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Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

FAIRagro will become part of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI):

Funding for simplified access to agrosystems research data

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The FAIRagro consortium aims to create an infrastructure for agrosystems research data to facilitate cross-institutional and interdisciplinary research. As confirmed by the Joint Science Conference (GWK) in a press conference on November 4, 2022, FAIRagro will be included as a consortium in the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) and funded by the federal and state governments from March 2023. A funding period of five years is planned. FAIRagro is coordinated by the Leibniz Center for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) in Müncheberg and comprises 29 partners.

Agrosystem research in Germany comprises many disciplines. Different types of research data are collected and stored in different ways in a number of specialized institutes. The spectrum of data formats ranges, for example, from laboratory results and satellite images to qualitative interviews with farmers. To make these data findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable for researchers from different disciplines in the future, the FAIRagro consortium will establish a research data infrastructure (RDI) for agrosystems research that connects the different disciplinary data repositories. In addition, FAIRagro will provide a network of direct contacts for research data management issues in the agrosystems community.

In November 2021, the FAIRagro project proposal was submitted to the German Research Foundation (DFG) for funding from 2023-2027 and was recommended for funding by a DFG expert panel in spring 2022. Now, at a press conference of the GWK, it was confirmed that FAIRagro will be included in the NFDI as one of eight additional consortia in the third and final funding round. So far, 19 consortia are already part of the NFDI.

The NFDI aims to create a permanent digital repository for the storage, networking and use of research data in various disciplines. Up to now, research data have often been stored in a decentralized, project-based and temporary manner. The NFDI aims to make research data systematically accessible and thus easier to re-use across disciplines or institutions.

Project partners:

- Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) (Coordination)
- Julius Kühn Institute – Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants
- ZB MED - Information Centre for Life Sciences
- Kuratorium für Technik und Bauwesen in der Landwirtschaft
- Senckenberg – Leibniz Institution for Biodiversity and Earth System Research
- Forschungszentrum Jülich
- Leibniz Institute for Information Infrastructure
- Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research
- University of Bonn
- Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute - Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries
- Hans Eisenmann-Forum for Agricultural Sciences
- Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy
- Bielefeld University
- Generaldirektion der Staatlichen Archive Bayerns
- German Agricultural Research Alliance
- Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gGmbH
- German Soil Science Society
- Scientific Society for Plant Protection and Plant Health
- Deutscher Wetterdienst
- University of Göttingen
- Gesellschaft für Pflanzenbauwissenschaften
- University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf
- Informationssystem für die integrierte Pflanzenproduktion
- Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture
- Office of the Think Tank Digitalization at the Thünen Institute
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
- University of Hohenheim
- Head Office of the GBV Common Library Network
- Zentralstelle der Länder für EDV-gestützte Entscheidungshilfen und Programme im Pflanzenschutz

Funding:

For the establishment and support of the 27 NFDI consortia, the federal and state governments will provide a total of up to 90 million euros annually until 2028 in a ratio of 90 percent to 10 percent.

Further information:

Press release of the Joint Science Conference (GWK): <https://www.gwk-bonn.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Dokumente/Pressemitteilungen/pm2022-13.pdf>

Website of the FAIRagro consortium: <https://www.fairagro.net/index.php/en/>

NFDI Website: <https://www.nfdi.de/>



In agrosystem research, different types of data is collected - as here at ZALF during the examination of a soil sample. The FAIRagro consortium has set itself the goal of simplifying access to agrosystem research data. From March 2023, the project will be funded by the federal and state governments as part of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI). | The picture can be used for editorial purposes by stating the source: © ZALF/ Jarno Müller | Picture in color and print quality: <http://www.zalf.de/de/aktuelles>

Press contact:

Hendrik Schneider
Head of press and public relations
Phone: + 49 (0) 33432 82-242
Mobile: + 49 (0) 151 405 455 00
Email: public.relations@zalf.de

Scientific contact:

Prof. Frank Ewert
Speaker FAIRagro
Scientific Director of ZALF

Dr. Xenia Specka
Coordinator FAIRagro Research
Platform "Data Analysis & Simulation
Phone: + 49 (0) 33432 82-217
Email: fairagro@zalf.de

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

Mission of ZALF is to deliver solutions for an economically, environmentally 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 integrated systems research: starting from processes in soils and plants to causal relationships on the field and landscape level up to global impacts and complex interactions between landscapes, society and economy. www.zalf.de