



# Added values of Social Farming

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Module 3

Unit 3

# Presenters' bio

Lena Franke

- Bachelor study of organic agriculture at the University of Kassel in Witzenhausen 2015 – 2020
- Bachelor thesis: “Structures of advice for the development of Social Farming using the example of Hesse”
- Master study of organic agriculture since 2020
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- Volunteer year and internship at pedagogical farms





# Content of this Unit

- Added values of Social Farming for farms, included people, social organizations, for health and social sector, rural areas, biodiversity and nature, society
- Examples of specific added values on Social Farms
- Chances and weaknesses of inclusion of i.e. people with disabilities into farm work
- Case Management
- Aims and results of the EIP-project “Added values of Social Farming for agricultural production” (second presentation)



# Learning outcomes

After studying this resource, you will be able to:

- Explaining the possibilities to create added values for all actors involved on a Social Farm
- Indicating added values of Social Farming for biodiversity and landscape development
- Generating added values of Social Farming for the environment by using many “helping hands” for landscape development, active care and measures integrating farm elements which increase biodiversity
- Categorizing chances and weaknesses of inclusion of i.e. people with disabilities into farm work
- Recognizing and discussing the importance of communicative processes within a farm and illustrating the need of Case Management

# Aim of this presentation

- The aim of this presentations is, to gives an overview about the topic added values of Social Farming
- It is focusing the different added values including examples
- Chances and weaknesses of inclusion of i.e. people with disabilities into farm work
- Gives an introduction in Case Management



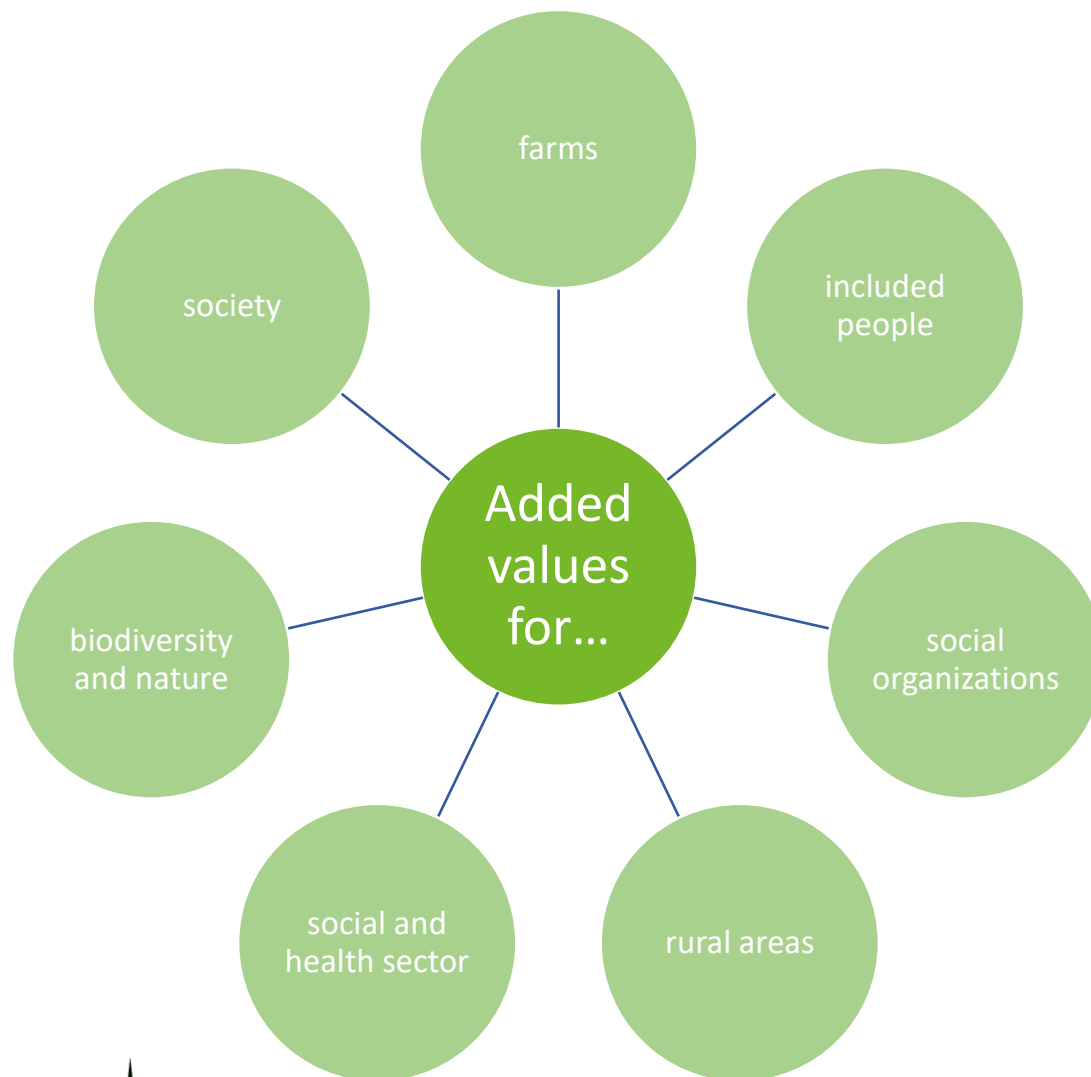
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- Added values of Social Farming for biodiversity and nature
- Added values of Social Farming for society
- Chances and weaknesses of inclusion of i.e. people with disabilities into farm work
- Case Management



