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Applied Ethics in International Agriculture and Forestry

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www.jki.bund.de
www.best-agricultural-practice.eu

Overview

1. ***Certification systems spread worldwide – are they agro-ethically motivated?***
2. ***Certification systems have to be accepted worldwide – we have to recognize „biological traps“***
3. ***Learning from mutualistic symbioses – discourse ethics are the key solution for stepping forward***
4. ***Conclusions for the symposium topic***

1

***Certification systems spread
worldwide ...***

***... are they agro-ethically
motivated?***

Situation: Forests are in transition because of ...

Ongoing shifting cultivation:



Increasing native populations:



Industrial raw material production:



Industrial wood production:



Agricultural and forestal demands create national and international social, ecological and economical conflicts between interest groups

Ethical norms are a conflict reduction strategy

Ethics: universal concept of norms and maxims of lifestyle characterized by *full responsibility for others* irrespective moral or cultural affiliation

Morals: temporary system of traditional, societal and religious norms and principles regulating interactions in specific social groupings

Culture: entirety of intellectual, spiritual and artistic performances and values of a society feeling to belong together (even super-national groupings). At the same time culture is the cause for the behaviour of a society

Applied Ethics: reflections of universal norms with respect to special situations: bio-ethics, medicinal-ethics, here: ***agro-ethics***

Agro-ethics do *not* formulate a new universal ethical concept but find operational ways for the application of standards to agricultural and forestal production

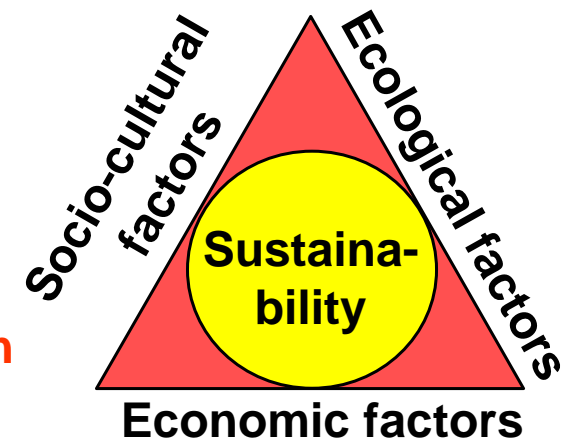
Agro-ethics

Agro-ethics define the normative framework for best agricultural and forestal practice in production and trade, taking over the liability of consequences for all concerned parties.

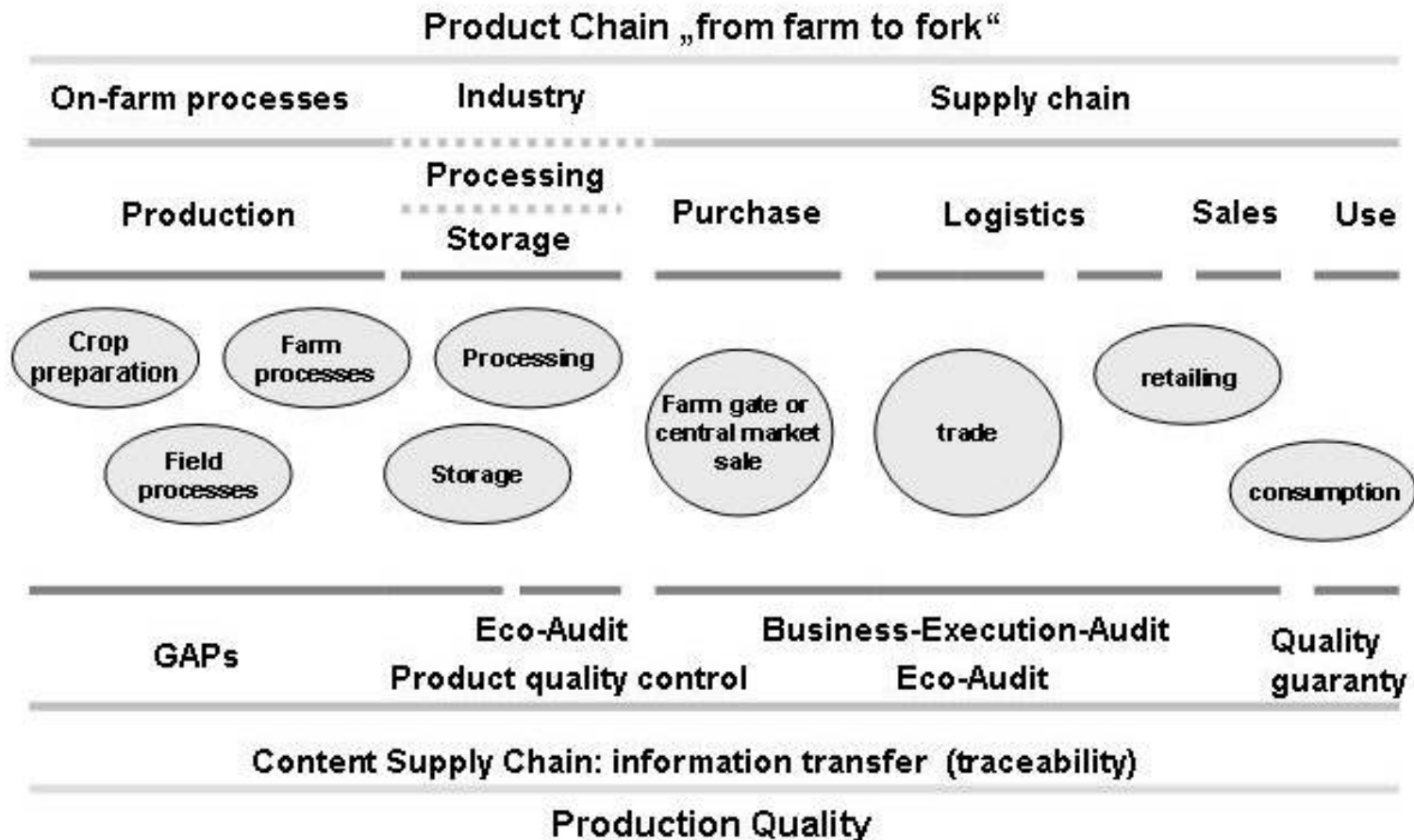
This includes the responsibility for a balanced realization of socio-cultural, ecological and economical demands as sustainable basis for future generations.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Agenda 21, Rio de Janeiro, 1992) identified...

