Federal Ministry
Agriculture and Forestry, Climate
and Environmental Protection,
Regions and Water Management
Republic of Austria



# Experience of Austria on water-efficient agriculture at basin level

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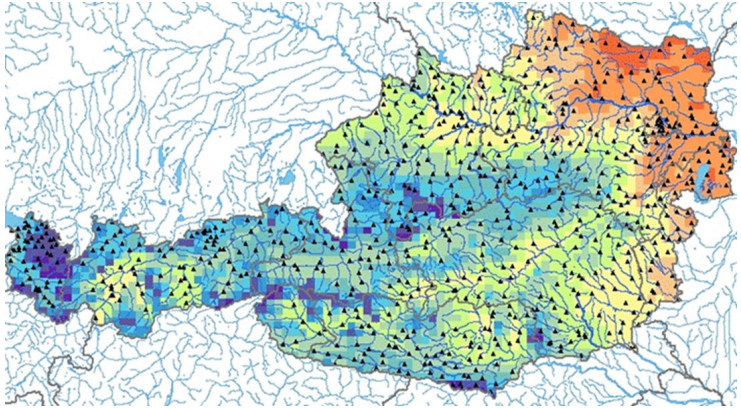
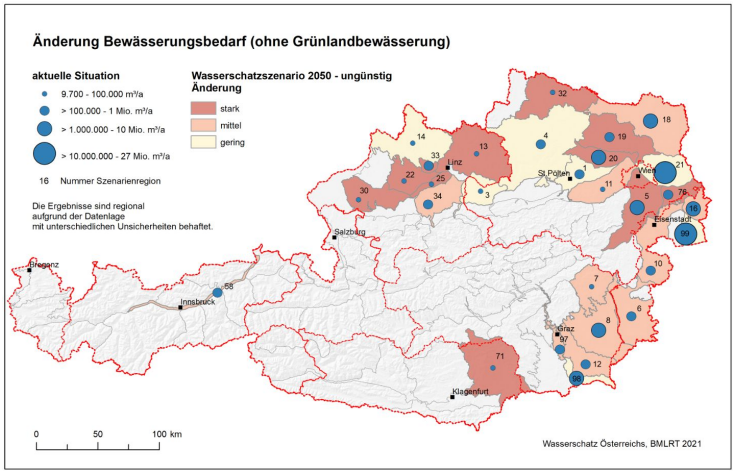
# Challenge for water management

## Water quantity / water availability

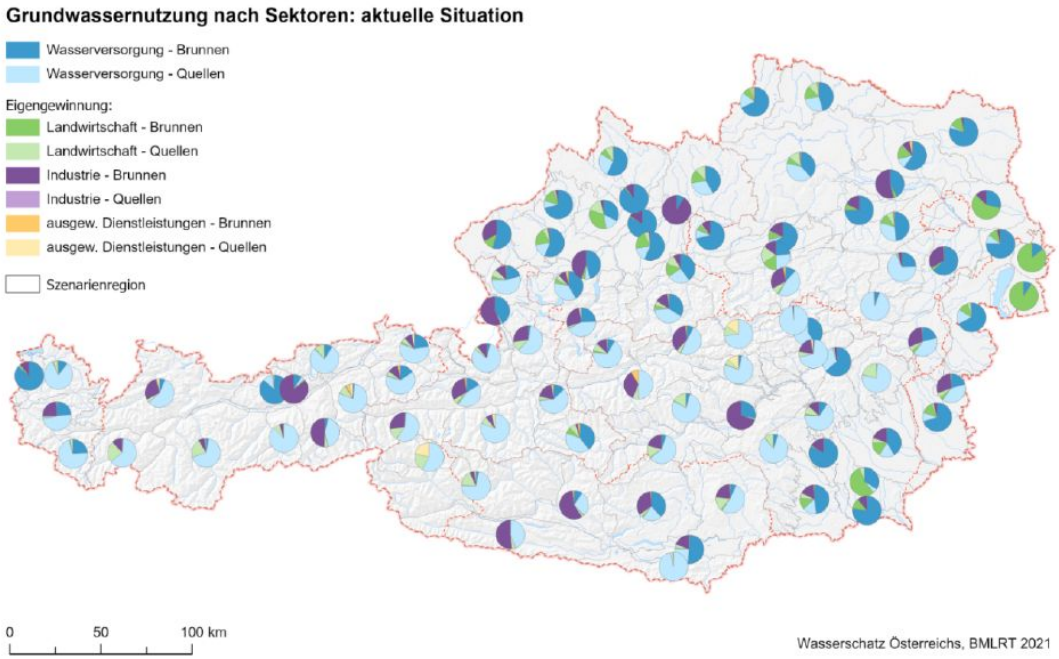
- **Study „Austria's Water Treasure** " (2021): assessment of available groundwater resource and groundwater use today and in 2050
- **Agricultural water demand** will double until 2050, **available groundwater resources** probably decrease
- **Risk of regional/local shortages in 2050**
- Solutions on the **supply side as well as on the water demand side required**





