

## ANNEX I

### NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

The aim of the National Framework for environmental actions is to encourage producer organisations to switch to more environmentally friendly energy sources and production methods. The aims are founded on Decision No 1386/2013/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' (the 7th Community Environment Action Programme) and Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Article 36, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council)

The 7th Community Environment Action Programme has the following thematic priority objectives:

- 1) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy;
- 2) to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being and
- 3) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital.

The priorities for the national framework on environmental actions are the same as the objectives in the Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland 2014-2020:

- More effective climate change mitigation and adaptation and
- Increased biodiversity and improved status of water bodies and soil in agricultural use.

**No aid shall be granted for the conversion of forest land into agricultural lands for fruits and vegetables.**

#### **General conditions for the environmental actions chosen by the producer organisations**

As set out in Article 33, paragraph 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Member States shall ensure that

- a) operational programmes include two or more environmental actions, or
- b) at least 10 % of the expenditure under operational programmes covers environmental actions.

The applicant declares in the context of approval to the operational programme which subparagraph the applicant will be applying.

According to paragraph 5(2), environmental actions shall respect the requirements for agri-environment-climate payments laid down in Article 28(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

According to paragraph 5(3), where at least 80 % of the producer members of a producer organisation are subject to one or more identical agri-environment-climate commitments included in the Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland or the programme for

the Åland Islands Landsbygdsutvecklingsprogram – Åland (Article 28(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013), then each one of those commitments may substitute for an environmental action referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph.

Further, according to paragraph 5(4), support for the environmental actions referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall cover additional costs and income foregone resulting from the action.

The producer organisations and their members must give their commitment to environmental actions where **duration** is an essential condition for their effectiveness for the whole period of the operational programme period. If the period of the operational programme is 3 to 4 years the producer organisation is obliged to continue the action concerned in the subsequent operational programme.

Where the environmental action is concerned with investment, the years when the investment is depreciated in taxation during the operational programme that is being implemented, as well as the year when the investment is made, are included in the implementation period of the environmental action.

All the relevant legislation in force must be complied with in the operations (conditions for support payments, fertiliser and plant protection legislation and statutes issued under the Waste Act). Only additional costs incurred by actions which go beyond the basic statutory requirements may be compensated for, i.e. the approved compensation for environmental actions is the additional cost incurred or income foregone when selecting a more environmentally friendly practice.

If the investment of a producer organisation is made on the farm of an individual member, the provisions concerning this set out in section 4(2) of the Government Decree (522/2013) or a corresponding more recent provision must be complied with. If farm-specific investments are included in the operational programme, regulations concerning the recovery of the investment or its value in case a member resigns from the producer organisation must be added to the by-laws of the organisation.

In order to prevent any overlapping funding, the applicant assures in the application that he or she has not received any other aid for the environmental actions mentioned in the application (see Section 3.1. of the National Strategy). In addition, the Finnish Customs carries out ex post checks of the bookkeeping. Aid may only be paid for the actions provided that they do not receive any aid from elsewhere.

The costs are compensated for on the basis of receipts and, in exceptional cases, based on calculations of approved income foregone, if any. Certain actions (such as energy and environmental reviews) require ex ante approval by the Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs to be eligible for compensation.

The actions must be directed to the producer organisation as a whole or a significant share of the producer organisation. Producer organisation may, for example, carry out centralised acquisition of materials and then sell the material further to the producers.

In addition, it should be noted that all the relevant legislation concerning the matter shall be complied with even if it were not specifically mentioned in this Annex.

