



Why are lentils (Lens culinaris) a success story in Germany?

Sabine Gruber, Ann-Marleen Rieps & Sabine Zikeli

Institute of Crop Science, University of Hohenheim, Germany

Case Study No. 13

Background

- Traditional crop
- Grown in mixed cropping with companion crops in Germany to avoid lodging
- Not cultivated anymore since the 1950s
- Revival driven by a single farmer
- Organic producer group (approx. 90 farmers)
- Organic and conventional production

Challenges

- Low and unstable yields
- Lodging
- Inhomogeneous ripening
- Weeds









Lentil mixed cropping with oats, lentil pods; traditional lentil dish in south-west Germany

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What are the reasons for the success story?

Aims of the case study:

- Determination of the status quo of lentil cultivation in south west Germany
- Identification of agronomic factors which contribute to the success of lentil cultivation in south west Germany
 - Identification of farmers' motivation and constraints regarding cultivation and marketing
 - Documentation of new approaches which can help to stabilize, optimize and expand the lentil cultivation in central Europe

First results

- A total of 26 lentil farmers were interviewed, 22 of them organic farmers, and four conventional.
- Most of the organic farmers are members of a producer group for processing and marketing.
- Companion crops were approx. 50% oats (Avena sativa); other companion crops were spring barley (Hordeum vulgare) and false flax (Camelina sativa).
- The lentil yield (cleaned and dried) ranged among the organically managed fields from 0.45 – 1.1 t ha⁻¹ (mean: 0.67 t ha⁻¹), and on the four conventional farms from 0.6 - 0.8 ha⁻¹ (mean: 0.74 ha⁻¹). Much more data is available, and data evaluation is not yet completed.

Methods

- Data collection: agronomical data (rotation, companion crops, yields, soil and more)
- Questionnaires
- Interviews with farmers



Inputs

Primary Production

Aggregation |

Processing

Distribution

Retailers

Markets

Consumers















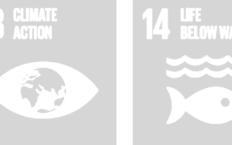


















WP1: Knowledge Exchange & Communication

WP2: Case Studies

WP3: Nutrition and Product Development WP4: Markets and Consumer

WP5: Life Cycle Assessments and Environmental Assessments

WP6: Economic Assessments of Legume Production and Consumption

WP7: Policy and Regulations

WP8: Transition and **Decision Support Tool**

Contact Information

Sabine Gruber, Sabine.Gruber@uni-hohenheim.de



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