

Comparing sheep for meat production of organic farms versus conventional:

structures, functioning, technical and
economic results.



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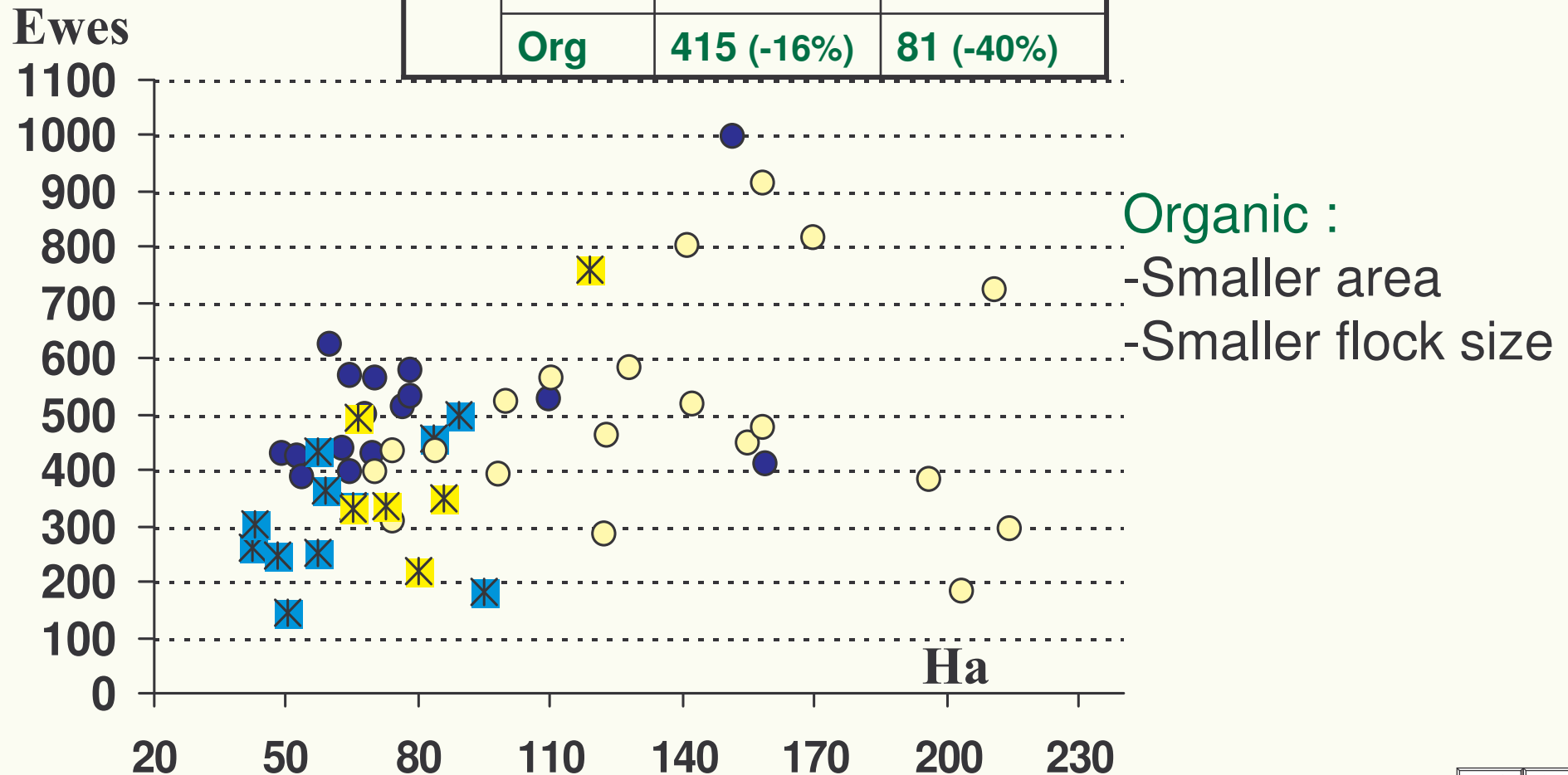
Situation of the 56 farms (year 2003)



1/ Structure: ewes and farm area

- Plain
- Mountain
- ✕ Organic

average		ewes	ha
M	Conv	520	79
	Org	316 (-39%)	63 (-20%)
P	Conv	495	136
	Org	415 (-16%)	81 (-40%)

