

EIP project “Added values of Social Farming for agricultural production”

Lena Franke

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
- Assistant of Thomas van Elsen for Petrarca since 2020
- Volunteer year and internship at pedagogical farms





Learning outcomes

- Knowing about the tasks, implementation and results of a European EIP project (example: “Added values of Social Farming for agricultural production”)
- Assessing what contents of advice for Social Farming are needed
- Explaining the possibilities to create added values for all actors involved on a social farm.
- Finding aspects for further development of existing farms and preparing ideas for own concepts of Social Farming.



Aim of this presentation

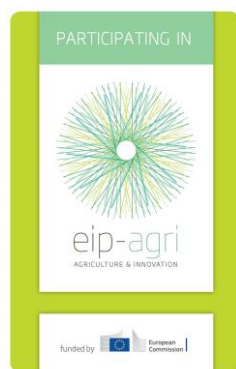
- Exemplifies a European EIP project in more detail
- Presents aims and results of the EIP project “Added values of Social Farming for agricultural production”
- Gives an overview of the development status of Social Farming in Hesse
- Gives insights into the “Starter course Social Farming Witzenhausen” developed as part of the project for project development of Social Farming
- Illuminates advisory content for Social Farming
- Keeps recommendations for practice that have emerged from the results of the EIP project



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- Recommendation for practice

EIP project “Added values of Social Farming for agricultural production”



- 2018 – 2020
- Elaborated in the context of “The agricultural European Innovation Partnership” (EIP-AGRI)
- Interdisciplinary operational group of producers, consultants and scientists research and support the potential of social and pedagogical work for the development of farms in Hesse

Project members

- University of Kassel, Department Organic Farming and Cropping Systems (Prof. Dr. Jürgen Heß), Dr. Thomas van Elsen
- European Academy for Landscape Culture PETRARCA e.V.
- Network Social Farming of Hesse
- Service unit of Agriculture of Hesse “Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen (LLH)”



Project partner farms

- Hof Fleckenbühl
- Antonius-Hof
- Hof Buchwald
- Hofgut Richerode (Hephata)

die Fleckenbühler

Perspektiven schaffen – drogenfrei leben



antonius 
Hof

Hof Buchwald 

Natürlich mit Liebe erzeugt ...

Hephata[®]
Diakonie 

Antoniushof



antoniushof 
Hof

Hofgut Richerode



Hephata[®]
Diakonie 



Hof Buchwald



Hof Buchwald 
Natürlich mit Liebe erzeugt ...

Hof Fleckenbühl



die Fleckenbühler

Perspektiven schaffen – drogenfrei leben



Questions

- How has the inclusion of social work to be designed to create an added value for the farm and its agricultural production?
- Which preconditions have to be fulfilled, which frame is needed and which advisory needs are there?
- Which target groups of Social Farming are suitable for which agricultural branches of the farm and what positive impacts for production are there?
- Which further potentials can farms generate by Social Farming – for production and diversification of the farm but also for rural areas like conservation and care of the cultural landscape?





Tasks

1. Online survey 2018: „Evaluation of Social Farming in Hesse“
2. Evaluation of the project partner farms
3. Education and further education: „Starter course Social Farming Witzenhausen“
4. Contents of advice
5. Knowledge transfer

1. Online survey: „Evaluation of Social Farming in Hesse”

- Perspectives of development and funding opportunities of Social Farming in Hesse
- 23 active farms, 30 interested farms, 22 active organizations and two interested organizations participated

