

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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1 INTRODUCTION

Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides that the Member States shall establish their national strategy for sustainable operational programmes in the fruit and vegetable market (hereinafter: the national strategy), which shall, inter alia, integrate the national framework for environmental actions (hereinafter: the national framework) containing general conditions relating to the environmental actions referred to in Article 33(5) of that same Regulation.

The national framework shall govern the general conditions for implementing measures for the protection of the environment, provided for in the operational programmes of producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector, with a view to reducing the negative impact on the environment that may occur during fruit and vegetable production.

As part of the national strategy, the national framework shall be applied as guidelines for the producer organisations in drawing up the operational programmes to facilitate the orientation and selection of acceptable environmental protection measures.

At the same time, on their holdings, fruit and vegetable producers must take into account cross-compliance measures, referring to good agricultural and environmental conditions and statutory management requirements, governed by regulations in the area of the environment, climate change, good agricultural condition of land, the health of humans, animals and plants and animal welfare.

2 LEGAL BASIS

The national framework is drawn up on the basis of the following:

- Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007, and
- Article 27(1) and Article 28 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/891 of 13 March 2017 supplementing Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors and supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to penalties to be applied in those sectors and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011,
- Article 3 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/892 of 13 March 2017 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors.

The producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector must take into account production techniques that respect the environment, as well as other waste production and management techniques that pay particular attention to the protection of water and soil quality and the preservation of landscape and biodiversity.

The environmental actions under this national framework comply with the requirements of the Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2020 (RDP 2014–2020) and measures to preserve and promote the agricultural practices that positively contribute to the environment and climate.

Support for environmental actions under this national framework includes additional costs and unrealised revenue arising from activities that exceed the following:

- applicable cross-compliance requirements and conditions,
- national requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use,
- other national requirements.

3 TIME FRAME

The national framework programme will be implemented in the 2019–2023 period and will be used for the operational programmes of the producer organisations, which will be approved for implementation from 1 January 2019 on.

4 GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

The environmental actions selected in the operational programme of the producer organisations must be in accordance with:

- the national framework,
- measures for the protection of the environment under the RDP 2014–2020, provided that they are implemented and applied by the producer organisation members and, as a rule, exceed the following:
 - statutory management requirements (SMR),
 - good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAEC),
 - minimum requirements for fertiliser use,
 - minimum requirements for plant protection product use,
 - other statutory requirements.

If the operational programme includes the possibility of combining diverse measures for the protection of the environment and/or where environmental protection measures within the operational programme may be combined with measures to preserve and promote agricultural practices that positively contribute to the environment and climate under the RDP 2014–2020, the level of support shall take into account the unrealised profit and additional costs arising from the combination.

Duration of the environmental protection measures

The duration of the environmental activities must be long enough to ensure environmental benefit.

If the national framework anticipates environmental actions that are the same as the measures to preserve and promote agricultural practices that positively contribute to the environment and the climate under the RDP 2014–2020, the duration of the activities must be equally long, unless a different duration is justified in the national framework.

If the duration of the operational programme of the producer organisation is shorter (e.g. 3 or 4 years) than the commitment to environmental action, the producer organisation is obliged to further implement activities in its next operational programme if this is necessary for the achievement of the objectives within the RDP 2014–2020. Based on the results of the report of the producer organisation on the assessment of the implementation of the operational programme, made by the producer organisation in the penultimate year of the operational programme's implementation, the period for the implementation of the environmental actions may, in justified cases, be shortened or even closed.

Relationship with the Rural development Programme

The environmental actions and related costs within the national framework, which are acceptable in the operational programmes of the producer organisations, are in accordance with the RDP 2014–2020.

If the support for environmental actions that are part of the national framework is allocated in accordance with the RDP 2014–2020, the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development (AAMRD) will in accordance with Article 30 of Regulation 2017/891 ensure, in terms of payments, that the producer organisation shall receive support for a given action only under one scheme and this way the demarcation will be ensured.

The level of support for environmental actions under the national framework may not be greater than the level of support applied for the measures to preserve and promote agricultural practices that positively contribute to the environment and climate in the RDP 2014–2020. This does not apply for environmental protection measures that are not directly or are indirectly connected to a certain reference parcel or GERK (graphical agricultural unit of a farm holding).

Support for the environmental protection measures is limited to the maximum amounts in accordance with Annex II of the Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 and of agri-environment-climate payments.