# Introduction: Added values

- “Is there more about Social Farming as only the inclusion of people in a farm?”
  - “Is offering people of different target groups a place to work or/ and to live at a farm, useful for a farm?”
  - “Gives social work on a farm something back?”
  - “Does Social Farming have an impact of additional sections apart from social work and agriculture?”
- Opportunities to improve a farm
- Opportunities to diversify a farm





# Added values for farms

- Social Farming as branch of the farm has three features with impacts on a farm:
  - Additional income
  - Inclusion of non-agriculture people
  - Incorporation in the network of the social sector
- Features of Social Farming affects the farm in three sections:
  - Financing
  - Management
  - Agricultural production

# Added values for farms

| Operating range<br>-----<br>Feature of Social Farming | Financing  | Management   | Agricultural production   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Income</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New source of income</li> <li>• Increase liquidity</li> <li>• Providing an economical perspective for the farm</li> <li>• Future viability of a farm</li> <li>• Capacity for new jobs on a farm (social worker)</li> <li>• Transfer from part-time to full-time employment</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief: less performance and economic pressure</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimization of the farm by investment</li> <li>• Reconstruction of the farm</li> <li>• More time for details, important additional agricultural activities (i.e.: soil protection, composting, care of cultural landscape)</li> <li>• Protection of small structured agriculture</li> </ul> |

# Added values for farms

| Operating range<br>-----<br>Feature of Social Farming | Financing   | Management  | Agricultural production   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Inclusion of non-agricultural people</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity of diversification of income i.e.: farmer-to-consumer direct marketing</li> <li>• More Knowledge, new ideas</li> <li>• Chance of development alternative economical concepts (CSA)</li> <li>• Financial distribution of risk</li> <li>• customer acquisition by public relation work</li> <li>• Increase sale</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief, support</li> <li>• More knowledge, new ideas, creativity and dialogue → chance of development for the farm</li> <li>• Sharing of risk of temporal shortage and problems through distribution of responsibility (social worker)</li> <li>• More counterparts (i.e.: to reduce the generation conflict)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of useful manual labour</li> <li>• Support</li> <li>• Needs/ offers reorganization of the farm</li> <li>• Optimization</li> <li>• Replacement of technic through useful manual labour: reliability, more calculable, empathy</li> </ul> |

# Added values for farms

| Operating range<br>-----<br>Feature of Social Farming    | Financing  | Management   | Agricultural production  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Incorporation in the network of the social sector</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source of income</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public relation work attracts people</li> <li>• New perspectives enlarging the horizon</li> <li>• Distribution of risk</li> <li>• Relief and support</li> <li>• Consultation is needed and offers reflection of the farm</li> <li>• Chance of development conversion of a farm</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion to organic agriculture</li> <li>• Improvement of animal welfare</li> </ul> |

Many helping hands can  
change the character of a  
farm.

- Preservation of useful  
manual labour
- Replacement of technic  
through useful manual  
labour: reliability, more  
calculable, empathy

Hauteroda (Germany),  
Camphill Markus  
Gemeinschaft



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- Agricultural resources can be protected
- Organic and more sustainable cultivation is possible
- Diversity of agricultural products
- Direct marketing or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)



- Further processing like picking, cleaning and peeling
- Conservation of fruits and vegetables



Hofgut Richerode  
(Germany)



## Example leaf-hay:

- Invaluable winter feed  
winter for ruminants
- Aspect of landscape care

Bauckhof Stütensen  
(Germany)



- Increase of human-animal-relationship
- Increase of animal welfare
- Higher meet quality

Social Farm with  
youngsters (North of Italy)



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# Added values for included people

- experiencing work making sense together with plants, animals and the soil
  - Activity, assistance, living, care, therapy, education and pedagogic
  - Participation in rhythms of day and year, in gardening and working with agricultural livestock
  - Working and/ or living place
  - Working and living in a community
  - Social cooperation
  - Having a sense making work





