



Contribution to the definition of a global research program for organic farming in Walloon area

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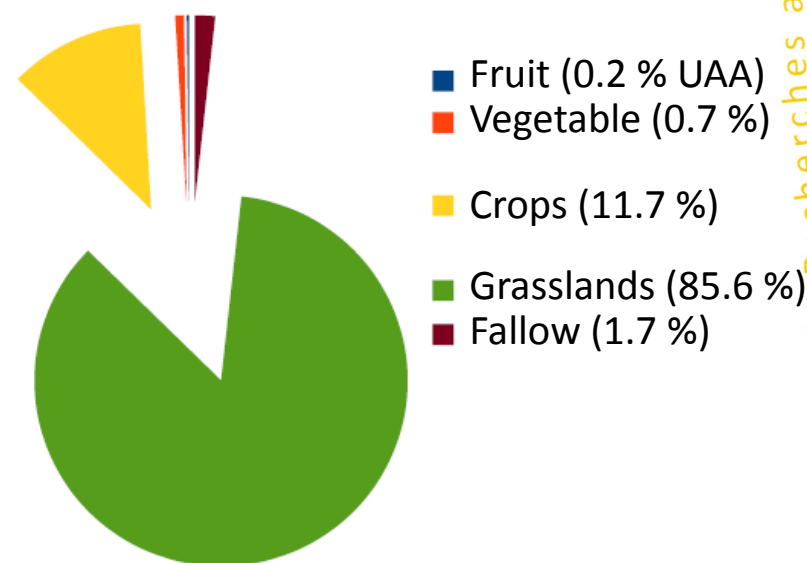
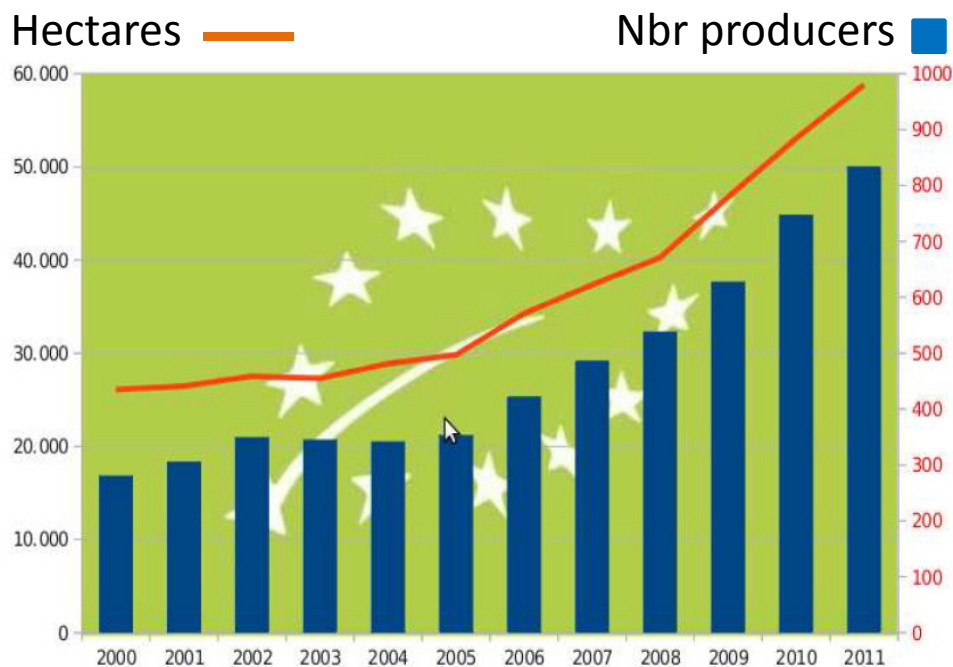
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Introduction



Organic sector :

- a strong evolution in Wallonia since 2005
- 6.9 % of the UAA in 2011
- mainly grasslands (85 %) and commercial crops (12 %)



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(Le Bio en chiffres – BIOFORUM Wallonie, 2012)

