European Commission

Agriculture and rural development

THE 28 CAP STRATEGIC PLANS UNDERWAY

Summary of implementation in 2023-2024 – facts and figures

June 2025 – update*

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(*) This is an updated version of the previous version published on May. The main changes are: updated data on the area coverage of eco-schemes and AECC (Figure 5), updated data on the number of beneficiaries of the small farmers scheme (page 7), new figures have been added related to the redistributive payment (Figure 2), sectoral distribution of the couple income support (Figure 3) and sectoral support (Figure 4) and share of organic farming area supported (Figure 7). A new subsection on “support for specific sectors” has also been included.

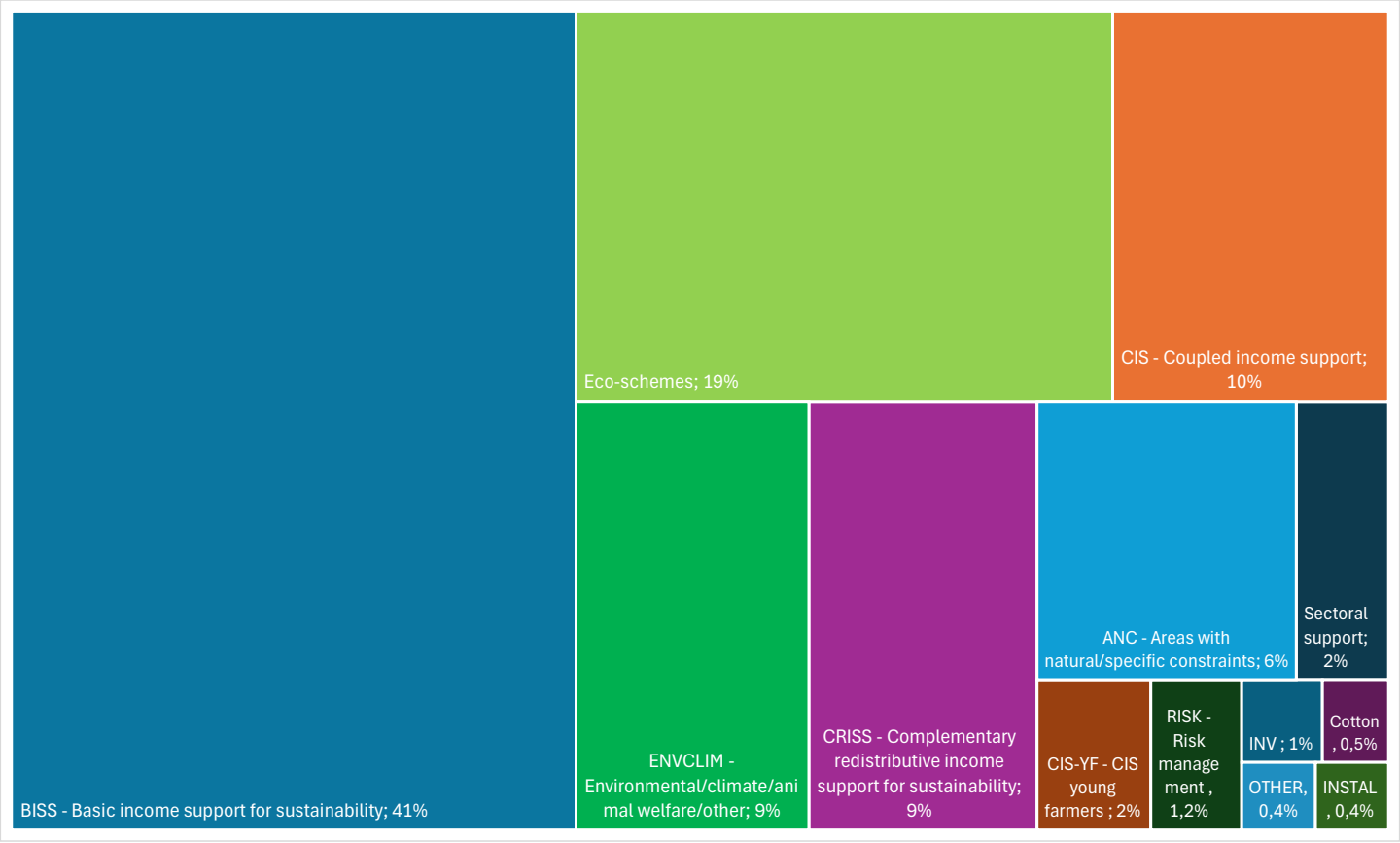
1. THE 28 CAP STRATEGIC PLANS

The European Union's **Common Agricultural Policy** (CAP) is the main policy for agriculture and the rural areas. The CAP enables a secure and affordable food supply, provides support to income and resilience of the farming sector, fosters the transition to environmental and climate sustainability as well as the development and promotion of dynamic rural areas. It also provides support for forestry in complement of national funding.

From 1 January 2023, the support for farmers, forests and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU Member States is based on a new legal framework for the programming period 2023-2027. In this period, the CAP is implemented through **national CAP Strategic Plans**. This new delivery model gives wider responsibilities to the Member States, whilst putting the main emphasis on the European and national strategic objectives in a **performance framework** with quantifiable national targets. The performance model is built around **ten specific objectives** encompassing economic, social and environmental dimensions as well as knowledge, innovation and digitalisation, which is the framework for the **intervention strategy** of each CAP Strategic Plan, and a **set of indicators** to monitor, assess performance and evaluate the outcomes.

This paper outlines the **progress achieved by EU Member States in implementing their CAP Strategic Plans** and shows concrete examples of achievements and successful interventions. It draws on the 28 **annual performance reports** covering financial year 2024 (from 16 October 2023 till 15 October 2024), which is the second year of the programming period. The annual performance reports show progress towards the annual milestones for the **result indicators** set by Member States in their Plans. This year the Commission will carry out the first biennial performance review based on a subset of result indicators. By end of the year, the Commission will prepare a report to the European Parliament and the Council to assess the consistency and combined contribution of the Member States' CAP Strategic Plans to achieving environmental and climate-related commitments of the Union.

Figure 1 - Distribution of the total public expenditure in 2024 under the CAP Strategic plans (EAGF and EAFRD) by interventions (% of the total at EU level) (the category "Other" includes Cooperation, Area-specific disadvantages resulting from mandatory requirements and Knowledge/exchange of information)[1].



The annual performance reports show that **most interventions are implemented according to the set yearly milestones** in the CAP Strategic Plans. In some cases, the aggregated EU results show that the Plans perform better than expected. However, there are also parts of the Plans that perform less well, for instance the interventions related to risk management and those linked to social sustainability. Most of this underperformance is linked to the **early stage in the programme cycle**. In some cases, Member States are still funding similar measures under the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) from the previous financial period 20214-2022 with similar benefits than planned interventions under the current Plans. This results in lower expenditure for similar actions under the CAP Strategic Plans than initially planned, though it can be expected that this is overcome in the following years. In other cases, the interventions have a long-time gap from call for proposals to payments, for instance actions linked to knowledge sharing, advisory services and investments. Consequently, the expenditure is limited at the start of the programming period. It is expected that implementation of the delayed interventions will pick up relatively quickly and that Member States are on good track to achieve the targets set for the programming period. In some cases, adjustments of the targets might be needed to adapt the Plans to changing conditions.

[1] For EAFRD interventions data refers to amounts declared by Member States that could deviate from the amounts eventually paid due to, among other, possible corrections, clearance and the share for technical assistance.

The following sections show the progress made on improving economic, environmental and climate, and social sustainability as well as the cross-cutting objective related to knowledge, innovation and digitalisation. Most of data and examples stem from the Member States information provided in the annual performance reports (APRs) 2024[2].

2. ADVANCING ON ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Fostering resilience and viable farm income

On average, farmers' gross income in the EU is about 60% of wages in other sectors (2023*).* To help farmers receiving a decent reward for their labour, the CAP provides both direct income support and helps farms to improve their economic situation and secure their livelihoods. All CAP Strategic Plans support **viable farm income and resilience** of the agricultural sector as a key objective. The main instrument for income support are **direct payments** that are mostly decoupled from production. Payments are made in the form of a premium per hectare of eligible agricultural area. In 2023[3], **5.6 million farms received EUR 36.9 billion of income support** in the form of direct payments (all types included).

Farmers receiving income support, as well as other animal and area-related CAP payments, must comply with a set of basic standards in the areas of environment, climate, plant health and animal welfare (**conditionality**). Conditionality encompasses statutory management requirements (SMR) steaming from regulations outside the

[2] The most updated data versions of the APRs have been used, though at the publication of this report several Member States are yet revising some data.

[3] While APRs cover financial year 2024 (from 16 October 2023 till 15 October 2024), the area-based and the animal-based support refers to claim year 2023 and a high share of payments (mainly direct payments) took place before the end of 2023. The **financial year** is the period during which the European Commission's budgetary resources are managed and disbursed. The **claim year** refers to the period during which agricultural activities are conducted and for which farmers can submit claims for area and animal-based payments (both types of payments might follow similar timelines for claims and applications though the precise schedules and processes vary depending on national implementations of CAP rules by Member states). The difference between both periods is crucial because the claim year is about eligibility and activity, while the financial year concerns budget management and payment execution. In this report we consistently refer to year 2024 though for an important part of interventions the achievements (and payments) relate to 2023.

CAP and good agriculture and environmental conditions (GAEC). If a farmer does not comply with these legal requirements, CAP payments are reduced.

