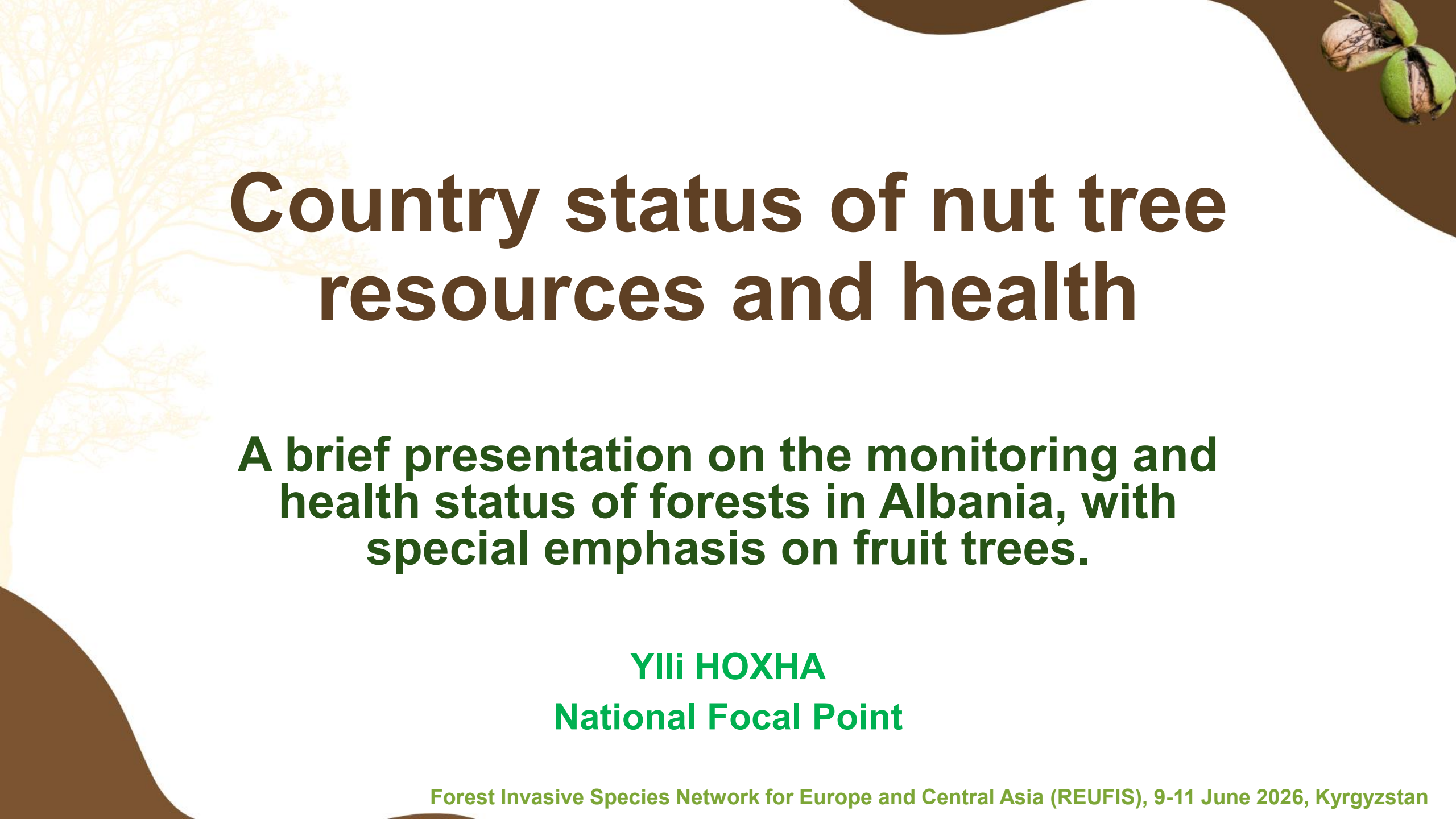




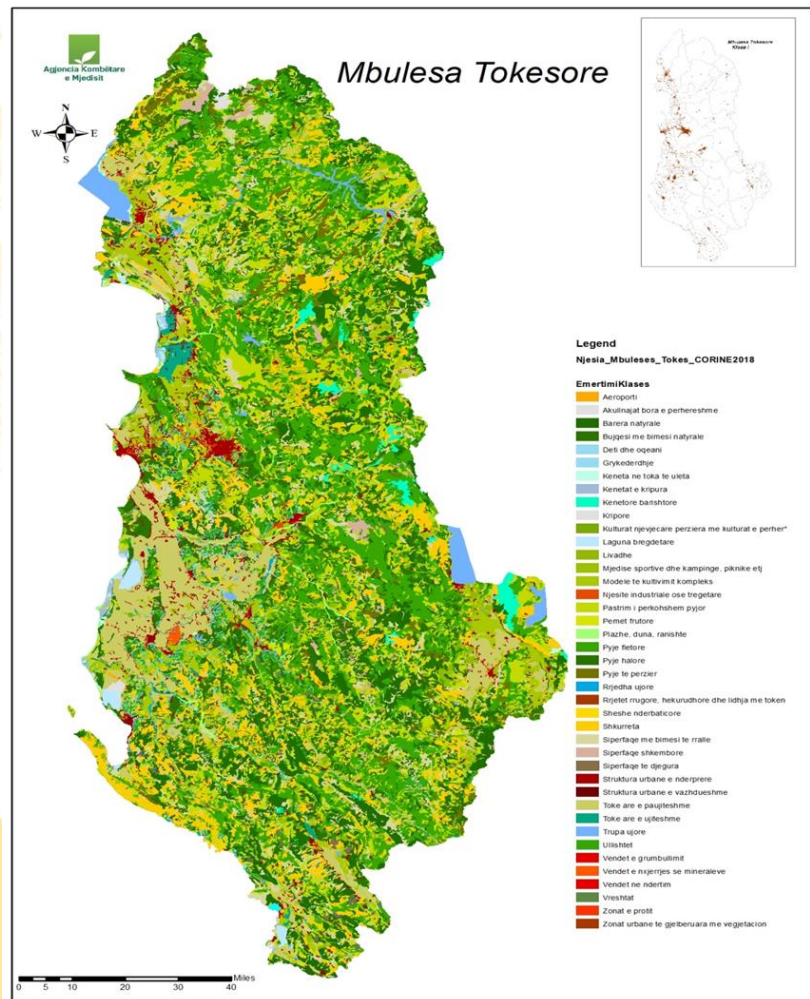
Country status of nut tree resources and health

**A brief presentation on the monitoring and
health status of forests in Albania, with
special emphasis on fruit trees.**

Ylli HOXHA
National Focal Point

A general overview of Albania

• Corin Land Cover (CLC) of Albania



According to the EEA data (2018), CLC of Albania is like following:

Class I – Urban, industrial, recreational cultivated areas – 77,228.91 ha or 2.68%.

Class II - Agriculture with other types of land cultivation – 805,636.44 ha or 27.98%.

Class III – Shrub forests and forest areas – 1,915,849.78 or 66.54%.

Class IV - Wetlands – 11,619.81 ha or 0.4%.

Class V - Water bodies – 68,590.77 or 2.3%.

