

QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of the evaluation:

EVALUATION OF CAP MEASURES APPLIED TO THE PIG, POULTRY AND EGGS SECTORS
(INCLUDING THE SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF CAP MEASURES)

DG/Unit: DG AGRI, Unit L4

- Official(s) managing the evaluation: Martin Szentivany

Evaluator/contractor: Alliance Environnement

Assessment carried out by:

- Steering group with the active participation of units C4, H1, I1, J2, L1, L4 of DG AGRI and the units B1 of DG ENV and F3 of DG TRADE

Date of the Quality Assessment: November 2010

(1) RELEVANCE

Does the evaluation respond to information needs, in particular as expressed in the terms of references?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

This evaluation project consists of two parts:

- a) **The evaluation of the environmental impacts of CAP measures applied in the pig, poultry and eggs sectors, and**
- b) **The synthesis of several evaluations analysing environmental impacts of CAP measures applied in different sectors (arable crops, cotton, beef, dairy, and cross-compliance mechanism).**

Both these parts, the evaluation and the synthesis adequately cover the themes and evaluation questions as defined in the terms of reference.

The geographical scope and time scope for the evaluation related to the pig, poultry and eggs sectors have been fully covered. The synthesis provides a good horizontal overview on the environmental impacts of CAP measures applied in different farm sectors and the evolution in integrating the environmental requirements into the CAP.

(2) APPROPRIATE DESIGN

Is the design of the evaluation adequate for obtaining the results needed to answer the evaluation questions?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The methodology design is appropriate for addressing the evaluation objectives. The analysis of environmental impacts of CAP measures was done in two steps: first, the effects of the measures on farmers' behaviour, farm management practices and farming systems were examined and then, the environmental consequences resulting from these effects were identified. External drivers (policy and non-policy) influencing the observed developments, were also analysed.

The methodology developed for the evaluation of environmental impacts of CAP measures in pig, poultry and eggs sectors combined different analyses:

- a) quantitative statistical analysis based on the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) and Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) to determine key structural changes and evolution of economic performance over the evaluation period,
- b) making use of modelling results generated by the CAPSIM model to compare price and production effects of CAP measures against a counterfactual situation (without CAP support),
- c) exploitation of the scientific and technical literature on the subject as well as different evaluation reports on the main environmental directives,
- d) qualitative analysis based on the information collected within the national and regional case studies.

The approach used for compiling the synthesis involved analysing and structuring information from the previous environmental evaluations and a horizontal analysis of the extent of integration of environmental requirements into the CAP.

The combination of the above mentioned methodological approaches allowed addressing adequately all evaluation questions in a credible way.

(3) RELIABLE DATA

Are data collected adequate for their intended use and have their reliability been ascertained?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The evaluation relied on various data sources. The contractor had access to the data provided by the Commission services, which were treated in an appropriate way. Furthermore, the evaluators needed to exploit other data sources, including scientific and technical literature and national and regional statistics.

The data coming from the FSS and FADN were used for the analysis of evolutions in structural change and economic results of the farms specialised in the pig, poultry and eggs production.

The quantitative data were completed by qualitative information collected during national/regional case studies, which covered major producing Member States taking due account of different production systems and varied agronomic and environmental conditions (Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, UK).

(4) SOUND ANALYSIS

Are data systematically analysed to answer evaluation questions and cover other information needs in a valid manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The analysis was carried out in a systematic way and was developed both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Due to limited availability of sector-specific environmental data, the analysis on farm and structural level could be more developed than the analysis of the environmental impacts attributable to the CAP measures and external factors. The limitations of each of the analytical approaches and tools were presented and taken into account in the interpretation of the results.

(5) CREDIBLE FINDINGS

Do findings follow logically from and are justified by, the data/information analysis and interpretations based on pre-established criteria and rational?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
		X			

Arguments for scoring:

The findings are based on clearly defined evaluation criteria and supported by the evidence provided through the analysis. Opinions from the stakeholders were considered in an unbiased way. However, the evaluators could have been more cautious in the presentation of some findings, where the information basis was not robust enough to make a clear judgement.

(6) VALID CONCLUSIONS

Are conclusions non-biased and fully based on findings?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The conclusions are substantiated by evaluation findings, which were drawn from the sound analysis. They address all evaluation questions. Given the data constraints, they are balanced and prudent.

(7) HELPFUL RECOMENDATIONS

Are areas needing improvements identified in coherence with the conclusions? Are the suggested options realistic and impartial?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The recommendations are impartial and based on the evaluation findings, although they remain rather general. Yet, they identify policy issues, which could be considered when integrating environmental concerns into the CAP.

(8) CLARITY

Is the report well structured, balanced and written in an understandable manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
		X			

Arguments for scoring:

The evaluation report of the environmental impacts of the pig, poultry and eggs sectors report is logically structured. However, some of the text could have been more streamlined and clear in order to adapt it to a broader audience without a special technical knowledge. Furthermore, the main report remains rather long, which makes it less accessible to the target audience. The synthesis is better structured and balanced. The written style and the presentation are clear and adapted to different target readers.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Overall, the quality of the report is assessed to be **good**.

Is the overall quality of the report adequate, in particular:

- Does the evaluation fulfil contractual conditions?

Clearly and fully.

- Are the findings and conclusions of the report reliable, and are there any specific limitations to their validity and completeness?

The findings and conclusions of the report are reliable and clear, limitations are identified.

- Is the information in the report potentially useful for designing intervention, setting priorities, allocating resources or improving interventions?

The evaluation report contains a useful set of information on the impacts of CAP measures and other policy and non-policy factors on farmers' behaviour, management practices and pig, poultry and eggs production levels and their environmental consequences.

The synthesis of previous evaluations analysing the environmental impacts of CAP measures applied in different farm sectors provides a horizontal overview on the evolution of environmental integration into the CAP. As such it can serve as a valid contribution to policy discussion on the future design of agricultural policy.