

THIRD MODIFICATION

**SPANISH FRAMEWORK FOR DRAWING UP
THE GENERAL CONDITIONS RELATING TO
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS**

(.... 2017 VERSION)

1. INTRODUCTION

Regulation (EU) n° 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) N° 922/72, (EEC) N° 234/79, (EC) N° 1037/2001 and (EC) N° 1234/2007, stipulates in its Article 33 (5) that operational programmes must include two or more environmental actions or at least 10% of the expenditure under operational programmes must cover environmental actions.

That Regulation also provides in its Article 152 (1) that producer organisations must have the objective of promoting and providing technical assistance for, the use of environmentally sound cultivation practices and production techniques.

Lastly, Article 36 of this Regulation makes it the responsibility of the Member States to establish a national framework for drawing up the general conditions relating to environmental actions.

The proposed framework must be submitted to the Commission, which may require modifications within three months of the submission if it finds that the proposal would not contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 191 of TFEU and in the Seventh Union Environment Action Programme.

Article 3 of *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 2017/.... of...., laying down rules for the application of Council Regulation (EU) N° 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors*, stipulates that the national framework must set out a non-exhaustive list of environmental actions and the conditions therefore applicable in the Member State for the purposes of Article 33 (5) of Regulation (EU) N° 1308/2013 and that, for each environmental action selected, it must indicate:

- a) the specific commitment or commitments entailed; and
- b) the justification of the action on the basis of its environmental impact.

Pursuant to those provisions, we hereby submit the following proposal, which includes the list of actions that producer organisations can carry out in order to meet the requirements laid down in Article 36 (1) of Regulation (EU) n° 1308/2013, indicates the justification of each action based on its expected environmental impact, the commitments undertaken by the recipient, the maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the operational programme (OP) and the necessary supporting documents.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE FRAMEWORK

The framework will consist of:

- A summary of eligible environmental actions.
- An annex describing the specific requirements of each action.

The environmental actions have been grouped together according to the main objective to which they contribute, and **nine sets of actions** have been established. These sets have been established with a view to assessing the actions and making them more effective, as they can be evaluated using the same indicators.

Furthermore, the four priority objectives for action established under the Seventh Union Environment Action Programme were taken into account.

The sets are as follows:

1. Actions aimed at improving or maintaining soil quality (in the priority objective of “protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
2. Actions aimed at improving or maintaining water quality (in the priority objective of “protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
3. Actions aimed at improving or maintaining air quality (in the priority objective of “protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
4. Actions aimed at the sustainable use of water resources (in the priority objective of “protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
5. Actions aimed at maintaining natural habitat and biodiversity (in the priority objective of “protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
6. Actions aimed at climate change mitigation (in the priority objective of “turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
7. Actions aimed at waste reduction (in the priority objective of “turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
8. Actions aimed at reducing noise pollution (in the priority objective of “protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital” under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).
9. Other environmental actions (in priority objectives for action under the Seventh Environment Action Programme).

For each action, the proposed framework gives:

- The action number: to standardise information from all operational programmes thus making that information easier to use in the compilation of reports.
- A description of the action and specific commitments to be undertaken by the recipient.
- A justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact.
- The maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the operational programme, which can take the form of either:
 - A flat-rate specific cost. The amount of that payment must be limited to the maximum amounts laid down in Annex II of *Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December 2013, on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) N° 1698/2005 (Article 30 (4) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of supplementing Regulation (EU) N° 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors and supplementing Regulation (EU) N° 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to penalties to be applied in those sectors and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011)* for agri-environment-climate or organic farming commitments; or,
 - The actual cost of the investment.
- The specific documentation to be provided when the operational programme is submitted.
- The supporting documents required to receive the assistance.
- Indicators to assess the effectiveness of the action.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

a) The environmental actions included under an operational programme must:

- Meet the requirements for agri-environment payments laid down Article 28(3) of Regulation (EU) N° 1305/2013. This means that environmental actions must entail commitments going beyond the following requirements (**reference level**):
 - mandatory standards established pursuant to Article Chapter I of Title VI of

Regulation (EU) n° 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December 2013, on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) n° 352/78, (EC) n° 165/94, (EC) n° 2799/98, (EC) n° 814/2000, (EC) n° 1290/2005 and (EC) n° 485/2008, including the mandatory standards set out by Spain's document on "Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions of the land";

- the relevant criteria and minimum activities as established pursuant to points (c)(ii) and (c)(iii) of Article 4(1) of *Regulation (EU) n° 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December 2013, establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) n° 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) n° 73/2009.*
 - minimum requirements for the use of fertilisers and plant protection products, which are established in the national legislation; and
 - other relevant mandatory requirements established by the national legislation.
- Be compatible with the national framework.
 - Complement and be compatible with the other environmental actions under the operational programme and, where appropriate, with the environmental commitments for which members of the producer organisation receive support under the relevant rural development programme.
 - Comply with the provisions of paragraph 3.2.1. (Criteria and administrative rules adopted to avoid double funding) of the National Strategy for Sustainable Operational Programmes.
- b) Where operational programmes allow for different environmental actions to be combined, or where environmental actions included under an operational programme can be combined with agri-environment measures under a rural development programme, the level of support must take into account the income foregone and the additional costs resulting from the combination.
- c) The amount of support for the environmental actions included under an operational programme, which is intended to cover additional costs and income foregone resulting from the action, may be altered if the corresponding reference level changes (if mandatory provisions are amended in accordance with Community and national regulations which the environmental commitments must exceed).
- d) In accordance with the provisions of Article 33 (5) of Regulation (EU) n° 1308/2013, where at least 80 % of the producer members of a producer organisation are subject to one or more identical agri-environment-climate commitments Article provided for in Article 28 (3) of Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013, then each one of those commitments shall count as an environmental

action with the purpose of including at least two environmental actions or at least 10% of the expenditure.

When the 80% condition is fulfilled, in order to justify that these actions are done, it will be needed, either an evidence of the agri-environment-climate payment under rural development, or a written proof established by the competent authority showing that the action has been implemented. Moreover, the PO must show evidences that at least 80 % of its members have taken part in the action.

e) In accordance with the provisions of Article 31 (5) of Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/.... and Article 11 of *Real Decreto/2007, of ... 2017, which rules the operational funds and operational programmes of producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector*, the retention period of investments shall be five years from the acquisition or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme, according to Article 71 (1) of Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December 2013, laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) n° 1083/2006.

f) Pursuant to last paragraph of Article 3 (1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) n° 2017/...., this Environmental Framework include several actions on the application of integrated pest management practises (7.13., 7.15., 7.16., 7.17., 7.18., and 7.19.).

4. ADAPTATION OF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES TO THE AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK

- For the actions removed: producer organisations must adapt their operational programmes to the modified Environmental Framework Article at the moment of publication of *Real Decreto/2017* , r.

- As For new actions, producer organisations may:

- Include them by requesting an amendment to their OP for subsequent years by 15 September 2017 at the latest, according to Article 13 of the *Real Decreto/2017*, or;
- Include them by requesting an amendment to their OP during the year, according to Article 14 of the *Real Decreto/2017*.

