GAEC and EFA common features implemented in the Czech Republic

Workshop GAEC 2015
21th October 2015
Agenda

• The agricultural sector Czech republic (ha)
• EFA declared in the year 2015
• Statistics of EFA declared in 2015
• EFA under GAEC
## The agricultural sector

**Czech republic (ha)**

- **Area of Czech republic**: 7,886,707
- **Agricultural land**: 4,219,867 (54%)
  - Sowing area total: 2,985,792
  - Permanent grassland: 994,461
  - Vineyard: 19,652
  - Hop-garden: 10,312
- **Forested area**: 2,663,731 (33 %)
- **Soil endangered by water erosion**: 2,274,936 (52,7 %)

*Source: State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadaster, status to 31. 12. 2013*
EFA declared in the year 2015

The Czech Republic has implemented as EFA in the national legislation:

- N-fixing crops: 182,326 ha (60.7%)
- Catch crops: 99,909 ha (33.2%)
- Land lying follow: 16,179 ha (5.4%)
- Field margins: 1,593 ha (0.5%)
- Landscape features: 261 ha (0.09%)
- Afforested areas: 188 ha (0.06%)
- Short rotation coppices: 83 ha (0.03%)

*Data without use of weighting factors*
Statistics of EFA declared in 2015

- **N-fixing crops**: 5,38% (16,179 ha)
- **Catch crops**: 0,06% (188 ha)
- **Land lying fallow**: 0,03% (83 ha)
- **Landscape features**: 0,09% (261 ha)
- **Afforested areas**: 0,06% (188 ha)
- **SRC**: 0,03% (83 ha)
- **Field margins**: 0,03% (83 ha)

Total declared area: 60,67% (182,326 ha)

33,24% (99,909 ha)

*data without use of weighting factors*
GAEC 4 - Soil and carbon stock

Minimum soil cover

- on the part of the land block with the standard arable land type of crop, with an average slope greater than 5 degrees, the applicant will ensure, after harvesting the crops, the establishment of winter crops, or apply at least one of the following measures
- keep the harvested crop stubble on part of the land block until the establishment of the subsequent spring crops
- root out the harvested crop stubble and leave it without ploughing until the subsequent establishment of spring crops, or
- by September 20 at the latest the land block part is sown by catch crop and this crop is maintained at least until October 31
- these measures shall not apply in cases where within the agro-technical procedure the incorporation of manure is carried out, with the exception of poultry manure or organic fertilizers in the amount of at least 10 tons per hectare and at the maximum dose of 50 tons per hectare
EFA under GAEC 4

- **Catch crops**
  - established by the mixture of crops or the undersown grass in the main crop
  - the crop mixture must contain at least **two crops** out of a list of admissible crops (in total 36 crops)
  - 2 variations - summer catch crop and winter catch crop
  - period used for sowing: 20 September to 31 October (winter variation) for GAEC
  - mechanical, chemical termination, use of chemical plant growth regulators - not permitted during the period
GAEC 5: SOIL AND CARBON STOCK

minimizing of soil erosion

• land which is highly endangered by erosion - erosion causing crops will not be grown (maize, potato, beet, faba bean, soya, sunflower and sorghum). Crops of grain and oilseed must be established with the use of soil protection technology, except other crops grown with under-sown clover, grass or clover and grass mixtures

• land which is moderately endangered by erosion - erosion causing crops of maize, potato, faba bean, soya bean, sunflower and sorghum will be established with the use of soil protection technology

❖ field margin – EFA feature fulfilling soil protection technology
EFA under GAEC 5

Field margin

• strip with the range of width 1- 20 m (for GAEC minimum width 12 m)
• established from the boundary of the parcel, max. 20% of area
• crop on the field margin must be different from the main crop, (no erosion causing for GAEC) and to be kept at least till 15 July
• no production and grazing
• fertilizing is not permitted
EFA under GAEC 5

- Field margin - infiltration strip
  - infiltration strip - the soil protection technology listed in GAEC 5, minimizing water erosion
  - minimum width 12 m
  - no erosion causing crops
EFA under GAEC 5

- **Catch crops**
  
  • winter catch crops may be used for sowing features minimizing erosion - field margins, infiltration strips and interrupt strips
  
  • must fulfil EFA and GAEC conditions
GAEC 6 - Soil and carbon stock

Soil organic matter and ban on burning arable stubble

A farmer will ensure on 20% of the area of total arable land acreage:

- the coverage of this area with nitrogen fixing crops of chickpea, lentil, bean, pea, garden pea, clover, sweet clover, lupine, soy, birdsfoot, alfalfa, kidney vetch, vetch, faba bean, sainfoin or mixtures thereof.

- NFC could be also established as undersow or the mixture with forages (forages may not exceed 50% in the mixture)
EFA under GAEC 6

- Nitrogen fixing crops
  - minimum period 1 June to 15 July
  - after termination NFC must be established a winter crop by 31 October
  - same crops as in GAEC 6
GAEC 7

Landscape, minimum level of maintenance

- GAEC 7 - will not clear away and will not damage a landscape element, this includes ban on cutting trees from 31. March to 1. February
- EFA landscape features under GAEC:
  
  Ditches
  Trees in group
  Trees in line
  Isolated trees
  Grassed thalwegs
  Terraces
  Boundary
GAEC 7 Landscape features

- **Ditch**
  - formation of linear type no more than 6 meter wide, whose main function is to break slope length by capture water with her its run off or absorption
GAEC 7  Landscape features

- Trees in group
  - a separate nonlinear formation consisting of at least 2 pieces of woody vegetation with the longest area of 3 000 square meters.
  - the group of trees is not considered woody vegetation, when is a part of boundary strip, terrace or grassed thalweg, and woody vegetation that serves as a forest under the Forest Act.
GAEC 7  Landscape features

- Trees in line

- formation of linear type consisting of at least 5 pieces of woody vegetation and usually with a regularly repeating elements
GAEC 7 Landscape features

- Isolated trees
  
  - growing tree in isolation
  - projection of the crown from 8 square meters occurring in the farmed countryside outside forest
GAEC 7 Landscape features

- Grassed thalwegs
  - dissected by steep formation serving to reduce the risk of water or wind erosion, defining path of concentration water runoff from part land block with arable land
  - component of the grassed thalweg can be woody vegetation
GAEC 7 Landscape features

- Terraces
  - continuous sloping formation of line a type consisting of terraced degree, which serves to reduce the risk of water or wind erosion and decreasing the slope of the hill part of the land block part
  - components of terrace can be woody vegetation or stone wall
GAEC 7 Landscape features

- Boundary strip
  - continuous formation of line a type, mainly used to reduce the risk of water or wind erosion, generally defining the boundary part land block
  - the component of boundary strip can be vegetation, stone wall or grassy area
New GAEC, EFA feature expected in 2016

- Wetland
  - formation used to ensure of retention water in landscape and support a biodiversity,
  - can not be damaged, farming not permitted
FEATURES withdrawn from implementation

- Equivalent practices- agro environmental measures under RDP:

Reasons:
- methodologically difficult settings
- unclear sanctioning procedure
Features withdrawn from implementation

- Strips along the water courses and forest edges

Reasons:
- unstable watercourses in the CZ region, layer data in the map are not precise
- difficulty of drawing the strip in the LPIS due to inaccuracy
- equivalent solution – strip of field margin along the watercourses and forest edges
Importance of consistency of GAEC and EFA in order to:

- ensure environment protection
- enhance agrobiodiversity
- improve soil property and protection
- maintain healthy landscape for future generations
Thank you for attention!

Any comments? We will be pleased to answer.
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