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Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

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## Launch of EU project Contracts2.0:

# Increased provision of environmental public goods in agriculture through improved 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.

“Our aim is to provide farmers with better incentives to integrate environmental measures into their farms. We are therefore developing new contract models that will make it both more effective and simpler to align the profitability of the farms with the sustainability goals”, says Prof. Bettina Matzdorf, who is heading the project at ZALF together with Dr. Claudia Sattler.

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:

- Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) (Germany)
- 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)
- Órség 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 Ecolwadrat 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)
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) (Spain)

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Participants of the field day for the kick-off of the EU project Contracts2.0. | Source: Julia Lidauer © ZALF | Image available 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 Müncheberg, one of the institutes of the Leibniz Association:

The mission of ZALF is to deliver solutions for an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable agriculture - together with society.

As a contribution to overcoming global challenges such as climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation and resource scarcity, we develop and design

crop systems, integrated in their landscape contexts, that combine food security with sustainability. Therefore we process complex landscape data with a unique set of experimental methods, new technologies and models as well as socio-economic approaches.

ZALF research is an integrated systems research: starting from processes in soils, plants and water to causal relationships on the field and landscape level as well as looking at global impacts and complex interactions between landscapes, society and economy. [www.zalf.de](http://www.zalf.de)