MIXED collaborates with a network of farmers in Germany who are supporting wetland farming (also called paludiculture) in Donaumoos. This innovative approach offers a mixed farming system (rewetting with agriculture) with a multitude of benefits, both in terms of climate protection, resource utilization and conservations of wetlands and peatlands as ecosystems. It represents a crucial strategy in the fight against climate change and the conservation of these invaluable ecosystems.

The experience from Donaumoos underlines that unlike conventional agriculture, where crops like wheat or corn can be planted and harvested within a single growing season, paludiculture demands patience and persistence. Our test plots took about two years for wetland crops to establish themselves and suppress unwanted weeds. This initial period requires careful management to ensure the success of the wetland crops.

Paludiculture involves the cultivation of specially adapted wetland plants. In Donaumoos a farmer has planted sedges and cattails.

These species are planted in waterlogged and peat-rich areas. To achieve this, the drainage ditches were dammed, and the areas were additionally irrigated with solar pumps. For establishment, overseeding and multiple manual weed removals were necessary. Once paludiculture has established itself, neither soil cultivation, fertilization, nor the use of pesticides is necessary.

Furthermore, a dense root system has developed, allowing conventional agricultural machinery to operate on the wetlands.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MIXED’ NETWORK FROM GERMANY

Learn more on www.mixed-project.eu
In Germany, MIXED is collaboratively implemented by the Institute for Rural Development Research and the Swabian Donaumoos Association. The project is working with two groups of farmers practicing MiFAS (Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems) in different ways.

Agriculture in Germany is practiced on half of the total land area and can be characterized as specialized, highly productive and intensively managed, though with a high degree of local and regional variability. Animal feed is produced on almost two-thirds of the agricultural area. 95% of the 1.4 Mio hectare peatland areas in Germany are degraded. 65% are still used for conventional agriculture, 13% for forestry and by that lose their high potential for climate protection. Drained agricultural peatlands are responsible for 80% of CO2 emissions from agricultural land use in the EU.

MIXED partners from Germany:

Learn more on www.mixed-project.eu