



What CSPs do to support dried fodder

Strategies and interventions implemented by EU Member States

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1.1. Dried fodder crops

Legal framework



- ### Coupled Income Support

SPR - Article 33 - Scope: Coupled income support may only be granted to the following sectors and productions or specific types of farming therein where they are important for socio-economic or environmental reasons: [...];

*(c) protein crops, **including legumes and mixtures of legumes and grasses provided that legumes remain predominant in the mixture;** [...]*

*(o) **dried fodder;** [...]*

- ### Sectoral Interventions in the other sectors

*Recital 69: Types of intervention in certain sectors are needed to contribute to achieving the CAP objectives and reinforce synergies with other CAP instruments. [...] The broad types of intervention to be established at Union level should be laid down [...] as well as for other sectors [...]. In particular, given the **Union's deficit on plant protein and the environmental benefits their production brings, legumes** should be included [...], and those benefits should be promoted to farmers through, *inter alia*, the farm advisory services.*

1.2. Protein/leguminous crops in the SPR

Legal framework



➤➤➤ Only GAECs and CIS present specific regulatory conditions set at EU level associated to these crops.

- The **GAECs**, recognizing some of their environmental assets, include exemptions for areas with “**leguminous crops**” and, initially, “**nitrogen fixing crops**”
GAEC 7 provides an exemption to crop rotation requirement when more than 75% of arable land is used for the production of grasses or other herbaceous forage, is land lying fallow, or is used for the cultivation of leguminous crops, or subject to a combination of those.
- The **Coupled Income Support** recognises the economic difficulties of the **protein crops** and provide a specific budget ceiling for their support
Exemption to demonstrate the difficulties of the sector (art. 32.2 of SPR) which applies to other sectors for CIS
Possibility to **increase by 2% the 13% maximum financial allocation of direct payments for CIS to support protein crops** (art. 96.3)

➤ Importance to define the « protein crops »

2. Protein/leguminous crops context

Dried fodder and nitrogen cycle



Plants rich in proteins

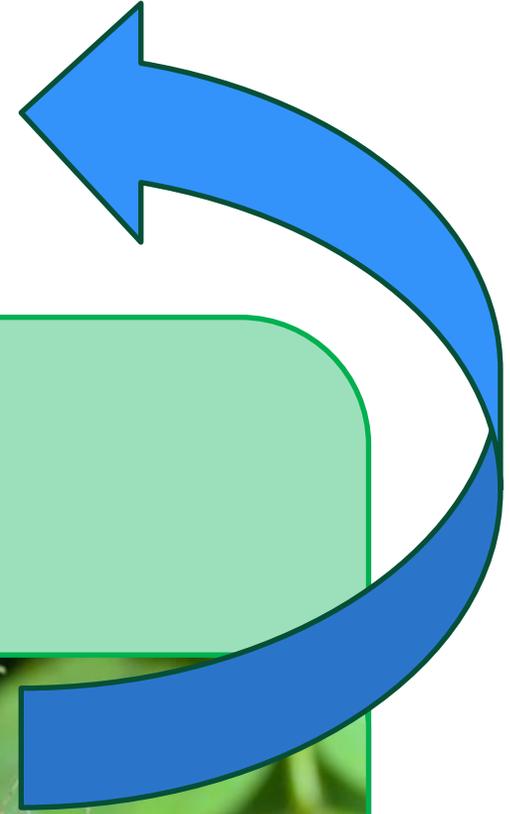
- nitrogenous organic molecule
- % in diets / livestock
- more than 15% protein

Legumes – Leguminous crops

- Botanical Fabaceae (or Leguminosae) family
- Fodder legumes: alfalfa, clover...
- Mixtures of legumes and grasses
- Most leguminous crops are nitrogen-fixing crops

Nitrogen-fixing crops

- Symbiotic association in root nodules with nitrogen-fixing bacteria (rhizobia) to fix atmospheric nitrogen
- No need – or reduced use – of nitrogen fertilisers



3. MSs' needs, objectives and strategies

The CAP Strategic Plans (1/2)

❑ Economic income support to sectors in difficulty and/or emerging sectors

Mentions of the economic assets of legumes as break crop and as crops reducing the needs/costs related to fertilisers

crops/commodity level

- low economic performance and competitiveness
- more risks and volatility

livestock farm level

- reduce production costs
- increase the resilience through improved protein autonomy

value chains level

- lack of R&I
- low knowledge
- need to structure the sectors
- require investments

