

# Innovation partnerships in rural areas – lessons learnt from INKA BB

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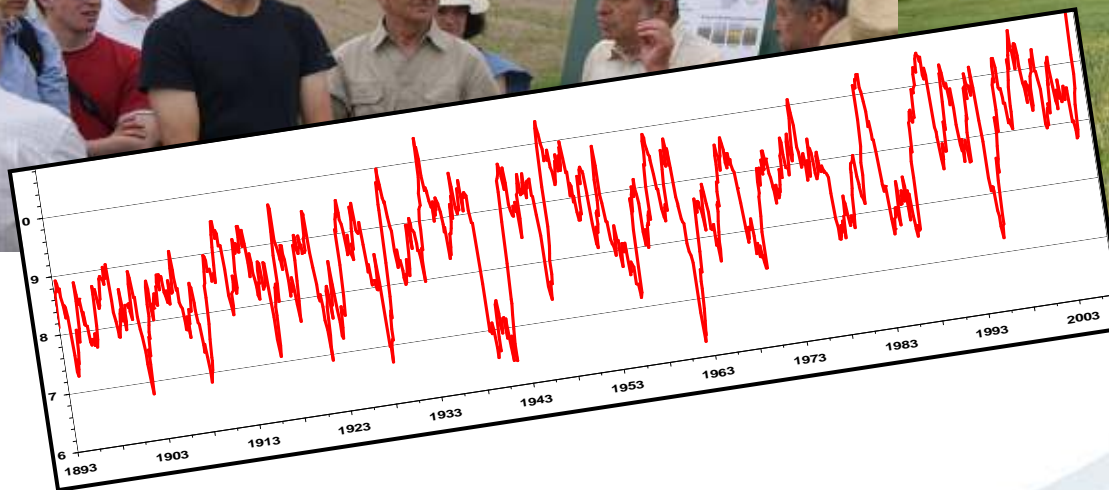


Wet field conditions in the Oder river valley, source H.Schobert, ZALF

Field day in Thyrow, source: S. Hebert, HUB



Dry field conditions near Müncheberg source: R. Bloch, ZALF



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**KLIMZUG**

climate change in regions

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- Innovation Partnerships – what are the challenges?
  - INKA BB characteristics
  - Interim results: features of INKA BB working processes
  - Lessons learnt, conclusions & discussion points

## How to enhance transdisciplinary innovation development?

- What are favorable organisational structures and cooperation procedures?
- Who can initiate, enhance and back up such partnerships?
- How to deal with the gap between research and farming practice?
- How to assure the dissemination of the innovation?

- An innovation system can be defined as a network of organisations, enterprises and individuals focused on bringing new products, processes and new forms of organization into social and economic use, together with the institutions and policies that affect their behaviour and performance.

Worldbank 2007

- Networks are of specific importance with regard to the exchange of subject matter knowledge and the development of (...) expertise, (...) services and (...) products.
- The EIP will act as a dynamic platform linking farmers, stakeholder and researchers.
- Operational Groups have a key role for the EIP (...) in which farmers, researchers, advisors, entrepreneurs and other actors are represented, hence those people for whom innovations in agriculture are relevant

COM 2011, 627/3 and COM 2012/79

- Networks are organisational forms which allow their members a high degree of autonomy and self-organisation in order to successfully comply with complex environments,  
And on the other side exercise high requirements on the members for they demand self-containment, reflexivity and long-term orientation.  
(Willke 2001)
- „The development of cooperation capacities is hard work and has to be understood as such.“ (Senge et al. 2011:68)

