

Thematic Group on Enhancing Biodiversity on Farmland for Improved Resilience

AGENDA

1st TG meeting

23 September 2024, 13:00 – 17:00

Online



Introduction

Food production and farming practices can have both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity. The interactions between farming and biodiversity therefore play a critical role for the resilience of food production and sustainable resource management. This can be the case through supporting the pollination of crops and the control of pests and diseases, contributing to productive soils, nutrient and carbon cycles, water quality as well as improving the resilience of farming systems to climate change through helping mitigate the effects of droughts and floods. However, biodiversity continues to decline, particularly on farmland.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the main source of funding to support the management and restoration of biodiversity in rural areas and the CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) are an important vehicle for achieving the requirements of the recently agreed Nature Restoration Law in Member States (legally binding requirement to restore at least 20% of the EU's land by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050). However, despite the fact that incentives have been in place for farmers to improve biodiversity on farmland for many decades, this has not been sufficient to achieve the scale of improvements required.

In this first meeting we will look at Member States' experiences in designing and implementing interventions at the necessary scale for improving biodiversity outcomes on farmland (improving species' populations, habitat restoration, habitat connectivity). We will explore what factors have contributed to successful outcomes as well as challenges that need to be overcome.

Aims of the first TG meeting:

- Share good practice examples of initiatives for delivering biodiversity outcomes on farmland at the necessary scale (e.g. involving multiple farms; using collective approaches).
- Explore the success factors as well as the issues and challenges facing the design and implementation of interventions for improving biodiversity outcomes on farmland.
- Identify the main areas of interest for further in-depth discussion.



Timing	Agenda item
12.30 – 13.00	Registration – virtual meeting room opens
13.00 – 13.30	<p>Welcome & agenda of the day, Lisa Haller (EU CAP Network)</p> <p>Setting the frame “Enhancing biodiversity on farmland for improved resilience”, Kaley Hart (EU CAP Network)</p> <p>Getting to know each other, Peter Tóth (EU CAP Network)</p>
13.30 – 14.30	<p>Good practice examples of initiatives for delivering biodiversity outcomes on farmland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiences from Ireland Jerome Walsh (Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) - Experiences from the Netherlands, Aard Mulders (Dutch Ministry of Agriculture) - Experiences from Croatia (tbc) - Experiences from the United Kingdom, Kaley Hart (EU CAP Network) <p>Q&A and Group Discussion</p> <p><i>Moderated by EU CAP Network</i></p>
14.30 – 14.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
14.45 – 15.45	<p>Feedback from Eol responses and introduction to Parallel Group Sessions, Lisa Haller (EU CAP Network)</p> <p>Parallel group discussions: Positive experiences, success factors and challenges facing the design and implementation of interventions for improving biodiversity outcomes on farmland at scale (i.e. beyond the individual farm).</p> <p><i>Breakout groups – Open discussion facilitated by EU CAP Network</i></p>



15.45 – 16.45	Harvesting from parallel discussions: Delivering biodiversity outcomes – Reflections on earlier group discussion, including perspectives on the main themes emerging and potential areas requiring further discussion during the TG and prioritisation by TG members. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Iiri Raa (Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge)- Anton Gazenbeek (Eurosite-ELCN)- Georgios Vlahos (Agricultural University of Athens) <p><i>Open discussion involving all TG members, moderated by EU CAP Network</i></p>
16.45 - 17.00	Next steps and end of meeting <i>Moderated by EU CAP Network</i>

