Multiple Sustainable Land-Use in Winterswijk

The Netherlands - Temperate/Coastal Province Gelderland

Summary

A combination of different land-use functions on the same piece of land can lead to a new economic and ecological perspective for the countryside. For the Winterswijk region in the Netherlands, this is shown through the wishes of the people involved, as well as by the physical possibilities offered by the land. To earn an income taking advantage of multiple sustainable land-uses, new multiple business systems were designed. Now, these systems are further developed and their efficacy demonstrated by the stakeholders. Various needs were therefore addressed through this case: the need for a new economic and ecological perspective for the countryside; the need for income, labour and the production of food/feed, raw materials, energy, water, nature, countryside and recreation and the processing of waste materials; and finally, the need for a reduction of the environmental burden by 90%.

Objectives

The objectives of the case are, therefore:

- Reduction of environmental burden by 90%.
- New economic and ecological perspective for the countryside based on the wishes of a region.
- Development and demonstration from multiple land use companies as a co-production between the stakeholders and research institutes.

Most Significant Contributions

This case shows a number of significant contributions to sustainable agriculture and land use management. These include:

- Reduction of the environmental burden by 90%.
- New economic and ecological perspectives for a region.
- Combination of functions such as food production, nature conservation, recreation, water-supply, valuable countryside, all on the same piece of land (multi-functional and sustainable land-use)
- Development and demonstration of new business systems (i.e. countryside organisations, multifunctional land use on estate organisations, a meat business, a water company).

Most Outstanding Results Achieved

The most outstanding results achieved are a new economic and ecological perspective supported by 20 parties in a steering group, a new multiple sustainable business systems, and an agreement on the realisation of the programme in the period 1999-2003.