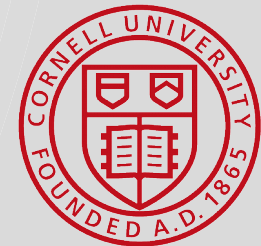# Perennial grains: Perspectives of farmers in the USA and France

A study conducted in 2016
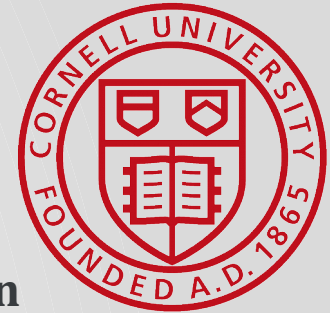
Valentine Debray

First Agroecology Europe Forum

October 2017

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The study conducted at Cornell

A collaboration between Cornell University and ISARA-Lyon
Matthew Ryan, Sandra Wayman et Christophe David

What were the objectives?
1) Evaluate **farmer interest** in perennial grains
2) Identify **opportunities and challenges** associated with the adoption of such crops

Provide guidelines for further research

How did we meet these objectives
An online survey for organic and conver~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~ and France

407 farmers

Farmer demographics

Table 1. Farm size and farming system

Category	US		France	
Conventional	23%	(n=20)	21%	(n=68)
Organic	69%	(n=61)	63%	(n=202)
Small (under 100 ha)	44%	(n=39)	50%	(n=159)
Medium (100 to 200 ha)	10%	(n=9)	32%	(n=101)
Large (above 200 ha)	41%	(n=36)	17%	(n=53)
Livestock	48%	(n=39)	39%	(n=119)
Forage crops	57%	(n=46)	61%	(n=186)
Perennials[1]	58%	(n=47)	50%	(n=153)
Ancient grains	36%	(n=29)	58%	(n=177)