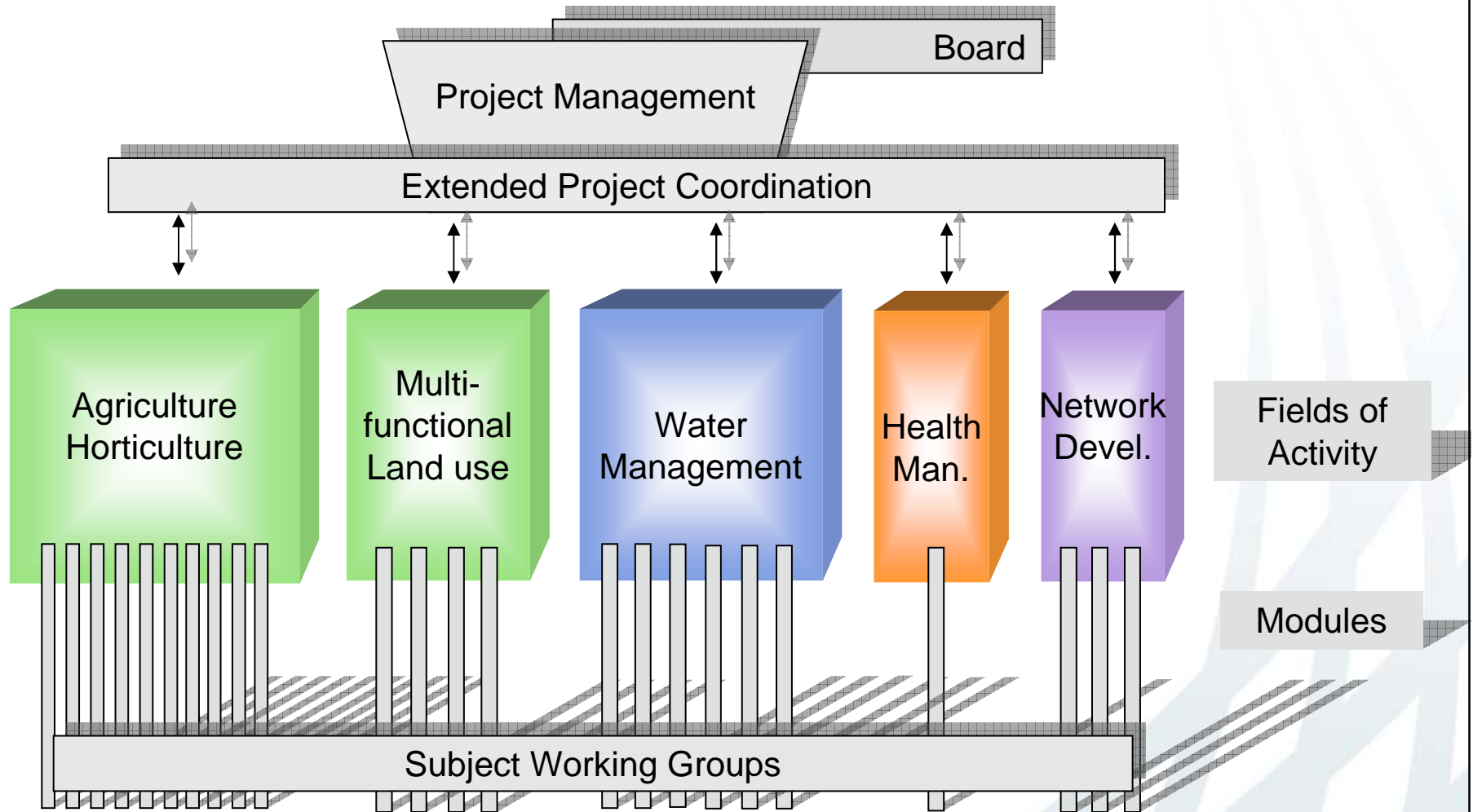


INKA BB  
Innovation network climate change  
adapation Brandenburg Berlin

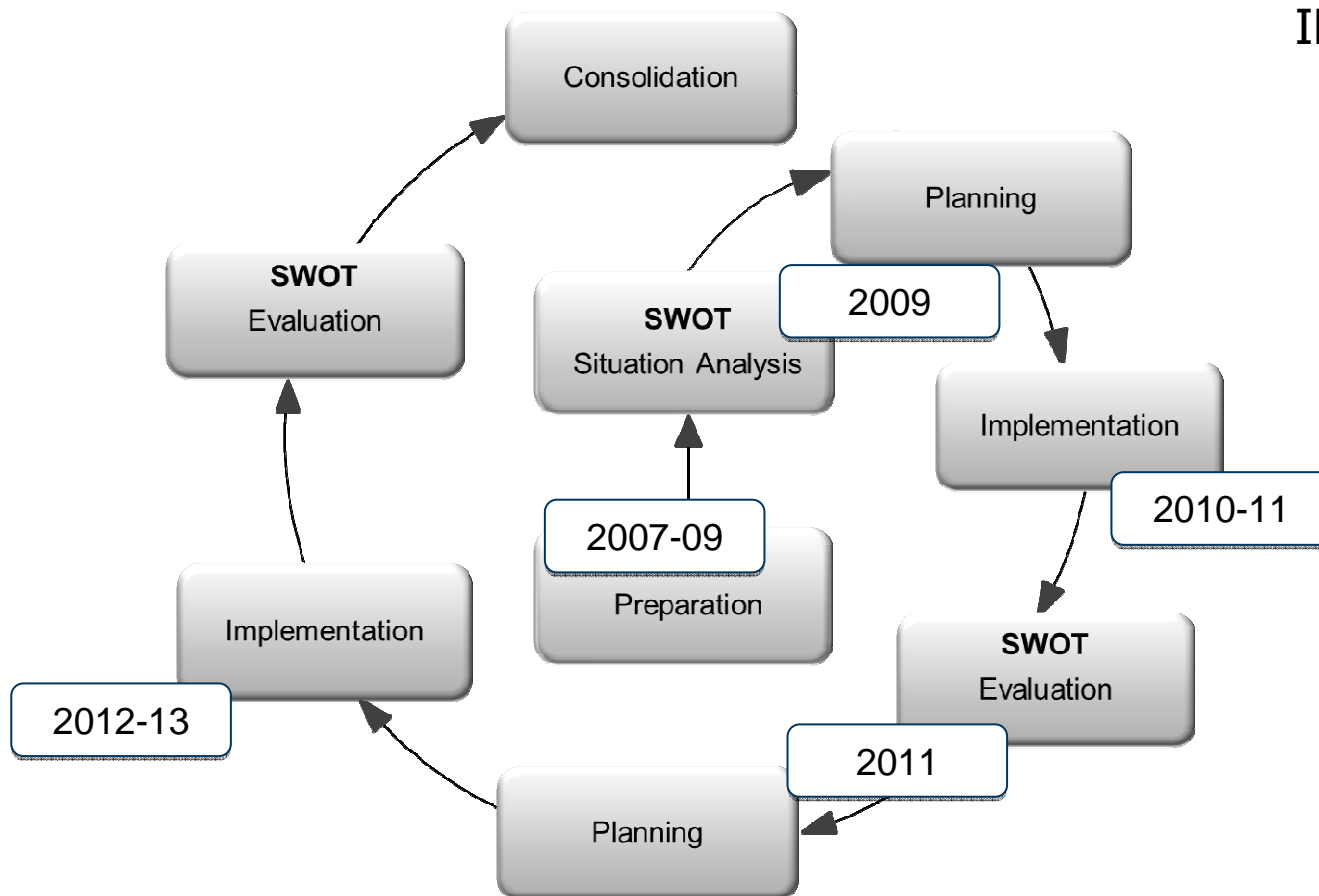
15 Mio € public means (BMBF)  
3 Mio € from Partners  
Duration: 2009 – 2014

## Objectives

- Enhance sustainable land use and water management in the region Berlin-Brandenburg under the conditions of climate change
- Foster adaptation capacities on climate change of actors in businesses, administration and other organisations
  - In order to reach these goals the network partners develop, test and evaluate appropriate innovations



