

WADDEN SEA FORUM

THEMATIC GROUP AGRICULTURE

Meeting TG-A-4

Lauwersoog/Dokkum, 13-14 January 2004

FINAL MINUTES

1. Opening

Frans Keurentjes welcomed the participants and announced the absent members of apologies (list of participants is in **Annex 1**). He then passed the floor to Joan Stam, the host of the session in Lauwersoog. As mayor of Gemeente De Marne she also welcomed the participants. Further she introduced the excursion to the geese station in Oostmahorn (just west of Lauwersmeer).

The agenda was adopted (**Annex 2**).

2. Adoption Minutes TG-F-3

The final draft minutes of TG-A-3 in Højer were adopted.

3. Announcements

John Frederiksen mentioned the forthcoming pilot project in Denmark regarding "National Park-Wadden Sea". This location is appointed among 6 other pilot projects in Denmark in order to get experiences for a possible introduction of "national parks" in the Danish legislation. The pilot project in the Wadden Sea will start soon and is expected to finalise by the end of 2005.

4. Brief Report WSF-3 meeting

Doc 4-4.1: WSF-3; Final draft minutes.

The meeting was informed about the outcome of the WSF-3 meeting (Oldenburg, 30-31 October 2003), in particular with regard to TG relevant decisions. The meeting has no comments to the draft minutes.

5. Brief introduction to finalized external studies

Folkert de Jong informed about the state of the art regarding the external studies:

-The Danish socio-economy report is available in Danish and has been presented to the DK Advisory Board. The English version will be available by the end of January (on the web site) and hard copy in the first week of February.

- The sustainability report (COWI Consult) is expected to be finalised by the end of January (on the web-site) and as hard copy in the beginning of February.
- The comparative socio-economic study (by PROGNOS) will be ready by prime February.
- The COWI perspectives study will be ready by the end of February.

Herman Verheij questioned the reason why these reports were not available already, as promised. In his opinion they are important tools in the working groups, so the postponements could have influence on the discussions within the groups. Folkert de Jong regretted the postponements.

6. Generic scenarios

Doc 6-1: 2nd draft generic scenarios (December 15th 2003).

Folkert de Jong briefly introduced the 2nd draft of the generic scenarios, which had been amended on the basis of the comments from the TG-3 meetings. It was **agreed** that comments to the 2nd version would be sent directly to the secretariat. The meeting asked whether it would be possible to have a copy in which the

changes were labeled. Folkert de Jong promised that he would try to prepare such a version but was not sure whether it would be possible to produce a version which would still be readable.

7. Overviews agriculture and nature

Doc's: 7-1: Agriculture in Schleswig-Holstein; 7-2: Agriculture in Denmark; 7-3: Environmental trends of agricultural areas in the Wadden Sea Region and 7-4: Agriculture in the Netherlands.

Hans Peter Stamp introduced his paper on agriculture in the Wadden Sea Region of Schleswig-Holstein. At page 1 (bottom line) he pointed out that the correct translation should be: "80% of the Wadden Sea Region of the entire Schleswig-Holstein is farmland and belongs to the two German districts of the Wadden Sea Region"

Kristen Fromsejer introduced the similar Danish paper and underlined (at p.1) that average density of livestock in 2001 was 1.17 animal unit per hectare in Southern Jutland County and 1.09 animal unit per hectare in Ribe County.

Geert Boesjes introduced the Dutch paper and emphasised that "total Jobs in 1996" in the scheme (p.2) should be understood as "in the primary sector". The meeting questioned why "shooting" was regarded as part of the agriculture sector (p.1) and it was decided to skip this activity in this relation.

Beatrice Claus introduced the paper on the environmental trends of agricultural areas in the Wadden Sea Region. She underlined the need for maintaining and improving biodiversity. One possible indicator was the quality of water in ditches and populations of meadow birds. Erich Hinrichs remarked that intensification is not the only reason for declining biodiversity but that also specialisation is a factor. There was some discussion about changes in populations of meadow birds, for example regarding the severe decline of the breeding population of the Ruff in Germany in 2nd half of 90'es (Figure 16). Kristen Fromsejer questioned whether this could be due to intensification of agriculture and pointed to the increasing levels from the beginning of the 1980s till the beginning of the 1990s. He furthermore underlined that the discharge of P & N and the use of pesticides had decreased with 50% in Denmark since the mid 80'ties.

In general the meeting took the conclusions of the report into consideration, but suggested to present a longer period of time. Beatrice Claus would check the data again.

The meeting further welcomed all the regional reports as a valuable contribution to the further work in the group, not in the least in relation to the formulation of the strategies.

8. Discussion on sector-specific scenarios and strategies

8.1 General discussion: "Where do we go from here"

The meeting discussed in general terms the products to be delivered to the fourth meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum (Esbjerg, 15-16 April 2004).

It was **agreed** that the report to be delivered should consist of

- A vision for agriculture in the Wadden Sea region;
- Strategies how to reach the aims of the vision;
- Main obstacles for the realisation of the vision.