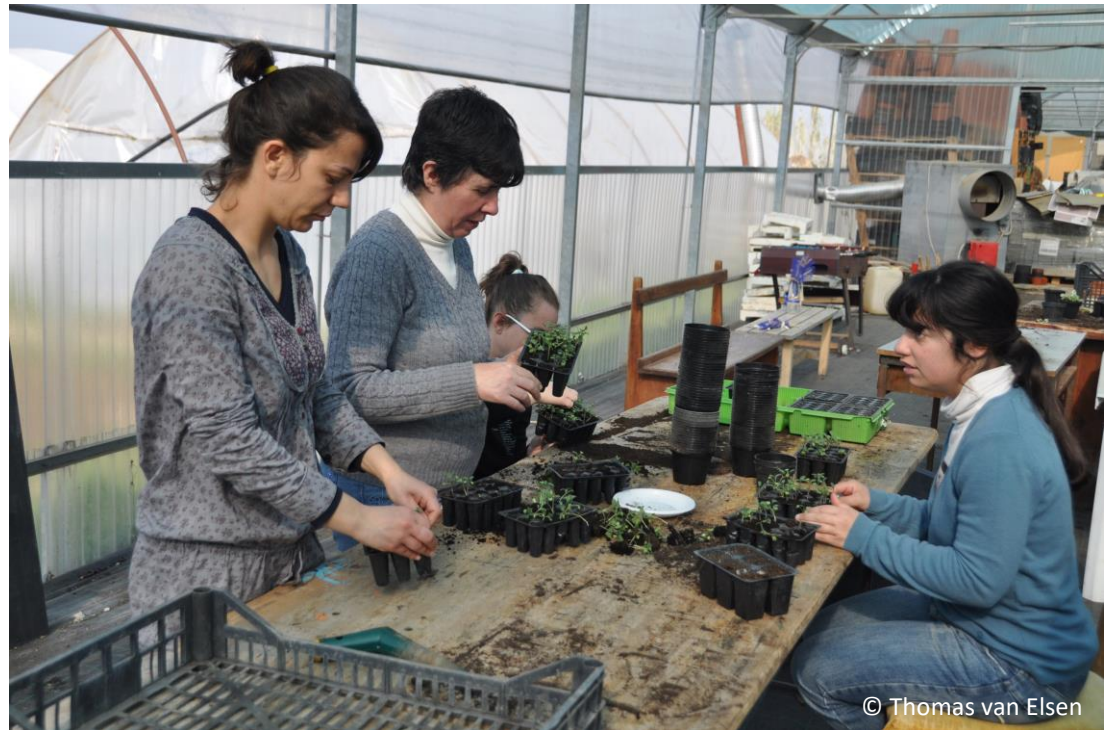


- Sense making work
- Dealing with living beings increases the meaningfulness of the work
- Independence at work
- Strengthens self-confidence

Hofgut Richerode (Germany)

- Working and living in a community
- Teamwork
- To have a responsible job

Cooperativa Capodarco  
(Italy)





# Added values for social organizations

- Enlarging their offers:
  - Therapeutical places on farms
    - Animal assisted therapy
    - Garden therapy
  - Living on farms





- Example: garden therapy
- Can help sick people to actively take their lives into their own hands
- To practice skills and to reduce deficits
- Concentration and writing skills can be supported

Social Farm in Italy

# Added values for health and social sector

- Saving costs for society by health/ salutogenic prevention
- Social Farming helps generating a „healthy life“
- Social Farming combines social policy and environment protection
- „Environment protection is health protection“
- Pedagogical goals







A farm offers an useful context to experience the importance of communication and working together.

- To support young people to develop sustainable thinking and acting
- To learn a responsible handling with resources of nature and society

Gut Mönchhof (Germany)

# Added values for rural areas

- Creation of infrastructure
- Farm shops
- Common goods
- Gastronomy
- Agrotourism
- New jobs





## Example: Gut Sambach

- Biodynamic farm
  - People with psychic disease and/ or disabilities
  - Products: meat, vegetables, cheese, bread
- Sold at the farm shop, the farm café and at different weekly markets

## Gut Sambach (Germany)



# Added values for biodiversity and nature

- Environmentally-friendly management
- Animal welfare
- Care and development of the cultural landscape
- „Caring by using“
  - Hedges for leaf-hay
  - Hedges for wild fruits for processing
  - Manual care of plants and weeds → less or no need of pesticides, less soil compaction
  - Forestry work



Landscape elements such as hedges can be tended to with the many helping hands of Social Farming.

