



# Assembly of European Horticultural Regions

Sectoral interventions in the fruit and vegetable sectors – comparative analysis of strategic national plans. FR – ES – IT

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## EU-level Key Objectives(1)

### Nine Specific Objectives

1. Support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
2. Increase competitiveness and agricultural productivity in a sustainable way to meet the challenges of higher demand in a resource-constrained and climate uncertain world;
3. Improve farmers' position in the value chain;
4. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;



## EU-level Key Objectives (2)

6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.
7. Modernise the agricultural sector by attracting young people and improving their business development.
8. Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio economy and sustainable forestry.
9. Improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, reducing food waste, as well as animal welfare.

One cross-cutting objective:

"Driving simplification"



# EU-level legislation (COM(2018)0392 – C8 –0248/2018 – 2018/0216(COD))

## 1. Chapter III – Section 1

- i. Article 39 - Scope*
- ii. Article 40 - Mandatory and optional types of interventions*
- iii. Article 40a - Forms of support*
- iv. Article 41 – Delegated powers for additional requirements for types of interventions*
- v. Article 41a - Objectives in the fruit and vegetables sector and others referred to in points (f) of Article 39*
- vi. Article 41b - Types of interventions in the fruit and vegetables sector and others referred to in points (f) of Article 39*
- vii. Article 41c - Planning, reporting and performance clearance at operational programme level*

## • 2. Chapter III – Section 2

- i. Article 42 - Objectives in the fruit and vegetables sector*
- ii. Article 44 - Operational programmes*
- iii. Article 45 - Operational funds*
- iv. Article 46 - Union financial assistance to the fruit and vegetable sector*
- v. Article 47 – National financial assistance*



# COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MEASURES:

## FRANCE



## Commission Recommendations for France

- Improve the resilience of the agricultural sector against market and climatic events.
- Support strengthen advisory services and promoting on-farm GHG assessment tools to improve energy and climate performance.
- Promote a transition to high environmental value production systems such as low-input, agro-forestry, agro-ecological and biodiversity-friendly approaches, including integrated pest management, and enhance organic farming.



## Applicable eco-schemes in France

- Planned expenditure envelope: 1.644€BN
  - with "hedge" bonus of 40€M
- Total planned expenditure of 1.684€BN
- Eligible beneficiaries: "true farmers"

Specific objectives covered:

4. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
  5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;
  6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.
- Three different access routes possible for eco-schemes in France



## 1. Eco-schemes tied to practices

- Crop diversification with a focus on protein crops and grasslands (point system)

Rationale: use of points system to score choice of crops (chosen by individual farmers).

Remunerated with a standard-rate payment of 60€/hectare on reaching 4 points  
Remunerated with superior-rate payment of 82€/hectare on reaching 5 points

**OR**

- plant cover in the inter-row space of perennial crops (applicable to viticulture and arboriculture).

Rationale: 75% of all inter-row spaces with vegetation cover to access standard payment, 95% to access superior-rate payment.



## 2. Eco-schemes tied to certification

- High Environmental Value (level "2+")

Remunerated with a standard-rate payment of 60€/hectare

OR

- High Environmental Value ("level 3")

OR

- Organic agriculture

The "level 3" High Environmental Value and Organic agriculture ecoschemes are remunerated at the "superior-rate" payment of 82€/hectare

- Not cumulable with the eco-schemes tied to practices.



### 3. Eco-schemes tied to agroecological infrastructures

- Applied at a ratio of 7% agroecological infrastructures on the total useful agricultural area

Remunerated at the "standard-rate" payment of 60€/hectare

OR

- Applied at a ratio of 10% agroecological infrastructures on the total useful agricultural area

Remunerated at the "superior-rate" payment of 82€/hectare

Not cumulable with the practices or certifications eco-schemes.

**"Hedge bonus" (7€/hectare)**

- hedges occupying at least 6% of the total useful agricultural area.

- Cumulable with the practice and certification eco-schemes, but NOT with agroecological infrastructures eco-schemes.



## Coupled aid for F + V production

- Separate from F + V sectoral interventions.
- Eligible beneficiaries: active farmers
- Governed by Article 29 of the future Strategic Plan Regulation
- Addresses Specific Objectives:
  - 1) Support farm income and increase Union food security
  - 9) Improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health
- F + V products for processing covered (separate aid interventions for each):
  - Bigarreau cherries
  - Ente plums
  - Pavia peaches
  - Williams pears
  - Tomatoes



## Programme overview

- Financing: European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)
- "Hexagon and Corsica" for territorial application
- Governed by Article 49 of the future Strategic Plan Regulation
- CAP Specific Objectives covered:
  1. Support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
  2. Increase competitiveness;
  3. Improve farmers' position in the value chain;
  4. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
  5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;