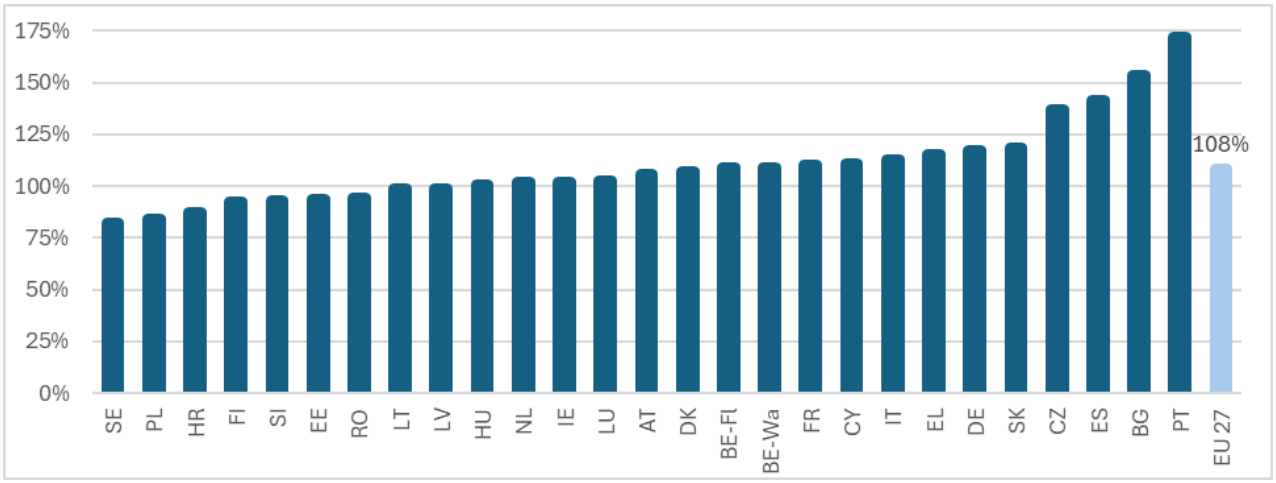
Farming conditions in the EU are not the same everywhere. It makes quite a difference farming in mountain areas or in a fertile plain. To maintain farming across all Union' territory and preserve the associated farmed landscapes, the CAP supports farmers that operate in difficult environments. Farmers located in **areas affected by natural constraints** and other specific constraints including mountain areas can receive a higher support per hectare. In financial year 2024, more than 34 million ha (almost 20% of the total EU's agricultural land) received this additional support. In France, farmers in these areas receive 30% higher direct payments per hectare (ha) compared to the average hectare payment.

A closer look to redistribution of income support

Czechia *is characterised by a dual farm structure; many small and medium-sized farms exist alongside a small number of big farms. This results in an uneven distribution of direct payments. To address this, the Czech CAP Plan has introduced a high redistributive payment per hectare that is granted to the first 150 hectare of a farm. 23% of the available Czech direct payment budget is used to redistribute funds in this way. As a result, in claim year 2023 the direct payments per hectare for farms below the average farm size are 37% higher than for farms above the average size. In* ***Portugal****, the income support per hectare to smaller farms is 72% higher than the Portuguese national average.*

The income of small farms is often lower than bigger farms. The CAP has introduced specific ways to provide additional support for small and medium-sized holdings and therefore ensuring a fairer distribution of direct payments. There is an additional **redistributive payment** and the support to the biggest farms can be reduced or capped. The complementary redistributive payment aims at providing an additional support for the first hectares and thereby benefits especially smaller and medium-sized farms. For the 2023-2027 period, many EU countries have implemented the redistributive payment, though so far, the outcomes are lower than planned. On average, EU farms eligible for the redistributive payment received 8% higher income support per hectare (figure 2). About 44% of total EU agricultural area benefits from redistributive income support.

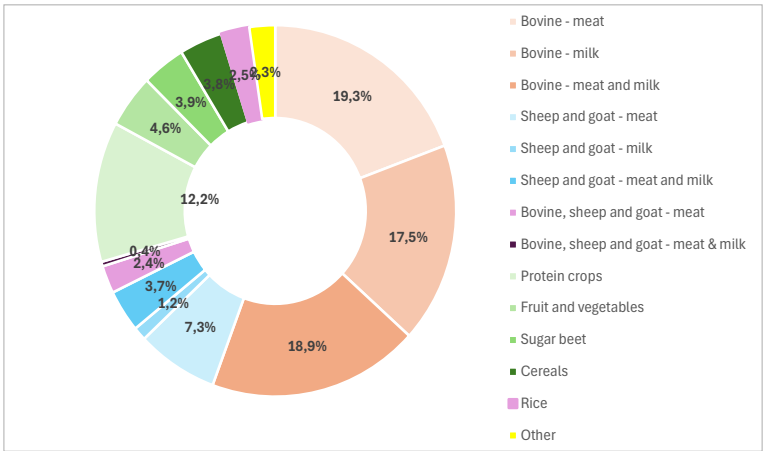
Figure 2 – Percentage of additional direct payment per hectare for eligible farms below average physical farm size (compared to average payment per hectare)



In addition, the alternative **Small Farm Scheme** has been implemented in six Member States (Portugal, Malta, Czechia, Bulgaria, Latvia and Poland) for promoting a balanced distribution of support and reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries receiving small amounts of direct payments. In claim year 2023, 294 000 farmers benefited from this simplified support. In Poland, 192 000 farmers applied to this scheme.

Coupled income support aims at improving the situation of sectors that experience difficulties and are important for social, economic or environmental reasons. It is granted under narrow conditions set out by the Member States for each sector and within budgetary limits to minimise the potential risk for market and trade distortion. Such support amounts EUR 4.4 billion, targets 18 sectors and has reached 16% of EU farms. Coupled support is primarily allocated to grazing livestock (cattle, sheep, goat) that that undergo substantial difficulties. Together, these sectors received about EUR 3.1 billion accounting for nearly 70% of the overall expenditure (Figure 3). Other large beneficiaries are the protein crops (12,2%) with the goal to reduce the EU's dependency on imports of plant protein for feed, and fruit and vegetables (4,6%) sectors.

Figure 3 – Sector share of coupled income support (% of expenditure)



Farmer' income depends largely on weather and agricultural production can be severely impacted by bad weather conditions and extreme events (e.g., droughts, extreme rainfall). To help farms manage these risks, support can be given to help insure a farm. Overall, in 2024 nearly 161 000 holdings (1.6% of total) received support to uptake **risk management tools**, which is an average result substantially below the set milestone. It can be explained, on one hand, by the fact that many Member States still used funding from the previous RDPs to finance insurance schemes. On the other hand, the risk management interventions proved more complex than expected in several Member States. It is expected that the implementation will pick up in 2025.

Strengthening competitiveness and improving position in value chain

CAP Strategic plans offer a wide range of measures to strengthen competitiveness and improve farmers' positions in value chain, ranging from **investments** in farms and processing and marketing of agricultural products, increased **cooperation**, **sectoral interventions**, **knowledge** and skills improvements, and **innovation** (see cross-cutting objective).

Modernisation **investments** are expected to increase productivity and the efficiency of resource use and are planned to reach almost 400 000 EU farms by 2027. Those investments include, among other, innovative technologies, upgrading of farm buildings, modern equipment and machinery to increase farm efficiency, reduce labour costs and improve product quality. In 2024, when Member States were starting up project calls, selection and planning, about 50 000 holdings (0.5% of the total) received support for farm modernisation.



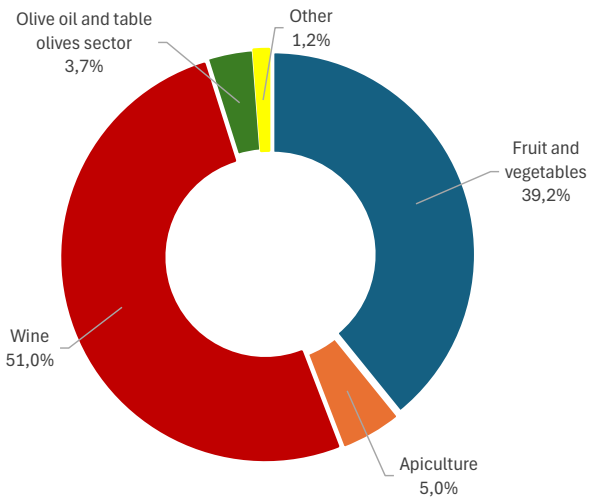
An important objective of CAP is to **strengthen agricultural sectors by enabling greater cooperation and concentration** between farmers and producers to rise productivity and viability. The approved Plans foresee to grant support to 760 000 EU farms (or 8% of the total) to participate in **producer groups and organisations**, **short supply circuits** and **quality schemes**. Bundling forces in producer groups helps farmers to stand taller in negotiations in the value chain. In 2024, nearly 135 000 holdings (1.4% of all) benefit from actions improving the supply organisation. In Estonia, the CAP Plan opened new possibilities to fund the setting up of producer organisations and six producer organisations have been recognised as of October 2024.

Support for specific sectors

The main policy tools targeting specific sectors are the coupled income support (see above) and the **sectoral interventions**.

Several Member States provide specific support for several sectors in addition to the support to fruits and vegetables that is mandatory for Member States with recognised produced organisations along with interventions in the apiculture and wine sectors. The support to fruits and vegetables and the "other" sectors is provided through multi-annual **operational programmes**, which include various interventions selected by producer organisations based on their needs. In 2024, more than EUR 1 billion has been allocated to sectoral support, mainly wine (51% of the total), fruits and vegetables (39%), apiculture (5%), olive oil and table olives (4%) and other sectors, such as milk and milk products and potatoes (1%). According to the CAP Plans regulation, support for fruits and vegetables includes strengthened actions for environment and climate action. Crop specific payment for **cotton** of about EUR 224 million was paid, predominantly to Greek and Spanish farmers.

