



## Support to discussion group on 'check Crop diversification'

**MARS (Monitoring Agricultural Resources) Unit**  
**DG Joint Research Centre**



*Evidence-based scientific and technical support*  
*Cooperation with policy Directorates-General*  
*Sharing its know-how with the Member States*

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# Legal framework



## Definition of "crop"

Art. 44 (Regulation 1307/2013)

- Any genera in the botanical classification of crop
- Any species in case of Brassicaceae, Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae
- Land laying fallow
- Grasses or other herbaceous forage
- Winter and spring crops of the same genus shall be considered as different crops

### Mixed cropping

- As regards **two or more crops grown in distinct rows: if a crop covers at least 25% of the area, it can be counted as a specific crop for crop diversification;**
- A crop with under sowing is classified as a single crop for the purpose of crop diversification;
- Seed mixtures are considered as a single crop as a general rule to facilitate the controllability. However, where Member States can make a clear distinction between the species included in the different seed mixtures, Member States may recognize those different seed mixtures as distinct single crops for the purpose of crop diversification (except when one of the species in the mix is grass or other herbaceous forage). As a result there is no obligation to plant these seed mixtures in rows. - > **two seed mixtures can be considered as two single crops if species inside the mixtures differ from one another and if these species are not used in the category "grass or other herbaceous forage"**



## Period to be taken into account

It is the **most important part of the cropping period**. It takes into account traditional cropping practices in the national context. It should be communicated to the farmer. **On-the-spot checks shall cover this period.**

On-the-spot check: unambiguous verification of the crop in the defined period, the presence of crop residues is admissible as evidence



## Holdings not subject to crop diversification

Different exemptions, among them :

E.g. exemption article 44.3 (c) of Reg. 1307/2013,

Two cumulative conditions have to be met:

- More than half of arable land parcels declared were not claimed by the farmer in question during the previous years
- **all arable land declared have to be covered by different crops** compared to previous years.

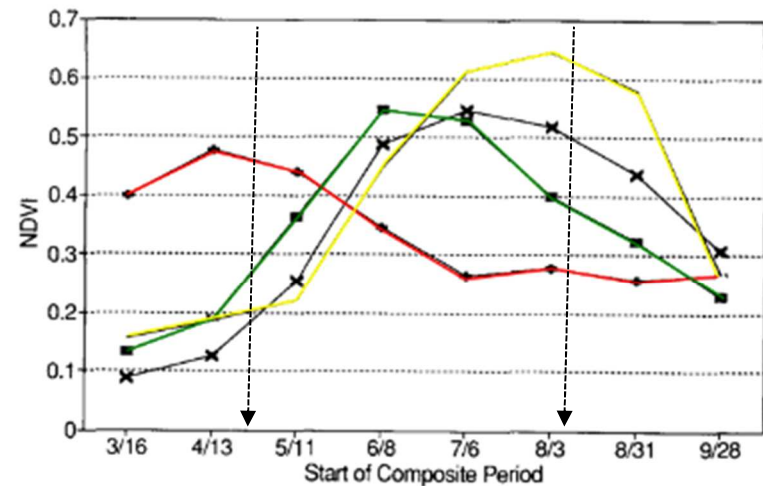
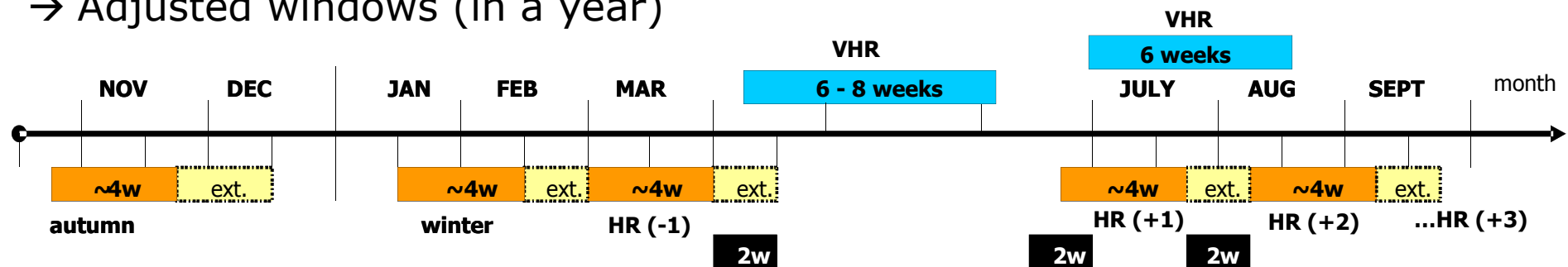
# On-The-Spot Check method and tools



Multitemporal imagery

Changes in reflectance as a function of stage of growth

→ Adjusted windows (in a year)



Monthly NDVI means for selected agricultural categories.

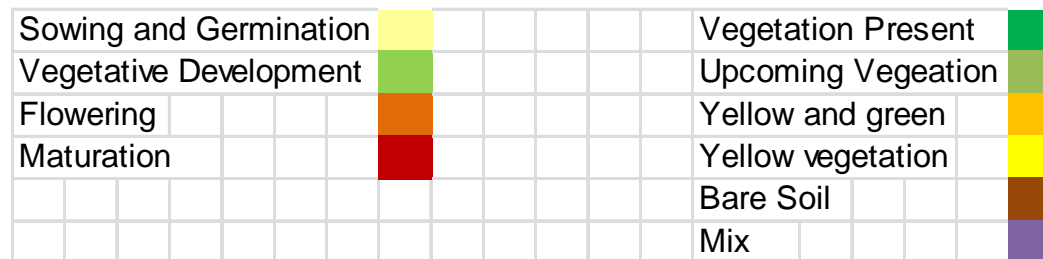


# On-The-Spot Check method and tools



Very High Resolution imagery + Systematic Rapid Field Visist





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Large acco



## Challenges:

Wheat field



Barley field



Crop identification confusion / omission

- Cereals
- Fallow land – herbaceous forage – grassland
- ...

→ Risk of many Rapid Field Visits to confirm CAPI diagnosis !!!!



## Challenges:

Accept and certify 'evidences' provided by farmers in order to contribute to the conclusiveness of the control?

