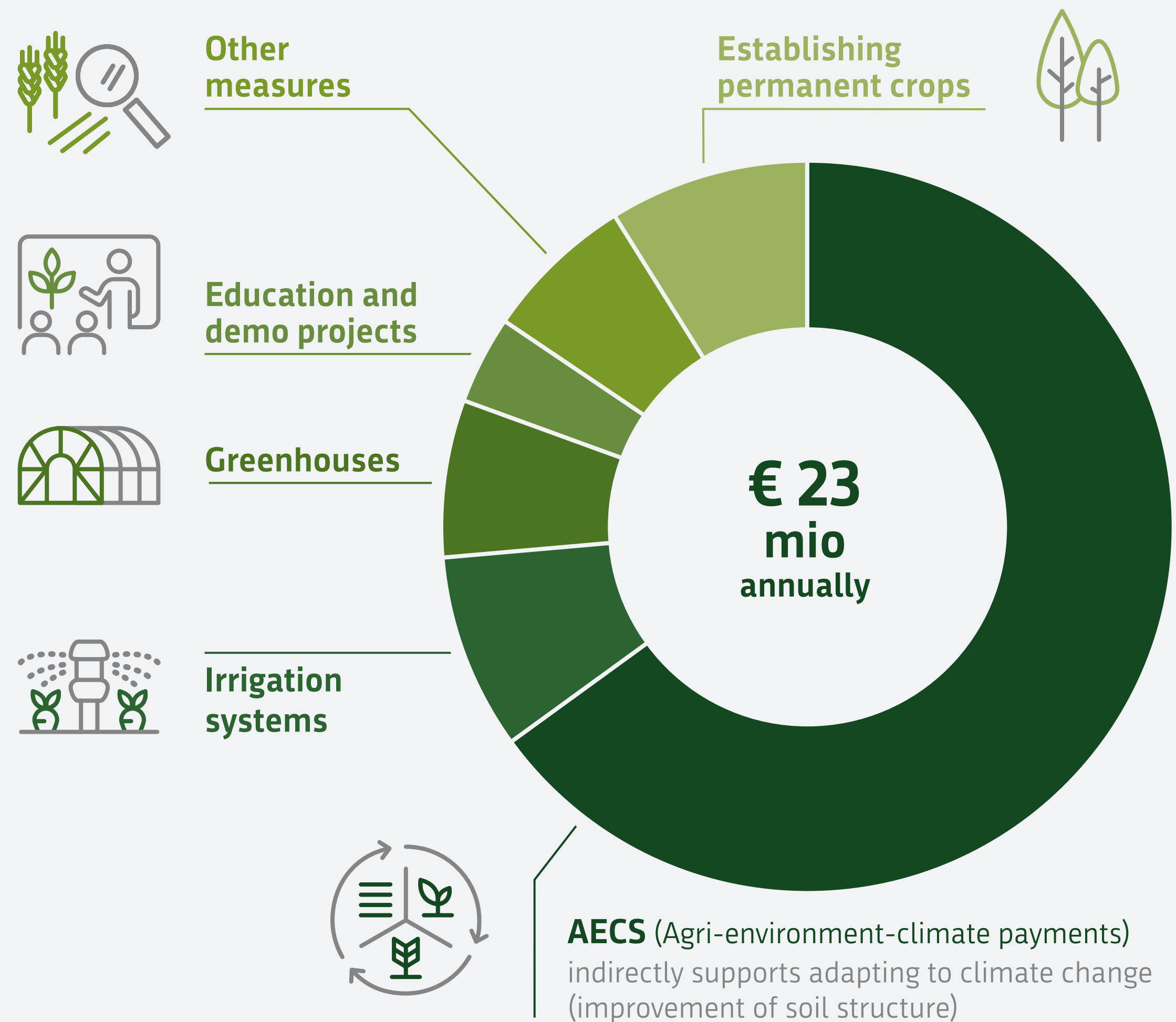
There is a risk that **ADAPTATION WILL BE MORE EXPENSIVE!**



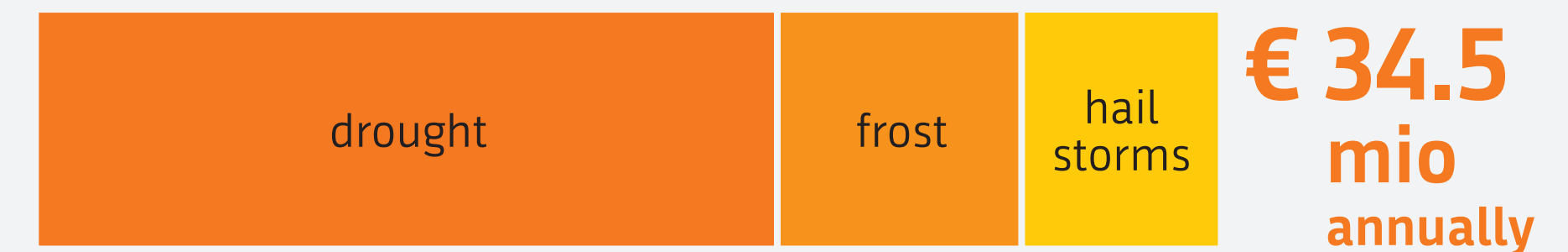
# Measures were implemented despite the absence of strategic planning

## 2015–2021 agricultural adaptation measures

(rural development programme)



Assessed scope of damage 2003–21



Approved State aid 2003–21

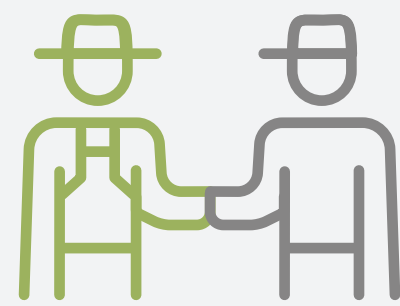


- + Most of the funds were allocated for **adapting to drought**, which causes most damage in the long term.
- + More funds were allocated for **preventive measures** than **approved State aid** for damage  
→ but the **scope of funds** for adapting is still **smaller than the damage caused**.
- The Ministry **failed to fully monitor** implementation of measures and **failed to measure** efficiency of implemented measures.

