



Natura2000

Opportunities in the CAP SPR

Gaëlle Marion

DG AGRI

UNIT F1

Overview

- Over-view of main changes in the CAP reform relevant to environment
- New opportunity in pillar I – Eco schemes
- Opportunities in pillar II
- Specific examples for improving environment and biodiversity outcomes in rice production areas

Main aspects: POST-2020 CAP and Environment

- **CAP objectives:** A general objective for climate-environment, and 3 out of 9 specific objectives (S04, 5 + 6) targeted for climate, natural resources (water, soil, air), biodiversity and landscapes
- **"Whole CAP" approach:** conditionality details + environment-relevant Pillar I and Pillar II interventions all planned together in CAP strategic plans. Combination of interventions to work in synergies.
- **Common result indicators**, numerous for environment and climate, with target values and showing annually the joint outcomes of all CAP Plan interventions (+ output and Impact indicators in a new strong performance framework)
- **"No backsliding":** *legal obligation on MS to raise ambition on environment and climate compared to current period*
- The **new conditionality** will combine and improve aspects of cross-compliance and "greening"

Main aspects: POST-2020 CAP and Environment

- **Ring-fencings for environmental/climate actions:**
 - ✓ At least 25% of the direct payments envelope for Eco-schemes (as basic rule)
 - ✓ At least 15% of sectoral interventions in the Fruits and vegetables sector
 - ✓ MS to spend at least 35% of EAFRD (Pillar ii) budget on interventions directly targeted at environment and climate change (ANC to count 50%)
- **Links to non-CAP legislation on environment and climate:** CAP plans to take account of analysis, objectives and targets from list of other legislation (Annex XI : EU environmental and climate legislation, to which Member States' strategic cap plans should contribute to and be consistent with)
- Therefore the CAP Strategic Plan must take into account the needs of **Natura 2000**, which should have been elaborated in the national Prioritised Action Framework documents (PAF) to implement the Habitats and Birds Directives.

New Opportunities : Pillar 1 – Eco-schemes

- Eco-schemes (which build upon new conditionality (SMR + GAECs))
- Eco-schemes will be mandatory for Member States to offer. This new voluntary instrument will reward farmers for implementing climate and environmentally-friendly practices (e.g. organic farming, agroecology, integrated pest management) as well as animal welfare improvements.
- Member States must allocate at least 25% of their income support budget to eco-schemes (with some temporary flexibilities)
- Certain eco-schemes could target Natura 2000 areas or be particularly well adapted for areas with specific biodiversity values or issues.
- To note: Basic Income Support can be modulated per territory

Opportunities : Pillar 2

- Natura 2000 compensation payments / Area with specific disadvantages (current RDP measure 12 - new CAP SPR: Article 67)
- For **mandatory restrictions** imposed by the national legislation implementing the Habitats and Birds Directives .
- MS have choice over whether to use this measure.
- Use has been limited in the past. While 18 MS programme, only **0.6% of overall spend in RDPs**. Perhaps linked to lack of full designation of Natura2000 network.
- Payments to farmers, foresters or other land managers in Natura 2000 areas are dependent on formal designation of the Natura 2000 site, and the existence of a management plan that specifies the management actions that land managers are legally required to carry out to contribute to restoring and maintaining that site's favourable ecological status
- **PAFs** adopted now for all MS which should set out the needs for Natura.
- Max payment rate (200 euro/hectare) has been removed in this article which could encourage its use by MS

Opportunities : Pillar 2

- **Preparation of Natura 2000 management plans (RDP measure 7 – new CAP SPR: Article 72)**

to finance the drawing-up and updating of 'protection and management plans relating to Natura 2000 sites and other areas of high natural value

