



62nd IALB | 12th EUFRAS | 9th SEASN Conference 2023 - Report

The role of education and advice in the transformation process of agriculture – in the context of climate change, ensuring nutrition and social requirements



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10th - 14th September 2023

DRESDEN

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1 Greetings

Greeting from Regine Wiesend, President of IALB

Dear IALB, EUFRAS, and SEASN members, dear conference participants, esteemed Minister of State Wolfram Günther, esteemed Dr. Falk Hohmann from the Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture, and Geology, dear conference organizing team, yesterday, we already had the pleasure of experiencing a wonderful first impression of the conference. In the afternoon, we enjoyed the city tours, and in the evening, we were treated to a magnificent ride on the Elbe, with the backdrop of Dresden and also of Pillnitz Castle.

With over 470 participants from more than 20 countries, I believe this is truly a remarkable achievement for the organizers, to put together such a conference and to generate so much participation.

This 62nd annual conference of the International Academy for Rural Advisory Services, the 12th EUFRAS conference, and the 9th SEASN conference allows us to continuously experience a connected engagement in advisory services and exchange. The Free State of Saxony and the colleagues here on-site have managed to design a program that has truly motivated many to come, participate, become part of this conference, and contribute. Once again, heartfelt congratulations for the achievement of addressing a topic that resonates with the times, reflecting the interests of all of us here, and a sincere thank you for the outstanding organization.

The theme of the conference is: **"The Role of Education and Advisory Services in the Agricultural Transformation Process in the Context of Climate Change, Food Security, and Societal Demands"**.

Challenges and demands are coming at agriculture from all directions. How do we deal with them? What do we offer to support agriculture and businesses in this transformational process, which is happening under significant pressure, and help them become future-proof? What benefits can advisory services and education offer to support these processes?

These are precisely the questions this conference is tackling, and it offers a wide range of topics. If you have seen the number of workshops, you will know that this event aims to develop and discover solutions through mutual exchange. This strengthens the conference and demonstrates that we have successfully achieved this in many previous conferences. Over the course of today and tomorrow, and perhaps even on Thursday for those who have time, we will learn about the approaches, methods, and strategies that advisory services are using here in Saxony, as well as what



Regine Wiesend, President of IALB

is happening in Germany, Europe, and beyond, to help people through change and support them. It is essential to strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems and businesses, even when facing complex challenges. That is our goal, and the IALB is a network for sharing information and experiences across borders.

Our events always take place in different regions and countries, allowing us to capture local impressions. I believe that for each of us, these conferences offer the opportunity to broaden our horizons and open ourselves to new ideas. This speaks to our desire to grow and develop, and to bring these new ideas back into our professional lives.

Network with each other; make use of personal contacts that will allow you, even outside of the conferences, to exchange visions, ideas, and knowledge. Personal contact offers us a completely different kind of access and is a success factor for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Collaboration is becoming increasingly important for advisory services, education, research, policy, and practice. Now it is not just a three-way partnership, but also a five-part harmony, that enables us to develop good solutions and new ideas.

There are many good reasons to join IALB or our partner organizations, and of course, we are always happy to welcome new members.

In conclusion, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Free State of Saxony, to all sponsors and supporters, and once again to the preparation team from the Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture, and Geology.

Dear IALB, EUFRAS, and SEASN members and dear participants, take full advantage of this conference, actively participate, and expand your personal network. Benefit from the diversity of ideas and experiences. Just next door, over 70 informational posters are waiting for you, and most of all, enjoy this beautiful city that was introduced to us earlier. Enjoy Dresden; I was here 30 years ago, and seeing how much has changed – it's truly impressive.

We wish you a wonderful conference.

Regine Wiesend, President of IALB."

Dear Colleagues,

It has been over a year since we last met in Spain and yet it seems like it was just yesterday.

The past year has once again been a challenging one, we still have a war going on in Europe and at the same time this is already the second year where we have to deal with adverse weather conditions as well. There have been major droughts around Europe for the second year running and at the same time some regions have seen massive flooding. These all illustrate what the agricultural sector has to contend with constantly, once again resiliency is called for. Weather is something we cannot influence, but rather adapt. It is a well-known fact that our climate is changing and we will have to contend with now and in the future.

We as advisors can and will be there once again to aid the farming community tackle these issues, which brings me onto the theme of this years' conference, "The role of education and advice in the transformation process of agriculture - in the context of climate change, ensuring nutrition and social requirements". This topic is now maybe more relevant than ever, food production is dealing with diminished yields due to adverse climate conditions and at the same time world population is ever increasing, we have more mouths to feed and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This is where our role as advisors is emphasized once again, we need to find efficient ways to contend with climate change while ensuring nutrition and maintaining an environmentally and socially responsible production. This is a challenge we all share, so let us work together to find solutions. This is what these conferences are all about, using the power of the community to find solutions to common challenges.

I wish you all a very successful conference and many fruitful discussions among your colleagues from all over Europe.

Jussi Juhola

Chairman, EUFRAS



Jussi Juhola

Dear organisers, dear participants,
dear members of all advisory service
networks, participants from different
EU and national institutions,
dear guests,

I am very honour to be today with you and to have the opportunity to address you and to get new insights for our work in advisory service. 62nd IALB conference shows the importance of the advisory service thru the history and importance of this event for solving the new challenges in front of us.

SEASN network participates on these events last 9 years. Moreover, I can say that these 9 years was very important and successful for us.

The main topic and message of this year conference is the role of education and extension in the transformation process of agriculture - in the context of climate change, nutrition ensurement and societal demands. We do not talk about the fashion; we talk about the reality and about the consequences for farming, for the environment, for food safety. Education and knowledge transfer in rural area play the main role. In SEASN region it is necessary to combine the agriculture with add activities related to ensure add value on the farm. For SEASN this is extremely important because of lot of reasons: small and less competitive agricultural holdings, traditional type of agriculture, less developed advisory services, SEASN members from EU and non-EU countries (mostly they are in pre-accession period), less developed AKIS system and advisory methods, tools etc. Because of those reasons in SEASN expect, that specific of agriculture will be taken into account on different levels. We also would like to have more support for trainings advisors for using methods and tools in advisory work, together with implementing AKIS as a system for knowledge transfer.

The Horizon projects as FairShare and i2Connect helped us to involve in daily advisory work the digital tools and platforms and innovative approaches, thanks to EU, which addressed that importance through these two projects and through the Horizon Europe proposals, for establishing advisory service networks, also.

In past years, Germany was as an EU member state, the holder of member states, which put in front of their creation agriculture politics the role of climate, the role of environment and the role of developing the sustainable type of living in the rural areas through rural development measures/interventions. I believe that in next days we will have



Igor Hrovatič

opportunity to see how this is upgraded with using the modern approaches in general.

Mentioning all this in the explanation of this year conference, we have to consider and have an action plan for the future role of advisory service in rural areas. In addition, we can be optimistic.

In the name of all SEASN members, I wish you a good and successful conference, adopted conclusions, which will be heard and used by European and national policy makers too.

Thank you very much,

Igor Hrovatič

SEASN president



Greetings from Igor Hrovatič in the plenary. Photo: LfULG

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear participants, dear network partners, dear guests,

on behalf of the President of the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology (LfULG), I warmly welcome you to the **62nd IALB Working Conference**, which we are hosting in collaboration with the **12th EUFRAS** and **9th SEASN** Conferences this year in Dresden, our splendid "Florence of the Elbe." We have also received support from the Saxon State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment, and Agriculture. We extend our gratitude to everyone for the pleasant cooperation.

Since the last IALB conference in Saxony, 25 years have passed. A fascinating period encompassing various operational and "official" developmental stories, in which consultation and education have also undergone transformation.

Today, challenges are more diverse and intertwined than ever before. They affect nearly every facet of economic and societal life, whether regionally or globally. Thus, we have deliberately chosen the theme of our conference, "**The role of education and advice in the transformation process of agriculture - in the context of climate change, ensuring nutrition and social requirements,**" and put the transformation process under Saxon conditions up for discussion.

On one hand, the ongoing dynamics, coupled with the structural changes already underway in businesses, are leading to growing international influences throughout the entire agricultural sector. The necessity of secure food production and the provision of agricultural raw materials, along with the "system relevance" of agriculture and food production, have been highlighted to consumers, not least due to the impact of COVID-19.

On the other hand, the advancing climate change and its impact on the availability of natural resources have given rise to a new environmental consciousness. Society's expectations for production and marketing focused on resource conservation and animal welfare within regional value chains have also increased. The resulting new realities for agricultural practices and those involved in this sector require tailored and sustainable education and consultation offerings.

The Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology, with its broad range of responsibilities, is exceptionally positioned for interdisciplinary knowledge transfer. Accordingly, we have prepared a diverse



*Dr. Falk Hohmann,
Permanent representative of the President of the
Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture,
and Geology*

information offering and an engaging conference program for you. We are genuinely excited about facilitating lively and insightful exchanges, as well as vibrant cross-border networking.

Moreover, our state capital Dresden provides a captivating backdrop as the conference venue.

We are pleased to serve as your hosts and wish you a pleasant stay in the Free State of Saxony. May you engage in fruitful discussions and gain valuable insights in the interest of promoting education and consultation in rural areas and advancing sustainable agriculture.

Good luck

Dr. Falk Hohmann

Permanent representative of the President of the LfULG

2 Event Information

62nd IALB Working Conference | 12th EUFRAS-Conference | 9th SEASN-Conference | 10.09. - 14.09.2023 in Dresden

	Sunday, 10.09.2023	Monday, 11.09.2023	Tuesday, 12.09.2023	Wednesday, 13.09.2023	Thursday, 14.09.2023
Morning	<p>Conference venue: Congress-Center Dresden Ostra-Ufer 2, 01067 Dresden +49-351-216-1018</p> <p>Contact conference office: Landestourismusverband Sachsen e. V. Tel: +49-351-49191-12 Tel: +49-170-4810431 Tel: +49-351-49191-28</p> <p>Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology Tel: +49-351-8928-3400 Tel: +49-351-8928-3415</p>	<p>9:00 – 9:15 h Opening and welcoming (Congress Center Dresden)</p> <p>9:15 – 9:45 h Overview: Agriculture, rural areas, education and consulting in Saxony Wolfram Günther (Minister of Saxon State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture - SMEKUL)</p> <p>9:45 – 10:45 h Development, situation and perspective of the »Verbundsystem Agrarwissen« in Saxony Structured interview with Ines Senger, Dr. Dieter Heider and Dr. Falk Hohmann (Moderation: Daphne Huber)</p> <p>11:15 – 12:45 h Transformation Processes in Agriculture - Expectations from the Perspective of EU subject policy, applied science, consulting and practice. Statements and panel discussion with Michael Pielke (EU Commission), Prof. Dr. Knut Schmidtko (former director FIBL Switzerland) Florian Herzog (Austrian Chamber of Agriculture) and Jan Gumpert („agraset“ Naundorf, Saxony)</p>	<p>8:00 – 18:30 h Specialized excursions Departure and Arrival: Congress Center Dresden</p> <p>(E1) Sustainability and income diversification in different farm structures (E2) Organic farming (E3) Agriculture in the area of conflict between nature conservation and species protection (E4) Digital transformation in agriculture (E5) »Carp country« Saxony (E6) Regional and supraregional value chains – agriculture in disadvantaged areas (E7) Development of rural areas (E8) Vocational qualification, farm innovations for animal welfare (E9) Winegrowing and horticulture between regionality and global markets</p>	<p>8:00 – 11:30 h Conclusion at the Plenum Evaluation of the workshops Awarding of the poster presentation Handover of the CECRA certificates</p> <p>11:30 – 12:45 h Closing Presentations (Key-Note) „My personal IALB-Retrospective and Forecast“ Anton Stöckli (Switzerland, IALB Committee) „Shaping the future with education and advice - an eco-social perspective“ Prof. Dr. Franz Josef Rademacher (Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing; Club of Rome)</p> <p>12:45 – 13:00 h Presentation and invitation of the organizer of the annual meeting for 2024</p> <p>Good Bye Words</p>	<p>7:30 – 19:00 h Supplemental excursions Departure and Arrival: Congress Center Dresden</p> <p>(SE1) Saxony raises its treasures - Montane region Ore Mountains (SE2) Educational offers in rural areas („Ostelbien“)</p>
Afternoon	<p>from 12 h Arrival and Registration at the conference office</p> <p>12:00 – 14:30 h IALB Board Meeting</p> <p>15:00 – 16:30 h Thematic city tours Meeting points: see 8 Side Events</p>	<p>14:00 – 17:00 h Workshops (W1) Digitalisation (W2) AKIS (W3) Consulting organisation and management (W4) Regional Value Creation (W5) Nature conservation and agriculture (W6) Animal welfare (W7) Development of rural areas (W8) Climate and resource protection (W9) Organic farming (W10) Operational Management (W11) Young EUFRAS (Ort: Sächs. Staatskanzlei, Raum 270)</p>	<p>14:00 – 15:30 h, Room 5 (Conference floor) IALB General Meeting</p> <p>14:00 – 15:30 h, Room 4 (Conference floor) EUFRAS Meeting</p> <p>15:30 – 17:00 h, Room 3 (Conference floor) IALB Board Meeting</p>		
Evening	<p>17:30 – 22:00 h Welcome evening Trip by „Meissen“ Elbe steamer Landing stage 7, Terrassenufer, 01067 Dresden Get-together in Dresden- Pillnitz Palace and Park, culinary delights</p>	<p>19:00 – 22:30 h Society evening at the Congress Center with cultural entertainment</p> <p>9:30 – 15:00 h Accompanying persons program (Excursion to Meissen)</p>	<p>Evening at free disposal</p> <p>19:00 h Meeting of the former IALB seminar participants of Rauischholzhausen „Alte Schrankwirtschaft - Zum Schießhaus“ Am Schießhaus 19, 01067 Dresden</p>	<p>Evening at free disposal</p>	

Contact conference office:

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Conference venue:

Congress-Center Dresden

Ostra-Ufer 2

01067 Dresden (Germany)

Tel: +49-351-216-1018

Conference program

Sunday, 10.09.2023

From 12:00 h

Arrival and Registration at the conference office

12:00 – 14:30 h

IALB Board Meeting

15:00 – 16:30 h

Thematic city tours through Dresden (see [8 Side events](#))

17:30 – 22:00 h

Welcome evening (see [8 Side events](#))

Trip by Elbe steamer, greeting speeches, get-together in Dresden-Pillnitz Palace and Park,
»Green Forum« network, culinary delights from the region

22:00 h

Return trip by steamer to Terrassenufer, Dresden Old Town

Monday, 11.09.2023

9:30 – 15:00 h

Accompanying persons program (see [6 Excursions](#))

Excursion to Meissen - city of porcelain and cradle of Saxony

9:00 – 9:15 h

Opening and welcoming

(Congress Center Dresden)

Regine Wiesend (President IALB)*Jussi Juhola* (President EUFRAS)*Igor Hrovatic* (President SEASN)

9:15 – 9:45 h

Overview: Agriculture, rural areas, education and consulting in Saxony*Wolfram Günther* (Minister of Saxonian State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture - SMEKUL)

9:45 – 10:45 h

Development, situation and perspective of the »Verbundsystem Agrarwissen« in Saxony

(»Composite System of agricultural knowledge«)

Structured Interview: Moderation: *Daphne Huber* (agrarticker.de, German Agricultural Society - DLG-Verlag)

Participants:

Ines Senger (Agricultural Cooperative Struppen e.G.)*Dr. Dieter Heider* (b&s management consultancy and training for rural areas GmbH)*Dr. Falk Hohmann* (Permanent Representative of the President of the LfULG)

10:45 – 11:15 h

Break

(10:45 – 11:15 h)

(Press conference)

11:15 – 12:45 h

Transformation Processes in Agriculture - Expectations from the Perspective of EU subject policy: *Michael Pielke* (EU Commission)... applied science : *Prof. Dr. Knut Schmidtke* (former director FIBL Switzerland)... consulting: *Florian Herzog* (Austrian Chamber of Agriculture)... practice: *Jan Gumpert* („agraset“ Naundorf, Saxony)

Statements and panel discussion

Moderation: *Daphne Huber* (agrarticker.de, German Agricultural Society - DLG-Verlag)

12:45 – 14:00 h

Lunch break, poster exhibition, info market

14:00 – 17:00 h

11 Workshops (see [5 Workshops](#))

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W1 Digitalisation

Presentation of supra-regional projects: »FairShare«; »Hybrid teaching and learning forms«; Educational program: »Digital crop production in the annual cycle«

W2 AKIS

in the European context (Project: »modernAKIS«, practice of the member states, part of the GAP)

W3 Consulting organization and strategy

Structures, financing and control, forms of cooperation (e.g. joint consulting, focus: common good topics)

W4 Regional value creation

through social agriculture and home economics (sustainable income generation of special target groups), Regional production and marketing concepts in practical testing

W5 Nature conservation and agriculture

management of protected animal species, e.g. wolf, »Nature Plan« as a basis for consultation and communication

W6 Animal welfare

how to balance social and farm interests? (Initiative Competence Center »Hoof Health« Saxony; Presentation of European animal welfare projects)

W7 Development of rural areas

Ideas and examples to increase the attractiveness of rural areas

(Activities to increase the attractiveness of rural areas, promotion of regional economic and social projects)

W8 Climate and resource protection

Consulting form: climate coaching; agroforestry models, examples of regional resource/water protection consulting as a contribution for ensuring nutrition

W9 Organic farming

Appropriate formats of knowledge transfer (»practical laboratories«), requirements for consultant qualifications

W10 Farm management

Securing skilled lab, personnel recruitment and qualification; securing of income and assets, business resilience

W11 Young EUFRAS – Workshop

(English only)

19:00 – 22:30 h

Society evening at the Congress Center with cultural entertainment (see [8 Side Events](#))

Tuesday, 12.09.2023

8:00 – 18:30 h

Specialized excursions in Saxony (see [6 Excursions](#))**E1 Sustainability and income diversification in different farm structures**

(Meissen, Lommatzsch arable region)

E2 Organic farming – formats of knowledge transfer - special production and marketing structures

(e.g. solidarity farming)

(Leipzig area)

E3 Agriculture in the area of conflict between nature conservation and species protection - Wolf

expert office; shepherding in protected areas

(Saxon Switzerland National Park)

E4 Digital transformation in agriculture– resource and environmentally friendly farming methods,

agriculture as a partner of archaeology

(»5 G-test field«, Lommatzsch arable region)

E5 »Carp country« Saxony – nature conservation and fishery in harmony; Fishery school Königswartha;

Design of the nature conservation advice, »House of a Thousand Ponds«

(Biosphere Reserve Upper Lusatian Heath and Pond Landscape)

E6 Regional and supraregional value chains – agriculture in disadvantaged areas

Dairy farming and milk processing in different farm structures, recultivation of former brown coal areas -

agriculture on natural disadvantaged sites, Sorbian history and culture

(Bautzen - Hoyerswerda area, Sorbian settlement area)

E7 Development of rural areas – Ideas and examples to increase the attractiveness of rural areas

LEADER area »Dresdner Heidebogen«, infrastructure projects, income alternatives, Barockschloss

Moritzburg (Moritzburg Castle)

(Moritzburg heath and pond landscape)

E8 Vocational qualification, farm innovations for animal welfare – Vocational training and further

education in a network under practical conditions, farm and personnel management; Animal welfare-

appropriate husbandry methods, EIP projects, regional marketing initiatives

(Freiburg Technical College, District of Central Saxony)

E9 Winegrowing and horticulture between regionality and global markets – Complex knowledge

transfer: inter-company vocational training, technical schools and applied research under one roof; plant

breeding and marketing on an international scale (Elsner PAC), Viticulture/experience gastronomy

Wackerbarth castle.

(Elbe Valley near Dresden)

Evening at free disposal

19:00 h

Meeting of the former IALB seminar participants of Rauischholzhausen

„Alte Schankwirtschaft - Zum Schießhaus“ (Jägersaal 2), Am Schießhaus 19, 01067 Dresden

zum-schiesshaus.de

Wednesday, 13.09.2023

8:00 – 11:30 h

Conclusion at the Congress Center - Plenum

Moderation: *Daphne Huber* (agrarticker.de, German Agricultural Society - DLG-Verlag)

Elisabeth Reith (Chamber of Agriculture Styria)

Evaluation of the workshops

Awarding of the poster presentation

Handover of the CECRA certificates

11:30 – 12:45 h

Closing Presentations

(Key-Note)

„My personal IALB-Retrospective and Forecast“

Anton Stöckli (Switzerland, IALB Committee)

„Shaping the future with education and advice - an eco-social perspective“

Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher (Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing;

Club of Rome)

12:45 – 13:00 h

Presentation and invitation of the organizer of the annual meeting for 2024

Good Bye Words

13:00 – 14:00 h

Lunch break at the Congress Center, poster presentation, info market

14:00 – 15:30 h - Room 5 (Conference floor)

IALB General Meeting

14:00 – 15:30 h - Conference hall 4 (Conference floor)

EUFRAS Meeting

15:30 – 17:00 h - Conference hall 3 (Conference floor)

IALB Board Meeting

Evening at free disposal

Thursday, 14.09.2023

7:30 – 19:00 h

Supplemental excursions in Saxony (see [6 Excursions](#))

1. Saxony raises its treasures - Montane region Ore Mountains

(UNESCO - world cultural heritage, tradition and modernity in the Ore Mountains)

2. Educational offers in rural areas („Ostelbien“)

(Training and experimental farm Köllitsch, Main Stud Graditz, Torgau - city of the Renaissance, LEADER area „Zweistromland“)

Welcome to Saxony

Saxony, a federal state in eastern Germany, captivates visitors with its rich history, picturesque landscapes, and cultural wealth. With its capital Dresden, renowned for its baroque architecture and the impressive Frauenkirche, Saxony offers a unique blend of tradition and modernity. The Saxon Switzerland, a picturesque mountain range with breathtaking rock formations and a variety of hiking trails, attracts nature enthusiasts from around the world. Here, visitors can explore the unique beauty of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains and enjoy spectacular views from famous rock formations like the Bastei or the Königstein fortress. Saxony is a place where history, art, nature, and adventure merge into an unforgettable experience.



*Saxon Switzerland, Bastei Rock Formation.
Photo: Frank Exß*

Culture at the Highest Level

A multifaceted landscape of art, music, and architecture, craftsmanship, and Europe's Capital of Culture 2025. Hundreds of museums bear witness to the vast heritage of Saxony's over 1,000-year-old cultural landscape. Moreover, two UNESCO World Heritage sites emphasize Saxony's reputation as Germany's top cultural destination: the "Ore Mountain Mining Region/Krušnohoří" and the "Muskau Park / Park Mużakowski" in Bad Muskau. Nowhere else can you encounter such an extensive array of art and culture as in Saxony – an experience with a resounding wow factor.

Saxony possesses an unparalleled breadth and depth of cultural resources in Germany, and this coverage is comprehensive. The exceptional artistic and cultural experiences are cherished by visitors from around the world. Whether in the Semper Opera Dresden, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Chemnitz Opera, castles, fortresses, historical sites, or elsewhere: Globally acclaimed theatre and music productions, top-tier festivals, museums, and internationally renowned exhibitions shape Saxony's cultural landscape. Internationally renowned music festivals are associated with names like Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Robert Schumann, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Richard Wagner.



Guided tour at the Dresden Zwinger. Photo: Schumann & Roscher GbR

Favorite Places of History

The smaller towns of Saxony shine with architectural and cultural uniqueness. In Meissen, the Albrechtsburg Castle became the first production site of the famous Meissen porcelain in 1710. Unique in the world is the "terra mineralia" exhibition in Freiberg. Traveling to Görlitz reveals around 4,000 architectural landmarks from all style epochs. Pirna, Radebeul, Torgau, Grimma, Annaberg-Buchholz, Plauen, Zwickau, Kamenz, Bautzen, and Zittau also offer cultural-historical treasures along narrow lanes and in lovingly restored theatres and museums. The rich heritage includes numerous castles, fortresses, gardens, and manor houses. Often, they serve as settings for theatre and music productions, festivals, and exhibitions, making them brim with vibrant history.



Moritzburg Castle – nestled in a beautifully enchanting pond landscape. Photo: Arvid Müller

Natural Wonders and Countryside Escapes

The fusion of culture and nature renders Saxony unmistakable. Dresden, for example, nestles between the picturesque rock landscape of the Saxon Switzerland National Park and the steep slopes of the Saxon wine-growing region in the Elbe Valley. From Leipzig's city centre, you can effortlessly canoe to one of the most beautiful beaches in the Leipzig Neuseenland. The hiking trails in the Vogtland's elevations are adorned with attractions such as the Markneukirchen Musical Instrument Museum or the German Lace Museum in Plauen. The Ore Mountains harbor treasures not only above but also beneath the surface. Moreover, a gaze from the towers of the Upper Lusatian towns reveals the peaks of the nearby Zittau Mountains. For those keeping count, that's four upland regions – a paradise for hikers, cyclists, and mountain bikers.



View from the Elbe Cycle Path onto Albrechtsburg Castle and Meissen Cathedral. Photo: Erik Gross

850 Years of Winemaking in Saxony

Centuries-old expertise, fertile soils, and a suitable climate provide the perfect conditions for exceptional wines – all within one of Europe's smallest wine-growing regions. On just 511 hectares, genuine rarities mature, passionately nurtured by 1,860 winemakers. Dozens of grape varieties thrive in the Elbe Valley, including Saxon Müller-Thurgau, Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Dornfelder, and Traminer. A special (re)discovery is the rare Gold Riesling, now cultivated in significant quantities only in Saxony. The extensive variety of wines can be enjoyed throughout the year, especially during the autumn wine festivals between Pirna and Diesbar-Seußlitz.



Wine tasting overlooking the Schloss Wackerbarth vineyard. Photo: Martin Förster

Characterful Wines – Discover the Delights

Schloss Proschwitz Estate is Saxony's oldest private winery. For over 850 years, wines have been cultivated on the vineyards facing Albrechtsburg Castle in Meißen. At Schloss Wackerbarth in Radebeul, where nobles once resided and the Saxon court celebrated grand festivities, Europe's first experience winery now welcomes guests daily. Located at the heart of the Saxon Wine Route is a unique ensemble of baroque architecture, picturesque vineyards, and modern craftsmanship – enriched with exciting events, elegant "Cool Climate" wines, and the sparkling pleasures of "Germany's Best Sparkling Wine Producer" (German Sekt Award 2018).

The Journey is the Destination: The Saxon Wine Route and the Saxon Wine Hiking Trail

The Saxon Wine Route was inaugurated in 1992, offering plenty of variety over a total length of 55 km. The first vineyards come into view near Pirna, followed by Pillnitz and the slopes just below the Elbe Castles. The picturesque vineyards of Radebeul, Coswig, and Meißen pass by, with the romantic wine village of Diesbar-Seußlitz as an extra highlight. The blend of riverscape, architectural artistry, and lightness brings joy and a desire for regional wines. The roadside traditional wine taverns, and wineries couldn't be more perfectly timed! The almost parallel Elbe Cycle Path is a constant companion along the adventure route between Pirna and Diesbar-Seußlitz.

Of Saxony's Paddle Steamers and Steam Engines

In Saxony, you can embark on journeys both on water and on rail, in the style of historical industrial culture. Dresden, the state capital, is home to the world's oldest and largest fleet of paddle steamers, and nowhere else in Germany has as many steam locomotives as Saxony.



Brühl's Terrace, Saxon Paddle Steamer Fleet, Frauenkirche, Terrassenufer, Academy of Fine Arts. Photo: ddpix.de

The history of the Dresden paddle steamer fleet, lined up before the famous Dresden Old Town skyline featuring the Frauenkirche, Royal Palace, Cathedral, Zwinger, and Semper Opera, is long. In addition, fascinating. Its homeport is Dresden's Terrassenufer below Brühl's Terrace and Dresden Fortress. In 1834, a stern-wheel paddle steamboat operated by sugar refinery owner Heinrich Wilhelm Calberla travelled between Hamburg and Dresden. Three years later, Andreas Schubert constructed the "Queen Maria," Germany's first steam-powered passenger ship. Moreover, today? Today, the world's largest and oldest fleet of paddle steamers navigates the Elbe between the wine village of Diesbar-Seußlitz in the Elbe Valley and the spa town of Bad Schandau in the Saxon Switzerland National Park. On nine historic paddle steamers, passengers can experience industrial culture up close. They witness first-hand how these vintage vessels are meticulously and lovingly maintained, and quite successfully: Seven paddle steamers have been on the water since the 19th century. The "Diesbar" is powered by engine parts from the world's oldest steam engine of a river steamer, dating back to 1841. Even today, the steamer travels along the backdrop of the vineyards on the Saxon Wine Route. The "Stadt Wehlen" has a few more years under its belt: the steamer celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2017.



The distinctive puffing of the steam engine and the soothingly rhythmic movements of the paddlewheels and steam pistons create a truly unique experience. Along the way, Saxon treasures can be admired from the water or during a shore excursion. The journeys of this tradition-rich fleet lead, among other destinations, to the splendid Pillnitz Castle or the Saxon Switzerland National Park.

Romantic journey with a historic paddle steamer to Pillnitz. Photo: Christoph Münch

However, Saxony is not only a steamship hub but also the land of steam trains. Nowhere else does the steam and whistle echo as resoundingly as here? With a total track length of 500 km, the Saxon Narrow Gauge Railways network was once the world's largest, offering passengers trips to remote and enchanting places.



The Lößnitzgrund Railway operates between Radeburg and Radebeul (16.5 km). The historic passenger cars partly date back to around 1900. Photo: Martin Förster

Even today, five narrow gauge railways are active in Saxony. They wind along idyllic river valleys like the Weißeritz or ascend steep mountain paths like the Fichtelberg Railway. Additionally, three former narrow gauge railways are operated as museum railways. On the tourist DAMPFBAHN-ROUTE Saxony, which is navigable by road, enthusiasts can experience Saxon hospitality across the country, whether between Zittau and Leipzig or Fichtelberg and Lößnitzgrund. A network of 750 kilometres connects a total of 68 stations throughout Saxony, bearing witness to its historical heritage. To fully immerse in over 175 years of railway history, numerous associations, interest groups, and museums maintain this beloved tradition: Museum stations, miniature or park railways, and railway museums constitute the "Steam Locomotive Fascination" in Saxony.

The Dresden Funicular Railway, a technical masterpiece, connects the city with the Loschwitz district, overcoming an elevation difference of over 80 meters. Since its inauguration in 1895, the funicular has transported countless visitors and locals, becoming a symbol of the city. The ride not only provides a breathtaking view of Dresden and the Elbe but also offers a comfortable way to explore the enchanting surroundings. On the other hand, the Suspension Railway is a true architectural wonder. Opened in 1901, it is Germany's only rail-guided aerial tramway. Passengers can enjoy the unique sensation of hovering and admire the city's impressive landscape during the ride. Both the Funicular Railway and the Suspension Railway reflect the technical expertise and inventive spirit of bygone eras.



View from the mountain station of the Dresden Suspension Railway to Loschwitz and the Blue Wonder Bridge. Photo: Michael R. Hennig

Craftsmanship at its Finest: Saxony's Varied Craftsmanship History

Saxony is a federal state with a rich cultural heritage. Its diverse and lively history of craftsmanship significantly contributes to its reputation as an experiential cultural destination. The largest nutcracker, the oldest registered trademark, or the largest playable violin – in Saxony, many vibrant crafts originated, setting global records. Traditional and rare arts passed down through generations in workshops form a chain of pearls in Saxony. Moreover, almost everywhere, you can observe masters at work. Here, we present some of Saxony's traditional arts:

The Crossed Swords

If you want to discover the world's oldest registered trademark, you'll find it at the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory. Since 1710, the blue crossed swords have symbolized the highest quality worldwide. White clay – kaolin – is the key to the significant radiance of the "White Gold." The manufactory's porcelain treasure includes the world's largest and oldest collection of plaster molds, historical models, and templates ever created: figures, sculptures, services, and even unique artworks.



Artist in the Show Workshop of the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory. Photo: Martin Förster

Nutcrackers, Smokers & Co.

Woodcarving and woodturning have a long tradition in the Ore Mountains. After mining declined, it was primarily the miners who, over 500 years ago, began crafting wooden artworks in masterful manual work – for utility and decoration. And each piece is unique. They are part of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Ore Mountain Mining Region/Krušnohoří" and a defining feature of Saxony. By the way, one specialty is "Reifendrehen" (turning a hoop). From a tree trunk, hoops are crafted, and while turning, the relief of an animal is formed. Piece by piece, animals of all kinds are carved and delicately painted with skilled hands. Born from a hoop, they are called "Reifentiere" (hoop animals). This craftsmanship only remains in Seiffen.



A vendor sells Erzgebirge folk art at the Dresden Striezelmarkt. Photo: Sylvio Dittrich

Time, a Precious Asset

With the brand "Glashütte," one of the most renowned centres of watchmaking is associated – and has been since 1878! The German Watch Museum illustrates the history of watchmaking in the country with over 400 exhibits. Many items on display are unique worldwide, including pocket watches, wristwatches, and pendulum clocks from various eras, marine chronometers, and movement models.

A Sky Full of Violins

In the "Musikwinkel" – the tripoint region of Markneukirchen, Schöneck, and Klingenthal – musical instruments of all kinds have been crafted from wood and brass by hand for over 350 years. They are part of the intangible cultural heritage, as the diversity and concentration of musical instrument makers are unparalleled worldwide. Renowned artists play on instruments from the Vogtland's "Musical Corner." The Markneukirchen Musical Instrument Museum houses rarities like the largest playable violin or two tiny violins that fit into a matchbox. The Vogtland is also synonymous with the finest "Zwirn" (twine): Plauen Lace. Fashion designers showcase their creations on the runways of haute couture. A visit to the German Lace Museum in Plauen is well worth it.



Stamp Set "Vogtland Instruments".
Photo/Scan: Dietrich Dorfstecher



Herrnhut Star in the church vault. Photo: Miriam Müller

The Birthplace of All Christmas Stars

During Advent and Christmas time, they illuminate many places around the world: the Herrnhut Stars. Their birthplace is the Moravian Church community of Herrnhut in the Upper Lusatia region. The hallmark of the star, with its 160-year history, is its 25 paper or now plastic points. The entire history and creation process are presented in the demonstration workshop.

3 Expert Information

Every day for a Good Life - LfULG Short Profile



Video: youtu.be/tfxWQ-Rlvs4

Saxon Agricultural Report 2023



Pandemic, African Swine Fever, drought years - extraordinary conditions for the farmers in Saxony. What were the impacts and how did the farms evolve? The Saxon Agricultural Report 2023 provides an overview of the framework conditions for agricultural production, soil and lease prices, subsidies, details of plant and animal production, and the development of organic farming. Additionally, the report covers education and training in the green professions and informs about the coexistence of agriculture and the environment. It delves deeply into the causes and backgrounds of various developments, explaining contexts and processes in a way that's understandable even for those not familiar with agriculture.

See Agricultural Report online:
publikationen.sachsen.de/bdb/artikel/42375



The AKIS Approach – (How) does it support actors in the sector?



The future orientation of the CAP envisions a strengthening of national agricultural policies. This is to be achieved through the development of 'national strategies' that define measures for overarching goals and operationalize their implementation based on verifiable indicators (EU COM, 2018/COM 392). A new element in the CAP is the concept of the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), which focuses on the collaboration of actors from consulting, research, professional organizations, and other stakeholders in the sector (EU COM, 2018Art. 13). The task of these AKIS (mentioned in the plural) is to provide information and knowledge, with a particular emphasis on agricultural business advisory services as key contributors..

Online: buel.bmel.de/index.php/buel/article/view/378/606



i2connect - Advisory Service Database



The i2connect Advisory Service database is an EU-wide directory of professional organizations and individual actors that provide knowledge services to actors in agriculture, forestry, horticulture and related fields along the agro-food value chain, as well as to other related actors in rural areas. Through the database, you can either search for an advisor or advisory organization in the EU or register yourself or your organization.

Further information: i2connect-h2020.eu



Information desk i2connect database for advisory services

Bridging the gap between research and practice through agricultural advisory services! In order to improve visibility, findability and networking, a Europe-wide directory of rural advisory and innovation service providers is being created as part of the EU project i2connect. Are you active in rural advisory work? Please register! Directly on the project website or at the information stand during the conference.

Registration: i2connect-h2020.eu/en/resources/advisory-services-database



i2connect
INTERACTIVE INNOVATION



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Strategic Business and Innovation Consulting

Systemic Consulting as a New Challenge

By THOMAS MIRSCH: **The digitization and increasing demands of the general public, which ultimately mean ecologization, increase the pressure on agriculture and thus on the companies and agricultural families. The changing framework data provoke adaptations in the companies and also in the actions of the affected people. In order to be able to deal with this constructively and creatively, appropriate accompanying advice is required. Neutral official advice is suitable here, which, taking into account societal requirements, can offer advice tailored to the family and the company. Important tools for this are strategic company and professional innovation advice. In two contributions, we want to try to approach these topics.**

Increasing importance of systemic counseling as a foundation for holistic advising

Our consulting understanding, within the context of strategic business consulting, means that the client or our target group and their needs are at the centre of the consultation. The aim of the consultation is to enhance the clients' ability to solve problems and to motivate them to make decisions. For the consultant, it is necessary to be able to conduct client-centered conversations. This requires methodological skills combined with economic and technical expertise in order to work accordingly in both individual and group consultations.

The strategic business consultant is aware of the technical-economic and methodological tools required to meet this demanding task. Fundamental goals and motives of the clients must be identified, social aspects captured, and societal demands appropriately considered in order to analyze the potential of an agricultural enterprise and develop the right action alternatives and strategies. We are talking about a systemic approach in consulting (process consulting), which has gained significant importance in the last ten years.

Within the framework of joint consulting, the focus of this assignment is particularly in the L2 department of the Offices for Nutrition, Agriculture, and Forests (ÄELF). However, in the entirety of the consulting mandate of the individual state and non-state joint partners, no partner is left out. All of this is enshrined in the Agricultural Economic Law and in the provisions/guidelines for joint consulting. Everyone is called upon to contribute in line with socio-economic and societal requirements, to get involved accordingly, and to exchange ideas.

The three pillars of state consulting:

- Consulting for Business Development Characteristic: Socio-economic individual consulting, taking into account the overall operational situation and the common good aspects as framework data.
- Innovation Consulting Characteristic: Participative innovation development through interaction and networking.
- Consulting Management Characteristic: Consulting coordination.

1) Consulting for Business Development

Consulting for business development (also known as strategic business consulting) is considered a core task of state consulting (see Bavarian Agricultural Economics Act Art. 9 (1) and LMS A2-7170-1/33 dated December 7, 2011). The assignment and content revolve around socio-economic issues and the jointly found answers that support the farm manager and the farm manager's family in strategically positioning their farm for the future. According to the LMS, the company-specific, family-specific, and regional development potentials should be identified. The societal demands made on agriculture are also taken into account by the consultancy and are tried to be considered accordingly in the consulting results. The current buzzwords are sustainability, biodiversity, animal welfare, water and soil protection, and climate.

These topic areas have significantly increased in importance in recent years and will receive even greater attention in the future. This was particularly evident through this year's Bavarian public initiative "Save the Bees" and the results that emerged from it. They cannot be ignored by the state advisory services.

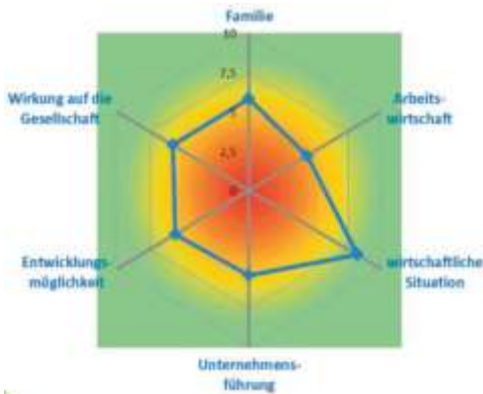


Figure 1: Network Diagram as a Result of the Fitness Check; Going from Green to Red Reflects the Need for Action

The Bavarian State Ministry for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (StMELF) plans to strengthen strategic business consulting with a future-oriented approach due to the current mood and uncertainties in agriculture. A "Fitness-Check" is being planned, which will be offered online from 2020 and is intended to serve as an introduction to strategic business consulting. This can be used by all individual agricultural family members for self-reflection regarding the status of their farm and their family situation. After a comprehensive evaluation, the family can request consulting if they wish. Consultants can also fundamentally use this check as an entry point for strategic consulting.

Strategic consulting is a form of systemic consulting, also called process consulting. Here, the primary focus isn't on technical implementations, but on finding answers for the business and the family managing it. The consultant primarily supports through methodological competence, assisting the client or the affected family to recognize the problem situation and independently develop suitable solutions. In this, the methodological skills of the consultant are particularly sought after. Experience shows that this approach usually has a more sustainable impact in implementation than prescribed (patent) solutions from the consultant.

This doesn't necessarily mean that the consultant shouldn't contribute as an expert in the field. The farmer often appreciates the expertise of the consultant, stemming from professional qualifications and a broad spectrum of experience. As a result, the consultant actively suggests solutions. Classic knowledge transfer takes place. However, there is the risk, and it grows the more complex the question appears, that the solution might be logical but not sufficiently adapted to the client and the specific situation on site. This is especially true the more socio-family components and/or societal requirements need to be considered.



Figure 2: Complementary Consultation as a Link between Expert Consultation and Process Consultation

Expert consulting is most likely applied to (production) technical questions, while process consulting is used for complex questions, often shaped by family and societal factors. In strategic business consulting, a mix of expert and process consulting emerges. Depending on the initial situations, a combination of both, each with varying intensities, often proves suitable. In this way, the most important elements of the two forms of consultation are linked. On the one hand, expert knowledge is introduced, and on the other hand, with the support of the consultant, the client can independently identify his problems and questions and develop solutions for himself. We refer to this as complementary consulting (see Figure 2). This can be perceived in this form by a single consultant or in a consortium of various consultants who contribute complementarily as experts or as supporters and facilitators.

This form of consulting is not a given. It transcends paradigms and models of individual consulting forms. However, our experience shows that this is the future path of strategic consulting. Depending on the initial situation, complementary consulting is carried out by a single consultant or in a consortium.

2) Innovation Consulting

Promoting and enabling innovations will increasingly become a task for consultants, both as multipliers and as repositories for relevant questions bridging the gap between practice and knowledge generators. A successful innovation includes a good idea and its sustainable dissemination in practice (Inge van Oost, EU Commission). The task of generating new knowledge and developing innovation is traditionally attributed to state institutions and universities, as well as certain economic sectors (top down). However, many innovations and innovative ideas also come from agricultural and forestry practice, including the areas of home economics and nutrition (bottom up).

Innovation consulting aims to bridge the gap between idea generation and realization or widespread establishment, thereby improving knowledge and knowledge transfer. So far, the business consulting at the ÄELF has professionally fulfilled this task in knowledge transfer, showing businesses new and innovative ways for the future in various consulting situations.

Info box 1: EIP-Agri

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) is a new instrument introduced by the EU to address societal challenges. The agriculture-related EIP-Agri was introduced within the framework of the latest reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to enhance the competitiveness of agriculture. The aim of EIP-Agri is to increase agricultural production while reducing resource consumption, thus making it more sustainable. To unlock innovation potential and accelerate innovation transfer, closer collaboration between research and agricultural practice is sought.

Further goals of EIP-Agri include:

- Strengthening the transfer of information and knowledge between practice and science.
- Promoting innovations to mitigate the financial risk associated with implementing new ideas and projects.
- Improving interaction between science and practice.

Operational Groups (OG)

A crucial element of EIP is the establishment and support of Operational Groups (OG), consisting of representatives from different interest groups such as farmers, researchers, advisors, and businesses in the agricultural sector. They collaborate to develop and bring an innovative project to practical fruition.

Innovation projects supported within the framework of EIP-Agri can involve a product, process, technology, method, or service. They must have a specific relevance to Bavarian agriculture and food production. (Source: Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry)

What's New in Innovation Consulting?

Innovation consulting places emphasis on engaging various stakeholders early on through a participatory approach, fostering interaction and collaboration through networking. For instance, in an innovation project centered around the "Future Breeding Sow Barn," an innovation consultant could assume the coordinating and moderating role of a process facilitator, working together with different stakeholders such as the State Institute of Agriculture, interested farmers, barn construction companies, ethologists, consumers, and animal welfare advocates, among others. Moreover, within the interplay of these stakeholders, there is an increased opportunity to incorporate and purposefully utilize implicit knowledge (experiences) of those affected.

This is already outlined in the Agricultural Economic Act (BayAgrarWiG Art. 1, 4): the self-reliance, self-initiative, and innovation capability of independent entrepreneurs in agriculture are to be strengthened.

In the resulting job descriptions for Department 2 and the specialized centres of the State Institute for Agriculture and Forestry (ÄELF), this is articulated concretely (excerpt):

L 2:

- Initiating and moderating regional networks with other partners
- Coordinating advisory projects with collaborative partners
- Involvement in regional projects with public welfare functions
- Deepening the producer-consumer dialogue

L 3:

- Initiating, establishing, and leading project-related working groups to strengthen rural areas
- Involvement in initiating marketing concepts for regional products
- Knowledge generation and transfer...
- Developing transregional advisory statements...
- in the field of renewable energies

Usually, innovations of any kind are connected to changes in various ways upon implementation. In most cases, multiple actors are involved, whether it's the originator, the developer, ultimately the user, perhaps a financier, an advisor, and so on. Networking plays a pivotal role here in effectively managing innovations.

The Significance of the Social Dimension in Innovations

Every introduction and implementation of innovations brings not only a generally technical advancement but also holds a social dimension. How is this to be understood? An example: when the "grandma" who used to feed the calves becomes unemployed due to the new automated feeding system. Although the quality of calf feeding is improved (fewer cases of calf diarrhoea), the grandma might feel isolated and relieved of her previous responsibilities... This establishes a direct connection to strategic business consulting.

The increasing significance of the innovation topic is evident from the fact that the European Union is allocating billions of euros in funding (EIP-Agri: European Innovation Partnership) (see Info box 1). The consultant is seen here as a catalyst, initiator, and moderator. The second Bavarian call for EIP Agri concluded in September 2019.

An innovation strategy by the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (StMELF) is also in the planning stages, featuring various formats such as training seminars, workshops, and future workshops. Starting in November 2019, the international EU project "i2connect," in which the FÜAK is a partner, will commence. This will result in initial training measures, some of which have already been included in the 2020 educational program (see Info box 2). Additionally, for more insight, refer to the article about i2connect by Pablo Asensio (see pages 63 onwards).

3) Advisory Management

In both collaborative and innovation consulting, it is evident that multiple actors operate within networks or consortia. The consultant's role here is one that is not yet fully recognized by all but is becoming increasingly significant. As early as the task descriptions for L2 and the specialized centres in 2012, the mandate for consultants to coordinate and clearly define their advisory roles is established. This needs to be internalized. In the context of the planned Fitness Check and also in the context of the new agreements with collaborative partners scheduled for 2020, a stronger focus will be placed on this role. This management directive will also be a significant component in innovation consulting.

The second contribution on innovation and innovation consulting will appear in the upcoming SuB issue 1-2/20. We would also like to refer readers to Dr. Hermann Kolesch's article, "Biodiversity in Viticulture – Thinking New, New Strategies, New Action – Now!", which succinctly describes its significance for agricultural administration (SuB 7-8/19).

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Perceiving Innovation as a Consulting Assignment

By THOMAS MIRSCH and PABLO ASENSIO: **Enabling and promoting innovations will increasingly become a significant task for consultants as moderators and facilitators, serving as conduits for relevant questions between practice and research, and knowledge generators. This article attempts to elucidate the role of innovation consulting. (See also SuB 11-12/2019, p. 59ff)**

Why is the topic of innovation important in our scope of action? In addition, what role does agricultural and rural advisory play in this regard? An internal strategy paper by the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (StMELF) emphasizes that innovation is more crucial than ever for agriculture, nutrition, and forestry. Challenges such as climate change, resource and species protection, food security, digitization, as well as structural change in agriculture and increasing urbanization demand more innovation and adaptation in agriculture, nutrition, and forestry as the essential pillars of rural areas.

Especially in the era of digitization, disruptive processes are often mentioned in this context, which, in contrast to continuous renewals, lead to "revolutionary" changes and are often associated with paradigm shifts. The term "Agriculture 4.0" can be mentioned here as an example. For the strategic business consultant in our sense, this means thinking more in terms of projects and promoting co-creation. (See "Understanding Innovation as a Learning Process" in SuB 1-2/2020, p. xx, Fig. 1 for definition)

What is Innovation?

Schumpeter (1939) defines innovation concisely as novelty plus implementation. According to Inge van Oost (EU Commission), a successful innovation includes a good idea, its implementation, and its sustainable dissemination in practice. Only when the renewal is also widely applied in practice can it be considered a successful innovation. To be successful in this sense, various actors need to be brought together to collaborate and have an effective impact. The networking nature of co-creation takes precedence in this context.

Significance of Innovation Consulting

Innovation consulting aims to support processes that enable innovations such as new methods, new products, new services, etc., while also encouraging new ways of thinking within the framework of given data and appropriate risk management ("who is responsible for what?").

Info box 1: Creativity

- Creativity is the ability to think creatively and create new things.
- Creativity is out-of-the-box thinking, seeing things differently.
- Every person is creative!
- Creativity can be enhanced through creativity exercises and techniques.

Source: Compiled by LFI, 2017

Innovations brought about by continuous adaptations and advancements, as well as particularly disruptive ("revolutionary") changes induced by digitization, pose special requirements for consulting. Precision farming can serve as an example. Technology is advancing rapidly. It's not just the technical revolution in the narrower sense that is the focus of consulting, but also the impact and consequences of deploying this technology. Within the given context, the conflict of competing goals in terms of economy, ecology, and social demands takes centre stage. Finding an equitable and constructive approach to these competing goals that are rooted in the operational, familial, and societal aspects is the task of strategic business consulting for the operation and the farm family.

Supplementary to this, effective innovation consulting with a focus on networking various stakeholders can contribute to finding suitable answers for both agricultural operations and society. From a societal perspective, this implies that specialized administration and consequently, consulting, play a pivotal role, particularly in this regard.

Another example can be drawn from the consequences for agriculture resulting from the "Save the Bees" referendum, which vividly illustrates such disruptive effects and underscores the need for immediate action.

Info box 2: How well are we connected?

Questions for reflecting on our actions and impact

- How intensively am I/are we (proactively) in contact with various stakeholders in our region, such as water management authorities, veterinary offices, lower nature conservation authorities, consumer protection agencies, municipal institutions, municipalities, schools, associations, media, various representatives of business, trade, and other stakeholders?
 - How are we perceived and involved as a specialized administration and as advisors in this constellation?
 - Do we actively involve these various stakeholders in certain thematic areas and connect them with producers and providers in agriculture, forestry, and household management?
-

Role and Task of the Innovation Consultant

The task of generating new knowledge and developing innovations is traditionally attributed to state institutions, universities, as well as specific sectors of the economy. Within the framework of knowledge transfer, a top-down process from science to consulting to practice is often mentioned. However, many innovations and innovative ideas also emerge from agricultural and forestry practices, as well as from domestic economy and nutrition domains. These ideas are valuable to be picked up by research and further disseminated through consulting (bottom-up process). The role of innovation consulting is to bridge the gap between idea generation and realization or widespread implementation, thereby enhancing knowledge and expertise transfer.

In the article "Strategische Unternehmens- und Innovationsberatung" (SuB 11-12/19, p. 59ff), an attempt was already made to define innovation consulting briefly. It was also noted in this article that the tasks of an innovation consultant are already described both in the Agricultural Economic Act and in the associated task descriptions for strategic business consulting. At the time of creating these task descriptions, the term "innovation consultant" wasn't yet common. This prompts the question of how aware our consultants were of this mandate? (see also Info box 2)

Interaction through Networking

Innovation consulting places its focus on bringing together the right individuals, connecting various stakeholders through an early participatory approach involving interaction and collaboration. A multidisciplinary blend and the resulting formation of networks are fundamental prerequisites for successful implementation in innovation processes.

Many challenges in agriculture that require changes and innovations cannot be solved solely at the level of individual farms, where conventional business consulting typically begins. Increasingly, working within multidisciplinary innovation projects following the co-creation approach is essential.

The unique role of the innovation consultant may involve initiating innovation processes, translating them for practical application, and making them usable. Additionally, shaping and optimizing knowledge transfer as a consultant is part of the equation. Another significant task might be nurturing "pioneers" and creative minds, initiating "lighthouses," and helping mitigate their risks through supportive contact connections with various partners and stakeholders.

Thus, the mandate and role of the innovation consultant as a process facilitator are described from our perspective. The shift from a consultant in the traditional sense to a proactive networker and promoter of innovations is a logical evolution building upon existing consulting competencies. Innovation consulting and management are demanding yet also an attractive and meaningful addition in agricultural, domestic, and forestry advisory contexts.

New Methods in Innovation Consulting

However, the conventional soft skills known in consulting, such as moderation and project management, are not sufficient on their own. If agricultural consulting is to effectively promote and support innovations, consultants, as well as employees of research institutions must develop an understanding of interactive innovation processes. Additional, partly newly developed methods are available, as indicated by the examples below. In the EU project i2connect, in which the Bavarian State Academy for Nutrition, Agriculture, and Forestry (FüAK) is involved, training and further education opportunities for innovation consultants are being developed and tested (see SuB 11-12/2019). FüAK offers appropriate further training opportunities for qualification.

Info box 3: Possible Fields of Work in Innovation Consulting

The following fields of work are suggested:

- Identify innovative solutions from practice for current challenges
 - Initiate and support innovation projects
 - Assist in developing networks
 - Facilitate interactions among producers, such as farmer-to-farmer discussions, already implemented in working groups or organized by state institutions (e.g., Bio-Regio)
 - Bring together agricultural and forestry practitioners, researchers, business representatives, and stakeholders
 - Establish innovation platforms
 - Organize knowledge management
 - Address current topics and position them appropriately
 - Disseminate new knowledge through training, education, and consultation
-

Innovation is not new to agricultural administration.

Numerous research and development projects, as well as Leader or eIP projects, have been designed in accordance with the co-creation approach and have also been successfully implemented. The hallmark has been and continues to be interdisciplinary collaboration with various partners (co-creation). The planned "Innotour" for 2020 aims to present ongoing, well-demonstrable, and successful projects in this vein. To proactively engage in this context, appropriate competencies are needed at the individual and organizational levels of consultants.

At the individual level, this means having suitably equipped consulting personnel with the necessary expertise coupled with the ability to manage social processes within multidisciplinary networks. At the organizational level, this implies that for effective innovation support, innovation consultants require sufficient leeway to facilitate networks, mutual learning, and thus enable innovation processes.



Figure 1: Initiative Spiral according to Wielinga.

Source: Eelke Wielinga, David Postma, Netherlands

The Innovation Process

What does an innovation process look like?

Whether it's the "Initiative Spiral" (see image), "Lead-User Method," "Design-Thinking Process," "Agile Innovation Framework," "Stage-Gate Model," or "Understanding Innovation as a Learning Process" (see Asensio/Mirsch article on page xy) – there are various ways to illustrate an innovation process. The innovation process is detailed in the "Initiative Spiral," which we prefer due to its focus on people in the innovation process.

In the initial phase, crucial for a successful innovation process, the individual is intentionally placed at the centre as the bearer of ideas and a trailblazer, leveraging their creativity, emotionality, and ambition. The creative and attentive person generates an idea and attempts to initiate a process, something they may find challenging without ambition. They need equally ambitious collaborators at the outset. They inspire others (often informally), initiate a network of like-minded individuals and supporters (stakeholders), and thus set the innovation process in motion (Inspiration).

During the development process of innovation, the planning and development phase, the pilot implementation, and the execution of the renewal (dissemination) follow. Only when successful dissemination in practice is observable (embedding), can a successful innovation, as defined earlier, be acknowledged. Each phase within the spiral requires various activities appropriate to the respective phase, involving changing actors.

Each step represents a completed developmental phase with positive or negative outcomes, and in case of failure, it can either terminate a project or lead to a revised approach. For such a process, professional guidance is helpful, if not necessary. The risks of failure are significant, and experiences in this regard are abundant.



Figure 2: The Cold and Warm Approach in an Innovation Process

Source: Eelke Wielinga, David Postma, Netherlands

Cold and Warm Organization

Traditional project management typically begins with a project order from management. The goal, required framework data such as technical and financial resources, are given. The timeline and indicators for measuring success are determined. The necessary competencies are defined only after that, and the suitable people (the appropriate team) are brought together accordingly. In contrast to this classical approach, an innovation process should start differently. We differentiate between the warm and cold processes. The classical project management described above is characterized by a cold organizational structure. In contrast, in the warm organizational structure, the individual with their ideas is the starting point. They have ambitions, following the motto: "you must be on fire". Through networking, synergies are discovered and energies are released. Goals emerge from this, pursued sustainably with greater involvement (see image). Only after this phase of exploration and project initiation, when the network is formed and the motivation of the involved actors is substantial enough, is professional project management (cold process) established. A distinction is made here between the focus on human performance and the organization around it. The actors are valued, promoting flexibility and creativity. This is an interesting "innovative" approach to managing innovation processes, which has been confirmed in the long-term studies of E. Wielinga through a higher success rate in implementing innovations and successfully managing change.

The approaches described here and other methods such as network analysis are part of the seminars offered by the FÜAK, including those on innovation consulting and "Research and Innovation."

References

StMELF, G2 Forschung und Innovation

Eelke Wielinga, David Postma, Netherlands

Additional sources can be obtained from the authors.

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Understanding Innovation as a Learning Process

by PABLO ASENSIO and THOMAS MIRSCH: Co-creation is key to successful innovation. From the EU's research funding to the current innovation strategy of the Bavarian State Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (StMELF), it is evident that early involvement of the industry and practical sectors, the support from consultants as process companions, and the participation of future users are conducive to the sustainable spread of innovations. What is a co-creation process and how does it differ from the knowledge transfer and consultancy work we know? This article introduces a model that places the co-creation approach on a learning progression ladder and relates it to the prevailing approaches of knowledge transfer and consultation. This approach is also being intensively discussed in international rural advisory networks such as EUFRAS, IALB, ESEE, and at FÜAK.

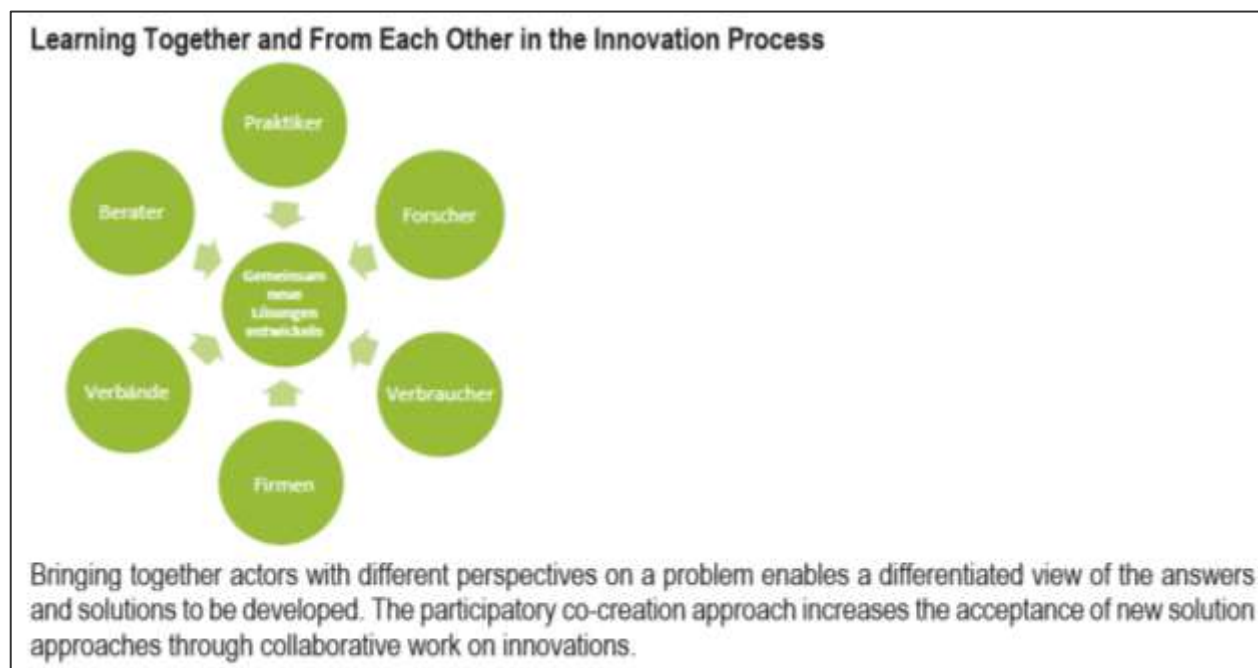


Figure 1: In the innovation development through the co-creation process, various actors connect from the beginning to collaboratively work on an innovation.

Whenever something is new, learning takes place. In innovations, something new is developed, change is implied, and adjustment processes result. Learning is thus inevitable in innovation processes. Innovation can be understood as a learning process. The learning perspective helps in understanding what makes innovations and how they can be successfully implemented. An article in the SuB 1 2/2010 issue elaborates that consultancy can also be understood as a learning process, in which solution-oriented learning takes place based on a specific problem situation. In the development of innovations in a participative co-creation process, where all relevant actors are involved, the actors from different sectors learn particularly strongly from each other. Researchers learn about the needs of future users, practitioners provide experiences from pilot applications, developers learn from involved companies about a sustainable business model to establish innovation, and from the scientific side, other actors can get to know the state of research.

Using Learning Stages from Pedagogy to Understand Innovation Processes

To understand what promotes or hinders the introduction and dissemination of an innovation, it is helpful to draw insights from communication and learning psychology. The six learning stages – Knowledge, Ability, Acceptance, Application, Evaluation, and Creation – serve to categorise co-creation processes and innovation consultancy, relating this participatory innovation development to consultation and knowledge transfer.

In the diagram titled "Understanding Innovation Development as a Learning Process", the learning process with its six stages (from Knowledge to Creation) is depicted on the left side, complemented by central aspects of each learning stage. Adjacent to this, the three areas involved in the innovation process – Science, Consultation, and Practice – are illustrated. The dissemination of innovation (at the bottom of the image) with an arrow pointing right symbolises that the innovation

dissemination targets practice. This arrangement ultimately also represents the still prevalent model of knowledge transfer, where knowledge transfer proceeds from research, through consultation, to practice. The arrows clarify the relationships between research, consultation, and practice in knowledge transfer (Top Down) and in consultation. Co-creation is shown as a comprehensive area at the top of the graphic. Other approaches, such as the Bottom Up approach, which increasingly captures innovations from practice, are not depicted here for simplicity reasons.

The sequence of Knowledge, Ability, Acceptance, Application, Evaluation, and Creation, understood as a model, describes the developmental steps of an innovation process from a learning perspective. These learning stages in the innovation process represent an extended portrayal of the communication model "said is not yet heard, heard is not yet understood" [VAN DEN BAN 1974]. In communication training at FÜAK, this model is frequently used and referred to as "pitfalls". The learning stages also draw inspiration from the progressively complex, sequential competence levels from the taxonomy of learning objectives by [BLOOM 1976] and [ANDERSON AND KRATHWOHL 2001].

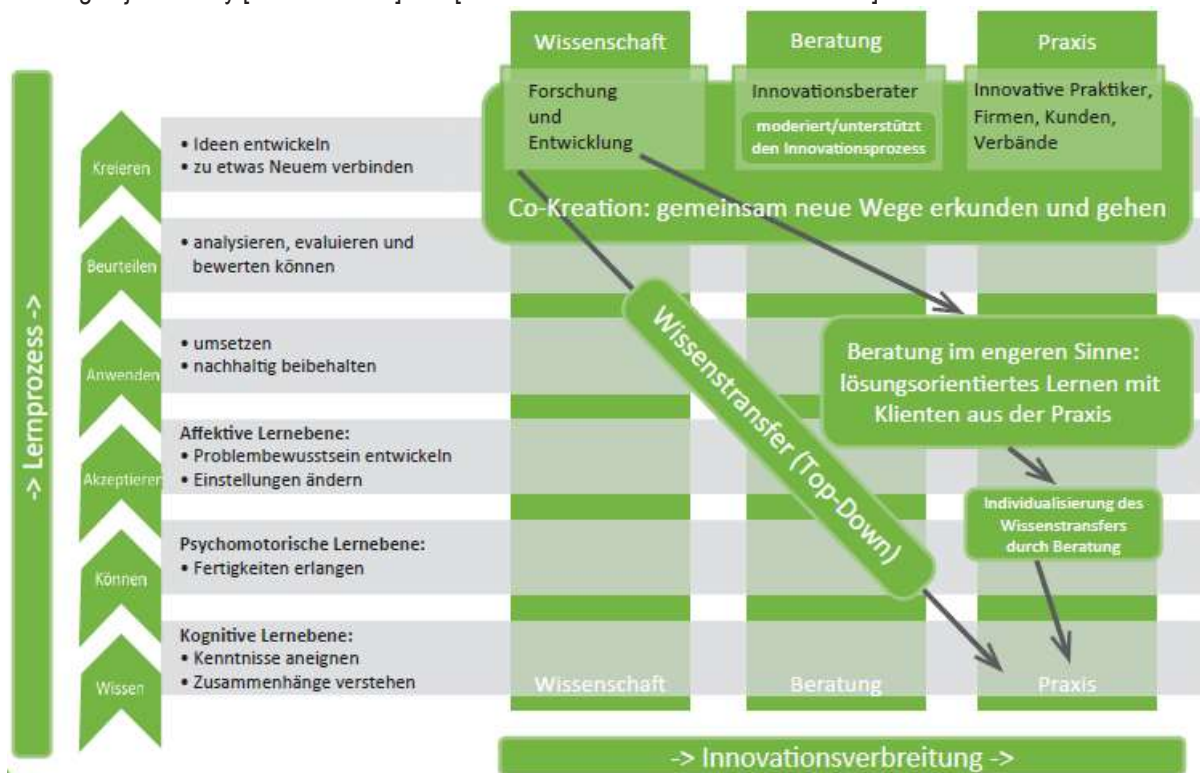


Figure 2: Understanding innovation development as a learning process.

