

Key takeaways of the fourth LAMASUS Stakeholder Workshop

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Table of contents

1.	Introducing the LAMASUS stakeholder engagement	4
2.	Summary of the third stakeholder workshop	5
3.	Summaries of the workshop sessions	6
3.1.	Keynote – Update on the Coming Agricultural Policy reforms	7
3.2.	LAMASUS EU-wide comprehensive Scenarios	8
3.2.1.	Break-Out Session I: Comprehensive Scenario Implications for Agricultural Policy, Nature Conservation, and Forest Policy	9
3.3.	Science Slam: LAMASUS Roadshows and Case Studies	12
3.3.1.	France: The Role of Organic Farming in Hedgerow Conservation	13
3.3.2.	Norway: Managing Nutrients in Intensive Livestock Production	13
3.3.3.	Germany: Carbon Sequestration and Crop Diversification	14
3.3.4.	The Netherlands: Dairy farms in Peatland Areas in the Netherlands – Impact of National and European policies	15
3.3.5.	Austria: Alpine Farming	15
3.4.	Towards a LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe	16
3.4.1.	Introduction of the LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies	16
3.4.2.	Break-Out Session II: Describing the Vision of Success	16
3.4.3.	Reporting Outcomes and Discussion	18
3.5.	Conclusion and Way Ahead	19
	Annex I: Final Agenda of the Workshop	20
	Annex II: First Draft of LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies ..	24



List of Tables

Figure 1: Stakeholder composition.....	5
Figure 3: Simulated changes in beef and milk production under nutrient management regulations in Norway.....	14
Figure 4: Left: MAGNET baseline projections of grass area and land prices in the Netherlands (2017–2050). Right: MAGNET downscaling of grassland allocation comparing the base year 2020 with the projected 2050 allocation.....	15

List of Figures

Table 1: Key points raised during the agricultural policy breakout session	10
Table 2: Key points raised during the nature conservation break-out session.....	11
Table 3: Key points raised during the forest policy break-out session.....	12



Abbreviations

BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
DG AGRI	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
DG CLIMA	Directorate-General for Climate Action
DG REGIO	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
EU	European Union
ETS	Emissions Trading System
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
INRAE	National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
NRR	Nature Restoration Regulation
PBL	Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
WIFO	Austrian Institute of Economic Research
WP	Work Package
WUR	Wageningen University & Research
ZHAW	Zurich University of Applied Sciences

1. Introducing the LAMASUS stakeholder engagement

The LAMASUS Horizon Europe project (www.LAMASUS.eu) aims to create a meaningful impact on the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of land-related policies in agriculture and forestry, particularly in the context of climate change. To achieve these goals, we are developing a comprehensive policy co-design portal and a novel governance model. This innovative framework brings together policymakers, researchers, and experts to provide the necessary tools and information.

The expertise of representatives of interest groups, officials from various government levels, and scientists is an important resource for the project. These participants provide input by sharpening research questions, bringing their expertise on relevant topics, and thus ensuring that policies reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of all involved actors.

The workshop gathered experts and representatives from a broad range of European research institutes, universities, policy organisations, and stakeholder networks. Consortium partners included representatives from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Wageningen University & Research (WUR), the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), Ruralis, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), University of Bonn, PNO Innovation, and the European Commission, among others. This broad institutional representation ensured an interdisciplinary discussion integrating perspectives from agricultural policy, forestry, biodiversity conservation, climate policy, and rural development.

The fourth LAMASUS stakeholder workshop was attended in person by 17 stakeholder participants, reflecting a continued strong commitment to inclusive and participatory engagement. The group represented a mix of sectors and regions, in line with previous workshops.

CO-DESIGN APPROACH

LAMASUS builds on the expertise from EU-level policy makers that participate in the **Policy Advisory Board**, and on the insights and perspectives from local and national policy makers, land users, and other stakeholders, who participate in the **Stakeholder Board** to review and provide input on key milestones of the project.



The sector with the highest number of participants was research institutes (38%), followed by executive/public administration (31%), farmers (13%), interest groups (12%), and NGOs (6%) (Figure 1).

Gender balance showed a 59% male and 41% female split. This marks a large improvement over the first workshop, where female participation was below 25%.

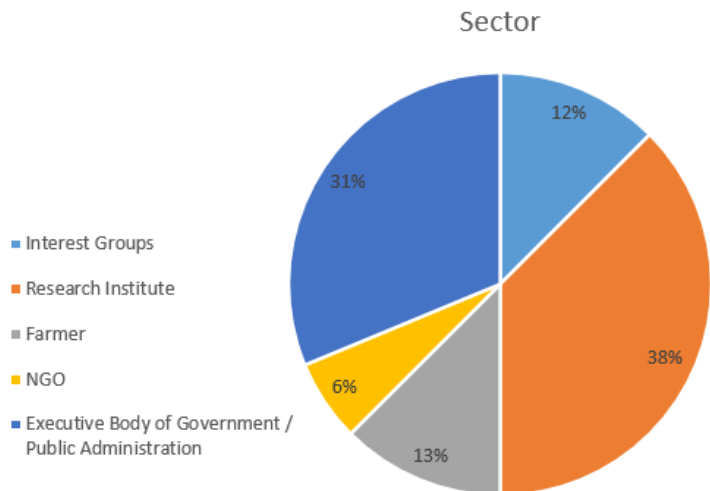


Figure 1: Stakeholder composition

Geographically, stakeholders came from 11 different countries, where Austria had the largest representation. This broad distribution reinforces the project's European scope and mirrors the diversity achieved in previous workshops.

2. Summary of the third stakeholder workshop

The fourth and final LAMASUS Stakeholder Workshop took place on March 5–6, 2026, in Brussels, Belgium, bringing together stakeholders and consortium partners to discuss the final scenario results of the LAMASUS project and to jointly formulate a stakeholder-oriented vision for future European land-use policies. The workshop was organized at the European Research Executive Agency (REA) and marked the concluding stakeholder workshop of the project.

The workshop was opened by Petr Havlík (IIASA), who presented highlights and recent developments of the LAMASUS project and outlined the objectives of the final stakeholder workshop. This was followed by a keynote presentation from Barthelemy Lanos (European Commission, DG AGRI), who provided an update on ongoing and upcoming reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and discussed future challenges for European land-use governance.

