

SEAMLESS -
System for Environmental and Agricultural
Modelling; Linking European
Science and Society

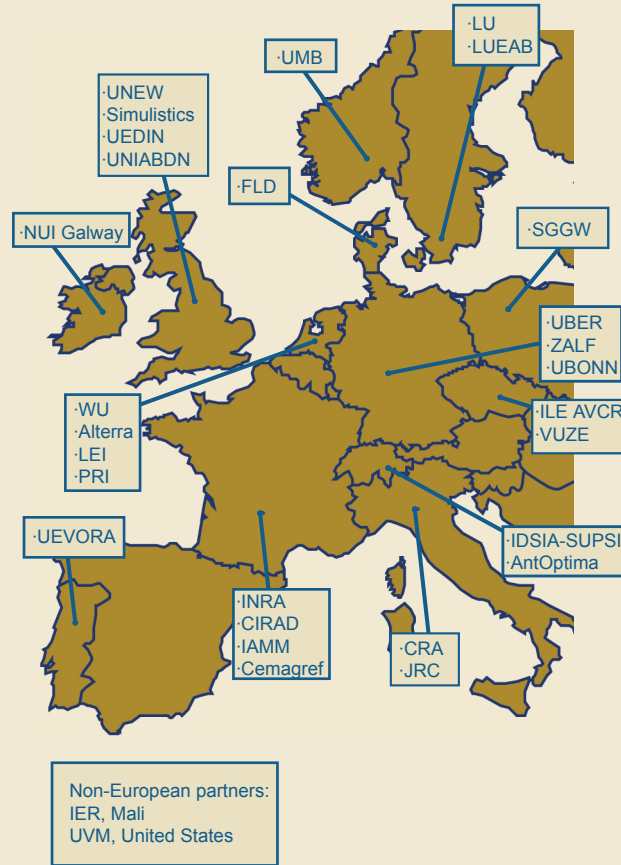
EU FP6 Integrated Project
Priority Area 1.1.6.3
"Global Change and Ecosystems"

Project duration:
2005-2008

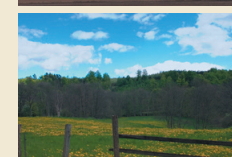
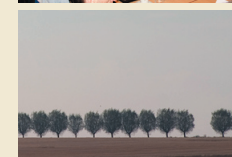
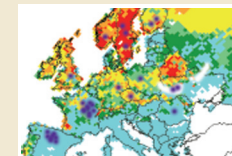
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User Stories

European agriculture faces major challenges. The on-going process to enlarge the EU, WTO negotiations, introduction of novel agro-technologies, changing societal demands and climate change, for instance, all interact in a complex way. Efficient and effective agricultural and environmental policies are needed to support sustainability of European agriculture and its contribution to sustainable development of society at large.

Example policy questions at stake:

– What are the likely consequences of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms on agricultural systems, rural employment, landscape and environment in the new member states?



– Agreements on the reduced emission of greenhouse gasses require alternative energy production systems and sequestration of carbon – what alternative policies can be developed to enhance the role of agriculture?

– WTO negotiations on agricultural trade liberalization will affect the European dairy sector and the African fibre sector – what could be the consequence of alternative outcomes of these negotiations on specific farming systems in Europe and in less developed countries?



– Does multifunctionality in agriculture stimulate sustainable development of rural areas? Which beneficial effects may be anticipated at the regional scale?

Such issues would benefit from *ex-ante* integrated assessment and scientific tools are vital to test the contribution of agricultural and environmental policies to sustainable development.

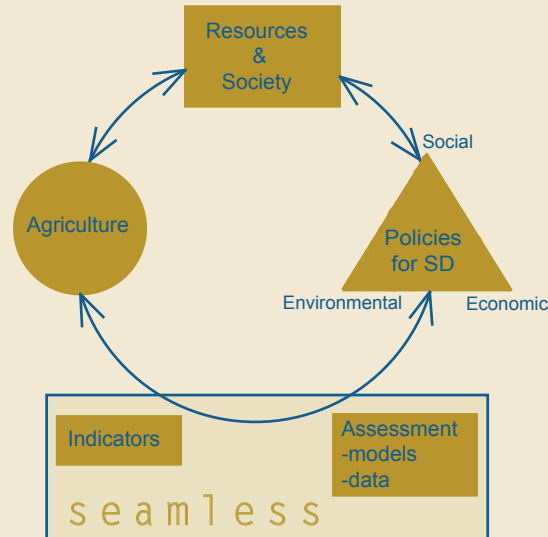
SEAMLESS

SEAMLESS develops a computerized and integrated framework to compare alternative agricultural and environmental policy options. SEAMLESS facilitates the process of assessing key indicators that characterize interactions between agricultural systems, natural and human resources, and society.

The framework will operate through quantitative models, comprehensive databases and qualitative procedures to simulate the impact on society of biophysical, economic and behavioural changes.



It enables *ex-ante* assessments at the full range of scales from the global to the field level to support policy and decision making for sustainable development. It will be open and generic, such that it can deal with the policy issues of today and those of 2010.



SEAMLESS involves thirty research institutions from thirteen European countries, Mali and the USA. These partners bring together a vast amount of knowledge and expertise from economic, environmental, agronomic, social sciences and information technology disciplines.

Consortium

- Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- INRA, France
- CIRAD, France
- Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
- ZALF, Germany
- Agricultural Research Council, Italy
- Joint Research Centre, Italy
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway
- LUCSUS, Lund University, Sweden
- IDSIA-SUPSI, Switzerland
- Plant Research International, The Netherlands
- LEI, The Netherlands
- Alterra, The Netherlands
- Centre for Rural Economy, University of Newcastle, UK
- Warsaw Agricultural University, Poland
- Institute of Landscape Ecology, Czech Republic
- VUZE, Czech Republic
- Lund University Education AB, Sweden
- Simulistics Ltd, United Kingdom
- University of Bonn, Germany
- Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning
- IAMM, France
- University of Évora, Portugal
- National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland
- AntOptima, Switzerland
- Institut d'Economie Rurale, Mali
- University of Vermont, USA
- Cemagref, France
- University of Aberdeen, UK
- School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh, UK

