

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

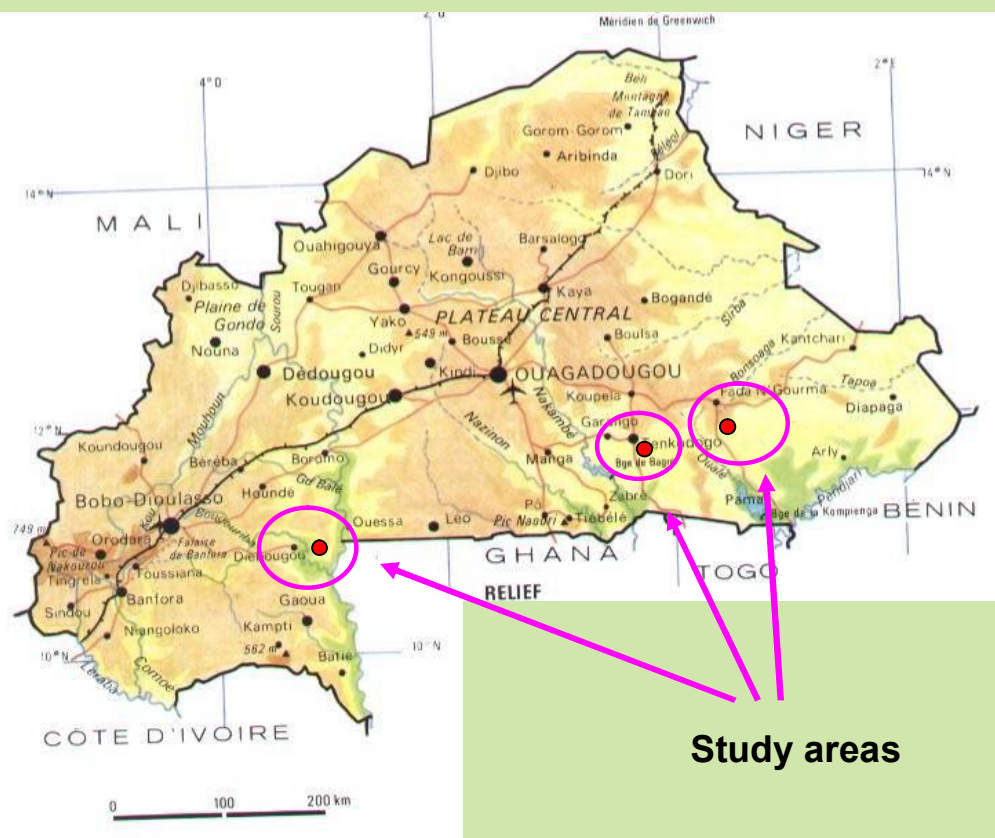
- ✓ Comparison between organic and conventional farms
- ✓ Comparison today – before conversion

Methodology

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



Burkina Faso



- Helvetas organic cotton programme started in 2004

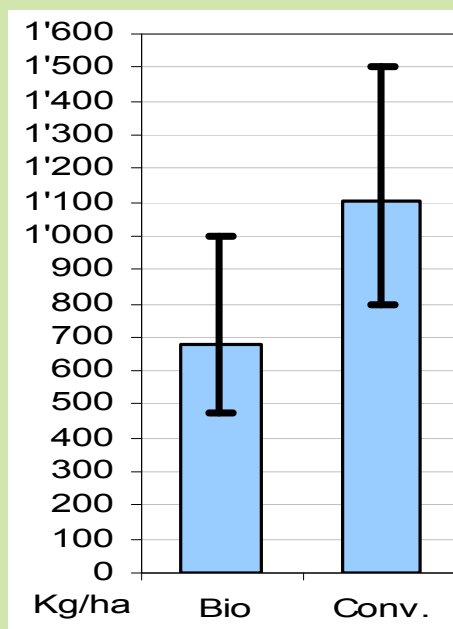
Impact study

- 3 zones → 6 villages
- Sample: 53 organic / 48 convent. Farmers
- conducted end 2008

Economic impact (BF)

