

## The future of the European agro-food system in the light of the “land-sparing vs land-sharing” debate

### 3. ONLINE Minisymposium des Zentrums für Umweltgeschichte SEC Lecture

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#### **Abstract:**

During the last 50 years, the European agro-food system has evolved towards more and more territorial specialization, with intensification on the best lands, fostered by increasing integration of agricultural products in international trade markets, and abandonment of agriculture on less suitable lands. These trends will be examined within the framework of the “*land sparing versus land sharing*” debate, and two opposite hypothetical scenarios of the European agriculture in 2050 will be discussed and compared: (i) a scenario of *extreme land sparing*, relying on a-biotic agriculture and cells cultures; (ii) an agro-ecological scenario in line with *land sharing* principles.