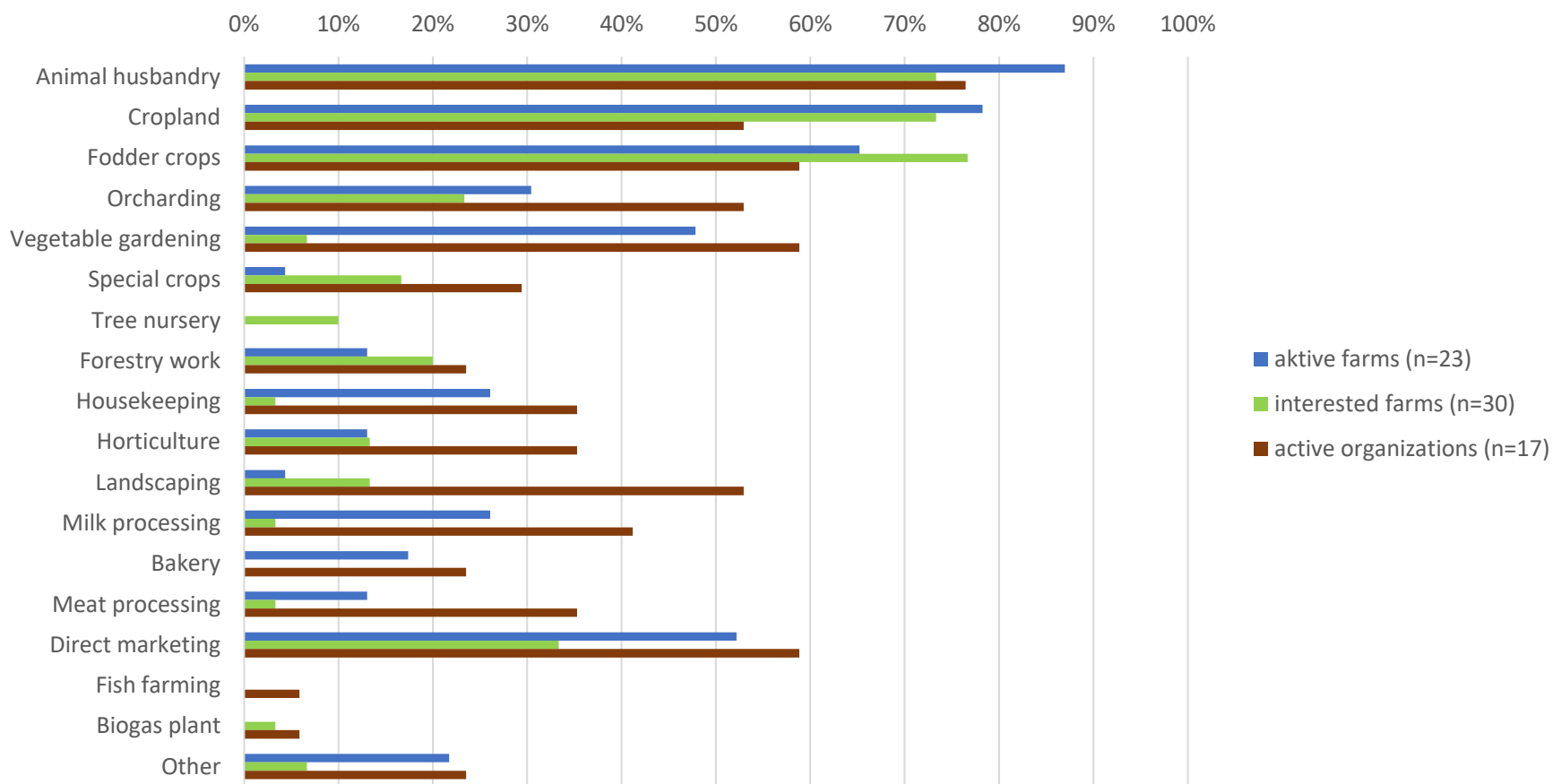




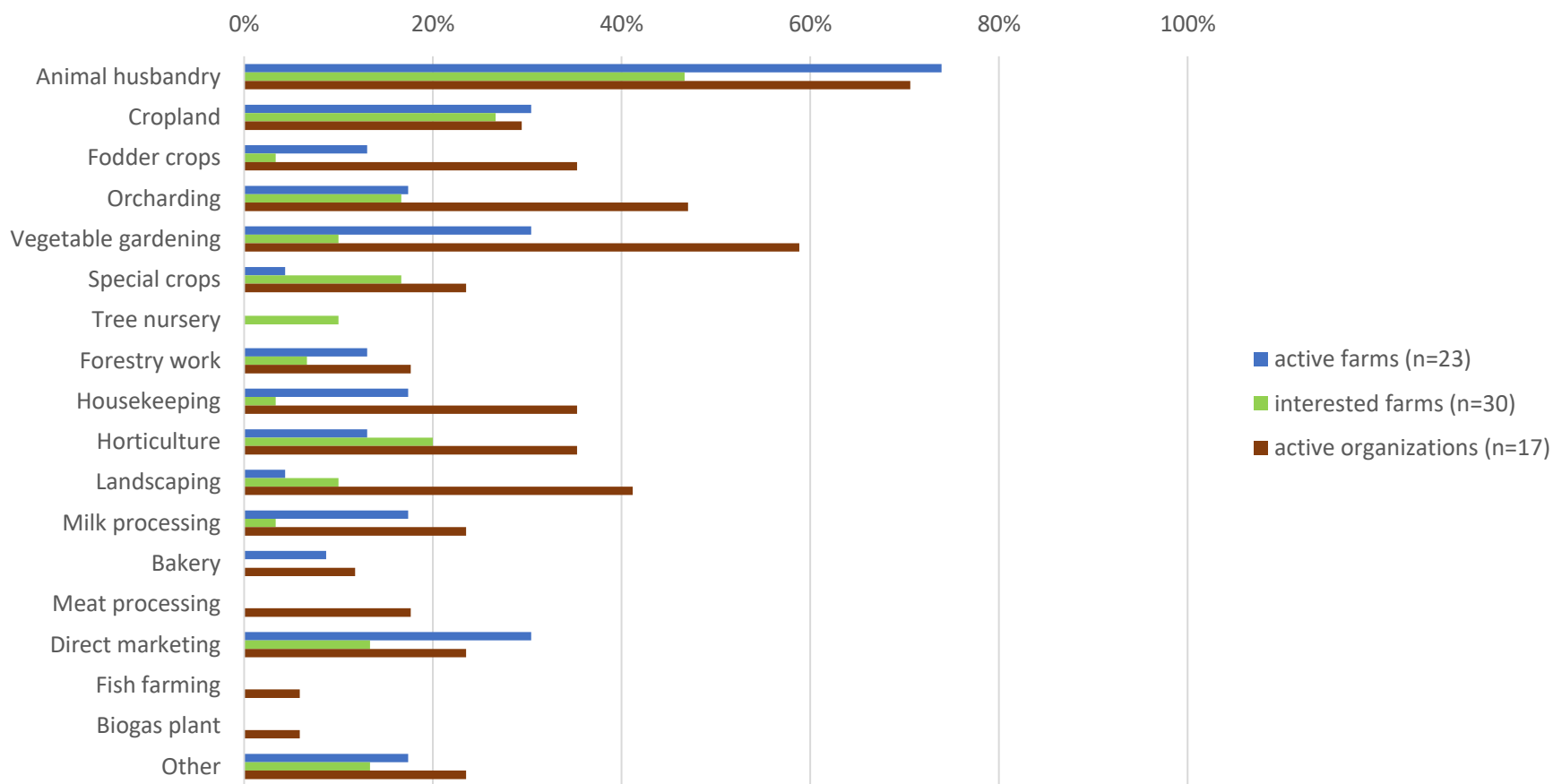
Main investigation areas of the online survey

- Which offers of Social Farming are there for different target groups in Hesse?
- Which providers are there so far and what are the current needs?
- Which institutions and social organizations are currently active in the field of Social Farming?
- Which central actors will be relevant for the development of Social Farming in the future?
- What is the experience of the effects on primary production by including different target groups? Are added values generated?

