

MACHINERY RINGS ARE THE BACKBONE OF DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE

A dozen became over 190,000 member farms. The first farmers founded the first machinery ring in Buchhofen, Bavaria. A handshake was enough. Being reliable, keeping one's word, working together from then on - that became the DNA of a global agricultural community that is still growing today.

A machinery ring is an agricultural self-help organisation. It is a registered association and thus belongs to its members. In Germany there are 240 regional machinery rings, divided into twelve regional associations, overseen by a federal association. The founding idea still applies today: a machinery ring does not own any machinery itself. It is the intermediary body.

THEY OWN THE MACHINES

The agricultural machinery belongs to individual farmers, commercial contractors or machinery syndicates. The aim: to make the best possible use of the often cost-intensive machinery and to enable other farmers to work effectively.

THESE WORKERS ARE MEDIATED

Most members are family farmers. The daughters and sons of these farms often have close ties to agriculture. Before continuing with the parental farm, they get themselves placed as supporting labour. They are supplemented by farmers from smaller farms who are not working to full capacity on their farm and are looking for additional employment.

HOW A MACHINERY RING WORKS ECONOMICALLY

Each member farm pays a small annual fee. This is based on the area farmed. In addition, the machinery ring receives commissions for machines or services provided.

Each machinery ring is organised from an office. Smaller machinery rings are run by a few people, while the larger ones can have 20 or more employees. More than 170 people currently work for Maschinenringe Deutschland GmbH at the machinery rings' headquarters.

THESE ARE THE BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

All member farms benefit from the mechanisation of agriculture, regardless of their size. Farmers share machines, labour and knowledge. They reduce costs and increase their productivity. They reliably produce the highest quality food. Without the machinery rings, quality and quantity would not be possible.

The machinery rings not only improve the income of their member farms. They also increase the quality of life for the whole family. Through unique social security systems such as farm assistance, members are protected. If a farm manager is absent due to an accident, illness or a cure, a skilled agricultural worker takes over the work on the farm for that period.

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN UNDERGOING INTENSIVE STRUCTURAL CHANGE FOR YEARS. IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, THE MACHINERY RINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A RELIABLE PARTNER FOR ALL MEMBER FARMS.