Research for the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in 2016

The Policy Department provides high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice to assist parliamentary bodies. Written expertise is prepared either in house or by outside researchers. The Policy Department also organises events such as workshops, policy hubs and conferences. This document lists the written expertise prepared by outside researchers and published by the Policy Department for the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in the course of 2016. It also lists the requested on-going study projects for the AGRI Committee with their approximate publication dates in 2017.

RESEARCH FOR AGRI PROJECTS PUBLISHED IN THE COURSE OF 2016

STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN EU FARMING: HOW CAN THE CAP SUPPORT A 21ST CENTURY EUROPEAN MODEL OF AGRICULTURE?

Summary: This is the reference document of the Workshop on the “Effects of the structural changes on EU farming: How to better support the European model of agriculture of the 21st century with the CAP” of 14th March 2016. It is structured in three parts: 1) Farm structural change in Western Europe and the CAP. 2) Farm structural change in Central and Eastern Europe and the CAP. 3) Food value chain in the EU - How to improve it and strengthen the bargaining power of farmers.


STATE OF PLAY OF RISK MANAGEMENT TOOLS IMPLEMENTED BY MEMBER STATES DURING THE PERIOD 2014-2020: NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

Summary: The study aims at reviewing the implementing arrangements by the EU Member States with regard to the risk management provisions in the agricultural sector. The study develops an overview of the state of play of risk management in 2014/2020 national or regional Rural Development Programmes. It examines similarities and differences in risk management tools implemented in order to gain a better understanding of their scope, their design, their limits and their potential efficiency. The study also suggests future CAP developments related to risk management in order to deal more effectively with income uncertainties and market volatility.

Authors: I. Bardají and A. Garrido (Research Centre for the Management of Agricultural and Environmental Risks - CEIGRAM) ; I. Blanco, A. Felis and J. M. Sumpsi (CEIGRAM, France) ; T. García-Azcárate (CSIC, France); G. Enjolras (University Grenoble Alpes, France) ; F. Capitanio (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

THE ROLE OF THE EU’S COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN CREATING RURAL JOBS

Summary: This study analysed the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy’s role in creating rural jobs. Starting at the EU level, a thorough systematic literature review and a statistical analysis prepare the ground for more detailed Member State reviews and Case studies. When discussing the findings the study concludes that the CAP supports the survival of small scale farms and contributes to sustain and develop rural economies. However, Pillar I payments have contradictory effects on employment and its ability in creating jobs appears to be limited. Pillar II is effective in supporting diversification, but concrete evidences of direct effects on employment are difficult to assess due to missing systematic reporting on job creation.

Authors: B. Schuh; H. Gorny, J. Kaucic, S. Kirchmayr-Novak (all ÖIR, Austria); M. Vigani, J. Powell, E. Hawketts (all CCRI, University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom).
PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTING THE 2015-2020 RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Summary: This study examines the choices made by EU Member States in preparing their Rural Development Programmes for the 2015-2020 period. It finds much continuity compared to the previous period but some notable changes, including more funding for knowledge and co-operation and greater focus upon the goals of environmental management and investments for primary sector competitiveness, with less for rural diversification. There is weak evidence of targeting of relative needs at EU level, but some evidence of a more strategic approach within Programmes. Heavy administrative burdens appear as a negative influence upon effective programme design, but innovation is indicated in the diverse uses of the co-operation measure. Other new measures have not proven popular. An effort to identify simpler approaches that enable effective targeting is recommended.


THE POST-QUOTAS EU SUGAR SECTOR

Summary: The liberalisation of the sugar market in the EU will bring about changes in the sugar sector. Elimination of production quotas and the minimum price for the purchase of sugar beet will affect competition and sugar production. Foreign trade will play a key role in the market balance. The EU market will become strongly linked to the world market. The sugar sector is of strategic importance and CAP market policy should include instruments that allow the maintenance of sugar production.

Authors: P. Szajner, B. Wieliczko, M. Wigier, M. Hamulczuk and W. Wrzaszcz (IAFE - National Research Institute, Poland)

THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE EU'S EXTERNAL ACTION AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Summary: The CAP has been strongly influenced by the EU’s External Actions. The various Enlargements, and trade policies to favour its neighbours to both the East and South, and for its former colonies, have left their mark. However it is external pressures through the GATT/WTO that have had the most defining effect. Current pressures stem from a new generation of Free Trade agreements, the need to reduce agriculture’s greenhouse gas emissions, and to respond to Brexit.

Author: A. Swinbank (School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, United Kingdom).

WORKSHOP DOCUMENTATION: CAP REFORM POST-2020 - CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE


Authors: A. Matthews, L. P. Mahé, J.-C. Bureau, T. Dax and A. Copus.

LAUNCHED RESEARCH FOR AGRI PROJECTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE COURSE OF 2017

THE EU BEEF AND MILK SECTORS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Jan./Feb. 2017

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES FOR EU AGRICULTURE - FOLLOW-UP TO THE COP21

Jan./Feb. 2017

POLICY SUPPORT FOR PRODUCTIVITY VS SUSTAINABILITY IN EU AGRICULTURE: TOWARDS VIABLE FARMING AND GREEN GROWTH

Feb./Mar. 2017

PRESERVING AGRICULTURAL SOILS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Mar./April 2017

FLEXIBILITY GIVEN TO MEMBER STATES IN CAP IMPLEMENTATION: STATE OF PLAY AND PERSPECTIVES

May/June 2017

Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies: Within the European Parliament’s Directorate-General for Internal Policies, the Policy Department is the research unit which supplies technical expertise to the following five parliamentary Committees: Agriculture and Rural Development; Culture and Education; Fisheries; Regional Development; Transport and Tourism. Expertise is produced either in-house or externally.