Cotton yields

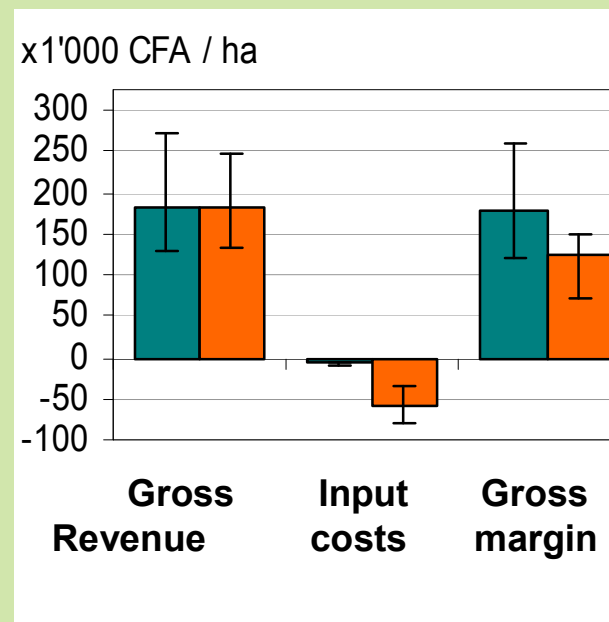
(according to respondents, no measurements made)



Conventional
→ 40% higher
yields

Cotton yields 2008
(incl. 1st and 3rd quartile)

Gross margin

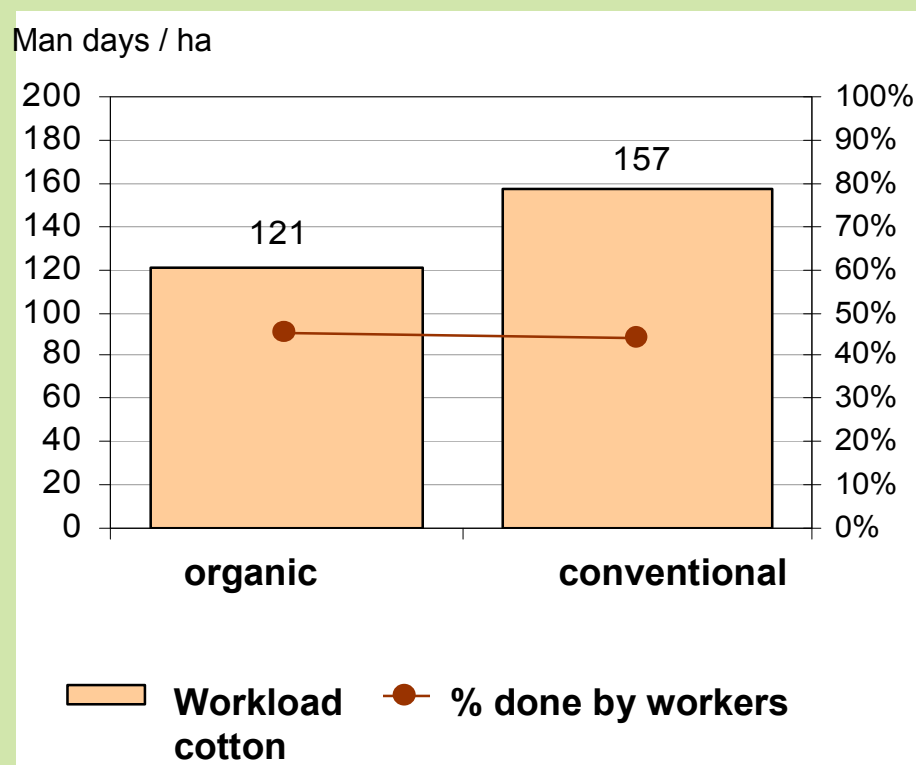


Organic →
30% higher
gross margin

organic
conventional

Social impact (BF)

