



Capitalisation of research results
on the multifunctionality of agriculture + rural areas

Research gaps related to the multifunctionality of agriculture + rural space

Multagri final seminar

1st of September 2005

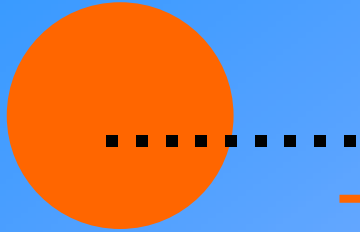
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Overview

- Research focused on scientific progress + interests
- Research related to policy formulation + evaluation
- Particular research issues + questions related to DC

Scientific interests

- **Research on conceptual frameworks**
 - More holistic, integrative frameworks needed
 - MFA is a useful conceptual framework:
environmental, socio-economic, institutional
dimensions + territorial contexts / questions
 - Potential contributions of MFA to SD:
there are important positive connections



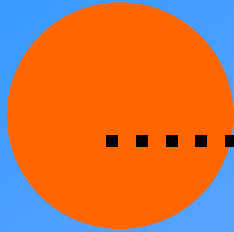
- **Empirical research**

- The demand side of MFA:

- Role of agriculture in modern societies / new societal demands
- Valorisation of non-production functions!
- Coordination of supply + demand of NCOs
..... info required, structures?

- Expressions of MFA:

- Move beyond the agro-environmental focus
- Interrelations betw. functions / betw. MFA + RD



• **Methods + methodology**

- Goal: More integrative + systemic tools + methods
- Indicator systems: adaptation + improvement
↔ available data ... monitoring!?
- Modelling + valuating: further development of existing methods + tools ... new m + t ?
- Integration of social, demographic + institutional aspects in methods + tools?

Policy formulation + evaluation

- **Policy processes (1)**

- New RDR: Interpretation + implementation

- Competitiveness:

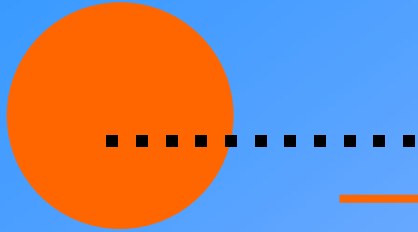
- MFA: contribution or hindrance?

- MFA + international trade: What about standards?

- Role of state? Appropriate state intervention?

- Environment + countryside:

- Synergies + conflicting (land use) goals:
segregation vs. integration of functions



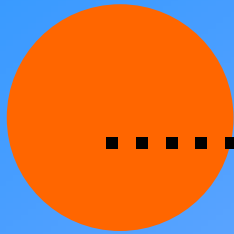
- **Policy processes (2)**

- Quality of life + diversification:

- Socio-economic functions of agriculture:
contributions to social sustainability \Rightarrow RD

- ... questions related to conventional model of agricultural development

- Single target vs. multi-target policies:
efficiency + effectiveness

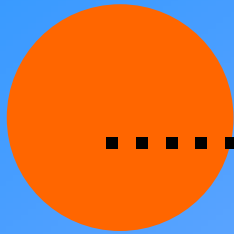


• **Institutional arrangements**

– Transition processes ... promoting MFA:

- Multi-level governance
 - What's the appropriate scale level for MF policy design?
 - How can institutions coordinate functions more effectively?
- What kind of institutional arrangements?
 - Establishment of (new) “markets”
 - New consumer/producer networks
 - Corporate social responsibility
- Role of intermediate actors
- Orientation of agricultural knowledge systems

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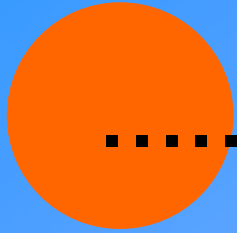


- **EU accession / CEEC**

- New policy frameworks:

- Effects on the MF of rural space?
- Why / how to achieve MFA in changing market conditions?
- Ambiguities + impacts: Effects on MFA + SD?

- Problems of land-abandonment: impacts on rural life + environment?



• **Impact assessment + evaluation (1)**

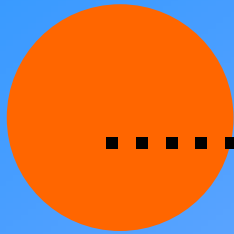
– Processes + methods

- Interaction between disciplines / conceptual frameworks
- Research – policy/evaluation – practice interfaces

– Methods + tools

- Data + observation tools: advancement is needed
- Simplification of models? \Leftrightarrow spatial / temporal

- Integration: Linkages between quantitative methods / tools with qualitative, discursive + consultative approaches / methods / tools



