

CINDERELLA

supplement to Update VII

11th of May 2016, W. Wichtmann

“Comparative analysis, integration and exemplary implementation of climate smart land use practices on organic soils: progressing paludicultures after centuries of peatland destruction and neglect”

By this supplement to Update VII some additional information is given on recent project activities. This information was not included into Update VII as it had been not available or has been overseen when preparing it.

News from the project

Paludiculture activities in Netherlands

Several Paludiculture pilots are in the process of being setup in co-operation with the Dutch Cinderella team. We are working on a plan for 4 sites:

1. Bargerveen – 17ha water buffer zone owned by State Forestry. First plots with Reed, Cattail, Willow and Alder will be planted in June 2016.
2. Bûtenfijld - 1ha owned by a local farmer will be planted with Cattail for construction material. Reed comes already up spontaneously.
3. Nieuwkoopse Plassen – 0.5 ha will be planted with Cattail for feeding young cattail (part of a national research funding) summer 2016
4. Zaandam – 3 ha Paludiculture research facility will be constructed by Landschap Noord-Holland. The goal is to test PaludiCrops at different water levels and inflow of nutrient rich and alkaline surface water. A range of crops will be tested (Azolla, Typha, Iris, Reed + Sphagnum).

There are more potential sites and requests but these 4 are the most developed ones for the time being. We are glad that Wetlands International (Arina Schrier and Marcel Silvius) are also actively searching for potential pilot sites and Dutch/EU funding to establish a culture of PaludiCrops.

Raising awareness

We are promoting paludiculture for water retention and carbon sequestration to water authorities and regional governments (provinces). In the past 12 months Jeroen, Christian, Bas (Landschap Noord-Holland) and Leon have given presentations and lectures at different occasions. We organized a Paludiculture Plant exhibition at the university's New Greenhouse complex where also the State Secretary for Education and Research attended. We presented at the Peat Meadow Water Day. Hans Joosten presented at the Dutch Conference on land subsidence (Heel Holland Zakt) in Den Haag while Jeroen and Christian showed products made of PaludiCrops to stakeholder groups. In

September the Dutch Cinderella team will co-organize a Knowledge-Transfer day for 'Wet Agriculture' and Paludiculture together with Stowa (national water authorities) and Vic. As soon if there is a final date we'll let you know.

Field work

Much effort has been spent on setting up and rearranging pilot sites. We think that we have also found reliable equipment to measure and regulate the water level in sites that need high water levels. The soil and plant samples collected in Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark are pretty much analysed. Results have been shared and will be further discussed during the up-coming meeting. Additional sampling is planned for German sites beginning of July. For the Swedish sites potential areas have been located.

The contact with HanzeWetlands is working well however we haven't analysed biomass collected by the harvesting machines of HanzeWetlands yet neither has their time efficiency tested within WP 6. Main challenge is that the machines can't plan several weeks ahead and travel throughout the Netherlands and Belgium harvesting often on clay soils and wet organic sands dominated by Juncus. No Typha sites are harvested by HanzeWetlands unless we organize this with permits and subsidies.

EU-peatland policy project workshop in Brussels, 19th of April 2016

The workshop "Peatlands in the EU Regulatory Environment Policy options for improved climate-friendly peatland management" was organised by the Michael Succow Foundation, Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre, and Silvestrum, a consultant on climate change policies. The project is about assessment of the impact of EU law —on the environment, agriculture, and energy — on peatlands and organic soils in EU- Member States, with special emphasis on case studies for Poland and Estonia. Respectively there are synergies with our Cinderella project.

Participants of this workshop were from different directorates of the EU commission (DG Environment, DG Agri, DG Climate Action), from offices from different ministries and different countries in Brussels (environment), from Universities (Antwerp), NGOs (Wetlands International, FERN, NABU...) and peat and substrates industry.

The workshop was opened with a talk from German donor on 'Perspectives of peatland conservation and management from Germany' by Corinna Garther, German Emissions Trading Authority (DEHSt) at the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and Mareike Vischer-Leopold, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). Besides other presentations the Polish and Estonian case studies on peatland protection and management and an overview of policy perspectives to peatlands in the EU (P. Wehrheim, EU Commission) were presented. Furthermore presentations were given by Hans Joosten on the role of peatlands in the EU with special emphasis on climate change and by Wendelin Wichtmann (preparation supported by Laura Kölsch) on the Cinderella project, with emphasis on challenges for peatland utilisation under recent EU framework conditions. The discussion was about technical problems of harvesting wet peatlands, markets for products from paludiculture and economic perspectives. In particular, the needs for regulation of framework conditions were raised and discussed.

Referring to different aspects of peatlands management (Nature conservation (Natura 2000, Life), Water Framework & Floods Directive, Common Agricultural Policy, Agri-environmental climate schemes, Climate regime, Peat for Energy and Horticulture) initial findings were presented by the

organisers Jan Peters and Moritz v. Unger and preliminary recommendations for further dealing with peatlands were suggested. Participants of the workshop checked and discussed these recommendations intensively which resulted in some improvement of the recommendations. As a final result, they will be presented to relevant stakeholders in selected countries (Poland and Estonia) and the EU commission/EU parliament.

The notes for this event are still under preparation and will be available at Jan Peters from Michael Succow Stiftung (jan.peters@succow-stiftung.de).



Fig. 1. Workshop “Peatlands in the EU Regulatory Environment - Policy options for improved climate-friendly peatland management”, 19th April 2016 (Picture: J. Peters, MSF)