Figure 4 – Share of sector over total sectoral support

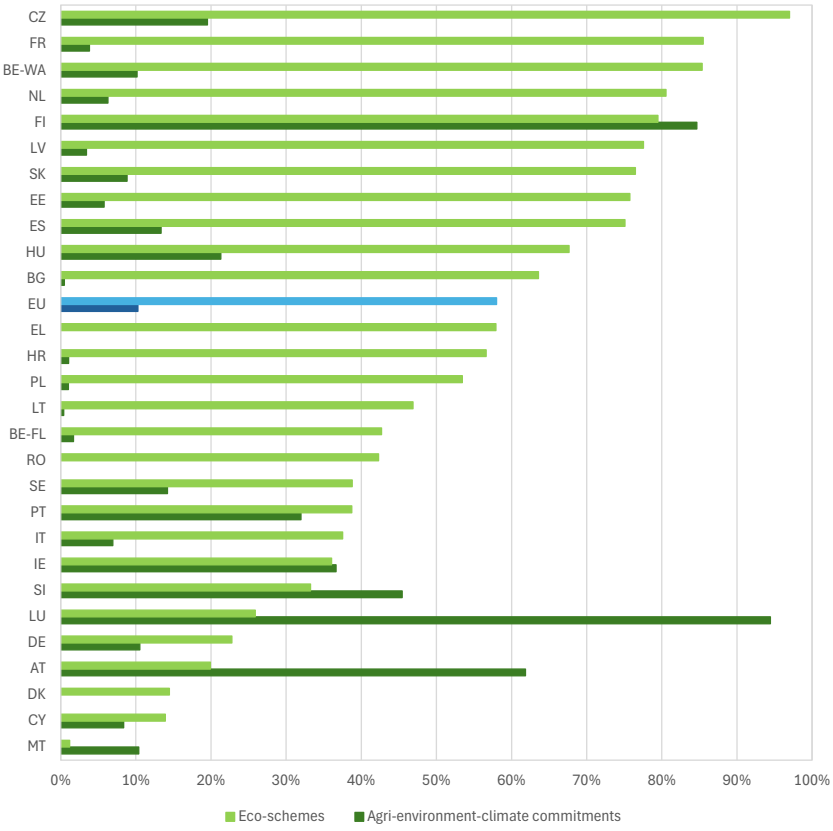


3. ADVANCING ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE OBJECTIVES

Contributing to European **climate action** (mitigation and adaptation to climatic changes), protecting **natural resources** and improving **biodiversity** in agricultural areas are key objectives of all CAP Strategic Plans. The combination of compulsory requirements (conditionality) and support for voluntary actions (e.g., area-related schemes, green and non-productive investments, innovation, knowledge exchange and cooperation) (green architecture) aims at enhancing the uptake of farming practices and models that reduce the negative pressures of agricultural production and benefit the climate, natural resources and biodiversity.

Overall, in financial year 2024 the CAP Strategic Plans dedicated **23% (close to EUR 8,6 billion) of the total direct payments to eco-schemes** and nearly **50% (EUR 2,5 billion) of the total rural development spending to environmental, climate and other commitments**[4].

Figure 5 - Share of agricultural area covered by eco-schemes and agri-environmental-climate interventions in Member States (%)



The area-based interventions delivering environmental and climate benefits accounted for nearly 28% of the total public funding under the Plans on EU average. The budget for enhancing more environmentally and climate-friendly farming adds to the 90% of EU farmland that complied with conditionality requirements, which also plays an important role in mainstreaming sustainable farming practices. In 2024, a simplification regulation was adopted to ease the administrative burden on farmers and help them tackle the challenges that had arisen since the implementation of the new CAP. Further flexibility was provided for several GAEC standards aiming to address the difficulties of compliance in a balanced and targeted way, according to the specificities and objectives of each requirement[5].

[4] Includes Environmental, climate-related and other management commitments (Article 70) and Area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements (Article 72).

[5] The new GAEC rules apply for claiming year 2024 onwards while the reporting for financial year 2024 relates to conditionality rules in force in 2023.

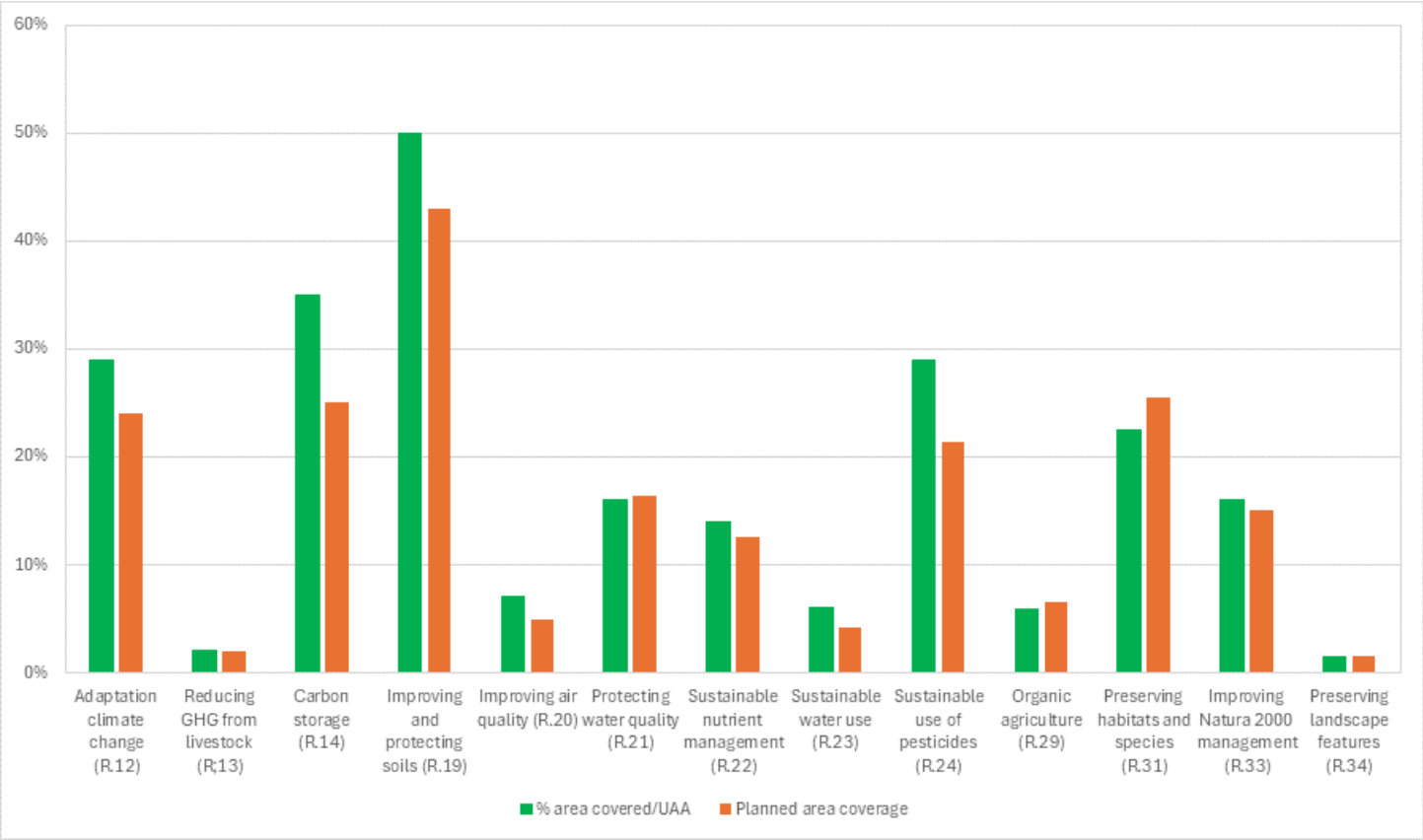
In terms of area coverage (Figure 5), **eco-schemes have been implemented on 58% of EU agricultural area** (93.8 million ha). **Agri-environment-climate commitments have been carried out on 10,3% of EU agricultural area** (16.1 million ha), though this share is much higher in several Member States such as Luxembourg (nearly 95%), Finland (85%), Austria (62%) and Ireland (37%). Despite being a new CAP tool in this programming period, **eco-scheme uptake has kept up with planned milestones** with differences between Member States and types of eco-schemes. Factors such as the insufficient farmer awareness about the purpose and commitments, and the market situation (costs increases and prices variations) making premia less attractive, have led to a lower uptake than foreseen in few Member States. In contrast, in other Member States, more than 75% of the farmers requesting the basic income support have also engaged in eco-schemes, leading to a wide reach above 75% of agricultural areas (Czechia, France, Belgium-Wallonia, The Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia, and Spain).

A closer look to area-based support for environment and climate

*In **Hungary**, the agricultural area enrolled in the whole-farm eco-scheme "Basic agro-ecological program" reached 3.6 million ha (nearly 68% of the overall agricultural area), which was significantly higher than planned. The eagerness of farmers to address environmental and climate challenges, the diversity of practices adapted to all land uses and the flexible design, have contributed to the significant eco-scheme subscription, which has continued in claim year 2024. In addition, Hungarian farmers have also committed to implement multiannual commitments under the rural development intervention "Agri-environmental payments", which have covered 1.1 million ha (21% of farmland). The share of farmland with beneficial environmental practices supported with eco-schemes (80%) or AECC (85%) is high in **Finland**. **Austria**, **Luxembourg**, **Ireland** and **Portugal** have also significant shares of area coverage of both interventions.*

Member States data show a diverse, but **overall good progress** in meeting the annual milestones in the Plans for most of environmental and climate-related result indicators (figure 6).

Figure 6 - Share of EU's agricultural area covered by actions to improve biodiversity, climate and natural resources and planned milestones (%) (for R.33 - share of Natura 2000 areas under relevant commitments, for R.13 - share of livestock units)



Climate action

Significant progress has been achieved regarding actions to enhance **carbon sequestration and storage in soils and biomass** that have been carried out on 35% of EU's agricultural area. Main measures promoted are the no-tillage of arable areas and management of permanent grasslands (e.g., ban of ploughing, reduced mowing). The restoration of peatlands and wetlands (re-establishing or rebuilding a former wetland or repairing the functions of a degraded wetland), the setting-up of agroforestry systems, and afforestation of new areas have also been promoted with investment incentives. While various Member States have made some progress regarding agroforestry, investments into restoring wooded areas and afforestation are hardly implemented at this stage of the programming period. The main reason for this is that most Member States are still finalising the implementation of equivalent actions within the former RDPs.

