

Action 3.3. Integrating economic development with environmental sustainability

Galicia



June, 2021

Action 3. Integrating economic development with environmental sustainability

Rationale of the action

The concept of sustainability focuses maintaining a balanced system between the three pillars: environment, economics and society. Quite often, however, the development of policies focuses on one specific aspect without considering the impact that the proposed actions may have on other parts of the system. In addition, it is not uncommon to find conflicting objectives and actions within the same area of the policy. Any action within the agri-food production that causes negative effects on any one of the sustainability pillars can reduce derived benefits and threaten the overall sustainability achievement.

The purpose of this workshop is to gather ideas and examples to support a better targeted and more effective policy making through better mutual understanding of issues and objectives between policy makers and industry. The report will provide models for evaluating and dealing with trade-offs which balance economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Workshop plan

Organising the workshop

Number of participants: min 15 – max 20

Who should we invite? Farmers, processors, retailers, policy makers and regional development agencies. Please note it is not required to have a representative from each of these groups but the key is to ensure a diverse and relevant group of key participants.

Objective: gain a **better understanding of the drivers and constraints to sustainable economic growth in the Atlantic Area, as perceived by each country. Drawing from experiences across regions, integrated policy solutions will be proposed.**

Workshop output: 1 report per country/region (D4F partners responsibility)

- Case studies in policy development (this will include activities and/or initiatives that contribute to the development of an integrated policy)
- Examples of effective policy instruments¹ and feedback loops
- Key recommendation for stakeholders

Final deliverable: 1 project report (AHDB responsibility)

¹ “tools used by governments to pursue a desired outcome. Examples include economic tools (taxes, spending, incentives), and regulations (voluntary, legal).” (<https://paulcairney.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/chapter-2-20-8-13-cairney-policy-policy-making-uk.pdf>)

Pre-workshop activity

Collate the main relevant current and future policy instruments in the region/country affecting dairy farming from an economy and environment perspective at:

- EU-level (where applicable)
- National level
- Regional level

Outline in a few bullet points what is the intention of the policy, for example:

- Increase milk production
- Increase export of dairy products
- Incentivise farmers for environmental outcomes

This document will form the basis for the discussion that will be conducted during the workshop. Ideally, it will be shared with the participants ahead of the meeting – participants should also be encouraged to contribute to the document before the workshop.

Workshop

The workshop will be structured in the following steps:

- Introduction and presentation of the workshop, with a description of the rationale and objectives.
- Breakout session: divide in 3 groups and list the main items in the relevant policy/ies, prioritizing them according to the regional circumstances.
- All: identify 5 priority items among those listed and score them as green-amber-red according to the impact (positive, neutral or negative) on economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Policy intention	Eco	Social	Enviro.
Increase post-quota milk production	😊	😐	😞
Increase milk quality/milk composition	😊	😊	😐
Diversification of the production	😐	😐	😊

Incentivise environmental outcomes	☹️	☹️	☹️
	☹️	😊	☹️
	😊	😊	☹️

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reakout session: divide in 3 groups and work on integrated solutions for the items that have been identified as having a negative or neutral impact on at least one pillar of sustainability.

- Discussion
- Wrap up and conclusion & next steps

Report template

After the workshop, a regional report will be prepared, which will also include the document prepared before the meeting to aid the discussion.

Current issues and policy framework in the region/country

Conditionality is an integral part of the future CAP framework and replaces greening and cross-compliance of the current CAP. It sets the baseline for more ambitious and sustainable agricultural commitments through the adoption of good farming practices and standards by farmers. Conditionality links income support (and other area- and animal-based payments) to environment- and climate-friendly farming practices and standards known as 'Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions' (GAECs). These practices aim to deliver a higher level of environmental and climate action. The GAECs set standards for mitigating. These are 10 GAECs in the future CAP: 1-Permanent pastures; 2-Preservation of carbon rich soils; 3-Maintenance of soil organic matter; 4-Establishment of buffer strips along watercourses; 5-Use of the new Farm Sustainability Tool for Nutrients; 6-Minimum land management under tillage; 7-No bare soil in most sensitive period; 8-Crop rotation; 9-Maintenance of non-productive features and areas; 10-Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland in Natura 2000 sites.

Who are the participants?

20 people participated at this meeting; 5 facilitators from AGACAL; 3 Dairy Farmers; 4 Policy makers from Regional Administration; 3 Researchers; 2 Farm advisers; 2 Farmers Union Representatives; 1 Journalist

Prioritise the items according to the relevance to your region:

Four items were addressed at this meeting:

- Water: Galicia has no vulnerable areas and how to preserve this situation it is a goal for dairy industry
- Land use: only 20% of Galicia is Arable Land, this scarcity of land is a handicap for dairy farmers and a threaten in terms of water pollution and biodiversity.
- Wildlife: Wolves and wild boards causes problems at farm level, how to keep the balance between dairy activity and wildlife is a challenge.
- Slurry: Optimize management of slurry is key for further improves in terms of nitrogen efficiency

What are the impacts of these policy items on the 3 pillars of sustainability?

Include the table below, which you will have filled in during the meeting with all participants

Policy item/intention	Eco	Social	Enviro.	Comments
Water	☹️	😊	😊	See video
Land use	😊	☹️	😊	See video
Wildlife	☹️	😊	😊	See video
Slurry	😊	☹️	😊	See video

Which of these policy items are a driver for a sustainable economic growth of the sector?

Land use and slurry management are drivers for sustainable economic growth of dairy industry in Galicia, all them harmonize with new CAP were environmental measures fit very well. Galicia needs more arable land to be even more selfsufficient in terms of forage, with more surface and better use of slurry, CAN reduction should be fact in most of dairy farms. Mosaic formed by paddocks, hedges, forestry and crops is Galicia's strength avoiding milk monoculture and risks associated with these practices.

Which of these policy items are a constraint for a sustainable economic growth of the sector?

Scarcity of land remains as handicap to make possible our dairy industry to grow, this lack of land means risk of some vulnerable area to be declared because of too high stocking rate. To keep Galicia as a no vulnerable area is a good flagship for dairy industry and benchmark of dairy systems laying on territory with a balanced nitrogen input. Most of participants showed its concern over no control on wildlife, it seems difficult to keep the balance between those lovers of

“green deserts” and those who claim for exterminate every single wildlife, to learn to live together sharing the same space is one of major challenges of dairy sector is got ahead at this point. Galicia, sized as Belgium, has around 100 packs wolves and tenth of thousands of wild boards. Economics measures to try to pay damages caused by these animals are still very weak; campaign in both side of society farmers and urban people are needed to give information about the problem and try make one to understand the other.

Are there any non-policy initiatives in your area able to mitigate some of the negative effects or enhance some of the positive ones? Identify at least 2 case studies from pilot farms or projects.

- Rax system is a tool to asses slurry management developed by AGACAL in collaboration with dairy cooperatives. Rax lets farm advisers to calculate necessities of chemical fertilizer depending on slurry quality, availability and type of crop to be fertilized.

<http://www.ciam.gal/app/?app=raxgal>

- Project over buffer strips along watercourses, coordinated by AGACAL in cooperation with Galicia Water Authority and dairy farmers. This action was developed to concern people about the importance of preserving and take care of this green structure, very important as natural filter and wildlife reserve.

<https://www.campogalego.es/ganaderias-de-mazaricos-se-implican-en-la-lucha-contra-el-cambio-climatico-protegiendo-las-riberas-de-los-rios/>

Can you identify an example of a feedback loop?

Some dairy areas share the same geographical area with swine and many times the same farmer has both activities, dairy and pigs. These activities are a good complement in terms of slurry management, most of dairy farmers has some agreement with swine producer and fertilize their paddocks with pigs’ slurry. This practice let farmers don’t expend any mineral nitrogen and avoid the main problem of pig industry, how to manage slurry produced in farm.

Which innovations of the D4F pilot farms could support an integrated policy to achieve a sustainable economic growth? Link with the WP5 and WP6 outputs.

Sebastián is a D4F pilot farm, 100 cows, were fresh grass is harvested every day over 10 months per year. Due to small size of paddocks and excessive fragmentation of land grazing is not an option, fresh grass is every day mixed in TMR with other feeds to make ration. This practice let this farm to be in some periods selfsufficient in protein and improve economics.

<https://www.campogalego.es/ganaderia-sebastian-sc-las-ventajas-de-trabajar-en-intensivo-con-hierba-fresca-en-pesebre/>

List other solutions/comments/quotes/feedback provided by the participants

- Dairy cattle rely on land, this minimise environmental impact compared to monogastric. Society doesn't make any difference between them and animal production is dealt as a whole, so positive impacts of dairy cattle are not considered and only negative are highlighted.
- Scarcity of land is a threaten for dairy sector, availability of land would let farmer to improve economics, to reduce food external dependence and to make a better use of slurry.
- To suit capacity and cover slurry pits should be mandatory to get any further subside.
- Measures to get under control wildlife. Reproductive control, fencing, shepherd dogs...
- Damages made by wildlife should be covered by civil liability insurance.
- New CAP should consider Galician landscape in terms of ecosystems services to society; landscape feature, biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- Neutral (no commercial) adviser service is missed.

