

Assessing the sustainability of agricultural intensification pathways



Background

Agriculture must become more sustainable. However, at the same time global food demand is projected to increase 50% by 2050. Can increasing food production be aligned with increasing sustainability? Are win-win situations possible? In the SIPATH project we are analyzing the sustainability of agricultural intensification pathways in 12 different case study sites in different European countries. The topic of the master thesis is to analyze an additional case study site in Switzerland or a neighboring country (to be discussed).

Research questions

How has farm management and landscape structure changed in the past 20 years? What changes do farmers plan in the next years? And are these changes sustainable?

Scientific fields

Agricultural development, sustainable agriculture, interdisciplinary sciences, landscape ecology

Methods

- Farmer interviews
- Interpreting aerial photographs with GIS
- Data analysis using R

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