

# Biodiversity and the added value of knowledge through training

**AKIS** *in support of the environmental and climate ambition of the CAP*

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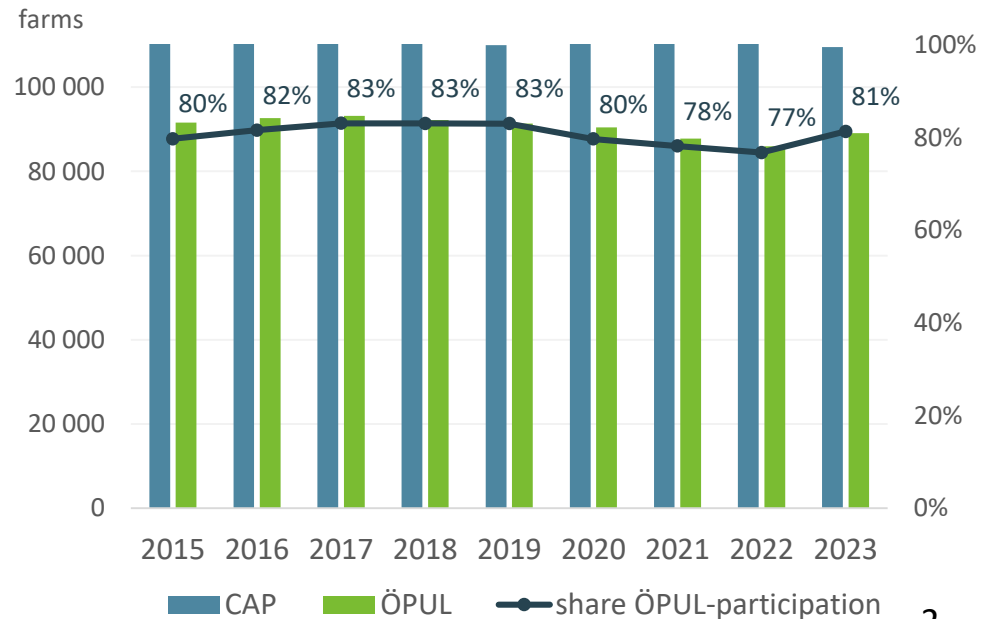
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## AT Agri-environmental Programme „ÖPUL“

- voluntary, since 1995  
ÖPUL 2023 AECM + Eco-Schemes  
» **evolution of existing framework**
- high participation & motivation  
» **training & advisory**
- environmental ambition  
» **horizontal & specific interventions**  
» **holistic environmental approach**



## structural change: intensification vs. abandonment



agriculturally used land becomes scarce  
and **potential high yield land is intensified**

**low-productive areas** are at risk of  
**abandonment** of agricultural use

**both developments lead to a decline in biodiversity**





## biodiversity targets of ÖPUL 2023-27

Preservation of the species-rich cultural landscape through a horizontal approach

Protection of genetic diversity in agriculture by specific measures

Maintenance and improvement of high nature value habitats and species by tailor-made-management solutions

Orientation towards result-oriented approaches

Raising awareness of the value of biodiversity (ecological/economic) by respective compulsory trainings within AECM measures

**Reversal of biodiversity loss in the cultural landscape**



# ÖPUL 2023-27: horizontal approach 7%

## biodiversity areas on arable land & grassland



### Upgrading biodiversity areas on arable land:

- further increase to 7%
- improved species composition
- prolonged management-free time periods
- possibility to sow species-rich seed mixtures



### Upgrading biodiversity areas on grasslands

- further increase to 7%
- improvement of management options (A delayed 1st cut, B prolonged management-free time periods, C „old grass strip“)
- possibility of sowing species-rich mixtures



+ 3h compulsory training with focus on biodiversity areas

# Training courses in ÖPUL focusing on biodiversity

## Environmentally sound and biodiversity- promoting management (70-1)

→ 3 h Further training on biodiversity-related topics

Optional participation in nature conservation monitoring with mandatory completion of an introductory event

## Organic farming (70-2)

→ 3 h Further training on biodiversity-related topics

Optional participation in nature conservation monitoring with mandatory completion of an introductory event

## Limitation of yield-increasing inputs (EEB 70-3)

→ 3 h Specialist courses on the subject of nitrogen fertilisation and adapted frequency of use in grassland

## Alpine pasture management (70-12)

→ 4 h Specialised courses on the topic of nature conservation-oriented and biodiversity-promoting alpine pasture management when participating in "Nature conservation on the alpine pasture"

## Humus conservation and soil protection on ploughable grassland (70-15)

→ 5 h Further training on utilisation methods and frequency of use; fertilisation planning taking into account the livestock population; implementability of the graded meadow concept

## Nature conservation (70-16)

→ Further training is not mandatory but focus on advisory

Optional participation in the regional nature conservation plan

## Result orientation (70-17)

→ Further training is not mandatory but focus on advisory

Participation in a regional networking meeting and optional participation in the regional nature conservation plan



## Types of trainings

field live stream



online course



workshop



informational  
events



field excursion



webinar



### Content / quality aspects

- Farmer to farmer
- Expert input
- Experience / knowledge sharing
- Networking
- Participation