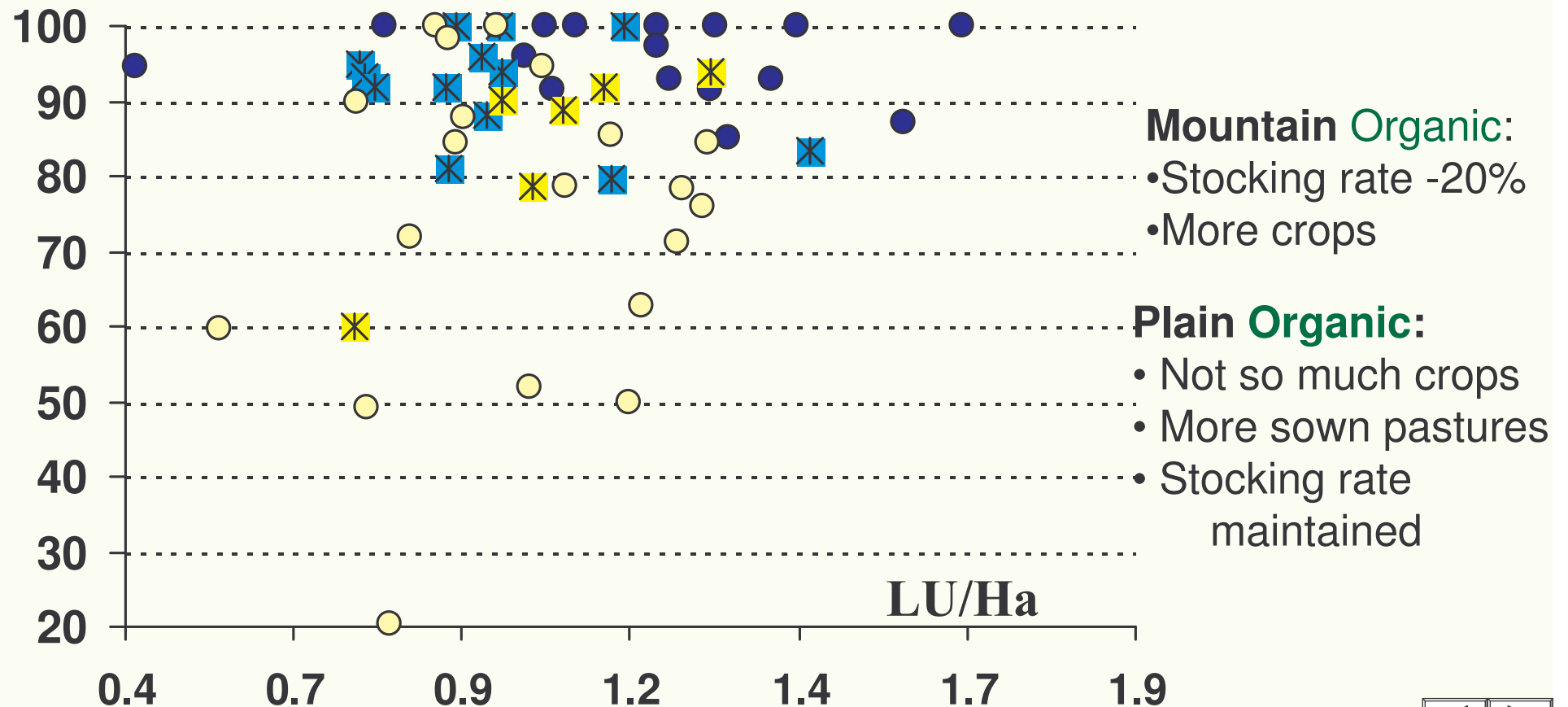


2/ %Fodder area/AA and stocking rate (LU/Ha)

- Plain
- Mountain
- ✕ Organic

average		%fod.area	St. rate
M	Conv	96	1.17
	Org	89	0.94 (-20%)
P	Conv	75	0.98
	Org	82	0.97 (=)

