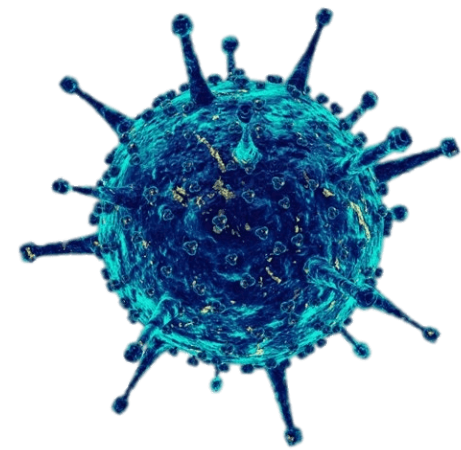




# Response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Solutions for 2020 & opportunities for long-term changes

*Joanna Stawowy*  
*Deputy Head of Unit*  
*DG AGRI D.3 Implementation Support and IACS*

# This presentation is about



1. Outline of main actions under the COVID response package
2. What COM offered to facilitate managing CAP support in CY 2020

Also in terms of use of technologies as alternative to physical inspections

3. How the experience of CY 2020 could help promote the use of new technologies in the future

Role of COM in supporting that change

# Outline of main actions

- **Main purpose:** ensure food security, preserve single market for goods/labour
  - Guidelines on border management and ‘green lanes’
- Efforts to **support farmers** and operators in the food chain:
  - relaxed temporary state aid framework
  - market measures to stabilize markets: private storage aid for dairy and meat products, flexibility in the implementation of market support programmes in particular for wine and fruit and vegetables and crisis cooperation
  - measures in such sectors as the milk, potatoes, wine, live plants/flowers
- Exceptional and temporary RD measure to address the liquidity problems
  - one-off lump sum to the worst-hit farmers (max €7.000), and agri-food SME (max 50.000) to help them to stay in business
- Ease the work of **national administration** in processing claims

# Need for a long-term strategy

As announced in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission will elaborate a contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in the EU during crises.

It will also propose a legislative framework for sustainable and resilient EU food systems.

# Ease administration of claim year 2020

- **Purpose:** facilitate the work of administrations, enable prompt handling of applications for a timely payment of support (DP and RD)
- Measures relating to single application and advance payments
- Extended deadline for submission of aid applications from 15 May to 15 June (from 15 June to 15 July for FI, SE, LV, LT, EE). Postponed deadline to amend the applications.
- Increase rate for advance payments from 50% to 70% in direct payments and from 75% to 85% in animal and area-based rural development measures.
- Direct payments: possible to pay advances before on-the-spot checks are finalised - but not earlier than 16 October. (in rural development already possible)

# Flexibility in the execution of checks

- Necessary to address **movement restrictions** (precluding on-field visits)
- Reduction of the control rates in 2020
  - for example DP down from 5% to 3%
- Flexible timing for on-the-spot checks under animal-related schemes
- Extending the control period: **wine harvesting** from 15 July to 15 September, **school scheme** from 31 March to 15 October, **private storage for olive oil** by 30 days
- Opening the possibility to use alternative methods for checks

# Alternative methods

## Opportunity to enhance modernisation

- New technology offers viable alternatives to physical inspections!
- Possibility to replace physical inspections and on-the-spot checks under DP, RD and CMO support with alternative control evidence, such as geo-tagged photos, satellite images, documents, video meetings.
- Possibility to replace in situ visits for RD investment projects (obligatory part of administrative checks) with alternative evidence, during the confinement period.
- Many of the relevant tools available free of charge.
- Beneficiary may become actively involved in managing the claim.

