

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK

2018 – 2022

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Care for the environment is a concept taken by the society towards the environment. The aim of caring for the environment is to maintain or improve its quality with respect to all organisms, including humans, while respecting the principles of sustainable development. The care for the environment is implemented as the development and protection of environment.

Slovak Republic undergone OECD Environmental Performance Review in 2011. Even this review is still the most recent, situation since 2011 has been changed. OECD EPR evaluated Slovak environmental performance following:

„The transition of the Slovak Republic towards a market economy, initiated in the 1990s, substantially reduced environmental pressures from agriculture. Pressures were further reduced in the 2000s due to policy reforms and investments linked to EU accession. As a result, many agri-environmental indicators (e.g. nitrogen and phosphorus balances, water use, ammonia emissions) showed positive trends in the 2000s. Nevertheless, agricultural practices still exert important pressures on the environment. Almost 60% of farmland is located in nitrate vulnerable zones requiring protection policies. Soil erosion is a widespread problem for arable land in mountainous (“less favoured”) areas, which make up 50% of agricultural land.

Rural areas account for 86% of the territory and 40% of the population. A significant part of EU farm support is channeled through a harmonized rural development programme that aims to improve competitiveness in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors, promote sustainable farming and forestry, and improve quality of life in rural areas. Although the programme has contributed to a decoupling of support payments from agricultural production and the associated environmental pressures, more could be done to link payments to environmental outcomes. A positive step has been the introduction of payments to help manage biodiversity on Natura 2000 sites which cover a high share of Slovakia’s territory. One outcome of agri - environmental policies is that, in 2009, organic agriculture accounted for 7.6% of farmland, exceeding the 2010 target of 7%. Payments to less favoured areas have helped maintain extensive forms of farming and prevent land abandonment in areas of high environmental and recreational value.

A fundamental challenge in improving environmental performance in the agricultural sector is property rights. Since transition to a market economy began, there has not been much progress in identifying landowners. As a result, the agricultural land market is not well developed, and 85% of farm operations are on leased land. From an environmental perspective, this reduces incentives to manage farmland in a longer-term, environmentally sound perspective. It also creates problems regarding management of voluntary agri-environmental programmes, which must be implemented for five consecutive years to receive payment.“

„Major policy changes were required for EU accession and membership. In the initial years of transition, in the early 1990s, despite the lack of explicit agri-environmental policy, the removal of government support for purchased farm inputs (e.g. input subsidies) and other production-related support (e.g. administered prices) contributed to a significant reduction in the intensity of farm production. That policy change also resulted in reducing pressures on the environment, as evidenced by a positive trend for many agri-environmental indicators (e.g. nitrogen and phosphorus balance, pesticide use, water use, ammonia emissions).

Agri-environmental payments were introduced in 1997 and organic farming in 1991. Policies to encourage sustainable farming practices and environmental protection were further

developed during the EU membership process. The three EU pre-accession funds² included support for environmental purposes. Environmental protection has been a key objective in Slovakian agriculture since adoption of the CAP upon accession in 2004. Policies under the CAP are to be phased in by 2013.

In 2004-06, a rural development plan, jointly funded by the national budget and the EU, provided for agri-environmental programmes including basic area payments conditional on adoption of environmental farm management practices; support for conversion of arable land to permanent pasture; and payments for organic farming (Table 6.3). Basic area payments were provided per hectare of arable land, permanent cropland (e.g. orchards, vineyards) and/or permanent grassland. Fixed rates were set for each category. In addition, acreage payments were provided for conversion to organic farming, where lower rates continued to be granted after the conversion period. Payments were also provided to prevent or mitigate soil erosion and for conservation of high-value biotopes on grassland. Agri-environmental programmes for 2007-13 have been strengthened and expanded.

They primarily aim at:

- more extensive forms of farming, for which the basic scheme sets standards;
- organic farming (with stricter limits for farming practices than under the basic scheme);
- integrated production in vineyards, orchards and vegetable production;
- protection from soil erosion on arable land, in vineyards and in orchards;
- conversion of arable land (mainly in less favoured areas) into grassland with extensive forms of production;
- protection of biotopes in semi-natural and natural grassland (rich in species);
- breeding and preservation of endangered animal species;
- protection of selected bird species biotopes (in Natura 2000 sites).“

Source: OECD Environmental Performance Review, Slovak Republic, 2011.

