

DRAFT AGENDA

1st TG meeting

Thematic Group on Farm Diversification

04 February 2026,
09:00 – 16:00

Avenue des Arts 9/bis,
1210 Brussels



Introduction

A significant number of European farmers are facing challenges in sustaining their livelihoods due to income instability, natural disasters, extreme weather events, environmental degradation, geopolitics, cost-price pressures, and increased market competition. The degree of economic vulnerability increases significantly, particularly for smaller farms, farms in certain sectors and farms located in economically disadvantaged or geographically challenging regions. For these farmers, one way of stabilising or increasing their income is to use their assets (land, buildings, equipment) to diversify into non-agricultural activities, thus creating sources of income that are independent from an agricultural income which is inherently unstable.

Diversification can help farmers by means of stabilising or increasing their on-farm incomes, creating employment and contributing to the local economy through non-agricultural activities such as leisure, tourism, value-added processing, retailing, house and land rentals, renewables, and others. Farm resilience through diversification can be hampered by weak property markets, lower market opportunities due to remoteness, lower levels of tourism, farm size, financing, organisational readiness, labour, seasonality, or conflict with the core farming activity, all of which may impact what individual businesses can do.

The CAP can play a role in supporting diversification through productive (agricultural production and processing, forestry, promoting other non-agricultural activities) and non-productive farm investments, including in the development of short supply chains and local food systems. The CAP also supports the strengthening of business competitiveness and diversification in other ways, including through cooperation actions, including LEADER and EIP. Business development may also be supported through farm advisory services or differentiated support rates for investments made by small-sized farms. Many Member States foresee higher support rates for small farms, mostly for productive and non-productive farm investments, as well as investments for processing/marketing agricultural products and for non-agricultural diversification.

Aims of the first TG meeting

- Explore how farm-based businesses are capitalising on the possibilities offered through farm diversification.



- Discuss how Member States are supporting farm diversification across the different interventions.
- Begin to consider the effectiveness of current CAP interventions/frameworks to unlock the potential of diversification.

Timing	Agenda item
8.30 – 09.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.10	Welcome & agenda for the day
9.10 – 9.30	Icebreaker & first exchanges in small groups
9.30 – 10.30	Farm Diversification: overview and examples Presentations Q&A
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00 – 12.30	Introduction to Parallel Group Sessions Parallel group sessions: Exploring success factors for farm diversification
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30 – 15.00	Parallel group sessions: The role of the CAP in supporting farm diversification.
15.00 – 15.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.15 – 16.00	Feedback & Next Steps - Reflections on group discussions & next steps for the thematic group.