Branches at the surveyed agricultural farms and organizations

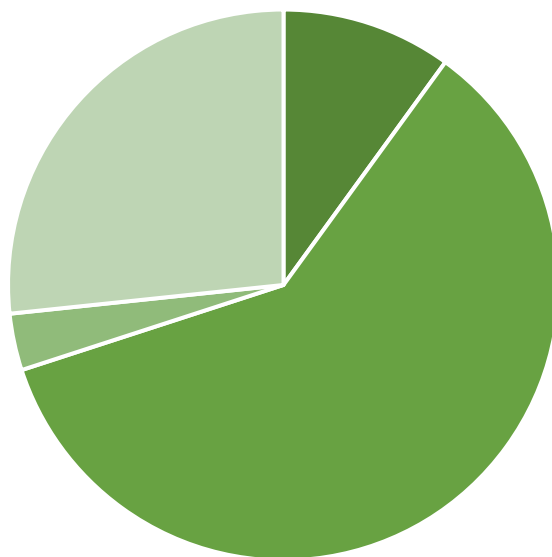


Agricultural branches with Social Farming



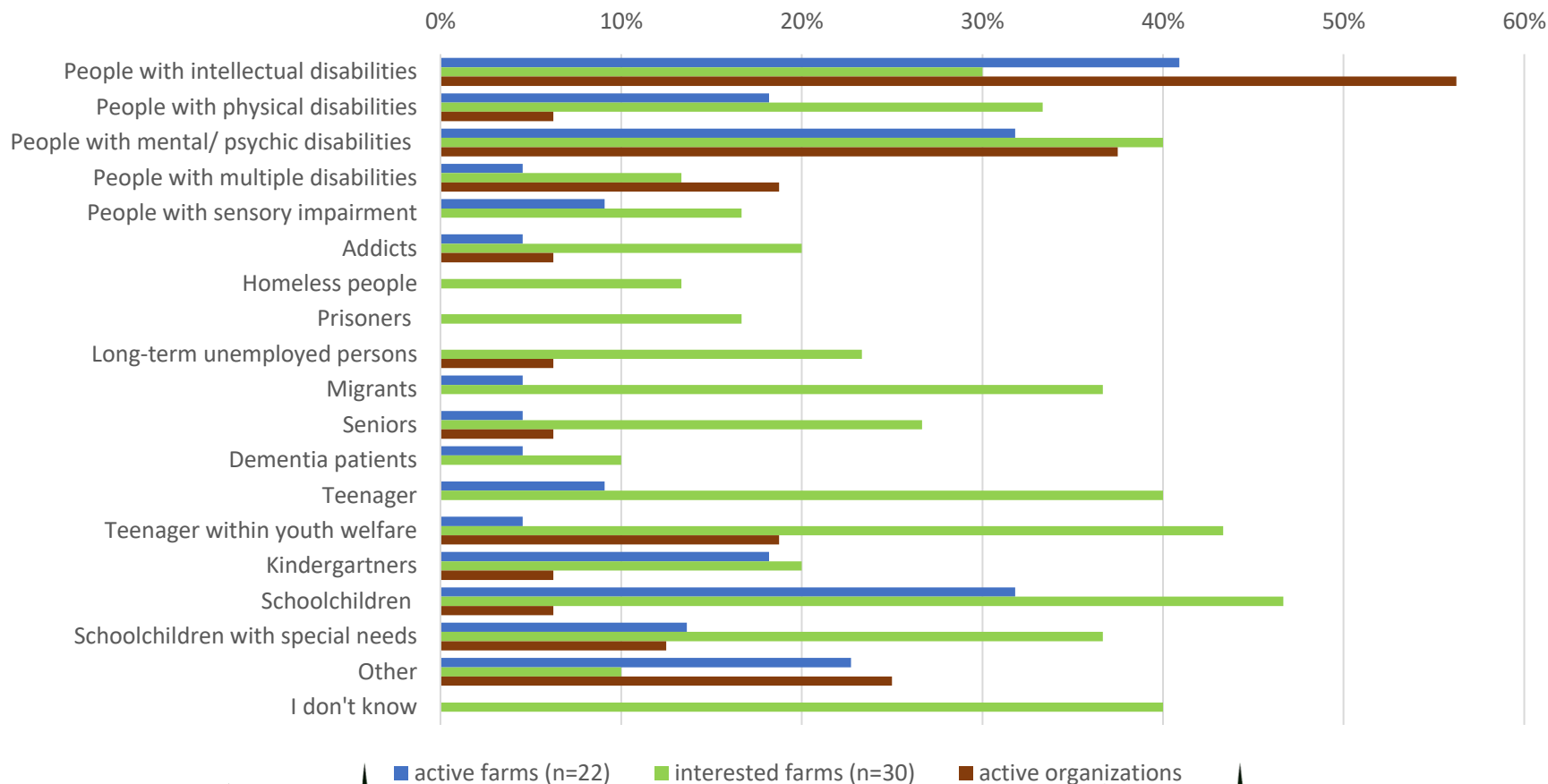
Cooperation plans of farms interested in Social Farming

