

## PRESS RELEASE

Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

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### Leibniz Senate gives green light for further funding of ZALF

The Senate of the Leibniz Association issued its recommendation to the German federal government and the state government of Brandenburg for the continuation of the joint funding of the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) for the next seven years on 9 March 2017. The good news reached the Muencheberg Research Centre in its 25th anniversary year.

As a Leibniz institution, ZALF is evaluated regularly by the Leibniz Association. To this end, independent, internationally recognized experts visited ZALF at the beginning of 2016 in order to get a personal impression of the services and structures of the establishment. On the basis of the on-site inspection and a report previously submitted by ZALF, the Senate of the Leibniz Association has now drawn up a science policy recommendation which is favorable to ZALF: Therefore it seems extremely likely that the German federal government and the federal states will agree on the renewed comprehensive funding of ZALF for the next seven years at their Joint Science Conference. Funding sources are divided equally between the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) at the federal level, and the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture (MWFK) of the State of Brandenburg at the state level.

ZALF was able to demonstrate considerable improvements in important evaluation criteria since the last evaluation in 2013, for example through scientific publications, the enhancement and reorientation of its strategic and thematic profile, as well as the restructuring of its administration. New appointments to the Executive Board further intensified the previously initiated process of change, a fact which was appraised positively by the Senate of the Leibniz Association. The current Administrative Director, Ms Cornelia Braun-Becker, has been in office since January 2015 and the new Scientific Director, Prof. Frank Ewert, since March 2016. The Senate of the Leibniz Association lends its support to the path ZALF has

chosen in its development as an internationally recognized, excellent research facility.

In its opinion published today, the Senate notes that following numerous changes, ZALF is now both scientifically and administratively very well-managed. The centre has developed an overall concept, which forms a promising basis for its further development. It has improved its performance and communicates its findings from scientific, social-scientific and agricultural research in a targeted way to politics, administration, practice and the public sphere.

“The positive result of the evaluation is in particular down to the commitment of our employees, who have adapted with great professional and personal engagement to the recommendations of the previous evaluation report”, explains Prof. Frank Ewert.



Caption: ZALF employs 339 people in Muencheberg, Brandenburg as well as at its research station with facilities in Muencheberg, Dedelow and Paulinenaue. © ZALF / Heike Schobert | Image source in color and print quality: <http://www.zalf.de/de/aktuelles>

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