

Forestry in the Common Agricultural Policy

*Science-Led Forest Transitions:: The Slovenian Forestry
Institute's Work for a Climate Resilient Forest Sector*

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Forestry in the CAP

- Forestry actions have been supported with different instruments since the 60s of last century.
- Forestry actions have been always supported by CAP-related instruments but only from 2000, forestry is considered integral part of Rural Development, within the CAP.
- The CAP supports different forestry measures and interventions, including investments, management commitments, compensations, cooperation, R&I and covering both the primary production and the whole supply chain.
- Agroforestry as well is considered part of forestry interventions.



Forestry in the CAP

- Forestry interventions are generally supported with support rate up to 100%
- The reason is that any interventions made to improve the forests, being them productive or non-productive, lead to improvement of all ecosystem services, including environmental and climate services.
- Sustainable Forest Management is a pre-requisite for CAP support on forestry.
- Depending on the type of intervention, priority is given to one or two of the three pillars of sustainability, but has always positive reflections on the others (3 pillars: environmental and socio-economic)



Afforestation

- The CAP supports different kinds of afforestation: traditional forestry, short rotation forestry and creation on natural-like forests.
- Those activities are supported both in agricultural and non-agricultural lands and the beneficiaries are both private and public entities.
- While short rotation forestry does not normally lead to change of land use (farmers can go back to agriculture), the creation of natural-like forests normally leads to permanent change from agricultural to forest land.
- Afforestation is not a one-off investment. When trees are planted, the follow up activities in the following years are key to the success of the activity. Support normally continues for 5 to 12+ years after the plantation.
- CAP support can cover up to 100% of the establishment costs and, depending on the case, annual payments for maintenance and compensation for loss of agricultural income.
- Therefore, it is a combination of investment and management commitments



Agroforestry

- The CAP supports the establishment and regeneration of agroforestry systems
- Establishment costs including soil examination and preparation, propagation material, plantation operations, protection (individual or fencing) and their maintenance
- As for afforestation, also this intervention is not a one-off investment. When trees are planted, the follow up activities in the following years are key to the success of the activity. Support normally continues for 5 years after the plantation.
- CAP support can cover up to 100% of the establishment costs and maintenance for the following years.
- Therefore, also this intervention is a combination of investment and management commitments



Prevention

- The CAP supports investments for the prevention of forests from natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events
- Support may include, among others:
 - Protective infrastructures, such as forest paths, tracks, access roads, water supply points, including landing zones for aerial means of transport, excluding landing facilities for commercial activities.
 - Preventive forestry practices, such as repetitive vegetation control, cleaning, thinning, pruning and diversification of vegetation structure
 - Purchase and use of grazing animals
- Support rate is up to 100% of the eligible costs



Restoration

- The CAP supports investments for the restoration of forests after natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events
- Support may include, among others:
 - Clearing and re-planting of damaged forests
 - replanting damaged vegetation with high environmental interests (habitat restoration)
 - restoring damaged investments, protective facilities, engineered works, installations, paths and fire observation points
- Support rate is up to 100% of the eligible costs



Non-productive investments

- The CAP supports non-productive investments that do not have the economic aspect as priority. It includes investments with environmental, climate and recreational objectives.
- Still, the economic return is not excluded in the medium-long term.
- Support may include, among others:
 - Conversion of forest stands into more resilient stands, for ecological and climate change interest. E.g. planting of broadleaves, increase of biodiversity, removing invasive species etc.
 - Public amenity, e.g. establishment of walking paths, small scale recreation facilities, signposting, information tables, shelters and look-out points
- Support rate is up to 100% of the eligible costs



Productive investments

- The CAP supports productive investments, whose the first objectives are economic return and competitiveness of the forestry sector.
- Support may include, among others:
 - investments in machinery and/or equipment related to felling, storing as well as protective treatments, drying of wood and other working operations prior to industrial sawing of wood at a sawing mill. Forest tree nursery technologies.
 - forest conversion aiming at changing the forest structure or species composition, with a demonstrated improvement of the economic value
- Support rate is up to 65% of the eligible costs (80% in specific cases)



Forestry infrastructures

- The CAP supports infrastructures and land consolidation
- Support may include, among others:
 - Access to forest land: construction of roads and bridges within the forest or leading to the forest
 - Forestry railway and cable way infrastructure for forest management purposes
 - Land consolidation
- Support rate is up to 100%



Forestry environment-climate management commitments

- The CAP supports annual management commitments that have the objective of making the forest stands healthier and resilient.
- Support may include, among others:
 - Forestry practices that increase climate resilience
 - Forestry practices that increase biodiversity
 - Preserving habitat trees
 - Etc.
- Support is in the form on annual payment for 5-7 years.



Natura 2000 compensations

- The CAP compensate forest holders who manage forests within Natura 2000 areas and have disadvantages resulting from the implementation of those directives
- Compensation payments are granted annually



Other horizontal interventions

Forest holders can have access to a broad range of other supports, which are not forestry-specific, such as support for:

- Start-up of rural business linked to forestry
- Cooperation, including EIP operations groups and LEADER
- Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information
- Forest Advisory Service
- EU and National CAP networks



Thank you!