Interested farms (n=30)



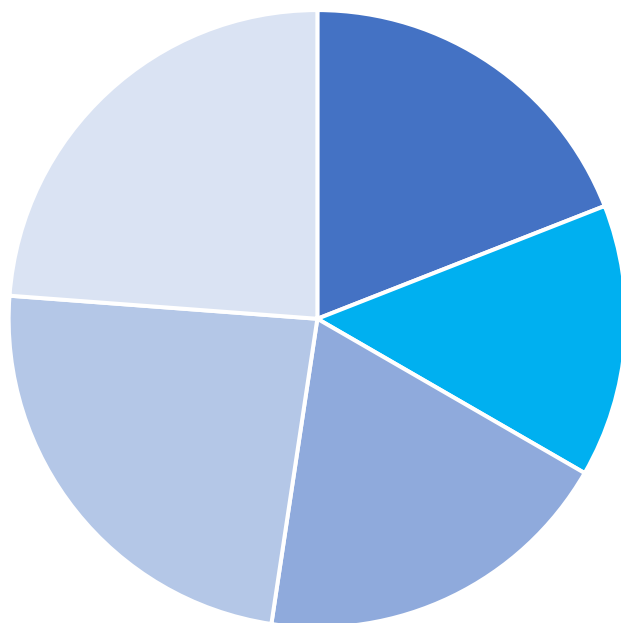
- I already have a social organization in mind as a cooperation partner
- I can imagine collaborations
- I would like to develop Social Farming independently of social organizations
- I do not know yet

Target groups what are or should be involved in agricultural production



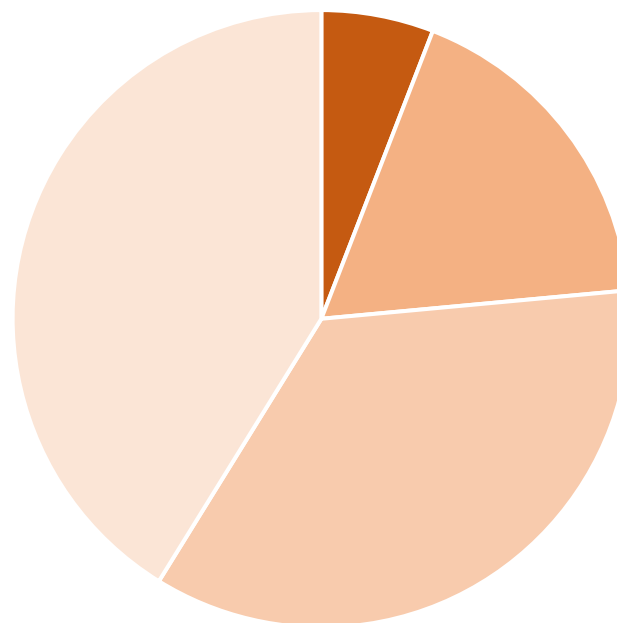
Is Social Farming practicable without public funds?

Farms (n=21)



