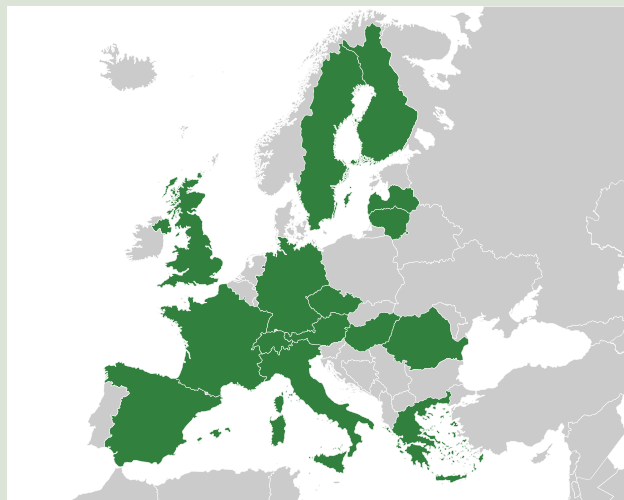


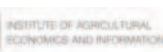
Countries in which participatory case studies will be carried out to test the UNISECO methodological toolkit to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts of innovative strategies and incentives for agro-ecological approaches:



PARTNERS



University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences, Vienna



COORDINATED BY



CONTACT

Dr Gerald Schwarz

Email: gerald.schwarz@thuenen.de




Phone: +49 531 596 5140

Thünen Institute

Bundesallee 63 38116 Braunschweig

GERMANY

GET INVOLVED

-  **Participate in national workshops**
-  **Participate in the case studies**
-  **Contribute to our virtual Multi-Actor Platform online community (MAP-NEF)**

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UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY
OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL FARMING SYSTEMS IN THE EU



**Strengthening the sustainability
of EU farming systems,
through co-constructing
improved and practice-validated
strategies and incentives
for the promotion of
improved agro-ecological
approaches**

WHY?

There is an increased awareness that the challenges of producing enough food and biomass while preserving soil, water and biodiversity cannot be solved only by types of conventional agriculture that dominate currently. Agro-ecological approaches and eco-functional intensification are fundamental for sustainable food production in the future. However, despite significant efforts at international and national levels, the combined provision of public and market/private goods is not in balance and frequently not sustainable at farm or farm systems levels.

WHAT ARE THE KEY DILEMMAS?

How to produce public goods whilst also enabling the viable production of private goods?

How to secure economic and social sustainability at farm level without being overly dependent on public funds?

WHAT UNISECO IS ABOUT?

The UNISECO project will enhance the understanding of socio-economic and policy drivers for, and barriers to, the development and implementation of agro-ecological approaches in EU farming systems (agro-ecological farming systems, AEFS). It will identify and facilitate more effective and efficient development strategies for European agriculture across the diversity of its settings.

HOW PROJECT OBJECTIVES WILL BE ACHIEVED?

- reviewing drivers and barriers to agro-ecological approaches and participatory scenario development
- empirical data collection in participatory case studies, co-learning and co-construction of innovative management strategies and incentives
- cutting edge biophysical and socio-economic modelling and development of robust indicators for assessing sustainability of AEFS
- development of a methodological toolkit to assess impacts of management strategies, market incentives and policy instruments promoting AEFS in Europe

UNDERPINNING

1 To develop and operationalise a **conceptual framework** of socio-ecological systems **for the sustainability assessment of agro-ecological farming systems**.

2 To critically **review drivers** that may hinder or foster the successful implementation of agro-ecological approaches in EU farming systems, **leading to improved management strategies**.

3 To develop and test new transdisciplinary **methodological approaches** to improve the assessment of the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems.

PRIMARY ANALYSIS

4 To **assess the social, economic and environmental performance** of agro-ecological farming systems in comparison with conventional systems **at farm, farm-group and territorial levels**, based on representative typology.

5 To co-construct **innovative development strategies** for agro-ecological farming systems considering gender participation and farming demographics and to assess these in case studies reflecting the diversity of EU farming systems.

6 To assess the **territorial sustainability impacts** of large-scale implementation of agro-ecological farming and to highlight environmental, economic and social synergies and trade-offs at regional, national and EU levels.

POLICY AND PRACTICE ORIENTED OUTPUTS

7 To assess the effectiveness of co-constructed **innovative market and policy incentives** promoting agro-ecological farming systems to increase productivity, public good provision and job creation in the agricultural sector and rural areas in the EU.

8 To test the feasibility of the practical implementation of innovative market and policy incentives through **multi-actor engagement in case studies** at farm level, regional, national and EU levels.

9 To improve the integrated **capacity and knowledge sharing** of end-users, stakeholders and scientists to address barriers for enhanced agro-ecological approaches informing recommendations for **effective policy support for agro-ecological farming**.

WHAT IMPACTS ARE EXPECTED?

- improved methodological capacity to assess the sustainability of agro-ecological approaches
- enhanced integrated capacity and knowledge sharing to develop viable long term strategies for sustainable European farming systems
- co-constructed novel and effective market mechanisms and policy instruments for delivering public goods through economically viable AEFS
- improved knowledge base of agro-ecological farming in the EU for use by policy-makers at EU, national and regional levels, advisors, farmers, value chain actors and consumers
- informed reform process of the CAP after 2020 regarding environmental policies and policy efforts to support rural job creation