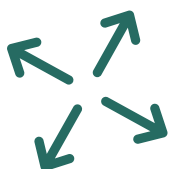


# SMART DELIVERY OF PUBLIC GOODS THROUGH AGRICULTURE

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3,000 farms in Northern Germany received the questionnaire, which was also available online. We received 465 replies with 155 completely filled out Discrete Choice question sets.



Agri-environmental measures (AEM) are an appropriate and well-accepted instrument to promote the provision of public goods. Farmers receive compensatory payments for defined adjustments to their landscape management. The efficiency of an AEM,

i.e. the achievement of its environmental objective, can often be improved through cooperation. A new AEM, aiming to promote public goods such as climate stability, biodiversity and water resources by increasing the water level in peatland areas, is the »Moorschonende Stauhaltung« (peatland conservation management), which has been introduced in Brandenburg in 2016.

In PROVIDE, we identify the factors that determine the willingness of farmers to participate in this AEM, thus providing explanatory approaches to the complex motivations and conditions of land use decisions in spatial contexts. Using an approach from experimental economics, the »Discrete Choice Experiment«, farmers were asked about their relative preference for the design of the AEM, taking into account various contractual conditions. The result showed that a 35 % higher compensation payment was necessary. Alternatively, the willingness to participate would be significantly increased if as well coordinative support for cooperation with neighbouring land users by the Water and Soil Association was to be provided as if options for processing or disposing biomass residues no longer suitable as feed were ensured.

Landscape, biodiversity, water quality, climate stability, soil and flood protection and viable rural areas are just a few examples of the public goods that agriculture provides for society. However, as there is no market for such goods, there is the risk that they are provided in a quantity lower than socially optimal or not in a sufficiently long term. The EU project PROVIDE is looking for intelligent ways to eliminate this risk. This includes the exchange between actors and stakeholders across sectoral and disciplinary boundaries and levels, as well as the analysis and further development of new or improved incentives, policy instruments and implementation tools.

This result from Northern Germany is included in the EU project alongside a variety of other analyses, maps and examples of successful practice from thirteen countries on the future of public goods from agriculture. The development of a toolbox, the systematic collection and provision of these facts, data, methods, analyses and discussion contributions is a further focus. In a multi-stage process, together with regional users and EU policy makers, we identify the type of tool and information content required for knowledge transfer, align it with the project results and convert it into appropriate formats such as information graphics, maps and example descriptions.

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