



European Commission



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At a glance:

FRANCE'S CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

Agriculture and Rural Development

CAP Strategic Plans support the transition towards a smart, sustainable, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector, ensuring long-term food security. They also contribute to climate action, the protection of natural resources and the preservation/enhancement of biodiversity, as well as strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.

CAP Plans support a wide range of interventions, addressing the specific needs of Member States and their territories. Designed in line with a new result- and performance-oriented approach, they aim to deliver tangible results in relation to EU-level CAP specific objectives, while contributing to the European Green Deal.

For the first time, each CAP Plan defines a strategy covering all the main CAP funded instruments: direct payments, support for rural development and interventions specific to certain market sectors.

The needs of rural areas will also be addressed by other EU instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) or the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

The impacts of both the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the extreme weather conditions caused by climate change, highlight the integral link between food security and the need of transition to sustainable and resilient food systems. In this context, the CAP Strategic Plans offer opportunities: e.g. to reduce dependence on synthetic fertilisers and scale up production of renewable energy without undermining food production; and to transform the sectors' capacity in line with more sustainable production methods.

France submitted its first proposal for a CAP Strategic Plan on 22 December 2021, after consultation with stakeholders. On 4 August 2022, France submitted a revised proposal, addressing the Commission's observations on the first draft. The Commission approved this proposal on 31 August 2022. France requested the first amendment of their Plan, which was approved by the Commission on 7 July 2023. The Commission approved France's subsequent amendment request on 13 December 2023. This document presents some of the main features of the CAP Strategic Plan of France.

1. DID YOU KNOW?



French agriculture is characterised by its **great diversity** due to the variety of landscapes, climate and soil found in its territory. The **value of its agricultural production is among the highest in the EU**, adding up to EUR 72.9 billion. The sectors with the highest production value are wine (13.2%), milk (13.1%), cereals (13%) and cattle (9.9%). The agricultural sector is historically structured, with the highest number of recognised producer organisations in the EU (724). For example, 80% of milk production and 50% of fruit and vegetable production is covered by a producer organisation (recognised or not).

- France's agricultural land is approximately **28 million ha**, about half of its total territory.
- There are about **456 000 farms** in France, of an average size of **69 ha**, and around **708 170 farmers**.
- **28%** of French people live in predominantly rural areas, which cover **329 457 km²**.



2. GOALS AND STRATEGY OF THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN OF FRANCE

France's strategy aims to ensure food security by improving the sustainable competitiveness of the agricultural sector, creating added value, increasing the farms' resilience and limiting the use of inputs. The Plan contributes to the Green Deal's objectives and to carbon neutrality by promoting farm diversification, preservation of permanent grasslands, plant protein production, agroecology and organic farming. It combines national and regional elements, providing support to farmers and rural areas by taking into account regional specificities.

2.1 AN ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE AND FAIRER CAP

France strengthens farmers' income support as a security net, while also ensuring a certain level of farm competitiveness and production, and investment capacity.

For the 2023-2027 period, financial support to farmers is more targeted and fairer. On one side, a new mechanism will be implemented, gradually harmonising support for farm income, which is based on payments per hectare across the country. In addition, France will allocate around 3.5 billion EUR to the redistributive payment, which will reinforce the income support to small and medium-sized farms.

Furthermore, the French Plan provides additional support to sectors undergoing difficulties and increases the resilience of agriculture as a whole. For instance, 15% of the direct payment budget is dedicated to sector-specific support linked to production. This kind of support mostly targets the livestock, protein plant and mixed crop-livestock sectors. The fruit and vegetable, beekeeping, wine, olive oil, protein plant and rice sectors are amongst those that will also benefit from dedicated support to fund sector-specific needs such as investments, advisory services, training, promotion and communication activities.

To **improve farmers' income and competitiveness**, the Plan will encourage cooperation within sectors, short supply chains and increasing the quality and added value of products by, for example, registering them as geographical indications.

- *The French Plan is investing significantly in the development of plant proteins. For example, farms that combine growing legumes and livestock can receive additional support. The budget for these measures increased by 70% compared to 2020.*
- *Support for areas with natural constraints is also maintained. This kind of support aims to avoid abandonment of agricultural activities in remote rural areas, such as grazing livestock in mountain areas. Farms in areas with specific needs will receive 12% more support on average.*

2.2 A GREENER CAP

The French Plan is aligned with the EU's environmental and climate ambitions. It promotes practices that contribute to the fight against climate change, the protection of natural resources and biodiversity.