Aims

- (1) Define research priorities for Walloon organic farming sector and for an increase in protein autonomy, from 2015 to 2020
- (2) To precise the competencies of the Walloon research teams in these fields of interest

Results presented hereafter → livestock sector



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Method

- Individual open interviews of 90 organic farmers and/or conventional farmers (33%) aiming to increase their autonomy
 - Among these farmers :
 - 27 have, at least, a dairy herd;
 - 25 have, at least, a suckling herd;
 - 16 have a pig or poultry production.
 - Focus groups with, in average, 10 participants per group, with
 - advisory services (1 group) ;
 - administration and farmers labor unions (1 group) ;
 - research institutions / universities (4 groups).
- ==> Asked to identify research priorities in the four categories



Method (2)

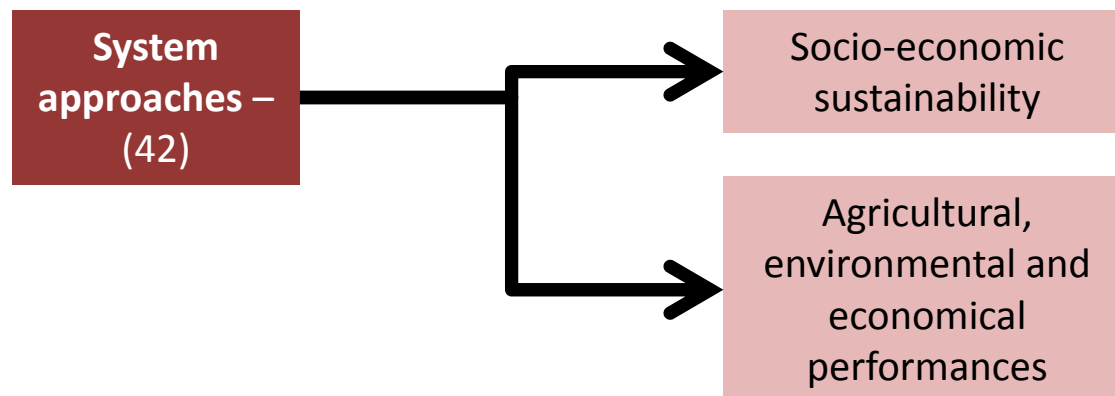
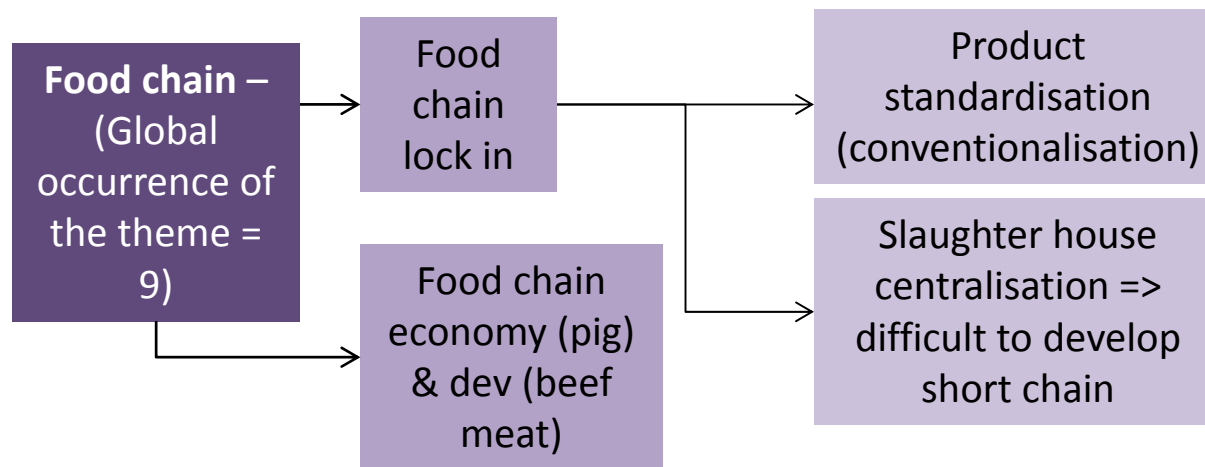
- Steps :
 - Inventory;
 - Validation/adjustment of priorities identified by the focus groups;
 - Confrontation to existing research programs (Walloon area, Belgium, Europe)
 - Definition of future research program.

