

SPAIN'S PROVISIONAL APPROACH ON THE DESIGN OF ECO-SCHEMES

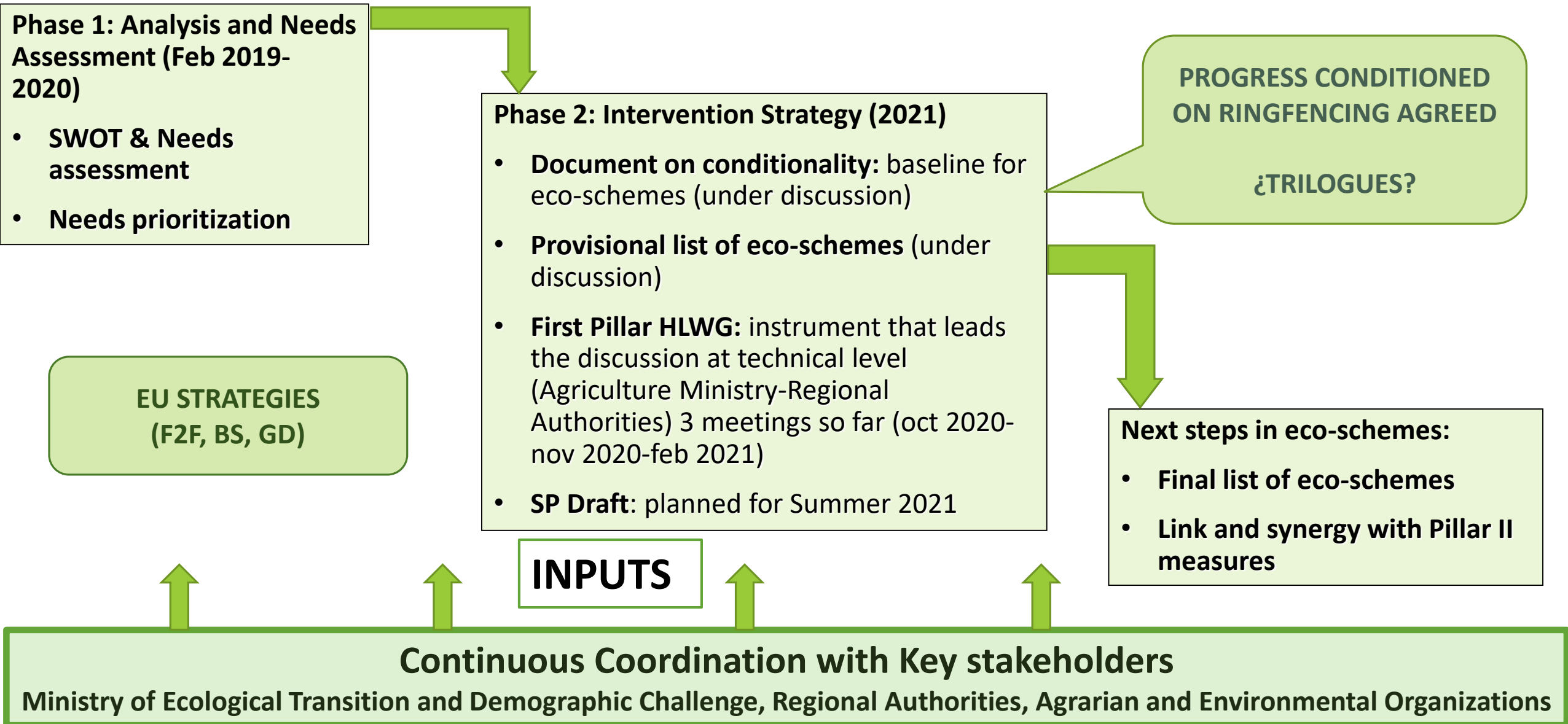
ENRD Workshop

Preparing the CAP Strategic Plans: Designing Eco-Schemes

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I. STATE OF PLAY: STRATEGIC PLAN



II. PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE DESIGN OF ECO-SCHEMES

- **Setting priority needs (recommendations from COM)**
- **Heterogeneity of Spanish agriculture: access to different production systems (sustainable production)**
- **Simplification for farmers and administration (control)**
- **Keeping (most) eco-schemes as annual commitments**
- **Provide room for AECC (reserved for specific actions at regional level and multiannual commitments)**
- **Achieve a high uptake by farmers**

III. LIST OF POTENTIAL ECO-SCHEMES

Goal 1. Practices for increasing soil carbon sink capacity and fire prevention

OBJECTIVE: To increase carbon sequestration in grasslands by improving the sustainability of grasslands and other pasture land through rational grazing, emission reduction and fire prevention.

