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German Perspectives on the New CAP

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AGENDA

- **A.** Facts and Figures about Germany
- **B.** New CAP: Implementation Workload
- **C.** Choosing between Different Options in Germany
- **D.** Ecological Focus Areas and EFA Layer
- **E.** Landscape Features
- **F.** Remote Sensing as of the year 2015
- **G.** Questions for Further Discussions

A. Facts and Figures about Germany

- Federal political system
- 15 paying agencies (of which 13 are dealing with IACS)
- Payments (on average per year 2014 - 2020):
 - about **4.9** billion € for direct payments
 - about 2.5 billion € for rural development of which
 - about 45 % account for national contributions and
 - about **1.1** billion € account for area-related measures



A. Facts and Figures about Germany

- On federal level: IACS/CC unit in the ministry supported by a unit in the agency
 - coordination and ensuring consistency of the CAP implementation,
 - by national regulations and guidelines as well as by discussing questions, problems and best practices with the Laender
 - more than 50 meetings per year, usually lasting 2 days
 - securing/ safeguarding national interests on EU level and communication with EU institutions (generally after consultations with the Laender)
- On regional level: Corresponding units in Laender ministries (which are usually the paying agencies)
 - responsible for the processing of applications, for administrative and OTS checks, for approvals and payments

A. Facts and Figures about Germany

- Farmers:
 - 320,000 first-pillar-applicants (only direct payments)
 - 190,000 second-pillar-applicants (only axis 2)
- Agricultural area: 16.7 million ha
- OTSC performed (2012, only direct payments):
 - 13.851 by ways of remote sensing
 - 3.845 classically

A. Facts and Figures about Germany

13 LPIS systems

- 8 based on physical blocks
- 2 based on agricultural parcels
- 2 based on cadastral systems
- 1 based on farmers` block

B. New CAP: Implementation Workload

- **Less money ⇔ significantly extended workload**
 - Greening and 'active farmer', in particular, lead to a high bureaucratic burden as well for national authorities as for farmers
 - Many new and very demanding requirements to be met by farmers (e.g., geo-spatial aid application form)
 - Additional and often even more burdensome controls
 - Very demanding and cost-intensive enhancement of the LPIS-GIS (e.g., EFA layer; complete separation between arable land, permanent grassland and permanent crops; attribution of the landscape features; inclusion of the new permanent grassland)
- **How can all this be achieved for 2015???**
- **This should be considered by the relevant EU bodies when performing the audits.**

B. Implementation Workload

Previously (direct payments, 2014 in Germany)

- Goal of reaching simplified system has been achieved
- **Just one type of premium**
- Everything decoupled
- One uniform value for all payment entitlements for each German Land

As of 2015 (CAP reform)

- **Four types of premium:** basic payment, very demanding green payment, young farmers' payment, redistributive payment
- Small farmers' scheme
- Active farmer
- Significantly high need for adjusting the GIS in technical terms

C. Choosing between Different Options in Germany

- no voluntary coupled support
- no payment for areas with natural constraints in the first pillar
- no capping but instead redistributive payment
- one uniform value for all payment entitlements for each German Land

Greening:

- no equivalent practices covered by AECM commitments or certification systems
- no regional or collective implementation of EFA
- We consider all landscape features protected by CC + field margins as EFA landscape features.

C. Choosing between Different Options in Germany

Small farmers' scheme:

- Application of Art. 63(2)(a) of Reg. 1307/2013 = small farmers have to apply for basic payment, redistributive payment and payment for young farmers in the same way as all other farmers, but limitation to 1,250 € per year

Conclusion:

Germany refrains from applying various complicated options. Nonetheless, a huge additional workload will be unavoidable.

D. Ecological Focus Areas: Types of EFA

Implementation of EFA in Germany:

- land lying fallow **Yes**
- terraces **Yes** but only those protected by CC
- landscape features **Yes** but only those protected by CC + field margins (most of them have minimum sizes, with only a few single trees)
- Buffer strips **Yes** (maximum width = 20 m)
- hectares of agro-forestry **Yes** (but nearly no area in Germany)
- strips along forest edges **Yes** but only those without production
- areas with short rotation coppice **Yes** (no mineral fertilizer and no ppp)
- afforested areas **Yes**
- catch crops + green cover **Yes** (seeding from 16 July to 1st October; no ppp; no mineral fertilizer; GAEC 4: has to remain on the field until 15 February)
- nitrogen fixing crops **Yes** (after harvest, follow-up of a crop or catch crop which has to remain on the field at least until 15 February)

D. Ecological Focus Areas: Conversion Factors

We do not apply any conversion factors, except in cases of

- terraces and
- single trees (In Germany, only a few environmentally valuable trees may be accepted as EFA)

because

- we already have CC-LF with polygons in the system;
- the environmental value depends on the actual area;
- we need the actual area as a basis for additional second-pillar-measures on the same area;
- we need the actual area for fertilizer balances;
- we are convinced that field margins, buffer strips and strips along forest edges without production should be counted as land lying fallow in the field of crop diversification

D. Ecological Focus Areas: **Stable in Time**

We believe the following types to be stable in time:

- terraces
- landscape features (except field margins which are not protected by CC)
- hectares of agro-forestry
- afforested areas
- strips of eligible hectares along forest edges with production
- areas with short rotation coppice.