% Main fodder area



3/ Numerical Productivity and out of season lambing index

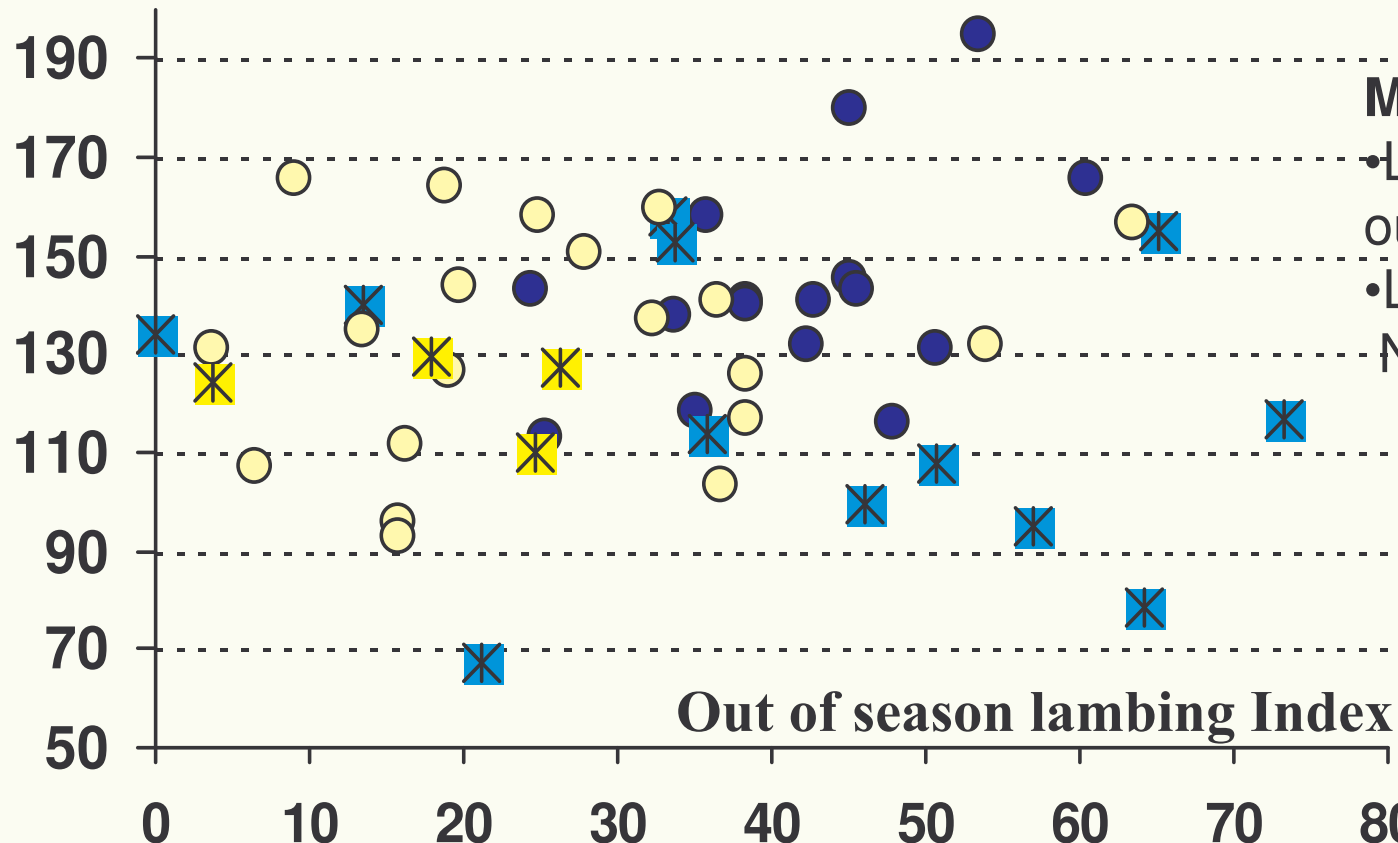
- Plain
- Mountain
- ✕ Organic

average		Num Prod	Index
M	Conv	144	42
	Org	129	41
P	Conv	133	26
	Org	127	16

Organic Farms:

- Not very high level of Num.Prod (plain)

Num Prod %



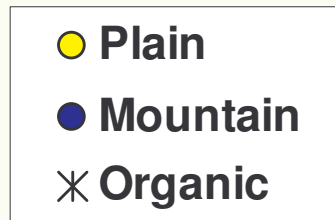
Mountain Organic:

