Refined forage legumes as local sources of protein feed for monogastrics and high quality fibre feed for ruminants in organic production

Steffen Adler - steffen.adler@nibio.no

Challenges addressed by the project
- Lack of local protein feed for monogastrics in organic farming
- Protein-rich fractions of forage legumes are difficult to preserve
- Little knowledge about feed value of fractionated forage legumes
- Introducing local food systems requires knowledge about the actors' attitudes, motivations and ability to deal with risk management
- Food systems must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable

Main activities
- Predicting protein supply from forage legumes
- Fractionation of lucerne and red clover in field trials
- Feeding trials with pigs and sheep
- Developing concepts of production systems based on local feed production
- Interviews with farmers and stakeholders
- Sustainability assessment
- Disseminate results

Expected results and benefits for end-users

New knowledge
- Yields, protein content and fibre digestibility of lucerne and red clover under different climatic conditions
- Fractionation, preservation and feed value
- Novel concepts of local food systems
- Farmers’ and other actors’ attitudes towards cooperation and self-sufficiency

Implication
- More production of forage legumes
- Fractionation and preservation of forage legumes as feed for monogastrics and ruminants becomes viable
- Increased self-sufficiency with feed
- More sustainable animal production in organic farming