

Result-based RDP Payments for soil and water objectives

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What are result-based payments and why use them?

RDP
M10.1

farmland management

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Theoretical

Farmer chooses



Evidence of impact on site



MBPS

RDP prescribes in detail €



Is there any evidence of impact on site?



RBPS

Farmer chooses



Result indicators on site €



or



Water quality RBPS/MBPS hybrid (Flanders)

Objectives: reduce N leaching and soil erosion; increase organic matter

MBPS: 4 low risk crops on 90% of arable land; soil analysis in first year

Result Indicator: residual soil N each year in every field must be 4kg N/ha < Flanders regulatory threshold

Efficient use of irrigation water (Portugal)

Objectives: improve efficiency and reduce consumption

MBPS: irrigation system used, inspection of equipment in years 1, 3 and 5

Result Indicator: measured water consumption at least 7.5% < National Irrigation Authority reference level for crop and region

Is RBPS the best approach? For which specific objectives and at what scale?

Reduce diffuse pollution of surface and groundwater

Flood risk management

More efficient use of water on the farm, reduced abstraction, improved storage?

Reducing risk of soil erosion?

Improving soil organic matter content of mineral soils

Peatland soils – erosion, reducing C loss, protecting C sink and sequestration capacity?

Scale: field, farm, catchment, region?



Effective result indicators



Reliably representative of the specific objective and based on scientific data from the target area;



Present consistently in target farmland area;



Easily identified and measured by farmers and inspectors, using a simple, reliable and unambiguous method;



Sensitive to changes in agricultural management within the timescale of the contract but otherwise stable over time;



Unlikely to be influenced by external factors beyond the control of the farmer; and



Not achieved easily by means other than agricultural management.

Questions for discussion (RBPS)

Select at least one question to discuss



Focus on what's practical and feasible in the current programming period



Identify elements/building blocks of a recommendation to Managing Authorities

1. How do the resource requirements (data, expertise, administrative and IT systems, budgeting, trained staff) for RBPS differ from those for MBPS? What changes will the managing authority have to make?
2. What support is needed to help farmers accept, understand and implement RBPS for soil and water? Who will provide this and how will it be funded?
3. Which soil/water objective(s) would you choose for a pilot RBPS scheme? To replace a MBPS scheme, or as a hybrid MBPS/RBPS? How would you design it and what resources would you require?

Thank you!

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