

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

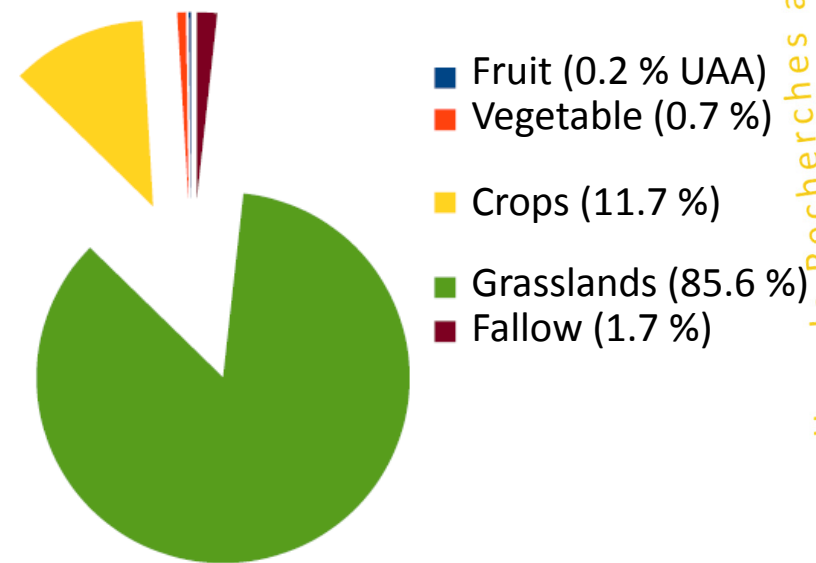
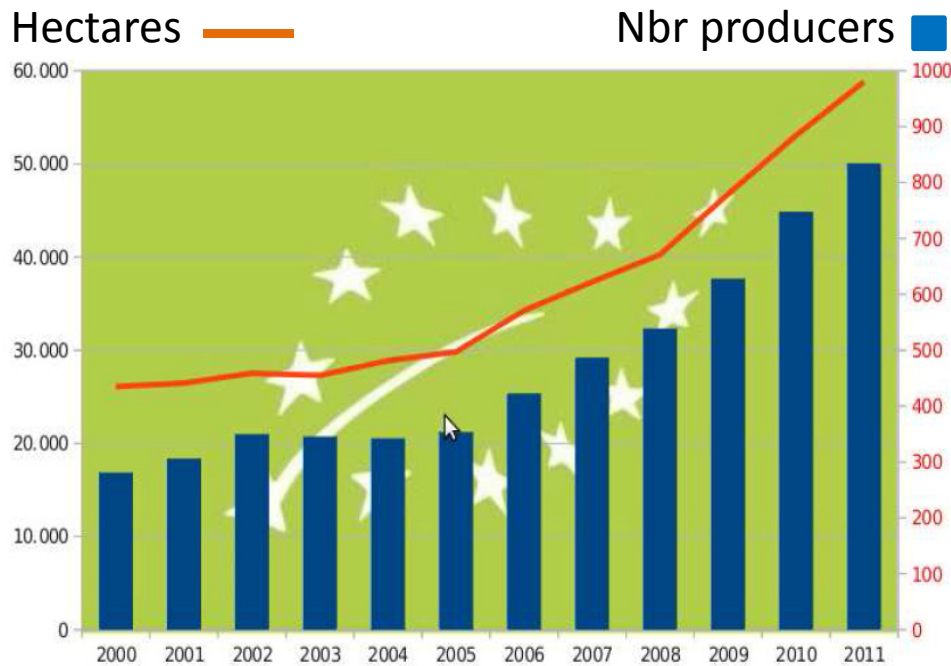
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# Introduction



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)

