

2nd Thematic Group meeting on Sustainable Management of Water and Soils

Collective approaches

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Collective approaches

*‘The action taken by a group
(either directly or on its behalf through an
organisation) in pursuit of
members’ perceived shared interests’*

(Marshall, 1998)

Other terms: ‘cooperation’ or ‘collaboration’

What are collective approaches in RDPs?

Different types of collective approaches:

- top-down, bottom up or combinations

Collectives can be organised as:

Formalised entities

Farmers coming together via a formalised 'collective' or 'cooperative'

- At territorial scale (horizontally) or along a supply chain (vertically)

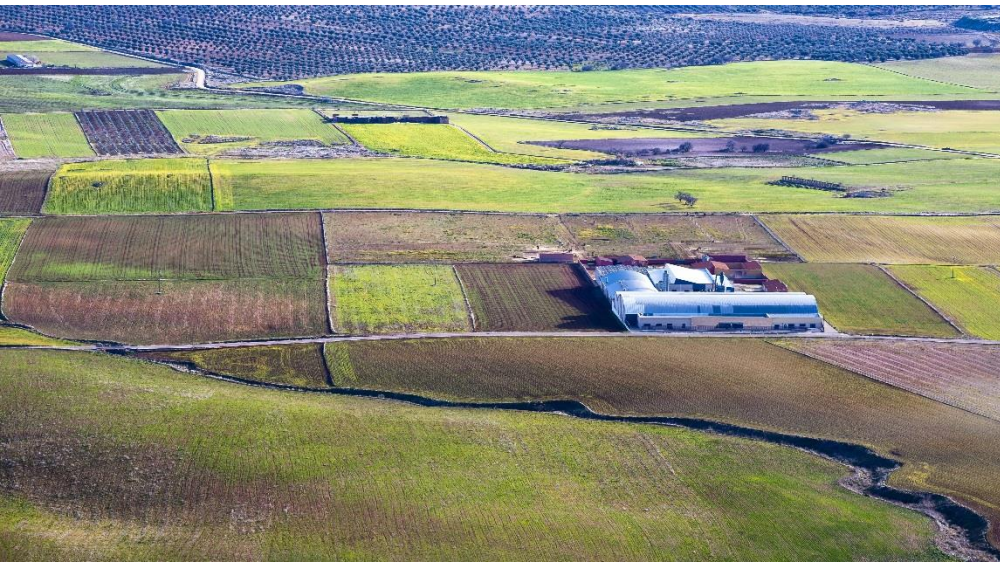
Less formalised approaches

Activities taken a group of farmers / land managers, facilitated by a key person



Benefits of using collective approaches

1. Achieving improved **environmental outcomes** across a wide area or throughout a supply chain;
2. Setting **commonly agreed objectives** and identification of synergies and trade-offs;
3. **Greater ownership and engagement** by all actors involved



RDP toolkit

- Cooperation measure (M16)
- Agri-environment-climate measure (M10)
- Organic farming (M11)
- Other measures supporting advice, investments, processing, marketing

! Cooperation (M16)

- OGs of the EIP;
- Horizontal/vertical cooperation along supply chains;
- Join action for climate adaptation and mitigation;
- Cooperation for drawing up forest management plans;
- Diversification of farming activities.



Opportunities and challenges

- + A 'champion' within a local area;
- + Willingness to explore new solutions;
- + Clarity as to the environmental objectives at landscape / supply chain level.

- Absence of a local 'champion', 'facilitator';
- Perceived as more complicated to promote;
- Limitations in building trust;
- Higher transaction costs;
- Unclear accountability;
- Group priorities vs local, regional, national or EU ones
- Timing for application to multiple RDP measures

Examples of existing collective approaches

Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (England)



Environmental Co-operation Action Fund (Scotland)



Organic grass-fed beef (Estonia)



WILD river basin management initiative (England)

Volvic watershed partnership (France)



Dutch approach to delivering the agri-environment-climate scheme (Netherlands)



Agriculture-based development strategies for areas hit by economic crisis (Slovenia)



Valdaso Agri-Environmental Agreement (Italy)



Cooperation to set up a 'landscape farming' initiative (Hungary)



PEGASUS
Public Ecosystem Goods and Services from
land management – Unlocking the Synergies

Why collective approaches for water and soils?

- Water pollution may be from multiple sources coming from various locations in the watershed
 - Action required across a broad area and all land managers to play a role
- Action to counter soil degradation processes is relevant at landscape scale rather than at farm level only, e.g. soil erosion



Where the TG could add value

Promoting the benefits of collective action for water/soils with MAs and other stakeholders

1. Investigation of key examples of RDP-funded collective approaches to understand results;
2. Factsheet promoting key benefits;
3. Brochure with examples of use of RDP measures for collective action;
4. Use the PEGASUS practitioner guidance and toolkit (**NB:** to be finalised in January 2018)

Finding solutions to common barriers

1. Analysis of the implementation of RDP Cooperation measure – identify issues and solutions;
2. Extract best practices/lessons from the use of LEADER that can be applied to collective action;
3. Consider ways of mainstreaming collective action within RDPs.

Thank you!

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