



Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Baden-Württemberg

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Baden-Württemberg was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015 and last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)1185 of 17 February 2021, outlining Baden-Württemberg's priorities for using more than **€ 1.7 billion of public money** that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 709 million from the EU budget, including € 91 million transferred from the German envelope for CAP direct payments, and € 630 million of national co-funding plus € 437 million of additional national funding top-ups).

The RDP for Baden-Württemberg focuses mainly on two priority areas. Under the first – restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry – nearly **9% of agricultural land** and **0.6% of forest area** are placed under **funded contracts to improve biodiversity**. Additionally, almost **7% of farmland** is targeted to be under contract **to improve soil management** and **4% to improve water management**. Under the second main priority – competitiveness of the agri-sector and sustainable forestry – nearly **4% of farm holdings** receive **support for investments in modernisation or restructuring** of farms. Furthermore, the LEADER approach to local development has been strengthened and extended compared to the former programming period.

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, 118 programmes were adopted in all 28 Member States¹. 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 Baden-Württemberg 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 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.

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, common elements to several regional programmes are presented in a national framework (NF) established at federal level. In addition to this, a National Rural Network Programme provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Germany.

Baden-Württemberg covers an area of 35.745 km², of which agricultural land covers almost 50% and forest land 39%. Of the agricultural area (1.4 million ha in 2016), nearly 58% is arable land and 38% permanent grassland. 15% of the population - out of about 12 million inhabitants (2018) - lives in predominantly rural areas and 44,1% live in intermediate areas. However, the share of population living in rural areas and cities numbering below 65,000 inhabitants is around 76% of the total population, covering 95% of the territory. The unemployment rate is 3.2% (2020) and thus well below the federal average.

There are nearly 40,700 agricultural holdings in Baden-Württemberg in total. Only around 3,000 of them cultivate more than 100 ha. The average size is around 35 ha and thus far less than the national average (61 ha).

In this context, economic efficiency in the agricultural sector as well as demographic change are continuing challenges in Baden-Württemberg. Environmental challenges relate to pressure on biodiversity, as well as to soil erosion and nitrate pollution in surface and ground waters. Maintenance and improvement of the natural heritage in rural areas and improved animal welfare were identified as additional challenges, as well as social inclusion and economic development.

2. HOW THE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG'S RDP ADDRESSES THESE CHALLENGES.

In addressing these challenges, Baden-Württemberg's RDP funds actions under all Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on **restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry** as well as on **competitiveness of the agri-sector and sustainable forestry**. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below.

Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

This cross-cutting priority is addressed mainly through measures supporting training and advisory services for people and businesses in rural areas targeting at **600 participants**. There are also contributions to nearly **90 cooperation projects** in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability.

Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

Nearly **4% of farm holdings** receive funding **for investments focused on modernisation of farms**, in particular with regard to **animal husbandry**. Investments in processing and marketing and participation in the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability are also supported under this priority.

Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture.

Support under this priority - focused mainly on improved animal welfare and in particular on **animal welfare labels** – is paid to **more than 1,980 agricultural holdings**.

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Nearly **9% of agricultural land** and **0.6% of forest area** are placed under funded **contracts to improve biodiversity**. Additionally, **4%** of farmland is placed under contracts to **improve water management**, and almost **7%** under contracts to **improve soil management**.

Resource efficiency and climate

3% of agricultural and forest land is under management contracts **contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation**. Furthermore, **270 participants** benefit from **advisory services on energy efficiency** in agricultural holdings with the aim of limiting climate change.

Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

The programme funds Local Development Strategies (LDS) drawn up and implemented by Local Action Groups (LAGs) under the LEADER approach. LEADER covers nearly **32% of the rural population**, creating **180 new jobs** and improving living conditions.