**Environmental actions which may be included in the operational programme**  
(The list is not exhaustive)

Specific objective or action	Measure
Turning the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy	1. Actions to improve energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources
	2. Utilisation of carbon dioxide emissions in greenhouses
	3. Promoting the use of biodegradable materials
	4. Waste treatment and promoting reuse of waste
	5. Environmentally friendly packaging
Safeguarding the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being	6. Implementation of an environmental management system or environmental review
	7. Actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management
	8. Establishment of biobeds
	9. Use of biological control in greenhouses as an alternative to conventional control methods
Protecting, conserving and enhancing the Union's natural capital	10. More focused use of water and recycling and recovery of nutrients

**Indicators for environmental actions:**

Output indicators include the following factors:

- Number of actions undertaken
- Number of holdings participating in the actions
- Total value of investments (EUR)
- Number of hectares concerned (ha)

The result and impact indicators used for assessing the impact of the actions undertaken, i.e. to compare the end state achieved against the initial situation, include the following:

- Estimated change in annual mineral fertiliser consumption/hectare, by type of fertiliser
- Estimated change in annual water use/hectare (m<sup>3</sup>/ha)
- Estimated change in annual use of energy by type of energy or fuel
- Estimated change in annual volume of waste generated (t per t of production placed on the market)
- Estimated change in annual use of packaging (t per t of production placed on the market)

**Below the actions have been organised according to the 7th Community Environment Action Programme, including an account of their justification and objectives, commitments relating to the actions, and grounds for the payment of the aid:**

**Thematic priority objective 1:** Turning the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy (Article 2, paragraph 1(b) of Decision No 1386/2013/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)

### **Measure 1 Actions to improve energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

Cultivation and other operations aim for better energy efficiency and to reduce the use of non-renewable fuels. For this action, an energy review must be conducted or energy plan prepared by the producer organisation or other party concerned by the action.

An energy review is a standardised comprehensive assessment of the energy and water consumption of buildings and processes and all viable options for saving energy and water.

An energy plan is a less comprehensive account prepared by a person specialised in energy issues on the potential to save energy of a farm or real estates. An energy plan may focus on the planned action, but other energy consumption and savings must also be duly taken into account.

Actions recommended on the basis of energy reviews or energy plans may be concerned with acquisitions that are designed for the utilisation of industrial waste heat, solar power, wind power, geothermal heat or other renewable sources of energy or aimed at increasing energy efficiency, for example, by means of better insulation of production facilities and structures (walls, pipes, doors, etc.) or latent heat recovery systems. Means to save energy also include windbreak structures and the like. Actions to improve energy efficiency include thermal curtains and LED lighting when these are undertaken as actions to improve energy efficiency (not eligible as environmental measures in connection with new investments or as additional lighting).

Under Article 3(5) of the Commission Implementing Regulation, investments in systems which generate energy are eligible for support if the amount of energy generated does not exceed the amount used ex ante on a yearly basis by the producer organisation or its subsidiary or members for the actions related to fruit and vegetables.

Commitments:

The aid is restricted to acquisitions that are justified on the basis of the energy review or plan and which can be proven to reduce the use of fossil fuels or achieve energy savings.

The investments are eligible if they enable to reduce the use of inputs or emissions contaminating the environment by at least 15%, calculated for the depreciation period of the investment in taxation and compared to the earlier situation. As an exception, an investment may be eligible that enables to achieve a 7% reduction calculated for the depreciation period of the investment in taxation and compared to the earlier situation, provided that the investment concerned enables the achievement of at least one additional environmentally friendly impact. Further provisions on the eligibility of investments are laid down in Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Commission Implementing Regulation.

Actions based on the review or plan are subject to ex ante approval by the Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs. The approval may be issued on the basis of technical information on the action.

In actions aimed to improve energy efficiency the duration of the action is an important factor as regards the environment. The use of, for example, an implement in which the investment is made must continue at least for the duration of its depreciation period.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

Acquisition price of the investment and working hours relating to the acquisition, installation and starting the use of the object of investment.

The costs of energy reviews and plans are eligible for the aid under Section 3.2.2.4 of the National Strategy 'Training and advisory actions' (cost category 'other environmental issues').

## **Measure 2 Utilisation of carbon dioxide emissions in greenhouses**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

As a growth factor the carbon dioxide content of the air is as important as light. The normal carbon dioxide content of the air of 340 ppm is, however, not sufficient to yield the optimal growth result, while most plants commonly require a carbon dioxide content of 600-1000 ppm. When carbon dioxide is added to the air, the growth of tomatoes and cucumbers increases, on average, by 25-20%, but there is evidence of even higher figures. By utilising carbon dioxide emissions we can ensure that the environmental load from the production of gas used for carbon dioxide fertilisation is minimised.

