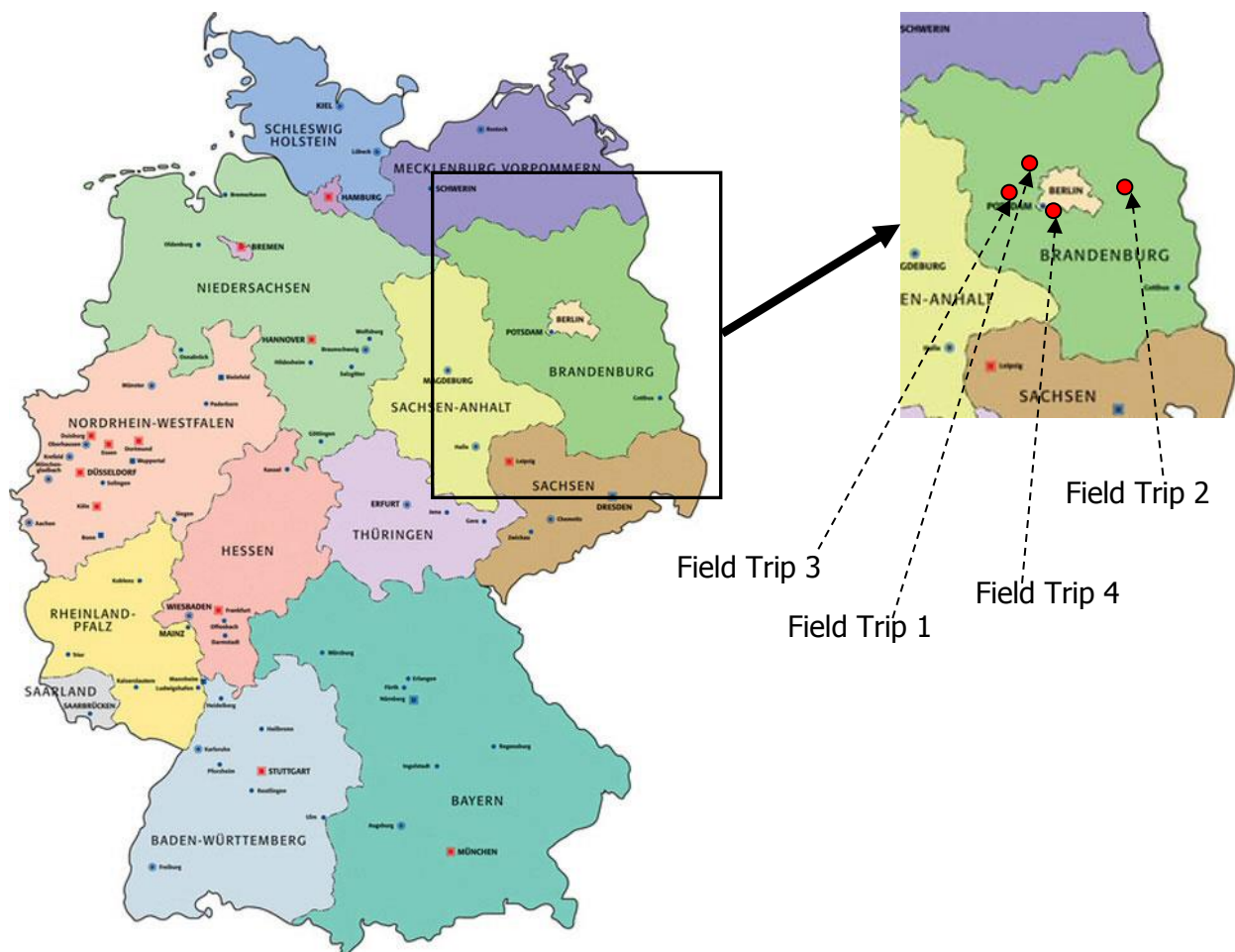


4th GFRAS Annual Meeting

The Role of Private Sector and Producer Organisations in Rural Advisory Services

24-26 September 2013, Berlin, Germany

Field Trip Description



Field Trip 1: Private RAS and their role in supporting value chains

Participants in this field trip will meet farmers who are strongly involved in value chains. They will discuss about how private providers of rural advisory services (RAS) meet their demands:

- Fishing enterprise [Zippelsförde GmbHⁱ](#): fishery, direct marketing, fishing tourism
- Sheep farming enterprise [Heidschnuckenhof Greve GbRⁱⁱ](#) in Storbeck: landscape conservation, local butchery, direct marketing
- [Hesterberg Agricultural Estate GmbHⁱ](#) and Meet and Sausages GmbHⁱ in Neuruppin-Lichtenberg: 500 Galloway beef, 1000 chickens on herbs meadow, 1000 geese, local butchery, farm restaurant, shops in Berlin

The business manager of the Agricultural Advisory Service of the Agricultural Associations Brandenburg ([LAB Brandenburg GmbHⁱ](#)) and the business manager of the [Countyⁱⁱⁱ Farmers Association Ostprignitz-Ruppin](#) will talk about services, organisation and funding of the private service provider LAB.

