

Research Workshop 2 (Agriculture)



Pictures: Carolin Schlenther

Corn is the most important crop in agriculture. Nowadays, there is the tendency to cultivate not only forage corn but also silage corn to use them in biogas plants for the generation of fuel and electric power.

You are employed on a farm in Brandenburg that has cultivated corn for human consumption for 50 years. Does it make sense for your farm to enter into the business of silage corn? Create materials for the managing board that serves as an aid for the decision.

Tasks:

Focus your research on the following tasks and guiding questions:

- a. What importance does corn farming have in your region?
- b. Visit <http://maiskomitee.de/> and compare the economic role of corn for human consumption and silage corn in Germany. What proportion of Germany's total corn yield did corn for human consumption make up in 2014?
- c. Have a look at the time period from 2016 to 2066 on the platform "KlimafolgenOnline-Bildung.de" (<http://www.klimafolgenonline-bildung.de/>). Estimate the values on the basis of the diagrams and calculate the change of corn yields in the federal states of Brandenburg and Bavaria in this time period (in percent). Compare the sustainability of silage corn in both states and evaluate in which state the cultivation of silage corn might be more profitable.

Divide the work between the members of your group.

Review your research findings critically and present each other's findings within the group.

You can proceed as follows:

1. Create an outline.
2. Summarize your results in short texts.
3. Visualize your findings/ information in graphs, maps and pictures (if possible).
4. Use the platform "KlimafolgenOnline-Bildung.de" to visualize developments.

Present your group's research findings in class, for example as a/an ...

- presentation (with Prezi or PowerPoint)
- newspaper article
- interview with an expert
- video (documentary)
- blog or website



Further resources for the research workshop "agriculture":

- www.maiskomitee.de Here you will find extensive information about the cultivation of corn.
- [PDF-Datei zu Silomais](#) This document provides additional information about the forage quality and the growing conditions of silage corn.
- [Agriculture, forestry, and fishing](#) This article provides an overview of native crops in Germany.
- [ISIP: Interaktive Prognosemodelle, Monitoringdaten und Empfehlungen](#) "With weather-based forecast models for pests and diseases, you can calculate the occurrence of pathogens and periods with high infestation pressure. Infestation controls and recommendations from the plant protection services will also inform you about the current situation in your region. You can also use programs to calculate crop development and choose the most suitable tillage system."