In the learning stages of the innovation process, the three learning levels, namely cognitive learning, psychomotor learning, and affective learning [TAXONOMY OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES ACCORDING TO BLOOM 1976], are reflected. In this model, for simplicity, these learning levels are associated with individual learning stages, such as cognitive learning being linked to the knowledge stage. Knowledge, as per Aamodt and Nygard, emerges through the application of information. A particularly critical stage in the innovation process is "acceptance" because every innovation triggers resistance. This is because new methods, behaviours, the application of products or services question established, often long-standing practices. Thus, I am automatically questioned by the new in my actions. Resistance to change is, therefore, inevitable. In designing learning processes, this learning stage can be consciously addressed. In the application stage, pilot tests are initially carried out and experience is gathered. Until a new behaviour or practice is actually maintained and established, a long journey might be required. To be able to evaluate complex processes, in-depth experience in a particular field is usually necessary. For instance, it's expected that project evaluators are recognised experts in their respective fields.

Co-Creation: A Demanding Learning Process at an Advanced Competence Level

Innovations emerge at the 'Creation' stage. This includes the two components: idea development and creative design through recombination and networking. The spread of innovation here is not represented in the form of the adoption curve or the adoption rate of innovations [ROGERS 2003]. Instead, the traditional approaches to dissemination, advice, and knowledge transfer are assigned to the essential learning stages. For classification and comparison with these common approaches, the co-creation process, accompanied by innovation consultancy in the spirit of promoting participative and interactive innovation processes, is also attributed to the learning stages. In knowledge transfer as a top-down process,

This is then transferred to the end-users in practice. The learning stages 'Ability', 'Acceptance', 'Application', and 'Evaluation' are bypassed. This could possibly be a reason why the dissemination of excellent research findings and development projects often fails to be sustainable. Consultancy can be understood as a learning process in which a consultant works with a client from the field to address a problem and develop solutions. The consultant's role is to capture, filter, and specifically apply knowledge from research and development. This results in a tailored knowledge transfer, which primarily focuses on the learning stages of 'Acceptance' and 'Implementation'.

In recent times, a new concept of innovation dissemination is increasingly being discussed, namely the co-creation process [WIELINGA AND ROBIJN 2019]. In the EU project i2connect (see SuB 9/10 2019), based on this paradigm, advisor training and further education are offered across Europe. Metaphorically speaking, R&D, along with practice and consultants, embark on a journey of discovery. This collaborative "exploring new paths" particularly takes place at the learning stages of 'Evaluation' and 'Creation'.

Both areas, knowledge transfer and consultancy, do not become obsolete. They are still urgently needed. They complement each other with the co-creation approach and with innovation consultancy. This presents a cohesive picture of an innovation landscape where the chances for the successful introduction and establishment of innovations are increased through professional support, combining knowledge transfer, consultancy, and innovation consultancy. Understanding and considering the necessary learning processes and stages helps shape innovation processes so that changes are better accepted and adjustments can be made more easily.

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Facts and Figures

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Freistaat
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The Free State of Saxony...

... Facts and figures

more information at:



www.lfulg.sachsen.de **Agrarbericht Sachsen 2023**

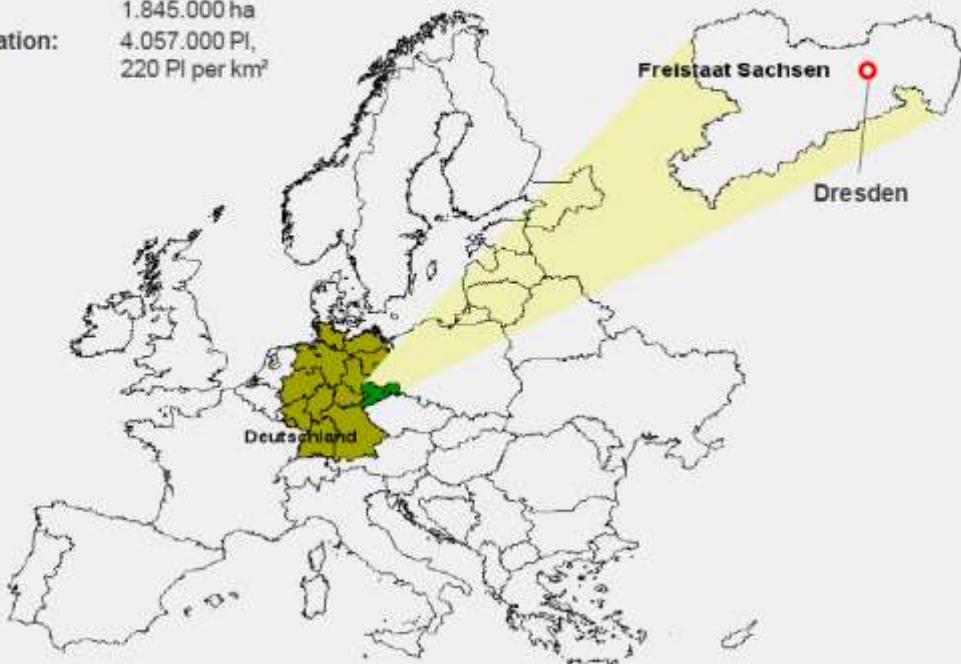
62. IALB-(12. EUFRAS- 9. SEASN-) Work Conference 2023, Dresden/ Saxony

Saxony
Location in Europe

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Freistaat
SACHSEN

Size: 1.845.000 ha
Population: 4.057.000 Pl,
220 Pl per km²



Freistaat Sachsen
Dresden

Deutschland

Saxony
Saxony overview

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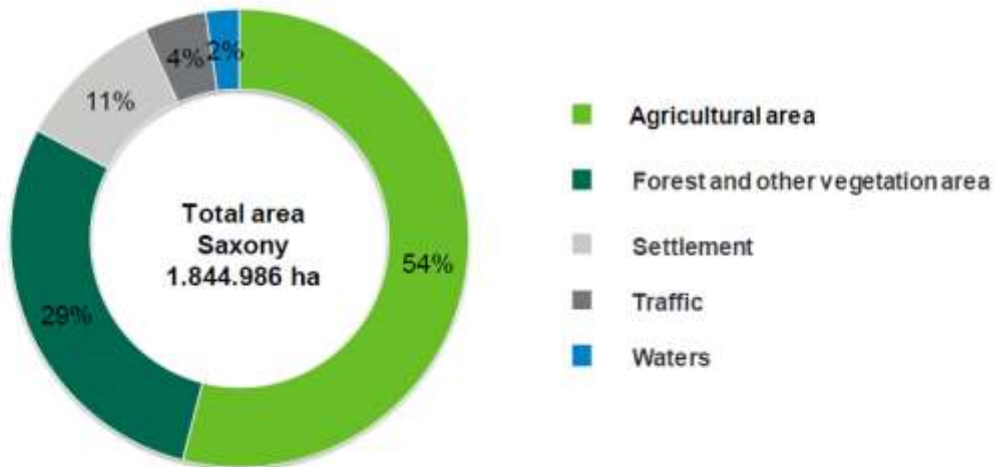


Saxony
Distribution of land use

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Land use in Saxony

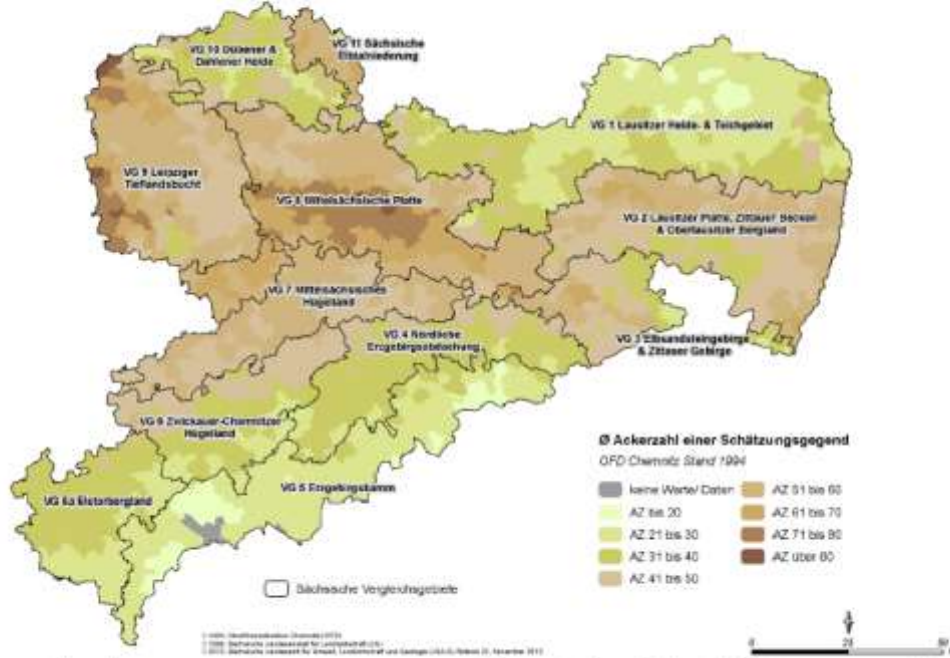


Source: State Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony
Illustration: LfULG
Status: 2022

Saxony

Site conditions / Soil reference value

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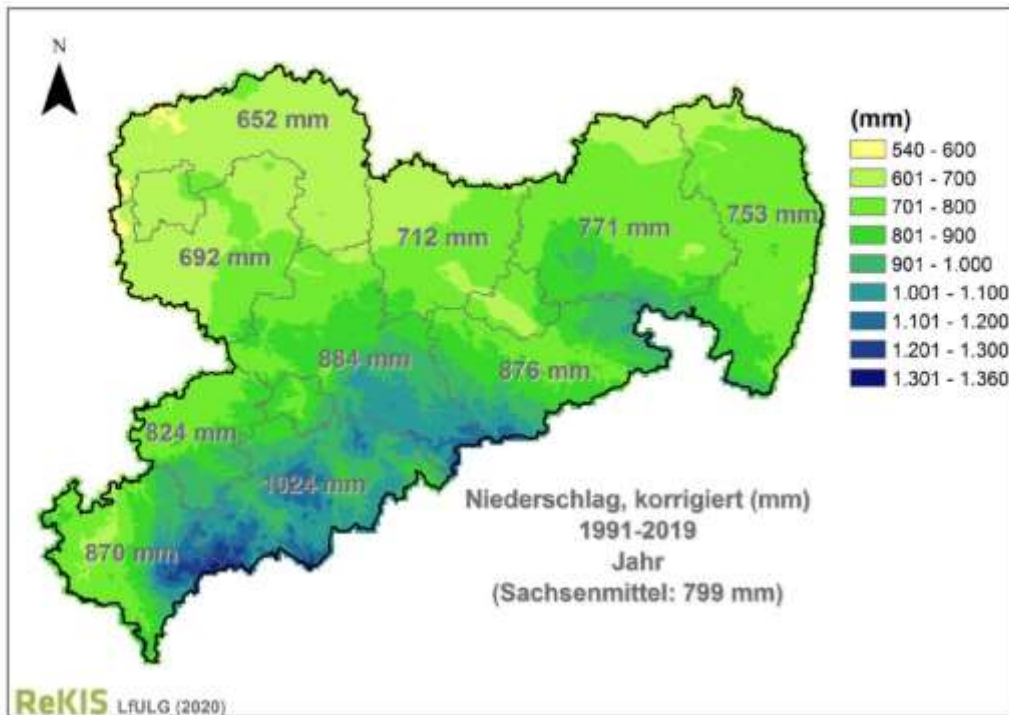


Expl.: soil reference values can range from 1 (bad) to 100 (very good)

Saxony

Precipitation distribution Saxony

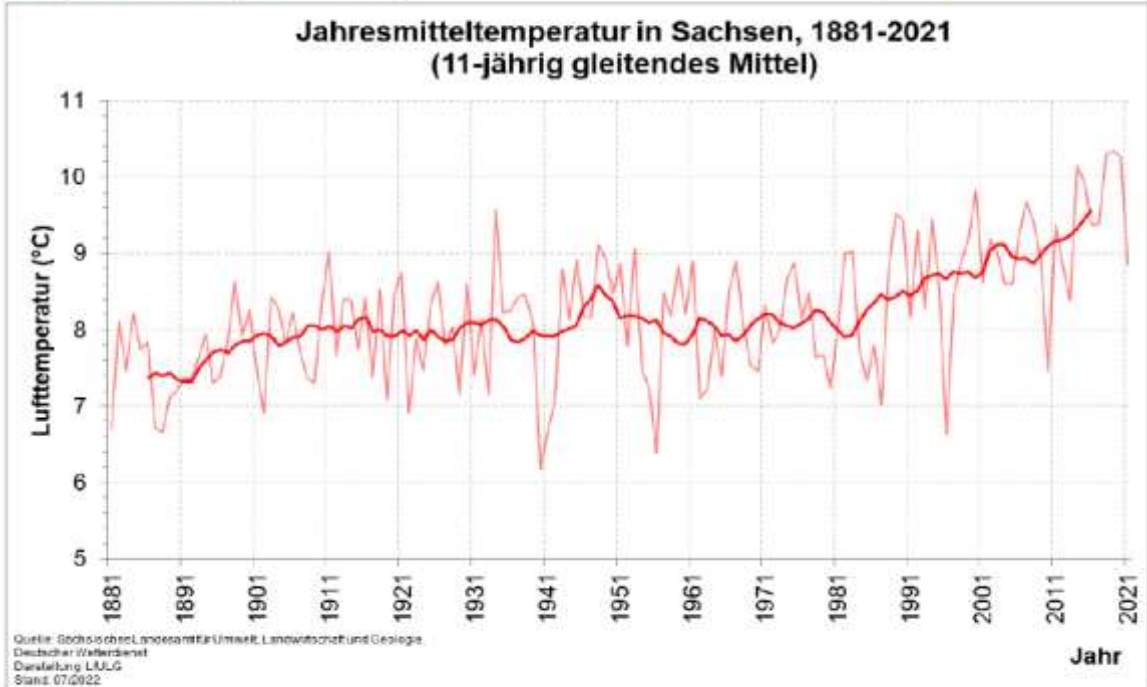
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Saxony

Temperature development Saxony

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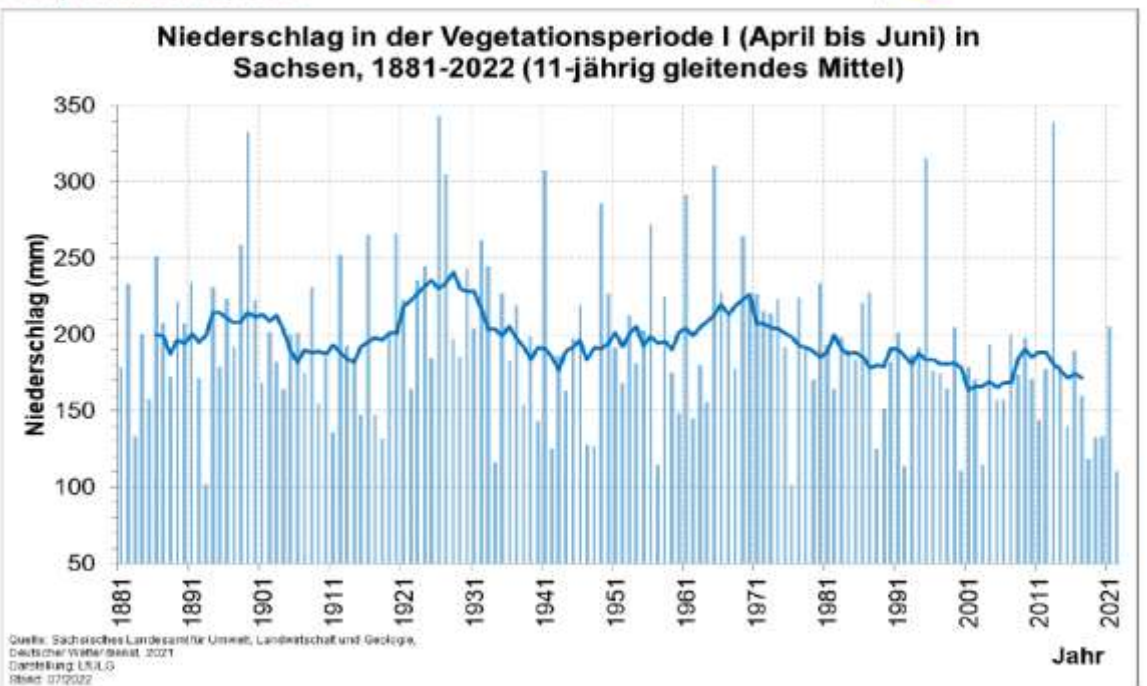


Expl.: Annual mean temperature in Saxony from 1881-2021 (11 – year moving average)

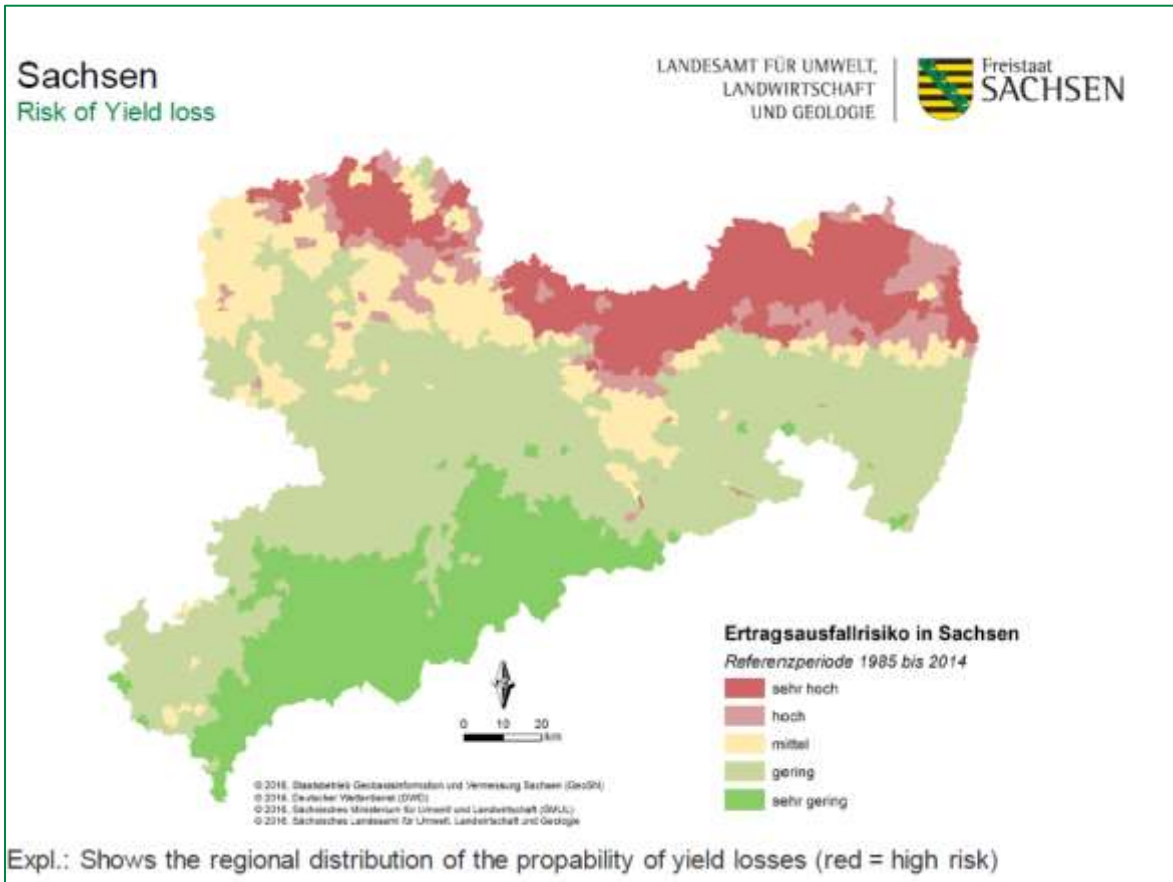
Saxony

Precipitation development

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Expl.: Precipitation during growing season I (April to June), (11 – year moving average)



Agriculture in Saxony

Features / Trends

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- | Labour force: approx. 30.300 employees, of which 28% are family workers
- | 5.745 farms exist in Saxony
- | which cultivate 896.700 ha
- | Ownership area: approx. 30%, rising
- | Decline in livestock farming since 2010: cattle -13 %, pigs -24 %
- | Migration of rural areas (1998)
- | Conservation oriented farming: +60%¹ since 2015
- | Resource protection: over 270 agricultural biogas plants in Saxony, +64% since 2010

¹ Richtlinie AUK sowie Brache auf ökologischen Vorrangflächen

Quelle: Sächsischer Agrarbericht 2021

Agriculture in Saxony

Economic areas / Site Conditions

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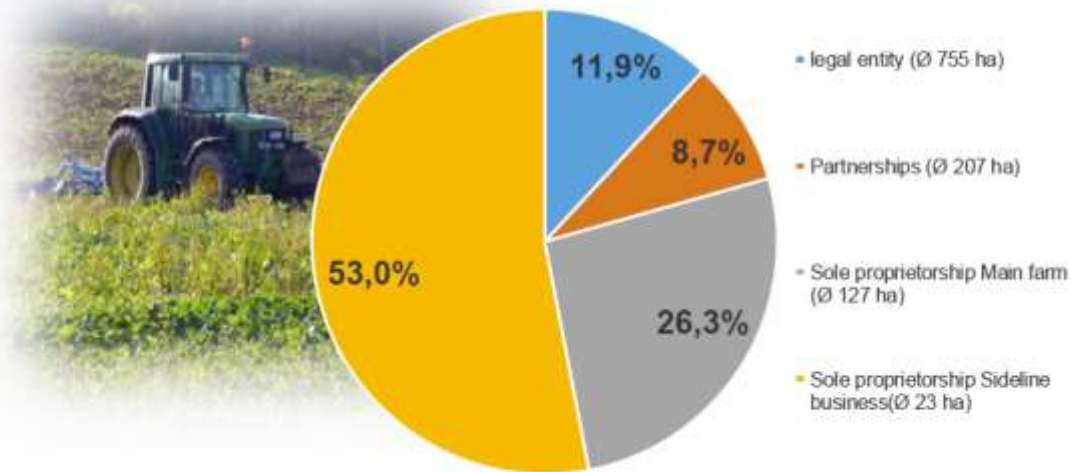
Agriculture in Saxony

Farms / acreage

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Distribution of farms according to legal status



Source: Agrarbericht Sachsen 2023
Illustration: LfULG
Status: 2023

Agriculture in Saxony

Development of legal and acquisition structures

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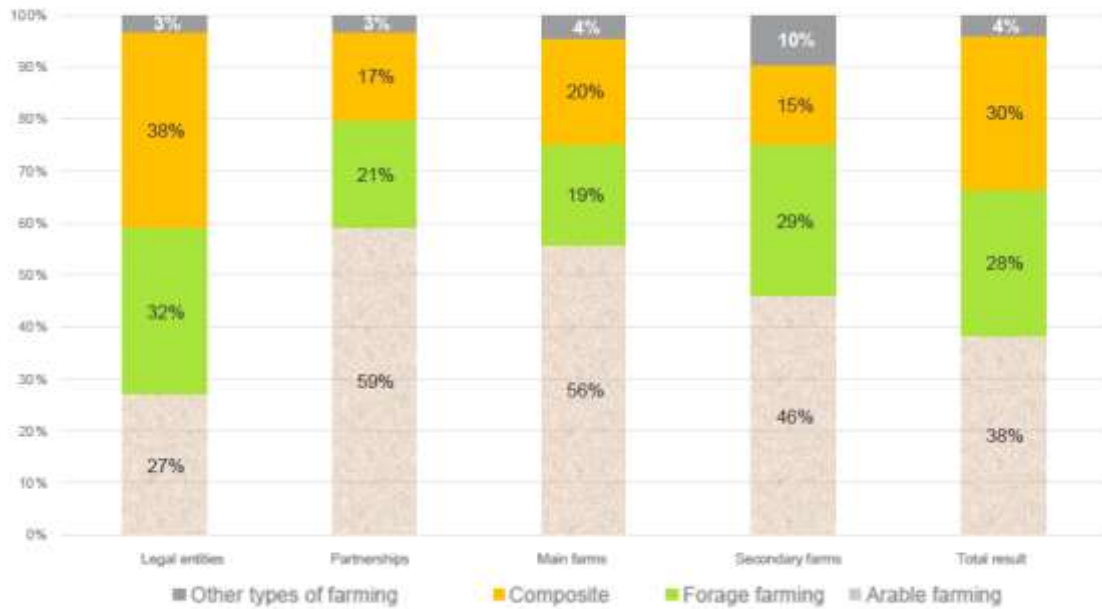


Expl.: Shows the development of legal and acquisition structures according to the legal status

Agriculture in Saxony

Distribution of space according to legal an operation forms

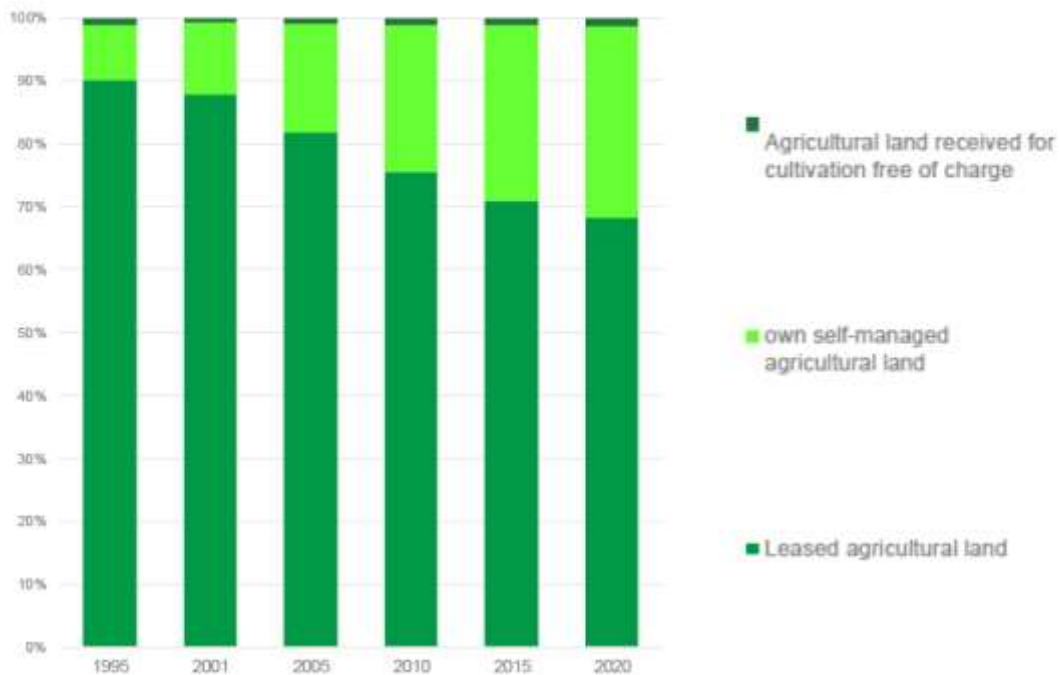
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Agriculture in Saxony

Ownership

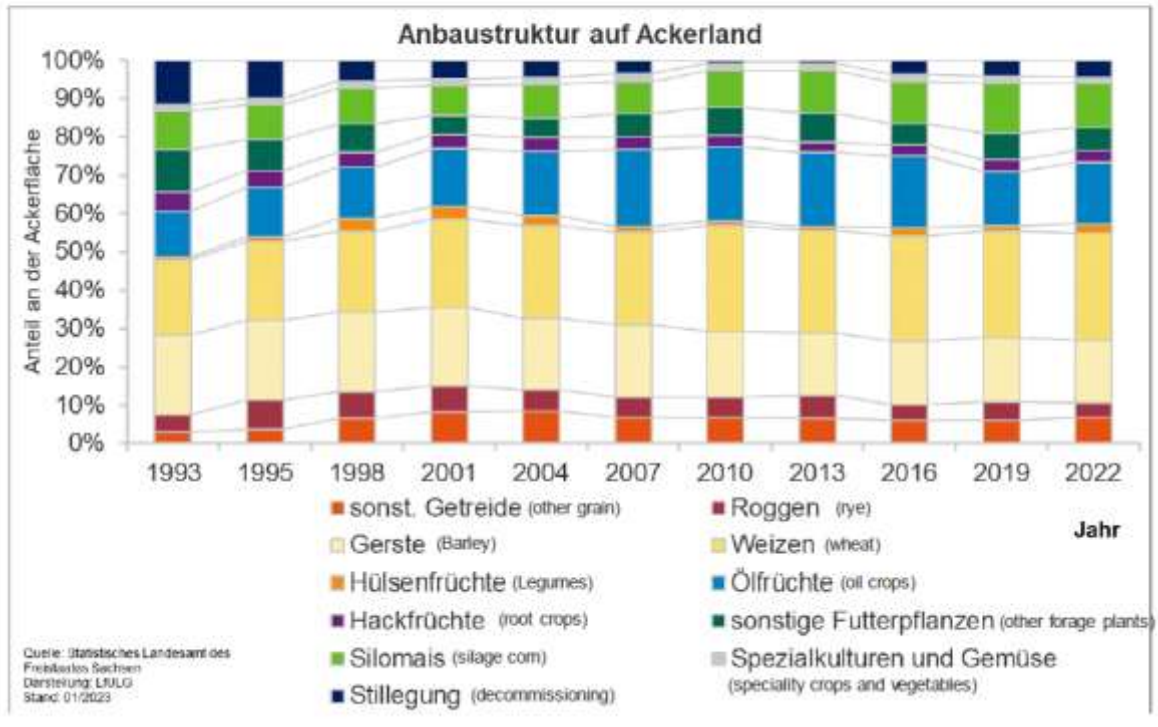
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Quelle: Statistisches Landesamt Sachsen (Agrarstrukturerhebung)

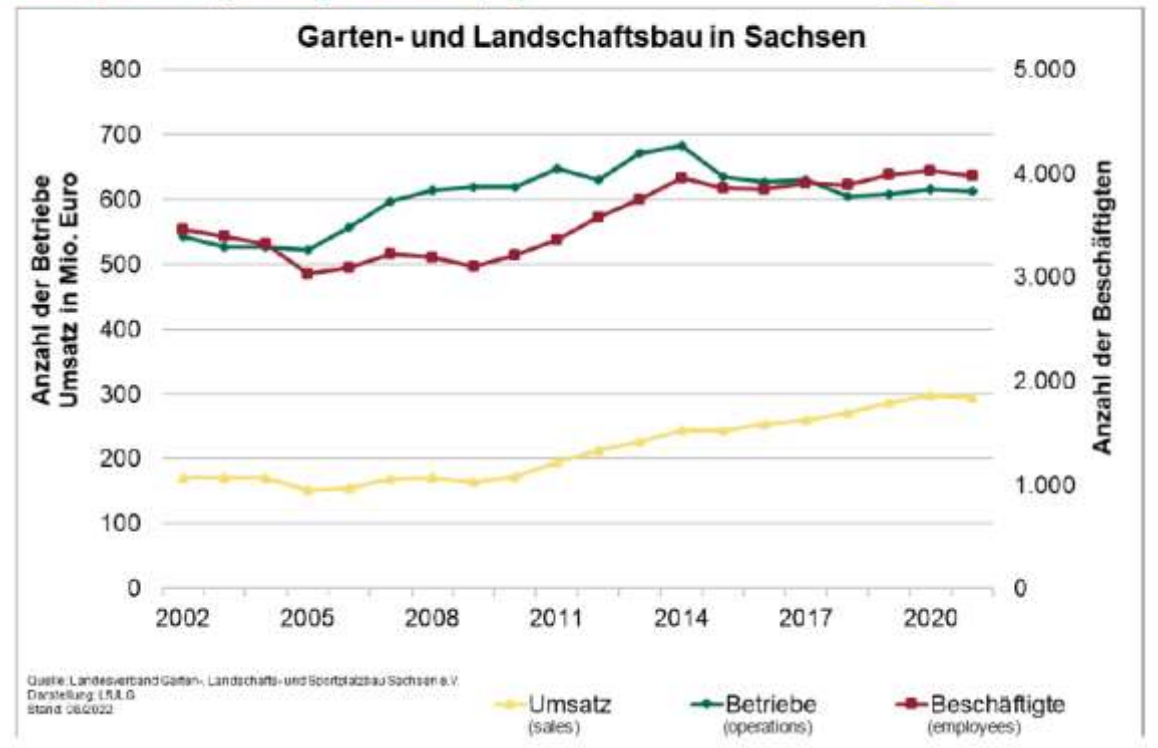
Agriculture in Saxony Cropping structure Arable Land

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Agriculture in Saxony Development of gardening and landscaping

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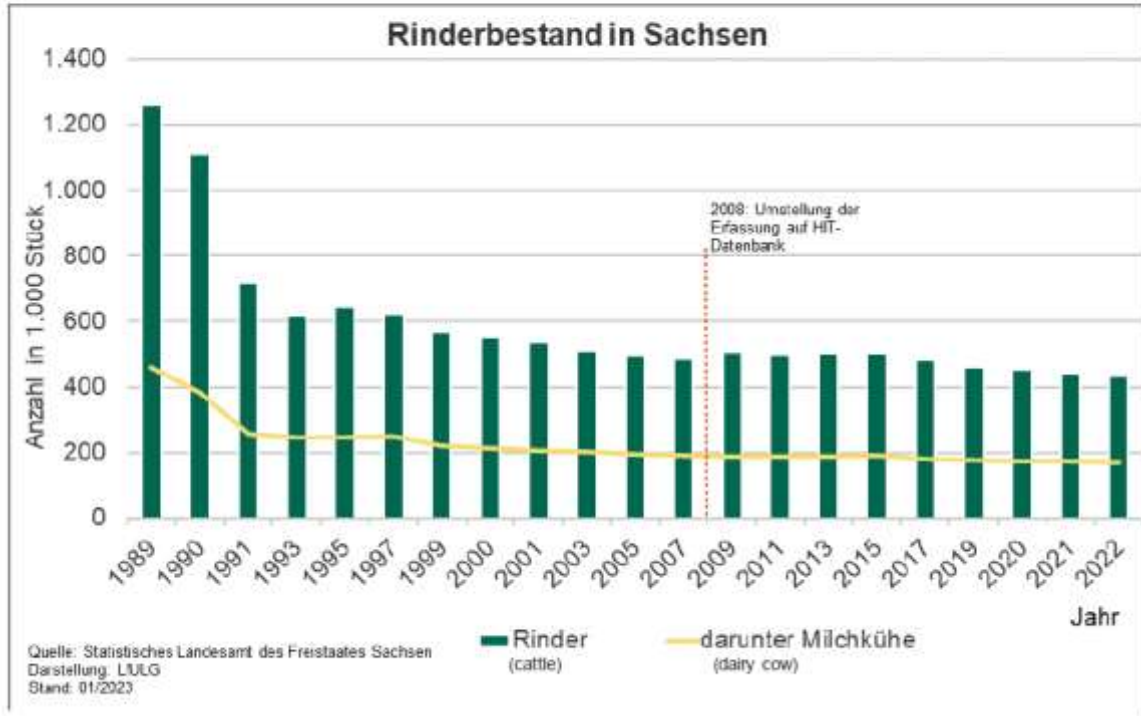


Agriculture in Saxony
Development of cattle population

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Agriculture in Saxony
Development of dairy cow herd

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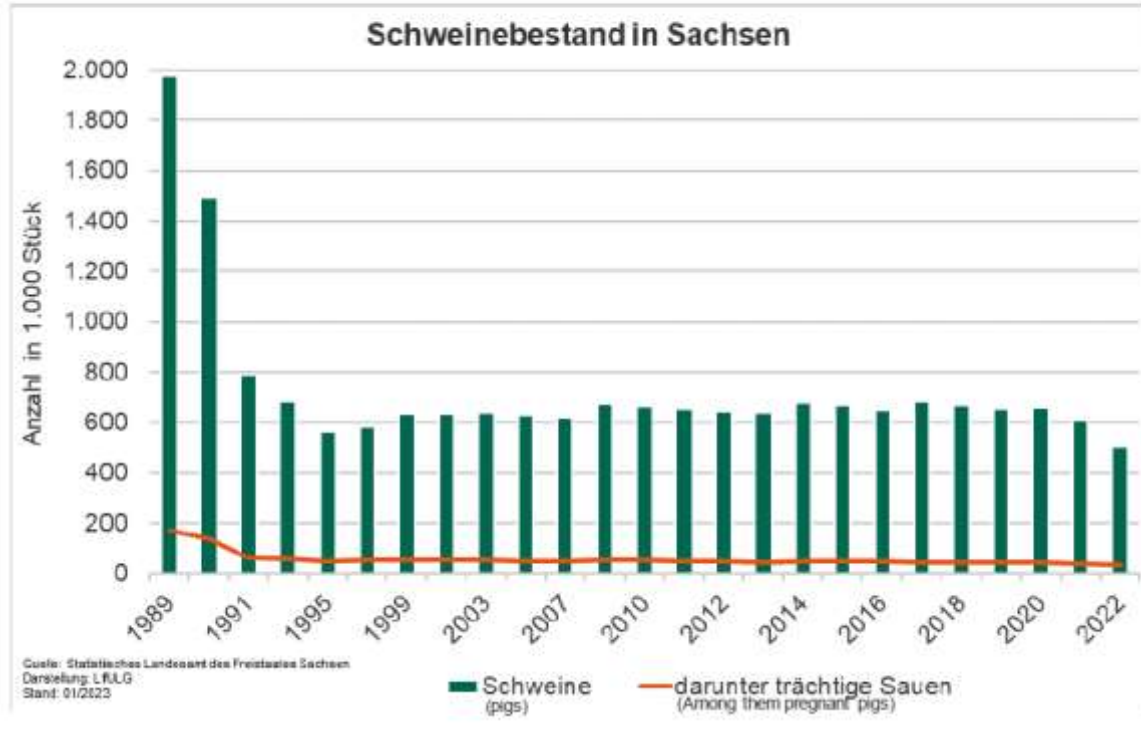


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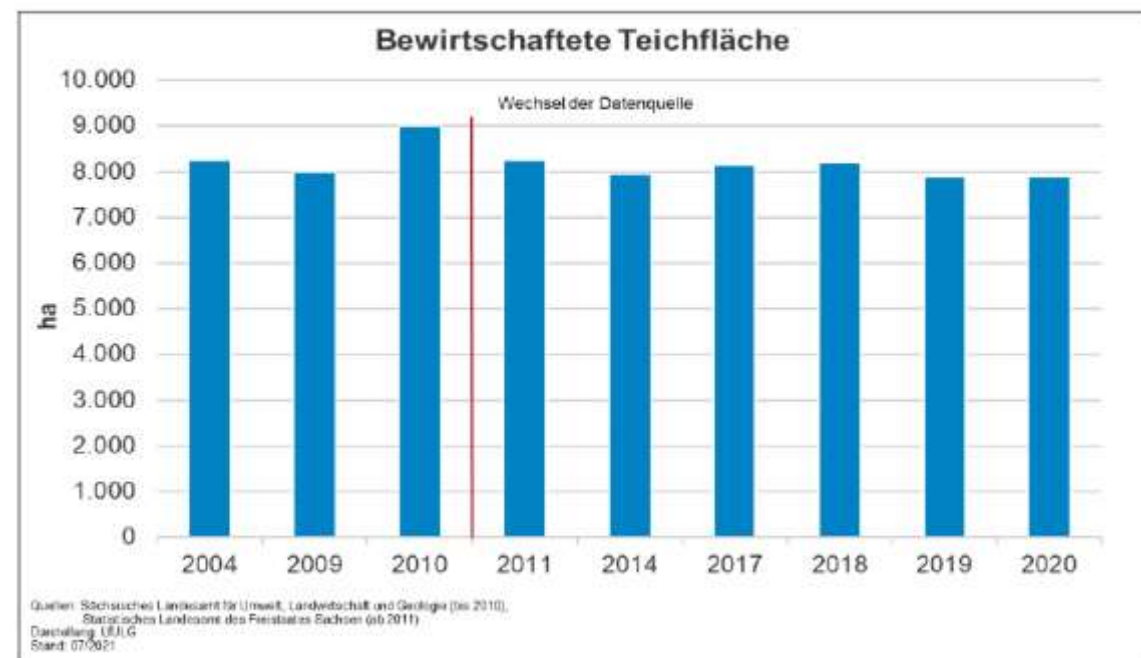
Agriculture in Saxony
Development pig population

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Agriculture in Saxony
Development of pond management

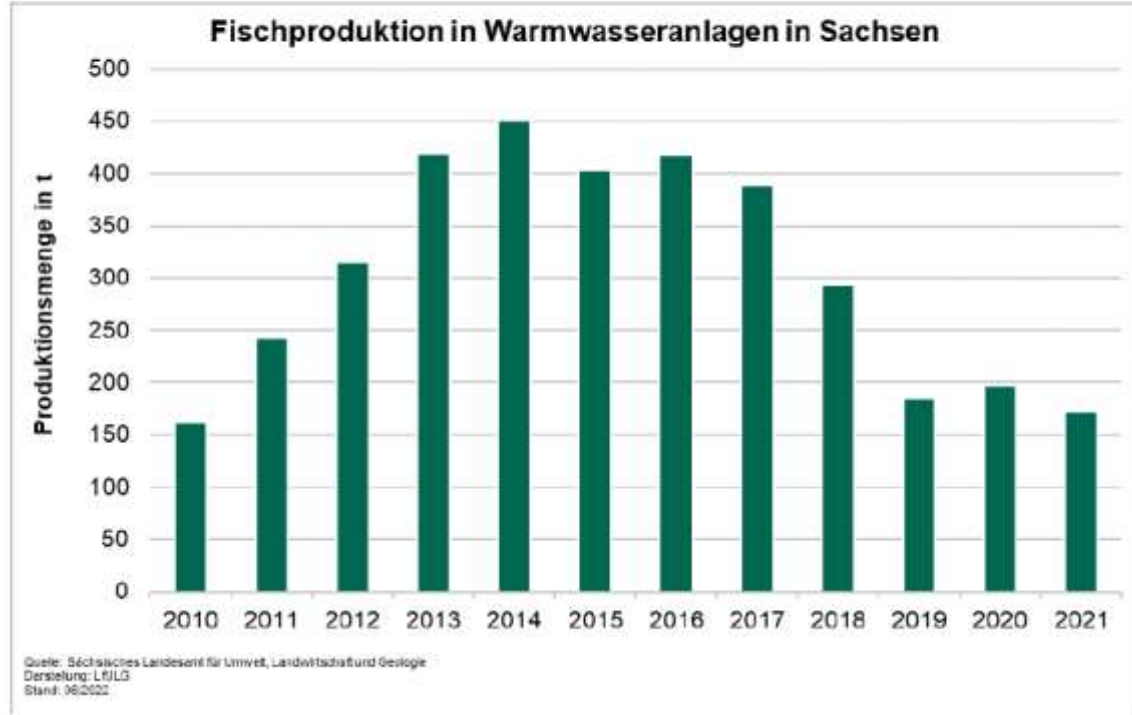
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Expl.: Shows the development of the pond area over time

Agriculture in Saxony
Development of fish production

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Agriculture in Saxony
Organic farming

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Agriculture in Saxony

Development of employee numbers in agriculture and forestry

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Expl.: Shows the development of employees in agriculture and forestry and the share in the labour force in Saxony

Agriculture in Saxony

Education

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Agriculture in Saxony
Labour force

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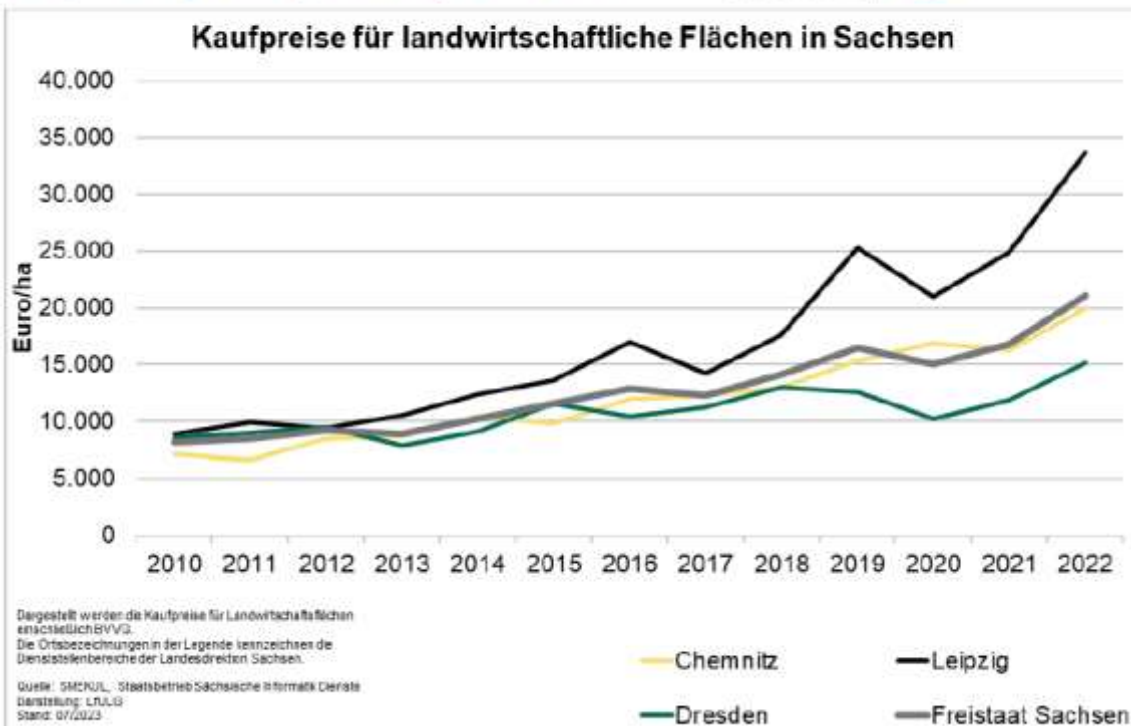


Agriculture in Saxony
Development of purchase prices for agricultural land

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Agriculture in Saxony

Agarum environmental measures (AeM)

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- | Nature conservation measures exist on approx. 1.8 % of Saxony's land area (excluding ponds and forest).
- | extensive grassland use on approx. 17 % of the grassland
- | Conservation-oriented meadow and pasture use on approx. 15 % of the grassland
- | Conservation-oriented arable land use on 0.6 % of arable land
- | Conversion of 0.8% of arable land into grassland
- | Promotion of organic farming on around 4 % of agricultural land

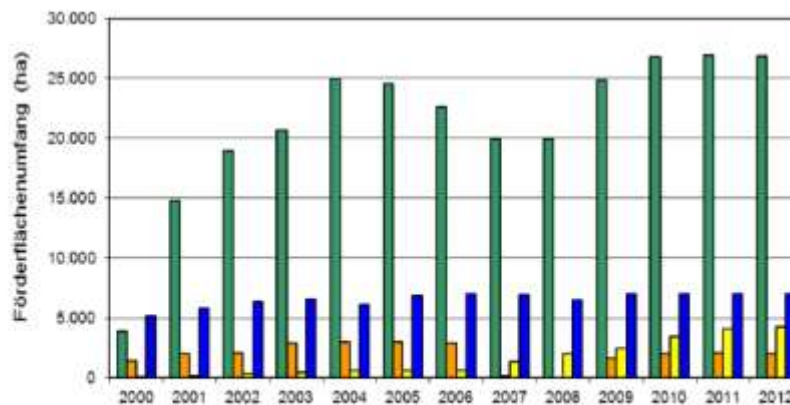


Fig.: Saxon AeM in the areas grassland, biotope protection, organic farming and pond management

Agriculture in Saxony

Marketing & Production

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- | 6.500 farms cultivate 898,375 ha and keep 430,971 livestock units.
- | 24 state-recognised producer organisations in Saxony
- | 359 Saxon food industry businesses with 20 or more employees. These businesses generated a total turnover of over 7.687 million euros.
- | In 2020, there were 1.597 craft enterprises in the food sector in Saxony with 28.712 employees.
- | Export quota of 14,6 % of Saxon food and animal feed producers with a total export value of 1.124 million euros.
- | There are about 850 agricultural enterprises with processing and direct marketing. The demand from direct marketers in Saxony is mainly for meat products/sausages and eggs, fruit and vegetables.

Agriculture in Saxony

Marketing & Production

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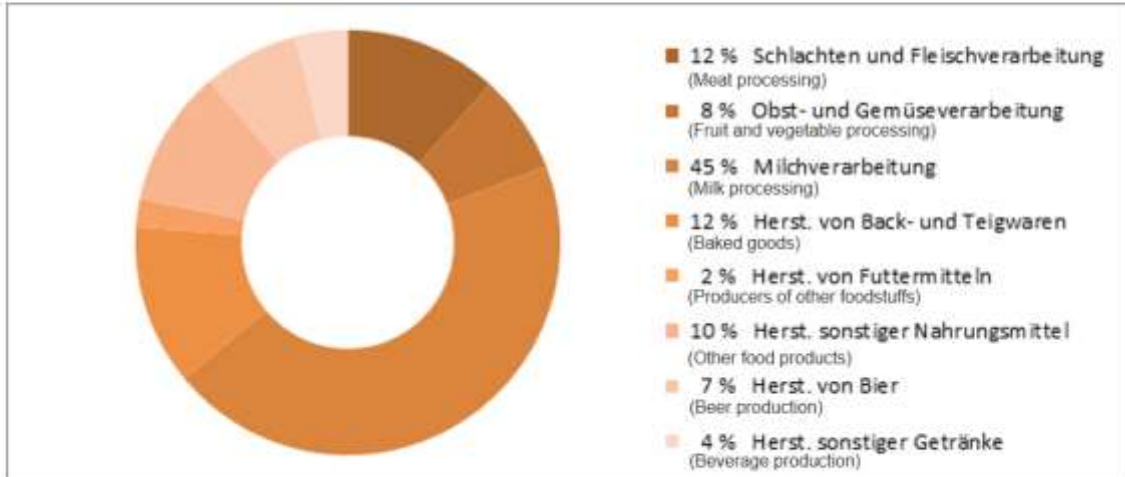
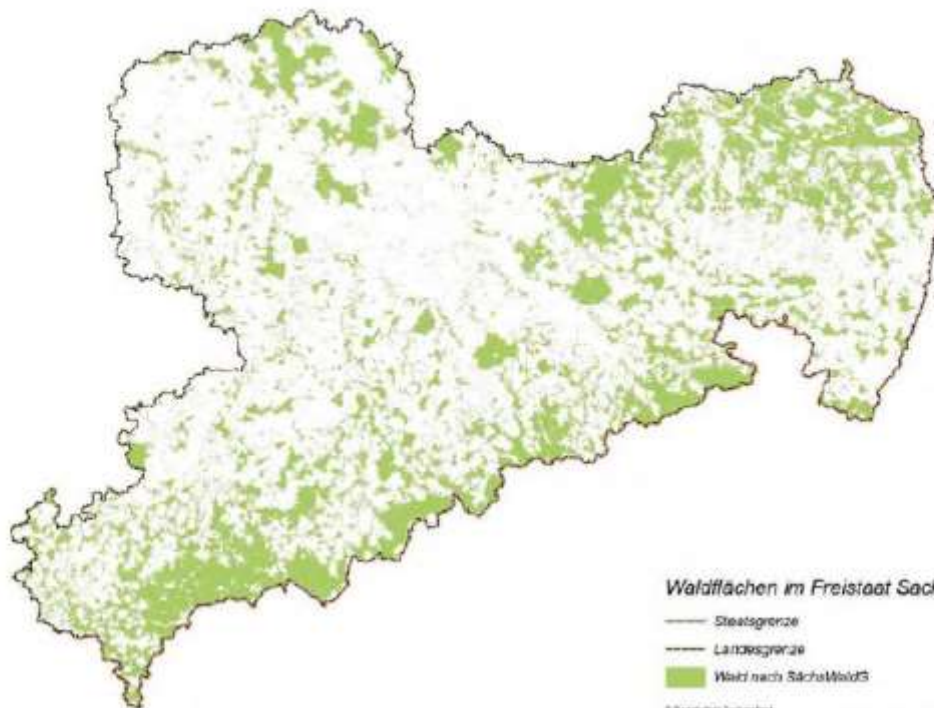


Fig.: Turnover shares of the Saxon food industry by sector in 2022 (businesses with 20 or more employees). Source: LFULG.

Forests in Saxony

Forest distribution in Saxony

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Forests in Saxony

Facts about the forest

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Tab: Comparison of forest cover in Saxony and in the Federal Republic of Germany (Federal Forest Inventory 3). Source: 5th Saxon Forstbericht

	Sachsen	Deutschland
Gesamtfläche [Tha] (total area)	1845	35 739
Waldfläche [Tha] (Waldfläche)	524	11 419
Waldanteil [%] (Forest share)	28,4	32
Waldfläche pro Einwohner [m ²] (Forest area per inhabitant)	1 283	1 390

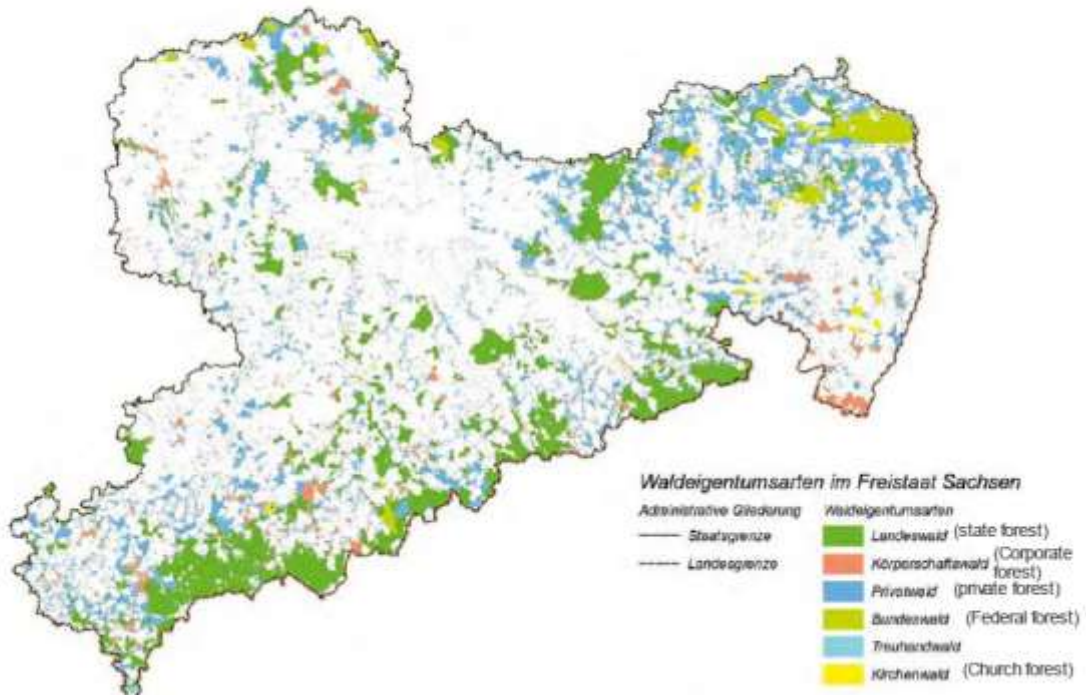


Fig. Proportions of forest ownership types in Saxony. Source: 5th Saxon Forstbericht

Forests in Saxony

Forest ownership distribution

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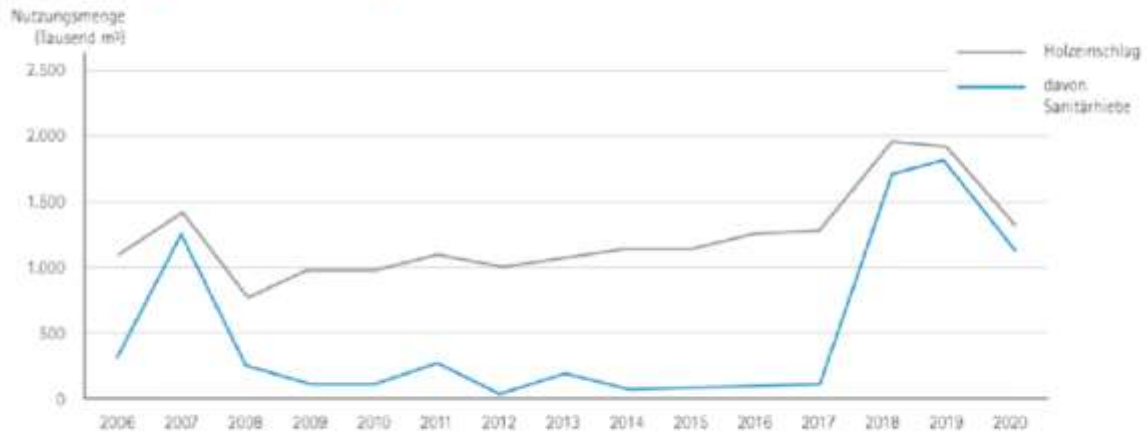
Forests in Saxony

Development of logging

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Entwicklung des Holzeinschlages im Staatswald von 2006 bis 2020



Quelle: Geschäftsbericht SBG 2020

Expl.: Shows the development of felling (grey) and the proportion of sanitary felling (blue) as a result of bark beetle calamity.

Rural areas in Saxony

Promotion of rural areas – LEADER

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I Development of rural areas in 30 recognised LEADER regions in Saxony in the funding period 2023 – 2027

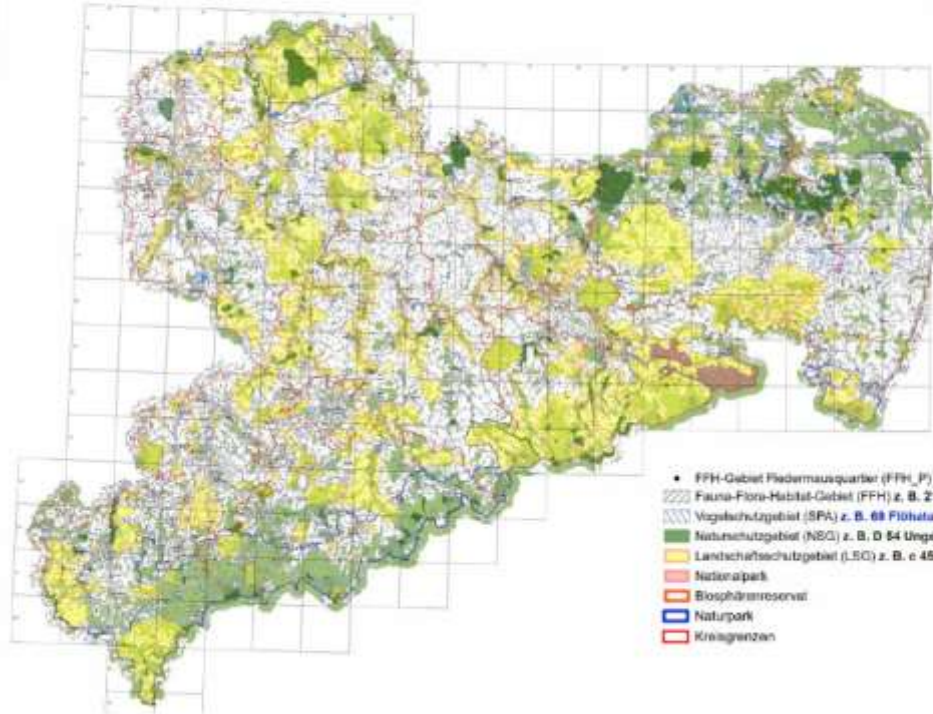
I Financing by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

For further information on the 30 LEADER regions and the local action groups, click on the map here:



Nature conservation
Protected areas in Saxony

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The Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology ... (LfULG)

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www.lfulg.sachsen.de

Täglich für ein gutes Leben.

The LfULG

Key data

LANDESAMT FÜR UMWELT, LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND GEOLOGIE



Structure:

- | 11 departments,
- | Lehr- und Versuchsgut Köllitsch,
- | Technical colleges for agriculture – FBZ (5), horticulture and agriculture (1),
- | Multifunctional test base
- | 4 Soecialised Training Centres (FBZ) with 6 Information and Service Centres (ISS)

Locations:

- | 7 main locations, including in Dresden, Nossen, Freiberg
- | FBZ and ISS, distributed throughout Saxony
- | 5 test stations and test fields

Employees:


- | Approx. 1,321



The LfULG

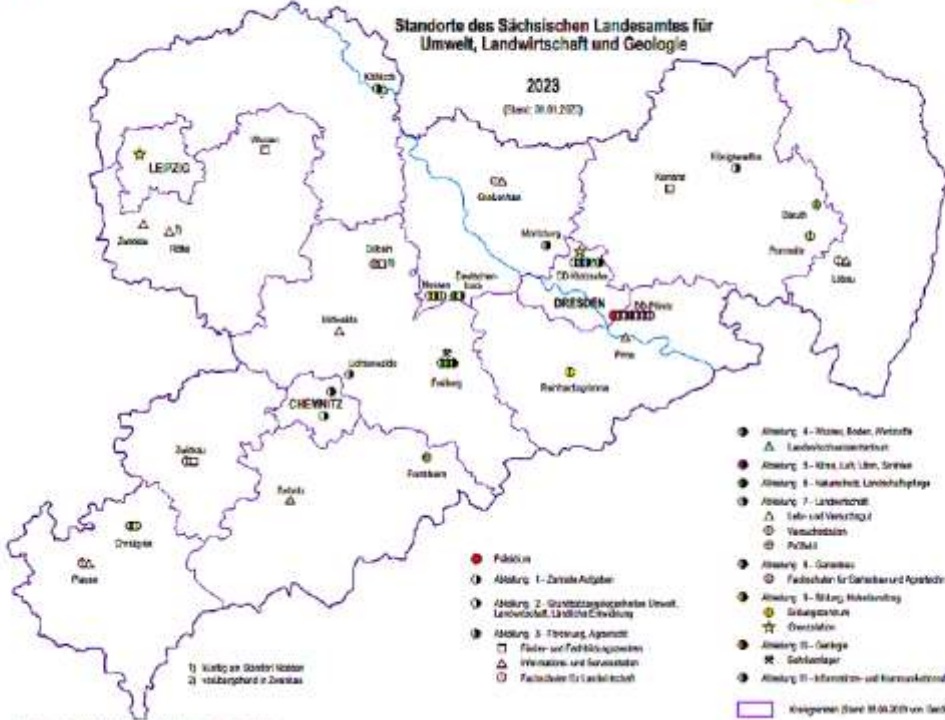
Locations

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Standorte des Sächsischen Landesamtes für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie

2023
(Stand: 30.01.2023)



Legend:

- Abteilung 4 – Wasser, Boden, Verkehr
- △ Landwirtschaftsmuseum
- Abteilung 5 – Klima, Luft, Lärm, Strahlung
- Abteilung 6 – Naturschutz, Landschaftspflege
- Abteilung 7 – Landwirtschaft
- △ Lehr- und Versuchsgut
- Versuchsstation
- FBZ/ISS
- Abteilung 8 – Gewässer
- Fachschule für Gartenbau und Agrartechnik
- Abteilung 9 – Bildung, Arbeitsmarkt
- Bildungszentrum
- Oberstufe
- Abteilung 10 – Energie
- Fachkolleg
- Abteilung 11 – Information- und Kundenbeziehungen
- Kreisgrenze (Stand 30.06.2020 von Sachsen)

Additional Legend:

- Fakultät
- Abteilung 1 – Zentrale Aufgaben
- Abteilung 2 – Geschäftsverteilung Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Ländliche Entwicklung
- Abteilung 3 – Tierhaltung, Agrarrecht
- Fächer und Fachbereichsleiter
- △ Wissenschaftliche Sachverständigen
- Fachstellen für Landwirtschaft

Notes:

- 1) Kreisgrenze Dresden
- 2) Kreisgrenze Chemnitz

Kreisgrenze: Abteilung 10: keine für postgeographische Bezüge

The LfULG
Aufgaben

LANDESAMT FÜR UMWELT,
LANDWIRTSCHAFT
UND GEOLOGIE

Freistaat
SACHSEN

Policy support		Law enforcement
Future topics		Applied research
Education / Counselling		Technology & Knowledge Transfer
Funding		Environmental monitoring

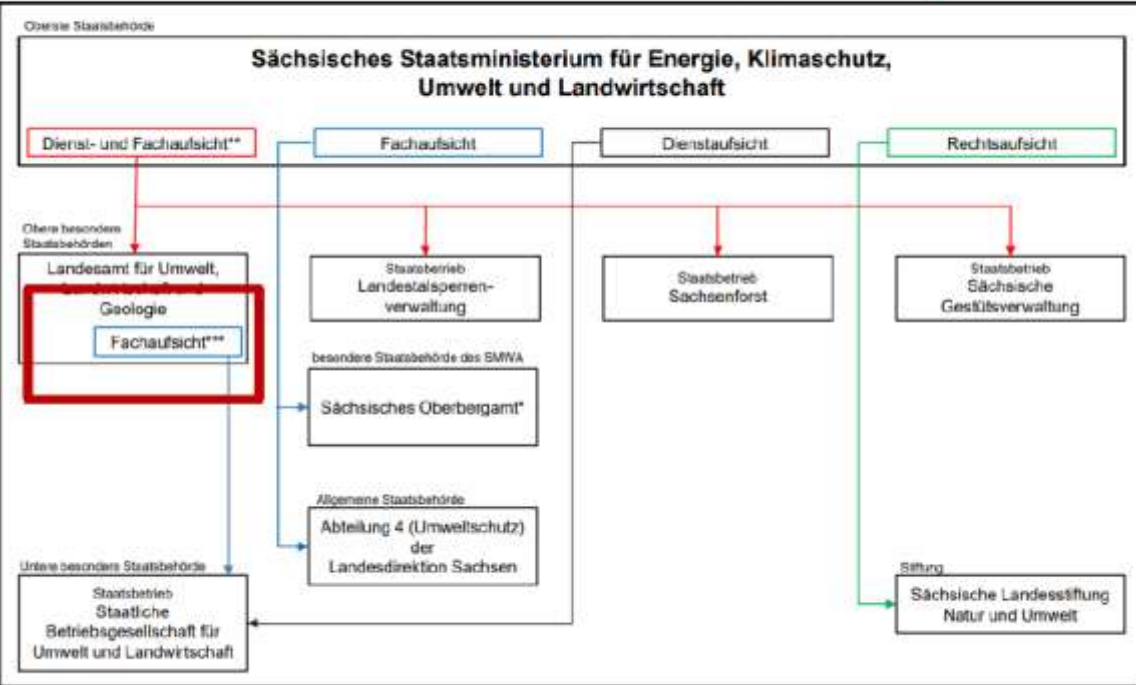
The LfULG
Fachgebiete

LANDESAMT FÜR UMWELT,
LANDWIRTSCHAFT
UND GEOLOGIE

Freistaat
SACHSEN

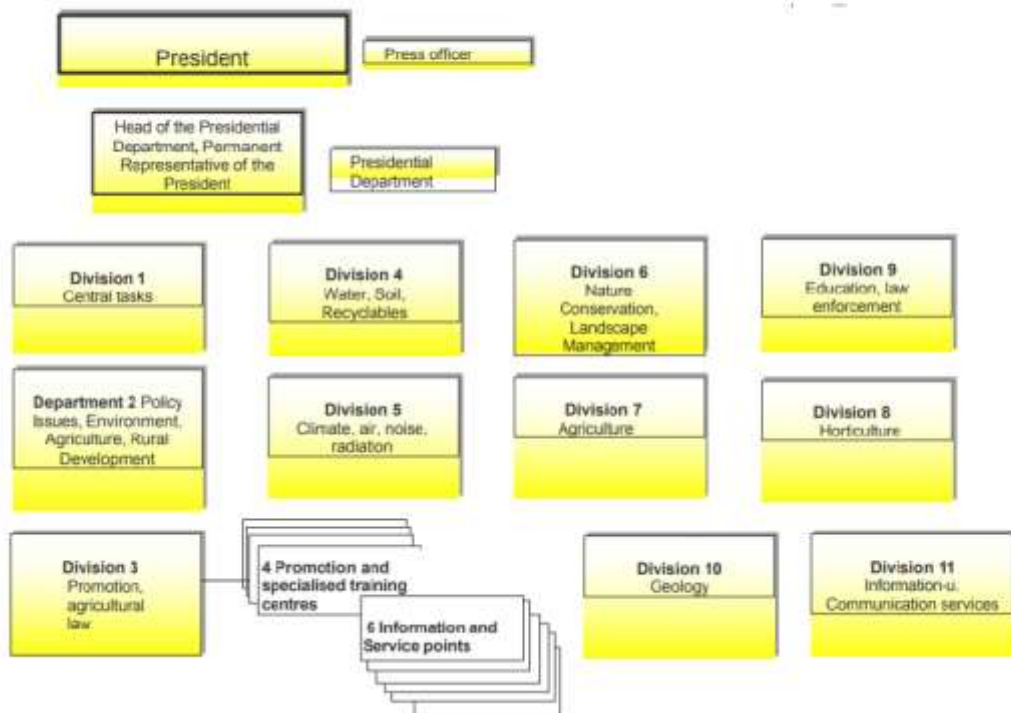
Nature conservation		Agriculture
Rural area		Water
Technical schools / Educational Centre		Climate protection
Radiation protection/ Emergency nutritional care		Geology

The LfULG
SMEKUL business division



Expl.: The LfULG is part of the portfolio of the Ministry of the Environment (SMEKUL).