GUIDE TO THE LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

| OBJECTIVES | | ACTIONS | | TYPES OF ASSISTANCE ¹ | REQUIREMENTS |
|------------|--|---------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Nº | Description | Nº | Description | | |
| 1 | Improving or maintaining soil quality | 7.1. | Investment to combat the erosion of woody crops | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.2. | Incorporation of pruning remains to the soil or laying on it to improve its organic matter content and to combat the erosion | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.3. | Use of plant origin compost | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.4. | Use of green manuring from legumes and other species | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.5. | Use of green manuring from remains of the holding in greenhouse vegetable production | FR | ANNEX p. |
| 2 | Improving or maintaining water quality | 7.6. | Use of solarisation or biosolarisation | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.7. | Equipment for and/or improvements in water purification | I | ANNEX p. |
| 3 | Improving or maintaining air quality | 7.8. | Improvement of efficiency of filter and similar equipment to reduce dust and other particles emission | I | ANNEX p. |
| 4 | Sustainable use of water resources | 7.9. | Equipment for and/or improvements in water recycling | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.10. | Improvement of irrigation systems and replacement of existing systems with more efficient systems (modernisation of irrigated areas) | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.11. | Groundwater recharge, action to reduce surface runoff and prevent water intrusions | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.12. | Use shade covers technique on reservoirs to slow down the evaporation of water resources | I | ANNEX p. |

¹ I: invoice ; ; FR: flat - rate

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|---|---|-------|--|----|----------|
| 5 | Maintaining natural habitat and biodiversity | 7.13. | Generic organic production | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.14. | Use of biological and/or biotechnological control methods used in organic production, alternative to conventional methods, for horticultural products | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.15. | Generic integrated production | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.16. | : c Use of biological and/or biotechnological control methods used in integrated production, alternative to conventional methods, for horticultural products | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.17. | Use of biological and/or biotechnological control methods used conventional production, alternative to conventional methods, for horticultural products | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.18. | Horticultural grafting in greenhouses to reduce the use of chemicals. | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | | | | |
| | | 7.19. | Use of the bagging technique on peach culture as physical barrier against plagues to reduce the use of chemical products. | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.20. | Use of the debarking technique on table grapes culture to reduce the use of chemicals products. | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.21. | Installation of hedges within the cropped plot to improve biodiversity and maintain/restore landscape. | FR | ANNEX p. |
| 6 | Climate change mitigation | 7.22. | Renewable energy installations (wind and solar). | I | ANNEX p. |

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|----------|--|-------|---|----|----------|
| | | 7.23. | Use of means of production which are more energy-efficient | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.24. | Cogeneration [combined production of heat and power] using fruit and vegetable waste from production, processing, product preparation for marketing and/or marketing. | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.25. | Additional costs of using rail or maritime transport as compared to road transport. | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.26. | Use of cover crops in fruit growing as alternative to conventional practises | FR | ANNEX p. |
| 7 | Waste reduction | 7.27. | Use of biodegradable thread or biodegradable raffia on holdings. | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.28. | Use of biodegradable and plastics on holdings. | FR | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.29. | Recovery of organic waste generated during production, processing, product preparation for marketing and/or marketing | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.30. | Treatment, recovery and classification of waste | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.31. | Obtaining biogas using organic residues and by-products from fruit and vegetables production or processing | I | ANNEX p. |
| 8 | Noise pollution reduction | 7.32. | Reduction of noise pollution emissions | I | ANNEX p. |
| 9 | Commitments in support to environmental actions | 7.33. | Environmental training and awareness courses | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.34. | Technical assistance in support to environmental actions | I | ANNEX p. |

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|--|--|-------|---|---|----------|
| | | 7.35. | Analysis, advice and auditing in support to environmental actions | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.36. | Carbon Dioxide Footprint certification | I | ANNEX p. |
| | | 7.37. | Water Footprint certification | I | ANNEX p. |

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ANNEX

Each of the following epigraphs with two figures is considered as an action in order to comply with Article 8.2.c) of Real Decreto .../2017, 2017, which rules the operational funds and operational programmes of producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector.

1. ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING OR MAINTAINING SOIL QUALITY

Action 7.1. Investment to combat the erosion of woody crops. (7.1.1)

Action concerning areas of woody crops on a slope of more than 6%. This slope of more than 6% will be proved through SIGPAC [geographic information system for agricultural plots] for all the plots affected by this action taking the average value of the slope in the SIGPAC enclosure.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

In Spain, there are certain areas which are at high risk of erosion due to their geographical location, height and rainfall pattern.

In those areas, where plots are on sloping ground, fertilisers and plant protection products are washed out and soil organic matter is lost.

Therefore, the objective of this action is the protection and conservation of the soil in those situations through the installation of features designed to reduce wash-out of those products and the subsequent erosion.

Commitment:

- Implementation and installation of traditional features and systems used in crop growing: low walls, terraces, hedges and similar.
- Maintenance of the investments at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

Cost of the investment.

If the operations are carried out by the member of the producer organisation, the payments made will be based on modules established by each autonomous community for the various operations in the context of rural development support for investment in agricultural holdings. If the relevant autonomous community has not established those modules, it will be possible, in a way duly justified by the competent authority, to grant an amount of assistance which is equivalent to that of another autonomous community.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Detailed description of the actions to be carried out and how they will be carried out (by the member or by third parties).
 - In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the relevant action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.
- Supporting documents:* invoices of the investments or detailed description of the action if carried out using the member's own resources.

Action 7.2. Incorporation of pruning remains into the soil or laying on it to improve its organic matter content and to combat the erosion. (7.2.1.)

This action is incompatible at member level and during the same year with action 1.2.1 for machinery and tool 7.29. for treatment, recovery and classification of waste.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Incorporation of organic residues from the pruning produces a beneficial effect on the environment. On the one hand, the organic matter content of the soil is improved, as well as essential nutrients as N, P₂O₅ y K₂O, reducing the necessity of chemical fertilisation. On the other hand, this action contributes to combat the erosion and to reduce the greenhouse gas emission due to the increased absorption of CO₂ by the soil.

Commitment:

- To carry out the chipping labour of pruning remains by mechanical means and to incorporate, distribute or scatter it uniformly in the soil.
- Incorporation of pruning remains must be done in such a way to prevent the introduction of pest and diseases which may entail a risk of contamination.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EC) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in the use of this technique and the cultivating period, in order to make on – the –spot checks by sampling.

7.3. Use of plant origin compost (7.3.1.)

This action is incompatible at member level and during the same year with action 7.28. in respect of the use of the compost obtained on the holding.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The use of plant origin compost implies several benefits for soil quality. Thus, it allows to improve the structure, to increase its biodiversity, having also disinfectant benefits and increase also the availability of nutrients.

Commitment:

- Use of plant origin compost in a minimal dose that will be established in the study mentioned on paragraph “*maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP*”.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using conventional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EC) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the relevant action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in the use of this technique and the cultivating period, in order to make on – the –spot checks by sampling.

7.4. Use of green manuring from legumes and other species (7.4.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Green manuring is defined as the incorporation of cultivated plants to the soil, mainly legumes but also cereals, with the aim of improving soil nutrient content, and its quality, through:

- The atmospheric nitrogen fixation as these plants are able to fix this nutrient from the air due to its symbiotic relationship with *Rhizobium* spp. bacteria. These bacteria form nodules on root legumes where the atmospheric nitrogen is fixed.
- The absorption of mineral nitrogen in soil, avoiding losses and making it available to the following crops.
- The transport of other nutrients (P, Ca, Mg, ...) from uppermost layers to the surface making them available.

Commitment:

- Use of green manuring from legumes or cereals.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using conventional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EC) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the relevant action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in the use of this technique and the cultivating period, in order to make on – the –spot checks by sampling.

7.5. Use of green manuring from remains of the holding in greenhouse vegetable production (7.5.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Green manuring from remains of the holding in greenhouse vegetable production is defined as the incorporation of the remains of the holding in greenhouse vegetable production to the soil, then the organic fraction chipping is made in situ. Then, physical properties of soil are improved, as it is enriched with the organic matter that will be decomposed improving its fertility.

Commitment:

- Use of green manuring from remains of the holding in greenhouse vegetable production.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using conventional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EC) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the relevant action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots

involved in the use of this technique and the cultivating period, in order to make on –
the –spot checks by sampling.

