



Code of practice: Protective measures against soil erosion

MERKBLATT GEFAHRENABWEHR BEI BODENEROSION

Soil conservation legislation contains provisions for the prevention of hazards in case of soil erosion, which are supplemented by a range of instruments for the promotion and improvement of erosion control in agriculture. In the case of prevention, firstly there is the good professional practice according to § 17 of the Federal Soil Conservation Law ("Bundes-Bodenschutzgesetz" - BBodSchG), which if complied with, fulfils the duty of care to prevent soil erosion. By contrast, § 8 of the Federal Soil Conservation and Contaminated Site Regulations ("Bundes-Bodenschutz- und Altlastenverordnung" - BBodSchV) in conjunction with Annex 4 of BBodSchV contains requirements for protective measures. The differentiation between soil conservation legal provisions and other areas of the law must be taken into account.

Soil conservation legislation extends beyond the cross compliance requirements; therefore, the classification of areas in erosion risk classes under CAP cross compliance (CC) is not a specification for the hazard situation determined according to soil conservation law. Land consolidation gives starting points for the implementation of protective measures. For example, in the land consolidation procedures land can be divided into plots across or at right angles to the slope, which is a protective measure in accordance with soil conservation law. The action programmes and management plans, to be drawn up as part of the im-

plementation of the European Water Framework Directive, also provide starting points for reducing the risks of erosion.

This code of practice builds on the best practice guide on protective measures for soil erosion caused by water ("Handlungsempfehlungen zur Gefahrenabwehr bei Bodenerosion durch Wasser") published by the Bundesverband Boden e.V. in 2004 and the practical guide - "The surreptitious loss of soil fertility due to water erosion" ("Der heimliche Verlust der Bodenfruchtbarkeit durch Wassererosion") published by the Landesanstalt für Pflanzenbau (State Institute of Crop Farming) (now: Landwirtschaftliches Technologiezentrum Augustenberg (Agricultural Technology Centre) in 2005. The subject of the code of practice is risk assessment in case of harmful changes in soil due to soil erosion caused by water. The soil conservation law requirements for protective measures in accordance with the Federal Soil Conservation Law, and the Federal Soil Conservation and Contaminated Site Regulations are specified in greater detail for Baden-Württemberg.

The target group for the code of practice are, in particular, the local soil conservation authorities and local agricultural authorities, in the district administrations and relevant authorities of the urban districts.