



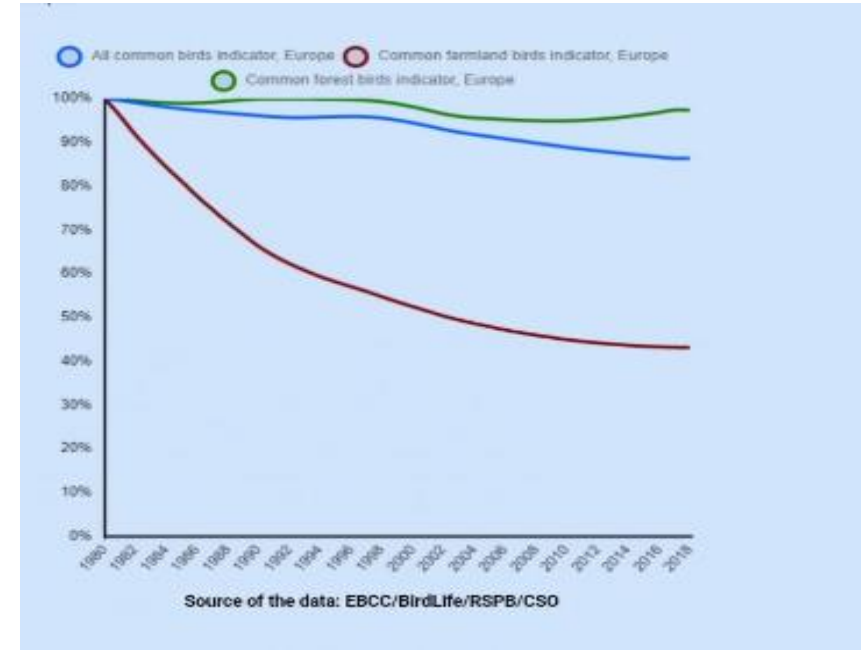
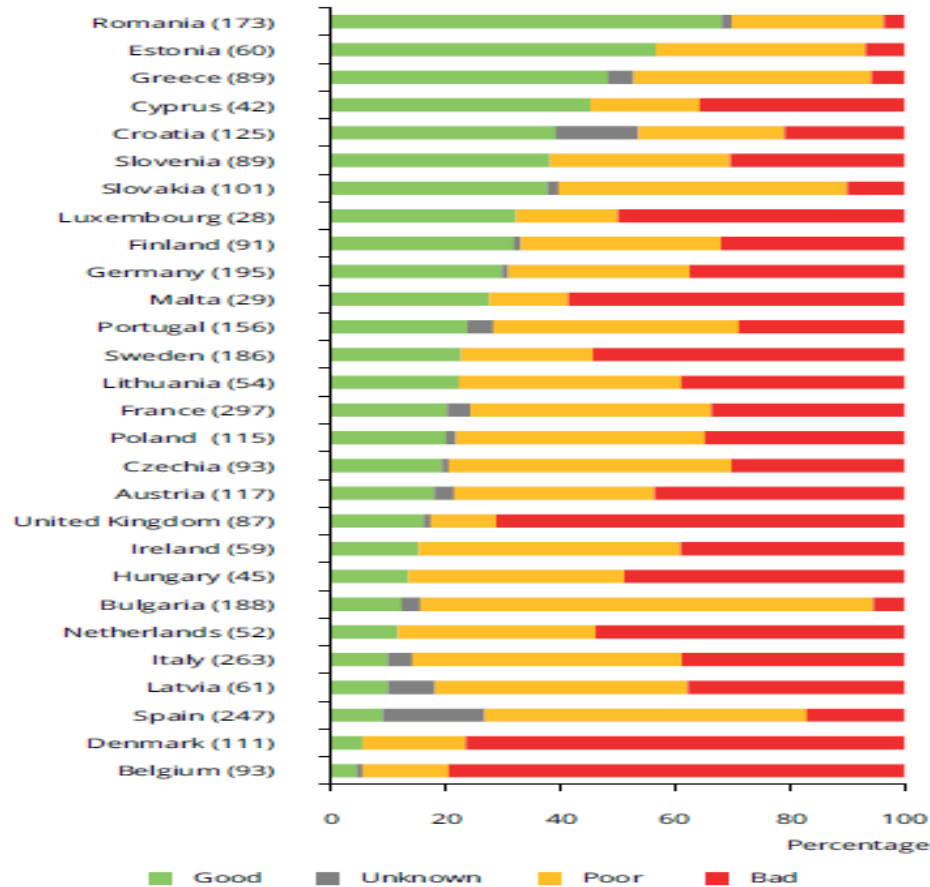
Agriculture policy framework for nature friendly farming

