

1st Thematic Group meeting on Sustainable Management of Water and Soils

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Sustainable management

“Ability of a system to maintain economic viability, to nourish the needs of the present and future generations by limiting resource depletion”



A global priority:

- UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)
- Soils and water covered by at least 5 of the Global UN SDGs



A European policy priority:

- 2050 Resource Efficiency Roadmap;
- Circular Economy Action Plan;
- CAP, WFD, fertilisers, nitrates, floods
- Groundwater, industrial emissions



**Building on the ENRD TG on Resource Efficient Rural Economy
2016/17**

Thematic priorities

Soil nutrients

Water availability

Soil carbon

Cross cutting challenges / gaps

Motivation

Knowledge

Policy



“How to improve resource efficiency through RDPs”

1. Enabling farmers to make a transition towards greater resource efficiency
2. Targeting effort to deliver resource efficiency objectives
3. Delivering the right knowledge to the right people
4. Supporting those willing to change
5. Improved monitoring and trialling new approaches

Key recommendations



Tailored advice packages for resource efficient actions on soils & water including the benefits & risks of implementation on farm businesses.



Proactive engagement with farmers on the benefits of resource efficiency through peer to peer engagement, demonstration farms, & increasing the ratio of advisors to farmers.



Compulsory training for advisors through continuous professional development to maintain up-to-date knowledge on best practice.



Support young & new farmers via better access to financial support & advice, & sharing ideas through cooperation (e.g. Operational Groups).



Targeted support to areas, groups & issues where improved resource efficiency is a priority. Focus funding towards priority actions.



Transitional support through financing & capacity building during the implementation of actions & changes to farm structure & practice.



Good governance frameworks to provide coherence during programming & implementation of environmental, economic & social objectives.



Multi-stakeholder engagement with farmers and other actors in the rural economy from the start of the RDP design process through to implementation.



Demonstrate long term impacts of resource efficiency on the environment & farm businesses through case studies & reliable indicators.



Flexible support systems & measures that allow practices to be adapted to the needs of the farm & outcomes sought, during implementation.



Piloting new approaches by using opportunities under the Cooperation measure & LIFE funding to test approaches that can be mainstreamed into RDPs.



Improved accessibility of RDP support to farmers by streamlining scheme and project application procedures.



The work of this Thematic Group

“Current TG builds on the TG on Resource Efficiency”



Soils

Water

Provide concrete recommendations on how to support
soil and **water** management through
better design and implementation of RDPs

Draft TG objectives for discussion:

1. Developing criteria to help fine tune RDPs towards more effective management of water and soil:
 - a. Res-eff proofing tool or checklist for MAs;
 - b. Res-eff toolkit for famers, linked to packages of management actions and advice
2. Improve design and rules of existing RDP measures (e.g. Collective approaches, RBPS)
 - Improve their flexibility to work in different contexts and adapt to changing conditions;
 - Increase uptake and implementation by farmers;
 - Guidance on potential flexibility of options available within RDPs for MAs.
3. Identify opportunities for effective implementation of nutrient management plans
4. Strengthen the coherence between relevant EU soil & water policies and how they can be implemented through RDP measures.
5. Improved monitoring and reporting of soil and water conditions

Thank you for your attention!

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