EXPERIENCE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES - AUSTRIA
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STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRIA

- family-farm-based agriculture – linked to forestry, Ø 18.7 ha UAA
- ~ 115,000 IACS-farms, ~ 60% part-time farmers,
- high proportion of less-favoured areas (3/4 of the area)
- high diversity of production sectors, main sectors in terms of agricultural production value are milk (16.5%), cereals & oil fruits (13.6%), beef (12.5%), pigs (10.7%), fruits & wine (10.7%) vegetables & potatoes (9.7%)
- high proportion of organic farming (1/5 of agricultural area)
- regional food important for consumers, export important for Austrian agriculture
- relatively low production intensity, ~ 80% of the agricultural area in agri-environment, basically good environmental situation
- CAP-payments have high share on farm income
## ANALYSIS OF AE SITUATION

Basically good agri-environmental situation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Biodiversity** | ▪ good natural conditions for conservation of biodiversity (structures, high share of high nature value farmland, topography…).  
▪ decline of biodiversity-indicators (endangered habitats and species, e. g. FBI)                                                  |          |
| **Water Quality**| ▪ good quantity and quality of water resources  
▪ Regional nutrient and pestizide pollution in small, intensively used areas                                                                 |          |
| **Soil Quality** | ▪ high share of permanent grassland,  
▪ arable land rich in humus,  
▪ risk of erosion due to topography                                                                                                           |          |
agriculturally used land gets scarce and potential high yield land is intensified

low-productive areas are at risk of abandonment of agricultural usage
SHARE OF RURAL-DEVELOPMENT-PAYMENTS ON EU-BUDGET

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CAP 2014-20 IN AUSTRIA

• 2/3 of CAP-payments are spent for RDP-measures (50% national co-financing-rate) → ~1.100 m/year

• 2/3 of RDP-payments for area-measures → ~ 665 m/year

• ÖPUL: 19 AECM operations, 1 OF, 1 NATURA 2000, 2 animal welfare (WFD-measure planned)

• Applying 1 Greening - equivalent measure to fulfill 5% EFA areas

• 80% participation rate at ÖPUL and area wide implementation (water measures regionalized)
STRATEGY FOR AEP 2014-20

Targets

- **Continuing and target-orientated evolution** of the existing programme, adaptation to new baseline and establishing an equivalent measure (EFA)
- **Prevention of environmental risks** through broad, preventive measures and improve environment situation in regions / on areas with poor conditions
- **Keep high participation rates** and a broad land-coverage
- **Clear requirements** for application, implementation, controls and calculation

Challenges

- **Participation rate in high productive areas**
- **Calculation of premias** – targeting and avoidance of windfall gains, calculation of preventive or maintainance measures (baseline)
- Develop an integrated approach **together with farmers and NGOs**
BASELINE FOR AECM-PAYMENTS IN AUSTRIA

Rules on Cross-Compliance Pursuant to Article 93 EU-Reg. 1306/2013

Relevant Mandatory Requirements Established by National Law
## ÖPUL 2015 - MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art. 28 Agri Environment Climate Measure</th>
<th>Art. 29 Organic Farming</th>
<th>Art. 33 Animal welfare</th>
<th>Art. 30 Natura 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Arable land</td>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td>Permanent Crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management</td>
<td>Greening of arable land/intermediate crops</td>
<td>Preventative groundwater protection (regional)</td>
<td>Mountain grazing and herding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature conservation *</td>
<td>Greening of arable land/system &quot;Evergreen&quot;</td>
<td>Preventative surface water protection on arable land (regional)</td>
<td>Cultivation of mowed mountain grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface-near spreading of liquid farm manure</td>
<td>Direct seeding and seeding on mulch</td>
<td>Manangement of arable areas particularly threatened by leaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitation of yield increasing inputs *</td>
<td>Cultivation of rare agricultural plants</td>
<td>Renouncement of fungicides and groth regulators *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mandatory combination with measures "Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management"
** Mandatory combination with measure "Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management" or "Organic Farming"
BIODIVERSITY-AREAS IN AUSTRIA

AECM and GREENING enhance establishment of biodiversity-areas!