- Large range of % of out of season lambing
- Large range of Num. Prod. levels

Plain Organic:

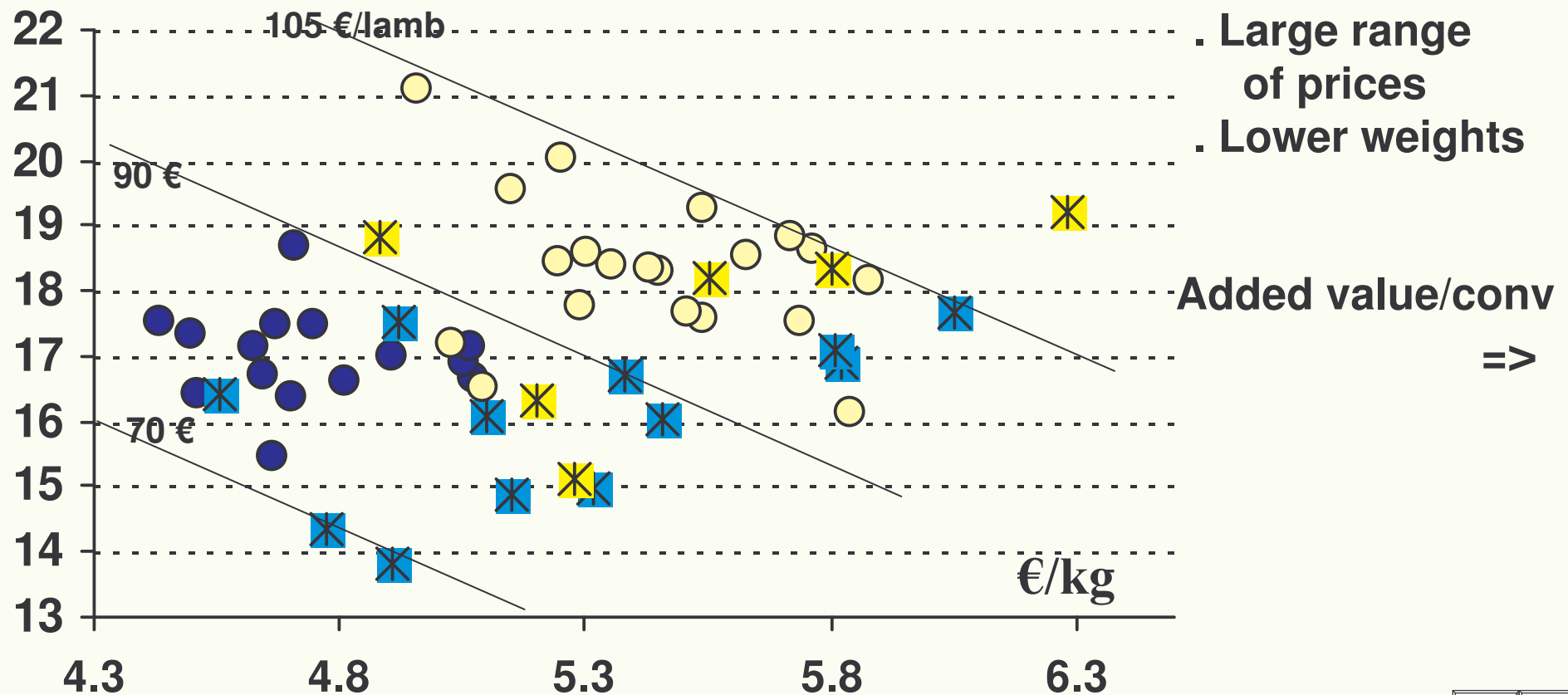
- Lower Num.Prod
- Low out of season index