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2. ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING OR MAINTAINING WATER QUALITY

Action 7.6. Use of solarisation or biosolarisation techniques. (7.6.1)

This action is incompatible at member level and during the same year with action 7.13. and 7.15. when this practise is compulsory in the relevant protocol.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Solarisation is a technique which consists of using a plastic covering and solar radiation in order effect an increase in temperature and humidity thereby disinfecting the soil.

Beneath the plastic, the temperature of the uppermost layer of soil climbs to 50°C or more during the hottest hours of the day. Under those conditions, soil pathogens are quite significantly reduced in number and become less parasitic.

Therefore, this technique provides an alternative to using soil disinfectants, thus avoiding water and soil quality deterioration.

This action clearly contributes to the main objective of improving and maintaining water quality.

Biosolarisation is a technique which consists of a combination of the solarisation yet described and the biofumigation.

Biofumigation can be described as the action that certain volatile substances, resulting from organic matter degradation, exert on soil pathogens or on land – based sources. To this aim, additional organic soil conditioner is required.

These two combined techniques provide an alternative to using soil disinfectants, thus avoiding water and soil quality deterioration.

Commitment(s):

- to use solarisation or biosolarisation for the purposes of soil disinfection.
- not to use soil disinfectants., and
- Commitment to remove the plastic from the ground after use and hand it over to an authorised waste management company for recovery or incineration.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EC) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

Statement by the farmer that soil disinfectants will not be used in the area concerned.
Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in the use of this technique as well as the start and end dates of the action, so as the competent authorities can carry out on – the –spot checks by sampling.

Invoice for the plastic and contract signed with an authorised waste management company or documentary evidence that the plastic has been handed over to that company.

Action 7.7. Equipment for and/or improvements in water purification. (77.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The water used by both the producer organisation itself and by its members during the production, processing, product preparation for marketing or marketing process (water for irrigation, process water from air-conditioning systems, domestic wastewater at the plant etc.) becomes contaminated during the process and can neither, therefore, be discharged, as this could result in eutrophication or contamination, or be re-used for other purposes.

Given that water is scarce in countries like Spain (see justification in action7.10.), maintaining water quality must be considered a main objective, so water purification must be encouraged in order to achieve a level of water quality above that required by the law and, furthermore, the installation of any system which would allow water to be re-used for other purposes should be encouraged.

Commitment(s):

- To install systems for water purification used by the producer organisation or its members so that it can be re-used.
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the system for water purification used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the system for water purification used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

- Report from an independent body proving that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investments.

3. ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING OR MAINTAINING AIR QUALITY

Action 7.8. Improvement of efficiency of filter and similar equipment to reduce dust and other particles emission (7.8.1.)

This action is incompatible at member level and during the same year with action 3.1.2 for machinery, premises and equipment.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Dust and other particles emission to the atmosphere is a common source of air pollution. Even if the agriculture in general and horticultural production in particular are not the main source of them, it is advisable to make actions in order to reduce these emissions with the aim of improving or maintaining soil quality.

One of this action consist of the improvement of efficiency of filter and similar equipment situated at the premises of the producer organisation to reduce dust and other particles emission that goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

Commitment(s):

- To improve the existing systems in order to achieve a reduction of at least 15%, calculated over the five years period compared to the pre-existing situation, of dust and other particles emission. However, this reduction could be of at least 7% provided that the improvement allow for at least one additional environmental benefit.
- It must be ensured that the system for water purification used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- It must be ensured that the that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Documentary evidence, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, showing the emission reduction and, where necessary, the additional environmental benefit.
- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the system for water purification used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

– Report from an independent body proving that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

- The producer organisation must also submit documentary evidence that it is in possession of a particle meter.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investments.

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4. ACTIONS AIMED AT THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Action 7.9. Equipment for and/or improvements in water recycling. (7.9.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The water used by both the producer organisation itself and by its members during the production, processing, product preparation for marketing or marketing process (water for irrigation, process water from air-conditioning systems, domestic wastewater at the plant etc.) becomes contaminated during the process and can neither, therefore, be discharged, as this could result in eutrophication or contamination, or be re-used for other purposes.

Given that water is scarce in countries like Spain (see justification in action 7.9.), maintaining water quality must be considered a main objective, so water purification must be encouraged in order to achieve a level of water quality above that required by the law and, furthermore, the installation of any system which would allow water to be re-used for other purposes should be encouraged.

Commitment(s):

- To install systems for water recycling used by the producer organisation or its members so that it can be re-used.
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the system for water recycling used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the system for water recycling used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- Report from an independent body proving that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investments.

Action 7.10. Improvement of irrigation systems and replacement of existing systems with more efficient systems (modernisation of irrigated areas) (7.10.1)

The same investment in irrigation systems cannot be included at member level and during the same year in two actions (just here or in action 1.1.1. for irrigation equipment).

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Rainfall in most of Spain is low and irregular, which can give rise to problems associated with drought. As a result of the water shortage, there is a high risk of desertification in certain areas in Spain. In addition, different economic sectors compete fiercely to use that water.

Therefore, one of the main objectives of the environmental actions in our country is to make more efficient use of the available water resources.

Given that irrigation is used in virtually all Spanish agricultural districts and that almost 75% of Spain's water resources are consumed in this way, it is essential that infrastructures are improved in order to manage water resources properly.

Thus, the aim of improving those infrastructures is to save water (with help of new technology) and, therefore, to allow the holdings and producer organisations concerned to irrigate more efficiently and save water using new technology.

Water savings will under no circumstances be used to extend irrigable areas.

Water savings will be measured using the impact indicator showing the change in the total amount of water used by producer organisations. A substantial reduction in their water use is anticipated.

Commitment(s):

To undertake one of the two following commitments:

1. To introduce changes in order to achieve a minimum water saving of 5% by means of either:

- Replacing flood irrigation systems with drip irrigation or sprinkler irrigation systems or with any other system which allows this water saving; or
- Replacing any irrigation system with a drip irrigation system or with any other highly efficient micro -irrigation system (e.g. low pressure sprinklers above foliage or below foliage drip nozzles, spray lines) or recirculating multilayer hydroponic systems which allows this water saving.

2. To improve the existing systems in order to achieve a minimum water saving of 5% without changing the irrigation system.

Whatever the commitment made, it must be ensured that the new irrigation system or the improved irrigation system, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

- The investment shall 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.
- To be in possession of a water flow meter.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Documentary evidence of the reductions expected to be made in water usage which commitment 1 or 2, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, showing the emission reduction and, where necessary, the additional environmental benefit. The producer organisation must also submit documentary evidence that it is in possession of a water flow meter.
- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the improved irrigation system, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Supporting documents: invoice for investments made.

Action 7.11. Groundwater recharge, action to reduce surface run-off and prevent water intrushes. (7.11.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

As established in action 7.10, due to Spain's climate with periods of drought and areas at risk of desertification, water is a resource which must be conserved as much as possible, so the main objective of these measures is to reduce water loss.

Moreover, the actions will have the additional effects of reducing erosion and improving the quality of surface water thanks to a reduction in the sediment load.

Commitment(s):

- To, build small dams, create channels, install piping or carry out any other investment to reduce surface run-off and prevent water intrushes aimed at recharging groundwater.

- Whatever the commitments implemented, it must be ensured that the construction works made (e.g. small dams, channels) and/or equipment installed (e.g. pipes), once in place, are used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Supporting documents: invoice for investments made

Action 7.12. Use shade covers technique on reservoirs to slow down the evaporation of water resources (7.12.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

In certain areas of Spain with low rate of rainfall, the irrigation dams or small reservoirs lose every year a large amount of water because of evaporation effect.

