

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

post-2020

“A measure of success”:
the CAP, indicators and environmental ambition

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Unit C1 – Policy Perspectives
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The CAP’s green architecture after 2020: delving into eco-schemes
31 May 2019, Zafra, Spain

#FutureofCAP

1. “I want to see results!”

(family member)



CAP SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ON THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

The essence:



Climate
change



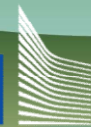
Natural
resources



Biodiversity and
landscapes

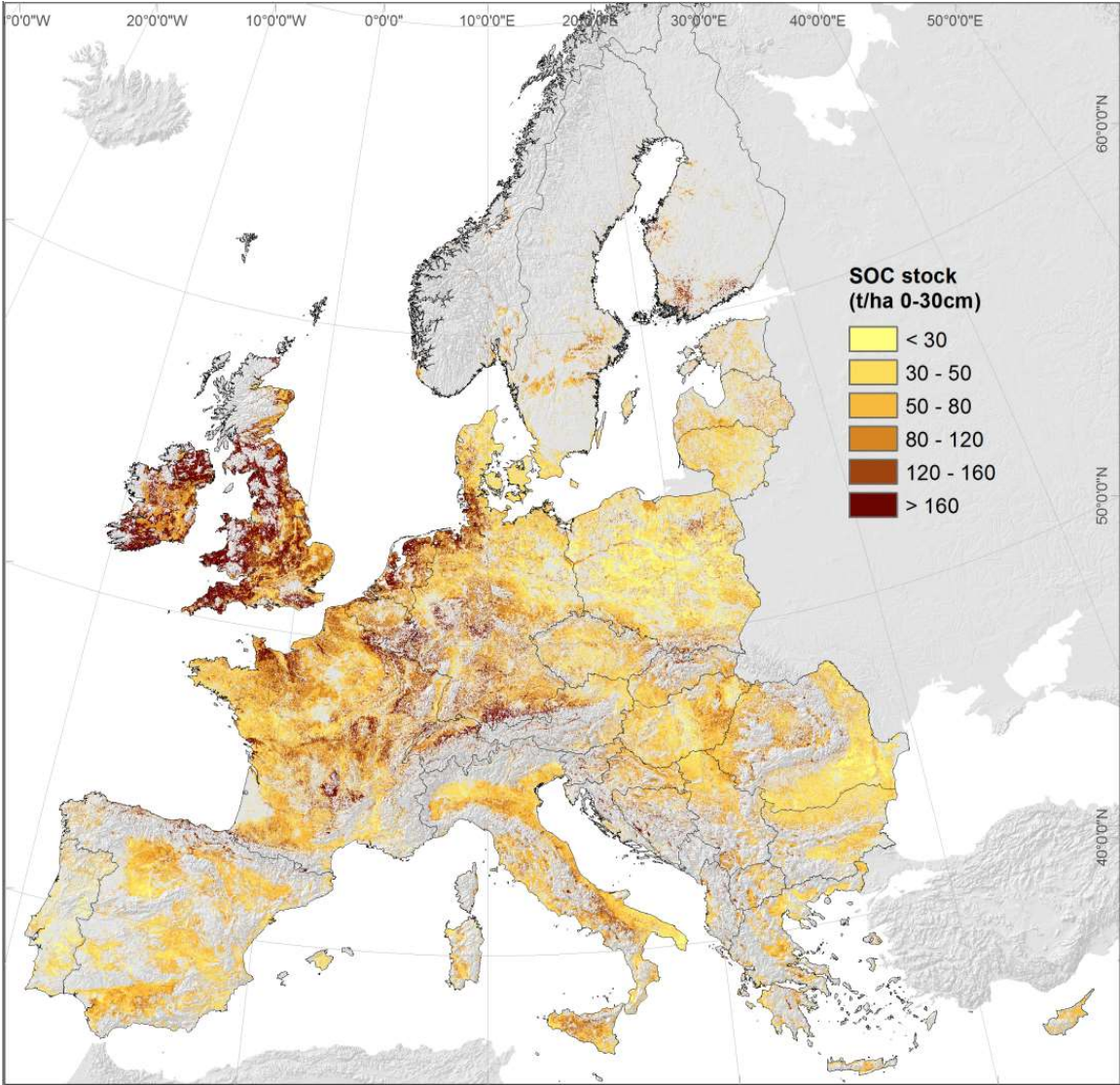
2. *“Big brother is watching you...”* (?)