The collaboration of Agricultural Associations with the LAB Agricultural Advisory Services and other advisory service providers will be the focus of discussions with the former president of the [State Fishery Association](#) and the chairman of the [Sheep Breeders Association Berlin-Brandenburg](#) on services for specialised enterprises.

Field Trip 2: The role of service societies in extension –example of precision farming

Twelve farms of totally 17,500 ha are operationally and financially involved in the cooperative project "precision farming", implemented by the Agricultural Advisory Services of the Agricultural Associations Brandenburg ([LAB Brandenburg GmbHⁱ](#)). Participants of the field trip will exchange with two farm managers about the history and development of their society and about how their demands are met by the project and its service providers. Discussions will show which services of private sector are used:

- Production and Service Society of the Agricultural Economy (PDA) GmbHⁱ, Alt Zeschdorf: group of companies that emerged out of a former agricultural production, 2,800 ha crop land, livestock (500 dairy cows and young stock, 1000 sheep, 1450 pigs, 30 horses), warehousing and trading, provider of fieldwork services, restaurant
- [Fürstenwalder Agricultural Products GmbHⁱ Buchholz](#) in Steinhöfel: emerged from a former agricultural production cooperative, 2,250 ha, 720 dairy cows, biogas plant

The coordinator of the project "precision farming" working at the regional office of the Agricultural Advisory Service of the Agricultural Associations Brandenburg ([LAB Brandenburg GmbHⁱ](#)) and the chair of the [County Farmers Association Märkisch-Oderland](#) will talk about services, organisation and funding of the private service provider LAB.

The "precision farming" project was mandated by the [LEADER Action Group LAG "Oderland"](#). The collaboration of the LEADER structure with the LAB Agricultural Advisory Service and other advisory service providers will be the focus of discussions with the regional manager and the president of LAB.

Field Trip 3: Agricultural advisory service associations, specialist advice societies, and private service providers – their roles in education and advice for family farms

Participants will discuss with two farm managers about how their demands are met by agricultural advisory service associations, specialist advice societies, and private service providers:

- [Havellandhof, Ribbeck GbRⁱⁱ](#) in Nauen: 540 ha crop land, 240 ha grassland, 142 dairy cows; second enterprise [Kaim Agrar-Service](#), Ribbeck in Nauen: 380 kW biogas plant, provider of fieldwork services especially in plant protection
- Plant production GmbHⁱ Wutike in Gumtow, Prignitz: 1000 ha crop production, with two affiliate companies for bull fattening (350 bulls) and biogas plant

The chair of the Agriculture Advisory Association Baruther Land e.V.^{iv} Luckenwalde, working at the regional office of the Agricultural Advisory Services of the Agricultural Associations Brandenburg ([LAB Brandenburg GmbHⁱ](#)), the chair of the association [Paulinenauer Arbeitskreis](#)

[Grünland und Futterwirtschaft e. V.](#)^v, and the representative of the ministry will talk about services, organisation and funding of the two grassroots associations for advice and education and about the collaboration with the private service provider LAB.

Field Trip 4: Development of producer networks and advice to farms in Berlin urban area

Participants will discuss with three farm managers about how their demands are met by RAS providers:

- Vierfelderhof GmbHⁱ in Berlin-Gatow: crop land (cereals), livestock, since 2012 transition to organic production, petting zoo, in collaboration with [Organic Farms North East](#) association; at the same site: [self-harvest vegetable farm "farmers garden"](#) in the landscape conservation area Havelmathen in Alt-Gatow: several hundred home gardening customers are instructed in organic farming by the farm leader
- Lunch at Domain Dahlem (horticulture and livestock: pigs, cows, horses, farm shop, lunch catering, organic farming)
- [Organic farm Kleinmachnower Weg](#): organic farming with grassland, horses, direct marketing and catering, collaboration with the partner operation in Uckermark

The [field trip guide](#), a staff of the [Organic Farms North East e.V.](#)^{iv} advisory service association, a farmer and advisor for home gardeners, and the business manager of [Organic Land East e.V.](#)^{iv} will talk about the development of the producer networks and the services, organisation and funding of RAS in organic production in Berlin-Brandenburg and have a look at the intercultural subsistence gardening scene in Berlin.

ⁱ PLC, Ltd

ⁱⁱ BGB company, a legal form for individual person to jointly realise entrepreneurial activities

ⁱⁱⁱ The field trips take place in the federal states (Bundesländer) of Germany "Berlin" and "Brandenburg". The States may be subdivided in counties (Landkreise)

^{iv} Registered association