



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

EU CAP Network – Thematic Group on Eco-Schemes – The case of Germany

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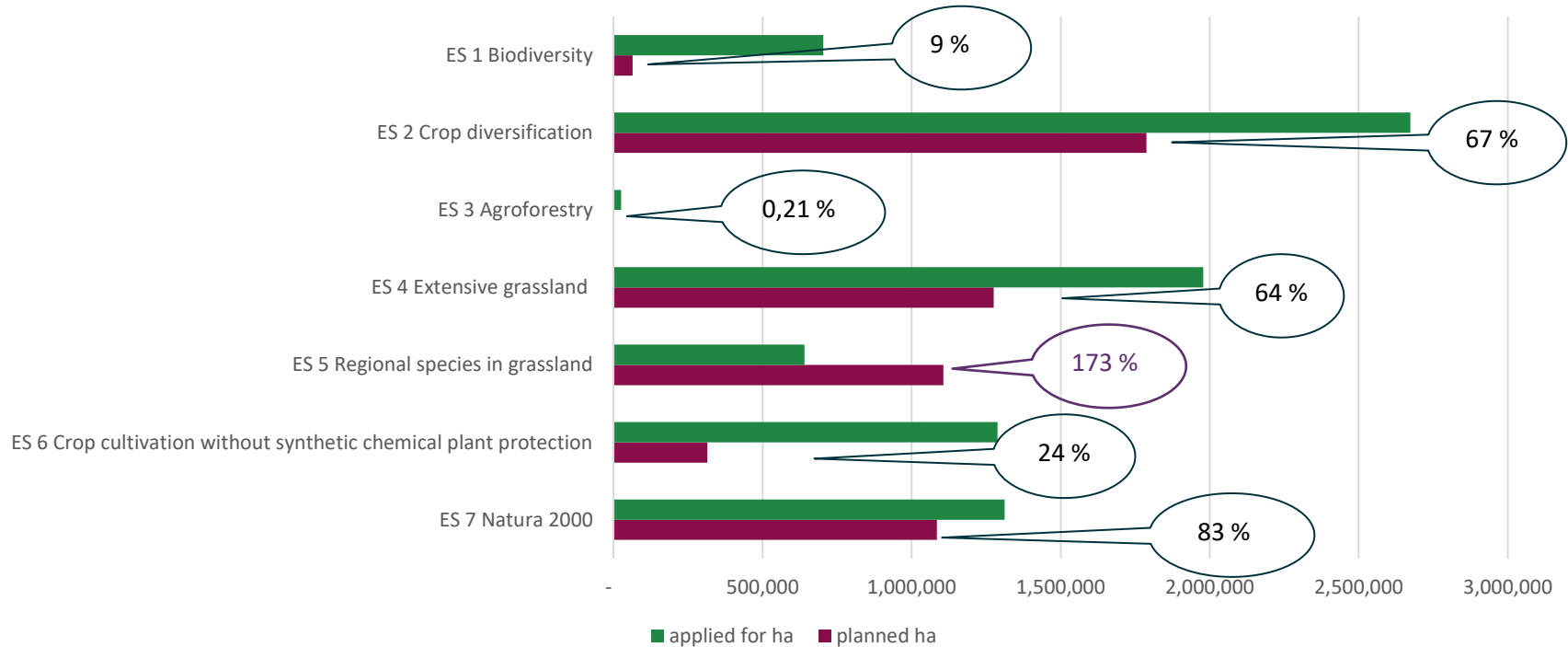
Eco-Schemes in Germany

- **ES 1:** Provision of land to improve biodiversity and conservation of habitats
- ES 1 is the eco-scheme with by far the highest planned budget among the German ES and consists of 4 sub-measures:
 - **ES 1a:** nonproductive areas on arable land (1%-6% of arable land)
 - **ES 1b:** flower strips on ES1a area
 - **ES 1c:** flower strips in permanent crops
 - **ES1d:** old grass strips on permanent grassland.

Eco-Schemes in Germany

- **ES 2:** Cultivation of diverse crops with at least five main crops in arable farming, including leguminous crops, with a minimum percentage of 10 %
- **ES3:** Maintaining agroforestry practices on arable land and permanent grassland
- **ES 4:** Extensification of the total permanent grassland of the holding
- **ES 5:** Result-oriented extensive management of permanent grassland with evidence of at least four regional species
- **ES 6:** Cultivation of arable or permanent crop areas of the holding without the use of synthetic chemical plant protection products
- **ES 7:** Application of agricultural practices determined by the protection objectives on agricultural land in Natura 2000 areas

Uptake (Application status May 2023)



Reasons for low uptake/challenges

- **In general:** lower uptake in learning phase is known from AECM.
- **For arable land:** market changes due to the war against Ukraine made premia less attractive.
- **ES 1a – nonproductive areas on arable land:** exemptions from GAEC 8 in 2023: farmers who wanted to do ES 1a had to provide 4 % of GAEC 8 nonproductive areas for no extra money.
- **ES 3 agroforestry:** the premium was planned as complementary to an investive AECM. This AECM, however, has not been offered by the „Laender“ in 2023.
- **ES 7 Natura 2000:** some conservation areas have already the same restrictions (no double funding)

Planned short-term amendments for farmers' application in 2024

- **Increased incentives:**
 - **Increased premia** for ES 1b,c (flower strips), ES 2 (diverse crops), ES 3 (agroforestry) and ES 6a (plant protection in arable land)
 - ES1a (nonproductive areas): **indirectly increased premia** for some cases (highest premium is paid in most cases for at least one hectare, even if this is less than 1 % or more than 6 %);
- **Simplification of:**
 - the shape and size requirements for ES 1b (flower strips).
 - the eligibility requirements for ES 4 (extensification of permanent grassland).

Planned future amendments for farmers' application in 2025

- Currently discussions with stakeholders (Laender administration, farmers' associations, environmental and other NGOs) on:
 - More **simplification** for farmers and/or administration
 - **Increased ambition** where compatible with uptake
 - **Additional eco-scheme** for permanent grassland; still very open, but current options in focus are:
 - Low-emission application of liquid manure on permanent grassland (and possibly arable land)
 - Management of permanent grassland with a maximum of 2 mowings per year

Thank you for your attention!

Contact

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