

A stylized, vertical wheat stalk graphic in a light orange color, positioned on the left side of the slide. It features a central stem with several pairs of leaves branching out, and a cluster of grain heads at the top.

# CHALLENGES FOR ROYALTY COLLECTION IN ESTONIA

Karen Rätsep  
Estonian Seed Association  
Active Manager

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# Estonian Seed Association

- 31 seed producers
  - 11 variety representatives
  - ECRI
  - KEVILI
- 
- Board (7 members)
  - Active manager



## OUR MISSION:

To promote certified seed production and usage in Estonia

# Basics of the system

**1. Contract between variety owner/representative and Estonian Seed Association**

**2. Seed Association collects data from farmers about their FSS use**

**3. Seed Association issues a FSS royalties invoice to the farmer based on collected data**

**4. Received payments are forwarded to variety representatives once a year**

**5. Each variety representative will receive information about their own varieties**

# FSS royalties collecting through Estonian Seed Association

- 8 contractual partners and Estonian Seed Association as an authorised representative (2019)
- Crops: cereals and pulses, oil crops, potatoes, lucerne
- The rates:

Cereals and pulses (152 varieties)	3,00 EUR/ha
Oil crops (18)	5,80 EUR/ha
Potatoes (2)	25,60 EUR/ha
Alfalfa (2)	3,50 EUR/ha



- 25% Estonian PVP, 75% EU protected

# The system: what works?

- Cooperation between variety representatives through the Seed Association; a joint message
- Continuously developing system exists
- Online declaration form + other options to share FSS data
- Legislative background (both EU and EST)

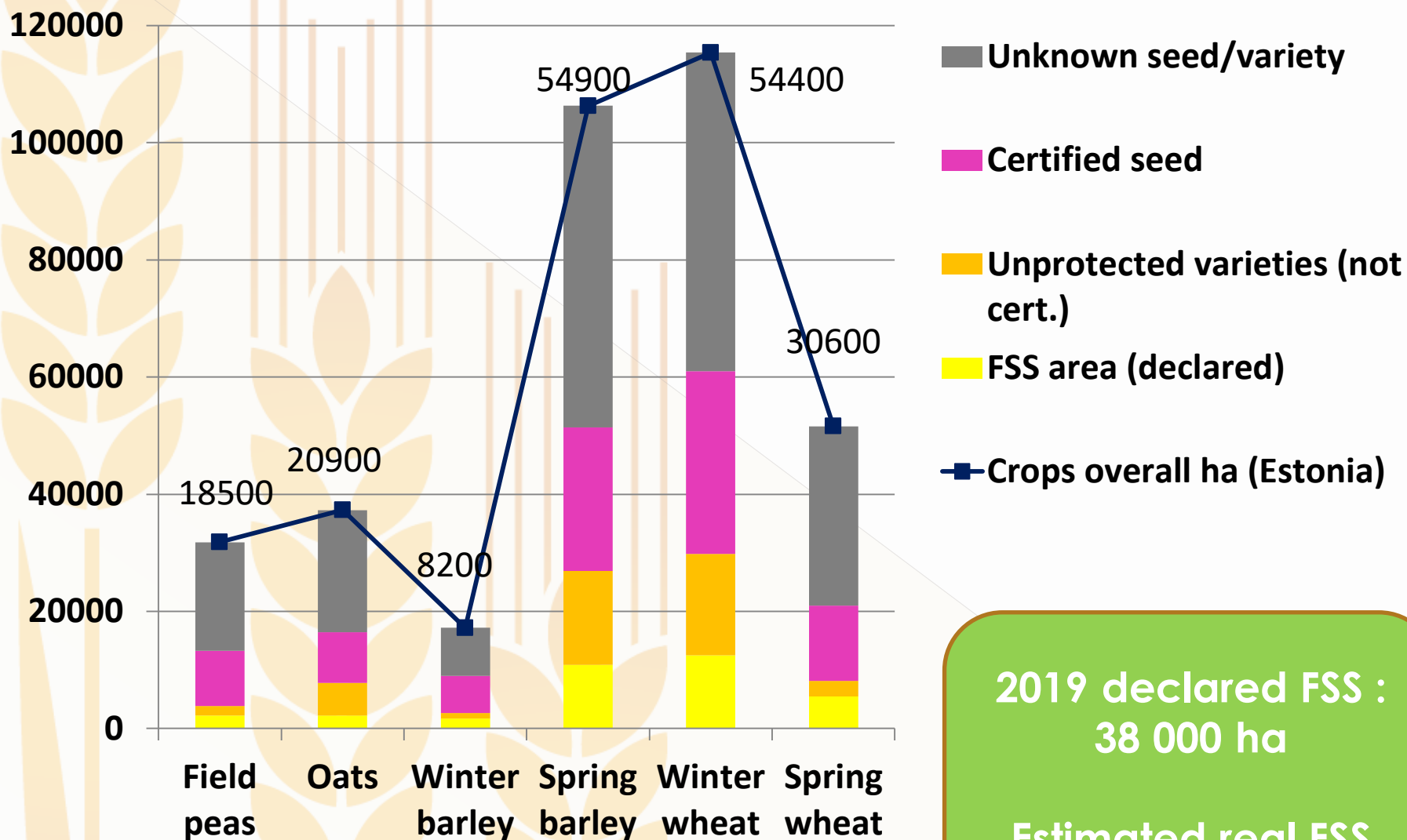
# The challenges

- Knowledge of farmers
- Spreading information
- Principles and attitude of farmers towards handling seeds as a crucial input of production
- Traditionally high rate of FSS vs relatively new concept of PVP
- The usage of „black seed“ (brown bagged)

# The challenges (2)

- Need to present overlapping information to different parties
- Unprotected varieties
- Foreign varieties vs bred in Estonia
- The transparency of the system
- Soft attitude toward collecting the royalties

## Seed usage in most common crops production in Estonia (2019)



2019 declared FSS :  
38 000 ha

Estimated real FSS  
use: 180 000 ha

Source: Statistics Estonia (crops general area), Estonian Seed Association (FSS data and estimates)



# Conclusions

The amount of information and collected FSS fees is at the critical minimal level:

- To ensure breeders' legal rights protection in Estonia and avoid loss of reputation for our country
- For Estonian farmers to have continuous access to new varieties and the best production input
- Thereby to guarantee the competitiveness of Estonian crop production

# The future

- Collecting FSS royalties is breeders right and discussion continues to find the best way to implement it.
- Information from national databases
- Intensive increase of knowledge must be achieved
- Farmers look for more information on varieties, FSS fees, breeding, feedback – common knowledge about seed sector
- Individual contacts with farmers
- Legal possibilities to protect variety owners rights



**MTÜ Eesti Seemneliit**  
**Estonian Seed Association**

[seemneliit@seemneliit.ee](mailto:seemneliit@seemneliit.ee)

[www.seemneliit.ee](http://www.seemneliit.ee)

<https://www.facebook.com/seemneliit/>