Perspectives for nutrient management in Europe
Under the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Common Agricultural Policy

PHOS4YOU Final Conference – 23 September 2021

Gijs Schilthuis
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
A European Green Deal

An economy that works for people

A Europe fit for the digital age

Protecting our European way of life

A stronger Europe in the world

A new push for European democracy

“Making nature healthy again is key to our physical and mental wellbeing and is an ally in the fight against climate change and disease outbreaks. It is at the heart of our growth strategy, the European Green Deal, and is part of a European recovery that gives more back to the planet than it takes away.”

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
The European Green Deal

Transforming the EU’s economy for a sustainable future

- Increasing the EU’s Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050
- Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy
- Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy
- Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

And leave No one behind

- Mobilising research and fostering innovation
- A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
- From ‘Farm to Fork’: a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system
- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility

Financing the transition

Leave no one behind (Just Transition)

- The EU as a global leader
- A European Climate Pact
Climate Pact and Climate Law

Investing in smarter, more sustainable transport

Striving for greener industry

Eliminating pollution

Ensuring a just transition for all

Financing green projects

Making homes energy efficient

Leading the green change globally

Protecting nature

From farm to fork

Promoting clean energy

The European Green Deal

European Commission
Elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy

- Protect Nature
- Enable Transformative Change
- Restore Nature
- EU For An Ambitious Global Agenda
Action on nutrients

• “The Commission will also promote the goal of zero pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus flows from fertilisers through reducing nutrient losses by at least 50%, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility. This will result in the reduction of use of fertilisers by at least 20%.”

• How?

• “This will be achieved by implementing and enforcing the relevant environmental and climate legislation in full, identifying with Member States the nutrient load reductions needed to achieve these goals, applying balanced fertilisation and sustainable nutrient management, and by managing nitrogen and phosphorus better throughout their lifecycle.”

• “To this end, the Commission will work with Member States to develop an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan in 2022.”
Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan

• Cooperation between Commission and Member States
• 2022
• Key elements:
   ensure more sustainable application of nutrients,
   stimulate the markets for recovered nutrients,
   address nutrient pollution at source,
   and increase the sustainability of the livestock sector.
The European Green Deal

- Promoting clean energy
- Investing in smarter, more sustainable transport
- Striving for greener industry
- Eliminating pollution
- Ensuring a just transition for all
- Protecting nature
- From farm to fork
- Leading the green change globally
- Financing green projects
- Making homes energy efficient

The European Green Deal
Towards zero pollution

• Commission Communication: “Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil” – May 2021

• Actions:
  • Review of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (Q2 – 2022)
  • Evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive (Q3 - 2021)

• [These actions will help] increase the ambition level to remove nutrients from wastewater and make treated water and sludge ready for reuse, supporting more circular, less polluting farming.

• This review will also support the concrete implementation of the future integrated nutrient management action plan, addressing holistically a long-standing environmental challenge, maximising synergies between policies and making best use of the green architecture of the new common agricultural policy, especially via conditionality and eco-schemes.
The European Green Deal

- CLIMATE PACT AND CLIMATE LAW
- INVESTING IN SMARTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
- STRIVING FOR GREENER INDUSTRY
- ELIMINATING POLLUTION
- ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL
- MAKING HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT
- FINANCING GREEN PROJECTS
- LEADING THE GREEN CHANGE GLOBALLY
- PROTECTING NATURE
- PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY
- FROM FARM TO FORK
Challenges to the EU food system

**SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**
- Healthier diets – reduce overweight
- Improve animal welfare
- Food affordability

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**
- Tackle climate change
- Protect the environment
- Preserve biodiversity
- Sustainable fish and seafood production
- Reduce food losses and waste

**ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**
- Fairer incomes for farmers
- Just transition
- New business & job opportunities
Establish a sustainable food system that:

- **has neutral or positive environmental impact** of food production:
  - preserving and restoring the land and sea-based resources;
  - mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact;
  - reversing the loss of biodiversity;

- **ensures food security and public health:**
  - access for everyone to sufficient, nutritious, sustainable food;
  - high standards of safety and quality, plant health, animal health and welfare

- **preserves the affordability of food**, while (a.o.):
  - generating fair economic returns & fostering a competitive sector
  - promoting fair trade
  - safeguarding occupational health and safety
  - ensuring integrity of the single market