With the aim of slowing down this evaporation, it could be suitable the use of shade covers technique on irrigation dams or small reservoirs. This technique lies in placing shade covers on these water surfaces.

Apart from saving water, this technique has other advantages. On the one hand, improving water quality, as it allows to reduce water salt content as well as to reduce filtration needs in localised irrigation. On the other hand, it enables to reduce the exposure to sunlight and, consequently, the algae growth which obstructs irrigation filters and heads.

Commitment(s):

- Commitment of placing shade covers on the irrigation dams or small reservoirs.
- Commitment of executing the development works and perimeter works to anchor the structure (shade cover) on the irrigation dam or small reservoir.
- If the shade cover used is plastic but not biodegradable, commitment of removing the plastic from the ground after use and hand it over to an authorised waste management company for recovery or incineration.

- The irrigation dams or small reservoirs must belong to the PO or to a member (in this case, more than 50% of the irrigable area must be cropped with fruit and/or vegetables).

- Whatever the commitments implemented, it must be ensured that once in place, are used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: costs of the investment.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

Invoice and other documents providing evidence of the operations carried out and the actual costs incurred.

If the shade cover used is plastic not biodegradable, contract signed with an authorised waste management company or documentary evidence that the plastic has been handed over to that company.

If the dam or reservoir belongs to a member who uses the water to irrigate other crops different from fruit and vegetables, the member should present the crop rotation plan in order to demonstrate that more than 50% of the irrigable area is cropped with fruit and/or vegetables.

Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Supporting documents: invoice for investments made.

5. ACTIONS AIMED AT MAINTAINING NATURAL HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY

ORGANIC PRODUCTION: If a producer organisation wishes to include in its operational programme an action aimed at organic production, the producer organisation would have to decide whether it wishes to receive payment through action 7.13. or 7.14. Once the selection has been made, it cannot be changed for the duration of the operational programme.

For those producer organisations which have holdings in several Autonomous Communities the safeguards established in the relevant RDP will be taken into account.

Producer organisations cannot receive aid for both organic and integrated production for the same member and during the same year for the five years commitment.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact (actions 7.13. and 7.14.):

Organic production systems do not use synthetic chemical fertilisers, pesticides or plant protection products to combat plant disease and invasive species, neither do they use methods which cause soil quality, or environmental conditions in general, to deteriorate.

Stopping the use of those synthetic products will contribute directly to improving the quality of water and soil resources and therefore help to protect certain species and to maintain natural habitat and biodiversity.

Moreover, cutting down the use of synthetic products and, therefore, reducing the manufacturing of those products, will also result in a drop in greenhouse gas emissions.

The objective of this action is, therefore, to encourage farming practices which make less use of chemical products. In particular, the amount of land used for organic production will be used as an impact indicator. The amount of land used for organic production by producer organisations is anticipated to increase significantly throughout Spain.

Another indicator will be the estimated change in mineral fertiliser consumption by type of fertiliser (N and P₂O₅).

Action 7.13. Generic organic production (*where organic production is not foreseen as an environmental measure under the rural development programme (RDP) of the relevant autonomous community or the safeguards established in the relevant RDP allow to include this action*) including soil management, seeding and planting, fertilising, pruning, irrigation, integrated control, harvesting, post-harvesting treatments, conservation and storage practices which are more rigorous than those undertaken in conventional agricultural production and are obligatory in organic production. (7.13.1)

Commitment(s):

To produce under organic production, fulfilling the requirements laid down in European Union legislation (Regulation (EC) n° 834/2007) or in general and specific rules for the organic production of various crops established and approved by the relevant autonomous community in application of those requirements.

The producer organisation must include this action in its operational programme for at least five years and for the same surface and plot(s) except for the cases where the relevant RDP established a commitment of surface lower than 100% using the last. If the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years, the action must be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will

be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action. This study will be done in a regional basis and by product or group of products.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 543/2011, that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment- climate payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents: Certification (by an authorised certifying authority) of the area under organic production.

Action 7.14. Use of biological and/or biotechnological control methods used in organic production, alternative to conventional methods, for horticultural products (7.14.1.) *(Where organic production is not foreseen as an environmental measure under the rural development programme (RDP) of the relevant autonomous community. However, even if organic production is included in the relevant RDP this action could be included in the operational programme if the method included has not been taken into account in the flat rate calculation of the RDP and the safeguards to avoid double funding established in the RDP allow it.)*

Commitment(s):

- To produce under organic production, fulfilling the requirements laid down in European Union legislation (Regulation (EC) n° 834/2007) or in general and specific rules for the organic production of various crops established and approved by the relevant autonomous community in application of those requirements.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action. This study will be done in a regional basis and by product or group of products.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 543/2011, that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment- climate payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

- Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in this action and the cultivating period, in order to make on – the –spot checks by sampling.
- The products must be registered in the Official Register of Crop Protection Products of MAPAMA or have been request the marketing communication as “other means of health defence”.
- In those cases where organic farming is included in the relevant RDP and safeguards to avoid double funding funds allows it, certificate from the relevant autonomous community stating that the method to be included in the operational programme has not been taken into account to calculate the flat rate for the organic production payment.

INTEGRATED PRODUCTION: if a producer organisation wishes to include in its operational programme an action aimed at integrated production, the producer organisation would have to decide whether it wishes to receive through action 7.14. or 7.15. Once the selection has been made, it cannot be changed for the duration of the operational programme.

For those producer organisations which have holdings in several Autonomous Communities the safeguards established in the relevant RDP will be taken into account.

Producer organisations cannot receive aid for both organic and integrated production for the same member and during the same year for the five years commitment.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact actions 7.15. and 7.16.):

The objective of the action is to reduce soil and water contamination by encouraging the adoption of plant production methods which make an efficient use of production inputs and natural while ensuring the protection of natural resources.

The action will make it possible to reduce soil and water pollution by cutting down the

use of fertilisers, herbicides and plant protection products, which in the long-term guarantees sustainable agriculture and the protection of natural resources.

In addition, using biological control methods has a direct impact on biodiversity by introducing fauna which are beneficial to production and reducing the risk of ecosystems becoming unbalanced.

The objective of this action is, therefore, to encourage farming practices which make demonstrably less use of chemicals. In particular, the impact of the action will be indicated by the amount of land used for integrated production compared with the initial area under crops. It is anticipated that the amount of land used by producer organisations for integrated production will grow significantly throughout Spain.

Another indicator will be the estimated change in mineral fertiliser consumption by type of fertiliser (N and P₂O₅).

Action 7.15. Generic integrated production, *(where integrated production is not foreseen as an environmental measure under the rural development programme (RDP) of the relevant autonomous community or the safeguards established in the relevant RDP allow to include this action) including soilmanagement, seeding and planting, fertilising, pruning, irrigation, integrated control, harvesting, post-harvesting treatments, conservation and storage practices which are more rigorous than those undertaken in conventional agricultural production and are mandatory in integrated production. (7.15.1.)*

Commitment(s):

To produce under integrated production, fulfilling the requirements laid down in general and specific rules for the integrated production of various crops established and approved by the relevant Autonomous Community or by the Central Administration in accordance with Real Decreto 1201/2002, of 20 November 2008, laying down specific rules for integrated production of agricultural products.

The producer organisation must include this action in its operational programme for at least five years and for the same surface and plot(s) except for the cases where the relevant RDP established a commitment of surface lower than 100% using the last. If the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years, the action must be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n°2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as

compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action. This study will be done in a regional basis and by product or group of products.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate or organic payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

Certification (by an authorised certifying authority) of the area under integrated production.