[1] Such as trees, vines and grasses

- In the US and France

- Organic and conventional farmers

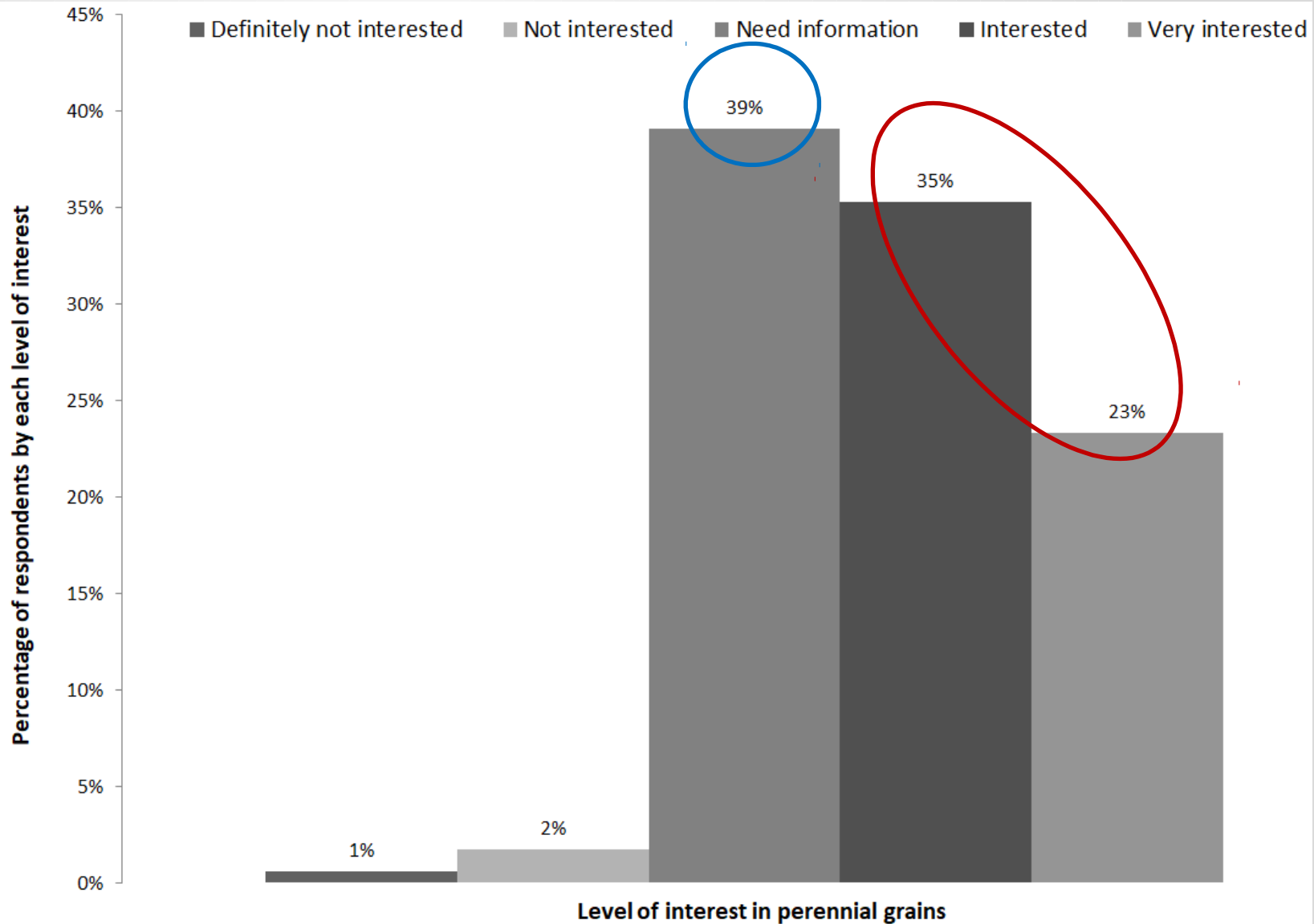# Farmer interest in perennial grains

Figure 1. Farmer interest in perennial grains

- 58% of farmers 'interested' or 'very interested'   39% need more information

Motivations for growing perennial grains

"Please rank the top three reasons why you might be interested in growing perennial grains"
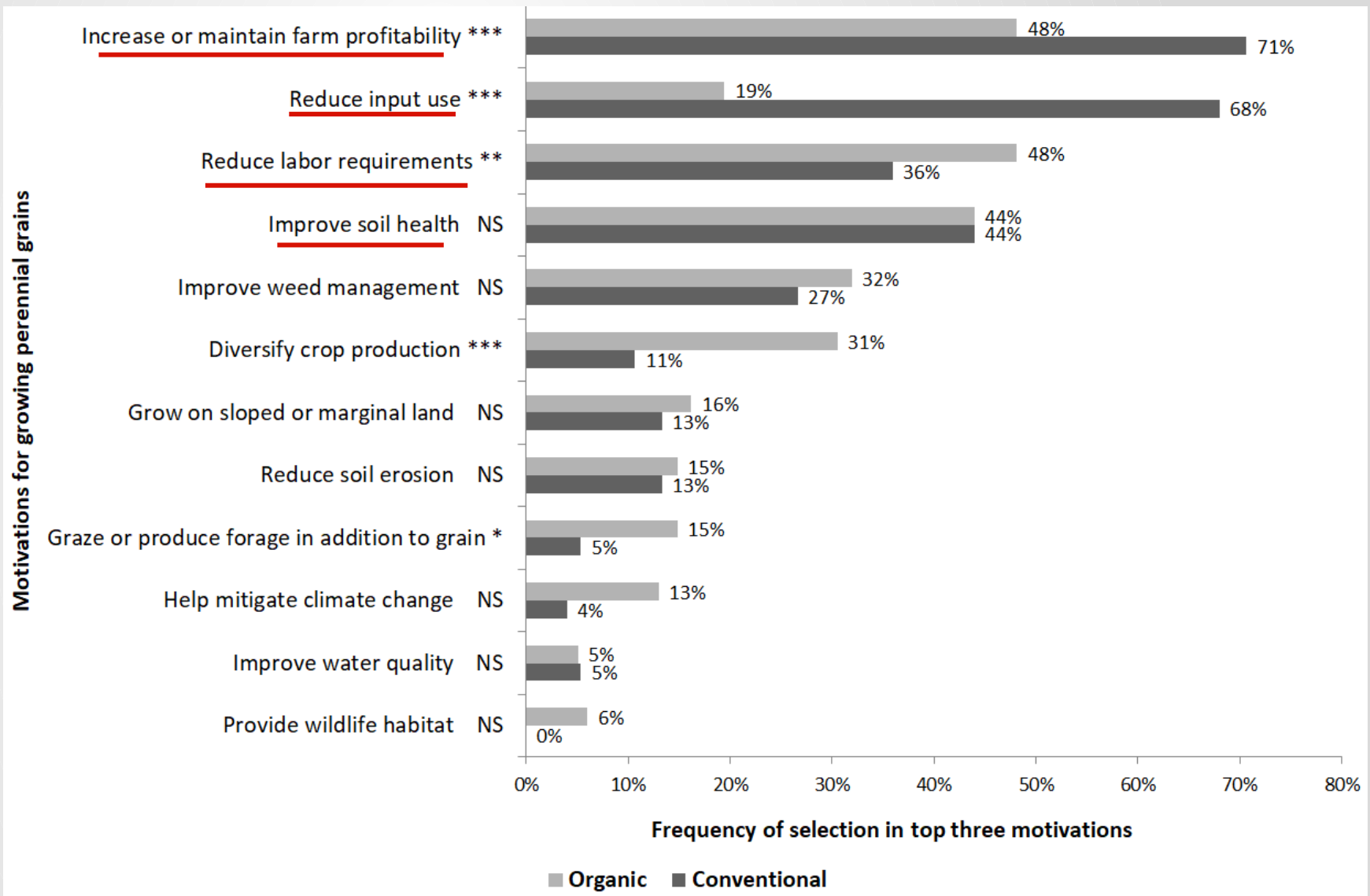

