



Climate Smart Agriculture in the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework

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**Symposium "Towards a regulatory framework for Climate Smart
Agriculture in Europe"**

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Outline

1. *Agriculture in the EU climate policies*
2. *The future of the Common Agricultural Policy*

Land and forests in the Paris Agreement



*Mitigation
objective*
*"Achieve a balance
between anthropogenic
emissions by sources and
removals by sinks of
greenhouse gases in the
second half of this
century"*

The EU commitment:

- Include **land use and forestry** into the GHG mitigation framework
- At least **40% emission reductions by 2030** compared to 1990

2030 Climate and Energy Framework

$\leq -40\%$ Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emission Trading System (ETS)

-43%

*Including:
Power/Energy Sector
and Industry,
Aviation*

*Max
100
MTCO
2eq*

Effort Sharing Regulation

-30%

Non-ETS $\leq -30\%$

Including: road transport, buildings, waste, agriculture, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

*Full
flexibility*

*Max 280
MtCO₂eq*

Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

$\leq 0\%$

"No-Debit"

Agriculture and climate policies

The **agriculture sector** has a role to play in all three pillars of EU climate policy:

1. Emission Trading System:

agriculture can produce biomass to **replace the use of fossil-fuel energy and materials** (thus decreasing emissions) in the ETS sectors (energy, manufacturing...) – **Bio-Economy**

2. Effort Sharing:

agriculture contributes to the emission reduction targets in the Effort Sharing sectors by **decreasing methane and nitrous oxide emissions** from use of fertilizers, livestock ...

3. Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry:

well-managed soils and forests **remove carbon from the atmosphere.**

Outline

- 1. Agriculture in the EU climate policies*
- 2. The future of the Common Agricultural Policy*



The Future of Food and Farming

Brussels, 29 November 2017

- *On 29th November, the European Commission presented a Communication on the post-2020 CAP*
- *It outlines ideas on the future of food and farming in Europe*
- *Next steps: Impact Assessment and adoption of a legislative proposal (after publication of the proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework)*

Climate Smart Agriculture in the CAP?

WHAT THE CAP HAS ACHIEVED SO FAR

5.5% increase in **organic farming** every year for the last 10 years. The land used for organic farming expands at around 400,000 hectares a year

24% reduction in agricultural non-CO₂ **greenhouse gas emissions** since 1990

17.7% reduction of **nitrates** in rivers since 1992



Climate Smart Agriculture in the CAP?

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: SUPPORT EXPRESSED VIS-À-VIS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

Agricultural policy should deliver
more benefits for **environment**
& **climate change**



- Despite progress, the environmental performance of EU agriculture requires further improvement
- The Communication confirms agriculture's crucial role for environmental protection

Strengthening environment and climate action

EU sets wide objectives ...

- *... on air, water, soil and biodiversity*

EU sets list of available types of intervention ...

- *... based on recognised best practices*

MS define the most pertinent measures ...

- *... based on their specific needs*

Farmers comply with stringent criteria ...

- *... on a choice of measures that are more relevant to their needs*

A new model of sharing responsibilities

Moving from one-size-fits-all to more tailored made solutions ...

- *... will reduce EU requirements to where EU value is added*

The Union would still set the basic policy parameters of the CAP ...

- *... fulfilling the Treaty obligations and other EU agreed objectives (e.g., COP21, SDGs)*

Member States should establish "CAP strategic plans" approved by the Commission

- *... tailoring Pillar I and II interventions to meet local conditions and needs*

A shift from compliance to results and performance...

- *... would increase MS flexibility in the design of their compliance and control system*

Keywords:

performance and subsidiarity

- *Both principles present advantages...*
 - **A performance/result-based policy is a better justification for the use of public money**
 - **The heterogeneity of the EU farming sector makes the "one-size-fits-all" approach ineffective**
- *...but also new challenges*
 - **Performance needs to be accurately monitored**
 - **Too much subsidiarity threatens the EU-added value of the policy**

Enhancing climate performance

- *A result-oriented CAP will require improved knowledge of:*
 - **Mitigation / adaptation potential of climate-smart agri measures**
 - **Their cost / benefit ratio**
 - **Robust data on uptake and outcome of the policy (performance monitoring)**

Performance



Disclaimer: the ideas presented in these slides were prepared to facilitate discussion with the audience. The views expressed in these slides cannot be taken as expressing the official position of the European Commission.

Climate objectives

Actions to be monitored (examples)

Reduce emissions from fertilizer use

Precision farming / optimized nutrient management plans; organic farming; uptake of plant breeding programmes.

Reduce emissions from livestock

Optimal feed management; disease management; optimal manure management; anaerobic digesters for certain size of farms; uptake of breeding programmes to enhance health and productivity.

Maintain and enhance carbon sinks

Conservation agriculture (minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover and crop rotations); fallow organic soils; agro-forestry; arable land converted to grassland; afforestation; fire prevention measures.

Material substitution

Perennials or short rotation coppice with minimal soil disturbance.

Decrease energy use

Carbon auditing tools; reduction of energy use through improved energy efficiency.

How to reconcile the need for more data with the need for simplification / lower admin burden?

- Use of remote sensing technologies
- Create a new "Climate-Smart Agriculture" voluntary label (targeted at farmers that are front-runners in terms of competitiveness and market orientation)
- Promote farm-level carbon management tools: example of Ireland / Smart Farming scheme ("*average cost savings of over €8,000 and reduction of climate impact by 10% on participating farms*")

New study on monitoring Climate-Smart Agriculture

- *Title: "Monitoring tools to improve the traceability of climate action in the European farming sector"*
- *Objectives:*
 1. identify currently available and future data sets useful for monitoring climate-smart agriculture in Europe
 2. build a demonstrator using a Geographical Information System (GIS) and location-based techniques
 3. propose a design for a climate-smart agriculture label
- *To be kicked-off in the next weeks*

Ensuring EU-wide climate efforts

- *With the **CAP Strategic Plans**, Member States design their Pillar I and II interventions*
- *They need to show coherence with EU climate objectives, ensuring the link between local needs and EU climate targets*
- *Importance of a robust governance process:*
 - **At MS-level: ensure internal coherence with national environmental and climate goals**
 - **At EU-level: ensure a level-playing field across the EU farming sector and internal market**

Takeaways for the CSA community

- *Climate Smart Agriculture recognised as one of the main objectives of the future CAP*
- *Need for knowledge/data at local level to design the most effective national/regional interventions, and to monitor performance*
- *Importance of a well-connected and engaged CSA community to inform ambitious and robust CAP Strategic Plans... in the next 2 years!*



Thank you!

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