

# Liquid fertilizer injection Christophe Bommès

## Liquid fertilizer injection to reduce machinery and fertilizer costs



Presentation  
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Lower Saxony, Germany



### Structure

- I Introduction
- I Fundamentals of  $\text{NH}_4$ -based Crop Nutrition
- I Field Trial Results from 2001 to 2007

## Begin

- | Since 1993 Advisory/ Contracting service/Sewage slurry recycling
- | Soil sample based
- | Indicators pH and P-level
- | Open question: N delivery



## Fertilizer savings in a CTF system

Time and manner of application are the key to sustainable savings



## Fundamentals of $\text{NH}_4$ -based Crop Nutrition

- I Sustainable N-Supply
- I Reduced Total- N-amount (20 % less!)
- I One pass fits all!
- I Root dominant N-Nutrition vs. Stem-dominant N-Nutrition



## Root aspects



- I Root development differs with type of N-Nutrition

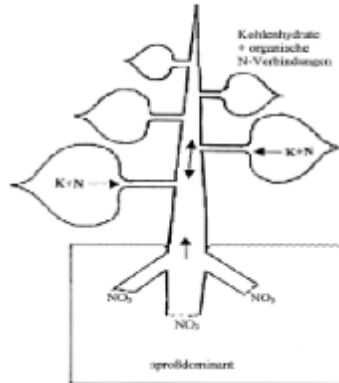


## Physiology of plant nutrition

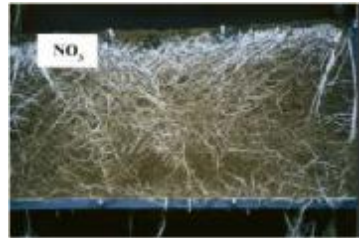


Nitrat oder Harnstoff

Nitrate or Urea



Carbohydrates  
and organic  
N-compounds



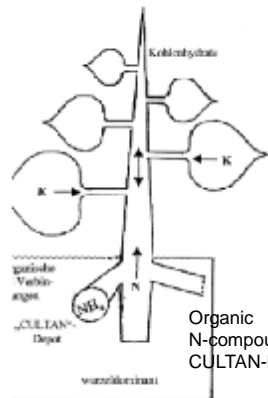
stem dominant

## Physiology of plant nutrition

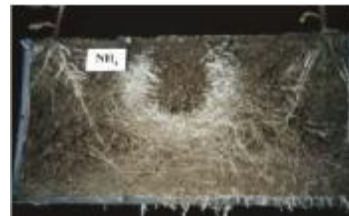


Ammonium as CULTAN

Carbohydrates



Organic  
N-compounds from  
CULTAN-Depot



root dominant

## Root dominance off-site



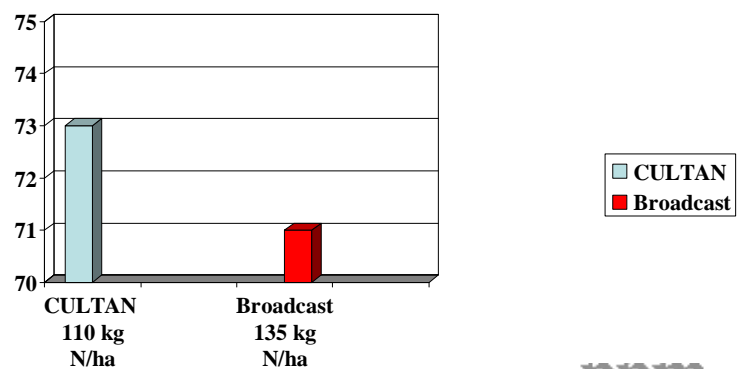
## Root dominance on-site!

