

ITALY

Technical assistance

Location

Nationwide

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Measure

M20 – Technical assistance

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 34 000

EAFRD 17 000

National/Regional 17 000

Project duration

2017 – 2018

Project promoter

Research centre for agricultural policies and bioeconomy of CREA

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The project RDP4SUD promoted networking among institutional actors and stakeholders as to the more effective use of RDP measures to implement Directive 2009/128/CE on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides.

Summary

The project “RDP4SUD”, which was financed by Italy’s National Rural Network, enabled networking by institutional actors, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, and other stakeholders, including professional organisations, consultants, environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and environmental research bodies.



All of the project stakeholders were interested in facilitating better implementation of the Directive 2009/128/CE on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUP Directive) through the more effective use of Rural Development Programme (RDP) measures.

National workshops were organised to promote networking between different decision-makers and stakeholders on the role and operation of the RDPs to support the priority of sustainable use of pesticides. Booklets were disseminated about the role RDPs could play in supporting that priority, including the protection of habitats and species. Focus groups with environmental stakeholders were organised to create synergies between different RDP measures and actors.

Results

Over 500 participants were engaged in the two workshops held.

About 300 farmers came together during the field visits.

More than 2 000 copies of the project booklets were distributed.

Institutional networking was promoted at national level by facilitating interaction between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea and other institutions and stakeholders involved in rural development.

Institutional networking was also supported at regional level between different regional offices/decision-makers with varying skills.

Context

The sustainable use of pesticides is a cross-cutting theme for different EU policies. It originates from policies aimed at protecting citizens' health, but it also has an impact on environmental policies that strive to protect natural habitats and biodiversity. Additionally, the theme finds direct support for implementation through rural development measures funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

One of the objectives of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) is to contribute to preserving, restoring and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, including the promotion of methods capable of guaranteeing the correct use of fertilisers and plant protection products (PPPs). In furthering this objective, RDPs interact with specific sector policies that, at various levels, constitute the framework and reference base for planning interventions. The reference tool for these issues in Italy (and in each EU Member State) is the National Action Plan (NAP) for the sustainable use of PPPs, adopted pursuant to Art. 6 of the Italian legislative decree n. 150/2012, which implements the SUP Directive (2009/128/EC). Thus, the NAP is managed by authorities who need to be working in harmony with those implementing the RDPs.

Objectives

The aim of this initiative was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the NAP system through the use of RDP measures. This would be achieved by creating operational synergies between the different institutions involved in order to coordinate tools and mechanisms that, at different levels, affect the implementation of the NAP and the RDP measures related to the sustainable use of pesticides.

Activities

Two national workshops were held on reporting and updating the initiatives put in place by the central and regional institutions involved in the NAP's implementation and on the role of organic and integrated agriculture and Rural Development Programme measures to support the achievement of the objectives under the SUP Directive. The workshops focused on sharing best practices, experiences and drafting proposals. Institutional actors and stakeholders of the NAP and the RDPs interacted with each other on various issues surrounding sustainable use of pesticides and gathered suggestions to start the

revision process of the NAP, strengthen institutional cooperation, improve current RDP programming and start thinking about the future.

The target audience was RDP Managing Authorities, regional officers of phytosanitary services, regional environmental protection agencies, producer organisations, consultants and environmental NGOs. The aim was to create institutional and operational understanding at the regional level around integrating tools and strategies for action under the various policies.

Focus groups were organised, bringing together environmental stakeholders and representatives of organic farming organisations to create synergies between different RDP measures and stakeholders. The groups were concentrated on assessing the suggestions for revising the NAP and verifying the possible ways they could be integrated with RDP strategies. This included the definition of targets to be reached by organic farming; identification of solutions to ensure greater protection of organic farms bordering conventional operations; new solutions for the development of biodistricts and quantitative indicator hypotheses; introduction and codification of the concept of agroecology; enhancement and dissemination of research results on organic farming and the sustainable use of PPPs; consideration of specific training activities (in addition to the functional ones for becoming a licensed user) for professional users who are in protected areas and farm organically. The target participants for the focus groups included experts, institutional representatives of organic agriculture, organisations and environmental NGOs.

Main results

Over 500 participants took part in the two workshops.

About 300 farmers came together during the field visits.

Approximately 2 000 copies of the project booklets were distributed.

Institutional networking was facilitated at national level through interaction between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea and other institutions and primary stakeholders involved in rural development.

Institutional networking was also supported at regional level between different regional offices/decision-makers with various skills around the theme of the sustainable use of pesticides.

Additional sources of information

www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17687

www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/18253

www.reterurale.it/pan/firenze2017

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