



**Statement of Martijn Buijsse, EISA Policy Officer,
at the meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group “Agriculture“
in Brussels on Thursday, December 16, 2016:**

My name is Martijn Buijsse and I represent EISA, the European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture. We want to raise awareness among this Civil Dialogue Group and in the Commission about the solutions Integrated Farm Management brings in relation to maintaining a competitive food production and working on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals which will clearly be assessed for the CAP after 2020.

More and more farmers are, in cooperation with the supply chain and advisory services, working with sustainable farming practices. For example precision agriculture leading to more resource efficiency, Integrated Pest Management leading to as little as possible – or zero – environmental impact of crop protection products, tools to improve above ground biodiversity, measures on improving soil and animal health, and farmers who are implementing innovations to prevent and adapt to climate change.

Integrated Farm Management is a holistic farm approach that aims to engage farmers to work on the basis of continuous improvement on sustainability. This way of farming is supported by many organisations in the supply chain, for example by SMEs and multinational food companies that are members of SAI platform. It is important for modern agricultural and food production that policies from the food supply chain are aligned with agricultural policy of the EU.

Integrated Farm Management can be practiced certified and non-certified. For example more than 2,000 farmers are LEAF Marque certified, and in the Netherlands approximately 400 farmers are Skylark certified and herewith prove their commitment to sustainable farming. Particularly Dutch Skylark farmers already gain advantages within the current CAP since they can use this certificate for filling out an equivalent package for greening. The certified farmers receive benefits from the supply chain and banking sector as well. But to be clear, the large number of non-certified farmers equally takes many measures to improve sustainability in the end. All these farmers need recognition in the next CAP.

What we would like to propose in order to modernise and simplify CAP is that Integrated Farmers, either certified or non-certified, receive recognition for their proven commitment and results for sustainable agriculture. Both types of farmers actually deliver measureable agro-ecological services on soil, water, biodiversity and climate change. Integrated Farm Management delivers prosperous agriculture that enriches the environment and engages local communities.