4/ Weight and price of the lambs

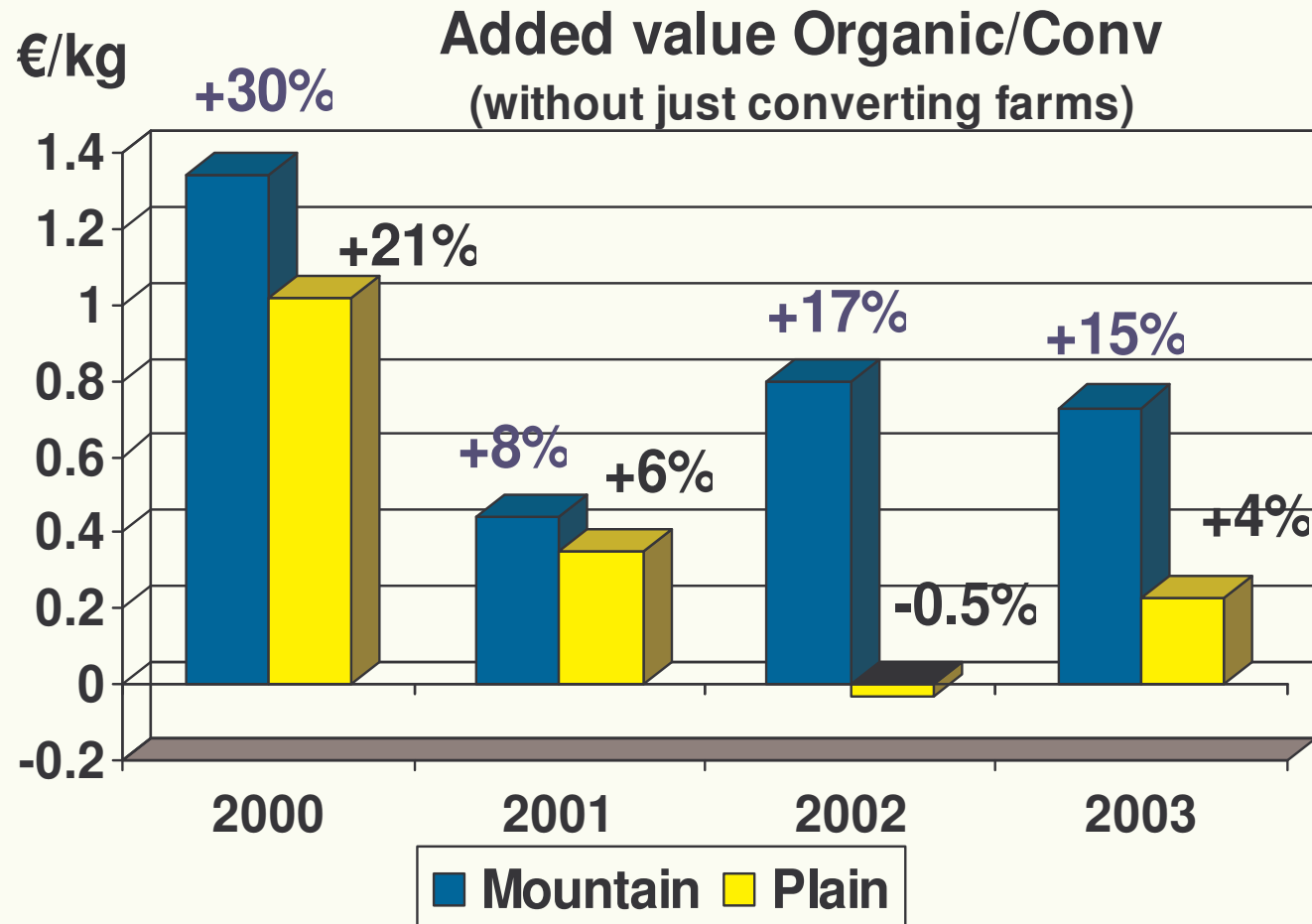


average		Kg carc	€/kg
M	Conv	17.0	4.74
	Org	16.1	5.38
P	Conv	18.3	5.44
	Org	17.3	5.34