A central focus of the workshop was the presentation and discussion of the EU-wide comprehensive LAMASUS scenarios and the associated land policy dashboard. Jonathan Doelman (PBL) introduced the latest modelling results and demonstrated how the dashboard can be used to analyse trade-offs between productivity-oriented and environmentally ambitious land-use pathways. Stakeholders were invited to critically reflect on scenario assumptions, policy implications, and the realism of the different pathways.



The first day continued with thematic break-out sessions dedicated to developing a “LAMASUS Stakeholder Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe”. Participants were divided into three thematic groups focusing on the following:

- Agricultural policy
- Nature conservation and restoration policy
- Forest policy

During the break-out sessions, attendees discussed and identified the key gains and trade-offs associated with contrasting policy scenarios, discussed implications of the baseline pathway, and formulated pragmatic policy recommendations and common narratives for future European land-use governance. Stakeholders also provided direct feedback to the modelling teams regarding possible adjustments and refinements of the scenarios.

The second day started with a “Science Slam” session presenting the LAMASUS roadshows and national case studies. Contributions were provided by consortium representatives including Emilien Veron (INRAE) presenting the French case study on organic farming and hedgerow conservation, Klaus Mittenzwei (Ruralis) presenting the Norwegian case study on nutrient management in intensive livestock production, Claudia Magnapera (ZHAW) presenting the German case studies on carbon sequestration and crop diversification, Walter Rossi (WUR) presenting the Dutch case study on dairy farming in peatland areas, and Verena Kröner (BOKU) presenting the Austrian case study on alpine farming systems. The presentations highlighted experiences from stakeholder engagement activities and demonstrated how case study insights contributed to the broader LAMASUS modelling framework.

Subsequently, Franz Sinabell (WIFO) introduced the concept of a LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies, followed by a synthesis of the previous day’s discussions by Nico Polman (WUR). Building on these inputs, participants started defining a shared “vision of success” for future European land-use policies. Stakeholders were asked to imagine themselves as members of a team successfully delivering future CAP and land-use policies capable of balancing food production, climate objectives, biodiversity protection, and rural livelihoods.

The workshop concluded with plenary discussions in which stakeholders agreed on key priorities, necessary policy steps, and strategic directions for future land-use governance in Europe. Final reflections and next steps for dissemination and stakeholder cooperation were presented by Petr Havlík and Franz Sinabell. The agenda for the meeting is available in the Annex.

3. Summaries of the workshop sessions

This chapter summarizes each of the workshop sessions and details the questions, comments, and suggestions from stakeholders, as well as suggested follow-up for the LAMASUS project.



3.1. KEYNOTE – UPDATE ON THE COMING AGRICULTURAL POLICY REFORMS

Barthelemy Lanos (European Commission, DG AGRI) presented an overview of the upcoming reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and discussed how future agricultural policies are expected to interact with broader European policy frameworks. He stressed that the CAP cannot be analysed in isolation but must instead be understood alongside other strategic instruments such as the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP), climate policies, and regional development strategies.

The keynote introduced five guiding principles of the upcoming reform process:

- ensuring continuity and stability for farmers,
- safeguarding farmer incomes,
- improving targeting and fairness of support,
- simplifying the CAP framework,
- strengthening synergies across policy areas and crisis-response mechanisms.

Particular emphasis was placed on the balance between common EU objectives and the flexibility granted to member states in designing and implementing national interventions. Stakeholders discussed the challenge of simultaneously achieving environmental, climate, and food security objectives. Several participants stressed that Europe remains far from meeting the Paris Agreement goals and pointed out the necessity of agricultural policies that contribute to environmental progress while maintaining resilient food supply chains.

Questions from stakeholders focused on the implementation of environmental incentives, the flexibility granted to member states (MS), and the relationship between CAP reforms and other EU policy domains. Participants also raised concerns regarding green ring-fencing, the role of incentives versus conditionality, and the long-term evaluation of forestry-related measures. Participants also highlighted the importance of improving policy coherence between agricultural, climate, regional, and environmental policies.

A recurring discussion point concerns the transition from conditionality-based approaches to incentive-based mechanisms. Stakeholders questioned whether MS would establish sufficiently ambitious environmental targets and whether adequate incentives would be available to encourage farmer participation in environmental schemes. In response, Barthelemy Lanos emphasised that the reform intends to empower MS to develop policies tailored to national circumstances while maintaining common EU objectives and safeguards.

Another important discussion concerned the administrative complexity of the CAP. Stakeholders argued that the large number of measures and interventions can generate administrative burdens and high transaction costs, sometimes outweighing the benefits of individual measures. Simplification was therefore welcomed as a core objective of the reform process.

Finally, participants discussed the difficulty of evaluating long-term measures, particularly in forestry and ecosystem restoration, where results may only become visible after several decades. The discussion emphasised the importance of developing suitable output and outcome indicators capable of capturing long-term environmental and climate impacts.



3.2. LAMASUS EU-WIDE COMPREHENSIVE SCENARIOS

In the second part of the workshop, participants discussed three EU-wide comprehensive scenarios developed within the LAMASUS modelling framework. Jonathan Doelman (PBL) presented draft comprehensive scenario results and demonstrated how the LAMASUS Land Policy Dashboard (<https://lamasus.vercel.app/>) can be used to explore trade-offs between agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability, climate mitigation, and land-use change.

Three forward-looking scenarios were developed that explore the future of the European agricultural and forestry sectors and the environment up to the year 2050. The LAMASUS scenarios explore different approaches to *balancing environmental goals, economic viability, and food security* in European agriculture. These scenarios are built on existing, legally binding European policies. Specifically, all scenarios aim to achieve the following targets, although it depends on the scenario whether the goals are met:

- The legally binding target of capturing **310 million tonnes of CO₂** through Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry sectors.
- The measures to support the implementation of the **Nature Restoration Law**, which aims to restore ecosystems across the EU.
- A **non-increasing CAP budget**, recognising that additional funding for eco-schemes or compensation for environmental constraints would require reducing other parts of the CAP, e.g. reducing standard direct payments.
- **Baseline**: Continuation of current trends, which includes only policy initiatives that are already legislated.
- **Full productivity (FP)**: Prioritises high agricultural output and incomes. CAP payments are redirected to productivity categories. The scenario relies on bioeconomy, biochar and forest expansion for carbon sequestration, and follows a minimalistic interpretation of the NRR. This minimises changes to farming but offers fewer climate and biodiversity benefits.
- **Environmental ambitions (EA)**: Maximises carbon sequestration and biodiversity. CAP payments are redirected to environmental categories, focusing on extensification in agriculture and forestry, peatland rewetting, and reduced inputs. This ensures strong climate action and biodiversity gains but lowers agricultural productivity.