National framework and Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC

In Slovenia, certain requirements of Directive 2009/128/EC have already been transposed by legislation from the phytosanitary field. In this respect, the Plant Health Act has already regulated monitoring, observation and prediction of the occurrence of harmful organisms, provision of the equipment necessary for such an activity, advising and information in relation to the protection of plants against harmful organisms, which has not been regulated by EU regulations and was subject to different regulations at the level of individual Member States. These activities are determined in national Plant Health Act as obligations of the plant health public service and in the Agriculture Act as activities of the agricultural consultancy public services.

In Slovenia, integrated pest management under provisions of Annex III of the Directive 2009/128/EC coincides to a large extent with the activities of integrated production or integrated method of agricultural production, which has so far not been subject to any EU regulation and is regulated differently at the level of individual Member States. Additionally organic farming also plays a crucial role in achieving the goals of the Directive 2009/128/EC.

Those measures in National framework that present additional requirements to the producer or producer organisation in regard to national legislation and at same time aim to meet the goals of Annex III of the Directive 2009/128/EC are marked with an *¹.

¹ List of environmental actions EC as listed in point 5 of this national framework contributing to meeting the goals of Annex III of the Directive 2009/128/:

- 3.1 Rotation of crops
- 3.2 Nmin analysis
- 3.4 Use of anti-insect nets
- 3.5 Use of mulches or mechanical weeding
- 3.6 Greening of arable land
- 3.8 The use of only those fertilisers that are permitted in organic production
- 3.9 Mechanical weeding
- 3.11 Integrated production
- 3.12 Organic farming
- 4.2 The use of pheromone and sticky traps for pest control
- 4.3 Preserving plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion
- 4.4 Biological protection

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS ACCEPTABLE IN THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

1	Measures for the sustainable use of water resources				
	Measure	Commitment	Action	Eligible costs	Indicator
1.1	Water collection and re-use.	Preservation of natural resources Water use reduction	Purchase and installation of equipment necessary for water collection and re-use.	Costs arising from the investment in the equipment for water collection and re-use.	Amount of collected and reused water (in cubic metres). Invoice for the purchase of the equipment. The reduction of water use has to be in line with the provisions set in Article 3 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/892
1.2	Investments in more efficient irrigation systems	Preservation of natural resources Water use reduction	Purchase and installation of equipment for irrigation (drip irrigation, micro sprinklers, sealing devices, more efficient pumps, converters,...)	Costs arising from the investment in the irrigation equipment	Area (in hectares) on which the irrigation system is used. Invoice for the purchase of the equipment. The reduction of water use has to be in line with the provisions set in Article 3 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/892 and Article 46 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

2	Measures for the preservation of water quality				
	Measure	Commitment	Action	Eligible costs	Indicator
2.1	The use of only those plant protection products that were approved for the narrowest water protection areas	Protection of water sources	The use of plant protection products which contain certain active substances are prohibited in the narrowest water protection areas. The list of prohibited active substances is determined by relevant national legislation.	In standard agricultural practice the use of mechanical weeding is not prescribed and all registered plant protection products for weed control can be used. The implementation of additional mechanical measures for weeding whose application is extended due to the inability to use plant protection products from the list.	Appropriate water protection area (official graphic layer). Records on works. Invoice for the purchase of the permitted plant protection products.
2.2	Introduction of wastewater treatment systems.	Protection of water sources	Purchase and installation of equipment necessary for wastewater treatment.	Investment in the equipment for wastewater treatment.	The amount of treated water (in cubic metres). Technical specifications of the product/system that describe the benefits of the system.
2.3	The use of only those plant protection products that are permitted in organic production.	Protection of water sources Reduction of the use of pesticides	Only those plant protection products (active substances) that are permitted as per the regulations governing organic production shall be used.	Costs of purchasing the plant protection products.	Records on works. Invoice for the purchase of the permitted plant protection products (PPPs).