Results presented hereafter → Inventory

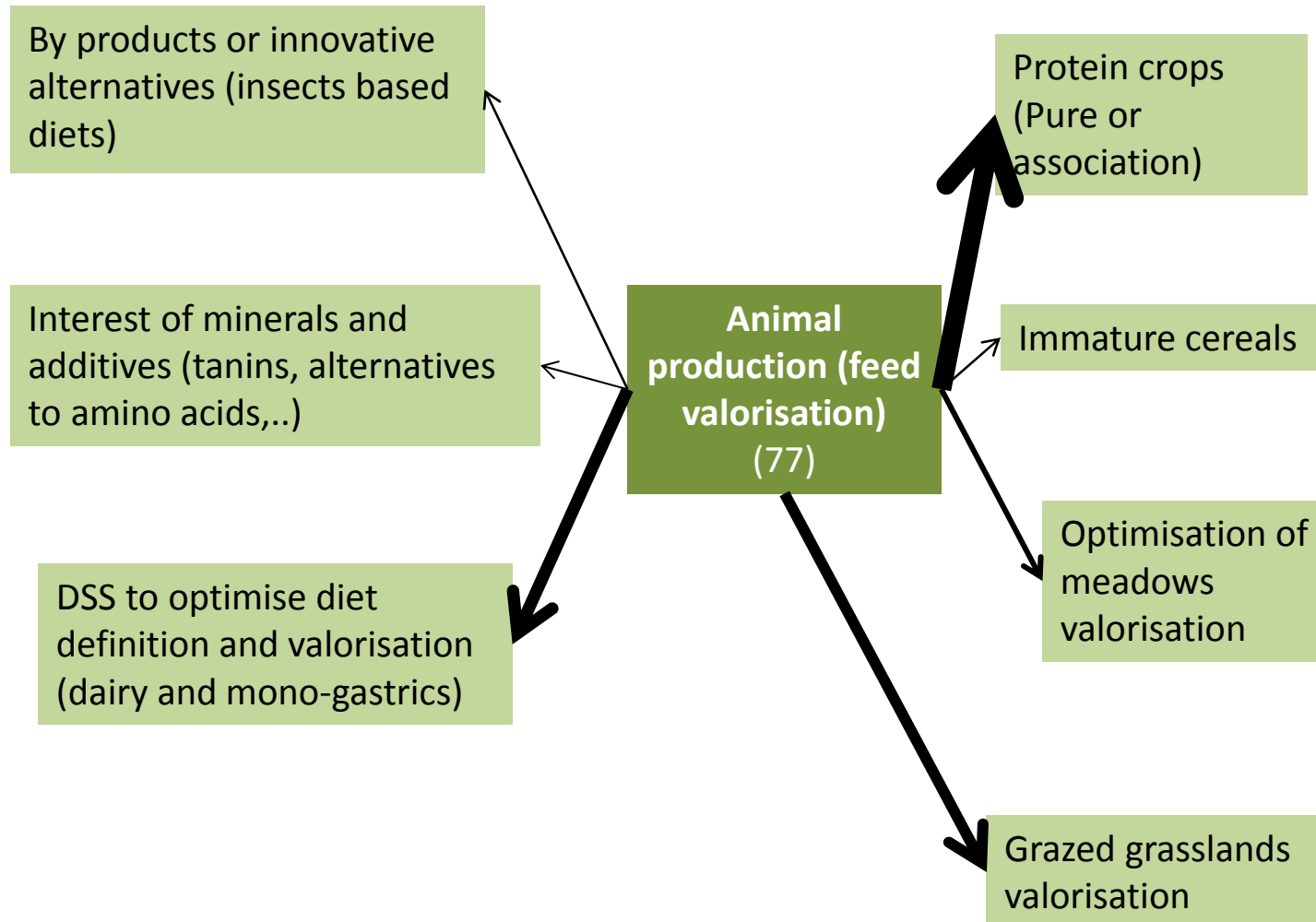