Kg carc/lamb



Evolution of added value of lamb carcass



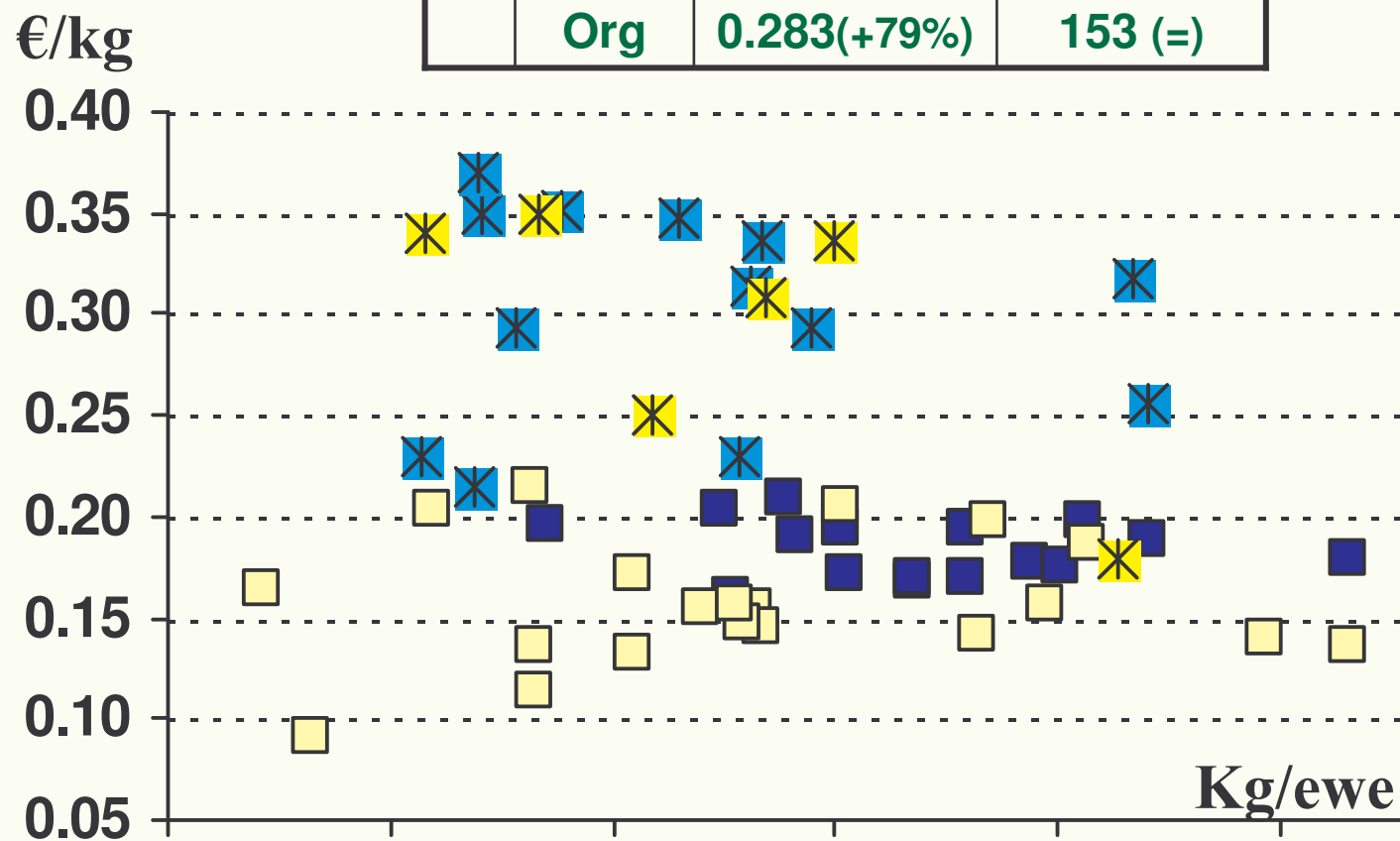
**High price of lamb carcass in Plain (conventional)
in 2002 and 2003 : 5.7 and 5.5 €/kg**

5/ Price and quantities of concentrates

- Plain
- Mountain
- ✱ Organic

average		€/kg	Kg/ewe
M	Conv	0.184	189
	Org	0.304(+65%)	160(-15%)
P	Conv	0.158	152
	Org	0.283(+79%)	153 (=)

Dryness conditions
in mountain in 2003



• Consumption
remains high
(plain)