In 2016 new government has been appointed and environmental policy became one of the most prioritized issues. In the Slovak Republic Government's declaration was officially pointed on the provision of high-quality domestic plant production "Support for rural development and the effective care of the countryside necessarily requires a combination of all the decisive ones activities in the country into one functional unit. The government will also focus on supporting everyone other positive externalities of the agri-food sector, including the maintenance of cultural the nature of the landscape, the protection and creation of the environment and the acceleration of rural development economy. The government respects the EU's programming documents for support economic growth and economic performance in agriculture and forestry while respecting the principles of economic and ecological balance management. This is a prerequisite for a sustainable social market economy of countryside.

State Environmental Policy is currently determined mainly by the April 2016 Program Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic (2016-2020) which emphasizes the proactive fulfillment of internationally agreed environmental sustainability commitments and targets, notably within the framework of the UN, OECD and other international organizations. It also commits to the implementation of European environmental legislation

and to the achievement of the objectives defined in the 7th EU General Environmental Action Program up to 2020, which is part of the EU's long-term vision and strategy for the protection of the environment and the climate by 2050.

Environmental care is governed by Act No. 525/2003 Coll. on the State Administration of Environmental Care and on Amendments to Some Acts, as amended. This law, under environmental care, means the creation and protection of the environment. In the Slovak Republic, the state administration applies to the extent stipulated by a set of legal regulations, Waste, Water, Air Protection, Nature and Landscape Protection, Fisheries, Water Supply and Sewerage, etc. The government is committed to implementing European environmental legislation and meeting the targets defined in the 7th EU General Environmental Action Program until 2020, which is part of the EU's long-term vision and strategy for the protection of the environment and climate by 2050.

In the area of adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change (adaptation), it will take care to reduce the risks posed by climate change to population health and the environment, support system solutions for adaptation measures, including further support for flood control measures and adaptation to potential water scarcity in line with the "Strategy for the Adaptation of the Slovak Republic to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change" with an emphasis on adaptation measures in cities, agriculture and forestry.

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 sets the framework for Community action to achieve sustainable use of pesticides (hereinafter referred to as "Directive 2009/128/EC") entered into force on 24 November 2009.

On the same day, Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, (hereinafter referred to as "Regulation (EC) 1107/2009"), which shall apply from 14 June 2011. The aim of Directive 2009/128/EC was to make the Member States of the European Union have devoted due attention to the areas of human health and the environment, to use pesticides in a sustainable way, to formulate and implement steps that lead to a reduction in risks and negative ones potential impacts of pesticide use on human health and life environment.

Article 4 of Directive 2009/128 / EC requires Member States to adopt a national action plan setting out their quantitative objectives, tasks and measures and timetables for reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and to support the development and implementation of integrated pest management organisms and alternative approaches or techniques to reduce dependence on use pesticides.

On the basis of Article 4 of Directive 2009/128/EC, the Slovak Republic adopted a National Action Plan on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, which includes in particular qualitative and quantitative objectives, measures to reduce health and environmental risks and the effects of the use of plant protection products on human health and the environment, support the development and implementation of integrated pest management and alternative approaches or techniques used in plant protection.

National Action Plan on Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products contains in particular qualitative and quantitative objectives, measures to reduce health and the environmental risks and effects of the use of plant protection products on human health

and the environment, supporting the development and implementation of integrated pests management organisms and alternative approaches or techniques used in plant protection.

Ensuring good and healthy agricultural production is universal interests of the professional and public sector. Vegetable production, however, without basic inputs into it can not exist. Pesticides play one of the key tasks in securing the quantitative objectives of crop production but also of forest production, but it is necessary for them their use is at such a level and in such a way that they do not pose health risks people and the environment or to reduce their risks to the minimum.

Due to the globalization of trade and climate warming, the conditions for the development of harmful organisms are constantly improving and therefore the need for protection against them is still up to date. No use of pesticides therefore does not ensure sufficient plant and forest production currently possible. The goal of the National Action Plan is to minimize the dangers and the risks to human health and the environment arising from the use of pesticides setting objectives, tasks, measures and indicators to reduce these potential risks. Pesticides for the purposes of the National Action Plan include plant protection products to the extent defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009.

