How is Rural Development implementation affecting biodiversity?

Ministry of ecology, sustainable development and energy

Directorate for sustainable development

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Context

France is experiencing the implementation of decentralised Rural Development programmes (RDP)

Difficulties in implementation resulting from delays in the approval process, decentralisation and administrative management

Premature to measure how implementation affect biodiversity

Information available at this stage: provisional funding to environmental measures; feedbacks from local implementation; overview of intervention logic
Biodiversity at stake in agricultural areas

**Oiseaux communs**

Évolution de l’indice d’abondance des populations d’oiseaux communs

- Drop of the abundance of common birds in agricultural areas
- Enable to monitor the extent of loss or degradation of habitats

**Evolution of the common bird index:**

- Suii temporel des oiseaux communs (programme Stoc).
- Champ : France métropolitaine.

Source : Muséum national d’histoire naturelle, 2015

CGDD : *Chiffres clés de l’environnement 2015*
Biodiversity at stake in agricultural areas

Areas with specific issues of pasture preservation: share of permanent pastures in agriculture area in 2006 and evolution of permanent pastures between 2006 and 2010 declared by farmers

- **Red**: PP < 20 % de la SAU en 2006 ; Surfaces de PP entre 2006 et 2010 ↘
- **Orange**: PP ≥ 20 % de la SAU ; Surfaces de PP ↘ ≥10 %
- **Yellow**: PP ≥ 20 % de la SAU ; Surfaces de PP ↘ <10 %
- **Light Green**: PP < 20 % de la SAU ; Surfaces de PP ↗
- **Green**: PP ≥ 20 % de la SAU ; Surfaces de PP ↗
- **Tiled**: Massifs montagneux

Source: ASP, RPG 2006 et 2010

Biodiversity at stake in agricultural areas

Constraining picture regarding conservation status of habitats

Note: les nombres entre crochets indiquent le nombre d’évaluations réalisées.

Source: MNHN (SPN), 2013. Traitements: MNHN-SGeS

CGDD - Le point sur - Biodiversité rare ou menacée : 22 % des habitats et 28 % des espèces dans un état favorable, 2014
Overview of programme intervention logic for biodiversity

No core changes in programme intervention logic compared to the previous programmation in terms of choice of measures and funding

→ Why ?

- Financial tables constrained by the importance of some measures [ex: LFASS; competitiveness measures];
- To ensure on-going actions;
- In some cases to maintain the amount of aid per farm;
- Progressive skill improvement of the managing authorities

But contrasts among regions (share of funds to priority 4, agri-environment measures, targeting)
Funding allocated to environmental measures

Share of funds for priority 4
(« Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems »)
- Less Favoured Area Support Scheme excluded

(tot al public funding)

Source: European Commission
Calculation: CGDD
Funding allocated to Agri-Environment Climate (measure 10)

Funds for Measure 10 (million €)

Source: European Commission
Calculation: CGDD
Trend in the financing of agri-environment measures

Comparaison of funding commitments 2007-2013 and the provisional budget 2014-2020 (total public funding)

Source: European Commission, MAAF, Calculation: CGDD
Towards more efficiency regarding agri-environment measures?

To take into account previous rural development programme evaluations:

- targeting objectives (spatial)
- design of the measure and commitments to minimise the deadweight effect
- systemic measures design
- project approach to implement AECM

Feedbacks from the first stages of implementation:

- Targeting and territorialisation?
- Perspectives of changing agricultural practices?
Conclusion

Few elements to assess how implementation affect biodiversity

In a decentralized scheme, necessity for national authorities to monitor carefully the implementation process and assess whether and to what extent RDPs consistent with the objectives of the national biodiversity strategy

Global approach to evaluate the real contribution of both first and second pillars « green » measures to biodiversity preservation

Papers at national and european scales tend to evaluate the ambition of greening