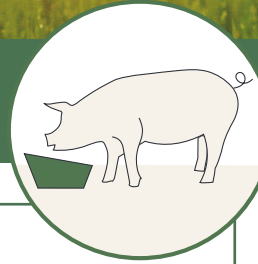


GO-GRASS

Grass-based circular business models
for rural agri-food value chains

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

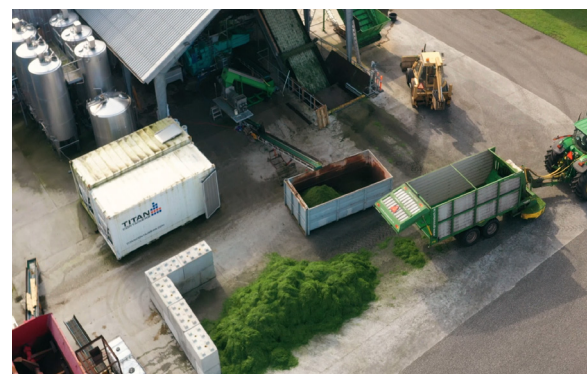


Danish Demo

The objective of the Danish GO-GRASS demo-site is to gain protein of high quality from grass and legumes in a small green biorefinery process. The organic protein concentrate can then be fed to pigs and poultry to enrich their diet, and to dairy cows to increase their milk production. This demo-site is led by Aarhus Universitet (AU) with IFAU, ABP/FBDC and LMO/VELAs participating in its execution.

The process of implementing the EU Water Framework Directive requires significant reductions in nitrate leaching from a large part of Danish farmland and throughout Europe. The conversion of annual crops such as maize, rapeseed and cereals into grassland can significantly reduce nitrate leaching. Cattle farmers are therefore beginning to change some of their silage maize production into grass-clover production in order to reduce nitrate leaching.

The Danish demo-site is cooperating with other biorefineries in Denmark to develop and implement the technology for processing grass and legumes. At first, these biorefineries will produce a protein concentrate to substitute soy, a fibre fraction for cattle feeding and a brown juice that can be used for biogas production. This will open a new market outlet for products from grasslands and contribute to the required reductions in nitrate leaching due to converting annual cropland into permanent grassland. Efficient grassland management is necessary to obtain not only good quality grass for the biorefinery, but also stable low nitrate leaching. If the grassland is renewed through ploughing, there is a high risk of nitrate leaching into a subsequent grain crop. A farming practice tested in the demo is to under-sow the following cereal crop with a grass mixture that will establish during the cropping season and help avoid nitrate leaching after maturation of the cereal crop.



Further information

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