

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: GERMANY

Sustainable Wetland Farming in Donaumoos – use and marketing of wetland crops

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Farmers in Donaumoos in Germany are working with rewetting of cultivated land and peatland. The wetland farming (paludiculture) is driven by the desire to protect carbon rich soil, increase carbon sequestration, and increase ecosystem services such as biodiversity and water quality AND at the same time create a financially viable and resilience mixed farming system.

Wetland crops can be used in various applications, from producing furniture boards and insulation materials to creating organic packaging. For many farmers, paludiculture provides an opportunity to diversify their income sources as it opens up new markets and revenue streams. This can reduce dependency on single crops and enhance overall resilience to economic fluctuations.

However, to make paludiculture economically viable, local processing facilities should be established. In Donaumoos, sedges and reed canary grass have been processed into various building panels and insulation materials. Additionally, they can be utilized for making pellets or pressed into fence posts mixed with plastic. Particularly, the production of grass building panels has garnered significant interest from the construction industry, and there are already buyers in the region. However, it's important to note that these are currently only test runs, and mass production has not yet begun. With the support of local government and the Ministry of the Environment, efforts are being made to establish a production facility in the region. This initiative aims to create a market for farmers and motivate them to transition to paludiculture and thereby adopt environmentally friendly peatland management practices.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MIXED'
NETWORK FROM GERMANY**





ABOUT MIXED IN GERMANY

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.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

MIXED (Multi-actor and transdisciplinary development of efficient and resilient MIXED farming and agroforestry systems), an EU-project, is supporting the development of European Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems (MiFAS) that are more efficient and resilient to climate changes.

7M€ BUDGET	19 PARTNERS	10 COUNTRIES
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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.



The demo day at Hof Hartmann attracted numerous visitors and encouraged intensive discussions (© Holger Pabst)

MIXED partners from Germany:

