



The Farm Advisory Systems of the CAP: current legal framework and outlook

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FAS Workshop 2020 - 21 October 2020

INTRODUCTION

- Farming is an economic activity dependent on a wide range of factors. The viability of farms depends on climatic conditions, events on the market, consumer choices and a constantly evolving regulatory environment. Moreover, for many of these factors and in particular environment and climate, uncertainty has been increasing and becoming more complex (e.g. with regulatory framework or the ongoing digitalisation). Besides farmers are increasingly under pressure to change the way they have been farming and to become more sustainable. To accompany them in this change and to help them mitigating uncertainty farmers need advice.

FARM ADVISORY SYSTEM



WHAT



WHY



WHO



HOW

WHAT



- Make available advice to farmers.
- The advice under FAS is not limited to provide EU legal information
- but Adapted to the specific farm management needs.
- Advice under FAS must clearly be distinguished from the checks.

WHAT



- Obligations relevant for cross-compliance
- It must also cover greening obligations,
- Other
 - Management requirements for land
 - the Water Framework Directive,
 - the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive
 - certain Measures under Rural Development.

WHAT



- the farms' conversions and their economic activity's diversification,
- the risk management,
- the minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides use,
- information related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and protection of water.

WHY



- The main goal of the FAS is to raise farmers' awareness on their EU obligations and
- help them meet cross-compliance and greening. FAS should also explain the objectives of these obligations and their contribution to a sustainable agriculture.
- In that respect FAS can help raising farmers' perception that they are custodians of the environment, climate change and health protection with a view to improve their farming activity's sustainability.

WHO



- The target population of the FAS is primarily the farmers benefiting or not from the CAP.
- However other non-farmers beneficiaries of the CAP are also concerned.
- Member States may set priorities to access the system.
- In any case requesting advice is always made on a voluntary basis.

HOW



- Rural Development fund can finance the system setting up, the provision of advice and the training of advisors . Current data provided by Member States show that farmers' access to FAS services is EU-funded in more than half of Member States.
- On the other hand, only a quarter of MS used the EU funds to the setting up of FAS and
- the FAS advisors' training is EU-funded in one third of MS.

FUTURE

- The proposal for a future CAP puts emphasis on a **result-based policy** through more responsibility given to Member States and farmers/operators and **modernisation/innovation**.
- The CAP's advisory services can actively contribute to this new approach by helping **farmers/operators to be at the center** of the performance-driven new CAP.

FUTURE

In the Commission proposal:

- **Better link** is made between advice, research and knowledge sharing within **the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)**. Thus advice available for farmers on these issues will be of higher value.
- The AKIS, including advisory services will be described in the **CAP Strategic Plans**, which will be approved by the Commission

FUTURE

In the Commission proposal:

- The **scope** of the CAP advisory services has been significantly enhanced by including
 - All requirements and conditions set for farmers/operators in the CAP Strategic Plans (conditionality, supports schemes, etc.)
 - All relevant environmental and health legislation (WFD, NEC, Nature Directives, Plant Health Law, Animal Health Law, ...) and the fight against antimicrobial resistance.
 - Innovation, risk management, digitalisation

CONCLUSION

- Advice is essential in helping farmer to:
 - Understand rules related to environmental protection, climate change, health and animal welfare
 - Develop strategies to tackle the challenges faced by agriculture (Farm to Fork, Biodiversity Strategy, etc.).
- The CAP advisory services is one of the reply of the CAP to address this need.

Thank you

FAS DATABASE

<https://marswiki.jrc.ec.europa.eu/gaec/fas/>



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