Two scenarios were discussed in greater detail during the session: “Full Productivity” and “Environmental Ambitions”. The “Full Productivity” scenario prioritises agricultural productivity, technological innovation, and food security while maintaining selected environmental safeguards. In contrast, the “Environmental Ambitions” scenario places stronger emphasis on climate mitigation, biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration, and stricter environmental regulation. Both scenarios explore different pathways for balancing agricultural production, forestry, land-use change, and environmental objectives across Europe up to 2050.



The presentation highlighted how the scenarios integrate policy dimensions such as CAP implementation, carbon sequestration, peatland restoration, pesticide reduction, organic farming, and forestry management. Stakeholders discussed the realism of assumptions, regional differences, long-term trade-offs, and the communication of modelling uncertainties and scenario outcomes.

Further information on the LAMASUS scenarios and the Land Policy Dashboard is available on the LAMASUS website: <https://lamasus.vercel.app/europe/lamasus-scenarios-exploring-policy-futures>.

3.2.1. Break-Out Session I: Comprehensive Scenario Implications for Agricultural Policy, Nature Conservation, and Forest Policy

During breakout sessions, stakeholders discussed the implications of the comprehensive LAMASUS scenarios and key messages for a future LAMASUS Stakeholder Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe. The discussions addressed key gains and trade-offs associated with contrasting policy pathways, the implications of the baseline scenario, and possible ways forward for future European land-use governance. Stakeholders also provided feedback on the interpretation and communication of the modelling results, as well as possible refinements to the scenarios.

Participants were divided into three thematic groups covering agricultural policy, nature conservation and restoration policy, and forest policy. Across all groups, participants emphasised the importance of balancing food security, environmental sustainability, climate objectives, biodiversity protection, and viable farmer incomes. Policy coherence, regional flexibility, long-term sustainability, and effective communication of scientific evidence emerged as recurring themes throughout the discussions.

Agricultural Policy

The agricultural policy break-out session focused on the implications of the LAMASUS scenarios for farmer incomes, technological development, environmental sustainability, and the communication of modelling results. Stakeholders emphasised that income is the most relevant indicator for farmers and should therefore receive greater attention within the dashboard and scenario communication.

Participants also highlighted the importance of clearly explaining the baseline or “business-as-usual” scenario to non-specialists. Several stakeholders stressed that models may underestimate both technological progress and the adaptive capacity of farmers. In particular, technological innovation in organic farming and alternative production systems could reduce current yield gaps and alter long-term trade-offs between productivity and environmental sustainability.

The discussion further highlighted that environmental measures may appear costly in the short term but could become more economically viable over time as technologies and management practices improve. Stakeholders therefore stressed the importance of incorporating long-term dynamics into modelling approaches.

Finally, participants emphasised the importance of communicating complex modelling results in a more accessible and policy-relevant manner. Table 2 summarises the discussion accordingly.



Table 1: Key points raised during the agricultural policy breakout session

TOPIC	STAKEHOLDER COMMENT
Farmers and farm management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer income is the most relevant indicator and should receive greater emphasis within the dashboard and scenario communication. Models may underestimate the innovative and adaptive capacity of farmers to respond to environmental and economic challenges.
Scenario design and modelling dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “business-as-usual” scenario should be explained more clearly for non-specialists. Long-term dynamics should be better represented, as environmental measures may become more economically efficient over time.
Technology and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technological innovation, particularly in organic farming, may reduce current trade-offs between productivity and environmental sustainability in the future.
Communication of results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex modelling outputs should be communicated in a more accessible and policy-relevant way for stakeholders and decision-makers.

Nature Conservation

The nature conservation break-out session (see Table 3) focused on the relationship between biodiversity protection, food security, climate objectives, and agricultural production. Participants discussed how environmental and agricultural policies could be better aligned while accounting for regional differences and ecosystem resilience.

Stakeholders emphasised that concepts such as food security, sovereignty, and productivity require careful differentiation. Food security was described as depending not only on production volumes but also on affordability, accessibility, and nutritional quality. Several participants noted that reduced production within certain scenarios would not necessarily imply food shortages or insufficient nutrition.

A recurring discussion point concerned the importance of landscape diversity and regional approaches. Participants highlighted that biodiversity outcomes depend strongly on local ecological conditions and that different species benefit from different landscape structures. For example, meadow birds may require open landscapes, while other species depend on hedgerows and small-scale landscape elements. Stakeholders stressed that biodiversity cannot be achieved through homogeneous agricultural landscapes.

The discussion also emphasised the importance of ecological resilience for maintaining long-term agricultural productivity. Several participants argued that environmental sustainability should not be framed as being in opposition to food production, but rather as a prerequisite for long-term food security and climate resilience.

In addition, stakeholders highlighted the importance of co-benefits between biodiversity protection, soil quality improvement, and carbon sequestration. Participants further



discussed the role of regional flexibility, stakeholder involvement, and co-design approaches in improving policy implementation and social acceptance.

Table 2: Key points raised during the nature conservation break-out session

TOPIC	STAKEHOLDER COMMENT
Food security and sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security includes affordability, accessibility, and nutritional quality in addition to production volumes. • Reduced productivity does not necessarily imply insufficient nutrition or food shortages.
Biodiversity and landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity depends on heterogeneous landscapes and regional ecological conditions. • Different species require different landscape structures, such as open fields or hedgerows.
Environmental resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological resilience is necessary to sustain long-term agricultural productivity. • Environmental sustainability should not be framed as opposing food production.
Regionalisation and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental measures should account for regional differences and local conditions. • Co-design and stronger involvement of regional actors were considered important for successful implementation.
Co-benefits and ecosystem services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater attention should be given to synergies between biodiversity protection, soil quality, and carbon sequestration. • Environmental services require appropriate incentives and financial support.

