

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

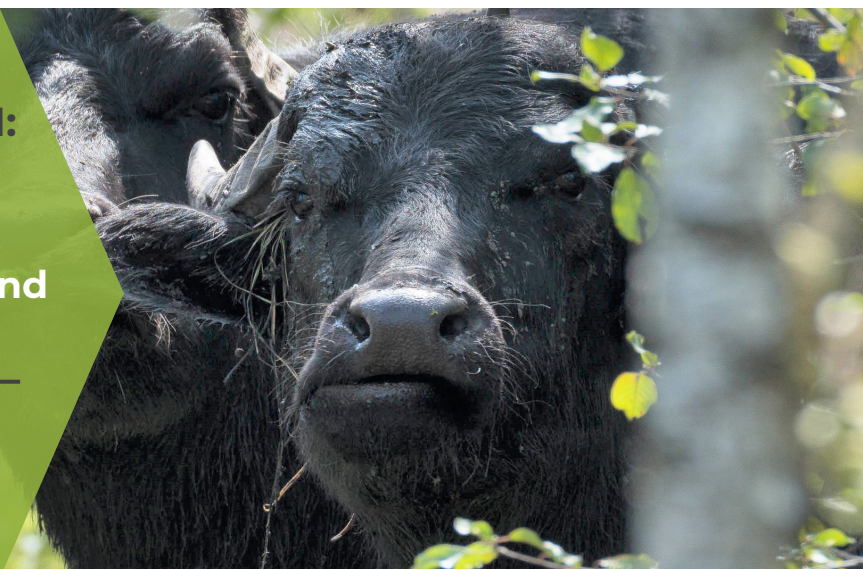
SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: GERMANY

Sustainable Wetland Farming in Donaumoos – how to organise and support

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Transformation to wetland farming can be of great importance for the climate and environment, but can be difficult for individual farmers. It takes time to establish a viable system, develop marketing channels for the crops or develop processing and/or value chains that can ensure a stable income for the farmers.

In Donaumoos, farmers are pioneering wetland farming with paludiculture and extensive grazing. Paludiculture involves cultivating adapted wetland plants, eliminating the need for soil cultivation, fertilizers, and pesticides. Additionally, sedges and reed canary grass are processed into building materials. Young farmers have formed a community to promote extensive grazing, aiding wetland conservation. Government support aims to establish a local production facility, creating market opportunities and motivating eco-friendly peatland management.

Recommendations based on the experience from Donaumoos:

Utilize Support Programs: Farmers and landowners should benefit from initiatives like the "Peat-farmer-program" in Bavaria, Germany, promoting arable land conversion into grassland or paludiculture. These offer financial incentives and guidance for sustainable practices.

Government Backing for Rewetting: Vital for climate protection and paludiculture, EU member states should:

Establish a framework for traditional farmers to become climate-conscious "Peat-Climate Farmers," recognizing it as a new agricultural profession.

Provide long-term support to ensure economic viability on rewetted peatlands, with fair compensation for climate protection efforts.

Simplify administrative procedures for peatland climate protection, possibly through a modern peatland conservation law.



**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.

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
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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

MIXED partners from Germany:

Swabian
Donaumoos Association



ifls
Institut für Ländliche Strukturforchung e.V.
an der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main