

European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (EISA)'s position on the future CAP

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EISA's proposal towards the future CAP

In order to modernise and simplify the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in line with United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals¹, Paris Agreement,² and the conclusions of the Cork 2.0 declaration³, introducing [Integrated Farm Management](#) (IFM)⁴ into the CAP as a part of the rural development programme offers win-win solutions. IFM delivers value in agriculture, enriches the environment and engages local communities. Farmers implementing IFM deliver measurable agro-ecological and societal services with regard to soil, water, biodiversity, animal health and welfare, and climate change while ensuring economic viability.

EISA proposes to political decision makers that the EU formally recognises farming businesses adopting IFM practices, specifically for their proven commitment to more sustainable farming practices and their ongoing development and improvement which leverage sustainable development in agriculture.



The benefits of IFM

IFM is a holistic and progressive approach which focuses on setting targets, evaluating measures taken, and subsequently adapting actions and measures for improved performance. Implementation of IFM can be accomplished by self-assessment, contracts and certification. It has to be emphasised, however, that all farmers following the guidelines of IFM need to take a multitude of measures to improve their sustainability performance, and thus deserve recognition in the next CAP. Beyond self-assessment and contracting, for example, more than 1,000 farmers are LEAF Marque certified, and in the Netherlands approximately 400 farmers are

Skylark certified, both systems with independent external verification. Skylark farmers already receive recognition for their certificate within the current CAP as an equivalent package for greening – a promising model for IFM in future CAP reforms.

¹ https://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf

² http://unfccc.int/files/home/application/pdf/paris_agreement.pdf

³ http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/cork-declaration_en.pdf

⁴ Integrated Farm Management (IFM) is a holistic approach characterised by a continuous improvement process in the delivery of more sustainable agriculture. IFM means acting according to a given site and situation, and delivers more prosperous agriculture that enriches the environment and engages local communities.

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What can we offer?

EISA would be pleased to provide expertise on the role of IFM with regard to sustainable development in the agricultural and food sectors and arrange meetings in this context. In particular, we can provide speakers, internationally experienced with farmers and food organisations on issues related to sustainable development, as well as farmers from our working farm network as practitioners and ambassadors of modern sustainable agriculture.

Working farm network

We would like to invite MEPs, the EU Commission and Council officials, as well as other stakeholders out on farm. Do not miss opportunities to see Integrated Farm Management and sustainable agriculture in practice out on EISA's working farm network. The six national EISA members actively promote sustainable agricultural systems in France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Hungary and the UK. Many of these farmers are committed and available to speak off-farm and provide hands-on experiences on-farm on how sustainable agriculture works and their experiences on sharing their knowledge with farmers and others.

EISA – promoting sustainable farming systems in Europe

EISA's and our partners' approach to Integrated Farm Management can bring many solutions for the delivery of more sustainable agriculture for the European Commission and Members of European Parliament, specifically providing the opportunity to maintain a competitive food production that enhances our natural environment and, amongst other societal and ecosystem services, delivers sufficient and high-quality food.

In cooperation with the supply chain and extension services, farmers are increasingly adopting more sustainable farming practices through the implementation of Integrated Farm Management. This includes enhancing resource efficiency, adopting Integrated Pest Management, biodiversity enhancement and habitat creation, the use of precision agriculture techniques, etc. **EISA proposes that IFM provides the framework for the future CAP to support European farmers in the adoption of more sustainable agriculture.**

Further information

Follow us on Twitter via @SustAgriculture. We tweet frequently about sustainable development in agriculture and about projects and activities our members and partners work on. For more information on Integrated Farm Management, please visit our website for documents such as the Integrated Farming Framework (<http://sustainable-agriculture.org/integrated-farming/>), the EISA Annual Report 2016 (<http://sustainable-agriculture.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/EISA-Annual-Report-2016.pdf>), EISA's Topic Sheets <http://sustainable-agriculture.org/category/eisa-publications/> and other related information at www.sustainable-agriculture.net.

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