

FACULTAT DE
VETERINÀRIA

Ecological Heliciculture

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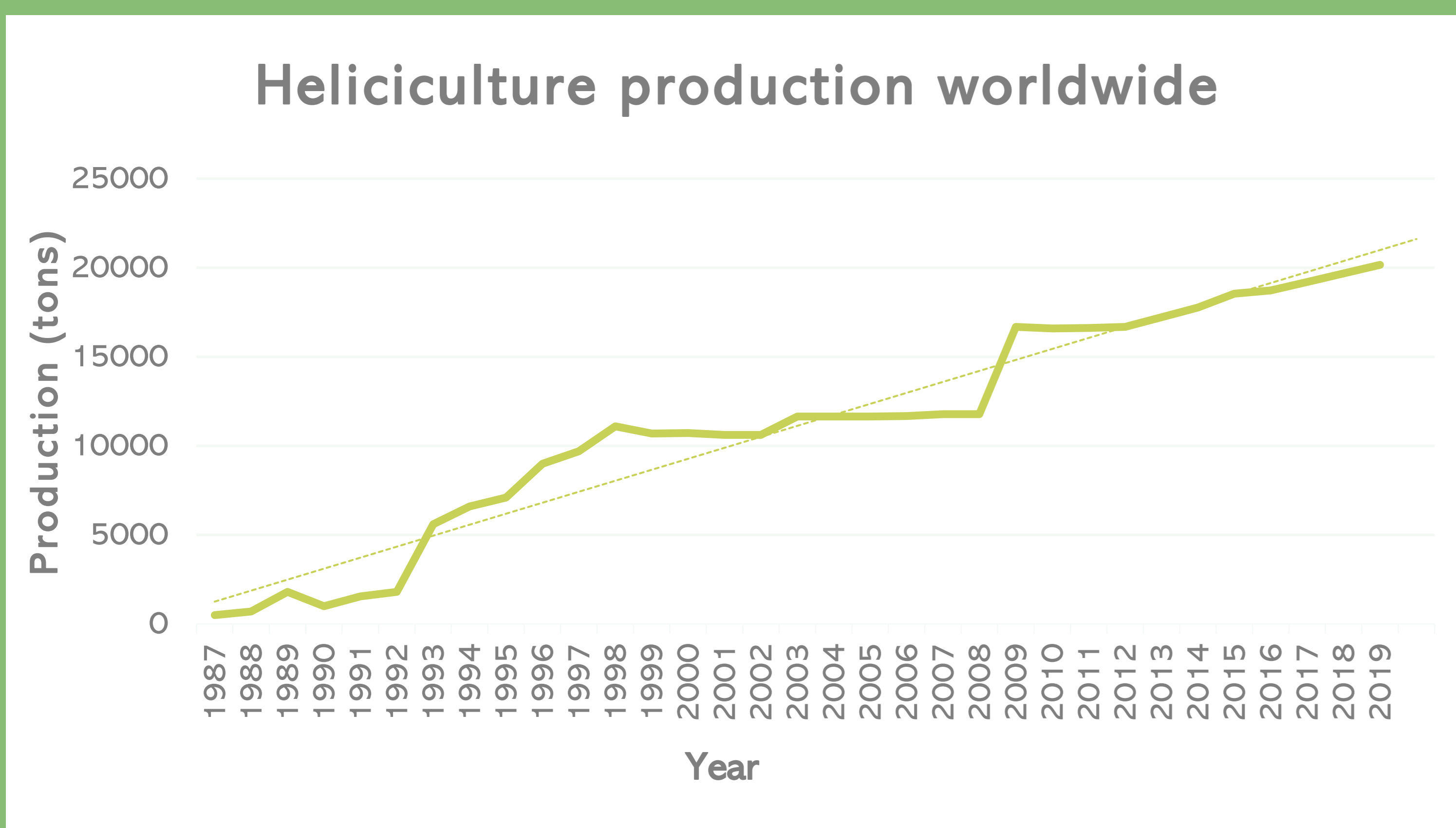
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OBJETIVES

- Review the current situation and trends in heliciculture
- Understand the operation of an ecological snail farming
- Get to know an organic snail farm first-hand

CURRENT SITUATION AND TRENDS



Globally, the heliciculture sector is on the rise. Morocco is the main exporting country while France, followed by Spain, are the main importing countries.

Ecological Heliciculture is a minority technique both at world and state level.

Ecological Heliciculture in Spain*

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY	Nº OF LIVESTOCK FARMS	M ² DEDICATED TO HELICULTURE
Andalusia	3	175.400
Balears	1	672
Castella i Lleó	2	6.200
Catalunya	1	2.770
País Basc	4	6.067
Comunitat Valenciana	2	6.303
NATIONAL TOTAL	13	197.412

Organic heliciculture is a productive activity with little impact on the country's economy. The product in Spain is mostly obtained in the traditional way.

The need to assume increasingly restrictive environmental and animal welfare criteria and, the crisis in livestock feeding caused by the increase in feed prices, make organic heliciculture a viable option.

ORGANIC SNAIL PRODUCTION

Regulated by CE 889/2008 and CE 834/2007, which establish the specific rules on organic production, labeling and control.

Organic Heliciculture uses an **extensive system**. The success of the system depends on the added value of the product. To achieve this, the design of the facilities, population density and food, among others, are aspects to consider.

The administration of chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary drugs is prohibited. In most cases diseases in the snail appear due to poor management. Prevention becomes essential.

CARGOLS DE LLUENA

Pioneering organic snail farm in Catalonia. The only one with a CCPAE certificate.



General view of the farm facilities

CONCLUSIONS

- Ecological Heliciculture is an emergent animal production.
- The regulations, nowadays insufficient, seem to be on the right way.
- Heliciculture combined with other livestock activities makes farming more profitable. Along with the use of the snail as a bioindicator.
- It is necessary to increase the added value of the product, to avoid the sale of the snail as non-ecological.