



Apiculture Programmes

**Support to
beekeeping and
pollination through
the future CAP**

CDG-Apiculture of 18 June 2021



Apiculture interventions in CSP

- Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) – **CSPR**;
(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52018PC0392&from=EN>)
- Article 49 - Types of intervention in the apiculture sector and the Union financial assistance;
- Objectives – linked to each specific objectives in Article 6(1);
- Eight types of interventions proposed by Commission; EP & Council proposals augment range of interventions;
- Co-funded by EU where Union contribution is max. 50% of expenditure & remaining part borne by MS;
- Budget increased from 40 M€/year for 2019 to 60 M€ from 2021 as per Annex VIII of CSPR and continued under the CSP from 2023 – 2027;
- CSP can be modified and sectoral interventions therein.



CAP Strategic Plan- Types of interventions eligible for support

- Technical assistance to beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations;
- Actions to combat beehive invaders and diseases, in particular varroasis;
- Actions to rationalise transhumance;
- Actions to support laboratories for the analysis of apiculture products;
- Restocking of beehives in the Union;
- Cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of research programmes in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products;
- Market monitoring actions;
- Actions to enhance product quality.

Rural Development measures and apiculture

- Knowledge transfer and information actions
- Environmental, Climate and other management commitments
- Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services
- Investments in physical assets
- Farm and business development
- Installation of young farmers and rural business start-up
- Cooperation
 - Setting-up of producer groups and organisations
 - Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs
- Risk management

Environment, climate and management commitments (previous AEM) and apiculture

- Rural development programmes with AEM which include explicit bee-related agri-environment commitments (some linked to organic farming)
- other AE commitments can be of important indirect benefits too (e.g. chemical input reduction, support for flowery meadows with unmown strips, bio field margins or set aside sown with specific seeds, meadow orchards etc.)
- Example of a specific AE commitments targeting bees: to provide healthier forage areas for bees populations through setting melliferous plants' strips and patches (of a min. size). The selected plants must be able to create healthy and nutritious areas for bees. No use of PPP.

Organic farming

- To support both conversion to and maintenance of organic farming practices and to answer society's demand for the use of such practices
- A separate measure to recognise the importance of organic farming in contributing to various rural development priorities
- Eligible beneficiaries:
 - ✓ farmers, groups of farmers (who are active farmers)
 - ✓ to multiply environmental/climate benefits - eligibility of joint beneficiaries who can be granted higher transaction costs
- Concept of baseline: only commitments going beyond the baseline can be supported by organic farming payments
- Payments to cover additional costs and income foregone resulting from the commitments made; transaction costs where necessary.



Agri-environment-climate measure

- Obligatory Agri-environment-climate measure (AECM) as the main tool for delivering environmental public good in rural development:
- *"AEC payments should further encourage farmers and other land managers to serve society by introducing or continuing to apply agricultural practices that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and that are compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, the landscape, natural resources, the soil and genetic diversity".*
- E.g. of AECM to promote environmentally beneficial activities
 - creation of healthier forage areas for bee populations by fixing strips and parcels of melliferous plants;
 - reducing or prohibiting the use of pesticides and/or fertilisers;
 - use of biological fields sown with specific seeds;
 - transhumance of hives to bee-friendly habitats.

Direct Payments and apiculture in future CSPR

General principals on land eligibility for direct payments and apiculture (no change on the principles compared to the rules currently in force):

- An agricultural area used for beekeeping is eligible to direct payments if it is at the farmer's disposal and used for an agricultural activity;
- Agricultural area (arable land / permanent grassland / permanent crop) having beehives is eligible for direct payments, provided it remains accessible for the performance of an agricultural activity;
- Examples of agricultural activity - cultivating mellifluous plants, maintaining the land in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation of crops



Direct Payments and apiculture

- Under the new CSPR (subject to final agreement) - more flexibility for MS to adapt the eligibility rules to better reflect local specificities. E.g. areas not eligible under the current rules, could become eligible under the new rules which could benefit apiculture.

Benefits through:

- GAEC 9 on preservation of landscape features and based on mandatory share (%) of non-productive elements at farm level such as field margins, hedgerows, favorable covers (% still under negotiation with legislators);
- Eco-schemes (many eco-schemes proposals will have benefits for insects and pollinators in particular: crop diversification, field margins, hedgerows, favorable covers);

(Apiculture not eligible for coupled support under the current Voluntary Coupled Support nor under future CSPR (through Coupled Income Support).

Thank you for your attention

