

Phosphorus Governance

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Cooperation partners

- ▶ University of Rostock (Faculty of Law etc.)
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- ▶ Leibniz Institute for Catalysis (LIKAT) · Rostock
- ▶ Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN) · Dummerstorf
- ▶ Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) · Satellite collections Groß Lüsewitz
- ▶ Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology (INP) · Greifswald

Phosphorus – an Issue for Social Sciences

- ▶ social sciences (or humanities) = law, economics, philosophy, sociology, political science, cultural studies, psychology, etc.
- ▶ P = issue only for natural sciences?
- ▶ natural science insights and the pure existence of technical options alone do not change societies
- ▶ dealing with scarce resources = technological change/ behavioral change (p cycles AND eating less meat)

Governance, Transformation, Normativity

- ▶ governance analysis = finding the most effective instruments for achieving a given target
- ▶ transformation analysis = tries to explain human behavior (necessary to identify effective governance instruments)
- ▶ normative analysis = gives justifications for targets and balancing between different targets

Preconditions for Societal Change

- ▶ analysis of how and why people act (farmers, politicians, companies, civil servants, etc.)
- ▶ not only knowledge
- ▶ further aspects = personal advantage, conceptions of normality, emotions (tendency to convenience, habit, problems involving the complex correlation of time-space damages), problems of collective goods, values

Understanding typical Governance Problems

- ▶ problems regarding lack of ambitiousness (also taking imports, meat consumption etc. into account)
- ▶ enforcement problems
- ▶ gains in efficiency often compensated by the overall growing consumption (rebound effect)
- ▶ regulation of individual procedures, products or crops can cause sectoral, geographic and resource-based shifting effects

Governance Instruments

- ▶ Legal framework in EU and Germany with regard to P (agricultural, water, soil, conservation, and planning law) ignores governance problems
- ▶ development of alternative governance options
- ▶ better regulatory law – or quantity control that can set up absolute quantitative limit for the usage of P, either directly through caps or indirectly by imposing taxes or a reformed agricultural subsidies system
- ▶ interactions of the governance of P, nitrogen, climate, biodiversity, soil degradation; quantity reduction in one of these fields may have positive effects on the other realms

Potential of Quantity Control

- ▶ potential to trigger not only technological progress (P recycling) but also behavioral changes
- ▶ less enforcement problems than regulatory law
- ▶ makes shifting effects less likely and eliminates rebound effects (in case of a broad geographical and substantive scope of application)
- ▶ unbureaucratic and supporting principles of freedom and democracy

Normative Issues

- ▶ perspective of ethics or legal principles (e.g. human rights)
- ▶ balancing between different targets such as sustainability and economic growth
- ▶ dealing with distributional effects

Thank you for listening!

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