# SECTORAL INTERVENTION CATEGORIES



## OVERVIEW

- Scope of application: National
- Financed by EAGF
- Eligibility criteria
  - Reconition as Producer Organisations or Associations of Producer Organisations as per Regulation n°1308/2013, in line with Article 44 of the draft CAP Strategic Plan Regulation
- Rate of assistance
  - Fixed at 50% of eligible expenditure, increasing to 60% in instances foreseen by the planned Commission Strategic Plan Regulation
- Addresses Specific Objectives 1 through 5



## Broad Intervention Categories

1. Interventions aiming to plan production.
2. Interventions aiming to maintain or improve high-quality production.
3. Interventions tied to the environment.
4. Interventions aiming to improve commercialisation.
5. Interventions related to research and experimental production.
6. Interventions for crisis prevention and management.
7. Interventions regarding training and promotion of access to guidance (except for crisis prevention and management).



## Interventions aiming to plan production

Corresponds to objectives stated in point a) of Article 41a (previously Article 42) and interventions under points a), c), e), i), and k) of the former Article 43 (deleted from the interinstitutional compromise document, replaced by Article 41b) of the Draft regulation governing National Strategic Plans.

Examples of admissible investments and expenditure:

- Greenhouses and shelters;
- Irrigation and microirrigation infrastructure;
- "other measures aiming to plan production";



## Interventions aiming to maintain or improve high-quality production

Corresponds to objectives stated in points a) and c) of article 41a (previously Article 42) and interventions listed under points a), c), e), i), and k) of the former Article 43 (deleted from the interinstitutional compromise document, replaced by Article 41b) of the draft regulation governing National Strategic Plans

Examples of admissible investments and expenditure:

- Measures to counter diseases and pests
- Product traceability
- Improvement of pollination



## Interventions tied to the environment

Corresponds to objectives stated in points e) and h) of Article 41a (previously Article 42) and the interventions listed under points a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), l), j), k), l), p), of the former Article 43 (deleted from the interinstitutional compromise document, replaced by Article 41b) of the draft regulation governing National Strategic Plans.

Examples of admissible investments and expenditure:

- The conversion to organic agriculture
- Integrated production
- Rotation of vegetable crops
- Actions favouring the development of renewable energy



## Interventions aiming to improve commercialisation

Conforms to objectives stated in points f), g), and h) of Article 41a (previously Article 42) and interventions listed under points b), k), m) and n) of the former Article 43 (deleted from the interinstitutional compromise document, replaced by Article 41b) of the draft regulation governing National Strategic Plans

**Examples of admissible investments and expenditure:**

- the creation and development of a business department, an office or a sales point;
- Market research, advertising and promotion activities;
- IT and telematics investments, development or adaptation of IT software;



## Interventions related to research and experimental production

Corresponds to objectives stated in point c) of Article 41a (previously Article 42) and interventions listed under points b), c) and n) of the former Article 43 (deleted from the interinstitutional compromise document, replaced by Article 41b) of the draft regulation governing National Strategic Plans

Examples of admissible investments and expenditure:

- The creation of organic products;
- Genetic enhancement, tests to increase resistance to diseases;
- Studies and diagnostics;



## Interventions for crisis prevention and management

Corresponds to objectives stated in point i) of Article 41a (previously Article 42) and interventions listed under point 2 of the former Article 43 (deleted from the interinstitutional compromise document, replaced by Article 41b) of the draft regulation governing National Strategic Plans

Admissible investments and expenditure:

- Actions for training on crisis management and prevention;
- Contributions to administrative fees tied to setting up mutual funds;
- Withdrawals for both free distribution and distribution outside free schemes;



## Interventions regarding training and promotion of access to guidance

Corresponds to objectives stated in points c) and d) of Article 41a (previously Article 42) and interventions listed under points o) and p) of the former Article 43 (deleted from the interinstitutional compromise document, replaced by Article 41b) of the draft regulation governing National Strategic Plans.

Examples of admissible investments and expenditure:

- Training for software use and related materials;
- Training and technical assistance;
- Investments in shares in companies contributing to the realisation of OP objectives.
- Other training measures and measures aiming to promote access to guidance.



## Existing feedback: Environmental Agency recommendations

- Greater territorialisation of environmental issues and the respective strategic interventions aiming to address them.
- Define as soon as possible the measures to avoid, reduce and if necessary, compensate for the environmental impacts of the Strategic Plan and present a timetable for implementation.
- Evaluation of the effects of a generalised insurance system on the evolution of adaptation practices to climatic hazards.
- Ensure that measures for conversion to organic farming are sufficiently attractive despite the abolition of maintenance aid, and if necessary, revise Strategic Plan so that this incentive does not decrease in value over time.