The LfULG
Structure



Agricultural Advisory Services in Saxony



The agricultural advisory services in Saxony are undergoing a continuous process of adaptation. Particularly due to changing societal and policy demands, as well as limited personnel and financial resources, the tasks and structure of official advisory services are frequently under review. Knowledge exchange through advisory services currently plays a crucial role in the agricultural policy context (see AKIS).

The system of agricultural farm advisory services in the Free State of Saxony is supported by both public-law and private-law institutions. The responsibility for agricultural advisory tasks that are in the public interest primarily lies with the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology (LfULG).

Technical legal advice is provided by staff members at the Promotion and Technical Training Centers (FBZ) and Information and Service Points (ISS).

Advisory and knowledge transfer focus on technical regulations, funding, socio-economics, as well as common good topics.

Additional advisory fields at LfULG include organic farming, regional value creation, nature conservation, education, and fisheries.

Figure 1: Structure of Advisory Services and Knowledge Transfer

Advisory services provided by authorities are free of charge. The costs for advisory services from other institutions and organizations are financed in various ways, such as through membership fees, charges, or subsidies.

The tasks and advisory priorities are ensured through the following areas:

- Technical Regulations Crop Farming / Agricultural Resource Protection
- Technical Regulations Crop Farming / Implementation of Fertilization Ordinance
- Expertise in Plant Protection - Issuance of Expertise Certificates
- Technical Regulations Horticulture / Emphasis on Plant Protection
- Technical Regulations Animal Husbandry
- Advisory on Income and Asset Security

Subsidized Advisory Services Including Contracted Contractors:

Subsidized C.1 Nature Conservation Advisory Services

In addition to the subsidized advisory services, there is a nature conservation advisory provided to potential applicants by subsidized C-1 consultants, focusing on nature conservation goals, content, and requirements within the scope of funding guidelines. Recommendations for suitable

measures are also provided. This offering is further extended through comprehensive on-farm nature conservation advisory ("Farm Nature Plan").

The funding is provided through the ELER (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) support in the knowledge transfer domain.

Knowledge Transfer (KT) and European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) Networking Hub with Technical Assistance from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (ELER).

In addition to subsidized advisory services, for the Knowledge Transfer (KT) and European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) components, the primary advisory role is carried out by the Networking Hub of Department 21. The advisory services provided by the Networking Hub include regional events, workshops, individual consultations upon request, and preliminary evaluation of project outlines before the actual application submission to the granting authority.

Advisory Services for Soil and Water-Friendly Agriculture

In addition to fertilizer and water protection advisory services, water protection advisory services in nitrate-affected areas under the Fertilization Ordinance, as well as in phosphorus-impacted watersheds, have been outsourced to engineering firms. The goal is to minimize nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) runoff through knowledge transfer. Practical demonstrations of proven and innovative methods are established and evaluated, field days, workshops, group and individual consultations are conducted, and materials for public relations are created.

Livestock Protection Advisory Services

Specifically, this pertains to initial information about the funding process for preventing wolf-related damages and providing assistance with the application. The target audience comprises all livestock keepers of affected species, especially those in the side job and hobby sector. The subject-specific livestock protection advisory is based on the Livestock Protection Concept and initially offered as group advisory sessions. Following damage events, individual consultations can also be availed.

Advisory by Third Parties

In addition to the LfULG, various other institutions and organizations provide knowledge transfer. These include:

Authorities: District authorities, state directorates, and Saxony's State Forestry provide information and advisory services on legal requirements and administrative procedures.

Associations and Advisory Groups: Advisory groups and working circles are established by practitioners and organize knowledge transfer activities.

Private Consultation: Independent consultants offer farm- or individual-specific advisory services.

Association Consultation: Agricultural, cultivation, and organic associations provide group and individual advisory services to their members.

Producer Organizations: Advisory activities are geared towards collaborative marketing efforts.

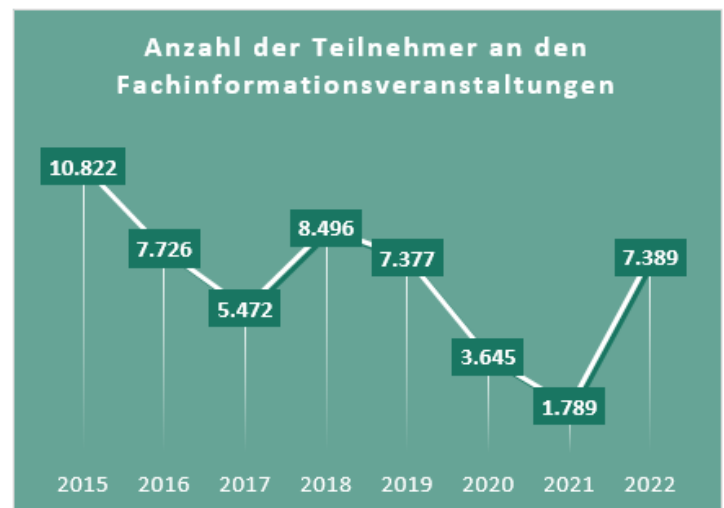
Corporate Consultation: Advisory services are aimed at promoting the sale of products.

Collaborative Initiatives: Collaborations with academic institutions facilitate the dissemination of innovative methods.

Current figures:

In 2022, the number of advisory cases reached 13,300. The count of conducted regional events rose to 131 in 2022. Overall, 238 nationwide events were organized in the same year. The digital and in-person offerings were utilized by approximately 14,050 participants.

Figure 2: Number of Participants 2015 - 2022



The current event formats proved to be generally effective. The focus was primarily on overarching agricultural topics. Practical skills were imparted, and the content was tailored to the practical field's professional requirements and current developments. The limitations posed by in-person events during the COVID-19 pandemic led to new approaches, such as online video conferences, video presentations, audio-enhanced technical lectures, or the sharing of presentations, project results, and technical information. These approaches have gained importance and will continue to play a more significant role in knowledge transfer. Likewise, technical articles and lectures gained significance (2022: 131 technical articles and 374 technical lectures).

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As of: 09/2023

4 Plenary Lectures

An Overview: Agriculture, Rural Areas, Education, and Advisory Service in Saxony

The purpose of the conference, addressing the transformation process of agriculture in the context of climate change, food security, and societal demands, and deriving the tasks for education and advisory services from it, is aptly placed in Saxony. Saxon farmers have embarked on a journey towards greater climate protection, biodiversity, animal welfare, and regional value creation. Support, educational and advisory services, networking, cooperation, and an improved market environment have significantly advanced regional and bioregional agriculture in the Free State.

Saxony is characterized by a diverse agricultural structure, with agriculture being the largest land user. Agriculture is practiced on more than half of the state's land area - approximately one million hectares. Approximately 6,500 full-time and part-time farms with a total of 30,300 employees operate alongside each other, including traditional family farms, as well as partnerships, cooperatives, and corporations. The number of farms remains stable. With approximately 150 hectares per farm, Saxon farms are larger than the national average. Generational change is also an important issue for us. Since 2021, Saxony has been promoting start-ups and farm successions with its own funding guideline. Climate protection, climate resilience, and adaptations of agriculture to the consequences of the climate crisis are also ever-present topics. A broadly based vocational education and training system creates the conditions for recruiting urgently needed skilled workers and leaders.

Farmers in Saxony are open to change and innovation. Education and advisory services have always played a key role and, with the help of target-group-specific methods and modern communication techniques, can help overcome the diverse challenges for agriculture, the environment, and rural areas. More than ever, knowledge exchange must take place across sectors and disciplines. Education and advisory stakeholders are increasingly encouraged to work together in coordination and in collaboration, without questioning the diversity of advisory service providers, their organizational forms, and market orientations.

From the government's perspective, the focus is on advising on topics related to the common good to meet the growing societal demands on agriculture. Therefore, we aim to strengthen resources in this area. For example, the newly established Competence Center for Organic Farming at the



Photo: SMEKUL, Tom Schulze

*Wolfram Günther,
Saxon State Minister for Energy, Climate
Protection, Environment, and Agriculture*

Wolfram Günther was born on June 27, 1973, in Leipzig. After completing an apprenticeship as a bank clerk, he pursued studies in law at the University of Leipzig from 1994 to 2003. Additionally, he studied art history, cultural studies, and philosophy in Leipzig and Berlin during this period. Subsequently, Wolfram Günther worked as a freelance lecturer in public-sector further education. Since 2004, he has been a self-employed lawyer with his law firm in Leipzig.

Wolfram Günther served as a member of the Saxon State Parliament from 2014 to 2020 and held the position of parliamentary group leader for the parliamentary faction of BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN from 2018 to 2020. He has been the Saxon State Minister for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment, and Agriculture since December 20, 2019.

State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology (LfULG) has been offering modern knowledge transfer events since last year and supports the networking of research and practice. A particular challenge is the recruitment and qualification of teachers and advisors, which is why we have now set the course for independent career training. With this, we aim to adhere to the proven principle of the unity of education and advisory services.

I warmly welcome you to the Free State of Saxony and wish you many interesting insights, sustainable networking, and positive experiences during your stay. I wish the 62nd IALB, 12th EUFRAS, and 9th SEASN conferences every success.



State Minister Wolfram Günther speaks to the plenary. Photo: LfULG

Development, situation and prospects of the “Interconnected Agricultural Knowledge System” in Saxony

Wolfram Günther, Saxon State Minister for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture

Moderation: Daphne Huber (German Agricultural Society Frankfurt/Main)

Daphne Huber

Many participants from more than twenty countries have come together here in the Florence on the Elbe, as Dresden is often compared to the Italian city of art. They all want to know how the transformation process in agriculture can be shaped with the methodology of consulting and education without leaving even one farm behind. The coronavirus pandemic, inflation, the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine, the energy crisis - these dramatic events in recent years have highlighted the importance of regional food supplies. However, the daily horror stories of flooding, yesterday's earthquake in Morocco and the forest fires remind us that we are right in the middle of climate change. Agriculture, which produces in the open air, must increasingly adapt to this. The foundations for this have been laid with the European Green Deal and the Common Agricultural Policy, which bears a much greener signature.

Saving on fertilizers and crop protection, the Nature Restoration Act, etc. are examples that require interdisciplinary and sustainable education and advice. This allows us to formulate our expectations. How do agricultural consulting and agricultural education position themselves in the face of constantly changing requirements? These are reflected, for example, in the Green Deal, extreme weather conditions and social trends. How can the triad of regional production, environmentally friendly management and economics succeed with new advisory methods and tools?

The conference will focus on how this transformation process is taking shape under the conditions in Saxony. I am particularly pleased that so many participants have come and that the IALB conference is once again being held in Saxony after 25 years.

It is only natural that Minister Wolfram Günther, Minister of State for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture, should now tell us about a success story that began after the fall of communism, when the farms here flexibly switched from a planned economy to a free market economy. Today, these are companies with highly trained managers and employees who are constantly facing up to new requirements. I would like to invite the Minister to the stage and we are delighted that you will be giving us an overview of the agricultural sector, rural areas, education and advisory services in Saxony. Welcome, Minister of State Günther.

Minister of State Wolfram Günther

Thank you very much for your kind introduction, Ms. Huber,

Ms Wiesend, Mr Juhola, Mr Hrovatic, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues, a very warm welcome from me too here in the Free State of Saxony, and many thanks to Mr Fichtner, on behalf of everyone else who has helped to organize this. I have already heard that many guests feel at home here and I can confirm that.

I would like to briefly take you back to where we are in Saxony. The last IALB conference was actually 25 years ago, it has been a quarter of a century since 1998 and a lot has happened here in the Free State of Saxony since then. It is true that we had to cope with the transformation back then. An agriculture that emerged from a planned economy, including many people who were still suffering from the psychological trauma of forced collectivization and everything that went with it. Many top performers in agriculture had left the country at the time. The topic of “transformation” is part of Saxony's history. I would like to remind you that the peaceful revolution began here in 1989 with far-reaching changes in almost all areas of life and the economy in the East (of Germany). This revolution started in Saxony, especially in Leipzig and Dresden. I am always grateful that we were able to successfully overcome these major challenges. We also wanted to rebuild agriculture into an efficient economic sector. We have succeeded - we have developed an efficient agricultural sector in Saxony.

During this time, a lot has also happened in terms of advice, especially in official advice. In the beginning, the focus was on how to organize individual farm advisory services so that farms were able to operate in the new economic system of the Federal Republic of Germany with all the special features of agricultural development that already existed at the time.

The advisory system itself has undergone a number of change processes. We had a major administrative-functional reform in 2008. Since then, many areas of consultancy have been handed over to the free market, to private consultancy. However, in the core areas, where it is a matter of legal adaptation or the implementation of specialist legal requirements, this advice is still provided by state agencies.

How does Saxony differ in terms of the tasks and challenges that we face in agriculture in general? In terms of structures: Saxony has a very diverse structure of farms, from very small to very large. We have around 6,500 farms. A good half of our land is used for agriculture. For historical reasons, the size structures are somewhat different from the average in Germany. The average farm size in Saxony is 150 hectares, compared to around 60 hectares nationwide. Over two thirds of the land is farmed by farms in the legal form of a legal entity, which form the group of the largest farms. Across Germany, we speak of “farms dying - grow or die”; we do not have this to this extent. Saxony has even seen a slight increase in the number of farms, which also makes a certain difference. In Saxony, more than 50 percent of farmers work as part-time farmers, and we know many stories where part-time farming has actually developed into a main occupation and many innovations have been implemented in the process. The same applies to the larger companies, which are well positioned to implement new ideas here in this country.

We are facing the same challenges as everyone else. You have already mentioned the change in funding and the issue of bureaucracy. This is just as much a concern for our companies, whether large or small. We have addressed this issue and I would like to take this opportunity here to promote it: We really do need a new approach and not just “fixing” the old CAP (Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union) support system. There are already proposals for the CAP from 2028, such as what the German Association for Landscape Conservation has put forward with the public goods premium model. Firstly, it is about radically simplifying the system. It is also about farms being able to choose freely and modules being offered in order to determine individual farm support amounts based on a simple points system. These are intended to reward agriculture's specific contribution to environmental services, climate protection and biodiversity. It is not just a question of compensating for difficulties, but of providing a genuine financial incentive for voluntary environmental services. These are the key points that we are introducing into the discussions. I will be attending an event on this subject in Brussels on September 26; we have already decided a number of things at the Agriculture Ministers' Conference to ensure that we make progress along this path, because what affects farms also affects the administration.

This brings me to the next point. That is the question of the workforce. The green professions as a whole are wonderful professions, they are attractive, you work with living things, with plants, with animals, you are outdoors, and you have access to the latest technology. Nevertheless, in the Free State of Saxony we are currently seeing around 20,000 more people leaving the labour market each year than are coming in. We are trying to tackle this strategically with a skilled workers alliance. Initial and further training and lifelong learning also form a bridge to the CAP. We will not be able to employ more and more people who have to deal with administration and bureaucracy. Therefore, we have good reasons to actually achieve a significant simplification here.

There is also the challenge of the market economy framework conditions. In the Free State of Saxony, as elsewhere, we produce for agricultural markets that are directly dependent on the world market. We often produce without knowing in advance at what prices. That is also the case this year. We have above-average harvests in Saxony this year, but also the most expensive harvest. The farms currently do not know what the sales proceeds will be and what will ultimately be left in their accounts. For us, this means that, in addition to looking at the world market, we also need to position ourselves better strategically in other areas. We need domestic value creation in genuine regional value chains in which the producing companies are no longer so easily interchangeable. Our approach is to actually bring production and processing together strategically in Bavaria. We combine this with regionality and direct marketing. We need to get our products into the food retail trade and, for example, into the out-of-home catering sector. These are important pillars and we already have a lot to show for it. We have founded an agency for regional food, “Agil”. In addition, BioRegio model regions have been created where regional cooperation takes place. In

connection with this, there are “regional windows” where the transparency of production is improved and special marketing measures are carried out in these areas. We keep noticing that there is still a lot to be done here under EU law.

On the one hand, we have the farm-to-fork strategy, which is also about getting the product from the field to the plate as regionally as possible, but on the other hand, there is the principle - for which the European Union was founded - of free internal markets. This has an impact on the promotion of regional marketing. We are in talks in Brussels to simplify things here.

Another sector that we want to strengthen is organic farming - and here, too, there are many challenges. The EU has set a target of 25 percent organic farming by 2030. In Saxony, we are not so much talking about percentages. It must also be possible to sell the products and we want to combine this with REGIO to REGIO-BIO, which is why we have the Regio-Bio model region. We have set up a “Competence Center for Organic Farming” because we have to assume that agriculture as a whole will become more ecologically oriented, i.e. the differences between organic and conventional farming will become smaller. The aim of the competence centre is to exchange practical experience. In Saxony, almost 1,000 farms farm organically, which corresponds to a total of 16 percent of our farms and just under 10 percent of agricultural land. Here we are slightly above the national average, but we are experiencing very dynamic growth. In the last 10 years, the area in this sector in the Free State of Saxony has doubled.

Various EU strategies have already been mentioned, such as the Green Deal, the new regulation to reduce the use of pesticides and the regulation to restore nature. Many things are still under discussion, I had an event here last weekend with the Federal Minister of Agriculture in the area of viticulture. Much of what is well thought out is not yet really well done in practice. Special rules are also needed for special crops.

We need you to advise us on this. Saxony is not only characterized by different farm sizes, but the natural locations are extremely diverse. For example, we have loess soils with the highest ratings, there are mountainous locations where the soils are only marginal, we have sandy soils, and we actually have everything you can imagine. In addition, we need adapted solutions for all of this. Moreover, there is something else that characterizes Saxony: we have experienced several extremely dry years since 2018. We still have large areas of groundwater drought in the eastern states. This means that climate change is affecting us here in the more continental regions of Germany relatively strongly. This will also be one of the strategic challenges in the future. How do we deal with the consequences of climate change, with extreme weather events, with prolonged dry weather conditions?

As you can see, the tasks, the content, are not diminishing, the transformation needs a good exchange, needs good advice and needs a lot of knowledge transfer. This also includes switching from old models of communication to new methods. This is how I see today's event. Thank you very much for listening.

Daphne Huber

Many thanks to you, Mr. Günther, and yes, you've heard, it's an incredible bouquet of initiatives, measures and offers that the state of Saxony is making available for the benefit of advisory services on the one hand, but also for the good of agriculture. You also mentioned it, Mr. Minister; you were busy on the weekend with the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Cem Özdemir. You mentioned viticulture, you visited farms, the stallion parade in Moritzburg and, as I read on the streetcar today, you opened the Organic Experience Days. Therefore, you really are actively involved. Now let's look at it the other way round: assuming you were a farmer in Saxony, what would you like to see from the advisory service? You have told us that you have reorganized some things.

Wolfram Günther

Now, I would actually like more advice on the subject of water. That's one of our most pressing priorities right now. The other things such as digitalization, plant protection, new varieties, new crops, etc. have been in the pipeline for some time. I couldn't cover the whole range in my opening statement. There are many other topics: Phasing out fossil fuels, biomass utilization - there are new opportunities to come up with smart solutions there too.

Daphne Huber:

The great thing about this conference is that there are not just the presentations from the stage, but that you can delve even deeper into the subject matter this afternoon in the workshops, where water management and climate protection, as well as many other topics, are the hot topics. Another topic is the European cooperation you mentioned. A lot is being worked on in the Commission. How can European cooperation be strengthened here and how could Saxony make a contribution?

Wolfram Günther

The Free State of Saxony has a state representation in Brussels, which is no different from the other federal states. However, we also have liaison offices in our neighbouring EU states of the Czech Republic and Poland, specifically in Prague and Wrocław, and there is close cooperation there, right down to the universities. We have very similar issues, whether they are natural or based on a shared history, right through to structural aspects. Of particular importance is the future of the CAP, which is of great concern to us here. We are promoting our agricultural policy approach at European level and are holding talks from the Czech Republic to the Flanders region, for example. One particular issue is the European regulation on the use of plant protection products. We now need to ensure that it is interpreted relatively quickly, as there is a great deal of uncertainty among many farms, especially those with special crops. I have already mentioned the challenge of climate protection, the extremely volatile markets, purchasing and energy costs and not knowing what sales will bring - having confidence in the future and saying that I will continue here, I will train, I will invest in my business; this is an issue that we have been dealing with for a long time. The ability of companies to plan for all these challenges is a priority. Who could have guessed that there would be another war in Europe? We need security and trust again quickly; these are all things that we need to clarify at European level.

Daphne Huber

That is how it is and you (as advisors, as farms) have the Minister at your side. You also mentioned the CAP again, we have now had the CAP '23 for a year, but the CAP '28 is to be put on a new footing again and I know very well that we conducted an interview in Saarland before the Agriculture Ministers' Conference and I was mega-proud, because you mentioned the word "public goods bonus" for the first time there and it made quite a stir. Yes, tell us about the public goods bonus and your proposal for CAP '28.

Wolfram Günther

The discussion that a new CAP period must actually achieve new goals, that the whole system must become simpler, has already been had in the past. Along the way, time has passed without the fundamental new proposals really being ready to be implemented. As a result, this has usually led to new ideas being put forward, but then somehow incorporated. Over time, this has made the entire CAP system more and more complex for everyone involved. It is important to me to have this discussion now, because the year 2028 is already very close. However, we are only in the first year of the new rules of the current CAP period 2023 - 2027. I know how difficult the new beginning was. When we negotiated the new CAP rules, Saxony had just chaired the Conference of Agriculture Ministers. One particular difficulty was that the EU triologue had not yet been completed. Therefore, we had to negotiate something for Germany without knowing what the EU framework would ultimately be.

That was a lesson for me; the public goods bonus model quickly won me over. There was a phase in which it was tested on farms, and Saxony took part. Farmers and nature conservationists looked at it and suggested what really needed to be reformed. This resulted in a simple system, a point's scheme for simple measures, area-related and whole-farm measures. An attempt was made to develop the opportunities that provide the greatest leverage for achieving our environmental, biodiversity and climate protection goals in such a way that it really pay off for the farms.

Germany receives around EUR 6 billion a year in CAP funding, and the Free State of Saxony receives around EUR 300 million. It is the largest item in the European Union, and my claim is that public money should only be spent on public services. As an agricultural politician, I say that the agricultural sector has such a great need for transformation, investment and support that it must be defended from a socio-political point of view, and to do this we must also show that the money is being spent precisely where it is needed for socio-political purposes. We have tried to do this and with the changeover of the CAP, at the end of 2027 a good half of the funds will really be linked to sustainable criteria.

The next step must be to use 100 percent public money for public services, but in such a way that businesses can also benefit. We are now discussing this and I am delighted that everyone is getting involved in this debate.

Daphne Huber

Yes, I also believe that the consultants here in the room (internationally, in the EU) are also very concerned that a new start should be made for the 2028 system and yes, thank you for giving us an insight into what it could soon look like; because these ladies and gentlemen sitting here will have to implement it somehow in the future or can already consider now what methods they want to use for this. Mr. Günther, what message are you giving us at this conference, what signal do you mean?

Wolfram Günther

First of all, a warm welcome once again. I am delighted that you are discussing this right here in Saxony, where the range of companies is so broad. We need solutions that ultimately work not only for Germany, but we are discussing it in a European Union (or Europe). This is extremely diverse and we need to find solutions that will help the sector economically and ensure that it is well positioned for the future and remains an attractive employer. It is about our food, we want to regionalize much more in Saxony for a variety of reasons. To do this, we need people, but also the confidence that we are an industry in which people really enjoy doing their training and then have a professional future, for example as a business successor. We also need to achieve environmental goals and biodiversity. This will only be possible if we actually reduce the use of pesticides. This requires clever approaches. I also mentioned the issue of water and extreme weather events; there are so many things that need to be considered at the same time. We must succeed in activating all the expertise that is available in the sector. This requires a lot of advice and knowledge transfer. Above all, we need to find clever formats that can actually strengthen horizontal networking and the exchange of knowledge - in other words, we need to move away from the central "top-down" approach of knowledge transfer and towards a "network approach". That is what I have in mind and I wish you every success with this conference.

Daphne Huber

Thank you very much, Mr. Günther. A round of applause for Minister Günther. You have made many suggestions, which we will include on the agenda, and we thank you for your time.

My personal IALB-Retrospective and Forecast

After the 28 IALB meetings that I have attended, I have learned that farms exist in very different structures and sizes. Nevertheless, the situations and challenges they experience are comparable.

→ Size does not matter.

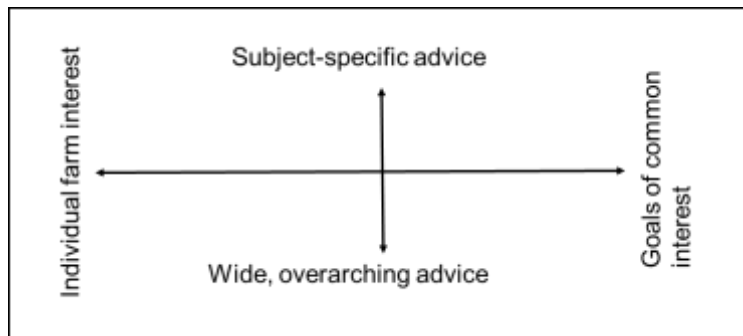
The countries in Europe vary in size and organization, as do their agricultural sectors and farms. Therefore, state, private and farmer-owned advisory services should co-exist.

→ Consultation services need to be pluralistic.

State support in the form of area-dependent direct payments secures agricultural income. These are not yet a guarantee for the achievement of goals of common interest. This requires funds from the second pillar or direct payment schemes geared to specific objectives, and it requires financial investments in agri-cultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS).

→ A well-functioning AKIS is like a guard rail for the achievement of agricultural policy goals.

Advisory organisations must act entrepreneurial and adapt to new challenges. They support and accompany farms, but do not make decisions in their place.



Strategic advice that addresses every aspect of the management of a farm is important. Operational decisions take into account higher-level goals of common interest. In any given region, advisory services should cover the whole range of advice, if not each one individually, then at least in cooperation.

→ Advisory services should provide farmers with the knowledge they require and enable them to act.



Anton Stöckli

Anton Stöckli, 1958, is an employee of the Federal Office for Agriculture in Switzerland. Working in the team that is responsible for the promotion of research, advice and innovation, the main focus of his work lies in supporting the advisory organisations in Switzerland.

The exchange of knowledge between science and practice and within practice are important concerns for him.

After graduating as an agronomy engineer at the ETH Zurich, he gained several years of international professional experience in rural development projects in Africa and Central America.

Digitalization and artificial “intelligence” play an increasingly important role in the management of farms.

→ **However, nothing replaces human judgement and creativity.**

People, whether in agricultural practice or advisory work, carry out every activity.

→ **Humanity and compassion must be the guiding principles in all our actions.**

(detailed report in chapter 8 or download)

Shaping the future with education and advisory – an eco-social perspective

The presentation initially discusses global conditions, considering the ongoing high population growth, increasing political conflicts, and challenges in the environmental and climate sectors. For the majority of the world's population, the focus is on economic growth, increased prosperity, and the utilization of existing resources, overcoming hunger, and poverty.

A starkly contrasting perspective comes from well-off climate-conscious actors in a (surplus) country like Germany. Here, voluntary restraint is a significant topic, as are new lifestyles, new family concepts, rejection of meat, rejection of fossil fuels, rejection of combustion engine cars, downsizing of agriculture (as a goal in itself), and emphasis on ecological farming, and more. The path towards this is organized as a societal learning process, requiring substantial financial investment. Divergent opinions are managed in various ways; psychologists are involved in campaigns to reorient the population's mindset. While social justice remains a topic, it is no longer in the classical sense. The focus now is on integrating well-educated "People of Colour" living in our country into a discourse environment that sometimes positions people from the affluent world as former slaveholders.

Schools are co-opted in this context, with, strangely enough, digitalization and AI being seen as beacons of hope. Objective performance assessments disturb some. It's more about persuasion than achievement, e.g., for sustainability, vegan diets, against livestock farming, against combustion engine cars, for cargo bicycles, for organic farming, for domestically grown goods, etc. New regulations for farmers are continuously invented, seemingly aimed at taking away their joy in their profession. These include regulations on manure usage, synthetic fertilizer utilization, land use extent, animal treatment, irrigation, and more.

For advisors and educators, this is a challenging environment. On one hand, facts should be communicated, especially concerning global challenges in food, energy, climate, etc., as well as the increasing international conflicts. At the same time, those involved must adapt to local regulations, whether they make much or little sense. The whole situation resembles an obstacle course. It's about navigating wisely in difficult terrain.

(detailed report in chapter 8 or download)



Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h.c. Franz Josef Radermacher

Professor (emeritus) of "Databases and Artificial Intelligence" at the University of Ulm, concurrently Chairman of the Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing (FAW/n) Ulm, Vice President and Honorary President of the Senate of Economy e. V., Bonn, Vice President of the Ecological-Social Forum Europe, Vienna, as well as a member of the Club of Rome.

In 2013, awarded an honorary doctorate by the International Hellenic University, Thessaloniki. From 2013 to 2016, a member of the BASF Stakeholder Advisory Council, Ludwigshafen. In 2018, appointed Honorary President of the Ecological-Social Forum Austria and Europe. Since 2012, a member of the Advisory Board of the Vodafone Institute for Society and Communication, and since 2020, a member of the Sustainability Advisory Board of Vodafone Deutschland GmbH, as well as a member of the Commission for Sustainable Business, Action, and Financing of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Since February 20, 2021, Vice President and Honorary President of the Senate of Economy e.V. Since 2022, a member of the UN-Council for Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET). Since 2022, a member of the Advisory Board of the Clean Energy Forum.

Interview and Panel Discussion (11.09.2023) – Statements from the Participants

“The philosophy of our company encompasses producing within a local cycle - from feed to sales at the meat counter. Education and training are significant aspects within our agricultural operation and specialized shops. Public relations play a major role in engaging young individuals in our work. With our diverse areas of activity, we have a broad scope and provide variety in our profession.

Direct marketing is a way of diversification. In our farm shops, we connect with clubs and the community. Every intern is given an opportunity to contribute with us. We rely on influencers who share positive stories about our work on the farm and in the shops.”



*Ines Senger,
Agrarproduktion „Am Bärenstein“ Struppen eG*

„Agricultural enterprises come in various forms. They can be large or small, encompass different branches of operation, diverse location conditions, business models, legal structures, and each has its own corporate philosophy. Since 1990, we've been collaborating with a wide array of clients in the agricultural sector. Individuals who are innovative, open-minded, cooperative, dedicated, and competent, possessing a strong work ethic, shape agriculture, as I perceive it. Working with and for these stakeholders is a great privilege for me and brings me a lot of enjoyment. Repeatedly, we have guided businesses through processes of change. Companies can successfully navigate change processes when they have a clear understanding of their objectives, appropriate framework conditions, and the necessary time to achieve them.”



*Dr. Dieter Heider,
b&s Unternehmensberatung und Schulung für den
ländlichen Raum GmbH*

“The most significant investment is famously in the minds of people. As an agricultural and environmental authority, we recognize this as a central task and contribute through an extensive offering in vocational education, as well as diverse advisory services in the public interest, to the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of operational development. Education and advisory services are to be understood as a unit and exert their effectiveness based on the interaction of all stakeholders. For successful knowledge exchange, there is a need for mutual, organized, and rapid communication – from research to practice and vice versa. Teachers and advisors play a crucial role as intermediaries and facilitators in this process.”



*Dr. Falk Hohmann,
Permanent representative of the President of the
Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture,
and Geology*

“Sustainability in agriculture is based on the three pillars: economy, ecology and social issues. Our goal is to contribute to achieving a good balance with the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy. For a successful transformation, advice plays an important role.”



*Michael Pielke,
Acting Director
European Commission
DG Agriculture and Rural Development
Directorate B: Sustainability*

“Agricultural education and advisory services are essential for food security and the preservation of natural resources. Agricultural vocational and technical school teachers and advisors deserve significantly higher recognition and appreciation for their work and contributions. They teach and advise on the management of highly complex systems and enterprises with a strong emphasis on multifunctionality. Strengthening the ability and willingness to embrace change and innovation in agriculture is a fundamental task of education and advisory services for the transformation of the agricultural sector.”



*Prof. Dr. Knut Schmidtke,
former FiBL-Director*

“Farms have an increased need for knowledge and must be adequately supported in tackling challenges. A functional Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) is essential for the resilience and innovation capacity of the agricultural sector. Within AKIS, advisory services and education play an important and diverse role as knowledge and solution facilitators, as well as bridges between science and practice.”



*Florian Herzog,
Chamber of Agriculture Austria*

„The young person who aspires to become a farmer must also be allowed to become one. In our training consortium, we provide young people with a lasting perspective in their homeland. Apprentices in our consortium of businesses gain insights into all production directions of modern agriculture. We offer the youth state-of-the-art technology in the barn and in the field. Apprentices can specialize and receive a future-oriented outlook.“



*Jan Gumpert,
Chairman of the Board
Agraset-Agrargenossenschaft eG Naundorf*

Structured Interview, 11.09.2023, Dresden

Moderator: Daphne Huber (German Agricultural Society Frankfurt/Main)

Daphne Huber

Now I would like to invite to the stage for the second item on today's program, the interview, Ms. Ines Senger, Dr. Dieter Heider, and Dr. Falk Hohmann.

We will now have a content exchange on how the diverse challenges in agriculture and rural areas in Saxony can be tackled using new advisory methods and tools.

Knowledge advantage is a competitive advantage. The "Agricultural Knowledge Network" in Saxony represents complex education and advisory services in rural areas and agriculture, as well as related sectors. The participants from politics, practice, and advisory services will now provide insights into these developments and perspectives in a structured interview.

Ms. Senger, you have a degree in agricultural engineering and, more than twenty years ago, which I find quite remarkable, you passed the trainer aptitude test at the IHK (Chamber of Commerce and Industry). You told me that Struppen is a small community with 2,500 inhabitants, located between Pirna and the Königstein Fortress near Dresden, southeast towards the Czech Republic. For over 20 years, you have been leading the management of agricultural production at "Am Bärenstein" with approximately 1,500 hectares of arable land, 10% organic farming, and 70 employees in both agriculture and business operations. You also devote a lot of passion to your voluntary work despite your limited time. You are a member of the Public Relations and Education Committee and have been a board member of the Saxon Farmers' Association.

In East Germany, the generational change has been in full swing for several years. People in leadership positions are now reaching retirement age. Many of them took over leadership roles right after reunification and are now stepping down. Accordingly, there is a significant shortage of successors and skilled workers. What are your main priorities in attracting younger people and future talent?

Ines Senger

Good day to all the guests here. The focus of training in our company is very, very diverse because we deal with different age groups and interests. We won't turn away any intern who wants to get to know agriculture. We support training associations, we do a lot of public relations work, which means we have to talk about what we do and what we achieve in our company. We also take alternative approaches, such as working with associations, organizing tree planting with school classes, or using our direct marketing to connect with our local residents and customers. To explain: the agricultural production at "Am Bärenstein" in Struppen has had its own direct marketing for over 30 years to retain value creation in the region. We work in volatile markets, and as previous speakers mentioned, that's a big challenge. Of course, we also engage in social media, on Facebook and Instagram, we maintain our website, and we actively participate in apprentice evaluations. We free up our employees during working hours to help with practical exam assessments. This contact also means that our employees are convinced of their work, and they represent that publicly. I believe these are diverse tools that can still be expanded. It even starts with organizing trips for landowners. Simply being visible in public, doing well, and talking about it.

Daphne Huber

Yes, those are really interesting initiatives you are taking, and it sounds a bit like a family business, with a sense of belonging that the employees have at "Am Bärenstein," which they also pass on externally. You mentioned that every intern has a chance with you. How does that work—how do you first reach young people who decide they want to do an internship with you?

Ines Senger

Well, I don't directly approach young people unless they reach out to me. It simply spreads by word of mouth that we are very open. Young people often come to us whose parents know us from the many years of training we've done at our company. We offer training in five different professions, we take EBBA students (those obtaining a farmer's qualification as an additional voluntary qualification in the bachelor's degree in agricultural science), and we offer internships for bachelor's or master's candidates. What people consider "training" varies widely, to return to your question. The young people don't necessarily have to work; they should get to know the operation, that's the most important thing.

I don't want cheap labour during an internship, and in the past, we've seen how young people, who lacked confidence, have grown into wonderful young adults who took on responsibility and were supported by others. Sometimes it takes them more than a year, but I give them that time. However, I need to be ready to take that risk, knowing that sometimes things might not work out.

Daphne Huber

Very interesting, especially because there's still that image of the "intern," who, as we say, first has to fetch coffee and sandwiches, but you're saying no, we give them time. In addition, I think for today's youth, it's crucial to be welcomed and to receive feedback like, "You're doing well," and for them to know that we trust them. Truly amazing. I'll have to tell my children that such opportunities exist. You are also responsible for training in the Saxon Farmers' Association, as you mentioned.

How does communication work within Saxony and beyond?

Ines Senger

Well, I lead the "Education" committee. Nevertheless, within the State Farmers' Association, we also have an excellent education officer, Diana Henke, who does a fantastic job as an education consultant. She's sitting here somewhere in the audience, so maybe we can give her a round of applause. The association provides the tools; it doesn't just go into farms and say, "Here's the apprentice you've always wanted"—it doesn't work like that. We provide information about contact points and opportunities offered by the Free State, and here, I'd like to compliment Dr. Hohmann as a representative of the Free State of Saxony. We have a wonderful dual education system in Saxony—not every country has a dual system—where practical experience and theory run parallel. We also have very good inter-company training centres, and we must continuously ensure that the Free State maintains these standards, keeps vocational schools open. Moreover, when companies are looking for apprentices, they have to do those themselves. The company has to position itself. Of course, our company has different communication options because of our direct marketing, but that doesn't automatically mean we'll find apprentices just because we have direct marketing. We can use many other positive aspects to make ourselves known, but it's something each person has to take into their own hands—it has to grow from the ground up, and no one is exempt from that. But the Saxon Farmers' Association will always stand by you, especially when it comes to legal matters or opening certain doors for specific questions. We act as a link between practice and the association and aim to ensure that everyone finds their point of contact.

Daphne Huber

Mrs. Senger, thank you so much for sharing your insights with us. I'm genuinely moved by the dedication and care you bring to your work—it's really commendable, and I wish you all the best in that. Thank you very much.

Next, I'd like to welcome Dr. Dieter Heider.

Mr. Heider, you have a degree in agricultural engineering and have been managing director of "b & b Unternehmensberatung und Schulung für den ländlichen Raum GmbH" in Leipzig for more than 30 years. In Germany, we see a lot of debate about restructuring livestock farming. This is nothing new to you, as you wrote your dissertation on investments in barn construction in the early 1990s and know exactly what it takes to set up a modern barn.

You've continuously worked on furthering your own education, and I must say, you're truly a jack-of-all-trades in the consultancy of agricultural businesses. You coach entrepreneurs and start-ups; you're a regional developer, network manager, and assessor, to name just a few of the areas your consulting services cover. And you also volunteer in solidarity agriculture. You're a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, chair various committees, and still find time to serve at the district court in Leipzig.

Mr. Heider, President Wiesend mentioned in her welcome speech that the goal of consulting is to improve the financial situation of farms while also recognizing and developing the strengths and weaknesses of the individuals involved, as Ms. Senger just highlighted. I'd love to hear how you approach farms—what impressions or expectations do you bring when you engage with them?

Dr. Dieter Heider

As I mentioned to you beforehand, and as Minister Günther also said, we have a diverse agricultural sector in Saxony—large farms, smaller ones, many part-time farms, all with very different conditions. But if you look at Europe, it's also very diverse, yet what they all have in common is that we are dealing with people. These are farm managers, directors, owners—people with very different approaches, but what I really appreciate about the work is that they all have a very strong work ethic. You mentioned the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I'm the chair of the Committee for Workforce and Training. We have discussions there about a four-day workweek—that's not a discussion you have in agriculture. These are different worlds, but I appreciate that work ethic. The collaboration is very good, very pragmatic, which is why I enjoy working so much in agriculture. Education and advisory services are also becoming more aligned again; it's essentially about developing the competencies of these actors. Unlike most participants here, I run a private consultancy firm. That means it's not enough for a farm or farm manager to have a problem that needs solving; they have to come to us and choose me as their consultant. That means there has to be a fit, also in terms of competencies. Moreover, another crucial point is that they must be willing to pay for the service. In most countries, advisory services are not financially supported. In the state of Saxony-Anhalt, for example, there are subsidy programs for advisory support, which I find quite interesting as they open up possibilities, even for smaller farms. However, generally, everything has to come together. We need to look at what the farms' needs are.

I mentioned before that I'm not entirely happy with the term "transformation." In 1990, I co-founded the company, having worked for about a year in a state-run advisory institution in Leipzig, the Scientific-Technical Center. It had tasks similar to what an agricultural chamber might have today, but it was a state institution where advisory services were more about state management and planning. Then I moved into self-employment. Back then, we had drastic upheavals in agriculture, especially social upheavals. Many farms had to significantly reduce their staff, many closed down, and many things changed. These drastic upheavals led to many changes. I must say that in Saxony and East Germany, agriculture was one of the few sectors that managed the transition quite well. Not everyone continued, and new players also joined. I have clients who came from the western states or from Holland or Denmark to set up their farms here. This has made the sector more diverse, and each farm has different needs, to which we have to adapt.

What's really important for the advisory approach is that we must always focus on the people, their conditions, their goals, and where they want to go. Only then can we support them to varying degrees. In advisory work, I believe we need to be careful not to become instruments for implementing political agendas, at least in the farm consulting I do. Of course, we need to take into account the regulatory framework. It's important that farms have clear conditions, and conditions that will remain stable for the coming years. In the pig farming sector, for example, there is a great deal of uncertainty. The farms don't know what they should do because of the regulatory environment. If I invest now, will that still be relevant in five years? Will I even be able to produce with it? We need more security, more future vision.

As for investments: In 1990, I had just defended my PhD. Now, I mostly do business consulting, or general consulting, as they call it. My PhD topic was "The suitability of barn buildings for cattle farming," and I also worked on barn systems. We also need to recognize what has happened over the last 30 years. We tend to look at the current situation and point out what's not good and what's insufficient. Of course, things need to be improved, but we also need to acknowledge what farms have achieved and improved over the last 30 years. I feel this is missing in the public discourse.

Daphne Huber

Dr. Heider, we appreciate your openness, but also your expertise, because you really know what you're talking about. That's why it would be important if you could give us some context on what Minister Günther, for example, mentioned. In our prior conversation, you already said that you expect a certain level of support from the political side. You don't want to constantly go to farms and say, "Well, something has changed again, and now we have to adapt."

Dr. Dieter Heider

Exactly, we need clear regulatory frameworks, and we also need investment support for certain measures, especially in construction investments. Moreover, here, there are different levels of responsibility. The investment support program in Saxony is actually not that bad, I have to say. It has carried over a lot from the previous funding period and has been further developed. Now we need to see how this can be implemented in practice. The problem is that the federal government creates its own programs, and when the federal government does something, Saxony can no longer provide support in the same way. We see this in pig farming. The federal government has a subsidy cap of €600,000—that's the current limit. Dr. Hohmann, if you have new figures, please let us know. With this cap, no pig farmer beyond a certain farm size can make the necessary investments under our conditions. This is unrealistic, and I would like to see more reality and more direct interaction with the farms to discuss what is practical and what is necessary.

Daphne Huber

Okay, thank you, Mr. Heider.

In addition, with that, over to you, Mr. Hohmann.

You are the permanent representative of the president at the State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology, and you're constantly on the move. The office is essentially the executive body of the Ministry of Agriculture—can I call it that?

What is the "Agricultural Knowledge Network" in Saxony, Mr. Hohmann?

Dr. Falk Hohmann

The Agricultural Knowledge Network means that we connect various sources where knowledge is generated—at universities, colleges, and also private educational providers—with institutions within our State Office. We offer continuing education and training events, for example, regularly during what we call the "winter training." These are called "specialist information events" and are scheduled for the time of year when farmers typically have an open ear for educational opportunities. Other stakeholders are also involved, such as other ministries and their subordinate departments. Here I'd like to mention the veterinary sector with food inspection and veterinary offices, which are also part of the Agricultural Knowledge Network, where we specifically address and invite these institutions to events organized by us at the LfULG (State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology).

Daphne Huber

Okay, that's quite an impressive range of activities. Therefore, I see that a lot is happening here in Saxony.

However, I can imagine that there might be a bit of a conflict, considering the many enforcement duties at the State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology. Surely there must be a conflict of interest between voluntary advisory services and mandatory legal supervision tasks, along the lines of: "Today I'm advising you, tomorrow I'm inspecting you." How do you handle that, Mr. Hohmann?

Dr. Falk Hohmann

Yes, you've identified a tension, which you could also call a balancing act. Nevertheless, to stay with the sports metaphor—if you can't do a split, you have to practice until you can. Moreover, our State Office has been practicing this for 15 years. We've just celebrated our fifteenth anniversary, and I can tell you that we see more advantages than disadvantages. The benefits clearly outweigh the challenges, so we resolve this tension through smart organization. That's how I would describe it. We have created departments and organizational units that are solely responsible for control tasks, so it's clear to the farms that this is part of the legally required inspections according to specific laws. On the other hand, we have a true beacon, the Teaching and Experimental Farm in Köllitsch, which Ms. Senger already praised, and I thank her for that. This farm focuses purely on educational offerings, advisory services, and knowledge transfer. Representatives from farms and apprentices come there for inter-company training, and there is no fear of any inspection background. Conversely, we have departments or organizational units that we call "Funding and Specialist Training Centres." The smart organization is evident in the structure of the units. We have Department 1, which deals solely with the implementation of direct and compensatory payments, so it is clearly bound by the EU payment control regime. Then, in Department 2, "Education and Specialist Law," we have colleagues dedicated to advisory services, which is based on the principle of trust—trust between the farm management and the respective specialist staff. This way, we maintain the trust principle while also fulfilling our official control tasks.

Daphne Huber

Thank you, that was very clear.

Therefore, we are trying to make the European Union's motto fruitful: "Unity in diversity." You have an administrative umbrella under which you carry out various tasks.

Well, then there's no need to worry when an inspector shows up because they are all pleasant people like you, Dr. Hohmann, doing their job.

Thank you very much. I believe the three of you will still be here during the break for individual conversations with the participants. In addition, I encourage you to take the opportunity to talk with the experts — Ms. Senger, Dr. Hohmann, and Dr. Heider.

With that, we have reached the end of the first part of this morning's program. We've heard a variety of national and international activities, all the way to the agricultural system in Saxony. Now, we will take a 30-minute break. We're perfectly on time, as promised, so please be back in the room at 11:15 sharp. Don't forget to check out the poster exhibition next door! The coffee break buffet is set up in the same room. And for those invited, there is also a press conference now in Seminar Room 5.

Thank you very much.

Panel Discussion

Plenary on 11.09.2023, Dresden

Moderator: Daphne Huber (German Agricultural Society Frankfurt/Main)

The Transformation Processes in Agriculture - Expectations from the Perspective of...

... **EU Policy: Michael Pielke** (EU Commission)

... **Applied Science: Prof. Dr. Knut Schmidtke** (Former FiBL Director, Switzerland)

... **Consultancy: Florian Herzog** (Austrian Chamber of Agriculture)

... **Practice: Jan Gumpert** ("agraset" Agricultural Cooperative Naundorf, Saxony)

Daphne Huber

We now want to focus on the transformation process in agriculture from different perspectives. The IALB team has brought together a high-ranking panel of experts. Each of them will first give a statement.

First, the perspective of EU agricultural policy. As State Minister Günther announced earlier today, agricultural policy is moving from the already "green" CAP 2023 towards CAP 2027. In addition, there's the "Green Deal," the "Farm to Fork Strategy," and the Biodiversity Strategy. In the Green Deal, the EU countries aim to ensure that by 2030, 30% of land and sea areas are under legally binding protection. For one-third of this, or 10% of the total area, even stricter protection measures, such as restrictions on plant protection products and fertilizers, will apply. Many agricultural areas are affected, especially in these regions. Therefore, your work in gaining knowledge and, most importantly, in transferring this knowledge to agricultural operations about the opportunities and alternatives for implementation is crucial. On June 12, the European Parliament approved the Nature Restoration Law, marking a European milestone for nature conservation. The final vote will, of course, take place at the end in the trilogue, but currently on this topic, we are connected online with Michael Pielke from the EU Commission in Brussels.

You are with the EU Commission in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, and you are the head of the Sustainability Department there. Allow me to start with a light question before we dive into the technical exchange: Belgium claims to have invented French fries, even though Saxony was once a potato land. Can you tell our guests what makes these potato sticks so special?

Michael Pielke

Yes, first of all, good morning from tropical Brussels. I would very much like to be with you in person now, as the conference thrives on the exchange between consultants. I have also seen that you have a very interesting program. It's always fascinating during the excursions to see the projects and exchange ideas with colleagues. The question about Belgian fries – the answer is actually quite simple: like many products, it's always a matter of quality and expertise – and the Belgians are pretty good at that. Even Angela Merkel once said so when she tested Belgian fries herself. Moreover, passing on knowledge is indeed the topic of the conference.

Daphne Huber

Now, let's delve into the technical topics: transformation processes in agriculture.

Michael Pielke

Transformation processes in agriculture are urgently needed. As we all see, the challenges facing businesses have increased dramatically in recent years. We remember COVID, the consequences of closed markets, the impact of the war in Ukraine; now, inflation is added, and of course, structural change continues. At the same time, in the environmental field, we see the impacts of climate change. Across Europe, we face significant problems with sufficient water for crops, we observe wildfires, and the issue of biodiversity and, overall, our resources has not disappeared from the agenda. Moreover, social sustainability is also intensifying the necessary adjustment processes. We are witnessing demographic change, the takeover of agricultural businesses, and the changing demands of consumers on agricultural products, food, and production methods (keyword animal welfare). All of this affects rural areas as well. The question is – how can we keep rural areas vibrant? When we see these challenges, it becomes clear that knowledge exchange and innovation play a key role if we are to move forward. In this context, we notice that weak connections between farmers, consultants, and scientists negatively impact the competitiveness and development potential of agricultural businesses. Thus, we have emphasized the need for farmers to have easier access to knowledge and innovation, as highlighted in our last reform. We see this as part of a knowledge strategy: AKIS. We don't want isolated projects in this context but rather a strategy from the member states on how they plan to address the need for effective knowledge transfer. Our goal is to provide farmers with knowledge and advisory programs tailored to their agricultural needs, and for this, we offer a wide range of support under our regulations. It's less detailed but offers more opportunities and flexibility for the member states compared to the last program period. Within this AKIS framework, networking, collaboration among various actors, and cooperation between research, practice, and consultancy are important to us. We are observing that more and more member states are taking advantage of these opportunities within our programs. Complementing this, we support European Innovation Partnerships. Through operational groups, we create knowledge that should be tailored to farmers' needs, fostering collaboration among different actors. This model aims to reduce the time it takes for research results to be tested in practice and also to ensure that research is more targeted towards practical needs. The combination of EIPs and AKIS is of immense importance to us. So far, we have gathered 3,000 projects in a data registry as part of the EIPs, making this knowledge accessible and facilitating the exchange and transfer of projects into practice. Under the approved strategic plans, we see that more than 6,600 new projects are planned, which is a good outcome considering the number of projects has tripled compared to the previous program period. Overall, a budget of €2.1 billion has been allocated to advisory, innovation, and knowledge under our national strategic plans, and member states have informed us that with this budget, they aim to support approximately 6 million participants through consultancy and knowledge transfer. Additionally, within the European research program Horizon, we have financed 300 projects, where collaboration between consultancy, end-users, and research is part of the project, and we believe that this also makes a significant contribution. To summarize: Compared to the last program period, we see an improvement, but there is still a lot to do, especially in the field of knowledge transfer, innovation, and consultancy. We cannot simply wait to see what the states do nationally with these co-financed programs. However, one thing is clear, and I think all stakeholders must be reminded repeatedly: without stronger cooperation between farmers and the transfer of innovations into practice, the future opportunities for agriculture are limited. We need to accelerate these urgently needed transformation processes, and this cannot happen without knowledge transfer, research results, and innovation. Thank you very much.

Daphne Huber

Mr. Pielke, you have kicked off with a very strong signal: AKIS is alive and is considered extremely valuable and important by the EU Commission, which should inspire you here in the room, as representatives of your advisory profession, to continue, to further develop, and to be sure that both the crucial financial support and content approval exist for this agricultural knowledge system. Mr. Pielke, please stay connected. Thank you to Brussels.

Now, I would like to invite Prof. Knut Schmidtke. You were previously the director of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, based in Switzerland. In early 2024, you will establish a new chair here in Dresden at HTW.

Recently, statistics showed that Switzerland is the most popular destination for German emigrants. What might be the reason? Is it the punctuality or reliability, the mountains, the landscape, or, in the end, the Swiss franc and the bank account?

Knut Schmidtke

Surely all of what you already mentioned: landscape, outstanding infrastructure, especially transportation, but there's much more to experience, like personal appreciation, which I have found to be higher on the scale than here in Germany. Income differences do exist, but not as large as they might appear from the figures since certain social services have to be supplemented by private contributions to get by as we do in Germany.

Daphne Huber

Therefore, not everything that glitters is gold in Switzerland. Now let's come to the technical part...

Knut Schmidtke

In recent years, Germany has achieved a significant outcome (2021) with the Agriculture Future Commission, which worked on behalf of former Chancellor Angela Merkel, under the leadership of an outstanding scientist: Prof. Strohschneider, the former president of the German Research Foundation. The commission aimed to establish targets for the future development of agriculture, bringing together representatives from agriculture, the environment, and many other sectors, including numerous young people who contributed. What did they say in the 125-page report about education and consultancy and their importance for the transformation process? Indeed, you find 53 references to education, and the term "consultancy" appears 24 times, indicating that the significance of these two areas has been recognized. What did they highlight in the overall report, which was adopted by consensus? The content of education must change to meet the demands of the transformation. This includes communication with consumers and social groups, employee management, digitization, and the areas we initially see as transformation: ecology, biodiversity, and the important area of animal welfare. Another area that hasn't been in the spotlight as much is nutritional education. What do we consume? How should it be composed? This should be a significant focus of education in the future. Eating habits, particularly among the younger generation, are changing drastically, and we must adapt to that. In continuing education, transformation challenges must be addressed through new forms of didactics, including consultancy, blended learning – the combination of in-person and online events – and the areas of environmental and nature conservation, as well as animal welfare, must also be addressed in continuing education. We have many part-time farmers in Europe, and they too must be involved in the process. There are central statements regarding consultancy: climate consultancy, consultancy on maintaining and monetizing ecosystem services as an economic aspect, which we all need, such as biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes. Animal welfare consultancy will be very important, as will new technologies. For the major challenges of the transformation, the commission unfortunately has not made central statements that could guide us forward. From my perspective, I would like to present three key messages that I consider critically important for the coming years:

1st We need to understand that agriculture and the food industry are not only systemically relevant but that if we want to transform them, it will be crucial to have excellent consultancy and education in this area. Many changes will stem from this, and the field will also evolve. Example: Is there a scientific representation, a

professorship in this field at a university in Germany? No, as far as I could see, we don't have that, at least not in the agricultural sector.

2nd I say this explicitly as a scientist: We experience high recognition in this field, including in the press and the public. This appreciation must clearly be reflected in the future in the performance of consultancy and professional education. Only when politics and society fully recognize the outstanding performance of integrating all these different requirements and, ultimately, making a living from it in the businesses, will it become clear that we must show much more appreciation for this work. Consultancy actors advise on the management of highly complex systems, influenced by weather conditions, in businesses that need to be profitable, and these businesses are generally characterized by high multifunctionality, fulfilling the expectations society has for agriculture.

3th Most importantly: Consultancy and education must focus on fostering the courage to take risks, to venture into new things, and to approach this wisely. In psychology, we do everything to encourage taking on new challenges with the understanding that out of five things you attempt, maybe two or three will ultimately be successful.

Thank you very much.

Daphne Huber

Now, the next guest; I am delighted to introduce Mr. Florian Herzog from Austria. Mr. Herzog, you are Vice President of IALB and a representative of the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture. You oversee agricultural and regional policy, education, and consultancy there. How many conferences like this one have you attended?

Florian Herzog

I've been doing this for 10 years; unfortunately, I couldn't travel to Spain last year due to COVID. I'm very happy to be here this year. Thank you! Last year, I had the honour of passing the leadership of IALB to Regine Wiesend – so I am here as a relaxed participant, which is very refreshing. I thank her very much for that.

As we've already mentioned, the challenges for agriculture and forestry are diverse and intense. We know that agriculture and forestry in Europe and worldwide fulfil many central functions far beyond food production, including job creation, the maintenance and preservation of cultural landscapes, and, of course, the protection and conservation of natural species. To continue fulfilling these functions in the best possible way in the future, those involved face numerous challenges, which are as varied as the functions of agriculture itself. The framework conditions are changing rapidly: in politics and the economy, as Mr. State Minister mentioned, the issue of volatile markets was raised. We are facing enormous inflation alongside revenue uncertainty, which poses significant problems for farms to survive economically at all. In the scientific field, digitization is now indispensable, even in agriculture, where it often serves as a pioneer. At the same time, ecological conditions are changing rapidly: droughts, floods, climate and natural disasters are happening globally. This brings immense needs for change and adaptation for our farms. Mr. State Minister said that what affects farms also impacts administration, even more so consultancy! This has consequences for our content offerings, methodologies, the competencies of consultants, and the organization of consultancy. Against this backdrop, actions in agriculture and forestry are becoming increasingly knowledge-intensive, and support through consultancy is becoming essential; on the one hand, through accompanying process consultancy, and on the other, through highly qualified specialist consultancy, which must become increasingly specialized. However, at the same time, as knowledge intensity increases, the pace of change, not only in the framework conditions but also in knowledge itself, is accelerating dramatically, increasing the innovation pressure on farms and consultancy. When consultancy questions arise, we need to clarify whether the requested knowledge already exists or whether it still needs

to be developed through research. Years can easily pass by, and it might be that the new findings are already outdated by then, potentially leading to the loss of farms from production. We must reduce these delays in knowledge transfer as much as possible. We've heard from the EU Commission that the dissemination of knowledge is indispensable for agriculture to meet the challenges and remain competitive. Therefore, these challenges can only be met with a comprehensive knowledge and innovation system – in short: AKIS. In this system, education and consultancy play a crucial role as the bridge between research and practice. Education and consultancy are the innovation drivers in this system. Our long-established main function of consultancy is to take new knowledge from research and bring it into agricultural practice. This transmission happens personally and through networks and increasingly through new methods in our organizations. Here, we must consider the changing communication conditions, how knowledge is consumed, and the rapid pace of change. Continuing education and lifelong learning for our consultants are the big challenges here. What's new now, though, is the complexity of the questions. We are increasingly confronted with transdisciplinary questions that a single consultant can no longer handle alone. We need to collaborate across disciplines and organizations. We need transdisciplinary teams. Jussi Juhola has already said today that finding solutions is only possible together – and that's why we are here. In this sense, I would like to convey this message: For us to fulfil our role in the best possible way, we must all see ourselves as part of the AKIS system, actively taking on our responsibility – not only as a bridge from research to practice but also the other way around: bringing knowledge from practice into research or addressing knowledge needs and participating in interactive innovation projects. This is written into the CAP, and I urge you to take this role seriously, embrace it, reach out to one another, and, most importantly, be open to cooperation and exchange beyond your own organizational and disciplinary boundaries. Thank you very much!

Daphne Huber

Mr. Herzog, thank you very much. Now, I am very pleased to introduce our next guest: Mr. Gumpert. You work in the "Agraset Naundorf" cooperative, a business I have wanted to visit, and you speak from the heart about how education should be understood. In our preliminary conversation, you mentioned the word "deeply relaxed." With the rainy harvest and the previous drought – how can you use this word now? Is it your work with the bees or as a carpenter for the next generation?

Jan Gumpert

It's a combination of many things. You become calmer with age, but of course, it's also due to working with excellent employees who are experts and specialists, and this team spirit in our agricultural cooperative where we've always found solutions as a team. Over time, you gain healthy self-confidence and awareness, having already overcome many challenges. Then you can be deeply relaxed, especially if, as a farmer, you can't handle the weather—well, then you should probably change industries. We can influence many things, and we do, but we can't control the weather on a small scale. On a larger scale, we can: climate change is something we as farmers can influence, but it's a generational task. Of course, there are also tense moments—our trainer, Ms. Haubold, who is here, can confirm that—but they are rare. I also tip my hat to public servants who have to perform the impossible. I'm glad to be part of an agricultural cooperative, to be in the economy, and to work in practical agriculture. I paid attention both when choosing my profession and when choosing my employer. (Applause)

What are our expectations? We need to be careful here. We shouldn't set the standards too high, so we can actually achieve something. Agraset belongs to over 300 members, and there are many expectations to meet. In any case, you need to bring initiative and creative thinking, and you must take advantage of cooperation. You see our location in Erlau, where we cultivate about 12 hectares. (Business location). The goals of the European Union, as set out in the Treaty of Rome, were also pursued in the GDR in the early 1970s: We must provide the population with affordable food. Everyone is talking about transformation. What exactly do we want to transform? Reform the goal from 1955?