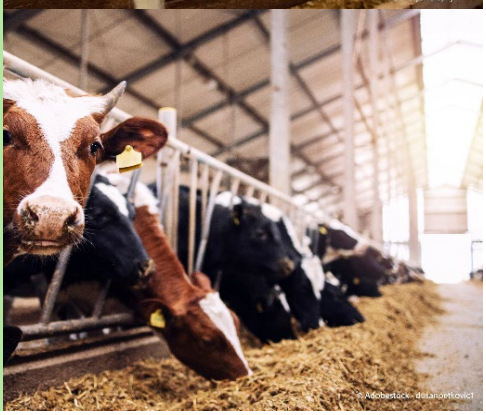
A closer look at carbon storage and reducing GHG emissions from soils

The agri-environment-climate related commitment (AECC) "Management commitments for climate change mitigation "in ***Germany*** *aims at improving carbon storage in farmland through several practices, such as conversion of arable land into temporary or permanent grassland, grassland extensification, peatland management as well as collective implementation of those practices (limited to only a few Länder). Overall, 110 000 ha enrolled in this intervention, more than planned for 2024. This is in addition to around 1 million ha under a nationally programmed eco-scheme for extensification of permanent grassland on the whole holding with maximum 1.4 livestock unit/hectare, although the intervention had not fully reached the planned output for 2024. Through the eco-scheme on "Carbon farming and nutrient management",* ***Poland*** *promotes practices to raise the organic matter' content in soil, to improve its structure and fertility, such as grasslands with limited stocking density, winter catch crops, preparation and compliance with a fertilisation plan, crop diversification, mixing straw, no-tillage. Overall, 10.5 million ha are farmed with one or more of these practices.* ***Lithuania*** *has carried out a comprehensive assessment of GHG emissions that has been translated into a set of practices under an integrated eco-scheme for the management of grasslands and wetlands. Considering the important role of arable farming in peatland areas, a targeted eco-scheme has been set out to convert arable land into grassland that was carried out in 1 800 ha, to reduce emissions.* ***Denmark*** *aims to reduce its GHG emissions substantially over the coming years, partly through the CAP Strategic Plan. Moreover, nearly 183 000 ha of grassland have been supported via eco-schemes, in addition to agri-environment-climate interventions supporting 5-year commitments for maintenance of grassland and nature areas, both to ensure carbon sequestration and storage in grasslands.*

Several Plans include targeted actions towards **reducing livestock-related greenhouse emissions** (GHG), mainly methane from ruminants, and GHG and ammonia from manure management, such as ensuring outdoor grazing and adapted feed management. Though these measures only concern 2% of the overall EU livestock units (LU), the coverage is more prominent in some Member States, and some have developed innovative actions.

A closer look at livestock management to reduce GHG emissions

*In **Portugal**, the eco-scheme "Improve animal feed efficiency" promoting feed efficiency and animal health on beef and/or milk farms to reduce methane emissions, has raised farmers' interest in claim year 2023, and has supported nearly 260 thousand livestock units (12% of all), more than planned. **Belgium-Flanders** has also designed eco-schemes to reduce GHG emissions by changes in feeding strategies covering 7% of all livestock units. **Slovenia** has an intervention on improved feed quality and feeding plans (reduced nitrogen in pigs for fattening, improvements in the quality of feed and feed rations for cattle as well as ovine and caprine) and an eco-scheme promoting feed additives to reduce methane' enteric fermentation covering nearly 4% of all livestock units. **Austria** (29% of all), **Lithuania** (35% of all), **Slovakia** (11% of all) have given support to livestock farmers for outdoor grazing to expand climate-friendly animal husbandry while improving animal welfare and biodiversity.*



The CAP Strategic Plans also address the need to improve farming's **resilience against climatic changes** and extreme weather events. A wide range of environmental actions helps adapting to climatic changes such as soil carbon sequestration, soil protection, improved water use and diversified landscapes. According to the choice of relevant area-based actions in the different Member States, specific climate adaptation actions concern nearly 30% of EU's agricultural area. Investments to improve water efficiency are also key to cope with expected variability in rainfall and decrease of water availability mainly in Southern European areas.

The CAP Strategic Plan contribution to increase **renewable energy production** from agricultural and forest biomass and other renewable resources comes mainly from the agri-photovoltaic installations and investments in biogas (biomethane) production, as a complement to national and other EU-funded projects. A relatively small contribution to renewable energy (151 megawatts) is reported by Member States, but an increased number of CAP supported projects are expected to be carried out in the coming years.

Natural resources

Member States data show significant progress towards **protecting and improving soils**, with 50% of EU's agricultural area covered by relevant practices such as green cover in permanent crops to prevent soil erosion, catch crops providing longer soil cover of arable areas, increasing soil organic matter by mulching or pruning residues, enhanced crop rotation and diversification, often including the cultivation of nitrogen fixing crops that also contribute to carbon sequestration and nutrient management, and no-tillage methods (conservation agriculture). Soil conservation is a prominent objective in all CAP Plans. Overall, a third of eco-schemes are

targeted to soil management aiming at improving soil structure and increasing's ability to store organic matter through a wide range of practices.

A closer look at improving soils' quality

*In **Spain**, where soils have naturally a low organic content and are prone to erosion, the eco-schemes "Carbon farming and agroecology" supporting crop rotation with leguminous crops, direct seeding, cover crops, and soil coverage by plant residues, "Green covers in permanent crops" and "Extensive grazing and mowing" have contributed to reaching 48 % of agricultural area covered by actions to improve soils. The schemes have been adapted to different agro-climatic conditions in the country and Spain has carried out a broad communication campaign to inform farmers and stakeholders, which has contributed to a greater farmer's participation than expected. The eco-scheme "Long soil cover" in **Belgium-Wallonia** promotes soil cover through catch crops or mulching and is tiered according to the soil cover level achieved (70%, 80% or 90%). It has been implemented on 600 thousand ha, more than 80% of total farmland. The scheme will make a significant contribution to erosion prevention, improved soil quality and water retention. In **Italy**, the eco-scheme "Extensive fodder cultivation with crop rotation" encourages the inclusion of leguminous and forage crops in a biennial rotation and foresees ban of chemical phytosanitary products and integrated pest management. The scheme reached nearly 3.1 million ha, 25% of the total UAA, a greater than expected participation.*

A closer look at improving water quality and nutrient management

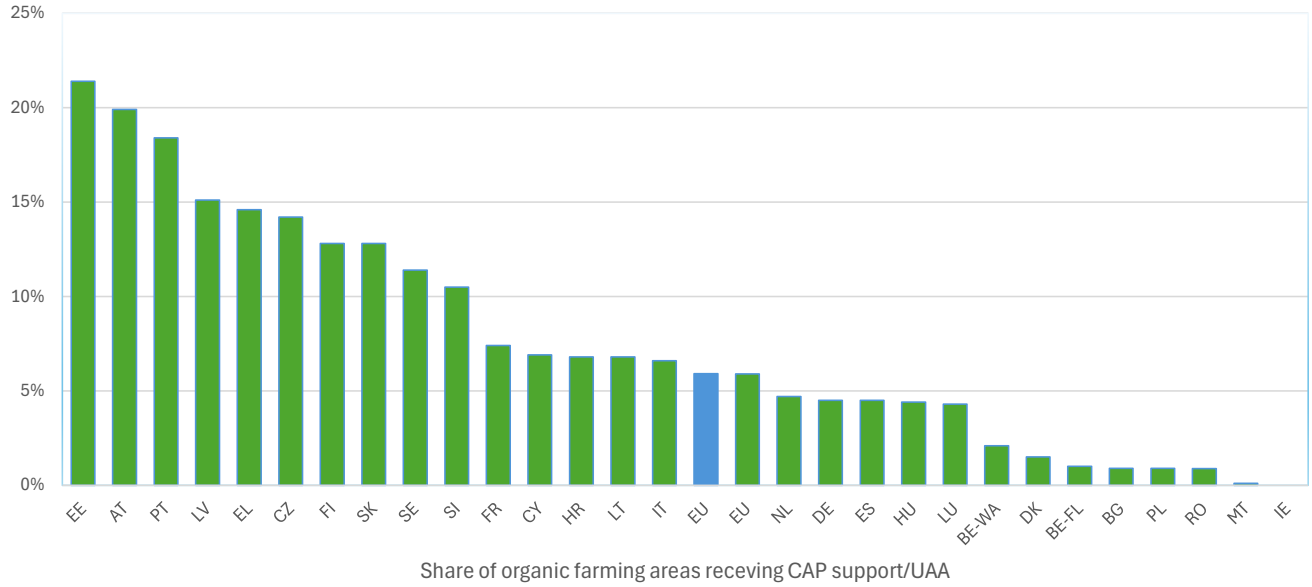
*Water quality is a key challenge for **The Netherlands** and agriculture and livestock are significant sources of pollution. Two main interventions contribute to water improvement: the eco-scheme and the collective AECC. The eco-scheme has a result-based approach as the premium depends on the set of eco-activities that the farmer chooses and their contribution to the environment based on a scoring system. The AECC intervention is implemented collectively, and farmers' collectives decide the type of actions to be carried out in the territory. In 2024, both interventions were highly subscribed. **Several Member States promote the use of organic fertilisers** (manure, compost and other) as an alternative to synthetic fertilisers combined with appropriate application practices for reducing nutrient losses. The use of organic fertilisers is also intended to counterbalance the declining organic matter in soils and to improve their chemical, physical and biological properties. In **Portugal**, the eco-scheme "Promotion of organic fertilization" that seeks to promote fertilisation plans and the exchanges between livestock and crop holdings to contribute to closing the nutrient cycle, reached about 3 700 ha, much less than planned, probably due to the innovative nature of the scheme. Portugal has already taken measures to increase its uptake in coming years. In the CAP Strategic plan of **Bulgaria**, the eco-scheme "Preservation and restoration of soil potential" promotes fertilisation plans, green manure, organic fertilisation, soil improvers, and low-emission manure application techniques. About 1.2 million ha were supported in 2024, more than double than planned; overall, 23% of the country's farmland is engaged into sustainable nutrient management. In **Romania**, more than 800 000 ha (5.8% of total) is part of two eco-schemes aimed at better nutrient management, including the cultivation of nitrogen fixing crops*

Surface and groundwater **water protection** is addressed by improving the efficiency or limiting the use of fertilisers and pesticides. Overall, 16% of agricultural area is covered by practices for protecting water quality. Significant efforts have been made towards more **sustainable use of pesticides,** with relevant practices covering already 29% of total EU agricultural area. Commitments on **sustainable nutrient management** have been carried out on 14% of EU agricultural area, in line with planned milestones in most Member States. This result indicator encompasses a wide range of actions such as ban of mineral fertiliser (mainly grassland, catch crops, crops for biodiversity), adaptation of the timing/quantities of nitrogen fertilisers applied (mainly arable crops), organic fertilisation (manure, compost) to replace mineral fertilisers and contribute to nutrient recovery as well as improvement of soil organic matter, diversified crop rotations with adding leguminous, and management practices to reduce nutrient losses and improve the soil' natural fertility limiting fertiliser applications.