APPROACH: Compensatory, through Article 28.6.b. Payment per hectare or per LU. Amounts differentiated according to livestock and area conditions (loss of income).

Eco-schemes

1. Improving grassland sustainability, increasing soil carbon sink capacity and fire prevention through extensive livestock farming
2. Proper pasture management: mowing of meadows and unmowed borders

Related FLAGSHIP: CARBON AGRICULTURE/AGROECOLOGY

Specific objectives to which it mainly contributes: 4, 5, 6 and 9

Goal 2. Practices for the improvement of organic carbon, fertility and soil quality in arable lands

OBJECTIVE: To improve soil fertility and its content in nutrients available to plants on arable land, and thus reduce the use of fertilisers (mainly nitrogenous) and their impact on the environment. In addition, to improve the structure of the soil and, consequently, its capacity for carbon sequestration and water retention as well as to reduce the incidence of weeds, pests and diseases, using the species of the rotation itself as a control, with the consequent reduction of plant-protection products and their impact on the environment, as well as the use of water resources.

APPROACH: Compensatory, through Article 28.6.b.

Eco-scheme

3. Promotion of crop rotation with improving species

Related FLAGSHIP: CARBON AGRICULTURE

Specific objectives to which it mainly contributes: 4, 5 and 6

Goal 3: Precision farming and emission reduction practices

OBJECTIVE: To promote agricultural practices that reduce emissions of GHGs and particulate pollutants into the atmosphere while encouraging the sustainable use of inputs and the sustainable recovery and management of plant remains, in order to improve natural resources, in particular water and air quality. In addition, it contributes to the protection of biodiversity and the improvement of eco-system services while preserving habitats and landscapes.

APPROACH: Incentive, through Article 28.6.a (rational fertilization and sustainable use of plant-protection products) and Compensatory, through Article 28.6.b (alternative practices to open burning). Different amounts can be analysed according to orographic factors, such as the land slope or other agronomic factors.

Eco-schemes

- 4. Rational fertilization, nutrient management plans**
- 5. Alternative practices to open burning or improper handling of harvest and pruning residues: inert plant cover, energy recovery from plant biomass, composting**
- 6. Promoting the application of individual plans for the sustainable use of plant-protection products**

Related FLAGSHIP: PRECISION AGRICULTURE/AGROECOLOGY

Specific objectives to which it mainly contributes: 4, 5, 6 and 9

Goal 4: Practices for improving soil conservation

OBJECTIVE: To promote practices that reduce erosion and loss of soil, favoring an increase in its organic matter, as well as the improvement of its structure and its carbon fixing capacity.

APPROACH: Compensatory, through Article 28.6.b. Different amounts can be analysed according to orographic factors, such as the land slope or other agronomic factors.

Eco-schemes

7. Practices for improving soil conservation through living plant covers in permanent crops
8. Conservation agriculture: direct seeding (restricted to eroded areas or areas at high risk of erosion)

Related FLAGSHIP : CARBON AGRICULTURE/AGROECOLOGY

Specific objectives to which it mainly contributes: 4, 5

Goal 5: Practices for improving biodiversity

OBJECTIVE: To promote biodiversity, especially insect and bird populations and to facilitate the movement of fauna between territories.

APPROACH: Incentive, through Article 28.6.a. (multifunctional margins and islands) and Compensatory , through Article 28.6.b (non harvesting and maintenance of crop areas).


Eco-schemes

9. Practices for improving biodiversity: establishment of multifunctional margins and islands of biodiversity, non-harvesting and maintenance of crops areas for birds shelter and feeding

Related FLAGSHIP : AGROECOLOGY

Specific objectives to which it mainly contributes: 6

IV. MAIN CHALLENGES & QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE

- **Difficulty in adopting an incentive approach in many practices (WTO restrictions)**

- **Achieving a balance between environmental benefits and the eco-schemes uptake by farmers (especially when the payment is through a compensatory and not an incentive approach)**
- **Calculation of the unit value**
- **Monitoring of eco-schemes: control and indicators**
- **Ensuring there is no excess or lack of funds**
- **Assuring consistency between eco-schemes and Pillar II (avoid double-funding)**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!