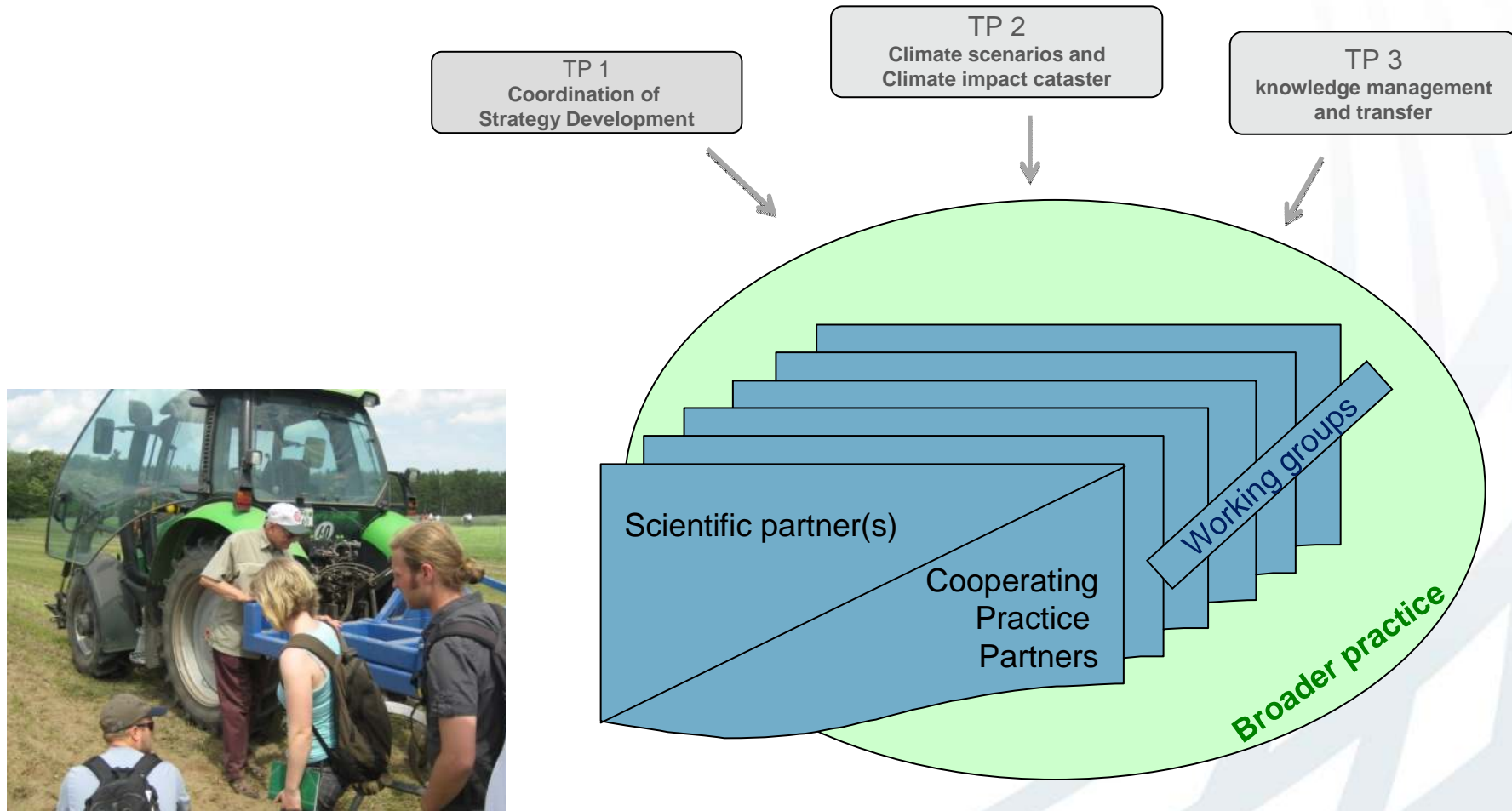
INKA BB project phases








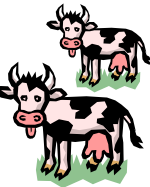





Design of the modules:

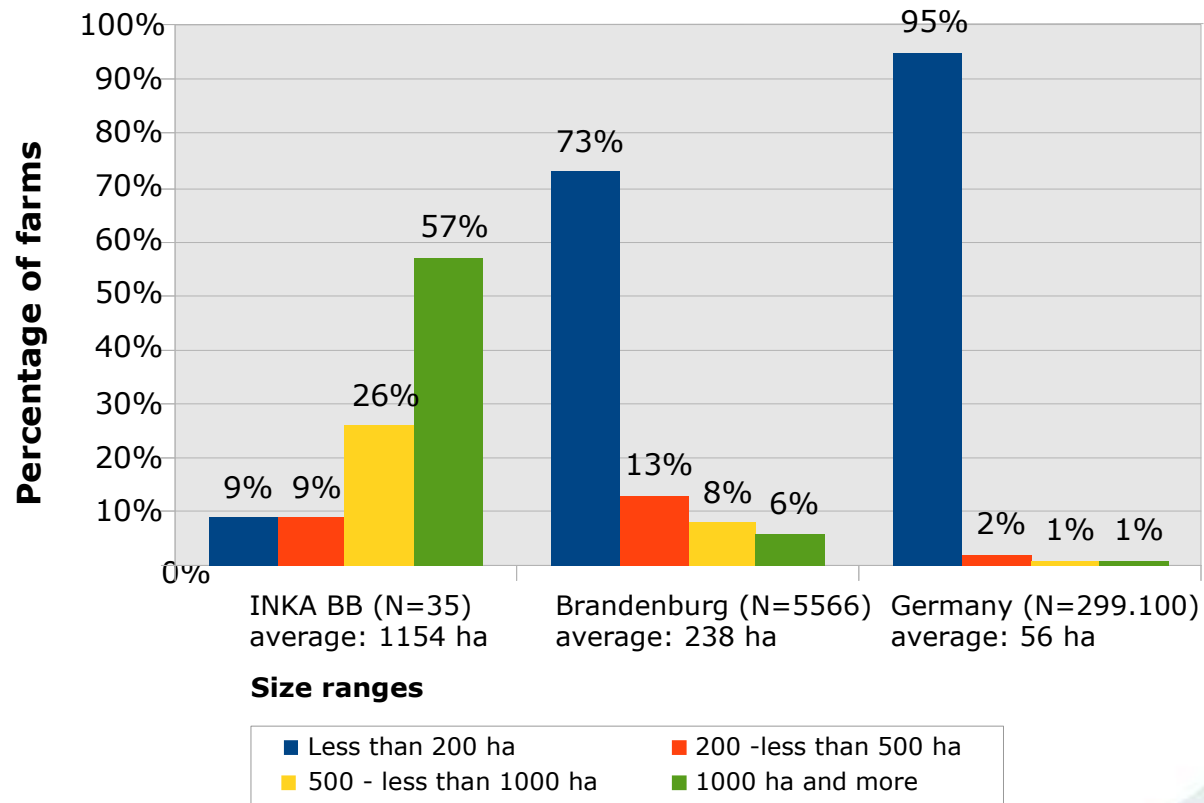
Problem-oriented, transdisciplinary and testing ,real` solutions



## Overview of INKA BB practice partners in agricultural modules

	 M 06	 M 07	 M 08	 M 09	 M 11	 M 12	 M 13	 M 14	 M 18
<b>Research</b>	X	XX	X	XX	X	XX	XX	XXXXX	XX
<b>Farmers</b>	XXXXXX XXXXX	XXXX	XXX	XXXXXX XXXXX		XXXXXX	XXXX XXX	XXXX	XX
<b>Farmers' Organisations</b>	XX	XXX	X	XXX	X	XXXX		XX	
<b>Public Agencies</b>			X	XXXX XXX		XX	XXX	X	X
<b>Companies, Consultancies</b>	XX	XXX			X		X	XXX	XX
<b>Education, Training, other NGO's</b>	X		X	X		XX			

