

GERMANY

Lifelong learning & vocational training

Location

Saxony

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P1 – Knowledge transfer & innovation

Measure

M1 – Knowledge transfer & information actions

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 3.1 mil
EAFRD 2.48 mil
National/Regional 0.62 mil

Project duration

2014 – 2019

Project promoter

16 different landscape management organisations and consultants

Contact

Ines.senft@smul.sachsen.de

Website

www.smul.sachsen.de/foerderung/5525.htm

Ensuring the preservation and restoration of species and habitats in Saxony, by offering free advice and relevant qualifications to land users.

Summary

Saxony has a high diversity of landscapes. The conservation of its species and habitats depends on land users accepting and adopting environmentally sound practices. To facilitate this, land users need to be informed about nature conservation issues.



Since 2008, Saxony has been offering land users free advice on nature conservation and relevant qualifications, through nature conservation consultants. More recently, it also offers a farm-wide nature conservation qualification, called the "Nature Management Plan". This follows a simple, hands-on approach, proposing possible actions for the ecological upgrading of farm holdings in a joint consultation process between land users and conservation consultants.

Results

From 2008 to 2017, 4.100 consultations and 6.660 suggestions on actions were made.

An analysis in 2010 revealed that 71% of the suggested measures have been implemented.

The Saxonian model is one of several very interesting examples in Germany, with the common feature that they are all well adapted to specific situations and farming structures.

Context

Saxony has a high diversity of landscapes. The conservation of its species and habitats depends on land users accepting and adopting environmentally sound practices. To facilitate this, land users need to be informed about nature conservation issues. The challenge is to provide land users with appropriate knowledge about ecological relationships, nature conservation practices, and the value of biodiversity, and to encourage actions that conform to nature protection.

Objectives

Since 2008, Saxony has been offering land users free advice on nature conservation and relevant qualifications in order to address nature conservation and agricultural issues.

Activities

Fifteen sponsors including land care organisations, planning offices and conservation stations, support around 35 consultants who provide free advice to land users in the federal state of Saxony. Nature conservation consultants offer advice, qualifications and information for land users on the following:

- the protection of biotopes, habitat types, species and habitats;
- special management measures aimed at achieving concrete environmental objectives, as well as other nature conservation projects for and with land users;
- how to successfully apply for funding to protect biodiversity or the environment; and
- the professional implementation of conservation-friendly management measures.

If necessary, the nature conservation consultants can assist the implementation of agri-environmental actions. Land users receive knowledge on nature conservation and learn which funding they can make use of. This enables to the effective implementation of agri-environmental and conservation actions on more land, thus serving to preserve valuable biotopes and species.

Since 2016, there has been a farm nature conservation qualification, called the "*Nature Management Plan*". This

follows a simple, hands-on approach, proposing possible actions for the ecological upgrading of farm holdings in a joint consultation process between land users and conservation advisors. To create the plan, the land user and consultant first assess the nature conservation potential of the specific farm. They then identify measures for ecological improvements and propose a plan of action for effective implementation. This process means that nature conservation needs are better linked to the operational requirements of the farm. Each Nature Management Plan includes:

- the services the farm will provide to protect biodiversity;
- understanding any legal conservation requirements that apply to the farm based on its location (e.g. in a Natura 2000 site);
- An inventory of species and biotopes found on the farm; and
- a set of ecological improvements that the farm will make.

Main results

There is significant interest among land users in Saxony in receiving advice on nature conservation and in the related qualifications. From 2008 to 2017, 4 100 consultations and 6 660 suggestions on actions were made.

In 2010, an analysis revealed that 71% of the suggested measures have been implemented.

The fact that issues related to nature conservation can be conveyed in a very practical manner, increases cohesion between nature conservation and agriculture.

In terms of networking, the project brought together relevant ministries, federal state agencies, land care organisations, planning offices, and nature conservation stations. Together they can help support farmers to achieve better nature conservation results.

Providing advice and qualifications on nature conservation to farmers will become standard in the new common agricultural policy. The Saxonian model is one of several very interesting examples throughout Germany, with the common feature that they are all well adapted to specific situations and farming structures.

Additional sources of information

www.umwelt.sachsen.de/umwelt/natur/35485.htm