EU CAP NETWORK

Thematic Group on the Design and Implementation of Eco-schemes in the new CAP Strategic Plans

1st TG meeting
25/10/2023

Group 1

Design and implementation of eco-schemes and interaction with Green Architecture

What is working well?

Targeting info towards consultants so that it reaches the farmer via that route

the consultants that farmers made use of during application process are important - act as a filter between the MA and farmer.

High uptake for certain schemes in some countries.

both bottom-up and top-down approaches used for scheme design

Good to have different types of eco-schemes to address a range of practices for different farm types.

workshops with different kind of stakeholders including consultants at a very early stage.

Early engagement with farming (and other) stakeholders to inform scheme design

Good to have schemes dedicated to organic - or where organic is considered 'green by definition' - easy to apply by just being organic.

Payment types: Positive examples of MSs using the top up incentive for payment calculations - possible for all non-productive features - could be used more.

Good example of degressive payments in some countries (e.g. ES) to favour smaller farms

What are the challenges?

lack of attractiveness in some eco-schemes. Some of them too complex or restrictive.

rigidity and lack of flexibility

constant changes to implementing rules, even shortly before the application

delays and problems during the implementation

Payments are not sufficiently attractive - not enough use of 'top-up' incentive option

in DK implementation ambititous and this affected the uptake.

farmers not always well informed of the new system.

lack of knowledge: related to the **late adoption of the CSP** - no time to get familiar with eco-schemes

lack of knowledge and understanding of the requirements

bureaucracy burden for small farms in participating compared to bigger farms - DE

Interaction with GAEC 8 was an issue in some countries (e.g. DK, DE, LU)

LT lowest financial envelope for eco-schemes but number of eco-schemes the highest (17) - need of some rational balance.

In some countries with oversubscription the payment/ha has been reduced which is not seen as fair

LT - eco-schemes were developed in Cabinet - felt they only considered environmental objectives, not the key issue for farmers related to production.

LT - issue with farmers having to leave 5% of land for non-productive purpose. meant that it was not possible for all farmers to participate.

What are some solutions to help overcome the identified issues?

changes need to be introduced in due time so that farmers have time to plan.

Need to improve advice / knowledge exchange so farmers have a good understanding of the opportunities from eco-schemes

Consider ways to make schemes more attractive to small farmers through adjustments in design of eco-schemes to allow all farmers to participate.

design of eco-schemes have to fit the agricultural environment so famers can participate to the measure

Schemes should not only benefit the environment and agriculture, but also provide income for farmers as this is not always included in price of the product. They need to contribute to the income of farmers to make them more attractiveness

Eco-schemes need to be practical and simple, with low levels of admin burden.

Need to demonstrate that schemes are delivering via results from on-farm monitoring

need to be defined with structural adjustments from the beginning