

# Glossary:Common agricultural policy (CAP)

Statistics Explained

The **Common Agricultural Policy** , abbreviated as **CAP** , is the [European Union](#) agricultural policy, established under Article 33 of the [Treaty establishing the European Community](#) .

The CAP is aimed at helping European farmers meet the need to feed more than 500 million Europeans. Its main objectives are to provide a stable, sustainably produced supply of safe food at affordable prices for consumers, while also ensuring a decent standard of living for 22 million farmers and agricultural workers.

The CAP is one of the most important EU policies from a budget point of view: agricultural spending accounts for around 40% of the EU budget. The legal framework is adopted jointly by the [Council](#) and the [European Parliament](#) . The implementation of the CAP is the responsibility of the Member States. The CAP has changed a lot since it was established in 1962, and continues to change today. The [CAP 2014-2020](#) focuses on three priorities:

- viable food production;
- sustainable management of natural resources;
- balanced development of rural areas throughout the EU

The following regulations are central to the functioning of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1307/2013](#) of 17 December 2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1308/2013](#) of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1305/2013](#) of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 and
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1306/2013](#) of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008

## Related concepts

- [Common fisheries policy](#)
- [Economic accounts for agriculture](#)

## Statistical data

- [Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics](#)

## Source

- [Summaries of EU legislation](#)
- [European Commission, Agriculture and rural development: The CAP](#)