

Resource Efficient Rural Areas: International and EU Policy Context

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Focus of presentation

- **Global policy context**
 - SDGs
 - Paris Agreement
- **EU policy context**
 - Climate
 - Circular Economy
 - Water
 - Soils
- **The role of the CAP**





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Global framework: The Paris Agreement

- Entered into force: 4 November 2016
- Legally binding once ratified
- The EU and over 140 other parties have ratified to date (of 197)
- Landmark in international commitments to tackle climate change - establishes a new ambition for climate mitigation efforts globally:
- Highlights:
 - the importance of the agriculture sector in reaching the targets set.
 - the priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger
- **Achieving targets:** may require **net zero emissions** from all sectors at a point around 2050 - or sooner if the pace of emissions reductions is not at a high level of ambition in the intervening years.

To hold *'the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, [...]'* and

To provide a *'bridge between today's policies and climate-neutrality before the end of the century'*

EU framework: 2030 climate & energy framework

New/revised legislation proposed:

- Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR)
- Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry (LULUCF)
- Emissions Trading System (ETS)
- Renewable Energy Directive II (RED II)

And continuation of:

- EU Climate adaptation strategy

Action to 2030 in Member States:

- Development of plans on strategies to comply with new legislation – important to map out the role for rural sectors
- prepare for delivering required mitigation measures in agriculture and the food chain, including processors – focusing on sequestration as well as GHG reductions.
- help farmers and others prepare for more carbon accounting and reporting – possibility also of new markets emerging?

Mitigation targets: reduce emissions by:

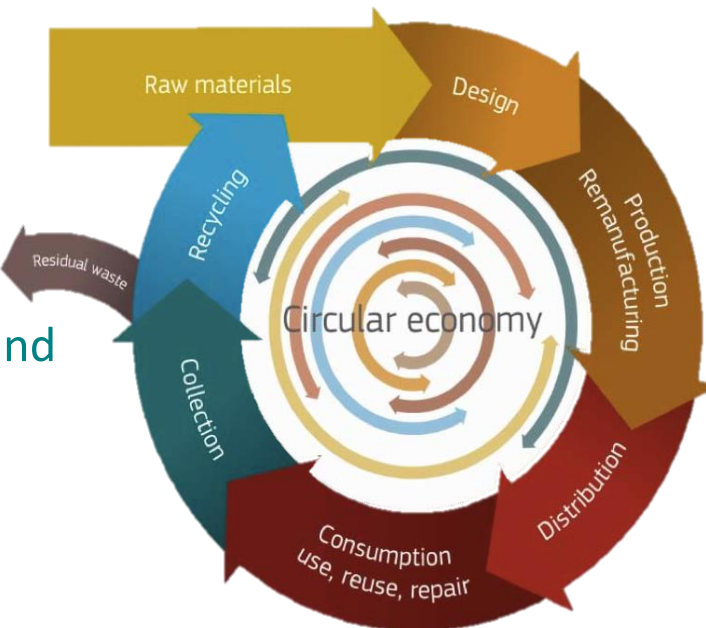
- 40% by 2030 (against 1990 levels)
 - 43 % in the ETS sectors
 - 30% in the non-ETS sectors
- 80% by 2050

Adaptation:

- EU and MSs to submit and update adaptation communication – to include implementation and support needs, priorities, plans and actions – as part of Paris Agreement.

