

Member State experience - Lithuania

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of
Lithuania
Area related payments division

JRC workshop "LPIS management and challenges",
Brussels, 24 April, 2014

Presentation outline

- A test – fulfilling Greening obligations in Lithuania in 2013;
- Ecological focus areas (EFA) – decisions to be made;
- Case studies for EFA – field visits;
- Main challenges ahead for the administering institutions and farmers.

Fulfilling Greening obligations in Lithuania in 2013

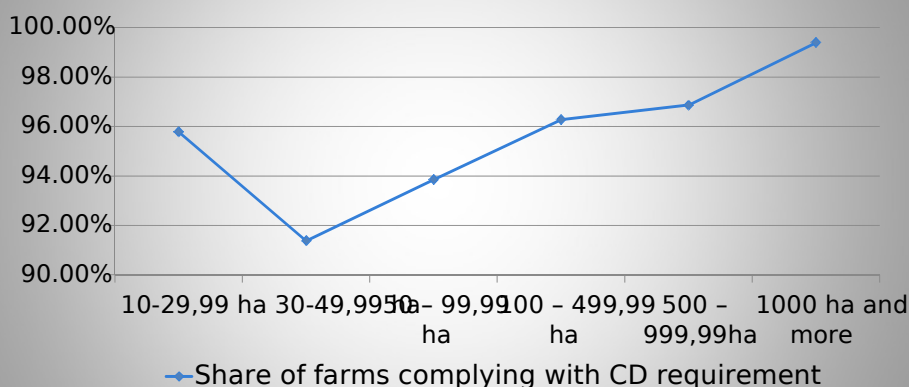


General agricultural situation

- Land declared for payment, 2,8 mio ha:
 - Arable land, 1,7 mio ha;
 - Grassland (permanent and temporary), 1,1 mio ha;
 - Orchards, afforested areas and the forest, 0,1 mio ha.
- About 150 thousand applicants (farms), of which:
 - 25 % - declares ≥ 10 hectares/farm - 95% of land;
 - 10 % - declares ≥ 30 hectares/farm - 85 % of land;
 - 0,1 % - declares ≥ 1000 hectares/farm - 11 % of land.

Crop diversification

~31 thousand farms (21%) and ~ 2 million hectares (73%)



- Compatibility with CD requirement increases with increasing farm size;
- Most common crop breaching the requirement - winter wheat.

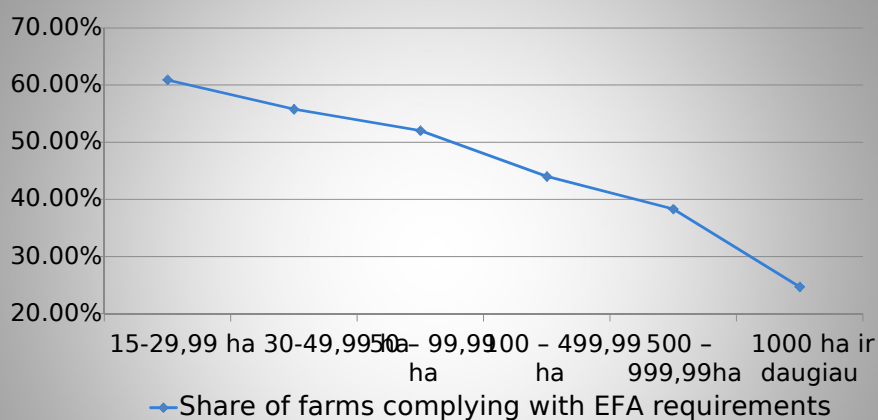
Retention of permanent grassland

- ~400 thousand hectares in total;
~60 thousand hectares - environmentally sensitive PG.
- Controllability- through 100% electronic declaration since 2011;
- Changing farm structure - big burden on farmers;
- Decreasing number of livestock - pressure on PGs;
- Challenge - recover of areas in case of changes in land ownership.

EFA (1)

- ~ 23 thousand farms (15%) and ~ 1,9 million ha (70%);
- Most common potential elements:
 - land laying follow;
 - protein crops.
- Landscape features - currently not applicable;
- Most common potential LF:
 - Diches;
 - Ponds;
 - Group of trees and field copses;
 - Trees in line;
 - Single trees.

