CONTEXT PROFILE

GERMANY

FARMER
Annabelle Gérard & Christian Friebe

INNOVATION
Holistic management

Video

MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION
Improvement of grassland management

SOIL TYPE
Sand

FINANCE/INVESTMENT
Low

AGROCLIMATIC AREA
Atlantic central

MANAGEMENT
Pasture dairy

MARKET
Local-rural

CLIMATE
Little rainfall

TECHNICAL
Easy

SOCIAL
Full-time farmer

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CONTEXT PROFILE

GERMANY

Case Study: DE_10	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	**Alpine**	**Atlantic Central**	**Atlantic North**	**Atlantic South**	**Boreal**	**Continental North**	**Continental South**	**Mediterranean North**	**Mediterranean South**
System approach on field and farm scale	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Complex farm situation. Dairy is a part of a full range of farming activities including laying hens (egg), vegetables, flowers, forest, agri-tourism, pigs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Combining low milk production on a sandy soil (reduced water availability) with adapted grazing management (early use, short grazing time on each paddock, greater grass waste)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Labour intensive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Direct selling of products to consumers	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

+++ **Strong transferability** ++ **Slightly limited transferability** + **Very limited transferability** X **Generic information/not relevant**

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Implementation Gaps

- System approach: relies on resources (labour, finances) outside dairy
- Fits for small herds
- Labour intensive

Research Gaps

- Effect of single aspects at the management scale are known, but the effect at system level is largely unknown.
- Effect of grass residues (organic material) on soil fertility and water retention capacity not well researched.

Suggestions to Adapt

- Very specific situation that involves the set-up of the whole farm and relies on a number and interrelated set of prerequisites. Transferability is therefore limited, parts could be adopted.

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COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	low
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	low
• Initial advisory costs	low
• Initial buildings and machineries	mid
• Initial certification costs	low
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	mid

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	not applicable/not known
On-going certification costs	not applicable/not known
On-going buildings and machinery costs	not applicable/not known
On-going working capital	not applicable/not known

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

- **Economic**

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	mid
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	mid
Payback period	high
Product value added	high
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	high
Added value through solidarity farming (workload for marketing and processing included!)	high
Financial circular economy with local markets	high

- **Environmental**

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	mid
Biodiversity increase	mid
Improved nitrogen cycling	high
Soil regeneration	high
Animal health and welfare improvement	none or low

- **Social**

Workload reduction	none or low
Engagement of young generation	high
Social ties with local customers, transparency of farming and production model to consumers	high

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Literature

English

Organic farming system:

- https://you-will-grow.net/

Organic matter and grassland:

- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0929139320306302
- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S001670612100536X

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