



Study on competition for land use and sustainable farming (Reference: AGRI/2022/OP/0005) Rural and agricultural land use change (RALUC)

Clément JAUBERTIE

Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (European Commission)

Civil Dialogue Group on Agricultural Market – Dried Fodder and Energy Crops

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Overall objective of the study

This study will provide **a comprehensive analysis of the main impacts of sectoral developments** (agricultural, forestry, energy, protection of natural areas, urban sprawl and infrastructure, climate action, mining, consumption patterns, etc.) **on land use in the EU's rural areas and will identify recommendations for optimal land use**, in particular to **promote sustainable farming in light of other demands on land**.

Scope

- Consortium



- Geographic scope of the study is EU-27. Where data are available and where appropriate, the analysis will be at the regional (Nuts 1-3) level.
- Timing : Sept 2023- Nov 2024
- Case study approaches are applied to investigate relationships between drivers (or combinations of drivers) and land use transitions in more detail.
- Historic and future trends in land use related drivers and sustainable impacts within rural areas will be addressed over the periods 1990-2022 and 2022-2050 respectively.
- Sustainable land use in Europe's rural areas: Enables achieving an optimal combination of agricultural and energy production beside nature conservation and restoration and climate mitigation and adaptation

Objectives and research questions

- **Q1.** What were the dominant factors in the evolution of land use in the last thirty years in the EU, in general and for agriculture in particular?
- **Q2.** How have agricultural landscapes in Europe evolved? what scenarios for the evolution of agricultural landscapes are possible?
- **Q3.** What will be the dominant drivers of land use change, in particular agricultural land use, in the coming decades (up to 2050)? What are the different scenarios for each of the factors identified?
- **Q4.** How sustainable is the current land use in Europe's rural areas for agricultural production, energy production, nature conservation and climate change? How can land use be optimised to enable the development of sustainable agriculture in the light of the farm-to-fork strategy? Which policy instruments can be mobilised to optimise land use?

Methods & tools

- ▶ **Territorial typology** (EU-27): classes which represent the biophysical, rural and land use change diversity
 - ▶ Selection of 12 Case Study (CS) regions
 - ▶ CS outcomes will at end help improve typology (if needed)
- ▶ **Review of literature** providing insights on main land use trends and their drivers, including policy and institutional drivers in rural areas in the EU and agricultural lands in particular
- ▶ **Perform interviews** with different stakeholders (in case studies)
- ▶ **Collection, processing and analysis of different statistical and spatial data** sources ranging from high resolution (grids 250 m², 1 km²) to regional (NUTS 1, 2 and 3) levels providing data on historic (1990-2022) trends
- ▶ **Balance sheets** showing the agricultural production of biomass distributed over food, feed, bioenergy and other non-food biomass uses in terms of tonnes production, but also in land use
- ▶ **Scenario development** with business as usual and preferred future

Thank you



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