

September 17th, 2018

Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

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Leibniz Conference on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

More than 220 participants from the fields of science, politics and society accepted the invitation of the Leibniz Association and took part in the conference on the United Nations Goals for Sustainable Development on 14 September in Berlin. The Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) was closely involved in the organisation and structuring of the conference.

The implementation of the 17 goals for sustainable development in politics and society adopted in 2015 has made progress in recent years through regional and supra-regional civil society and political initiatives. But what about science's contribution to achieving these goals? This question set the framework for the ten thematic specialist sessions at the conference and was the guiding question through the keynotes and panel discussions that formed the prelude to the event.

Prof. Katharina Helming, Co-Head of Research Area 3 "Landscape Research Synthesis" at ZALF and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Leibniz Conference, played an active role in its organisation and content: "We are very pleased that the Leibniz Association is now attaching such great importance to the topic of sustainability goals through its hosting of the conference. We have been seeking dialogue across the various specialist disciplines. With the integration of 15 Leibniz institutions and several Leibniz networks and research alliances into the conference programme, we have been extremely successful in this respect."

Prof. Frank Ewert, Scientific Director of ZALF, chaired one of the ten specialist sessions on "Sustainable food systems from agriculture and aquaculture". Dr. Stefan Sieber, Head of the Sustainable Land Use in Developing Countries Working Group, and Prof. Katharina Helming both contributed lectures to the conference programme.

The conference was opened with introductory speeches by Klaus Töpfer, former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and Ottmar Edenhofer, new Co-Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

Press releases on events held by the Leibniz Association can be found here:
www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de



Representing ZALF on the podium: Prof. Dr. Katharina Helming. The image is released for editorial reporting purposes provided the source of the image is given: © Hendrik Schneider / ZALF | Image source in color and print quality: <http://www.zalf.de/de/aktuelles>

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About the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) in Muencheberg, one of the institutes of the Leibniz Association:

ZALF's mission is to scientifically explain causal relationships in agricultural landscapes, and to provide society with a knowledge-base for the sustainable use of agricultural landscapes through excellent research.

Unlike natural landscapes, agricultural landscapes are shaped by their use and their users. The research at ZALF therefore comprises the social demands placed on agricultural landscapes and the effects of their use. ZALF has been increasingly concentrating its research on the Grand Societal Challenges relevant in the context of agricultural landscapes, such as climate change, food security or the protection of biodiversity. www.zalf.de