The Slovak Republic supports the preparation of adaptation-related measures on agriculture through climate change to increase water retention in the country and to prepare an effective conservation and development policy, hydromeliorating devices (irrigation and drainage).

Agricultural crops differ in their impact on the land and the environment as a whole, so it is necessary to maintain the right management systems including crop rotation. Plant production in the Slovak Republic is focused on cereals, legumes, oilseeds, root crops and forage crops. Changes in the structure of crop production are a reflection of market demand. The obstacle to better exploitation of the production potential of the sector, which is also a consequence of the reduction of agricultural production in the Slovak Republic, as well as problems with the placement of agricultural products on foreign markets due to limited possibilities of export support.

Development of the agricultural crop yields (.000 ha)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Potatoes	245,3	216,1	125,9	217,3	165,7	164,5	178,9	144,6
Cereals	4137,0	3330,0	2554,2	3714,1	3035,7	3412,0	4708,3	3805,7
Multiannual forage	699,0	642,9	688,5	673,3	627,6	678,1	746,3	573,2
Leguminous	17,7	14,9	17,0	17,9	10,1	9,0	14,5	26,8
Annual forage	2426,1	2087,7	1924,3	2516,6	2540,4	2456,5	3015,9	2280,1
Oilseeds	633,1	595,8	500,7	574,6	454,3	612,4	738,7	563,0
Sugar beet	678,9	898,6	977,7	1160,7	894,5	1144,6	1550,2	1205,5

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Research Institute of Agriculture and Food Economics has developed a simulation analysis of the impact of introducing farming practices beneficial to the climate and the environment.

It is based on the use of the database of enterprises of the MOARD Information Sheet (IL MPRV SR). After the elimination of unaccounted-for-profit entities, this sample consisted of 2535 subjects, of which 1487 legal and 1048 individuals. The farmed area of agricultural land amounted 1614 thousand ha, which represents 86% of the volume registered in Land register (LPIS). The existence of areas of ecological interest (EFA) on agricultural land was simulated for each farm at the level of the 5% EFA commitment for 2015 and the greening condition for the conservation of existing permanent grassland was considered to be present in the analysis. The results are aggregated and presented at NUTS4 level, distinguished by the impact of large and small farms.

Member State is in accordance with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 obliged to develop a national environmental framework for operational programs of producer organizations. The objective is in line with the above commitments to implement measures that contribute to the sustainable development of the environment.

Producer organizations in the fruit and vegetable sector are, on the basis of Art. 33 (5) of the Regulation (EU) 1308/2013, mandatory to apply at least two environmental measures or at least 10% of the measures of the operational program must be aimed at protecting the environment.

Implementation of the National Environmental Framework focuses in particular on promoting water protection, reducing climate change risks and promoting system solutions in agriculture. The Slovak Republic supports measures related to the adaptation of agriculture to climate change by means of management methods which increase water retention in the country and prepare an effective policy for the conservation and development of hydromelioration facilities (irrigation and drainage).

The national environmental framework is based, in addition to EU rules, on the following national legislative:

- Act No. 405/2011 of 21 October 2011 on Phytosanitary Care and on Amendment to the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 145/1995, Z. z. on Administrative Fees, as amended by later regulations,
- Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature Conservation, as amended,
- Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on Water and on Amendment of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 372/1990 on Offenses as amended (the Water Act),
- Act No. 233/2001 Coll. on waste, as amended,
- Act No. 359/2007 Coll. on the prevention and remedying of environmental damage.

SWOT analysis of the fruit and vegetables sector:

Strengths:

The analysis of the situation in the fruit and vegetables sector clearly shows the positive influence of membership in producer organizations.

In the fruit growing sector, crop losses are foreseen in 2017 lower for members of producer organizations that have used anti-frost protection in a coordinated way within the PO. In 2015-2017, growers - members of producer organizations, began to diversify

production, especially the expansion of soft fruit areas. Continuous improvement in quality is also achieved by focusing on club varieties, especially apples and pears.

In the vegetable sector, production growth has sharply increased over the past 3 years on protected areas, what is the result of the new producer organizations establishment - tomato growers in greenhouses.

