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Defining Agronomists Professional Profiles and Agricultural and Life Science Study Programmes

*How CONAF uses the CAP reform to develop the role and skills of
agronomist in cooperation with life science universities.*



CEDIA-ICA Conference 2017

4/5 May 2017, Vienna, Austria



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The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Treaty

Article 39 TFEU establishes the specific objectives of the CAP:

- **To increase the productivity** of agriculture by developing technical progress and ensuring optimum use of production factors, in particular labor;
- To ensure a **fair standard of living** for the agricultural population;
- **Stabilize the markets**;
- Ensuring the **security of supplies**;
- Ensure **reasonable prices for consumers**.



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CAP reforms

The common agricultural policy has, over time

Five major reforms:

- The **1992 reform**
- **The 2000 Agenda:**
- **2003** (mid-term review),
- **2009** ("health status assessment")
- **2013** (for the 2014-2020 financial period).

The 1992 reform: the big turning point

The Council adopted a radical change in the CAP, replacing a price-based protection system with a system of income-compensating .



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The 2000 Agenda: a new milestone for the 1992 reform

The reform was essentially based on the following elements:

- **A new alignment of domestic prices at world prices**, partly offset by direct aid to producers;
- The introduction by the MS of environmental conditions (**eco-conditionality**) for the granting of aid;
- The first Cork Conference (of 1996) and reinforcement of the structural measures in force under a new rural development policy, **now called the second pillar** of the CAP
- **Budgetary stabilization** through the definition of a strict financial framework for the period 2000-2006



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The June 2003 reform: towards a CAP based on decoupled aid

Deep reform of the CAP and introduced a number of new principles:

- The **decoupling of aid** compared to volumes produced in order to better target companies on the market and reduce distortions in agricultural production and trade> **income stability**
- **Cross-compliance**, which made payments unique to compliance with a set of environmental and public health standards in response to the expectations of European citizens;
- **The redistribution of payment rights** attributed to companies on the basis of historical references
- A single common market organization was set up in 2007 to codify the existing 21 CMO regulation mechanisms



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The "health assessment" of 2009: consolidating the 2003 reform framework - health check

- **Strengthening the total decoupling** of aid through the progressive elimination of the last coupled payments coupled with production, integrating them into the single payment scheme;
- Partially reorienting the first pillar funds in favor of rural development by **increasing the rate of modulation of direct aid**;
- **Streamlining the rules on public intervention** and supply control in order to curb farmers' ability to react to market signals.

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The 2013 reform

Unique payments to companies are replaced by a payment system, for layers or layers, with seven components

- The consolidation of the two pillars of the CAP;
- The **first pillar**, which finances direct aid and market measures, fully funded by the EAGGF
- The **second pillar**, in favor of rural development, under co-financing
- The consolidation of **the single CMO** instruments as 'security nets', which only intervene in the event of a price crisis and market turmoil
- Better coordination of rural measures with the rest of the Structural Funds (**partnership agreement**)

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Some considerations on the ongoing CAP

- The **stratification of the first pillar prizes** overlaps with the second pillar measures - it creates confusion and makes its effects scarcely perceived in a concrete way.
- **Greening**, which basically rewards extensive agriculture based on lawns, penalizes Mediterranean agriculture, which already has a strong crop diversity
- **Rural Development Programmes** envisage a series of measures that respond theoretically to the achievement of the intended objectives, but in fact they are **not actually applied** because companies can not implement with integrated plans. > Different and different calls



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Consultation
on modernising and simplifying
the common agricultural policy (CAP)

-closed on 2 May 2017 –

C.O.N.A.F. - with a specially formed working group - and
C.E.D.I.A. participated in the consultation, formulating
some **proposals**.



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The CAP beyond 2020: ideas and reflections

Firstly, CONAF intends to point out the need to guide the CAP in achieving **three fundamental objectives**, which meet the principle “***public money for public goods***”:

- **environmental sustainability**;
- functioning and organisation of **agricultural markets**;
- **employment in rural areas**, a particularly important target in a context of job crisis.