# Alternative methods

## Satellite-based information

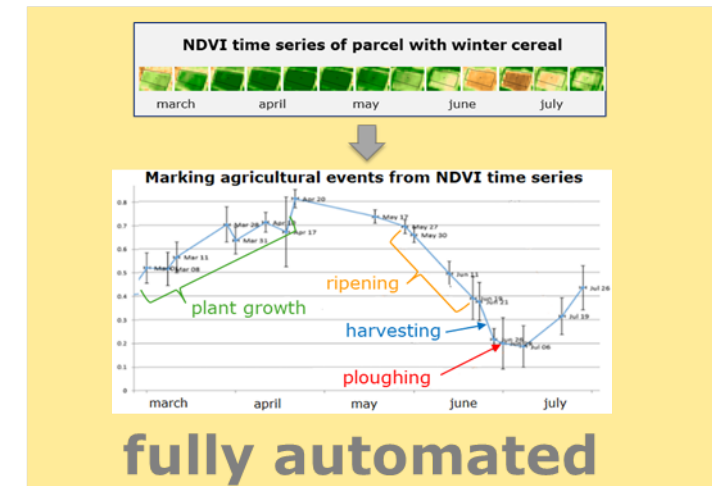


Example:

Markers:

- plant growth
- ripening
- harvest

sentinel-based  
monitoring of activities



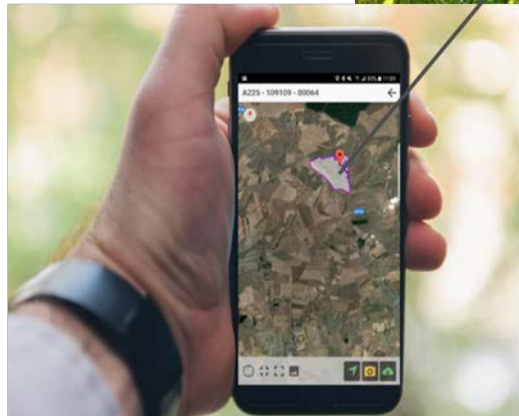


# Alternative methods

## Example: geo-tagged photos

Technology allowing sending geo-localised pictures in a secure manner, image not manipulated

Environmentally  
Sensitive  
Permanent  
Grassland  
(ESPG)



Species richness



*acquired by farmers (or other persons)*

Via mobile applet linked to IACS database



Informazioni	
Número:	14
Scattata il:	2015/11/09 10:49
Latitudine:	46.363183449196804
Longitudine:	12.222286190450541
Azimuth:	-130.92459038841614
Pitch:	-84.56425792522604
Roll:	167.09258672303304

Date - Time

Location

Orientation

**AUTHENTICATED**

Evidencing:

- Mowing date, VCS (Durum wheat),
- Crop mixture (catch crop), EFAs,
- Land laying fallow, ...

# Alternative methods

## How could this work in practice?



Considering the exceptional circumstances of CY 2020

- No time to offer hands-on training or guidance by COM
- Not a good moment for MS to invest in unknown novelties
- Reliance on existing tools and skills
- Make it as user-friendly as possible: full discretion of MS
  1. Free to choose the most suitable solutions
  2. No need to notify to COM
  3. No approval of the methods, they just need to provide reliable evidence

# Alternative methods

## What expectations COM had?



- Realistic! Considering the overall context.
- Actual use of new technologies would depend on the duration of movement restrictions: being prepared for worst-case scenario
  - Would be necessary if on-the-spot checks not possible at all in 2020!?
- 1. Results from pilot projects could be used to substitute classical OTSC
- 2. Use satellite-based information to conclude on agricultural activity
- 3. **Geo-tagged photos** as a viable low-cost alternative, for the first time outside of IACS!
- 4. General capacity building

# Lessons for Commission

- Generally positive feedback from MS
- More support & guidance to foster modernisation
- Need to accept small steps  
(dated photos => geo-tagged photos => Checks by Monitoring)
- Important to build on this experience towards long-term change in the future
- Area Monitoring System is becoming a reality, increasing interest on the side of MS to test new technologies and get ready for the CAP post 2020
- Different modernisation potential in aid schemes: area v. animals
- Still waiting to have the full picture – CY 2020 ongoing



# What are your lessons & expectations?

- How can new technology be used to facilitate your work?
- What technological tools would be the easiest to take on board?
- What would you like COM to change in the future?
  - as a result of lessons from 2020 or in general
- How would you like the Commission improve its support in uptake of technologies?

# Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com

