

Frauen im Forstbereich e.V.

www.forstfrauen.de



Empower and support Women in Forestry, and facilitate knowledge exchange

Bestärken, Mut machen, begleiten, Erfahrungen austauschen!

Herzlich Willkommen auf der Homepage des Vereins

Frauen im Forstbereich e.V.

dem Frauennetzwerk für die deutsche Forst- und Holzwirtschaft



Dr. Birgit Homann - WOFO-International Conference 2024

24/25 October 2024

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Challenges

Past - Present - Future



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History of Forest Administration and Forestry Education in Germany

- The Organisation of the Forest Administration has its roots in a military Organisation
- In the 1950s, post-war soldiers were preferentially employed
- There were few university admissions as few places were available
- from the 1960s students were recruited through selection courses (based on medical army inspection)

Where do we come from?

1. Many students descended from forester families
2. More students recruited among hunters
3. Study only after selection course
4. Therefore, no female students were admitted
5. Few female professors
6. Some female research assistants

What was the situation in the Forest Districts?

1. Forestry work was seasonal work as a secondary occupation
2. Many female forestry workers
3. Female "Kulturfrauen" worked in spring and autumn (Nursery and Planting)
4. Male "Holzhauer" only active in winter
5. Things changed with the introduction of one-man chainsaw (not allowed for women)

University courses from 1970s onward

1. Strong increase in the number of female students (up to 30%)
2. First female participants of traineeships (some through lawsuits) for the Service in Higher Departments.
3. First women are kept on as assessors
4. First female students are admitted at universities of applied sciences
5. Few women are employed in Forest District Service

