

Field Test Infrastructures

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Current Situation and Future Prospects

Summary

Large-scale, long-term field experiments are a core element of site-specific agricultural science.

To create basic knowledge of site-adapted and regional agricultural production potentials as well as to develop ecologically sound and innovative plant production systems with high productivity and resilience requires high-capacity research infrastructures that cover relevant climatic gradients and soils and that promote an interdisciplinary dialog.

The position paper of the Senate Commission on Agroecosystem Research of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft shows the current status and future requirements on infrastructures for agroecological field research.

To optimize the infrastructure for agricultural field trials, a network of experimental sites that cover prototype landscape functions is suggested, enabling interdisciplinary investigations of productivity, resilience and resource efficiency in the landscape context. Further it is necessary to provide standardized data in open access data repositories to the scientific community.