Forest Policy

The forest policy break-out session focused on the multifunctional role of forests and the need for integrated and coherent policymaking approaches across the forestry and land-use sectors. Participants discussed how future forest policies should balance biodiversity protection, wood production, carbon sequestration, ecosystem services, and socio-economic functions.

Stakeholders emphasised that forestry policies should account for the resilience and multifunctionality of forests, including their role in biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, renewable material provision, and social well-being. The discussion highlighted that forests should not be managed according to individual policy objectives but through integrated approaches that recognise competing and complementary land-use functions.

A recurring theme was the importance of policy coherence across sectors and governance levels. Participants stressed that forestry policy should consider interactions with agriculture, biodiversity, energy, and climate policies while also accounting for landscape-level approaches and regional differences across Europe.



Stakeholders also emphasised the need for balanced dialogue among different interest groups and a shared understanding of forest sustainability. In particular, participants highlighted the importance of balancing forest removals with a net increase while accounting for environmental, economic, and social sustainability indicators.

The discussion further addressed the importance of improving communication regarding the societal value of forests and the ecosystem services they provide. Participants stressed that better communication and capacity building are necessary to improve understanding of forestry's contribution to climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and the bioeconomy. Table 4 presents the points in a structured way

Table 3: Key points raised during the forest policy break-out session

TOPIC	STAKEHOLDER COMMENT
Multifunctional forest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest policies should simultaneously account for biodiversity conservation, wood provision, carbon sequestration, ecosystem services, and social functions. • Forest resilience should become a central element of policymaking.
Policy coherence and integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry policies should be better integrated with agriculture, biodiversity, climate, and energy policies. • Landscape-level and sectoral approaches should be considered jointly.
Stakeholder dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple stakeholder interests should be considered equally within forestry policymaking. • Continued dialogue is necessary to align actors towards common objectives.
Forestry sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A common understanding of sustainable forestry is needed. • Sustainability assessments should balance removals and net increments while considering environmental, economic, and social indicators.
Communication and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communication is needed regarding the societal and environmental value of forests and ecosystem services. • Capacity building and stakeholder awareness should be strengthened.

3.3. SCIENCE SLAM: LAMASUS ROADSHOWS AND CASE STUDIES

The Science Slam session presented experiences and insights from several LAMASUS roadshows and national case studies conducted across Europe. The presentations highlighted how stakeholder engagement activities contributed to improved understanding of regional land use challenges, policy implementation, and modelling assumptions within the project. The session further demonstrated the diversity of agricultural, environmental, and socio-economic conditions across Europe and emphasised the importance of regional approaches and stakeholder involvement in future land-use policymaking.



3.3.1. France: The Role of Organic Farming in Hedgerow Conservation

Emilien Veron and Raja Chakir (INRAE) presented the French roadshow and case study focusing on the role of organic farming in hedgerow conservation. The roadshow took place in Paris in January 2026 and brought together researchers, policymakers, and representatives from agricultural and environmental organisations.

The French case study examined the relationship between agricultural practices and hedgerow density in France. The analysis showed that organic and converting farms tend to maintain higher hedgerow densities compared to conventional farms. Stakeholders discussed the importance of hedgerows for biodiversity, climate mitigation, and ecosystem services, as well as the role of targeted subsidies and policy instruments supporting hedgerow planting and maintenance.

The roadshow workshop identified several priorities for increasing hedgerow coverage, including financial incentives, training and awareness-raising, collective territorial projects, and improved market valorisation through labelling schemes. Participants also provided feedback on the LAMASUS dashboard, describing it as clear and accessible while suggesting additional policy scenarios and instruments for future analysis.

3.3.2. Norway: Managing Nutrients in Intensive Livestock Production

Klaus Mittenzwei (Ruralis) and Lennart Kokemohr (Ruralis) presented the Norwegian case study on nutrient management in intensive livestock production systems. The presentation highlighted the impacts of a tightened fertilizer regulation in the Jaeren province on Norway's west coast. The province has favourable climatic conditions that allow for exceptional grassland yield which lead to a concentration of intensive dairy farms.

The case study focused on environmental challenges related to nutrient surpluses, manure management, and phosphorus accumulation in livestock-intensive regions (see figure 3). Stricter fertiliser regulations introduced in response to environmental degradation were discussed. Using the farm optimization model FarmDyn they showed that current livestock densities may not be sustainable under future nutrient regulations, particularly due to limited manure-spreading capacity and high manure transport costs.

Participants at the Norwegian roadshow largely confirmed the modelling results and emphasised the need to reconsider the regional distribution of livestock production in Norway. Stakeholders also raised questions about how to better integrate research outputs and dashboards into existing communication channels and advisory systems used by practitioners and policymakers.

