

4th Thematic Group meeting on
Sustainable Management of Water and Soils

Result-based RDP Payments for soil and water objectives

Testing findings and recommendations for RDPs


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What is a result-based payment scheme?


- A different, very specific type of agri-environment contract
- RBPS farmers are free to decide how to manage their land and livestock
- Used in Europe for 20+ years
- Now attracting interest from the European Parliament, the Commission and MS policy makers

 in this context not to be confused with performance-based approaches, outcome-based programming, payments for ecosystem services . .

Meadow birds
Species-rich grassland

Large carnivores - Lynx (*Lynx lynx*)
and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)




Peak District farm
conservation scheme

Burren farming for
conservation
programme

Flowering meadows
Pastoral management



RAPCA fire prevention
scheme



Species rich grassland
Species rich orchards



Ergebnisorientierter Naturschutzplan
Nature Conservation plan

Species rich grassland
Bird schemes:
Harrier nest protection
in arable fields
Grassland birds
Orchards

Animal Genetic conservation
Most Member States offer some form
of support for animal genetic
conservation operating on a results-
based approach.

Examples can be seen in Italy,
Germany, Ireland and Austria.

Why use result-based payments?

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



Examples of RBPS M10.1 for soil and water

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

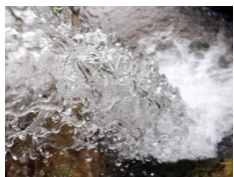
More efficient use of water on the farm, reduced abstraction, improved storage?

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 to consider



Q. 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?

Q. How best to support and encourage the sharing of responsibilities, data and expertise between agencies?

Q. 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?

Q. What support is needed to help managing authorities decide if RBPS is suitable for the chosen objective and target area? And if so, to decide if it should replace MBPS or be combined in a 'hybrid' scheme?

Q. How would you design a pilot RBPS scheme for soil/water, and what resources would you require?

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Proposed recommendations on results-based approaches

Recommendations for better policy tools for soil and water RBPS

1. Secure funding for agri-environment-climate contracts for more than one RDP period, to achieve lasting improvement in soil quality, particularly soil organic matter, which can take >5 years.
2. Ensure that all RBPS agri-environment-climate farmer contracts require compulsory training.
3. A forum where RDP staff involved in the design and measurement of results-based indicators for soil and water can exchange best practice.
4. Provide guidance on creating packages of measures which include agri-environment-climate RBPS schemes, technical training and on-farm advice, and non-productive investment support.



Thank you!

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