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The Lëtzebuenger Landesuebstbauveräin (Lëtzebuenger State Organic Farming Association) has published a fact check on the rights of the public, which is based on the Mouvement Écologique's close position on the draft law for the promotion of glaziers.

The Landesuebstbauveräin welcomes the government's initiative. It finally a step in the right direction. This will allow Luxembourg's agricultural sector to diversify. Jonker also struggles to create a close-knit environment in he can finance a safe everyday life.

For all the other frogs, I am naturally at your disposal,

Mat beschte Gréiss,

Jean-Claude Muller
President of the Lëtzebuenger Landesuebstbauveräin

Fact check on the opinion of the Mouvement Ecologique on the legislative project concerning the promotion of greenhouses

In the past, the sector has called on the government to facilitate and the construction of glass greenhouses. If we don't build them here in Luxembourg, then more greenhouses will be built on Luxembourg's borders and the fruit and vegetables will be sold to other countries. nevertheless come to Luxembourg. This "not in my backyard" mentality, which indirectly shines through in the above-mentioned statement, is absolutely detrimental to Luxembourg's agriculture and, above all, to national self-sufficiency in fruit and vegetables. In Contrary to the appearance of the Mouvement Ecologique, only local farmers who fulfil the strict criteria of the "agriculteur actif" are allowed to produce a build a glass greenhouse here in Luxembourg and benefit from future subsidies.

The Mouvement Ecologique's criticism of the Luxembourg government's initiative to promote greenhouses for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables raises questions in various areas. Many of the arguments put forward are factually incorrect or are based on a lack of expertise in this very complex matter. The following is a clarification of the most important points of criticism:

1. Promotion of large-scale plants vs. smaller operations:

The law does indeed provide for a high level of support for greenhouse projects with a certain economic size. It is factual, but false, to claim that "small and medium-sized companies are discriminated against". The law on the promotion of glass greenhouses is a supplement to the current national agricultural law, which is designed exclusively to promote small and medium-sized farms and even applies to the fruit sector. and vegetable cultivation with a focus on smaller projects. Unfortunately, however, the current agricultural law does not provide a framework for modern, larger glass greenhouses, which, regardless of whether they are organic or integrated, are to be subsidised. year-round production according to the latest standards. For this reason, the government introduced the law to promote greenhouse projects. Both laws favour young farmers.

2. Pesticide use in greenhouses:

It is also wrong to claim that pesticides are frequently in greenhouses. Modern greenhouses are designed to use as little as possible, chemical agents, as the controlled cultivation and the protected environment enable many natural protective mechanisms. In fact, in many In addition, biological plant protection methods are increasingly being used in greenhouses, which significantly reduces the use of pesticides. For example, beneficial insects are favoured against harmful insects.

Fungal diseases do not occur as quickly with the right ventilation strategy and are mainly treated with biological pesticides in the event of an infestation. Furthermore, such greenhouses make it possible to use modern techniques such as UV lighting robots to combat fungal spores in the air. These modern technologies prevent the infestation of crops in a natural way, but are very expensive to run.

They require a certain production size and have high demands on the production environment. It is therefore inaccurate to make a generalised assumption of high pesticide use in such systems.

3. Water consumption of greenhouses:

The accusation that greenhouses have an extremely high water consumption is also unjustified. Modern greenhouses are generally self-sufficient in terms of their water supply in our latitudes. They utilise techniques such as rainwater collection and reuse and systems for more efficient irrigation, which greatly reduces water consumption by up to 75% compared to traditional (biological) irrigation, depending on the crop. Outdoor production.

4. Sustainability of the greenhouse projects:

The argument that greenhouses are not sustainable is refuted by current developments in technology. Greenhouses can be operated in an energy-efficient manner, for example by using them in conjunction with biogas plants that supply renewable energy. Another option would be to recycle industrial waste heat. Although there are additional regulatory hurdles to implementing these technologies, the possibility of sustainable energy supply in modern greenhouses is certainly there. In terms of nutrient efficiency, greenhouses guarantee that no nutrients are leached into the groundwater, and sensor-controlled fertilisation means that only as much fertiliser is applied as the plants need. Greenhouses also enable very high social standards for employees. Compared to outdoor production, they are protected from wind and weather and have all kinds of technical aids at their disposal.

5. Energy efficiency and temperature control:

Energy efficiency in greenhouses is achieved through many different technologies. This is ensured by a number of energy screens, the choice of planting dates for the crops grown and ventilation controls. The impact of energy costs on the end product to be produced is so significant that the industry is constantly endeavouring to reduce energy consumption in order to produce more efficiently and sustainably. Also in view of the ever-increasing taxation of CO₂ emissions, it is standard practice for the industry to produce CO₂-efficient and sustainable food.

Conclusion:

The Luxembourg government's support initiative is a step in the right direction, firstly to strengthen the fruit and vegetable growing sector and secondly to further promote the diversification of domestic agriculture. Many of the arguments put forward by the Mouvement Ecologique are either flawed or based on a lack of knowledge about modern agricultural practices in greenhouses. The importance of modern, sustainable greenhouse farming practices should not be underestimated especially with a national self-sufficiency rate for tomatoes and cucumbers of less than 2%.