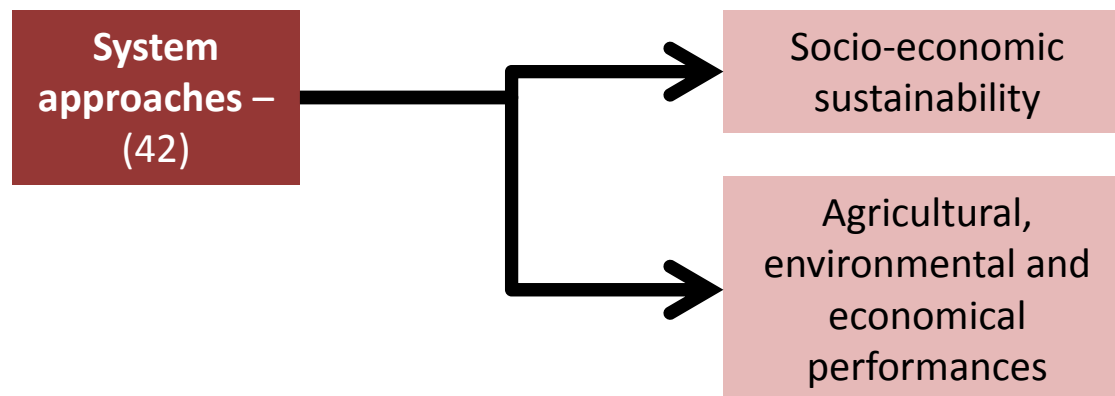
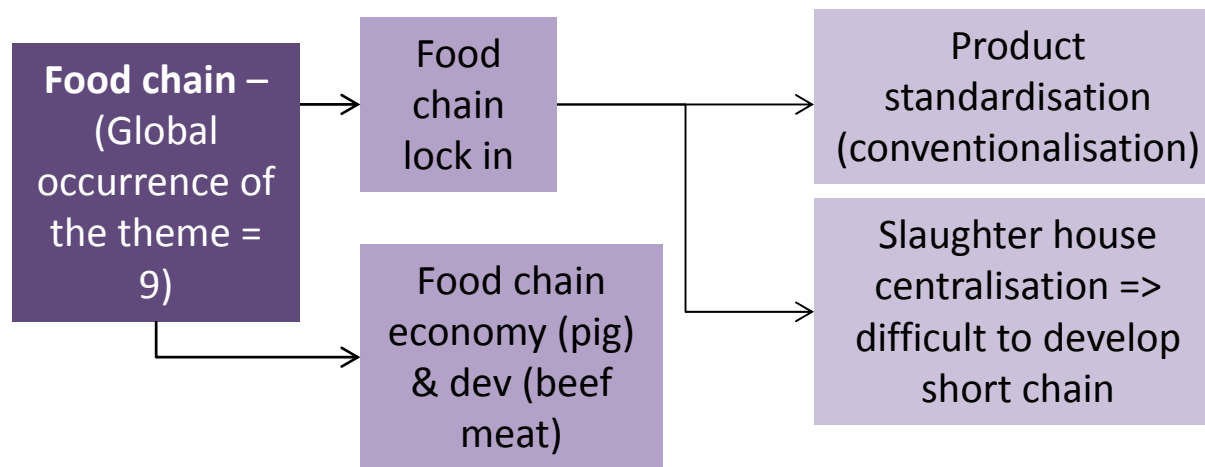
- Steps :
  - Inventory;
  - Validation/adjustment of priorities identified by the focus groups;
  - Confrontation to existing research programs (Walloon area, Belgium, Europe)
  - Definition of future research program.