...mutual interactions of social, ecological and economical developments as main factors to reach sustainable agriculture and forestry for the future



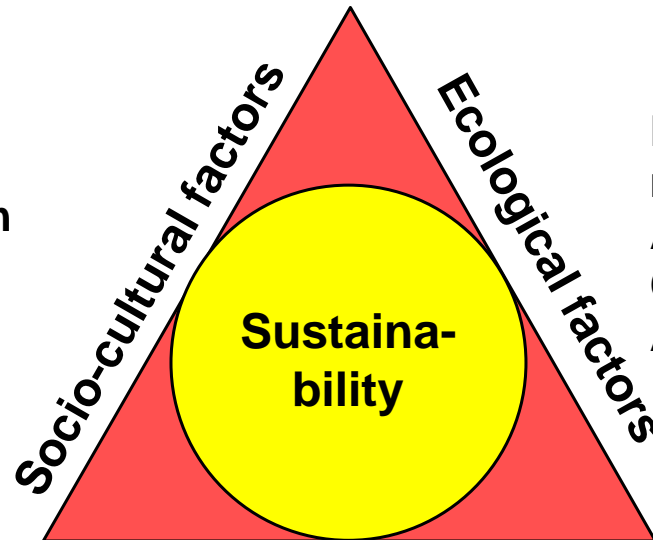
Standards and catalogues of criteria describe the production quality along the product chain through the content supply chain: they claim to be agro-ethically motivated



Quality control means transparency, builds up confidence, underlines credibility and allows permanent improvement of processes

Production quality control range in agriculture and forestry

Health protection
ILO Standards
Continuous education
And others...



Preservation of natural resources
Avoidance of energy loss
Conservation of nature
And others...

Economic factors

Product life cycle; Business Execution;
Performance of information chains;
And others...

Actors in production and trade use *management systems* for their own production or *catalogues of criteria* to be fulfilled by producers. They are normally focussed on single parts of the product chain.

Certification systems are becoming more and more complex:

e.g. the Sustainable Agriculture Standard (SAN)

- The standard consists of **10 principles** and contains **94 criteria**.
- Each principle is composed of various criteria.
- The criteria describe **best practices** for social and environmental management.
- By implementing the contents of SAN standards, the farm starts a continuous **improvement process**, which is evaluated annually by SAN **authorized auditors**.

They are benchmarked and supported by other seals



The 10 standard principles of SAN

1. Social and Environmental Management System
2. Ecosystem Conservation
3. Wildlife Protection
4. Water Conservation
5. Fair Treatment and Good Working Conditions for Worker
6. Occupational Health and Safety
7. Community Relations
8. Integrated Crop Management
9. Soil Management and Conservation
10. Integrated Waste Management

The clou: really everyone can participate in commenting the standards:

<http://www.eclspace.org/register.php>

Other certification systems in agriculture and forestry: e.g.