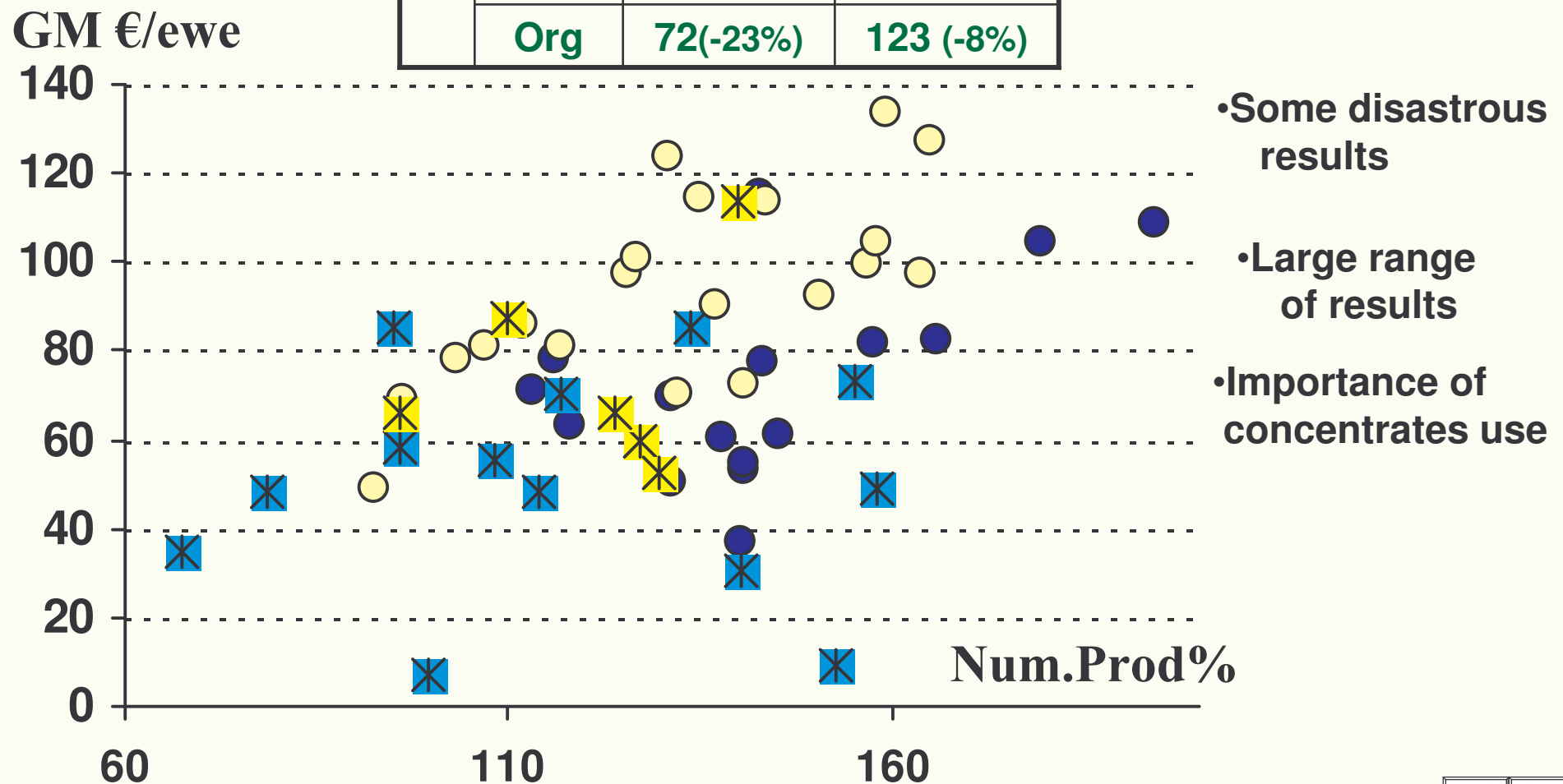
• Very high price
(+70%)

6/ Gross Margin/ewe and numerical productiv.

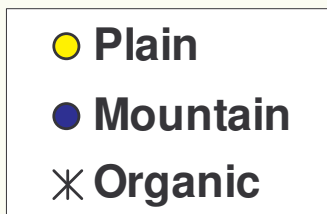
- Plain
- Mountain
- * Organic

average		GM €/ewe	Num Prod
M	Conv	73	144
	Org	52(-29%)	129 (-10%)
P	Conv	94	133
	Org	72(-23%)	123 (-8%)

