Launch of Contracts2.0: Increased provision of environmental public goods in agriculture through contract models

In June, the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) will launch its coordinated project Contracts2.0 within the framework of the EU funding programme Horizon 2020. Over the next four years, the 27 partners from research and practice from 12 different EU countries will work together on innovative contract models to incentivize farmers for the increased provision of environmental public goods.

According to the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the achievement of the environmental objectives laid down in the European Common Agricultural Policy depends on the implementation of so-called agri-environment-climate measures (AECM), organic farming and animal welfare measures. The new contract models for AECM that are being developed as part of the project are intended to spur the interest and intrinsic motivation of farmers to carry out these AECMs more intensively. However, the project also aims to show what the future framework conditions in agricultural policy will have to look like so that the models developed can also be implemented on a larger scale.

So far, farmers have generally preferred the production and supply of food or biomass, so-called private goods, for financial reasons, which in turn can lead to negative environmental influences such as soil erosion, nitrate leaching or the loss of biodiversity. The new contract models will be designed to reduce these negative effects. Specifically, four types of new contract models will be examined: result-based environmental payments to farmers, cooperative contract models between several farmers, payments linked to specific land tenuresystems, and contract models that link actors along the value chain.

In the coming years, an inventory and analysis of existing contract models will be carried out before new models are developed and finally tested in the field during the project runtime. A total of 11 so-called Contract Innovation Labs will be set up in nine different countries – three of these also in Germany. The new contract models will be developed on-site together with practitioners. A number of additional Policy Innovation Labs will be set up in order to find out how future agricultural policy will have to be shaped to make such models feasible.

Project Partners:

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Research Institute of Nature and Forest (EV-INBO) (Belgium)
Environmental Social Science Research Group (ESSRG Kft) (Hungary)
University of Aberdeen (United Kingdom)
French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) (France)
University of Pisa (Italy)
University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
Wageningen University (Netherlands)
University of Warsaw (Poland)
Environmental Action Germany (DUH) (Germany)
Groupement d’Intérêt Public- Centre de Ressources sur le Pastoralisme et la Gestion de l’Espace (GIP-CRPGE) (France)
Őrség National Park Directorate (Hungary)
BoerenNatuur (Netherlands)
Leibniz University Hannover (LUH) (Germany)
Natural England (England)
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) (Sweden)
IMIDRA-Instituto Madrileño de Investigación y Desarrollo Rural, Agrario y Alimentario (Spain)
Agrobeheercentrum Ecokwadraat vzw (ABC Eco2) (Belgium)
The German Farmers’ Association (DBV) (Germany)
University of Copenhagen (UCPH) (Denmark)
Unione dei Comuni Garfagnana (UCG) (Italy)
Rhenish Cultural Landscape Foundation (SRK) (Germany)
Regional Municipality of Bornholm (Denmark)
Agriculture & Food of Bornholm (Denmark)
Heliconia (agroecology and local development) (Spain)
Westphalian Cultural Landscape Foundation (SWK) (Germany)
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