Food security and food safety are cornerstones of our food system, and will never be compromised.
“Green Deal targets” for agriculture set out in the Farm to Fork Strategy and EU Biodiversity Strategy

- Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous pesticides by 2030.
- Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture by 2030.
- Reduce sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% by 2030.
- Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of fertilisers by at least 20% by 2030.
- Bring back at least 10% of agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features by 2030.
- Achieve 100% access to fast broadband internet in rural areas by 2025.
Integrated approach from farm to fork needed
Farm to Fork action plan, includes:

- Adopt recommendations to MS on implementing the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), before submission of draft Strategic Plans (2020)
- Revision of Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive and enhancement of Integrated Pest Management (2022)
- Proposal to revise animal welfare legislation (farm, transport, slaughter) (2023)
- Reinforce efforts to bring fish stocks to sustainable levels via the Common Fisheries Policy; strengthen fisheries management in the Mediterranean
- Horizon Europe: EUR 9 billion in R&I related to food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and environment
- Action plan for integrated nutrient management to reduce the pollution from fertilisers (2022)
- Develop an EU code (with monitoring) for responsible business and marketing conduct in the food chain (2021)
- Proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices (2024)
- Proposal for a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to enable consumers to make healthy food choices (2022)
- Proposal for EU-level targets for food waste reduction & Revise EU rules for date marking (‘use by’ and ‘best before’ dates)
Actions on nutrients (1)

• “The excess of nutrients (especially nitrogen and phosphorus) in the environment, stemming from excess use and the fact that not all nutrients used in agriculture are effectively absorbed by plants, is another major source of air, soil and water pollution and climate impacts. It has reduced biodiversity in rivers, lakes, wetlands and seas. “

• “The Commission will act to reduce nutrient losses by at least 50%, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility. This will reduce the use of fertilisers by at least 20% by 2030.”

• “This will be achieved by implementing and enforcing the relevant environmental and climate legislation in full, by identifying with Member States the nutrient load reductions needed to achieve these goals, applying balanced fertilisation and sustainable nutrient management and by managing nitrogen and phosphorus better throughout their lifecycle. “
Actions on nutrients (2)

• “The Commission will develop with Member States an integrated nutrient management action plan to address nutrient pollution at source and increase the sustainability of the livestock sector.”

• “The Commission will also work with Member States to extend the application of precise fertilisation techniques and sustainable agricultural practices, notably in hotspot areas of intensive livestock farming and of recycling of organic waste into renewable fertilisers. This will be done by means of measures which Member States will include in their CAP Strategic Plans such as the Farm Sustainability Tool for nutrient management, investments, advisory services and of EU space technologies (Copernicus, Galileo)”,
What is the CAP today?

- Direct income support for farmers
- Rural development support
- Support schemes for some agricultural sectors (wine, fruit & veg., olive oil…)
- Common organisation of the market
- Rules on unfair trading practices
- Regulation on geographical indications
- Rules on organic farming
- Support for fruit & milk at school
- Support for promotion of agricultural products
- etc…
Timeline reform CAP

- 2018: Commission new CAP proposal
- 2019: EP Elections
  - Von der Leyen Commission
  - EU Green Deal
- 2020: COVID Crisis
  - Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies
- 2021: Recommendations to Member States
- 2022: Formal submission of the strategic plans
  - Assessment and adoption of CAP Plans
- 2023: New CAP negotiations
  - Extension of current CAP Transitional Regulation
  - New CAP negotiations
CAP Strategic Plans – a new way of working

- Single strategic plan for all interventions
- Strategic approach based on needs assessment
- Structured dialogue with Member States
- CAP Plan will be approved by the Commission
- Need to ensure the commonality while recognising the specificities of each Member State
- Must be ambitious
Objectives & sustainability dimensions

ECONOMIC

- Increase competitiveness
- Ensure fair income

KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Rebalance power in food chain
- Climate change action
- Environmental care
- Preserve landscapes & biodiversity

SOCIAL

- Protect food & health quality
- Vibrant rural areas
- Support generational renewal
Targeted measures on the basis of evidence

Projected pressure on the environment due to potential nitrogen surplus in 2030: different impact across the EU

Source: JRC based on the CAPRI model baseline as presented in the DG AGRI 2017 outlook report.
A higher environmental ambition

