

First Stakeholder Workshop VITAL: “Development strategies for locally adapted land use in the Upper Rhinluch”

In the field of tension between changing social, economic and climatic environmental conditions, but also different land use concepts and a growing metropolitan area in the immediate neighborhood, the demands on the agricultural system of the Upper Rhinluch are increasing. With the project VITAL, we want to contribute to the development of an ecologically and economically viable regional agriculture, which takes into account the special land use requirements.

In our workshop, we would like to discuss our research approach with those actors who are various ways involved in land use management and its development. Our aim is to fit our research strategy to their experiences, views and concerns. Finally, Christoph Felgentreu of “Deutsche Saatveredelung AG” and Christian Schröder of Greifswald Mire Centre will give an insight into the innovative developments of locally adapted management of peatlands.

When: November 17th, 2016; from 1.15 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Gutshof 7, 14641 **Paulinenaue**

If you are interested in participating in the workshop, please, approach us until November 11th, 2016. For registration or further information, please, contact Ingo Zasada.

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We are looking forward to viable discussions.

Project description VITAL (Viable InTensification of Agricultural production through sustainable Landscape transition)

Duration: May 1st, 2016 – April 30th, 2019

Topic: FACCE SURPLUS (Sustainable and Resilient agriculture for food and non-food systems)

Funding scheme: EU Horizon 2020 Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI)

Coordination: VU University Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies

Website: <http://vital.environmentalgeography.nl/>

Against the backdrop of growing global demand on food, renewable resources and bioenergy on the one hand and the loss of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and scarce natural resources on the other, there is an increasing pressure for improvement in resource use efficiency. The project VITAL investigates transformation processes of European agricultural systems towards a sustainably intensified production. Sustainable intensification

aims at simultaneously optimally adjust the production capacities of agriculture and reduce detrimental environmental pressures i.e. provide environmental goods and ecosystem services ("produce more with less").

VITAL looks at differences in agricultural systems, their spatial framework conditions, and the role of actors as well as their acceptance of transformation processes towards sustainable intensification. The realisation of different development paths will be up-scaled on European level and thus goes beyond single farms and regions. Appropriate spatial configurations for sustainable intensification will be identified across land-use systems taking into account the context of respective landscapes and regions.

The objective is to use knowledge gained and methods of sustainable intensification in the medium and long-run to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Therefore, by working in case study regions, innovative "best practices" and technical on-farm solutions will be identified. Their economic viability will be analysed within existing land-use systems and processed in the course of international knowledge exchange to regional systems of innovation and consulting, administrative bodies responsible for land use and farmers.

The project encompasses 6 work packages: 1.) Analytical framework, co-design, dissemination; 2.) Actors and networks in the transformation process towards sustainable intensification; 3.) Development pathways of farmers towards sustainable intensification; 4.) Analysis of sustainable intensification on the landscape level; 5.) Up-scaling of sustainable intensification to European level; &.) Project coordination and management.