



# Implementation of AECM

## Enhancing a sustainable agri-food sector?

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## 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

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- 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.



# Thank you!

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