EU policy context: Circular Economy

- An important concept, complementary to low carbon:
 - Implies changes in management to keep resources and their value in the economy and avoiding them becoming waste
- Several implications for rural economies:
 - primary sector
 - new industries exploiting raw materials and current wastes (feeding into the bioeconomy)
 - Encourages new proximities in the location of those enterprises using each others residues and by-products
- Programme of new initiatives by the EU covering:
 - Improve waste management (including food)
 - Innovative and efficient production processes
 - increase the use of recycled nutrients and water



- Good soil management is critical to meet international and EU goals, including long term sustainability of land using sectors
- Agriculture and forestry play a unique role in ability to sequester carbon in soils and vegetation
- There is no overarching and integrated legal and policy framework for soil protection in Europe - soils are the only key natural resource not protected through an integrated EU-wide approach
- Existing policy levers include:
 - LULUCF requirements
 - CAP cross-compliance and greening
 - Fertilisers Regulation
 - National policy instruments – waste, forestry, planning, etc



- A key priority for action – recent Commission Communication “Agriculture and Sustainable Water Management in the EU”
- Targets for improved water quality set out in the Water Framework Directive
- Nitrates Directive: standards for maximum levels of N in water bodies
- Agriculture remains a significant source of both water pollution and over abstraction:
 - 47% of EU water bodies covered by the WFD are not meeting the aims of achieving good qualitative and quantitative status by 2015
 - Diffuse water pollution affects 90% of WFD river basin districts and ag production is the primary source
 - Significant nutrient loads (nitrogen and phosphates) from agriculture remain an issue in some countries
- Communication advocates:
 - Improved governance of water/agricultural issues:
 - Greater collaboration and cross-sectoral action
 - Improved design and implementation of the CAP, including cross-compliance and RDPs , as well as Structural Funds
 - Ensuring coherence of EU funding instruments with water policy priorities



European Structural and Investment Funds

**Common Strategic Framework
(CSF)**

For all funds under shared management

**European Social Fund
(ESF)**

**European Regional
Development Fund
(ERDF)**

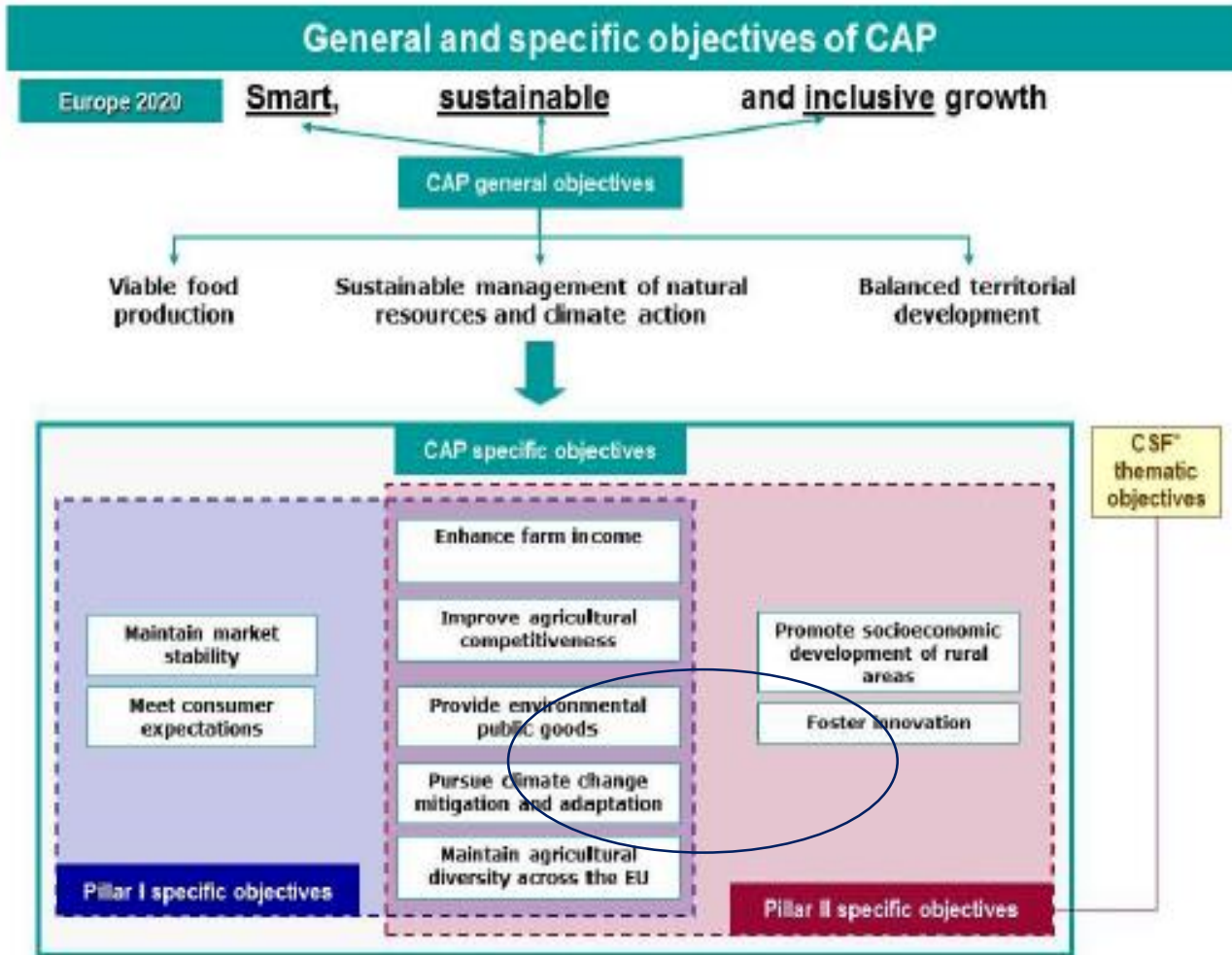
**European Agricultural
Fund for Rural
Development
(EAFRD)**