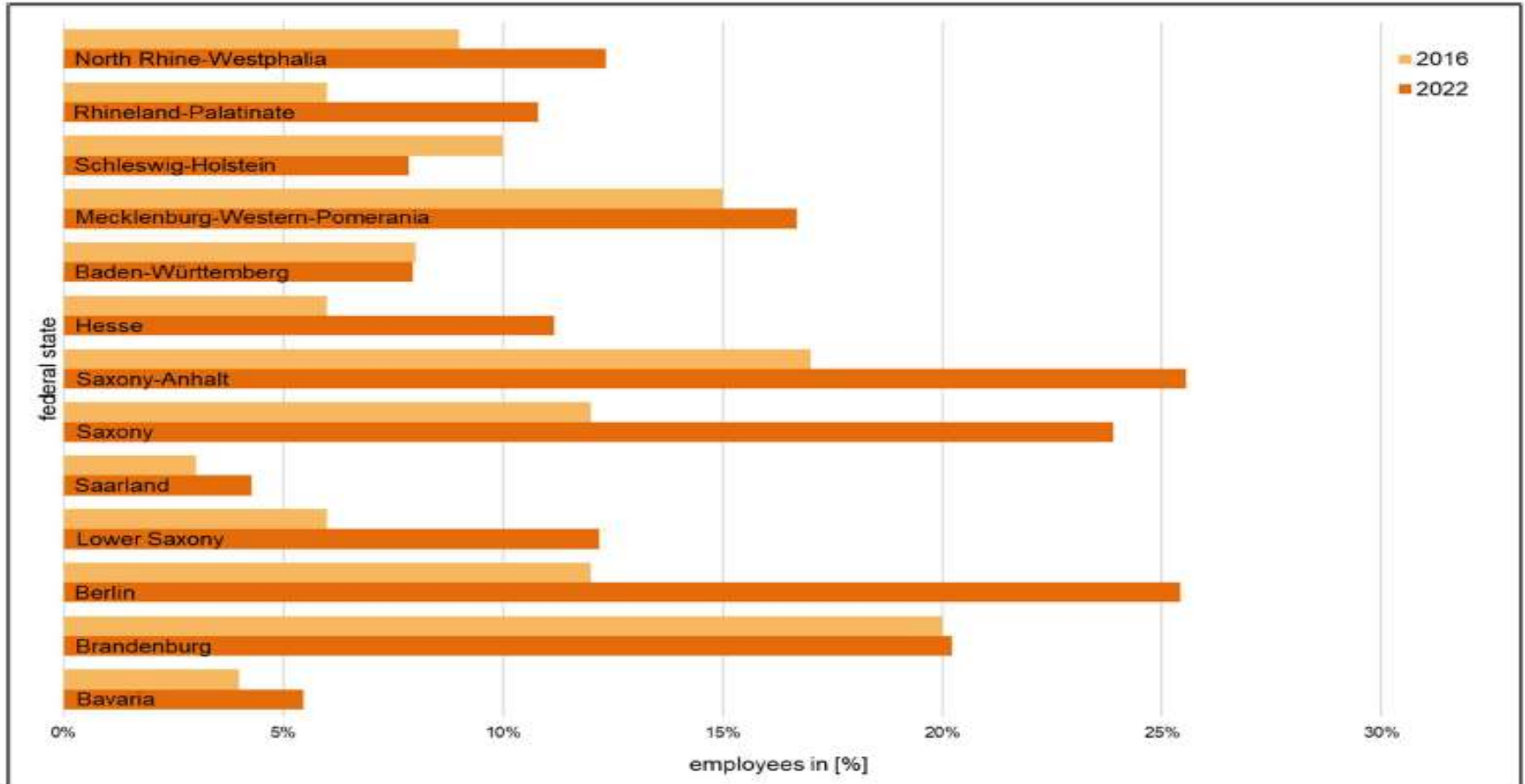


What is the Situation today?

1. Share of female employees with forestal education has slowly been rising since 2015 from 9% to 13% in 2022
2. First scientific studies about women in forestry are conducted
3. Men still dominate forestal educated employees
4. However, women are not the exception anymore

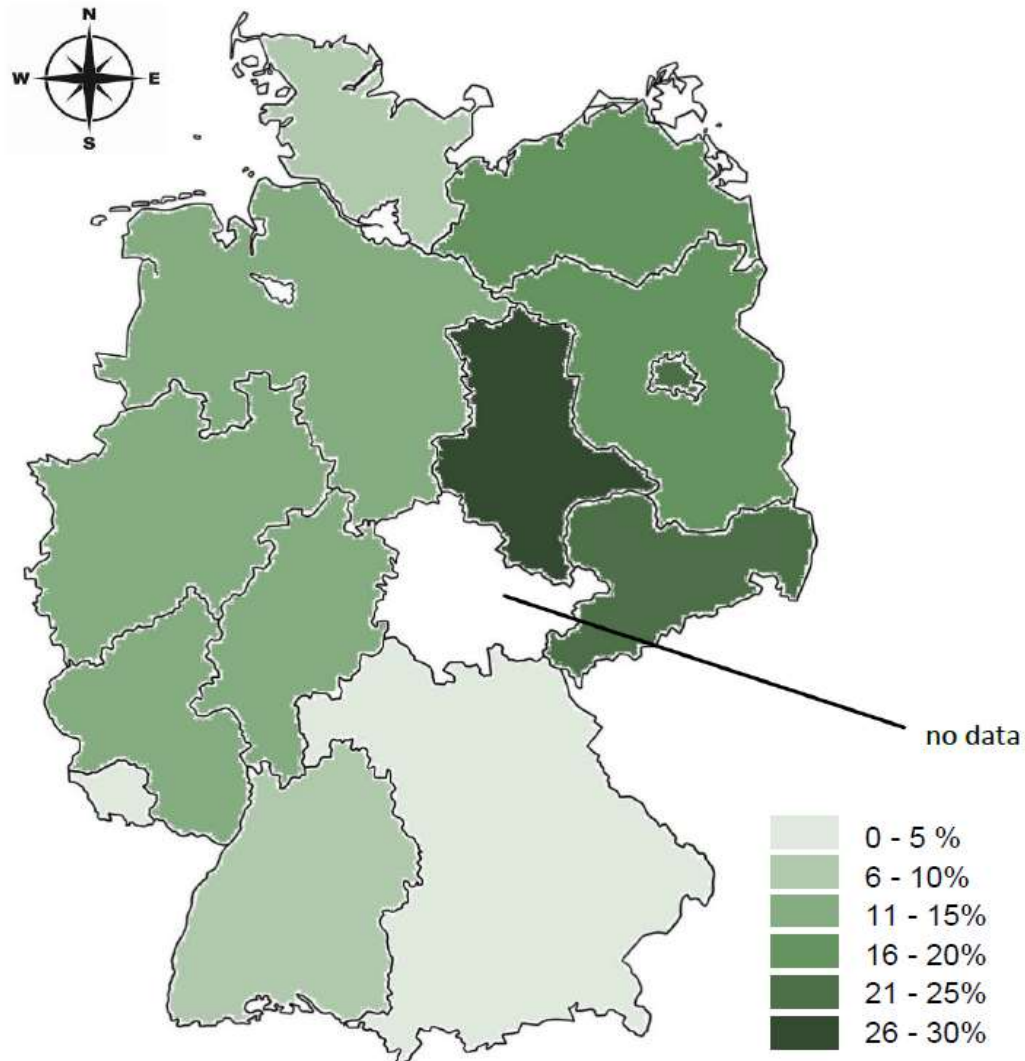


What is the Situation today?