Workload for cotton



Organic → 23% less work

Health conditions

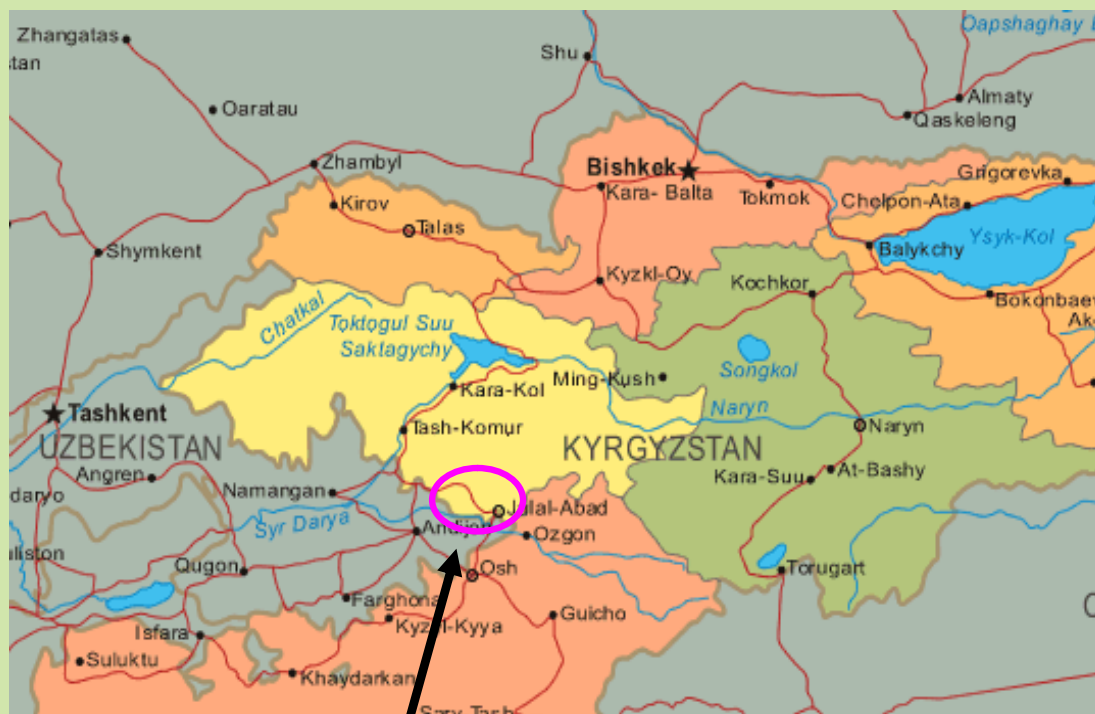
- Organic farmers have a more positive perception of human and animal health

Ecological impact (BF)

