Farmers' contribution to area-wide avoidance of erosion in Austria

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Austrian agri-environmental program

• *1995* Austria has implemented an agri-environmental program

• Many different measures and among other things precautionary measures for protecting soil and water:

- Implementation of greening arable land
- Implementation of „reduced tilling systems" like mulch and direct tilling
  • Fighting against soil-erosion and leaching of nitrogen

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System evergreen

Austrian agri-environmental program (2010): soil related measures

- **116.122 farms participate at agri-environmental program**
- **Out of 135.388 farms (= 86 %)**

	participants	hectars
Greening arable land in winter	49.905	433.640
Mulch and direct trilling	15.225	140.337
Preventive soil and stretch of water conservation	4.409	157.007
Organic farming	20.789	414.148

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Mainly used catch crops for system evergreen

Mustard:

- <u>Advantages</u>
  - cheap, fast covering soil, definitely freezes in winter
- <u>Disadvantages</u>
  - Phytosanitary problems in crop rotation with rape-seed

Phacelia:

- <u>Advantages</u>
  - bee-pasture, definitely freezes in winter, it´s got perfect root growing, no affinity to main crop plants and because of that no phytosanitary problems
- <u>Disadvantages</u>
  - seed cost

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Catch crops lead to an increase of humus

- regarding humification
  - the type of catch crop is less important

- regarding humification or protecting from erosion
  - blended seeds of catch crops are less important

- most important however is the right time of sewing the catch crop

- leaving catch crop over the winter period (more lignin and longchain carbohydrates) leads to better humification

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Advisory system in the chamber of agriculture

In Austria we have 9 chambers with 79 regional centers.

This offers an advisory network throughout Austria by means of

- individual advice
- group advice and
- doing field trials and field visits too

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