8.2 Introduction to and discussion of the draft extended skeleton of the specific scenarios

Doc 8-2.1: Specific scenarios agriculture

Folkert de Jong introduced the specific scenarios and pointed to the main differences between the four worlds.

8.3 Development and testing of sector specific strategies

Doc's: 8-3: Strategies (proposals) and key words (handed out), typical farms (handed out).

Folkert de Jong introduced the process, which should lead to the development of sector specific strategies. On the basis of the central elements from the strategies (**Annex 3**) and three typical types of farms (**Annex**

4), the meeting investigated what would happen in the four worlds with these different farms. The condensed outcome of this analysis is presented in **Annex 5**. Due to time restrictions it had not possible to do the exercise for farm number 3. This was not considered problematic because most elements were covered by farm number 1 and 2.

It was **agreed** that the result of this exercise, i.e. the essential elements for a strategy, would be used by the secretariat to develop one or more draft strategies. Also relevant information from the Prognos perspectives study and the regional overviews (agenda item 7) would be used for this purpose.

The testing of the draft strategies would be the central issue for discussion during TG-5.

9. Sustainability aims and indicators

Doc: Sustainability aims.

Folkert de Jong introduced the paper and underlined that it concerned a first inventory of sustainability aims by WSF-3. At this meeting it had been agreed to ask the TGs to further specific the matrix and to use the matrix in the testing procedure.

The meeting raised the following comments: The parameter "health" should also comprise mental health. With regard cultural history and regional identity more precise information on "sustainability" could be derived from the Lancewad report.

Also "image" was an important issue, for example the image of pig farming.

For biodiversity it was agreed to use the aim "maintain natural biodiversity", as suggested by the TG-Fisheries.

For rules and regulations it was regarded unsustainable to have rules and regulations that are of no benefit for nature, man or economy.

In addition several indicators were proposed.

The secretariat informed that the matrix will be amended in accordance with the suggestions made. At TG-5 a 2nd version of the matrix, containing the remarks of all TGs will be presented and used for the testing of the strategies.

10. Next meeting

The TG-A-5 meeting will be held on 11.-12. March 2004 (probably in Büsum, in Dithmarschen) upon invitation of Hans Peter Stamp.

11. Any other business

Jan Jaap Hooft informed that the 10. Governmental Wadden Sea Conference will be held on the Dutch island of Schiermonnikoog on 1.-2. November 2005.

12. Closing

The Chairman thanked the participants for their contributions at the meeting and wished everybody a good and safe journey home.

The meeting was closed at 13.00 hrs.

TG-A-4. Final Minutes. Annex 2

AGENDA

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Adoption Minutes TG-A-3**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Brief Report WSF-3 meeting**
- 5. Brief introduction to finalized external studies**
- 6. Generic scenarios**
- 7. Overviews agriculture and nature**
- 8. Discussion on sector-specific scenarios and strategies**
 - 8.1 General discussion: “Where do we go from here”**
 - 8.2 Introduction to and discussion of the draft extended skeleton of the specific scenarios**
 - 8.3 Development and testing of sector specific strategies**
- 9. Sustainability aims and indicators**
- 10. Next meeting**
- 11. Any other business**
- 12. Closing**

TG-A-4. Final Minutes. Annex 3

DOCUMENT 8-3.1 ADD 1

STRATEGY AGRICULTURE: KEY WORDS (from document 8-3.1)

Room for Entrepreneurship

- Room for expansion and development
- Less rules and regulations
- Authorities should have respect for local way of living and culture

Room for additional Production

- Energy
- Biomaterials
- Nature protection contracts
- Production nature friendly
- Ensure economic development and quality of life

Nature protection

- No more nature protection areas

STRATEGY PROPOSAL NATURE PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS (from document 4-7-3)

Not only scale enlargement and increase in production but

- more agro-environmental schemes
- more agro-touristic development

TG-A-4. Final Minutes. Annex 4

Typical farms

1. Small/medium sized Organic farmer with diversified activities.

40 ha grassland
50 cows
Camping site (10 units)
Some vegetables
1 employee + 0,5 person family support
Production: 350 tons of milk
Turnover: 175,000 Euro

2. Big arable farm

80 ha
Products: Potatoes, Sugar beets, Wheat, Carrots/unions/
1 employee + part-time support
Turnover: 300,000 Euro

3. Medium sized dairy farm

50 ha grassland
80 milk cows
60 young cattle
40 sheep
1 employee + part time support
Production: 650 tons of milk
Turnover: 250,000 Euro

TG-A-4. FINAL MINUTES. ANNEX 5**Conclusion of the analysis of future farms****GENERAL (i.e. valid for all farms in all future worlds)**SUCCESSION

Denmark. Currently no problem. Situation has improved.

Germany. Serious problem. Related to image agriculture and young people (with high education) wanting other jobs. "Brain drain".