More than 88% of the agricultural area will comply with good agricultural and environmental conditions, such as establishing buffer strips along water courses, the maintenance of permanent grassland or providing a minimum soil cover during sensitive periods.

This is complemented by measures designed to reward farmers that commit to implementing more ambitious practices. For example, farmers that implement practices that limit soil erosion or maintain organic matter such as soil cover or crop diversification can receive extra support. Over 74% of agricultural lands are expected to engage in such practices.

To preserve and protect biodiversity, the Plan promotes the inclusion and maintenance of landscape features on farms. It also supports practices to protect specific and rich areas such as rice fields, salt marshes or wetlands. Reducing or banning the use of pesticides, adapted fertilisation and grazing management are among the practices that can be rewarded.



France aims to **double the agricultural area under organic farming by 2027** to reach 18% of the total agricultural area. To achieve this, support for conversion to organic farming is increased by EUR 90 million, totalling EUR 340 million per year. In addition, eco-schemes will incentivise farmers to implement environmental and climate-friendly practices. The French eco-scheme will further reward organic farms at the highest level.

- ➔ *More than 26% of utilised agricultural area should contribute to the reduction of emissions by implementing practices that maintain or strengthen carbon sequestration (maintenance of permanent grassland, including no ploughing or converting)*
- ➔ *The inclusion of hedges can get specific support under eco-schemes, thanks to the ecosystem services they provide. For example, they benefit water management and the fight against soil erosion while also sequestering carbon.*



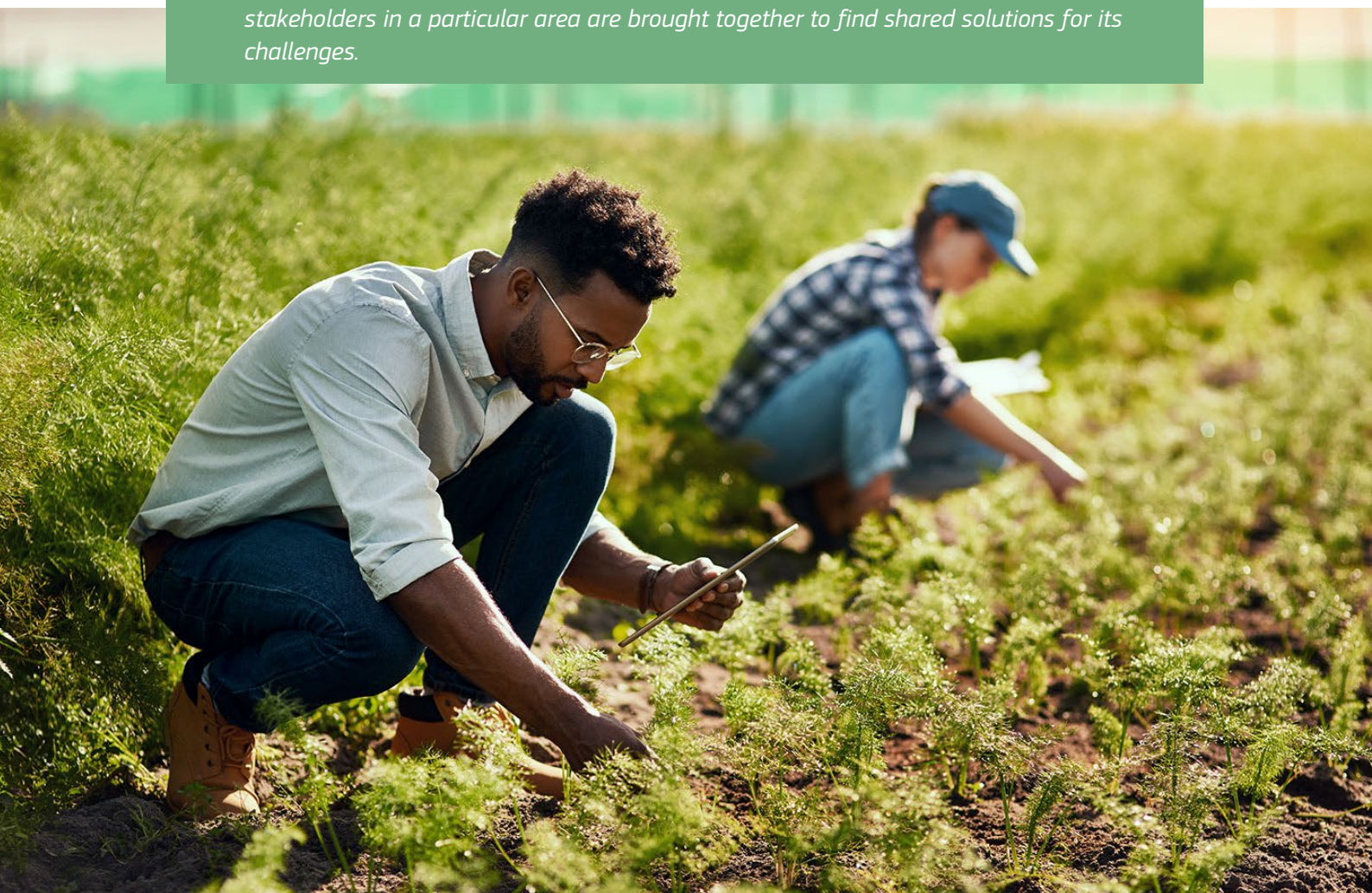
2.3 SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE CAP