Soil fertility

- Organic farmers perceive an improvement of soil fertility

Kyrgyzstan



study area

- Helvetas organic cotton programme started in 2004

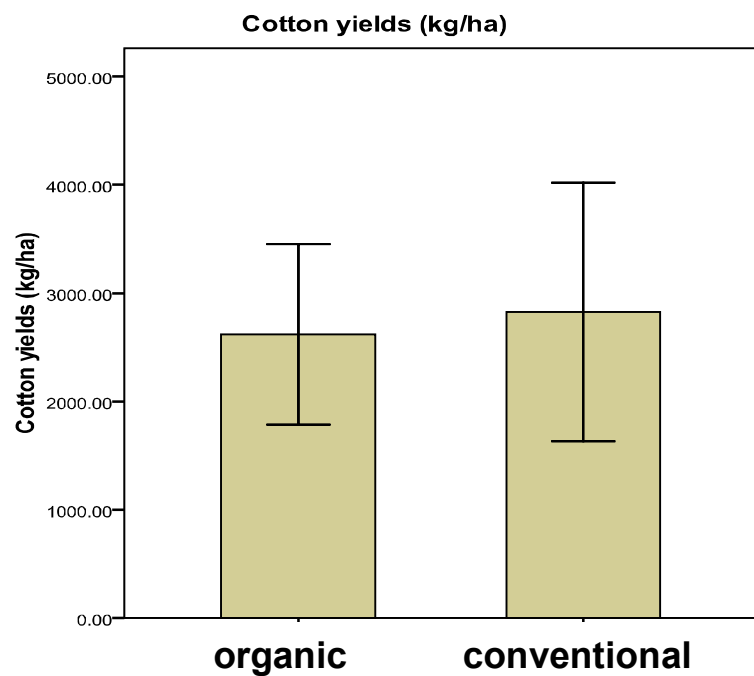
Impact study

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

Economic impact (KG) preliminary results

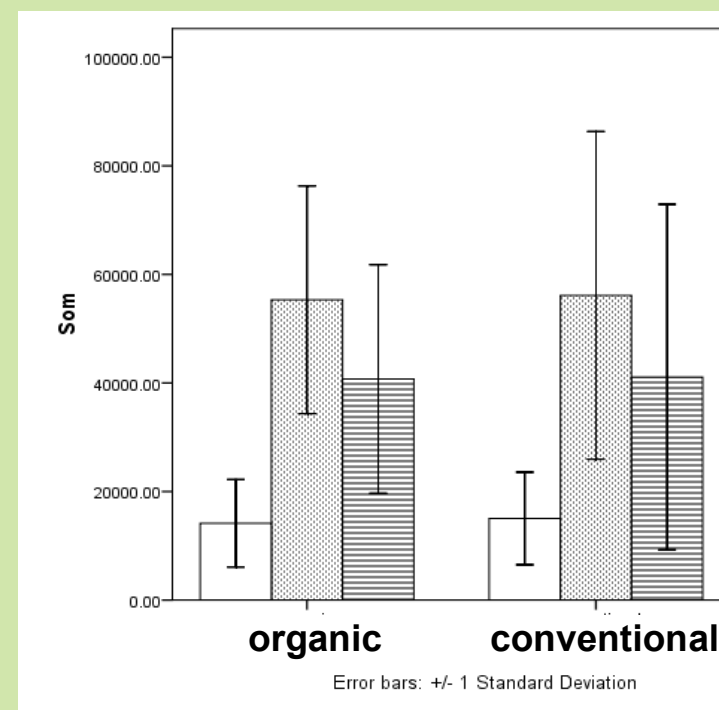
Cotton yields




(according to respondents, no measurements made)



Conventional → 12% higher yields

Gross margin



-  Production costs (Som/ha)
-  Gross revenue (Som/ha)
-  Gross margin (Som/ha)

Perceived changes (KG)

Qualitative data → comparison between:

- Today and before conversion to organic farming
- Today and 5 years ago (conventional farmers)

Cotton

Cotton yields

increase decrease

organic

55%

18%

conventional

26%

39%

Production costs

increase decrease

25%

50%

90%

0%

Revenue cotton

increase decrease

49%

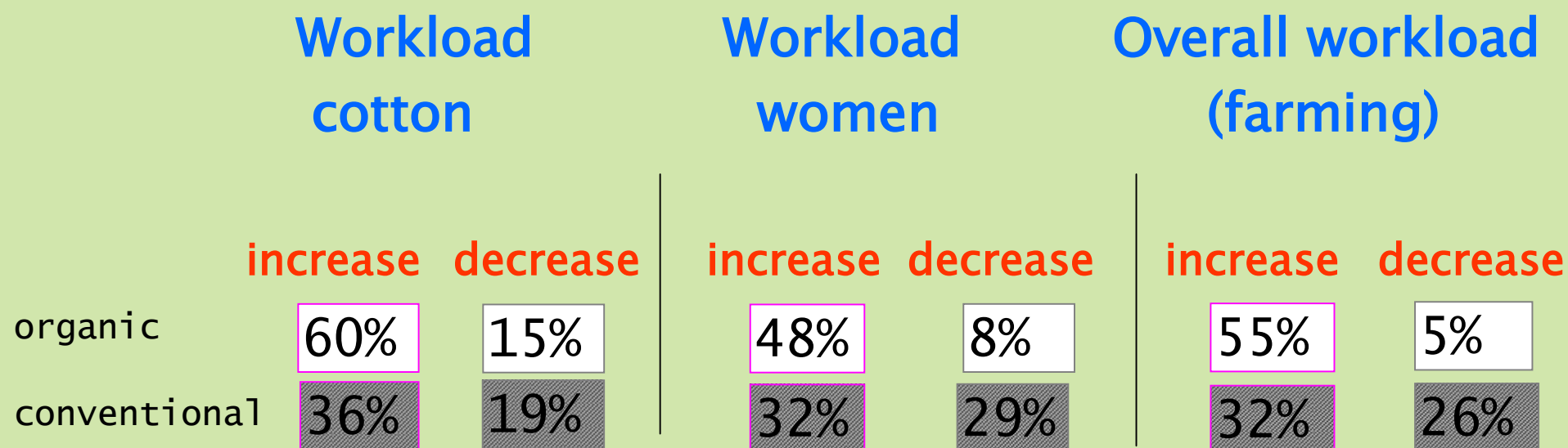
28%

17%

53%

Social impact (KG) – workload

Qualitative data



Social impact – health (KG)