Weaknesses:

In fruit growing, the worst impact of climatic fluctuations and the decline in yield due to the effects of low temperatures in the spring period appear to be the weakest factor. Another problematic factor is the low level of product promotion and communication with the consumer.

Vegetables sector is still dominated by the low level of organizing for producers on the open field. The weather variations in the previous years were also reflected in open field vegetables, where anti - frost measures were also needed, especially in the form of anti - frost irrigation. This way of protection has taken place, as in the fruit industry, mostly in the case of producers organized in PO. When cultivating on covered areas, one of the main problems is the environmental processing of used growing media.

Opportunities:

Building of the brand (trade mark) of the individual PO, promotion, better competitiveness on the market.

Threats:

Deteriorating climatic conditions - frosts, droughts, glaciers, winds, high temperatures.

Based on the results of the SWOT analysis, a strategy has been chosen to support existing strengths and help eliminate weaknesses in the sector.

In particular, the strategy focuses on measures to protect crops against adverse climatic events as much as possible, on systemic harvest insurance measures, as well as on the use of efficient frost-proof technologies. Measures to improve the quality of production are aimed at promoting the cultivation of quality fruit and vegetable varieties and improving them by adhering to the principles of quality management systems and communication with the consumer. One of the preferred options is building a "brand" that will inform the consumer about the added value of producer organizations' production - of high quality products.

The objectives of the strategy are also directly related to environmental measures, where the SR still has reserves. By addressing the ecological processing of utilized cultivation substrates and introducing optimal conditions for the use of environmentally friendly frost-free technologies, the application of organic practices in fruit and vegetable cultivation would significantly increase.

The main areas were defined as follows:

- Enlargement of environmental measures.
- Investments in technical equipment.
- Enhance promotion and increase the "recognisability" of producer organizations production.
- Support of the production sales within the Slovak Republic.

Types of actions selected as eligible for support (non-exhaustive list):

1. Enlargement of environmental measures - under the previous Operational Program, environmental measures have been introduced for the first time for PO's. Practice over recent years has shown that measures need to be upgraded and expanded. The National Strategy aims to apply an extended environmental framework based on the latest scientific knowledge and to meet the objectives defined by the European Union for the forthcoming period.
 - System solution for the processing of waste from growing media in the form of biodegradable technologies.
2. Investments in technical equipment.
 - Introducing new cultivation technologies.
 - Storage equipment technical equipment.
 - Technological solution for harvesting operations.
 - Building anti - frost systems.
3. Strengthening the promotion and increasing recognition of producer organizations' production.

The results of surveys on consumer awareness of the quality of Slovak production and brands of products grown by members of producer organizations show that consumer awareness of the production of members of producer organizations is best on the territory of Western Slovakia. In this area, almost all members of producer organizations are concentrated. Therefore, it is important to extend the promotion and branding also in the rest of the SR.

Description of the types of actions selected as eligible for support (non-exhaustive list), objectives pursued, verifiable targets and indicators that allow assessment of progress in meeting targets as well as effectiveness and efficiency has been set up in the National Strategy for Operational Programs in details.

National environmental framework measures (non-exhaustive list):

1. Reduce the risk of soil damage

1.1. Investments in suitable technical equipment with flotation tires or tracked chassis/ replacement of tires, chassis

The objective of the measure is to prevent compaction of agricultural land. Flotation tires produce the maximum traction with minimal soil compaction. A wider and longer footprint of the flotation tire causes minimal compaction of the soil.

Acquisition of tangible property.

Types of eligible investment:

- provision of suitable technical equipment with flotation tires or track-chassis,
- replacement of tires, chassis.

Other forms of procurement of tangible property eligible for support:

- operating lease and lease is an unrecognized form of procurement, financial leasing is an eligible form, leaseback repayment is free of interest, penalties and other charges.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- the tangible property acquired must be owned by the producer organization and used up to zero book value, used throughout the depreciation period to achieve this particular general objective.

The measure is in accordance with Annex III.1. of Directive 2009/128 EC.

Environmental commitment: Prevention of compaction of agricultural land, use of investment up to zero depreciation value, use for min. 20% of the total production area of PO's members.