The four **biggest RDP measures** in budgetary terms (total public funding, including additional national top-ups) are:

- € 524.1 million allocated to Measure 10: Agri-environment-climate
- € 411.9 million allocated to Measure 4: Investments in physical assets
- € 231.3 million allocated to Measure 11. Organic farming
- € 227.0 million allocated to Measure 13: payments for areas facing natural constraints

Annex 1: Indicative public support for the Rural Development Programme in Baden-Württemberg

CCI	2014DE06RDRP003
Version	6.1

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)	3,71 M01 Knowledge	0,00	
	M02 Advisory services	0,00	
	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)	87,00 M16 Cooperation	0,00	
1C Lifelong learning and vocational training		0,00	
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	600,00 M01 Knowledge	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		364.285.971,00	20,55%
2A Farm performance		Total: 2A	364.285.971,00
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	3,93 M02 Advisory services	34.560.000,00	1,95%
Total investment € (public + private)	1.168.000.000,00 M04 Physical Investment	279.425.971,00	15,76%
Nr of holdings supported for investment in agricultural holdings (4.1)	1.750,00 M06 Farm and business development	31.600.000,00	1,78%
Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	48.700,00 M16 Cooperation	18.700.000,00	1,05%
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture		34.310.000,00	1,94%
3A Competitiveness of producers		Total: 3A	34.310.000,00
14.1.1-14.1.5: Zahl der geförderten Betriebe mit Tierwohlmaßnahmen (M14)	1.980,00 M14 Animal welfare	34.310.000,00	1,94%
Nr of beneficiaries	1.980,00		
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry		1.167.751.579,91	65,87%
4A Biodiversity, HNV and landscapes		Total: P4	1.167.751.579,91
T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	0,58 M02 Advisory services	2.960.000,00	0,17%
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	8,52 M04 Physical Investment	126.870.000,00	7,16%
4B Water management		M07 Basic services	93.540.000,00
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	4,10 M08 Forest	17.850.000,00	1,01%
4C Soil management		M10 Agri-environment-climate	460.518.005,91
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	6,79 M11 Organic Farming	231.313.920,00	13,05%

P4 All Focus Areas		M12 NAT 2000 & WFD	4.200.000,00	0,24%
Total investment € (public + private)	197.000.000,00	M13 Areas with natural constraints	227.699.654,00	12,84%
Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate (10.1)	491.725,00	M16 Cooperation	2.800.000,00	0,16%
Area (ha) - conversion to organic farming (11.1)	27.000,00			
Area (ha) - maintenance of organic farming (11.2)	120.000,00			
Area (ha) - NATURA 2000 FO land (12.2)	8.000,00			
Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	150,00			
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors			73.799.774,55	4,16%
5B Energy efficiency		Total: 5B	3.380.000,00	0,19%
2.1.1: Zahl der Teilnehmer in Beratungen (M02)	270,00	M02 Advisory services	3.380.000,00	0,19%
Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	270,00			
5E Carbon conservation / sequestration		Total: 5E	70.419.774,55	3,97%
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	3,06	M04 Physical Investment	5.600.000,00	0,32%
Total investment € (public + private)	8.000.000,00	M08 Forest	350.000,00	0,02%
Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate for carbon sequestration	62.450,00	M10 Agri-environment-climate	63.594.774,55	3,59%
		M16 Cooperation	875.000,00	0,05%
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas			87.660.000,00	4,94%
6A Diversification, SMEs and job creation		Total: 6A	3.500.000,00	0,20%
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	8,00	M01 Knowledge	1.380.000,00	0,08%
Total investment € (public + private)	3.300.000,00	M06 Farm and business development	1.320.000,00	0,07%
Nr of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agric activities in rural areas (6.2 and 6.4)	8,00	M16 Cooperation	800.000,00	0,05%
6B Local development		Total: 6B	84.160.000,00	4,75%
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	31,76	M19 LEADER and CLLD	84.160.000,00	4,75%
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	180,00			
Population covered by LAG	2.000.000,00			
Number of LAGs selected	18,00			
M20 TA			45.000.000,00	2,54%
			45.000.000,00	2,54%
Total public expenditure			1.772.807.325,46	100,00%