Commitments:

The costs of the actions that are eligible for the aid are the costs due to the switch into using waste carbon dioxide from the industry or carbon dioxide produced when burning biofuel, liquid gas or natural gas for heating in carbon dioxide fertilisation. The action may be, for example, the acquisition of a gas motor using natural gas or biofuel which simultaneously produces electricity, heat and carbon dioxide.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

Acquisition price of the investment and working hours relating to the acquisition, installation and starting the use of the object of investment.

### **Measure 3 Promoting the use of biodegradable materials**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

In weed prevention the objective of using biodegradable materials is to reduce the treatment with pesticides and erosion. The need for irrigation and, through this, the leaching of nutrients to surface waters and groundwater decreases as well. There is no need to recollect the biodegradable mulch, which reduced the amount of work. In practice the spreading and other handling of certain biodegradable materials has proven somewhat slower than corresponding, more enduring non-biodegradable materials (e.g. the thicker twine of biodegradable strings compared to the non-biodegradable string means that there is less string in the roll and the rolls have to be changed more frequently).

In greenhouses organic growing media such as peat may be used instead of mineral wool.

Commitments:

The producer organisation sees to the centralised acquisition of the biodegradable material and sells this further to its members.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

The difference in the costs between biodegradable material and a corresponding non-biodegradable product is eligible for the aid. The calculation the difference in the costs takes account of the possible additional work costs due to the slower handling of biodegradable material and, similarly, possible savings in work costs because certain work stages are left out.

### **Measure 4 Waste treatment and promoting reuse of waste**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

Growing amounts of waste are an environmental burden which can be efficiently reduced by reducing the amount of waste produced and by organising appropriate recycling and other utilisation of waste. In the vegetable sector various types of waste are produced in the cleaning and sorting of the products and their preparation for placing on the market. In handling vegetables various kinds of waste of plant origin, faulty plants, skin and top waste and other plant waste is produced. In handling root and tuber plants and potted vegetables soil waste and waste water is produced as well. Packaging the products and transporting them to the market produces various kinds of packaging waste in the different stages of the chain from the farm to retail outlets. The amounts of waste produced vary according to the production periods and seasons, with the highest amounts often produced during the peak season in the production chain.

In general the waste is to be managed by more efficient recycling and other utilisation as prioritised in the Waste Act (646/2011). In the vegetable sector the management of waste flows that meets the waste management requirements can be reduced by stages and individual waste flows by introducing pre-treatment methodologies and recycling systems which take account of the special characteristics of waste flows and accumulation, such as process, packaging and transport technologies that improve waste management while also enhancing the conditions for the production and trade of vegetable products.

#### Commitments:

The amount of waste produced can be reduced through various actions. For example, fruit and vegetables that are not fit for sale can be donated to charity or to be used as food, and the packages can be reused.

When handling waste it should be sorted with due account for environmental considerations so that the quality of the waste fractions is good and enables appropriate utilisation of the waste. Waste can be utilised as material (recycling) or energy. Only actions which go beyond the requirements of the Waste Act may be eligible for compensation.

Taking biodegradable or other organic material to landfills has been prohibited from the beginning of 2016. As a rule this kind of waste should be recycled (e.g. composting, anaerobic digestion) or, as a secondary option, utilised as energy in plants that meet the requirements in the legislation.

The sorting of waste, improving of the quality of waste fractions or recycling must reduce the amount of mixed waste to be incinerated. The amount of organic matter and nutrient loading entering the wastewater network can also be significantly reduced.

The duration and systematic organisation of the action are essential factors as regards the environmental impact. Intensified sorting of waste fractions and taking each waste fraction to suitable and appropriate type of recycling, utilisation or other processing must continue for at least 5 years, but in a way that does not prevent further, systematic improvement or the process or action to achieve even more comprehensive or efficient recycling practices.