Arable + grassland (2016)
- Nature Protection (AECM) 73.459 ha
- Biodiversity-areas (partly EFA-equivalent) 66.332 ha
- EFA-land lying fallow 7.238 ha
Total 147.028 ha

~6,4% of UAA (without alpine pastures)

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CREATE MARKET VALUE WITH AECM
SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

Agri-environment programme 2014-20

- Area-related payments of CAP II are very important for agriculture in Austria
- Good environmental status and high participation rates in ÖPUL 2015, target to maintain and improve status with broad and specific approaches
- Area-related payments as basis for special products (organic products, hay-milk, animal welfare labels), support by project-measures and education/training

CAP 2020+

- Financial allocation and structure of CAP-measures is a key issue
- Visuability of the impact of the measures is crucial → evaluation and acceptance
- Maintain broad and integrated approach of RDP - special focus on rural areas
- Simplification and unification of CAP I necessary, options to design CAP II
- Evolution of AECM measures – focus on regions and topics, but keep broad coverage of areas
Questions?

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## Approaches for maintain and increase of …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Broad approaches</th>
<th>Fokussed approaches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bio-diversity</strong></td>
<td>Organic farming, landscape elements, biodiversity-areas, renouncement on silage, training</td>
<td>Nature conservation measure, maintain alpine pastures, cultivation of mowed mountain-grassland, rare agricultural plants, endangered livestock breeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water-quality</strong></td>
<td>Organic farming, intermediate crops, renouncement on N-fertilizers and plant-protection, training</td>
<td>Management of arable areas particularly threatened by leaching, reduction of fertilizers and plant-protection, training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soil-quality</strong></td>
<td>Organic farming, maintainance of grassland, intermediate crops, crop diversification, training</td>
<td>Erosion protection permanent crops, direct seeding and seeding on mulch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional impact on climate protection, animal welfare and air quality
# MAIN DRIVERS FOR ORGANIC FARMING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer</th>
<th>Consumer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possibility to sell organic produced products as organic product and get <strong>price-surcharges</strong> – good market situation</td>
<td>Supermarket chains have established „Organic-brands“ – <strong>good availability of organic products</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area related payments</strong> for organic production and <strong>special conditions for investments</strong> in production and processing</td>
<td><strong>Affordable prices</strong> due to public support for organic production and efficient structure of processors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong <strong>Organic Organisations</strong> (Bio Austria) lobby for organic farms</td>
<td><strong>High confidence and trust to labelling</strong> due to strict control mechanisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successfull <strong>export</strong> possibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>know how</strong> and trainingss</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RURAL DEVELOPMENT: STRUCTURES & PROCESSES IN AUSTRIA

General framework

- As a federal republic, Austria is divided into nine states (Bundesländer)
- One single Rural Development Programme since 2000 with funding from federal (60%) and regional level (40%); national co-financing ~50%
- ~2/3 of payments for pillar 2 (1.100 Mio. out of ~ 1.800 Mio. CAP-payments)

Responsibilities for AECM-payments (incl. organic farming, animal welfare)

- Programming of RDP is done by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Agrar Markt Austria (AMA) is the federal paying agency and responsible for receiving and check applications, to contract committments, to control compliance to commitments and pay/reclaim payments to farmers;
- Bundesländer are involved in programme development and execution of project-measures
LINKS BETWEEN REGULATIONS, CC & AEP

- Environmental Quality
  - Compensation for Voluntary Environmental Performances and Reduction of Environmental Impact
      - 'Corresponding' Environmental Quality
  - Environmental Target (political objective, agri-environmental-climate payments)
    - 'Common Burden'-Principle (public budget)
    - Legal Minimum (Baseline)
    - 'Polluter Pays'-Principle (production costs)
    - Farmers Economic Optimum

SHARE OF MEASURES ON AEP 2015

Payments total 382.7 Mio. Euro, average 4.200 Euro/farm, 220 Euro/ha UAA

- Organic farming: 26%
- Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management: 17%
- Intermediate crops: 17%
- Nature conservation: 8%
- Grazing of livestock: 7%
- Mountain grazing and herding: 6%
- Preventative groundwater protection: 4%
- Limitation of yield increasing inputs: 4%
- Renouncement of silage: 4%
- Others: 9%
Organic Farming

Länder mit einem Bioanteil von mehr als 10 Prozent an der gesamten Landwirtschaftsfläche 2014

Quelle: FiBL-Erhebung 2016

- Falklandinseln: 36,3%
- Liechtenstein: 30,9%
- Österreich: 19,4%
- Schweden: 16,4%
- Estland: 16,2%
- Samoa: 14,3%
- Schweiz: 12,7%
- São Tomé und Príncipe: 12,0%
- Lettland: 11,2%
- Tschechien: 11,1%
- Italien: 10,8%