



**Wadden Sea Forum**

**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Groningen, 29-30 May 2007**

---

**Agenda Item:** 7  
**Subject:** Agriculture  
**Document Nr.** WSF10-7-3  
**Date:** 24 May 2007  
**Submitted by:** Chamber of agriculture NdS

---

**PROPOSAL:** The meeting is invited to discuss the document and to decide upon the proposal

## Proposal for an Agriculture Working Group

Along the coastline of the wadden sea region there are various areas, which are part or will become part of the Bird Habitat Directive. For many species of birds these areas have an additional function with the salt marsh lands in front of the dike and with the wadden sea.. For this reason there are already nature and landscape management programmes with the aim to protect birds in certain designated areas.

It was part of the action plan to make an inventory of the existing programmes and to evaluate them.

Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen started this study by sending out a questionnaire. First results were presented at the last Forum in Tonder. It was stated that two problems came up:

- 1) the evaluation was done with different methods under different interests, so a comparison is hardly possible
- 2) with the upcoming of a new structural funds period new programmes are introduced and existing programmes are improved.

On the other hand there are conflicts between the agricultural use of the land and the aims of the Bird Habitat Directive. The authorities responsible for the implementation of the Bird Directive are still trying to find best practices in bird protection, regarding the necessities of agriculture, and are searching for solutions that deliver high efficiency for public money in nature and landscape management programmes. In general farmers are interested in finding solutions for the upcoming conflicts, regarding agricultural interest.

An exchange of experience and of ideas about how to handle these challenges would be helpful and is therefore proposed as an Agriculture Working Group. The issues, that should be discussed first are the problems with the nordic geese or the strategies for protecting meadow birds. Other issues of interest can be included in the discussion depending upon the input of the participants. Participation should come from farmers, nature protection groups and nature protection authorities. Forum member Erich Hinrichs is offering to organize the first meeting of the Working Group in partnership with the Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen.

Wadden Sea Forum in Groningen is asked to support this proposal.

by Erich Hinrichs