

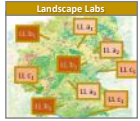
DAFA's Strategic Forum

... discusses overarching issues in agricultural and food research with a comprehensive view. Events are open to the public. Previous topics included:



Research for agrifood value chains

Dynamic development of supply chains is a key player in the transformation of the food system



Agricultural research jointly with farms and in a regional context

Agricultural research needs suitable infrastructures



Land use under change Ensuring food and energy production as well as protection of climate and biodiversity in the agricultural landscape



Target visions for agriculture 2049

Moving a complex system like agriculture to another state requires a consistent target



The food of tomorrow What are the challenges if production of rice in skyfarms, in-vitro meat and insect protein are scaled up?



Dimensions of agricultural science

Science is more than merely research – but where is the right balance?



New breeding technologies

CRISPR/Cas etc. - which perspectives are in stock for agriculture?



Big Data and research data management

Curse or blessing for agriculture?



Foresight agricultural science

What changes do we need now for the future that we want?



Research infrastructures

Large-scale sites and equipment: What do we have, what can we share, what do we need?



Evaluation of applied research

Making the societal and practical impact of research count

DAFA – a voice for agricultural research

Agricultural and food research in Germany is very diverse, in part due to the country's federal setup.

Many academic universities and universities of applied sciences conduct agricultural and food research and offer courses in these areas. Both the federal government and the states run research institutions to support public policy and extension services for practitioners. The major national research organisations (Fraunhofer, Helmholtz, Max-Planck, Leibniz) run specialised research institutes, often with close links to universities. In several states, chambers of agriculture, funded jointly by farmers and the state governments, also conduct agricultural research.



- DAFA represents the majority of German agricultural and nutritional research institutions.
- DAFA provides an integrative platform for its members and supports interdisciplinary cooperation.
- DAFA creates dialogue with stakeholders to initiate and support the development of research programs.
- DAFA conveys insights from agricultural research to stakeholders, supporting formulation and implementation of agricultural policies.
- DAFA represents its members' interests in strategic research planning in Germany and the EU.
- DAFA provides information on the structure and the competences of German agricultural research to interested national and international parties.

**German
Agricultural
Research Alliance**

German Agricultural Research Alliance

Our members

In the German Agricultural Research Alliance (Deutsche Agrarforschungsallianz or DAFA) the publicly funded research entities in Germany combine their capabilities, uniting universities, federal and state research institutes and chambers of agriculture.

Our aim

The alliance facilitates an integrated perspective on agricultural and food systems and their interactions with society, markets and the environment.

DAFA thereby helps to address producer, consumer and public expectations for agriculture to provide healthy food, nourishing feedstuffs and renewable resources, and also to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, to reduce pesticide use and nutrient losses, to support biodiversity and attractive landscapes, to create rural jobs and income, to improve animal welfare and to compete on globalized markets.

Our approach

In this context, partial solutions often create trade-offs or lack support from producers, market partners or the public. DAFA helps to develop and conduct research for integrated solutions to the big questions facing agricultural and food systems today by inviting all involved stakeholder groups to jointly develop research strategies.

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DAFA Expert Groups and Platforms

Expert groups

Expert groups work on great societal challenges and propose research strategies contributing to their solution. The topics for expert groups are suggested by DAFA members or the DAFA governing board and are approved by the members. All concerned stakeholders are invited to contribute to the strategies. After public presentation, drafts of the strategies undergo one or more revisions and are finally approved by the members.

So far, DAFA has set up seven expert groups:

- Controlled Environment Agriculture
- Bees and Agriculture
- Organic Food Production
- Legumes
- Aquaculture (closed)
- Grassland
- Livestock (closed)

After publication of a research strategy, DAFA starts a follow-up process. After a review of progress, the expert groups may be closed, change to a platform, work on an update or draft an extension.

Platforms

Platforms facilitate the exchange and cooperation of scientists, stakeholders and producers on a particular topic. As for expert groups, the topics for platforms are suggested by DAFA members or the DAFA governing board and are adopted by the membership. Platforms arrange conferences and webinars to foster networking and exchange of knowledge on current activities and findings.

Currently, there are two active DAFA platforms:

- Animal Husbandry in a Sustainable Agrifood System
- Agriculture and Climate Change

DAFA Research Strategies

DAFA develops research strategies that enable integrated solutions to the grand societal challenges facing our agricultural and food systems.

DAFA's strategy processes are participatory and inclusive. Strategies, drafted by expert groups, go through several rounds of feedback and consultation with stakeholders and DAFA-scientists to ensure broad support and a cutting-edge knowledge base. Strategies are formally approved by the DAFA membership.

The strategies have shaped national research funding calls, facilitating cohesive and ambitious research programmes.

DAFA has adopted these national research strategies:



Legumes 1. Improving ecosystem services and competitiveness | 2. Boosting legume intercropping through a holistic research strategy



Bees and Agriculture
Exploring synergies, developing solutions



Organic Food Production
Steps towards Germany's 20% target



Aquaculture
Integrated research for an underdeveloped source of food



Grassland
Innovative uses, enhanced valorization, better protection of natural resources



Livestock
Linking up markets, policy, technology management for enhanced animal welfare

The strategies are available in German and English online at the DAFA website and in print.