- International Standard Organisation (ISO 14001, 8000...)
- Global-Retailer Produce Working Group (GlobalGAP)
- Environmental Management Audit System (EMAS)
- Flower Label Program (FLP)
- Flor Verde
- Rainforest Alliance (RA)
- Fair Trade Labelling Organisation (FLO)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC)
- Kriterien umweltverträgliche Landwirtschaft (KUL)
- Round Table of Sustainable Palmoil (RSPO)
- Social Accountability International (SAI)
- Qualität und Sicherheit (QS)
- Milieu Programm Siertelt (MPS)



But: which value do these labels have with respect to their agro-ethically motivated use? We become confused...

Decision 1

We support development of standards:

how can we close gaps of best agricultural practice descriptions?

We intend to collect and cite standards:

which standard is thought what for?

We intend to compare standards:

which criteria are belonging to which sustainability factor complex?

We intend to evaluate standards:

how can they be used for the description of best agricultural practice?

BAP Best Agricultural Practice



Agro-ethics.best-agricultural-practice.eu

Online soon:

Agrarethik.de

Zertifizierung

Bioenergie – Transparenz durch Standards und Zertifizierung?

Uwe Meier und Falko Feldmann (Braunschweig)

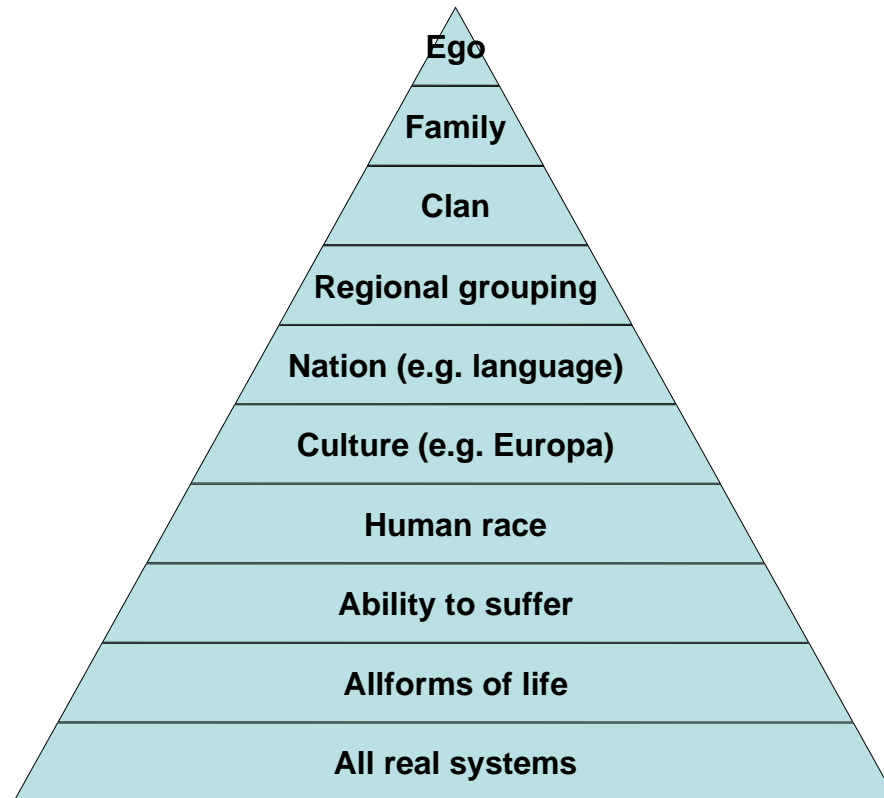


2

***Certification systems have
to be accepted worldwide –***

***we have to recognize
„biological traps“***

The decision for acting ethically good is endangered by nature of man (Vollmer 2008)



The tower of Hanoi, after Vollmer 2007

Decisions are made:

- Ego first („Anti-ethical“)
- Gene-egoistic (best performance)
- Clan-centred performance (still strong)
- Decreasing intensity of motivation for ethical behaviour from clan to all other cited categories

What hinders man of acting ethically good outside his clan?

Reasons for egocentric decisions (partly after Vollmer 2008)

Unknowingly man

- Believes that he is competitor to other individuals: for resources, positions, compliments...
- Loves to be stronger than others...
- Hates to give privileges away...
- Is sure that he will escape, that a handicap will not meet exactly him...
- Thinks that he knows so much things precisely...
- Is proud to overlook complex interrelationships and long time period; too proud...
- Is convinced that he knows what he knows better than others...

Knowingly at the same time he has the potential

- To give away his resources to persons in misery far away...
- To sponsor his kidney for unknown foreigners...
- To die for non-relatives...