3-Years-Rule:

An EFA element that has been located, or presumably will be located on the same spot for at least three years, is considered as stable in time and should be included into the EFA layer.

D. Ecological Focus Areas: **Stable in Time**

We believe the following types to be not stable in time:

- land lying fallow
- buffer strips?
- strips of eligible hectares along forest edges without production?
- field margins which are not protected by CC
- areas with catch crops or green cover
- areas with nitrogen-fixing crops.

EFA-Layer

- Very high workload for the administration (due to the initial setup and due to continuous updating of numerous, often very small elements)
- Does this really make it easier for the applicants (indications also contained in the aid application form)?
- **What does the EFA layer really provide for the future? COM's purpose/ goal?**

E. CC LF: Digitising Experiences

More than 2.0 million of CC-LF that sum up to about 120,000 ha (**average 0,06 ha/LF**). Most of them are located on areas with permanent grassland.

➤ Initial recording

From 2005 to 2007, all farmers had to report for each agricultural parcel whether landscape features were situated on the eligible area. Declaration of landscape features according to type, size and location. Landscape features had to be at the disposal of the applicant.

➤ Reporting on changes

Since 2008, reporting is compulsory only if the respective landscape features have not been specified in the authorities' application documents or if any changes have occurred.

E. CC LF: Digitising Experiences

- Each CC landscape feature is registered by the authorities (type, area, ID, ...). Inclusion in LPIS-GIS as an attribute is obligatory. Digitising as polygon (or point or line) is recommended.
- Updating landscape features' registration/ digitisation requires permanently high efforts from the authorities and the applicants.

E: Attribution of EFA Landscape Features

As far as possible, the Commission requires for eligible LF to be permanently attributed to permanent grassland, arable land or to permanent crops:

Procedure foreseen by Germany:

For landscape features situated between parcels of arable land, permanent grassland or of permanent crops, being at the disposal of the same farmer, he decides by ways of applying for aid in 2015 whether the respective landscape features should be attributed to the arable land, permanent grassland or to the permanent crops. This attribution will then basically apply for the upcoming years and shall be included into the LPIS reference system.

Benefits:

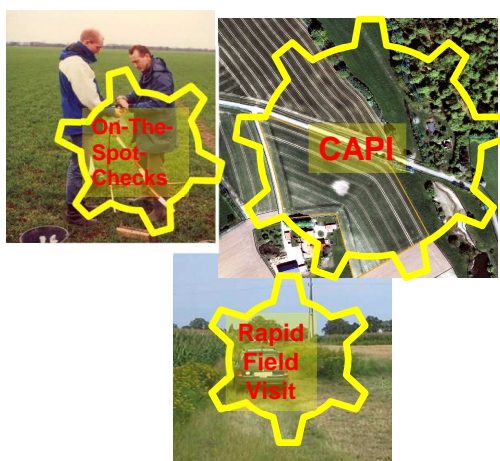
- Greatest possible freedom of decision for the applicant
- Best possible compliance between reference system and aid claim (which would not be met, in case of an equal share of attribution, respectively)
- Farmer is free to perform the attribution according to his AUKM requirements
- Farmer is free to perform the attribution towards the corresponding leased land
- Farmer is free to attribute the LF towards the arable land, for which he wishes to attribute them in the meaning of EFA

!Additional workload for LF which are divided between two farmers: overall appliance of minimum size, attribution is performed separately!

F: Is Remote Sensing applicable for the new control items?

▪ Active farmer	No	According to the COM, in which way should the control be performed?
▪ Maintenance of areas taken out of production	Yes,	but probably many RFV
▪ Crop diversification	Yes,	but short time period; need for high-quality ortho photos; more RFV
▪ Protection/ maintenance of permanent grassland	Yes	more RFV, e.g. in case of reconversion obligation
▪ EFA catch crops	No	different time period; mixture + avoidance of ppp and N-fertilizer are only controllable by field visits
▪ EFA nitrogen-fixing crops	Yes	concerning crop, but a lot of RFV
	No	concerning over-wintering follow-up crop in Germany
▪ short rotation coppice	Yes	with the exception of allowed species in the first year and no-ppp/no-fertilizer obligation
▪ Other EFA-types	Yes	but a lot of RFV

