Collective approaches to agri-environmental and climate measures

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Pegasus: 16 November 2017
Background: what did we want to achieve?

- Long term Goal (2020 ->): sustainable rural areas with a vital agricultural sector (Sustainable Development Goals);


- Key-rôle for farmers to improve biodiversity;

- It comes together in rural areas, with groups of farmers (collectives) in a central position.
A new approach to agri-environmental delivery

- Focus on creating good habitat conditions for rare species (territorial based) instead of commitments on farm level;

- Certified collectives as beneficiaries in order to:
  - enhance effectiveness;
  - improve efficiency;
  - improve knowledge-skills;
  - make better use of local skills and energy;

- Improve policy monitoring: goals versus commitments;

- Flexibility to respond to the dynamics of nature.
Preconditions for success

- Development of collectives to professional, certified bodies. Government has formulated a series of conditions. Two-year professionalization programme;

- At the same time, preserve the collectives social engagement, reputation and trust among land users (farmers);

- Strengthen monitoring and a knowledge network;

- Assure a sound implementation under EU and national regulations.
The scheme started in 2016

- 40 certified collectives as applicant and final and only beneficiary;

- These collectives have legal power and are responsible for a good implementation of Agro-environment and climate measures;

- The collective applies for support, claims payment and is responsible for sanctions;

- The policy is partly financed by the European Union.
A collective approach on a landscape level
Dutch agriculture – a long history of cooperation

- Fits into a long tradition of agricultural producer groups or cooperatives, but now the approach aims at public services;
- Involves some 10,000 farmers and many more of enthusiastic citizens;
- Focus on farmland biodiversity, but many developed a broad range of rural development activities (water management, rural tourism, education etc.).
A focus on meadowbirds
What are the policy needs for a good management of habitat?

- a regionally targeted approach to be able to build a habitat;
- flexibility in nature management;
- support of cooperation between farmers, and other stakeholders;
- strengthening of monitoring and a knowledge network;
- assurance of a sound implementation under EU and national regulations;
- a good coordinator!
Front door – back door

**AUTHORITIES**
- government contract (areas, qualities)
- accountability
- cost-effectiveness

**COOPERATIVES**
- regional fine-tuning
- individual contracts, controls, payments
- government checks
  - administrative
  - financial

**LAND MANAGERS**
- on-the-spot checks by cooperative and authorities
  - no. 1
  - no. 2
  - no. 3
  - no. 4
  - no. 5
  - etc.
Elements of the collective approach

- Area en activity;
- Flexibility versus accountability;
- On the spot checks;
- Sanctions and error rate;
- Implementation costs.

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Future Challenges

- Vital rural areas with a vital agricultural sector;
- Balance between regional responsibility and ‘governmental straightjacket’;
- Strengthen support by farmers and other stakeholders;
- The system supports initiatives from civil society, from the agro food chain or NGO’s;
- Streamline CAP policy design for SDG’s on farmland.
The next step: a new area-based CAP (design)

→ A better connection between the two pillars in the CAP: all area-based CAP support in one regional / targeted approach as a new concept for delivering SDG’s;

→ Improve the result-based component of the scheme;

→ Regional Sustainable development plans;

→ Improvement of the error rate by new possibilities for control and application;

→ Pilots, coordinated by collectives.
Farmland linked CAP support

OLD SYSTEM

Area based support (IACS)

100% administrative and 5% on the spot controls

First Pillar
- Direct payment
- greening
- No SWOT Analysis

Second Pillar
- Agro Environment
- Climate measures
- Areas with Natural Constraints
- SWOT analysis

Not Area based support (not IACS)

Basic Payment Scheme
Area with Natural Constraints
Greening

Young Farmer support

NEW SYSTEM

Integrated farmland linked support

• Targeted
• Claimless system
• 100% Risk Based Monitoring

Three levels

I. Passive (features of farm or farmer)
- Young Farmer support

II. Activities on farmland
- Leader
- Innovation

III. Regionally coordinated activities on farmland

ACT

• Sustainable Development Goals
• SWOT analysis
• RDP (voor Regional development plan)

CHECK

Claimless system

Monitoring

DO

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Thank You!