❑ Environmental assets of the leguminous crops and crop rotation

- Nutrients & GHG-intensive-inputs: N-fixing crops / reduced nitrogen fertilisation
- Crop rotation/diversification: break crops, reducing pesticides use, ...
- Soil: improving soil structure, reduction of erosion
- Biodiversity: melliferous crops for pollinators, food for small mammals and birds

❑ Broader societal demand on plant proteins and protein transition

- image of agriculture – social/consumer expectations – imports of GMOs & impact on deforestation
- raise awareness / encourage healthy diets & increase of plant proteins in human consumption –
- 6 quality products/schemes – local plant varieties – cultural heritage / genetic varieties

3. MSs' needs, objectives and strategies

The CAP Strategic Plans (2/2)

- In most CSPs, **protein/leguminous crops'** challenges are embedded into **broader economic and/or environmental objectives**, only 4 MSs defined a specific need
- 22 out of 28 present an **overview of their protein crop related contexts and interventions**, mostly justified on, **both, economic challenges and environmental benefits**
- Only some MSs provide **concrete context indicators** related to protein/leguminous crops (e.g. national areas / trends, levels of production and share of legumes in agricultural land). Few MSs provide some info regarding plant protein production/needs with indicative deficits related to livestock's feed.
- Very few MSs set **targets to increase protein/leguminous crops' areas**.
- Only two MSs mention data regarding **nitrogen savings and reduction of GHG emissions**.

=> Main **CAP tools specifically design to target protein/leguminous crops:**

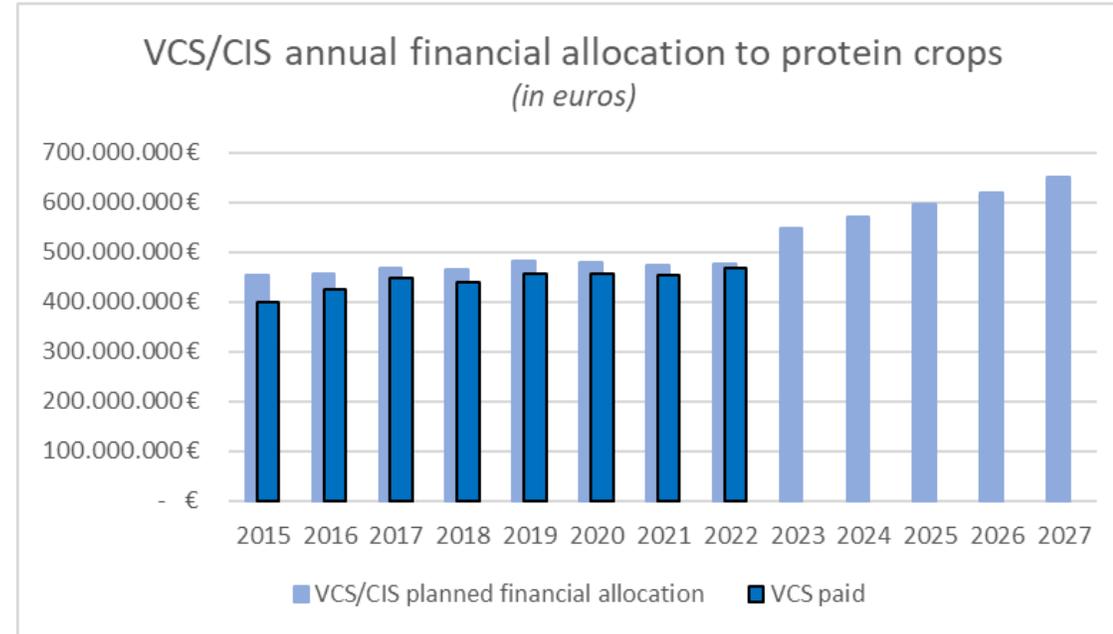
- Coupled Income Support
- Eco-Schemes & AECC
- sectoral interventions.

