



Agri-environment-climate Measures (AECM) Challenges of controllability and verifiability

**The auditors' perspective on input
reduction operations**

General statement

None of the control methods
is likely to provide full
assurance on its own, but they
can be effective as a
combination

- Partial reductions in the use of fertilisers and plant protection products needs to be considered as more complex to check compared to a total ban
- Specially when speaking of a partial reduction: Importance to assess the situation at the starting point of the (5-year) commitment period, and by the end, to check the achievement of the objective

- Or whole-farm approach vs. commitment covering only a part of the farm: in this context, it has to be analysed whether a "part-of-the-farm" approach could be an option, on a case by case basis

Control methods regarding the use of fertilizers/pesticides

- Parcel diary (best if plot-wise) + checks on stored substances + checks on invoices + bookkeeping + inspection of the premises
- Visual checks with the aid of a checklist and expertise of the inspectors
- Appropriate training for the inspectors
- Chemical/ soil/ plant analysis

Ban on fertilisation (manure spreading) during winter

- "Parcel diary" (best plot-wise) + checks on stored substances + checks on invoices + bookkeeping
- Visual inspection during the relevant period (only OTSC)
- Additional (targeted) sample for winter commitments

Ban on growth regulators or pesticides

- "Parcel diary" (best plot-wise) + checks on stored substances + checks on invoices + bookkeeping
- Visual inspection during the relevant period (only OTSC)
- Plant or soil analysis

Maximum livestock density (LU/ha)

- Cross check with animal database
- Checks against animal registers in case no Data Base are available (e.g. Breeding organization registers)
- Administrative calculation of the LSD
- Visual inspection and counting of the animals (OTSC)
- Check and matching of 'passports' (OTSC)

Uncultivated buffer strips along water courses

- Screen review with the LPIS/GIS (remote sensing)
- Visual inspection plus measurement in case of doubts (OTSC)

Organic farming on part of holding

- Evidence from other extensification-related checks, e.g. visual inspection on the absence of forbidden inputs on the holding (OTSC)
- Soil samples
- Certificates issued by accredited control bodies for OF
- Clear demarcation between organic and conventional farming



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Thank you!