

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



PROMISE



We were promised a Rural Development Programme budget that supports local economy but...

REALITY



2.6% INCREASE
DIRECT INCOME



13.2% CUT
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

13.2% of the greener Rural Development Pillar was cut, while the Direct Income Pillar was increased by 2.6%.

1

The disproportionate cut to the Rural Development Fund in Romania means that there will be less money available for targeted payments to assist in meeting Priorities 1-6 (innovation, viability, foodchains, ecosystems, climate resilience and social inclusion) under the Rural Development Programme.



We were promised a space for nature in Romanian farmland, but...



61%

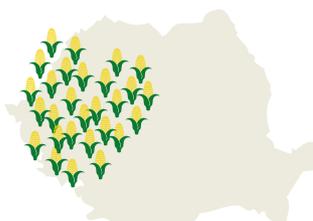
of farmland in Romania, or more than 99% of all farmers will be exempt from the new biodiversity conditions in exchange for direct payments.

2

Almost two thirds of farmland in Romania will not be required to include natural elements such as buffer strips between fields, trees, hedges, and ponds. This will make it more difficult for animals such as birds, insects, butterflies, 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 less monoculture farming and a more diverse and healthy landscape, but...



44%

of all arable land in Romania is not required to carry out any meaningful crop diversification.

3

Almost half of the arable land in Romania will not be required to do a three crop diversification. The government is thereby allowing large monocultures to perpetuate biodiversity loss, soil depletion and increased pesticide and fertilizer use. This results in irreversible and damaging consequences for the climate as well as air and water quality.



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 Romania 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 Romanian Government has the ability to make this happen.

Decision makers are urged to take this final opportunity and:

1

Use the equivalence mechanism under the greening only as a tool to improve measures and outcomes, strengthening the biodiversity benefits of Ecological Focus Areas rather than diluting even further the greening of Direct Income payments.

2

Remove nitrogen-fixing crops from Ecological Focus Areas: crops such as lucerne do not meet EFA biodiversity objectives.

5

Ensure that the Rural Development Programme contains only truly sustainable measures that are going significantly beyond the greening requirements under Direct Income payments.

- Ensure an increase in funding for high-quality environmental measures, such as agri-environment-climate, forest-environment and Natura 2000 measures in the 30% mandatory minimum spending and avoid any decline of overall funding.
- Ensure that Agri Environmental Measures help maintain mosaical structure and landscape features.
- Reject all environmentally harmful measures under Rural Development.

3

Ensure protection of High Nature Value grasslands at a farm level by recognising them as environmentally important grasslands.

4

Increase the Rural Development Pillar budget by using modulation.

Only if this is achieved can we see a Common Agriculture Policy that gives some hope on protecting nature, maximizing opportunities for Romanian farmers and delivering on its promise for a greener Europe.