EFA (2)



- Almost half of farms - potentially compliant;
- Compatibility with EFA requirements decreases with increasing farm size.

Focus on Ecological focus areas – decisions to be made.



Eligibility and declaration of EFA

- LF below 2 m. might be eligible for SAPS(1) of DA for IACS) ;
- If LF is under GAEC – it is eligible for SAPS(2) of DA for IACS);
- It stems from art. 72(1) of R. 1306/2013 – if LF chosen as EFA:
 - If LF is defined under GAEC – has to be declared;
 - If LF is not defined under GAEC – do not have to be declared (art. 16 of DA for IACS).
- An area used in common – allocation between the individual beneficiaries in proportion to their use or right of use of it (art 38(3) of IA for IACS) .

Decision to be made (1)

Elements to be considered EFA:

Scenario 1:

- Land laying fallow,
- Protein crops.

Scenario 2:

- Land laying fallow,
- Protein crops,
- (Catch crops and green cover),
- Diches,
- Ponds,
- Single trees,
- Group of trees or field copses,
- Trees in line,
- (Buffer strips).

Decision to be made (2)

LF and GAEC

LF – under GAEC:

- Stronger focus on environment;
- Requirements, difficulty of control, number of cheks - ↑;
- Eligible area - ↑;
- SAPS per ha - ↓.

LF – not in GAEC:

- Simpler administration;
- No long term commitments to farmers;
- Eligible area and SAPS – status quo.

Case studies for Ecological Focus Areas – field visits



Land laying fallow



- Current GAEC – should be seeded with plants before 1st of November;
- Field seeded with green cover for green fertilizer through summer period?

Ditches (1)



- Possible contradiction between EFA and RD programmes;
- Width - the only requirement?
- Arable land only from one side?
- Adjacent to forest or group of trees?

Ditches (2)



- A ditch or a group of trees?
- Distance between LF and arable land – “adjacent”?
- Canalized river for drainage?

Ditches (3)



- Field road without a cover along?
- Case of group of trees instead of a road?
- Case of electricity pillar or other element limiting activity?
- Case of concrete structures for road purposes?

Group of trees or field copses



- Adjacent to a ditch (eligible), but not to arable land?
- Field copses or trees with empty spaces?
- Middle (inside) - empty or contains a building?
- „Adjacent“?

Trees in line (1)



- Contains additional smaller trees and/or bushes?
- Measuring tolerance?
- „Adjacent“ (distance, along or to arable land)?
- Belongs to the household?

Trees in line (2)



- Christmas trees with width deameters;
- Treated as group of trees – width deameters not applicable?

Ponds



- „Adjacent“?
- Definition of a pond?
- Definition of riparian vegetation?
- Vegetation adjacent to the pond – group of trees or field copses?

Protein crops



- Temporary (permanent!) grassland seeded with clover or other protein crop?

Main challenges ahead for the administrating institutions and farmers



Challenge for farmers

- To be PRECISE:

- Identify EFA elements;
- Measure identified elements;
- Calculate how much EFA is required;
- To declare the required EFA;
- Specify the use of the agricultural parcel declared (art. 16(5) of IA for IACS);
- Defend the correctness of his application.

Challenges for institutions (1)

- Pre-established forms for farmers with info on previous year from 2016 (art. 16 of IA for IACS);
- All EFA digitalized in the LPIS by 2018 (art. 2 of Regl. 1306/2013);
- For each reference parcel MS shall locate and determine the size of those EFA for which the MS has decided that they shall be considered as EFA (Art. 5(2)(c) of DA for IACS);
- Element unclear from ortho-photo - a physical (art. 23(4) of IA for IACS).

Challenges for institutions (2)

- Definition of elements with verifiable conditions (for ex. "adjacent");
- Inscription of LF into LPIS;
- High quality of ortho-photo to minimize the number of physical checks needed;
- Tools to identify and verify LF through computerized programmes;
- Effective control methodology and implementation possibly additional controllers needed;
- Explain the EU audit possible gaps in implementation;
- Provide precise information to farmers.

Information to farmers



- Online calculation table to check farmer's compatability with Greening obligations:

<http://www.nma.lt/index.php/parama/tiesiogines-ismokos/ismoku-uz-deklaruotus-plotus-skaiciuokles/4617>

- Workshops and seminars;
- Information dissemination.

Thank you for your attention!