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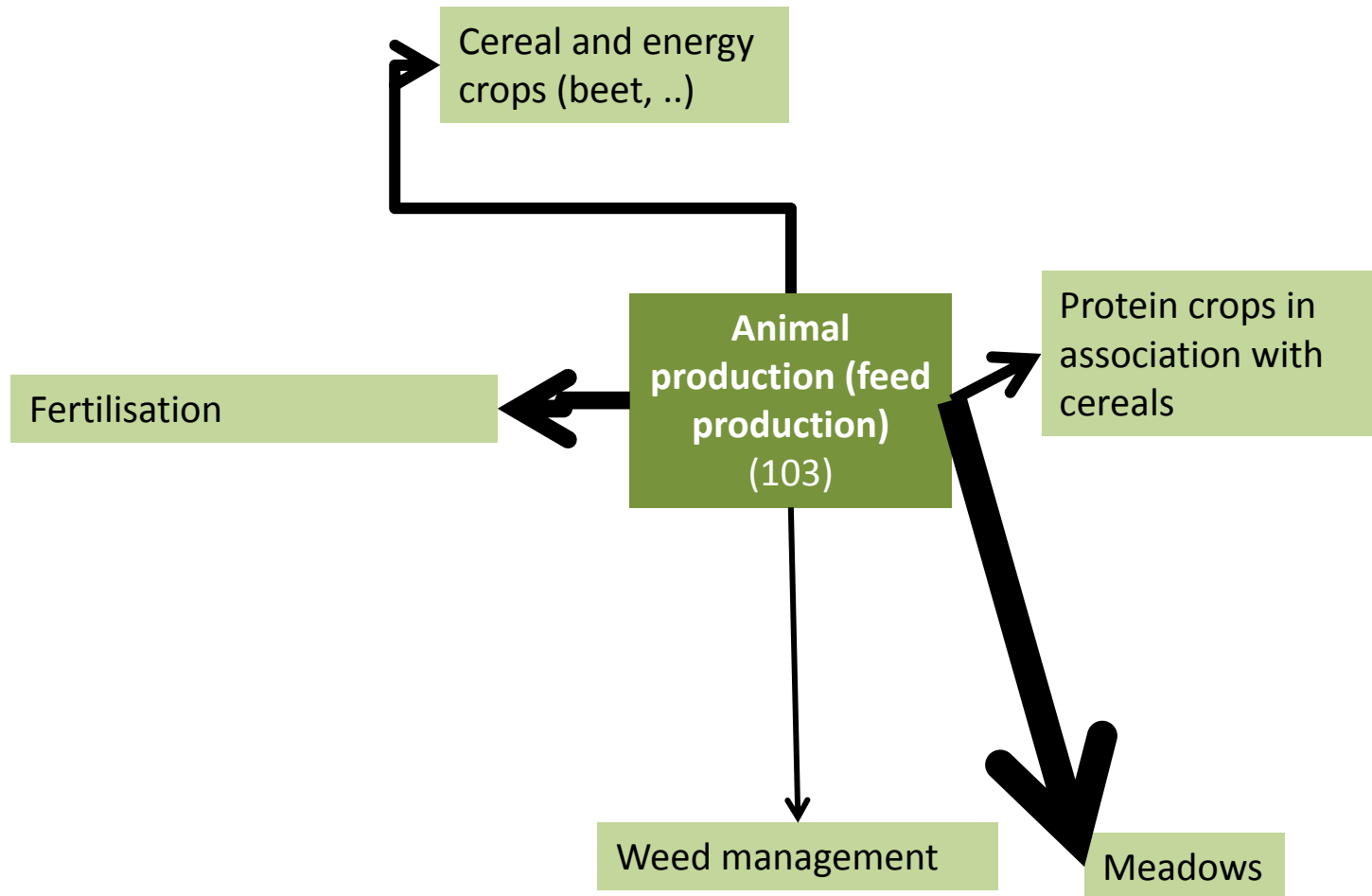
Results – Livestock producers