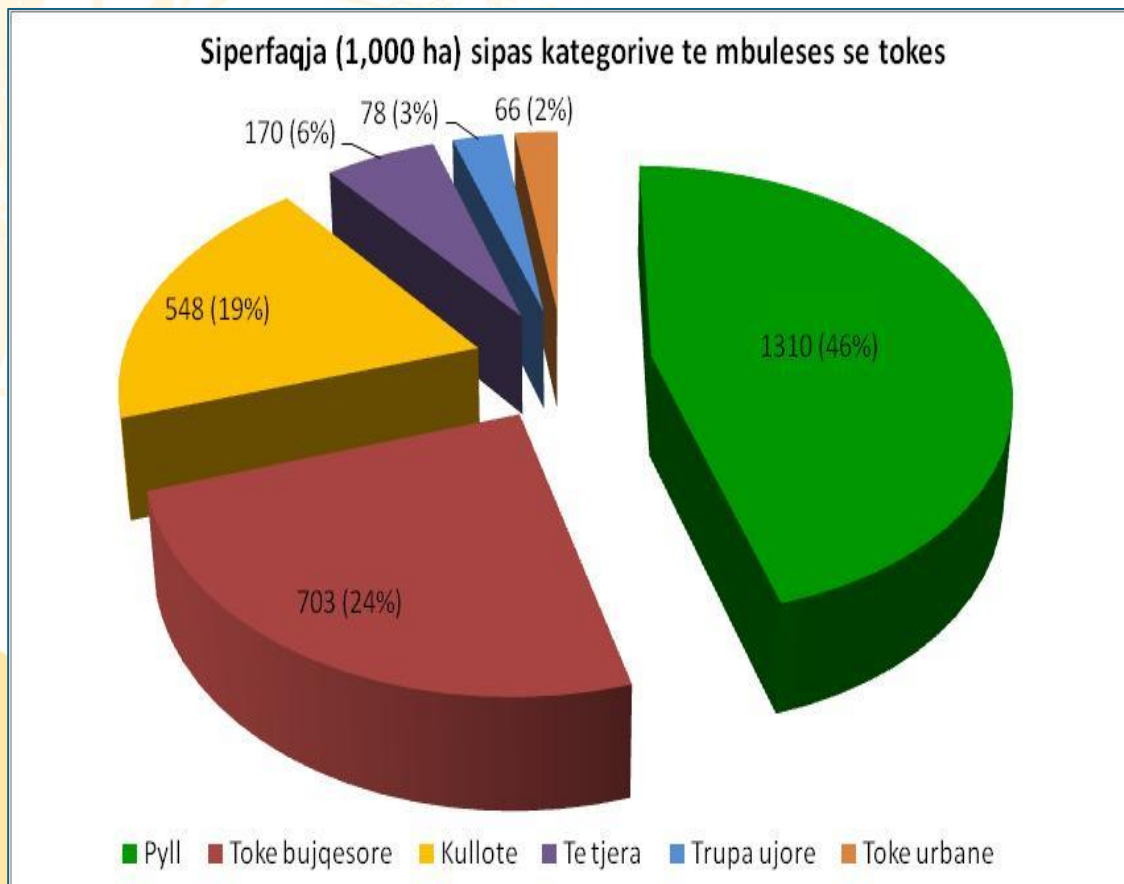
Total: 2,878,925.71

A general overview of Albania



- Land cover categories (LCC) in Albania according the NFI

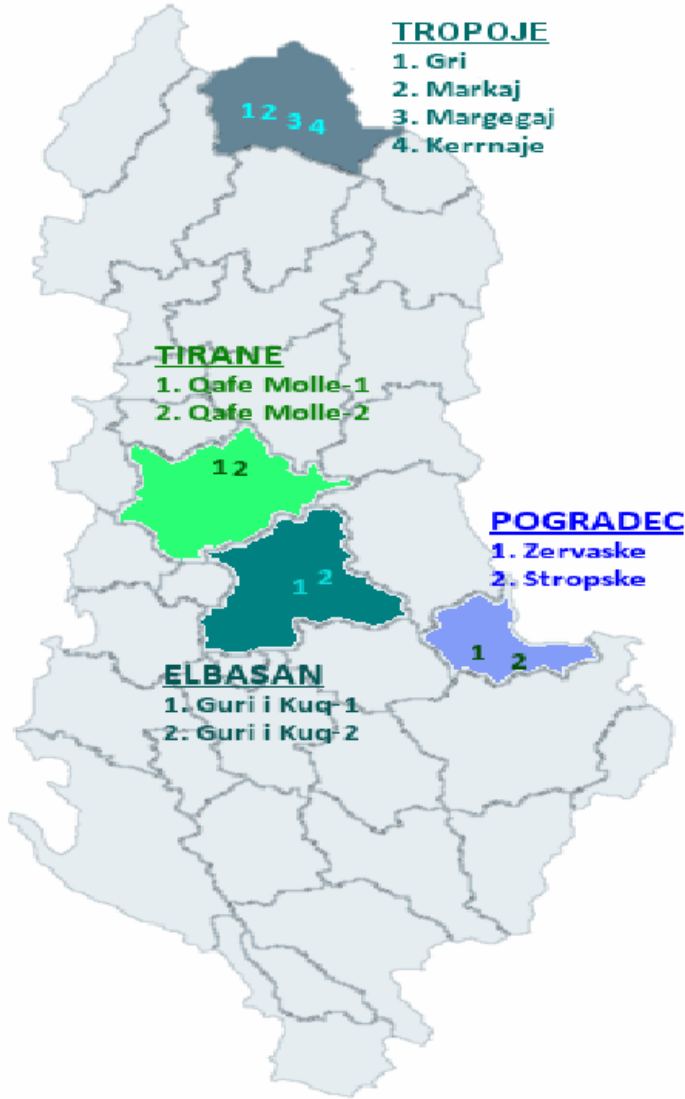
According to the National Forest Inventory data (2021), LCC of Albania is like following:



- **Forest:** 1,309,767 ha (46%)
- **Pasture:** 547,682 ha (19%)
- **Agricultural land:** 702,646 ha (24%)
- **Water bodies:** 78,013 ha (3%)
- **Urban land:** 66,337 ha (2%)
- **Other:** 170,335 ha (6%)

Total: 2,874,780 ha (100%)

Main nut tree species and distribution

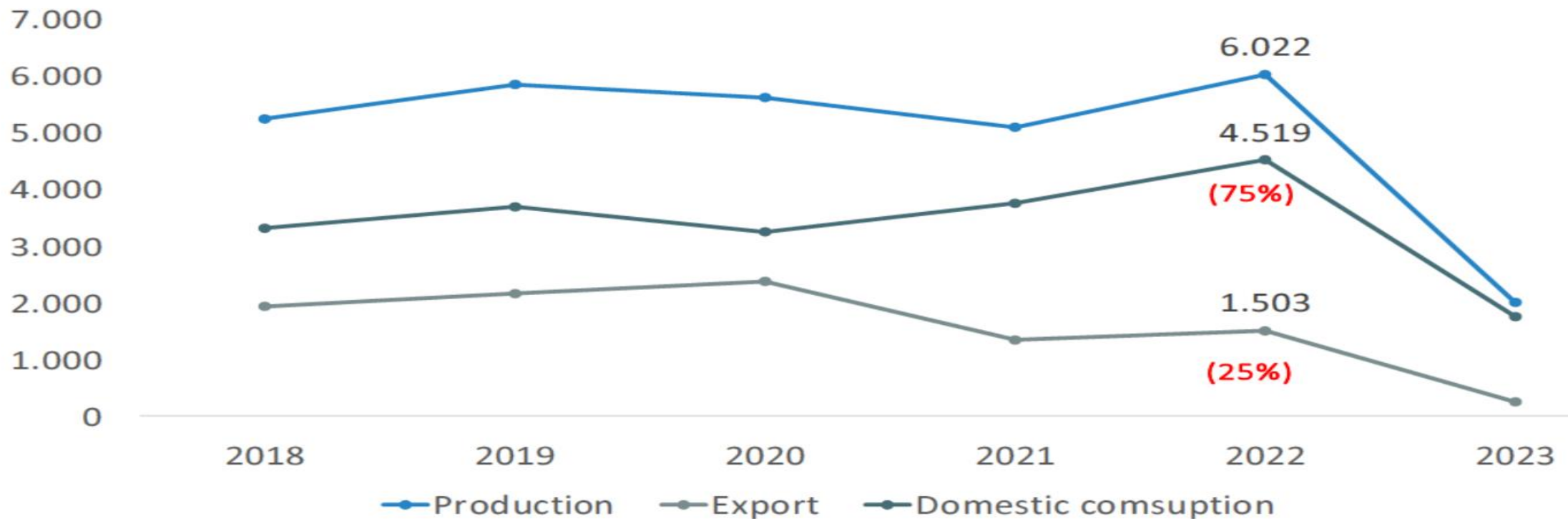


- Albania is a country rich in nut trees, including walnuts, chestnuts, hazelnuts and almonds. However, only chestnuts are distinguished as wild forest stands
- Chestnut has an almost uniform distribution throughout the country above an altitude of 400 m, but pure stands are placed in Tropoja, Tirana, Pogradec and Elbasan district.
- According the last National Forest Inventory (2021) the total area in the country covered with chestnuts are 10 100 ha.
- From recent corrections (FAO, TCP/ALB/3904) and studies with innovative methods, it is claimed that the chestnut surface is the largest.