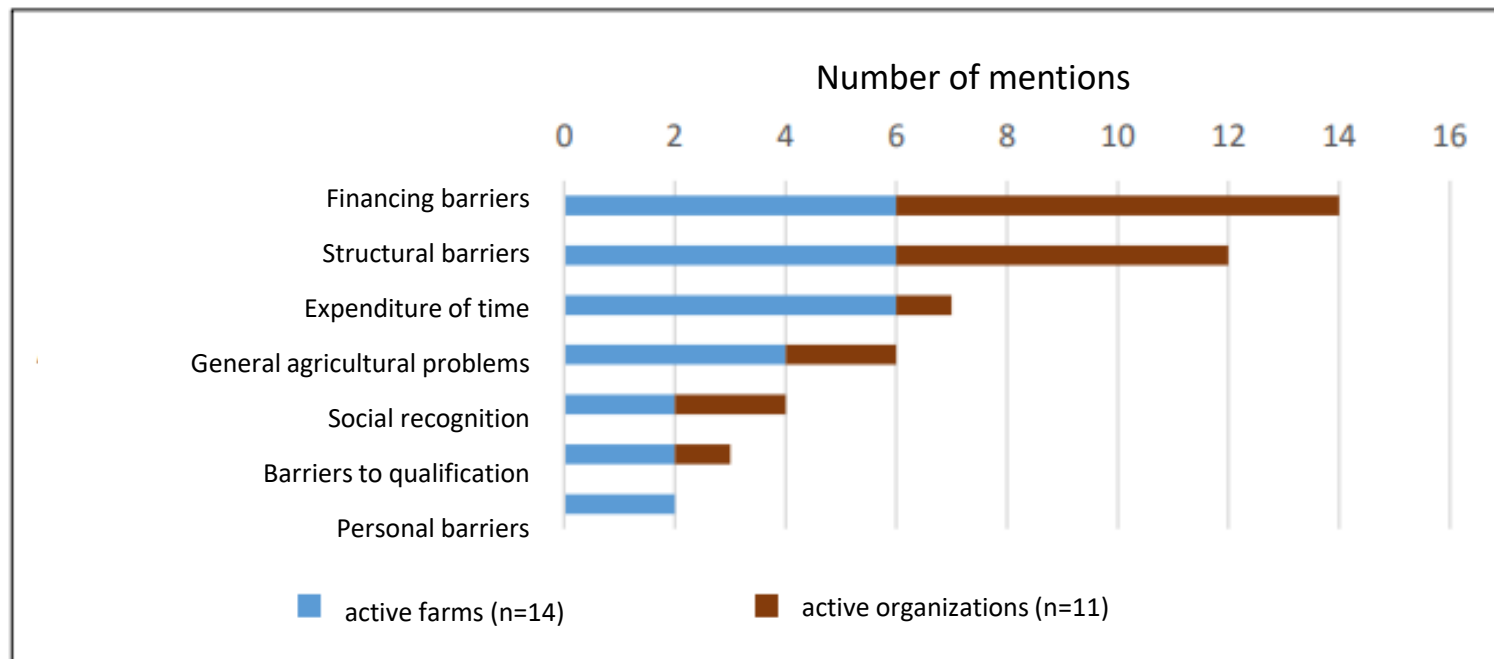
- Yes, in any case
- Yes, perhaps
- Is not calculated/ I don't know
- No, rather not
- No, in no case

Organizations (n=17)



- Yes, in any case
- Yes, perhaps
- Is not calculated/ I don't know
- No, rather not
- No, in no case

Obstacles for economic efficiency of Social Farming





Results of the online survey

- Huge diversity of target groups, which work current at Social Farms
- Big interest in inclusion
- Fields of activity are most frequent in livestock farming, fewer in highly technical operating ranges
- Social Farming can make diversification possible and expand product range
- Great interest of the farms in cooperating with social organizations
- The main obstacles to development of Social Farming are financial and structural obstacles



2. Evaluation of the project partner farms

- Examination of:
 - Development obstacles
 - Approaches for optimizing or setting up Social Farming
 - Added values for agricultural production
- Farms have been anonymized for data protection reasons

Farm A

- Animals: suckler cows, two chicken mobiles with several hundred chickens
- Marketing: from the farm and through smaller shops in the region
- Changing interns
- Integrates and trains young people with special needs
- Cooperation with association of youth welfare
- Social Farming is to be expanded further



Farm B

- Animals: dairy cattle
- Products: grain, feed, milk, fiber linen, potatoes
- Marketing: via supra-regional company, potato sales from the farm
- Aims:
 - To set up a workspace for a person with special needs
 - To open the farm to society
 - More social life on the farm



Farm C

- Walnut farm
- Products: walnuts, walnut seeds and young plants
- Marketing: seed and young plant marketing from the farm and the Internet
- Has been involved in refugee aid
- Is looking for a suitable model of Social Farming for his farm
- Is looking for further partnerships with social organizations



