

DIGITAL TRIAL FIELDS

- The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) is establishing digital trial fields on agricultural holdings.
 - The purpose is to examine how digitalisation can be applied and implemented in practice.
- It is to be tested on the trial fields how digital technologies can be used to protect the environment, to improve biodiversity and animal welfare and to facilitate work in the agricultural sector.
 - In the process, the opportunities and risks of the technologies are to be assessed.
 - Aspects such as data interfaces, questions related to standard-setting, compatibility and data platforms are also to be studied and solved within the scope of the projects.
 - To this end, suitable trial fields are being established on agricultural holdings that are distributed across Germany.
 - Knowledge transfer between science and practice plays a key role in this respect.



GERMAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP ON AGRICULTURE (DIP)

- The Innovation Partnership between science, administration and industry is to improve the competitiveness of the German agricultural economy.
 - Key actors of the innovation processes are to be united in a network.
- Together with all actors of the value chain, new ideas ranging from research and development to commercial maturity are to be nurtured.
 - Funding is given to successful innovative projects in order to support the implementation into concrete practice.
 - The German Innovation Partnership cooperates with the European Innovation Partnerships' Initiative.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY (EIP-AGRI)

- EIP-AGRI is a voluntary instrument in the context of the rural development measures of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (Regulation EU No 1305/2012) to promote innovations in rural areas.
 - Germany implements this measure at regional level.
 - BMEL acts as a coordinator and maintains the German networking unit "Deutsche Vernetzungsstelle" to network the projects.
- Support is given to innovative projects of so-called operational groups that consist of different actors of rural areas.
 - These are financed by an EU fund and co-financed by the federal states.
 - EIP AGRI is of great practical relevance. Ideally, practitioners (e.g. farmers) should take the initiative to establish Operational Groups.
 - The project results of the operational groups are communicated EU-wide via the EU database.
 - There are currently 184 Operational Groups in Germany.
 - For further information, please go to: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/>

PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTING INNOVATION

- With this programme, technical progress is to be accelerated and the agri-food industry's potential for value-added is to be more strongly tapped.
 - This promotion is to support the development of innovative, internationally competitive products and methods based on up-to-date scientific evidence.
- The programme includes the support of:
 - ▶ research, development and demonstration projects,
 - ▶ projects aimed at increasing innovative strength, including knowledge transfer,
 - ▶ tests on social and legal conditions for innovations and identification of future areas of innovation.
 - The programme focuses on application-oriented research.
 - The envisaged participation of businesses with their own financing share in the research projects is to guarantee that research results are being translated into practice.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

- The National Strategy is a framework for **measures to reduce food waste**.
- Objectives: Achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 12.3, by a **change of thinking in society: greater appreciation** of foodstuffs and of the resources needed for production.
- Communication: Further development of the consumer information initiative "Too good for the bin!" to become the **umbrella brand** of the strategy.

- **Inclusion** of all actors along the food supply chain in different **bodies** (e.g. federal government/federal state bodies and sector-specific dialogue fora).
- **Behavioural changes** of all actors as a result of increased **information** on the benefits of reducing food waste for each individual and for society as a whole.
- Promoting **process optimisation** in the industry.
- Tapping the potential through **research and digitalisation**, notably by developing innovative, digital solutions.
- **Disseminating the experience** gained by G20 states with sustainability and the reduction of food waste via the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 States (**MACS-G20**).
- Germany is in overall charge of the **MACS-G20 initiative** and has coordinated the **global research network** that is intended for networking of companies and research centres since 2016.
- For further information, please go to:
https://www.bmel.de/EN/Food/Value-Of-Food/_Texte/ZgfdT.html



Logo of the consumer information initiative "Too good for the bin!"

STRENGTHENING FARMERS IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- National Dialogue Platform on the Food Supply Chain
- Support for farmers in processing and marketing

- The food sector in Germany is characterised by mainly small-scale artisanal food production, a food industry consisting of medium-sized businesses and a highly concentrated retail trade.
- As primary producers, farmers are at the start of the food supply chain and have little bargaining power.
- In the event of yield losses caused by severe weather, pests or diseases or price increases for agricultural inputs, farmers are frequently unable to assert producer prices that would safeguard satisfactory incomes for them.
- High competitive pressure in the food supply chain coupled with large differences in bargaining power can result in farmers being exposed to unfair trading practices.

MEASURES AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO STRENGTHEN FARMERS IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

National Dialogue Platform on the Food Supply Chain

- Founded by representatives of all economic sectors involved (agriculture, food industry, food retailing).
- Assistance for amicable and independent dispute settlement (establishing an arbitration board, drawing up expert opinions, employing mediators).
- www.lebensmittellieferkette.de

Support for farmers in processing and marketing

- Financial support for the establishment and for the activities of producer organisations.
- Exemption of the activities of recognised producer organisations from the national prohibition of anticompetitive agreements.
- Support for investments for the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

INFORMATION SYSTEM ON GENETIC RESOURCES "GENRES.DE"

- Background: Genetic resources and biological diversity in food and agriculture constitute the basis for food security and a well-balanced diet.
- Objective: Conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, contribution especially to SDG2.
- Solution: Establishment of a national central information and coordination platform.

- The Information System on Genetic Resources "GENRES.de" is addressed at all actors of the value-added chain: farmers, breeders, consumers and trade.
- The Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity (IBV) posts the information. The IBV coordinates different specialised agencies that include key actors such as breeders, conservation initiatives and federal state authorities.
- Specialised portals and databases provide targeted information on the diversity of plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources.
- Targeted information to consumers about traditional varieties and breeds raises awareness and increases demand.

