The land use changes in agricultural areas between 1980 and 2005 with particular emphasis on permanent grasslands – an example of the upper Raba River basin

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Abstract: The aim of this study was to evaluate changes in the agricultural land use with particular focus on pastures and meadows in relation to transformation in agriculture in selected communes located in mountain areas of the Raba River catchment. Changes in husbandry were described with production parameters such as animal stock (expressed in LU) and NPK load originating from all agricultural sources. The area of agricultural lands, particularly arable lands, decreased in the years 1980–2005 but meadow areas increased. A close relationship was shown between the reduction of agricultural production, expressed in animal stock, and changes in NPK loads. The conclusions from the paper will help shaping the functional space in mountain areas and sustainable development there.

Key words: agricultural use, animal stock, arable lands, NPK load, permanent grasslands