

Water protection in the new Rural Development Programmes

Tania Runge, Copa-Cogeca Secretariat



Outline

- 1. Water in the CAP – the new framework**
- 2. Water protection measures in Rural Development**
- 3. The new monitoring and evaluation framework**
- 4. The European Innovation Partnership on agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP Agri)**



1. Water in the CAP – the new framework

	Measures	Implementation	Financing	Application
Cumulative environmental benefit ↑	Rural development	Voluntary for the farmer	Minimum 30% of the RD budget for env. AECM: Compensation for additional costs and income losses	Agricultural surface area (not limited to the eligible surface area for direct payments)
	Greening	Mandatory	30% of direct payments Reduction of support (and sanctions) in the case of non-compliance	Agricultural surface area (eligible for direct payments)
	Cross-compliance - Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions	Mandatory	Sanctions in the case of non-compliance	Agricultural surface area (eligible for direct payments and some CAP payments)
	Cross-Compliance - Statutory Management Requirements	Statutory	Sanctions/fines in the case of non-compliance	Requirements which all farmers must comply with

No double funding

Not uniform across the EU

1. Water under Cross Compliance

SMR 1 : Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

obligations as foreseen in the National Action Programmes (storage capacity, application technique and closed period, non- application on frozen, water saturated soils, slopes etc.)

SMR 10: storage and application of plant protection products

GAEC 1: Establishment of buffer strips along water courses

GAEC 2: Water abstraction

GAEC 3: Ground water protection

(GAEC 4 and 5: Minimum soil cover and erosion protection)

Member States obliged to publish check lists!

The horizontal regulation contains a clause to assess possibility to include WFD under Cross Compliance.

2. Water protection under Rural Development (1)

- Art. 14 on Knowledge transfer and information actions
 - > Training on WFD implementation
- Art. 15 on Advisory services
 - > on implementation of WFD (mandatory Farm Advisory services)
- Art. 17 Investments in physical assets
 - > Installations for waste water treatment on farms, modernisation of manure storage and handling facilities, non-productive investments (created wetland) etc.,
but also drainage (if WFD compatible), irrigation (to comply with art. 46)
- Art. 18 Restoring agriculture production potential damaged by natural disasters and prevention actions
 - > natural water retention measures (remeandering, floodplain restoration, space for rivers, introduction of flood resistant crops)

2. Water protection under Rural Development (2)

- Art. 21-26 Investments in Forests
 - > Afforestation (drinking water zones, riparian areas)
- Art. 28 Agri-Environment-climate measures
 - > Restoration of wetlands and floodplains, extensification of livestock and pastures, soil management practices (targeting of measures: Nitrate vulnerable zones, drinking water zones, water bodies failing good status, flood risk areas)
- Art. 30 Natura 2000 and WFD payments
 - > natural water retention measures (remeandering, floodplain restoration, space for rivers, introduction of flood resistant crops)
- Art. 35 Cooperation
 - > Pilot projects at landscape scale; EIP groups that include water management as a topic

2. Water protection under Rural Development – some examples: Austria

Preventive groundwater protection

with upper limits for N fertilisation depending on crops; restrictive closure dates for sludge / slurry application on cropland; nutrient planning at plot level and documentation of N application; participation in vocational training (min. 12 hours – provided by specific soil-water advisory service); nutrient and pH soil analyses; no use of Terbutylazin, Metazachlor, Bentazon for soya, maize, sugar beet and rape seed

Farmer need to be in target area and is obliged to participate as well in catch crop scheme.

Improved technique for slurry application

A maximum of 30 m³ per hectare is allowed. A min. of 50% of the slurry (including digestates from biogas plants) need to be applied by using improved techniques. The use of soil near application is rewarded with 1 Euro/ m³ slurry while for injection 1,20 Euro / m³ slurry are foreseen. Obligation to use online tool for documentation.

2. Water protection under Rural Development – some examples: Saxony, Germany and Luxembourg

Saxony (Art. 28):

Support for an optimised use of fertilisers

aim: reduction of nutrient leaching in surface and groundwater and improvement of soil quality

Soil cover during the whole year

Aim: to avoid erosion (wind and water), in addition improved soil preparation; improved N balance through catch crop growing; soil sampling for N analysis

Luxembourg (Article 30 - planned):

areas for the protection of drinking water; compensation for applying compulsory extensive farming practices in these areas including: (i) limitation of organic fertilisation, and (ii) ban on using specific pesticides

3. The new monitoring and evaluation framework

- For the first time first and second pillar of the CAP assessed together
 - > direct payments, greening and RD measures judged for their environmental performance
- A common set of indicators defined at EU level
 - > first preliminary assessment for 2016 regarding greening (EFA)
- Close connection to the MAES process (mapping and assessment of ecosystem services), an action under the EU biodiversity strategy
 - > agriculture (and forestry) explicitly addressed (plus soil in preparation); nutrient input as indicator

4. The EIP Agri in the Rural Development Programmes

- Member States to set up national EIP service point (can be connected to Rural Network)
- Possibility to finance the setting up of Operational Groups to boost innovation in the agricultural sector
 - > can be used to test new technology, to develop alternative farming practices (financial support for up to 3 years)
 - > financing for developing concept optional
 - > possibility to link support for OGs to other financing sources under RD (e.g. for investments)

Call for tender -> thematic priorities can be set

-> e.g. in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: alternative uses of peatland, development and application of new approaches to reduce nutrient loads from agriculture production

- EU EIP Agri service point to support /collect information

Useful web links

Water policy

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water>

WFD CIRCA Information Exchange Platform

<http://circa.europa.eu/public/jrc/env/wfd/library>

Guidance for administrations on making WFD agricultural measures clear & transparent at farm level

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/good_practices.htm

available in all EU languages

River Basin Network Group (agricultural water measures)

<http://rbn-water-agri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

European Innovation Partnership on agriculture

www.eip-agri.eu