## Existing feedback: EDATER – AND International

- Impacts of interventions in the fruit and vegetables sector are hard to anticipate and considered to be neutral-to-positive for biodiversity, environmental quality and the climate.
- HOWEVER actions could be negative if inputs and natural resource use increase.
- Ecoschemes may not be sufficiently incentivising for certain types of production, among which arboriculture.
- Coupled aid for fruit destined for processing may have the most negative environmental implications if it involves extensive use of pesticides, fertilisers, irrigation infrastructure, etc.
- The evaluation of the national strategy of the operational programmes for fruit and vegetables shows that certain environmental actions (reduction of pesticides, sustainable management of irrigation, reduction of packaging) can be effectively implemented when they are in synergy with economic development strategies (eco-responsible orchard certification, guaranteed without pesticide residues, etc.)



# COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MEASURES:

SPAIN



## Commission Recommendations for Spain

- Advance towards internal convergence and distributing direct income support towards homogenous groups of territories.
- Income gaps among farms of different sizes should be addressed, using measures such as the complementary edistributive income support and the reduction of payments.
- Reduce use of antimicrobials in agriculture.



## Organisation of priorities

Organisation of priorities along four main blocs, with needs in each bloc scored at +++, ++, and + according to priority:

### - Economic

Priorities with a +++ score: 7  
Priorities with a ++ score: 8  
Priorities with a + score: 6

### - Rural

Priorities with a +++ score: 4  
Priorities with a ++ score: 7  
Priorities with a + score: 4

### - Environmental

Priorities with a +++ score: 10  
Priorities with a ++ score: 10  
Priorities with a + score: 10

### - Consumer

Priorities with a +++ score: 3  
Priorities with a ++ score: 2  
Priorities with a + score: 3



## Division of responsibilities

1. The Spanish Agriculture Ministry (MAPA) is responsible for the definition and presentation of elements shared by the intervention categories (e.g., admissible hectares, "young farmers", "active farmers", minimum requirements for decoupled payments, conditionality, etc.).
2. Interventions "of national character":
  - Planning is the responsibility of MAPA
  - Possibility to plan "sub-interventions" within this category of interventions to cater for specific regional needs.
3. Interventions "of regional character":
  - Planning and design is the responsibility of the individual regions (*Comunidades Autónomas, CCAA*), as is their inclusion in the final Strategic Plan.
4. Joint MAPA and CCAA technical working groups to oversee insertion in the Plan.



## Eco-schemes

Total envelope: 996.7€ million

Organised under three main categories:

**1. Low-carbon agriculture (main ecoscheme)**

**2. Agroecology (main ecoscheme)**

These two main categories have been allocated circa 90% of the total envelope for ecoschemes)

**3. Precision agriculture (complementary ecoscheme)**

Beneficiaries eligible for the above "main" ecoschemes should also be eligible for this complementary ecoscheme.

The budget envelope for this ecoscheme would be circa 110.7€M (circa 10% of the total envelope for ecoschemes)



## Low-carbon agriculture

### Practice 6: Spontaneous or sown ground covers on woody crops

Related specific objective:

4. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy

Secondary specific objective:

5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air ("*environmental protection*")

6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.

Potentially eligible hectares: 3.94 million

Potentially eligible beneficiaries: 448,680



## Low-carbon agriculture

### Practice 7: inert vegetation covers in woody crops

Related specific objective:

4. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy

Secondary specific objective:

5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air ("*environmental protection*")

6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.

Potentially eligible hectares: 3.94 million

Potentially eligible beneficiaries: 448,680



## Agro-ecology

### Practice 3: Rotations in cropland (with sustainable sustainable input management in irrigated land)

Related specific objective:

5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air ("*environmental protection*")

Secondary specific objective:

4. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy

Potentially eligible hectares: 10,705,225

Potentially eligible beneficiaries: 310,771



## Agro-ecology

### Practice 5: Biodiversity hotspots in cropland and permanent crops (with sustainable input management in irrigated land)

Related specific objective:

6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.

Secondary specific objectives:

4. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy

5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air ("*environmental protection*")

#### Farmland

Potentially eligible hectares: 10,705,228

Potentially eligible beneficiaries: 310,771

#### Permanent crops

Potentially eligible hectares: 3,944,671

Potentially eligible beneficiaries: 448,680



## Proposed aid related to production

### Aid associated to sustainable production of tomatoes for processing

#### Related Specific Objectives:

1. Support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
2. Increasing competitiveness and market orientation
8. Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio economy and sustainable forestry.