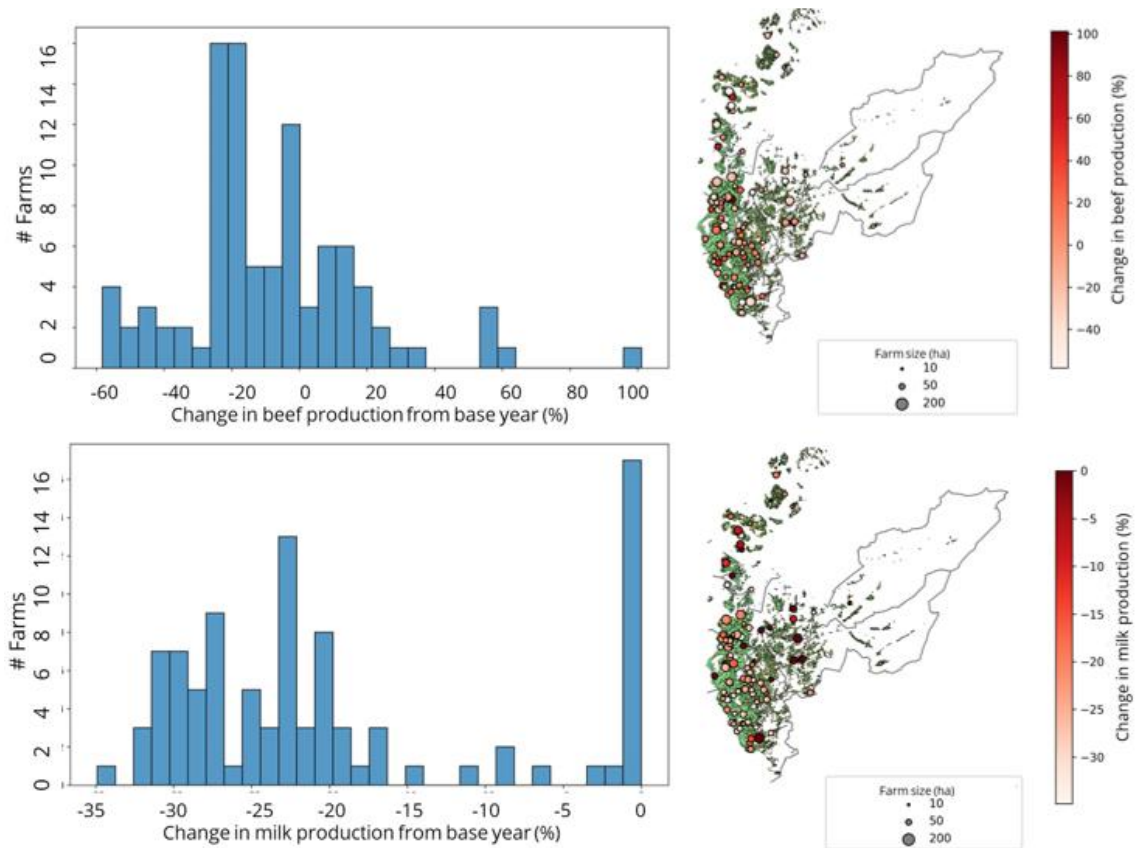


Figure 2: Simulated changes in beef and milk production under nutrient management regulations in Norway

3.3.3. Germany: Carbon Sequestration and Crop Diversification

Claudia Magnapera (ZHAW), Raushan Bokusheva (ZHAW), Till Kuhn (University of Bonn), Lennart Kokemohr, and Hugo Storm (University of Bonn) presented two German case studies focusing on carbon sequestration practices and crop diversification policies. The presentations explored how environmental policy measures may affect farm-level decision-making and the economic viability of agricultural adaptation strategies.

The first case study examined farmers' willingness to adopt carbon sequestration practices such as perennial grassland and hedgerows. The analysis showed considerable heterogeneity among farmers. While perennial grassland was generally perceived more positively, willingness to dedicate land to hedgerows remained relatively low due to long-term commitments and reduced management flexibility. Farmers also demanded compensation levels above the current EU ETS carbon price, although these values remained within the estimated social cost of carbon range.

The second case study focused on stricter crop diversification and crop rotation requirements under CAP conditionality rules. FarmDyn simulations showed that many farms already comply with existing rotation requirements and would therefore face only limited adjustment costs under moderate policy changes. However, stricter diversification requirements — particularly mandatory annual crop rotation combined with legume requirements — generated substantially higher costs for specialised farms and dairy systems.



Overall, the German case studies highlighted the heterogeneity of environmental compliance costs across farms and emphasised the importance of designing differentiated and regionally adapted policy instruments.

3.3.4. *The Netherlands: Dairy farms in Peatland Areas in the Netherlands – Impact of National and European policies*

Nico Polman, Walter Rossi Cervi (WUR), Wil Hennen (WUR), and Marc Muller (WUR) presented the Dutch case study on dairy farming in peatland areas and the impacts of national and European environmental policies. The case study addressed the challenges associated with peatland restoration, greenhouse gas mitigation, and livestock extensification in the Netherlands.

The analysis combined several models and datasets, including MAGNET, MagnetGrid, and FarmDyn, to assess the impact of LAMASUS comprehensive scenarios and national peatland policies on macroeconomic indicators and land use (figure 4), as well as on farm level agro-economic indicators. For the later, results indicated that environmental payments and water-level restoration measures may become economically unattractive for small and medium-sized farms over longer time horizons, while larger farms may remain more capable of adapting to policy changes

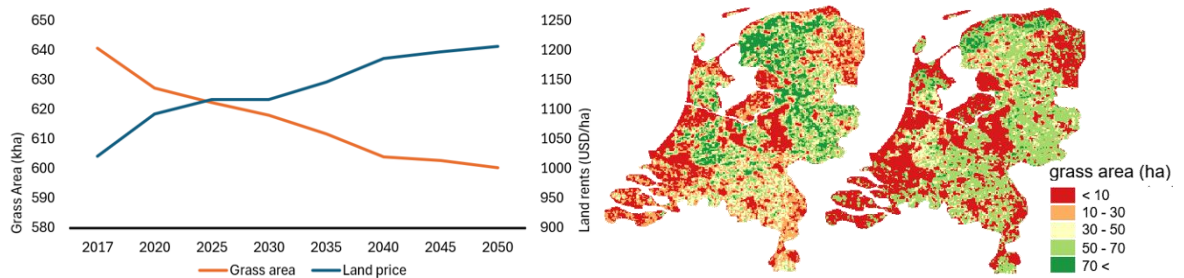


Figure 3: Left: MAGNET baseline projections of grass area and land prices in the Netherlands (2017–2050). Right: MAGNET downscaling of grassland allocation comparing the base year 2020 with the projected 2050 allocation.

Stakeholders discussed the long-term viability of low-productivity farming systems on peat soils and emphasised the importance of designing policy instruments that allow farmers to remain economically viable beyond temporary subsidy schemes. The case study further demonstrated how integrated modelling approaches can support future environmental policy assessments in the Netherlands.

3.3.5. *Austria: Alpine Farming*

Franz Sinabell, Sara Aref-Zahed (WIFO), Michael Wögerer (IIASA), Tamás Krisztin (IIASA), Verena Kröner (BOKU), and Erwin Schmid (BOKU) presented the Austrian roadshow focusing on alpine farming systems. The roadshow explored the role of alpine farming systems within Austria’s rural landscapes and discussed its environmental, economic, and cultural importance.

