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Contents:

Preface

1 Introduction

2 Theoretical background

2.1 Policy sectors

2.2 Policy integration

2.3 Sustainability – Dimensions of sustainable development

2.4 Power and power resources

3 Hypotheses

3.1 The interests and power resources of status quo and economic sectoral actors dominate the processes of environmental policy integration (EPI) in forestry and agriculture.

3.2 Since status quo and economic sectoral actors defend their competences and resources environmental policy integration in the agriculture and forestry sectors is weak.

3.3 Proclaimed environmental policy integration projects camouflage economic conflicts and the domination of policies by economic interests.

3.4 Selective policy integration (SPI) succeeds if economic interests following from the mode of production are served.

3.5 Coalitions of powerful actors with less powerful actors enable selective environmental policy integration

4 Methods

4.1 Literature review

4.2 Qualitative empirical social research – Expert interviews

4.3 Selection of case studies

5. Safeguarding scientific quality

6. Policy sectors and the ecological dimensions of agriculture and forestry

6.1 Policy sectors agriculture, forestry and nature conservation and environmental protection

6.2 Dimensions of the European Common Agricultural Policy

6.3 Ecological quality of the Common Agricultural Policy and agricultural production

7. Case studies on the greening of the agricultural policies in Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine Westfalia and Saxony-Anhalt

7.1 Case study 1: GHG emission reduction from the agricultural production in Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine Westfalia and Saxony-Anhalt

7.2 Case study 2: Reduction of agricultural deposits by the agricultural policies of Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine Westfalia and Saxony-Anhalt

7.3 Case study 3: Support of biodiversity conservation by the agricultural policies of Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine Westfalia and Saxony-Anhalt

8. Results

9. Conclusion

Abstract:

Conflicts over economic, ecologic and regional development policy goals shape the agricultural and forest policies. The scientific and practical discourses concerning those policies in the EU and Germany were heavily influenced by the greening paradigm in the last 25 years. Environmental Policy Integration (EPI) was presented and discussed as a policy mode to reduce the negative ecological impacts of agriculture and forestry.

The study analyzes the policy processes of the implementation of EU environmental policies in Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine Westfalia and Saxony-Anhalt and contributes insights to the research on sectoral power and power relations. Based on qualitative empirical research findings on the power relations between the policy sectors agriculture, forestry and nature conservation are presented.

On a theoretical level the study combines and integrates different theoretical approaches to explain environmental policies and their failures. A critical-materialist policy analysis approach is combined with a materialistic political philosophy and the concepts of policy sectors and EPI.

Based on four case studies on the political processes of the implementation of EU environmental policies in Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine Westfalia and

Saxony-Anhalt the study describes and analyzes the degree of EPI in the agricultural and forestry policies of those subnational governments.

EPI depends on the politico economic development of the regional agriculture and forestry sectors. Bureaucracies as well as business associations and enterprises, all having politico economic interests, dominate the political processes of greening sectoral land use policies. Profitability and growth block the greening of agricultural and forestry policies.

Privileged access of economic oriented actors to the decision making arenas, the identity of ideologies between bureaucracies and business associations and the dependency of bureaucracies from a successful accumulation are blocking the greening of sectoral policies.

EPI depends on the selective combination and bundling of powerful and less powerful actors.

Keywords:

Agricultural policy, Forest policy, Policy sectors, Environmental Policy Integration (EPI), Materialist policy analysis, Materialistic political philosophy