1.2. Use of ecological lubricants and ecological hydraulic oils in production and harvesting technology

The objective of the measure is to reduce the risk of underground and waste water pollution. Ecological lubricants and oils are more environmentally friendly, reduce environmental burden and contribute to sustainable development.

Other actions:

- specific cost of procurement of ecological lubricants and oils.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- the difference between the cost of ecological lubricants and oils and the cost of conventional lubricants and oils is reimbursed.

Environmental commitment: Reduce the risk of underground and waste water pollution, min. use of 20% of the total amount of lubricants and hydraulic oils consumed.

1.3. Planting of stands for soil stabilization

The measure aims at reducing soil erosion and increasing soil stabilization. Soil erosion occurs due to insufficient soil consolidation. Planting of crops with a good root system ensures soil stabilization and prevents soil erosion, especially in sloping terrain.

Other actions:

- the cost of procurement of suitable planting material (shrubs, trees),
- planting costs.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- the costs of materials and services are reimbursed.

Environmental commitment: Reducing soil erosion and increasing soil stabilization.

2. Reducing the risk of climate change

2.1. Renewal of storage technologies, greenhouses and handling areas to reduce energy consumption and reduce the share of CO₂ and freon.

The objective of the measure is to improve storage management and handling facilities by purchasing new elements and ensuring the use of alternative energy sources for heating, cooling and lighting, geothermal energy and energy-saving devices.

Acquisition of tangible property.

Types of eligible investment:

- the purchase of technological equipment that reduces energy consumption, fluorescent lamps, cooling and heating media,
- the purchase of technological elements that reduce CO₂ and freon emissions.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- acquired tangible property must be owned by the producer organization and used up to zero book value, used throughout the depreciation period in order to achieve this particular general objective,
- purchased equipment must reduce energy consumption by at least 15%,
- equipment purchased must reduce carbon monoxide and freon emissions by at least 7%.

Other actions:

- costs of geological exploration.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- expenditure is charged as material and services.

Environmental commitment: Improving technology and warehouse management by purchasing new features. Use of alternative energy sources for heating, cooling and lighting (e.g. geothermal energy), energy-saving devices of at least 15% (for larger environmental benefits of at least 7%).

3. Improvement of the water management

3.1. Application of surfactants for water retention in soil

The objective of the measure is to improve the management of irrigation water and reduce water loss by evaporation.

Other actions:

- purchase of surfactants for water retention in soil.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- expenditure is charged as material.

The measure is in accordance with Annex III.1. of Directive 2009/128 EC.

Environmental commitment: Reduce water loss by evaporation.

3.2. Investments in technological equipment for the application of drip irrigation/micro-sprinklers, purchase of sealing devices, more efficient pumps, frequency converters.

The objective of the measure is to reduce the amount of irrigation water used through targeted irrigation.

Acquisition of tangible property.

Types of eligible investment:

- the purchase of technological equipment for the application of drip irrigation,
- purchase of micro - sprinklers.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- acquired tangible property must be owned by the producer organization and used up to zero book value, used throughout the depreciation period in order to achieve this particular general objective,
- equipment purchased must reduce water consumption by at least 25%.

Other actions:

- purchasing sealing devices, more efficient pumps and frequency converters.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- expenditure is charged as material.

The measure is in accordance with Annex III.1. of Directive 2009/128 EC.

Environmental commitment: Reduce water consumption by at least 25%.

3.3. Investments in water recycling technologies for post-harvest operations

The objective of the measure is to reduce the consumption of water in post-harvest operations. The reduction of water consumption can be done by recycling it in individual procedures for post - harvest operations, for example when washing and cleaning products.

Acquisition of tangible property.

Types of eligible investment:

- the purchase of water reuse technologies.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- acquired tangible property must be owned by the producer organization and used up to zero book value, used throughout the depreciation period in order to achieve this particular general objective.
- equipment purchased must reduce water consumption by at least 25%.

The measure complies with Directive 2009/128 EC, Annex III.1.

Environmental commitment: Reduce water consumption by at least 25%.

4. Integrated pests management

The measure complies with the requirements of Directive 2009/128 / EC, Annex III.

4.1. Application of biological agents to protect, improve the growth and condition of plants even in conventional cultivation

The objective of the measure is to reduce the environmental burden by reducing the amount of pesticides applied in the conventional way of fruit and vegetables growing.

