Agriculture and the Environment

Agricultural land use covers terrestrial ecosystems to a large extent and integrates ecological and social functions. At the interface between agriculture and the environment multidisciplinary research programs are carried out. Factors for sustainable agriculture are identified and approaches on forward-looking solutions including policy tools are developed.

Research Areas

- Mitigation and adaptation of climate change in agricultural systems
- Improvement of Agri-Environment Schemes
- Ecology and productivity of farming systems
- Socio-economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in agriculture
- Ecosystem services provided by soil biota

Biodiversity and Land Use Research

Added values of joint activities in one research centre

- Joining forces of Göttingen research power on natural and managed ecosystems represented in three different faculties (Biology, Agriculture, and Forestry)
- Internal exchange on and balancing of different perspectives on ecosystem functioning and production needs
- Strengthening the Göttingen profile in biodiversity and ecosystem research
- Integrating conservation and production issues of land use systems in one research unit to create promising research ideas and projects
- Joint research on development of livelihoods in tropical and subtropical countries, focussing on food security, food safety, rural development and health (plant / animal / human)

For contacts and more information please visit
www.uni-goettingen.de/cbl

GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

Göttingen Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use (CBL)

Biodiversity, Ecology and Nature Conservation

Biodiversity, its evolution and value for ecosystems is still poorly understood. Basic and applied research activities to develop strategies for mitigating negative impacts of declining biodiversity for ecosystem functioning and services are initiated and carried out.

Research Areas

- Biodiversity analysis, evolution, systematics and taxonomy
- Global distribution of biodiversity and investigation of biodiversity hotspots
- Temporal dynamics of biodiversity at historical and geological time scales
- Ecological functions of biodiversity
- Development of strategies for the conservation of biodiversity

Forest Ecosystems

Forests serve human needs by diverse functions and services. As managed ecosystems they remain close to nature and provide valuable habitat, control- and supply functions. Research is ranging from the molecular genetics to advanced wood product technologies.

Research Areas

- Climate change and forests
- Forest management concepts under changing environmental conditions
- Biodiversity assessment and enhancement in forests
- Provision of bio-energy from forests and short-rotation plantation systems
- Agroforestry options in energy biomass provision
- Forest management and the water cycle – water quality safeguarding and contribution to flood control for research in national and international crop protection.

Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry

The scientific nodal point of development oriented research in Northern Germany at Göttingen University aims at improving livelihoods in tropical and subtropical countries through interdisciplinary research programs, comprising seven faculties of the university, and national and international partners and networks.

Research Areas

- food security and food safety
- biomass production
- sustainable use and management of forest/soil/water resources
- rural development (institutions, governance, markets; sociology/ethnology)
- health – plant/animal/human

Other Activities

- coordination of higher education partnerships
- contribution to postgraduate education and training
- 13 scientific alumni networks (>2000 alumni)