



**Building public trust
and understanding
of farming and food
– what more
needs to be done?**

EISA Workshop, ErlebnisBauernhof
Berlin, January 26th, 2012

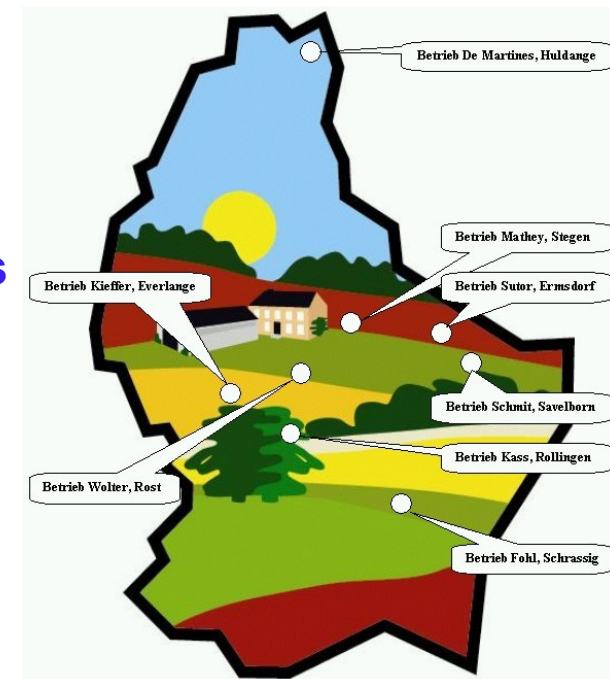
**Sustainable agriculture –
solutions for a more effective
and cost-efficient use of our
resources**



Sustainable agriculture – solutions for a more effective and cost-efficient use of our resources

FILL – Förderverein Integrierte Landwirtschaft Luxemburg, founded in 1993

- founded in 1993
- 24 member organisations and companies from the agricultural sector
- promoting Integrated Farming (IF) as a model balanced between economic, ecologic and social aspects
- How? ⇒ giving solutions for a more effective and cost-efficient use of our resources
- Instruments: project work in several key fields
s.a. pasture management,
soil protection, food safety,...
- Where? ⇒ network of demonstration farms



Sustainable agriculture – solutions for a more effective and cost-efficient use of our resources

1. Building public trust - through food quality:



Integrated bread wheat programme

- balance between economic, ecological and social needs
- crop and pest management in accordance to the region and the location
- efficient crop rotations in order to minimize diseases and the need for chemicals
- innovative techniques & quality varieties
- transparency of the food chain

⇒ Quality label « **Produit du terroir –
Lëtzebuerger Wees** »



Sustainable agriculture – solutions for a more effective and cost-efficient use of our resources

2. Building public trust – through a responsible use of resources:



Soil protection programme

- comparing direct drilling, mulch till and conventional ploughing
- strong yield reductions on direct drilling parcels
- positive results on erosiveness with mulch till parcels
- qualitative soil analysis of research and demonstration fields

Key aspects:

- using new techniques to increase productivity
- minimisation of diseases and the need for chemical fertilisers and pesticides
- crop rotations
- CO₂ balance

⇒ sustainable agriculture requires a diversity of solutions according to crops and location

Sustainable agriculture – solutions for a more effective and cost-efficient use of our resources

3. Building public trust - through cost-efficiency & animal health:



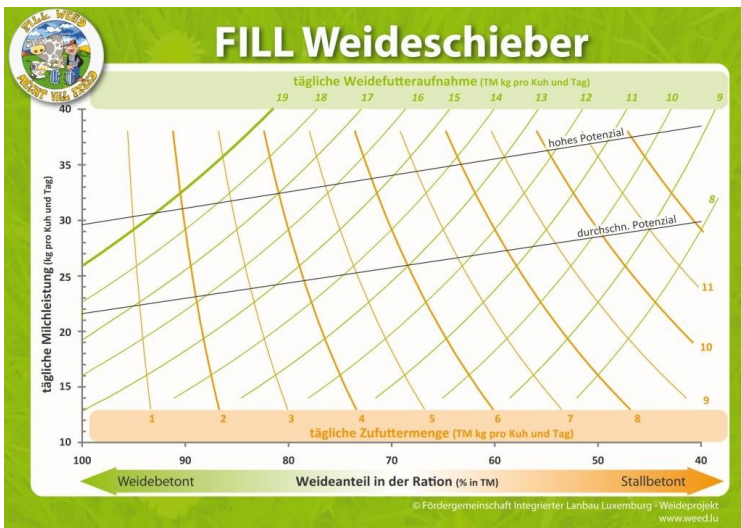
Pasture management programme

- Luxembourg = excellent meadow site (permanent grassland: 52 % of UAA)
- BUT: high fixed and variable costs (stable costs, no efficient use of staple fodder, excessive use of high energy concentrates, lactation curve not linked to available pasture forage, energy & nutrient balance,...)

⇒ consulting the farmer

- AND: disappearance of pasture and land-based dairy farming face to new milking techniques (robot) = public concern
- animal welfare
- sustainability by optimizing energy and nutrient efficiency

⇒ convincing the consumer



Sustainable agriculture – solutions for a more effective and cost-efficient use of our resources



- scientific results = communication tool
- public events: International pasture days, Open Farm Sunday, Foire agricole
- publications
- raising awareness with information tools



Sustainable agriculture – solutions for a more effective and cost-efficient use of our resources

4. Conclusions

- **FILL activities = project work with broad collaboration and partnerships**
- **Sustainable agriculture needs research and innovation**
- **Building public trust by linking research to farming practice and farming practice to the consumer**
- **Using scientific results to promote sustainable agriculture and food quality**
- **Raising awareness of the public by offensive PR work: sustainable agriculture needs an open dialogue**