7 Mention of other but no specific conditions related to protein crops in their design

4. Coupled Income Support

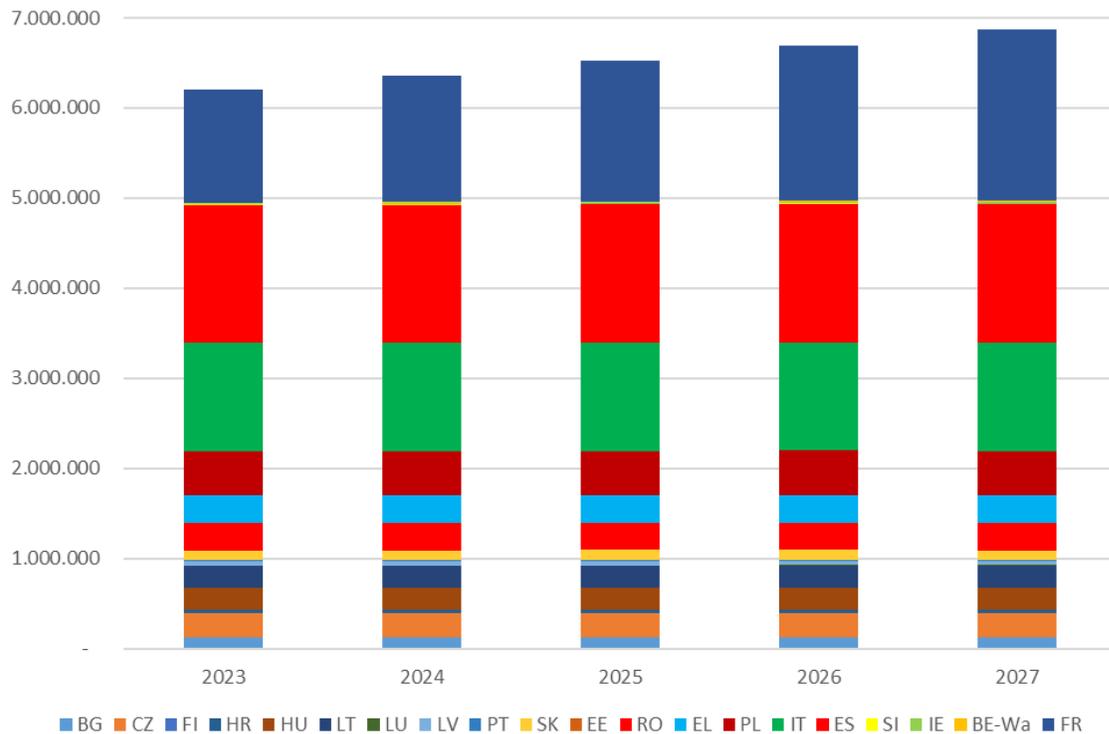
clear identified tool for protein crops

- **31 CIS** interventions in **20 CSPs** target protein crops
- **Increased support** to previous period in, both, financial allocation (+26%) and planned supported area (+32%)



- Only FR, IE, SI, BE-Wa, and to a lower extent BG, have the ambition to **increase the supported areas over the period 2023/27**
- 3 MSs (FR, IE, LU) initially proposed to link CIS to environmental RI (R.14, R.19, R.20, R.22) but none agreed to add a specific practice beyond baseline