7.16. Use of biological and/or biotechnological control methods used in integrated production, alternative to conventional methods, for horticultural products (7.16.1.) *(Where integrated production is not foreseen as an environmental measure under the rural development programme (RDP) of the relevant autonomous community. However, even if integrated production is included in the relevant RDP this action could be included in the operational programme if the method included has not been taken into account in the flat rate calculation of the RDP and the safeguards to avoid double funding established in the RDP allow it.)*

Commitment(s):

- To produce under integrated production, fulfilling the requirements laid down in general and specific rules for the integrated production of various crops established and approved by the relevant Autonomous Community or by the Central Administration in accordance with Real Decreto 1201/2002, of 20 November 2008, laying down specific rules for integrated production of agricultural products.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action. This study will be done in a regional basis and by product or group of products.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 543/2011, that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment- climate payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

- Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in this action and the cultivating period, in order to make on – the –spot checks by sampling.
- The products must be registered in the Official Register of Crop Protection Products of MAPAMA or have been request the marketing communication as “other means of health defence”.
- In those cases where integrated production is included in the relevant RDP and safeguards to avoid double funding funds allows it, certificate from the relevant autonomous community stating that the method to be included in the operational programme has not been taken into account to calculate the flat rate for the integrated production payment.

7.17. Use of biological and/or biotechnological control methods used in conventional production, alternative to conventional methods, for horticultural products (7.17.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The aim of this action is to reduce contaminant effects through the promotion of the replacement of certain pesticides dangerous for the environment by more friendly ones or the reduction of the number of treatments.

Therefore, contaminant effects on soil and water will be reduced and, consequently, a long term sustainable agriculture and natural resources protection will be achieved.

Moreover, these biological and/or biotechnological control methods have a direct effect on biodiversity. On the one hand, they allow the existence of wildlife reserves which causes benefits on agricultural productions. On the other hand, they reduce the risk of ecosystem imbalance.

So, the purpose of this action is to promote cultural practices which involve a verifiable reduction on the use of chemical products. Specifically, surface where these alternative products have been uses will be taken as an impact indicator.

Commitment(s):

- Use of at least one alternative control method per pest and product.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using conventional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action. This study will be done in a regional basis and by product or group of products.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 543/2011, that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment- climate payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Pursuant to Article 3 (7) (b) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., supporting documentation of the expected reduction of plant protection products made either by a qualified independent body or and independent expert.
- In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

- Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in this action and the cultivating period, in order to make on – the –spot checks by sampling.
- The products must be registered in the Official Register of Crop Protection Products of MAPAMA or have been request the marketing communication as “other means of health defence”.

Action 7.18. Horticultural grafting in greenhouses to reduce the use of chemicals. (7.18.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Nematodes and fungi in the soil have a very significant impact on vegetable crops in greenhouses, causing production levels to fall very substantially or even making farming impossible in some areas.

For that reason, various treatments are carried out to combat them. The treatments are based mainly on using generic soil disinfectants and other specific chemicals targeting a particular type of fungus or nematode.

There is now the option of grafting scions of commercial plant varieties onto rootstocks which are resistant to attack by nematodes and fungi in the soil.

By using horticultural grafting as a solution, it is possible to reduce substantially the need to treat with plant protection products, which has a very positive impact on the environment.

So far, research has successfully developed, for a range of products, grafted plants which are resistant to several nematodes and other soil pathogens.

Commitment(s):

- To use grafted tomato, pepper, or aubergine plants which are resistant to pests or diseases so that there can be less use of chemicals on all plots which are identifiable in the SIGPAC [geographic information system for agricultural plots].
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be paid. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using conventional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment- climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Pursuant to Article 3 (7) (b) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., supporting documentation of the expected reduction of plant protection products made either by a qualified independent body or and independent expert.

- In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

- Notification sent to the competent authority of the fact that planting has taken place and of the estimated harvesting date, in order that on-the-spot sample inspections can be carried out.

- Proof of purchase of grafted plants or of the seeds to grow scions in amounts equivalent to the number of plants used. There must be documentary evidence that the plants are resistant to diseases or pests which would otherwise be controlled using chemicals.

Action 7.19. Use of the bagging technique on peach culture as physical barrier against plagues to reduce the use of chemical products. (7.19.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) is a highly extended plague in Spain because of the weather conditions. This plague seriously affects to a number of species, especially those with soft flesh as peaches.

To control this plague chemical products as phosphorous containing (Metil Clorpirifos) and pyrethroids (Deltametrin, Lambda Cihalotrin, Efotenprox) are used, with the consequent contaminant effect on soil and water.

An alternative to chemical products is the use of physical barriers to prevent fruit fly attack, such as the bagging of each peach with paraffin paper. Thus, chemical treatments against this plague are highly reduced with a clear environmental effect.

The study made by the Plant Protection Centre of the “Diputación General de Aragón”, as well as other studies, confirm this significant reduction in the number of chemical treatments and doses with the use of this technique.

Commitment(s):

- Commitment to use the bagging technique for peaches.
- Commitment to remove the paper after use and manage it in an environmentally friendly way.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Pursuant to Article 3 (7) (b) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., supporting documentation of the expected reduction of plant protection products made either by a qualified independent body or and independent expert.
- In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

- Proof of purchase of bags to fruit bagging in field.
- Contract signed with an authorised waste management company or documentary evidence that the paper used has been handed over to that company.

Action 7.20. Use of the debarking technique on table grapes culture to reduce the use of chemicals products. (7.20.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The grape moth (*Lobesia botrana*), the honeydew (*Planococcus citri*), the Castaneta (*Vesperus xalati*) and the common snail (*Teba Pisana*) are pests which frequently affect to the table grapes culture, as they use the plant as a natural refuge and prevent the bunches from developing normally.

To combat these pests plant protection products (such as chlorpyrifos, quinoxyfen or cypermethrin) are used, with the consequent risk of pollution of both water and soil.

The use of debarking techniques on table grapes culture is an alternative for chemical pest control. The technique consists in removing the external part of the bark, so as to eliminate the natural protection that the above – mentioned pests have under the bark, for example, by avoiding that the pests spend their winter low stage under it and preventing the pest from making the egg - laying under it.

This way, pests are naturally combated and the application of plant protection products is avoided.

Commitment(s):

- Use of the debarking technique on table grapes culture on all plots which are identifiable in the SIGPAC [geographic information system for agricultural plots], so as to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and plant protection products.
- Maintenance of the action at least five years. When the duration of the operational programme is shorter than five years this action should be included in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate payments, in duly justified cases.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Pursuant to Article 3 (7) (b) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., supporting documentation of the expected reduction of plant protection products made either by a qualified independent body or and independent expert.
- In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the

fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in the use of this technique and the start and end dates of use, so as the competent authorities can carry out on – the –spot checks by sampling.

7.21. Installation of hedges within the cropped plot to improve biodiversity and maintain/restore landscape maintenance. (7.21.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The installation of hedges within the plot has a double environmental effect as it allows:

- Increase the biodiversity of the plot and keep the autochthonous natural habitats.
- The landscape restoration/maintenance.

Commitment(s):

The producer organisation must:

- establish a list of species of interest to be used for installing hedgerows within cropped plots based on published studies such as the “Manual of Good Practises in Ecological Production – Functionality of Hedges” of the MAPAMA,
- To ensure the implantation the hedges within plots cropped with fruit and vegetables by PO's members, and
- ensure maintenance and, keep and preservation of the hedges installed for a period of at least five years.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

- Cost of qualified personnel needed for the installation work of hedges with the species indicated above.
- Cost of the plant material to be used for installing the hedges.
- Costs incurred for the maintenance and preservation of the hedges installed are not eligible for support.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

In case of a duration of the operational programme shorter than five years, statement of including the action in the subsequent operational programme until the fulfilment of the five years.

Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the species used for installing the hedges, the number of members and plots concerned by the action and the start and end dates of the period when the hedges are installed, so as the competent authorities can carry out on – the –spot checks by sampling.

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6. ACTIONS AIMED AT CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Action 7. 22. Renewable energy installations (wind and solar). (7. 22.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Contributing to the mitigation of climate change must be (and is) a fundamental objective for the farming sector, just as it is for the other economic sectors. Therefore, actions to cut CO₂ emissions must be encouraged.

In particular, burning fossil fuels produces CO₂ which accumulates in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change. Replacing those fuels as a source of energy with eco-friendly energy sources must, therefore, be encouraged.

Thanks to its geographical location, Spain benefits from the most sunlight in Europe and, therefore, has the highest solar potential. The installation of solar power systems must therefore be encouraged in order to take advantage of that potential.

Similarly, there are very windy areas in Spain where the strength of the wind must be harnessed in order to produce wind energy.

The impact that this measure has on mitigating climate change will be measured by an impact indicator showing the estimated change in use of energy by type of energy source or type of fuel.

Commitment(s):

- To install renewable energy systems with the capacity to generate an amount of energy not exceeding the amount required by the producer organisation and/or its members for the production of fruit and vegetables.
- In case the energy system is owned by a PO' member, the maximum capacity of the system will be equivalent to the electricity consumption needed for the production of fruits and vegetables of that member in its holding.
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the renewable energy system, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- To achieve a reduction of at least 15%, calculated over the five years period compared to the pre-existing situation, of fossil fuels consumption. However, this reduction could be of at least 7% provided that the improvement allow for at least one additional environmental benefit.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Supporting documents relating to the system to be installed and its capacity in relation to the energy consumption of the producer organisation and/or its members.
- Documentary evidence, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, showing the reduction in fossil fuel consumption and, where necessary, the additional environmental benefit.
- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- The producer organisation must also submit documentary evidence that it is in possession of equipment to measure its energy efficiency.

Supporting documents: invoices for the specific investments made.

Action 7. 23. Use of means of production which are more energy-efficient.
(7. 23.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

As mentioned in action 7. 22., burning fossil fuels produces CO₂ which builds up in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change, so replacing current means of production, processing, product preparation for marketing and marketing, with more technologically advanced means which achieve energy savings must be encouraged.

The impact that this action has on mitigating climate change will be measured by an impact indicator showing the estimated change in use of energy by type of energy source or type of fuel.

Commitment(s):

To replace a means of production with a new system, with an equal capacity to the necessary consumption for the fruit and vegetables production by the producer organisation or its members, which is at least 15%² of energy saving, calculated over the five years period compared to the pre-existing situation. However, if it can be shown that the improvements to the existing systems bring at least one additional environmental benefit (i.e. reduction in emission of air pollutant, use of renewable energy), the minimum energy saving required will be 17%.

Whatever the commitment made, it must be ensured that the new system, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a

subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Documentary evidence, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, of the reductions expected to be made in energy usage and, where appropriate, of other expected additional environmental benefits resulting from the investments(s) proposed,
- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- The producer organisation must also submit documentary evidence that it is in possession of equipment to measure its energy efficiency.

Supporting documents: invoices for the specific investments made.

Action 7. 24. Cogeneration [combined production of heat and power] using fruit and vegetable waste from production, processing, product preparation for marketing and/or marketing (7. 24.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The EU encourages the installation and operation of electrical cogeneration plants in order to save energy and combat climate change.

Cogeneration allows the simultaneous production of heat and electricity in the same plant and using just one “fuel” source. According to this principle, heat energy that would otherwise be wasted can be used, which makes for much greater energy efficiency.

In addition, if waste material is used as a source of primary energy instead of natural gas, the benefit to the environment is multiplied because, using waste material as an energy source would bring about a reduction both in the emission of waste and in the use of fossil fuels.

The impact that this action has on mitigating climate change will be measured by an impact indicator showing the estimated change in use of energy by type of energy source or type of fuel.

Commitment(s):

- To install systems which produce energy by means of cogeneration (combined

production of heat and power) using fruit and vegetable waste produced by the producer organisation or its members during the producing, processing, product preparation for marketing and or marketing process.

- The systems installed must have a capacity to generate an amount of energy not exceeding the amount required by the producer organisation and/or its members for the production of fruit and vegetables.
- To achieve a reduction of at least 15%, calculated over the five years period compared to the pre-existing situation, of fossil fuels consumption. However, this reduction could be of at least 7% provided that the improvement allow for at least one additional environmental benefit.
- Whatever the system installed, it must be ensured that the new system, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme..

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Supporting documents relating to the system to be installed, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert and its capacity in relation to the energy consumption of the producer organisation and/or its members.
- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- The producer organisation must also submit documentary evidence that it is in possession of equipment to measure its energy efficiency.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investment.

Action 7. 25. Additional costs of using rail or maritime transport as compared to road transport. (7. 25.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Transporting fruit and vegetables for sale is a very important issue in Spain, which is a major exporter.

Road transport uses the most energy, therefore depleting fossil fuels and producing

more CO₂ emissions, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect.

For that reason, and in keeping with the objective of mitigating climate change, the replacement of road freight transport with short sea shipping or rail transport or with a combination of modes of transport should be encouraged. The aim is to keep road journeys as short as possible.

The impact that this action has on mitigating climate change will be measured by an impact indicator showing the estimated change in use of energy by type of energy source or type of fuel.

Commitment(s):

To replace road transport with rail transport or maritime transport.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

Difference between the cost of rail and sea transport incurred in the year in question and the average cost of road transport incurred over the previous two years.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

Supporting documents for the expenditure incurred by using road transport over the previous two years and the cost of journeys to be made by alternative modes of transport.

Supporting documents: invoice for expenditure on sea or rail transport.

Action 7.26. Use of cover crops in fruit growing as alternative to conventional practises (7.26.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Soil management with cover crops has several benefits for climate change mitigation, not only for the mitigation of greenhouse effect gas emission but also for the adaptation to climate change:

- Cover crops increase the organic matter content and CO₂ fixation in soil, which is the main reservoir in these crops, especially with the CO₂ fixation at the uppermost layers. In addition, they reduce the mineralisation of organic matter compared to conventional practises such as tillage that produce to faster mineralisation and a higher CO₂ emission to the atmosphere. The augmentation of CO₂ content in soil is also favoured with green manure and pruning remains practises.
- Cover crops lead to a decrease of run along machinery and, thus, a reduction in fossil fuels consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- These cover crops complement fertilisation through its capacity to fix atmospheric nitrogen, which leads to a reduction of mineral fertilisation and,

consequently, greenhouse gas emissions, necessary to its production and distribution in soil.

- Cover crops facilitate rainwater infiltration and storage due to the increase of organic matter in soil, increasing then water reservoir in it. This reduce significantly crop water requirements and irrigation needs with systems with lower energy consumption.
- Cover crops are a protection layer of the soil against erosion due to run – off rain water, especially in case of storm episodes in Mediterranean climate which are likely to increase as a consequence of climate change.
- These cover crops also improve biodiversity with bigger secondary fauna stocks which play a pest control role and, in consequence, lead to a decrease in plant control products whose production also generates greenhouse gas emissions.

Commitment(s): to sow the relevant cover crops and to carry out the agronomic labours to maintain them.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic payments, in duly justified cases.

Supporting documents:

Communication to competent authorities of the number of members and plots involved in the use of this technique and the start and end dates of use, so as the competent authorities can carry out on – the –spot checks by sampling.

