Integrated Farming (IF)
The Way Forward
to achieve
Sustainable Development in Agriculture

www.sustainable-agriculture.org

SAI Platform
Farming Systems & Certification Seminar, Brussels, 31 October 2008
= European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture

Founded in 2001 as an alliance of National Associations for the Promotion of Integrated Farming (IF), with now associations from 6 EU MS as Full Members

United in diversity

+ 7 European/National Associations from the agricultural chain as Associated Members:
ECPA, EFMA, IFAH-Europe, ELO, FEFAC, GOSZ & SAI Platform
EISA and its members develop and promote Integrated Farming (IF) as mainstream concept to achieve sustainable development in EU agriculture.

**Important:** to achieve this in co-operation with all stakeholders in the agricultural chain!

→ Your input/contribution is welcome!
EISA’s Organisational Structure

**General Assembly**
- Main decisions:
  - Statutes
  - Budget
  - Membership

1 / year

**Board**
- Preparation of the General Assembly

1 / year

Chairman,
Vice-Chairman,
Treasurer &
2 Members

**Executive Committee**
- Main operational body

2-3 / year

Officially c. 10 people, majority represents Full Members; in practice all EISA

**Ad hoc Working Groups on Specific Issues**
- e.g. on sustainability indicators

When required
The Concept of Integrated Farming

EISA aims at developing and promoting **Integrated Farming**, which is a solution to the changing demands to farmers &

**ONE WAY to make Sustainable Agriculture work.**

Integrated Farm Management systems should be:

- **economically viable, environmentally responsible and socially acceptable**
- **holistic**
- **a planning approach (whole farm management plan, soil management plan, herd health plan, etc.)**
- **applicable to all farms throughout Europe, i.e. mainstream**
- **voluntary**
- **positive, flexible & innovative** and thus take account of latest developments among other in agricultural science, policy & practice:
  - response to **consumer expectations** on healthy food that is grown with concern for the environment and can be **traced**
  - improvement of **health and safety of people** at work & **livestock**.
The Concept of Integrated Farming: A Holistic Approach
The Concept of Integrated Farming: Dynamic Process, Planning Approach, Continuous Learning & Improvement

An illustration of the dynamic year-on-year progress of an integrated farming approach, using improvement opportunities identified by the appraisal and auditing of annual performance.

Year 1
Access → Review
Decide → Action

Year 2
Access → Review
Decide → Action

Year 3
Access → Review
Decide → Action
Baseline for the European definition: “European Good Agricultural Practice” (CC/GAEC)

Intention of the European definition:
- detailed description of farming processes
- show where IF goes beyond CC/GAEC
- holistic concept (11 chapters)

Tool for politicians/administrations & farmers

but: for the time being
no auditing,
no certification
EISA: Integrated Farming Framework

A holistic approach, covering 11 chapters on
• Organisation, Management and Planning
• Human and Social Capital
• Energy Efficiency
• Water Use and Protection
• Emissions to Air
• Soil Management
• Crop Nutrition
• Crop Protection
• Animal Husbandry and Animal Health
• Landscape, Wildlife and Biodiversity
• Waste Management, Product Storage and Waste Disposal
EISA: Integrated Farming Framework

Looking at some details:

• item
• guideline for action
• explanation
• demonstration
• GAP column
• IF perspective
How can agriculture become:

a) more efficient in terms of resources used for production, whilst
b) further increasing quantity and quality of produce, as well as
c) the quality of the production with regard to the environment?

What is the key to a successful EU-wide promotion (deeper understanding) of the concept of IF?

• ‘jungle’ of schemes (more than 400)
• consumer confusion
• compatibility, comparability & proportionality of schemes
Discover Integrated Farming!

EISA’s Main Tools/Achievements

Network of Demonstration Farms: your are welcome!

Each dot represents several farms

The network encompasses:
- in Germany c. 450 farms
- in France c. 300 farms
- in the UK c. 70 farms
- in Sweden 17 farms
- in Luxembourg 8 farms
- in Austria demonstration farms being set up

with c. 1 million visitors per year!

Annual Farmers Exchange
Demonstration of IF in theory & practice to other farmers and stakeholders
last years: Germany, UK, Luxembourg, France, Sweden; 2009: Austria
Forthcoming events:
Integrated Farming (IF) at the EP

10 December 2008: EP Hearing on Food Safety & Security:
• Hook to present IF to the EP & thus show that IF offers solutions to the current societal challenges e.g. environmental concerns such as climate change but also efficiencies

Patrons of the event:
• Horst Schnellhardt (DE, ENVI)
• Robert Sturdy (UK, AGRI)
• Hopefully with a contribution from the Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development

SAI Platform is kindly invited to join and support the event
Broadened EISA’s membership:
• IF associations in more EU member states (please help us!)
• More supporters of SA as associated members in particular from the agricultural chain/food chain (each company pursuing an SA approach is welcome to join EISA)

Further intensification of our dialogue with EU institutions, and thus achieve a better implementation of IF in EU & national policies
Cooperation SAI Platform – EISA
How can SAI best serve EISA’s interests in the scheme?

SAI Platform and its members to recognise our IF Framework:
SAI members to accept that EISA’s Framework is compatible with SAI’s principles and practices, i.e. that Integrated Farmers meet the requirements/standards of SAI’s members.

Stronger involvement of SAI Platform in EISA’s work (we are on the way to it) & support of SAI Platform & its members in the setting up of national IF associations in EU Member States, where they do not yet exist!
Thank you for your attention and future support!

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