

Sustainability impact assessment of agricultural management options: how to make better informed decisions

Convenors:

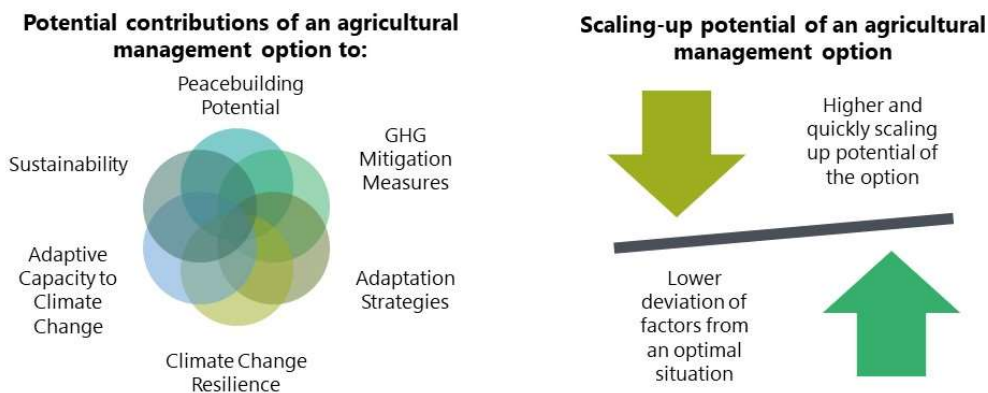
Carsten Paul, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany
Katharina Löhrr, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany
Martha Del Rio, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany
Tatiana Rodriguez, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Germany



SIA seeks to assess agricultural management options in terms of their economic, environmental, political, peacebuilding and social impacts



Example with ScalA-PB tool



Organizers: | Dr. Katharina Löhrr | Dr. Carsten Paul | Tatiana Rodríguez | Martha Del Río | PD Dr. Stefan Sieber



Agricultural management options have implications for resource use and for the supply of ecosystem services. Sustainability impact assessment (SIA) seeks to assess options in terms of their economic, environmental, political and social impacts in order to identify synergies and reduce negative impacts. To do a SIA, researchers need to:

- Select a SIA method, either a standardized approach, such as ScalA, or a more flexible framework, such as the BonaRes Impact Assessment Framework.
- With a flexible framework, researchers themselves need to define system boundaries, identify relevant impact areas, select indicators and finally weigh the relative importance of impacts. With a standardized approach, many of these choices have already been made by the tool's developers.
- In the case of ScalA, researchers need to recognize the inherent interlinkages not only between economic, environmental and social dimensions of development but also its relation to climate change and peacebuilding if SIA is applied in conflict affected environments. And to rate a set of pre-defined indicators regarding their sustainability, climate change responsiveness, and peacebuilding potential plus the potential for scaling-up of agricultural practices.

Masterclass participants will be introduced to SIA and two different SIA approaches. They will learn about the impact of methodological choices on assessment results, enabling better informed methodological decisions while mitigating risk of bias and enhancing objectivity.

Session format:

The session will be designed in form of an interactive workshop that consists of theory and knowledge transfer but also provides space for dialogue and practice. The session will consist of four main blocks:

- theoretical introduction to Sustainability Impact Assessment;
- introducing the BonaRes Impact Assessment Framework and practical exercise how methodological choices can pre-determine assessment results;
- introducing ScalA-PB tool theory and practice example using a case study;
- joined discussion on pros /cons and how to make the best-fit decision.

Maximum number of participants: 24