



Catchy – Catch-cropping as an agrarian tool for continuing soil health and yield-increase

Catchy is a collaborative project of the University of Bremen, the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf (HSWT), the Leibniz-Institute for Plant Genetics & Crop Plant Research (IPK), the Leibniz University Hannover, the Justus Liebig University Giessen and the plant breeding company Deutsche Saatveredelung AG (DSV). It is funded by BonaRes (Soil as a sustainable resource for the bioeconomy), a funding initiative of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF).



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The overarching goal is to develop new farming systems to preserve and improve soil fertility. Therefore, catch cropping is investigated regarding the cause-effect relationships affecting soil fertility parameters, biological functions and interactions in soil and rhizosphere. The results are the basis to develop optimized catch crop mixtures, that facilitate sustainable agricultural management, particularly with respect to parameters of soil functions.

Public Engagement

The project focuses on the development of soil-sustainable catch crop management strategies. Analyses of cost effectiveness and acceptance of the guidelines for agronomic practices are also integrated. The funding partner BonaRes (BMBF) serves as a nexus between several soil investigating projects and integrates the catchy results into their information for researchers, land users and politicians to support the evaluation of taken and future decisions. Henceforth, increased good decisions for soil management are possible.

Information about the project is accessible for scientists as well as interested citizens through scientific publication, the project websites and several press articles (e.g. [biooekonomie.de/ackerbau-die-kraft-der-zwischenfruechte](http://www.biooekonomie.de/ackerbau-die-kraft-der-zwischenfruechte); <http://www.schattenblick.de/infopool/umwelt/fakten/ufaf1174.html>) which give interesting overviews, customized research details and linkages to aspects of societal interest.

Open Access

The funding partner BonaRes (BMBF) maintains a Data Centre that merges data from soil research, especially from the BonaRes collaborative projects, and provides it for general use. Additionally, soil data from the public sector, like monitoring and research data from other sources, is included. This ensures data transparency, research resource preservation and open access to the research data.