#### Grounds for the payment of the aid:

Eligible actions may include the establishment and maintenance of a waste sorting facility of the enterprise concerned and the related acquisitions, monitoring and systematic development of the operations of a waste station, and acquisition of equipment and investigations needed for the utilisation of different waste fractions. The possible savings in waste management fees are taken into account when calculating the costs to be compensated for. Eligible actions may also include the improvement of the pre-treatment of wastewater from sorting and packaging halls, including conducting to a root zone wastewater treatment system. Projects concerned with continuous improvement of the share of recycling and quality of waste to be recycled would be eligible actions. They would target, stage by stage, all the different waste flows from an enterprise or operation and, in the end, all waste. Eligible actions may also include measures relating to the composting of plant waste, seedlings and growing media or other action to promote

recycling or to reduce potential point-source loading from nutrient emissions from these materials.

### **Measure 5 Environmentally friendly packaging**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

The reuse of packages and use of recycled materials saves renewable natural resources and reduces the amount of packaging waste.

Commitments:

The following actions may be eligible for the aid if the costs due to these are higher than those of the statutory basic requirements: use of environmentally friendly materials, reusable boxes and secondary materials. The eligible actions must lead to a net benefit to the environment.

The acquisition or renting costs of reusable boxes are not eligible for the aid.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

Aid may be paid, for example, for actual costs incurred from collecting, sorting, cleaning, etc. of reusable boxes or packaging material including the acquisition prices of investments relating to these. The producer organisation must show in the application the additional cost or income foregone due to the selection of the environmentally friendly alternative. The savings achieved must also be taken into account in the calculation.

**Thematic priority objective 2:** Safeguarding the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being (Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of Decision No 1386/2013/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)

### **Measure 6 Implementation of an environmental management system or environmental review**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

The environmental impacts of business activities may concern the natural environment, human health and living conditions. These include emissions, pollutants and environmental changes. Besides human activity, environmental impacts may be due to natural events. The environmental management system or environmental review ensures that the environmental management scheme of an enterprise is applicable, sufficient and efficient on an ongoing basis and to identify the development needs.

The producer organisations are encouraged to commission an environmental management system or environmental review with the aim that the producer organisation becomes aware of its own environmental impacts and the development needs in its environmental management practices. The producer organisation should develop its



activity so as to reduce the load on the environment. The Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs approves the party that is to prepare the environmental management system or environmental review in advance.

#### Commitments:

The actions that are eligible for the aid are the preparation of an environmental management system or environmental review and the actions noted in this context. They must fulfil the minimum requirements set by the Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs. Based on the review, the essential development needs and development actions proposed on the basis of these are selected. Actions recommended in the environmental review may be, for example, the acquisition and starting the use of particulate filters. The duration of the action is an essential condition as regards the environmental impact, which is why the use of, for example, an implement in which the investment is made must continue for at least 5 years.

#### Grounds for the payment of the aid:

The preparation of an environmental management system or environmental review and the actions noted in this context. Acquisition price of the investment and costs relating to the acquisition, installation and starting the use of the object of investment.

### **Measure 7 Actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management**

#### Justification and general objectives of the action:

According to section 6 of the Plant Protection Products Act (1563/2011), the general principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) must be complied with in professional use of plant protection products. According to section 4, subsection 1(7) of the same Act, IPM means the use of plant protection products in an economically and environmentally justified manner so that the risks to human health and the environment are reduced. Further provisions on the general principles of IPM are laid down in the Annex to the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on Integrated Pest Management No 7/2012. The general principles have been divided into six parts: ex ante cultivation technology options to prevent and eradicate pests, pest monitoring, decision on the plant protection action, non-chemical plant protection methods, restricting the use of plant protection products and prevention actions, and preventing resistance and review of the results of plant protection actions.

Actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management mean plant species specific IPM guidance and measures included in these, including the use of biological pest control organisms in outdoor production. Actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management aim for making better use of the plant species specific actions compared to the baseline under the Decree. It should be noted that the references are to the legislation currently in force. If the legislation is amended, the relevant provisions in force at the time must be complied with.

