



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for the German Land Bavaria

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Bavaria was formally adopted by the European Commission on 13 February 2015 and last amended on 4 December 2023, outlining Bavaria's priorities for using € 5.42 billion of public money that is available for the 9-year period 2014-2022 (€ 2.14 billion from the EU budget including € 337.8 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments, and € 1.48 billion of national co-funding plus € 1.8 billion of additional national to-ups).

The RDP for Bavaria focuses mainly on Rural Development Priority 4 – restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry. **16,4 % of farmland** is placed under funded contracts for improving **biodiversity**, with land also under contracts for better **water and soil management**. With regard to other priorities, around **5.5 % of farms** receive support to **invest in greater competitiveness**, and **€ 445 million of investments in energy efficiency** are expected.

Support for [Rural Development](#) is the 2nd Pillar of the [Common Agricultural Policy](#), providing Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage nationally or regionally under multi-annual, co-funded programmes. In total, 118¹ programmes are implemented in all 28 Member States. The [RD Regulation](#) for the period 2014-2020 addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities, and programmes contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. Moreover, in order to coordinate actions better and maximise synergies with the other European Structural & Investment Funds ([ESIF](#)), a [Partnership Agreement](#) has been agreed with each Member State highlighting its broad strategy for EU-funded structural investment.

This document provides a brief overview of how the challenges and opportunities Bavaria is facing are addressed by the RDP. In the annex, a table indicates the priorities and focus areas – each with their specific targets, and their allocated budget.

1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES

In Germany, rural development is implemented through 13 separate regional RDPs, which broadly correspond to the various *Länder* (but with two joint programmes). However, elements common to regional programmes are presented in a national Framework (NF) established at the federal level. In addition to this, a National Rural Network Programme provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Germany.

Bavaria covers an area of 70 543 km² (20 % of the German territory), of which 54.4 % is agricultural area and 35.2 % is covered by forest. Of the total agricultural land (3.01

¹ The UK left the Union on 31st January 2020; in accordance with the Withdrawal Agreement support under Rural Development continues to apply in the UK during the 2014-2020 programming period.

million ha), 65.2 % is arable land and 34.3 % permanent grassland, with a trend of conversion of grassland into arable land.

Bavaria has 13.3 million inhabitants (15.7 % of the German population), of which 72% live in rural and intermediate areas. The agriculture and food sectors play an important role within rural areas, but both are facing structural changes.

Bavaria's rural areas are challenged by a persistent loss of business activity, migration of the labour force, and demographic changes. A key characteristic of the agricultural sector is a very high proportion of part-time farmers and small farms in the total of 90 450 holdings in Bavaria.

The key environmental challenges in Bavaria remain climate change, a loss of permanent grassland, nitrate pollution of surface and groundwater bodies, the continued loss of biodiversity, erosion, and land conversion for housing and infrastructure.

2. HOW DOES THE BAVARIAN RDP ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

In addressing these challenges, the Bavarian RDP funds action under five out of six Rural Development Priorities – with a particular emphasis on **restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry**. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below. (Priority 3 – food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture – is addressed only through nationally funded measures.)

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

This cross-cutting priority is addressed mainly with nationally funded measures in the area of **training** and **farm advisory services**, but also through support for cooperation in the framework of the **European Innovation Partnership** for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability.

Competitiveness of agricultural sector and sustainable forestry

Nearly 5.5 % of farms receive **funding for investments** – focused on innovative potential, young farmers, organic farming, animal welfare and resource efficiency. This funding also covers land consolidation and agricultural access roads, and is complemented by support for the **European Innovation Partnership**, as well as by funding for **farm diversification**.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

16,4 % of farmland are to be placed under funded contracts for improving **biodiversity**, with land also under contracts for better **water and soil management** – through practices such as organic farming and crop diversification. Support for **environmental investments in farms and forests** complements this contractual support.