What kind of transformation do we want? We want to change the way we work and how we interact with nature. If we want to fulfil the food supply mandate, then in my view, we cannot forget the one billion people who are hungry! We also need to find solutions for that! Whether the solution is to send the grain we produce here to them or to help them become self-sufficient—that needs to be discussed. Perhaps the truth lies somewhere in between. About ten years ago, Hans Rosling reviewed WHO statistics and found that we have made tremendous progress since 1850 in terms of nutrition. We have significantly improved access to water and education. Nevertheless, we must recognize that these numbers have worsened over the last 10 years—at least in terms of nutrition. Today, if a ton of feed wheat brings in 175 euros—that's a price we already received in 2019, and back then, inflation was much lower and the cost structures were different. These are facts that make us say: Dear traders, dear public, dear authorities, and dear global trade: This wheat is worth more! (Applause) The added value must benefit the producers as well. This relates to the need to organize global food security. If we don't do that, we'll see migrations, urbanization, and rural areas that become increasingly empty. We have a lot of work to do here, and transformation is necessary.

Dr. Heider mentioned that scientific and technological progress was taken for granted even in the 1980s when I was learning and studying; that we farmers think and act scientifically and try to integrate science into practice. Working with science and nature is embedded in a farmer's DNA. Regarding the education system: As farmers, we always need to keep learning, as the previous speakers have confirmed. We have to recognize that we have a very good dual education system in Germany, with vocational schools, practical training in companies, but also a need for transformation. I believe we need to move away from centralizing and withdrawing funds. Vocational training suffers because of this. The teachers are highly committed, but they lack resources, and they have long commutes—they deserve more support, including better equipment for vocational schools. Even if a dormitory is available, there aren't enough spaces for everyone, and the condition? Worse than when I was in training. Therefore, we need to invest more money there. Moreover, we need to change the system as well.

My experience in training: Young people who want to become farmers should be allowed to do so. Many farms have not trained anyone since the 1990s. I don't have that problem; my crop farming team has an average age of 32 years. I looked at the demographics, looked at my people, and knew when I would need new recruits. I train people even if I don't need them on my own farm. These are young people who want to become farmers, and I give them that opportunity. (Applause) I've been training people since the 1990s, we are part of a training association, and we have an excellent trainer—Ms. Haubold. I've noticed that today's apprentices can read, write, and do math just as poorly as back then, and they are just as incapable of achieving athletic feats. They have heard of ethics—but they want to drive tractors, go full throttle. Then you have to explain: Yes, every practice also includes theoretical training, but the theoretical part is far too high for me. Seneca said around 60 AD: We do not learn for school, but for life. However, with this education system, we have to be careful that we don't end up just learning for school, which is unsuccessful. The teachers may try hard, but if the students aren't ready to learn, it doesn't help much (Laughter). Nevertheless, practically, I have the trainees on-site, I can assess them, and I have the authority to say: Dear young friend, if you're not good at theory, you'll have to make up for it with hard work. (Laughter) In addition, the teacher has no other option, otherwise, they will be sued immediately. If the legal system doesn't allow teachers to assert themselves and gain respect, if these things are missing, it's like a rainy harvest. I have to deal with that.

Public transport is also an issue, especially regional transportation. The apprentices are 16 years old and love riding their mopeds around. However, the journey from our area to Freiberg (to vocational school) is not only a safety risk, but also they also waste at least an hour getting to class and an hour coming back because there simply is not a bus. If we consolidate schools, we also have to ensure that students can get there. That this has to do with finances is clear, but I also know where we waste money that shouldn't be spent—it could be reallocated. Then we would have supported our youth more. I wish for an increase in the practical component. Practice makes perfect.

The education system also needs to be improved for consumers. Professor Schmidtke, I'm grateful that you want to teach consumers where to get quality raw materials. Is it the sausage that's triple-wrapped, gone

through three industrial production stages, and coated with who knows what to make it look nice and shiny so it can sit on the shelf for a long time? We need to tell consumers: Get yourself the right raw materials. If I can serve a beef tenderloin steak that a knife cuts through like butter, that's not because of my cooking skills but because we raised and slaughtered the animal ourselves. We need to convey this to the consumer. They also need to learn that strawberries are best from May to July, but at Christmas, they belong in another region—just one typical example. Seasonality should be accepted, and food security is an issue that many consumers are no longer aware of.

Here's a look at our location again: We have closed loops in all the key areas. The grain facilities where we store the grain from our fields: 20,000 tons. We have a 10,000-ton potato storage, we store grass seeds, and we have a 5,000-head pig fattening facility and a biogas plant to go with it. The potatoes are peeled here as well, the peels are brought to the pig farm, steamed with the help of the biogas plant, and then fed to the pigs. We have no waste; everything has value because we operate in closed loops. Here, you can see that we can employ people who are absolute experts in their respective fields—whether it's pig farming, the biogas plant, or even grain storage. We also have our administration there, mainly women, who handle the numbers. It's my job to tell the tractor driver to go over to the dairy workers and thank them because he prefers driving the tractor. To the office worker, I say: go and thank the dairy worker for milking the cows, and to the dairy worker, I say: go to the office and say, 'Thank you for handling the numbers because I don't have the patience for that.' Hiring specialists is only possible from a certain farm size, but that is also a disadvantage—Mrs. Huber will also talk to me about the EIP. It's a wonderful thing, but it's tied to the funding cap in Saxony. And Dr. Hohmann, you're right, I have a problem with the advisory and control function because our 300 farmers have to endure these capped funding rates, which hinder us from using science and technology, as they cost money. In every survey where I'm asked how much money we invest in research and development, I have to write a zero because that money just isn't there in the 175 euros (per metric ton of wheat). Therefore, it's crucial that we could include the funds for research and development, and for education, in the product prices. Thank you very much.

Daphne Huber

Thank you very much. The applause has shown that you have the audience on your side, as you've shared real-life experiences from the field, and the dedication with which you belong to the best training farms of the year—I congratulate you on that in advance.

Now we are here to engage in a discussion. Mr. Pielke, you mentioned the CAP, and Minister Günther has also hinted at it: one year of CAP-23 has not yet passed. By the end of the year, we will have an evaluation. The acceptance of the newly created Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) hasn't quite worked out. With green and flowering strips, agroforestry, various premiums, and fallow land. Agricultural businesses have mostly said it's not worth the money, firstly because the premiums were very low, and secondly because the bureaucratic burden was too high. Consultants will agree with me that it was sometimes impossible to convey what EU officials had devised at their desks. Mr. Pielke, what will change?

Michael Pielke

One thing we have to say is that with the reform we implemented in the first year, we actually provided more flexibility for member states to design the measures in such a way that they are feasible and appealing. We have certain goals and principles, which we agreed upon with all the agricultural ministers after extensive consultations—including with the public. Many compromises are included. After the first year, we are seeing that the various measures are working to different extents, depending on the member states. At the end of the year, we will present a first report on the programming, showing the adopted plans, and we are in discussions with the member states about how to continue working on this system, with considerable flexibility. This means that measures can also be adapted. The premiums are not centrally set by us; they

are determined by the member states, as is the design of the measures. We want to achieve something with the measures and ensure that they are practical for implementation. Now, we need to see where adjustments are needed. The system explicitly allows for changes to the plans.

Daphne Huber

Thank you very much, it's good that the Commission is responding flexibly. Mr. Herzog, you mentioned the need to form alliances, advisory organizations. How can these be supported in this transformation process to achieve sustainable impact and thereby best support European farmers?

Florian Herzog

How can these networks, like our network here, be better supported? This applies on various levels. First, within our own organization, IALB, we should enable advisors to seek this exchange with other organizations. Then, at the national level, it's about designing support tools for advisory services in such a way that they also allow for the promotion of consultancy, and that it's not just about the direct advisory work with clients, but also the "innovation support services," as the EU calls them, and the "back-office work," which is becoming increasingly important. This networking is becoming more valuable and should be recognized as such. Finally, on the European level, there are already many support measures, such as within the "Horizon Europe" research program, where large amounts of EU funds are being used to build and run such advisory networks in various fields for several years.

Daphne Huber

Mr. Schmidtke, you've managed to find something positive in the transformation: keywords "b2b" (business to business) and "soft skills." How can advisors see something positive in this?

Prof. Knut Schmidtke

Well, the question needs to be phrased slightly differently; it's not that the transformation process is something negative. However, we need to manage to make the process economically successful because we are dealing with businesses that need to make money. We need to take risks, even with the awareness that some things may not work out, but the new will move us forward, not only economically but also in terms of climate protection, biodiversity, and the like. We need to further develop these through instruments on both the national and EU levels. The EIP is quite a good approach because it allows us – and this is very important – to test and develop certain innovations together with practice and advisory services. On the research side, I would like to welcome the EU's "living labs," where from the beginning, stakeholders are involved in the research process, which allows them to help shape the outcomes of applied research. In the end, it's not just about scientific results and publications, but about how these results are applied in practice. Looking to the future, from a scientific perspective, we need to work on identifying the best advisory tools in this innovation process, so that we can achieve the best results with the least effort. In addition, for this, we need scientific institutions to help us analyse these processes and identify the best ways forward.

Daphne Huber

Mr. Gumpert, how about becoming a member of the "Future Commission for Advisory Services"? There are already plans...

Jan Gumpert

There's no question that we should also be concerned about future perspectives; I am firmly convinced that despite all the problems and statistics, with the decline in the number of farms, there will still be farmers in 20, 50, and 100 years. Of course, they will take different forms, and those are the ones we need to advise. You can still learn even at an advanced age, so I'm glad we already have some activities underway. Certainly, some farmers will be asked, "What do you need in advisory services?" Therefore, I welcome every suggestion we can receive.

Daphne Huber

You've set up a professional training association. What does that mean?

Jan Gumpert

There's no money included in product prices for additional tasks. That's why we funded the training association and a new trainer through a subsidy. She is here today as well (Kathleen Haubold). In 2007, three farms joined forces and committed to exchanging trainees among themselves. The big advantage is that they get to know different systems, because even our large and diverse company cannot provide all the training content on its own. One of our partners is the Saxon Teaching and Experimental Farm Köllitsch. We have been working without ploughing since 2001, so we can no longer teach ploughing; since 2017, we have been using automatic milking on a very large rotary, so we can only partially teach manual milking. Automatic milking is a completely different thing: I used to tell employees to take their hands out of their pockets; now I have to tell them to keep their hands in their pockets so they do not interfere with the AI (Artificial Intelligence). These are different worlds, and it is wise to cooperate with other farms, on equal terms, with like-minded people because it always leads to greater success than what can be achieved individually. We were fortunate to be able to hire our trainer, who now looks after 30 apprentices! Fifteen are from us, ten from a second farm, and five from a third. There's also a local agricultural dealer involved, where the apprentices, the technicians (Agricultural Service Specialists), learn about a different operational philosophy. So far, this has been a guarantee that, even now, when the number of applicants in all industries has halved, the numbers for the association have not halved: we still have some choice. Among today's youth, there are also really good young people: What matters most is their passion for the profession—do they want to be farmers? If yes, then we guide them through the training.

Daphne Huber

It certainly looks good to have "Agraset" on your resume.

Mr. Herzog, you talk about teams and networks to tackle interdisciplinary challenges. However, just recently at the DLG Entrepreneurs' Days, when President Hubertus Paetow said that farmers have had enough of political paternalism; he even spoke of a "policy of prohibition"—how do you manage to reconnect and face these challenges?

Florian Herzog

First, it is important—and our member farms in Austria are well positioned for this—that we make it clear that we are partners and we are all in this transformation process together, regardless of the framework conditions. Secondly, we have the task of ensuring that the need for change also requires adjustments in how we work and live—this must be more strongly carried into practice. Conversely, as a Chamber of Agriculture, we are not only active in advising but also in representing interests: We need to ensure that we bring practical solutions back into politics. It's a dynamic system, but we do have influence. We communicate to farmers that they should actively participate, either through intermediary organizations or directly. The most important thing is the partnership-based cooperation to ensure that no one is left alone to deal with the challenges.

Daphne Huber

Moreover, this shows how important soft skills are, along with the partnership-based relationship with the farm. Mr. Schmidtke, as a scientist, you always look into the crystal ball, and we have heard it several times today already: digitalization and AI are coming our way. Mr. Gumpert also touched on this—both in the barn and in the field... Do you think that advisors and farmers will have to adjust to this almost unimaginable world of artificial intelligence?

Prof. Knut Schmidtke

I believe that in certain areas, it will become important to use these technologies in the future. The key will be to ensure that smart and meaningful multiplications take place to bring this into practice. However, scientists often want more than what is practically feasible. That is why we need very well trained advisors and vocational school teachers who know how to handle these new tools wisely. The distinction will be: what makes sense, what doesn't? We need to start educating and training stakeholders in a timely manner so that they can pass this on when needed. There's no question that these technical innovations will become widespread in many agricultural processes. Agriculture is a multifunctional system, and AI can contribute to managing it better.

Daphne Huber

Mr. Pielke, you've heard the wishes and suggestions, so my question is to the EU Commission—how much has reached you regarding what's happening in rural regions to prepare for digitalization? What support is coming from Brussels?

Michael Pielke

Of course, this has reached us, and in some cases, we actively accompany the programs; colleagues are in the regions and receive feedback from the operational groups. What we see in the projects, in the networks, all reaches us, and I believe that the topic of digitalization has been strongly initiated by us in the past, especially for rural areas, with the demand for broadband networks. Internet access will become an important factor for location, digitalization, and "precision farming." These are methods we have, of course, supported in our funding, both in investments and in knowledge transfer, advisory services, etc. There's a lot more flexibility now, including for member states, to define what they want to support and what not. The possibilities within the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) are there to support these adaptation processes, as our member states need. We say, look at what we offer, and tailor the measure to your farmers and

challenges. If we see that in the program, that it is done and justified in this way—then you're knocking on open doors with us.

Daphne Huber

Therefore, as you've heard, Brussels is very open. However, I believe you, the audience, are also open to this.

Jan Gumpert

I have a question about that, Mr. Pielke: What is the situation with you? How is internet access, especially in rural areas in Saxony? Do you have any information on how we are connected?

Michael Pielke

I am not personally responsible for Saxony. What I do know is that there are problems with it in many rural regions. In addition, we have repeatedly said that more needs to be done in this area. There are also EU funds available for this. Of course, I can't say from my desk where broadband access is being built in Saxony. That's the task of shared management—we agree with member states on what the program goals are, but the selection of projects and their implementation is primarily the responsibility of the member states, and that makes sense. I don't want to approve projects from here like the one my colleagues did in the early 1970s—I can't imagine that. I am a big supporter of shared management. I believe in identifying common concerns and goals that should be co-financed at the European level, but the selection of projects and implementation should remain the responsibility of the member state. We have now made this more flexible, and this is a concept that will move us forward.

Jan Gumpert

Thank you, but we can't ignore this issue. In some rural areas, our internet access is still so weak that we can't do certain things. Online meetings are usually fine, but if, for example, I want to control machines, we simply don't have enough capacity in the village, no 5G as is the goal. Therefore, I would be happy if shared management communicated so well that one party recommends doing something, provides the funds, and the other party reports it's been done—so it doesn't take so long.

Michael Pielke

I agree with you there.

Daphne Huber

The message has been received in Brussels. We see that the performance of Eastern German farms in using digital technology is far ahead of, for example, Austria or the German average. Tomorrow, during the excursion day, you will be able to get an overview of this with the various offerings.

Now we are coming to the end of this morning; I would like to say that today we've all taken away a wealth of new ideas, announcements, and practical relevance. Mr. Schmidtke, you will accompany us on the path of transformation, and I appreciate your groundedness as a scientist, keeping the connection to practice. Mr. Herzog, you will be running a workshop this afternoon and will bring significant input. Mr. Gumpert, you

are already set for next time, as a master trainer that you are. I would like to thank you all very much for your participation! Before we leave the stage, I would like to invite Kerstin Lässig to the stage. She is the Head of Education at LfULG, and she has something to present to you.

Kerstin Lässig

Dear Ms. Huber, I would like to say a few short words. The organizers have given me really nice tasks: yesterday, I had the pleasure of accompanying you on a paddle steamer on the Elbe in the most beautiful sunshine, and today, on behalf of the organizers, IALB, EUFRAS, SEAS, and the speakers, I would like to thank you and present you with our “Enjoy Saxony” bag. This is not only a token of appreciation and a contribution to food security, but we also want to symbolically present these products to speakers from outside the Free State of Saxony so they will remember us. For our speakers from Saxony, especially those from practice, we want to emphasize that we are very proud of our regional products and very proud of our agriculture, and as an administration, with all our possibilities and passion, we are happy to accompany the transformation process. Now I would like to invite our speakers to the front. Dear Mr. Pielke, thank you very much for your contribution from afar!

Daphne Huber

While the gifts are being handed out, I would like to invite you to lunch. Please also take note of the poster exhibition; the many submissions show how well this activity has been received. You can participate by casting your votes into the respective bag at the posters. On Wednesday, we will award prizes to the posters with the highest approval ratings. After lunch, we will meet again at 2:00 PM for the workshops.

5 Workshops

Workshops - Overview

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

- W1 [Digitalisation](#)
- W2 [AKIS in the European context](#)
- W3 [Consulting organisation and management](#)
- W4 [Regional Value Creation](#)
- W5 [Nature conservation and agriculture](#)
- W6 [Animal welfare](#)
- W7 [Development of rural areas](#)
- W8 [Climate and resource protection](#)
- W9 [Organic farming](#)
- W10 [Operational Management](#)
- W11 [Young EUFRAS \(in Englisch\)](#)

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W1 Digitisation

Digital Transformation in Agriculture – Requirements for Education and Advising - Digital forms of teaching and learning in vocational and adult education

FairShare - Digital Advisory Tools

This EU 2020 Horizon project 2018 - 2023 has created an inventory of digital tools for agricultural extension. In more than 40 case studies, extensionists and researchers have developed digital tools and put them into practice. At the end of the program, they conducted trainings based on adult learning. In the workshop, we will experience one of the case study trainings ourselves and learn about principles of adult learning. In the workshop we will discuss how we can improve mutual learning at the interface between digital tools and human competences.

Hybrid mobile teaching and consultation settings - opportunities and limitations

Hybrid settings combine presence and online at the same time. Participants who are not on site should not be at a disadvantage and should be actively involved in the consultation setting or seminar if possible. Participants can be present in the seminar room or in the field or barn while others follow and participate in the online space. In the workshop, you will learn about various forms of hybrid advisory and seminar settings as well as different technical and didactic application scenarios.

Digital crop production in the annual cycle - a practical workshop series for junior farm managers

This innovative consulting and training project is about demonstrating the possibilities of digital crop production based on agronomic principles and rules, creating transparency about digital data generation and its processing. An important part of the transfer project is the experimental implementation of the acquired knowledge in agricultural practice. For this purpose, the respective learning module is tested in practice on experimental areas. In a designed self-study part there is the possibility to apply the knowledge to own conditions (field) under guidance.

Assessing the impact of digital agriculture solutions

»QuantiFarm« supports the further deployment of digital technologies in agriculture as key enablers for enhancing the sustainability performance and competitiveness of the agricultural sector. In recent years, the interest and the introduction of digital technologies in agriculture and food production has increased rapidly, but in practice there is often reticence about the lasting benefits. This is where the project comes in, based on facts and figures.

Speaker:

Raquel Caetano Ferreira, Teagasc, Ireland, FAIRshare Program Coordinator
 Lasse Schmidt Jespersen, Plant Breeding Advisor, Patriotisk Selskab, Farmers' Union of Denmark
 Prof. Dr. Patricia Fry, HAFL, Switzerland (WP 6.5 Trainings FairShare) h2020fairshare.eu
 Prof. Dr. Elfriede Berger MA BEd, University of Agricultural and Environmental Education Vienna
 Prof. Dr. -Ing. habil. Thomas Herlitzius, Dresden University of Technology [Zertifikatskurs \(YouTube\)](#)
 Marcus Rombach, Deputy Head of Animal Husbandry, AGRIDEA, Switzerland quantifarm.eu

Moderation:

Prof. Dr. Patricia Fry, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL,
 Bern University of Applied Sciences

Methods:

Insight into various technical and didactical hybrid mobile settings.
 Moderated exchange; elaboration and documentation of results and conclusions.



Summary of the Workshop

Prof. Dr. Patricia Fry from Bern University of Applied Sciences welcomed the participants and presented the goals of the workshop: What are the future challenges in education and counseling regarding the digital transformation in agriculture?

FairShare – Digital Advisory Tools

The FAIRShare project was presented by three speakers. Project coordinator Raquel Caetano Ferreira (Teagasc, Ireland) first described the project's main concept. FAIRShare aims to prepare advisors to equip farmers for the digital age. The focus is on four key themes: Findable, Available, Interoperable, Reusable, and Shareable. To bridge the digital divide, digital tools, the expertise of advisors, and the motivation of farmers are needed. FAIRShare raises awareness and availability of digital advisory tools. Digital technologies in agriculture (DATs) are tested and continuously adapted in 42 use cases across Europe.

Lasse Jespersen Schmidt, a crop-breeding advisor from the Danish Farmers' Union, presented one use case, DIGI-WEED. Mr. Jespersen Schmidt could not be present, so his presentation was recorded, allowing participants to follow his words easily. The DIGI-WEED use case supports farmers in weed control. After the brief introduction, participants were engaged using the Mentimeter survey. The survey started with general questions like "Where do you live?" and then moved to more specific questions like "Which weed do you hate the most?" Field horsetail ranked first. Lasse Jespersen Schmidt continued and explained which weeds were covered in DIGI-WEED. These were recorded with a camera for training purposes and more targeted application of herbicides. One result was that the software identified more weeds than an advisor. Participants actively tested this by using their phones and Mentimeter to mark weeds on various images. The conclusion of the use case is that camera-based weed identification is more accurate, allowing more time for consultations with the advisor.

Prof. Dr. Patricia Fry concluded by discussing the training approach in FAIRShare. Emphasis is placed on experiential learning in adult education, following the ARIVA model – Arrive, Reactivate, Inform, Process, and Evaluate. Key takeaways from the "Train the Trainer" sessions were the necessity of didactic implementation, fostering experience exchange, using moderation tools, and acknowledging differences in learning between students and adults. Participants agreed on the importance of experience exchange and using tools to enhance learning and the use of digital tools.

Hybrid Mobile Teaching and Counseling Settings – Opportunities and Limitations

After a break, Prof. Dr. Elfriede Berger from the University College for Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy in Vienna discussed mobile teaching and counseling settings. A key statement was: "A paradigm shift is happening – the question is no longer: What can take place online, but what must still be offered in person...". To support this, Prof. Dr. Berger showed various videos and possibilities for conducting online consultations and learning units. She then presented the appropriate technology along with its advantages and disadvantages. Online and hybrid events have the benefits of supporting rural areas, reducing costs, and promoting networking at regional, national, and international levels. Workshop 1 participants had mixed experiences.

Digital Crop Production in the Annual Cycle – A Workshop Series for Junior Farm Managers

Prof. Dr. Thomas Herlitzius from the Technical University of Dresden spoke about the "Digital Crop Production in the Annual Cycle" project. The project started from the fact that politics, the market, science, and development have different goals and ideas about digitalization. However, the key global question is: "What added value does digitalization actually bring?" The main goal in transforming agriculture is not digitalization itself, but Smart Farming as automation, which relieves rather than burdens the farmer. The approach of digital crop production in the annual cycle is to learn precision farming within a season and apply it in agricultural practice. Two 21-day cycles with six modules each demonstrated the possibilities of digital crop production. The hurdles were mainly high acquisition and maintenance costs, lack of trust in

technology, services, and skills. Participants were very satisfied with the training opportunity, with some exceeding their expectations.

Evaluating the Impact of Digital Agricultural Solutions

Dr. Marcus Rombach, Deputy Head of Livestock at AGRIDEA, gave an overview of the QuantiFarm project. The project aims to evaluate the impact of digital technologies in agriculture under real conditions. Thirty-two partners from 20 European countries work on 30 different test cases in ten biogeographic regions. The challenge that QuantiFarm addresses is the increased interest and investment in digital technologies in agriculture. These DATs offer many benefits but are only slowly and limitedly adopted in agriculture. The main goal is to use DATs to improve sustainability and strengthen the agricultural sector's competitiveness. The QuantiFarm Academy for Digital Innovation (DIA) focuses on strengthening advisors' capacities in DATs (training, recommendations, guidelines, etc.) using the train-the-trainer concept. These trainings take place nationally and across Europe.

The workshop on digitalization concluded with a Padlet and the question, "What are the key requirements for education and counseling for the digital transformation in agriculture?" The main requirements were that practical foundations must be created to use digital tools effectively. Digital tools should primarily offer advantages and not generate additional effort.

[Padlet with the Summary of Workshop 1 "Digitalization"
and the Presentations of the Speakers](#)



Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W2 AKIS in the European context

Enhancing the role of advisors in supporting innovation, improving knowledge flows and building collaborations across the agricultural knowledge and innovation system

Agriculture and forestry are facing significant challenges, which require a transition to more sustainable, climate-smart and resilient systems. An effective **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)** is key for meeting these challenges and the successful implementation of the CAP as well as achieving visionary goals of the European Green Deal.

Advisors are expected to play a crucial role in the AKIS, linking farmers with other stakeholders and supporting innovation at grass-roots level and the overall modernization of the sector. The workshop will feature a number of case studies from across Europe that highlight good practices in terms of better integrating advisors in the AKIS. The workshop also aims to offer a platform for advisors and other AKIS stakeholders to explore advisors' expected new role in innovation support services. It will give participants the opportunity to experience tools and methods used to encourage interactive innovation.

The workshop will highlight insights from AKIS-relevant Horizon projects, especially modernAKIS, i2connect and ATTRACTISS).

Websites: modernakis.eu; i2connect-h2020.eu; attractiss.eu

Moderation/Speakers:

Sylvain Sturel, Agricultural Chamber of France

Mark Gibson, Teagasc (Ireland), Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Methods:

Methodology will be further elaborated and adapted to the number of registered participants.



Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W3 Consulting organization and management

Consulting models in different sponsorship and structures

» *Nothing is as constant as change* « (HERAKLIT)

It seems to be an inherent principle of "consulting" that - compared to other service or administrative areas - it has to face very frequently changing requirements - if it wants to be successful in the long run. On the one hand, it is new content and methods that require constant further development; on the other hand, it is the changing institutional and resource conditions for the counseling services that demand a high degree of willingness to change on the part of the actors.

The counseling landscape has become more "colourful" in recent years, and the structures more diverse and complex. Whereas a few years ago it was still possible to differentiate quite clearly between the providers or systems, especially between state-supported or official counseling and private-sector counseling, transitional and cooperative forms are increasingly emerging. In addition to the original demand for consulting on the part of the companies, the public interest in the respective consulting fields also plays a decisive role. For example, binding consulting mandates result from (growing) legal regulations or from professional policy requirements, in order to be able to effectively communicate "public welfare issues" in practice.

Other factors influencing the further development of consulting result from the state of science and technology, above all digitization and the management of operational data, the demand for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral consulting services, financial viability, combined with the possibilities of government funding, and controlling for quality assurance.

The recruitment and qualification of suitable young consultants is emerging as a new major challenge.

The workshop should give an insight based on selected consulting models and regions and lead to a discussion regarding structures, topics, financing, controlling of consulting and the necessity of knowledge exchange between the consultants. In the process, many a "pro" and "con" is pre-programmed.

... from Austria (Chambers of Agriculture Austria):

Systems of consulting management in Austria, with certification according to ISO 9001:2015

Planning, control and success control of extension processes

The support of farmers through extension represents a central task area of the Chambers of Agriculture in Austria. Since 2014, the Chambers of Agriculture as a group have been certified according to ISO 9001:2015 in the business field of extension.

The implementation of a certified quality management system helps to continuously improve the range of advisory services.

The focus of the quality management system in consulting is on the

- Meeting customer requirements,
- Provision of professional consulting services,
- Satisfaction of consulting clients,
- Further development of the consulting services offered, and
- Optimization of internal processes.

Standards in service provision and the documentation of consulting results as well as the digital availability of all templates and documents related to the respective consulting offer ensure the possibility of knowledge management on farms for the entire organization of a chamber of agriculture. The possibility of generating key figures contributes significantly to ongoing monitoring of the demand for the offers and the performance of the organization.

Extension coordination - an effective support tool:

The Austrian Chambers of Agriculture are committed to professional extension coordination under the leadership of Dipl.-Ing. Florian Herzog, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture. At intervals of about six weeks, online advisory jour fixes are held for about two hours. The variety of topics is large and ranges from coordination in the development of joint consulting products, cross-state consulting activities, further training to questions of consultant support. This regular exchange between those responsible for extension with the extension coordination makes it possible to develop modern and future-oriented offers and thus to support agricultural enterprises in the best possible way.

Further information: lko.at



... from the Free State of Bavaria (Germany):

Consultancy for agricultural enterprises in Bavaria - concept of the association consulting

Across Bavaria, the 32 Offices of Food, Agriculture and Forestry offer free advisory services with a focus on public welfare and strategic business and innovation consulting. The content or topics range from biodiversity, regionality, organic farming, animal welfare, water quality and climate change to nutrition education, home-based services, direct marketing and diversification. Depending on the topic and demand, different methods are used, ranging from individual and group counseling to various information formats. This offer of public welfare consulting is complemented by the fee-based consulting services of the recognized non-governmental network partners in 16 defined consulting fields with a focus on production technology, which are funded by the StMELF. These network partners must meet certain uniform minimum criteria and must therefore be certified.

Further information: stmelf.bayern.de



... from Brandenburg (Germany):

Development of consulting in eastern Germany - private consulting

“Landwirtschaftliche Beratung der Agrarverbände Brandenburg GmbH” (LAB GmbH) is a consulting and support company in the agricultural sector that has been successfully operating in the state of Brandenburg as a subsidiary of the agricultural associations since 1992.

»Over 30 years of LAB consulting for the farmers, horticulturists and fishermen of the state of Brandenburg - no consulting company is as close to the agricultural business as LAB GmbH with its 10 consulting offices and the centrally acting business units: This is the only way to provide comprehensive management consulting throughout Brandenburg with regional expertise and supra-regional knowledge transfer from the Prignitz to the Spreewald. ... «

»LAB GmbH advises and supports around 1,000 farms in agriculture, horticulture and inland fishing on a contractually regulated basis. ...«

Workshop Topics:

- Development of consulting in Eastern Germany, especially in Brandenburg.
- Advantages and disadvantages of private consulting-subsidized and unsubsidized
- Small and large consulting companies-what are the consequences of an inconsistent consulting landscape?
- Status quo and outlook: Requirements for consulting
- Possibilities and necessities of knowledge exchange between consulting organizations

»New requirements are understood as collaborative challenges to both the farmer and the extension agent and are used as opportunities for the agricultural industry. « (Dr. Matthias Platen, Managing Director)

Further information: lab-agrarberatung.de

**... from the Free State of Saxony (Germany):**

Development of the advisory service in East Germany - Official advisory service

In Saxony, there have been serious changes in the range of advisory services offered in the last 20 years the former State Offices for Agriculture/Horticulture, now Promotion and Technical Education Centres with Information and Service Centres at the State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology (LfULG).

Because of extensive resource-related downsizing measures, consulting fields with predominantly private-sector benefits were abandoned and left to the free consulting market.

The remaining state capacities were concentrated on consulting services that result from technical legislation (e.g. Water Framework Directive) or a special public interest. In order to compensate for the limited possibilities of individual consulting, the LfULG has established a comprehensive information and training program. This is also taken into account by the principle of unity of teaching and consulting.

Due to the wide range of tasks of the LfULG, there are starting points for an increased interdisciplinary knowledge transfer. One focus is on the recruitment and qualification of young professionals for use in vocational training and further education (technical colleges) and specialist legal advice.

Speakers:

Ing. Fritz Stocker, chamber director, deputy; consulting consultant and

Dipl.-Päd. Elisabeth Reith, consultant for organizational development, Styrian Chamber of Agriculture
Sonja Keck-Herreiner, Head of Department "Extension Management and Controlling", Bavarian State
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (StMELF)

Dr. Matthias Platen, Managing Director LAB GmbH

Gabriele Uhlemann, Head of the Promotion and Technical Training Center Nossen (LfULG Saxony)

Moderation:

Gabriele Uhlemann

Methods:

Impulse lectures with discussion, group work

Summary of the Workshop

"How is counseling organized, managed, and coordinated?"

"Who funds the counseling?"

"What topics are covered?"

"What makes counseling successful - and does it even exist?" ...

These and other questions sparked discussion in Workshop 3 on the topic of "Counseling Organization and Strategy" on Monday, September 11, in the conference hall of the Congress Center Dresden.

Moderator Ms. **Gabriele Uhlemann** (Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology, LfULG) welcomed the attendees (see attachment) and introduced the afternoon program.

Starting, **Dipl.-Päd. Elisabeth Reith** (Chamber of Agriculture **Austria**) reported on the organization of the Chambers of Agriculture and the development of Austria's counseling management "from lone warriors to organized counseling coordination." Since 2014, a certified QMS system for counselor funding and a regularly meeting counseling working group have been gradually introduced. Together with **Ing. Fritz Stocker** (Chamber of Agriculture Austria), she presented the application program "LK-Data" usable for organization and counseling. Both speakers emphasized that farming families face diverse demands and that a balance between the "traditional" and "new" is possible. Bundling competencies within organizations and close networking between the responsible actors are key to efficient, effective, and successful service in line with the motto "bundle - network - accompany."

The moderator then gave an insight into the development of counseling in **Saxony**. Private counseling on water, nature, and herd protection commissioned by LfULG and others complements official counseling on professional and public welfare-oriented focal points. The separation of counseling from control tasks is omnipresent. Counseling competence will be further developed in the future, also through synergy effects within the organization and active recruitment to ensure quality and continuity.

Dr. Matthias Platen (Agricultural Counseling of the Agricultural Associations Brandenburg GmbH) spoke about the development of (private) counseling in East Germany using the example of **Brandenburg**. He informed about the cooperation with shareholders and introduced the cooperation partners of LAB GmbH. Socioeconomic counseling, business development counseling, environmental, energy efficiency, and production technology counseling are seen as desirable focal points in counseling activities. Finally, the advantages and disadvantages of "small" and "large" counseling companies were discussed because of a heterogeneous counseling landscape in East Germany.

From the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry (StMELF), Ms. **Sonja Keck-Herreiner** presented the concept of networked counseling in **Bavaria**. State-recognized counseling providers in cooperation with state counseling contact points complete the counseling offer. The Bavarian way of counseling ensures a comprehensive, neutral, affordable, and high-quality counseling service for all farms. Nevertheless, the system is very complex, and the interplay between state and networked counseling, as well as the handling of counseling cases and economic viability, are challenging.

The range of topics in the individual counseling models and the interest from participants suggested that the series of presentations could not be completed within the allotted time. Following a short coffee break, a thematic discussion in four small groups began. After clarifying the task, participants gathered at the stations under the guidance of the speakers to engage in a 20-minute intensive exchange and record their results on prepared pin boards.

Group 1: Requirements for counselors between individual farm and societal interests

It was noted that counselors in the future must possess more than just technical qualifications. Demand counseling is based on an operational or individual farm question. Free offers should be made for public welfare topics in the public interest.

Group 2: State counseling versus private counseling – potentials of different counseling structures

Group 2 concluded similarly, assigning "public welfare topics" to state counseling for implementing sociopolitical requirements and mandates. Topics focused on business well-being, which are closely related to production and business development, are primarily the domain of private counseling. A hybrid approach could represent transformation counseling, emphasizing bundling and efficiency.

Group 3: Professional counseling coordination, networking, and knowledge management

Counseling coordination requires a clear delineation of subject areas. Using synergies is part of networking among partners involved in counseling services. A good relationship with the customer is equally important. Viewing competitors not as rivals but as added value expands the counseling offer and helps generate new knowledge.

Group 4: Framework conditions for successful counseling and transfer to practice

The success of counseling is ultimately defined by supporting decision-making and customer satisfaction. The counselor brings current methodological and technical knowledge and possesses strong social skills. The counselor must recognize the limits of their own actions and allow "networking" with other actors.

In summary, the collective bundling and utilization of synergies are important and increasingly necessary due to growing complexity, not only within organizations but also in collaboration with "external" non-state partners. Additionally, continuity in quality and methodology can only be maintained through continuous recruitment. Expertise and current application programs form the basis.

Oliver Barthel, Speaker



A View into the Workshop Hall, Photo LfJLG

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W4 Regional Value Creation

Regional value creation: the role and effectiveness of education and extension in the context of regional value chain development and social farming

In almost all regions of Europe, rural areas are facing the challenge of positioning themselves competitively and sustainably in a knowledge-based and globalized economy. This requires innovations that both focus more strongly again on the "rural traditional" and take into account the future social, economic and environmental requirements of society. In the structural change that is inevitably taking place in rural areas, the opportunities for strengthening regional initiatives must also be seen and exploited in the changes. Regional value chains are the appropriate response to the gaps in production, marketing, infrastructure and energy security as well as social services created by globalization. Providing the appropriate expertise to find solutions plays a central role.

Based on the two pillars

- Regional production and marketing of products as well as
- Social services

the workshop will work out what education and consulting can achieve in the context of regional value creation and what this means in terms of professional and methodological competencies and the and methodological competencies and the self-image of the consultants.

Part 1:

In the first part of the workshop, four initiatives and projects from different areas of regional value creation will be presented and their special features will be discussed:

Soziale Landwirtschaft Bayern e.V. (Dr. Viktoria Lofner-Meir)

The diversification in the field of social agriculture makes high demands on the consulting. The public welfare-oriented benefit of the diverse forms of social farming is undisputed, but the business value creation of social farming depends on many factors. This will be illustrated and discussed using two examples of social farming.

Further information: soziale-landwirtschaft-bayern.org



Project for the creation of regional supply chains COREnet (Christian Jochum)

Short supply chains have a growing importance in all EU countries, but often against a very different social and economic background. The twin projects "COREnet" and "EU4advice" pursue the common goal of establishing an advisory network for short supply chains for all 27 member states. Project duration is 2022 to 2027.

Further information: shortfoodchain.eu; eu4advice.eu



Basic housekeeping knowledge as a resource for social services (Andrea Bory, Simone Hunziker)

The housekeeping of the farm offers a versatile field of activity, in which people with different previous knowledge can bring in their competences and passions. If the person in charge is trained in housekeeping, additional areas can be developed and deepened. This is an ideal prerequisite to offer care services of all kinds, adding value to all. The tools provided for the training, such as the guide for "services of the household" or the planning tool "labour budget" will be presented.

Further information: agridea.abacuscity.ch; arbeitsvoranschlag.ch



Saxon Agency for Regional Food - AgiL (Konstantin Klein)

AgiL supports actors in the agricultural and food sector in establishing, developing and strengthening regional value chains in Saxony. The three pillars of the agency's work are information, networking and consulting. Previous experiences and challenges in the consulting work are presented on the basis of practical examples.

Further information: agilsachsen.de

**Part 2:**

In the second part, the participants will discuss the requirements for consulting, proposals for a practice-oriented cross-border networking as well as conclusions regarding the requirements for the professional qualification and self-image of consultants.

Speakers:

Dr. Viktoria Lofner-Meir - Soziale Landwirtschaft Bayern e.V (Social Agriculture Bavaria e.V.)

Christian Jochum – Project COREnet, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

Konstantin Klein – Saxon Agency for Regional Food (AgiL), Saxony

Andrea Bory, Simone Hunziker (AGRIDEA), Switzerland

Moderation:

Heike Delling (AgiL)

Methods:

- Presentation of best-practice examples
- Moderated exchange of experiences
- Suitable form of visualization

Summary of the Workshop

Regional value chains are the suitable answer to the gaps in production, marketing, infrastructure, and social services created by globalization. This workshop aimed to explore what education and counseling can achieve in the context of regional production and marketing of products and social services.

In the first part of the workshop, four initiatives and projects from different areas of regional value creation were presented. The presentations of the speakers are attached.

Social Farming Association (Dr. Viktoria Lofner-Meir)

In this lecture, Dr. Viktoria Lofner-Meir introduced the Social Farming Association and discussed the economics of social farming. She started by outlining the goals of the association, which include raising awareness of social farming, networking actors, and offering further education. Social farming offers diverse opportunities, allowing everyone to find their niche. Potential target groups include children and youth, people with disabilities, seniors, and people with dementia, addicts, and those with mental illnesses. To successfully start in social farming, certain preliminary considerations are necessary, including legal regulations, labour needs, financial investments, and marketing. Dr. Lofner-Meir then presented calculation data, including working time, investments, financing, revenues, and costs. She demonstrated these calculations with two examples: a donkey hike for people with mental disorders at Achhammer Farm and an outdoor workplace for people with disabilities. These and other practical tips can be found in the Practical Handbook of Social Farming. In conclusion, Dr. Lofner-Meir stated that social farming is a delicate plant. It requires time, empathy, patience, and costs from the entire family. Every family member must feel

comfortable with it. Social farming improves people's quality of life and provides a high public welfare benefit, making it a win-win situation for all involved.

COREnet (Christian Jochum)

Christian Jochum from the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture presented the Horizon Europe project COREnet in this short lecture. The project's goal is to establish an EU advisory network for shorter supply chains, involving 13 partner organizations from 10 countries. Jochum explained the project's approach: After assessing the current situation in all EU countries, "golden cases" are identified to demonstrate the role of counseling. These lead to flagship projects to display the ideal role of counseling. A network is then developed for cross-border contact and exchange. Jochum emphasized that the project is still developing, and while partner organizations with extensive experience are promising, national contact points are still being sought.

Household Basic Knowledge as a Resource for Social Services (Andrea Bory, Simone Hunziker)

The two speakers from AGRIDEA presented caregiving services on farms as a supplement to agricultural income. They illustrated this with an example: A family farm in Emmental wants to offer day structures for social services. The basic requirements (e.g., family acceptance, personal suitability, time) are met. After presenting the core information about the farm and family, the speakers explained the calculation of farm data using "Labourscope", a tool provided by the counseling centre to determine the working time of family members. This was demonstrated with the practical farm example. "LabourBudget" shows the required working time for all farm branches and the estimated income, giving the farm an overview of the necessary working time and income. These tools can calculate the profitability of social services during counseling.

Saxon Agency for Regional Food – AgiL (Konstantin Klein)

AgiL supports actors in the agriculture and food industry in building, developing, and strengthening regional value chains in Saxony. Konstantin Klein introduced the project. AgiL consists of eight colleagues from different fields, with the project running until November 2025, funded by the Free State of Saxony. The client is the State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology. The agency's three pillars are information, networking, and counseling, demonstrated through practical examples such as the "Farm-near Slaughtering" networking meeting and the "Food Labeling" workshop. AgiL's counseling is divided into specialist counseling, referral counseling, and process accompaniment, aiming to provide a low-threshold offer for the agriculture and food industry. Klein presented the four phases of process accompaniment with practical examples and concluded by listing the project's key challenges, including measuring success, creating binding commitments, and project duration. He summarized that only the combination of technical and methodological expertise can lead to success.

In the second part of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to discuss the requirements for counseling under the aspect of regional value creation in four groups. They worked on self-perception, framework conditions and challenges, as well as professional and methodological competencies of counseling. The results were recorded on pin boards, with photos from the workshop attached to the email. After the work phase, accompanied by one of the short lecture speakers, moderator Heike Delling (AgiL) presented the results and facilitated a plenary discussion. In summary, the basis of counseling is honesty from both parties, a service-oriented approach, and counselor engagement. Counseling should aid decision-making rather than provide rigid solutions. The framework conditions for counseling in regional value creation depend on political will, with participants desiring a reliable, long-term strategy. A low-threshold access is important to ensure the service is utilized. The counselor must possess interdisciplinary knowledge to provide comprehensive advice. The remuneration of the service depends on the framework conditions. The challenge in counseling is extensive bureaucracy, which hinders focusing on the actual matter. Additionally, quality management of counseling results is another challenge; the quality of the counselor is difficult to assess, and the results and actions of the counseled business are hard to follow, which is necessary for improving the counseling concept. During the counseling, a trustful basis and thorough current situation analysis are crucial for success, requiring much experience from the counselor. Besides

experience, methodological skills like conversation techniques are necessary. The counselor should "translate" technical knowledge for the client and coach them throughout the project. Regular training and further education are needed to keep the counselor updated and continuously improve their skills. According to the participants, knowledge in cost calculation, labour time requirements, and business planning is fundamental. Only the right framework conditions, the counselor's self-perception, and methodological and technical knowledge can overcome challenges and enable effective and sustainable counseling.

After discussing the results, moderator **Heike Delling** collected feedback on the workshop. Participants appreciated the input of new projects and the extensive time for exchange and discussions.



Presentation of the results by Heike Delling, Photo LfULG

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W5 Nature conservation and agriculture

Nature conservation and agriculture in dialogue - building up and maintaining competencies in the long term

Biodiversity conservation is a necessary and urgent global challenge. Species extinction has reached a rate unprecedented in Earth's history. The report on the global state of biodiversity presented in 2019 by the World Biodiversity Council (IPBES) sees more than one million species threatened with extinction. In Saxony, nearly two-thirds of the species of European importance are in an unfavorable or poor conservation status. Agriculture plays a decisive role in this context due to its significant land use. The use of biodiversity-enhancing measures is essential to reverse this trend.

Advice and knowledge transfer for farms as an accompanying offer support the acceptance and adoption of the measures and create understanding for the major challenges in the field of biodiversity. Sufficiently qualified advisors anchored in rural areas are essential for a turnaround.

The Saxon wolf management is coordinated and implemented in the Wolf Unit at the LfULG. The tasks of the wolf management include crack assessment and monitoring as well as education and information on all aspects of the wolf issue. The livestock farms are a very important target group, especially for advice on herd protection, promotion and damage compensation.

In the workshop, first, three impulse lectures on wolf management in Saxony and in particular on herd protection consulting (Wolf Saxony), on nature conservation consulting in Saxony (Nature Conservation Consulting Saxony) and on consultant training in Switzerland (Biodiversity Consulting) will introduce the topic. Afterwards the groups "wolf management" and "biodiversity consulting" are formed.

In the group "Wolf Management" experiences will be exchanged and discussed how livestock keepers - full-time and part-time farmers but also small livestock keepers - can best be reached with herd protection advice. How can livestock farmers be motivated to provide the best possible herd protection? How can factual information on herd protection, promotion and compensation for damage be provided against the background of the current political and sometimes emotional debate?

In the "Biodiversity Consulting" group, experiences are to be exchanged and discussed on how land users can best be reached and how biodiversity consulting can be expanded as an attractive field of work and established in the long term. How can land managers be motivated to make use of advisory services? What methods and tools can be used to best communicate knowledge? How can more biodiversity advisors be recruited and what qualifications are required? - These and other questions will be addressed in the workshop. The aim is to compile successful approaches as a pool of ideas.

Speakers:

Wolf Management in Saxony: Fachstelle Wolf, LfULG, Saxony

Nature conservation consulting in Saxony: Carola Schneier, LfULG, Saxony

Training course in whole farm biodiversity consulting in Switzerland: Corinne Zurbrügg, AGRIDEA, Switzerland

Moderation:

Ulf Jansen, LfULG, Saxony

Methods:

Moderated work in 2 groups:

Group "Wolf Management": Head of the Wolf Unit, LfULG, Saxony

Group "Biodiversity consulting": Ulf Jansen, LfULG, Saxony

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W6 Animal welfare

(How) Does consulting need to be rethought? How to balance societal with farm interests?

1. How can animal welfare be measured?

Animal welfare proof and physiological management with the latest sensor technology and software.

Report on experiences from the collaborative projects of the European and German Innovation Partnership (EIP, DIP) on the "animal welfare traffic light" for dairy cows. Presentation: New approach away from the "folding rule method" to physiological measurement on the animal by combining the latest sensor technology on the animal with software and QM systems. Presentation of the new traffic light system for animal welfare proof to the outside and as a self-control and management system for the farms with the aim of combining the animal welfare proof idea with a labour and business benefit for the farmer within the framework of herd management.

LAB-Agricultural Consulting of the Agricultural Associations Brandenburg GmbH

Further information: lab-agrarberatung.de



2. Knowledge transfer - qualification offers for the practice under integration of the science

Example: role of the Competence Center for Hoof Health in animal welfare-focused knowledge exchange.

Diseases of the locomotor system of cows have been among the most frequent causes of culling in Saxon dairy herds in recent years, which also entails considerable economic losses. In order to improve claw health and thus animal health and welfare of cloven-hoofed animals in Saxony, the project "Establishment of a Competence Center for Claw Health in Saxony" was launched.

"Our concern is to transfer knowledge into practice. However, we do not see ourselves as classic treaters of diseases, but as animal health managers. This means working with farms to develop a strategy to ensure animal welfare and prevent disease. "

(Prof. Alexander Starke, Bauernzeitung 6-2023)

Further information: vetmed.uni-leipzig.de/klinik-fuer-klauentiere



Claw care. Photo: Prof. Michael Klunker, 2018



3. Networked offers of the producer-consumer-dialogue under consideration of especially animal- and environment-friendly husbandry methods.

In the Agraset Agrargenossenschaft eG Naundorf animal welfare is lived. To expand the producer-consumer dialogue and regional value chains, the "Genießergenossenschaft" Sachsen eG" was founded. It stands for sustainability, animal welfare and regionality. Here, customers become members. In May 2023, the new pigsty, which is particularly suitable for animal welfare, was completed. "For us, enjoying high-quality,

healthy meat from Saxony means producing sustainably and transparently across the entire regional value chain, from piglets to feed to processing. The cooperative guarantees pork with a high proportion of omega-3 fatty acids."

Further information: geniessergenossenschaft.de



4. Examples of animal welfare projects from Croatia

As the issue of animal welfare is also gaining importance in the Balkan countries. The consulting actors there are striving for a project that has the potential of cross-national cooperation. Previous activities in the context of training and consulting with a focus on hoof health have already taken place with various European partners. The workshop will provide impulses for an innovative knowledge transfer.

Speakers:

1. Dr. Matthias Platen and Torsten Holler, Managing Director LAB Brandenburg GmbH
2. Prof. Dr. Alexander Starke, University of Leipzig, Clinic for Cloven-hoofed Animals
3. Jan Gumpert, Chairman of the Board of Agraset Agrargenossenschaft eG Naundorf / Saxony
4. Dr. Milan Husniak, veterinarian, Croatia

Moderation:

Dr. Thomas Luther, Director of Technical College for Agriculture Zwickau

Methodology in the project forum:

4 impulse presentations of 20 min duration each (80 min)

Break (30 min)

»World-Café« for discussion in small groups at tables (60 min)

Final moderation (10 min)

Goal: Presentation of suitable consulting goals, methods and instruments



Sheep in animal welfare-friendly barn. Photo: Robby Oehme, 2016

Summary of the Workshop

The term animal welfare is rightly receiving increasing attention today, both for those working in the livestock sector and for all consumers. The main question of the workshop was:

"How can we balance societal and operational interests?"

The program was packed with keynote speeches from various specialists. The subsequent World Café provided all workshop participants with the opportunity to discuss with the specialists and exchange ideas with each other.

The first speaker was **Dr. Matthias Platen** from LAB Brandenburg (Agricultural Advisory Service of the Brandenburg Agricultural Associations GmbH). The topic of his keynote speech was the EIP project "Animal Welfare Traffic Light". Factors such as longevity, animal protection, feeding, animal health, fertility management, and fitness are included to display results. The crucial question is whether animal welfare is measurable at all. According to the speaker, the current methods of animal welfare assessment using the "measuring tape method" are inadequate. Therefore, the Animal Welfare Traffic Light uses sensor technology from the company SmartTag and software solutions from the company dsp-Agrosoft to collect data on individual animals, which are then integrated into the "Flock" program and displayed as red, yellow, or green lights. Dr. Platen emphasized that fertility is particularly important because it is the first function to be impaired when there is an animal welfare issue. The system provides the user with a clear yet individual assessment of the animal welfare status within their herd.

The second speaker was **Prof. Alexander Starke** from the Clinic for Cloven-Hoofed Animals at the University of Leipzig. He fittingly formulated at the beginning the dilemma that various actors in the livestock sector face with the question:

"Who has the authority to define animal welfare?"

The second critical question quickly followed: "When we talk about animal welfare, we must first ask – **who** is doing the work?" He made it clear to the workshop participants the significant importance of hoof health in dairy cattle, as lameness is consistently among the top three causes for cows being culled. It became evident that the key to achieving animal welfare is the human element, specifically the farm staff. He highlighted that the qualification of the staff is crucial, as is the collaboration between the various actors on a farm. He advocated for better cooperation between farmers, hoof trimmers, and veterinarians to transfer knowledge and develop strategies to ensure animal welfare and prevent diseases. "To achieve this, the people working in agriculture must also be able to live decently," he said. "As long as we don't engage the people, we can't make progress."

The third speaker was **Jan Gumpert**, Chairman of the Agraset Agricultural Cooperative eG Naundorf/Saxony. He was already a participant in the morning panel discussion on "Transformation Processes in Agriculture – Expectations from the Perspective of EU Policy, Applied Science, Advisory Services, and Practice". His afternoon presentation was on the topic:

"A modern, innovative, ergonomic, animal welfare-oriented dairy barn – from idea to production reality".

He reported on everything from barn construction funding to the societal development of agriculture. It is well known that the demands on agriculture are increasing while societal recognition is decreasing. He discussed the considerations before building a new dairy barn, weighing arguments for and against very carefully and individually. The Agraset eG began constructing the silo facilities in 2015 and the new "*comfort barn*" for their dairy cattle in 2016. Many aspects had to be taken into account, starting with the use of fully automated processes wherever possible. Among all the regulatory and construction requirements, two points were particularly important to Mr. Gumpert: "*Alone we are nothing, we depend on each other,*" and that animal and human welfare are very closely connected.

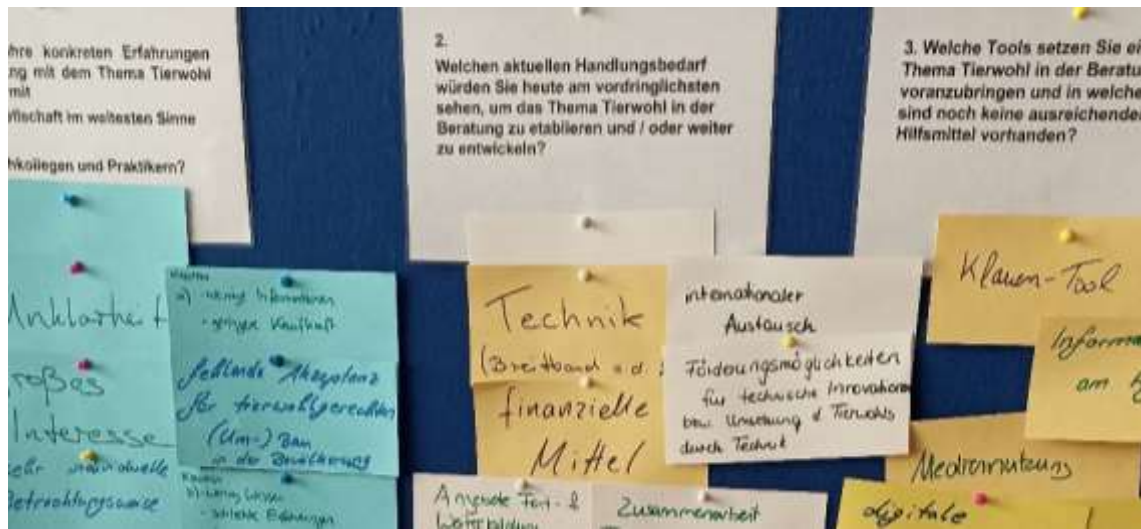
The fourth speaker in this workshop was **Dr. Milan Husniak** from Croatia. He first pointed out who most often discusses animal welfare, namely NGOs, politics, and science. In contrast, practitioners like veterinarians and farmers say too little on the subject. He then reported on the situation in his home country, stating that he had not found a single animal welfare project in all of Croatia, which made the participants sit up and take notice. He highlighted that the biggest problem in Croatian dairy farms is hoof diseases, and by far. He said, "All treatments are due to suboptimal housing, feeding, and care." In his concluding appeal, he once again emphasized the need for much more collaboration between advisors and veterinarians on farms, as well as in public relations and politics, to balance operational and societal interests.

During the discussions following the keynote speeches, participants recorded their answers to the following questions on pin cards and assigned them to a pin board:

1. What are your specific experiences with the topic of animal welfare in discussions with
 - a) Society at large
 - and/or
 - b) Colleagues and practitioners?
2. What current actions would you see as most urgent today to establish and/or further develop the topic of animal welfare in advisory services?
3. What tools do you use to advance the topic of animal welfare in advisory services, and in which areas are there still insufficient aids?

It became clear during the discussions and in answering the questions that although the topic of "animal welfare" has been a focus for many different actors in the agricultural sector for some time, the participants still see a significant need for action.

The presentation of the results took place on September 13, 2023, in front of the entire plenary session.



Results were recorded on pin cards.

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W7 Development of rural areas

Ideas and examples for increasing attractiveness and resilience

Rural areas in Saxony are very diverse. There are different challenges and opportunities from region to region. The people on the ground find the best ideas for them and develop needs-based solutions. Centrally prescribed packages of measures are not suitable everywhere. Due to the comprehensive Saxon LEADER approach, the LEADER areas have the possibility to determine priorities, projects and funding levels themselves and to shape their development with a high sense of responsibility, initiative and creativity.

Further information: laendlicher-raum.sachsen.de



In the workshop we look at the developments of the last years. Stakeholders report on their projects and their experiences with LEADER. An interactive part with TED as well as the panel discussion will round off the workshop and encourage the participants to actively participate.

The first part of the workshop will focus on rural areas and rural development in Saxony as well as the experiences and the outlook on the new funding period of LEADER in Saxony.

Further information: smekul.sachsen.de



Speaker:

Christian Rößler, LfULG, Head of Unit 23 - Rural Development

Further information: lfulg.sachsen.de



In the second part, a moderated panel discussion on the topic "LEADER for education and agriculture - examples from practice" will discuss the development of LEADER regions, proposals for a practice-oriented networking as well as conclusions regarding requirements for the coming funding period will be derived.

Speakers:

LEADER actors

Uta Schladitz, President of the Saxon Rural Women's Association e.V.

Dr. Mario Marsch, LfULG, Head of the Department for Policy Issues, Environment, Agriculture, Rural Development

Moderation:

Dr. Mario Marsch, LfULG, Head of the Department for Policy Issues, Environment, Agriculture, Rural Development

The results of the workshop will be presented in plenary on Wednesday, September 13th.

Language: German

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W8 Climate and resource protection

Agriculture plays a critical role in the context of climate change mitigation, resource conservation, and biodiversity preservation. To successfully address these challenges, it is important that farmers have access to a comprehensive extension approach.

An effective extension approach should inform farmers about the climate and environmental impacts of their farming activities. It should also provide them with practical solutions and techniques to make their farms more sustainable. These include, for example, reducing greenhouse gas emissions using renewable energy, improving soil quality using organic fertilizers, and promoting biodiversity by growing mixed crops and creating habitats for wildlife.

Implementing a comprehensive extension approach for farmers is critical to making agriculture a key player in the fight against climate change and protecting our natural resources. By promoting sustainable agricultural practices, we can not only protect the environment, but also ensure livelihoods for future generations.

This workshop will present both extension and coaching approaches as well as new farming techniques that can be helpful in adapting and reorienting farms.

Program:

Climate Coaching - A concept for advisory services for municipal climate adaptation, advisory initiative in Saxony (Dr. Johannes Franke, LfULG, Specialist Center Climate)

Climate SMART ADVISORS Interaction with advisory services in agriculture and rural areas (Dr. András Ver, Széchenyi István University, Albert Kazmer Faculty of Mosonmagyaróvár, Department of Food Science)

Agroforestry system Land use systems in transition - agroforestry and agriculture, Practicing agroforestry extension Concepts and experiences with extension services on agroforestry systems (Philipp Gerhardt, tree field management, Wiesenburg)

WFD consulting concept for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive - cooperation of public and private consulting service providers - cooperative consulting (Saxony) (Silke Peschke, LfULG, Marc Büchner, AgUmenda Company, Leipzig)

Moderation:

Daphne Huber (agrar.ticker.de, German Agricultural Society (DLG-Verlag))

Methods:

Impulse lectures will introduce the topic. In a moderated panel discussion the new approaches can be discussed in the plenum. Results and conclusions will be worked out and documented together.

The results of the workshop will be presented in plenary on Wednesday, September 13th.

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W9 Organic farming

Organic farming – suitable formats for knowledge transfer

With the conversion to organic farming, nothing remains the same on the farm. From plant cultivation and animal husbandry, to documentation and controls, to processing, marketing and the social environment, changes take hold on the farm. However, even after the conversion period, the farm and its environment are constantly changing. What formats can be used to optimally secure the transfer of knowledge for this transformation process? How does knowledge transfer succeed in different regions with and without advisory organizations? What do farms with training need? These questions will be addressed from different perspectives and horizons of experience.

Impulse contributions/Speakers:

Knowledge transfer from research to practice - experiences from FiBL Switzerland and HTW Dresden
(Prof. Dr. Knut Schmidtke, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) Switzerland: former Director of Research, Extension & Innovation, Head of Department of Finance, Resources & Administration, previously 2003-2020 Prof. of Organic Agriculture at the Dresden University of Applied Sciences)

Knowledge transfer with consulting - experiences from organic consulting in Hessen (Dr. Ute Williges, Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen (LLH): Advisory Team Organic Farming)

Knowledge transfer for on-farm training - training in a network, what does practice need? (Michaela Richter, Landgut Nemt: Head of Training Network)

Knowledge transfer in "consultation-poor" regions (Ulf Jäckel, State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology: Competence Center Organic Farming)

Moderation:

Ulf Jäckel, LfULG, Competence Center Organic Farming

Methodik:

Impulsbeiträge und moderierte Gruppendiskussion

Background:

New knowledge on organic agriculture is generated in research institutions and in agricultural practice and is thus widely distributed. The innovation potential of practice is not yet fully exploited. Newly developed methods and solutions must be made accessible to practitioners and adapted to the respective farm conditions. Different networks of practitioners, consultants and scientists work together temporarily or permanently to achieve this. In Germany alone, a colourful picture of organic agriculture research and extension/knowledge transfer has developed, adapted to regional specificities such as farm structure and natural production conditions, but also shaped by politically determined framework conditions such as chambers of agriculture or state institutions, financial and staffing resources, etc.

With the impulse contributions from the very different experiences of the speakers, an exchange about proven knowledge transfer formats, from counselling to vocational training, and about their further development is to be initiated. All workshop participants are invited to participate intensively in this exchange.



Potato Field Day. Photo: Rafael Bruns

Summary of the Workshop

The workshop, attended by about 23 participants, began with three keynote speeches, moderated by **Ulf Jäckel** (Head of the Eco-Competence Center, SMEKUL Saxony).

Prof. Knut Schmidtke (HTWD professor, also working at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in Switzerland (FiBL) gave the first lecture. He discussed the historical development of knowledge transfer in organic farming, starting with the soil practitioner courses, consisting of five two-day events per year with a consistent group. The exchange among practitioners, particularly informal evening discussions, provided valuable feedback for scientific research, creating a kind of "recursive knowledge transfer." This networking of science and practice allowed tailored solutions to be collaboratively developed. Prof. Schmidtke intensified this with brochures, videos, and podcasts in his work at the university. At FiBL, joint problem solving by researchers and advisors was also enhanced and institutionalized through the "Living Labs" (a member of the ENoLL network since 2021).

The next report on practical knowledge transfer was given by **Dr. Ute Williges** from the State Agriculture Office of Hesse. She coordinates the Hessian advisory team for organic farming. Knowledge transfer occurs through education and advisory services. The advisory team is involved in technical schools and specialized training, as well as individual farm conversion advisory services. Their offerings are targeted, including evening training sessions and a winter program. Their work has yielded results: about 2,100 of 18,000 farms in Hesse operate organically, covering 16.5% of the land. Hesse has evolved from having sporadic organic model regions to developing bio-regional value chains, becoming an organic model state. They also collaborate with the Federal Program for Organic Farming and other projects, such as a project with the Freiburg-based organic processor Taifun and university lecturers. The "100 Sustainable Farms" project, also overseen by Dr. Williges, aims to make sustainably operating farms role models for sustainability, climate protection, and regional value creation. Another approach is peer-to-peer advising through working groups with economic evaluations.

Idea: Mix groups within working groups, such as involving climate protection advisory.

Timing:

- Plant topics in the evenings, possibly with field days.
- Dairy topics from 10-15 hours with excursions.
- Part-time farming topics on Friday afternoons → very target-oriented.

New Staff: "Often little experience in the field of sustainability, but increasing numbers of applicants; much effort invested, e.g., in CECRA modules; the incentive is often the appreciation in organic farming, unlike in areas such as plant protection."

Biggest current hurdle for organic farming?

The current market situation, as conversion involves high risks. However, organically operating farms are likely to have less stress with neighbours and greater public respect.

Current motivation for conversion?

Subsidies, a lot of grassland and sucker cows in Hesse (natural conditions). Incentives are especially high in horticulture and special crops, with significant financial incentives provided.

Michaela Richter gave the final lecture from Landgut Nemt GmbH, who also serves as a training manager in the Muldental training association (since 2021). This association includes both organic and conventional farms aiming to provide better training and retain employees long-term.

This is achieved through:

- School visits.
- Career orientation events.
- Student internships, cited as the best option.

The training association system is supported by the Free State of Saxony, co-financed for the first three years, with the goal of continuing without funding afterward. Improvements have already been noted: trainees sign a contract with one farm and rotate among participating farms. Shared activities and networking among trainees improve the quality of training.

After the three keynote speeches, Ulf Jäckel presented the advisory structures in organic farming in Saxony under the title "Knowledge Transfer in Advisory Deserts." The history of advisory in Saxony is divided into three phases:

- 1992 – 2008: Three (conversion) advisors in organic farming.
- 2008 – 2021: Association advisors and "free" advisors.
- Since 2022: Eco-Farming Competence Center tasked with knowledge transfer.