## Field excursions – practitioners advice



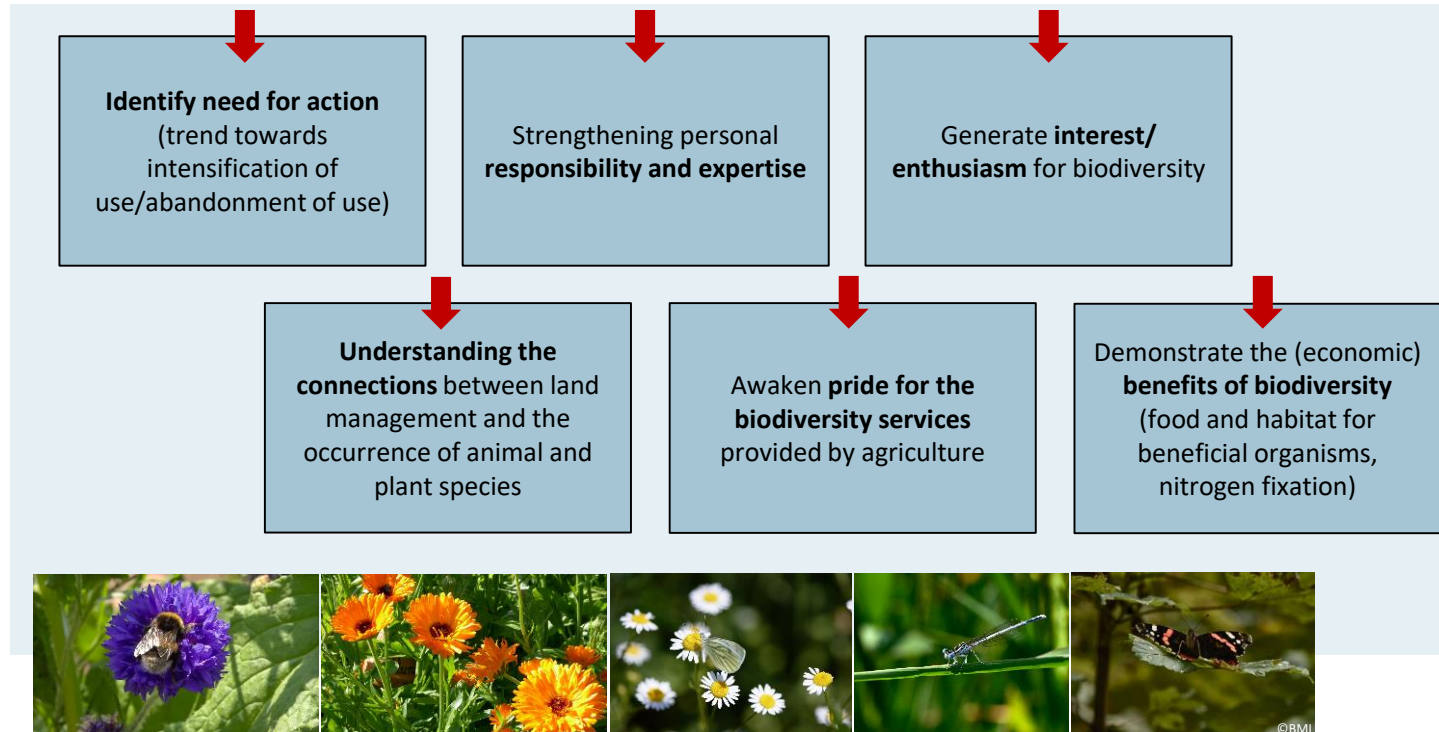


## Biodiversity trainings – important to increase acceptance

- Understanding the **importance of biodiversity** and its **benefits** for **environment** and **agriculture**...
  - promotion of **pollinators** and **predatory insects**
  - improvement of **soil fertility**, **prevention** of **soil erosion**
  - **reduction of costs** (saving of fertilizers, plant protection products)
- **Practical advice** how to best **integrate biodiversity promoting measures** in **operational processes** of **farms**. E.g. by promoting biodiversity specifically on areas that...
  - have a **low productivity** (nutrient-poor, dry or wet locations)
  - are **difficult to cultivate** (steep, unfavourably located areas)
  - have a **buffer function** to adjacent areas (e.g. to water bodies)



## Biodiversity trainings – main educational objectives





# Farmer to farmer knowledge transfer: „farming for nature“

bml.gv.at

- Valorisation of species-rich landscapes happens in the mind
- Farmers become “ambassadors for biodiversity”
- Activities, motives and, above all, the underlying attitude are made accessible to other farmers and public
- Ambassadors receive media support, organization of various appearances, press articles, events.



**Nikolaus Stiebitzhofer -  
Oberösterreich**  
Farming for Nature - Österreich  
481 Aufrufe • vor 3 Monaten





# Vielfalt auf meinem Betrieb

## „Diversity on my farm“

- Farmers as „**mediators for biodiversity**“ (educational rural development project)
- **Visualization** of diverse **agricultural** services for **biodiversity** for **farm managers** and **general public**
- Demonstrate the **link between farming and biodiversity**



# Any questions?

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