



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER

**Agroscope**

Climate and Agriculture Group

# **2nd Carbon Farming Roundtable, Peatlands Feedback and Questions by Jens Leifeld\***

*\* Head Climate and Agriculture Group @ Agroscope and member  
EJP Soil consortium*

**Zurich, September 24, 2020**



# Key questions by IEEP

- What are the soil carbon benefits of converting agricultural peatlands to paludiculture? Can soil data help in targeting the most promising paludiculture options for different types of peatland?
  - *Term 'paludiculture' is not mentioned in the document, but 'rewetting'*
  - *Rewetting with paludiculture likely has smaller GHG benefit than full ecosystem rehabilitation, but is superior to regular management*
  - *Soil data such as carbon stocks are crucial for identifying most promising areas*
- How can it be ensured and demonstrated that the carbon stock levels in peatlands allowed by carbon farming are additional to the baseline requirements of CAP conditionality/GAEC?
  - If 'Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) #2 – Preservation of carbon rich soils such as peatlands and wetlands' will be conditional in a future CAP, additionally will be difficult to demonstrate/achieve.



# Feedback and Questions Leifeld

Positive:

- 'Large, geographically contracted emission sources'
- 'Inclusion of other ecosystem services provided through rewetting', and, thereby, 'to include price premiums for offsets that entail broader socio-economic or environmental co-benefits'.
- Recommendation to ban ploughing and drainage of existing peatlands
- Realistic view on emission reduction vs. sequestration



# Feedback and Questions Leifeld

## Questions:

- What is meant by 'elimination of trade-offs with Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) payments will enhance scale'?
- Why scale/coverage limited to 'Severely degraded marginal agricultural land with a thick peat layer'?
- 'MRV: Not possible to conduct on-site, continuous monitoring of primary data' – why not? Which options were considered? What about GW and subsidence monitoring?
- Crediting: What is meant by 'ex post' and 'ex ante' payments and how is baseline defined in such schemes?



# Feedback and Questions Leifeld

## Questions:

- EF's: How is the pre-project baseline defined?
- Why is the additionality requirement weakened? (*'While additionality is crucial to maintain the integrity of a scheme, more rigorous rules might lead to lower willingness from project owners to participate.'*)
- Reward for 'avoided CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions'. ?
- Permanence not addressed? – what happens to the rewarded savings if peatland is newly drained after the project duration of 30-100 years?