



## About the 11<sup>th</sup> European IFSA Symposium

### Farming systems facing global challenges: Capacities and strategies

Farming systems have to face challenges that originate in changes of global dimension in both the bio-physical and the societal sphere:

- Climate change leads to increasing weather uncertainty and raising average temperatures, thus impacting agro-ecosystems and water supplies;
- Food safety concerns are spreading in Europe while in other regions food security remains a challenge;
- Changing consumption patterns and unequal purchasing power contribute to the unsustainable use of natural resources in many countries.

These changes have manifold implications and raise questions with regard to agricultural land use: How do farmers and horticulturists cope with such challenges? What and how shall learning take place, which (human) skills need to be developed? What capacities do farming systems have to innovate, to adapt? Which strategies are promising to support the transition of farming systems at a regional level? What societal institutions and social transformation will support these transitions? And what can farming systems research contribute to address these challenges?

All of these questions call for multi-level, multi-actor approaches. With its 11th Symposium the European Group of the International Farming Systems Association (IFSA Europe) seeks answers that deal with these challenges in an integrative, interconnected way on field and farm level, on regional or landscape level or even at a larger scale. Throughout the symposium, opportunities will be offered to discuss how capacities can be strengthened and what strategies seem promising to address various global challenges.

The Symposium is jointly organized by the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Müncheberg, in the frame of the Innovation Network of Climate Change Adaptation Brandenburg Berlin (INKA BB).