

## **Summary: Main facts concerning the “Greening” EU – strategy**

(based on a study by Prof. Dr. Uwe Latacz-Lohmann und Dr. Thomas de Witte)

### **The most important conditions for „Greening“ (as of March 7<sup>th</sup>)**

- Those with more than 30 ha have to cultivate three main crops. None of those should cover between 75 % and 5 % of the land.
- Farms with more than 15 ha of arable land have to identify 5 % as ecological compensation areas (ökologische Vorrangflächen – ÖFV)
- Already existing elements of landscape as hedges, groups of trees and other biotopes are completely considered as a ecological compensation areas.
- Marginal strips can be considered as ecological compensation areas with a weighting of 1.5
- Intermediate crops, nurse crops and legumes are considered as ecological compensation areas with a weighting of 0.3. It is allowed to use plant protection and fertilizers on these fields. Intermediate and nurse crops are subject to different specifications regarding seed mixtures.

### **Information in a nutshell**

- Costs for „Greening“ can differ between 10 and 100 € per ha of field
- Short crop rotations with high percentages of corn usually cause the highest cost for “Greening”
- Long crop rotations and many landscape elements reduce the cost for “Greening”
- Often, the cultivation of intermediate and nurse crops is economically more advantageous than the creation of marginal strips
- However, on the long run, it is not profitable to relinquish the greening bonus