



Country Report for Denmark

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Topics of demonstration

- Arable; Grasslands; cereals
- Potatoes
- Beef; Dairy cattle
- Pig
- Machinery
- New crops
- Climate focus
- Fruit
- Agroforestry
- Environmental measures
- Nature/biodiversity
- Soil

Providers and purpose of demonstration

- In Denmark major demonstration providers are advisory services and farmers' organisations.
- Farmers' organisations usually organise farm demonstrations with more general topics like climate control, nitrogen leaching, control of conterminous diseases in husbandry, or nature projects.
- Supply companies are mostly mechanisation firms demonstrating their new equipment.
- Only few research institutions have demonstration farms, but they have experimental fields they can show.

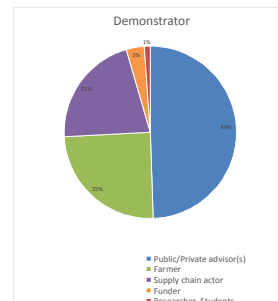
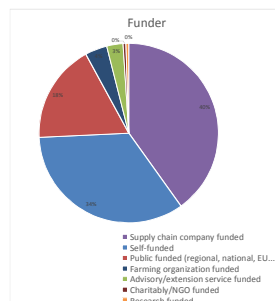
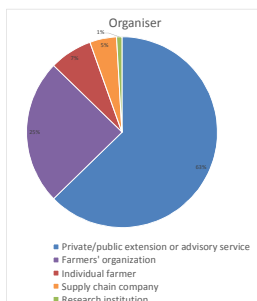
History

The agricultural advisory system in Denmark has evolved since The Agricultural Productivity Foundation was established in 1953 through funds from the Benton Moody Foundation (part of the Marshall Plan). Ever since, the local agricultural associations evolved and appointed their own agricultural advisors, on all fields of specialization and sectors. Until the mid-nineties the agricultural extension service was partly financed by the government, and especially the arable and livestock advisors used farm demonstrations as a method for implementation of new knowledge or insights which came from national or international scientific research. Especially from the 1990's and onward, the farm experience groups developed, parallel to the topic based farm demonstrations. The farm experience groups are groups of farmers meeting 5-6 times a year, at each other's locations, exchanging experiences, good and bad, accompanied by a local advisor. They are still one of the most popular advisory tool/services in practice.



Types of Demonstrations

- In Denmark the majority of on-farm demonstrations are organised by local extension services and farmer organisations.
- Farmers' organisations often focus on more general but practical farm-centric topics like nature, nitrogen leaching, soil fertility, or new barn designs. Usually the farm demonstrations are accompanied by local advisors, who though occasionally invite country experts from SEGES, and scientists from agricultural universities. Sometimes the farm demonstrations are finalized over a cup of coffee, where more generic topics like system change or economy are discussed. The farms chosen for the demonstrations are usually different from year to year, however when the demonstration concerns a perennial issue or development of innovation which evolves over the years, the same farm can be used several years in a row.
- Besides these there are organised farm demonstrations by industrial companies, showing their new products and their potentials. The topics for these on-farm demonstrations are usually the attempt to inform the farmers about innovative mechanical ideas, new fertilizer or pest disease control, varieties for cereals, grass, rapeseed, etc..



Distinguishing Characteristics

Around 200 demonstrations are organized by Farmers organizations, on commercial farms every year. Farms to be used for experiments and show-views are chosen ad hoc and often different from year to year. No financial compensation is offered. Visitors come mainly from the region, and the amount varies according to topic from 20 - 150.

Manufacturing industry of mechanization or other innovative technology organize their own demonstrations on commercial farms. They often invite broadly and compensate the farmers for their inconveniences. Around 20 every year are registered in all parts of the country. Often the visitor amount is around 50-100.



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