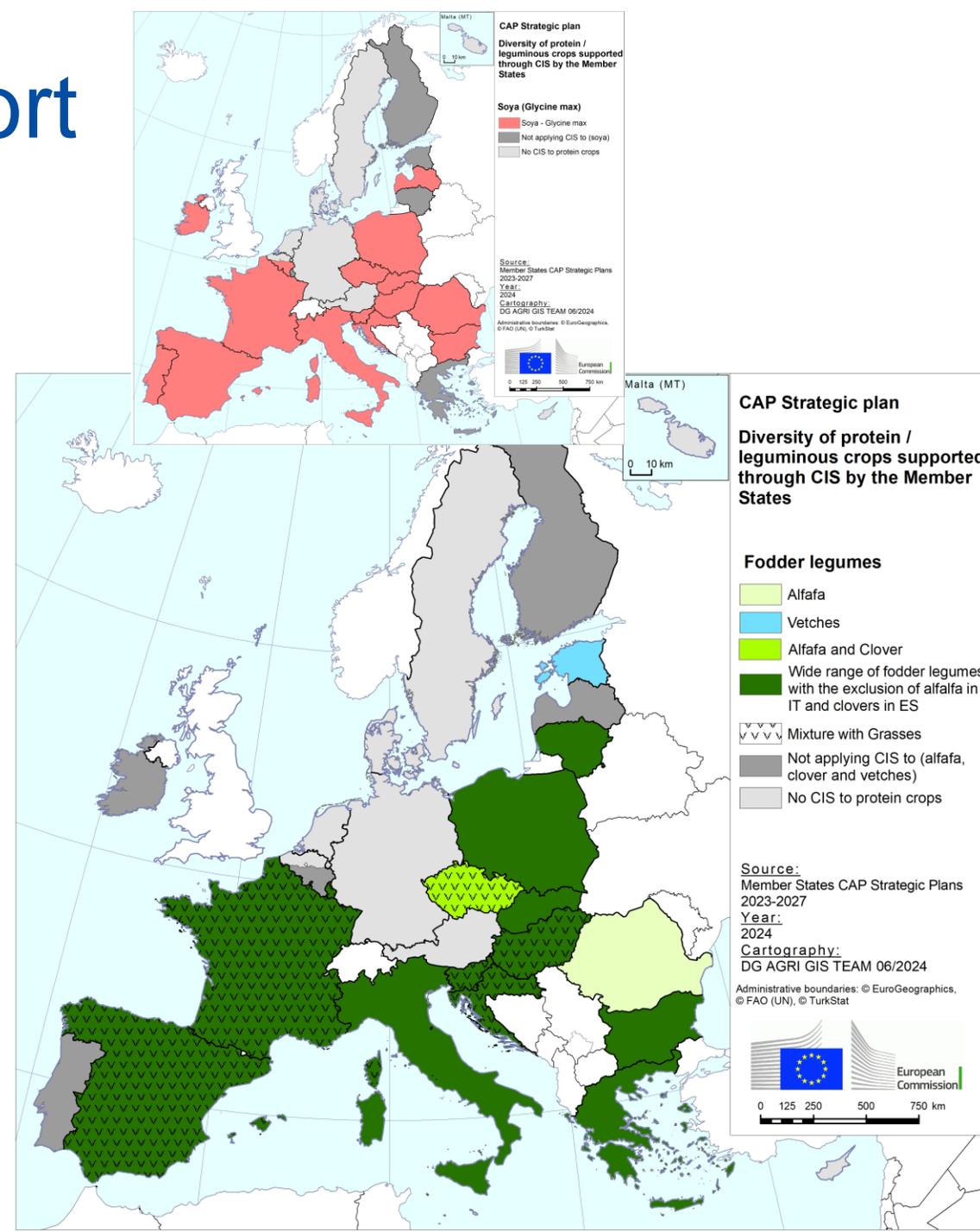
Planned supported areas of protein/leguminous crops by CIS
(output indicator in hectares)



