



**Wadden Sea Forum**

**9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Tønder, 30 November-1 December 2006**

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**Agenda Item:** 7  
**Subject:** Progress Agriculture  
**Document Nr.** WSF-9-7-4  
**Date:** 28 November 2006  
**Submitted by:** Agriculture Niedersachsen

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

## Inventory and evaluation of agri-environment-protection schemes in the Wadden Sea region (North Sea area: Denmark, Netherlands, Germany)

### Introduction

Agriculture in the Wadden Sea region should be given the possibilities to develop in a profitable way taking due account of the full variety of the typical cultural Wadden Sea landscapes (dykes, rivers, mounds, etc.), the characteristic flora and fauna of the Wadden Sea region (geese, lapwing, etc.) and contributing to viable and dynamic rural communities. This is one of the objectives of the Wadden Sea forum (WSF). A useful step to reach this objective is an evaluation and analysis of running nature- and landscape protection programs in the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. Mr. Erich Hinrichs (Germany), member of the WSF, has taken the responsibility to start this analysis with support from the Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen.

A questionnaire was developed and distributed to the contact persons from the WSF in the three countries. Each country should answer one questionnaire for every program. The questionnaire covers the following issues:

- objectives, restrictions, terms of the program,
- compensation payments,
- evaluation of the program and the acceptance by the participants.
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### Results

From Denmark two questionnaires were returned, from the Netherlands one and from Germany six. The interpretation is limited because of the few returned questionnaires and the partly merged answers (it is not clear, if more than one program are described in one questionnaire).

Land	Germany	Germany	Denmark	Netherlands
Name	Lower Saxony Cooperation - program: - Wet grassland - Habitat maintenance - Permanent grassland - Biodiversity	Schleswig Holstein - Nature conservation by contracts - Hallig-program (Small islands)	- Support for environmentally friendly farming - Agri- Environmental Measures	-
Objective	Bird protection	Bird protection	Change in Land use	Bird protection

Denmark:

The Danish questionnaires describe and evaluate a program to support environment friendly farming and a program for agri-environment measures. There was no information given for the scope of the programs. But the cover letter asked especially for programs in the North Sea region, so it can be assumed that the described programs are valid in this area.

The programs support an environmentally friendly land management of arable and grassland (low intensity, water protection). The restrictions are on use of manure and pesticides. For the agri-environmental measures also creation of buffer strips and vegetation cover over the whole year (catch crops) is demanded.

The money paid for participating in the program depends on the restrictions. For the described programs between 94, - and 268, - Euros per hectare are paid.

The ability of the programs to reach their objectives, the publicity of the programs and the participation are evaluated as good.

Netherlands:

The questionnaire from the Netherlands gives no name for the described program. Also no information is given about the scope of the program.

The protection of meadow birds and migration birds by lowering the intensity of agricultural land use is the aim of the dutch program. The restrictions are on use of manure and pesticides, on time periods for land management (mowing, tilling, grazing), also buffer strips for water bodies are required (5 Metre).

The money paid for participating in the described program is between 200, - and 800, - Euros per hectare.

The ability of the program to reach the objectives and the publicity of the program is evaluated as moderate, also the participation is assed moderate. A possible reason could be that the compensation payment is not considered adequate by the potential participants.

Germany:

The described German programs are mostly co-operation programs for defined areas, e.g. Natura 2000 areas, nature conservation areas or special regions e.g. Rheiderland.

The objective is bird protection mainly meadows birds and partly migration birds. The programs should protect the species, their habitat and provide resting places for the migration birds. Mostly by providing low intensity grassland.

The restrictions of the different programs are very specific but the main issues are restrictions on use of manure and pesticides and the time for mowing grass. In wet grassland there is also a buffer strip for water bodies required (2.5 Metre).

The money paid for participating in the program depends on the restrictions. For the described programs between 100, - and 400, - Euros per hectare are paid.

The ability of the programs to reach their objectives, the publicity of the programs and the participation in the programs were evaluated as positive.

### **Conclusions**

The result from the inquiry is not sufficient for a broad analyses and evaluation because only a few questionnaires were answered. It is likely that the answers did not document all existing programs in the North Sea region (Denmark, Netherlands, and Germany).