7. ACTIONS AIMED AT WASTE REDUCTION

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The issue of waste production affects all sections of society. The difference in the farming sector is that it produces such a wide range of waste material, some of which are hazardous, such as packaging and plant protection products, and others which are very bulky, such as vegetable waste, plastic greenhouse sheeting or manure and liquid manure.

Therefore, one of the environmental objectives must focus on eliminating and managing waste more effectively in order to prevent harmful effects on environmental systems, natural resources and the landscape, to eradicate or reduce nuisance to

those living in the area in question and to reduce contamination of natural resources such as water, soil and air.

Action 7.17. Use of biodegradable thread or biodegradable raffia on holdings.
(7.27.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Thread commonly used to plant staking in greenhouses is made of synthetic material, such as propylene fibre.

Removing the thread from the ground is quite difficult. For this reason, the generated wastes remain on the ground or even are attached in it.

An alternative to this practise is biodegradable paper thread or biodegradable raffia, which can be degraded by micro - organisms (such as bacteria, fungus or other biological agents) on natural aerobic or anaerobic conditions. Through this process, water, O₂C, methane and other non - toxic waste for the environment, are produced.

Thus, this kind of thread or raffia must be promoted.

Commitment(s): to use biodegradable thread or biodegradable raffia.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 5 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be paid. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using convectional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EC) 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Supporting documents: invoice of the biodegradable thread or biodegradable raffia.

Action 7.28. Use of biodegradable and compostable plastics on holdings.
(7.28.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

In traditional farming, the most commonly used plastics are linear lowdensity polyethylene (LLDPE), low-density polyethylene (LDPE) and, for certain crops, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) copolymers.

The process of removing those plastics from the ground is very complicated as it cannot be done mechanically and, during the process, the plastic film can tear leaving a substantial amount of plastic waste behind which, in many cases, is broken up into fragments and incorporated into the soil.

Widespread use of those materials is causing gradual soil contamination as materials which degrade very slowly are repeatedly incorporated into the soil.

Therefore, the use of eco-friendly materials, such as biodegradable and compostable plastics, must be encouraged.

Biodegradable plastics are decomposed through the action of microorganisms in the presence of oxygen to obtain CO₂, water, mineral salts of any other element (mineralisation) and new biomass; or, without the presence of oxygen, to obtain CO₂, mineral salts and new biomass. Plastics are also compostable when they comply with EU standards EN 13432:2000 or EN 14995:2007.

Commitment(s):

To use biodegradable and compostable plastics films in replacement of conventional polyethylene or ethylene vinyl acetate plastic films.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

On the basis of a study carried out by an independent body, according to Article 31 (2) (b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., a flat-rate amount will be fixed. That amount will cover the additional cost of using this technique as compared to using conventional methods, and income foregone resulting from the action.

Based on Article 30 (4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) n° 2017/..., that amount may exceed the limits established in the Annex II to Regulation (EU) n° 1305/2013 for agri-environment-climate and organic farming payments, in duly justified cases.

Supporting documents: invoice for biodegradable and compostable plastics films used.

Action 7.29. Recovery of organic waste generated during production, processing, product preparation for marketing and/or marketing:(7.29.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Adequate and eco-friendly management of the organic waste generated during production, processing, product preparation for marketing and/or marketing must be encouraged in order to avoid the risk of that waste being left on holdings, thereby damaging the landscape and possibly causing the spread of pests and disease.

We must, therefore, encourage techniques such as composting and, in any event, improve the related organic waste storage facilities sites to enable them to operate under the best possible conditions.

Composting is an aerobic biological process whereby micro-organisms break down rapidly biodegradable material (such as crop waste), thus producing "compost", which is an excellent fertiliser.

Compost is a soil nutrient which improves the structure of the soil, helps to reduce erosion and helps plants to absorb water and nutrients.

Therefore, composting contributes to the objective of reducing the volume of waste produced by the farming sector. Its specific impact will be measured by an impact indicator showing the estimated change in the total volume of waste generated by the producer organisations.

Commitment(s):

- To install composting plants and use the compost in an environmentally friendly way (either for use on the holding or for sale) and to upgrade improve the related organic waste storage facilities.
- Improvement of organic waste storage facilities.
- To achieve a reduction of at least 15%, calculated over the five years period compared to the pre-existing situation, of volume of residues. However, this reduction could be of at least 7% provided that the improvement allow for at least one additional environmental benefit.
- Whatever the commitments, it must be ensured that the new composting plant installed and the improved waste storage facilities are used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the composting plant and improved storage facilities is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made. For the composting plant installed, the additional earnings and/or cost reduction resulting from the sale or use of the compost produced must be deducted from the cost of the investment.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Documentary evidence, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, showing the reduction in the volume of waste and, where necessary, the additional environmental benefit.
- Certificate from the producer organisation stating which is the destination of the

compost obtained. If destination is sale, technical report with justification of additional costs and/or reduction of costs.

- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investment.

Action 7.30. Treatment, recovery and classification of waste. (7.30.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Adequate and eco-friendly management of the waste generated during production, processing, product preparation for marketing and/or marketing must be encouraged in order to avoid the risk that waste being left on the holdings, thereby damaging the landscape and possibly causing the spread of pests and disease or emission of air, water and/or soil pollutants.

The impact of this measure on achieving the objective of waste reduction will be measured using the impact indicator showing the estimated change in the total volume of waste generated by the producer organisations.

Commitment(s):

- To achieve a reduction of at least 15%, calculated over the five years period compared to the pre-existing situation, of volume of residues. However, this reduction could be of at least 7% provided that the improvement allow for at least one additional environmental benefit.
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the investment used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Documentary evidence, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, showing the reduction in the volume of

waste and, where necessary, the additional environmental benefit.

– Report from an independent body proving that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

- The producer organisation must also submit documentary evidence that it is in possession of equipment to measure the volume of waste.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investment.

Action 7.31. Obtaining biogas using organic residues and by-products from fruit and vegetable waste from production or processing (7.31.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Environmentally friendly management of organic residues and by-products on from fruit and vegetables on production and processing phases, aimed at reducing waste production must be promoted.

One of these environmentally friendly managements is to use organic residues and by-products to obtain biogas.

This biogas is produced by the anaerobic digestion of organic residues and by-products. This biogas is a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide, joining with other gases such as, hydrogen, nitrogen, hydrogen sulphur and steam.

Its heating value depends on methane concentration (a highly contaminant gas which is consumed during anaerobic digestion process) and is commonly used to get heat or electricity.

With the aim of quantifying the effects of this action in term of reducing waste production, an impact indicator showing the change in the total amount of waste of the producer organisations will be used.

Commitment(s):

- To install systems to obtain biogas using residues and/or by-products from fruit and vegetable production or processing made by of the PO or its members.

- The systems installed must have a capacity to generate an amount of energy not exceeding the amount required by the producer organisations and/or its members for the production of fruit and vegetables.

- To achieve a reduction of at least 15%, calculated over the five years period

compared to the pre-existing situation, of volume of residues. However, this reduction could be of at least 7% provided that the improvement allow for at least one additional environmental benefit.

- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the investment used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Supporting documents relating to the system to be installed and its capacity in relation to the energy consumption of the producer organisations and/or its members.

- Documentary evidence, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, showing the reduction in the volume of waste and, where necessary, the additional environmental benefit.

- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investment.

8. ACTIONS AIMED AT NOISE REDUCTION

Action 7.32. Reduction of noise pollution emissions. (7.32.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Agricultural activity, horticultural production specifically, may be a source of noise pollution as in its production and marketing process is used machinery which produce these kind of emissions.

Then, installations such as infrastructures to soundproof equipment, protective shields, etc. in those places of with noise pollution emissions and go beyond requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations, is an improvement to reduce noise pollution emissions.