general health conditions of the family

improved

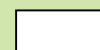
21%

16%

worsened

17%

19%



organic



conventional

Environmental impact (KG) – soils

Qualitative data

Soil fertility

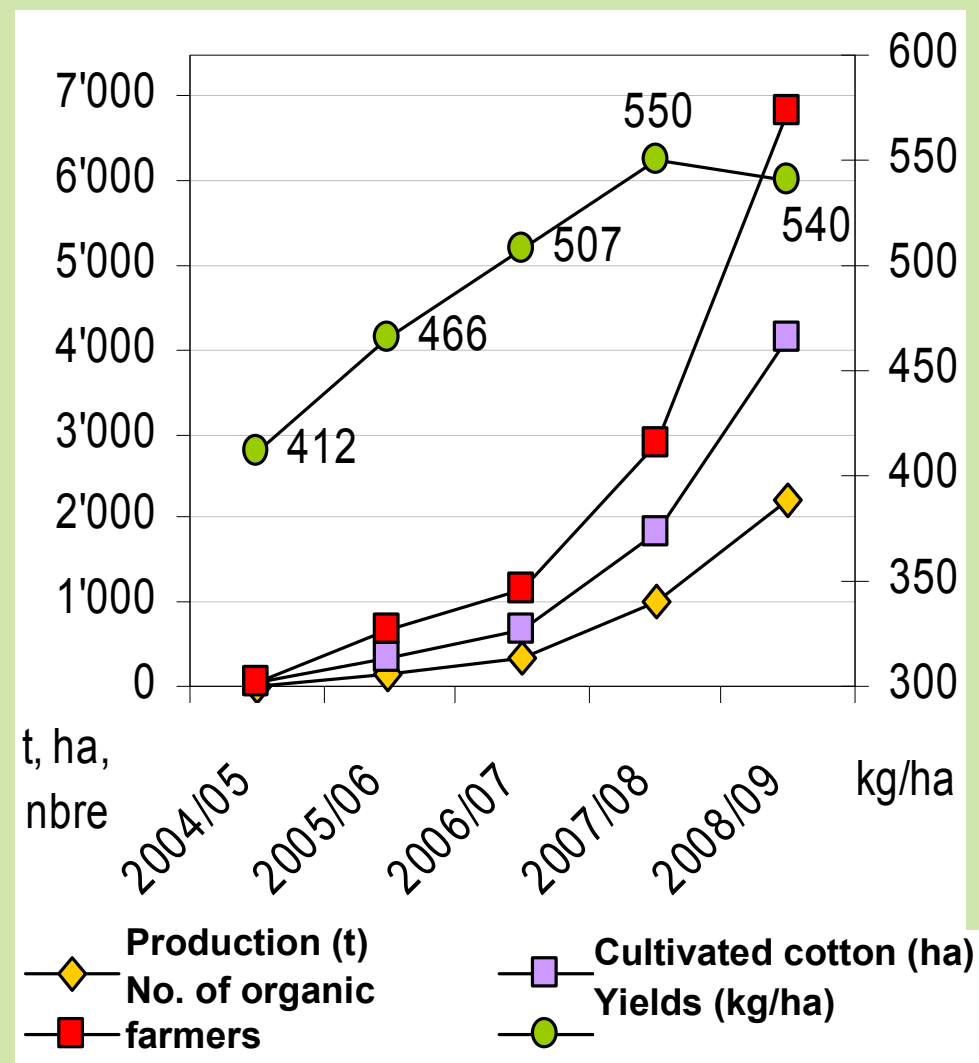
Water holding capacity

| | increase | decrease | | increase | decrease |
|--------------|----------|----------|--|----------|----------|
| organic | 95% | 0% | | 88% | 0% |
| conventional | 16% | 45% | | 10% | 41% |

Challenges

- how to manage growth?

Burkina Faso



Challenges

- Kyrgyzstan: current crisis of the conventional cotton sector

→ what is the impact on organic cotton?

Thank you for your attention