Other actions:

- the specific cost of purchasing biological plant protection products.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- the difference between the price of biological and conventional plant protection products is reimbursed.

The measure complies with Directive 2009/128 / EC, Annex III, 3 and 6.

Environmental commitment: Reducing the environmental burden by reducing the amount of applied pesticides.

4.2. Investments in the purchase of pheromone insect traps

The objective of the measure is to reduce the environmental burden by timely signaling and minimizing the use of pesticides.

Other actions:

- purchase of pheromone insect traps.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- costs are charged as material.

The measure complies with Directive 2009/128 / EC, Annex III, 2 and 3.

Environmental commitment: Reducing the environmental burden by timely signaling and minimizing pesticide use.

4.3 Intercropping in field cultivation that suppresses the occurrence of diseases and pests in fields

The objective of the measure is to increase soil fertility and biodiversity by reducing the incidence of diseases and pests, thereby reducing the use of pesticides.

Other actions:

- the purchase of seed.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- costs are charged as material.

The measure is in line with Directive 2009/128 / EC, Annex III, 4 and 6.
Environmental commitment: Improving soil fertility and biodiversity.

4.4. Planting of grafted plants

The objective of the measure is to reduce the environmental burden by reducing the amount of pesticides used and improving the health status of crops by planting grafted plants. Grafted plants have a stronger, more robust root system, higher resistance to disease, temperature fluctuation, salinity, better nutrient intake, better condition, higher and better quality yield.

Other actions:

- specific cost of buying grafted plants.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- the difference between the price of grafted plants and regular plants is reimbursed.

The measure complies with Directive 2009/128 / EC, Annex III, 3 and 6.

Environmental commitment: Improvement of plant health.

Implementation of the measure for min. 25% of the growing area.

5. Biodiversity increasing

5.1. Providing hives and/or other useful insects for pollination

The objective of the measure is to increase biodiversity by increasing the occurrence of natural organisms for pollination in orchards and vegetable crops. The secondary effect is the increase in the occurrence of birds and other habitats.

Other actions:

- the cost of purchasing hives and / or other insects as a pollinator,
- the cost of regular placement on the growing area.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- costs are charged as materials and services.

Environmental commitment: Regular distribution of hives or other useful insects for pollination on a cultivated area.

5.2. Planting of windbreaks and hedges

The objective of the measure is to stabilize the soil by planting suitable plots. By selecting the appropriate plant types, the natural organisms occurrence is also increased and soil erosion is prevented.

Other actions:

- the cost of purchasing planting material.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- costs are charged as material.

Environmental commitment: Planting of stands for soil stabilization.

6. Improvement of the waste management

6.1. Substitution of mineral substrates with organic matter in hydroponic growing of vegetables in glasshouses and their further processing

The objective of the measure is to improve the cultivation methods by using environmentally friendly substrates and to reduce the use of non - biodegradable mineral substrates. The biological material obtained from the processing of organic substrates will be used for soil enrichment.

Acquisition of tangible property.

Types of eligible investment:

- specific costs - difference in the price of mineral and organic cultivation substrates.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- the tangible property acquired must be owned by the producer organization and used up to zero book value, used throughout the depreciation period to achieve this particular general objective.

Environmental commitment: The proportion of organic substrates must be min. 25% of the total for five years.

6.2. Using recyclable or biodegradable non-woven fabrics to protect crops

The objective of the measure is to reduce the environmental burden by using biodegradable components to protect against frost and mechanical protection against insect barking.

Other actions:

- expenditure on the purchase of non-woven textiles.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- expenditure is charged as material.

Environmental commitment: The proportion of recyclable or biodegradable non-woven fabrics must be min. 25% of the total material used.

6.3. Investments in crushers, root cutters and biomass processing facilities and incorporation into the soil

The objective of the measure is to reduce the waste from orchards and stands, its processing and subsequent use to enrich the soil with biological material.

Acquisition of tangible property.

Types of eligible investment:

- cost of buying mulches, shredders and root cutters.

Information on eligibility conditions for support:

- the tangible property acquired must be owned by the producer organization and used up to zero book value, used throughout the depreciation period to achieve this particular general objective.

Environmental commitment: Use of the investment up to zero depreciation value, min. 20% of the total production area of OV members.