

EISA: Enhancing biodiversity through Integrated Farming - a viable alternative to organic farming



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European Biodiversity Conference
Brussels, 7 December, 2016**

Hosted by MEP Karl-Heinz Florenz

Martijn Buijsse, EISA



EISA: Who are we?

Founded in 2001, today **National Members** from 7 EU Member States ...



France



Germany



Luxembourg



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING

Great Britain



Hungary



Sweden



The Netherlands

... and **6 Associate Members** from the agri-food chain:

ECPA – ELO – FEFAC – Fertilizers Europe – IFAH-Europe – SAI Platform

... developing and promoting sustainable farming systems

... Creating a united voice for sustainable agriculture and enabling its practical implementation on the ground through the development and promotion of Integrated Farming

Integrated Farming ... a holistic approach characterised by a continuous improvement process in the delivery of more sustainable agriculture

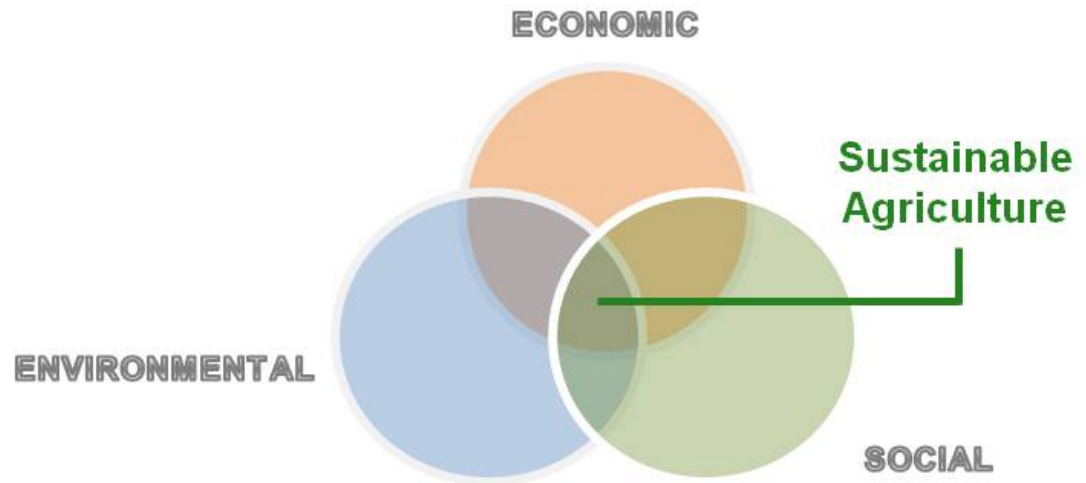




EISA – developing & promoting Integrated Farming

Our commitment: To contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals which relate to agriculture through Integrated Farming (IF).

Integrated Farming delivers prosperous agriculture that enriches the environment & engages local communities ... protecting & enhancing biodiversity is a key part of this



Responsible management of the landscape leads to enhanced biodiversity. It helps protect soil and water & improve land value, farm image and market opportunities. In addition, environmental land management will support a range of ecosystem services that benefit both the farm and the surrounding area.

Some key statistics:

- 74% of LEAF Marque certified farmers leave over 5% of land uncropped
- 72% have conservation headlands
- 73% adjust field operations to protect nests
- 85% retain all their hedgerows and boundaries
- 75% ~~works on~~ increase their soil organic matter as part of their wider soil management plan
- 70% take up of agri-environmental schemes



Results from Skylarks annual report:

- 92% of Skylark certified farmers use catch crops to improve soils (OM, N-binding or other functions)
- 79% have at least 3 crops as part of their crop rotation
- 59% adjust field operations to avoid destroying of nests
- 26% brought up more variety in the tree strip around the farm
- 53% add compost to the soil in order to increasing their soil organic matter as part of a wide soil management plan
- 33% takes op with agri-environmental schemes
- 32% have created new nests for birds in the fields
- 26% have field strips



Interested to meet us? Demonstration Farms / Sites



Explanations:

- France: 100
- Luxembourg: 3
- The Netherlands: 10
- Sweden: 15
- United Kingdom: 38 (Demo Farms)
+ 7 (Innovation Centres)



These demo farms are ready to show the holistic concept of Integrated Farming (IF) or specific IF practices to other farmers, policy makers, authorities, journalists, as well as other agri-food chain stakeholders, etc.



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The Natural Capital & Public Goods delivered by farmers are increasingly recognised & important

Integrated Farming delivers:

- For biodiversity
- For farmers
- For the public

Thank you!

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