Resource efficiency and climate

The above-mentioned support for **farm investments** helps to address this priority, as the investments is required to improve efficiency with water and other resources. **9,6 % of farmland** are under funded contracts for cutting greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions, and nearly **4 %** under contracts for action contributing to **carbon sequestration**. Additionally, the "co-operation" measure supports enhanced sustainability through the **European Innovation Partnership** and through **cooperation for climate change adaptation and mitigation**.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

The programme funds **Local Development Strategies** drawn up by Local Action Groups under the LEADER approach: these cover areas containing **57 % of the rural population**. There is support for other co-operation projects and village renewal. Almost **364 new jobs** are to be created and nearly **14 % of the rural population** benefit from **new or improved services/infrastructure** thanks to fresh investment.

The four **biggest RDP measures** in budgetary terms (EAFRD) are:

- € 812.9 million allocated to M10: Agri-environment-climate payments
- € 496.9 million allocated to M13: Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints
- € 395.7 million allocated to M11: Organic Farming
- € 189.4 million allocated to M04: Investments in physical assets

Annex: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in Bavaria

CCI	2014DE06RDRP004			
Version	12.0			
Target	Measure	Indicative public support	%	
P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas		0,00		
1A Innovation, cooperation, knowledge		0,00		
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	0,13 M16 Cooperation	0,00		
1B Research & innovation		0,00		
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	8,00 M16 Cooperation	0,00		
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests		535.826.332,00	9,88%	
2A Farm performance		Total: 2A	535.826.332,00	9,88%
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	5,48 M04 Physical Investment	528.826.332,00	9,75%	
Total investment € (public + private)	2.143.305.320,00 M16 Cooperation	7.000.000,00	0,13%	
Nr of holdings supported for investment in agricultural holdings (4.1)	5.359,00			
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry		2.970.566.083,00	54,75%	
4A Biodiversity, HNV and landscapes		Total: P4	2.970.566.083,00	54,75%
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	16,43 M04 Physical Investment	13.989.834,00	0,26%	
4B Water management		M10 Agri-environment-climate	1.090.762.344,00	20,10%
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2,87 M11 Organic Farming	864.080.881,00	15,93%	
4C Soil management		M13 Areas with natural constraints	1.001.733.024,00	18,46%
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2,75			
P4 All Focus Areas				
Total investment € (public + private)	56.000.000,00			
Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate (10.1)	740.928,00			
Area (ha) - conversion to organic farming (11.1)	60.000,00			
Area (ha) - maintenance of organic farming (11.2)	343.393,00			
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		611.141.189,00	11,26%	
5B Energy efficiency		Total: 5B	85.000.000,00	1,57%
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	445.000.000,00 M04 Physical Investment	85.000.000,00	1,57%	
Total investment € (public + private)	445.000.000,00			
5D Reducing GHG and NH3		Total: 5D	201.940.648,00	3,72%
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	9,56 M10 Agri-environment-climate	201.940.648,00	3,72%	
Area (ha) (e.g. green cover, catch crop, reduced fertilisation, extensification...)	300.000,00			
5E Carbon conservation / sequestration		Total: 5E	324.200.541,00	5,98%
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	3,96 M10 Agri-environment-climate	324.200.541,00	5,98%	
Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate for carbon sequestration	227.653,00			

P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas		1.254.937.000,00	23,13%
6A Diversification, SMEs and job creation		Total: 6A	31.500.000,00 0,58%
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	230,00	M06 Farm and business development	31.500.000,00 0,58%
Total investment € (public + private)	125.000.000,00		
Nr of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agric activities in rural areas (6.2 and 6.4)	280,00		
6B Local development		Total: 6B	1.223.437.000,00 22,55%
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	56,68	M07 Basic services	1.000.000.000,00 18,43%
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	13,92	M19 LEADER and CLLD	223.437.000,00 4,12%
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	134,00		
Population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (7.1; 7.2; 7.4; 7.5;7.6; 7.7)	1.351.030.000,00		
Population covered by LAG	5.500.000,00		
Number of LAGs selected	65,00		
M20 TA			53.359.754,00 0,98%
			53.359.754,00 0,98%
Total public expenditure			5.425.830.358,00 100,00%