4. Coupled Income Support

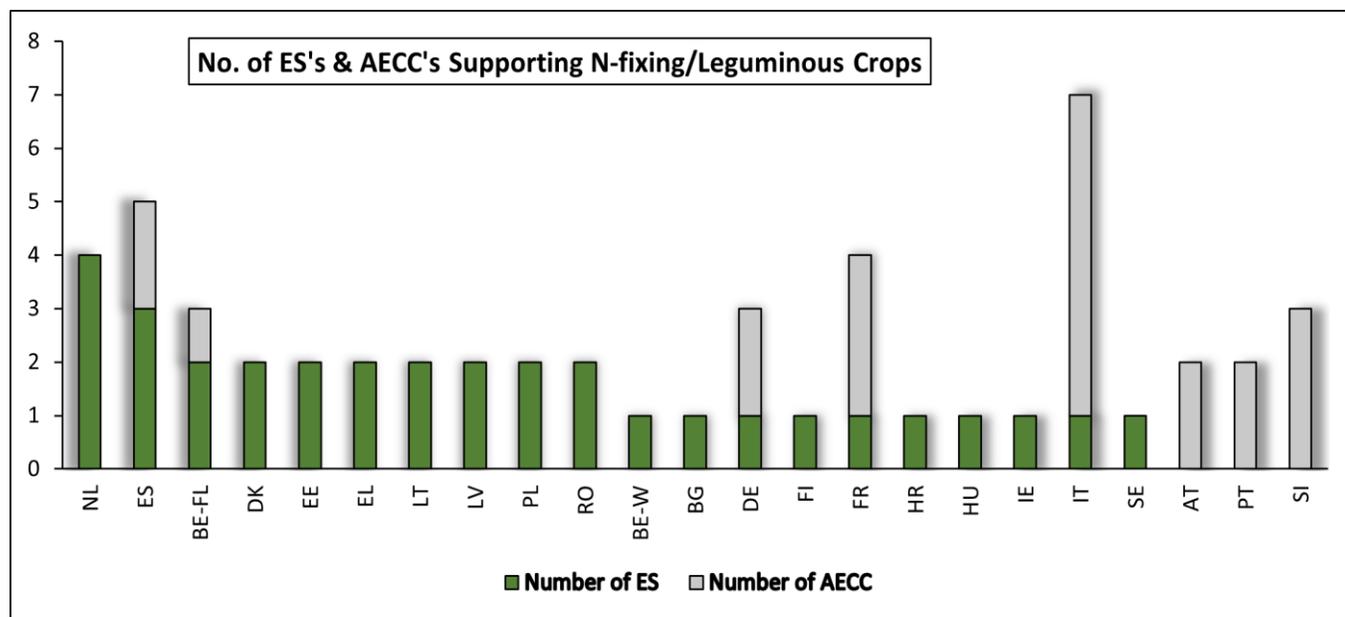
Diversity of protein crops

- Focus on improving **feed**
 - pea-fababean and lupins + soya are the main targets
 - only 13 CSPs include a wide range of **fodder legumes** (alfalfa, clover, ...)
 - even less, 8 CSPs, use the novelty of the current CAP: eligibility of **mixes of legumes and grasses**
- Opening to **food**
 - 14 CSPs extent the support to other pulses (chickpeas, lentils, beans...)
 - Only 2 CSPs propose a dedicated sub-intervention targeting the food market
- Including of the **seed sector**
 - 8 MSs specifically mention the certified seed sector
 - 4 CSPs have a dedicated (sub-)intervention cover both grain and fodder legumes or target the grass and fodder crops



5. Eco-schemes and AECC support

- **Nearly all** MS have planned at least one eco-scheme and/or AECC intervention
- Key action for **reducing Nitrogen** applications and losses and **N₂O** emissions
- Contributes positively to the **overall environmental** footprint of agriculture and livestock
- **33 eco-schemes** in 20 CSPs : specific schemes or schemes promoting crop rotation/diversification including leguminous
- **20 AECC** interventions in 9 CSPs including leguminous
- **Increased support** compared to previous period
- **Few AECC targeting livestock feed autonomy** (grass, leguminous) and reducing external feed inputs and concentrates (e.g. FR)



6. Sectoral interventions and other support

- **Dedicated Sectoral interventions (SI) in 2 CSPs:**
 - **LV:** budget of 128 000€; 32 000€/year from 2025 to 2028). SI targeted to food market on dried shelled leguminous crops (e.g. peas, chickpeas, beans)
 - **FR:** open in 2024. SI on, both,
 - dried fodder/dehydrated alfalfa and plant proteins (oilseeds, protein crops and pulses) with respectively a total financial allocation of 22.1 million and 51 million euros.
 - The financial allocation is proposed to increase from, respectively, 3.9 and 7.5 M€ in 2025 to 6.5 and 16.5 M€ in 2028
- **Other interventions:** risk management, investments, cooperation, innovation and other interventions open to leguminous crops without specific criteria compared to other sectors

7. Research & Innovation



- EIP-AGRI

[Projects | European CAP Network \(europa.eu\)](#)

- “fodder” – 470 results / 414 OGs
- “protein crops” – 229 results / 147 OGs
- “legume” – 176 results / 96 OGs
- “N-fixing crops” – 115 results / 49 OGs

- Horizon - AGRI Research Network

2 projects started in January 2024 and will last for four years

- LegumES - Valorising and balancing the ecosystem service benefits offered by legumes, and legume-based cropped systems
- LEGENDARY - KnowLEdGE creation and iNcreasing acreage of legumes in Diversified cropping systems by quAntification of their ecosYstem services

Home > EIP-AGRI Project Database > Recording of the carbon emission and sequestration from the production of alfalfa forage to evaluate its...

Recording of the carbon emission and sequestration from the production of alfalfa forage to evaluate its contribution to the climate change mitigation

Improving the agronomic feasibility of alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) production for fodder in Catalonia (AlfalsCAT)



Breeding European Legumes for Increased Sustainability
www.belisproject.eu



Boosting innovation in breeding for the next generation of legume crops for Europe
www.legumegeneration.eu



Conclusions

□ Deficit, dependencies and food security

- **Plant proteins** (soya imports)
- **Feed autonomy/resilience:** farm level, EU level...
- **N-fertilisers / gas imports...**

□ Sectors & farm types

- **Not one sector:** feed, fodder, grasslands, pulses, seeds, mixed crops...)
- **Diversity of feeding strategies** and requirements (pig / poultry, laying hens, ruminants, dairy/meat...)

[Feed protein: overview of EU production and options to diversify sources - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Evaluation support study on feeding strategies to diversify the protein sources used in different livestock production systems in the EU - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

- **Adapting strategies and the support to the relevant farm types**

□ Nitrogen cycles

- Legumes' role in **improved nutrients management**
- Potential to **reduce GHG emissions?**
- Focus on **legumes/nitrogen-fixing crops?**

=> Balance and interrelation between « economic » and « environmental » support and objectives

Thank you



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