Using a SWOT and World Café approach, participants of the workshop discussed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with alpine farming systems across



different governance levels. Participants emphasised that alpine farming systems provide important ecosystem services, preserve cultural heritage, and support landscape management. However, these benefits are often insufficiently reflected in farm incomes.

Participants stressed that the long-term viability of alpine farming systems depends on economically resilient home farms with sufficient labour availability and functioning livestock systems. Improved coordination across governance levels – from local to EU level – was identified as a key requirement for supporting alpine farming and maintaining multifunctional mountain landscapes.

3.4. TOWARDS A LAMASUS DECLARATION ON LAND USE POLICIES IN EUROPE

3.4.1. Introduction of the LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies

Franz Sinabell and Nico Polman introduced the concept of a LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe as a tangible outcome of the project's stakeholder engagement activities. The declaration is intended to summarise the main insights emerging from the modelling work, policy analyses, and stakeholder discussions conducted throughout the project and to contribute to the final LAMASUS White Paper on land-use policies.

The presenters emphasised that the declaration should address all major dimensions covered by LAMASUS, including agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, climate mitigation, and rural development. Rather than aiming for a fully harmonised political position, the process was intended to identify common priorities, shared concerns, and possible pathways towards more coherent and sustainable land-use governance in Europe

Participants were invited to reflect on how future land-use policies could successfully balance food security, environmental sustainability, climate objectives, biodiversity protection, and viable rural livelihoods. The discussion also emphasised the need to turn scientific findings into useful recommendations for policies, considering the variety of land-use systems and viewpoints across Europe.

The session also served as an introduction to the second round of break-out discussions, in which stakeholders were asked to formulate a “vision of success” for future European land-use policies and to identify the main governance challenges and opportunities associated with achieving this vision. The draft LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe can be found in the Annex II.

3.4.2. Break-Out Session II: Describing the Vision of Success

The second round of break-out sessions focused on developing a shared vision for future European land-use policies and identifying the governance conditions necessary to achieve this vision. Participants discussed how agricultural, biodiversity, climate, and forestry policies could be better aligned while maintaining viable rural livelihoods and resilient land-use systems.

Across all thematic groups, stakeholders emphasised that future land-use governance should move beyond isolated sectoral objectives and instead adopt integrated and multifunctional approaches. Discussions highlighted the importance of balancing food security,



environmental sustainability, biodiversity protection, climate resilience, and socio-economic viability while accounting for regional differences across Europe.

Agricultural Policy

The agricultural policy break-out session focused on how future agricultural policies can support environmental sustainability while maintaining productive and economically viable farming systems. Participants stressed that future policy frameworks must create workable solutions for farmers rather than simply introducing increasingly ambitious environmental targets.

A recurring discussion concerned the role of farmers and rural communities within future land-use governance. Stakeholders emphasised that farmers should be recognised as central actors in delivering sustainable outcomes and environmental services. Several participants highlighted that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should maintain its focus on small farmers and rural areas, while also supporting the transition towards more sustainable production systems.

Participants further discussed the importance of policy design and long-term perspectives. The group highlighted that short-term productivity gains may undermine long-term sustainability and that environmental ambition often generates short-term economic costs for farmers. As a result, stakeholders stressed that farmers should be fairly paid not only for the crops they lose, but also for the public goods they provide that are good for the environment and the climate.

Another important discussion point concerned the balance between incentive-based approaches (“carrots”) and regulatory approaches (“sticks”). Participants emphasised that poorly designed or insufficiently communicated policies generate unintended outcomes and resistance among stakeholders. The discussion also highlighted the importance of training, advisory services, and clearly communicated policy guidance to support implementation.

Stakeholders further noted that current modelling approaches still insufficiently capture behavioural responses and farm-level adaptation strategies. While the LAMASUS project was recognised for improving the understanding of policy trade-offs, participants stressed the need for clearer communication of modelling assumption

Nature Conservation

The nature conservation break-out session focused on how environmental and agricultural policies can be better integrated to simultaneously support biodiversity protection, climate mitigation, and agricultural production. Participants stressed that environmental sustainability should not be considered as being in opposition to food production but rather as a prerequisite for long-term food security and resilience.

Stakeholders highlighted the importance of regional approaches and co-design processes. Participants argued that environmental measures are often more effective when local actors are actively involved in policy implementation and when regional ecological conditions are properly considered. Several participants also emphasised the need for stronger connections between agricultural and environmental policies, for example, through landscape connectivity and soil restoration measures.



Another recurring discussion concerned ecosystem services and environmental incentives. Participants stressed that environmental protection requires adequate funding and clearly defined priorities. Concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness of current eco-schemes, as some stakeholders argued that existing schemes sometimes prioritise administrative compliance over measurable environmental outcomes.

The discussion further highlighted the broader societal implications of biodiversity loss and climate change. Participants referred to a “threefold crisis” consisting of climate, biodiversity, and social challenges, arguing that increasingly intensive and homogeneous agricultural systems may become more vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks in the future.

Participants also emphasised that the LAMASUS models provide an important contribution to understanding the trade-offs associated with implementing European climate and biodiversity legislation. The discussion highlighted that the key challenge is no longer whether action is needed, but rather how transitions towards more sustainable land-use systems can be implemented effectively and fairly.

Forest Policy

The forest policy breakout session focused on the multifunctional role of forests and the importance of integrated governance approaches. Stakeholders emphasised that forestry policies should account for biodiversity conservation, wood provision, carbon sequestration, ecosystem services, and social functions in an integrated way.

Stakeholders stressed the importance of policy coherence across land-use sectors and highlighted the need to better integrate forestry policies with agricultural, biodiversity, and climate objectives. The discussion also emphasised the importance of maintaining dialogue among stakeholder groups and ensuring that forest governance reflects economic, environmental, and social sustainability objectives equally.

In addition, stakeholders highlighted the need for a shared understanding of sustainable forestry, particularly regarding the balance between forest removals and net increments. Better communication of the societal value of forests and the ecosystem services they provide was also identified as an important priority for future policymaking.

