



PRESS INFORMATION



Brussels, 29 June 2011

Integrated Farming in practice

EISA Farm Visit offers viable platform for European knowledge exchange

EISA (Brussels): The second EISA Farm Visit of the year was organized by the EISA member LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) in the UK on 20 and 21 June 2011. The event impressively demonstrated the implementation of Integrated Farming in practice on different farm types, as well as a range of LEAF activities, such as 'Open Farm Sunday' and 'Let nature feed your senses' and of the spreading of LEAF Marque in the food chain. The tour included visits of two LEAF Demonstration Farms and of the world renowned Research Institute at Rothamsted.

At the farm of long-time EISA Chairman Tony Worth at Holbeach, Lincolnshire, a clear focus was put on Integrated Farming as a whole farm solution to deliver sustainable agriculture and meeting future challenges of food security, environmental health and social acceptability. Also, communication on how farmers are delivering public goods to society through quality food, better health, a viable countryside and thriving nature was addressed.

The visit to the long-term field experiments in Rothamsted, which started in 1843, gave particular evidence of the effects of fertilizers and herbicides on crop yields. With predictions of more than 9 billion people within less than forty years, the urgent need for further production focused agricultural research that does not impact the environment and our precious resources was highlighted there.

About EISA Farm Visits:

With a network of demonstration farmers among the EISA partners we are able to show Integrated Farming in practice across a range of farm types. Building on our very successful farmer exchanges, the EISA Farm Visits have been developed. They have been initiated as a tool in 2011 to inform journalists, politicians, and other interested parties about the implementation of modern, sustainable agriculture in everyday practice on European farms. EISA Farm Visits can be arranged for interested groups or individuals in EISA member countries on request, thus allowing for realistic insights and "hands-on" experiences.

About EISA:

The European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (EISA), founded in 2001, is an association of national farmers organisations from six EU Member States: FARRE (Forum de l'Agriculture Raisonnée Respectueuse de L' Environnement, France), FILL (Fördergemeinschaft Integrierte Landwirtschaft, Luxemburg), FNL (Fördergemeinschaft Nachhaltige Landwirtschaft, Germany), LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming, United Kingdom), ÖAIP (Österreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Integrierten Pflanzenschutz, Austria) and OIB (Odling i Balans, Sweden). EISA and its members promote Integrated Farming on a European level.

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