The CAP must become a policy aimed at stimulating the **production of healthy, sustainable and innovative foods**.

Viewed and considered the **positive externalities** associated with healthy eating, is the **healthy food** the **main public goods** produced by European rural areas.



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THE POLICY OBJECTIVES (from CONAF document)

1 increase employment in rural areas

2 Administrative and bureaucratic simplification

3 Farm Advisory System

4 Services and Innovation



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1 Increase employment

- Maintain levels of employment to prevent depopulation of rural areas.
- Give **priority** to companies that provide **higher levels of employment**, meaning among the "employed" all the units involved in the job at any point, **including advisors**.



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2: Administrative and bureaucratic simplification

- Reduce the administrative burden that creates delays in the application of agricultural policies at national level
- Integrate the hectare base with **other parameters** such as:
 - Quality and healthiness of foods,
 - Of the business location
 - Of the number of employees.
- In order to achieve extensive territorial benefits, it is necessary to **unify direct payments and agri-environmental payments in one single pillar** and to provide such aid on the basis of homogeneous territorial criteria.
- Modulation of the interventions according to the area of application, with the possibility for the farmer to choose the measure to be used.

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3: Farm Advisory System

- creation of independent specialist **Farm Advisory System**, to promote true integrated production (IPM).
- Increase direct payments (first pillar) to those farms that use **advisors**.
- Establish a **farm advisory network** for each SM in order to promote best agronomic practices and encourage exchanges between countries.
- Promotion of **lifelong learning** through study trips to non-EU contry **for advisors** and farmers .



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4: Services and Innovation

- It is of primary importance to stimulate the creation and **development of services in rural areas**, by funding the diffusion of the use of **ICTs** in agriculture, between advisors and the compilation of aid applications.
- More resources need to be invested in **boosting broadband** in rural areas
- It is of strategic importance to support the adoption and development of innovations in the primary sector by encouraging cooperation between private partners and research institutes.



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HOW CONAF USES THE CAP REFORM TO DEVELOP THE ROLE AND SKILLS OF AGRONOMIST IN COOPERATION WITH LIFE SCIENCES UNIVERSITIES

Our point of view:

The new CAP must meet the principle “**public money for public goods**” and become a policy aimed at stimulate the **production of healthy, sustainable** and innovative **foods**.

The **healthy food is the main public goods** produced by European rural areas.

From the “agricultural” CAP to the CAP of “sustainable food”



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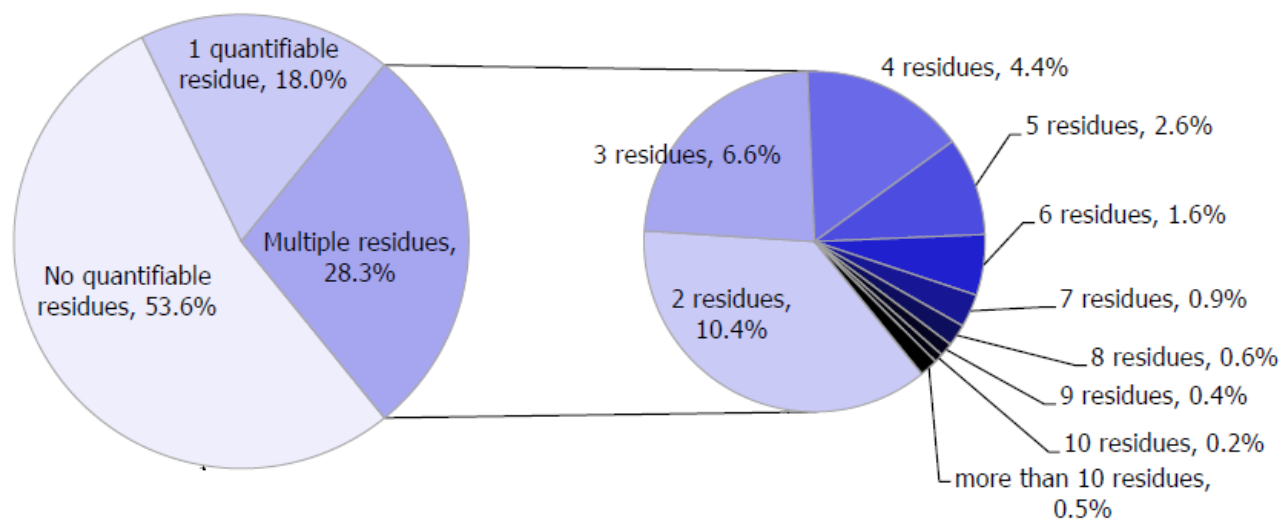
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The 2014 European Union Report on Pesticide Residues in Food