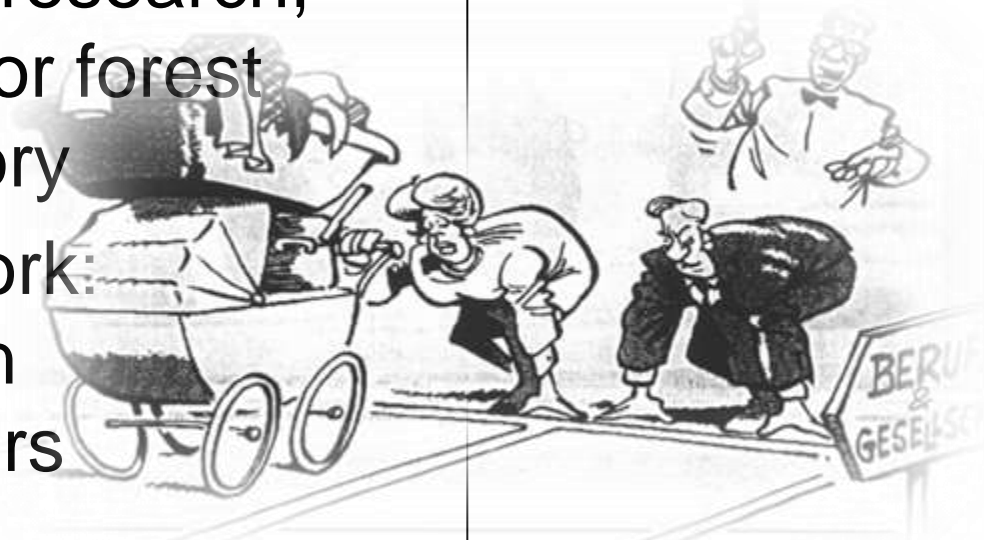
Percentage of women with forestry education employed in state forestry administrations in 2022, divided by federal states - comparison of the years 2016/2022 -

Share of women in forestry administrations 2022 by federal state



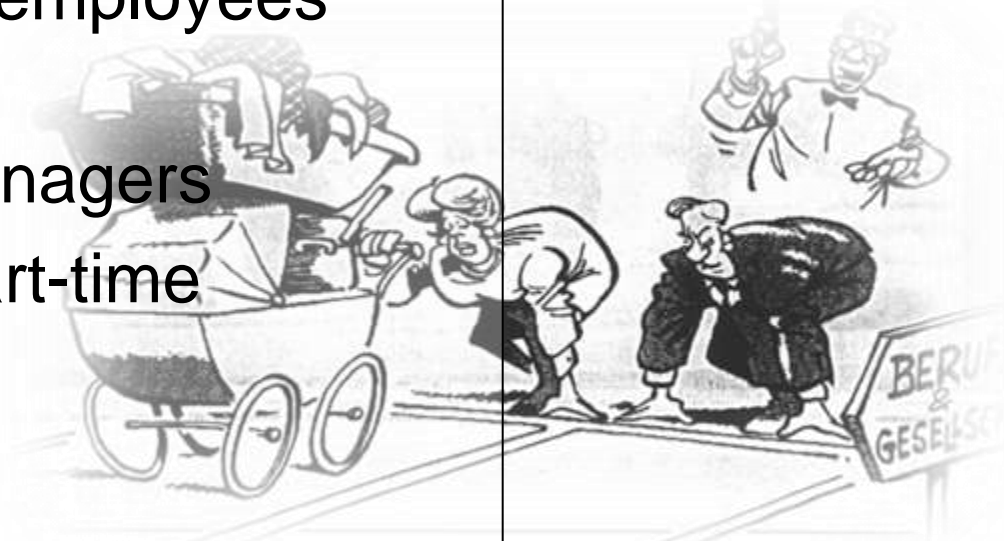
What is the Situation today?