France's rural areas are facing important challenges with a declining population coupled with difficulties in accessing basic services, a lack of infrastructure and mobility issues. The French Plan aims to tackle this by funding projects that will improve access to medical, social, touristic and professional training services. By the end of the programming period, around **901 000 people should benefit from better services and infrastructure thanks to the CAP.**

The Plan will also support job creation and the development of rural businesses, a key element to making rural areas attractive. Around 5 500 rural businesses will benefit from CAP support for their development while over 31 000 jobs will be created thanks to projects funded by the CAP. In addition, the French rural agenda, established in 2019, aims to promote the development of rural areas and improve the daily life of their inhabitants.

Several animal welfare measures are implemented at national level, outside of the CAP. For instance, certain practices were recently banned (culling of male chicks or live castration of piglets). Still, in the CAP Plan, **investments to further improve the living conditions of animals** are supported. One measure supports farms to reinforce the link between animals and plants. It aims to improve animal welfare by limiting the number of animals based on farm size, and promoting outdoor access for animals to landscaped parks and fields.

- ➔ *About 28 000 young farmers will benefit from support to start their activities. The amount is defined at regional level but should be a minimum of EUR 5 000.*
- ➔ *Almost 58% of the rural population will be reached by projects implemented in the framework of LEADER: with this bottom-up approach, public, private and civil-society stakeholders in a particular area are brought together to find shared solutions for its challenges.*



3. KNOWLEDGE SHARING, INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION

The French Plan includes measures to promote knowledge sharing, through advisory services or training. It also encourages **innovation and digitalisation**, to take full advantage of the full broadband coverage that will be achieved by 2025, partially thanks to the French Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), which combines organisations, people and institutions to use, produce and share knowledge about agriculture, is already functioning well in France. Nevertheless, France aims to strengthen coordination between actors at regional, national and European level to focus on the specific objectives of the CAP.

Supported by the Plan, the European Innovation Partnership will also contribute to **better knowledge diffusion by reinforcing the cooperation of actors** from the agricultural, forestry and rural sectors.

→ *Almost 140 000 people will benefit from advice, training or knowledge exchange or participate in European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups.*





4. FINANCIAL ANNEX

	EU budget (€)	National funding (€)	Total (€)
Direct payments	34 123 160 685	n/a	34 123 160 685
Sectoral support	1 386 166 870	25 176 248	1 411 343 118
Rural development	10 039 187 350	4 255 606 773	14 294 794 123
Total	45 548 514 905	4 280 783 021	49 829 297 926

National funding does not include additional national financing referred to in Article 146 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115. Direct payments include allocations for cotton set out in Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and reflect possible transfers between pillars. Payments for support under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 are not included in the CSP. National funding for sectoral support only relates to apiculture. Rural development reflects possible transfers between pillars and includes technical assistance.

EU FUNDING RESERVED FOR	In EUR	%
Environmental and climate objectives under rural development	4 137 086 709	41% ¹
Eco-schemes under direct payments	8 530 790 171	25% ²
LEADER	502 089 706	5% ¹
Complementary Redistributive Income Support	3 412 316 069	10% ²
Young farmers (generational renewal)	1 105 107 638	n/a ³

The minimum financial allocations for support for young farmers can be reserved under direct payments and/or rural development. Eco-schemes under direct payments may be lower than 25% if the possibility to use the rebate mechanism from rural development is used, in line with Article 97 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115. The Complementary redistributive income support under Direct Payments may be lower than 10%, in line with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

¹ as compared to the rural development allocations set out in Annex XI of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115

² as compared to the direct payments allocations set out in Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115

³ not applicable as the minimum contribution to young farmers is set as absolute amounts in Annex XII of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115

More financial information can be found in section 6 and in Annex V of France's CAP Strategic Plan.