3 Measures for the preservation of soil quality					
	Measure	Commitment	Action	Eligible costs	Indicator
3.1	Rotation of crops *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving soil fertility and soil quality - improving biodiversity - protection of waters 	<p>A five-year crop rotation must include at least three different types of crops as the main crop, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - catch crops are not considered one of the three various types of crops which must be included in the five-year crop rotation; - a possible change of crops in the crop rotation must not worsen the crop rotation or have a negative impact on the environment or reduce the efficiency of implementing the requirement. <p>If the crop rotation is combined with arable crops, cereals may be included three times at the most and maize may be included in crop rotation only three times, but not consecutively.</p>	Costs reflect the difference in the costs of production and in income when implementing crop rotation as prescribed by cross compliance as the standard agricultural practice and when implementing crop rotation in the agri-environmental-climate scheme	<p>Number of producers.</p> <p>Number of hectares.</p>
3.2	Nmin analysis *	Prevention of overuse of nitrogen fertilizers	<p>Implementation of quick soil tests for mineralised nitrogen in soil directly prior to fertilisation, since it is sufficiently accurate in practice to determine nitrogen levels. Based on the Nmin analysis, the optimum dose of nitrogen in view of the actual state of mineralised nitrogen supply in soil is determined in a certain agricultural plant development phase.</p> <p>Quick soil tests prevent the overuse of nitrogen fertilisers and thus reduce dangers of leaching and polluting groundwater with nitrates</p>	In standard agricultural practice, fertilisation with nitrogen on the basis of analyses is not prescribed. The costs take into account that additional fertilisation with nitrogen is done on the basis of soil nitrate tests and quick plant tests.	<p>Number of producers.</p> <p>Number of hectares.</p> <p>Number of tests.</p>
3.3	Composting	Decreasing of the environmental burden by reusing organic material	<p>Installation of a composting plant in proportion to the amount of organic waste on agricultural holding (AH) or producer organisation (PO).</p> <p>Use of the composting plant /composting of organic waste</p>	Costs related to investments for the installation of the composting plant.	<p>Amount of compost used (in tonnes).</p> <p>Number of users of the composting plant.</p>

3.4	Sowing plants for green manure	Improving soil structure, less weed, enrichment of soil with organic matter and humus, reduction of fertilizers.	This requirement anticipates the sowing of plants after the harvest of the main crop in order to protect soil from erosion and leaching, which improves soil structure, increases organic matter in soil, the air–water regime in soil and reduces weeds. Before sowing the next crop, the standing crop is ploughed under.	Costs above the standard costs reflect the difference between this measure and standard practice.	Number of producers. Number of hectares.
3.5	Use of anti-insect nets *	Reduction of total use of plant protection products.	The requirement means covering produce or surfaces with nets to protect produce from insects. The use of insecticides is not permitted. This also prevents the spread of micro-organisms and viruses.	Costs above the standard costs reflecting the difference between this measure and standard practice.	Number of producers. Number of hectares. Invoice for the purchase of nets.
3.6	Use of mulches or mechanical weeding *	Reduction of the total use of plant protection products	<p>The commitment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - covering of soil between crops with mulches to prevent weed growth and reduce transpiration; - mechanical weeding; stale seed bed is also considered mechanical weeding (weeds are destroyed before soil is prepared for sowing); - the use of herbicides is not permitted. <p>The purpose of the requirement is to deter pests and stimulate favourable organisms in soil. The requirement also contributes to the retention of moisture in soil and the protection of plants from extreme temperatures.</p>	In standard agricultural practice, the use of mulches and/or mechanical weeding is not prescribed. The costs are based on a comparison of production costs in production without the use of mulches and production costs in production with the use of mulches. Production without the use of mulches (use of herbicides) and production with the use of mulches (without the use of herbicides, additional cost of mulches, additional work when laying and removing mulches) were compared. Production without the use of herbicides is very	Number of producers. Number of hectares.

				demanding, since mechanical weeding is not completely efficient	
3.7	Greening of arable land *	Prevention of leaching of nutrients, reduction of groundwater pollution, reduction of erosion and total use of plant protection products.	The sowing of overwintering crops (e.g. winter wheat, swede rape and similar) must be implemented by 25 October of the current year. Soil must be covered from 15 November of the current year to at least 15 February of the following year. Tillage of green field surfaces is possible after 15 February of the following year, whereby the use of herbicides is not permitted.	In standard agricultural practice greening of arable land is not mandatory. Additional costs relating to sowing plants for greening and income lost. The costs include the costs of mechanical services, which include sowing with a stubble cultivator and seeder, rolling of crops after sowing, costs of seeds of plants envisaged for greening.	Number of producers. Number of hectares.
3.8	Non-overwintering honey crops	Prevention of leaching of nutrients, reduction groundwater pollution and erosion, improve soil fertility and extend the pasturing season for bees into late autumn, and reduce the need to feed bees with sugar, increase resilience and improve the wintering of bee	The sowing of non-overwintering crops must be implemented at least by 1 September of the current year; ground cover from 15 August of the current year and at least by 16 October of the current year; land treatment is possible after 16 October of the current year, whereby the use of herbicides is not permitted. During the implementation of the requirement, the use of herbicides is not permitted. During the implementation of the requirement, the use of mineral nitrogen fertilisers is not permitted.	Costs relating to the sowing of plants for greening. The costs include the costs of mechanical services which include sowing with a stubble cultivator and seeder, rolling of crop after sowing and mulching, costs of domestic work relating to the implementation of domestic mechanical services and the costs of seeds of plants envisaged for greening. Fertilisation as per the expected use of the main nutrients is taken into account for catch crops whose harvesting is anticipated (e.g.	Number of producers. Number of hectares.