The Netherlands. No problem. High demand for land. High prices for land and quota.

The exception is pig farming which has a bad image and for which there is a successor problem.

ENERGY

Possibilities for energy production (wind, biomass, solar) very much dependent upon active financial support and taxation. This is directly related to national and EU policies, in particular in relation to climate change. Strategies must be tuned with the energy specific scenarios.

MEDIUM SIZED DAIRY FARM**Cautious world.**STRUCTURE

There are two main strategies, depending on where the farm is located:

1. Scale enlargement.

Important driving factors:

- Price of land
- Price of quota
- Cheap (seasonal) labour

2. Diversification

Driving factors:

- Possibilities for tourism/recreation (sufficient issues of interest for tourists?)
- Possibilities for direct selling (sufficient potential customers?)
- Possibilities for nature protection

PRODUCTS

1. Will there be possibilities on the global market for EU products with "high quality" label products, for example non-hormone, non-GMO products? Can location in the Wadden Sea region be used for labelling?

2. To what extent will large farms have possibilities for nature protection schemes?

Important for the strategy are

- long term contracts
- will there be further designation of parts of mainland as Bird Directive Area?
- is there sufficient money (from Brussels)
- spatial and/or temporal schemes: spatial schemes, i.e. setting aside part of the land for nature protection, will not always be possible because all land is necessary for production. In temporal schemes, such as geese management schemes, the land is used part of the year for nature protection
- intensity of agriculture (life stock density; input-output). Depending on development of land price, the intensity of agriculture may decrease, which may offer opportunities for spatial nature protection schemes.

3. Energy production. Strongly related to climate change policies (see below).

CLIMATE

Dairy farming least sensitive to changes in climate (salinity, temperature, water).

The problem of water management will grow.

Possibilities for energy production (biomass, wind, solar), strongly dependent upon subvention policies. In the Cautious world scenario chances for EU schemes are highest.

Future unlimited**STRUCTURE**

Generally structural changes will be highest in this scenario.

The main strategy will be scale enlargement. Chains will become shorter.

Farms will be taken over by big investors. Family farms will decrease. Social isolation of farmers will occur.

The option of several farms working together producing special products was proposed.

PRODUCTS

On the global market there will be an increasing demand for both cheap and special products. The strategy could be to produce special products, produced on efficient, large-scale farms. Both are needed to be able to be competitive on a global market (i.e. niche and price aspect).

The question is what the nature of "special" should be. One option is "natural". i.e. none-GMO, none-hormone milk and milk products, because on the global market there will be an increasing supply of GMO-hormone-products.

ENVIRONMENT

In this scenario "Agri-techno-deserts" will develop, with little chances for nature and culture.

Satisfied citizens**STRUCTURE**

No big changes needed. Possibly work on improving image of agriculture, "Small is beautiful".

Best possibilities to survive.

PRODUCTS

More emphasis on landscape management, nature protection, direct selling and tourism/recreation.

Farmers to invest in creative ideas for tourism and recreation.

Tax payers will pay for creation of relevant infrastructure and structural changes. Consumers will pay for using these. An example from DK was given, where regional authorities had created walking routes through Jutland. Farmers have opportunity for camping sites and direct selling.

There will be more direct contacts/communication with consumers.

CLIMATE

The sensitivity to impacts of climate change will be relatively low because of the broadening of the product/service package.

Challenging World**PRODUCTS**

Farmers must be creative (and quick) and try different strategies.

Special products (for example biomaterial) and energy production were seen as an opportunity.

The latter will depend on the level of shielding off from the global energy market, i.e. the level of self-support within Europe.

BIG ARABLE FARM

Cautious world

STRUCTURE

Pressure to change into grassland because of requirements nature protection.

PRODUCTS

Continue with vegetables (onions, carrots) because wheat not competitive on global market.

Depends also on environmental regulations, i.e. more restrictions (use of pesticides etc.).

Wheat may also be used as fodder for pig and poultry.

With the latter conflicts with tourism and recreation may occur.

Future unlimited

STRUCTURE

Scale enlargement (150-250 ha) but competition for land with dairy farmers.

PRODUCTS

- Fodder production for dairy farms.
- Increasing wheat production because of increasing world population? If prices go up (and recent developments show that this is very well possible) than this is an opportunity.
- More storable vegetables (cabbage).
- Niche/special products (seed potatoes, flower bulbs).

ENVIRONMENT

Impacts on nature and landscape even higher than for dairy farm.

Satisfied citizens

STRUCTURE

Scale enlargement (increase efficiency) but not really necessary.

PRODUCTS

In case of bulk products scale enlargement necessary.

Otherwise many opportunities with high variety of regional products. In this respect more possibilities than dairy farmer.

Challenging world

STRUCTURE

Scale enlargement if possible (financially).

PRODUCTS

More variety to spread risk.

Energy production dependent on shielding off from global market (see also Dairy farm). If positive than better opportunities than dairy farm.

Pig and poultry if enough money to invest (long term investment).