#### Commitments:

Producers of the producer organisation must switch to actions that go beyond the general principles of IPM production in their whole production or for the part of certain cultivated plants, that is, to following plant species specific guidance for a certain plant or several plants. In connection with checks the producer must be capable of presenting written documentation of the actions taken. The duration of the action is an essential condition as regards the environmental impact. The actions concerned must be implemented for at least 5 years.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

Actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management do not increase the product prices, which means that no cost savings can be demonstrated. Aid may be paid for additional costs due to the implementation of actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management. Additional costs are incurred from control carried out in accordance with the plant species specific guidance and the various actions related to this. Aid may be paid in duly justified cases for individual actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management.

The Natural Resources Institute Finland specifies the compensation percentages for environmental measures (the standard flat rate referred to in Article 31(2) of the Commission Delegated Regulation). The Natural Resources Institute Finland is an independent research and expert organisation that works on the promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources and bioeconomy. The aim of compensation percentages is to simplify the aid scheme and increase its transparency.

Additional costs are incurred from IPM actions following the plant species specific guidance. These include the additional work due to the planning and preparation of the plant species specific guidance, learning about the plant species specific IPM practices and related training, planning of plant species specific integrated pest management, acquisition of the necessary surveillance equipment, consultations with experts and plant species specific monitoring. The percentage of eligible costs for outdoor production calculated by the Natural Resources Institute Finland is 77% of the actual costs of plant species specific control presented by the producer organisation incurred from actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest management. The compensation percentage was calculated for a farm engaged in outdoor production where plant species specific actions that go beyond the general principles of integrated pest managements are undertaken. The farm model used in the calculation represents an average-sized farm engaged in outdoor production. First, the cost of undertaking plant species specific actions approved to the programme was calculated (A). The cost of control on a farm of the same size following the general principles of integrated pest management (B) was deducted from this. The percentage of the eligible costs was then established using the formula  $(A-B)/A$ , which gives the compensation percentage of 77%.

According to Article 31(2) of the Commission Delegated Regulation, Member States must review the standard flat rates at least every five years.

## **Measure 8 Establishment of biobeds**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

A biobed is a modern and environmentally friendly solution as a place for filling and washing the sprayers. A biobed collects, stores and decomposes the plant protection products spilled to the ground when the sprayer is washed and filled.

Commitments:

Before establishing a biobed the building plan and cost estimated must be approved at the Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

Planning and building costs of a biobed, including expert's fees and material, labour and machine costs.

### **Measure 9 Use of biological control in greenhouses as an alternative to conventional control methods**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

To promote ecologically and economically sustainable control, the producer organisations are encouraged to give priority to biological control instead of conventional control methods. Biological control means the control of pests, plant diseases and weeds by using other living organisms instead of chemical pesticides.

Commitments:

Control organisms are spread into the vegetation where they reproduce by preying on the pests. They stay in the vegetation for the whole growing period, because certain numbers of the pests are also present. Microbiological preparations based on pathogens affecting insects and mites are used in the same way as plant protection products. Antagonist preparations for plant disease which are added to the growth media are used preventively, preferably in connection with planting the seedlings. Other methods include, for example, semiochemicals, i.e. odours (e.g. insect pheromones) which influence the behaviour of pests.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

The difference between the costs of the chemical and biological alternatives is eligible for the aid. Biological control does not increase the price of the product, which is why no savings achieved can be demonstrated.

The Natural Resources Institute Finland specifies the compensation percentages for environmental measures (the standard flat rate referred to in Article 31(2) of the Commission Delegated Regulation). The Natural Resources Institute Finland is an independent research and expert organisation that works on the promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources and bioeconomy. The aim of compensation percentages is to simplify the aid scheme and increase its transparency.

The percentage of eligible costs calculated by the Natural Resources Institute Finland is 93% of the actual acquisition costs of biological control organisms and biological pesticides presented by the producer organisation. The aid to be paid also covers the costs of additional work due to the use of biological control organisms, which have been indirectly taken into account when calculating the compensation percentage.