The traps we have to overcome and the emphatic potential we have to set free by education and information

Decision 2

***We bring actors along the product chain together via strengthening the education and information chain :
you should know the farmer feeding you...***

***We use „clan“ wording and behaviour:
you will not cheat your clan partner...***

***We spread the time scale in argumentation:
sustainability for „human generations“ instead of „product cycles“***

***We support integration of independent institutions
into the formulation of agro-ethical standards:
someone has to guarantee and provide orientation...***

3

Learning from mutualistic symbioses –

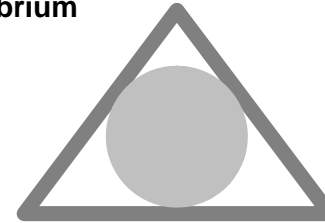
***discourse ethics are the key
solution for stepping forward“***

Mutualists in nature...

- try to optimize their own situation and show this
- recognize that stable partnerships favour themselves
- initially show that it works without the partner
- offer first, normally by-products
- tolerate cheaters to a certain extent

we directly transfer this to the most important tool of man, communication...

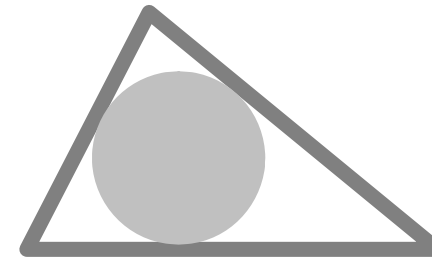
A Equilibrium



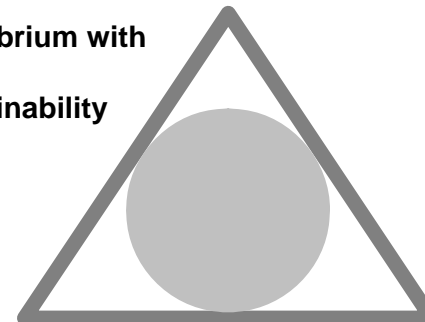
B Satisfaction of increased economic demands may lead to new societal demands, while ecological demands remain unchanged



C Satisfaction of increased societal demands may allow adaption of new ecological demands



D Equilibrium with more sustainability



Decision 3

We communicate agro-ethical standards on basis of discourse ethics:

(after Habermas, 1991; Ott, 2008)

- *we have full respect for someone*
- *we do not try to disable someone*
- *we do not restrict someones freedom or rights*
 - *we do not restrict someones chances*
 - *we do not break law*
 - *we do not lie, cheat or betray*
- *we name cheaters, but give them a second chance*

4

Conclusions for the symposium topic:

We should

- Make our demands transparent***
- Identify all actors and their interests***
- Unify all actors in a grouping with
collective responsibility***
- Negotiate our demands with discourse
ethical patience***

Partners of the National Action Plan „Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products“

 Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz
 Bundesministerium für Gesundheit
 Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie
 Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit
 Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit
 JKI Julius Kühn-Institut
 BfR Risiken erkennen – Gesundheit schützen
 Umwelt Bundes Amt
 Für Mensch und Natur


 AgrarMinisterKonferenz

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 Industrieverband Agrar
 verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband
 HOPFEN Verband Deutscher Hopfenproduzenten e.V.
 BdB
 BIOPARK
 GARTEN CENTER
 ABL
 BDG Bundesverband Deutscher Gartenfreunde e.V.
 SDW
 B-G-A
 ZWIEBEL
 DEUTSCHER HOPFENWIRTSCHAFTS VERBAND E.V. - DHWV
 BIL Bund für Lebensmittelrecht und Lebensmittelkunde e.V.
 Spitzenverbände der Landwirtschaftlichen Sozialversicherung
 BDP Lebensmittel Pflanze
 Bioland
 WWF
 VDF
 GREENPEACE
 BDI
 DPG
 BOLW
 FiBL
 PAN
 DVGW
 DSV
 DWA
 DNR Deutscher Nahrungsmittelrat
 IVG
 MR
 Zentrale für Gartenbau e.V. (ZVG) - der Interessenrat der ganzen Branche
 ECOVIN
 BGW
 BVA ONLINE
 DLG e.V.
 demeter
 BUND FREUND DER ERDE
 Deutscher DöF Postverein e.V.
 NABU
 BGDP-ONLINE
 Deutscher Städtetag
 FNL Fördergemeinschaft Nachhaltige Landwirtschaft e.V.
 DBV
 DMK
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 DBB DEUTSCHER IMKERBUND E.V.
 NABU
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***Thank you for your
attention!***