The evaluation is restricted because it is not exactly known who did the assessment for the programs in the questionnaires (authorities for nature conservation, agricultural organisations etc.). There was no information (as requested in the cover letter) about existing studies to evaluate the programs. It makes sense to start a new inventory next year because of the above mentioned aspects and the fact that almost all described programs are running out. In 2007 they will be changed or new programs will be started.

### **Recommendations**

The experience of this inquiry shows that the distribution list for the questionnaires should be extended because there are different organisational structures in the countries. In Lower Saxony for example the responsibilities are separated between the ministry of environment (programmes in nature conservation areas) and the ministry of agriculture (agri-environment schemes). For Denmark and the Netherlands the situation could be similar.

To take these aspects into account and to keep the costs in an acceptable scale an intensive support from the WSF members from the Netherlands and Denmark is necessary (to prepare the distribution list, to make contacts and to motivate the respondent). If this intensive support is not possible, a budget is necessary for an investigation. The investigation could start with a research via internet to get an overview or to collect information on this theme or about organisations/persons for the interview (directly or questionnaire).

For the evaluation of the programs it is important who is assessing the program (authorities for nature conservation, participants in the program, agricultural organisations e.g. farmers union etc.). It makes sense to have the evaluation from different perspectives. Also existing studies (surveys) could be found and analysed to evaluate the programs (internet, interview).

Attention should be paid to the evaluation next year because only the running out programs can be evaluated. For the new programs the evaluation can only be done after an adequate operating time.

**ANNEX: INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-PROTECTION SCHEMES IN THE WADDEN SEA REGION (NORTH SEA AREA: DENMARK, NETHERLANDS, GERMANY)**

Country / Province / etc.:  
Filled in by:

Institution:  
Telephone number (for questions):

1.1.1  
1.1.2 **Questions for the Inventory** (please fill in separate questionnaire for each program!)

**1) Fill in the name and the scope of the program:**

**2) Does the program end in the next 2 years?** Yes  No

**3) What are the objectives of the program:**

*Please mark with a cross or make own remarks*

- Protection of Birds (European conservation of wild birds directive)
- especially
  - meadow birds
  - birds on arable land
  - migratory birds
- Protection of species and habitats (FFH-Directive)
- Protection of water (European Water Framework Directive – WFD)
- Low intensity grassland
- Low intensity arable land
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):

**4) Who can participate in the program?**

*Please mark with a cross or make own remarks*

- arable farms
- intensive grassland farms
- low intensity grassland farms
- animal processing farms (pigs / poultry)
- fruit or vegetable growing farms
- mixed farms
- organic farms
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):

**5) What kind of obligations / requirements do the participants have to observe?**

*Please mark with a cross or make own remarks*

- No organic fertilizers
- No mineral fertilizers
- Fertilizing with max.            kg N / ha · a (please fill in the amount)
- No use of pesticides
- No soil cultivation before            (please fill in the date)
- No mowing before            (please fill in the date)
- No grazing before            (please fill in the date)
- Grazing with max.            animals (please fill in the Number) per hectare  
till            (please fill in the date)
- Set up buffer strips along water bodies            (please fill in the width in meter)
- Maintenance of buffer strips along rivers, brooks
- Vegetation cover over the whole year (e.g. catch crops.)
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):
- Others (please fill in):

**6) How much money do the participants get for signing (following) the program?**

*Please mark with a cross or make own remarks*

Amount per unit

Euro per ha

Euro per Farm

Others (please fill in):

Others (please fill in):

Others (please fill in):

1.1.3 <b>Questions for the evaluation</b>
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**7) How do you evaluate the program?**  
*Please mark with a cross or make own remarks*

	Very bad	bad	ok	good	Very good
The considered participants know about the program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The program is in principle able to reach the intended aims (compare Nr. 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The compensation payment is adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please fill in):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please fill in):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please fill in):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**8) How do you evaluate the acceptance of the program by the considered participants?**  
*Please mark with a cross or make own remarks*

	Very bad	bad	ok	good	Very good
The considered participants take part in the program (if possible please fill in how many farms participate (Number: ) from how many considered participants (Number: ))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The considered participants think that in general the program is able to reach the intended aims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The considered participants think that the compensation payment is adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The considered participants think that the program is helping them to get a better image	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The considered participants think that participating in the program is a means to avoid legal regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please fill in):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please fill in):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please fill in):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>