3.4.3. Reporting Outcomes and Discussion

The plenary discussion reflected on the common themes emerging across the break-out sessions and highlighted the strong interconnections between agricultural productivity, biodiversity protection, climate mitigation, and rural livelihoods. Participants agreed that future European land-use policies require more integrated and regionally adapted governance approaches capable of addressing environmental and socio-economic challenges simultaneously.

Stakeholders emphasised that environmental ambition must be accompanied by adequate incentives, long-term policy stability, and stronger recognition of the ecosystem services provided by farmers and landowners. The discussion also highlighted the importance of improving communication of modelling assumptions, uncertainties, and policy trade-offs in order to strengthen the usability of scientific evidence for policymaking.



Finally, participants agreed that future land-use governance should focus less on achieving complete consensus and more on transparently managing trade-offs, identifying shared priorities, and strengthening cooperation between policymakers, researchers, and land managers.

3.5. CONCLUSION AND WAY AHEAD

The fourth LAMASUS stakeholder workshop provided an important opportunity to discuss future pathways for European land-use policies and strengthen the interaction between researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and civil society representatives. The workshop demonstrated the value of stakeholder engagement for improving modelling assumptions, identifying practical implementation challenges, and increasing the policy relevance of project results.

Across the different sessions, participants emphasised the importance of balancing food security, climate mitigation, biodiversity protection, environmental sustainability, and viable rural livelihoods. A recurring theme throughout the workshop was the need for more coherent and integrated policymaking approaches that account for the multifunctional character of European land-use systems and the diversity of regional conditions across Europe.

Stakeholders repeatedly highlighted the importance of regional flexibility, long-term perspectives, and effective communication of scientific evidence and modelling results. Discussions also stressed that environmental ambition requires adequate incentives, compensation mechanisms, and governance structures that support farmers, landowners, and rural communities throughout the transition process.

The workshop further contributed to developing a shared vision for future land-use governance by discussing a LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe. The discussions demonstrated substantial common ground regarding the need for policy coherence, ecosystem resilience, stakeholder participation, and evidence-based policymaking, as well as highlighting differences in perspectives.

The feedback collected during the workshop is contributing to further refinement of the LAMASUS scenarios, modelling framework, policy recommendations, and stakeholder declaration. Future project activities related to stakeholder engagement focus on finalising the LAMASUS White Paper, further dissemination activities, and the preparation of the final project event in Brussels in October 2026.



Annex I: Final Agenda of the Workshop



***** DRAFT AGENDA Version 2026-03-04 *****

LAMASUS stakeholder Workshop 2026 March 5-6 in Brussels, Belgium

Venue Bd Simon Bolivar 34, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Wednesday, March 4, 2025

19:00 Official Dinner Caspian Restaurant

Thursday, March 5, 2025

11:30 – 12:20 Lunch O sole mio Pizzas

12:30 – 13:00 Walk and register at REA

13:00 – 13:15 Welcome, highlights from LAMASUS

Petr Havlík, IIASA

13:15 – 13:20 Aims of the workshop

Franz Sinabell, WIFO

13:20 – 14:00 Keynote - Update on the Coming Agricultural Policy reforms

Tassos Haniotis to introduce Barth

Barthelemy Lanos, European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

15 min presentation followed by 25 min of discussion and Q&A

14:00 – 15:00 The EU-wide comprehensive Scenarios of LAMASUS

Jonathan Doelman, PBL

Explaining results using the LAMASUS Land Policy Dashboard



Introduction and assignment to breakout session I (Franz Sinabell)

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 Break-Out Sessions I: Towards a LAMASUS Stakeholder Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe – thematic group discussions on comprehensive scenario implications (no rotation)

Aim:

- a) key gains and trade-offs under two extreme scenarios
- b) what are the implications of the baseline scenario trajectory?
- c) a pragmatic, best way forward for the EU based on the two extreme scenarios
- d) messages for the modelers – possible modifications
- e) feedback on the functionality of the Land Policy Dashboard

Material: LAMASUS Land Policy Dashboard of scenario full productivity / environmental protection

We will discuss within three non-rotating groups

- (1) agricultural policy (Main room, chair: Nico Polman, expert Peter Witzke, note-taker: Franz Sinabell)
- (2) nature conservation/restoration policy (room 007, chair: Astrid Bos expert: Jonathan Doelman, notetaker: Sara Aref Zahed)
- (3) forest policy (room 222, chair: Petr Havlik expert: Michael Wögerer note-taker: Walter Cervi Rossi)

Instructions:

We have 5 aims and want to attain them in this session

The expert gives a short description (a repetition without extra slides / using Jonathan's slides): in particular explain baseline scenario and the two extreme scenarios, specific for either agricultural policy, nature conservation/restoration policy or forest policy – not longer than 10'

Round-table:

- Step 1: People introduce themselves and give their main impressions/views/reflections on Jonathan's / expert's presentation (30')
- Step 2: Chair asks people to: (30')
 - People make notes on "trade-offs" ("EU feeds the world" BUT "environment is degraded") – stick them on a poster (section "trade-offs") that is on the table.



- People make notes on “key gains” (“EU productivity is increased” AND “land sharing technologies give room for more biodiversity/forestry”) – stick them on a poster (section “key gains”) that is on the table.
- Step 3: Discussion (notetakers make notes): What are the best ways to avoid “trade-offs” and strengthen “key gains”.
- Step 4: Messages for the modelers and dashboard (35’)
 - Stick them on a poster that is on the table (section “Message and dashboard”)

17:00 – 18:00 Reporting Outcomes of Break-Out Session and final discussion

Chair: Franz Sinabell

Chairs report on the results of the discussion

- Report on the four steps, including more general remarks
- Record on phone (AI will transcribe & summarize)
- Notes: Sara Aref Zahed

18:15 – 18:45 Hotel check in

19:30 Dinner Caucasian Experience

Friday, March 6, 2025

09:00 – 09:05 Introduction to the second day

Chair: Nico Polman

09:05 – 09:45 Science Slam: LAMASUS Roadshows and Case Studies

Chair: Franz Sinabell

Claudia Magnapera, Emilien Veron, Walter Rossi, Klaus Mittenzwei, Verena Kröner

09:45 – 09:55 Introduce Concept of a LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies

Franz Sinabell

09:55 – 10:05 Summarize Outcome of Previous Day and Introduce Workshop II on Declaration

Nico Polman

10:05-10:35 Coffee break

10:35 -11:10 Break-Out Session II

Towards a LAMASUS Declaration: Describe the Vision of Success



Groups such as on Thursday

- (1) agricultural policy (Main room, chair: Nico Polman note-taker: Michael Wögerer and Franz Sinabell (rapporteur))
- (2) nature conservation/restoration policy (room 007, chair: Jonathan Doelman, notetaker: Sara Aref Zahed and Astrid Bos (rapporteur))
- (3) forest policy (room 222, chair: Petr Havlik; note-taker: Verena Kröner and Walter Rossi (rapporteur))

Task: Imagine you are members of the team that has successfully delivered land use policies for the next CAP. What would you delete/change/add to a declaration?