Farm D

- Animals: 90 dairy goats plus offspring, 40 suckler cows plus offspring, 230 chickens in mobile stables
- Products: goat cheese, beef, eggs
- Marketing: goat cheese and beef sales from the farm, goat cheese to various organic and supermarkets in the region
- The farm is already working inclusive with people with disabilities
- Cooperates with a workshop for people with disabilities



Potentials of Social Farming

Potentials for...	...agriculture	...farmer	...farm	...people with need for support
	<p>Option for a promising agriculture → expansion without an increase of land</p> <p>Approach of agriculture to society</p> <p>Increase public awareness of agriculture</p> <p>Generating the “human part” of agriculture</p> <p>Generating an added value of society as a farm</p>	<p>Individual development</p> <p>More joy in the work through cooperation</p>	<p>Higher economic efficiency</p> <p>Finding a suitable employee for the farm</p> <p>Improving liveliness at the farm</p>	<p>Useful activity</p> <p>Encouraging autonomous being</p> <p>Self-esteem</p>

Social Farming: obstacles of development

Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance of contracts and agreements • No financial support • Distance to social organizations (costs → no regular cooperation possible; problems with included person) • Assessment of potentials between cooperation partners – what is possible? • Finding appropriate employee with need for support for the farm
Everyday life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work management and preparation as burden • personal attitude • Leading competence and competence of guidance
Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of more work • Fear of more bureaucracy • Question of time in harvest season
Structures	<p>Operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding workplace in technical agriculture • Physically separated operating ranges <p>Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient communication between decision-makers • Unclear responsibilities
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding basis of decision • Time-consuming researches

Approaches of Social Farming

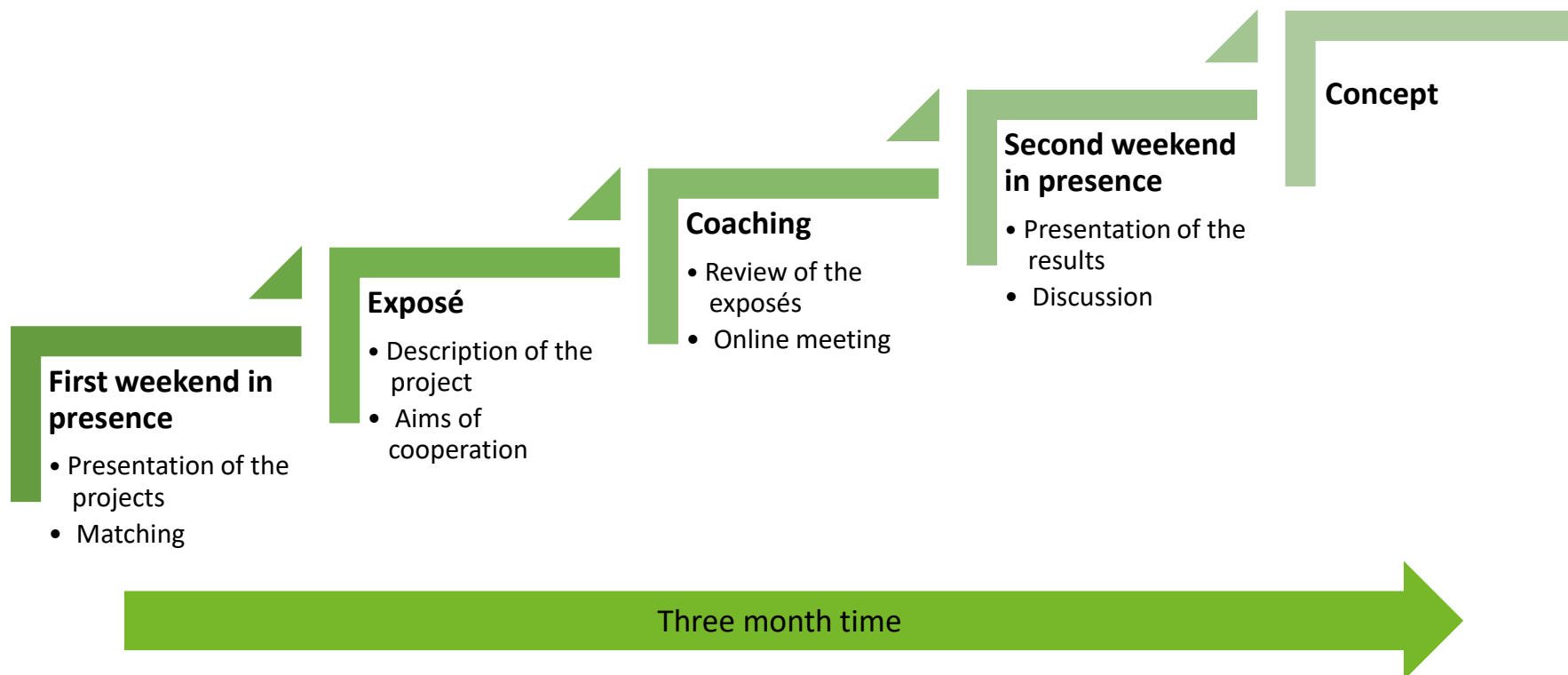
farm	A	B	C	D
Vision	Development like “the big social institutions” of Social Farming	Social and vivid agriculture Connection between Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and Social Farming	To produce an added value for society Use of work in a therapeutical concept	Improvement of existing Social Farming Development of accommodation at the farm – unity of living and work
Arrangement	Option 1: Continuation of case-related work Option 2: Cooperation with social organization Option 3: Takeover of the farm through a social organization continuation as a social institution with agricultural production	Expansion of the farm through CSA building greenhouses, start-up of the field, social rooms Provider of workplaces for people who wants to do senseful work First step: Coaching, for creating a concrete plan for development	Employment of two persons from September until February possible if machines for walnut harvesting are at the farm – a lot of potential for manual work First step: Creating a concept	More easy tasks for employees (mobile chicken stable, reactivation of gardening for herbs) building facilities for accommodation at the farm for six to eight persons Maybe expanding cultivation of vegetables and farm shop