The aid calculations were made for greenhouse tomatoes and greenhouse cucumbers. Four farm models were used: farm producing greenhouse tomatoes using natural lighting, farm producing greenhouse tomatoes using artificial lighting, farm producing greenhouse cucumbers using natural lighting and farm producing greenhouse cucumbers using artificial lighting. For each farm model the amount of the costs approved for the programme was first calculated by deducting the total costs of conventional control (acquisition costs of conventional plant protection products + labour costs) from the total costs of biological control (acquisition costs of control organisms and biological plant protection products + labour costs). After that a compensation percentage was established for each farm so that percentage share to be compensated with regard to the acquisition costs of control organisms and biological plant protection products is the same as the amount of the costs approved for the programme. Through this the additional labour costs due to biological control are also covered without any separate declaration by the producer organisations. Finally, the compensation percentages obtained from the calculations were weighted by the respective shares of the greenhouse area in Finland, which gave a single compensation percentage applicable to all vegetables grown in greenhouses.

According to Article 31(2) of the Commission Delegated Regulation, Member States must review the standard flat rates at least every five years.

**Thematic priority objective 3:** Protecting, conserving and enhancing the Union's natural capital ((Article 2, paragraph 1(a) of Decision No 1386/2013/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)

During the past few decades, the rural landscape has become less diverse and biodiversity has also declined. In production there has been a switch towards monoculture and more harmonised production techniques which has reduced the range of plant species cultivated on farms. In Finland the utilised agricultural area represents only 8.9% of the total surface area of the country, which is why every parcel of arable land and pasture is valuable for the rural landscape.

In Finland several forms of aid are applied to promote environmental protection in primary agricultural production. The focus of the actions is on water protection, but enhancing biodiversity is also important. These actions are included in the agri-environmental support scheme. Besides the different forms of aid there are numerous statutory obligations for enterprises which are aimed to ensure environmentally responsible operations in agriculture and horticulture.

Because of the above, a decision was made not to propose any new actions in the national framework to complement the forms of aid already applied in Finland (see *Annex I*).

## **Measure 10 More focused use of water and recycling and recovery of nutrients**

Justification and general objectives of the action:

In Finland irrigation is mainly needed due to the lack of rainfall in the early summer and the need to prevent night frost in the case of certain plants. Increased cultivation of special crops has increased the need for irrigation water, and climate change is likely to have a similar impact. A sufficient supply of water for the plants is one of the basic factors as we aim as close to the yield potential as possible.

More focused irrigation improves the water economy of the soil and reduces the leaching of water and fertilisers and erosion. The soil moisture balance promotes the well-being of soil micro-organisms, improves the ability of the plant roots to utilise soil nutrients and accelerates the decomposing of pesticides into compounds that are harmless to the environment. Recycling and purification of fertiliser and irrigation water reduces the need for water abstraction.

Commitments:

Investments that are eligible for the aid include the introduction of drip or trickle irrigation systems, switch to a closed water cycle, recycling and reuse of irrigation water, and recycling and recovery of nutrients in greenhouses. Eligible investments are those in implements which can be proven to significantly reduce the use of water. Eligible investments also include those in equipment that enables the recycling and recovery of nutrients in greenhouses.

According to Article 3(4) of the Commission Implementing Regulation, investments aimed to achieve a reduction in water use shall:

- (a) provide for a reduction of at least 5% in water use in drip irrigation or similar systems compared to the consumption prior to the investment, and
- (b) not result in a net increase of the area under irrigation, unless the total water consumption for irrigation of the whole farm, including the increased area, does not exceed the average of water consumption of the previous 5 years prior to the investment.

Eligible actions also include more accurate specification of the need for irrigation. The conditions for the aid include continuous monitoring of the growing media by means of hygrometers and entering the moisture observations and irrigation measures in the parcel records.

Grounds for the payment of the aid:

Acquisition price of the investment as well as costs relating to the acquisition, installation and starting the use of the object or investment. Working hours in the monitoring of moisture and acquisition costs of a hygrometer.

Indicators for environmental actions:

The purpose of the indicators is to show the impact of the selected environmental actions. They must comprise the initial situation in the beginning of the programme implementation and situation at the end of the period and show the difference between the two.

The information required (the list is not exhaustive):

- number of environmental actions undertaken
- number of enterprises involved in the action
- value of the investments
- surface area covered