Expected level of payments: 9.3€M/year (2023-2027)

Expected rate of aid: 282.683€/hectare (min = 256.985€, max = 314.093€)

Area potentially eligible for aid: approximately 32,900 hectares



## Proposed aid related to production

Aid associated to sustainable production of tomatoes for processing

Type of aid: Income-related support

Funding: European agricultural guarantee fund (EAGF)

Territorial scope: national

Implementation indicator: Number of hectares benefiting from coupled support

Beneficiaries: "Active farmers" , registered in REGEPA (Registro General de la Producción Agrícola)



## Proposed aid related to production

### Aid for dryland nut producers in areas at risk of desertification

#### Related Specific Objectives:

1. Support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
2. Increasing competitiveness and market orientation
5. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;
6. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.
8. Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio economy and sustainable forestry.

Crops concerned: rainfed cultivated crops, hazelnuts, almonds and carob.



## Proposed aid related to production

### Aid for dryland nut producers in areas at risk of desertification

Type of aid: Income-related support

Funding: European agricultural guarantee fund (EAGF)

Territorial scope: national

Implementation indicator: Number of hectares benefiting from coupled support

Expected level of payments: 14€M/year (2023-2027)

Expected rate of aid (mainland): 63.936€/hectare (min = 58.124€, max = 71.040€)

Expected rate of aid (Balearic Islands): 120€/hectare (min = 109.272€, max = 133.555€)

Area potentially eligible for aid (mainland): approximately 32,900 hectares

Area potentially eligible for aid (Balearic Islands): approximately 32,900 hectares  
(TOTAL: 214,221.04 hectares)



# COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MEASURES:

ITALY



## Commission Recommendations for Italy

- Increase the land under organic farming.
- Encourage more young people to move into farming professions.
- Increased focus on climate change mitigation: devise the required blend of voluntary interventions and obligations to improve input use efficiency.



## Definition of Priorities

- Priorities divided into four categories:
  1. **Strategic priorities** - underpin the strategy and should involve both specific actions and comprehensive approaches that address other needs in a mutually reinforcing way;
  2. **Qualifying priorities** - relate to enabling areas of intervention to make effective responses to other needs, in particular strategic ones;
  3. **Complementary priorities** - refer to areas of intervention that synergistically complement strategic needs; not of less importance, but of a more specific, enabling nature;
  4. **Specific priorities** - Priorities that have scored below a certain threshold of points (re: meetings between ministries and regions/autonomous provinces) will be considered of punctual relevance to the National Strategic Plan.



## Definition of Priorities

- Further division of priorities (and definition of actions) by terrain types:
  - Plains (circa 23.2% of national territory)
  - Hills (circa 35.2% of national territory)
  - Mountains (circa 41.6% of national territory)
- EU specific objectives grouped under three general objectives:
  - 1) **General objective 1 (Income and competitiveness)** - covers specific objectives 1, 2 and 3
  - 2) **General objective 2 (Environment and climate)** - covers specific objectives 4, 5 and 6
  - 3) **General objective 3 (Rural development)** - covers specific objectives 7, 8 and 9
- EU Cross-cutting objective covered separated



## IT eco-schemes relevant to the fruit and vegetable sector

National level funding available for ecoschemes: 907€M

Eco-scheme n°2 - Incentives to encourage organic agriculture

Eco-scheme n°3 - Incentives to encourage integrated production and reduce the use of/risk derived from phytosanitary products

Eco-scheme n°4 - Grassland premium for permanent crops (to fight soil degradation)

Eco-scheme n°6 - Premiums for crop rotation (to increase the soil carbon stock)

Eco-scheme n°7 - Increasing non-productive areas and elements to protect biodiversity (potentially applicable)



## Final comparison

	FR	ES	IT
Territorialisation of sectoral interventions	No	Yes (CCAA strategic plans)	YES (details TBD)
Sector-specific interventions	Yes	TBD	TBD
Crop-specific interventions (for F + V)	Separate from F + V sectoral, for processing	Yes	TBD
Eco-schemes applicable to F + V sector	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eco-scheme funding	1.644€Bn	996.7€M	907€M



## Next Steps:

- I. Public consultation on National Strategic Plan in France: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/consultations-publiques-0> (From 13 November to 12 December).
- II. Ongoing stakeholder consultation in Italy.
- III. Ongoing negotiations between the central government in Spain and the regions (Comunidades Autónomas).
- IV. Course on sectoral interventions in Spain organised by the agriculture ministry (open to Spanish DNI holders only): <https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/el-ministerio-de-agricultura-pesca-y-alimentaci%C3%B3n-organiza-un-curso-sobre-las-intervenciones-del-plan-estrat%C3%A9gico-de-la-pac--/tcm:30-580694>
- V. Strategic Plans to be submitted to the Commission by December 31st at the latest (with delays expected for some States).
- VI. Review of Member State Strategic Plans throughout 2022
- VII. Implementation at the Member State level set to start from 1 January 2023



# Thank you for your attention



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