Implementation of AECM
Enhancing a sustainable agri-food sector?

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30 May 2017
Agri-Environment-Climate measures
“Jewel” of the Common Agricultural Policy

- COLOUR: Support to the most innovative and advanced schemes for nature-friendly farming or environmental management in farms.

- HARDNESS: a compulsory measure in Rural Development Programmes, absorbing over 20% of EAFRD, but very stretched.

- TRANSLUCENCY: programmed schemes, so adaptable to needs and context, but in need of better justification and reporting.

- Overall, it is a multi-faceted diamond, with many diamond cutters involved, so not so ***sparkling*** everywhere.
Agri-Environment-Climate implementation
Support to High Nature Value farming in Spain

• HNV farming
  • A priority in the European Regulation (4a).
  • A mention in the National Framework (subsidiarity).
  • Absent in many regional RDPs.
• Less than 50% of AEC budget supports measures with potential benefits on HNV farming.
  • Many measures with little ambition (e.g., integrated production)
  • Compensating for losses in past support through first pillar.
  • With unclear baselines and targets.
• Less than 1/3 of HNV farmland with AECM support.
  • Investments remain a priority in Spanish RDPs.
Agri-Environment-Climate measures
Room for improvement

- Governance: environment authorities may be consulted in the process but are largely excluded from the final decisions.
  - *Incoherence between diagnosis and budgeted schemes.*
- Budget: frequently insufficient to cover larger areas or higher levels of ambition.
  - *What farming activities are we targeting?*
  - *Should shallow measures be part of AEC schemes?*
- Thematic sub-programmes and global/territorial farming contracts not developed sufficiently.
  - *A systemic approach is frequently missing.*
  - *Greater coordination and coherence for cross-boundary challenges.*
Agri-Environment-Climate measures
More room for improvement

- Costs incurred and Income foregone: a framework which does not reflect the real value of the public goods produced.
  - Insufficient support to extensive farming systems.
  - Income foregone too high in intensive systems.
- Additional support to Natura 2000, green infrastructure and WFD priority areas, to contribute to their full implementation.
  - EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy.
- Results-based schemes to be further developed.
  - High-level schemes (e.g., wildlife species)
  - Easy monitoring (e.g., carbon in soils)
- Include climate-related measures in an integrative manner.
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Thank you!