Following the keynote speeches and the questions that arose from them, the internationally diverse group of participants engaged in lively discussions. One topic of inquiry was the practical implementation of managing peer-to-peer working groups: how to ensure results without significant effort, especially when the department of the inquiring person lacks (personnel) resources. Another discussion point was the institutionalized knowledge exchange at the practical level among farmers. An example cited by participants was the Bavarian model of "farmer-to-farmer" conversations, which has existed since the BioRegio Bavaria 2020 state program in 2013. In this model, long-term successful organic farms from various sectors and regions in Bavaria are selected to offer collegial advisory appointments on their farms. Farmers can directly seek advice from their peers, both positive and negative experiences, while the hosting farms receive a fee for providing these advisory sessions from the agricultural administration in Bavaria.

Consensus among Workshop Participants: All current formats, from individual advisory to online group events and traditional field days, are valid and useful depending on the content.

Effective Formats:

1. The best way to facilitate the transfer of content is at eye level. Peer-to-peer formats, i.e., from farm to farm, are particularly effective here. For example, in Bavaria, only contact with an experienced farm is facilitated: → A farm requests information, the contact point connects them with another farm that shares its experience. The requesting farm receives an individual on-site consultation.

2. In-person moderated formats are well received, where participants are the focus. A skilled moderator guides the group, provides impulses, and leaves plenty of room for the participants. The moderator for the next meeting prepares open questions. This usually results in a stable group with a trusting working relationship. The individual benefits greatly from the exchange.

3. In individual farm consulting, online appointments before the first on-site visit are useful. Many questions can be clarified in advance. Therefore, a combination of online and on-site meetings is recommended.

4. Knowledge Transfer:

Desired and successful are consulting formats in which science, consulting, and practitioners work together on topics. Input from all sides is desired. A network where content from all practical research can be queried would be helpful.

5. Training Alliance:

In training, successes are noted when farms join forces to supervise trainees together. The diversity of farm types and the exchange among trainees are the advantages here.

6. Project Week with Practical Relevance at Agricultural Vocational Schools:

Joint experimentation, doing, and implementation convey content best. Example: Calculating and simulating the conversion from conventional to organic farming on a farm. Orientation to the value chain.

7. Exchange in Social Settings:

Coffee breaks or a joint evening are the most important elements for networking and exchange. Time for this is important time. **Workshop Conclusion:** Advisors, whether from state or private sectors, face similar challenges. Proven tools from speakers and participants alike focus on creating low-threshold, target-oriented offerings and bringing people together on equal footing. Supported by expert training and feedback from agricultural issues to science and research, this successful model should be expanded and disseminated through multipliers.



Workshop Participants, Photo LfULG

Future demands on education and extension with a view to:

W10 Operational Management

Agriculture - a workplace with a future! Who will provide the food on our table tomorrow?

How do you attract and retain the next generation for the family-run agricultural business or create attractive conditions for employees in the agricultural business?

„We are looking for an employee for all agricultural activities for immediate start...“

More and more often such requests are not successful.

Fluctuation and jobs that cannot be filled endanger the complex and integrated production processes in modern agricultural enterprises. In the sense of a good risk prevention, entrepreneurs should therefore be supported by the advisory service to face the shortage of skilled workers.

Speakers:

Martin Mees, Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen, Head of the Advisory Team for Economics and Process Engineering

Dr. Dieter Heider, b&s Management Consulting and Training for Rural Areas GmbH

Moderation:

Suzanne Otten, LMS Agricultural Consulting GmbH, Team leader agricultural business development and safeguarding

Antje Kauffold, LfULG, Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology

Procedure and methodology:

Impulse lectures will introduce the topic as a warm up. Experiences and methods from consulting practice in agriculture and other economic sectors will be presented. After a short break, the workshop will continue by working in groups. Objectives: Developing new extension approaches to strengthen agricultural businesses in human resource issues. Collecting ideas for training, attracting and retaining skilled workers for the agriculture of the future. Developing insights and conclusions.

Goals:

Developing new advisory approaches to strengthen agricultural enterprises in personnel matters. Collect ideas for training, attracting and retaining skilled workers for the agriculture of the future Develop findings and conclusions for evaluation in plenary (13.09.2023)

W11 Young EUFRAS – Workshop

(in English, Location: Sächsische Staatskanzlei/Saxon State Chancellery, Room 270, Dresden Neustadt)

In this strategy workshop, we develop the future of Young EUFRAS. Young EUFRAS is intended to be a vivid network for young rural advisors (<35) from all over Europe, where young advisors learn from each other and support each other. EUFRAS wants to accelerate the establishment of YEUFRA as a youth section within its network.

The strategy workshop is also part of the Erasmus+ program “Young EUFRAS-YPARD mentoring and training program 2022/23”, where 20 young advisors from 6 different countries are trained in advisor competences. The good connection the participants of this Erasmus+ program made already can be the nucleus for a long-term collaboration with further young rural advisors from all over Europe. All other young advisors are also invited to work out the strategy for Young EUFRAS.

In an interactive, participatory workshop we set the goals for Young EUFRAS and then develop strategies to reach those goals. We agree on next steps and concrete Young EUFRAS activities. Bring your ideas for Young EUFRAS!

Further information: eufRAS.eu/mentor-programme-ypard



Moderation:

Pablo Asensio FÜAK,
Anita Dzelme LLKC,
Glindys Luciano YPARD,
Anton Jagodic KGZS,
Karoline Schramm AELF-KW

Methods:

Interaktiver, partizipativer Strategieworkshop

Interactive, participatory strategy workshop

Workshop results are presented in the EUFRAS meeting on Wednesday, September 13th, 14.30 – 15.00.

Location: Sächsische Staatskanzlei (Saxon State Chancellery), Room 270, Dresden Neustadt

Workshop in English only.

6 Excursions

Excursions - Overview

Accompanying persons Excursion (Monday, 11.09.2023)

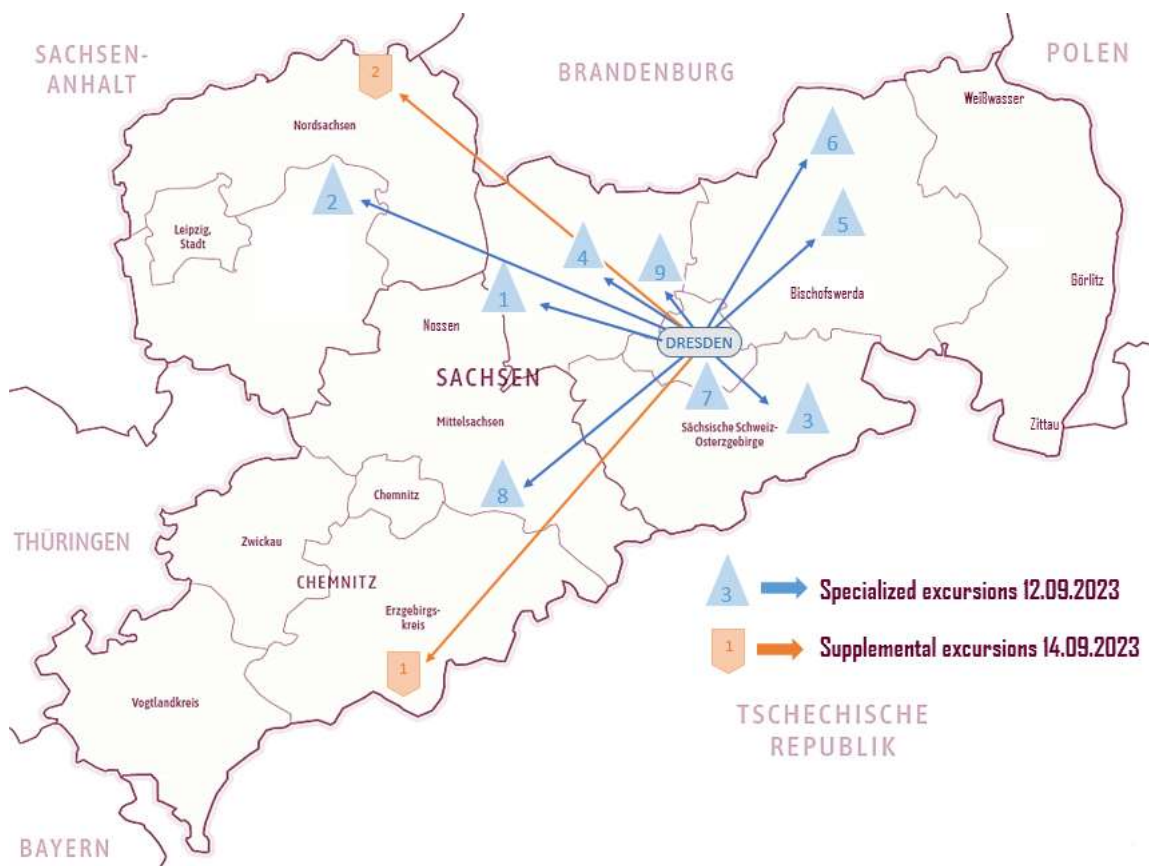
Meissen: City of porcelain and cradle of Saxony

Specialized excursion (Tuesday, 12.09.2023)

- E1 Sustainability and income diversification
- E2 Organic farming
- E3 Agriculture in the area of conflict between nature conservation and species protection
- E4 Digital transformation in agriculture
- E5 Nature conservation and fishery in harmony
- E6 Regional and supraregional value chains - agriculture in disadvantaged areas
- E7 Development of rural areas
- E8 Professional qualification - operational innovation for animal welfare
- E9 Viticulture and horticulture between regionality and global markets

Supplemental Excursions (Thursday, 14.09.2023)

- SE1 Saxony raises its treasures - Montane region Ore Mountains
- SE2 Educational offers in rural areas ("Ostelbien")



Graphic: LfULG / Anna Montero-Montero, Ludwig Schulze

Accompanying persons Excursion, Monday 11.09.2023

Meissen: City of porcelain and cradle of Saxony

Region: Meissen

Complex: Porcelain, guided tour of Meissen, "Meissen Wine"

Management: Martina Borkert, LfULG

State Porcelain Manufactory Meissen

During a guided tour through the demonstration workshop and the museum, the creation of the white gold can be experienced at first hand. Souvenirs of this experience can be purchased in the store.

erlebnisswelt-meissen.com



Exhibition Porcelain Manufactory Meissen. Photo: Martin Förster



The city centre of Meissen with a view of Albrechtsburg Castle / Meissen Cathedral. Photo: Tommy Halfter

Guided tour "Meissen - the cradle of Saxony"

Starting at Roßmarkt (horse market), the tour follows historic paths up to Albrechtsburg Castle and the cathedral. Once at the top, there is a magnificent view of the city of Meissen and the surrounding area, with a good view over Radebeul to Dresden.

stadt-meissen.de



Lunch: Domkeller Meissen

The oldest restaurant in Meissen invites you with its charm to an unforgettable stay above the roofs of the city. You can relax with traditional dishes of Saxon cuisine and a glass of well-chilled beer or delicious wine from the region.

Wine tasting at the Lehmann Winery in Seußlitz

The traditional winery Lehmann is the sponsor of the „Saxon Wine Royalties“ in 2023.

The „Wine Queen“ of 2017, Maria Lehmann, has a lot of interesting things to say at the wine tasting, not least about her own wine line, which is intended to get more women interested in local wine and viticulture.

weingut-lehmann.de



Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023

E1 Sustainability and income diversification

Region: Meißen, Lommatzcher Pflege

Complex: Sustainability and income diversification

Management: Eva Schölzel, LfULG, Information and Service Center Großenhain



Foto: LfULG / Eva Schölzel

Agricultural enterprise „Lommatzcher Pflege“

The agricultural enterprise has specialized in the cultivation of field vegetables. It cultivates about 2,000 hectares of land and focuses on sustainable and environmentally friendly production. The products are distributed both regionally and nationally and are known for their high quality.

Lunch: Pension Zieger, Barmenitz

In the middle of the „Granary of Saxony“ a special warm meal is served.

Bio Yard „BioHofGut“ Klappendorf / Moog Oil Mill

For over 20 years, the farm has been operating ecologically. Using the latest technology, sustainable farming is carried out with a focus on the consumer. Together with the first organic oil mill in Europe, which processes seeds, nuts, fruits and kernels into high-quality BioPlanète and Franz & Co. Organic oils, regionality is preserved. The excursion will be accompanied by a tasting of the excellent organic oils.

Further information about the farm: biohofgut.com



Culture: Moritzburg State Stud Yard

The former hunting stables of the Elector are now part of the Saxon Stud Administration, which also includes the State School of Riding and Driving. The stud provides about 80 breeding stallions. Stallion and mare performance tests are held on site.

Further information:

saechsische-gestuetsverwaltung.de



Heavy crossbred horse Claudius.
Photo: Saxon Stud Administration



Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023, 08:00 - 18:30 h

E2 Organic farming

Formats of knowledge transfer – special production and marketing structures e.g. solidarity farming, cultivation and processing

Region: Leipziger Land / Leipzig County

Complex: Organic farming

Direction: Yvonne Merbold, LfULG, Promotion and Technical Training Center Wurzen
Angelika Hoppe and Christoph Müller, LfULG, Department 79 Competence Center Organic Farming, Nossen-Deutschenbora

Locations: Wassergut Canitz, Leipzig, Thallwitz, Nemt, Nossen

Water Yard Canitz Limited

The „Wassergut Canitz GmbH“, as a subsidiary of Leipziger Wasserwerke, has been a certified model farm for organic farming for over 30 years on what is now 750 hectares of cultivated land. Through the targeted environmentally friendly cultivation of the particularly sensitive areas, which are essential for the wells of the waterworks, the values for nitrate in the groundwater could be reduced considerably in the meantime. This has been achieved through intensive intercropping, appropriate crop rotation and relatively low fertilizer use, with the consistent further development of organic farming always in mind. A recipe for success that calls for transfer through goal-oriented consulting! The water estate Canitz will be host of the „Ökofeldtage 2025“ (Organic field days 2025).



Info panel groundwater monitoring. Photo: Ulf Jäckel

Reußischer Hof und SoLaWi Leipzig

Around Leipzig, farms with solidarity-based agriculture have settled with numerous members but also employees and trainees. A Leipzig Solidarity Agriculture Farm („SoLaWi“) is presented.

Community Thallwitz and the Culture Barn

The community of Thallwitz won gold at the European Village Renewal Award in 2022. The decisive factor was the networking of the community in a variety of projects in climate protection, regional economic cycles and new forms of work. The project SAULIS - Spectacular Work and Life in the Super volcano Center is currently being implemented as part of the structural change promotion. The Thallwitz Culture Barn is located in the immediate vicinity of the Reußischer Hof Inn (lunch break).

Country Yard Nemt

The story of the „Landgut Nemt“ is the story of two brothers who seized the opportunities of the turnaround at the beginning of the 1990s. Five locations of the former Agricultural Production Cooperative (LPG) „Wurzen Ost“ with employees, stables and animals needed a future perspective - and got it. Over the past three decades, René and Karsten Döbelt and their employees have transformed the Landgut Nemt Group into a successful agricultural business. Vegetables, arable farming, dairy cattle and biogas as well as a farm dairy, a farm bakery and a farm store round off the business. Today, the estate offers its customers around 800 regional (organic) products, including over 50 of its own, in its online store. The products from Nemt can be found in about 100 supermarkets in Saxony.



Farm Shop and Farm Cafe. Photo: Ulf Jäckel



Cheese Cellar at Country Yard Nemt. Photo: Landgut Nemt

Organic farming test field Nossen

The Competence Center Organic Farming works with and in organic partner farms (Wassergut Canitz) on questions of practical organic farming and conducts exact trials in experimental stations. A section of the current organic trials will be visited during a short detour on the way back to Nossen.

Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023, 08:00 - 17:00 h

E3 Agriculture in the area of conflict between nature conservation and species protection

Special Center Wolf, Animal husbandry in protected areas; National Park Saxon Switzerland

Region: Greater Dresden, National Park Saxon Switzerland

Complex: Nature conservation, species protection, biodiversity

Management: Udo Heilmann, LfULG, Promotion and Technical Educational Center Nossen
Britta Arp, LfULG Information and Service Center Pirna

Special Center Wolf, LfULG

The work of the Special Center Wolf (LfULG Fachstelle Wolf) will be presented and you will get an overview of the wolf management in Saxony. For example, the procedures of crack assessment are described, but also the possibilities of funding for preventive herd protection are shown.

Further information: wolf.sachsen.de



Step seal of a wolf. Photo: LfULG



Sheep Ranch Rohrmann, Pirna-Liebenthal

The sheep farm Rohrmann is a family business, which operates with approx. 465 ewes in the landscape conservation area Saxon Switzerland. Its farmed areas, crossed by many hiking trails, are located in the direct catchment area of a wolf pack.



Dairy Farm Fiedler, Lohmen

Here you will get to know a family farm, which partly operates in the Saxon Switzerland National Park. In addition to intensive milk production with a milking robot, it has greatly expanded direct marketing in the area of meat and dairy products in recent years. For this purpose, a herd of the Galloway breed was established for extensive pasture management in the National Park.

Lunch break: Elbe Sandstone Mountains, "Bastei"
Panorama Restaurant

Culture: View from the »Balcony of Saxony«
History about the Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland National Park

Further information:

saechsisch-boehmische-schweiz.de



National Park Saxon Switzerland. Photo: LfULG / Udo Heilmann

Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023

E4 Digital transformation in agriculture

Resource and environmentally friendly farming methods, agro-energy, agriculture as a partner of archaeology, project: "5 G -test field" (Lommatzscher Pflege)

Region: Meißen County

Complex: Digitalisation, resource- and environment-friendly management, agro-energy

Management: Katrin Hecht, Saxon Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology (LfULG)

Raitzen Manor

This highly technical farm manages 1,300 hectares. Digitalisation has been an integral part of daily work for several years and facilitates daily tasks. In addition to field cultivation, heifer rearing takes place. A biogas plant and photovoltaics generate energy.



Biogas plant Raitzen. Photo: LfULG

Lunch: „Farmers Parlour“ Ostrau

The farmhouse parlour is opened especially for our group. The landlady gives us a warm welcome and invites us to enjoy good home cooking on the edge of the granary of Saxony (Lommatzscher Pflege).

Lüttewitz farm

The farm is a member of the advisory ring "Erosion-reducing land management e.V.". Advisory measures for preventive soil protection take place on the trial fields provided. The simulation model EROSION-3D was used. As a further measure, embankments were created.



Gate of Altzella monastery. Photo: LfULG / Anja Stein

Agricultural and Environmental Center Nossen (LUZ)

The „Landwirtschafts- und Umweltzentrum Nossen“ (LUZ) is a complex of administrative and laboratory buildings. The site houses the Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology (LfULG), the Saxon Environment and Agriculture Operating Company (BfUL) and the German Plant Varieties Office (Bundessortenamt). The testing department is also located here. Not far away are the experimental fields.

Culture: Altzella monastery

The Altzella monastery is a former Cistercian monastery. It was founded in 1162 and was an important religious centre and at times served as a castle. Today, the monastery church, as well as some buildings and ruins are still preserved.

On site, EXAgT will introduce themselves. The consultants have specialized in Precision Farming, among other things. They have been working practically in the field of nitrogen fertilization advice based on stationary field sensor stations and remote sensing data for several years with the aim of achieving higher nitrogen efficiency.

Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023

E5 »Carp country« Saxony Nature conservation and fishery in harmony

Nature conservation and fishery in harmony; „House of a Thousand Ponds“

Region: East - Saxony, Upper Lusatian heath and pond landscape

Complex: Biosphere and resource protection

Management: Knut Vorberger, LfULG, Promotion and Technical Education Center Kamenz

Biosphere Reserve Upper Lusatian Heath and Pond Landscape, "House of a Thousand Ponds"

It is a unique cultural landscape, which is preserved and developed in an exemplary way by sustainable economic methods; with supraregional importance for the biotope and species protection. The biosphere reserve was established in 1994 and recognized by UNESCO in 1996.



Kreba, Big Nati pond. Photo: SBS / Dirk Weis

The total area is 30,100 ha, of which 16,000 ha are forests, 10,000 ha are agricultural land, 3,000 ha are water bodies and 1,000 ha are settlements.

The area is a representative section of the largest contiguous pond region in Germany with more than 350 ponds in the reserve and represents about 750 years of traditional carp pond farming by churches, monasteries and noble houses.

About 2,000 ha are under regeneration (former open-cast lignite mines, clay pits, gravel extraction).

The visitor information center "House of a Thousand Ponds" serves as an educational site and tourist destination.



House of a Thousand Ponds. Photo SBS / Bodo Hering

Lunch: Restaurant »Zur guten Laune« in Wartha

Saxon teaching and experimental pond Center Königswartha - Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology, Department 76

The fishery authority for the Free State of Saxony is located here. In addition to the administration, applied research with a focus on carp pond management is carried out with 27 teaching and experimental ponds (0.25 ha each) and a fresh water fish holding facility and serves to support economic and nature-friendly carp pond management. The station is one of 3 locations for transnational classes in the profession of fish keeper in Germany.

Pond farming Karsten Ringpfeil, Königswartha / Wartha

The fishery manages 52 ponds (380 ha), managed close to nature, in the unique natural and cultural landscape with the main fish species carp, grass carp, tench, catfish and pike. It is currently the only organic carp producer in Saxony; the farm store complements the farm and serves regional marketing.

Culture - City of Bautzen / Budyšin

During the ride over the „Peace Bridge“ you will see one of the most famous city views of the over 1,000-year-old German-Sorbian city of Bautzen / Budyšin. On the bus, you will receive explanations about the history and culture of the city and the region.



View of the historic town of Bautzen. Photo: Rico Löb

Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023

E6 Regional and supraregional value chains - agriculture in disadvantaged areas

Dairy farming and milk processing in different farm structures, Recultivation of former lignite mining areas - Agriculture on natural disadvantaged areas

Region: East Saxony, Lusatia - settlement area of the Sorbs

Complex: Regional value creation, structural change in rural areas, coal phase-out time

Management: Kai Fischer, LfULG, Promotion and Special Training Center Kamenz

Dairy processing plant „Sachsenmilch Leppersdorf GmbH“

This dairy plant is one of the most modern milk-processing plants in Europe and part of the Theo Müller group of companies, with around 3,000 employees at the site. Annual processing is around 1.65 billion kg of milk, with almost 100 percent of the milk being processed: into drinking milk, butter, cheese, yogurt, desserts, whey, and bioethanol.

Further information: sachsenmilch.de/unsere-molkerei



Highly automated dairy barn. Photo: MKH Agrarprodukte GmbH Wittichenau

Lunch: "Lusatia tastes good", a Lusatian meal from the "Krabat Milk World": Pre-soup; Lusatian potatoes with linseed oil, cottage cheese, and liver sausage - healthy and regional (optional smoked fish appetizers).

"Krabat Milk World" MKH - Agricultural Products Limited, Wittichenau

The mixed farm manages about 2,500 ha of LN with fodder and market crop cultivation and keeps 460 cows with offspring in a fully automated barn system. Participation in agricultural, environmental and climate protection measures contributes to diversification. As a "transparent farm", it offers various tour programs and teaching mornings for schoolchildren (e.g. "cow-cheese-kilowatt"). Since 2008, the foam dairy has demonstrated the production of fresh milk products and cheeses, which are marketed directly through the farm store and cheese trucks for weekly markets. The operation is rounded off by a 500 kW biogas plant.

Further information: krabat-milchwelt.de



Weißkollm Agricultural Production Limited

The Weißkollmer Agrarproduktions GmbH was formed in 1991 by legal transformation from an "Agricultural Production Cooperative" (LPG). It cultivates approx. 1,650 ha LN, and keeps 2 suckler cow herds in year-round pasture keeping. The entire farm area is located in the less-favoured area and in the biosphere reserve; more than 50% are recultivated soils as succession land of the open-cast lignite mining.

This farm was visited during the IALB meeting in 1998. The development since then has been multifaceted: the partly very low-quality soils do not allow intensive production, but are used not only for grazing but also for various agricultural, environmental and climate protection measures. The production of solar power and the operation of a local heating network, which uses wood chips as an energy source, contribute to income diversification.

Further information: agrar-lohsa.de



History and culture of the Sorbian nationality

The Lusatia region is located in the eastern German states of Brandenburg and Saxony. It is home to about 60,000 Sorbs, West Slavic people who never had their own state. The area is bilingual, with Sorbian spoken as an everyday language in many families and among themselves. The Sorbs enjoy the protection of national minorities enshrined in legislation.



Further information: sorben.sachsen.de

Sorbian farm with house garden. Photo: LfULG / Robby Oehme

Structural change in the region - coal phase-out time

Lignite mining and processing has been the economic basis of this region for more than 100 years. Now the from Germany decided coal phase-out is the challenge of the present and the future.

Further information: strukturentwicklung.sachsen.de

Further information: bergbaufolgen.sachsen.de/folgen-braunkohlebergbau-4206.html



Opencast mining, brown coal power plant and agriculture side by side. Photo: LfULG / Robby Oehme

Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023, 08.00 - 18:30 h

E7 Development of rural areas

Ideas and examples to increase attractiveness and resilience, LEADER-Area „Dresdner Heidebogen

- Region:** LEADER area "Dresdner Heidebogen"
- Complex:** Rural areas, LEADER areas, Meeting, Communication, Cooperation, Economy
- Management:** Christian Rößler, Markus Thieme, LfULG, Department of Rural Development

LEADER area »Dresdner Heidebogen«

Nineteen towns and municipalities have joined together to form the LEADER area „Dresdner Heidebogen“. Since 2000, the LEADER idea has been an integral part of social interaction in the region. Established cooperation and networking structures are the basis for sustainable economic and tourism development. The focus topic for the funding period 2023-2027 is "Encounter - Communication - Cooperation".



Further information: heidebogen.eu



Zschorna Pond Farming

Andreas Hilger, managing director of AVD Fishing-Service Limited, explains the work of the fish farmers in a practical way on the basis of the pond chain and presents the EMFF-supported project of the "Maschinenring". (machinery cooperation)

Further information: teichwirtschaft-zschorna.de



School Kitchen in Kalkreuth

Explanation of the project by the mayor, Falk Hentschel.

The school kitchen of the community was inaugurated 60 years ago. With LEADER funding, extensive modernization and renovation work could be carried out on the rooms as well as the technical equipment. Approximately 500 portions are cooked daily for five day-care centres and two schools as well as for senior citizens of the municipality of Ebersbach.

Further information: gemeinde-ebersbach.de/Schulküche



Schönfeld Castle

Guided tour of the Schönfeld Dream Castle (support association, Mrs. Hartmann) and tour of the multi-purpose building (Mayor Falk Lindenau).

The Schönfeld Castle was built in 1560-1580. At the end of the 19th century it was redesigned in the neo-Renaissance style and a 6.4 hectare castle park was laid out by the "Royal Director of Horticulture" Max Bertram. Between 1990 and 1999, extensive renovation measures were carried out, among others with the help of subsidies.

The adjacent building complex, which was built as a school dining hall in the mid-20th century, is now used as a multi-purpose building for numerous cultural and social events as well as for exhibitions and trade fairs. During the funding period (FP) 2014 - 2022, the building envelope, the barrier-free entrance area and various

small measures in the interior could be financed with LEADER funding or with funds from the regional budget. The renovation of the building envelope is currently being implemented.

Further information: schloss-schoenfeld.de

Schempp butcher shop

Lunch, tour of the Schempp country butchery with explanations by the managing director, Christoph Schempp.

The country butchery Schempp exists since 1905 already in 5th generation. Traditional artisanship is combined with modern technology. High-quality products, competent advice and best service is the claim of the family business.



Country butchery Schempp. Photo: Country butchery Schempp

Several projects could be implemented in the FP 2014 -2022 with LEADER funds:

- Modernization of the butcher's store by expanding the production areas.
- Modernization of the store of the country and game butchery Schempp
- Modernization and expansion of production areas and technical equipment

Further information: fleischerei-schempp.de



Protestant School for Social Work "Hans Georg Annies", Moritzburg

Explanation of the projects by the managing director, David Meis, and the architect.



School building of the Protestant School for Social Work. Photo: es-moritzburg.de

Six LEADER projects have been implemented within the funding period 2014 - 2022 or are currently still in the implementation phase and can be viewed here:

- Production of the development areas and design of barrier-free access to the building.
- Design and renovation of the publicly usable open space and park in line with the requirements of a listed memorial building
- Conversion and reuse of vacant buildings as a boarding school for the Protestant School for Social Work (two projects)
- Replacement of a bicycle shelter and furniture for a "green classroom"
- Groundwork for the road "Am Knabenberg"

The history of the three-sided farm began in 1897 as the "Knabenhof" (boy's yard). Today, the "Evangelische Schule für Sozialwesen" (Protestant School for Social Work), newly founded in 2018, is located here. The school offers two training courses: State-certified Social Assistant and State-certified Educator.

Further information: es-moritzburg.de



Pond House Moritzburg

Coffee break and presentation of the LEADER projects for the creation of a catering business and the renovation of the attic into living space by the project promoter and owner, Doreen Kruschke.

The cultural monument, built in 1780, stood empty for a long time. Two experienced restaurateurs acquired the property in 2017 and are now giving it a new lease of life. A guest room with 36 seats has been created. In summer, two beer gardens invite you to linger. A special feature of the house is the small cigar and whisky lounge. The pond that gives its name to today's inn has long since disappeared, but there will soon be overnight accommodations in the monument.



Restaurant Pond House. Photo: schloss-teichhaus.de



Further information: schloss-teichhaus.de

Neumühle Skassa GmbH (New Mill Skassa Ltd.)

Visit and purchase possibility in the mill store with explanations of the production enterprise of the mill by the managing director, Jürgen Boeltzig.



Mill Shop. Photo: neumuehle-skassa.de

The Neumühle Skassa was first mentioned in a document in 1445. When Wilhelm Boeltzig acquired the new mill in 1900 at the age of 27, he simultaneously established a family tradition. The fourth generation took over the company in 2013. LEADER funding was used to finance the construction of an additional processing capacity for the production of organic flour.

Further information: neumuehle-skassa.de



Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023, 08.00 - 18:30 h

E8 Professional qualification - operational innovation for animal welfare

- Region:** Central Saxony, Freiberg
- Complex:** Vocational education and training, Farm and personnel management; Animal welfare-appropriate husbandry, EIP projects, Regional marketing initiatives
- Management:** Katja Zschaage, LfULG, Referat 91 –Vocational training, Competent Authority
Gerd Alscher, Vocational Training Center Freiberg-Zug
- Locations:** Freiberg-Zug, Erlau, Kriebstein

Vocational Training Center Freiberg-Zug

Since 1877, the Freiberg-Zug Vocational College Center has been a nationally important and recognized agricultural training centre for the green professions. As the only higher technical school for agricultural and home economics further education in Saxony, educational courses are offered to become a State-certified Technician for Agriculture as well as for environment/landscape, a State-certified Business Economist for agricultural economics as well as a State-certified home economics Business Manager (all m/f/d).

Further information: fachschulzentrum-freiberg-zug.de



Agraset Agricultural Cooperative eG Naundorf near Rochlitz

With over 5000 hectares of cultivated agricultural land, the Agraset Agrargenossenschaft eG Naundorf is one of the larger cooperatives in Saxony. Agraset in its entirety (cooperative and 4 subsidiaries) is a diversified, sustainably operating business enterprise open to social and regional developments with strong support in the region. During the visit, you experience animal welfare-oriented barns (dairy cattle, pigs - unfortunately only from the outside), close contact between producers and consumers, multi-unit crop rotations with diverse measures to preserve soil fertility, potato cultivation and concepts of marketing as well as modern personnel and training management.

Further information: agraset.de



Agraset, premises Neugepülzig, Photo: private / Stefan Zschaage

Lunch break: at Agraset Naundorf with regional catering

Culture: Kriebstein Castle

Saxony's most beautiful knight's castle "Burg Kriebstein" rises on a steep rock above the Zschopau river. Built more than 600 years ago, the complex radiates a lot of historical flair. The late Gothic combination of ring castle and tower castle underwent a series of alterations in the course of its eventful history. Today it is a popular destination especially for fairy tale fans. Discover with us in a one-hour tour unique wall paintings of the late Gothic, the Kriebstein Room, the treasure vault and the castle chapel. (Attention: for this program we recommend sturdy shoes)

Further information: burg-kriebstein.eu



Kriebstein Castle. Photo: Katja Zschaage

Specialized excursion, Tuesday 12.09.2023, 08.00 - 18:30 h

E9 Viticulture and horticulture between regionality and global markets

Complex knowledge transfer: inter-company training, technical schools and applied research under one roof; plant breeding and marketing on an international scale

Region: Dresden, Thiendorf, Radebeul

Complex: Viticulture and horticulture, knowledge transfer

Management: Martina Borkert, LfULG, Vocational Training Department / Competent Authority

Inter-company Training Center for the profession of gardener and vintner at the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology (LfULG), Dresden-Pillnitz

The Inter-company Training Center comprises approx. 10,000 m² of functional and practice areas, including a modern greenhouse facility and a vineyard, in order to carry out practical exercises within the framework of 21 different course topics in the profession of gardener or vintner. Due to the close spatial interlocking of applied research, experimental activities and teaching, current findings are quickly transferred to the training and thus also to the farms.

Further information: fulg.sachsen.de/uberbetriebliche-ausbildung-in-pillnitz-7563.html



Horticultural company PAC-Elsner, Thiendorf

Founded in 1889 in Dresden, this company is today one of the most modern horticultural enterprises in Saxony with a high-glass area of 6.5 ha. The main focus is the young plant production, which is supported by own mother plant locations in Kenya and Portugal. A second mainstay is the breeding department, which processes various ornamental plants. The third pillar is the laboratory. Here, plants are tested for diseases, irrigation water samples and nutrient contents in substrates and soil samples are analyzed. Virus clearance of plants and in-vitro propagation are also part of the company's responsibilities. The company offers annual apprenticeships for horticulturists and plant technologists and is involved in many horticultural issues.

Further information: pac-elsner.de



Horticultural company PAC-Elsner, Location Thiendorf. Photo: Elsner pac® Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH

Lunch: Mistschänke Moritzburg

Not far from Albrechtsburg Castle in Meissen and Moritzburg Hunting Castle lies the historic Mistschänke on the old Saxon wine route. Home-style German cuisine with many regional fish and game specialties, along with local beer, invite you to linger.

Further information: mistschaenke-moritzburg.de

**Saxon State Winery Ltd. Wackerbarth Castle**

For more than 850 years, viticulture has shaped the landscape and the lives of the people in the Elbe Valley. The baroque castle and garden complex was renovated by the Free State of Saxony after 1999 and developed into the first adventure winery in Europe. Connected with this is the mission to preserve and promote the Saxon wine cultural landscape with its formative steep slopes and terraced vineyards as a cultural asset. Schloss Wackerbarth regularly and successfully trains winemakers.



Wackerbarth Castle in Radebeul. Photo: Tommy Halfter

Further information: schloss-wackerbarth.de

Steep slope viticulture in Saxony

Terrace viticulture has a long tradition in Saxony and over the centuries has created an attractive, historically evolved cultural landscape in which some of Saxony's top wines ripen today on steep slopes and terraces. In addition to its importance for the production of quality wines and regional specialties, steep slope viticulture in particular is formative for the cultural landscape of the Elbe Valley, a point of identification for the population and an important potential for tourism and local recreation. Finally yet importantly, vineyards on steep slopes are valuable biotopes. The climb to the Spitzhaus, the region's most prominent landmark, rewards with a great view over the vineyards all the way to the city of Dresden.



Steep slope viticulture below the Spitzhaus. Photo: Erik Gross

Supplemental excursion, Thursday 14.09.2023, 7:30 – 19:00 h

SE1 Saxony raises its treasures - Montane region Ore Mountains

Region: Saxony, Ore Mountains, Annaberg-Buchholz area

Complex: UNESCO - world cultural heritage, tradition and modernity in the Ore Mountains

Management: Andrea Rau, LfULG, Referat 91, Vocational Education / Responsible Authority

The mining region Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (German/Czech language) is considered an outstanding centre of scientific-technological mining innovation and a unique montane cultural landscape. In the Ore Mountains, pioneering forms of organization and technologies were developed that decisively shaped the economy, state systems and overall social upheavals in Europe and worldwide.

Further information: montanregion-erzgebirge.de



Markus Röhling Mine

The Markus Röhling Mine is one of the deep adits in the Annaberg mining district. Its mouth is located at 480.9 meters above sea level on the Sehma River in the Frohnau district. It was built in the 16th century to drain the mines on the Schreckenberg with the name „St. Anna Stolln“. In 1727 it was named after the mining administrator Markus Röhling, the son of Hans Röhling.



Mining train at Markus Röhling Mine. Photo LfULG / Andrea Rau

Since 1992, parts of the tunnel system have been accessible as a visitor mine. A mine railroad leads along a route of 600 meters to various exhibits. In the historical part, a water wheel with a diameter of nine meters has been reconstructed; the original was used to pump groundwater from the lower levels, for which water from a stream was diverted.

Further information: roehling-stolln.de



Pöhlberg with hiking coaching



Basalt formations „butter churns“ at Pöhlberg. Photo: LfULG / Andrea Rau

The Pöhlberg as the local mountain of Annaberg-Buchholz is with its height of 831.1 m a table mountain with various hiking trails that are crowned by a hotel and observation tower. With charming views of the Ore Mountains, the basalt formations, called butter churns, stand out in particular.

The way to the top should be used to learn about the consulting method "hiking coaching".

Hiking Coaching

„We take the topic of “advice” from the conference rooms of the IALB-EUFRAS-SEASN conference 2023 in Dresden to the supplementary excursion to the Ore Mountains and experiment with a special form of advice, hiking coaching. On the way we take our time at the Pöhlberg to get a taste of the method and experience it briefly.

Hiking coaching combines professional advice with walking in nature. Walking not only gets the body moving, but also the mind. The ever-changing perspectives of the landscape you walk through provide impulses and encourage new solutions. Problems and challenges can be classified more freely in nature and can be seen in a new light. This supports letting go and creates space for something new.

The aim of hiking coaching, as in any good consultation, is to gain clarity, to develop new perspectives or to become capable of acting for upcoming changes with the help of solution ideas. Get going!”

(Pablo Asensio)



Lunch: Mountain Hotel Pöhlberg

On the plateau of the Pöhlberg at an altitude of 832 meters you will find real Erzgebirge coziness, regional delicacies and a sensational view of the Erzgebirge and the city of Annaberg-Buchholz.

Further information: berghotel-poehlberg.de



St. Anne's Church

The „St. Annen Kirche“ in Annaberg - Buchholz is considered one of the most important examples of late Gothic architecture. Its sculptural decoration shows late Gothic art as well as very early forms of the Renaissance in Central Europe. With a length of 65 meters and a width of 40 meters, it is the largest hall church of the late Gothic period in Saxony. The tower is 78 meters high, the interior of the church is 28 meters high. It is the town's landmark and can be seen from afar.

Further information: annenkirche.de



Mountain Hotel Pöhlberg.
Photo LfULG / Andrea Rau

City tour Annaberg - Buchholz - World Heritage Tour

The historic old town of Annaberg as a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Montanregion Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří" shows with its sacral buildings, magnificent town houses or the late Gothic hall church St. Anne's, the wealth of mining and the history of the city.

Further information: annaberg-buchholz.de



View on the city of Annaberg-Buchholz and mountain Pöhlberg. Photo: M. Zmrzly

Supplemental excursion, Thursday 14.09.2023, 7:30 – 19:00 h

SE2 Educational offers in rural areas ("Ostelbien")

Region: Saxony, County of North Saxony (Leader area: „Zweistromland -Ostelbien“) – Köllitsch, Graditz, Torgau, Wermsdorf

Complex: Professional qualification, agriculture and rural culture

Management: Henrik Fichtner, LfULG

The area "Ostelbien" - located in the far north of Saxony - includes the extensive floodplain landscapes east of the Elbe River with their fertile soils and is one of the least populated areas in Saxony. The traditionally large-scale agriculture is still the most important source of income. The region is very interesting from the point of view of agricultural history, because modern production methods in agriculture as well as breeding and husbandry methods in animal husbandry were already tested and applied in the former large-scale estates. This pioneering agricultural spirit has been preserved until today and finds expression in the establishment of one of the most modern agricultural training and experimental estates in Germany in Köllitsch. This region is also known for the centuries-old horse breeding in the main stud farm Graditz.

Since this region is considered to be structurally weak, state-sponsored projects come into play within the framework of LEADER support (area "Zweistromland") to help improve living conditions.

Further information: ostelbien.de



Training and experimental farm Köllitsch

At the Lehr- und Versuchsgut (LVG) as part of the LfULG, education and applied research are part of the agricultural business. Already more than 100 years ago, scientific findings were tested under practical conditions. The teaching and experimental farm, which covers approx. 900 hectares (agricultural land), is responsible for inter-farm training for agricultural professions, the further training of advisors and practitioners, a wide range of experimental set-ups and demonstration projects to teach modern, sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture, combined with the implementation of an agro-ecological landscape concept. With the participation in the research project "5G - Test and Experimentation Field", the foundations for future-oriented digitalized working methods are being created. Networking and knowledge exchange with comparable institutions outside of Saxony is important here; an example of this is participation in the SiLA simulation-based and immersive learning in agricultural training project.

Further information: fulg.sachsen.de



Training and experimental farm Köllitsch. Photo: LfULG / Burkhard Puhlmann

Main Stud Graditz

The Graditz Main Stud is located directly on the Elbe River and only a few kilometers away from the city of Torgau. Within the Saxon stud administration, the main stud is responsible for the keeping of the mare herd and the rearing of young stallions for the remounting of the stallion stock. In addition, the stud is one of the most important training centers for the profession of horse manager. The stud shows and cultural events are widely attracted by professionals as well as the general public.

Further information: saechsische-gestuetsverwaltung.de



Main Stud Graditz Photo: LfJULG / Henrik Fichtner

Wermisdorf - Hubertusburg Castle

On the way back to Dresden, a short stop at the court of Hubertusburg Castle in the municipality of Wermisdorf is recommended. Hubertusburg Castle, named after the patron saint of hunting, is probably one of the most mature achievements of baroque architecture in Saxony. It is the largest and once the most magnificent country castle in Europe. It was built by Johann Christoph Naumann (1664 - 1742), who enriched the art history of Saxony with numerous buildings in Leipzig and Bautzen.

Further information: wermisdorf.de



Hubertusburg Castle in Wermisdorf. Photo: LfJULG/Henrik Fichtner

Torgau - city of the Renaissance (sightseeing tour and lunch)

Torgau, the district town of northern Saxony, is often called the most beautiful Renaissance town in Germany. From the former residence of the Electorate of Saxony with its more than 1000 years of history, (geo)political decisions were made, not for Saxony, but for many other Central German regions, which still have an effect today. The magnificent Hartenfels Castle with its architecturally unique Wendelstein, the historic Bear Pit, the first Protestant church consecrated by Luther himself, impressive town houses and, last but not least, the striking town hall in the center of the city are all worth discovering. In addition, the historic meeting of US and Soviet soldiers on the Elbe River in April 1945 took place near Torgau.

Further information: [torgau.eu](https://www.torgau.eu)



Hartenfels castle in Torgau. Photo: LfULG/ Henrik Fichtner

Specialized excursion: Description of the Visits

This section is dedicated to the technical excursions conducted on Tuesday, September 12, outlining the different routes and the respective visits. For the creation of the excursion list, various agricultural and livestock farms, processing sectors, public institutions, cooperatives, rural development communities, public bodies, and other initiatives were selected, all of which are distinguished by their innovation and their special contribution to the development of Saxony's rural culture.

The aim was, on the one hand, to cover almost the entire agricultural spectrum of Saxony and, on the other hand, to give visitors insight into a variety of cultural attractions. Nine routes were planned, allowing each participant to choose the route that interested them the most, with all routes also available in English. A total of 343 participants took part in these excursions. All routes followed the same schedule: departure by bus at 8:00 a.m. from Dresden and return to the starting point around 6:30 p.m.



Starting Point at the Congress Center. Photo: LfULG, Dr. R. Joffe

The planning of the nine routes was based on the criterion of small, manageable groups, determined by the registrations. The following participant distribution was achieved:

	Specialized Exkursion	Participants
1	Sustainability and income diversification	41
2	Organic farming	49
3	Agriculture in the area of conflict between nature conservation and species protection	40
4	Digital transformation in agriculture	41
5	Nature conservation and fishery in harmony	16
6	Regional and supraregional value chains - agriculture in disadvantaged areas	40
7	Development of rural areas	39
8	Professional qualification - operational innovation for animal welfare	46
9	Viticulture and horticulture between regionality and global markets	31
Sum		343

The various excursions are listed below, including a brief description with highlights of the visits and some photos of the activities.

E1 Sustainability and income diversification

During Excursion 1, the Meißen region and the Lommatzcher Pflege were explored. The tour was led by Eva Schölzel from the Information and Service Center in Großenhain (LfULG) and was supported by Eric Unger from the Nossen Support and Education Center (LfULG).

The first stop was the agricultural company Lommatzcher Pflege. The company impressed the visitors with its diversity and size. It manages around 2,000 hectares of land and focuses on sustainable and environmentally friendly production. Participants were pleasantly surprised by the large animal groups, which were still kept in an animal-friendly manner.



Photo: LfULG, E. Schölzel

After a warm meal at Pension Zieger (Barmenitz), participants visited BioHofGut Klappendorf and the associated Moog oil mill. The organic farm impressed with its state-of-the-art technology, focusing on sustainable farming practices. Together with Europe's first organic oil mill, which processes seeds, nuts, fruits, and kernels into high-quality BioPlanète and Franz & Co. organic oils, the region's local character is preserved. The tasting of the excellent organic oils convinced even the last sceptics. The company also critically addressed the issue of expanding organic farmland and its impact on the organic market. The company's storage facilities are already full because prices are too low.



Photo: LfULG, E. Schölzel

As the final cultural stop, the Moritzburg State Stud was visited. The former electoral hunting stables and the State School for Riding and Driving were toured. The staff presented individual animals from the 80 breeding stallions.



Photo: LfULG, E. Schölzel

At the end of the excursion, a group photo was taken in the courtyard of the stud farm.



Photo: LfULG

E2 Organic farming

During the second excursion, the focus was primarily on knowledge transfer formats, specific production and marketing structures, such as solidarity-based agriculture, cultivation, and processing. The excursion took participants to the northern part of Saxony, to the Leipzig region and surrounding areas. Ulf Jäckel led the tour from the LfULG, Department 79, Competence Center for Organic Farming, and Yvonne Merbold from the LfULG, Support and Education Center in Wurzen.

The excursion began with a visit to Wassergut Canitz GmbH, a subsidiary of the Leipzig Waterworks. The ecological model farm, certified for over 30 years, impressed participants with its targeted environmentally friendly management practices. For example, nitrate levels in the groundwater have been significantly reduced. Wassergut Canitz will host the Organic Field Days in 2025.



Photo: LfULG, C. Göckeritz

At the Thallwitz Cultural Barn, the Leipzig Solidarity-based Agriculture initiative was introduced.



Photo: LfULG, C. Göckeritz

The next stop was Landgut Nemt. The history of Landgut Nemt is the story of two brothers who seized the opportunities that came with the reunification of Germany in the early 1990s. Five locations of LPG “Wurzen Ost”, including employees, barns, and animals, needed a future perspective—and they found one. Over the past three decades, René and Karsten Döbelt and their employees have transformed the Landgut Nemt Group into a successful agricultural operation. Vegetables, arable farming, dairy farming, biogas production, along with an on-site dairy, bakery, and farm shop, now round out the business. Today, the farm offers around 800 regional (organic) products, including over 50 of its own, through its online shop. The products from Nemt can also be found in around 100 supermarkets in Saxony.



Photo: LfULG, C. Göckeritz

E3 Agriculture in the area of conflict between nature conservation and species protection

In the Greater Dresden area and Saxon Switzerland, excursion participants gained insights into wolf protection in Saxony, sheep farming in protected areas, and the Saxon Switzerland National Park. Udo Heilmann led the tour from the LfULG, Department 95, Control Service for Plant Protection and Crop Production, and Britta Arp from the Pirna Information and Service Center (LfULG). The excursion began with an update on the current wolf situation in Saxony, provided by the Wolf Specialist Office (LfULG).



Photo: LfULG, U. Heilmann

Rohrmann Sheep Farm, Pirna-Liebethal

The second program stop introduced the Rohrmann Sheep Farm, a family-run business. Participants went out to the pasture with the sheep in the Saxon Switzerland landscape protection area. Discussions focused on landscape management and the challenges of wolf protection.



Photo: LfULG, U. Heilmann

The next visit was to the Fiedler Dairy Farm in Lohmen. This typical Saxon family farm operates intensive dairy production with a milking robot and has significantly expanded its direct marketing of meat and dairy products. To support this, a herd of Galloway cattle was established for extensive pasture management in the national park.



Photo: LfULG, U. Heilmann

View from the »Balcony of Saxony«



Photo: LfULG, U. Heilmann

E4 Digital transformation in agriculture

The fourth excursion focused on resource- and environmentally-friendly farming methods, agro-energy, agriculture as a partner of archaeology, and the "5G Test Field" project. The group toured the Meißen district. Katrin Hecht from the LfULG, Coordination Office led the organization for Agriculture. The first stop was Gutshof Raitzen. The young farm manager fascinated the participants. His innovative approach sparked interest, leading to many questions about the farm and its technology.



Photo: LfULG, K. Hecht

For lunch, participants visited the Bauernstube in Ostrau, where Saxon-style beef roulades were already waiting. Refreshed, they then continued to Hofgut Lüttewitz. Upon arrival at the long-term soil cultivation experiment, the visitors were asked to get involved. They had the chance to determine the mulch coverage themselves. The creation of bunds was examined more closely in the middle of the field.



Photo: LfULG, Dr. R. Joffe / K. Hecht

As a cultural stop, the group visited Alzella Monastery in Nossen.



Photo: LfULG, K. Hecht

The tour concluded at the Agricultural and Environmental Center in Nossen. In the consulting room, the company EXAgT presented its precision farming projects. This was followed by a brief presentation of Department 7 of the LfULG.



Photo: LfULG, Dr. R. Joffe



Photo: LfULG, Dr. R. Joffe

E5 Nature conservation and fishery in harmony

On the way to East Saxony, in the Upper Lusatian Heath and Pond Landscape, the topics of nature conservation and fish farming were introduced. The excursion was led by Knut Vorberger from the LfULG, Support and Education Center in Kamenz. The first stop was the "House of a Thousand Ponds" in the Upper Lusatian Heath and Pond Landscape Biosphere Reserve. Participants were introduced to the unique cultural landscape, where over 350 ponds are used for traditional carp farming. What makes it special are around 2,000 hectares of post-mining landscapes. The visitor information centre, "House of a Thousand Ponds," is a key educational site and a tourist highlight.



Photos: LfULG, K. Vorberger

The LfULG' s Department 76 - Fisheries presented the teaching and experimental pond facility in Königswartha. The applied research, focusing on carp farming, operates on nearly 7 hectares with 27 ponds, each measuring 0.25 hectares, and includes a fish holding facility.

The third stop brought the group to the Karsten Ringpfeil Pond Farm in Königswartha/Wartha. This farm manages 52 natural ponds with a total area of 380 hectares. The main fish species are carp, alongside grass carp, tench, catfish, and pike. Some of the fish are marketed through an on-site farm shop. The unique feature of this exceptional farm is its certified Saxon organic carp.



Photo: LfULG, K. Vorberger

On the return bus ride, there was a brief glimpse of the city of Bautzen, considered the heart of Upper Lusatia. Bautzen was showcased from one of its most beautiful angles during the journey.

E6 Regional and supraregional value chains - agriculture in disadvantaged areas

The sixth excursion focused on dairy farming and milk processing in different farm structures, the reclamation and use of former lignite mining areas—agriculture on marginal natural sites, and Sorbian history and culture. Participants travelled by bus to the eastern part of Saxony. Kai Fischer from the LfULG, Support and Education Center in Kamenz organized the tour. The first stop was the Sachsenmilch Leppersdorf GmbH dairy, where participants were introduced to the work in the downstream sector. The various steps from delivery to production and bottling were explained in detail. This was followed by a tasting of the products.



Photo: LfULG, K. Fischer

Next was "The Taste of Lusatia," a Lusatian meal provided by "Krabat Milchwelt." The "Krabat Milchwelt" MKH - Agrarprodukte – GmbH Wittichenau is a mixed farming operation. Participation in agricultural, environmental, and climate protection measures contributes to diversification. As a "transparent farm," it offers various tour programs and morning lessons for students. Since 2008, the demonstration dairy has shown how fresh dairy products and cheeses are produced, which are sold directly through the farm shop and cheese trucks. The farm also operates a 500 kW biogas plant.



Photo: LfULG, K. Fischer

The Weißkollmer Agrarproduktions GmbH is a Saxon agricultural enterprise. This farm was previously visited during the 1998 IALB conference. Since then, it has developed in diverse ways: the partially low-quality soils do not allow for intensive production, but they are used for pasture grazing and various agricultural, environmental, and climate protection measures. The team is open to innovation, contributing to income diversification (e.g., generating solar power, district heating networks, and wood chips as an energy source).



Photo: LfULG, K. Fischer

E7 Development of rural areas

This excursion presented ideas and examples for increasing the attractiveness of rural areas, the LEADER region "Dresdner Heidebogen," infrastructure projects, and income alternatives. The responsibility was taken by Christian Rößler and Markus Thieme from LfULG, Department 23, Rural Development. The LEADER region "Dresdner Heidebogen" includes 19 towns and municipalities.



1st Station: Zschorna Fishery

Andreas Hilger, Managing Director of AVD Angel-Service GmbH, using the pond chain as an example, explained the practical work of the fish farmers. The EMFF-funded project of the "Maschinenring" was also presented.



Photo: LfULG, M. Thieme

2nd Station: Kalkreuth School Kitchen

The Mayor, Mr. Falk Hentschel, explained the project. The school kitchen was extensively modernized and renovated with LEADER funding.

3rd Station: Schönfeld Castle

The next guided tour led through the "Dream Castle" in Schönfeld (presented by the Förderverein and Mrs. Hartmann) and the multipurpose building (presented by Mayor Falk Lindenau).



Photo: LfULG, M. Thieme

4th Station: Schempp Butcher's Shop

The visit and lunch took place at the Schempp butcher's shop, hosted by the Managing Director, Christoph Schempp.



Photo: LfULG, M. Thieme

Several projects were implemented with LEADER funds during the 2014-2022 funding period:

- Modernization of the butcher's shop by expanding production areas
- Modernization of the store of the "Land- und Wildfleischerei Schempp"
- Modernization and expansion of production rooms and technical equipment

5th Station: Evangelical School for Social Work "Hans Georg Anniès" in Moritzburg

David Meis (Managing Director) and the architect explained the projects.



Photo: LfULG, M. Thieme

Six LEADER projects were implemented or are currently in progress during the 2014-2022 funding period:

- Creation of development areas and design of barrier-free access
- Monument-compliant design and renovation of the publicly accessible outdoor and park area
- Conversion and reuse of vacant buildings as dormitories for the Evangelical School for Social Work
- Construction of a new shelter for bicycles and furnishing of the "Green Classroom"
- Comprehensive road development of the "Am Knabenberg" street

6th Station: Teichhaus Moritzburg

The project owner and operator, Doreen Kruschke, hosted a coffee break with an additional presentation of LEADER projects. The projects focused on creating a gastronomy business and renovating the attic into residential space.



Photo: LfULG, M. Thieme

7th Station: Neumühle Skassa GmbH

The Managing Director, Jürgen Boeltzig, introduced the mill's production operations. Visitors toured the facility and the mill shop.



Photo: LfULG, M. Thieme

E8 Professional qualification - operational innovation for animal welfare

The journey took place in Central Saxony. The topics of vocational education and training, farm and personnel management, animal welfare-friendly housing systems, EIP projects, and regional marketing initiatives were explored in practice. The excursion began with a visit to the Freiberg-Zug Vocational School Center, a recognized agricultural education site for the green professions. The following agricultural and domestic management training programs are offered on-site: State-certified technician in agriculture and environment/landscape, state-certified business manager in agricultural economics, and state-certified domestic management director.



Photo: LfULG, K. Zschaage

Next was a visit to Agraset Agricultural Cooperative in Naundorf near Rochlitz. One of Saxony's largest farms presented its wide range of business branches. In the barns, excursion participants learned more about the current state of housing systems. Parallel discussions took place about current farm and personnel management.



Photo: LfULG, K. Zschaage



Photo: LfULG, K. Zschaage

After a delicious lunch at Agraset Naundorf, the cultural part followed. The next stop was Kriebstein Castle. The over 600-year-old castle displayed its most fairy-tale-like charm.



Photo: LfULG, K. Zschaage

E9 Viticulture and horticulture between regionality and global markets

Not far from Dresden, a comprehensive knowledge transfer took place during this excursion, covering the following topics: inter-company training, vocational schools and applied research, plant breeding and international marketing, and viticulture combined with experience-based gastronomy.

The first stop was the inter-company training facility for gardeners and vintners at the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology in Dresden-Pillnitz. The training facility covers about 10,000 m² of functional and practice areas, including a modern greenhouse complex and a vineyard, where practical exercises for gardeners and vintners take place. There is a close spatial integration of applied research, experimental activities, and teaching.

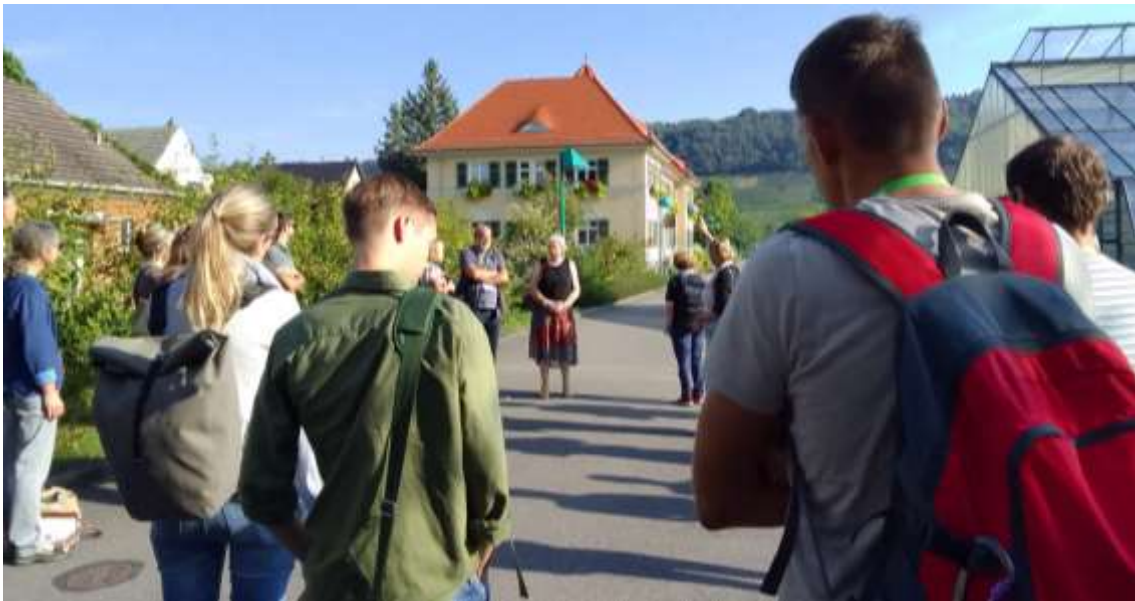


Photo: LfULG, M. Borkert

Next, the participants received a tour of the highly modern horticultural operation PAC-Elsner in Thienndorf. One of the most advanced horticultural operations in Saxony, it focuses on young plant production and ornamental plant breeding. The third pillar is the laboratory, where plants are tested for diseases, irrigation water samples are analysed, and nutrient levels in substrates and soil samples are examined. After the tour, the group enjoyed lunch at the Mistschänke in Moritzburg.



Photo: LfULG, M. Borkert

In the afternoon, participants visited the Saxon wine cultural landscape at the State Winery Schloss Wackerbarth. The Baroque castle and garden complex was restored by the Free State of Saxony and developed into the first experience-based winery in Europe. Its mission is to preserve and promote the Saxon wine cultural landscape as a cultural heritage. Schloss Wackerbarth regularly and successfully trains vintners.



Photo: LfULG, M. Borkert

The vineyard tour through the traditional terraced viticulture fascinated the participants, leaving barely enough time to address all their questions. Saxony's steep-slope viticulture is known for its rare quality wines and shapes the cultural landscape of the Elbe Valley, making it a highlight for tourism and recreation. The climb to the Spitzhaus, the most prominent landmark in the region, rewarded participants with a fantastic view over the vineyards, stretching all the way to the city of Dresden. Overall, the excursion went as planned, and a small part of Saxony left a lasting impression on the participants.



Photo: LfULG, M. Borkert

Supplemental Excursions

After the official conference, there was an opportunity to participate in another excursion on Wednesday, September 14, 2023. Participants could choose between the Montanregion (Mining Region) and Ostelbien (East Elbe).

	Supplemental Excursion	Participants
SE 1	Montane Region	40
SE 2	Ostelbien	49
Sum		89

SE1 Saxony raises its treasures - Montane region Ore Mountains

The additional excursion led to the Ore Mountains, around Annaberg-Buchholz. The Ore Mountains represent both tradition and modernity and are part of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Montanregion Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří." It is recognized as an outstanding centre of scientific and technological mining innovation and as a unique mining cultural landscape. The journey began with an underground tour on the mining train at Markus Röhling-Stolln. The tour impressed participants with its fascinating tunnels and stories of the hardships faced by miners. In the middle of the tunnel, a waterwheel was installed as part of the drainage system.



Photo: LfULG, A. Rau

Next, the group participated in a "hiking coaching" session with Thomas Mirsch and Pablo Asensio at Pöhlberg, the local mountain of Annaberg-Buchholz, standing at 831.1 meters. The topic of "advisory services" from the conference rooms in Dresden was further explored during this additional excursion. The method was introduced—hiking coaching combines professional consulting with walking in nature. Lunch was served at Berghotel Pöhlberg, featuring regional delicacies and a sensational view of the Ore Mountains and the town of Annaberg-Buchholz.

As a cultural highlight, the group visited St. Anne's Church in Annaberg-Buchholz, which is marked by late Gothic and Renaissance architecture. A very enthusiastic guide who shared wonderful stories about the church's architecture, history, and the significance of its marvellous friezes, ceilings, and altars led the tour. After splitting into smaller groups, participants took part in a one-hour tour of the medieval town centre. On the bus ride home, the participants toasted to the eventful day once more. The guests' conclusion: It was a wonderful, fascinating day.



Photo: LfULG, A. Rau

SE2 Educational offers in rural areas ("Ostelbien")

The excursion led to the district of North Saxony, where the towns of Köllitsch, Graditz, Torgau, and Wernsdorf were visited. The tour focused on vocational qualification and agricultural land management. A group of our guests from Ukraine also took part in this excursion.

The first stop was the Köllitsch teaching and experimental farm. The farm manager in the machinery hall introduced the location. After the presentation, the group toured the farm, where the individual training halls, barns, and related equipment were showcased.



Photos: LfULG, R. Oehme & H. Fichtner

A few kilometres away, the excursion group visited the Main Stud Farm in Graditz. This facility, under the management of the Saxon Stud Administration, is responsible for maintaining the mare herd and raising young stallions to replenish the stallion population.



Photo: LfULG, R. Oehme

The third stop of the day was the city of Torgau (the capital of North Saxony district). Here, the group visited the magnificent Hartenfels Castle, with its architecturally unique spiral staircase, the historic bear pit, and the first Protestant church consecrated by Martin Luther himself.



Photo: LfULG, R. Oehme

The final stop was Hubertusburg Castle in Wernsdorf. A guided tour introduced participants to the largest and once most splendid hunting lodge in Europe. Built starting in 1721, the castle served as an electoral Saxon hunting lodge. The Free State of Saxony financed the restoration after 1990, investing over €22.2 million by 2004. Today, the castle serves various purposes: the Saxon State Archives established a central workshop for the preservation of archival and library materials. The Friends of Hubertusburg Castle Association, active since 1997, supports the restoration, preservation, and revitalization of the complex. Martina-Elvira Lotzmann guided the group. The afternoon concluded with a visit to the Praetsch KG chocolatier in Wernsdorf.



Photos: LfULG, R. Oehme

7 Poster Presentation

Poster Presentation

Stakeholders in education and advisory services from politics, science, practice and administration were invited to contribute their projects and plans, advisory and educational methods and new ideas to the conference via the joint poster session. The posters are a proven format for publicising regional activities.

The posters will be displayed on September 11th and 13th. Please note that during the poster session, a contact person should be available to present the poster and answer questions.

Poster Competition

Dear guests,

We are especially delighted that our call to contribute posters to this year's conference has been so successful. We have received many interesting and professionally sophisticated submissions. Our sincere thanks to all contributors!

We have considered that it would be a wonderful opportunity for you, dear guests, to actively participate in the evaluation of the posters as well. Therefore, we kindly ask you to take some time on Monday to visit the poster exhibition, examine the topics and the design of the displays, and evaluate them based on the criteria provided. You will find three "ballots" in the sleeve of your name badge, which you can use to vote for up to three posters. Simply drop the ballots into the envelope at the poster of your choice.

Following the vote count, a jury will select three winners from the most popular posters, which will be awarded and presented on Wednesday.

We appreciate your active participation!

Criteria: 1 (☹ ☹) – 5 (😊 😊)

Content	Coherence and Information Content	Form, Design, Visualization
Topic, main messages are clearly identifiable	Clarity of the structure	Text/Image Ratio
Information is presented objectively	Understandability	Readable font size
presented content is logically coherent		Effective use of colors and images
		Illustrations clarify the content
		The design aids in structuring the reading process

Subsequently, all submitted posters are displayed. During the conference, the posters can also be accessed mobile via QR code on the conference website.

