



# Bio-Economy Trends in Colombia and Germany

## A curse or blessing for dairy farmers?

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### Conclusion

- Strong North-South influence which may not comply with local context in the South
- Intensification process threatens livelihoods of smallholders in Colombia
- Sustainable bio-economy strategies need to be inclusive and reflect local production contexts and histories

### Introduction

- Animals are an important natural resource for bio-economies
- Bio-economies promote the 'sustainable' intensification of animal production worldwide (BMBF & BMZ, 2014)
- Role and agency of animal producers have received little scientific attention (Wellbrock & Knierim, 2016)
- Aim: Comparatively explore the roles and agency of dairy farmers in bio-economy-driven sustainable intensification process in Germany and Colombia

### Method and Materials

- 'Relational approach' by Doreen Massey (1991)
- Preliminary, empirical study in Colombia (Bogota, Cali, Cundinamarca) and Germany (Niedersachsen and Schleswig-Holstein)
- Colombia: Field visit, interviews with dairy farmers (10), participation in bio-economy workshop, expert interviews (10), secondary literature review
- Germany: Expert interviews (2), secondary literature review



#### *The role of animal production in the bio-economy*

- No explicit mentioning of animals
- Focus on regional resilience and local governance

#### *Forms of dairy production and intensification*

- Only selected farmers in selected geographical locations intensify
- No support for non-intensifying farmers to enter alternative markets or to find other forms of income
- Concept of bio-economy is met with ambivalence, because it is perceived as imposed by the global North

#### *Juxtaposing societal concerns*

- Societal concerns relate to environmental issues and land grabbing practices



#### *The role of animal production in the bio-economy*

- No explicit mentioning of animals
- Focus on technology, digitalization, maintaining ecosystem services and biodiversity

#### *Forms of dairy production and intensification*

- Only selected farmers in selected geographical locations intensify
- Support exists for non-intensifying farmers to enter alternative markets or to find other income sources
- Concept of bio-economy is regarded as key to sustainable economic development

#### *Juxtaposing societal concerns*

- Societal concerns relate to animal welfare, production methods and environment

### References

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