		colonies.		buckwheat, millet, etc.).	
3.9	The use of only those fertilisers that are permitted in organic production *	To improve the structure and fertility of soil, increase the resistance of plants to diseases and facilitate the creation of humus in soil.	Only fertilisers permitted in organic farming in accordance with Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 may be used for soil fertilisation.	In standard agricultural practice, mineral and organic fertilisers may be used. The costs reflect the difference between the costs of fertilising with mineral fertilisers which are largely used for fertilising orchards, and the costs of fertilising with fertilisers permitted in organic production.	Number of producers. Number of hectares.
3.10	Land cover in row spacing with managed fallow	Enrichment of soil with organic matter and nutrients, increase of the amount of humus in soil.	The requirement is implemented in row spacing which is covered by managed fallow. After harvesting, soil in the row spacing is treated with a ripper, which breaks up the ground hardened by machines (wheel tracks). Various types of plants are sown in the tilled ground, which are trimmed when they reach the proper size. This fertilises and enriches soil with organic matter. Roots of selected plants that reach deep into the soil loosen and provide air to the deeper layers of soil. Land cover is implemented in every other row spacing in an individual year.	Costs of mechanical services (tillage with stubble cultivator, sowing and mulching), related costs of domestic work and the costs of seeds for short-term greening of row spacing. Ground cover in row spacing is ensured throughout the growing period in every other row spacing	Number of producers. Number of hectares.
3.11	Integrated production *	- Improving soil fertility and soil quality - reduction of PPP and fertilizers used - improving biodiversity	The primary requirements of integrated production are to use PPP only when all other options have been exhausted (implementation of preventive measures, mechanical and biological pest control, etc.). Preference should be given to non-chemical procedures (mulching, false sowing or provocation method, use of harrows, hoes, thermal control, etc.), while PPP should be used only when harmful	Costs cover income lost due to the additional commitments.	Number of producers. Number of hectares. Number of certificates.

			<p>organisms exceed the damage threshold. In the case of protected crops, the use of beneficial organisms should be preferred to the use of PPP. When the damage threshold cannot be determined (e.g. fungal diseases), PPP should be applied for plant protection according to the forecast of the monitoring and forecasting service, by choosing an appropriate PPP at an optimal moment to minimise the volume of treatments and achieve their maximum effectiveness. When selecting PPP, priority should be given to those PPP that involve minimal adverse side effects on non-target (beneficial) organisms. On farms included in the integrated production, an appropriate crop rotation should also be considered (e.g. in arable farming, 5-year crop rotation), fertilisation should be applied only on the basis of soil analysis and detailed records of all operations carried out should be kept. Integrated production is not part of the agri-environmental-climate scheme.</p>		
3.12	Organic farming *		<p>Complying with the rules on organic farming in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91; - Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products regarding organic production, labelling and control; - Rules on organic production and processing of 	Costs cover income lost due to the additional commitments.	<p>Number of producers.</p> <p>Number of hectares.</p> <p>Number of certificates.</p>

			agricultural products and/or foods (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 8/2014);		
3.13	Biological protection * (can not be combined with 3.11 and 3.12)	Reduced use of insecticides Improving biodiversity	Use of various beneficial organisms which can be used for insect pest control and thus reducing the use of pesticides.	Additional costs related to purchase and use of beneficial organisms.	Records on works. Invoice on the purchase of beneficial organisms. Beneficial organism declaration.

4	Measures for forming and maintaining habitat that promotes biodiversity				
	Measure	Commitment	Action	Eligible costs	Indicator
4.1	High-trunk meadow orchards	Improving biodiversity	<p>The following has to be ensured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grassification of orchards with managed fallow; - use of grass surfaces for mowing or pasturing (also under the crowns of trees); - care of trees and restoration of plantations; - if a tree dries out or dies, weak root stocks are not to be used for planting new trees; - revival trimming must be carried out in the first or second year of the assumed commitment; - tree density must be between 50 to 200 trees/ha. 	<p>The calculation is based on a comparison of hay production on a meadow mown twice and hay production on a meadow mown twice in a tended meadow orchard. Standard agricultural practice considers the costs and income of hay production on a meadow mown twice; whereas the requirement observes the costs and income of hay production on a meadow mown twice, which results in somewhat lower productivity due to tree shade and the costs of maintaining the meadow orchard, which includes rejuvenation pruning, regular annual pruning, protection against disease and pests (three times) and</p>	<p>Number of producers.</p> <p>Number of hectares.</p>

