

# Evaluation on the CAP's impact on knowledge exchange and advisory activities

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

---

As the agricultural and the forest sectors develop, farmers and foresters continuously need to update their knowledge and information regarding the management of the business, agricultural innovations but also concerning environmental conditions, climate action, food safety and animal health aspects. Knowledge exchange and innovation aim to adapt the daily work routines of the rural actors to emerging needs (such as climate action), open new channels in organising their work, promote cooperation and improve competitiveness and sustainability.

This public consultation has been launched to support the evaluation of the common agricultural policy's (CAP) impact on knowledge exchange and advisory activities. The evaluation aims to determine whether the CAP objective of 'fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas' are being met and whether the relevant measures are effective, efficient, coherent, relevant and provide EU added value. This public consultation aims to gather information and feedback from stakeholders and the wider public to serve as input for the evaluation. We invite you to contribute to this evaluation by replying to the questionnaire below, which should take around 20 minutes to complete.

When replying, please note that the survey relates to the present CAP. The survey does not address the Commission proposal for the CAP post-2020 (COM (2018)392 and COM (2018) 393 in particular).

Thank you for your valuable input!

## About you

---

### \* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch

- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

\* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

\* First name

Felicia

\* Surname

Covalciuc

\* Email (this won't be published)

felicia.covalciuc@aecm.eu

\* Organisation name

*255 character(s) maximum*

European Association of Guarantee institutions (AECM)

\* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

*255 character(s) maximum*

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

67611102869-33

\* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

- |                                      |  |                                     |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan    | <input type="radio"/> Djibouti           | <input type="radio"/> Libya         | <input type="radio"/> Saint Martin                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Åland Islands  | <input type="radio"/> Dominica           | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein | <input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon        |
| <input type="radio"/> Albania        | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania     | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| <input type="radio"/> Algeria        | <input type="radio"/> Ecuador            | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg    | <input type="radio"/> Samoa                            |
| <input type="radio"/> American Samoa | <input type="radio"/> Egypt              | <input type="radio"/> Macau         | <input type="radio"/> San Marino                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Andorra        | <input type="radio"/> El Salvador        | <input type="radio"/> Madagascar    | <input type="radio"/> São Tomé and Príncipe            |

- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Falkland Islands
- Faroe Islands
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Martinique
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar /Burma
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Sint Maarten
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria

- Botswana
- Bouvet Island
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
  
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
  
- Cambodia
  
- Cameroon
  
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
  
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
  
- Christmas Island
- Clipperton
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
  
- Colombia
  
- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
  
- Guyana
  
- Haiti
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
  
- Hungary
  
- Iceland
  
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
  
- Iraq
  
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
  
- Italy
  
- Jamaica
- Japan
  
- Jersey
  
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
  
- Niger
  
- Nigeria
- Niue
  
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- North Korea
  
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
  
- Palau
  
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
  
- Peru
- Philippines
  
- Pitcairn Islands
  
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
  
- The Gambia
  
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
  
- Tokelau
- Tonga
  
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
  
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
  
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- United States Minor Outlying Islands
- Uruguay

- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**\* Publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

**Anonymous**

Only your contribution, country of origin and the respondent type profile that you selected will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

**Public**

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

**Background to the public consultation**

---

The evaluation covers the relevant CAP instruments and measures under the 2014-2020 CAP period.

The relevant measures under the [rural development policy](#) of the CAP, set out in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1305/2013](#), include:

- knowledge transfer and information actions, including farm exchange and on-farm demonstration (so called 'measure 1),
- advisory services, including provision of advice, setting up of advisory services and training of advisors (measure 2),
- cooperation, notably the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and other cooperation projects (measure 16), and
- technical assistance, in particular on networking for the EIP (measure 20).

In this context, [Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems \(AKIS\)](#) are designed to boost initiation and development of innovation projects, to disseminate their results and to use them as widely as possible. AKIS provides a knowledge exchange system between users and producers of innovation and knowledge and exist at national or regional levels, covering all who use and produce knowledge and innovation for agriculture and all interrelated fields. The AKIS is the Member States' innovation ecosystem where stakeholders interact with a view to provide information, knowledge exchange actions, advice, innovation projects etc. related to farming practice, business, authorities, innovation and research.

[Regulation \(EU\) No 1306/2013](#) on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP provides the legal basis for the [Farm Advisory System \(FAS\)](#). The FAS is obligatory for Member States to establish in order to help farmers to better understand and meet the EU rules for environment, public and animal health, animal welfare and the standards for good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC).

## Introductory questions

---

1. To allow us to better understand your interest in knowledge exchange activities, please indicate the stakeholder category that best describes the area you represent (one answer possible):

- Farmers or foresters
- Farm advisers
- Researchers
- Training organisers
- Managing authority
- Other

If other, please specify:

*500 character(s) maximum*

AECM has 48 member organizations operating in 30 European countries (23 EU countries plus Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Russia and Turkey). Its members are mutual, private sector guarantee schemes as well as public institutions, which are either guarantee funds or Development banks with a guarantee division. They all have in common the mission of providing loan guarantees for SMEs who have an economically sound project but cannot provide sufficient bankable collateral.

