

Abstract:

Urbanisation leads to a steady decline in farmland in peri-urban areas. Due to the rapid population growth higher priority is being given to non-agricultural land uses at the urban fringe. This endangers both the survival of local farms and the quality of life, as agriculture can no longer or only to a limited extent perform its social functions, such as the supply of regional food or the maintenance of local recreation areas.

Studies indicate that traditional agricultural policy has little influence on securing the future of agricultural holdings at the urban fringe. In those areas land use and spatial planning policies assume this function. This study therefore aims to investigate the current relation of agriculture and peri-urban spatial planning, answering the question: **How do local spatial planning decisions affect farms on the outskirts of Vienna?**

A systematic case study selection brought up Aderklaa, a municipality situated at the Viennese city border. Aderklaa has the highest agricultural quota in Austria with 36,5%, maintains a stable population size and converts agricultural land only marginally (~ 3% in the last decade).

Aderklaa's case is contrasted with another municipality at the outskirts of Vienna, Leopoldsdorf bei Wien, with an agricultural quota of 0,34 %, a population growth of 14% and a conversion of approximately 15% of its share of agricultural land in the past decade.

Problem-centred interviews with local spatial planning actors and resident farmers provided insight into the local spatial planning institutions. A cross-case comparison based on the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework shows that local spatial planning decisions indeed impact farms on the urban fringe in many ways. Furthermore it was found out that local spatial planning policies are capable of both impeding as well as supporting farms, depending on the goals and activities of the respective local spatial planning institutions.