# Water demand for agriculture in Austria

- Only **4%** of available water resources **used by agriculture**
- **Irrigation** demand almost **double until 2050**
- **Irrigation concentrated** in specific areas with water use for irrigation **up to 90%**
- Mainly groundwater abstraction



# Landscape Water Management


## Background

- Historically, we tried to get rid of water as fast as possible
- Climate change triggers new ideas of landscape management (drought management, pluvial floods…)

## Objectives

- Development of methods to keep water in our landscapes
- Pilote sites with different measures to efficiently retain water
- Adaption of simulation models for landscape water management to optimize practical implementation


# Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027

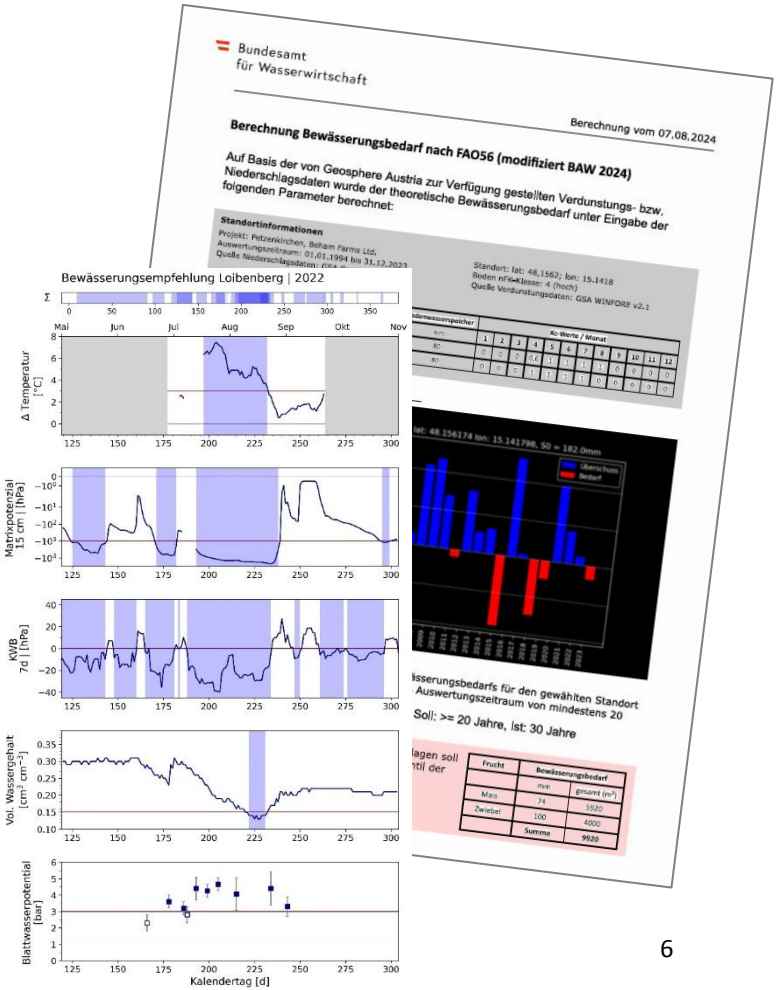
- **Support for investments in irrigation**
  - different options for **individual farms**, **associations of farms** and **producer organisations** and its members (fruit and winegrowing) – differences in support rates
  - Key **funding requirements** include
    - Water permits
    - Water meters, water savings (if existing installations are renewed), net-increase of irrigated areas only for GW-bodies in good quantitative status, …
    - **Pumps**: change from fossil fuel to **electric** energy power supply

# Irrigation demand management

**Background:** Improved irrigation management for wine production is an important tool for steering of wine quality

## Objectives

- Development of basic data for optimal irrigation management at local and regional scale
- Testing of innovative methods to estimate irrigation demand using a combination of different sensoring devices



# Agriculture Austria - Vision 2028+

- **<u>Goal 2:</u> Soil protection, an efficient water strategy, and the promotion of renewable energies** are designed to secure the basis of production and strengthen climate and biodiversity protection.


- **<u>Measures:</u>**

- **Subsidies for PV** on (1) buildings, (2) sealed surfaces, (3) Agri-PV systems
- **Agroforestry** systems and hedgerows
- Efficient and sustainable **use of biomass and bioenergy**
- Build humus, improve soil fertility, carbon farming, **promote efficient water use and retention**
- Multifunctional, sustainable, and efficient **irrigation** measures

# AT-CZ Interreg project SaveWater

- Project duration: 09/2024 – 08/2027
- **Catalogue** of different **water retention measures**
- **Quantifiying effects** of water retention measures
- 38 agricultural reference sites in Austria
- Digital Twin; use of satellite data

Petzenkirchen

Foto: Paul Weiß

# Thank you for your attention!

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