				fertilisation.	
4.2	The use of pheromone and sticky traps for pest control *	Reduced use of insecticides Improving biodiversity	In intensive orchards and olive plantations, with the purpose of making the use of insecticides more rational, pheromone and/or sticky plates are used, depending on the occurrence of an individual type of pests, with which the abundance and time of occurrence of pests are monitored as criteria for the necessary measures of protection of plantations. The number of necessary traps for individual varieties of fruit is determined in the instructions from the producers of pheromone traps and sticky plates. The instructions from expert institutions in the field of plant protection are taken into account when implementing this requirement.	In standard agricultural practise for pest control all registered insecticides can be used. Costs cover the income for gone due to a reduced use of insecticides (by a third) in comparison with standard agricultural practice which does not anticipate the use of pheromone and sticky traps.	Records on works. Invoice on the purchase of pheromones/sticky traps.
4.3	Preserving plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion *	Protection and conservation of the original characteristics and genetic variability by planting of indigenous and traditional varieties of agricultural plants.	Preserving plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion observed the fact that Slovenian autochthonous and traditional varieties of agricultural plants are not very widespread and are	The calculation compares economic indicators in the production of autochthonous and traditional varieties with the production of modern varieties. The	Records on works. Invoice on the purchase of seeds/seedlings. Plant product declaration.

			<p>produced in small quantities. They have less productive potential and are thus less economically attractive for production purposes than other modern varieties which prevail in Slovenia.</p>	<p>difference in the financial result of producing autochthonous and traditional varieties and producing modern varieties is taken into account. The difference is the result of the lower average productive potential of autochthonous varieties.</p>	
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5	Measures for saving energy / climate change				
	Measure	Commitment	Action	Eligible costs	Indicator
5.1	Improvement of the existing equipment for energy production	Energy saving Improving efficiency in energy use	By replacing existing equipment for production, processing or storage energy savings can be achieved by installing newer more efficient equipment	Investment into new equipment	Energy use compared to the existing situation Savings on energy use have to be in line with the provisions set in Article 3 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/892
5.2	Investments into new energy systems	Energy saving Improving efficiency in energy use	By installing new energy systems for production, processing or storage with characteristics above national environmental standards the production process becomes more environmentally friendly by producing less emissions	Purchase and installation of new equipment	Energy efficiency compared to the standard equipment Savings on energy use have to be in line with the provisions set in Article 3 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/892
5.3	Alternative energy sources	Reduction of emissions Energy saving	The use of non-renewable energy sources can produce emissions that can have a harmful impact on our health, our environment, and our climate. By using renewable energy sources these emissions can be significantly reduced.	Purchase and installation of energy systems using renewable sources of energy	Energy use compared to the old energy system. Savings on energy use have to be in line with the provisions set in Article 3 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/892.

6 Measures for reduction of waste / improvement of waste management					
	Measure	Commitment	Action	Eligible costs	Indicator
6.1	Use of plastic materials that are appropriate for recycling.	Decreasing of the environmental burden by reusing plastic materials suitable for recycling	Purchase of materials made of plastic that is appropriate for recycling	Only costs directly related to the purchase of recyclable plastic materials. Costs of personnel, travel expenses, ... are not eligible	Amount of plastics for recycling. Number of PO members recycling plastic materials. Invoice for the purchase of recyclable plastic materials.
6.2	Substitution of mineral substrates with organic matter substrates in hydroponic growing of vegetables in glasshouses and their further processing	Improvement of the growing methods by using environmentally friendly substrates, decrease of the mineral substrates which are non-biodegradable	Mineral cultivation substrates should be replaced by organic (coconut, wool,...), which can be further processed by the grower and given to other producers as a biological material for soil enrichment	Specific costs-difference between price of mineral and organic substrates	Percentage (%) of organic substrates.
6.3	Using recyclable or biodegradable fabrics to protect crops.	Decreasing of environmental burden by using biodegradable materials	Crop protection against frost, weeds and insects, recycling after service life, or biodegradable materials reduce the environmental burden.	Specific cost difference between price of standard material and recyclable/biodegradable materials	Quantity used in m ² . Recycled or degraded quantity in m ² .