Commitment(s):

- To achieve a reduction of at least 15%, calculated over the five years period compared to the pre-existing situation, of noise pollution. However, this reduction could be of at least 7% provided that the improvement allow for at least one additional environmental benefit.
- Whatever the commitment, it must be ensured that the investment used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- It must be ensured that the that the investment to be made will bring about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: cost of the investment made.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

- Documentary evidence, either by technical documents or by and qualified independent organism or independent expert, showing the reduction in the volume of waste and, where necessary, the additional environmental benefit.
- Certificate from the producer organisation ensuring that the investment used, once in place, is used as intended and that an appropriate maintenance of the system is made at least during five years or ten years if the investment is carried over to a subsequent operational programme.
- The producer organisation must also submit documentary evidence that it is in possession of equipment to measure decibels emission.
- Report from an independent body proving that the investment to be made will bring

about an improvement which goes beyond the requirements of existing compulsory environmental regulations at both EU and national level.

Supporting documents: invoice for the investment.

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9. COMMITMENTS IN SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

If implemented alone, activities related to training, awareness raising, advice and technical assistance do not have any direct environmental impact, even when they concern environmental issues. Therefore they cannot be considered to be environmental actions that can be implemented independently under operational programmes.

However, the above-mentioned activities can be indispensable to ensure the effective implementation or to enhance the effectiveness of certain environmental actions included in groups 1 to 8 of this framework. Where this is the case, therefore, it seems appropriate to give the possibility to include those activities in the operational programmes as supplementary commitments to be undertaken in strict connection with environmental actions.

Action 7.33. Environmental training and awareness courses. (7.33.1)

The purpose is to ensure the implementation of certain environmental actions included in the operational programmes, or to strengthen the effects of those actions, by favouring the acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed for the implementation of the actions through training activities and awareness courses.

Commitment(s):

- To carry out at least one of the environmental actions included in groups 1 to 8 of this framework;
- To carry out training activities and awareness courses for staff and members of the producer organisation with the aim of improving their knowledge and skills and increasing their awareness of environmental issues connected with one or more of the above-mentioned environmental actions; and
- To use qualified (external or internal) personnel to carry out those training activities and awareness courses. The operational programme must clearly indicate the specific tasks that such qualified personnel is called to perform.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP: Documentation specifying which tasks are to be performed by the external qualified personnel or by members of the PO's staff.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: actual cost of the cost incurred for implementing of the training activities and awareness courses.

Supporting documents: invoice or other documents regarding providing evidence of the costs incurred (e.g. pay slips) and specific documentation relating to the tasks performed. In the case where the training activities and/or awareness courses are provided by an employee of the producer organisation, any document providing evidence of the employee's wage and his/her working hour records for the activity.

Action 7.34. Technical assistance in support to environmental actions (7.34.1)

This action is incompatible at member level and during the same year with action 2.2.1. "Staff to improve or maintain quality or environmental protection if costs related to environmental issues have been included in that action. Nevertheless, if action 2.2.1. has been taken only for quality staff, it could be possible to include this action.

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

Certain environmental actions included in this framework can be effectively implemented only if the producer organisation or its members have the knowledge and skills required. However, in certain cases, such knowledge and skills cannot be acquired through training. This may be the case, for instance, where the knowledge and skills needed are related to the use of special new technologies or technical equipment. In these cases, it may be necessary to rely on the assistance of who has the special knowledge and skills required.

Commitment(s):

- To carry out at least one of the environmental actions included in groups 1 to 8 of this framework or to carry out agri-environment- climate and organic farming commitments established under the first subparagraph of Article 28 (3) of Regulation (EU) nº 1305/2013, if provisions of Article 33 (5), paragraph 3, of Regulation (1308/2013) are fulfilled.
- To carry out technical assistance activities for the staff and members of the producer organisation, necessary for the implementation of those environmental actions or agri-environment- climate or organic farming commitments; and.
- To use qualified (external or internal) technical personnel to carry out those technical assistance activities. The operational programme must clearly indicate the specific tasks that such qualified personnel is called to perform.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

Documentation specifying which tasks are to be performed by qualified members of the PO's staff.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

Actual costs incurred for implementing the activities of technical assistance.

Supporting documents: invoice or other documents providing evidence of the actual costs incurred (e.g. pay slips) and specific documentation relating to the tasks performed. In the case where the technical assistance activities are carried out by an employee of the producer organisation, any document providing evidence of the employee's wage and his/her working hour records for the activity.

Action 7. 35. Analysis, advice and auditing in support to environmental actions (7.35.1)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The implementation and the effectiveness of certain environmental actions selected under this Framework to be developed by the PO can be enhanced by certain support activities (analysis, consultancy and auditing) performed by qualified personnel internal or external to the PO.

Commitment(s):

- To carry out at least one of the environmental actions 7.14. and 7.16. of this Framework.
- To carry out the support activities (analysis, advice and/or auditing) necessary for the implementation of environmental actions 7.14. and/or 7.16. by the members of the producer organisation; and
- Using qualified personnel (external or internal) to carry out these activities. The operational programme must clearly indicate the specific tasks that such qualified personnel is called to perform.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP:

Documentation specifying which tasks are to be performed by external qualified personnel or by qualified members of the PO's staff.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP:

Actual costs incurred for implementing the support activities, as detailed in the description of this action.

Supporting documents: invoice or other documents providing evidence for the actual costs incurred (e.g. pay slips) for actual costs and specific documentation relating to the tasks performed. In the case where the support activities are carried out by an employee of the producer organisation, any document providing evidence of the employee's wage and his/her working hour records for the activity.

Action 7.36. Carbon Dioxide Footprint certification (7.36.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The measurement of the Carbon Dioxide Footprint in the agricultural activity is increasing as a way to identify the possible impacts of this activity on the environment, specially the GHG emissions that have an effect on the climate change.

The certification of the Carbon Dioxide Footprint for the producer organisation allows, on the first place, its members to be aware of the impact of its fruits and vegetables activity on the environment and, on the second place, to direct them to carry out corrective measures such as the reduction on fuel consumption for agricultural machinery or on energy consumption for irrigation systems.

Commitment(s):

- To carry out at least one of the corrective measures established by this certification that the producer organisation will choose among the following of this National Framework: 7. 2., 7.19., 7.20., 7.21., 7.24. and 7.28.
- To carry out a certification of the Carbon Dioxide Footprint by a recognised system.
- To employ external qualified personnel to carry out this certification.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP: documentation specifying which tasks are to be performed by external qualified personnel who is going to carry out them.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: actual cost incurred for the certification.

Supporting documents: invoice of the actual costs incurred for the certification, as well as the relevant justification of the corrective measures taken.

Action 7.37. Water Footprint certification (7.37.1.)

Justification of the action based on its expected environmental impact:

The measurement of the Water Footprint in the agricultural activity is increasing as a way to identify the possible impacts of this activity on the environment, especially in the use of water.

The certification of the Water Footprint for the producer organisation allows, on the first place, its members to be aware of the impact of its fruits and vegetables activity on the environment and, on the second place, to direct them to carry out corrective measures such as the reduction on water consumption or recovery of water.

Commitment(s):

- To carry out at least one of the corrective measures established by this certification that the producer organisation will choose among the following of this National Framework: 7.7, 7. 9., 7.10., 7.11. and 7.12.
- To carry out a certification of the Water Footprint by a recognised system.
- To employ external qualified personnel to carry out this certification.

Specific documentation to be submitted with the OP: documentation specifying which tasks are to be performed by external qualified personnel who is going to carry out them.

Maximum amount of assistance to be granted under the OP: actual cost incurred for the certification.

Supporting documents: invoice of the actual costs incurred for the certification, as well as the relevant justification of the corrective measures taken.

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