(George Orwell, *1984*)

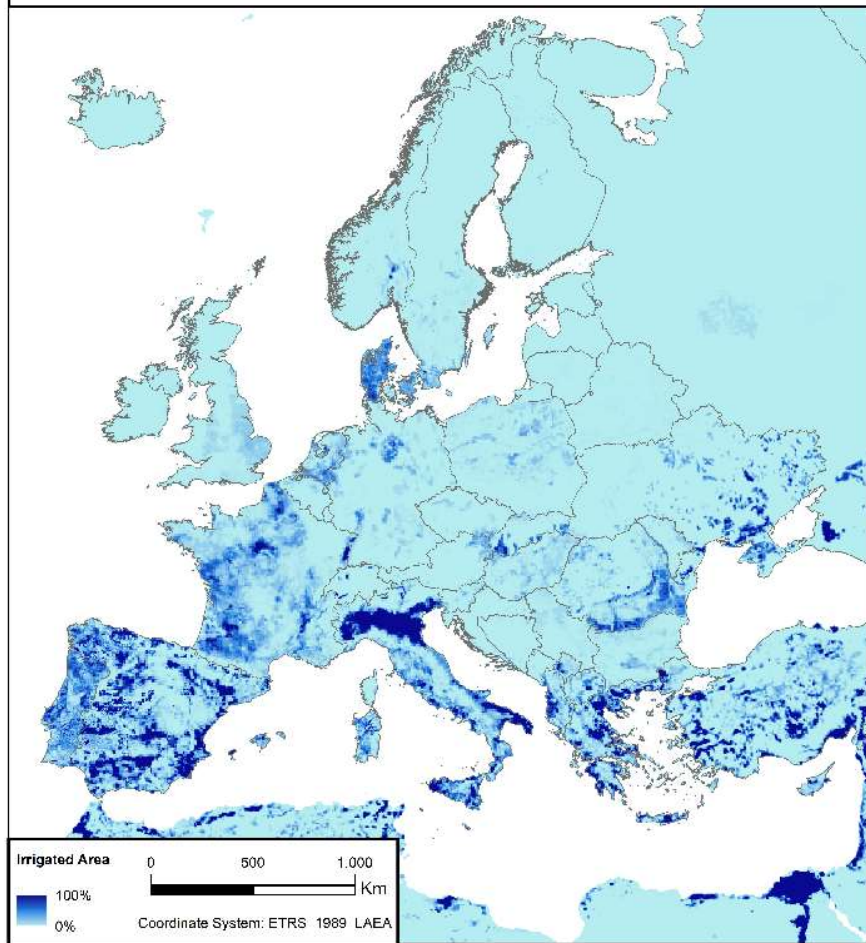


Soil organic carbon stocks in agricultural land

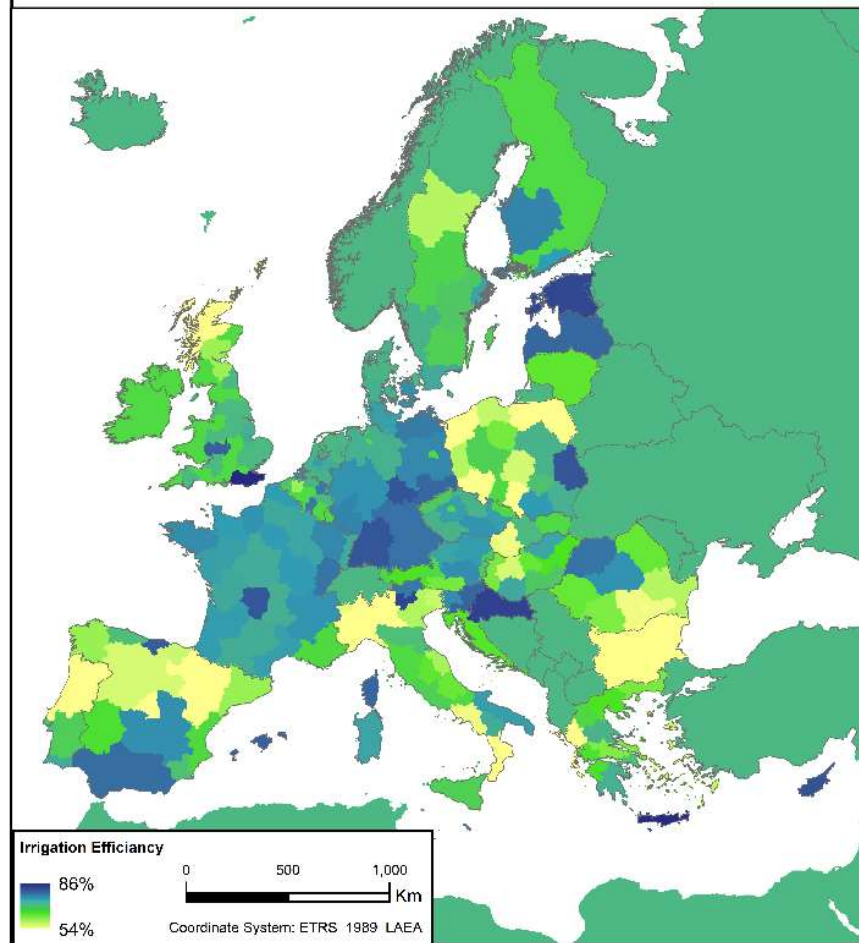
(Lugato et al., 2014)