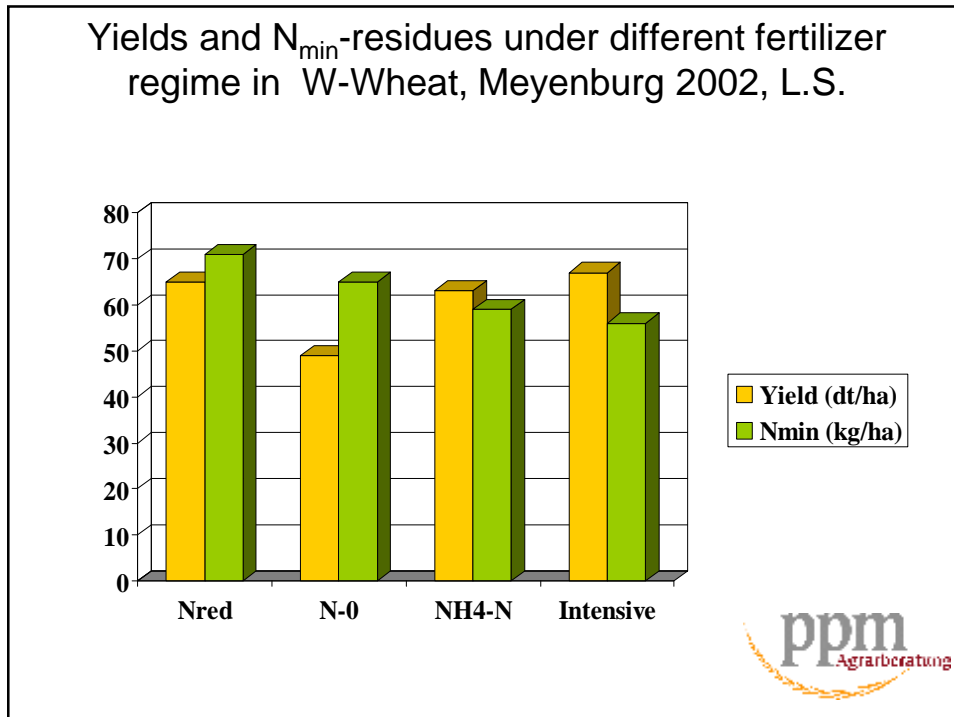
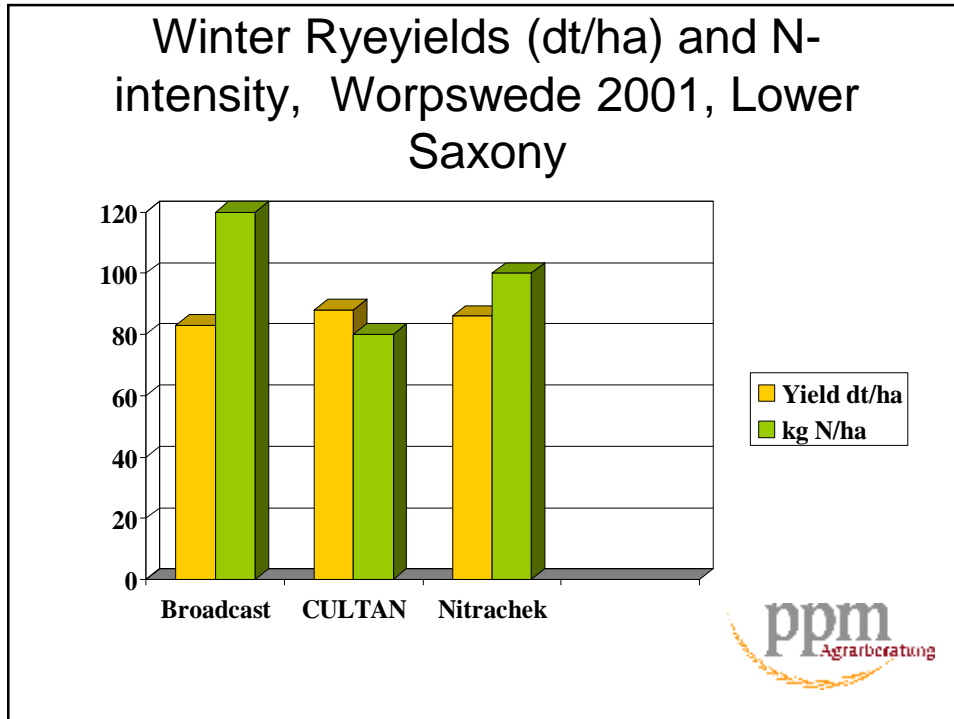


## Intensive Fieldtrials since 2001

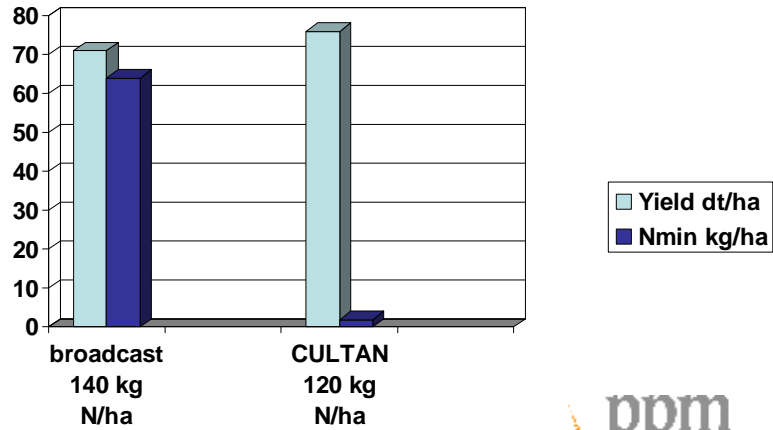


Average Cereal yields in dt/ha as a function of N-intensity  
(2001 - 2004, Elbe-Weser, Lower Saxony)

