MSc thesis topic announcement:
Analyzing contractual models for the provision of agricultural public goods and ecosystem services with the participatory Net-Map method

Within the Horizon 2020 research and innovation action Contracts2.0: ‘Co-Design of innovative contracts for agri-environment and climate measures and for the valorization of environmental public goods’, we are looking for a student to assist with field work in the project and use collected data to complete his/her MSc thesis, by investigating different contractual models for incentivizing farmers for the provision of agricultural public goods and ecosystem services at landscape level. In particular, we focus on results-based contracts (payment is made for concrete environmental results rather than for prescribed management measures) as well as collective contracts (payment is made to a group of farmers who coordinate their activities at landscape level rather than to individual farmers). The Contracts2.0 project runs over a period of four years (05/2019 – 04/2023) and involves 27 research and action partners from all across Europe. The student will help with the field work, but has freedom to choose his/her MSc topic and case study within the focus of the project. Supervision will be provided by ZALF and the student’s university or another university involved into the Contract2.0 project (can be discussed together with the concrete MSc topic).

Your tasks:
- Literature search and analysis
- Planning and realization of stakeholder interviews using the Net-Map method
- Transcription of interviews and transcript analysis
- Software-aided social network analysis of the gathered data (e.g. with UCINET/NetDraw)

Your qualifications:
- Studies in Integrated Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Economics, or a related field
- Interest in empirical social research methods and ethics
- Strong interest in the active collaboration with stakeholders in the selected case study
- Very good language skills in English, language skills in Dutch are also appreciated
- Willingness to travel for several weeks for field work
- Great communication and organization skills
- Potential interest in publishing thesis work in an international peer-reviewed journal

We offer:
- Compensation for travelling expenses related to undertaking field work
- A collegial inter-disciplinary working environment that encourages independence and self-reliance

For further information please visit the project website (www.project-contracts20.eu). Please send your application in English (including your CV, a half-page motivation letter, and a one-page summary of your Bachelor thesis) as a single PDF to csattler@zalf.de. Claudia Sattler can also be contacted by phone on Tuesdays or Wednesdays in case of further questions (+49(0)33432/82-439). The deadline for application is 30.04.2020.