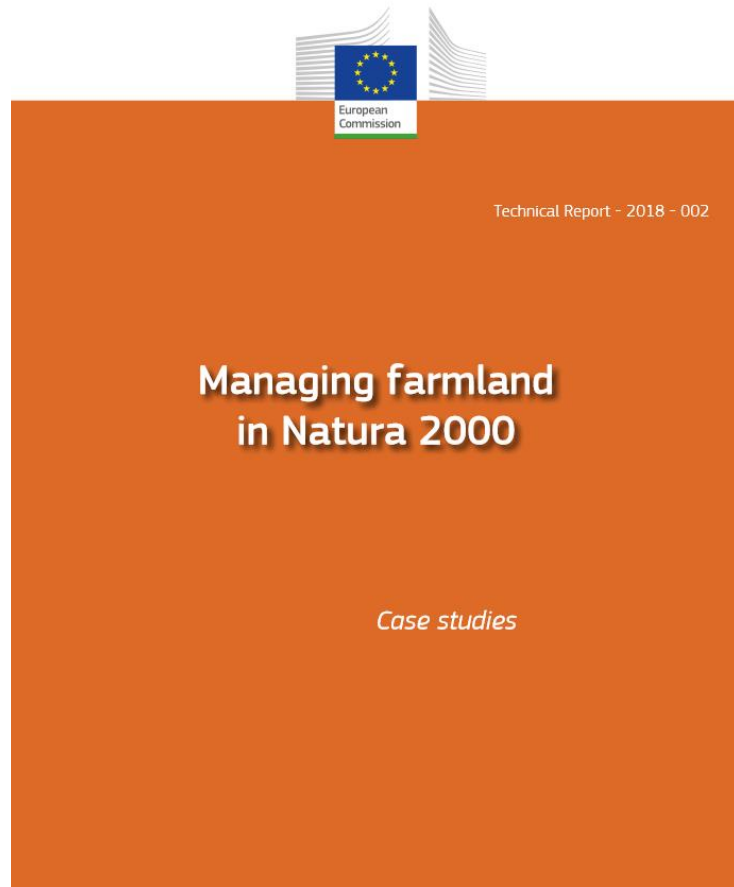
- **Agri-environment-climate and organic farming commitments (RDP measure 10 + 11 – new CAP SPR: Article 65)**

Voluntary multi-annual schemes - Includes AEC and organic: –payments should be based on costs incurred income forgone taking into account the targets set. It can include group applications from farmers and other land managers, (collective schemes), results based payments, and transaction costs can be covered – this can help secure larger scale habitat and species management for Natura 2000.

- **Non-productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate and Natura 2000 (RDP measure 4.4 – new CAP SPR: Article 68)**

Can be used to fund up to 100% important habitat restoration work on Natura 2000 land, and investments can include, e.g. terraces, restoration of wetlands, ponds, reedbeds, marshes; and restoration of traditional orchards and wood pastures. Investment can also be supported to provide footpaths, bird watching hides and information for visitors to Natura 2000 sites, other protected nature conservation areas and HNV land.

Further inspiration



https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Farmland_Annex-E_WEB_en.pdf

- LIFE09 NAT/IT/000093 |
Acronym: ECO-RICE

Vercelli rice fields Po Basin, Italy : integrated plan for environmental requalification and sustainable management of rice agroecosystem (funding stepping stone actions via Rural Development)

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=3804

Organic rice farming and effective use of RD support - Experience of Riet Vell“ – Delta del Ebro

- 2/3 of delta del Ebro surface are rice fields.
- Rice fields essential for bird conservation but rice is a very intensive crop using lots of chemicals affecting biodiversity and polluting water in Ebro river and natural wetlands.
- Between 1997 and 2001 SEO/BirdLife developed a Life project evaluating environmental, agronomical and economical feasibility of **organic rice** in delta del Ebro. Then set up a company to implement .

Main results:

- Higher rice production in conventional paddies
- Higher density of birds, fishes, invertebrates and plant biomass in organic fields
- Organic, despite being more difficult and more risky, could be as profitable as conventional rice fields
https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/w19_natura2000_riet_vell.pdf

Thank you



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