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B2: Environmental Sustainability***


State of play of EU Biodiversity



Common farmland birds

Conservation status of habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive at Member State level (State of Nature report, EEA)

Biodiversity and agriculture

- Biodiversity protection and a resilient and competitive agriculture sector should go **hand in hand**.
- Agriculture relies on **the environmental services** provided by biodiversity (pollination, water retention, soil fertility, etc.)
- Some **farming systems are of high biodiversity value**, included in the Habitat Directive and N2000 (permanent grasslands, agroforestry systems, etc)  **40% of N2000 is farmland.**
- Agriculture negatively impacts biodiversity in **2 ways**:
 - **Unsustainable farming systems** (pollution, excessive water use, etc.)
 - **Abandonment** of high biodiversity value farming systems and practices.

CAP and biodiversity

- **CAP measures** available to support biodiversity (MS CSP):
 - Several GAECs (good agricultural and environmental conditions of land) applied to all CAP beneficiaries (maintenance of permanent grassland and protection of sensitive ones, minimum protection of wetland and peatland, buffer strips along rivers, crop rotation/diversification...)
 - Eco-schemes
 - Agri-environment and climate commitments, incl. support to organic farming
 - N2000 payments
 - Non-productive investments, cooperation, knowledge exchange
- CAP represents around **50% of the total MFF** contribution to biodiversity objectives
- **17% of the CAP** is mainstreamed to biodiversity objectives (way above the 10% objective for the current MFF)

Result-based interventions in CSPs 2023-2027 (I)

➤ Article 70.5, Regulation (EU) 2021/2115

*Member States may promote and support [...] **result-based payment schemes** to encourage farmers or other beneficiaries to deliver a **significant enhancement of the quality of the environment** [...] in a measurable way.*

➤ **Currently programmed RBPs** (incl. hybrid versions, 1st approved versions)

Out of more than 300 interventions (ES, AECC, OF):

RBPs programmed in CSPs of **AT, DE, ES, IE, PT, SI, FR**

- ✓ 11 agri-environment and climate commitments (AECC)
- ✓ 1 eco-scheme (Germany)
- ✓ 1 co-operation intervention (Ireland)

Result-based interventions in CSPs 2023-2027 (II)

➤ Areas of action of RBPs/ topics addressed

- ✓ Biodiversity – e.g. number of plant species out of a list
- ✓ Carbon storage
- ✓ Soil erosion, soil health
- ✓ Wet peat
- ✓ Habitat conservation status
- ✓ Whole-farm approaches (hybrid, incl; foreseen reductions % pesticide use, % carbon stock,)



Result-based interventions in CSPs 2023-2027 (III)

- **Possible reasons for hesitation to program RBPs (non-exhaustive)**
 - Lack of appropriate indicators to measure results?
 - Uncertainties of achieving the results foreseen?
 - Uncertainties as to calculation of premia (costs incurred/income foregone of the most likely practice to achieve the result)?
 - Problems of controls and monitoring?
 - Administrative burden for the managing authorities?
 - Not possible for all env/climate challenges (e.g. air, nitrogen, pesticides, ...)?
 - Not all beneficiaries appreciate RBPs – fear risk of not receiving the payment despite efforts?
 - Applicability at large scale seems challenging?

