

GERMANY WAS PROMISED A GREEN AGRICULTURE REFORM — but this is what we got!



PROMISE



We were promised more farmland biodiversity, but...



REALITY



there is a risk that the much needed space for nature will not be created but instead taken over by intensified agricultural production without any further benefits for biodiversity.

1

It is likely that arable land in Germany will not be required to include natural elements that protect biodiversity, such as buffer strips between fields, trees, hedges and ponds because catch crops and nitrogen fixing crops are already taking up 6% of the land. These crops are included (despite their doubtful ecological contribution) in the Ecological Focus Area (EFA) requirement, and will thereby push out more valuable environmental elements.

If the German government does not strictly enforce the CAP's requirement for these natural elements, it will make it even more difficult for animals such as birds, insects, bees and small mammals to survive in farmland areas. Less space for nature has further negative impacts on water and soil quality.



We were promised full protection of valuable permanent grasslands but ...



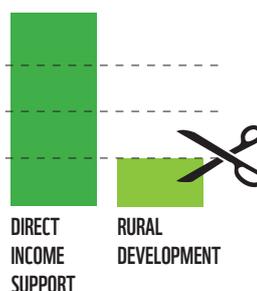
the CAP reform risks excluding 60% of its permanent grasslands from the strict protection it needs, despite grasslands already having been lost over the past 20 years.²

2

Land includes permanent grasslands, wetlands and peatlands. These areas are home to many plants and animals that are native to Germany and play an important role in flood mitigation and carbon storage. Germany has already lost a lot of its most valuable and protected land, but it stands to lose even more unless the government is serious about enforcing and enlarging existing protection measures.



We were promised more targeted funding for environmental measures, but...



the more environmentally targeted part of the CAP - Rural Development Pillar - was cut by far more than the Direct Income Pillar.³

3

Disproportionate cuts to the more conditional and environmentally focused Rural Development Fund means that there will most likely be less money available for green farmers who are applying better farming practices to their everyday work.

² Statistics from Statistisches Jahrbuch <http://www.bmelv-statistik.de/de/statistisches-jahrbuch/>

³ Statistics from the European Council Conclusions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 and the CAP www.europarl.europa.eu



The average European household contributed €277 per year to the CAP between 2007-2013.

In exchange for the billions of euros paid annually in taxes, Europeans were promised a green and more sustainable CAP reform.

But now the reform is over and greener and more sustainable farming is unlikely to take form because exemptions from green measures have become the rule rather than the exception. Even worse, in Germany this so called "green" reform will constitute a step backwards on previous environmental achievements through

disproportionate cuts to the much greener Rural Development Fund and a decrease in environmental requirements.

But it is not over yet.

Now all efforts have to focus on getting the most out of the implementation of the reform. The German Government has the ability to make this happen.

Decision makers are urged to take this final opportunity and:

1

Revise allocation of direct payments:

- Protect sensitive grasslands and increase the protection of carbon rich soils, Natura 2000 sites, flooding areas and species-rich grassland outside Natura 2000 areas.
- Eliminate catch crops from EFAs and don't use weighting factors beyond 1.0.
- Compensate for the unfair relative cuts in the Rural Development Pillar by shifting money from the Direct Income Pillar to Rural Development.

2

Ensure that the Rural Development Programmes contain only truly sustainable measures that are going significantly beyond the greening requirements under Direct Payments.

- Shift 15% of the funding for Pillar 1 to Rural Development and spend most of it on well-targeted agri-environment-climate measures.
- Focus on "dark green AEM" and sustainable land management that really deliver for biodiversity (see http://www.nabu.de/imperia/md/content/nabude/landwirtschaft/naturschutz/130605-nabu-broschuere-agrarumweltma__nahmen.pdf).
- Include additional Natura 2000 and nature conservation investments, as well as advice for biodiversity integration on farms.

Only if this is achieved we can see a Common Agriculture Policy that protects nature, maximizes opportunities for German farmers and delivers on its promise for a greener Europe.



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