In 2022, 17 million ha were farmed organically in the EU, representing 10.5 % of the total utilised agricultural area, though the uptake of organic farming varies significantly at Member state level, ranging from 0.6 % in Malta to 25.7 % in Austria. Within CAP Strategic plans, support for **organic farming** has been granted to nearly 6% of total EU agricultural area (9.5 million ha), 0,8% for conversion and 5,2% for maintenance. All Member States have planned to increase organic farming area though there are significant differences in the share of supported areas. Austria, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Latvia and Portugal have given support for conversion and maintenance of organic farming to nearly 15% or more of their farmland (figure 7). Market

difficulties of the organic farming sector have considerably slowed down the path for conversion in several Member States, though most have met planned milestones, mainly for maintenance. Inflation and economic uncertainty have led to reduced consumer spending on organic products, which is having an impact on the previous trends on conversion to organic methods.

Figure 7 - Share of CAP supported organic farming area (conversion and maintenance)



(% over UAA)

A closer look at actions for improving water use

Portugal *has a specific AECC for "Water use efficiency", covering 130 000 ha (nearly 4% of the agricultural area) including sustainable irrigation practices and compulsory fertilisation and irrigation plans, thereby contributing to improving water quality and management. In* ***Greece****, the eco-scheme "Use of resistant and adapted species and varieties" supports crops adapted to changing climatic conditions, rainfed or having low irrigation needs (e.g., varieties of winter cereals and vegetables of short, local varieties, new crops resistant to dry-thermal conditions such as quinoa, chia, black sinapi). More than 400 000 ha have participated allowing holdings to better cope with water shortages.*

Area-based commitments to **use water more sustainably** have been carried out on 6% of EU's agricultural area, beyond the set annual milestone for 2024. This value is low as the relevant indicator (covering area-based actions) has only been programmed in 11 CAP Strategic Plans. Some Member States have made good progress in applying practices to improve water use efficiency (e.g., drip irrigation, irrigation plans) such as Greece (27% of its agricultural area), Hungary (25%), Poland (33%), The Netherlands (22%) and Portugal (10%). Member States rely largely on **investments in irrigation** to respond to water challenges and cope with the increasing water scarcity and droughts. This includes support for the modernisation of existing on-farm irrigation installations, infrastructure to increase

efficiency and reduce losses, investments in new irrigation and water storage, as well as projects for rainwater collection and use of recycled water for irrigation. For the reasons explained above, investments projects have a slow start at the beginning of the programming period, notably the more complex hydraulic projects.

Area-based commitments to improve **air quality** by reducing ammonia emissions have been carried out on 7% of EU's agricultural area (e.g., reduced timespan and improved methods for applying manure and slurry). In addition, most CAP Strategic Plans offer support for **emission-reduction investments** such as upgrading animal housing, manure storage, equipment for slurry separation as well as injecting liquid manure close to the ground, covers for slurry collection that are particularly effective for reducing ammonia releases (see below the paragraph on investments).

A closer look at reducing dependence from pesticides

*In 2024, **Luxembourg** went beyond planned action regarding sustainable and reduced use of pesticides. Farmers and winegrowers have implemented eco-schemes and AECC to abandon synthetic plant protection products, to use pheromones dispensers for orchards or to convert to organic farming. In total, 28% of the country's agricultural area has received support for these interventions. The eco-scheme for "Pesticide use reduction" planned in **Bulgaria** aims at reducing the use of hazardous pesticides (mainly glyphosate) in all land uses, which has a beneficial effect on all components of the natural environment. In 2024, the area supported amounted to nearly 2.6 million ha (51% of the country's total agricultural area), mainly arable areas, significantly more than the planned milestone. **Estonia** and **Greece** (e.g., biological control methods) also achieved significant shares of agricultural areas covered by relevant actions (33 % and 30% of all areas respectively). In **Cyprus**, the "Ecological Programme to reduce the burden on soils and water from chemical plant protection" was carried out in nearly 8 400 ha thanks to high farmers' participation, notably into the sub-scheme for ban of herbicides. In **Malta**, the AECC "Control of weeds for vineyards and orchards" incentivising farmers to use mechanical weeding has been carried out on 200 ha.*

The upgrade of farm buildings, machinery, equipment and systems supported by **productive investments** contribute to improve the climate and environmental performance by raising the natural resource use efficiency and reducing negative environmental impacts, while at the same time contributing to the competitiveness of farms and their profitability. In addition, **non-productive investments** (not leading to any significant increase in the value or the profitability of a holding) also contribute to environment and climate-related objectives. About 26 000 farms (nearly 0.3% of the total number) received CAP support for **green investments** (productive and non-productive) related to care for natural resources (soil, water and air

quality), such as improving farm buildings (e.g., low-emission buildings, filter efficiency installations in animal husbandry), equipment for ground-level manure application and slurry separation, equipment for the efficient application of fertilisers, including precision farming equipment, manure collection systems, digital tools and software, construction of washing areas to collect water used to clean sprayers for fertiliser and plant protection products, and on-farm investments for improving water efficiency.

Biodiversity

Commitments for biodiversity conservation and restoration on agricultural land under the objective to contribute to preventing and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes cover nearly 23% of EU agricultural area (about 35 million ha), which is slightly below the average planned target. The implementation of relevant actions offers a mixed picture though most Member States are on good track towards their annual milestones. As regards the preservation and management of landscape features, the annual milestone set for this objective has been reached in most Member States, with 1.5% of EU farmland covered by landscape elements that provide numerous ecosystem services. The most recent estimate of landscape features coverage is 5.6% of agricultural land at EU level, with Member State shares ranging from 3.4% to nearly 9%.

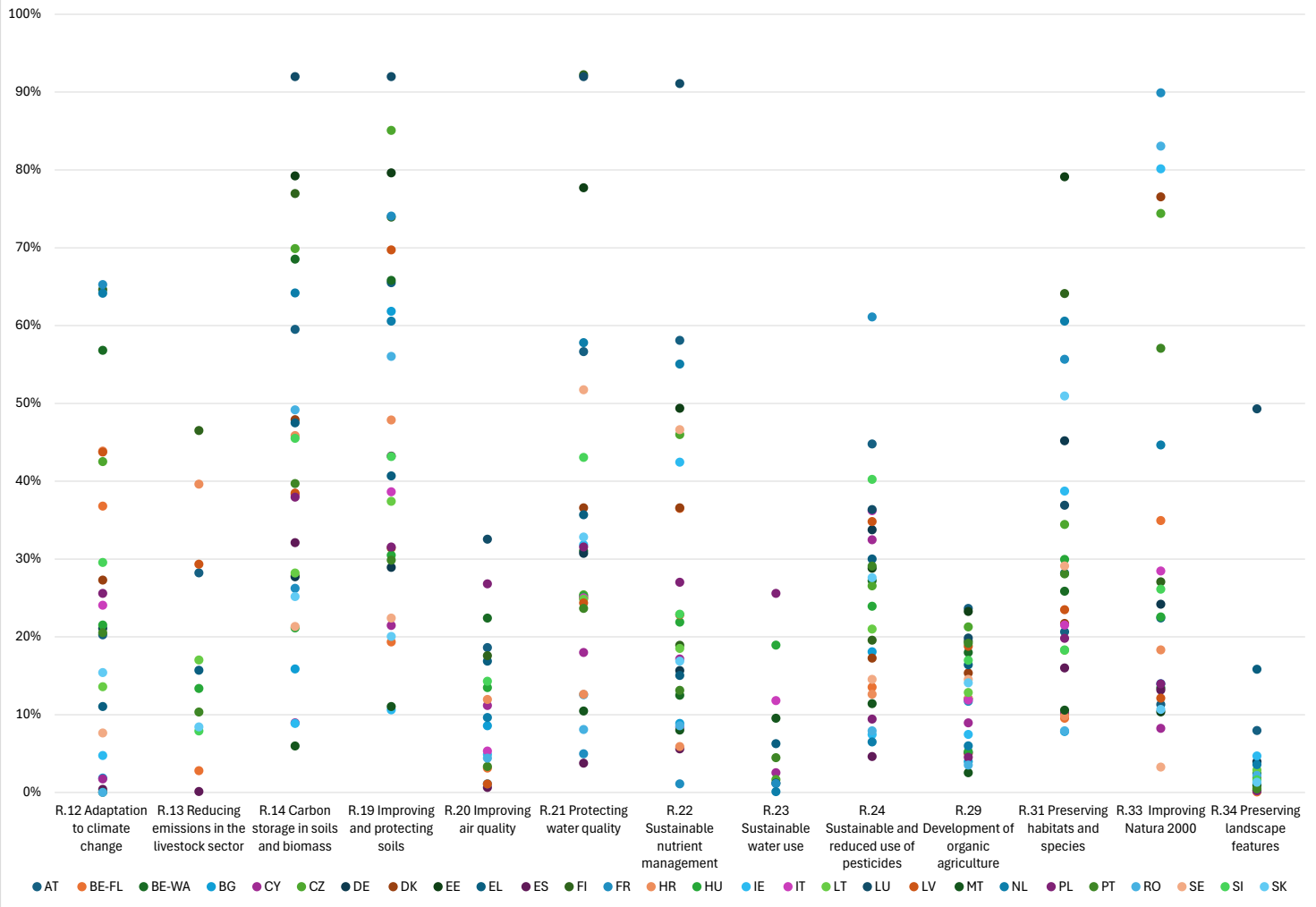
Additionally, nearly 21 000 farms (0.21% of the total) have received support for **non-productive investments aiming at improving habitats and the structural diversity of agricultural landscapes** with the setting and restoration of a wide range of landscape features such as hedges, trees and small woodlands, ponds and wetlands, dry-stone walls, traditional boundaries, and floristically enhanced grass margins. Nearly 2 600 ha of new landscape features have been created in 2024. Other relevant actions include the restoration of wetlands and peatlands, the restoration of habitats and landscapes, building fences and other works to facilitate conservation management and protection against predators.