# Generating and transferring knowledge can be improved

**+** The Ministry financed **research** and **advisory service** for farmers.

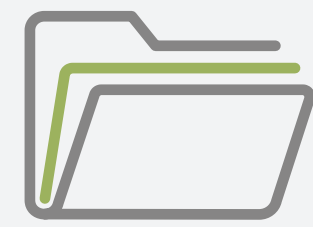
## RESEARCH



**9** adaptation related

**European Innovation Partnerships (EIP)**

2018-2022



**8** indirectly linked

**targeted research projects**

2018-2022



**+** **2** directly linked

## ADVISORY SERVICE:



**31**

**trainings for farmers per year**

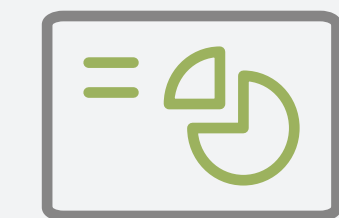
2018-2020



**2,638 hr**

**of consultation to farmers per year**

2018-2020



**84**

**developed materials and articles**

2018-2020

**-** **Priorities** for research **not defined**.

**○** **The EIP-AGRI** which enables better knowledge transfer is financed by the Ministry **only from 2022**.

**○** Knowledge transfer to farmers and connecting partners **must be improved**.

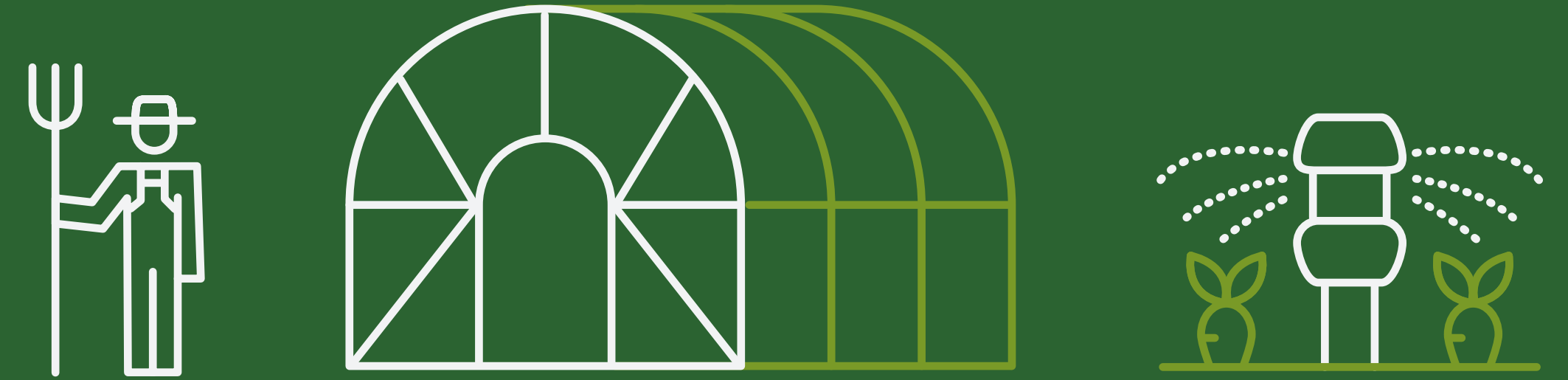
**○** The Ministry **promoted adaptation** via advisory service, but it failed to provide additional resources.

**○** The Ministry **partially monitored** knowledge transfer via advisory service and cooperation among stakeholders.

**-** Past **planned measures are still not implemented** (regional testing and demo centres, cataloguing existing knowledge).

# Audit opinion of the Court of Audit

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food was **partially efficient** in adapting agriculture to climate change.



The Ministry has prepared an action plan to develop: vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy.

The Court of Audit proposed 9 recommendations, among them:



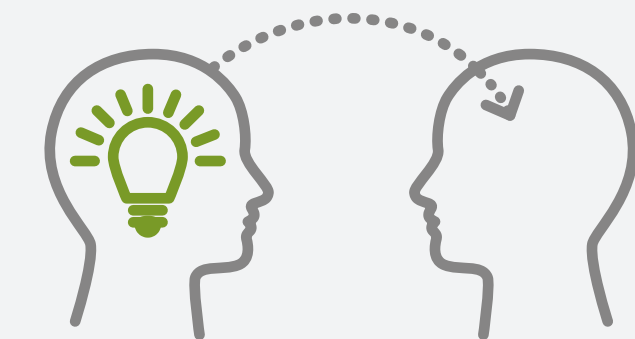
**systematic monitoring**  
of climate change  
impacts on agriculture



**better monitoring**  
of adaptation  
measures impacts



**setting priorities**  
in research related to  
adaptation of agriculture



**improving knowledge  
transfer and cooperation**  
among public services



Without early response of competent authorities, **we shall be forced to resort to unplanned adaptation** which may cause higher expenses. **Adaptation must thus be strengthened!**

