2000 m²

Concept

2000 m² — THRIVING FOODSCAPES WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

A very small part of the Earth's surface (1 407 million hectares) consists of arable land that is suitable for food production. Divided by the number of people on earth, this land is just under 2000 m² per person. If we take care of "our" 2000 m² wisely and innovatively, we can create a diversity of thriving foodscapes for us and future generations while keeping within planetary boundaries.

The challenge

Today's food system faces major challenges. Our way of producing and consuming food transcends the planetary boundaries in several areas. Agricultural soils are depleted and eroded by monoculture and ecosystems are destroyed when we convert forests into arable land for food production. Agriculture leaks nutrients to watercourses and lakes, which leads to acidification of oceans. The food system also accounts for about 30% of climate gas emissions. Biodiversity has declined sharply in recent decades, both in terms of cultivated crops and domestic animals, wildlife is similarly affected by monocultures, agricultural pesticides and the exploitation of natural environments.

The world's food resources are moreover unevenly distributed. While parts of the world's population suffer from hunger or malnutrition, obesity is a growing health problem in other parts of the world. About a third of all food is wasted between farm and plate.

Since we cannot stop eating, we need to transform food systems to become sustainable and balanced.

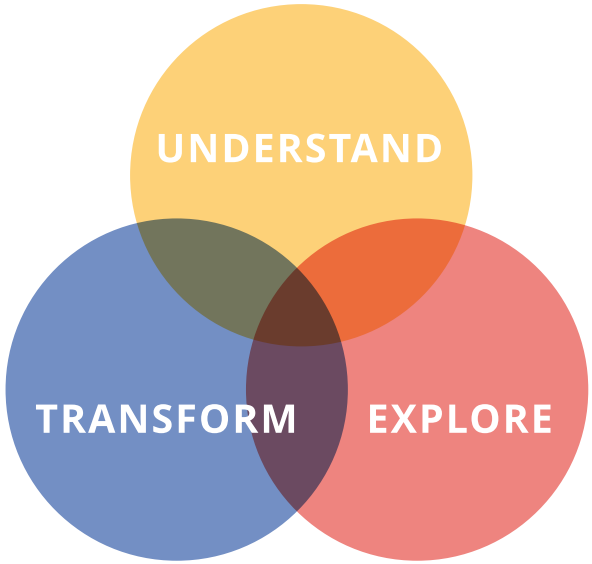
2000 m² mission

2000 m² is an educational and transformative concept used to investigate how we can grow food and eat to benefit biodiversity and produce enough food for all people, today and in the future. Using the limitations and possibilities that exist if we share arable land fairly and take responsibility for the planet as a starting point, the 2000 m² concept can help us to:

Understand ecosystem complexity and that what we do has consequences for the whole. 2000 m² conveys knowledge about how we can contribute to viable ecosystems that provide good and healthy food.

Explore how we can grow crops using local and renewable resources and which foods these crops provide in different places. 2000 m² experiments with new, healthy food cultures that contribute to a living agricultural landscape.

Transform food systems by involving people who produce, process, distribute, cook, and eat food. 2000 m² contributes to the creation of thriving foodscapes that are sustainable for nature and people today and in the future.



Be part of the solution!

What would your food culture look like if you as an individual, your school, your organization, your region lived according to the 2000 m² principles? What food landscape do you want to be a part of and create for the future?

2000 m² principles

Regenerative

The starting point in 2000 m² is that healthy soil provides healthy food. It is therefore important to promote life in the soil and soil fertility so that our soils can provide food for future generations. A key is to integrate plant cultivation and animal husbandry to give more back to the soil than we take. Regenerative farming systems, such as organic or biodynamic agriculture, uses crop rotation, livestock, composting and minimal off-farm inputs to increase biodiversity, support ecosystem services and increase climate change resilience.

Ley, which consists of legumes, is an integral part of regenerative agriculture systems. It is grown as feed for ruminants and provide habitat for pollinating insects. Ley also contributes nutrients directly to the soil where it grows and to fields with other crops through animal manure. Humans cannot eat ley but benefit in the form of dairy and meat products from ruminants. When animals graze in the landscape, they also contribute to biodiversity.

Circular

Growing with a crop rotation is a way of using local and renewable resources in the form of solar energy, photosynthesis, microorganisms in the soil and the animals on the farm to create a sustainable ecosystem. Crop rotation means that we grow several different kinds of crops every year. By moving crops from one field to the next each year, we can create a balanced agriculture and give back more to the soil than we take.

Crop rotation thus contributes to soil fertility and means that we can continue cultivating same soil for many generations to come. The key in the crop rotation is to create a balance between plants that provide resources to the soil (ley) and plants that take resources from the soil (cereals, vegetables, oilseeds). By growing a variety of crops in a varied agricultural landscape we can reduce problems with plant diseases and increase biodiversity.

Diversified

With diversity in cultivation and in livestock, we also get diversity on the plate. Eating a varied diet with more vegetables and less meat is good for both our health and the planet. By changing the proportions of food groups in our diet and eating from regenerative, circular farming systems, we can reduce our climate impact and agricultural nutrient leakage to oceans and lakes. In addition, we get a more diversified agricultural landscape that contributes to biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems.

By utilizing local resources and local food cultures, we get a global wealth of regional food cultures. This way, we can create resilient food systems and contribute to rural development both locally and globally.

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