

Contract Innovation Lab North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Germany

Lead: Stiftung Westfälische Kulturlandschaft (SWK) & Stiftung Rheinische Kulturlandschaft (SRK)

Co-Lead: Deutscher Bauernverband (DBV)



Region

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), which is densely populated, uses roughly half of its land area agriculturally. NRW shows a landscape diversity, ranging from highly fertile lowland areas in the north, mid and west to low mountain range landscapes in the south-east. Agriculture in the fertile low lands is characterized by intensive farming with grain, maize (feed/energy), sugar beet and oil plants (rape) as the most dominant crops. Especially along the Dutch border a number of pig and poultry farms can be found.

Targeted Agri-Environmental/Climate Issues

The CIL NRW aims to preserve the traditional (agri-) cultural landscapes of the region in an area, which is dominated by intensive farming. More specifically, the objective is to protect the habitats of (endangered/decreasing) species adapted to open agricultural landscapes, particularly birds and insects.

Contract Innovation Lab Objectives

Generally, the CIL NRW aims to improve the uptake, longevity and effectiveness of contracts for agri-environmental measures. CIL-participants also acknowledged the need for improving the information flow between agricultural and other actors of society.



Type of Contracts

The focus of the CIL NRW will be on **collaborative approaches**. As CIL-participants have also shown interest in **results-based** compensation, these approaches will also be investigated as possible modules in the group contracts. The CIL NRW is building on the experiences of SRK and SWK with production-integrated compensation measures involving farmers/landowners (groups). The focus of the work of SRK and SWK is to strengthen the implementation of effective measures by enhancing cooperation between farmers, authorities and other stakeholders.

Stakeholder Organisations Involved

Farmers, Farmer Associations, Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture, Nature- and Consumer protection NRW, regional administrations (State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection), Agricultural Chamber NRW, University of Muenster, University of Applied Sciences Soest

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