All posters can also be found in an overview at:

ialb.sachsen.de/posterschau-4462.html



CORENET - Your network for a closer consumer producer link

CORENET - Austrian Chamber of Agriculture AUSTRIA

LANDCARE EUROPE – the network that brings together agriculture, nature conservation and Communities

LANDCARE EUROPE GERMANY

User Case: Digitalization of the conventional Agricultural Advisory Service model

Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia SLOVENIA

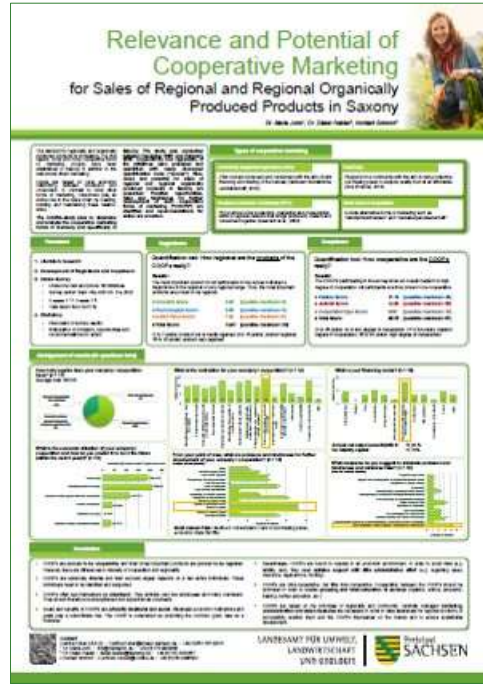
Faming with vision - Interactive strategic Management (ISM)

Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije SLOVENIA



Agriculture as an extracurricular location

SLB Bildungsgesellschaft
 Servicestelle "Lernen in der Landwirtschaft"
 GERMANY



Bedeutung und Potenziale kooperativer Vermarktungsformen für den Absatz regionaler und regionaler ökologisch erzeugter Produkte in Sachsen

Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt,
 Landwirtschaft und Geologie
 GERMANY



UC: Phyto View

Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Croatia
 CROATIA



UC: Questions and Answers

Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Croatia
 CROATIA

Welcome to the Saxon hoof care cooperative
 Genossenschaft Klauenpfeger eG Sachsen
 GERMANY

The social dimension - the human being at the centre
 Sozialversicherung für Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Gartenbau (SVLFG)
 GERMANY

QuantiFarm - Assessing the impact of digital technology solutions in agriculture in real-life conditions
 quantifarm.eu

Enhancing efficiency in livestock farming by capitalising on existing data and a calculation engine.
 AGRIDEA, Schweizerische Vereinigung für die Entwicklung der Landwirtschaft und des ländlichen Raums
 SWITZERLAND

Die neue Milchleistungsprüfung (6-Felder-Tafel)

Van der Waaschraaf in die Beratung und Praxis

Milchleistungsprüfung (MLP-Daten) werden im Herdmanagement mit Logistik als bewährte Instrumente bei Fragen der Fütterung und Gesundheitskontrolle eingesetzt. Allerdings haben sich die letzten wesentlichen Schwächen und Herausforderungen zur Beurteilung der Weisungseffizienz von Milchvieh verändert, die grundsätzlich aus unterschiedlichen der Milch führen können. Deshalb wurde in einem gemeinsamen Projekt der ANIEA und der Züchtungswissenschaften die in Deutschland entwickelte 6-Felder-Tafel anhand von Schweizer Daten validiert und angepasst.

Die neuen 6-Felderwerte

Subjektiver Überblick – Stoffwechseltablette und 6-Felder-Tafel
Die neue 6-Felder-Tafel ist die 6-felder-Tafel des alten Systems ab und ergänzt die neue MLP mit der Tabelle «Überblick Stoffwechselleistungen». Diese Tabelle zeigt auf einen Blick wichtige Leistungsparameter der Herde, welche grob beurteilt und ggf. durch Anpassungen beim Fütterungs- und Herdmanagement verbessert werden können.

Die neue Milchleistungsprüfung (6-Felder-Tafel)

• Einführung im Frühjahr 2023.
• Das neue Bewertungssystem liefert einen Mehrwert für die Auswertung der MLP.
• Erkenntnisse aus der Forschung wurden zusätzlich aufgenommen.
• Neue Stoffwechseltablette liefert zusammen mit der 6-Felder-Tafel einen schnellen Überblick.

Logos: agridea, BRAUNVIEH, RINDS herdbook, MOESTER

The new milk performance test (6-field chart). From science to consultancy and practice.

AGRIDEA, Schweizerische Vereinigung für die Entwicklung der Landwirtschaft und des ländlichen Raums SWITZERLAND

The complex world of soils condensed into practical tools for farmers

Julia Hirschler, Günther Aust, Michael Englisch, Rainer Kainz, Andreas Jäger, Sigrid Schweser, David Keller, Annette Baumgartner
Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Health and Food Safety (AGHS), Agricultural Research and Education Centre Spandling, Spandling, Spandling AGHS, Hohenheimstr. 14, 1110 Wien

Identifying and sustaining agricultural soils

Fertile soils can ensure the quality of food, feed, fiber and fuel as well as other key soil functions. Since soil types differ in many ways, a targeted assessment and management is required. The newly developed soil field guides for arable land and grassland enable a simple identification of soil types by means of its questions. These tools also explain the soil types' characteristics and contain basics of soil science, e.g. determination of soil texture, soil horizons, indicator plants. In addition, the soil field guides provide specific recommendations for agricultural management adapted to the users' capacities, such as management intensity, suitable crops and tillage regime.

Soil field guides

- Arable land
 - Erosion
 - Soil compaction
 - Nitrate leaching
- Grassland
 - Soil compaction
 - Nitrate leaching
 - Fertilizer application

Other practical materials

- Field sheets
- Infographic
- Hand-on exercises
- Workshop designs

Working app

- Web-based access to all content
- Interactive identification key
- Quiz to test knowledge

Logos: LFT, AGES

The complex world of soils condensed into practical tools for farmers

AGES Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, Vienna AUSTRIA

e-OPG.eu

Facilitates innovation, networking, and education of farmers.

LOST IN THE FOREST OF DATA? Everything important for the farmer.

ABOUT PROJECT

METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

RESULTS

Logos: e-OPG.eu, IPS, FAIRshare

e-OPG.eu - Facilitates innovation, networking and education of farmers

e-OPG.eu

CLIMATE SMART ADVISORS

TOWARDS A CLIMATE SMART EU ADVISORY COMMUNITY

Agri-food Sector

- Animal husbandry
- Mixed farming systems
- Arable crops
- Horticulture
- Other

Advisory Service providers

- Public
- Private
- NGO & Non-profit

Partner Organizations

- Advisory Service Providers
- Committees of Practice
- Climate Smart Coaches
- National CS-Advisory Networks
- Thematic Areas
- Co-Design/Innovation Experiment

Focus

Strengthening the advisors' capacity in providing climate smart advice

Activities

- Dedicated training for 1400 advisors to become Climate Smart Coaches.
- Setting up 800 advisory Committees of Practice led by the Climate Smart Coaches, to create a network of 1400 Climate Smart Advisors.
- Supporting the network through EU-level knowledge exchange on 18 thematic areas, and the development of a soil knowledge repository.

Focus

Securing the advisors' role in the transition towards climate smart farming

Activities

- Connecting to local and EU (multi-leader) innovation projects, initiatives, AWB actions, and policy makers to address pain points, challenges and lessons learned.
- Setting up of Co-Design Innovation Departments to learn how to strengthen the advisors' role in innovation processes.

12 CLIMATE SMART ADVISORS' THEMATIC AREAS

- Cereals management
- Biogas production
- Forage production
- Water management
- Crop management
- Mud management
- Soil health and biodiversity
- Mixed storage and production
- Agrobiodiversity and its link to landscape
- Activities for reducing enteric methane emissions
- Energy management
- Rewarding mechanisms

Logos: ILVO, CLIMATE SMART ADVISORS, TOWARDS A CLIMATE SMART EU ADVISORY COMMUNITY

Climate Smart Advisors - towards a climate smart EU advisory community

ClimateSmartAdvisors BELGIUM



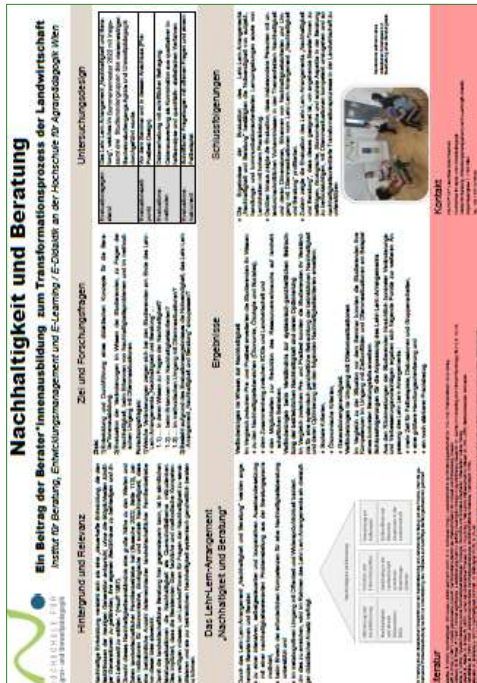
Innovation analysis provides impulses for multi-actor projects

Staatliche Führungsakademie für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten
GERMANY



Recognising and understanding arable and grassland soils

Bundesforschungsanstalt für Wald und Landschaft
HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein
AUSTRIA



Sustainability and Consultation: A Contribution of Consultant Training to the Transformation Process of Agriculture.

Hochschule für Agrarpädagogik Wien
AUSTRIA



More Biodiversity and Climate Protection – Raising Awareness through Education and Consultation.

Landsiedlung Baden-Württemberg GmbH
GERMANY

Die Landwirtschaft im Dialog – zwischen Landwirtschaft und Gesellschaft

4 SCHWERPUNKTE

- 1 SPATZIERGANG:** Erhöhte Transparenz – Agri-food Innovation, Förderung der Agri-food Innovation, etc.
- 2 KOMMUNIKATIONSDIAPYKNE:** Vertikale, horizontale, digitale Kommunikation, etc.
- 3 ÖKOWIRTSCHAFT:** Artikel und Präsentate, Praxistage, etc.
- 4 INTERDISZIPLINÄRE SPATZIERGANG:** Spiegeln der Digitalität, Akzeptanz, etc.

ZIELE

- Förderung der Agri-food Innovation
- Förderung der Agri-food Innovation
- Förderung der Agri-food Innovation

Agriculture in Dialogue – Between Farming and Society

Landwirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich AUSTRIA

LeguNet | Leguminosensetzwerk

Hintergrund: Der Bedarf an heimischen Eiweißfuttermitteln ist das Interesse an eiweißreichen und gutem Protein in der menschlichen Ernährung...

Ziele des Netzwerks:

- Förderung der Fruchtfolgen
- Förderung der Eiweißproduktion
- Unterstützung von Innovationen im Raster- und Lebensmittelbereich
- Förderung der Wissensstrategie zu Anbau und Verarbeitung
- Verbindung von Forschungs- und Entwicklungsverbänden der bundesweiten Eiweißplanungsstrategie

Wertschöpfung: Früher stammt der Großteil der verarbeiteten Ware im weichen Raster- und Lebensmittelmarkt aus Importen...

Wissensstrategie: Vorhandene und im Projekt gewonnene Wissen wird gesammelt, gebündelt und so aufbereitet...

Projektorganisation: Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen, Göttinger Straße 10, 35113 Göttinge

Partner: LfL, HVL, etc.

LeguNet - Legumes Network

Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen GERMANY

MURSPRABEASIN Conference September 15th to 16th 2023 in Osnabrück, Germany

PUBLIC ADVISORY SERVICES TAILORED TO FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Background: In the current digital age, in-house advisory services are no longer sufficient. The need for tailored advisory services is increasing...

Key Information:

- Digitalization of advisory services
- Sustainability of advisory services
- Role of advisory services in the future

TEF (Technical Expertise Framework): TEF is a framework for the development of advisory services in the future. It is based on the needs of farmers and advisory services.

DWIN (Digitalization of Advisory Services): DWIN is a project for the digitalization of advisory services. It aims to develop digital advisory services for farmers.

Public advisory services tailored to fit for the future

Wielkopolska Agricultural Advisory Center in Poznań POLAND

Wissensvermittlung zu digitalen Technologien Ergebnisse einer Betriebsbefragung aus Baden-Württemberg

Kontext und Fragestellung: Nationaler Strategieplan zur Gemeinsamen Agrarpolitik (GAP) verpflichtet Deutschland die Wissensvermittlung zur Digitalisierung zu stärken.

Vorgehensweise: Erstellung von 302 Landwirten aus BW (2021) Landwirten aus SW (2021) 87,3%, 72% mit Berufsabschluss

Ergebnisse:

- 66% der Landwirte sind in der Landwirtschaft
- 72% mit Berufsabschluss
- 66% der Landwirte sind in der Landwirtschaft
- 72% mit Berufsabschluss
- 66% der Landwirte sind in der Landwirtschaft
- 72% mit Berufsabschluss

Schlussfolgerungen: Verbände, Fachverbände und kollektiver Austausch als Brückenbauer im AKIS-Wissen. Forschungsbedarf zu Qualifizierungsmaßnahmen von Wissensvermittlern und Qualifizierungsbedürfnissen von Wissensvermittlern. Spezifische Unterstützungsangebote notwendig, um spezifische Akzeptanzprobleme zu adressieren.

Knowledge transfer on digital technologies - Results of a company survey from Baden-Württemberg

Universität Hohenheim GERMANY

Analyzing an EIP-Agri Operational Group Cross-Visit of Advisors in Győr, Hungary

5 countries

1 advisor **1 research centre** **1 feed company** **1 agricultural producer**

- Hungarian cross-visit teams "light season" are using several types produced in different growing regions as an alternative protein source in feeding of pigs and to improve their economic results.
- Hungarian cross-participants: تبادل, research teams, the developing a specialized products.

Keynote cross-visit realization

Visitors visit the farm, but the foreign advisors are not present. The main objective is to obtain accurate results from the field experiments on the usability of different feeding of the piglets for different production groups, as well as their efficiency production results - the first animal production experiments of the farm were conducted three different agro-ecological diversity, one of which was the main focus of the visit.

Lessons learned

The partners in the group found that the yield of crops is significantly determined by the agricultural conditions. The quality of the soil is the main factor during the development of the crop. The development and innovations at the domestic and international level, the visitors of the farm are committed to expand continuous development and joint learning.

Results: Agri-visit was a success. Visit: www.rak.hu

Analyzing an EIP-Agri Operational Group - Cross-Visit of Advisors in Győr, Hungary

Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture HUNGARY

The online self-check tool «Plant Protection Products and Water Protection»

AGRIDEA

Project aim: Current studies in Switzerland show that watercourses in agricultural catchment areas are often significantly polluted with plant protection products (PPP). A new free online self-check tool now enables Swiss farms to check quickly and easily how professionally they use PPPs with regard to water protection.

The major benefit: The information can be accessed via tablet and smartphone at any time and from any location, be it while working on the farm or during an after-work beer. The tool is available in German, French and Italian.

After the self-check, the participant receives access to information material (checklists, videos, leaflets, etc.) on the individual modules.

A traffic light system indicates where...

- ...good professional practice is being followed
- ...the practice is acceptable, but with potential for improvement, or
- ...a high-risk, poor professional practice is being followed.

For all answers given, information on potential risk sources as well as suggestions for solutions are given.

The online self-check tool «Plant Protection and Water Protection»

AGRIDEA, Schweizerische Vereinigung für die Entwicklung der Landwirtschaft und des ländlichen Raums SWITZERLAND

12connect

Hungarian farm advisors acting as "innovation hubs" in EIP-Agri type operational group project applying interactive innovation methods and digital tools to track grey cattle herds using IoT technology

The advantages are:

- ✔ No need to travel
- ✔ Information on animal health
- ✔ Improved pasture management
- ✔ Virtual fencing

The key role for advisors in innovation processes is to develop a trustful network between all partners. Building trust with a farmer especially requires time and sustained service with good performance, which may also develop strong informal ties with the farmer.

In the Hungarian Pusztas, grey cattle are grazing without fences in very large areas. A group of advisors had the idea to test an IT-system which allows them to monitor the movement of the cattle. The sensors - developed by the project especially for this rough breed - have similar size like normal ear tags. They are powered by a solar cell and communicate via LoRaWAN which enables long-life, long-distance operation. The geo-location of the cattle and the temperature can be followed in real time via maps via interface on a mobile device, and the collected data be analysed for various purposes.

12connect **YouTube video** **Follow-up project**

Hungarian farm advisors acting as "innovation hubs" in EIP-Agri type operational group project

Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture HUNGARY

Die Rolle der Beratung im Rahmen von EIP-Agri: Innovative Ideen für die Landwirtschaft der Zukunft

Was ist EIP-Agri?

Die EIP-Agri (European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability) ist ein Programm der Europäischen Kommission zur Förderung von Innovationen in der Landwirtschaft. Ziel ist es, die Produktivität und Nachhaltigkeit der Landwirtschaft zu verbessern und die Lebensqualität der Landwirte zu steigern.

Die Rolle der Beratung im Rahmen von EIP-Agri:

- Beratung bei der Identifizierung von Innovationsideen
- Unterstützung bei der Umsetzung von Projekten
- Vermittlung zwischen Landwirten und Innovationspartnern
- Unterstützung bei der Finanzierung von Projekten

Innovations- und Zusammenarbeit im Wissen

Die EIP-Agri zielt darauf ab, die Zusammenarbeit zwischen Landwirten und Innovationspartnern zu fördern. Dies geschieht durch die Entwicklung von Innovationsnetzwerken und die Förderung von Projekten, die Innovationen in der Landwirtschaft vorantreiben.

Das Beispiel aus Hessen im Spotlight

- Laufzeit: 2020 bis 2023
- Förderung: Gefördert durch die EU und das Land Hessen
- Innovationspartner: Die EIP-Agri-Operational Group in Hessen (EIP-AGRI-OPG) und die EIP-Agri-Operational Group in Hessen (EIP-AGRI-OPG)
- Innovationsprojekte: Entwicklung von Smart Farming, Präzisionslandwirtschaft, Digitalisierung der Landwirtschaft, etc.

Partners: IfLS Beratung und Projekte GmbH, HESSEN, Kofinanzierung der Europäischen Union, ifls

The Role of Consultation within EIP-Agri: Innovative Ideas for the Agriculture of the Future

IfLS Beratung und Projekte GmbH GERMANY



Maximising the Potential of Full Cost Accounting

AGRIDEA, Schweizerische Vereinigung für die Entwicklung der Landwirtschaft und des ländlichen Raums SWITZERLAND



Welcome at the Federal Information Center for Agriculture (BZL)

Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung GERMANY



Basic Home Economics Knowledge as a Resource for Social Services

AGRIDEA, Schweizerische Vereinigung für die Entwicklung der Landwirtschaft und des ländlichen Raums SWITZERLAND



Healthy Roots: Fit & Strong in the Green Profession

Sozialversicherung für Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Gartenbau (SVLFG) GERMANY

Agil – Sächsische Agentur für Regionale Lebensmittel

Agil vernetzt

- Sie suchen Lieferant:innen am regionalen Lebensmittel für Ihren (Brotbacken)?
- Sie möchten sich mit anderen Produzent:innen aus Ihrer Branche vernetzen?
- Sie suchen Mittelwege für Ihre Kooperationsverträge?

Die Agentur bringt die richtigen Akteur:innen zusammen.

Agil informiert

- Sie möchten wissen, was Sie bei der Eröffnung Ihres Hofladens beachten müssen?
- Sie sind unsicher, wie Sie Ihre verpackten Lebensmittel korrekt beschriften?
- Welche Herstellungsverordnungen sind für Ihre Zielgruppe am besten geeignet?

Die Agentur sammelt und verbreitet Wissen.

Agil berät

- Sie suchen eine Prozessbegleitung zur erfolgreichen Umsetzung Ihres Kooperationsvorhabens?
- Für Ihr Projekt suchen Sie nach der geeigneten Förderer:in?
- Wie können Sie sich regional und zukunftsfähig am Markt positionieren?

Die Agentur berät Gruppen und Initiativen kostenfrei.

Wir unterstützen beim Aufbau regionaler Wertschöpfungsketten in Sachsen.

Agil – Sächsische Agentur für Regionale Lebensmittel
 Ammer Straße 10
 01067 Leipzig, 01107 Leipzig
 0341 310 1000 | 0341 310 10 01
 kontakt@agil.sachsen.de
 www.agil.sachsen.de

Agil connected - Agil informs - Agil advises

Agil – Sächsische Agentur für Regionale Lebensmittel
GERMANY

EU-FarmBook

The EU-FarmBook is an easily accessible and user-friendly EU-wide digital platform for practitioners in agriculture, forestry and other rural sectors supporting the exchange of knowledge among EU and national actors.

Vision
EU-FarmBook is the point of reference for farmers, foresters and advisors.

Mission
EU-FarmBook's aim is to serve the needs of farmers, foresters and advisors. The Mission Group project offers an easy-to-use, multi-lingual learning centre for agriculture and forestry practitioners, joining forces to voluntarily knowledge transfer according to feedback, experience, methodology, and available time. The EU-FarmBook users can interact and explore content to help solve their daily challenges.

Constitution
The project is a multi-stakeholder partnership between European, national and regional governments, NGOs, and educational institutions. Together with the national project practitioners and EU-FarmBook, EU-FarmBook supports the European Union's Action Plan for Digitalisation and the EU Green Deal in the rural sector.

What is the value of EU-FarmBook?
The quality of information provided and available in the EU-FarmBook is high and covers a wide range of topics. The platform is user-friendly and easy to navigate. The platform is available in multiple languages.

Getting in touch
• Contact your national project practitioners
• Contact your national project practitioners
• Contact your national project practitioners

Find out more about EU-FarmBook and its mission. Scan the QR code to visit the EU-FarmBook website.

Financed by the European Union

EU-FarmBook - an easily accessible and user-friendly EU-wide digital platform

LANDCARE EUROPE

Mit partizipativen Workshopmethoden Wissen vermitteln und die Umsetzung von Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung fördern

A. Pöhlert, C. Jentsch, M. Jung
 Institut für Ernährungswissenschaften, Leibniz Universität Hannover

Hintergrund
Die Umsetzung der Tierwohlrichtlinie (TW) (Richtlinie zur Tierhaltung der Nutztierhalterinnen und -halter) und der Tierwohlrichtlinie (TW) (Richtlinie zur Tierhaltung der Nutztierhalterinnen und -halter) ist ein zentraler Bestandteil der europäischen Landwirtschaftspolitik. Die Umsetzung dieser Richtlinien ist jedoch mit erheblichen Herausforderungen verbunden. Insbesondere die Umsetzung von Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung ist eine komplexe Aufgabe, die eine enge Zusammenarbeit zwischen den verschiedenen Akteuren der Nutztierhaltung erfordert.

Zielsetzung
Sensibilisierung der Nutztierhalterinnen und -halter für die Bedeutung von Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung. Vermittlung von Wissen über Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung. Förderung der Umsetzung von Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung.

Methoden
Partizipative Workshopmethoden, die eine intensive, wechselseitige Kommunikation zwischen den Teilnehmer:innen ermöglichen. Einsatz von interaktiven Methoden wie Rollenspielen, Brainstorming und Gruppenarbeiten. Ziel ist es, das Wissen der Teilnehmer:innen zu erweitern und die Umsetzung von Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung zu fördern.

Erkenntnisse aus der Psychologie
Erkenntnisse aus der Psychologie zeigen, dass eine positive Einstellung und ein hohes Maß an Motivation die Umsetzung von Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung fördern.

Referenzen
Pöhlert, A., Jentsch, C., Jung, M. (2023). Partizipative Workshopmethoden zur Wissensvermittlung und Förderung der Umsetzung von Klimaschutz- und Tierwohlmaßnahmen in der Nutztierhaltung. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 114(1), 1-10.

Using participatory workshop methods to convey knowledge and promote the implementation of climate protection and animal welfare measures in livestock farming

Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und Klimaschutz des Landes Brandenburg (MLUK)
GERMANY

CDPnews

CDPnews is a free, open access, online platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between practitioners in the field of carnivore damage prevention. The platform is user-friendly and easy to navigate. The platform is available in multiple languages.

Project background
Carnivore damage prevention is a complex task that requires the exchange of knowledge and experiences between practitioners in the field. The CDPnews project aims to provide a platform for this exchange.

Key features
• Free access to all content
• Multi-lingual content
• User-friendly interface
• Regular updates
• High-quality content

Get in touch
• Contact your national project practitioners
• Contact your national project practitioners
• Contact your national project practitioners

Partners: agridea, KORA, etc.

Carnivore Damage Prevention News

CDPnews.net
SWITZERLAND

NETZWERK fokus tierwohl
Tierwohl praxisnah vermitteln
 Projektlaufzeit: 12.2019 - 12.2023

- **Wie:** Tierwohlmultiplikator*innen (TWM) und Geschäftsteams in den jeweiligen Bundesländern; Impulsbetriebe
- **Was:** Verbesserung des Wissenstransfers in die, und aus der Landwirtschaft entlang der Wertschöpfungskette
- **Wie:** Bundesweite, kostenlose Präsenz- und Onlineveranstaltungen zum Thema Tierwohl, sowie Netzwerkarbeit mit Impulsbetrieben
 - Themenwahl orientiert an Schwerpunkten durch die Geschäftsteams

Zahlen und Formate:

- 1.161 Veranstaltungen mit 59.925 Teilnehmenden (Stand 26.05.2023)
- Unterschiedliche Formate für den Wissenstransfer durch Podcasts, Videos, Webcasts, Artikel und Leitfäden, Checklisten, etc.
- Zu finden: fokus-Tierwühle, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Podcast-Apps

Die Teilnehmenden des letzten Treffers der Geschäftsteams und TWM im April bei Hannover

fokus-tierwohl.de

Conveying animal welfare in a practical manner- Netzwerk Fokus Tierwohl

fokus-tierwohl.de
 GERMANY

SRUC Where Research Meets Practice SAC
 Part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

Research in Action

Farmer-Led Knowledge Transfer

Net Zero Farming

Come Speak With Us To Learn More About Our Innovative Knowledge Exchange Approach

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) - Where Research Meets Practice

Scotland's Rural College
 SCOTLAND

Farm Health, Safety and Wellbeing Training for Farmers Using Theatre as a Behaviour Change Intervention

Introduction

Research Aim and Objectives

Methodology

Results

Conclusions

This project is a European Innovation Partnership project co-funded by the European Commission and Irish Government as part of Ireland's Rural Development Programme

Farm Health, Safety and Wellbeing Training for Farmers Using Theatre as a Behaviour Change Intervention

University College Dublin
 IRELAND

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

BildungsAcker – Education as sustainable development within teacher education

Methodology

Results

Conclusions

Acker

BildungsAcker – Education as sustainable development within teacher education

Technische Universität Dresden
 GERMANY



Empowering the Farm as a Learning Environment!

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Lernort Bauernhof e.V.
GERMANY



Effective decision making to support the national AKIS Case study: demonstration farms as transformative tool

Ústav zemědělské ekonomiky a informací
CZECH REPUBLIC



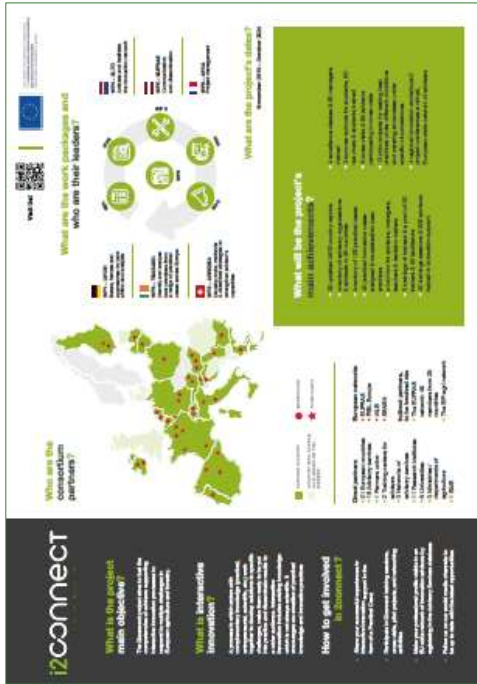
SolaRegio - Community-Supported Agriculture in the Context of Regional Innovation Ecosystems

Universität Siegen
GERMANY



Young EUFRAS - YPARD Mentoring and Training Program

European Forum for Agricultural Rural Advisory Services



i2CONNECT CORENET – interactive innovation

i2CONNECT consortium



Right Ideologies in Nature, Environmental and Climate Protection

FARN – Fachstelle Radikalisierungsprävention und Engagement im Naturschutz GERMANY



Perspectives for Saxony Agricultural Enterprises through Collaboration with People with Disabilities: The "Participation Agriculture. New Paths in Working Life" Project.

Hochschule Mittweida GERMANY



Academy Diversification in Bavaria: Branch and Business Development in Diversification.

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten GERMANY

Landwirtschaftlicher Gewässerschutz

Umsetzung der EU-Wasserrahmenrichtlinie im kooperativen Ansatz

Zustand der Gewässer in Sachsen

Priorität mit Nitrat und Phosphor belastete Gebiete

Zielsetzung

Maßnahmenprogramm zur Reduzierung von Nährstoffeinträgen in städtische Gewässer

Kooperativer Ansatz

Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie | Sachsen

Agricultural Water Protection - Implementing the EU Water Framework Directive through a cooperative Approach.

Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie
GERMANY

Landwirtschaftlicher Gewässerschutz

Wissenstransfer zur Umsetzung der EU-Wasserrahmenrichtlinie

Formate: Betriebsbesuche und Praxisdemonstrationen

Ziele:

- Übertragung von Wissen und Erfahrungen zur Umsetzung der Wasserrahmenrichtlinie
- Identifizierung von Problemen und Herausforderungen
- Identifizierung von Maßnahmen zur Reduzierung von Nährstoffeinträgen

Formate: Feldtage, Feldtage Gruppen, Einzeltag, Betriebs, Einzeltag, Einzeltag

Ziele:

- Praxiswissen
- Praxiswissen
- Praxiswissen

Formate: Fachtag, Einzeltag, Einzeltag, Einzeltag, Einzeltag

Ziele:

- Praxiswissen
- Praxiswissen
- Praxiswissen

4-Stufen-Modell der betrieblichen Gewässerschutzberatung:

Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie | Sachsen

Agricultural Water Protection - Knowledge Transfer for the Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive

Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie
GERMANY

Landwirtschaftlicher Gewässerschutz

Praxisdemonstration zum Düngungsmanagement

Hintergrund

Demonstrationsanlage

Zielsetzung

Ergebnisse

Fazit

Von der Idee bis zur Umsetzung einer Praxisdemonstration

Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie | Sachsen

Agricultural Water Protection - Practical Demonstration on Fertilization Management

Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie
GERMANY

Landwirtschaftlicher Gewässerschutz

Erosionsschutz und Wasserretention mit Hilfe von bewirtschaftungsintegrierten Verwaltungen - eine ergänzende Maßnahme der EU-Wasserrahmenrichtlinie

Ausgangssituation

Zielsetzungen

Umsetzung der Verwaltungen und Ergebnisse der Erosion- und Abflussmodellierung

Fazit

Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie | Sachsen

Agricultural Water Protection - Erosion Control and Water Retention

Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie
GERMANY



GQS Farm Check - Comprehensive Quality Assurance for Agricultural Enterprises

*Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie
GERMANY*



Grow equally - Our way of working

*Hushållnings sällskapet
SWEDEN*



Consulting on "Beneficial Organism Use in Horticulture" Modern Plant Protection Management

*Landwirtschaftskammer Steiermark
AUSTRIA*



Centre of Excellence for Arable Land, Soil Conservation and Erosion Control

*Landwirtschaftskammer Steiermark
AUSTRIA*

Der energieautarke Bauernhof

Die vier Eckpfeiler der Energie-Beratung:
 Energieeffizienz, Energiemanagement, Energieerzeugung, Energieerzeugung großer Wert gesetzt. Die ersten Schritte sollten bei der Effizienz gesetzt werden. Je weniger Energie benötigt wird, desto leichter ist es bei den weiteren Punkten zu werden. Die eigene Erzeugung von Energie folgt. Unabhängig und flexibel in der Planung. Das Risikomanagement hilft bei den Entscheidungen. Durch die Optimierung kann der Anbauerfolg deutlich erhöht werden.

Die vier Eckpfeiler der Energie-Beratung:
 +42% bis +70% Eigenstromerzeugung
 +31% bis +50% Strombedarf
 +40% bis +60% Lüftung
 +40% bis +60% Bewässerung
 +40% bis +60% Heizwärmebedarf
 +40% bis +70% X-Maßnahmen
 +10% bis +20% Gärten
 +10% bis +20% Energieerzeugung
 +10% bis +20% Erdbeiwasser

Datenaufzeichnung:
 Ländliche Datenverarbeitung der Energieflüsse ist wesentlich für effizientes und intelligentes Energiemanagement. Dieses Wissen wird in Programmen generiert, um die Anbauerkenntnisse und Energieerzeugung zu verbessern. Dabei werden die verschiedenen Landwirte für jede Betriebsgröße genau analysiert und die Datenbanken dazu angepasst. Das reduziert den Aufwand von Energie und maximiert den selbst realisierten Nutzen der Betriebe.

Förderungen:
 Die Energieberatung ist ein Bestandteil des Bundesprogramms „Lebensgrundlagenverbesserung im ländlichen Raum – Kompetenzverbesserung“ das über die letzten Jahre subventioniert wurde und seit Februar 2020 bis Ende 2025 läuft. Hier ist es möglich, je nach Energieerzeugungssituation gefördert zu bekommen. Zusätzlich wird die administrative Aufwandsleistung (Beratung) von den Förderern teilweise bezahlt. Somit haben auch kleinere Betriebe qualifiziertes Know-How, die bereits in die Energieberatung sehr viel zu leisten haben.

IK Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich
IK Landwirtschaftskammer Steiermark

The Energy Self-sufficient Farm

Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich
 Landwirtschaftskammer Steiermark
 AUSTRIA

One software for many sustainability tools

PSAM - Platform for Sustainability Assessment Methods

The new RISE 4.0 software was designed as a platform that can also be used by other indicator-based sustainability methods

Generic software architecture:
 Common indicator principles
 Indicator pool - sharing of indicators
 Proprietary methods - no sharing

Advantages of PSAM:
 More efficient use of resources: Developing good software and indicators is very expensive. Through sharing, these costs can be distributed among several users. This makes sustainability methods affordable for more users and more widespread.
 Better scientific quality of the indicators: The "Indicator Network" around PSAM promotes knowledge and exchange of experience among developers.
 More effective use of sustainability tools: PSAM allows the use of a wider range of indicators. This allows users to use more suitable indicators and thus cover more use cases.

PSAM - Platform for Sustainability Assessment Methods
 Bern University of Applied Sciences
 SWITZERLAND

PSAM - Platform for Sustainability Assessment Methods

Bern University of Applied Sciences
 SWITZERLAND

Analyzing the sustainability of farms with RISE - since 23 years!

RISE - Response Inducing Sustainability Evaluation

A farm is sustainable if it is sufficiently profitable, conserves natural resources, and provides good living conditions for all people.

With RISE (Response-Inducing Sustainability Evaluation), IALB has developed a method for agricultural education and extension with which the sustainability of agricultural farms can be analyzed holistically and improved together with the farmers. The aim is always to support the farms in their development, build knowledge and promote cooperation.

What is the process of RISE consulting?

- Preparation:** The consultant and the farmer discuss the details of the consulting by telephone. Data can be provided to the software | ca. 0,5 - 3 h.
- Farm tour and interview:** The consultant collects the required information on the farm | ca. 0,5 h.
- Results & action planning:** Together with the consultant the results of the analysis are discussed and brought to the farm context. Farmer and consultant prioritize goals and plan appropriate measures | ca. 2 h.
- Further support:** After 3-6 months you take stock with the RISE consultant. You discuss open questions and plan the further procedure | ca. 1,5 h.

In what context is RISE applied?
Individual consultancy for farmers:
 Workgroup: A group of farm managers works on selected topics of their analysis.
 Teaching: Farm analysis and optimization planning
 Student theses: Term papers, Bachelor, Master theses
 Services for clients: Analysis of several farms

The RISE software is globally applied, available in seven languages and can be used online, as well as offline. To date, RISE has been used on over 3300 farms in 60 countries worldwide by more than 300 trained RISE users. Farm types analysed include dairy, vegetable, arable and mixed farms; coffee, cocoa and tea plantations; African smallholdings; and nomadic pastoralists.

RISE - Response Inducing Sustainability Evaluation
 Bern University of Applied Sciences
 SWITZERLAND

Analyzing the sustainability of farms with RISE

Bern University of Applied Sciences
 SWITZERLAND

cecra - Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas

a product of ialb

Die Qualifizierungsreihe für Beratungskräfte im ländlichen Raum

Praxisorientierte Seminare und beratungsspezifisches Methodentraining für Einsteiger und Fortgeschrittene
Länderübergreifender Austausch und Vernetzung mit Kolleginnen und Kollegen aus der Beratung
Erweiterung des methodischen Repertoires und der persönlichen Beratungskompetenz
Positives Beratungsbild durch ein internationales Zertifikat - CECRA-Basic oder CECRA-Zertifikat

anmelden gemeinsam wachsen kompetent beraten

www.cecra.net
kontakt@cecra.net

cecra - Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas
 Bern University of Applied Sciences
 SWITZERLAND

cecra - The Qualification Series for Advisory Staff in Rural Areas

Internationale Akademie für ländliche Beratung e.V.
 GERMANY

EU-FarmBook
März / 2023 bis / 2024 (abgeschlossen 2023)

EU-FarmBook – Die europäische online Wissensplattform für Land- und Forstwirtschaft bietet Chancen für Bildung und Beratung

Was ist die online Plattform EU-FarmBook?

- Eine offene, nutzerfreundliche digitale Plattform für anwenderorientiertes Wissen und Wissensaustausch in Land- und Forstwirtschaft
- Nutzung für unterschiedliche Beratung- und Schulungsformate

Ziele

- EU-weite Bereitstellung von praxisorientierten Informationen, Wissen bzw. Know-How in verschiedenen Formaten (Web, E-Learning, Podcasts, Webinare)
- Unterstützung der Weiterbildung bzw. lebenslangen Weiterbildung von Land- und Forstwirtschaftlern für eine nachhaltige Land- und Forstwirtschaft

Was wird die online Plattform EU-FarmBook für Bildung und Beratung bereitstellen?

Entwicklung und Nutzung der Plattform

- Bereitstellung von Leitfäden für die Erstellung von online Bildungs- und Schulungsangeboten für die Land- und Forstwirtschaftliche Praxis
- Individuelle Begleitung des Nutzers durch die Autoren
- Automatische Übersetzung und Langzeit-Verfügbarkeit dieser praxisorientierten Unterlagen (Videos, Kurse oder Podcasts)
- Trainings- und Vermittlungsangebote der EU-FarmBook-Teams

Qualitätskriterien

- Reliability und personalisierte Suchergebnisse durch KI-basierte Chatbot für individuelle Suchen und Lernen
- Leichtere Zugänglichkeit, Projektgruppen und Trainingsmaterial aus anderen Ländern durch Automatische Übersetzung der Suchergebnisse (z.B. z)

Welche Vorteile bietet die online Plattform EU-FarmBook für Bildung und Beratung?

- Internationalität und Vernetzungsmöglichkeiten
- Interaktive Sichtbarkeit und Vertiefung der Bildung-, Trainings- und Beratungsangebote von EU- bzw. national geförderten Projekten
- Verfügbarkeit aller Ergebnisse über die Projektseite (Forum)
- Möglichkeit zur Vernetzung von Nutzern durch die Erstellung von Projekt-, institution- oder Lernerzeugnissen

Das Projekt EU-FarmBook läuft bis Ende März 2024 und ist transparent auf der EU-FarmBook-Plattform (www.eu-farmbook.eu) zu verfolgen. Für mehr Informationen zu EU-FarmBook können Sie über die EU-FarmBook-Website oder die EU-FarmBook-Website auf der Website der Europäischen Union zugreifen.

Funded by the European Union

EU-FarmBook - The European Online Knowledge Platform for Agriculture and Forestry

Hochschule Rhein-Waal
GERMANY

Nitratscouts GREEN FABLAB KAMP-LINTFORT

Partizipative Entwicklung von Bildungsmodulen: Daten gemeinsam Bilder und Spielideen geben

Genes Lutz, Magdalena Holzbauer, Marie Zimmer, Veronika Kutz, Özkan Akdeniz, Brian Lintz, Brian Pahl, Marlene Chavira, Konrad Gerschlager, loquax@uclouvain.be

Das Projekt Nitratscouts

Im Projekt entwickeln verschiedene Akteure aus Landwirtschaft, Wissenschaft, Beratung und Bildung gemeinsam Lern-Tools zu Nitrat im Grundwasser für unterschiedliche Zielgruppen.

Ziel ist es, mit den Tools für die Problematik zu sensibilisieren und Lösungswegideen zu finden. Das geschieht in drei Arbeitsschritten:

1. Umweltwissen erheben
2. Digitale Methoden und
3. gesellschaftliche Wirkung

Der Ansatz

Im Arbeitstisch digitale Methoden werden offene Daten genutzt und z.B. in Form von Karten und Diagrammen visualisiert (Abb. 2), um Wissen über Nitrat im Grundwasser auf regionaler Ebene zu vermitteln.

Im Arbeitstisch gesellschaftliche Wirkung werden Workshops im GreenFabLab und auf den Äckern mit verschiedenen Akteuren Ideen für Spiele entwickelt, welche vorüber unterschiedliche Perspektiven auf die Herausforderung von Nitrat im Grundwasser berücksichtigen.

Spiele und digitale Tools

Erweitert und ergebnisreich in einer zweiten Generation werden über das Nitroscore-Grundwassermap (Abb. 3), ein einfaches Spiel, das einen Einblick von Nitratbelastung unter unterschiedlichen Akteuren vermittelt, und das Nitroscore-Grundwassermap, bei dem es darum geht, im Team über im Wettbewerb mit anderen Spielern gut zu werden, eine Nitrat im Grundwasser zu helfen.

Alle Materialien zum Download sind gratis verfügbar ab Mitte 2024 verfügbar.

Links & Literatur

Links: <https://www.nitratscouts.de/>, <https://www.nitratscouts.com/>

Projektpartner

Green FabLab Rhein-Waal
Umweltwissenschaftliche Entwicklungsgruppe
Green FabLab
Wissenschaftszentrum für Politik
Wissenschaftszentrum für Politik

Nitratscouts - Participatory Development of Educational Modules: Collaboratively Creating Images and Game Ideas

Hochschule Rhein-Waal
GERMANY

ialb EUFRAS SEASN

62. IALB - 12. EUFRAS - 9. SEASN - Working Congress 2023 in Saxony

Internal small User Cases in SEASN LOT

Overview

- Providing technical skill capacity and linking farmers with advisors via an online platform
- Supporting smallholder farmers in reaching their full production potential

Digitalization of the Agricultural Advisory Service

Innovation for Agricultural Development of Kosovo (IADK)

- ~ 20 Advisors
- ~ 40 farmers
- ~ 200 ha

Enhancing Agricultural Advisory Services in North Macedonia

Fondacija Agrarna Inovacija (FAI)

- Simplifies data entry and management, reducing administrative burden
- Accumulates successful practices and solutions, creating a valuable knowledge base.
- ~ 12 Advisors
- ~ 2904 farmers

Digitalisation as marketing tool in agriculture

Center for Innovation in Turkey (CIT)

Aim of the User Case is to enable the FARMSHARE project partners especially the farmers to offer their products on the local and global market with no cost

- Adaptation of platform offers that each Farmer partner could open their own web page on their own domain for free. In the same moment this new page is not alive in the wide world of web but it is already connected into the network of pages.

Towards next Generation Greek Advisors (GAI) Advisors

GAIA CONSULTING

The User Case primarily aims to train advisors in a way that will help them meet the challenges, benefit them, and make them able to integrate DATC into their daily activities.

- ~ 8 Tools
- ~ 1250 farmers
- ~ 2900 ha

For more information about User Cases please contact authors of this poster

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Domagoj Gorup domagoj.gorup@seasn.com.hr

Internal small User Case in SEASN LOT

Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije
SLOVENIA

DMPL

Diversitäts-Management und neue Prozessqualität für nachhaltige Landwirtschaft und regionale Wertschöpfung

Die aktuelle Projektregion für FuE-Projekte

Das Bündnis und die Vision

DMPL ist ein Kooperationsbündnis für Bildung und Beratung (BMBF) geförderter Mittelständler in den Bundesländern in der Landwirtschaft und der regionalen Wertschöpfungskette. Das Bündnis zielt auf den Strukturwandel der Ökonomie und der Gesellschaft ab.

Die Ziele

- Zusammenarbeit aller Bündnispartner in der Wertschöpfungskette
- Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation
- Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation
- Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation

Die Aufgaben

- Aufbau und Pflege eines Netzwerkes
- Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation
- Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation
- Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation

Die Bündnispartner und Zielgruppen

- Die Landwirte, die in der Wertschöpfungskette tätig sind
- Die Regionalentwickler
- Die Wissenschaftler und Innovationspartner
- Die Dienstleister in der Wertschöpfungskette
- Die öffentlichen Einrichtungen

Die Handlungsfelder bei FuE-Projekten

- Digitalisierung
- Innovation
- Nachhaltigkeit
- Regionalentwicklung
- Wertschöpfungskette

Die aktuelle Förderphase und der Ausblick

- Die aktuelle Förderphase umfasst die Jahre 2022 bis 2024
- Die nächsten Schritte sind die Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation
- Die nächsten Schritte sind die Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation
- Die nächsten Schritte sind die Entwicklung von Projekten in den Bereichen Digitalisierung und Innovation

DMPL - Diversity Management and New Process Quality for Sustainable Agriculture and Regional Value Creation

DMPL
GERMANY

Elevating Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) in the Republic of North Macedonia

Ana Simonovska¹, Emelija Tuna¹, Dragan Gjochevski¹, Dori Pavlovska Gjorgjevska², Goce Georgievski³

¹Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food-Skopje, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM-FASJ)
²Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (RSDW-RSE)
³Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of North Macedonia (MRFWE)

Introduction
 Agriculture knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) are essential for the development of rural areas. The AKIS model is a framework for the development of rural areas that includes the interaction between knowledge, innovation, and institutions. The AKIS model is a framework for the development of rural areas that includes the interaction between knowledge, innovation, and institutions.

Aim
 The aim of this paper is to present the AKIS model in the Republic of North Macedonia and to identify the main challenges and opportunities for its implementation in the country.

Current AKIS components, and development levels

Component	Development Level
Government	High
Academia	Medium
Private Sector	Low
Non-Profit	Low
Farmer	Low
Extension	Low
Research	Low
Innovation	Low
Entrepreneurship	Low
Investment	Low
Infrastructure	Low
Human Resources	Low
Information	Low
Finance	Low
Market	Low
Policy	Low
Legal	Low
Social	Low
Environmental	Low
Health	Low
Energy	Low
Water	Low
Climate	Low
Land	Low
Other	Low

Proposed strategic steps toward functional AKIS

Conclusions
 The AKIS model is a framework for the development of rural areas that includes the interaction between knowledge, innovation, and institutions. The AKIS model is a framework for the development of rural areas that includes the interaction between knowledge, innovation, and institutions.

Literature cited
 Simonovska, A., Tuna, E., Gjochevski, D., Pavlovska, G., & Georgievski, G. (2023). Elevating Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) in the Republic of North Macedonia. *Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology*, 1(1), 1-10.

Elevating Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) in the Republic of North Macedonia

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food Skopje, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM FASF) NORTH MACEDONIA

Tierwohl-Kompetenzzentrum Rind

Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen

Fortschritte mit Kompetenz und Spezialwissen für eine tierwohlgerechte, umweltschonende und nachhaltige Nährstoffhaltung
 Laufzeit: 01.05.2020 - 31.12.2023

Projektziele:
 - Erhöhung der Tierwohlstandards für eine tierwohlgerechte, umweltschonende und nachhaltige Nährstoffhaltung
 - Erhöhung der Tierwohlstandards für eine tierwohlgerechte, umweltschonende und nachhaltige Nährstoffhaltung

Aufbau des Netzwerkes
 - Tierwohl-Kompetenzzentrum Rind
 - Tierwohl-Kompetenzzentrum Rind

Aktuelle Arbeitsgruppen des Tierwohl-Kompetenzzentrums Rind
 - Tierwohl-Kompetenzzentrum Rind
 - Tierwohl-Kompetenzzentrum Rind

Animal Welfare Competence Centre Cattle

Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen GERMANY

Tierwohl-Kompetenzzentrum Schaf

Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen

Praktische Umsetzung des Kupferversuchs bei Schafflämmen begleitet durch die LLH-Beratung sowie eine wissenschaftliche Auswertung der Thematik
 In 25 beteiligten Schafflämmen mit 12 Rassen und Gebrauchsschafen
 Laufzeit: 01.10.2021 - 30.09.2024

Projektziele:
 - Entwicklung der Schafflämmen aus dem Modell und Expertenwissen der Tierwohle
 - Vermeidung von Kupfervergiftungen
 - Vermeidung von Kupfervergiftungen

Conclusions
 The AKIS model is a framework for the development of rural areas that includes the interaction between knowledge, innovation, and institutions. The AKIS model is a framework for the development of rural areas that includes the interaction between knowledge, innovation, and institutions.

Animal Welfare Competence Centre Sheep

Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen GERMANY

Pilotierung kollegialer Gruppenberatung in Brandenburg

Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde

Ziel: Stärkung der landwirtschaftlichen Beratung in Brandenburg, durch:
 - Methodische Qualifizierung von Berater*innen zur Durchführung kollegialer Gruppenberatung
 - Erprobung kollegialer Gruppenberatungsfomate in sog. Anpack-Gruppen
 - Schließung von Beratungsbedürfnissen anhand einer Website
 - Vernetzung zentraler Stakeholder

Berater*innen-Qualifizierung
 - Entwicklung und Umsetzung eines Trainingskonzepts zur Qualifizierung von Berater*innen, sowie Supervisor*innen
 - Erfahrungsaustausch unter Berater*innen

Website
 - Analyse ähnlicher Angebote anderer Bundesländer
 - Bedarfserhebung bei Stakeholdern
 - Zielgruppenorientierte Angebotsoberfläche

Anpack-Gruppen
 - kollegialer Austausch in Thementopikern
 - Mit Treffen moderiert von Berater*in, vorbereitet von Projektleitung*in
 - U.U. begleitende Problemkreise unterstützt von Versuchsbetrieben*in

Vernetzung
 - Abstimmung mit relevanten Stakeholdern
 - Berater*innen-Tage

Piloting of collegial group counselling in Brandenburg

Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde, GERMANY

RegioNet WasserBoden
Ein Beitrag zum Strukturwandel in den Bergbaufolgelandschaften

Wissensgrundlagen des Projektes

10 Jahre RegioNet WasserBoden haben die lokale und internationale wissenschaftliche und praktische Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Bergbaufolgelandschaften und den Landwirten in der Region des Erzgebirges und des Erzgebirgsraums gefördert. Die RegioNet WasserBoden-Initiative hat die Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Bergbaufolgelandschaften und den Landwirten in der Region des Erzgebirges und des Erzgebirgsraums gefördert. Die RegioNet WasserBoden-Initiative hat die Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Bergbaufolgelandschaften und den Landwirten in der Region des Erzgebirges und des Erzgebirgsraums gefördert.

Ziele

- 1. Identifizierung von Wasser- und Nährstoff- und Schadstoffbelastungen in Bergbaufolgelandschaften
- 2. Identifizierung von Wasser- und Nährstoff- und Schadstoffbelastungen in Bergbaufolgelandschaften
- 3. Identifizierung von Wasser- und Nährstoff- und Schadstoffbelastungen in Bergbaufolgelandschaften

Nachhaltigen Strukturwandel gemeinsam gestalten

Die beiden Partner, Bergbauunternehmen und Landwirte, arbeiten zusammen, um die Bergbaufolgelandschaften zu regenerieren und die Landwirte zu unterstützen, um die Bergbaufolgelandschaften zu regenerieren und die Landwirte zu unterstützen.

RegioNet WasserBoden

RegioNet WasserBoden - A contribution to the structural change in post-mining landscapes

Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie
GERMANY

NEXT GREEN GENERATION
UNTERNEHMENSNACHFOLGE IM GARTENBAU

Ein Handshake

Ziele

- 1. Identifizierung von Wasser- und Nährstoff- und Schadstoffbelastungen in Bergbaufolgelandschaften
- 2. Identifizierung von Wasser- und Nährstoff- und Schadstoffbelastungen in Bergbaufolgelandschaften
- 3. Identifizierung von Wasser- und Nährstoff- und Schadstoffbelastungen in Bergbaufolgelandschaften

Nachhaltigen Strukturwandel gemeinsam gestalten

Die beiden Partner, Bergbauunternehmen und Landwirte, arbeiten zusammen, um die Bergbaufolgelandschaften zu regenerieren und die Landwirte zu unterstützen, um die Bergbaufolgelandschaften zu regenerieren und die Landwirte zu unterstützen.

RegioNet WasserBoden

Next Green Generation - Succession planning in horticulture

Gartenbauverband Mitteldeutschland e.V.,
GERMANY

ProAgria Research Farm Network: Towards Sustainable Agricultural Innovation

Klauster Euel, Association of ProAgria Centres

Are you ready for the future of farming? ProAgria Research Farm Network is paving the way for innovative and sustainable agricultural practices. As we gear up, we invite you to delve into our transformative Living Lab platform.

Background

ProAgria Research Farms is a growing and evolving Living Lab to accelerate the support of the ProAgria Platform in 2022. It aims to create a platform for testing, sharing, research, innovation, and data collection to advance future agricultural practices.

In 2022, we piloted the operation of the network with 20 dairy farms, focusing on developing automated data collection, data analysis, and network collaboration. We also organized workshops for researchers and advisors to gather ideas and discuss their needs for the network.

This network includes 40 farms from various regions in Finland. Some within network provide data to ProAgria and participate in various projects through special agreements. This data is automatically collected from ProAgria's agricultural software and stored in the Data Lake cloud service.

40 Farms and Counting

ProAgria Research Farms is already growing ahead with 40 farms in our network. But that's not where we're stopping. By the end of the year, our sights are set on expanding our network to encompass a mix of dairy farms, covering various sizes and including dairy, agri-tourism, and vegetable production. We're looking for organic and non-organic farms to the network, with the inclusion of school farms adding an educational dimension.

At the heart of ProAgria Research Farms is the farmer. Our commitment to farmer engagement in research and development is a key principle. Besides participatory research, we're committed to ensuring that the active farmers have the most visible and impactful role.

Data-driven innovation

Our network farms contribute invaluable data to our state-of-the-art cloud service, DataLake. From crop-protectant and input application to health and digital solutions, our platform is rich with data and offers various data-driven insights to our diverse and dynamic network. Additionally, we provide technical insights

from the carbon calculator, providing a holistic view of carbon sequestration in both soil and crops. Initial insights show promising insights into farming practices and ecological impact.

The ProAgria Research Farm Network stands as a pioneering endeavor, propelling agricultural knowledge through data-driven research. In 2023 we aim to amplify the network's reach and standardized practices. One of this year's main goals is to boost communication with equipment manufacturers to create new data sources in the future. The partnership between researchers, farmers, and technology developers is key to create a synergy that surpasses the sum of its parts, driving agricultural progress in Finland.

Sowing Seeds for the Future

Our vision stretches beyond the horizon. We aspire to gather a vibrant community of over 200 active farms in our Research Farm network. With this network, we'll have a comprehensive representation of farms to facilitate comprehensive research. We also aim to build communication between farmers and facilitate interaction between farmers, researchers, advisors, and developers.

This is more than just data - it's about active collaboration.

ProAgria

ProAgria Research Farm Network: Towards Sustainable Agricultural Innovation

Association of ProAgria Centres,
FINLAND

FAIRShare: Using Principles of Adult Learning to Train the Use of Digital Advisory Tools

EU project FAIRShare
aims to support farm advisors to use Digital Advisory Tools and services (DATs) to support a more productive and sustainable agriculture.

Aim of Trainings within FAIRShare project

Develop a training program for advisors and trainers where they learn how to train other trainers.

Participants learned...

- How to motivate and engage advisors and farmers to work with DATs
- How to plan a training for adults based on the principles of adult teaching
- How to use the ARIVA model to incorporate the experiences of participants and to ensure relevancy to practice
- How to use a variety of learning methods during their training
- How to use testimonials of experienced users to enhance the use of DATs

During four modules, participants created their own training module according to ARIVA and tested it with advisors of their own organization.

Principles of adult teaching

- Learning is more efficient if content is linked to prior knowledge and personal experiences
- An age-related reduction in performance is sometimes observed with abstract content. An increase in performance is possible with applied knowledge
- Learning styles are more varied than in adolescents
- Adults expect exercises to be relevant to their practice experiences
- Adults appreciate courses without public school atmosphere (initializing school experiences)

The ARIVA model

was developed for Swiss public schools, similar models can be found in other regions of the world. The common features are the presence of different phases: the use of experience and prior knowledge and the phase where the new knowledge is consolidated with exercises.

Phase	Description	Activities
A	Activation	Participants share their own experiences and knowledge on the topic
B	Building	Participants learn new information and apply it to their own practice
C	Consolidation	Participants share their own experiences and knowledge on the topic
D	Diffusion	Participants share their own experiences and knowledge on the topic

ARIVA Moments from our participants:

Developing a training plan and not just delivering technical content
Need to encourage the sharing of trainees' experiences in group work
Using of facilitation tools and testimonials

Differences between adult and student learning (ARIVA Model)

Bern University of Applied Sciences, SWITZERLAND

FairShare: Using Principles of Adult Learning to Train the Use of Digital Advisory Tools

Bern University of Applied Sciences,
SWITZERLAND

trans4num

WHY
Today's agriculture is highly dependent on external nutrient inputs and is particularly exposed to various stresses through its production of products, and other elements which are indispensable components of most crop production systems.

HOW
trans4num methodological workflow

HOW
To study this with a full-scale, multi-actor approach, trans4num has selected four European and their Chinese sites.

WHERE

WHAT
Objectives: Improve crop production, reduce external inputs, increase resilience, improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve water efficiency, improve farm profitability, improve farmer well-being, improve policy coherence.

WHO
Partners: Wageningen University & Research, FIBL, hcb, etc.

trans4num

trans4num Project

User Cases in the FairShare project as a method of advisory work and knowledge transfer in agriculture

The User Case of IPN, SEASRI
"Improvement of health and welfare of dairy cows by using Digital Advisory Tool - Mobile Case Check Calculator"

Abstract: Modern dairy farms face many challenges, such as climate change, disease, and labor shortages. Digital advisory tools can help farmers make better decisions and improve their farms' sustainability. This poster presents the user case of IPN, SEASRI, which aims to improve the health and welfare of dairy cows by using a digital advisory tool - Mobile Case Check Calculator.

Objectives: Identify problems of agriculture, monitor production or economic advisory work, create or select suitable digital advisory tool (DIT), train extension workers to use DIT, collect user feedback who will be members of the future user case check calculator.

Methodology: Address, Monitor, Identify, Implement, Evaluate, Plan, Review, Act.

Results: The user case of IPN, SEASRI has been identified and implemented. The digital advisory tool has been developed and is being used by extension workers. The user case has been evaluated and is being reviewed.

Conclusions: The user case of IPN, SEASRI is a good example of how digital advisory tools can be used to improve the health and welfare of dairy cows. The digital advisory tool can help farmers make better decisions and improve their farms' sustainability.

User Cases in the FairShare project as a method of advisory work and knowledge transfer in agriculture

Institute for Science Application in Agriculture (IPN),
Belgrade, SERBIA

8 Side Events

City Tours

Sunday, 10.09.2023, 15:00 - 16:30 h

Fascination Dresden - The special city tour

Meeting Point: Dresden-Information at the Frauenkirche, Neumarkt 2, 01067 Dresden

With little anecdotes and great stories, experienced and licensed tour guides bring Dresden's past to life. We will lead you through the dark Middle Ages, experience the power of the Renaissance and let the glamorous time of the Baroque shine for you. We go in search of traces of the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 and learn what moved the people. In small groups and equipped with a modern digital guide system we dive into the past and present and make you a Dresden insider.



Theaterplatz, in front of the Semper Opera (King Johann Monument). Photo: Henrik Fichtner

Delicious Dresden - the culinary city tour

Meeting Point: Dresden-Information at the Frauenkirche, Neumarkt 2, 01067 Dresden

Let yourself be seduced! Our leisurely walk through Dresden's old town reveals the culinary secrets of the Saxon residence. Between hip, fine and typical Dresden addresses, time-honoured establishments and local specialties, you will experience an exciting time travel through the history of Dresden hospitality. Listen to tales of ruthless medieval customs, excesses in famous inns, and the coffee lust of the Baroque, lavish parties and the improvisational joy of the GDR years. With a wink you will get an exclusive and surprising insight into the way of life of the coffee Saxons.



traditional Stollen. Photo: chandlervid85 auf Freepik

The Combi-Ticket - Dresden short and sweet including the ascent to the »Frauenkirche« dome

Meeting Point: Theaterplatz, in front of the Semper Opera (at King Johann Monument)

Your city tour starts in front of the »Residenzschloss zu Dresden« - the former centre of power of the Saxon electors and kings. Today it houses museums and offers a unique insight into the history of Saxony. Let yourself be enchanted by a special building with magnificent treasures. All buildings are visited from the outside.

Following the guided tour through the history of Dresden, there is the possibility to climb the tower of the Frauenkirche and view Dresden from above.



Dresden Old Town. Photo: Henrik Fichtner

Great city tour Dresden - live moderated

Meeting Point: Bus Stop Red Double Decker, Wilsdruffer Str. / Landhausstr., 01067 Dresden

Whether historic Old Town, the baroque New Town, the most beautiful dairy store in the world of Pfund's Dairy, the Great Garden, the villa districts of Dresden East with the bridge „Blue Wonder“, the beauty and grace of the Elbe meadows, the three Elbe castles and much more.

Let Dresden surprise you, with our Red Double Decker you will not miss anything!

Welcome Evening

Sunday, 10.09.2023, 17:30 - 23:15 h, Meeting Point Docking Area at Terrassenufer

The evening begins at the foot of the Brühl Terrace, the »Balcony of Europe« of the Baroque era. Below on the terrace bank, you will board the paddlewheel steamer »Meissen« of the Dresden Steamship Company. In about 2 hours, you will travel up the Elbe to the summer residence of the Saxon royal family, Pillnitz Palace and Park.



Paddle Wheel Steamer "MEISSEN" of the Dresden Steamship Company. Photo: Henrik Fichtner

Your trip will take you past the impressive castles on the slopes of the river Elbe, the listed waterworks Hosterwitz, the Loschwitz Bridge "Blue Wonder", one of the landmarks of the city of Dresden as well as the old fishermen's church "Maria at the Water" to the grand staircase at the water palace of Pillnitz Palace. Here Far Eastern and late Baroque European architecture merge into a unique ensemble with Chinese elements of the 18th century.



Loschwitz Bridge „Blue Wonder“. Photo: André Beer

Arriving at your destination, take in the park and palace before being served a dinner of Saxon specialties and local wines and beers in the Orangery, accompanied by Baroque music, as in the days of Augustus the Strong (1670-1733, Elector of Saxony, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania).



Old Town Skyline of Dresden at Night. Photo: René Venus auf Pixabay

On the return journey (1 hour), the brilliantly illuminated skyline of the old town becomes a striking experience before you arrive back at the Terrassenufer and the evening can conclude with short walks to most of your accommodations.

Society Evening

Monday, 11.09.2023, 19:00 - 22:30 h

The society evening will also take place at the Congress Center Dresden following the first day of the conference. Through the glass façade and from the terrace you will have a wide view over the Elbe to the Dresden Neustadt and upstream to the silhouette of the Old Town.



Congress Center Dresden and Skyline of Dresden. Photo: Henrik Fichtner

For the physical well-being, the hotel Maritim offers a selection of its assortment. In order to meet friends and acquaintances as well as to animate networks personally free time is then available.

As a frame we will introduce you to the history, culture and music of the Sorbs, a West Slavic ethnic group with its own language, who are a minority mainly in Brandenburg and Saxony (see also excursion no. 6). The Sorbs are generally German Citizens with Sorb nationality.

We will also have other little surprises in store for you.



Sorbian Easter Riders. Photo: Rico Löb auf Pixabay

8a Closing conference

Workshop Evaluation, 13.09.2023, Dresden

Moderation: Elisabeth Reith (Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry, Styria, Austria)

The following workshop summaries illustrate the wide range of topics discussed during the IALB conference. From digitalization and knowledge transfer to nature conservation, animal welfare, personnel recruitment, and youth development, many relevant aspects of modern agricultural consulting and education were covered. The workshops not only gave participants the opportunity to learn about current developments but also to develop practical solutions and strategies for future challenges. The conference impressively demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary exchange and international cooperation for the further development of agriculture and its advisory structures.