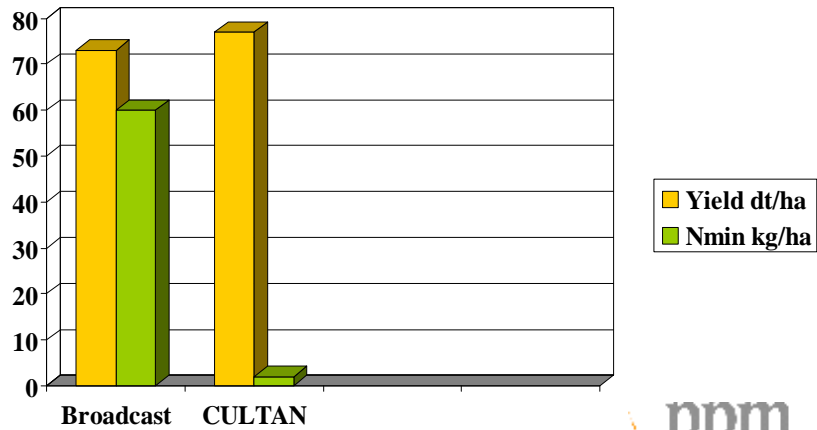




### Winter Barley yield 2003 im WSG Meyenburg



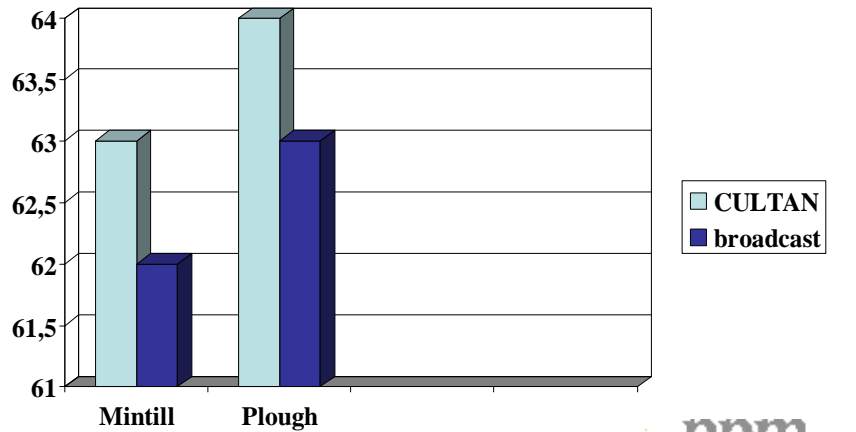
### Yields und Autumn-N<sub>min</sub>-residues after Winter Barley, Meyenburg 2003



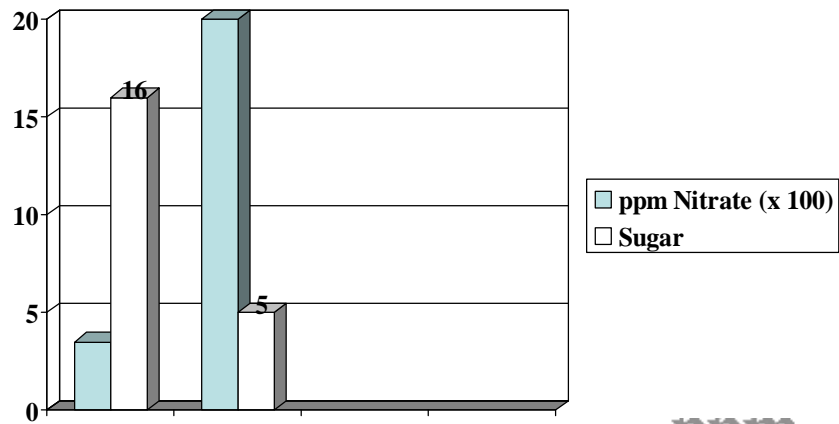


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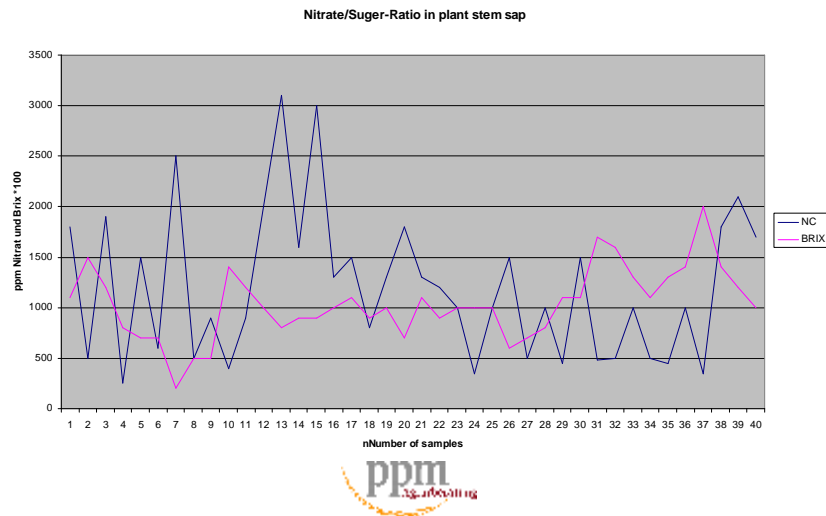
Winter barley yield mintill vs. plough  
(CULTAN vs. broadcast), Uthlede 2004, L.S.