F: CwRS structure in Germany, 2013



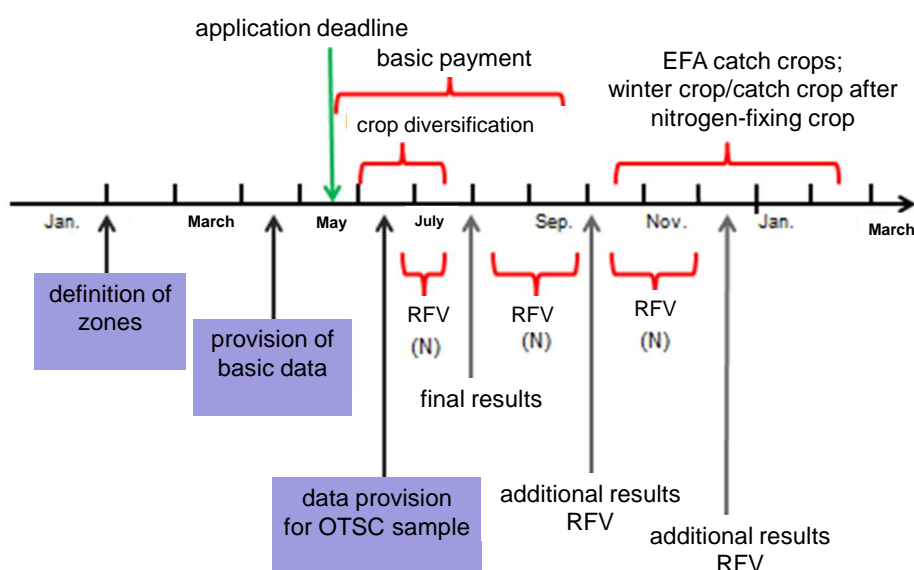
OTSCs

In the field of direct payments

- 80 % of holdings are controlled by remote sensing (in 12 Länder), partly supported by RFV;
- only 20 % are controlled by classical OTSC.

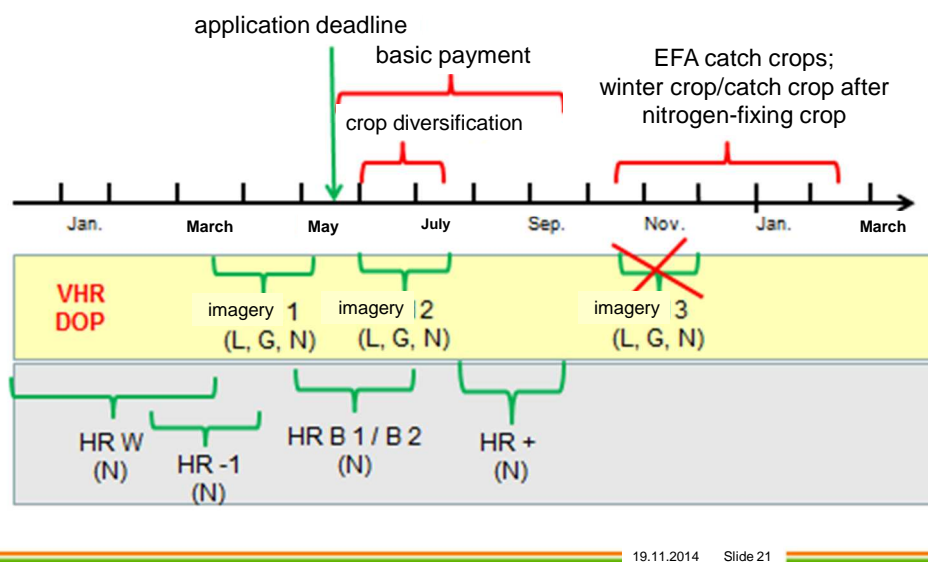
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F. Time-Scale of Remote Sensing



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F. Time-Scale of Remote Sensing



G. Questions for further Discussions

1. On-the-spot checks in general:

- Will the CAP reform be leading to a weakening of remote sensing, as too many requirements cannot be controlled anymore by this manner?
- Will the CAP reform be leading to an absolutely and proportionately higher extent of classical OTSC and RVF?
- If so, what does that mean for the performance of the controls behind the background that each member state consists of a very strict personnel and financial framework?
- Is the COM willing to provide all the necessary photo imagery needed for RS, according to the requirements that have been clearly upgraded qualitatively and, above all, quantitatively? (costs)

G: Questions for further Discussions

2. Use of remote sensing for specific requirements:

- In future, it will have to be verified in a relatively short period of time whether the requirements on crop diversification are met. How high do you estimate the risk of not being able to acquire any suitable VHR imageries in this period of time and how will you possibly respond to that?
- Would it make sense to use remote sensing for the verification of catch crops in the meaning of EFA?

G: Questions for further Discussions

3. LPIS

- In your LPIS, have you already geographically separated all permanent grassland, arable land and permanent crops?

If not, how high do you judge the presumable workload and how do you want to deal with these tasks with respect to the payments in 2015?

Thank you for your attention!

