

Evaluation of the support for organic farming in the draft CAP Strategic Plans 2023-2027

CAP CDG, 2 March 2022

Many national organic farmland targets are insufficient to fairly contribute to the EU's 25% target by 2030

- The 25% aspirational target in the F2F is an EU average. MS have different baselines and those where organic farming is already well developed should continue to do so.
- For example, Austria set a 30% by 2027, but 35% would be a fairer ambition; Belgium (Flanders) only has a 1.77% target when 5% would be fairer; Denmark and France both have set a relatively low target compared to their capacities to further develop organic farming
- Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Spain and Sweden have only set unofficial targets. The Netherlands have no target at all.

All Member States should set targets ambitious enough to contribute fairly to the EU's target of 25%.

Whatever the national target, the overall budget for organic should be high enough to meet this target, and be at minimum at the same level than in the previous CAP period (no backsliding)

Organic farming will lack a “comparative advantage” and be remunerated at the same level than less environmentally ambitious practices

Several countries, including large agricultural ones, will **reduce the level of payments for organic compared to the previous CAP period (2014-2022)** (Austria, France, Germany, and Spain)

Many organic farmers will lose support compared to the previous CAP period or will be remunerated at the same level than farmers adopting less environmentally ambitious practices (e.g. Germany, Spain, Finland).

- Organic farmers will have restricted access to eco-schemes, AECMs or Rural Development Measures in some countries or;
- Organic famers will have access to the above measures but will face a reduction of payments

The situation triggers **a lack of comparative advantage** and attractiveness for organic farming in Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, and Spain. Hence **conventional farmers will be less incentivized to convert to organic.**

There is even a risk in countries such as Estonia or Latvia that some **organic farmers go back to conventional farming.**

Example 1: the French CAP Strategic Plan

France set a target of 18% by 2027, whereas IFOAM OE members consider that a target of 20% (by 2027, and 25% by 2030) would more fairly contribute to the EU's overall 25% target.

France withdrew support for maintenance of organic farming.

HVE	Organic farming
No transition period	A 3-year transition period
Synthetic and chemical fertilizers and pesticides are authorised	Synthetic and chemical fertilizers and pesticides are forbidden
GMOs are authorised	GMOs are forbidden
No instructions for the processing phase of food products	Foster the natural cycle of nutrients and limited use of natural resources
No instructions regarding animal husbandry / welfare	Limited use of medicines for animal husbandry
1 control every 3 years	1 control per year + unplanned controls

France plans to give equal levels of payments to farmers who engage in less environmentally ambitious standards or practices compared to organic standards: **the eco-scheme** for organic farming will be paid the same amount than the one for High-Environmental Value (**HVE**) label.

Member States should **give organic the higher rank in their eco-schemes rating system** mentioned in the Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 on CAP Strategic Plan's Article 31(8) and ensure it is remunerated for the public goods it delivers. Member States shall take into account the level of sustainability and ambition of each eco-schemes, based on objective and transparent criteria.

[Rapport IDDRI sur HVE.](#)

Example 2: the German CAP Strategic Plan

Germany has set an ambitious target of 30% of organic farmland by 2030.

The new government has not yet planned to increase the budget for organic despite the new target of 30%. Within the strategic plan, it is written that at the end of the funding period, 14% of all land shall be organic in 2027 – therefore, there is a huge difference between the promised 30% in 2030 and the actual land that is planned to be organic just three years before.

The alleged double funding issue between Eco-schemes and Rural Development measures remains with the consequence that farmers taking part in eco-scheme extension of grassland will face EUR 50 deduction in Rural Development measures (eco-premium payments).

The Eco-Scheme “no pesticides application” is not accessible to organic farmers.

Example 3: the Latvian CAP Strategic Plan

Early 2022, the area of organic certified agricultural land reached 17% which is already almost the 18.78% (368.000 ha) target set by the Ministry of Agriculture for 2027.

Common payments for organic production will decrease, might want organic farmers to quit organic farming and go back to conventional, and which do not incentivize conventional farmers to convert to organic.