Some CAP Strategic Plans have planned resources for **sustainable forest management**, though most of the dedicated support to forest and forestry comes from national forest funds. For the time being, most of the planned support to afforestation and investments for the forest sector is yet to be implemented. Overall, EUR 55 million of public support has been dedicated to forest investments in 2024.

A closer look at improving biodiversity on farmland

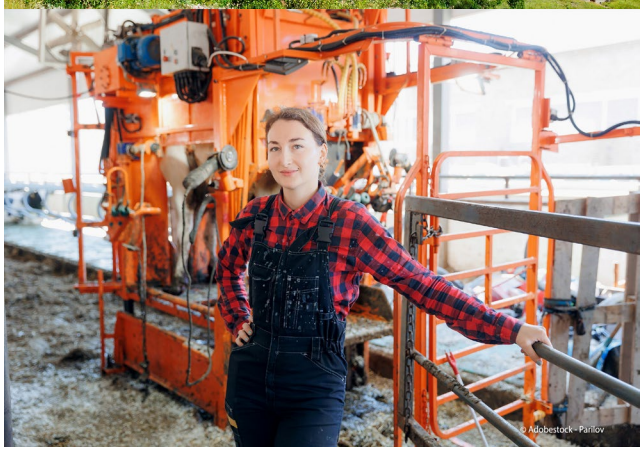
*22% of farmland in **Slovenia** is covered by interventions targeting biodiversity and landscapes, more than initially planned for 2024, notably the AECC "Agri-environment-climate payments for biodiversity and landscape" including support for "Special grassland habitats" (12 600 ha), "Coexistence with large carnivores (4 600 ha) and for the traditional "Dry karts meadows and pastures" (1 400 ha). Slovenia has also a result-based eco-scheme on "Protection of lapwing nests" that has managed to protect 146 nests, also more than initially expected. About 26% of total farmland in **Slovakia** has engaged into the "whole farm" eco-scheme that includes practices for improving biodiversity. The scheme proposes adapted commitments for areas in protected sites (Natura 2000 and other). In total, more than 6 000 ha of bio-belts were created in arable parcels, consisting of strips of fallow, grass and clover mixtures, as well as mixtures for pollinators, which provide habitats for birds especially in productive and farmed landscapes with homogeneous fields. In addition, nearly 5 000 ha of non-productive areas have been sown with mixtures for pollinators. The arable land broken down into plots of maximum 50 ha and 20 ha in protected areas, amounts to more than 443 000 ha. Slovakia expects high farmer involvement in this eco-scheme, which is well adapted to national needs and feasible for farmers. **Austria** has overachieved its milestone for 2024 related to areas covered by biodiversity-beneficial interventions, which reached 27% of total farmland. Both, eco-schemes and the AECC ÖPUL contributed to this outcome. In 2024, there was a significant increase in ÖPUL biodiversity areas with a total of around 150 000 ha covered, almost double the area covered under the former CAP. In **Germany**, the result-oriented eco-scheme for preserving habitats and species requires reaching at least four species typical of the region in species-rich permanent grassland. In 2024, more than 1 million ha of grasslands were covered, more than 50% of the area milestone planned. The result-oriented reward, leaving room for manoeuvre for farmers as compared to measures with detailed requirements, is considered an asset for the farmer participation. In **Ireland**, the "Agri-Climate Rural Environmental Scheme" (ACRES General and its cooperation version) had a high uptake with 46 000 participants enrolled (for Tranche 1) and payments made for over 840 000 ha. Several ACRES actions contributed to preserving habitats and species. The eco-scheme had also a very high uptake (97% of the BISS applicants also applied), with the practice "Space for Nature" (requiring at least 7% of the holding's area devoted to landscape features) being the most popular among the practices offered. In **France**, biodiversity has largely been integrated in the regional strategies for implementing AECC, which were subscribed by more than 25 000 holdings, covering around 1.5 million ha across the country.*

Figure 8 - Share (%) of the Member States's agricultural area covered by actions to biodiversity, climate and resource protection (for R.33 - share of Natura 2000 areas under relevant commitments, for R.13 - share of livestock units)



4. ADVANCING ON SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The new CAP puts higher emphasis on social aspects ranging from support to generation renewal on farms, LEADER, development of rural areas and the protection of farm workers. For the first time, the CAP includes a **social conditionality,** which links the granting of area and animal-related CAP payments to certain legislation on labour rights related to agricultural activity or affecting agricultural holdings. Since January 2025, if a farmer does not comply with legal requirements, CAP payments may be reduced. Furthermore, the CAP promotes high animal welfare standards and the fight against antimicrobial resistance. With this enhanced social dimension anchored in the CAP, a further step has been taken towards strengthening **social sustainability**.



Young farmers and rural areas

European **rural areas** face major challenges such as ageing and depopulation trends, slow generational renewal in the agricultural sector, decline of accessibility to basic services and infrastructures. Territorial disparities vary considerably between and within Member States. The setting-up of young farmers is a key requirement to further develop EU agriculture and rural areas and preserving family farms.

CAP Strategic Plans support rural areas to address these challenges and make living and working conditions for farmers and rural communities more attractive, by facilitating the installation of young and new farmers and business start-ups, by promoting employment, entrepreneurship, by investing in basic services for rural population, and by encouraging participatory local development tools, like LEADER/community-led local development, Smart Villages, and other forms of cooperation. Its support has both significant and spill-over effects on the wider rural economy, especially in less developed regions. In 2024, the highest achievement has been reported for the objective of **generational renewal in agriculture**. Nearly **164 000 young farmers**, including 55 300 young women, have received support for setting-up their businesses and additional income support. This number is substantially higher than planned for the second year of implementation of the new Plans.

Nearly 200 000 jobs have been created mainly through the support to young farmers and to other sectoral and rural development interventions focusing on the **creation of businesses** in the agri-food sector. About 2 500 rural businesses have been supported, despite the tight market conditions and the combination of some adverse events such as extreme weather conditions and impact of geopolitical tensions.

A closer look at LEADER and Smart villages projects

*Local Action Groups (LAGs) "Kantri" in Tampere region (**Finland**) and Vastramaland (**Sweden**) in the Eastern EU border are getting ready. These two LAGs are preparing a joint action on crisis preparedness. The future cooperation project will cover a detailed map of resources (water, shelters, etc), crisis response trainings and reinforcement of contacts in an "emergency" network. In the Waldviertel region of Lower **Austria,** the LAG "Waldviertler heartland" supports the initiative "Klimafit im Alter" ("Climate-Fit in Old Age"). It aims at enhancing the climate resilience of elderly people who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as heatwaves, extreme weather events, and energy insecurity. The project focuses on providing tailored support to raise awareness by organising workshops and information sessions to educate seniors about climate change impacts and adaptive strategies, to improve the energy efficiency of facilities frequented by the elderly, such as senior centres and residential homes and to foster community networks to support elderly individuals during climate-related events, ensuring they have access to necessary resources and assistance. In **Finland**, there is a high of interest in **Smart villages** cooperation projects. Smart villages have proven to be important, timely and interesting initiative supporting a wide range of projects on security and preparedness, on how to prepare the countryside and the village to face different challenges and increasing the resilience of their own environment.*

As regards rural development interventions focusing on the **wider rural economy** beyond agriculture and on territorial and social projects for rural communities, 2024 can be considered as a preparatory and very intensive year. Member States have put in place the necessary national guidelines and tools, to launch the calls for projects, to assess the projects or to start implementing projects, often without any reimbursement to beneficiaries yet. In 2024, the majority of some 2 700 **Local Development Strategies** planned under LEADER have been selected and many Local Action Groups were preparing or launching calls for projects from their 2023-2027 budgets or have already started implementing local projects. The **LEADER network** involves more than 120 000 members including private and public social and economic partners that are engaged in the development of local territories in rural Europe. LEADER is expected to contribute to a vast array of areas, such as: job and business creation, social inclusion projects, small scale services for rural areas, value chains for local food, smart villages strategies, investments contributing to environment and climate action. Several Local Action Groups have introduced the new concept of **Smart villages** strategies and projects in their LEADER local strategies.

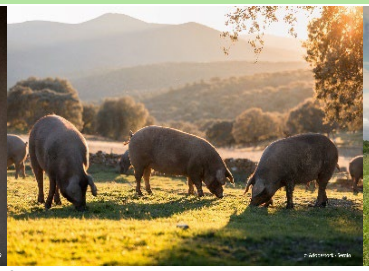
Improving animal welfare and combating antimicrobial resistance

Over 22 million of livestock units (nearly 20% of all) benefited from CAP support to improve **animal welfare**, particularly through eco-schemes, highlighting the strong interest for this objective. The milestone for 2024 has been almost fully reached. With gradual implementation of practices and targeted incentives, farmers can move to more animal-friendly farming practices with support for the upfront costs that this transition entails. In addition, over 16 million livestock units (16.3% of the total) benefited from measures aimed at **combatting antimicrobial resistance**, slightly below the milestone target set for claim year 2023. This shortfall is partly attributed to the lower uptake of support for organic livestock producers in certain Member States.