**European Maritime and
Fisheries Fund
(EMFF)**

**Cohesion Fund
(CF)**

CAP Pillar 1

European policy context: the role of the CAP



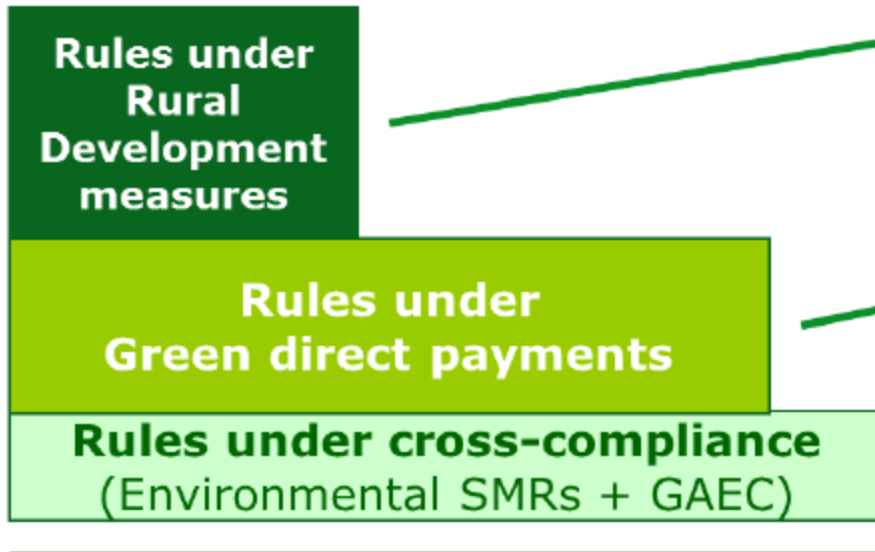
*CSF: Common Strategic Framework including the EFRD, ESF, CF, EAFRD and EMFF

- Resource efficiency agenda is critical for current and future CAP
- Plays a key role in taking forward SDG and climate commitments

European policy context: the CAP

Agricultural Research ↔ European Innovation Partnership ↔ Farm Advisory System

Added environmental benefits



Area concerned

Voluntary (the CAP) with financial support
(compensation for cost incurred and income forgone)

Compulsory (specific CAP law) with decoupled financial support

Compulsory (EU law in other sectors) without financial support

Thank you for your attention!

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