Prepare about 5 main bullet points in max 2 slides

11:15 – 11:35 Plenary Reporting Outcomes of Break-Out Session and discussion

Chair Nico Polman,

Rapporteur teams

Note-taker: Franz Sinabell

3 presentations

All participants are asked to identify contradictions or to signal strong consensus

11:35 – 11:50 Introduce Vision for 3 policy areas

Presenting: Franz Sinabell

Vision of group has not yet been included.

notes: Sara Aref Zahed

11:50 – 12:30 Agree on the current situation and define the steps to deliver the vision

Chair: Nico Polman

Ask reflection

Record on phone (AI will transcribe & summarize)

Notes: Sara Aref Zahed

Task: Discuss how to resolve contradictions or benefit consensus

12:30 – 12:45 Wrap-Up, the Way Ahead, Closure

Franz Sinabell and Petr Havlík

13:00 – 14:30 Pasta factory in front of REA



Annex II: First Draft of LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies



Towards a LAMASUS Declaration on Land Use Policies in Europe

Declaration on Land Use Policies in the EU: A Framework for Resilience and Vitality

I. Preamble & Shared Vision: The Landscape of Cooperation

We, a group drawn from the fields of agriculture, forestry, environmental conservation, research and administration acknowledge that Europe's land and soils are the finite, and the living foundation of our society. These resources now face an unprecedented collision of demands. Whereas European population is likely to shrink, global population is still growing. Our reliance on land for food security, renewable energy, and timber remains unchanged. Yet, simultaneously, these landscapes are being squeezed by intensifying environmental pressures—from soil and biodiversity degradation and water scarcity and pollution to the erratic climate shocks.

We recognize that the land can no longer be viewed as a passive backdrop for production; it is a stressed ecosystem that requires integrated, systemic management if it is to sustain life for generations to come.

Our shared **vision** is a diverse European landscape where **climate neutrality** and **biodiversity restoration** are not viewed as constraints on production, but as the foundational requirements for long-term **food security, rural vitality and viability of land using sectors**. We move beyond the era of "top-down" regulation towards a model where farmers, forest managers, and land managers are recognized as the primary **co-designers of environmental health and economic prosperity together with other residents and stakeholders** offering opportunities for new entrants. We commit to a **transition that leaves no land manager behind**, ensuring that the stewardship of public goods is met with robust economic viability.

1. **II. The Four Core Action Areas: Navigating Trade-offs**
2. **Action Area Agriculture – Income viability**



- **Key Challenges:** Volatile market prices and the increasing costs of environmental compliance, soil and biodiversity loss and a lack of young entrants into the sector threaten the financial solvency of many holdings.
 - **Political Trade-off:** A fundamental tension remains between **income support which functions also as a social safety net** in many regions and **environmental conditionality**. Policy-makers must decide if CAP funds remain a subsidy linked to land and livestock or transition fully into a "Public Money for Public Goods" approach.
 - **Key Solutions:** Further transition the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) toward an effective mix "Results-Based Payment" model and practice-based payments to provide more effective incentives. Public support should be coupled to the quantifiable delivery of ecosystem services (e.g., carbon sequestration, water retention). Spatial explicit results from LAMASUS research offers guidance on where to prioritize efforts.
3. **Action Area Forestry – Adaptive Resilience and Sustainable Management**
- **Key Challenges:** Increasing climate and biodiversity loss-induced disturbances (fires, pests) require urgent intervention, yet some conservation goals favor non-intervention.
 - **Political Trade-off:** Conflict persists between **passive "rewilding"** for biodiversity and **active management** for the bioeconomy. The policy process must define context-specific "resilience thresholds" to determine where intervention is necessary versus where nature should take the lead.
 - **Key Solutions:** Adopt an **"Active Management" Model**, which promotes climate-resilient mixed species and active thinning maintaining valuable ecosystem services to prevent catastrophic wildfire loads, while strictly protecting remaining old-growth primary forests.
4. **Action Area The Natural Environment and Biodiversity – Nature-Based Solutions (Nbs) as Economic Assets**
- **Key Challenges:** Conservation is frequently viewed as an "opportunity cost" rather than a natural capital investment. Furthermore, external costs of production or impact of different economic sectors are frequently not fully internalized and large scale soil degradation threatens the resilience of economic and natural systems.
 - **Political Trade-off:** Disagreement exists regarding the **economic valuation of nature** and the implications for promoting the provision of ecosystem services and putting prices on environmental damage. This requires a common understanding and a political settlement on the "Framework for Natural Capital."
 - **Key Solutions:** Integrating NbS (such as riparian buffers, mixed use water retention areas and agroforestry) into regional infrastructure planning. This treats biological restoration as a cost-effective alternative to the most frequently used approaches of flood and drought mitigation.
5. **Action Area Social Equity – Generational Renewal and Land and rural Vitality**
- **The Challenge:** Land concentration and high entry costs prevent young farmers from entering the sector, leading to land abandonment, contributing to a declining rural population and as a result rural decay.
 - **Political Trade-off:** The tension between **private property rights** and the **social-public function of land**. Addressing land concentration may require interventions in land markets that rely on innovative forms of land reform enabling farm succession and transparency of markets.



- **Key Solutions:** Implement "Land Access Banks" and preferential credit for "New Entrants" who commit to regenerative practices benefiting from Results-Based Payment, as highlighted in the Mission: Soil Manifesto.