- 21 October 2016 -

82.649 samples analysed
44.333 samples (53,6% of the total) with no quantifiable residues
38.316 samples (46,3% of the total) with quantifiable residues
2.421 samples (2,9% of the total) exceeded the MRLs





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Sales of pesticides,
2011-14 (tonnes of
active ingredient).
Source: Eurostat

	2011	2012	2013	2014
	tonnes			
EU-28	381 261	366 506	365 129	395 768
Belgium	6 153	6 549	6 330	7 001
Bulgaria ⁽¹⁾	:	1 331	1 196	1 002
Czech Republic	5 404	6 515	6 189	5 663
Denmark	5 285	5 970	4 205	1 975
Germany	43 856	45 521	43 751	46 078
Estonia	459	552	567	596
Ireland	3 716	2 960	2 915	2 736
Greece	4 575	6 084	10 564	3 907
Spain	73 112	63 491	71 454	78 818
France	61 336	63 830	66 659	75 288
Croatia	:	:	2 006	2 119
Italy	70 250	61 818	55 841	64 071
Cyprus	:	0	0	1 047
Latvia	1 074	1 281	1 250	1 417
Lithuania	2 564	2 559	2 513	2 546
Luxembourg ⁽²⁾	195	189	85	:
Hungary	8 548	8 141	7 767	8 959
Malta	130	159	159	108
Netherlands	10 954	11 349	10 720	10 666
Austria	3 448	3 557	3 097	3 373
Poland	21 775	21 874	22 192	23 551
Portugal	14 024	12 442	10 125	12 889
Romania	11 426	11 523	10 586	10 021
Slovenia	1 122	1 016	917	1 009
Slovakia	1 806	2 036	1 997	2 198
Finland	3 019	3 146	3 274	3 580
Sweden	2 605	2 371	2 177	2 487
United Kingdom	24 427	20 243	16 591	22 663
Norway	831	814	760	860
Switzerland	2 237	2 121	2 169	2 241

(-) data not available

⁽¹⁾ Change 2012-14.

⁽²⁾ Change 2011-13

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In a long-term perspective, the agronomist must become the professionals with a key role in the **CAP of “sustainable food”** of the future



**Agronomist as a guarantor
of the “*public goods*” healthy food**

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The Agronomist
activity is carried
out throughout
the entire chain
**"From field to
table"**


ATTO FITOIATRICO

N. ____/____/____		DATA ____/____/____	
Committente (dati)		Dottore agronomo/forestale (dati)	
DATI SITO/APPEZZAMENTO/COLTURA (rifer. Identificativi):			
PRESTAZIONE 1			
ANAMNESI:			
DIAGNOSI:			
PROGNOSI:			
PRESCRIZIONE:			
NOTE:			
Committente _____		Dottore agronomo/forestale _____	

¹ Circolare CONAF 37/2011

•The **phytoiatric act**, in a
"traceable" form;

•Use of pesticides only if
provided by specific
Agronomist prescription

•Compulsory recourse to Farm
Advisory System in the
application of voluntary IPM





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Environmental risk assessment of pesticides: 25 years of scientific advancements since the adoption of Directive 91/414/EEC

EFSA, 15-16 November 2016



<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/161115-poster-AntignatiCoretti.pdf>



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THANKS for YOUR ATTENTION