

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues of the Press,

New agricultural cultivation methods and alternative crops – on specially filled fields at Sophienhöhe, Forschungszentrum Jülich is investigating how plants can be grown productively on nutrient-poor substrates with as few nutrients and water as possible in a resource-saving manner.

We cordially invite you to a tour of the field laboratories in the Hambach opencast mine below the Sophienhöhe on the

**Friday, June 28, 2024 | 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.**

**Meeting point 9.20 a.m. | Joint entry into the opencast mine 9.30 a.m. | Planned return around 12.00 p.m.**

**Hambach/Sophienhöhe hiking car park, Niederzierer Straße, 52382 Niederzier**

Please let us know by Thursday, June 27, 12 noon, if you would like to participate. Write a short e-mail to [anke.krueger@fz-juelich.de](mailto:anke.krueger@fz-juelich.de) or call us at 02461 61-85448.



**Caption:** Field laboratories for resource-efficient plant production in the Hambach opencast mine, here safflower. **Source:** Forschungszentrum Jülich/BioökonomieREVIER/Anke Krüger

**Background**



On an area of 6 hectares, the Institute of Plant Sciences is investigating raw material and food crops and different fertilisation methods that stimulate humus formation and serve as a carbon sink. The latest technologies for plant measurement are used directly on the plant, in the soil and from the air.

The field laboratories are part of the "AgroInnovationLabs" innovation laboratory of the BioeconomyREVIER structural change initiative, which is driving forward the transformation to a bioeconomy in the Rhenish mining area. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with funds from the Immediate Action Programme Plus for Structural Change. Further information:

[https://www.bioekonomierevier.de/Innovationslabor\\_Marginal\\_Field\\_Lab\\_MFL](https://www.bioekonomierevier.de/Innovationslabor_Marginal_Field_Lab_MFL)

RWE Power has built the unique field laboratories at the Hambach opencast mine according to the researchers' specifications.

### **Tour of the field laboratory**

Prof. Ulrich Schurr, initiator of BioökonomieREVIER and Director of the Institute of Plant Sciences at Forschungszentrum Jülich, welcomes you on site. Jülich plant researchers Dr. Christina Kuchendorf and Dr. Arnd Kuhn as well as farmer Burkhard Liesen will also be available for background discussions and interviews on the various specialist topics. Also present at the meeting are Mr. Henrik Stemann, Head of Opencast Mine Planning at RWE Power AG, Mayor Frank Rombey from Niederzier and Mr. Boris Linden, Managing Director of Neuland Hambach GmbH.

### **Organizational**

For the event, the mining premises will be entered, so we ask for binding registration and punctual appearance.

For nature conservation reasons, access is limited. Therefore, we ask you to change to the waiting vehicles at the meeting point.

The event takes place in all weather conditions and on unpaved terrain. Please make sure to wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Safety helmets and protective vests are provided.

Best regards,  
Anke Krüger

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