What else in the CSPs 2023-2027....

Beside RBPs, many more action-based support schemes exist to contribute to the Biodiversity strategy 2030 (area-based schemes, investments, N2000 payments, cooperation, knowledge exchange)

❖ Target 6 - risk and use of chemical pesticides reduced by 50%

- ✓ 27% EU farmland under actions to reduce pesticide use beyond conditionality

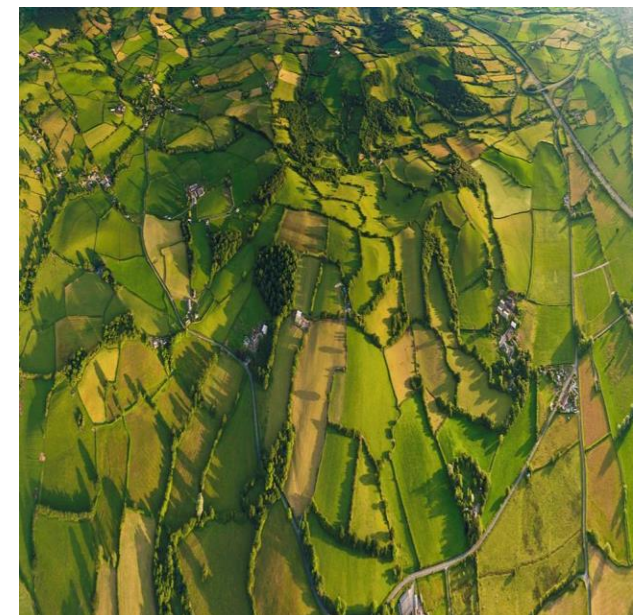
❖ Target 7 - 10% of agric. land under high- diversity landscape features

- ✓ Preserving landscape features: EU value: 1,85 %, values range: 49,3% (LU) - 0,07% (BE-FL)
- ✓ Preserving habitats and species: EU value: 30.6% , Range values: 79% (EE) - 7,9 % (BG and RO)
- ✓ Investments related to biodiversity: EU value: 0.55%
but e.g. IE, BE-FL and DK declared the highest values, 14.35%, 7% and 5,3% respectively.
- ✓ Improving Natura 2000 management: EU value: 25,7 %, **In addition to N 2000 payments for mandatory requirements (25 interventions)**

❖ Target 8 - 25% of land under organic farming

- ✓ UAA supported for organic farming: EU value: 10 %, CAP support for organic production in 2027 will almost double

8 ✓ **This RI is currently under pressure...**



EU Nature Restoration Law & Agriculture

- NRL in line with CAP strategic objective to “*contribute to halting & reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services & preserve habitats & landscapes*”
- Restoring wetlands, drained peatlands, grasslands & the species they host will not only help increasing biodiversity & protecting natural resources, but **also reduces risks to food security**
- Main **concerns** of the agricultural sector:
 - New set of rules and obligations (on the top of the CAP obligations)
 - Potential impacts on the CAP:
 - ❖ Raising the baseline for CAP support
 - ❖ Reducing CAP support for other objectives
 - Costs involved and admin burden
 - Impact on individual farmers: rewetting of peatlands (loss of farmland)

Conclusions

- ❖ MS programmed RBPs still to a limited extent, but a bit more than in the RD period 2014-2020
- ❖ There are a few best practice examples of RBPs to be further explored and disseminated
- ❖ The preservation and enhancement of biodiversity is important to keep agricultural systems more resilient.
- ❖ It is important to continue to support the positive interactions between agriculture and biodiversity and to pursue the transition towards a more sustainable agriculture
- ❖ Budget needs – beside MFF decisions, this needs also willingness of MS to attribute sufficient CAP funds to these objectives

Thank you



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