

# Agriculture and climate change

Farming always means contending with nature, actively shaping eco-systems, constantly searching for a compromise. And yet it is indispensable. We need agricultural products to satisfy our basic needs, nobody can survive without them.

**Climate protection is essential for farming** No other sector depends on nature, the environment and the climate as much as agriculture. Extreme weather events such as hail, torrential rain or storms can destroy part or all of the harvest.

This can put a farming family's entire existence at stake. Long periods of drought can also be devastating. This is why plant breeders are putting great effort into developing new varieties which are more resistant to drought.

According to a Federal Environmental Agency report, German agriculture was responsible for less than ten percent of German greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Most of this comes from livestock farming. The livestock sector is in search of solutions using innovative feeding strategies and targeted research on experimental farms.

## Climate protection through sustainable management

Farmers contribute actively to climate protection in various ways, for example through sustainable forest management or sustainable energy generation. But there is further room for improvement. In past centuries, bog areas were drained to increase the usable agricultural area and ensure the population's food supply. Bavaria was no exception to this. Today we know that these measures were detrimental to the climate and we are looking for solutions to reverse this development. Maintenance of meadows and arable land is imperative for flood and climate protection. Water cannot drain and CO<sub>2</sub> cannot be stored in impervious surfaces.

## Together towards a bright future

Researchers and farmers are cooperating to investigate which contribution agriculture can make to climate protection, for example by accumulating humus in fields and implementing innovative feeding strategies for livestock. Targeted basic research in laboratories and field trials under real conditions on experimental farms are providing insights.