Deals with CLIMATE CHANGE by promoting sustainable agricultural practices

Agriculture and Rural Development

Agriculture is heavily exposed to the impact of climate change – but is also a key player in the EU’s work in reducing the impact of climate change, nurturing biodiversity and ensuring a sustainable future for all.

WHAT THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) DOES

BIODIVERSITY and the PRESERVATION and development of ‘natural’ farming and forestry systems, and traditional agricultural landscapes

WATER MANAGEMENT and use

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WHAT THE CAP HAS ACHIEVED SO FAR

5.5% increase in organic farming every year for the last 10 years. The land used for organic farming expands at around 400,000 hectares a year

24% reduction in agricultural non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions since 1990

17.7% reduction of nitrates in rivers since 1992

HOW

aid targeted at rural development measures promoting environmentally sustainable farming

streamlined and simplified environmental conditions in order to receive financial support

development of voluntary and mandatory measures ensuring farmers work in a more environmentally friendly way

WHAT’S NEXT?

More ambitious targets for cutting greenhouse gases, reducing biodiversity loss

More flexible approach focused on maximising results at EU, national, regional and local level

More coherent approach to tackling climate change and protecting the environment at farm level and the wider rural community

Increased investment in modern technology to reduce emissions & energy consumption, improve efficiency