

FACTSHEET RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

Afforestation on hillslopes of former arable land - Korbitzer Schanzen, Kirchsteigbachtal

Where was it implemented?

City of Meissen, Saxony, Germany

Fields of action

- Forests
- Farmland

Related to measure from the catalogue of measures

- Afforestation in headwater areas and on hillslopes

Area characterisation

Area type: rural

Landscape type: hilly, farmland, forest



Afforestation of a arable land and protection with game fences.
Source: Sabine Scharfe, LfULG

Problem

On 27 May 2014, the district Meissen-Triebischtal was affected by a heavy rain event of 40-60 l/m² precipitation per hour in the catchment area of the Triebisch river and its tributaries. Resulting floodings and mud flows on and from farmlands passed the forested valleys, reached the settlement area of Triebischtal and caused damages of 6 mio. Euro.

Description and aim

7.9 hectare of arable land at the border between farmland and existing slope forests have been turned into forest areas from 2017 to 2019 (→ **afforestation**). Suitable, valuable native broad-leaved trees have been planted. These areas were protected by game fences to avoid damage due to excessive browsing by game.

Effect of measure

Trees increase infiltration into the ground whilst reducing runoff and sediment transport. Damages are reduced by establishing a suitable land use type with lower damage potential.

Description of implementation

Effect horizon:
long-term

Costs:
82.000 €, 90 % subsidised under by the Forest and Forestry Subsidy Directive

Initiator / responsible:
City of Meissen

Involved stakeholders:
building administration department, building yard, leaseholder

Lessons-learned	
<p>Main success factor: Afforestation is a near-natural solution. The impact on the landscape is minimised and its positive effect remains long-lasting and sustainable.</p>	<p>Main challenge: Challenges have been administrative burdens as well as finding an agreement with the leaseholder.</p>
<p>Synergies / beneficial aspects: Afforestation is regarded as an ecological measure as well. The new developing forest improves the recreational value and offers a new habitat for insects, small animals and birds.</p>	<p>Conflicts / constraints: Originally it was planned to build a corridor for a service road between the forest and the afforested area. The measure would have extended the available budget and had not been realised.</p>
Key message to others starting with a similar task	Contact
<p>Experience: It is better to hire just one company for planting and fence building services. Otherwise it could happen that trees are unprotected for some time after planting.</p>	<p>Stadt Meissen, Building Administration Office, Markt 1, 01662 Meissen E-mail: bauverwaltung@stadt-meissen.de</p>
Further information (in German)	<p>Steffen Wackwitz (2015): Das Starkniederschlagsereignis in Meissen im Sommer 2014, in: WasserWirtschaft 9/2015, URL: https://www.springerprofessional.de/das-starkniederschlagsereignis-in-Meissen-im-sommer-2014/6110106, 13.11.2019.</p>