

Multiperspectival studies of agroecosystems

Contact person: Egon Noe, SYSTEM

Participants: Egon Noe, Hugo Alrøe, Chris Kjeldsen, Bo Allesøe Christensen, Anne Mette Langvad, Martin Thorsøe, Emil Holland, Dan Kristensen, Klaus Laursen

The development of sustainable agroecological systems requires a wide range of disciplines and approaches – the field of agroecology does not have its own perspective, which is able to observe an agroecosystem as a whole. This team uses methods from the human and social sciences to study agroecosystems, and works with the challenges of making multiperspectival studies of agroecosystems. The team aims at understanding the role of communication, organisation forms, decision making, scientific perspectives and values in the complex systems and networks around agriculture and food.

Some of the research questions that the team is interested in are: How is knowledge communicated between research and practice? What is the relevant knowledge for transition processes? How can scientific communication make better use of the graphical media known from comics and animation? What kinds of communication and cooperation are needed for integrated nature resource management? How can specialised and effective production be combined with sustainable resource use through new modes of organisation? How to support decisions involving many goals and interests, and different sources of knowledge? How to decide the better pathways of development by way of multiple criteria of assessment? What is the role of knowledge and values in developing organic food systems? How can specialised scientific perspectives be used in an integrated way to address complex problems in cross-disciplinary research, extension or policy decisions? What does the increasing complexity of food systems mean for the relation between scientific knowledge and ethical considerations?

The team is involved in a range of research projects within these topics. There are about five PhD students in the team, and it is responsible for courses such as Philosophy of Agricultural Science (Bachelor), Communication, Extension and Decision Making (Master) and Qualitative Research Methodologies (PhD).