**Results presented hereafter → Inventory**

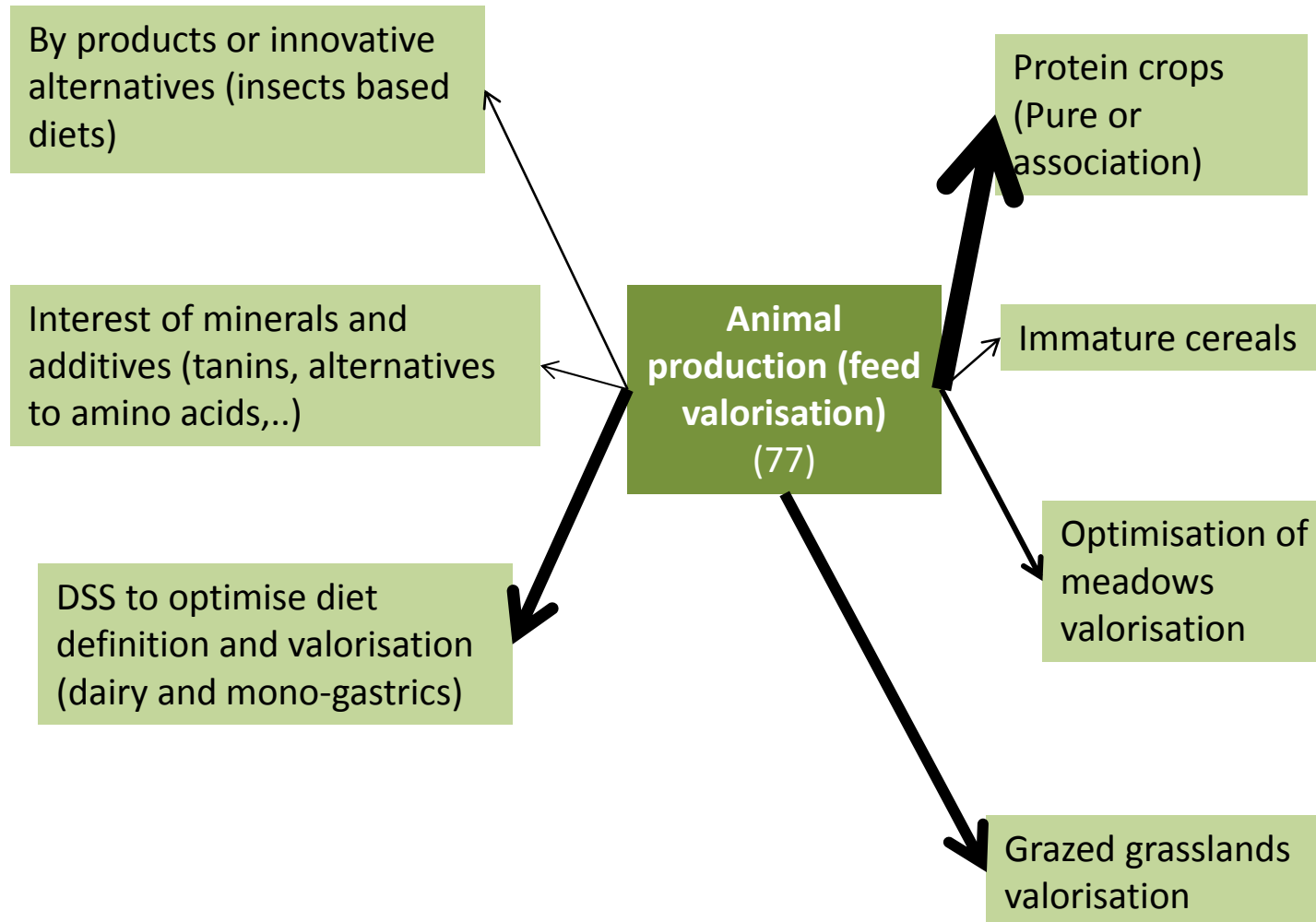


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