Current Irrigated Surface Area



Current Irrigation Efficiency in NUTS 2 Regions



3. “Indicate precisely what you mean to say...”

(The Beatles)



Output, result and impact indicators (1)

To be planned in CAP Strategic Plan and reported in Annual Performance Report (APR)

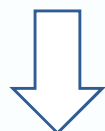
Output Indicators



Purpose: counting what is immediately generated by an intervention

Example: number of hectares receiving support for areas facing natural constraints (ANCs)

Result Indicators



Purpose: Setting targets and milestones; monitoring progress

Example: share of agricultural land under commitments to improve climate adaptation

Not to be set as targets in CAP Strategic Plan

Impact Indicators



Purpose: performance evaluation

Example: Gross nutrient balance on agricultural land



Output, result and impact indicators (2)

CAP interventions

- quantified by output indicators
- qualitative content also associated

CAP result indicator
values

CAP impact indicator
values

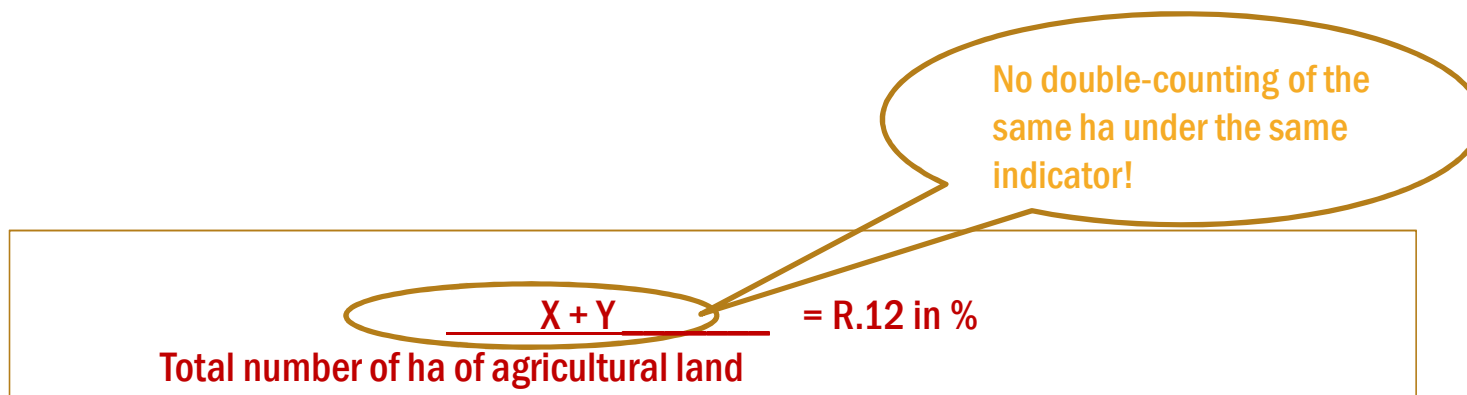
Other influences

Linking CAP interventions to result indicators: example

R.12 (Adaptation to climate change): share of agricultural land under commitments to improve climate adaptation

Interventions included in a given CAP Plan and contributing to the planned target level of R12 for year N:

- Climate-related Pillar I eco-scheme – covers X ha in year N
- Climate-related Pillar II management commitments – cover Y ha in year N



So what are we really aiming at – “results” or “impacts”?

