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Cultivate domestic feed, promote soil fertility, protect the climate!

On the occasion of World pulses day, Martin Häusling, Greens/EFA coordinator in the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee and member of the Environment Committee, said:

"The EU currently uses about 15 million hectares of arable land outside Europe to meet its protein needs. The largest share of this is in South America. I myself have seen what this does to the nature in Brazil on my trips to South America in recent years: Rainforests and dry forests (Chaco, Cerrado) are destroyed and converted into soy monocultures, people are displaced or poisoned by the pesticide fog.

It is clear that we in Europe - parallel to reducing livestock numbers and meat production - urgently need to promote European protein crop cultivation. However, we do not need soya monocultures, we need to support all legumes (pulses) and cultivation in diversity. Beans, lupines and fine-seeded legumes, clover and lucerne must be promoted first and foremost. The cultivation of legumes has enormous potential for climate adaptation and soil and water protection. But only if it is done sustainably!

By means of nitrogen fixation via legumes in crop rotations, up to 70% of greenhouse gases can be saved compared to the use of mineral fertilizers. This would be a big step for a contribution of agriculture to climate protection. Soil and water protection are automatically included in the package and biodiversity also benefits. In addition, legumes also have diverse potentials for the plant based food supply of proteins. From bean and lentil dishes and salads to humus and falafel.

16 Member States have currently coupled payments for protein crops in their national programmes. Unfortunately, despite the highly praised protein plant strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Germany has decided not to offer coupled payments for these plants for market-ideological reasons. This is backward-looking and must change!

More informations:

[BERICHT DER KOMMISSION AN DEN RAT UND DAS EUROPÄISCHE PARLAMENT über die Entwicklung von Pflanzenproteinen in der Europäischen Union](#)
[Food-Monitor: Tag der Hülsenfrüchte](#)

Weitere Informationen:

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