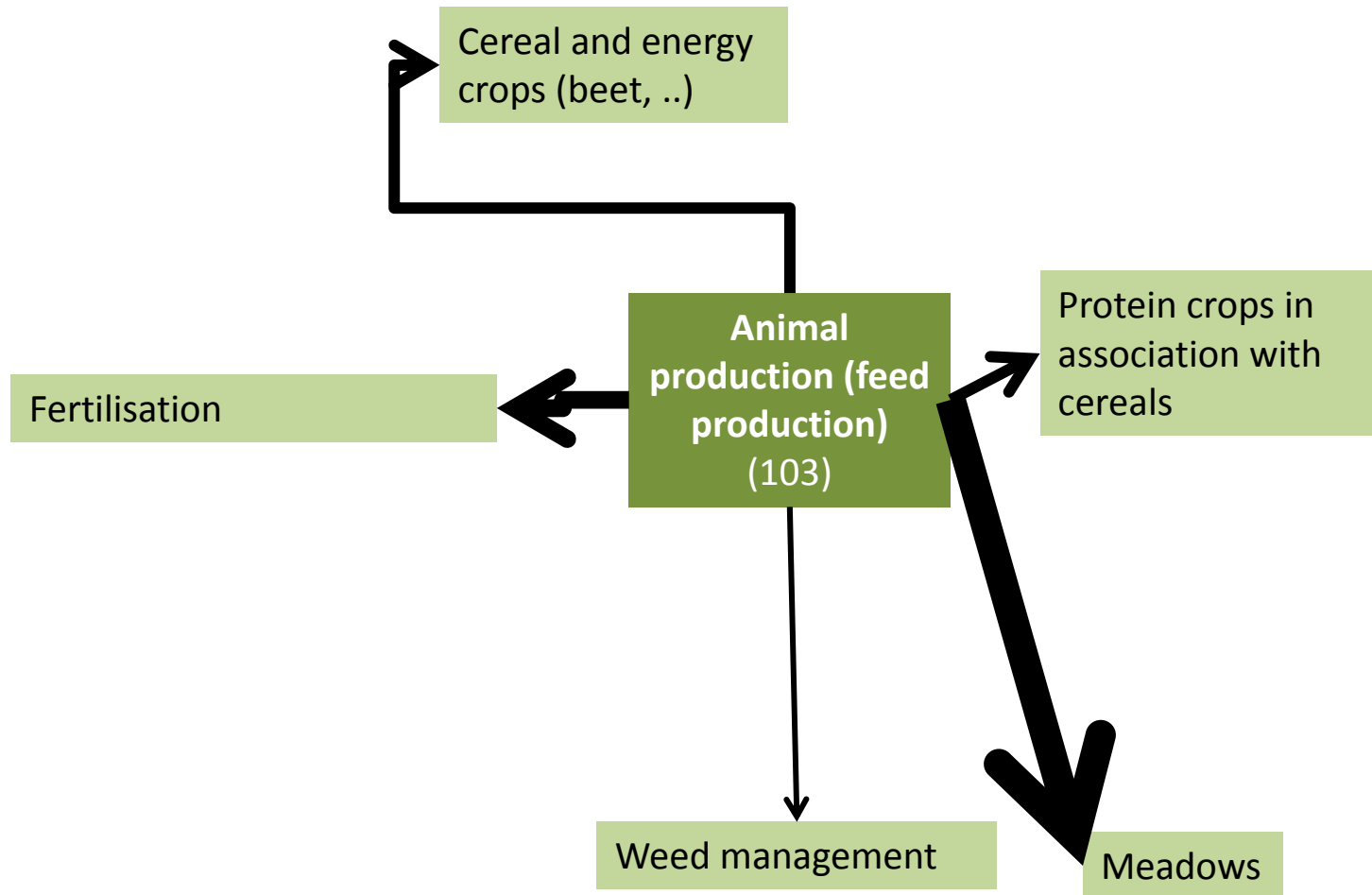
## Results – Livestock producers



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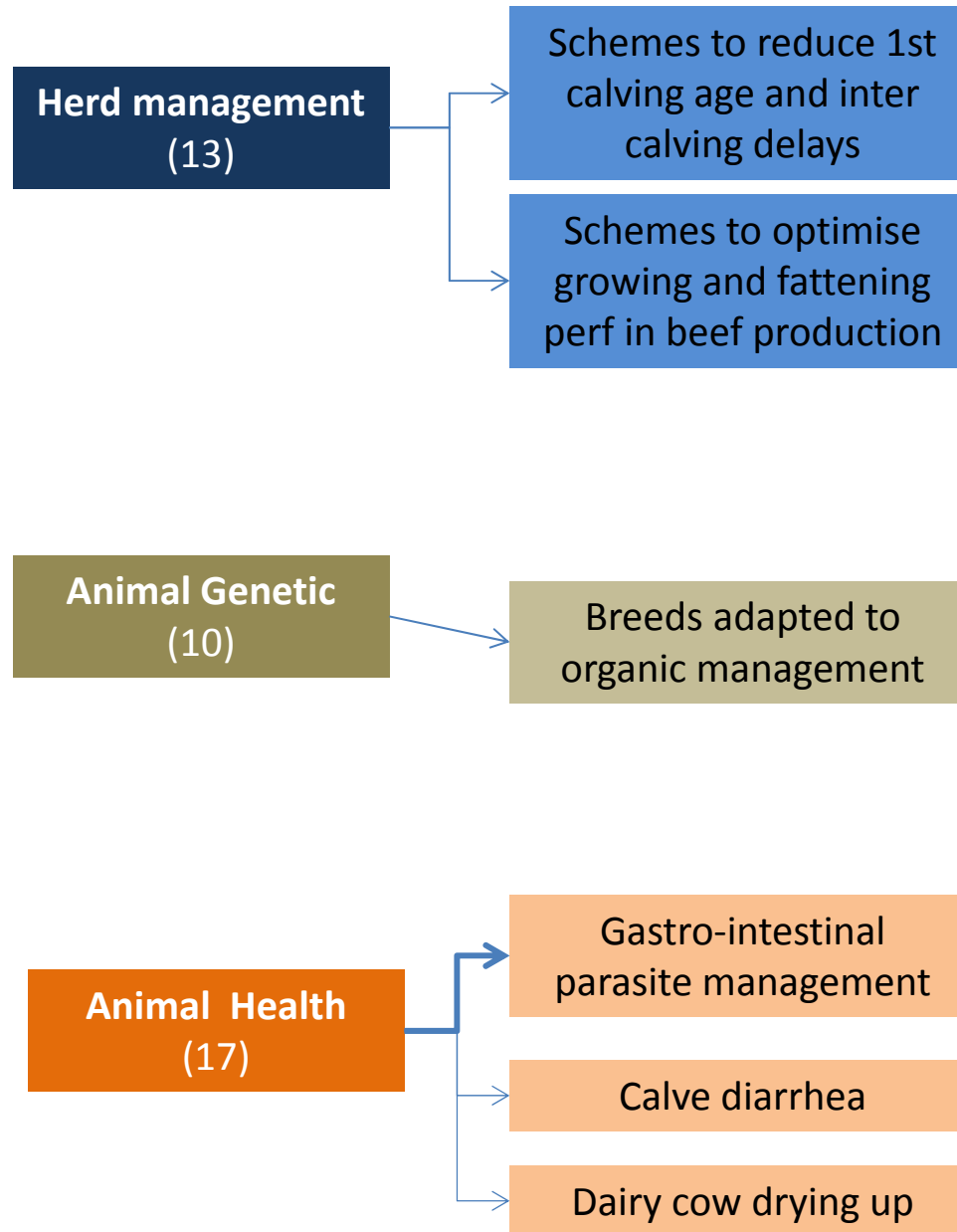


