

# PROTECT OUR WATER

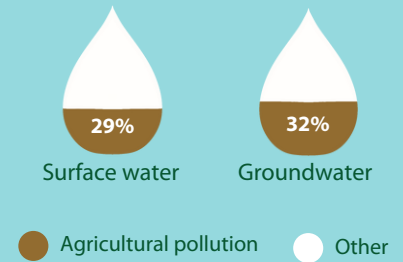
## ! EUROPE'S WATER IS IN A BAD STATE

71% of surface water and 23% of groundwater are in bad chemical conditions. 63% of surface water is in bad ecological status and 9% of groundwater is in bad quantitative status. And agriculture is one of the main causes.

Agricultural pollutants are e.g. veterinary medicines, excess of nutrients and pesticides.

**"European agriculture needs to increase its use of more sustainable organic and agroecological practices."** - EEA, *Europe's State of Water 2024*

## Major pressures on water



## ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES PROTECT OUR WATER

### LESS CHEMICAL POLLUTION

No synthetic pesticides (metabolites = major source of pollution)

Antibiotics use strictly limited

MORE WATER FOR PLANTS & CROPS

+90% higher yields during droughts

Saves water depollution costs\*

\*5-100 bn EUR/year only for TFA (acid trifluoroacetic)

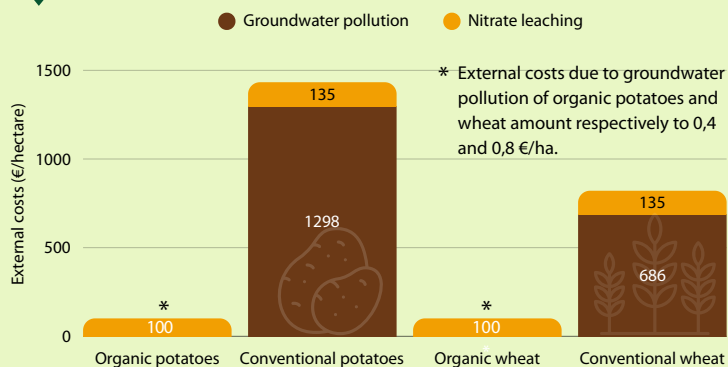
28%-39% less nitrate leaching

Higher water storage +100%

3.5 greater water use efficiency

Higher water infiltration by up to +256%

## ORGANIC IS CHEAPER FOR SOCIETY



## HOW POLICYMAKERS CAN CONTRIBUTE

**Protect the areas where the water we use is collected (water catchment areas) by:**

- Banning synthetic pesticides
- Prioritising organic practices

**Protect our water bodies at large by:**

- Identifying organic farming as key measure to protect water quality and resilience in EU initiatives like the Water Resilience Strategy
- Supporting organic farming & farmers converting to organic in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

All sources can be found in **"Building water resilience through organic farming"** [IFOAM Organics Europe, 2025]