Innovation Conference

Climate Positive Farming

29th of January 2020

hosted by MEP
Martin Hlaváček
Keynote

Michael Prinz
ZU SALM-SALM

Head of EU Affairs
and former President,
Familienbetriebe Land und Forst
Innovation as a mean for Climate Smart Farming

Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm
Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm

- Born in 1953
- Studied business administration
- Married, 6 children, 21 Grandchildren

- 1982 - 2018 responsible for the 1000 year old Prinz Salm estate.
- Founder of „Salm-Salm & Partner“, an asset management company specialized in agriculture and forestry

- Vice-President of the European Landowners Association
- President of Friends of the Countryside
32 Generations of land managers in Wallhausen

• The family survived 50 wars and many changes.
• 32 generations stewardship of the land.
• Started organic winegrowing and swapped from plantations to nature-like forestry.
• Member of „Fair’n Green“: With a holistic approach, integrate 29 factors to reach full sustainability.
• What was reached in small in Wallhausen needs to be done in big!
Four main objectives in European agriculture

1. Produce enough food for Europe
2. Give farmers a sustainable income
3. Limit the rise of global temperature to below 2°C
   - Paris Agreement: EU to cut CO₂ emissions by 40% until 2030
4. Stop the loss of biodiversity

! Conflict of aims !
Key innovations to reach these objectives (1)

Politics needs to lead the change:

A. Consumers:
   • Rise of consciousness changes the demand > a better production
   • Support local productions

B. Technologies:
   • Foster technological development
   • 4th agricultural revolution: digitalisation is a huge chance!
Key innovations to reach these objectives (2)

C. Land Management:
• Support innovative development.
• Intensify exchange of best practices (ELO Soil Award)
• Value the ecosystem services to allow landowners to strengthen them

D. Sustainability:
• Support the development of sustainable branches
• Develop circular economy
• Reduce the production of waste and CO$_2$ emissions
• Integrate the environmental costs
Integrate environmental costs into the production

We need a holistic approach; they have been ignored for too long!

Two ways to cover these costs:

- Changes in the markets (Integrate the consumer: e.g. through certifications, helping him to differentiate the products.)

- Private services to the public (Public money for public goods. Finance the realisation of effective environmental measures)
Value ecosystem-services for climate goals

Habitat for organisms – water purification – provision of food – carbon sequestration – wood as construction material – etc.

Millions of land managers have an interest in improving their land.

→ They are part of the solution! They work and know their land.

→ Give the land managers the tools to choose the best ways for their own strategy at a local level.

→ As rural entrepreneurs, they test innovative ideas. (Different ideas provide biodiversity)

→ Competitive and supportive environment, no overregulation.
The European Green Deal is an opportunity!

Landowners can increase carbon capture and mitigation measures through their activities.

→ We need a system like carbon credits to give them the possibility to finance their efforts.
→ The industries polluting the land need to be part of the solution.

Examples of measures for carbon sequestration in forestry and agriculture:

• Strengthen afforestation and better soil-management
• Optimize forestry management
• Optimise resilience, carbon stock and potential for substitution. (e.g. wood)
• Adapt the number of livestock
We can win the battle against the $\text{CO}_2$-emissions!

We did it before:
→ Stopped acidic rain through emission controls of $\text{SO}_2$ and $\text{NO}_x$ in the 80’s.
→ Stopped Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC’s) in compliance with UN Montreal Protocol in 1987.
Conclusion

• We have a full set of solutions to reach climate positive farming.
• A holistic approach is needed since all is interrelated.
• Land managers are key players. They are the solution to the problem.

→ Let’s give them the means to innovate on their land!