- grasslands payment will be reduced from EUR 97/ha to EUR 81/ha for dairy cows and EUR 63/ha for beef cattle;
- the support for the cultivation of cereals, oilseeds, fodder roots, nectar and fiber plants will be reduced from EUR 117/ha to EUR 97/ha.
- The support for legumes, which are an essential part of the organic production method, will be reduced from EUR 97/ha to EUR 46/ha.

According to our members' calculations, the surface of organic farmland will not reach more than 310.000 ha by 2027, which is far from the government's target of 368.000 ha.

Example 4: the Finnish CAP Strategic Plan

Finland's national **target for organic farmland is 20% by 2027**, whereas our members believe **25% by 2027 would have been fairer to** contribute to the EU's overall target.

The budget **for organic is higher than the previous one: EUR 380 million for the whole CAP period (2023-2027) and should be enough to reach the 20% target.**

Organic farmers will get less funding than with the previous CAP's greening measures, because if they choose between 2 and 4 Eco-schemes (ES), then they will lose their AECMs supports.

- - **ES 1 on Soil cover:** support is incentive-based EUR 30-70/ha. Planned annual outputs from agricultural land are 62%. **Organic farmers can choose this one, but no higher compensation is paid for green vegetation. A stubble sprayed with glyphosate receives the same compensation.**
- - **ES 2 on land lying fallow with species composition for biodiversity purpose:** support is cost-based EUR 50-80/ha. The maximum area per holding is 25%. Planned annual outputs from agricultural land are 3%. **Organic farmers can choose this eco-scheme but by doing so, no organic compensation is paid (EUR160/ha) nor basic AECM support (EUR45/ha).** Meaning, when choosing this ES, organic farmer loses EUR 205/ha of other supports.
- - **ES 3 on Green manure meadows:** support is cost-based EUR 65-95/ha. The maximum area per holding is 25%. The planned annual outputs from agricultural land are 1%. **Organic farmers can choose this eco-scheme but by doing so no compensation is paid for the area nor basic AECM support (EUR 45/ha).** Meaning, when choosing this ES, organic farmers don't get paid for it and lose EUR 45/ha of other supports.
- - **ES 4 on Land lying fallow with species composition for pollination, landscape, game feedstocks, meadow, or birds.** Support is cost-based EUR 270-330/ha. The max. area per holding is 25%. Planned annual outputs from agri. land are 1%. **Organic farmers can choose the measure, but no organic compensation is paid (EUR 160/ha) nor basic AECM support (EUR 45/ha), nor support from minimum soil cover (EUR 30-70/ha).** So when choosing this ES, organic farmer loses EUR 235-275/ha of other supports.

IFOAM Organics Europe resources

‘Prospects & developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans’ study published in June 2021. URL: [ifoameu_advocacy_CAP_StrategicPlansAnd25Target_202106.pdf](https://ifoameu.advocacy.CAP.StrategicPlansAnd25Target_202106.pdf) (organicseurope.bio)

Study on Organic Farming and Biodiversity. URL:

https://read.organicseurope.bio/publication/organic-farming-and-biodiversity/options-for-future-policy/#block_60ed94fc3f961

Lampkin N, Stolze M, Meredith S, de Porras M, Haller L, Mészáros D (2020) Using Eco-schemes in the new CAP: a guide for managing authorities. IFOAM EU, FIBL and IEEP, Brussels. URL: www.organicseurope.bio/content/uploads/2020/06/ifoam-eco-schemes-web_compressed-1.pdf?dd

The Ambition Gap - Assessing organic farming support measures in current draft national CAP Strategic Plans for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027, 18 November 2021 URL: [IFOAMEU_policy_CAP_externalbriefing_17112021.pdf](https://ifoameu.policy.CAP.externalbriefing_17112021.pdf) (organicseurope.bio)

New assessment of the support for organic farming in the draft CAP SPs to be published on 3 March 2022: URL [News Archive - IFOAM Organics Europe](#)