## Results – Livestock producers





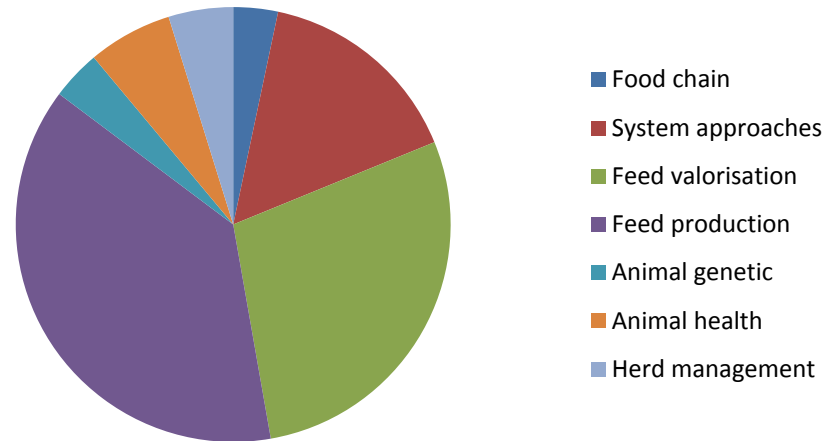
## Results – Livestock producers



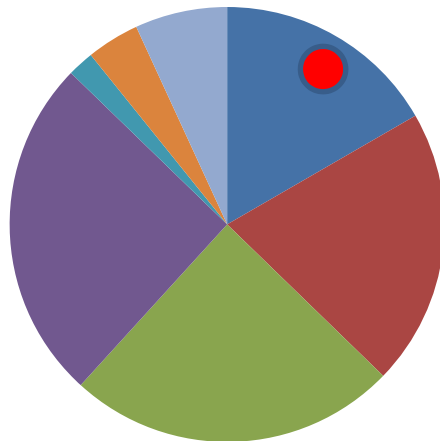
Results – Comparison of farmer expectations, advisory services & farmers unions expectations and researchers proposals



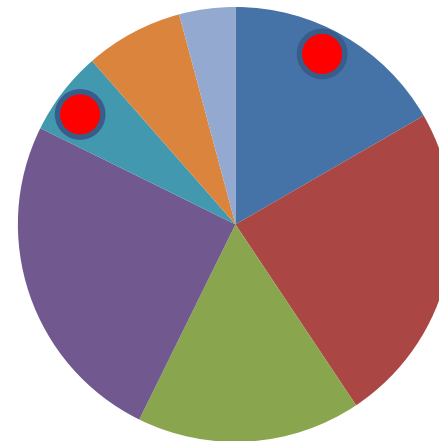
Farmers (271)



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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Authors thank farmers and all the participants to this approach. We also thank Walloon area for funding.



Thanks for your attention

Photo : CRA-W