



**Ministry of Environment
and Food of Denmark**
The Danish
Agricultural Agency

Land eligibility, landscape features and green infrastructure

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Making green features eligible on existing agricultural areas

WHY THE DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE HECTARES IS A RELEVANT STARTING POINT:

- Member States must be given CAP tools to deliver on EU directives and climate objectives
- This includes a more flexible approach to eligible hectares
- Today direct payments depend on hectares qualifying as agricultural area which require that the area is used for agricultural purposes
- This means that all non-eligible features e.g. small wet areas or areas bushes or similar small biotopes must be drawn out in applications for direct payments
- If not, farmers risk reductions and possibly sanctions
- This creates an incentive for farmers to physically remove small biotopes from their agricultural area to secure higher payments

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WHAT WE PROPOSE:

- A need for transition/cleaning up in the definitions of the eligible agricultural areas (art. 4)
- We need to eliminate the continued negative incentives which reward farmers for removing small biotopes.
- Eligible agricultural areas should in the future CAP also be able to consist of small biotopes such as - trees, bushes, wet areas, and small lakes

This would be a most valuable contribution to the Commission's ambitions as regards:

Greater flexibility

More subsidiarity

Simplification for the farmer



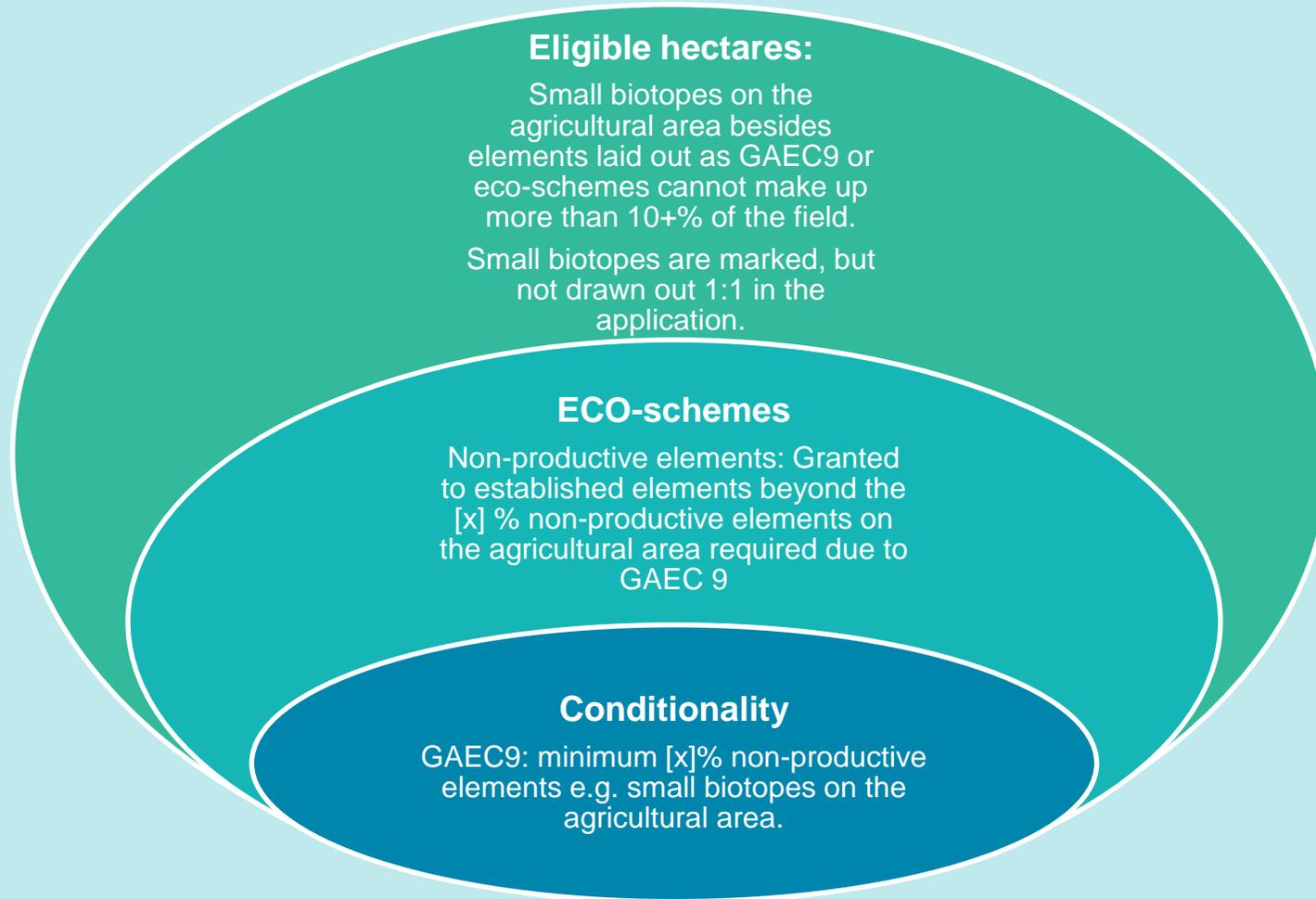
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IMPLICATIONS OF THE DANISH PROPOSAL:

- **Voluntary for Member States**
- **No risk of expansion of the overall area eligible for direct payments due to a fixed flexibility within the existing eligible areas**
- **Will allow Member States to let areas with climate-related measures such as hydration of land or afforestation to remain eligible for support.**
 - To a certain extent already possible today, though restricted to Rural Development Programme projects contributing to Natura2000 or Water Framework Directives
- **The intention is to create more visible synergies between direct payments and environmental-, biodiversity-, and climate change effort.**

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- **An incentive for farmers to deliver on public goods such as strengthening biodiversity**
- **Ease farmers administrative burdens when mapping and reporting small biotopes in the application process**
- **Small biotopes is located on a limited areas of the agricultural field**
- **Small biotopes can either be intentionally established or occur by e.g. self-seeding**
- **The model ensures the main purpose on the agricultural field maintains to be agricultural production**

Questions?

- Thank you for your time