Figure 2. Main motivations for growing perennial grains according to organic and conventional farmers

Challenges associated with perennial grain production

"Given the potential challenges associated with perennial grain production, what would be your top 3 concerns?"
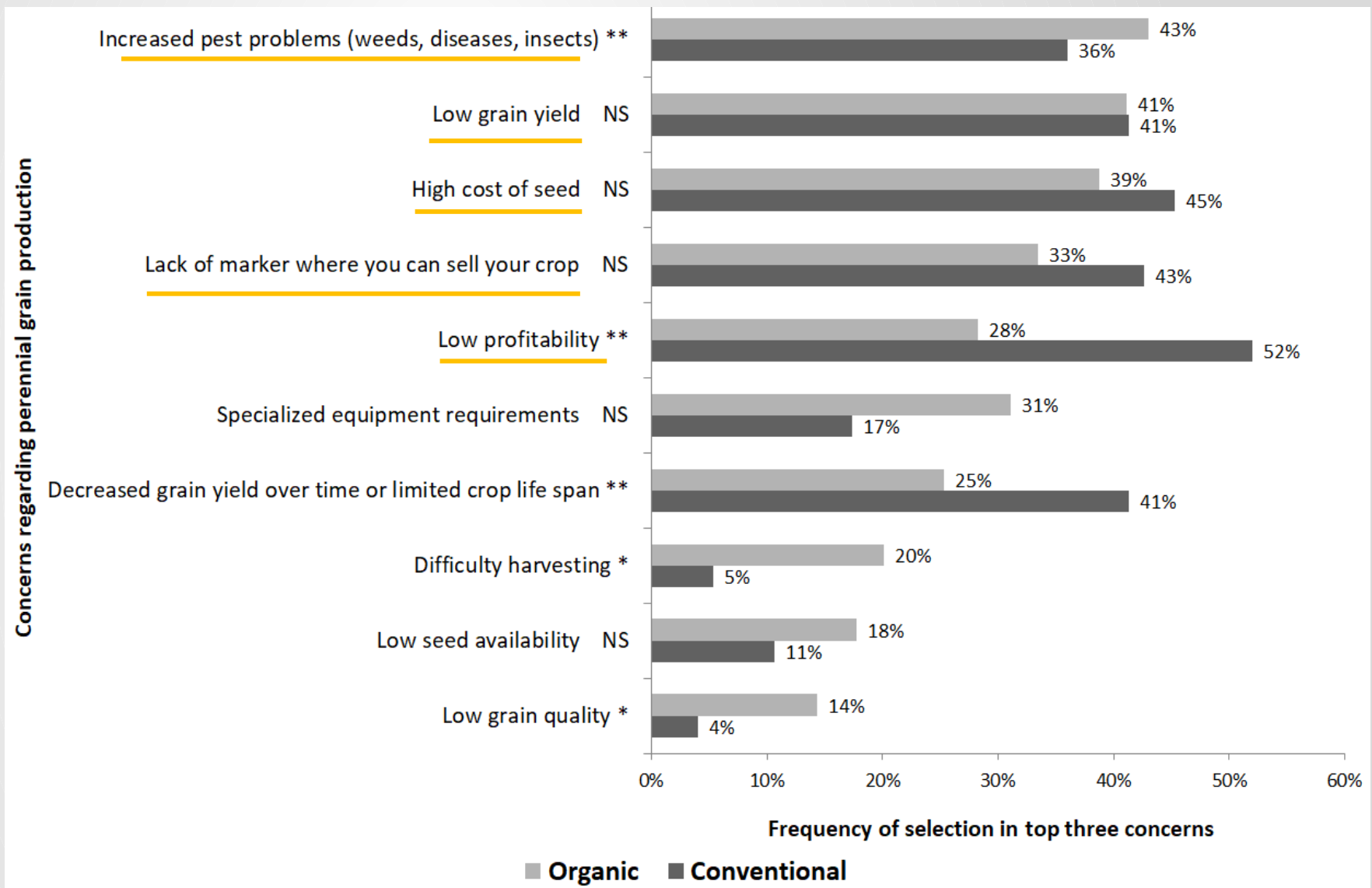

Figure 3. Main concerns of organic and conventional farmers regarding perennial grain crop production

Conclusions

Which opportunities and potential limits did farmers perceive?

<u>**Opportunities**</u>

- Dual-use purpose crops: a way to add value
- Restoration of degraded land

<u>Potential limits</u>

- Pest problems
- Grain yield
- Seed cost

Thank you for your attention!