Hedges:

- Can be used for leaf-hay
  - Offer habitat for animals
  - Structure the landscape
  - Can provide wild fruits or herbs
- For example for jam or tea





Example: care of cultural  
landscape

Social Farming can  
support the preservation  
and protection of the  
cultural landscape.

Hof Steinich (Germany)



Forest work can be done  
by workers from Social  
Farms.

- Wood to supply  
energy
- Forest regeneration

“Mudra forest project”,  
Nürnberg (Germany)



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# Added values for society

- Health prevention by Social Farming needs less effort than expensive therapies
  - Inclusion
  - Rehabilitation of people with need of support
  - Prison farming for social rehabilitation of prisoners
  - Care farms for elderly people
  - Children and youth welfare
  - Farm schools → different education/ school form
  - Quality of life





## Example: prison farming

- Socializing effect of meaningful work itself
- Imparting of professional skills
- Positive effects on well-being
- Improvement, for example of self-esteem, independence, punctuality, the ability to work in a team, self-assessment and the sense of responsibility



## Example: care farms for elderly people

- To touch people emotionally
- Especially for people with dementia
- Offers: living with and without additional offers, seniors flat share / nursing home on a farm, hourly / leisure activities



## Biohof Wohlfart (Germany)

# Chances and weaknesses of Social Farming for a farm

## Chances

- Supporting the farm by more helping hands with simple handwork, distribution of work and relief
- Conservation and sustainability of small-scaled agriculture, niches and traditional professions
- Allows conversion to organic agriculture
- Building an active network that supports developing the farm with social activities, what allows further opportunities
- Public relations: social commitment of a farm is a strong attribute for social responsibility → new customers and improved selling of agricultural products
- Selling of agricultural products also can be increased by direct marketing

## Weaknesses

- Many bureaucratic efforts are a challenge for the farm
- Farmers often do not have enough time for it
- The financial values for the farm are not sufficiently ensured
- The time for conversion to Social Farming might take longer than expected and may be an economic risk
- The reorganization of the farm and a lot of work for the management, personnel management and organization of work could overstrain farmers
- Farm work with people with different disabilities needs more time and flexibility
- The demand for advice is high

# Chances and weaknesses of inclusion of i.e. people with disabilities into farm work

| Chances   | Weaknesses   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A conversion to Social Farming can reach social aims as well as the optimization of working processes</li><li>• Additional „(wo)manpower“ could be a relief for the farm management and a support for agricultural work</li><li>• Opening the farm for non-agricultural people from the social sector, can enrich the farm with their knowledge, ideas, creativity and dialogue and allows further chances for development</li><li>• Manual labour by Social Farming can improve the product quality (for example: cheese care and milking hygiene)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long process of conversion</li><li>• Inclusion of non-agricultural people needs time, support from the outside and maybe restructuring of farm processes</li><li>• Support of farmers is important, because they need to acquire new competences to cope with responsibilities for new employees in the future</li><li>• Management and organization of diversified working areas should not be underestimated</li><li>• Possibly negative impact on the product quality</li></ul> |



# Success is depending on:

- General management: personality, intrinsic motivation, social competence, flexibility, adaptability, communication and coordination skills among different occupational groups (social worker and farmer)
- Included people: personality, target group, level of physical and mental constraint, willingness and enthusiasm for farm work
- Farm: wide range of working fields with a lot of simple and routine activities (livestock farming, vegetable gardening, preparation, direct marketing), opportunity of useful manual work, clear strategy, good concept, good marketing



# Case Management

- Farms integrating social services into their farm concept face the challenge to ensure not only quality of agricultural production, but also the quality of social work.
- PROFARM developed a future professional profile of the Case Manager, which accompanies people with disabilities on farms. Future Case Management shall ensure the quality of Social Farming.





# Case Manager

- Person from the social sector can act as an intermediary between social organizations, farm and the person who receives care
  - A company for employed persons into a farm through a social or therapeutic worker
  - Person who is well informed about social and agricultural operating ranges of the farm
- Is able to mediate between employee, farm and payers
- Supervisory body for goals Social Farming of the farm

# Function of Case Managers

- A Case Manager could be a solution to ensure the quality of inclusion:
  - By regular evaluation of the work place
  - By professional guidance of people with need for help
  - Sharing tasks between farmer and Case manager offers added values for Social Farming, as well as for people with special needs and the farmers



# Case Manager as interface

## Personal level:

- Communication
- Analysis of demands und expectations
- Identification of aims related to individual inclusion

## Network level:

- Ability to set up a network,
- Coordination and connecting all actors

## Process level:

- Support of active participation
- Evaluation of the whole process of development



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# Thank you for your attention!

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