



Market-based approaches for wetland restoration

Workshop, Klaipėda, 18.-20.04.2023

Peatland activities of DVL

- Two projects since 2016 on peatland rewetting
- Coordination, policy advice, national conferences, PR => DVL
- Practical approach, consulting farmers and local administration, field trips => landcare association in several federal states
- Financed out of the National Climate Initiative (Federal Ministry of Environment)



Peatland protection

Facts and figures:

- 1.3 million hectares of peatland (1.0 million?)
- 97% of the peatland is drained and in agricultural use
- 7% of the agricultural area produces 35% of the climate relevant gases of the agricultural sector
- For most of the farmers not relevant, but for these who are affected it fast becomes existential



Peatland protection

Facts and figures:

- Costs per saved t CO₂-equiv. for peatland protection: 50-80 € (for comparison biogas 150 €, insulation of buildings 400-500 €)

Numbers from Greifswald Peatland Centre, from Drösler & Freibauer 2012, Drösler et al. 2011, Bav. LfU div

- In the meantime, construction costs have risen
 - also the money farmers are demanding for getting their area rewetted (2.000 € per ha*a)
- ⇒ The challenge grew to install market based approaches to create added value
- ⇒ Our goal: agricultural use should be possible if necessary



Challenges for farms

- Production branch usually cannot be implemented on an individual basis=> cooperative models; voluntary?
- production conversion is long lasting/forever
- requires long-term financing
- Water availability
- Period till rewetting can start (administration requires, red tape, finding of replacement plots...)



What to grow

- Grassland: rewetting changes quality of biomass (more sedges, more ligno-cellulose, less protein, less cuts...)
 - Arable fields: develop diverse grassland; perennial crops: typha, reed, Drosera, mosses, Cattail grass...)
- ⇒ worse forage (grazing)
- ⇒ Diverse plant populations
- ⇒ Establishing needs several years



Usage in animal production: Grazing, Forage and Bedding

- Suckler cow farming
- Adapted cattle breeds/water buffalos
- Added value through direct marketing/regionally grown, grown slower, better quality
- Horse hay
- Cattle offspring hay
- Pellets for bedding



Perennial Crops (perennial paludi culture)

Cascade for use

1. substantial use:
 - a) bio-economics: furniture panels, insulation panels, grass paper, pharmaceuticals
 - b) conventional: mulch, compost, bio-char, roofing, hay fascines
2. substantial-energetic use: bio-methan, bio-char
3. Energetic use: burning, biogas (mixed gas for fuel cell)
4. Sun panels?



Sun panels – supporting the change or a no-go?



- Grounding in the mineral horizon?
- Only making sense with high water levels!
- Maintenance?
- Better places?
- Supporting the farmers' decision



BENAS POWER GROUP



HuisVeendam
Bio Laminates



DVL  **Deutscher Verband für
Landschaftspflege**

How to accerelate the shift?

- Solve the henn-egg-paradigm
- Public subsidies for production and processing start (planting, quality management, sorting, special machinery development and investment, funding of building process lines in industry) till economic turning point
- Public financing of the construction work for rewetting
- Use the experience of farmers who already produce paludi culture
- Reduce red tape, accelerate approval processing
- Financing caretaker services (landcare association, water and soil associations) for the process of cooperation, negotiation and conflict solving long term

Peatland climate farmer – a new professional profile?

- Identity as a farmer is the baseline
- Climate protection as production branch facilitates the paradigm shift
- combines economy and ecology
- Role model function for professional colleagues



Peatland climate farmer – a new professional profile

A (peatland) climate farmer is a farmer who provides climate protection services in the management of agricultural peatland soils or other organic soils.

Climate protection is achieved through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or the fixation of carbon by raising water levels to at least low peat-consuming conditions until high water levels typical for peatlands are maintained.

Peatland climate farmer – a new professional profile

Examples of such management are:

- ❖ Wet meadow and wet pasture management.
- ❖ cultivation of Paludi culture
- ❖ (abandonment of use at high water levels)



Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

Liselotte Unseld

Landcare Germany

L.Unseld@dvl.org

+49 981 180099-16



Deutscher Verband für
Landschaftspflege