## **ZALF Guest Lecture**

## Bacterial diversity and its role in soil ecosystems

## Prof. Dr. Jörg Overmann

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Culture-independent studies have revealed that just 1 gram of soil may contain about 50,000 different bacterial species, representing the most diverse microbial communities on Earth. Estimates of the global bacterial diversity even exceed 1 billion species. By comparison, the number of bacterial species that are described and hence available for detailed physiological and bio-chemical characterization amounts to just 17,000. Microbes are the major drivers of biogeo-chemical transformations, hence their diversity, functions and interactions need to be resolved in order to arrive at a causal understanding of the soil ecosystem. This has now become possible with the advent of modern molecular, bioinformatics, and cultivation-based approaches.

## Wednesday, 14 April at 11 am, virtuell via Go -To - Meeting

All interested ZALF members are cordially invited. We are looking forward to your contributions in the subsequent discussion.