2. Are you aware that the EU tries to foster knowledge exchange, advisory activities, and innovation in the agricultural and forestry sector and in rural areas by providing Member States with financial support for rural development measures via the common agricultural policy (CAP)?

- Yes
- No

3. Are you aware that the CAP has required national administrations to set up a Farm Advisory System (FAS) to help farmers and other beneficiaries find advice to better understand and meet EU rules?

- Yes
- No

4. On which of the following areas should the CAP focus its support for knowledge transfer and innovation? (more than one answer is possible)

*between 1 and 13 choices*

- Climate action
- Environmental action on water
- Environmental action on soil
- Environmental action on biodiversity
- Animal welfare and health
- Plant health
- Food safety
- Social aspects
- Innovation
- Farming using digital technologies
- Economic viability
- Farm management in general covering farm economics, environmental sustainability, climate action and/or animal welfare

Other

If other, please specify:

*500 character(s) maximum*

5. Have you benefited from knowledge exchange, advice or innovation projects supported by the CAP in the last five years?

- Yes  
 No

6. To what extent do you consider the advice provided to farmers and foresters independent?

- To a very large extent  
 To a large extent  
 To some extent  
 To a very small extent  
 Not at all  
 No opinion

### Effectiveness (have the objectives been met?)

---

7. To what extent do the current CAP measures and instruments foster the flow of information between the categories below:

	To a very large extent	To a large extent	To some extent	To a very small extent	Not at all	No opinion
Between farmers and advisors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Between farmers and researchers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Between researchers and advisors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. To what extent are the CAP measures and instruments effective in fostering knowledge exchange, advisory activities and innovation in the agricultural and forestry sector and in rural areas?

	To a very large extent	To a large extent	To some extent	To a very small extent	Not at all	No opinion
Support for knowledge exchange and information actions (M1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support for the Advisory service measures (M2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cooperation and EIP projects (M16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support for networking, notably EIP (M20)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
AKIS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FAS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Efficiency (Were the costs involved reasonable/ proportionate?)

9. To what extent are the CAP measures and instruments efficient (providing value for money) in fostering knowledge exchange, advisory activities and innovation in the agricultural and forestry sector and in rural areas?

- To a very large extent
- To a large extent
- To some extent
- To a very small extent
- Not at all
- No opinion

10. Do you agree that all farmers have equal access to knowledge exchange, advice or innovation supported with the CAP?

- Yes
- No
- If no, please specify which categories are less reached and why

If no, please specify which categories are less reached and why:

*500 character(s) maximum*

There is a need for targeted access to instruments for new entrants (young farmers, start-ups but also individual farmers), as those appear to be left behind.

11. Please indicate for each line the most important aspect (only one answer is possible per line) of administrative cost and/or burden in the implementation of the current CAP measures and instruments fostering knowledge exchange, advisory activities and innovation in the agricultural and forestry sector and in rural areas:

	Too costly	Too complex operation	Too time consuming preparation	Unclear eligibility	Too many administrative requirements	Too frequent policy changes	Administrative burden acceptable	Do not know
Administrative burden for receivers of advice	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrative burden for providers of advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrative burden for managing authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Relevance (Are the objectives of the relevant CAP instruments in line with actual needs?)

---

12. To what extent are the CAP instruments and measures sufficient to address the need to foster knowledge exchange, advisory activities, and innovation in the agricultural and forestry sector and in rural areas?

- To a very large extent
- To a large extent
- To some extent
- To a very small extent
- Not at all
- No opinion

13. So far, only a small minority of farmers have benefited of knowledge exchange, advisory services and innovation fostered through the CAP. Which improvements would you propose to increase the uptake?

*500 character(s) maximum*

An important impediment in getting access to knowledge exchange, advisory services and innovation by farmers is linked to transaction costs and administrative burden. Farmers, but also governments at European, national and regional levels, are confronted with administrative costs.

14. You may complement your answers to the questionnaire with further observations in the following text box. In particular, you are invited to indicate, based on your practical experience, advisory actions/tools that you are missing, or good innovation exchange practices that already exist that are particularly effective to assist farmers and foresters to achieve more sustainable farm or forest management.

*1000 character(s) maximum*

The following suggestions could prove useful in solving the issues related to administrative burden and transaction costs :

- Harmonization of the CAP/EAFRD procedures with other EU funds such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Cohesion Policy as currently they have a different management and control system. This will give Member States and regions more responsibility in terms of policy programming, implementation and control.
- Creation of larger programmes with many operational groups on a certain topic.
- Increase the awareness of knowledge exchange, advisory services and innovation among stakeholders in the Member States
- Train the advisors

15. You may upload a document incorporating additional relevant observations and views regarding the subject. Please keep the contents of such a document short, concise and focused on the subject of the consultation. Unrelated contributions, such as general remarks on the wider CAP will not be taken into account.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published in its entirety alongside your response to the questionnaire, which remains the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background to better understand your position.

**Please upload your file**

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Thanks for your participation.

## **Contact**

[Contact Form](#)