



## **Factsheet on 2014-2020 National Rural Development Programme for Spain**

The National Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Spain was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015, outlining Spanish priorities for using nearly € 435 million of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (€ 238 million from the EU budget and € 191 million of national co-funding, plus € 6 million of additional national funding top-ups).

The National RDP for Spain focuses on 3 priority areas. The most important priority is enhancing the economic performance and the competitiveness of agricultural cooperatives. To this end, the RDP will provide support for setting up producers' organisations representing 5% of Spanish farmers, and for improving the competitiveness of 20 supra-regional agricultural cooperatives. The second priority consists on promoting an efficient use of natural resources, combating climate change and preserving rural heritage. The RDP also envisages to have almost 2 000 hectares of farmland switching to more water efficient irrigation systems, to introduce forest fire preventive actions on 3 000 forest hectares, as well as the creation of 590 kilometres of new greenways. The third priority is to foster innovation and collective approaches in the agricultural sector, with almost 200 cooperation projects to be funded under the RDP.

Support for Rural Development is the 2nd Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy, providing Member States with an envelope of EU funding to manage nationally or regionally under multi-annual, co-funded programmes. In total, 118 programmes are foreseen in all 28 Member States. The new RD Regulation for the period 2014-2020 addresses six economic, environmental and social priorities, and programmes contain clear targets setting out what is to be achieved. Moreover, in order to coordinate actions better and maximise synergies with the other European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF), a Partnership Agreement has been agreed with each Member State highlighting its broad strategy for EU-funded structural investment.

This document provides a brief overview of how the challenges and opportunities Spain is facing are addressed by the RDP. In the annex, a table indicates the priorities and focus areas each with their specific targets, and their allocated budgets.

### **1. SITUATION AND KEY CHALLENGES**

In Spain rural development is implemented through 18 separate RDPs – one at national level and 17 regional RDPs. However, common elements to the programmes are presented in a national framework. In addition, the National Rural Network provides the funding for the networking of rural development actors in Spain.

Spain covers an area of 505 991 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 80 % is rural. Of the total area, agricultural land covers 55 % and forest land 27 %. The unemployment rate is 25 % (2014) and more than 50 % of the youth is unemployed (2014)

While agriculture and rural areas in Spain face many challenges, the National RDP addresses those that could be tackled at national level taking into account the repartition of competences between the national and regional authorities defined in the Spanish Constitution. One of such challenges is the fragmentation of agricultural cooperatives and the lack of integrated cooperatives which can cover more than one region and that are able to operate throughout the entire food chain. In the past, it has been difficult to modernise irrigation systems or combat forest fires affecting more than one region because such actions could not be carried out by the regions.. Finally, disparities across regions in the uptake of research and development activities, the lack of entrepreneurial spirit and the limited financial capacity of farmers and agri-food companies is hampering innovation in both farming and forestry.

## **2. HOW THE SPANISH NATIONAL RDP WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES**

In addressing these challenges, the Spanish National RDP will fund action under six Rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture. The focus of each priority is explained briefly below. It is important to note also that, in addition to actions related to these priorities, the establishment and operation of the National Rural Network is foreseen within the National RDP.

### Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Spain will support the development of innovation through 90 European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups and it will also offer training to 400 agricultural cooperatives.

### Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry

7% of the funds have been allocated to this priority with the aim to support new irrigation systems, covering 1 328 hectares.

### Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

70 % of the funds have been allocated to this priority. It will be mostly used for investments in processing and marketing agricultural products, as well as for supporting the setting up of producer organisations and cooperation projects. 20 new producer groups will be created, and the competitiveness of the agricultural cooperatives supported is expected to increase by 5%.

### Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

Funds under this priority will mainly be used for preventive and restoration actions related to forest fires and natural disasters. Preventive actions are foreseen in 3 000 forest hectares, while 1 000 forest hectares will benefit from restoration actions.

### Resource efficiency and climate

6% of the programme aims at promoting resource efficiency and the shift towards low carbon and climate resilient economy. This priority will mainly address investments related to water efficiency in order that 0.07 % of the total Spanish irrigated area is provided with more efficient irrigation systems. Support for 84 cooperation projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energies is also foreseen.

### Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

4% of the programme has been allocated to this priority. This will be entirely dedicated to the creation of 590 kilometres of natural pathways covering more than one Spanish region.

The four ***biggest RDP measures*** in budgetary terms (total public funding) are:

- € 280 million allocated to Measure 4: investments in physical aspects
- € 65 million allocated to Measure 16: cooperation
- € 22 million allocated to Measure 8: forest investments
- € 18 million allocated to Measure 7: basic services and village renewal in rural areas

## Annex 1: Indicative public support for the National Rural Development Programme in Spain

Target	Measure	€ Total public	%
<b>Priority1: Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas<sup>1</sup></b>			
1A: Fostering innovation, cooperation, knowledge base 17 % of RDP expenditure	01 knowledge		
	02 advisory		
	16 cooperation		
1B: Strengthening links (with research etc.) 193 cooperation projects	16 cooperation		
1C: Training 400 participants trained	01 knowledge		
<b>Priority 2: Farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management</b>		<b>32 294 058</b>	<b>7.53</b>
2A: Economic performance, restructuring & modernisation 1 328 newly irrigated hectares	04 investments	15 932 146	3.71
	16 cooperation	16 361 912	3.81
<b>Priority 3: Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management</b>		<b>301 050 755</b>	<b>70.17</b>
3A: Improving competitiveness of primary producers 5 % of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations 20 new supra regional cooperatives	01 knowledge	3 725 310	0.87
	02 advisory services	18 743 698	4.37
	04 investments	233 038 236	54.32
	09 producer groups	13 038 588	3.04
	16 cooperation	32 504 923	7.58
<b>Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>31 557 013</b>	<b>7.36</b>
4A Biodiversity 3 000 hectares benefitting from forest fire prevention actions	08 forest	22 415 553	5.22
	15 forest environment	4 028 000	0.94
4B Water management 8 cooperation projects related to water management	16 cooperation	5 113 460	1.19
4C Soil erosion and management 1 000 hectares benefitting from forest fire restoration actions			
<b>Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilience economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors</b>		<b>27 437 652</b>	<b>6.40</b>

<sup>1</sup> No financial allocation shown for Priority 1 as the expenditure is distributed across other focus areas.

<sup>2</sup> Expenditure under Priority 4 is programmed for the priority as a whole, not for individual focus areas

5A Water efficiency 0.07 % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	04 investments	15 932 145	3.71
	16 cooperation	5 113 460	1.19
5B Energy efficiency 78 cooperation projects related to energy efficiency	16 cooperation	2 483 540	0.58
5C Renewable energy 6 cooperation projects related to renewable energies	16 cooperation	3 908 507	0.91
<b>Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</b>		<b>18 743 704</b>	<b>4.37</b>
6B Fostering local development 590 kilometres of natural greenways	07 basic services	18 743 704	4.37
<b>Technical Assistance</b>		<b>17 949 345</b>	<b>4.18</b>
<b>Total public expenditure €</b>		<b>429 032 527</b>	<b>100</b>