Results of Impact Studies in Burkina Faso and Kyrgyzstan

Felicitas Bachmann
Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern
The studies

Objectives
Analysis of the impact of organic cotton production on the livelihoods of involved farmers

✓ Economic impact
✓ Social impact (workload, health, etc.)
✓ Environmental impact (soil fertility)

Approach
✓ Comparison between organic and conventional farms
✓ Comparison today – before conversion
Methodology

1. Individual interviews
2. Group interviews
3. Learning event
Burkina Faso

- Helvetas organic cotton programme started in 2004

**Impact study**
- 3 zones → 6 villages
- Sample: 53 organic / 48 convent. Farmers
- conducted end 2008
**Economic impact (BF)**

**Cotton yields**

(according to respondents, no measurements made)

**Gross margin**

Conventional → 40% higher yields

Organic → 30% higher gross margin
Social impact (BF)

Workload for cotton

- Organic farmers have a more positive perception of human and animal health.

Health conditions

- Organic → 23% less work

Organic → 23% less work
Ecological impact (BF)

Soil fertility

- Organic farmers perceive an improvement of soil fertility
Kyrgyzstan

- Helvetas organic cotton programme started in 2004

Impact study
- 3 zones → 7 villages
- Sample: 44 organic / 33 conventional farmers
- Study on-going (June / Oct. 2009)
Economic impact (KG)  

Cotton yields  

Gross margin  

(according to respondents, no measurements made)

Conventional → 12% higher yields
Perceived changes (KG)

Qualitative data → comparison between:
- Today and before conversion to organic farming
- Today and 5 years ago (conventional farmers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cotton yields</th>
<th>Production costs</th>
<th>Revenue cotton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>increase</td>
<td>decrease</td>
<td>increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organic</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conventional</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Social impact (KG) – workload

Qualitative data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Workload cotton</th>
<th>Workload women</th>
<th>Overall workload (farming)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>increase</td>
<td>decrease</td>
<td>increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social impact – health (KG)

general health conditions of the family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>organic</th>
<th>conventional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>improved</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>worsened</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Environmental impact (KG) – soils

### Qualitative data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Soil fertility</th>
<th>Water holding capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>organic</td>
<td>increase 95%</td>
<td>increase 88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conventional</td>
<td>decrease 0%</td>
<td>decrease 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>increase 16%</td>
<td>increase 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>decrease 45%</td>
<td>decrease 41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges

- how to manage growth?
Challenges

• Kyrgyzstan: current crisis of the conventional cotton sector

→ what is the impact on organic cotton?
Thank you for your attention