Main uses of nut trees

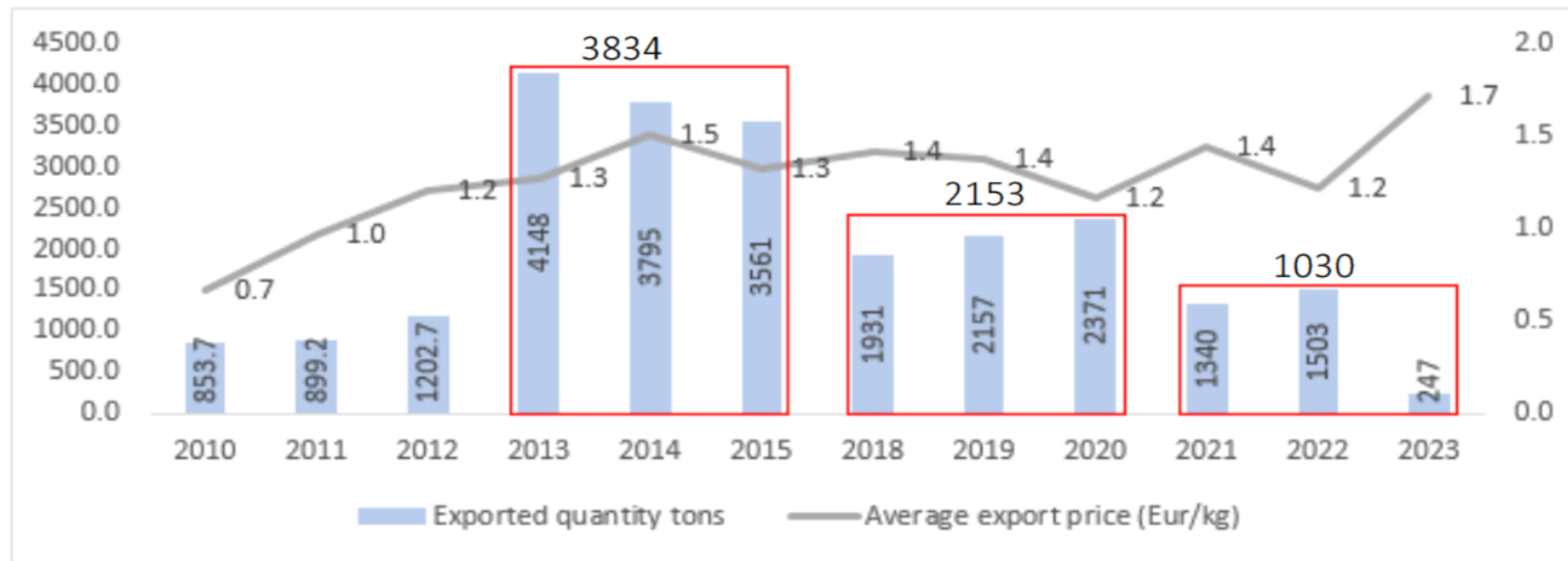
- The uses of nut trees are mainly the basis of the food industry, fruit and as NWFP, their use as timber is prohibited by law.
- The chestnut is an extraordinary tree that has been in the service of rural communities for thousands of years. It has different names according to its value mainly for its fruit, such as; “God’s tree”, “blessed tree”, “bread tree for the poor”, “bread tree of butter”, “bread in the branch”, etc.
- In the northern areas it is said: “A chestnut bush usually has three kernels: the first for the owner, the second for the one who collects it and the third for the poor or hungry person who passes by”.
- As such, it also constitutes a major economic base for rural communities but also for businesses that deal with the collection and preliminary processing of chestnuts.

Trade (import/export) of nut products and germplasm (1)



Trade (import/export) of nut products and germplasm (2)

- Exports and the price of chestnut



Main insect pests and diseases of nut trees in the country



- There are two problems that chestnut groves in Albania face:
 1. a disease that emerged around the end of the 1970s, now known as chestnut cancer (*Cryphonectria parasitica*).
 2. Since the time of COVID 19, Albania has also seen the Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*)
- Both problems have caused considerable damage both in terms of the plant's existence and in terms of reduced production.
- As can be seen from the graph above, in 2023, chestnut production decreased by about 5 times and the main cause was the impact of the Asian chestnut gall.

Current pest and disease control methods used in the country

- For both problems that have arisen in the chestnut forests, have been taken the measures that aim to:
 - a. save the infested trees with chestnut blight canker through the sanitary cut. This method has been applied since the late 1980s and consists of removing the affected parts of the wood and painting it with *Bacillus turicensis*.
 - b. preparing a protocol and intervention with biological methods to control the Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp, through *Torymus sinensis*. In 2020, this protocol was followed with Italian experts until 2022, while after this year, with the help of FAO and the consultancy of Mr. Kahraman, the biological adversary was produced through laboratories in the country.

Needs/challenges in management of pest and diseases

- The challenges of controlling and managing chestnut diseases and pests continue to be influenced by many factors, but among the most important we list:
 - a. the lack of employers, because of the continued abandonment of rural areas
 - b. lack of infrastructure due to the remote areas where the chestnut stans are located
 - c. financial problems











Thank you for your attention!!