A closer look at animal welfare and combating antimicrobial resistance

*The CAP Strategic Plan of **Finland** has a focus on animal welfare and the targeted interventions under rural development address national priorities. Specifically, the Plan provides 21 animal welfare actions that encourage farmers to adopt practices benefiting livestock well-being, as well as investment support to improve animal-friendly housing and biosecurity. Nearly 94 % of livestock units benefit from supported animal welfare improvements. The wide range of actions allows farmers to tailor their efforts, increase financial returns, and improve farm sustainability. It also helps future-proof farms while promoting high standards of animal welfare and meeting climate goals. The **Swedish** Plan includes three specific animal welfare interventions (for cows, sows and sheep), and support for skills development and cooperation. They contribute to healthier animals, reduce the need for antibiotics and lead to higher animal welfare. Nearly 18% of all livestock units in Sweden benefit from animal welfare support. **Italy's** Plan includes an eco-scheme promoting the reduced use of antimicrobials for ruminants and pigs. About 5.6 million livestock units participated in this scheme, very close to the milestone of reaching 6.5 million livestock units each year. Support is based on the ClassyFarm system, a tool developed by the Ministry of Health to improve animal health, food safety and promote sustainable farming. This tool helps farmers and veterinarians assess risks, monitor animal welfare and track antibiotic use and it's also part of Italy's national surveillance programme for anti-microbial resistance. The ClassyFarm system categorises farms according to the distance of their antimicrobial use (Defined Daily Doses, DDD) from the regional median. Support is tiered according to several target levels of DDD values.*






5. IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

The CAP specific objectives addressing the three dimensions of sustainability are reinforced by the cross-cutting objective of modernizing agriculture and rural areas through the **promotion and sharing of knowledge, innovation, and digitalization**. The agricultural sector is under constant pressure to adapt to emerging challenges and produce more sustainably with limited resources. Farmers and rural communities require practical solutions to face these challenges and to transition towards more competitive, resilient, and sustainable agricultural practices and rural areas. Competent advisory services, training, knowledge-sharing and innovation are crucial to enable the necessary transformations. Simultaneously, the **digital transition** holds significant potential to enhance agricultural performance in economic, social, and environmental terms.

The CAP provides a comprehensive framework for addressing this cross-cutting objective needed to promote modern agriculture, forestry and forward-looking rural areas. Overall, the CAP Strategic Plans are scheduled to devote around 4% of the total public CAP funding to this cross-cutting objective.

A closer look at National CAP Networks supporting the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plans

*The CAP network in **Poland**, encompassing 35 separate entities, organises Good Practice competitions to recognize and promote successful agricultural projects and practices. Similarly, the **Latvian** network hosts an annual competition to showcase agricultural and rural development projects. Moreover, the national networks use different communication channels to support their work. For example, the **Swedish** network launched a dedicated social media campaign in 2023-2024 to raise awareness and interest among young people about the diverse job opportunities available in the agricultural sector. The campaign included a video that has generated over 1.5 million views to date, showing the networks' capacity to effectively engage with the public. The **Croatian** network ran an informative campaign called "Differences connect us, LAGs inspire us" that promoted LAGs through the web and social media. This campaign was part of the EU CAP Network social media campaign #ProudOfNetworking in 2024, highlighting networking activities of each national network. As part of their work to support innovation and knowledge exchange, the networks have organised dedicated activities to foster mutual learning, showcase innovative projects and to incentivise further collaboration. One example is the joint 'Network to Innovate' initiated by the CAP Networks of **Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Poland**.*

To support the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plans, all Member States have established **National CAP Networks**. The National Networks aim to support the design and the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plans by engaging stakeholders, contribute to capacity building for actors involved in the implementation of Plans, share good practices, and inform the public about the CAP and its funding opportunities. The networks are operationalised through a Network Support Unit, often placed within the Managing Authority, and

collaborate regularly with the EU CAP Network. Together they offer platforms to share knowledge and information about agriculture, forestry and rural development.

Knowledge sharing and dissemination of information

A closer look at supporting knowledge

*In Zwettl, Lower **Austria**, a group of self-employed rural women entrepreneurs grouped in the Waldviertler Frauenwirtschaft ("women's economy") association launched in 2024 a "Centre of Excellence for Women's Health". The centre acts as an information hub for physical, mental and economic women's health in rural areas, and organises regular thematic meetings to provide women with skills to lead, be economically successful and healthy lives.*

In 2024, a budget of EUR 40 million (0.5% of the total EU public rural development expenditure) was dedicated specifically to interventions on knowledge exchange and dissemination of information. Member States have planned a wide scope of actions such as support to independent advice and training of advisors, on-farm demonstrations activities and face-to-face thematic events, training materials and courses for farmers. In 2024, about 317 000 persons benefitted from **advice, training and knowledge exchange** by participating in the Operational Groups projects within the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability. Additionally, 4 000 advisors have received support to be better integrated in AKIS. When assessing the progress of actions supporting knowledge sharing, it is important to consider that expenditure to this type of intervention is limited at the start of a programming period. Several Member States have reported that funding for knowledge sharing

A closer look to the setting of AKIS strategies

*In 2024, **Greece** has established the national AKIS Committee to improve the flow of knowledge transfer including from the many recently started EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects. The **Portuguese** Ministry of Agriculture and the national CAP network launched an AKIS platform aimed at facilitating links between research and agriculture by coordinating actions and disseminating information. In February 2025, also **Belgium-Wallonia** launched an AKIS platform (Walakis) with the objective of increasing the capacity of farmers, foresters, and rural stakeholders by promoting the exchange of information, expertise, and experiences. Both platforms offer events, discussion forums, repository of project results and good practices. Additionally, they provide the possibility for users to create and join thematic groups, enabling members to collaborate and exchange experiences. Moreover, various of events and networking workshops have been organised in 2024. **Germany** hosted a national AKIS workshop that covered exchange on the development and coordination of the AKIS system, as well as the crucial role of advisors as the link between research and practice. In Sicily in **Italy**, a series of webinars targeting advisors was carried out aiming to promote digital applications, such as business management at farm level, water management, and irrigation. In 2024, another Italian region, Emilia-Romagna, hosted a conference that emphasized the important role of EIP-AGRI OGs in fostering sustainability and provided visibility to outstanding projects, encouraging others to promote European cooperation to modernize agriculture.*

is still ongoing under the RDP, which they can use up until the end of 2025. Nevertheless, the implementation is in the pipeline and the number of beneficiaries from relevant actions will rise in coming years.

This financial support to knowledge sharing is supported by well-functioning innovation ecosystems, known as **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS).** A key novelty of the CAP 2023-2027 is that Member States have developed comprehensive **AKIS strategies** and designated AKIS coordination bodies. The aim is to better connect relevant actors and structure the exchange of knowledge and foster innovation in the agriculture, forestry and rural sectors. Several Member States have launched dedicated AKIS platforms and websites.

Operational Groups within the EIP-AGRI

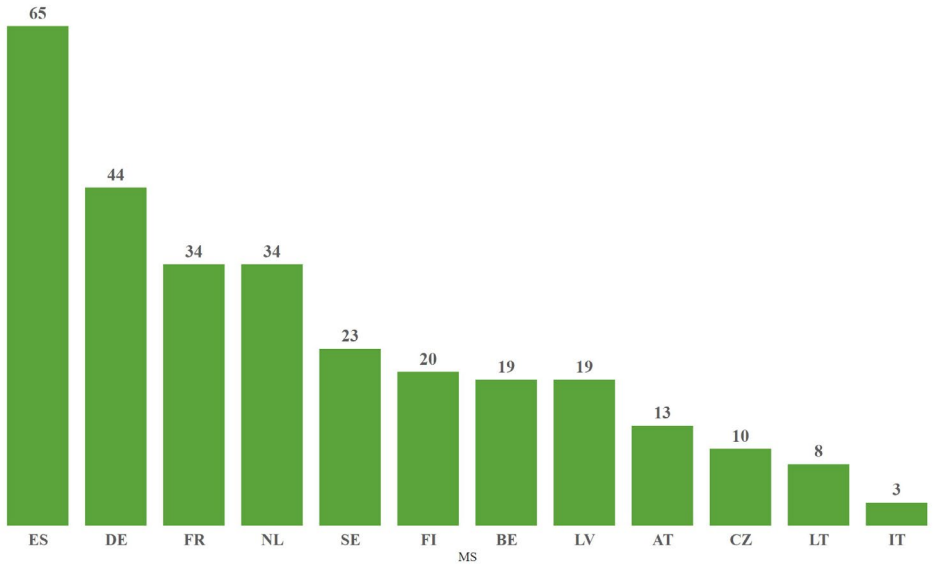
The European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI) provides a unique policy framework to support bottom-up innovation. The cornerstone of EIP-AGRI are the **Operational Group projects.** These local collaborative projects bring together multiple actors such as farmers, researchers, advisors and businesses to co-create and advance innovation in the agricultural, forestry and rural sectors. All Member States except two[6] support Operational Group projects under the cooperation intervention, adding to the more than 3 800 Operational Group projects funded under the RDP 2014-2022[7]. Since the start of the new CAP programming period, **292 Operational Group projects** have been approved by Member States and reported to the Commission (figure 9)[8]. These projects have an average budget of EUR 444 000 and involve a variety of complementary partners such as farmers and farmer organisations, researchers, advisors, but also other experts including retailers, rural businesses and public authorities. The most common project' topics of innovative solutions relate to climate change, digitalisation and competitiveness (figure 10).

