

Innovation Project

Food and Agriculture Cluster



Practical Project of the Centers of Competence: A Communication Platform for Climate-Adapted Land-Use Regulation

In order to initiate the design, communication and implementation of the transformation to a low-conflict and climate-adapted land-use system, the Centers of Competence e.V. organized three events in the context of **nordwest2050** between 2010 and 2013. In cooperation with the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, a dialogue was initiated in which heterogeneity of the issues and the various interests of the actors on the issue of land-use was discussed and a solution-oriented manner. At the second and largest event, in February 2013, the »Aurich Declaration,« a regional statement on the most important land-use problems, and concrete approaches to solutions, was adopted. It is represented and supported by a wide range of authors from the region.



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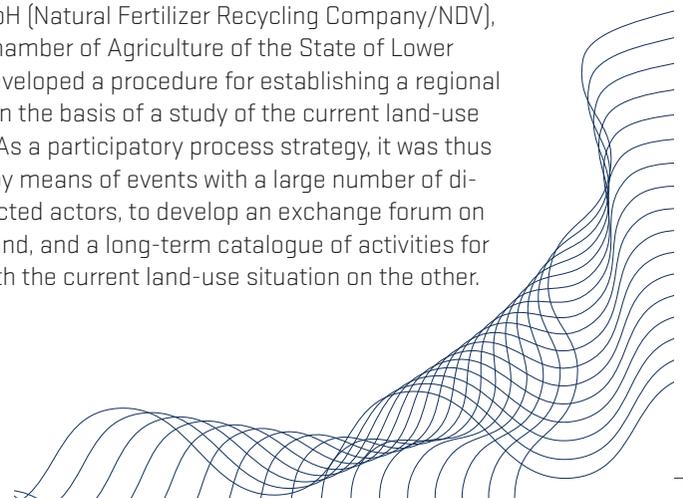
The Need for Climate Adaptation

Climate change will presumably aggravate competition for the resource land in northwestern Germany. The development of the population and the expansion of renewable energies are already increasing pressure on the land. Especially agriculture and the food industry, an important economic sector in the region, will face new challenges.

Implemented Measures

The Centers of Competence e.V., as a practical partner of the **nordwest2050** project, had primary responsibility for the implementation of the three-part dialogue process/series of events on the issue of »Land-Use in Northwes-

tern Germany in the Context of Climate Change.« In order to confront the challenges of climate change, the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, together with an additional practical partner, the Naturdünger-Verwertungs GmbH (Natural Fertilizer Recycling Company/NDV), and the Chamber of Agriculture of the State of Lower Saxony, developed a procedure for establishing a regional dialogue on the basis of a study of the current land-use situation. As a participatory process strategy, it was thus possible, by means of events with a large number of directly affected actors, to develop an exchange forum on the one hand, and a long-term catalogue of activities for dealing with the current land-use situation on the other.



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In spite of the fact of political, economic and resource-related limitations, it was possible to constructively discuss a new orientation of land-use in the context of regional and global challenges. The results are compiled in a brochure titled »The Aurich Declaration«. As a symbol of a common »intent to act,« the participants put their signatures to the catalogue of activities.

Method and State of Implementation

The first event occurred in May 2010 in the form of a knowledge market with approx. 70 participants. Here, the primary goal was to take stock of the existing land-use situation in the region in the context of climate change. In close coordination between the Centers of Competence e.V. of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and the Chamber of Agriculture of the State of Lower Saxony, the draft of the Aurich Declaration was then developed. Then, at the second event in February 2013, some 1000 selected regional actors from various industries, companies, municipalities and associations adopted the joint draft of the brochure. As a follow-up to the event, the Aurich Declaration was sent to over 1000 regional and national institutions and/or actors, and the download was prepared. The regional position on the land-use situation thus developed before and during the event; it was made possible by the productive communications between very heterogeneous complexes of interests which were often in conflict. This approach can be seen as the beginning of a dialogue which is to be continued at the third knowledge market in December 2013, with approx. 50 participants. In this way, the stage has been set for the continuation and care for this participatory process strategy for regulating regional land-use conflicts, with a view toward the institutionalization of the dialogue as a regional communications interface.

Results and Transferability

Flexibilization and land-use decisions and changes of land-use strategies must be supported by regional actors. Dialogue needs spaces for open discussion. The conveyance of knowledge, such as that regarding the effects of climate change, must be tailored to the constellation existing between the actors affected and their specific situations.

The continuation and institutionalization of the dialogue can be assessed as a substantial contribution to the regional climate-adaptation capacity and resilience, because a continuous monitoring by regional actors is thus connected with the establishment of constructive negotiation processes.

nordwest2050 is one of a total of seven projects funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in the context of the KLIMZUG Program (Klimawandel in Regionen zukunftsfähig gestalten - Creating Climate Change-Ready Regions). In 2012 **nordwest2050** was awarded as an official project of the United Nations' World Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. The goal of the adaptation research is to develop strategies and measures by means of which regions and industries can be better prepared for life and business under the conditions of climate change. This is on the one hand designed to strengthen future competitiveness, and on the other to promote the development and use of new technologies and procedures for adaptation to climate change.