1. Digitalisation in Agriculture

- **Topic:** Digital transformation in agriculture – requirements for education and advisory services – digital teaching and learning formats in vocational and adult education.
- **Moderation:** Prof. Dr. Patricia Fry, School of Agricultural, Forest, and Food Sciences HAFL, Bern University of Applied Sciences
- **Details:** The workshop highlighted the increasing importance of digitalization in agriculture. Projects like “Fair Share,” which promotes the development and integration of digital advisory tools to increase the efficiency and sustainability of agriculture, were presented. Another highlight was “QuantiFarm,” a project aimed at evaluating the impact of digital technologies on farms under real conditions.
- **Key Insights:** Participants discussed the benefits of digital tools, such as improving precision and efficiency in agricultural processes, but also the challenges, including high implementation costs, increasing bureaucracy, and the lack of interoperability between different systems. The need for training and further education was emphasized to prepare advisors and farmers for the effective use of these technologies.
- **Padlet:** <https://haup.padlet.org/elfriedeberger1/future-demands-on-education-and-extension-with-a-view-to-dig-bi2ncgoccbcfpuyi>

2. Knowledge Transfer and AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems)

- **Topic:** AKIS in the European context. Strengthening the role of advisors in supporting innovations, improving knowledge flow, and building cooperation within the agricultural knowledge and innovation system.
- **Moderation:** Florian Herzog, Chamber of Agriculture Austria
- **Details:** The workshop focused on the importance of the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) in agriculture. It discussed how advisors could act as intermediaries between research, education, and practice. Various methods for improving knowledge transfer and collaboration between researchers, advisors, and farmers were presented, including modernAKIS, i2connect, and ATTRACTISS.
- **Key Insights:** Advisors were emphasized as key facilitators of innovation, helping to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications. One of the biggest challenges is creating a unified language and methodology within AKIS to improve knowledge transfer. Participants also discussed the need to more strongly integrate advisors into research and education processes to accelerate innovation.

3. Advisory Management

- **Topic:** Advisory models with different structures and strategies.
- **Moderation:** Gabriele Uhlemann, Support and Education Center Nossen (LfJULG Saxony)
- **Details:** This workshop provided deep insights into advisory structures and strategies in Germany (with examples from Bavaria, Brandenburg, Saxony) and Austria. Topics such as personnel development, quality assurance, and the organizational separation of advisory services and controls were discussed in depth. Participants from various countries shared experiences and discussed best practices.
- **Key Insights:** Participants concluded that effective advisory management requires clear structures, good networking, and targeted coordination. The quality of advisory services depends heavily on the qualification and continuous development of advisors. Both public and private advisory services have their merits, each with different strengths and weaknesses. The need to develop funding models that support long-term quality assurance in advisory services was also emphasized. Pooling and leveraging synergies are becoming increasingly necessary due to growing complexity, not only within organizations but also in collaboration with external non-governmental partners. Additionally, maintaining continuity in quality and methodology requires consistent recruitment of new talent. Expertise and current application programs form the foundation.

4. Regional Value Creation and Diversification

- **Topic:** The role and effectiveness of education and advisory services in the development of regional value chains and social agriculture. Promoting regional value creation and diversification in agriculture.
- **Moderation:** Heike Delling, AgiL (Saxon Agency for Regional Food)
- **Details:** The workshop focused on the diversification of agricultural enterprises, particularly through the creation of regional value chains and the integration of social services. Successful case studies were presented, demonstrating how diversification projects can strengthen rural areas.
- **Organisation and Projects:** Soziale Landwirtschaft e. V., COREnet (Horizon Europe), AgiL.
- **Key Insights:** It was highlighted that political support and tailored advisory services are crucial to the success of diversification projects. Participants emphasized the importance of trust, commitment, and networks as key factors for success. The discussion also showed that diversification could bring not only economic benefits but also social and environmental advantages.

5. Nature Conservation and Agriculture

- **Topic:** Management of protected species using the example of the wolf; "Nature Plan" as a basis for consulting and communication in Saxony. Integration of conservation measures into agricultural practices.
- **Moderation:** Ulf Jansen, Support and Education Center Zwickau (LfJULG Saxony)
- **Details:** The workshop focused on promoting biodiversity and protecting endangered species through targeted advisory measures. Topics such as biodiversity consulting and livestock protection, particularly in the context of wolf management, were discussed in depth.
- **Key Insights:** Participants agreed that close cooperation between agricultural and conservation consulting is essential to implement effective and sustainable conservation measures. It was emphasized that long-term funding (keyword: PIK, production-integrated compensation for replacement and mitigation measures) and stable political frameworks are necessary to provide farmers with the security they need to invest in conservation measures. "Farmers will go further if they understand the system and see benefits for themselves."

6. Animal Welfare

- **Topic:** How to balance societal and business interests? Improving animal welfare on farms.
- **Moderation:** Dr. Thomas Luther, Vocational School for Agriculture Zwickau (LfULG Saxony)
- **Details:** This workshop focused on various approaches to promoting animal welfare, including improving hoof health and using digital technologies to monitor animal welfare indicators. The workshop explored how these technologies can be applied in practice and the benefits they offer.
- **Projects:** Tierwohl-Ampel (EIP), Kompetenzstelle für Klauengesundheit in Sachsen, Genießer-Genossenschaft Sachsen e.G.
- **Key Insights:** It was highlighted that animal welfare plays an increasingly important role in agriculture, and advisors and farmers need better information on modern animal welfare standards. Transparency and public outreach were identified as key to improving understanding and acceptance of animal welfare measures in society. Collaboration between research, advisory services, and practice was seen as essential to achieving sustainable improvements in animal welfare.
- **Conclusion from Croatia:** Hoof diseases in dairy cattle – "All treatments are due to suboptimal housing, feeding, and care."

7. Rural Development and LEADER Projects

- **Topic:** Ideas and examples for increasing the attractiveness of rural areas (activities to enhance the attractiveness of rural areas, promotion of regional economic and social projects). Experiences and perspectives within the framework of LEADER programs for rural development.
- **Moderation:** Dr. Mario Marsch, Head of Department 2 at LfULG
- **Details:** The workshop explored the role of LEADER projects in strengthening rural areas. Successful projects were presented that have contributed to the development and promotion of networks and cooperation. The challenges and opportunities in the upcoming LEADER funding period were also discussed.
- **Key Insights:** LEADER projects have proven to be effective tools for strengthening rural regions, particularly by promoting cooperation and innovation. However, the workshop stressed the need to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and simplify access to funding. Participants called for increased cooperation at local, regional, and European levels to fully benefit from the LEADER programs.
- **Future topics for rural development:**
 - The energy transition requires new rural-urban alliances
 - Strengthen community spirit in villages
 - Agriculture with responsibility for the common good in villages
 - Combine competencies in cooperation and promote them in real-world laboratories
 - Administration that enables solution-oriented change: "Support visionaries with low barriers"

8. Climate Protection and Resource Protection

- **Topic:** Adaptation strategies to climate change and resource protection in agriculture.
- **Moderation:** Daphne Huber, German Agricultural Society (DLG)
- **Details:** This workshop dealt with various approaches to promoting climate protection and the sustainable use of resources in agriculture. This included measures such as climate coaching, agroforestry systems, and water retention strategies. There was also discussion on how to support farmers in implementing climate-friendly and resource-efficient practices.
- **Advisory Forms:** "Climate Coaching" in Saxony; "ClimateSmartAdvisors" (CSA) in Belgium, agroforestry models in Brandenburg, examples of regional resource/water protection consulting as a contribution to food security.
- **Key Insights:** Participants concluded that tailored advisory approaches and the use of innovative technologies are crucial for adapting agriculture to the challenges of climate change. Cooperation between farmers, advisors, and municipalities was identified as essential for the success of these measures. Knowledge exchange and ongoing farmer education also played a central role in the discussions.

9. Organic Farming

- **Topic:** Efficient consulting and knowledge transfer in organic farming.
- **Moderation:** Ulf Jäckel, Competence Center for Organic Farming (LfULG Saxony)
- **Details:** The workshop focused on the best methods to promote organic farming through targeted advisory services and knowledge transfer. Various formats were presented to foster knowledge exchange between farmers, including peer-to-peer learning and moderated advisory approaches.
- **Key Insights:** It was emphasized that direct exchange between farmers, known as peer-to-peer learning, is a particularly effective method for knowledge transfer in organic farming. Participants advocated for the creation of a central knowledge platform, allowing farmers and advisors to access collected project results and scientific findings. Individualized, farmer-specific consulting was seen as essential for success in organic farming. "All existing formats, from individual consulting to online group events and traditional field days, have their merits and are useful depending on the content."

10. Operational Management and Personnel Recruitment

- **Topic:** Recruitment and qualification of personnel; income and asset protection, farm resilience (Saxony, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, etc.).
- **Moderation:** Antje Kauffold, Support and Education Center Wurzen (LfULG Saxony)
- **Details:** The workshop explored the challenges and opportunities in recruiting personnel for agriculture. The discussion focused on the need to create modern working conditions, which not only include competitive wages but also flexible working hours and a positive work environment. The importance of training opportunities and clearly defined career paths was also emphasized. Participants stressed the importance of clearly informing potential employees about the requirements and tasks to avoid misunderstandings and dissatisfaction.
- **Key Insights:** It was noted that individualized consulting and strategic personnel development are critical for attracting and retaining qualified staff. The workshop highlighted that digitalization also plays an important role in recruitment and development. The idea of further training employees through exchange programs with other farms to provide them with new perspectives was also discussed. Overall, the need to integrate personnel management strategies more deeply into farm consulting was emphasized to meet the increasing demands in agriculture. "The combination of teacher and advisor opens doors since future farm managers are already known and familiar with the advisor."

11. Young EUFRAS – Promotion of Young Advisors

- **Topic:** Development and promotion of young advisors in the European network.
 - **Moderation:** Pablo Asensio FÜAK, Anita Dzelme LLKC, Glindys Luciano YPARD, Anton Jagodic KGZS, Karoline Schramm AELF-KW
 - **Details:** The workshop focused on promoting young advisors within the European network EUFRAS (European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services). A key focus was a 10-month program that offered young advisors from various European countries the opportunity to develop their skills and gain international experience. During the program, participants were able to gain practical experience on farms in different countries and earn the **CECRA certificate** (Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas).
 - **Key Insights:** Participants reported the benefits this program brought to their personal and professional development. They particularly highlighted the building of international networks and the opportunity to learn from one another. The workshop emphasized the importance of such programs to promote and secure the future of agricultural advisory services. It was suggested to expand the program to include more institutions and countries to increase its reach and impact. Overall, the workshop demonstrated that promoting young advisors is a key building block for the future development of agricultural consulting in Europe.
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Poster Presentation and CECRA Information

Presentations on 13.09.2023, Dresden

Presenter: Daphne Huber Daphne Huber (German Agricultural Society, Frankfurt/Main)

Poster Presentation

Daphne Huber

Now we come to a program point, and I have to admit, at first, I couldn't quite imagine what it would be like, even when we sat together planning today: the poster presentation. However, after I looked at the results in the room next door over the past few days, I can only say, "Wow!" The creativity in graphics and content is truly amazing and has a lot to do with art. The organizing team told me the response, the enthusiasm, and the number of submissions overwhelmed them, so much, so that they had to rent another room. You can imagine the sheer volume of material that was submitted. It wasn't an easy task for the jury to decide on the top three posters. Standing here on stage are Barry Caslin (Teagasc), Professor Toralf Münch (HTW Dresden), and the third member, Karsten Bär (Bauernzeitung – State Editorial Office Saxony). They now have the difficult task of announcing the winners to us. Thank you!

Barry Caslin

Thank you very much! A wonderful good morning to everyone, my name is Barry Caslin, and I am a member of this jury. It was a very difficult task for us. We had to select the top three from 80 submissions. You also helped by voting on the posters on the first day. We had to choose the best three posters from that.

First, I want to say: Congratulations to Henrik (Editor's note: Henrik Fichtner) and his great team (Applause). This is such a great conference and such an entertaining event for me. I always look forward to this conference.

As already mentioned, our jury had to choose the best three posters. Our jury team included (besides myself) Karsten Bär from Saxony, Prof. Toralf Münch, also from Saxony. We worked hard to make the right decision. I am from Ireland, so my German is not that good. Nevertheless, the main thing is, you can understand me. Karsten, you can feel the excitement in this room. We are going to announce the winners starting with third place. Karsten will explain why we chose the respective posters.

The organizers have asked me to tell you to please take your posters home after the event.

Karsten Bär

Thank you, good morning from me as well. A brief introduction: My name is Karsten Bär. I am an editor for the *Bauernzeitung*, a weekly agricultural newspaper published in East Germany, and I work in Saxony. As mentioned, we didn't make it easy for ourselves in choosing the best posters. We deviated somewhat from the evaluation criteria given to us. We didn't assign points; instead, we let the works speak for themselves and ranked them accordingly.

In **third place**, according to our ranking, is the poster from the **Chamber of Agriculture of Slovenia**, which focuses on **digitalization in advisory services**. We chose this poster for third place because it deals with a forward-looking topic, presents it in a very detailed and diverse way, but without losing sight of the core message. Third place goes to the poster from the Chamber of Agriculture of Slovenia.

Now, we're not sure if the authors are here to come forward and collect the prize?

Barry Caslin

"Is there somebody here from SEASN, who can collect the prize? Igor maybe?"
(A prize winner entered the stage.)



Karsten Bär

The prize is a chocolate cup filled with Saxon chocolate. Something sweet, congratulations.

In **second place** is the poster from the **Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture**, which focuses on the **Academy for Diversification**. We chose this poster because it is very easy to understand, and the message is presented very clearly. In the centre, an infographic immediately shows what the topic is about. This is complemented by detailed content. This is a relevant topic, and therefore the prize goes to the Academy for Diversification. Congratulations!



The prize is a voucher from a Saxon direct marketer. You can also order online. Moreover, to quote Mrs. Lässig's words: so that you in Bavaria can also have something proper to eat.

By coincidence, **first place** stays in Saxony. This was not intentional. I can tell you, I do not live in Saxony; I come from Brandenburg. So, this decision was made impartially and without any bias.

The first place goes to the poster from the **Bildungsgesellschaft des Sächsischen Landesbauernverbandes** (Education Society of the Saxon State Farmers' Association - SLB), which presents the **"Learning Experience on the Farm"** project. Why did we choose this one? It has a great "eye-catcher," a photo that draws you in. We have information underneath that explains what it's about. The topic is important—it's about communicating from agriculture to society. This was something that Prof. Münch

wanted to particularly highlight. The design is clear, there are participant statements, there are facts—it convinced us, and that's why first place goes to the poster from the Education Society of the SLB.



Is there someone here who can accept the prize?
(A representative entered the stage.)

The first prize is a voucher for the Moritzburg Stallion Parades, which are already happening this year, but I believe it will be valid for next year.

Representative

Thank you very much!

Karsten Bär

That was our assessment, a subjective impression, we must admit, but we had to choose a ranking somehow. We did so, and I hope it meets with your approval and understanding. Thank you very much!
(Applause)

The thanks to the jurors followed, given by Kerstin Lässig.

CECRA Certificate

Daphne Huber

Southern European countries also have a need for advisory services, for developing competence among advisors, and they want to qualify accordingly. This is where the CECRA certificate comes in, and now Mr. Martin Zauner and Mr. Daniel Jeschke will tell you more about the qualifications and criteria. I would like to invite them to the stage. The awarding of the certificate is tied to specific requirements, conditions, key points, and standards, and we are looking forward to your presentation.

Martin Zauner

Thank you for the introduction. My name is Martin Zauner, I'm from Austria, and I am responsible for advisor training and education at the Chamber of Agriculture for Lower Austria. I also represent the topic of CECRA on the IALB board. CECRA, as many of you know, stands for „**Certificate for european consultants in rural areas**“. More important than my role is the work of the CECRA working group, which drives the operational development of this training series. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all members of this working group, chaired by Beate Formowitz from Hesse, for their great work over the past years.

Briefly: CECRA is a two-stage training program. In the "Basic" stage, five modules must be completed, two of which are mandatory, and three can be selected from a wide module catalogue. The second stage is achieved by gaining international experience through a job exchange and reflecting on one's own work. A few numbers: In 2020, we had about 700 participants in the various training modules, not only from German-speaking countries but also from the entire EUFRAS region, and in 2020, we were able to congratulate nearly 800 graduates on receiving their certificate, 80% of whom were in the "Basic" stage. In 2021 and 2022, the numbers dropped due to COVID-19, but we are optimistic that we can return to the 2020 level in 2023.

To give this a bit more life, I'd like to introduce Daniel Jeschke from Bavaria, a young advisor who is about to complete the training. Daniel, how you first were exposed to CECRA?

Daniel Jeschke

I completed my training with the Bavarian Agricultural Administration. As part of this internship, we already go through the five basic modules, where we mainly learn rhetoric, communication skills, and, very importantly, advisory methodology. This is very valuable because experience shows that a good and solid education leads to successful advisory work.

Martin Zauner

Which aspects have you already been able to apply in your practical work, and what is most relevant for your work as an advisor?

Daniel Jeschke

I would say the advisory methodology: How do I approach an advisory session? How do I structure a conversation? How can I identify the farmers' goals and, ultimately, lead the discussion to a successful conclusion? Experience shows—and I'm involved in training interns—that especially at the beginning, it's very difficult to conduct a successful advisory conversation. Anyone can hold a conversation, but giving advice is something that must be learned. Therefore, I can only urge all young advisors to complete the CECRA certificate training; it's really worth it!

Martin Zauner

Thank you for your insights. I want to reinforce this call to everyone in the room with personnel responsibility: Send your young colleagues to this training, enable them to complete this program. We are also looking for more module providers. If your organization would be willing to offer such training modules, please contact a member of the board or the CECRA working group.

More about CECRA in chapter IALB / EUFRAS / SEASN.

Closing Presentations


Anton Stöckli, IALB Presidency, Switzerland
(Federal Office for Agriculture, Bern, Switzerland)

My Personal IALB Retrospective and Outlook

Moderation: Daphne Huber (German Agricultural Society)

Anton Stöckli

The IALB was originally founded as an organization for the German-speaking regions. My first IALB conference in this area was in Lübeck, far in the north, but over the years, the horizon has broadened: we have been to South Tyrol, we have integrated European networks, preparing for the integration of Eastern Europe; we have been to France, which required new languages and skills, and you can see that the scope has continually expanded. We have flown across the sea to Ireland; we have been to Croatia, to Spain last year, and next year—as you will soon see—we are heading to Scotland. We have also had conferences that we had to conduct online, so we have faced all linguistic, geographical, and organizational challenges. Today, after 25 years, we are back in Dresden.



Meine 28 IALB-Tagungen

1996 Lübeck	1997 Wels	1998 Dresden	1999 Königslutter am Elm
2000 Landquart	2001 Eisenstadt	2002 Sand im Taufers	2003 Oldenburg
2004 Quedlinburg	2005 Sion	2006 Amiens	2007 Mold
2008 Brandenburg	2009 Marburg	2010 Besançon	2011 Landshut
2012 Leibnitz	2013 Karlsruhe	2014 Kroatien	2015 Solothurn
2016 Limerick	2017 Münster	2018 Mosonmagyaróvár	2019 Salzburg
2020 Estland (online)	2021 Bodensee (online)	2022 Lugo	2023 Dresden
2024			

Chapter 1. Why size is not the ultimate measure of success.

Size is not the only determining factor, and I want to show you why I've come to this conclusion. Here is a map of Europe, but let's zoom into the small country of Switzerland in the centre, where I grew up on a small farm. This is the farm that my brother ran—12 hectares in size. It had a bit of marshland, some shadow from the forest, but overall, it was good land. In short, my brother managed these 12 hectares all by himself.

On this map, this area looks small. For comparison, let's move to northern Germany, where there are farms with 1,000 hectares. On our map, that area is larger than the entire municipality where I grew up. A 1,000-hectare estate with 10 workers—that's 10 times the scale of what my brother managed.



So, I asked myself: Is this the future of farming in Switzerland? However, when considering the size, this is hardly possible. We then had conferences in South Tyrol and Upper Austria, and we returned to the scale we know in Switzerland. I was somewhat reassured, realizing that these smaller farms can also survive. They manage to survive with their size and competencies, but, of course, they face the same challenges as the 1,000-hectare farms: economic challenges, climate change... all of these issues affect small farms as well. I always have the feeling that these farms exist on the edge of a cliff—whether they manage 12 or 150 hectares like in eastern Germany—their survival is always at risk.

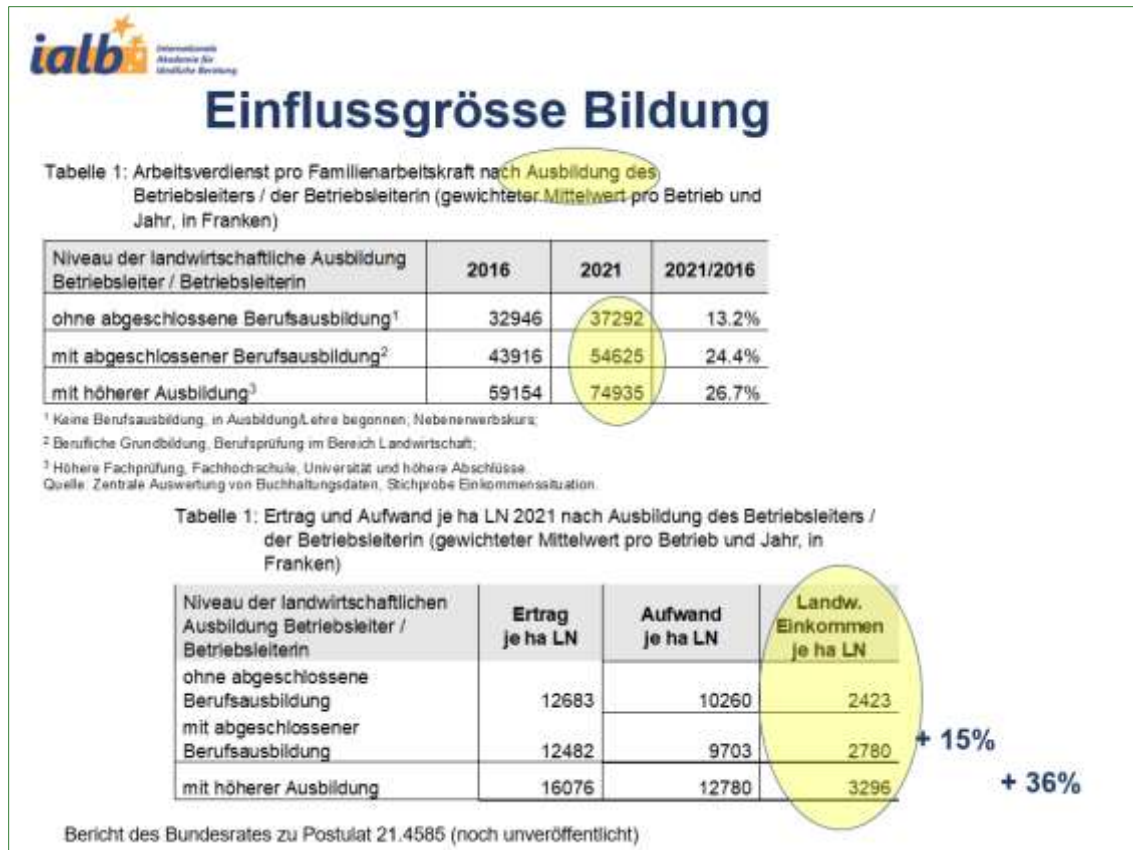
To return to the question of size, here is a correlation between herd size in the hills and mountain regions of Switzerland. If we plot the herd size against the net revenue per kilogram of milk, you will see that there is almost no correlation. Size alone doesn't determine success. Nevertheless, what does?

Chapter 2: Where the money flows (and should flow)

Let's look at where the government spends money in support of agriculture. In addition, let's see what can influence this, namely education. Here are numbers from a report our government has not yet published, but the data is verified, showing how the income of a family worker is influenced by their level of education. You can see the income per worker without vocational training, or with an external qualification. You will see that at the highest level—whether it's a master's degree or a university degree—the income per worker is actually double. You might say these are larger farms with better conditions. Therefore, we also calculated the agricultural income per hectare of farmland, and here you see differences: vocational training increases income by 15%, and at the highest level, it is 36% more. Therefore, it seems that education and knowledge play a major role.

Then, where does the state spend its money on agriculture? The top section shows agricultural policy expenditures (in black). If we add this up, in 2021 Switzerland spent about CHF 3.6 billion. A rough estimate based on my experience—since we have to consider the 26 cantons in Switzerland—suggests that about one-tenth of these expenditures go into education, research, and advisory services (in orange). As we've seen, these factors are crucial for agricultural income and development. But try to redirect even 1% of direct

payments into education, research, and advisory services—you'll face challenges in agricultural policy debates.



In my summary, I wrote that I see advisory services as a kind of guardrail to help address societal challenges. But I now realize that "guardrail" is not the right word—it can be useful to keep us on the path, but it can also be limiting. It's better to think of advisory services as signposts that show us where to go and what efforts are required. There are often different paths to reach the goal, but ultimately, advisory services should show the way, and the decisions must be made on the farm.

ialb Internationale Akademie für landliche Beratung

Öffentliche Ausgaben im Landwirtschaftssektor CH

Ausgabenbereich	Bund	Bund	Kantone	Bemerkung
Produktionsgrundlagen	124		n.a.	Strukturverbesserungen, Kredite
Produktion und Absatz	534			
Direktzahlungen	2'811		n.a.	Allgemeine und ökologische DZ
Übriges	180		n.a.	Verwaltung, Vollzug, Familienzulagen
Forschung		110 *	30 *	Agroscope, ETH, (Fach)hochschulen
Bildung		20 *	130 *	ETH, Fachhochschulen, Landwirtschaftliche Berufsschulen
Beratung		11	40 *	AGRIDEA, kantonale Beratungsdienste
Total «agrarpolitische» Ausgaben	3'649			
Total wissensbezogene Ausgaben		~ 340 *		

2021, in Mio. CHF; * grobe Schätzung

Chapter 3: The importance of diversity

Therefore,, I move to the next chapter and talk about diversity.



I return to Switzerland: How is advisory services organized here? You should know that the Agricultural Act requires our cantons (which are independent states) to provide advisory services, but the form and intensity are up to them. In western Switzerland, advisory services are handled by chambers of agriculture or agricultural organizations, with public money but privately organized. In other cantons, advisory services are

part of the cantonal administration. Even within the same model, there are different systems. In Switzerland, it depends on the canton... Therefore, if we have such a diverse system in Switzerland, this means we also need to find pluralistic solutions within Europe. We know the challenges are the same, but how you reach the goals and solve the problems must be determined by the individual countries. Each has to find its own path, based on its own circumstances. So, I strongly advocate for pluralistic solutions in advisory services.

Chapter 4: Where breadth, length, and depth matter

The next image addresses this issue with width, length, and depth—this seems like a three-dimensional space. Let me break it down: If you organize a machinery exhibition, people will flock to the event. However, try organizing a course on entrepreneurship training, and you will struggle to get enough participants. So how should advisory services navigate this? Should they focus on specialized, detailed advice, or on strategic guidance (vertical axis)? These require different competencies and different people with their own strengths. Not everyone is suited to cover broad strategic advice.



The horizontal axis shows the need to balance individual farm interests with public welfare and societal goals. My belief is that advisory services should cover the whole spectrum, although not everyone can. In Switzerland, we think we should not separate individual farm interests too much from public welfare goals. They should be addressed together. However, there are situations where it can be done differently. I simply argue that wherever advisory services are needed, there should at least be structures in place—possibly with differently organized advisory services that collaborate—to cover this field. The third dimension is depth: the farmers who must implement the advice and support offered on their farms. They need technical knowledge, economic understanding, marketing skills, and they need to resolve conflicts between goals on their farms. However, the decisions are not made by the advisory services—they are made by these farmers, who have at least as much knowledge and experience as the people attending these IALB conferences.

Chapter 5: Where "intelligence" is useful, and intelligence is vital

We are nearing the end of my presentation, and I want to talk about intelligence, once in quotation marks, once without.

My youngest daughter wants to change careers. She asked ChatGPT to write her cover letter and asked me to review it. The structure, length, and sequence of arguments were all fine. Two things stood out: first, the language. I work in administration, so I know how to write complicated text, but what ChatGPT provided went against all guidelines for clear and understandable writing. Second, what shocked me: ChatGPT simply

pulls together existing information—this isn't artificial "intelligence," it's artificial mediocrity. Intelligence must lie with the people. My daughter needs to know her unique selling point, her personality, and how she stands out from others. Only this will get us ahead.

I'm not against digitalization—it's an important tool. It helps with technical progress and sustainability in production—take this sugar beet robot for organic farming, for example. It knows exactly where the 40,000 beets per hectare are planted and weeds around each plant without herbicides. This is a contribution to sustainability in agriculture. Alternatively, take the feedback I receive when my farm data is compared to similar farms—but the interpretation of that data is up to me. That requires intelligence and creativity from each person working on their farm.

Chapter 6: Where profession and vocation differ, yet must not be separated

Now, a bold statement. My mother was a good farmer. For her, being a farmer was a calling—you are either born into it, or you are destined to pursue this profession. In the village, the Catholic priest comes first, and soon after comes the farmer and the farmer's wife. My mother was one of six daughters in the family, and the only one who became a farmer. She could have made other choices, but perhaps my father was irresistible. Therefore, she followed this path accordingly.

However, there is another calling—and it is important that I can say this—that we cannot choose. We are born as human beings and as citizens. This is a responsibility that we cannot escape; we did not choose it, it was given to us.

Don't be alarmed when I show you a few familiar faces now—they are all men, and it has to do with the power they wield. I am grateful that I do not live in a place where these men hold power, as with my beliefs, I would probably have rotted away in a labour camp by now. However, do not think these men are far away! There are tendencies even in our societies to roll back the freedoms and opportunities that we have worked hard for over the last 150 years, through cooperatives, democratic rights, and participation. These people want to take us back, and some argue that our world is complicated enough, and we need strong figures to tell us what to do and restore order. That is not my vision.

Let me show you another slide—again, all men, and I apologize—but it speaks for the women. These are the giants of the tech industry, representing Google, Facebook, and "X." They are products of a liberal economic system, which they exploit. They have grown up in the system we wish for, but be aware, these technologies tempt us to live in a kind of bubble, and they encourage us to only consume what they think we want to know. I read something shocking from an online retailer who said: "The packages people send back—that's an inconvenience for us. But in the future, you won't even have to order from us, we know you better than you know yourself, and we will send you what you secretly want and need!" This is not the world I want—I want to decide for myself.

Let me conclude with a few personal words. This is my second time attending a conference here in Dresden. Here is a picture, taken from the dome of the Frauenkirche, where I read a sign that said: "We can rebuild everything, except the climate!" I could critically add that we also cannot resurrect the dead of wars, or bring back extinct species of animals and plants. There are things that, once lost, are irretrievably gone. It is important to me to emphasize—how do we respect these goals, how do we take the dangers we face seriously? We must practice our profession with a sense of responsibility, that is critical for the future. We contribute to agriculture, but ultimately, we also contribute to the development of society and a better world.

With that, I thank you for your attention. This is my last lecture in this form and in my work at the Federal Office in Switzerland. However, I hope we will meet again on an appropriate occasion. I wish you all the best!

Daphne Huber

Mr. Stöckli, I am sure you will still be around in 25 years. You have an incredible talent for always being in tune with the times, and a gift for it. You will certainly remain with the IALB, even though you'll be retiring in 14 days. I have one more personal question, and perhaps someone in the room shares it: You mentioned

that you work in administration, and you once said that when sending emails, everyone important always wants to be in the CC. What's your opinion on that? What's the first thing you will stop doing? Is it the CC or video conferences? What won't you miss in retirement?

Anton Stöckli

That's always the challenge. Earlier, I said I love pluralism and the various options. Therefore, I wouldn't want to decide on that right now.

Daphne Huber

What I particularly liked were the road shows, the machines. An editor-in-chief of mine once said: "People, animals, sensations—that always works." Instead of dry theory, how do you try to engage seminar participants with dry subjects? What could you imagine to bring dry topics to life in the future? What would you recommend to advisors? Should they hold the event in a corn maze or a climbing park, or combine it with a survival camp? What would you suggest?

Anton Stöckli

The great advantage of such opportunities is that people with different orientations, competencies, and abilities come together, and the potential lies in being able to learn from one another. Experiences can be shared, though not 1:1—they need to be reflected upon. It certainly requires openness to do that, perhaps to question yourself, develop the topic further, and carry it into your profession.

Daphne Huber

Thank you very much for this important philosophical lesson you have given us.

Anton Stöckli

I have to thank everyone who made this possible for me.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h. c. Franz Josef Radermacher

Shaping the Future with Education and Advice – An Eco-Social Perspective

Moderation: Daphne Huber (German Agricultural Society)

Daphne Huber

I would now like to introduce our next guest: Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher. You are an emeritus professor at the University of Ulm, Chairman of the Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing (FAW/n), Honorary President of the Senate of the Economy e.V. Bonn, Senior Advisor to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and a member of the Club of Rome.

Prof. Franz Josef Radermacher

Thank you for the invitation and the introduction; I am happy to be here. Especially because I have learned that the participants are mostly oriented toward the common good and that many of you see ecological and social aspects as essential conditions for the economy. Furthermore, I am pleased that, as advisors, you deal with different aspects of agriculture. I myself have agricultural actors in my wider circle of friends in both Germany and France, and I have been following developments there for a long time. For example, I was able to analyze original records from farmers in domain agriculture in East Frisia under Prussian rule. They meticulously recorded what was sown and harvested when and where—these documents, when fully considered, provide excellent data material for agricultural advisors. This example shows that knowledge accumulation has always played a crucial role in achieving success in agriculture.

This topic primarily concerns me in the context of globalization; as you heard, I collaborate with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). UNIDO's mandate involves the industrialization of developing and emerging countries. Currently, this group includes 124 countries with around 5 billion people, and in the next 30 years, the population in these countries is expected to grow by approximately 2 billion. Many people find it difficult to grasp the idea of 2 billion more people—simply because the number is so large. This is not surprising, as the wealthy industrialized nations only account for 1.5 billion people, and that number is no longer growing. A third group of countries, including China and Russia, also comprises about 1.5 billion people, with their populations also remaining stable. In contrast, the population in developing and emerging countries will increase by about 2 billion in the next 30 years. This increase is roughly five times the size of the EU's population! Alternatively, put another way: the EU has very few inhabitants in comparison. For this reason, I will not mention the percentage of the world's population represented by the German-speaking countries.

About 20 years ago, I helped develop the sustainability strategy for the state of Carinthia in Austria; many believed it would be difficult, but it was relatively easy. That's because there are many sparsely populated areas, including mountains and bodies of water. Under these circumstances, how could there be a sustainability problem? However, more clearly: the only obstacle to sustainability are we, humans. If we disappeared, there would be no problem. If we don't disappear, the biggest sustainability challenge is wealth. If we were truly poor, there would also be no problem with sustainability.

In this sense, the issue with achieving sustainability goals is that, on the one hand, there are so many of us, and on the other, we all want to become wealthier. This problem was first clearly recognized at the 1972 Stockholm Conference (1), the first World Conference on the Environment, initiated by representatives of wealthy nations. This conference was a failure. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India at the time, more or less (to paraphrase) explained to the industrialized nations: You are rich, primarily because you have taken advantage of resources everywhere. Now that you are rich, you want to protect the environment. You want to protect it in such a way that we can't do what you've been doing all this time. This benefits you in two ways: 1. The environment is protected; 2. We remain poor, meaning you can continue to exploit us. But not with us! We will only help protect the environment if you contribute to bringing us to the same level of wealth that you have. Moreover, if you do not want to contribute — okay, then we won't participate in environmental protection. This is the historical starting point of the debate on sustainable development.

It took about 20 years before the international community reached a sort of compromise in Rio (2). In short: sustainability means both at the same time—1. catching-up economic development and 2. environmental and climate protection. Sustainability only exists if both goals can be achieved simultaneously.

If you follow the sustainability discourse in Europe today, global concerns are hardly addressed. We continue to ignore the issue of catch-up development and, when it comes to sustainability, we are mainly focused on "Bullerby-type" topics. In Europe, we indulge in a romanticized narrative (3) of "Bullerby sustainability," into which a lot of money flows. For the world's major problems, however, we don't have enough money left. Our main principle is always: "We give nothing." Our money must stay here, be spent here, and create jobs here. When we aim for a "green transformation," we use that money to create green jobs for ourselves, with no funds left for co-financing a sustainable transformation toward prosperity in Africa. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that we are not making progress globally because the rich countries systematically and stubbornly refuse to do what is necessary for sustainable global development. Then, we start coming up with taxonomies for sustainability; everything must be certified, we invent endless reporting requirements, talk about resilience and alternative energy systems. We essentially talk all day long—without making any real progress. On the other hand, to put it even more clearly: "We're heading for disaster, but certified."

Let me illustrate this with an especially interesting example: You've surely heard of the 1.5-degree target? (4). It is supposedly a legally binding commitment that the international community made at the Paris Climate Conference (5). Is there anyone here who actually believes that's the case? Binding? Probably not. And that's right, at least if you understand "binding" to mean that an individual state is obliged to take concrete action with no way to avoid that obligation. How can you tell there are no such obligations? The case of the United States makes this clear. Those present here know that the U.S. withdrew from the Paris Agreement. Then, they re-joined. Maybe they will withdraw again soon. You cannot be "legally bound" to something under international law if individual states can come and go from the agreement as they please. The negotiated agreement even explicitly states that it does not impose legally binding obligations on individual states. For us in Europe, the only binding requirements in the climate deal are the ones that the EU member states and the EU itself enshrined in their own laws following the conference. However, implementation is only binding if we don't change those laws again. It's quite possible that we will modify these regulations in the future. If these laws were given constitutional status, they would be even more binding, as they would be harder to change. However, of course, we could also amend those provisions again if the right majorities come together.

Therefore, we should let go of the idea that there is a binding international legal obligation to do anything concrete. The only obligations we have are those we impose on ourselves at the national level. The Paris Agreement is often used as a tool to convince the public that the policies being enacted somehow inevitably stem from international agreements. This is a matter of political strategy. Nevertheless, it's becoming increasingly clear that we will probably never meet the 1.5-degree target. We'll need a lot of luck just to limit global warming to 2 degrees. However, that doesn't stop politicians from constantly talking about 1.5 degrees, likely to keep the pressure on.

The same goes for the 2030 Agenda, the so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (6), which are supposed to be achieved by 2030 and which, by the way, have great relevance for the agricultural sector. Some may still remember the predecessor goals, the so-called MDGs, Millennium Development Goals, which were in effect from 2000 to 2015. These were, of course, not achieved either. Most likely, the SDGs won't be achieved by 2030 either. The international process always works in the same way. The relevant actors meet. They talk, talk, talk, and then agree on impressive declarations. However, these declarations are never implemented. Yet no one seems to mind. One conference follows another, and one text follows another. Today, we employ people to report on the SDGs, and we pay marketers to design impressive posters on the various SDG themes. You can hardly go anywhere these days without encountering the SDGs—even on chocolate packaging. Still, these goals won't be achieved. We're already halfway through the 2030 Agenda timeline. Meanwhile, deforestation of the rainforests has continued, and global CO₂ emissions keep rising. However, that doesn't stop the endless talking. The only thing that seems

to increase is the sense of urgency being expressed. It seems to be primarily about running a gigantic communications machine that highlights grand goals, with less focus on actually achieving those goals.

Now let me address another example from agriculture, as many of you in this room are closely connected to this topic, and because I am personally involved in this debate now. I am currently supporting UNIDO in the task of preparing a study for the UN Climate Conference at the end of 2023, focused on SDG 2, which aims to eliminate world hunger by 2030.

This is the second Sustainable Development Goal: the elimination of hunger by 2030. At the moment, there is a so-called "stocktaking" happening at the UN level, meaning an honest assessment of where we stand. The result is easy to predict: there are significantly more people suffering from hunger today than there were in 2015. Therefore, it is quite clear that we are not on a promising path to ending hunger by 2030. No, the number of hungry people worldwide has increased by several hundred million, partly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. However, the constant communication efforts of those involved seem completely unaffected by this reality. We continue with the stocktaking process, producing more and more documents on the subject. At the very least, there should be a discussion about why all these reports have so little impact.

My biggest challenge when addressing this issue is to avoid being too harsh towards those in charge. Because what they are trying simply is not working, yet the procedures of talking and presenting continue with undeterred regularity. Here, it seems, "words take precedence over action." Take the example of the primary problem, which is "nutrition." This leads us directly to agriculture. Agriculture urgently needs to be treated better, as it is the field where it is decided whether we will be able to feed ourselves in the future or not. At the end of the day, food security is a key issue, especially when food becomes scarce. That is why agriculture and farmers are so important. The hundreds of millions of people around the world who go hungry face exactly this problem – finding enough food to eat every day! (8) However, here in Europe, we live in a bubble where hunger is generally not an issue. As a result, many political decision-makers have very little understanding of these topics, particularly hunger, yet they still feel the need to tell the world what needs to be done. There are even people who believe that milk comes from a machine behind the wall.

It is, overall, quite shocking how little understanding some actors have, while having no problem whatsoever telling others what to do. For instance, they tell us that the hunger problem could be solved by eliminating meat consumption. Instead of showing respect for the substantial contribution that cattle and other ruminants make to (healthy) human nutrition, there is constant talk of abolishing or substituting meat products. These animals, especially ruminants, use a resource—grazing land—that only ruminants can utilize. Humans cannot make use of these resources directly. Nevertheless, we can, of course, derive great benefits from the fact that these animals activate the vast grasslands available for our food. This is different in intensive livestock farming, where animals are primarily fed with maize and soybeans. In these systems, ruminants are no longer needed and consume food that humans could directly utilize. Given the global food situation today, this is not a particularly smart solution. However, this observation does not imply that we need to abolish meat consumption but rather that we need to handle the organization of livestock farming more sensibly.

Then there are others who claim that we only need to eliminate synthetic fertilizers, and there would be no more world hunger. However, it is worth noting that we are currently producing more food than ever before. Synthetic fertilizers play a key role in this, as does the significant use of energy at all stages of the value chain. It is true that half of today's global food production can be seen as a result of energy input. It takes tremendous effort to feed the entire global population, and a great deal of energy is required, particularly for producing synthetic fertilizers. The critical intermediate product here is ammonia. It is the third most-produced energy-based substance on Earth. The first is cement, with about 4 billion tons produced annually. Steel follows with 2 billion tons, and ammonia takes third place with 800 million tons produced each year. If synthetic fertilizers were to disappear overnight, we would only be able to feed half the world's population, and that at a rather poor level. Yet many people in our affluent society are undeterred in making strange

recommendations to the world. They argue that if we switched entirely to organic farming globally, hunger would be eliminated, and all food-related issues would be solved.

Nothing is solved. The outcome would rather be a situation where, across the globe, the majority of people would no longer be able to get enough to eat. Today, things are different. Today, everyone could have enough to eat. The problem does not fundamentally lie in the lack of food but in the lack of purchasing power. Many people are so poor that they cannot even afford to buy the minimum amount of food they need to avoid hunger. At the same time, the wealthy parts of the world are unwilling to contribute enough financial resources to bridge these gaps.

What about the innovations that have enabled the prosperity we enjoy today and that have finally led to the high food production we see today? Humanity didn't necessarily need these innovations. We could have remained at 20 million people. In 8,000 BC, there were 20 million people on Earth. No one forced us to increase in number. These 20 million people were hunters and gatherers, who posed no problem for the world. Humans could have remained hunters and gatherers. The issue with hunters and gatherers, however, is that even they do not have an easy time getting enough to eat. Even 20 million hunters and gatherers in nature sometimes struggle to make a living. It is not so easy to get enough food if you must sustain yourself entirely from nature. The abundance we see in every supermarket today is unimaginable in the wild, yet it is the normal state of affairs in industrialized countries for 365 days a year.

Would we have been better off staying in the Stone Age? For sustainability reasons or for animal welfare? I advise against seeing the Stone Age through rose-coloured glasses. It was no paradise for humans. That time was also not particularly pleasant from a human rights perspective, let alone from a women's rights perspective. Sometimes I ask the audience: Who would rather have lived 200 or 500 years ago than today? Believe me, I find practically no one. No matter what people complain about in today's world, hardly anyone would have liked to live back then. As soon as you have a toothache, the topic is settled anyway, just as it is when you have an acute or chronic infection. The only thing that truly helps in such cases is modern medicine. For successful treatment, you often urgently need antibiotics to avoid lasting health damage. However, such things, as well as pain-relieving medications, didn't exist back then—they had to be developed first.

When you're hiking in the mountains today and want to reach a summit, of course, you could walk. But usually, you see overcrowded cable cars. Almost all visitors prefer to ride up on the cable car rather than walk. This seems to be more attractive somehow. Put differently: if there were no cable cars, most people who go hiking in the mountains today would hardly ever reach a summit. In this sense, the world with and without highly developed technology is a completely different one, and one should carefully consider whether to downplay the advancements of the past centuries, especially in agriculture.

I still remember the situation 60 years ago when the hay had to be brought in. Sometimes it was real hard labour. Cutting the grass was already tedious. Loading the hay onto the wagons, bringing the wagons to the barn, lifting the hay four floors up to the top of the storage area, moving it with a pitchfork from one pile and floor level to the next—that was backbreaking work. Today, none of that is necessary anymore. For those living in one of the wealthy countries today, one should therefore cautiously evaluate one's position regarding innovations, romanticism aside: it is clear that much of our quality of life is based on inventions of the past centuries.

I listened with interest to what my Swiss predecessor said in the previous lecture about modern media. That topic really gets tricky. Many of you who want to know exactly when your train departs will surely be grateful to be able to access that information on your smartphone. Technology is also very helpful when you need to book a hotel room at the last minute. However, the downside includes things like what you have to listen to on social media if you're living in some kind of echo chamber, or when powerful actors use their means to push through their version of events. I am currently very concerned about how, for example, the EU is trying to further regulate and even punish the articulation of opinions via the internet. We now have a new

Information Act, under which anyone who posts something wrong can be prosecuted, possibly with the justification: "This is hate information."

Now, "hate information" might still be somewhat clearly defined. Even more problematic is the accusation of "misinformation of the public." I am particularly reminded of the COVID-19 pandemic when ministers wanted to force citizens to have their children vaccinated. Those who witnessed how the British government banned child vaccinations against COVID-19 eight months later know the potential for abuse when power elites can simply eliminate inconvenient positions through such regulations. In this context, I am always reminded of Orwell's dystopia 1984, and I see us "marching" in Orwell's direction. From my perspective, this means that our freedom is in danger. One could say it's either because of the new media itself or the reactions of politics and parts of society to these new media. The new power of civil society groups as a result of these media is certainly an issue. Politics feels challenged by these possibilities in its ability to act. It seeks to secure its power by regulating the media, thereby forbidding many forms of expression to users, i.e., all of us, which drives us toward an Orwellian surveillance state. Still, most people would be reluctant to give up the many practical advantages that modern media offer. It's a bit like choosing between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Let's take another look at the future and the challenges in the area of sustainability, and how the EU is positioning itself on this issue. For this, I'd like to mention Africa as a point of reference, as this is also the topic that UNIDO is most concerned with. Now, Africa is home to 1.2 billion people. In 30 years, this will likely rise to 2.4 billion. In other words, in 30 years, an additional 1.2 billion people will be added. Each decade will add the population equivalent of the EU to Africa; mathematically, within 30 years, Africa will gain three times the population of the EU.

Now, one might ask: What are the consequences of this? This growth will lead to a massive construction and infrastructure program. The example of China shows what can happen. China has achieved the greatest successes in social sustainability over the past decades, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the last 40 years. But what is the price? Today, China, with its 1.4 billion inhabitants, emits as much CO₂ as all the OECD countries combined. What impact could it have on the climate if, in 30 years, 2.4 billion people live in Africa and 7 billion in developing and emerging countries as a whole?

There's an interesting book by Bill Gates on the climate issue, which contains the following figure: Over the next 40 years, the world will build infrastructure each month equivalent in size to New York. A new New York every month, for 40 years—that would be nearly 500 times the total volume of New York. This, of course, means the consumption of vast quantities of cement and steel—both of which are highly CO₂-intensive to produce. Today, we have no solution for how to produce these enormous amounts of building materials in a CO₂-neutral way. This means that, at present, all signs point to a future where global CO₂ emissions will continue to rise—significantly so. One may ask: What is the EU doing about this important issue? The EU has developed a rather out-of-touch policy in response to all this. Globally, it is barely financially engaged. Our "climate money" is supposed to be spent in Europe. The climate problem is to be solved by rapidly moving towards zero emissions in Europe. To achieve our goals in Europe, we intervene in all areas of life. We also want to be a role model for other countries. Yet, at best, we can show what wealthy countries are capable of, but not how poor countries with large, growing populations can build prosperity while also drastically reducing their CO₂ emissions.

Can you imagine what this means for agriculture? In Europe, for example, there's the idea that we need to significantly shrink the agricultural sector for the sake of climate protection. While the world faces a genuine hunger problem, we are working to reduce the agricultural sector, for instance, by setting aside land. We are imposing one restriction after another on the agricultural sector instead of asking ourselves how we are going to feed the world. What's even worse is that, in this and other areas, the EU is trying to impose its logic on the rest of the world.

At the moment, there are two unpleasant developments in this area:

One is the **European Supply Chain Due Diligence Law** currently being prepared. With this, the EU is trying to force companies within the EU to compel their suppliers to operate as prescribed by EU standards. For example, in the case of hydrogen: If other countries want to export hydrogen to us, it must be produced using renewable energy and electrolyzers, according to German logic. However, neither of these will work on the necessary scale. There are other ways to produce hydrogen, as demonstrated by Norway's subsidy strategy or the U.S.'s "Inflation Reduction Act." Climate-neutral hydrogen can also be produced from natural gas if the CO₂ is captured using Carbon Capture technology. Yet, the majority of Germans still reject Carbon Capture, as well as electricity generated from nuclear energy. This is why we now have a dispute in the EU over whether hydrogen produced with electricity from nuclear power plants can be considered "green," despite the fact that the EU taxonomy has decided that nuclear energy is not only climate-neutral but also sustainable. The Germans remain unimpressed by this and now want to prevent hydrogen from being produced from this sustainable energy. This has led to a constant dispute with our close neighbour, France, which achieves much greater climate impact than we do. France emits significantly less CO₂ per capita than Germany, largely due to nuclear power. Furthermore, in a global context, we do not want to import hydrogen into Germany that is produced using nuclear energy, even though it is climate-neutral. That's the overview on the "supply chain" issue.

The second issue is the planned EU Climate Border Tax. The aim here is to impose climate penalty costs on all suppliers from distant countries who want to deliver goods to the EU, if their home countries do not have similarly strict CO₂ regulations as we do in the EU. The problem with this is the memory of Indira Gandhi's speech. Let's go back 50 years. Following that, over the past 50 years, the United Nations decided that developing and emerging countries should be allowed to continue increasing their CO₂ emissions. The rich countries must reduce their emissions because they have always emitted far more CO₂ per capita than poorer countries and because they can afford to reduce their emissions without losing much of their standard of living. The countries with much fewer financial resources and who emit almost nothing but still need to build up prosperity to lift their populations out of poverty—these countries are allowed to increase their CO₂ emissions. That is the UN's position.

What are we doing now? We say yes to the UN position, but with a modification. If suppliers from these countries want to sell anything to us, we demand that these countries make CO₂ emissions as expensive at home as we do in the EU. Otherwise, the suppliers will have to pay penalties in the form of tariffs. This clearly contradicts the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). In other words, we are currently breaking WTO rules under the pretext of a "climate emergency." We are doing many things in the name of the "climate emergency."

But what are we really doing? We are doing everything to keep poor countries poor. The poverty of poor countries is indeed an effective form of climate protection, but this strategy is simply unbearable! If the poor remain poor, they emit almost no CO₂. However, the solution for the world cannot be that the poor remain poor! We must find a way for the poor to lift themselves out of poverty while we, as a global community, still find a solution to the climate problem. This solution will mainly require a lot of money from rich countries, but we are not willing to give it up. In addition, to avoid having to transfer it, we tell the poor countries that they should only use energy from renewables. We know, however, that a country that relies solely on renewables will remain a poor country. Because these renewable energy sources, due to their volatility, are only available intermittently (12), and no country can industrialize with renewables as its sole energy source. The nations of the world are engaged in a serious conflict here. The South is now speaking of the hypocrisy of the North. Moreover, you may have followed the events: In August 2023, the BRICS Conference took place in South Africa. Some real heavyweights were involved, including China and India. Their representatives declared that they would not submit to a climate dictate from the rich countries. They consider it hypocritical how the North hides behind the climate issue while attempting to undermine the rights of developing and emerging countries under the WTO agreement and impose additional costs on poorer countries under the framework of a climate dictate from the rich nations.

I bring this entire up because we are once again being conditioned by the EU, our political parties, and the media to believe that we are the "good guys." We even have climate activists who want to "save" the world

by gluing themselves to streets. One has to wonder what all the steel and concrete being used in Africa and elsewhere means, because that is the real climate problem. Our emissions are not. They are numerically very small compared to what will happen in developing and emerging countries over the next 30 years. If these climate activists at least had a program that would allow us to engage globally, one could argue that they have an effective climate protection plan. However, upon closer examination, they actually have no plan at all; they just want us to reduce CO₂ in our own countries. Whether we, for example, reduce CO₂ in agriculture by using a bit less fertilizer is largely irrelevant to the global climate problem. However, this irrelevance doesn't seem to matter—that's how politics works. We are bombarded with the climate narrative from morning until night, and I see that agriculture is under tremendous pressure from all these "stories."

At the same time, I also see that our ability to genuinely help the world is diminishing because we are increasingly facing financial difficulties. But we must provide genuine global assistance if we are to overcome world hunger or solve the climate problem. Anyone who wants to solve the climate problem must understand that it cannot be done within the territories of rich countries alone. We need to reforest the poor countries of the world. We must protect the rainforests. We need to significantly improve soil humus formation, for instance, by adding bio char or charcoal to the soil. We need to do this worldwide, on billions of hectares of land. We cannot do this on the right scale here in our own countries. We need a system partnership with the poorer countries of the world, and we must adequately compensate them for these system services. If we do not do this, we will face a climate catastrophe; we can do whatever we want here, but the climate catastrophe will be very unpleasant—especially for the poorest, but also for us. Anyone who wants to spare the world this outcome must now focus on global cooperation. This is also the message of UNIDO and will be an important topic at the next World Climate Conference.

Among the many things that can be done to help the climate, one technology that has already been mentioned is particularly important: Carbon Capture (13). If you ask whether fossil fuels are really the decisive problem for our climate, you will realize: No, it's not the fossil fuels themselves, but the fossil emissions. This will be a topic in Dubai in December 2023 (14): Is our problem the existence of fossil fuels? Alternatively, is our problem that we generate fossil emissions? In other words, if we continue to burn fossil fuels but could capture the CO₂ at the point of generation, what then? What if we could store the CO₂ in the same caverns from which we extracted the carbon in the first place, creating a closed carbon cycle? If we could achieve a CO₂ cycle in which no CO₂ escapes into the atmosphere, what then? The question is: Would this solution be problematic for the climate? Obviously not. But why is this important? Because using fossil fuels in combination with Carbon Capture can help developing and emerging countries overcome poverty.

Moreover, many countries depend on trading fossil fuels, as we still derive more than 60 percent of the world's primary energy from fossil fuels, while new renewable energies—wind and solar power—currently account for only just over 5 percent of global gross energy production. Therefore, Carbon Capture must sensibly be used over the next few decades. This is already happening in America and in Norway. The Norwegian Prime Minister has offered to sequester all of Europe's emissions from this century in old gas and oil caverns beneath the North Sea. Viewed properly, this is pragmatic and smart climate protection. Meanwhile, in the German-speaking world, we continue to reject Carbon Capture, to the point where we even ban the export of CO₂. Note: Fortunately, Germany's position has been shifting over the past few months, albeit in small steps.

Anyone who looks more closely into these questions will notice that many problems in the world are related to the development of certain narratives (15). These are often strange stories that we tell ourselves every day. We pay writers, influencers, marketing experts, and opinion-makers to craft nice (visual) stories around a topic. These narratives are now so deeply embedded in our minds that most people don't even realize how much has already been planted in their brains. For you as consultants in the field of agriculture, this would actually be a huge area for raising awareness. However, if you raise too much awareness, you risk losing your job. This makes the situation difficult. In our society, it is no longer acceptable to simply say what one believes to be right. Instead, we are embedded in narratives and are measured by how well we reproduce them. The people we advise must ultimately act in a way that the system expects. However, if

we all act the way the system wants, it might cost us the future—or at the very least, our freedom. I like to put it this way: we are speeding toward disaster—but certified. Everything is being certified, and some people are making a lot of money from it. However, all the certifications don't change the fact that what we are doing will not lead us to our goal.

This brings us to the subject of artificial intelligence (AI). I led an institute focused on this topic for 20 years. There's a saying: "A fool with a tool is still a fool" (16). That's one side of the story. Nevertheless, there's also another side: the fact that perhaps we only want "fools" in the first place. Then, the "tool" can take care of the rest. My predecessor appealed to the individual's intelligence, to their calling, to our soul, and to everything that guides us. But there are people in power who don't want others to act on their calling or inspiration. These power-driven individuals have a mechanical view of existence and want things to be done exactly as they dictate. An intelligent machine that obediently follows orders is almost an ideal concept—especially since it doesn't need a salary, sick leave, or a pension, and can work around the clock if needed. In other words, technological progress does not automatically lead to the outcomes that community-oriented people with a soul might wish for. It is entirely possible that we could end up in an overregulated "ant society," where the freedom we once knew no longer exists. Freedom can disappear faster than we think. As consultants, you can certainly do a lot to defend freedom, but be cautious. Thank you.

Daphne Huber

Mr. Radermacher, thank you so much for taking the time to come to Dresden and give us this thought-provoking presentation. You're an old "conference hand," and I recently researched a colleague in the archive of the "Agrarzeitung" (Agricultural Journal) for a sad occasion; in 2017, he wrote a comment that said, 'The world's major challenges are often discussed at major conferences.' He also mentioned the World Climate Conference, which you brought up, as well as the G-20 meetings or the Agricultural Ministers' meetings at the "Grüne Woche" in Berlin. The key question regarding such conferences is: who does what, when, and how? And that raises questions. He also recently spoke about you, calling you a mathematician and a member of the Club of Rome. He wrote, 'Prof. Radermacher said in Berlin: "The space for realizing the UN's strategic development goals is effectively zero."' What did you mean by that?

Prof. Franz Josef Radermacher

What I meant is that it is utterly hopeless to think we can implement the SDGs by 2030. In Ulm, in a major project with 12 partners from industry and the Ministry for Economic Cooperation, we developed a kind of reference solution for the world, outlining what could be done. This involves massive transfers. Our conclusion is that we might have a chance to implement the SDGs between 2050 and 2070, but that will require a lot of time, patience, and wisdom. Poverty is so terribly widespread, and the population is growing so rapidly that, at best, we may be able to stop population growth by 2050. By then, we'll have around 10 billion people on Earth. Hopefully, the number will decrease again after that, as we are seeing now in China. When it comes to the climate, we see a chance for Net Zero (17) around 2070. Many ask us, why not by 2050? The answer is simple: because the countries of the world have already stated their targets, the so-called NDCs (18). For example, India's goal is to achieve Net Zero by 2070. A number of developing and emerging countries have also set 2070 as their target; China, for instance, has stated 2060 in its NDC for achieving Net Zero.

You have to understand that China is by far the largest user of coal. More than half of the coal used globally is consumed there, and China continues to expand its coal power plant capacity. Every two years, China adds as much coal power capacity as all of Germany has in total. While Germany is phasing out coal power, China adds the equivalent of Germany's entire coal power capacity every two years. Yet, at the same time, the Chinese are also the world's largest producers of renewable energy. They have the most wind turbines, the most photovoltaic systems, and they produce the most green hydrogen.

This, of course, is partly due to their population of 1.4 billion people and their booming economy. We can hardly imagine what 1.4 billion people really means. When I'm in smaller countries in Europe, I'm always amazed at the intensity of discussions about how to "save the world" on such a small scale. What we're missing is a realistic understanding of what a billion people means. Many people do not even know what 10

million looks like. However, the Chinese leadership has to satisfy 1.4 billion people, and soon the Indian leadership will have to cater to 1.6 billion people. Nevertheless, from our perspective, there could be solutions for Net Zero and the SDGs that are compatible with widespread prosperity, but certainly not by 2030 or 2050.

Daphne Huber

Okay, you do see a bit of perspective, at least. Otherwise, all this would be futile. As my colleague once said: 'The man is right. Nevertheless, the agricultural sector is increasingly stepping onto the "Green Stage." I'd say it's already on the "Green Stage." What do you think about that?'

Prof. Franz Josef Radermacher

Without food, everything is meaningless. You can manage when you're not hungry. At the end of World War II, expensive paintings were exchanged for a sack of potatoes. When you're hungry, everything changes. In addition, worldwide, hunger is increasing dramatically. Looking at developing and emerging countries, it is not clear if we will be able to adequately feed everyone by 2050. The agricultural sector is therefore extremely important. It is also a major source of CO2 emissions. Many fertile lands are being built over. Climate change will negatively impact agriculture. We must come up with many solutions in this area to feed 10 billion people better than we do today, protect the climate, and consider sustainability perspectives. You don't need to be a prophet to say that the issue of food will become significantly more important.

However, this realization doesn't necessarily help the individual farmer, because the agricultural sector increasingly operates in large-scale structures. These are the kinds of structures that handle, for example, 1 million tons of wheat and transport it from a port in Romania to Somalia or elsewhere. That's where the big money is made. While it's good that a farmer has such an important job, whether they can survive economically in that job is another issue. All the pressures and additional regulations imposed on agriculture usually mean that the farmer needs to expand their agricultural land to remain economically viable. To do that, they often need loans. Their land serves as collateral, i.e., the security for those loans. If something goes wrong for two or three years on the farm, they may no longer be able to repay their loans and could lose their land and farm, which were used as security. This means that primary producers often operate in a relatively unstable situation. The system is heavily profit-oriented. There are always attempts to seize the property of others. There's nothing more attractive than using paper and computers—perhaps even with the help of AI—along with suitable legal regulations, to siphon off large profits, even from those who work outdoors on the land from morning to night.

Daphne Huber

Professor Radermacher,

all that remains for me to say is: "Hope dies last." I sincerely thank you for your lecture.

Explanations (added by the organizer):

- (1) The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, also known as the World Environmental Conference, or UNCHE (United Nations Conference on the Human Environment), held from June 5 to 16, 1972, in Stockholm.
- (2) The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit or the Rio Conference, held from June 3 to 14, 1992, in Rio de Janeiro.
- (3) A "perfect world," referencing the children's book series by Astrid Lindgren (1947-67).
- (4) The 1.5-degree target refers to the goal of limiting human-caused global temperature rise through the greenhouse effect to 1.5 degrees Celsius, calculated from the beginning of industrialization until the year 2100.
- (5) The Paris Agreement is an international treaty, signed by 195 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with the aim of combating climate change. It succeeded the Kyoto Protocol and was adopted on December 12, 2015, at the UN Climate Conference in Paris (COP 21) by 195 countries and the European Union. The agreement aims to limit global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- (6) SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals. In 2015, the UN defined 17 goals aimed at achieving sustainable development worldwide.
- (7) Stocktaking: An inventory or "audit."
- (8) According to UN data, around 700 to 830 million people worldwide suffered from hunger in 2021, about one in ten (10%). According to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), the number of hungry people decreased by 216 million between 1990 and 2015 but has risen sharply again in recent years, mainly due to climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine.
- (9) George Orwell (1903-1950) was an English writer, essayist, and journalist. The reference here is to his novel 1984 (written in 1949), a dystopian vision of a totalitarian state.
- (10) CO₂: Carbon dioxide.
- (11) Renewables: Renewable energies such as wind power, solar heat, solar power, hydropower, and biomass.
- (12) Refers to the fact that, for example, solar power is only generated during daylight hours, and wind power is only generated when there is wind, not during periods of calm.
- (13) Carbon Capture: CO₂ capture and storage (technical terms: CO₂ sequestration and CCS – carbon dioxide capture and storage) refers to a process in which carbon dioxide (CO₂) is captured from the environment or directly at the sources of fossil CO₂ emissions of industrial or energy-related activities, processed, compressed, and transported to a storage site to remove it from the natural CO₂ cycle in the atmosphere for as long as possible.
- (14) The 2023 UN Climate Conference in Dubai, COP 28 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 28th Conference of the Parties), will take place from November 30 to December 12, 2023, in Dubai.
- (15) Narrative: A meaningful story that influences how the environment is perceived; the defining element behind a narrative is less its truthfulness and more a shared image with powerful resonance.
- (16) "A fool with a tool is still a fool": A fool with a tool is still a fool.
- (17) Net Zero: Refers to the concept of net-zero emissions, meaning that no climate-damaging emissions are produced, or only as many emissions are generated as can be removed from the atmosphere elsewhere.
- (18) NDCs: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); these are the commitments made by countries in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement regarding the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

Three recent publications involving the author:

1. Global Energy Solutions e.V. (GES) (Hrsg.) (Sommer 2023). Entwicklung einer Referenzlösung für ein weltweites klimaneutrales und Wohlstand schaffendes Energiesystem. BMZ-Abschlussreport Global Energy Perspectives <https://global-energy-solutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-Abschlussreport-Global-Energy-Perspectives.pdf>

Basisdokumentation der GES-Referenzlösung <https://global-energy-solutions.org/basisdokumentation-der-ges-referenzloesung/>

2. Herlyn, E.; Radermacher, F. J. (2023): Food Security and Climate - A 2023 Update. Report to UNIDO in preparation of the COP28.

3. Radermacher, F. J. (2023). Europa in Zeiten großer Unordnung – Bedrohungen und Perspektiven, in Brüssel C., Döring W., Götze L. (Hrsg.): Mehr Europa wagen! Zukunftsbilder als Lösungsansatz für eine Union. Baden-Baden: Tectum Wissenschaftsverlag, S. 217-238. ISBN 978-3-8288-4958-7

Hans Georg Hassenpflug, Project Manager FABU

Education/Training in Times of Global Crises: The War in Ukraine

Political, economic, ecological, and social crises are putting pressure on many states worldwide - currently more than ever, it seems. Climate disasters and the destruction of nature, wars everywhere, now even - unimaginably - in the middle of Europe, global refugee and migration movements, as well as the ambiguities of digitization, pose enormous challenges that must be addressed. It is already clear that these crises are causing profound changes: there will be no return to the status quo of previous decades, especially not in education and training.