- **Impact assessment + evaluation (2)**
 - Impacts, effectiveness + efficiency
 - Measurement of multiple impacts
 - More comprehensive analyses needed: moving beyond impacts, effectiveness + efficiency
 - Examine agrarian functions in terms of SD
 - Practice + process of evaluation!
 - Multiple functions interests ... stakeholders
..... stakeholder involvement

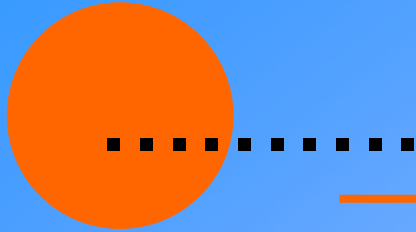
DC: research issues + questions

- Examine more closely
 - ... possible role of the state for promoting MFA
 - ... possible role of market driven approaches
 - ... impacts of northern agricultural policies + of cooperation policies
 - ... development of farmers collective action + relevant organizational forms

– Linking relevant EU + DC research networks + initiatives

To sum up: 7 points

- Scientific interests:
 - (1) More holistic, integrative concepts are needed
 - (2) MF is a useful conceptual + analytical framework ... further development needed!
 - (3) Take into account many expressions of MF: functions + activities!
 - (4) Research – policy / evaluation – practice?



- Policy formulation + evaluation:
 - (5) Evaluation processes: involvement of key actors + stakeholders with their multiple interests
 - (6) More adequate, practical approaches / tools for an integrated assessment are needed
 - (7) LINK quantitative methods + tools with qualitative, discursive + consultative approaches

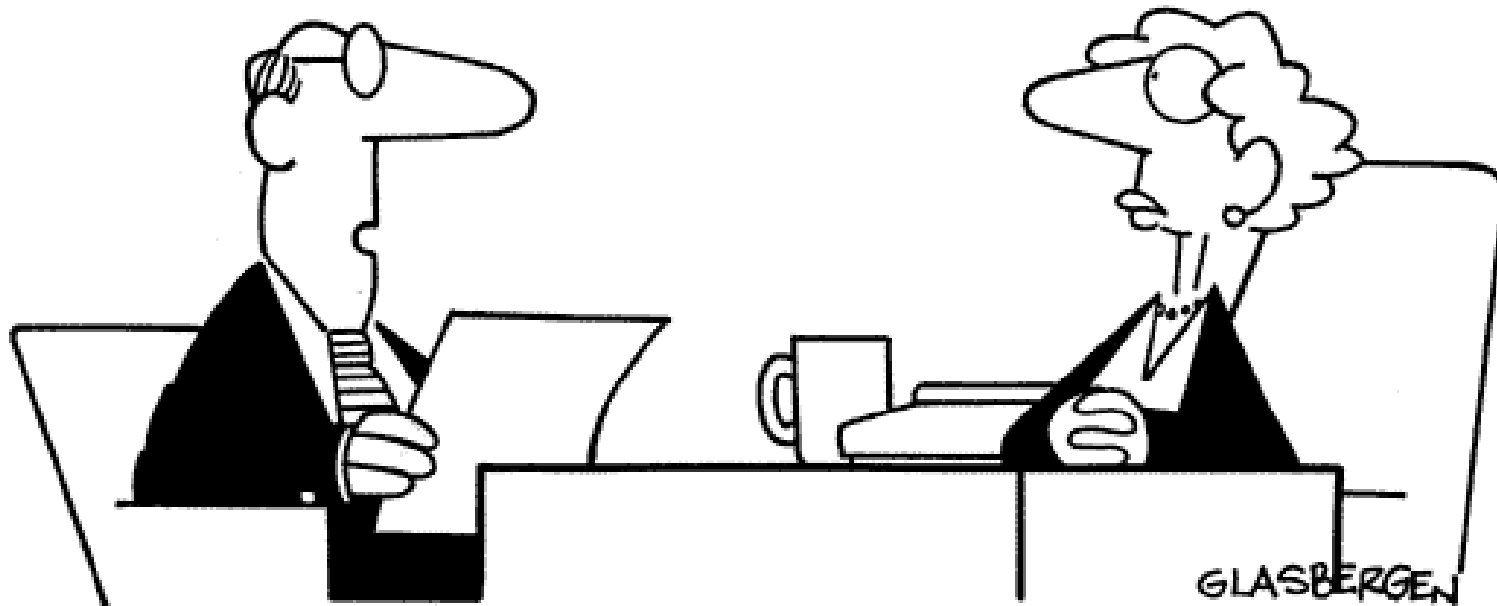
Thank you!





**“I have no objection to creative problem solving
as long as it’s not too creative and
it’s not a real problem.”**

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“My team is having trouble thinking outside the box. We can’t agree on the size of the box, what materials the box should be constructed from, a reasonable budget for the box, or our first choice of box vendors.”

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