Farm sizes of INKA BB partners/ in Bbg / in Germany



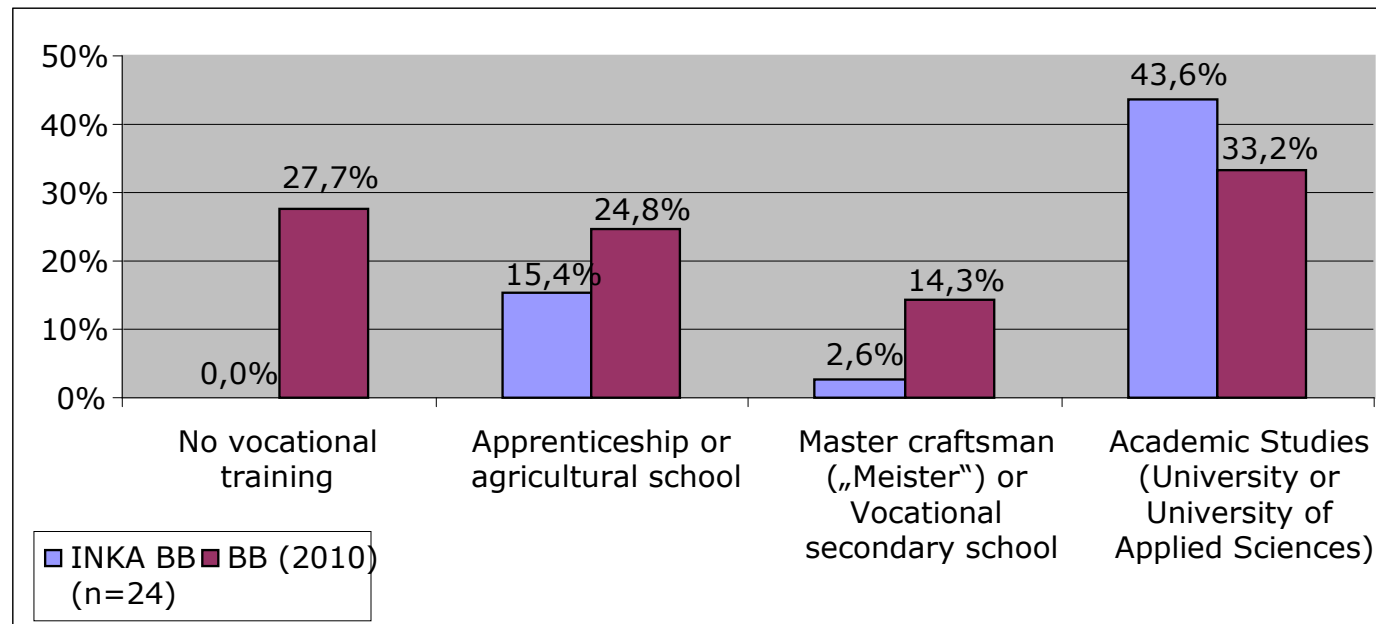
sources:

Own survey;

Amt für Statistik Berlin-Brandenburg;