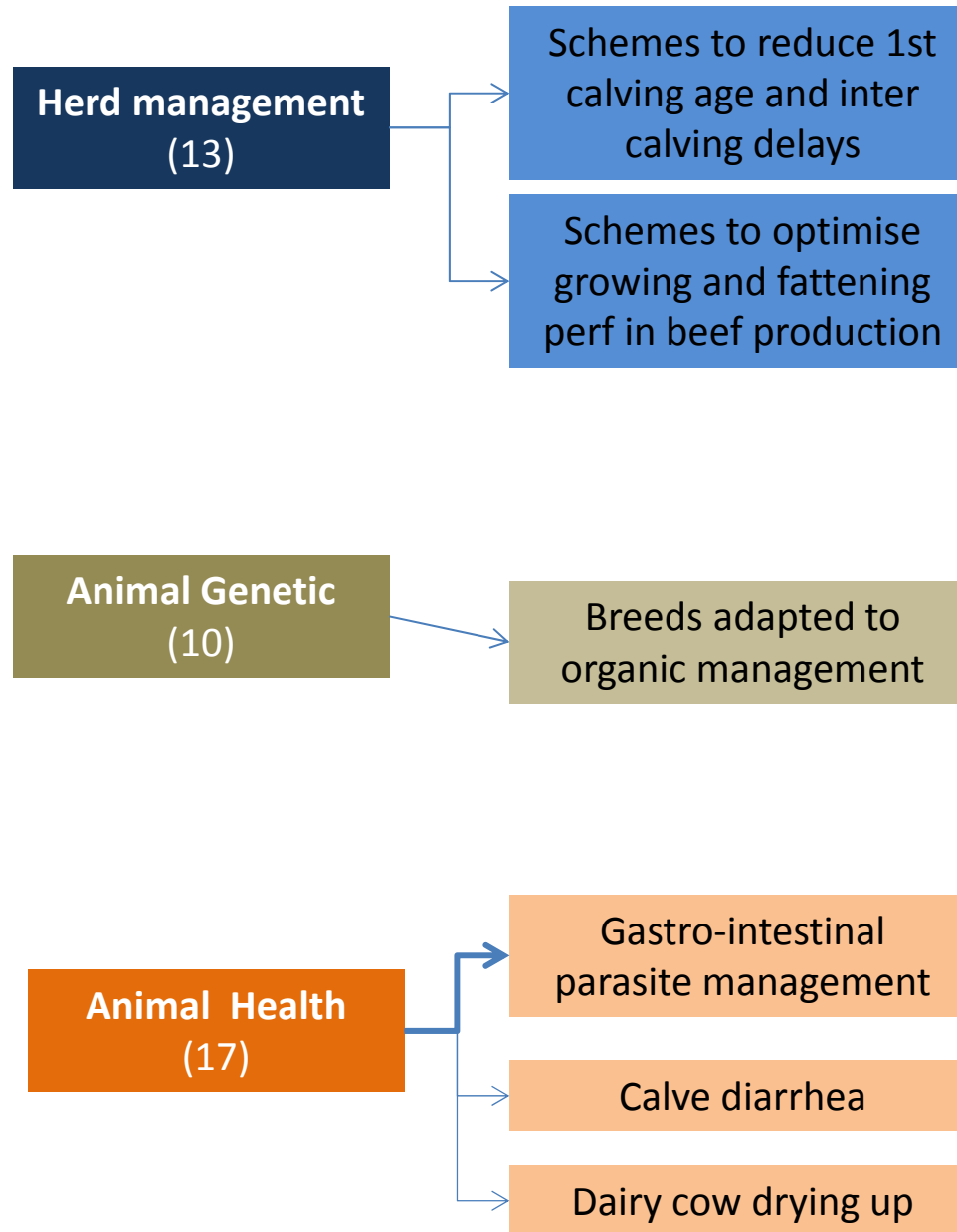
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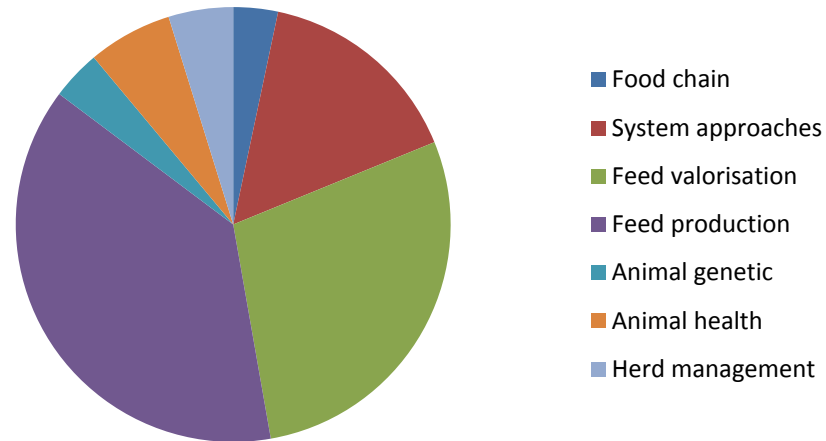
Results – Livestock producers