[6] Denmark and Luxembourg support similar innovation projects solely via national funding although not profiting from the synergies with the other EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

[7] The EU CAP network hosts a database of Operational Group projects completed (https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/search_en)

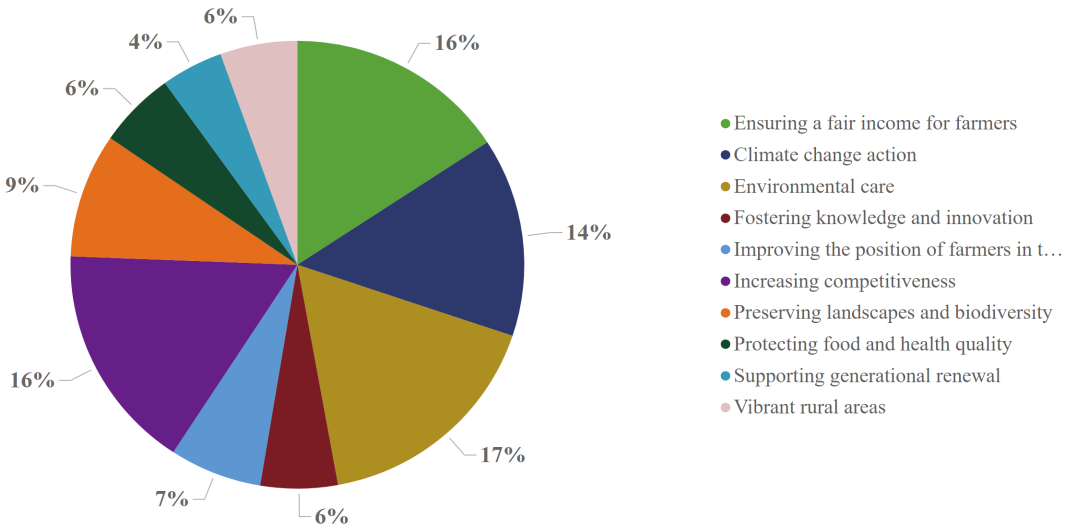
[8] EIP-AGRI Operational Group project statistics based on SFC2021 – Annex VI of Implementing Regulation 2022/1475 – 03 April 2025

Figure 9 – Number of Operational Group projects approved per Member State (Source: Database of reported Operational Group projects)



A novelty in the 2023-2027 programming period is the possibility of funding **transnational Operational Group projects** involving several Member States. One ongoing example is a synchronized call among Nordic countries, including Finland, Estonia, and Latvia. In this setup, each project partner applies for funding in their own Member State, followed by joint implementation. Based on comprehensive preparation work in the last years including a dedicated brokerage event, the launch of the call is planned for the end of 2025.

Figure 10 – Number of Operational Group projects per CAP specific objectives CSPs 2023-2027 (multiple selection possible) (Source: Database of reported Operational Group projects)



Digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas

The roll out of digital technologies can help agriculture and rural areas to strengthen their competitiveness and their environmental and socio-economic sustainability. For the first time, Member States have developed **digitalisation strategies** within their CAP Strategic Plans that outline how they intend to support the digital transformation of agriculture and rural areas under the CAP and in synergy with other programmes, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon Europe, or Digital Europe Programme. About 378 000 farms across EU are expected to benefit from support for digital farming technology, although progress vary across Member States. In 2024, it has been estimated that more than 20 000 farms have benefited from relevant actions. Digitalisation is primarily supported through investment projects, but also through eco-schemes and agri-environment-climate commitments, reflecting its cross-cutting relevance. Romania, Poland and Estonia among others have planned investment on precision agriculture. In parallel, Member States are investing in the **enabling environment for digitalisation** by promoting broadband expansion in rural areas, digital skills, advisory services and knowledge exchange on digital matters via the strengthened AKIS. The EIP-AGRI projects and Smart villages further contribute to promoting digital transformation of agriculture and rural areas.

Initiatives funded through **Horizon Europe**, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, contribute to the goal of modernising the farming sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas. Several projects are developing or testing digital solutions to improve the capacity to implement and monitor the CAP effectively through specific use cases (e.g., DIVINE[9], Agridatavalue[10], GUARDIANS[11]). Knowledge and innovation arising from Horizon Europe activities are made available to farmers, foresters, rural communities and other stakeholders through **thematic and advisory networks**. These include activities performed by projects such as the SmaRT[12] thematic network which promoted the use of precision livestock farming and digital technologies across the livestock sector, as well as advisory networks projects like FAIRSHARE[13] that worked towards the integration of digital tools in diverse advisory and farming contexts across the EU.

[9] Project Website: list of use cases, including "*Smart farming data in the service of the new CAP monitoring*", available at DIVINE :: Pilots.

[10] Project Website: specific use case on "*Benchmarking and Eco-scheme monitoring tools for the new CAP: Eco-scheme monitoring tools will be used to support the new CAP towards fair income, land use protection and environmental care*", available at UC CLUSTER #6 - CAP Realization | AgriDataValue.

[11] Project Website: specific use on "Resource efficiency" integrating EU IACS data with data from other sources to support farmers in operating within CAP requirements, available at RESOURCE EFFICIENCY - Guardians.

[12] Cordis page dedicated to the project: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000471

[13] Project website: https://www.h2020fairshare.eu/

ANNEX – Additional information

The CAP performance framework

The Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) of the CAP 2023-2027 is a system to monitor and assess the performance and impact of the EU agricultural policy. The key components are:

- **Objectives**: The CMEF is tailored around the ten specific CAP' objectives, which encompass viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources, and balanced territorial development. It aims to evaluate how well the policy measures plan in the CAP Strategic Plans meet these goals.
- **Indicators** to measure progress towards achieving policy objectives. These are: 37 output, 44 result and 29 context and impact indicators. **Output** indicators measure the concrete achievements produced by the CAP interventions (e.g., number of hectares, projects, beneficiaries, etc.). The **result** indicators establish the link between an intervention and its purpose and measure the level of uptake of supported CAP interventions (e.g., a share of agricultural area, a share of livestock units). They are used for assessing progress towards the targets for the overall programming period and annual milestones that Member States have set in their CAP Strategic Plan. **Context** (background information on the general trends and conditions in agriculture, rural areas, the environment, and climate) and **impact** indicators aim at evaluating the performance and results of the CAP in a structured and evidence-based way.
- **Regular Reporting**: Member states are required to report their performance data regularly. This helps ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of CAP measures. The **annual performance reports** show progress to achieve output results and the annual milestones for the result indicators set in their Plans. The Commission also conducts a biennial performance review based on a subset of result indicators; the first performance review is carried out in 2025
- **Evaluations**: The CMEF includes regular evaluations to understand the effectiveness and efficiency of policy measures. These are conducted at different scales, including EU-wide and Member state levels

Data on results indicators

The table below give an overview of the EU wide implementation of the CAP Plans in financial year 2024 based on results indicators. For area and animal-based indicators, data refers to claim year 2023.

Table 1: Results indicators, values achieved and planned

	Result indicator label	Unit of measurement	Achieved	Planned	Distance to planned (in % change)
R.1	Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation	Persons trained	317,175	942,166	-66,3%
R.2	Linking advice and knowledge systems	Advisors supported	4,021	28,446	-85,9%
R.3	Digitalising agriculture	% of farms	0.24%	0.49%	-51,1%
R.4	Linking income support to standards and good practices	% of land receiving support	90.29%	88.99%	1,5%
R.5	Risk management	% of farms	1.61%	14.70%	-89,1%
R.6	Redistribution to smaller farms	relative support / ha	108.11%	115.20%	-6,2%
R.7	Enhancing support for farms in areas with specific needs	relative support / ha	106.30%	109.40%	-2,8%
R.8	Targeting farms in specific sectors	% of farms	15.98%	18.00%	-11,2%
R.9	Farm modernisation	% of farms	0.50%	0.50%	-0,9%
R.10	Better supply chain organisation	% of farms	1.34%	1.60%	-16,5%
R.11	Concentration of supply of Fruit and Vegetables	% of marketed value	13.71%	14.47%	-5,3%
R.12	Adaptation to climate change	% of land receiving support	28.68%	24.00%	19,5%
R.13	Reducing emissions in the livestock sector	% of livestock	2.01%	2.03%	-0,9%
R.14	Carbon storage in soils and biomass	% of land receiving support	35.26%	25.10%	40,5%

R.15	Renewable energy from agriculture and forestry and from other renewable sources	Mega Watt	151	166	-9,3%
R.16	Investments related to climate	% of farms	0.18%	0.30%	-41,1%
R.17	Afforested land - Total	ha supported	NA	NA	NA
R.18	Investment support for the forest sector	EUR	55,178,017	216,451,388	-74,5%
R.19	Improving and protecting soils	% of land receiving support	50.52%	43.00%	17,5%
R.20	Improving air quality	% of land receiving support	7.05%	4.92%	43,3%
R.21	Protecting water quality	% of land receiving support	16.19%	16.40%	-1,3%
R.22	Sustainable nutrient management	% of land receiving support	13.64%	12.60%	8,2%
R.23	Sustainable water use	% of land receiving support	6.01%	4.23%	41,92%
R.24	Sustainable and reduced use of pesticides	% of land receiving support	29.19%	21.40%	36,4%
R.25	Environmental performance in the livestock sector	% of livestock	1.61%	1.00%	61,4%
R.26	Investment related to natural resources	% of farms	0.26%	0.20%	29,9%
R.27	Environmental or climate-related performance through investment in rural areas	Operations	4,576	9,195	-50,2%
R.28	Environmental or climate-related performance through knowledge and innovation	Persons trained	115,553	416,386	-72,3%
R.29	Development of organic agriculture - Total	% of land receiving support	5.91%	6.48%	-8,8%
R.30	Supporting sustainable forest management	% of forest land supported	0.07%	0.12%	-40,2%

R.31	Preserving habitats and species	% of land receiving support	22.48%	25.50%	-11,8%
R.32	Investments related to biodiversity	% of farms	0.21%	0.10%	110,0%
R.33	Improving Natura 2000 management	% of Natura 2000 land	15.89%	14.75%	7,7%
R.34	Preserving landscape features	% of land receiving support	1.45%	1.33%	9,4%
R.35	Preserving beehives	% of beehives supported	60.45%	45.93%	31,6%
R.36	Generational renewal - Total	Young farmers supported	163,949	147,266	11,3%
R.37	Growth and jobs in rural areas	New jobs supported	195,775	181,121	11,9%
R.38	LEADER coverage	% of rural pop covered	31.11%	51.50%	-42,5%
R.39	Developing the rural economy	Rural Businesses supported	2,503	12,861	-80,5%
R.40	Smart transition of the rural economy	Smart-village Strategies	3	80	-96,3%
R.41	Connecting rural Europe	% of rural pop covered	7.75%	9.74%	-20,4%
R.42	Promoting social inclusion	Persons supported	0	27,411	-100,0%
R.43	Limiting antimicrobial use	% of livestock	16.33%	17.90%	-8.79%
R.44	Improving animal welfare - Total	% of livestock	19.83%	20.05%	-1.06%

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