Sugar content (%) and Nitrate content (in ppm x 100) of shoot stem base of cereals (n=500)



## Fieldanalytics 2005



### Open question: N demand and supply

- I N supply is more than counting estimated amounts
- I Soil sampling mineral N (Nmin) is not effective in results

## Exkurs Nmin – bad science

- | There is no evidence that mineral N samples show any correlation with plant uptake

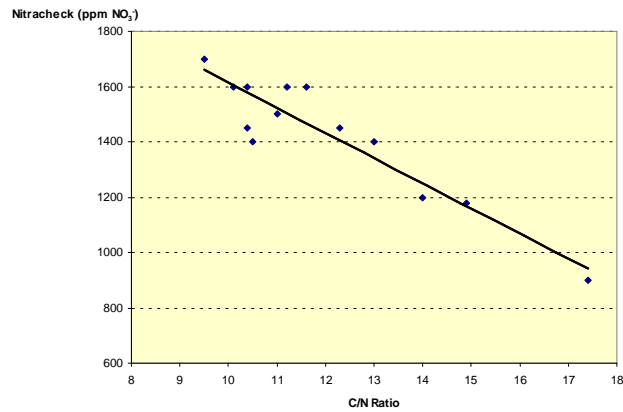


## Solution:

- | Alternative to mineral N testing:  
Plant testing to reflect nutrient availability



## Plant analysis and soil fertility



## N-Dynamics are depending on time of fertilizer application

Temperature:	Humidity:
Warm	Dry
Cold	Wet



## Corresponding combinations and N supply (mineralisation)

Temperature: Humidity:	N
Warm and Dry	High accumulation
Cold and dry	Low accumulation
Warm and Wet	High release
Cold and Wet	Great losses after warm period



## Examples and conditions of plant testing

I 5 steps







## N-Management



## Early results and conclusions

I CULTAN



## CULTAN and Mintill/ Notill

- I To avoid exceeding application of organic or mineral N- fertilizer



## From Mintill to CTF

- I A CTF System points out the necessity of root establishment





## CTF a base and a framework

- | Mintill allows to yet to know the previous crop
- | CTF allows to consider all aspects of previous management



## The key to a reliable future Zoning

- | CTF
- | CULTAN
- | Banded and placed slurry
- | Maize under Plastic



## Zoning

- I Continues the development of agricultural infrastructure



## Zoning

- I Exkurs Project 20 -20 -20  
Sugar beet improvement Germany 2010  
20 % of the best operations  
20% more sugar per hectare  
Until 2020



## Zoning

I Exkurs Project 20 -20 -20  
Stressing  
Unterfußdüngung  
Autumn slot  
Mechanical weeding  
Nematodes  
Early drilling (film)  
Rotfäule



## Zoning

I Our Project 50 - 5  
50 % less nitrogen with given yield within the  
next 5 years



## How to start

- I No mapping:
  - Consider slopes, tops and feet for extra sampling



## Exkurs Soil Analysis and Sampling

- I Meet the right place
- I Soil map for localizing significantly different parts of the field

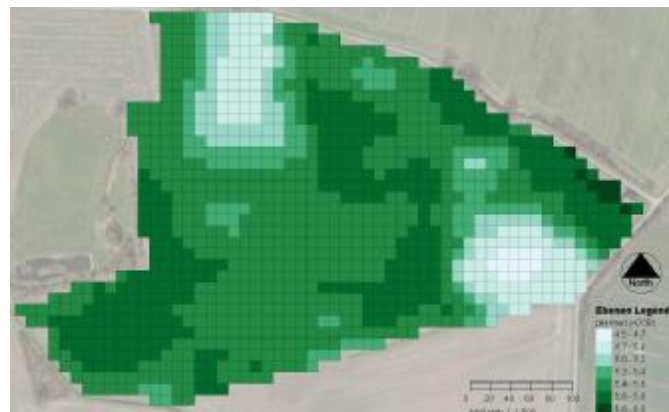


## How to start

- | Mapping does exist:
  - Consider GPS sampling



## Exkurs Soil Sampling



## Exkurs Soil Sampling



- I Bring the correct fertilizer to right place



## Exkurs: Calibration

- I N-Sensors promise

will only be kept with a reliable testing to  
calibrate the sensor