Biodiversity and landscapes	
Result indicators	Impact indicators
% of farmland under (supported) commitments for biodiversity conservation/restoration	Farmland bird index
% of Natura 2000 area (farmland + forest) under (supported) commitments for protection, restoration, maintenance	% of species and habits of Community interest related to agriculture with stable or increasing trends
% of farmland under (supported) commitments for managing landscape features	% of UAA covered with landscape features
(plus forestry-specific indicators)	

Both result and impact indicators have “strengths” and “weaknesses”

	Result indicators	Impact indicators
How easy to measure?	Relatively easy	Varies – but sometimes difficult
Link to activity of the CAP	Very strong	Varies – but influenced by external factors
Speed of response to CAP support	Quick	Varies – but can be slow
Expressiveness about the “real world”	Varies – but environmental indicators mean little without knowledge of content to accompany numerical values	Strong

Impact indicator case (1): the Farmland Bird Index

- Index of bird populations based on actual counting
- Highly relevant to biodiversity objective (+)
- Some linkage to the CAP, though other drivers involved (/)
- National level only, except in 4 regions (-)
- Need to improve species selection procedures, general processes, quality control (-)

Impact indicator case (2): status of farming-related species and habitats

- % of species/habitat assessments showing a “stable” or “improving” conservation status
- Highly relevant to biodiversity objective (+)
- Moderate/good linkage to the CAP (+) – though other drivers involved
- MS take different approaches to collecting data (-)
- Imperfect timing alignment between reporting cycles of Habitats Directive (2019, 2025, 2031) and future CAP (-)

Impact indicator case (3): landscape features on farmland

- % of (utilised) agricultural area covered with landscape features
- Highly relevant to objective on “landscapes” *per se* and biodiversity (+)
- Good linkage to the CAP (+) – though other drivers involved
- Details of methodology under development – data from:
 - Copernicus Land Monitoring Service
 - Land Use / Cover Area Frame Survey (LUCAS)

4. *"One more thing - aim high"*

(Clint Eastwood, *In the Line of Fire*)



“Targets” = ?

- Targets in CAP plans are set at “result” level....
- But EU environment and climate legislation creates “impact-level” targets in national plans etc. – e.g. greenhouse gas emission reductions – for a range of sectors
- Member States’ CAP plans must explain how they will “contribute” to achieving some of these – see Art. 97(2)(b) and Annex XI of draft CAP Plan Regulation

What do we mean by “increased ambition” (Art. 92)?

- Art. 92 is about showing **initial ambition** – final results are a separate (though important!) issue
- Judgment of the level of ambition will draw on a **range of information** (and will always be partly subjective) – i.e. elements of:
 - SWOT analysis, needs assessment (i.e. what really needs to be addressed?)
 - overall intervention strategy
 - elements common to several interventions – e.g. details of conditionality
 - descriptions of interventions (i.e. **content** to accompany target values – see below)
 - targets set (at level of result indicators); financial allocations

What about achieving the ambition?

- **Annual performance review** (at level of result indicators) should pick up implementation problems
- **Beyond result indicators: don't forget about ongoing evaluation** during the period - see Art. 126(5) – before final evaluation
- **Scientific assessment of results “on the ground”** should lead to adjustments of interventions where appropriate
- **Commission proposal provides for “performance bonus”** but no hard “penalties”

Implications for design of Pillar I eco-schemes

- Very useful if eco-schemes will quickly have a measurable effect on impact indicator values
- However, this cannot be guaranteed for every impact indicator – time lags, other influences
- Initial design, justification of eco-schemes should therefore depend partly on scientific evidence of what is likely to be effective – use lessons of past
- Be prepared to alter course (ongoing evaluation) – “When the facts change, I change my mind”

THANK YOU!

Further information is available at:

- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/factsheets-long-term-budget-proposals_en
- http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/index_en.cfm
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-common-agricultural-policy_en