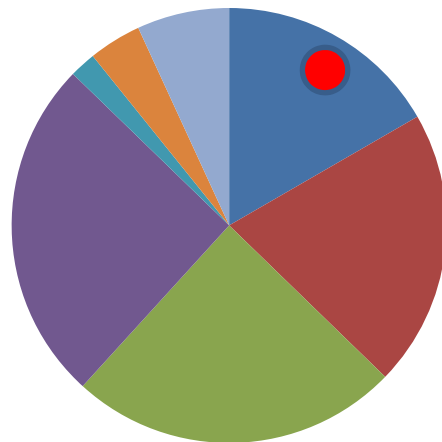
Results – Comparison of farmer expectations, advisory services & farmers unions expectations and researchers proposals



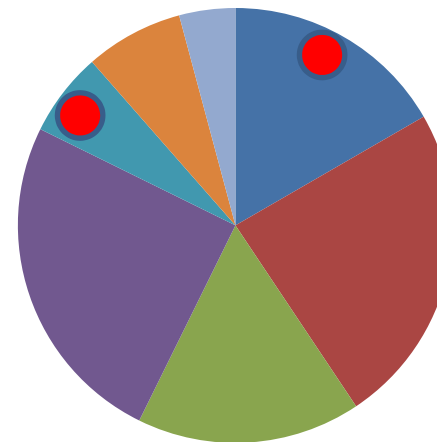
Farmers (271)



Advisory services and farmer unions (102)



Researchers (96)



Discussion

- On Food chain themes :
 - Weight to this topic
 - Necessity to focus also on dairy product valorisation
 - Product quality and traceability
- On System themes :
 - Necessity to perform global, systemic approaches
 - To focus on environmental performances → justify the subsidises of the 2nd CAP pillar
- On Feed production themes, lack of research on :
 - Weed management
 - Initial material (seed, seedling) selection/production for organic farmers



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Discussion (2)

- On Herd management themes :
 - Advisers, administration and farmer unions ask to pay a special interest to pig production
- On Animal health themes :
 - Focus on gastro-intestinal parasite management
 - Benchmarking possibilities offered by the organic farms
 - Necessity to evaluate animal welfare in these alternative systems

Conclusion

Basis for the definition of a research program after validation by stakeholders and confrontation to existing research program in organic sector.



Acknowledgement

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Thanks for your attention

Photo : CRA-W