A needs-based, targeted approach to addressing environmental & climate objectives

“No backsliding” clause

Green Deal Alignment
The new Green architecture

Current architecture (2014-2022)

- Climate/Env. measures in Pillar II (30% of EAFRD)
  (AECM, Forestry measures, investment measures...)
- Greening (30% of DP)
  (3 detailed obligations on crop diversification, permanent grassland and EFA)
- Cross-compliance
  (on Climate/Env, 7 GAEC standards (water, soil, carbon stock, landscape) and requirements from Nitrates Directive and Natura 2000 Directives)

Mandatory for farmers

Voluntary for farmers

Level of requirement

New architecture (2023-2027)

- Eco-schemes in Pillar I (25% of Direct Payments)
- Climate/Env. Measures in Pillar II (35% of EAFRD)
  (AECM, Forestry measures, investment measures...)
- Enhanced conditionality
  (on Climate/Env, 8 practices built upon EU minimum conditions (climate change, water, soil, biodiversity and landscape) and requirements from Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000 Directives)

Mandatory for farmers

Voluntary for farmers

Mandatory for farmers
Conditionality for support

Environment and climate
- SMR *
  - Birds and Habitats Directives
  - Water Framework Directive
  - Nitrates Directive
- GAEC *
  - Standards on:
    - climate change
    - water
    - soil
    - biodiversity and landscapes
  - Farm tool for nutrients (Fast)

Public, animal and plant health
- SMR *
  - Animal Identification & Registration
  - Pesticides authorization Regulation
  - Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides (SUD)
  - Hormones ban Directive
  - General Food Law
  - Notification of diseases

Animal welfare
- SMR *
  - Directives for the protection of:
    - Calves
    - Pigs
    - Animals kept for farming purposes

Farm advisory services (embedded in AKIS)
- Conditionality
- EU legislation on biodiversity, water, air and use of pesticides
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Risk management
- Innovation support
- Support to Nutrient management

Water Framework Directive: « as regards mandatory requirements to control diffuse sources of pollution by phosphates »

SMR * Statutory Management Requirements
GAEC * Good Agricultural Environmental Conditions
abe: deletion after trilogues
Recital 24 and Article 13 of the CAP proposal after political agreement

- To support the agronomic and the environmental performance of farms, information on nutrient management will be provided using an electronic Farm Sustainability Tool made available by MS to farmers.

- FaST focuses on nitrogen and phosphate which are the nutrients that from an environmental perspective can pose particular challenges and therefore deserve particular attention.
Main elements:
- A balance of the main nutrients at field scale,
- The legal requirements on nutrients,
- Soil data, based on available information and analyses,
- IACS data relevant for nutrient management.

The Commission may provide support to the MS in the design of FaST:
- Results of the pilot project for the implementation of the FaST in 8 MS-9PAs
  (https://fastplatform.eu/)
  - 1st Phase January 2020 / May 2021, 2nd Phase June 2021 / May 2022
- Study for the development of methodologies for the assessment of nutrient requirements
  - December 2020 / November 2021

Member States can: Develop their own systems; Use existing systems; Customise or adapt the system developed with the help of the Commission
Main types of practices under eco-schemes (indicative)

1. PRACTICES ESTABLISHED IN EU POLICIES
   - Organic farming: conversion and maintenance
   - Integrated Pest Management practices (SUD directive)

2. OTHER types of PRACTICES
   - Agro-ecology
   - Husbandry & Animal Welfare plans
   - Agro-forestry
   - Landscape features
   - High nature value (HNV) farming
   - Precision farming
   - Nutrient management
   - Protecting water resources
   - Practices beneficial for soil
   - Related to GHG
Knowledge, research & innovation

• Advancing research, knowledge-sharing, and innovation is essential for a smart and sustainable agricultural sector

• Knowledge and innovation are a cross-cutting objective of all CAP strategic plans

• EUR 9 billion under Horizon Europe (2021-2027) dedicated to food, environment, agriculture, bioeconomy

• European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) key to stronger agricultural knowledge and innovation systems
  • Dedicated Research Mission in the area of Soil Health and Food together with the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) to promote the wide-spread uptake of practices for pesticide and nutrient reduction.

• The Farm Advisory System key tool in sharing new knowledge and ideas
Thank you

© European Union 2021

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.