3. Education and further education: „Starter course Social Farming“

- Course with students from the University of Kassel/ Witzenhausen of Organic Agriculture and initiators, who want to start a Social Farm
- Teams: one student and one project owner improve the project idea and the concept
- Successful pilot run in winter 2019/20
 - Seven projects
- Second course 2020/21
 - 10 projects
- Third course started in November 2021
 - Three projects



Course structure



Special characteristic of the course

The objectives of the course are:

- Contemporary study:
 - Not just basic information and knowledge transfer
 - Not just memorizing and repeating what you have learned
- The course should serve the practitioners' project ideas very individually and freely
- Networking of the projects with each other





4. Contents of advice

- Development of strategies and content of advice for social agriculture with an advisory team from the service unit of Agriculture of Hesse “Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen (LLH)”
- Tested and developed with the partner farms of the project
- Four tables for different target groups were developed:
 - Table 1: “i.e. People with disabilities ”,
 - Table 2: "Older people"
 - Table 3: "Children and young people"
 - Table 4: Target groups with so far only little known information and funding opportunities
- Each model has a brief description, information on financing and funding options, links for further information and contacts
- The tables are intended to help consultants get a quick overview of the options to be considered

Contents of advisory

- Some topics of advice for Social Farming are:
 - Advice on funding opportunities and financing
 - Technical advice (e.g. on legal questions)
 - Advice on training opportunities
 - Advice on cooperation
 - Support with concept creation
 - Public relations support
 - Support with care (e.g. vacation replacement)
 - Marketing support



5. Knowledge transfer

- Two well attended conferences in Witzenhausen
 - Project reports at the website www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de, in the newsletter of Social Farming and at the conferences
 - Meeting in Wiesbaden with different ministries
- Discussion about needs for action for promotion and development of Social Farming in Hesse





Recommendation for practice

- Social Farming is a way to let more people participate in agriculture and to develop multifunctional agriculture
- The start of Social Farming needs good advice and conception, cooperation partners, knowledge of the suitability of the farm for different target groups and the necessary qualifications
- A cooperation of a farm with a social organization enables people in need of help to create a place in agriculture and society



Sources

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Thank you for your attention!

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