Dryness conditions
in mountain in 2003

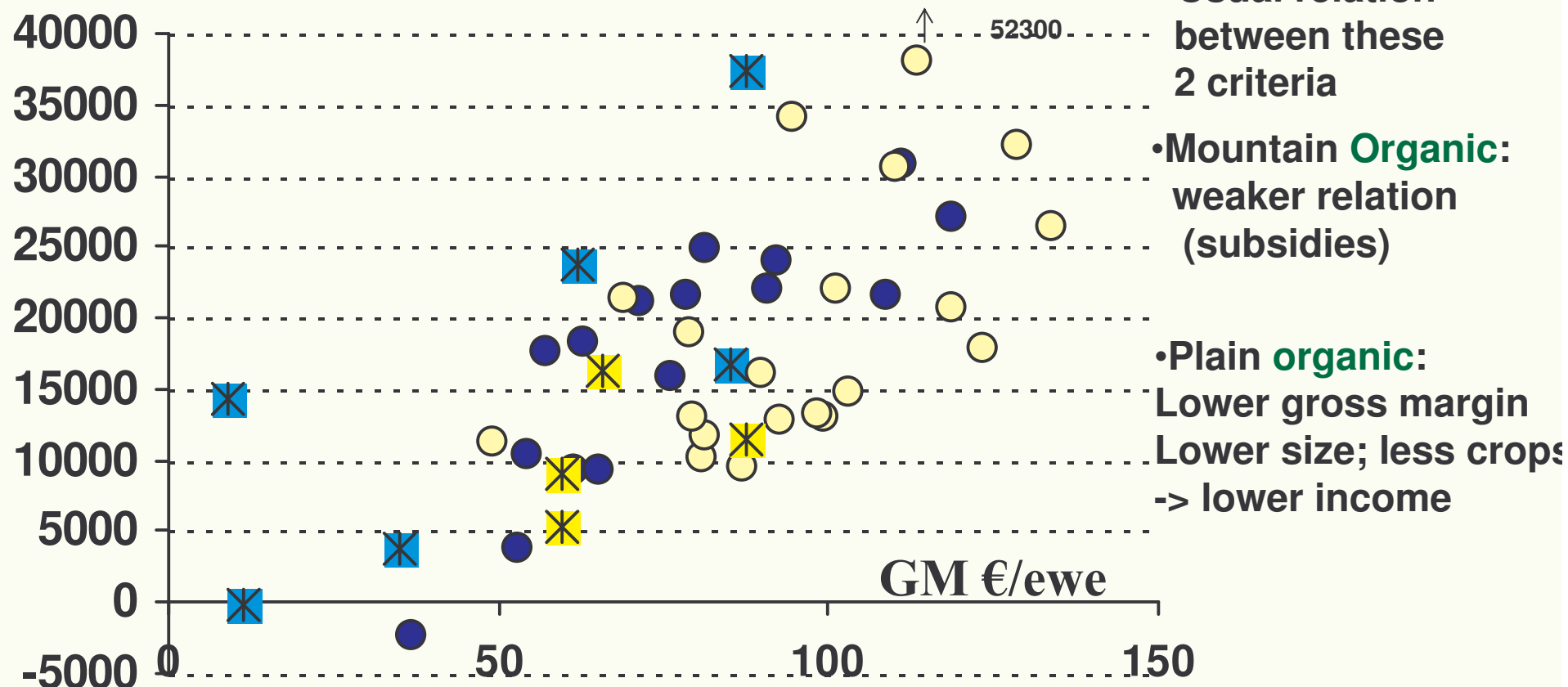


7/ Net Income/worker and Gross margin/ewe



average		NI €/W
M	Conv	17000
	Org	17000
P	Conv	20000
	Org	10200

NI: €/Uth



Conclusion

- **A great diversity of** structures, functioning, technical and economic results
- **Need of very good technical mastery:**
 - Low use of concentrates (stocking rate? Forage quality?)
 - Optimised numerical productivity (minimum Num. Prod. and low costs)
- **Economic results: rather lower**
 - 1: Smaller farm size 2: Expensive production costs 3: Low added value on lambs
 - 4: Structural costs sometimes too high:
 - Less scale economy (smaller farms)
 - Lower stocking rate -> heavier charges in relation with land (tenant farming...)
- **... perennial subsidies needed for**
recognition of environmental benefits (and higher quality of products?)
...or the insurance to have an organic processing network with premium price.