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**SUSTAG (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development) action – Overview and Selected Activities**

**(JRC-IPTS-AGRILIFE unit)**

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The new JRC Vision

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In line with the new JRC's vision is to be a trusted provider of **science-based policy options** to EU policy makers to address key challenges facing our society, underpinned by internationally-recognised research...

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JRC Strategy 2010-2020

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... in line with the **Europe 2020** and the European Research Area (ERA) strategy, the JRC will focus its activities to deliver integrated policy options to its customers. The JRC will concentrate on seven **Thematic Areas** in which the JRC will strive to be pivotal in the policy process:

1. **Towards an open and competitive economy**
2. **Development of a low carbon society**
3. **Sustainable management of natural resources**
4. **Safety of food and consumer products**
5. **Nuclear safety and security**
6. **Security and crisis management**
7. **Reference materials and measurements**

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AGRILIFE Unit

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Sustag is part of the Agrilife Unit, that is composed of 3 actions:

**AGRITECH:**  
New Technologies in Agriculture - their agronomic and socio-economic impact

**AGRITRADE:**  
Support to Agricultural Trade and Market Policies

**SUSTAG:**  
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development: the socio-economic dimension

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SUSTAG Workprogram 2011

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- CAP-RD impact analysis on **farm-household behaviour**.
- Effects of the CAP reform process on **EU-27 farm-household**.
- Sustainability and food security in **Developing Countries**.
- Assess the impact of **Rural Development** instruments on rural economies
- Evaluation of the implications of changes to the EU pesticide directive on **EU crop yields and farm level income**.
- Better understand the relations between agriculture and the **food supply chains** in the economy
- **Competitive activities:**
  - Area Based Development in the **Western Balkans** (DG AGRI)
  - **Integrated Pest Management (PURE)** FP7 DG RTD project
  - **Spatial Analysis of Rural Development (SPARD)** FP7 RTD project
  - **FADN-Tool** FP7 DG RTD project

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Recent Publications

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**CREDIT MARKET IMPERFECTIONS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY RISKS**

FANU CHANG AND JEROME E.M. SIMONEN

The article shows that credit market imperfections have important implications for the distribution of policy risks in agricultural households. It analyzes the distribution of policy risks in agricultural households in China and Sweden (2000-2004) and OECD countries (1990-2004) using a household-level data set. The results show that credit market imperfections have a significant impact on the distribution of policy risks in agricultural households. The article also discusses the implications of these findings for policy design and implementation.



JRC Scientific and Technical Reports

**Economic prospect for semi-subsistence farm households in EU New Member States**

Authors: Jens Friis-Hansen, Steffen Mogensen, Steffen Mogensen, Steffen Mogensen, Steffen Mogensen, Steffen Mogensen

Editor: Anders Skovgaard

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**JRC** CAP impact on **Semi-subsistence Farm-Households (SFH)-Bulgaria Poland Romania**


• **Policy Problem**  
 – SFH show Low productivity / Low income => risk of employment loss, depressing labour market

• **Policy answer**  
 – transient measure 2006/13 in the CAP/Rural Dev. Pillar = € 1500/year/SFH over 5 years with business plan

• **Research Question**  
 – What is the policy effect on SFH?

• **Data/Methods**  
 – Direct Survey ~450 SFH (2007). Cluster analysis + Multiobjective linear programming (LP)


**JRC** CAP impact on SFH (2)
 



• Results

• **Current state (4 clusters):**

- **Farmers:** largest farms, highest income
- **Rural diversifiers:** highest share of non-farm income and number of products
- **Rural pensioners:** highest share of social security benefit, highest age
- **Rural newcomers:** lowest experience as farm managers and lowest age

• **Prospects (Income 2016)**

- Farmers => **Farm development.**
- Rural diversifiers and Rural Newcomers: => starting a **Non-farm self-employed activity** as well as **Farm development.**
- Rural pensioners will mainly remain or become **non-viable.**
- Exceptions. Poland: Rural diversifiers => **stop agriculture.**




**JRC** Facilitating an ABD approach in rural regions of the Western Balkans
 

• **Rural sector in the Western Balkans : poverty trap risks**

- Highly fragmented low productivity agricultural sector
- Few income generating opportunities outside farming due to underdeveloped rural markets, uncoordinated value chain, lack of infrastructure and skills, cumbersome business environment, etc...
- Recent borders

• **Ground for a more holistic and comprehensive development approach**

- ABD from UNDP experience in post-conflict / disaster situations
- LEADER and rural development
- Cross border dimension (Interreg / IPA component 2)


**JRC** Facilitating an ABD approach in rural regions of the Western Balkans
 

• 17 months (May 2010 – October 2011) steered by DG AGRI / DG ELARG / JRC, assisted by SWG-RRD, UNDP, FAO, OECD, the World Bank



• Literature review: local development, rural development, cross border approaches, theory and practice


• A case study : Drina river / Tara mountain area (Serbia – Bosnia – Montenegro)
 

- Participatory development situation assessment
- Participatory development needs & priority setting
- Action plan

• Lessons learnt from the case study and literature
 

- Draw some methodological hints in complement to traditional established development approaches (in particular ABD and other participatory approaches and Leader)
- Mapping Western Balkans cross border rural areas for the assessment of transferability of methodological hints


**JRC**




**THANK YOU**

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