Statistisches Bundesamt

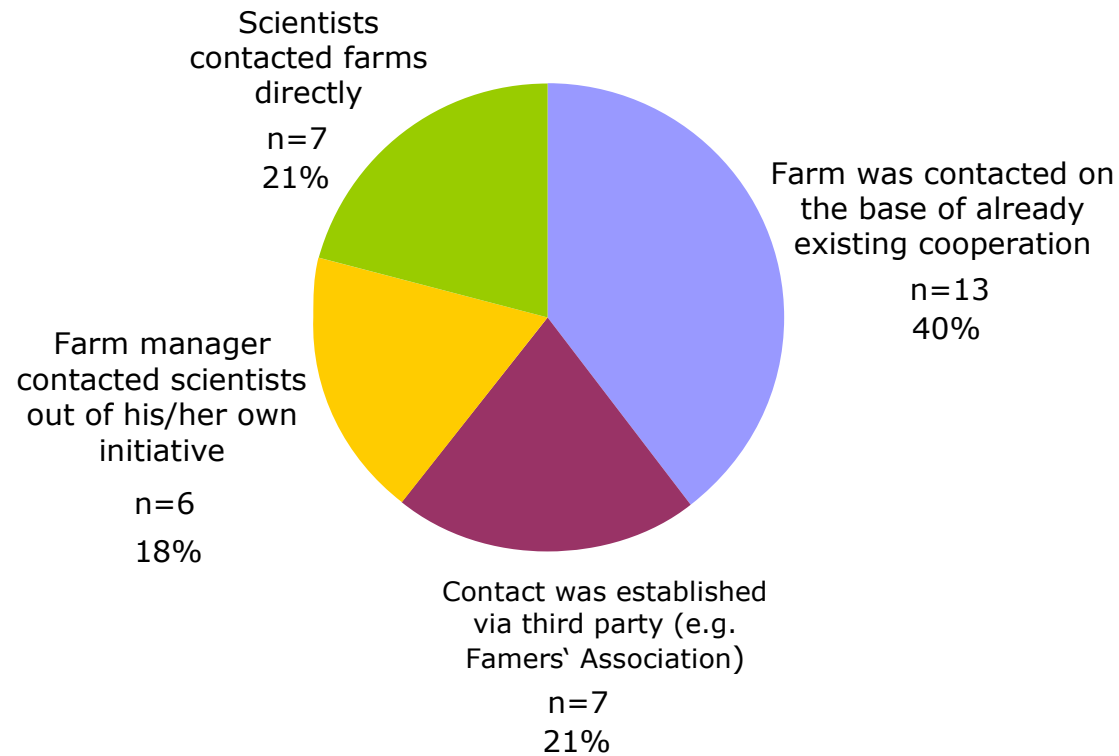
## Characteristics of farm managers



Female farm managers in INKA BB	1 out of 39	2,6 %
Female farm managers in Brandenburg	1100 out of 5566	19,9 %

INKA BB farms/farmers are not  
,representative`  
This might be a challenge for dissemination

## Who initiates cooperation ?



- Some farms joined INKA BB only recently
- A few farms stopped cooperation

## Three types of cooperation and innovation development

### Site-specific adaptation measures

In cooperation with e.g. subject matter agencies in the field of water management (watershed management at different scales)

### Sets of innovations

In cooperation with agricultural, horticultural and forestry enterprises

### Support of regional and departmental planning

In cooperation with district and *lander* level administration bodies

## The role of research

- The operationalisation of knowledge by scientists for practitioners is possible
- The identification of (new) research questions occurs in dialogues
- Personal communication qualities and the ability to create relationships are significant for successful cooperations
  - researchers' engagement in innovation partnerships should be voluntary, however, this may result in an arbitrary generation and implementation of innovations
  - innovation partnerships challenge classical role model of scientists, role flexibility becomes an issue

## Conditions for successful cooperation

- The initial phase of a network cooperation is decisive
  - Time, resources and procedures are necessary to establish sound bases for cooperation
  - Create transparency on different actors' interests (in initial phase and again whenever necessary during cooperation)
- A balance, an oscillation between joint targeting and flexibility for adjustments
- Support group working through structuring elements
  - Joint planning and decision making; regular situational analyses and evaluation etc.
  - The reflection phase requires self-evaluation tools (and possibly action research / facilitation support)



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- What interaction between overall network coordination and the subsystems (modules, operational groups)?
  - Commitment of partners – sanctions to withdrawal?
  - Practice partners – accept ‚positive selection‘ of potential, rather competitive partners?
  - How to convince ‚unexperienced‘ researchers to participate in EIP?

Thanks for your attention!

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