Particularly in times of crisis, people demand more education/training. During economic crises, they call for education that is more general. In labour market crises, they demand more vocational training. In times of democratic crisis, politicians call for education that is more political. Migration crises should be managed through linguistic education for migrants, and in existential crises for the state, more historical education is expected to help.

Education must respond to these developments by offering professionally guided spaces where knowledge expansion, exchange, and empowerment can take place, and where action-oriented solutions can be developed.

This is important because education/training can support people in gaining orientation during times of crisis, building self-confidence, strengthening judgment and action capabilities, conveying knowledge about causes and connections, and improving discourse abilities.

However, in times of crisis, the call for education often leads to a policy of restoring earlier forms of education or transferring a proven educational system to other areas, or it promotes the expansion and rationalization of the existing system in the sense of "more of the same, but somehow better." The times between societal crises, on the other hand, are often periods of stagnation in education policy.

Thus, times of crisis offer the opportunity to rethink education/training and to break away from one-dimensional curricula. Fundamental changes are required in schools/colleges, and a "decluttering of curricula" is needed—not to make school easier but to free up learning time so that students can "dive deeper" into subjects. However, such a shift is only possible if teacher training is also adapted accordingly. This requires education/training to be rethought. Specifically, this means, for example:

- Developing concepts that integrate in-person and distance learning. Teaching and enabling education, even in times of distance learning, is the core competence of teachers. To do this, teachers must share quality-assured materials and content through platforms to interact with children/teenagers and their parents during phases of distance learning. Parents can only support in this process.
- Supporting teachers in the professional use of digital media. Support is needed regarding digital infrastructure, technical equipment, providing suitable digital teaching aids and materials, as well as offering training opportunities. As the image shows, the learning environment may be underground—but the content is not!



A School Day in War time at School No. 8 in Lviv, Source: Luba Kuzminska

Education/Training as Part of Warfare – The Situation in Ukraine

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on February 24, 2022, a school has been destroyed approximately every other day. Many children have not attended school/college for almost a year and a half. Those who could attend school/college often had to flee multiple times a day due to air raids, seeking refuge in basements or bomb shelters—sometimes for hours. This has posed enormous challenges for students, teachers, and staff.

In total, more than 3,500 educational institutions (universities, schools, and kindergartens) in Ukraine have been bombed, shelled, or destroyed so far. More than 400 schools have been completely destroyed due to fighting, shelling, bombings, and missile strikes, with 133 schools damaged or destroyed in the first half of 2023 alone. These figures are based on data from the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and the office of the Ukrainian Attorney General.

Due to the war, with its constant threat of bombs, shells, and missile strikes, millions of children and teenagers face tremendous difficulties in accessing education/training. As a result, education/training is increasingly becoming a matter of luck.



Since many schools/colleges are not usable, only one in three schools in Ukraine was able to resume in-person classes in September, as only buildings with shelters are allowed to be used for lessons. According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Education (MES), one million children/teenagers are currently attending in-person classes, while about 1.3 million receive a combination of online and offline instruction, and 1.9 million students are following their lessons entirely virtually (home schooling). However, this form of education is also threatened due to Russian attacks on all imaginable types of infrastructure, making it a "constant challenge" for schools and colleges.

Remote learning is a long-term neither technical nor emotional solution. It also depends on the availability of an internet connection, presents challenges for working parents with younger children, and can put families at risk once occupying authorities begin to sanction the Ukrainian "underground education."

According to the Ukrainian Ombudsman for Education, about 26,000 Ukrainian teachers and between 700,000 and 1.5 million school-aged children/teenagers are currently living as war refugees abroad. This further exacerbates the situation in Ukraine's education/training system and, in some cases, in the receiving countries as well, but it is the individuals themselves who suffer the most.



Destroyed School in Lyman (Ukraine), Source: Reuters

Education/Training in War: A Challenge and a Lifeline

For children/teenagers in Ukraine, in-person classes serve as a lifeline, threatened by the ongoing destruction of school buildings. The opportunity to attend school provides children with a sense of stability in times of crisis. However, when war breaks out, education is often one of the first services to be disrupted and one of the last to be restored. For many children and teenagers in Ukraine, the road back to normalcy in education is still long and difficult.



"Welcome to the Land of Knowledge" reads the text at this bombed-out school in Avdiivka in the eastern Ukrainian Donetsk Oblast. Source: Anastasia Magazova

It has been more than a year and a half of war in Ukraine. The Russian invasion has severely impacted the Ukrainian education system, which has faced enormous challenges since the beginning of the war.

The Russian attack on February 24, 2022, interrupted the school year. With the imposition of martial law, schools and other educational institutions were closed, and children were initially sent on a two-week break. When it became clear in March that the war would not end soon, the Ministry of Education recommended switching to online learning where technically possible. Where this was not feasible, schools were asked to focus on providing psychological support to children/teenagers; in addition, teaching staff were instructed to keep students and their families informed about local developments and evacuation options and to contribute to the organization of civil defense.

Russification of the Education System

In the occupied territories, the occupying authorities have been working intensively on the "de-Ukrainization" of the education system since the beginning of the war. Russian was established as the language of instruction, and it was mandated that the curriculum be based on the Russian school system, particularly in history classes. However, it is not just about language, curricula, and educational standards. According to Moscow's plans, schools and colleges are to play a central role in the ideological indoctrination of children.

Before the start of the new school year in September, authorities appointed by Moscow again increased pressure on teachers and school principals to comply with Russian educational standards. School supervisors were threatened, and in some cases kidnapped. Pro-Russian individuals replaced principals unwilling to cooperate, even if they lacked the necessary qualifications. The few cooperative teachers were sent for retraining in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don and, after completing the program, were given an official "diploma" as teachers of Russian and Russian history.

Parents of students are also being pressured. There are reports that they were threatened with the loss of their parental rights if they refused to enrol their children in a school controlled by Russia.

Our Effort

The project "Promoting Vocational Training at Agricultural Colleges in Ukraine (FABU)" has set itself the goal, among others, to support agricultural colleges in organizing, designing, and implementing in-person, hybrid, and distance learning in the current situation.

The FABU project offers colleges a wide range of helpful approaches, guidelines, actionable suggestions, and applicable materials. The specific fields of action and activities within the FABU project include:

- Revising educational standards (content and methods),
- Revising teaching and learning methods,
- Identifying and developing new as well as updating existing teaching modules,
- Qualifying and providing further education for specialists and teachers at colleges/training centres and selected agricultural farms,
- Increasing the integration of internships and training periods on agricultural farms into the curriculum,
- Improving the technical equipment of AGROOSVITA and NMC VFPO, the four pilot colleges, and the four agricultural training centres (including digital infrastructure, IT equipment, provision of appropriate digital teaching materials, and equipping training rooms), and
- Improving and expanding cooperation between businesses/farms and colleges.

The focus of the project work is on:

- Institutional and legal frameworks (laws, decrees, regulations) for a practice-oriented agricultural college education,
- Educational standards, curricula, teaching modules, and practice-oriented teaching methods, and their formal introduction in other agricultural colleges, as well as
- The organizational, temporal, and content design of the "Technological Internship" and its introduction as a generally mandatory component of the training/teaching plan.

Key objectives in this context include the further development, consolidation, and legal anchoring of the results from the aforementioned fields of action.

An example of assistance/support for agricultural colleges during the war is the development and creation of online teaching modules. A guideline was developed to enable Ukrainian partners to take an active role in this process.

The guideline outlines the following requirements for the format "Teaching Module as a Self-Learning Course":

- Topic of the teaching module,
- Learning objectives to be achieved with the module,
- Time required for self-study of the module (plan for 2 lessons = 90 minutes),
- Components of content implementation:
 - Manuscript – Fundamentals,
 - Media-Voiceover – PowerPoint presentation/on-screen text,
 - Video clip – hands-on addition to the manuscript and media-voiceover,
 - Checkbox for a knowledge test – verification of learned subject knowledge/skills/competencies,
 - Questionnaire for monitoring & evaluation of the teaching module – feedback.

The creation of a teaching module is then implemented in the following steps:

1. Prepare yourself,
2. What software do you need?
3. Organize subject matter experts and stakeholders for the module,

4. Give the online module structure,
5. Write the script,
6. Combine form and content,
7. Create media-voiceover and videos,
8. Provide success experiences: Include knowledge tests,
9. Publish the teaching module.

In addition, there was one more thing!

In the 2022/23 school year, the nationwide unified state qualification examination (USQE) had to be adapted to the war situation at the colleges. The previously centralized exams were replaced with a new exam format. In total, the USQE had to be organized for 187,000 candidates. Since a large portion of the candidates was abroad in Europe, solutions had to be found. With the help of the FABU team, an examination centre was set up at Nürtingen University of Applied Sciences for Economics and Environment (HfWU). It was equipped with computers and staffed by qualified Ukrainian teachers. This enabled candidates from 7 Ukrainian universities in five European countries and Canada to complete their training properly during this important phase of their lives.

Despite some criticisms, the ability of the Ukrainian government to handle such an organizational challenge is impressive.

Specialized information on the topics mentioned can be found on the FABU project homepage as a blueprint for work at agricultural colleges, to inspire ideas, reflect on, or further develop them. Points of contact and docking stations include:

- Working aids, guidelines, and
- Checklists and Good/Best Practice examples.

Bildung/Ausbildung in Zeiten des Krieges Das Beispiel Ukraine







EIN LEUCHTTURM IN KRIEGSZEITEN

PROJEKTTITEL:
Förderung der Berufsausbildung an landwirtschaftlichen Colleges in der Ukraine (FABU), UKR 21-01 - Phase 2

PROJEKTREGION:
Kiew, Sumy, Charkiw, Winnizja, Rivne, Wolhynien und Odessa

LAUFZEIT:
12/2021–12/2024 mit der Option der Verlängerung der Laufzeit bis 12/2025

PROJEKTHISTORIE:
08/2017–11/2021 (1. Phase)

BUDGET (AKTUELLE PHASE):
2,15 Mio. EUR (brutto)

OPERATIVE PROJEKTPARTNER:
WMZ VFPO in Kiew, 4 Pilotcolleges und 4 Landwirtschaftliche Lehrzentren

ZIEL:
Unterstützung beim Aufbau und der Entwicklung einer leistungsstarken, effizienten, ressourcenschonenden und unternehmerischen Landwirtschaft.

Handlungs- und Aktionsfelder

- Überarbeitung der Bildungsstandards (Inhalte und Methoden).
- Überarbeitung der Lehr- und Lernmethoden.
- Identifizierung und Erarbeitung neuer sowie Aktualisierung vorhandener Lehrmodule.
- Qualifizierung, Fort- und Weiterbildung von Fach- und Lehrkräften in den Colleges/Lehrzentren und auf ausgewählten landwirtschaftlichen Betrieben.
- Stärkere Integration von Praktika bzw. Ausbildungszeiten auf den landwirtschaftlichen Betrieben in die Ausbildung.
- Verbesserung der technischen Ausstattung von WMC VFPO, den vier Pilotcolleges und den vier landwirtschaftlichen Lehrzentren.
- Verbesserung der Zusammenarbeit Betrieb/Unternehmen und College.

Lichtblicke – Ergebnisse der Projektarbeit:

- Lehrpläne in fünf Spezialisierungen wurden überarbeitet
- Rund 50 Lehrmodule mit fachlichem Inhalt wurden neu konzipiert und ausgearbeitet
- 20 Themenfelder in Methodik und Didaktik wurden bearbeitet
- Über 1.000 Lehrkräfte der Agrar-Colleges wurde praxisnah fortgebildet und
- mehr als 300 Lehrkräfte in methodisch-didaktischen Fragestellungen geschult

Alle Beteiligten müssen ...




VERANTWORTUNG




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Education and training during times of war – The example of Ukraine. FABU



Bildung/Ausbildung in Zeiten des Krieges Das Beispiel Ukraine



Rahmenbedingungen als die Bildungswelt in der Ukraine noch in Ordnung war

- ▶ Die Landwirtschaft ist ein wichtiger Faktor der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung in der Ukraine.
- ▶ Der Bedarf an Fachkräften in der Landwirtschaft stetig steigt, der Arbeitskräftemarkt kann den Bedarf nicht decken.
- ▶ Die Berufsausbildung Allgemein und die Agrarschulbildung im Speziellen muss sich an
 - veränderte Nachfragestrukturen am Arbeitsmarkt
 - neue Zielgruppen (z. B. Beratung)
 - veränderte Anforderungen an die berufliche Qualifikation anpassen bzw. einstellen.
- ▶ Es fehlte ein Konzept
 - zum Umgang mit der beschleunigten fachlichen Innovation
 - zur Nutzung der Digitalisierung im Bereich der Bildung
 - zur Qualifizierung des Lehrpersonals an den Agrarschulen
 - zur Finanzierung der Agrarschulbildung (z. B. Sachmittel und technische Ausstattung)
 - zur Entwicklung der Struktur der Bildungseinrichtungen/-standorte.
- ▶ Eine nachhaltige politische Begleitung und Gestaltung der beruflichen Ausbildung war nicht gegeben. Iptum







24. Februar 2022

**Der Krieg kehrt nach Europa zurück.
Die russische Armee überfällt die Ukraine.**

Die europäische Friedensordnung nach dem 2. Weltkrieg bricht innerhalb von wenigen Stunden komplett zusammen.

Die Auswirkungen für alle wirtschaftlichen Bereiche aber insbesondere für die Bildung/Ausbildung sind fatal.

Bilder des Grauens:








Zahlen/Fakten des Schreckens:

- Mehr als 3.500 Bildungseinrichtungen (Universitäten, Schulen und Kindergärten) wurden bisher bombardiert, beschossen oder zerstört.
- Durch die Kämpfe, Beschuss, Bombardierungen und Raketenanschläge wurden alleine mehr als 400 Schulen vollständig zerstört.
- Nur noch etwa 1,0 Million Kinder/Jugendliche besuchen aktuell regelmäßig die Präsenzschule.
- Etwa 1,3 Millionen Kinder/Jugendliche erhalten abwechselnd ohne Planung Unterricht im Online- bzw. Präsenz-Modus.
- Etwa 1,0 Millionen Kinder/Jugendliche werden ausschließlich virtuell unterrichtet (Home Schooling).
- 28.000 ukrainische Lehrkräfte und 700.000 bis 1,6 Millionen schulpflichtige Kinder/Jugendliche befinden sich im Ausland.
- Eine praktische Ausbildung auf den Betrieben (Technologisches Praktikum) ist nur in wenigen Fällen möglich.
- Das Schulwesen in den besetzten Gebieten wird russifiziert.







Education and training during times of war – The example of Ukraine – Pictures of horror. FABU

Invitation to Schottland for the next IALB-EUFRAS-SEASEN-Conference 2024 in Edinburgh

(Attachement: Program folger for download)

The next IALB, EUFRAS and SEASN conference will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland, from September 10-13, 2024.

The event is the largest agricultural advisory conference in Europe. The aim of the conference is to bring together advisors from across Europe to explore how different countries combine education and research with extension to deliver best practice. The theme of the 2024 event is

Adaption to Net Zero

"How the Scottish system builds and leverages relationships between people working in the rural economy and those in research, education and consultancy, to enhance the sustainability of rural land use in Scotland"

and promises attendees a mix of inspiration, learning, networking and knowledge.

Through a series of workshops, keynote speeches, cultural demonstrations, tourism experiences and networking opportunities, the conference will explore the Scottish farming system and how it builds and uses relationships between people working in the rural economy (and those in research, education and extension) to improve the sustainability of rural land use in Scotland.

The conference offers four days of activities, including a celebratory conference dinner on the first evening, which will feature a range of Scottish cultural entertainment, including a ceilidh!

A key focus of the conference will be specialist field trips with a number of different tours covering areas such as 'Environmental Initiatives, Organic and Diversified Farming' and 'Technology and Improving Livestock Farm Performance'. On the fourth day, there will also be two more general tourist excursions, taking in the sights of Perthshire and Argyllshire. Tickets for these excursions are limited as they are very popular - book quickly to avoid disappointment...

In addition, conference delegates can submit a poster for the poster competition - delegates are invited to submit their projects and plans, guidance and education methods and new ideas within this year's conference theme via the poster session.

For more information, please visit www.sruc.ac.uk/eufiras



The Dynamic Earth Science Centre and Planetarium, Photo R. Oehme

Final words

Dr. Falk Hohmann, Vice President of the Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture, and Geology

Closing Remarks

Introduction by: Kerstin Lässig (Head of Department at the Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture, and Geology)

As a representative of the Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture, and Geology, which hosted the IALB Conference 2023, **Dr. Falk Hohmann** delivered the closing remarks.

First, with a view to the Ukrainian delegation, he reminded the audience of the importance of showing **solidarity with Ukraine**. He reiterated the appeal to all businesses and those who can offer placements to provide internships to actively support the "FABU" project, as Hans Georg Hassenpflug had impressively presented. "We are fortunate to live in peace, and we should never forget how terrible the daily reality is in Ukraine."

Reflecting on the eventful days of the conference, he emphasized that the "**Agricultural Knowledge System**" in Saxony and beyond was vividly illustrated through the lectures, workshops, and excursions. He noted that it would be in the spirit of the conference if as many of the insights as possible were incorporated into the daily work of educational and advisory institutions.

He expressed his **gratitude** to the colleagues from the State Office who organized the conference, as well as to the supporters from the local offices and businesses who prepared and led the excursions. Special thanks went to the approximately 500 participants from more than 20 nations who returned to Saxony, 25 years after the first conference. This broad attention will give new momentum to the official advisory services, which had been more focused on core areas such as regulatory advice, education, and agricultural funding in recent years. Dr. Hohmann also thanked everyone who had maintained the **connection to IALB** and other networks over the many years.

The connection between **education and advisory** services will continue to have a home in Saxony, and this IALB-, EUFRAS-, SEASN conference has made an important contribution to that.

His closing wish to the participants was:

"See you in Scotland next year."

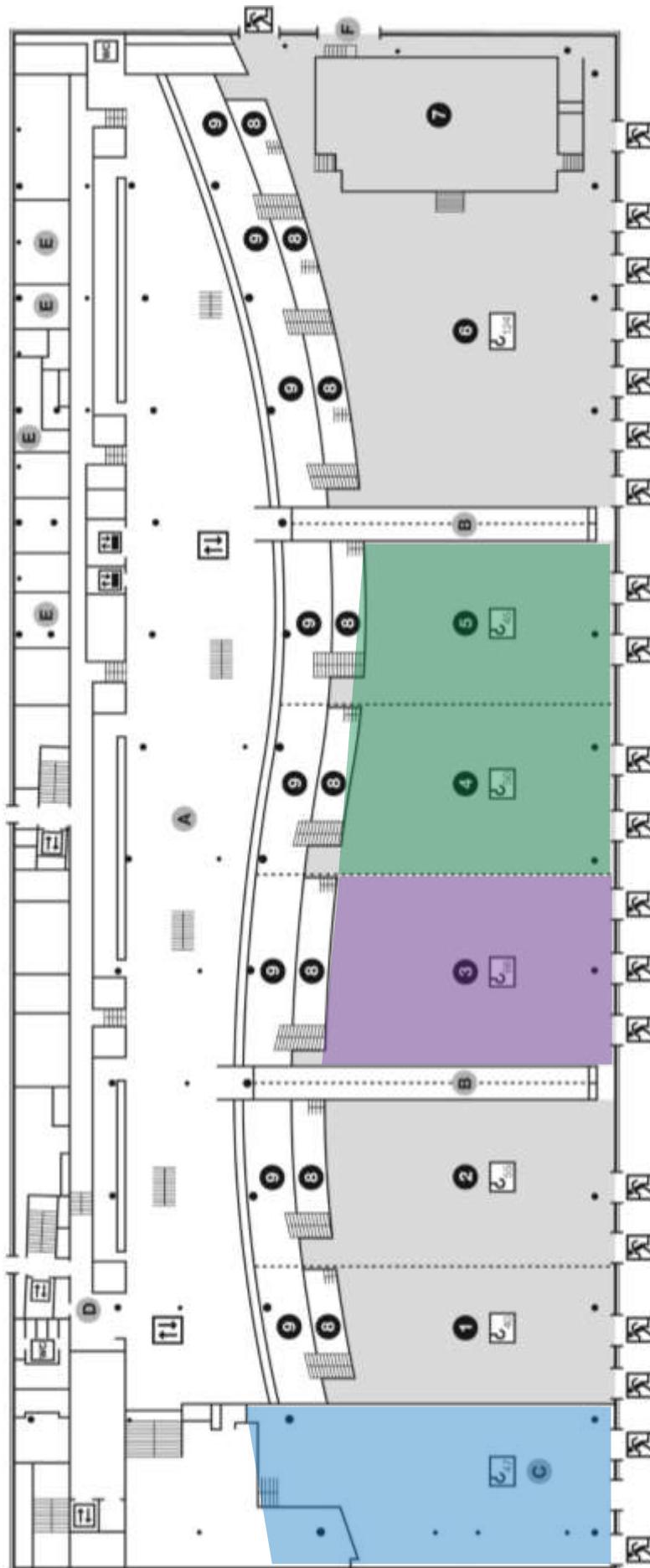
9 Organisational Notes and Evaluation

City Map

Venues	City Tours	Accommodations
<p>1 Conference venue Congress Center Dresden Ostra-Ufer 2, 01067 Dresden</p> <p>2 Welcome Evening Elbe steamer „Meissen“, Landing stage 7 Terrassenufer, 01067 Dresden</p> <p>3 Meeting of the former IALB seminar participants of Raulschholzhausen „Alte Schankwirtschaft“ Am Schießhaus 19, 01067 DD</p>	<p>1 „Fascination Dresden“ Dresden Information (at the Frauenkirche) Neumarkt 2, 01067 Dresden</p> <p>1 „Delicious Dresden“ Dresden Information (at the Frauenkirche), Neumarkt 2, 01067 Dresden</p> <p>2 Combi Ticket Dresden short and sweet King Johann Memorial Theaterplatz / Semper Opera</p> <p>3 Great City Tour Bus stop Red Double Decker Wildstruffer Str. / Landhausstr. 01067 Dresden</p>	<p>1 Maritim Hotel Deventerstraße 10-12 01067 Dresden</p> <p>2 Holiday Inn Ostra Allee 25 01067 Dresden</p> <p>3 Leonardo Hotel Magdeburger Straße 1 a 01067 Dresden</p> <p>4 AMEDIA Hotel Hamburger Straße 64-68 01157 Dresden</p>

Karte hergestellt aus OpenStreetMap-Daten | Lizenz: Open Database License (ODbL)

Location plan - Great Hall and Halls



Hall 3 - Poster presentation and buffet for coffee breaks

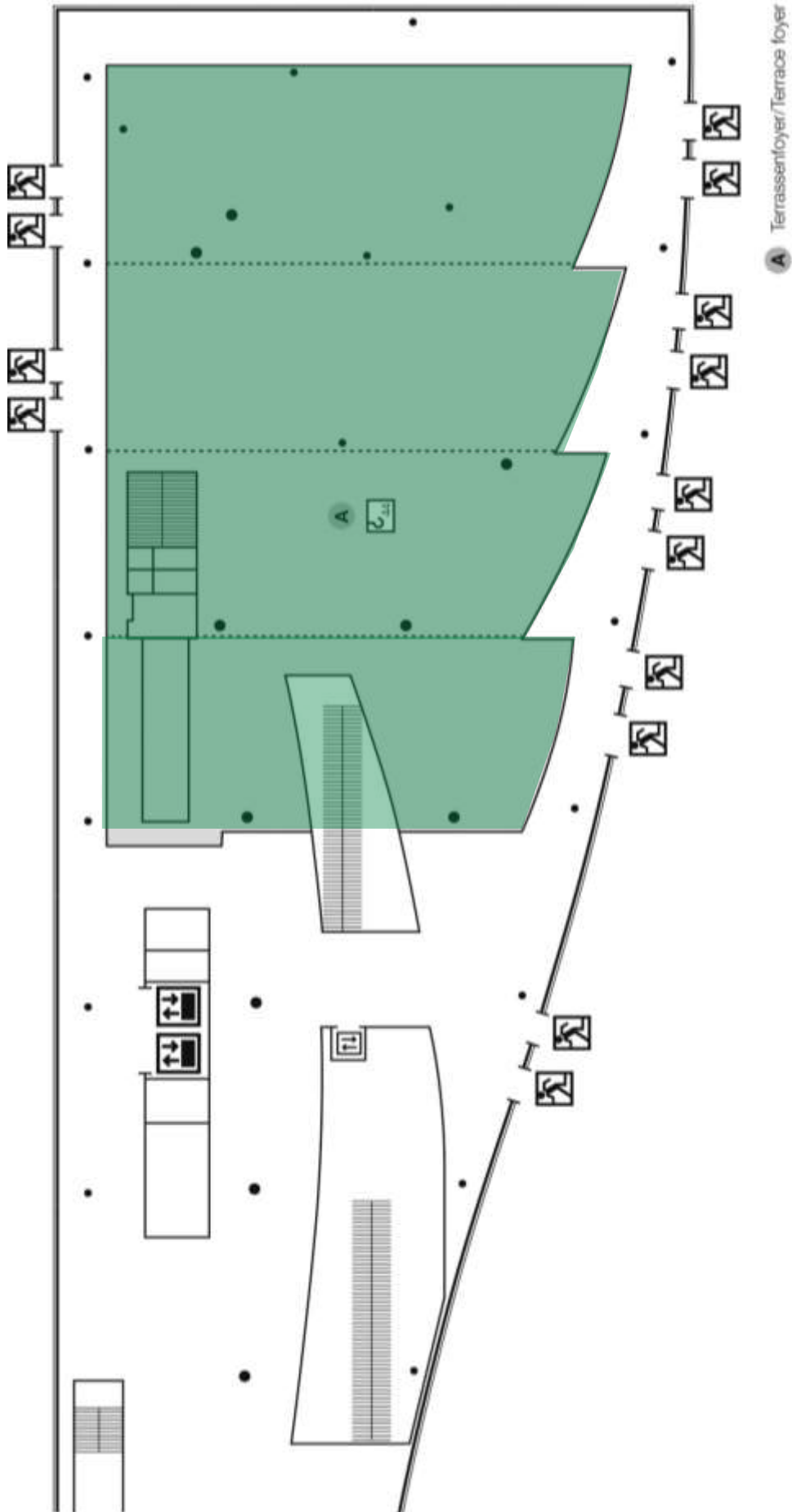
Hall 4+5 - Conference rooms 11. and 13.09.
(room divider open)

Hall 4+5 - one Workshop per hall 1.09. afternoon,
(room divider closed)

Room C - Restaurant, Lunch 11. and 13.09.

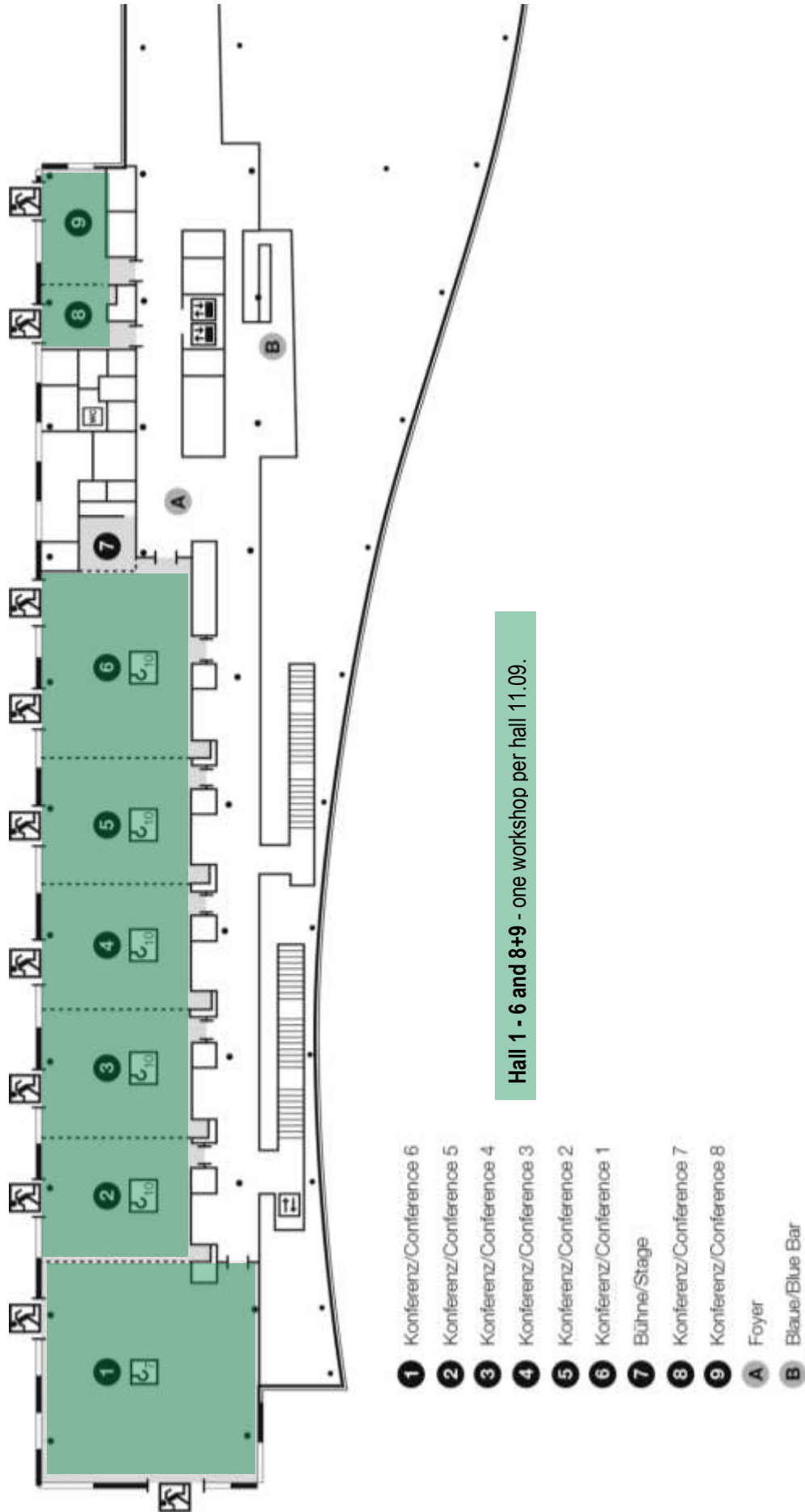
- 1** Saal/Hall 5
- 2** Saal/Hall 4
- 3** Saal/Hall 3
- 4** Saal/Hall 2
- 5** Saal/Hall 1
- 6** Großer Saal/Large Hall
- 7** Bühne/Stage
- 8** Galerie/Gallery 1
- 9** Galerie/Gallery 2
- A** Foyer
- B** Technikerbrücke/Technician bridge
- C** Restaurant
- D** Ausgang/Exit Hotel
- E** Tagungsbüros/Conference Offices
- F** Rolltor bis 40 t; Breite 4,70 m; Höhe 5 m/
Rolling gate till 40 tons; width 4,70 m; height 5,00 m

Location plan - Terrace Level with foyer

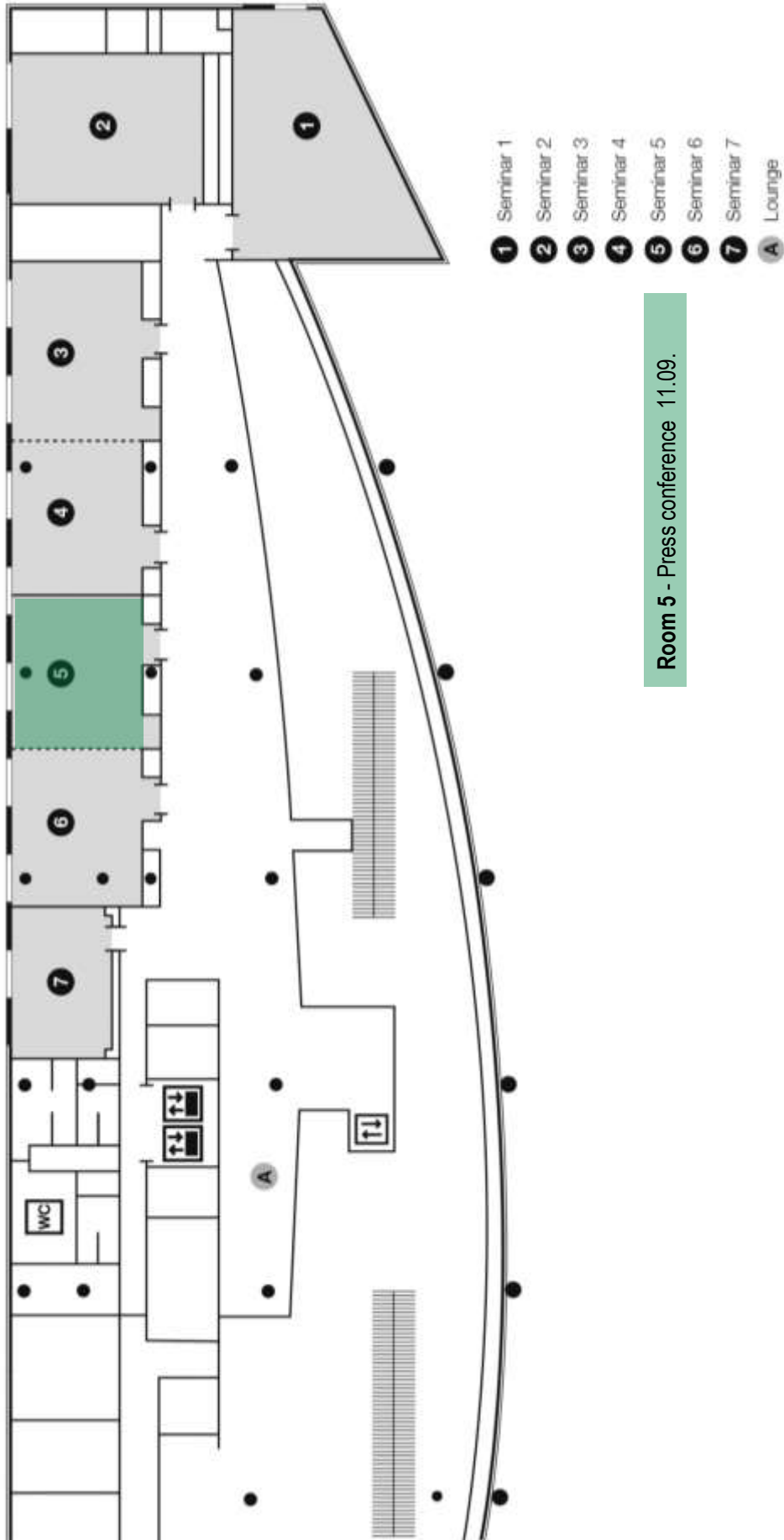


Terrace - Society Evening 11.09.

Location plan - Conference Level



Location plan - Seminar Level



Project Team

For the preparation of the IALB, EUFRAS, SEASN Conference in Dresden 2023, the following individuals are involved:

From the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Geology (LfULG)

Project Management:

Kerstin Lässig, Head of Dept. 9, Education and Regulatory Enforcement

Tina Hülle, Head of Dept. 1, Key Responsibilities

As Team:

Henrik Fichtner

Robby Oehme

Eva-Maria Neumann

Sylvia Bärthold

Martina Borkert

Daniel Brohm

Silke Getzschmann

Katrin Hecht

Thomas Kitt

Ines Krause

Andrea Rau

Matthias Rau

Konstantin Schanze

Sonia Schmitt

Ludwig Schulze

Katja Zschaage

With Support – Our Passion Lies in Education Within the Administrative Ranks:

from the Free State of Saxony

Jasmin Baranowsky, Agricultural Assessor

Oliver Barthel, Agricultural Assessor

Johannes Guder, Agricultural Assessor

Jan Friedrich Fuchs, Agricultural Trainee

Vincenz Widera, Agricultural Trainee Teacher

From the Free State of Bavaria

Nina Farrenkopf, Trainee Teacher

Svenja Heinen, Trainee Teacher

Martina Kronast, Trainee Teacher

Verena Mengele, Trainee Teacher

Maria Thürauf, Trainee Teacher

Michael Waser, Trainee Teacher

From the State Tourism Association Saxony e.V. as Project Partner for Organization:

Nele Loeper

Thaddäus Ziesch

The numerous individuals mentioned in the program and on the respective pages:

Speakers

Moderators

Presenters and discussion participants

Excursion leaders, on-site coordinators at various stations

The Public Relations Team of LfULG.

Our Facilities Management Team at LfULG

Evaluation

Mentimeter 13. Sept. 2023

Which driver will have the most influence on Education and Advice in the future?



Welche Treiber beeinflussen die künftige Beratung und Bildung am stärksten?



What are the most important qualities a successful agricultural advisor should have?



Was sind die wichtigsten Eigenschaften die erfolgreiche landwirtschaftliche Beraterinnen und Berater haben sollten?

278 responses



Theses from the conference

- ▮ The complexity of the issues has the greatest impact on future education and advice in rural areas. (1)
- ▮ Other drivers of future education and advisory services will be climate change, expert qualifications, digitalization and demographic challenges. (2)
- ▮ The most important characteristics of successful advisors are empathy (sensitivity), specialist knowledge and communication. (3)
- ▮ Other important personal qualities for successful consultants are professional competence, flexibility, openness, networking and passion. (4)
- ▮ Recruiting and qualifying teaching and advisory staff is a particular challenge, which is why we have now set the course for independent career training. In doing so, we want to adhere to the proven principle of the unity of education and guidance. (5)
- ▮ We need to find efficient ways to tackle climate change while ensuring food security and maintaining environmentally and socially responsible production. This is a challenge we all share, so let's work together to find solutions. (6)
- ▮ We need a functioning network that enables knowledge exchange and collaboration between extension and education, research, policy and practice. Good reasons to be or become a member of the IALB or one of the other organizations. New members are very welcome. (7)
- ▮ Education and extension in the transformation process of agriculture - We are not talking about fads, but about reality and the consequences for agriculture, the environment and food safety. This is extremely important for the South East European countries region (SEASN) for many reasons. We need to draw up an action plan for the future role of the advisory service in rural areas. (8)
- ▮ Agriculture - as I experience it - is characterized by people who are innovative, open, cooperative, committed, competent and have a strong work ethic. (9)
- ▮ Sustainability in agriculture is based on three pillars: economy, ecology and social issues. Our aim is to use the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy to help achieve a good balance. Advice plays an important role in a successful transformation. (10)
- ▮ Agricultural education and advisory services are systemically relevant for food security and the conservation of natural resources. (10a)
- ▮ Agricultural vocational training in Ukraine (before the war) was well on the way to catching up with European educational standards. (11)
- ▮ Humanity must be the guiding principle in all our actions. (12)
- ▮ A well-functioning AKIS is like a guard rail for achieving agricultural policy goals. (12)
- ▮ Half of the world's food is energy (13)

- ▮ Education and extension are to be understood as a unit and develop their effectiveness depending on the cooperation of all actors. (14)
- ▮ Public relations work plays a major role in attracting young people to work in the company. (15)
- ▮ Young people who want to become farmers must be allowed to do so. (16)

- ▣ Official and private advisory services should complement each other in order to make the best possible use of their respective strengths in the interests of farms (17)
- ▣ The CERCA certificate under the umbrella of the IALB defines standards for a Europe-wide, modular competence development series, especially for advisors in rural areas and with the help of transnational networking. (18)
- ▣ A network as a recipe for success (19)
- ▣ The question is no longer which events can take place online, but what must take place in person? (20)
- ▣ Findings must be translated into practice without losing too much time. (20)
- ▣ Professional advisory coordination, management and networking are required. (20)
- ▣ Further education and training must be strengthened. (20)

Index:

- (1) Mentimeter, 1st place, What has the greatest influence on future education and guidance in rural areas?
- (2) Mentimeter, frequent mentions of the situation
- (3) Mentimeter, first 3 mentions of the characteristics of an advisor
- (4) Mentimeter, frequent mentions of characteristics
- (5) Wolfram Günther, Saxon State Minister for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture
- (6) Jussi Juhola, President of EUFRAS
- (7) Regine Wiesend, President of the IALB
- (8) Igor Hrovatic, President of SEASN
- (9) Dr. Dieter Heider, b&s Unternehmensberatung und Schulung für den ländlichen Raum GmbH, Saxony
- (10) Michael Pielke, EU Commission, European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development
Directorate B: Sustainability
- (10a) Prof. Dr. Knut Schmidtke, Chair of Organic Farming, Dresden University of Applied Sciences
- (11) Hans Georg Hassenpflug, "Promotion of vocational training at agricultural colleges in Ukraine - FABU", BMEL, Germany
- (12) Anton Stöckli, Federal Office
- (13) Prof. Franz Josef Radermacher, Forschungsinstitut für anwendungsorientierte Wissensverarbeitung, Ulm, Deutschland
- (14) Dr. Falk Hohmann, Ständiger Vertreter des Präsidenten des Sächsischen Landesamtes für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie
Landwirtschaftliche Bildung und Beratung ist systemrelevant für Ernährungssicherung und den Erhalt natürlicher Ressourcen.
- (15) Ines Senger, Agrarproduktion „Am Bärenstein“ Struppen e. G.
- (16) Jan Gumpert, Vorstandsvorsitzender „Agraset“ Naundorf e. G.
- (17) Andreas Wilhelm, Beratung und Vertrieb im Agrarbereich, Sachsen
- (18) Schule und Beratung 11-12 / 2023, Bay. Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Tourismus, Nina Farrenkopf, Martina Kronast, Maria Thürauf
- (19) Bauernzeitung Ostdeutschland, Wochenblatt für die ostdeutsche Landwirtschaft, Nr. 39/2023, Karsten Bär
- (20) B&B Agrar online, Ausgabe Oktober / 2023, Dr. Bärbel Brettscheider-Heil

Number of participants

Registrations - **470 Persons from 23 countries**

Davon aus: Deutschland (341), Österreich (23), Slowenien (19), Schweiz (18), Ukraine (14), Irland (8), Lettland (6), Kroatien (6), Belgien (3), Polen (4), Bulgarien (3), Serbien (2), Tschechien (2), Estland (2), Finnland (2), Italien (2), Mazedonien (2), Frankreich (1), Luxemburg (1), Niederlande (1), Portugal (1), andere (5).

Nuber of Ladies and Gentlemen: 262 Ladies (56%), 195 Gentlemen, 13 no comment

Welcome Evening: 195 (41%)

Society Evening: 230 (49%)

Exkursions: 9 Exkursions with 343 Persons (73%)

Workshops: 11 Workshops with 361 Persons (77%)

Reports published

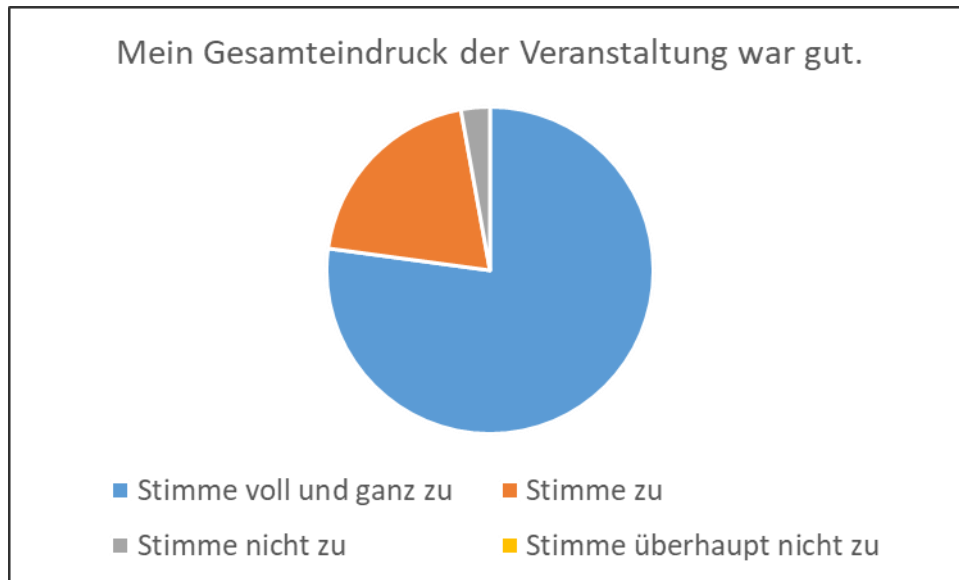
- I Sächsische Zeitung: Kurz-Bericht zur IALB-Tagung vom 16.09.2023 „**Bildung in der Landwirtschaft**“
- I B&b-agrar, Oktober 2023: ausführlicher Bericht von Dr. Bärbel Brettschneider-Heil:
„**Den Transformationsprozess unterstützen**“
- I Bauernzeitung – Wochenblatt für die ostdeutsche Landwirtschaft, Nr. 39/2023: „**Netzwerk als Erfolgsrezept**“
- I DLG-Newsletter 41-2023: Hans Georg Hassenpflug über die Förderung der Grünen Berufe in der Ukraine:
„**Subsistenzwirtschaft ist in Krisenzeiten äußerst resilient**“ (Interview am Rande der Tagung)
- I Schule und Beratung (Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Tourismus) Heft 11-12 / 2023: „**Zu Gast bei Freunden**“

Parts of the Evaluation

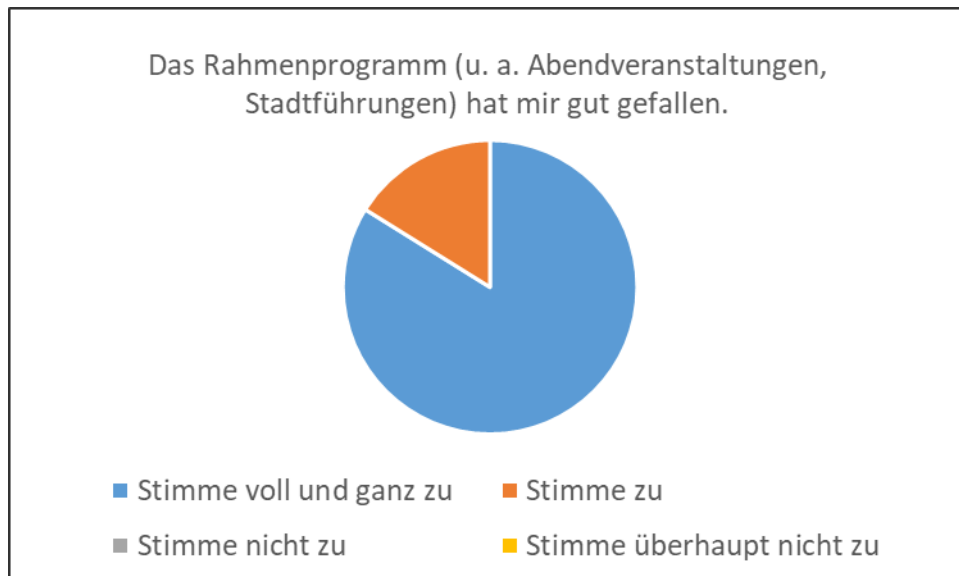
Colours:

Blue: agree fully, orange: agree, grey: do not agree, yellow: do not agree at all

My impression of the conference was good.

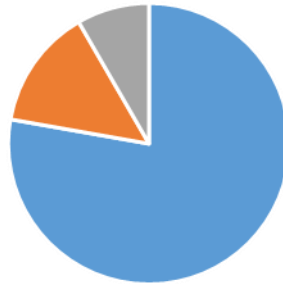


The side events (evenings, city tours) were good.



The conference was professionally organised (registration, conference office).

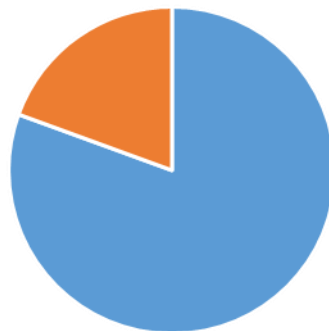
Die Tagung war professionell organisiert
(Anmeldung, Tagungsbüro).



- Stimme voll und ganz zu
- Stimme zu
- Stimme nicht zu
- Stimme überhaupt nicht zu

The congress center was a good choice.

Das Tagungsgebäude war eine gute Wahl.



- Stimme voll und ganz zu
- Stimme zu
- Stimme nicht zu
- Stimme überhaupt nicht zu

10 IALB | EUFRAS | SEASN



IALB

International Networking

In 1961, consultants from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland founded the International Academy for Rural Advisory Services (IALB), initially under the name International Academy for Agricultural and Rural Advisors (IALB). Subsequently, 10 more European countries joined this network. The official language is German.

IALB as a Partner and Initiator of Other Advisor Networks

GFRAS

EUFRAS

SEASN

IALB in „Policy Dialogue“

EU institutions recognize IALB as a valuable partner in advisory matters.

In 2011, IALB developed proposals, as part of a working group, for the development of the "Farm Advisory System" as a component of the EU Agricultural Policy 2014-2020. These considerations were presented to EU officials in collaboration with agricultural chambers and COPA. The goal was to enhance the importance of advisory services in achieving EU objectives.

To make advisory efforts more effective in achieving the goals set by the EU in the 2014-20 RDP and Horizontal Regulation, IALB also formulated another position paper.

As a recommendation for the continuation of E-programs in 2021-2026, IALB produced a thesis paper on knowledge transfer and advisory services in the agricultural sector.

Advisory and Education

Knowledge transfer through education and advisory services, along with horizontal networking of stakeholders, enhance the competitiveness and adaptability of the sector. Effective and efficient knowledge transfer is essential to successfully address existing and future complex challenges. Therefore, we view the promotion of education, advisory services, and innovation as important investments in the future and endorse them explicitly. To optimize and increase the efficiency of these and other measures in knowledge transfer and innovation, a separate funding area "RDP – Knowledge and Innovation" should be established. Only through this system optimization can better achievement of goals among beneficiaries be realized.

ialb.org

Becoming a Member of IALB:



Unsere Stärken – Ihr Nutzen

Unsere Mitglieder (Einzelpersonen)

- profitieren von einem internationalen Netzwerk außergewöhnlich engagierter und kompetenter Kolleginnen und Kollegen
- tauschen sich gerne fachlich und methodisch aus
- erleben Kollegialität über Hierarchien und Organisationsgrenzen hinweg
- unterstützen sich gegenseitig in ihrem Engagement für den ländlichen Raum.
- haben erleichterten Zugang zu Informationen außerhalb der eigenen Arbeitsregion

Unsere Organisationen

- profitieren von neuen Ideen (Innovationen) und erprobten, methodischen und organisatorischen Lösungsansätzen aus anderen vergleichbaren Regionen
- zählen auf stabile, tragfähige Kontakte unter IALB-Mitgliedern
- streben nach ständig optimierter Beratungsqualität
- haben Zugang zu einem weiten Netzwerk von Partnern und Spezialisten aus dem ländlichen und agrarischen Umfeld.



Wie werde ich Mitglied?

Erste Anlaufstelle zu Fragen der Mitgliedschaft ist die IALB-Geschäftsstelle in Landshut; weiterhin beraten Sie die IALB-Vorstandsmitglieder zu Fragen der IALB-Mitgliedschaft.

Unter www.ialb.org, «Mitglied werden» können Sie Ihren Antrag auf Mitgliedschaft stellen.



Beratung vernetzt erleben



Impressum

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Wer ist die IALB?



Die Internationale Akademie für ländliche Beratung (IALB) ist eine internationale Plattform zum Informations- und Erfahrungsaustausch für Beraterinnen und Berater. Sie wurde 1961 gegründet.

Die IALB umfasst Mitglieder vorwiegend aus Deutschland, Österreich, der Schweiz und Südtirol sowie aus vielen weiteren europäischen Ländern. Die IALB steht offen für natürliche und juristische Personen aus Bildung, Offizial- und Privatberatung sowie für Dienstleister im ländlichen Raum.

Die IALB sieht sich als internationale Vereinigung von Beratungsexperten und -expertinnen, die sich vorrangig mit Zukunftsfragen der bäuerlichen Familienunternehmen und des ländlichen Raumes im Rahmen einer nachhaltigen Entwicklung auseinandersetzen. Sie trägt dazu bei, Trends und Veränderungen rechtzeitig zu erkennen und zeigt Wege auf, wie die Bevölkerung im ländlichen Raum mit Hilfe von Bildung und Beratung notwendige Veränderungen schaffen kann. Sie leistet einen Beitrag zur Qualitätssicherung in der Beratung.

IALB-Tagung

findet jährlich in einem anderen Land statt und ermöglicht

- formellen und informellen fachlichen und persönlichen Austausch in einem funktionierenden Netzwerk
- grenzüberschreitenden Erfahrungsaustausch mit Praktikern, Wissenschaftlern, organisatorisch und politisch Verantwortlichen
- intensives Kennenlernen der Gegebenheiten vor Ort
- Erkennen neuer Entwicklungen und Herausforderungen in Bildung und Beratung für den ländlichen Raum
- Zugang zu systematischer Weiterentwicklung (Ideenbörse) und Qualitätssicherung der Beratungsmethodik
- Kennenlernen von innovativen, offenen Teilnehmern
- Motivation von Mitarbeitern

IALB-Netzwerkwoche

wird jährlich durchgeführt und bietet

- intensives Erkunden anderer Regionen und zugehöriger Beratungs- und Bildungsangebote sowie -methoden
- grenzüberschreitenden Erfahrungsaustausch
- systematische Weiterentwicklung und Qualitätssicherung in der Beratungsmethodik
- Kennenlernen besonders leistungsstarker Beraterinnen und Berater



CECRA

Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas

Kompetenzentwicklung für Beraterinnen und Berater im ländlichen Raum Europas

- leistet beratungsmethodische Grundlagenarbeit und setzt Impulse durch die gemeinsame Entwicklung von Modulen
- stellt einen europaweit anerkannten Standard für Beratungsmethodik zur Verfügung
- bildet die Plattform für eine systematische Weiterentwicklung und Qualitätssicherung in der Beratungsmethodik
- wird von Anbietern im Bereich Bildungsmethodik in mehreren Ländern durchgeführt



IALBconnect (Collaborationtool)

- exklusive, auf Mitglieder beschränkte Nutzung der Online-Angebote
- unkomplizierter Austausch der Mitglieder untereinander zu spezifischen Themen und Fragestellungen
- schnelle fachliche und methodische Lösungsideen und -vorschläge



CECRA (Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas)

Qualification and Competence Development for Rural Area Advisors in Europe

The Initial Situation

Many countries are experiencing a decline in the number of advisors in rural areas. Specialized qualification and competence development for the increasingly complex task of advising is becoming scarce. Instead, there are various pathways to qualification, often focused on technical approaches.

Particularly in the Central and Eastern European states, there is a need for competence development among advisors who generally possess good technical qualifications but lack competencies in the methodological and social aspects.

The Goal

Under the umbrella of IALB, the different qualification approaches from various countries are consolidated. Special modules tailored to the work of advisors (2 compulsory and 3 elective modules), requirements, prerequisites, key points, and standards are condensed into a unified series of competence development at the European level. This enables graduates to be awarded a European certificate (CECRA).

The Participants

This offering is directed at agricultural, rural household, and regional advisors (regional, Leader managers, regional stakeholders) in rural areas who seek to enhance their advisory work and secure their successes in relation to their advisory clients.

Further Information

For more details, please visit: cecra.net



IALB – www.ialb.org

Die Internationale Akademie für ländliche Beratung (IALB) ist ein Zusammenschluss von Beratungs- und Bildungskräften aus verschiedenen europäischen Staaten. Die IALB setzt sich vorrangig mit Zukunftsfragen des ländlichen Raumes und der darin wirtschaftenden bäuerlichen Familienunternehmen auseinander. Dabei soll eine zukunftsfähige Entwicklung in diesen Gebieten vorangebracht werden. Im Zentrum steht das Fördern von Beratung und Bildung durch Seminare, Erfahrungsaustausch, Tagungen und Projekte.

Info und Ansprechpartner:

AGRIDEA

Lindau (CH), www.agridea.ch

Staatliche Führungsakademie für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten

Landshut (D), www.fueak.bayern.de

Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik

Wien (A), www.agrarumweltpaedagogik.ac.at

Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Ernährung und Ländlichen Raum (LEL)

Schwäbisch Gmünd (D), www.lel-bw.de

Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen - Bildungseminar Rauschholzhausen (LLH)

Bildungseminar Rauschholzhausen (D), www.llh.hessen.de

Autonome Provinz Südtirol

Fachschule für Landwirtschaft Salern Vahrn (I), www.fachschule-salern.it

Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA)

Bonn (D), www.andreas-hermes-akademie.de

Doppelspitzencoaching

Wetzlar (D), www.doppelspitzencoaching.de

entra people systems GmbH

Winweiler/Lengerich (D), www.entra.de

Das CECRA-Jahresprogramm finden Sie hier:



www.cecra.net

Weitere Informationen zu CECRA im gesamten europäischen Netzwerk finden Sie hier:

EUFRAS – www.eufRAS.eu

Das European Forum for Agricultural and

Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS) versteht

sich als Netzwerk für Beratungsdienste sowie als Interessensvertreter der Mitgliedsorganisationen in agrarpolitischen Fragen und Angelegenheiten der ländlichen Entwicklung, EUFRAS setzt sich für eine qualifizierte Aus- und Weiterbildung von Beraterinnen und Beratern ein.

LLKC, Latvia

www.llkc.lv

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www.teagasc.ie

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Certificate for European
Consultants in Rural Areas

Entwickeln Sie Ihre Beratungen- kompetenzen im europäischen Netzwerk



CECRA

Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas

CECRA ist eine Qualifizierungsreihe, die von der IALB (Internationale Akademie für ländliche Beratung) speziell für Beratungskräfte im ländlichen Raum entwickelt wurde. In praxisorientierten Seminaren erweitern die Teilnehmenden ihre Beratungskompetenz und ihr Persönlichkeitsprofil. CECRA bietet die Möglichkeit, Beratung in anderen Regionen kennenzulernen und sich länderübergreifend zu vernetzen. Stellen Sie sich Ihr individuelles Qualifizierungsprogramm zusammen und wählen Sie aus 19 Modulen.

Die Kompetenzentwicklungsmodule

2 Pflichtmodule

- M01** Mein Profil als Berater/-in
- M02** Kommunikation und Beziehungsgestaltung in der Beratung

17 Wahlpflichtmodule

- M03** Arbeiten und Führen im Team
- M04** Rhetorik/Präsentation
- M05** Selbst-/Zeitmanagement
- M06** Projektmanagement
- M07** Gestaltung von Beratungsprozessen
- M08** Umgang mit Veränderungen/Changemanagement
- M09** Moderationstraining
- M10** Marketing von Beratung
- M11** Veranstaltungen planen und durchführen
- M12** Gruppen und Teams beraten und begleiten
- M13** Grundzüge der Mediation
- M14** Beratung und Begleitung von Unternehmen in strategischen Fragen
- M15** Coaching – Einführung
- M16** Innovationsprozesse gestalten – Netzwerke begleiten
- M17** Grundlagen der Partizipation
- M18** Einzelbetriebliche Beratung online
- M19** Arbeiten mit Gruppen online

Ihre Vorteile

- Sie reflektieren Ihre berufliche Tätigkeit und entwickeln Ihre persönliche Beratungskompetenz weiter.
- Sie knüpfen Ihr Netzwerk mit anderen Kolleginnen und Kollegen.
- Sie erwerben ein internationales Zertifikat, das Ihre Beratungskompetenzen bestätigt.
- Sie erweitern Ihr methodisches Repertoire und können den Erfolg in Ihrer Beratungstätigkeit steigern.
- Als Arbeitgeber beschäftigen Sie mit CECRA-Absolventinnen und Absolventen nachweislich qualifiziertes Personal. Dies fördert das positive Image Ihrer Beratungsorganisation.



Innerhalb der CECRA-Qualifizierungsreihe sind zwei Abschlüsse möglich: CECRA-Basics und das CECRA-Zertifikat.



BASICS
a product of ialb

- 2 Pflichtmodule
- 3 Wahlpflichtmodule

7 Jahre



ZERTIFIKAT
a product of ialb

- 2 Pflichtmodule und 3 Wahlpflichtmodule oder CECRA Basics
- 2 Jahre Berufserfahrung
- Besuch einer Fachveranstaltung
- Besuch einer Beratungsstelle
- Reflexion Beratungsfall und Abschlussarbeit

In der Qualifizierung können die Teilnehmenden eigene Beratungsfälle bearbeiten und reflektieren. Ziel dabei ist es, das Erlernte parallel in der Praxis auszuprobieren und anzuwenden.



EUFRAS

The setting up of a new organisation (EUFRAS)

European regions and countries has been achieved. There is a very active global representative body for advisory services (GFRAS) with subgroups set up in other continents. This organisation has been very successful in getting funding for the development and evaluation of Agricultural and rural advisory systems. EUFRAS is the first European organisation of farm advisory services and is affiliated to GFRAS.

Foundation Process of EUFRAS

In autumn 2013, agricultural and rural advisory services from 20 European countries founded EUFRAS, the European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services, in Berlin on Monday, September 23.


The founding members were the International Academy for Agriculture and Home Economics Advisors (IALB – GER, AU, CH, IT), the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Center, TEAGASC (Ireland), AGRIDEA (CH), EkoConnect e.V. (GER), the Knowledge Center of Agriculture (DK), MEDSOFTORG Ltd. (HU), Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Agro Information Center of Azerbaijan, National Agricultural Advisory Service of Bulgaria, die University of Western Hungary – Institute for Consultancy and Training and the Association for farmers' rights defense (Georgia).

Why become a member of EUFRAS?

Connect your organization with other rural advisory services from all over Europe! Create chances to improve the capacities of your staff and the efficiency of your services. EUFRAS Conferences and Seminars offer opportunities to learn from best practice examples and to identify focus areas & future trends. Cross-border cooperation between organizations involved in agricultural consulting will drive positive changes in rural advisory services for the benefit of their clients. Being part of this European network brings you in touch with the stakeholders of rural advisory services in Europe. This is a good way to influence the reputation of your organization. EUFRAS offers the chance to speak with a common voice and to contribute to the political agenda concerning the interests of RAS.

eufRAS.eu





Further Activities of EUFRAS

will include:

56th IALB and 6th EUFRAS conference in Münster from 18th till 22nd of June, 2017

EUFRAS Study tour: Organic Field Days in Frankenhausen, Germany from 21st to 22nd of June, 2017

EUFRAS Study tour: Tech&Bio the European professional show about organic and alternative farming techniques in Drôme, France from the 20th till 21st of September, 2017

CECRA Trainings 2017



EUROPEAN FORUM FOR
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL
ADVISORY SERVICES

NETWORK FOR RURAL ADVISORS

For more information visit www.eufras.eu



EUFRAS Activities

The promotion of best practice in advisory methodologies

The development of shared information technology services and solutions

The sharing of technical expertise

The skills training of advisory staff

The development of advisory standards and frameworks for evaluation

Promoting the activities of its members to key decision makers in the EU and elsewhere

Influencing the training of agriculture under graduates

The association is open for public and private advisory services and institutions whose work aims at supporting farming families, agricultural organizations, local groups and individuals involved in agriculture or rural development and addresses current and emerging problems.

The European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS) was founded in 2013 and is an EU-wide network registered in Latvia.

EUFRAS is aimed to improve the quality of advisors qualification as well as support advisory services in their efforts to promote innovation and knowledge transfer in rural areas and in agriculture. Conferences, seminars, projects and events shall offer a platform for exchange and cooperation between advisory services from all over Europe.

Currently 33 agricultural and rural advisory organizations from 24 European countries are actively participating, expecting further members to join in the coming years.



If your organization is interested in joining EUFRAS

Apply to European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services by address: Rigas iela 34, Ozolnieki, Ozolnieku pagasts, Ozolnieku novads, LV-3018, Latvija

Contact e-mail: liga.cimermane@lkc.lv
Application forms available at www.eufras.eu

Membership Fees

In the Society the principle of differentiated membership fees is realized depending on the number of consultants in each Member organization.

If in your organization 1000 advisors are represented, membership fee is 5000 EUR per year.

If in your organization 500 – 1000 advisors are represented, membership fee is 2000 EUR per year.

If in your organization 100 – 500 advisors are represented, membership fee is 1000 EUR per year.

If in your organization 100 advisors are represented, membership fee is 300 EUR per year.

Please note that the amount of the fee does not affect the level of involvement.



SEASN

The South Eastern Europe Advisory Service Network-SEASN is association of agricultural advisory services, agricultural chambers, agricultural institutes, faculties and non-governmental organisations founded in Bulgaria on 22nd October 2015.

The main goal of our association is the digitalization of agriculture in Southeast Europe through EU projects

The main SEASN objectives are:

- increasing the efficiency of agricultural advisory services in order to develop agriculture and rural areas in the region;
- a dynamic exchange of knowledge and experiences of advisory services;
- simple exchange of experiences, knowledge and information, on an understandable local languages;
- easier cooperation with similar organizations in the region and Europe;
- regional projects cooperation;
- regular correspondence among members of the Association.

Connecting advisers to boost interactive innovation in agriculture and forestry



Innovative connections for sustainable agriculture:

Agriculture and forestry – the basis for food, feed and countless other products to meet consumer and industrial demands – are integral parts of the European economy and society. Innovation and collaboration between various actors are key. The EU-funded i2connect will build on the existing advisor networks – a resource of over 40 000 advisors and critical actors – to form a broader network. Its aim is to promote a new culture of bottom-up innovation support. The project will create an inventory of advisory practices in Europe. The best practices will be reviewed and studied as part of a training programme. Overall, the project will connect 32 organisations and support them through a moderated online platform for mutual coaching and sharing experiences.

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11 Partners and Contributors

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...furthermore, to all the participants who actively contribute to the lecture events, workshops, specialized and supplementary excursions, as well as poster presentations.

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