



## Evaluation of the Austrian Agri-Environmental Program ÖPUL in terms of Biodiversity

<sup>1</sup>POETSCH E.M. and E. SCHWAIGER<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research and Education Centre for Agriculture, Raumberg-Gumpenstein, Austria

<sup>2</sup>Federal Agency of Environment, Vienna, Austria

### Objectives

- Fulfilment of the Common Monitoring & Evaluation Framework requirements
- Analyse the impact and efficiency of the Agri-Environmental scheme on aspects of biodiversity on species, habitat and landscape level
- Development and improvement of the program resp. of specific measures
- Testing the attitude of farmers towards the program – selection criteria, level of satisfaction, problems

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### Main results

- The Austrian Agri-Environmental program ÖPUL is highly accepted by the farmers (72% of all farm holdings, 94% of total AUA)
- Significant shift to measures of higher value concerning biodiversity (organic farming, nature conservation areas, maintenance of orchard grassland)
- Areas with specific nature conservation measures are constantly increasing – 70% of these areas are grasslands
- Overall the Agri-Environmental program ÖPUL causes positive impacts on biodiversity but also some deficits were identified concerning the efficiency of several measures
- The results of the evaluation can and will be used to improve the program respectively measures for future program periods after 2013