- Women rarely occupy executive positions
- Women often work in research, assistance positions, or forest survey / forest inventory
- Kids, parents, care work: These topics are often purely women's matters



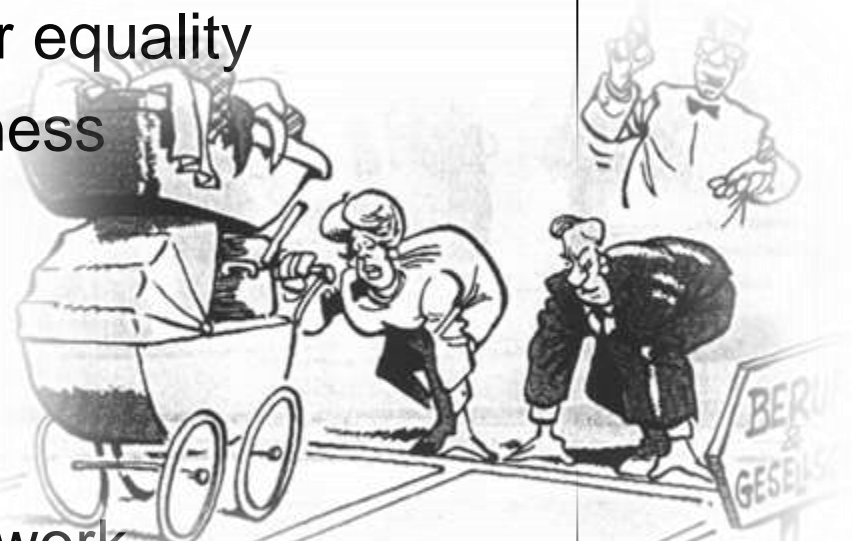
What are our wishes for the future?

- Mentoring and training of female managers
- Gatherings of female employees ("women in forestry")
- Education of male managers
- Parental leave and part-time occupation of men is viewed as normal



What are our wishes for the future?

- Real representation for gender equality
- Courses on the topics of business administration, law, taxes, and retirement planning
- Courses on self-assertion
- Financial and organisational support for childcare and carework
- More offers for part-time occupation / job sharing





„Frauen im Forstbereich e.V.“ – Our Story

- **1986** Frauen im Forstbereich begin to organise (ca. 40 women)
- **25.03.1993** Foundation of the Club "Frauen im Forstbereich" in Göttingen
- Annual Conferences and Excursions
- **2000** International Conference of women in forestry in Ehrhorn/Nds.+Hamburg
- **2010** International Conference of women in forestry in Hessen + Rhl.-Pfalz
- **2022** Foundation of WOFO-International (Women in Forestry)

„Frauen im Forstbereich e.V.“ – Our Story 2024

- **June 2024** Frauen im Forstbereich organise a discussion at the Forestry Fair „**KWF-Tagung**“





Aims of the Association „Frauen im Forstbereich e.V.“

- Support of gender-equality
- Support of collaboration of all women in forestry
- Engagement for the improvement of women's situations in family, at work, and the society
- Representation of women in forestry towards -- legislation -- government -- administration -- as well as other relevant social groups
- Support of advanced trainings, life-long education
- Professional empowerment
- economic and social equality of all women in forestry

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„Frauen im Forstbereich e.V.“ - Give and Take

We work for about 180 members in 2024 (Target Groups: all women interested in/working with forests)

- Networking for women
- monthly Newsletter, Homepage, Instagram-account, Couchhopping
- National and International Activities (Conferences, Excursions)
- Exchange of experience
- Whats-App-Group quick Exchange (Invitations, Questions, Information)
- Advanced training on several topics

Contact: www.forstfrauen.de Instagram: frauen_im_forst

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30th anniversary of the German “Frauen im Forstbereich eV” 2023



What women in forestry have to listen to...

At the door of the foresters lodge or women at the job:

- Is your father / husband available?
- Where is the forester?
- Are you the secretary of Mister X?

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What women in forestry have to listen to...

Girl

Darling

Sweetheart

What women in forestry have to listen to...

“Many more women should study, then men’s career opportunities will increase.”
(1988)

“Why aren’t you wearing a skirt? It would be much easier to look underneath.” (2020)

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Sources

Contact: www.forstfrauen.de Instagram: [frauen_im_forst](https://www.instagram.com/frauen_im_forst)

Many thanks for images and information:

- www.wa-gen.de
- **“Abschied vom grünen Rock” 2010; Hrsg.:
Maria Hehn, Christine Katz, Marion Mayer und
Till Westermayer**
- **Prof. Dr. Sigfried Lewark, Uni Freiburg**
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