



Project of the month



Climate curtains for greenhouses help reduce energy consumption in Denmark

Funding from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for a Danish horticulture project has helped a family business improve energy efficiency in 23 large-scale greenhouses. This has been achieved by investing in a new automated climate control system with the potential to generate energy savings of up to 24 million kwh.

The project located in Odense, on Denmark's third largest island Funen, used Rural Development Programme co-finance allocated for resource efficiency and climate action. The beneficiary, [Thoruplund Nursery](#), sought CAP support to help reduce their carbon footprint in order to strengthen their competitiveness.

The first step was to conduct a needs assessment for reducing CO₂ during production. This identified the option to install automated 'climate curtains' in the greenhouses which can allow increased business precision and decreased energy use. Find out more on the [ENRD website](#) about this smart approach to reducing agri-food sector emissions.

News

Launch of the EU CAP network

The European (EU) CAP network shall enable networking of national CAP networks, organisations, and administrations in the field of agriculture and

rural development at Union level.

The EU CAP network will serve as a platform for knowledge and information exchange, for peer-to-peer learning, and for sharing experiences and good practices in the implementation of the CAP. It will bring under one single EU-level network current stakeholders of the ENRD, including evaluation, and EIP-AGRI, but also involve new ones. The launch event for the new, single EU CAP network is planned for 6 October; stay tuned and look for updates at the [ENRD](#) website.



Latest CAP developments: 'CZ PRES' priorities

The Czech Republic has published its programme for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union to 31 December 2022. It includes work to further enhance sustainability in agriculture, especially in the field of livestock farming, fisheries, food systems, forest management, agricultural and food supply, and biodiversity conservation.

The '[CZ PRES](#)' priorities concerning CAP include the draft Regulation on the sustainable use of pesticides and harmonisation of rules for the new labelling of nutritional information on the front of food packaging. Other work is expected to involve revision of the rules for the Geographical Indications (GIs) for agricultural products, among other CAP priorities.



Pesticides: new rules to protect health and biodiversity

A new legal framework has been proposed to reduce the use and risk of pesticides in the EU. These new rules demonstrate the EU's commitment to protect health, halt biodiversity loss, and build sustainable food systems that

ensure lasting food security.

Key elements on the new pesticide proposals cover legally binding targets, stricter new rules to enforce environmentally friendly pest control, a ban on the use of all pesticides in sensitive areas, and exceptional EU support. Find out [more](#) about this latest outcome from the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#).



GIs Podcast: value throughout the EU food system

Geographical Indications are the topic for DG AGRI's most recent episode of its [Food for Europe podcast series](#). This highlights how GIs add value for farmers, producers and communities, as well as provide assurance to consumers.

Aceto balsamico di Modena is a typical product benefiting from a GI. Food for Europe team travelled to Modena to speak to a leading producer of this condiment about the opportunities and challenges associated with the GI system. Podcast content also features DG AGRI's Head of Unit responsible for GIs talking about a new consolidated legislative proposal to update the way the system works. The European Parliament's rapporteur on the dossier provides a further perspective on the GI proposal.



EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices: latest figures

Numbers of signatories committing to the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices has increased from 65 to 124, including major European and international food industry traders.

The [EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Business and Marketing Practices in Food](#) is a key element of the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and signatories to the code have almost

doubled during its first year of operations. Such commitments include promoting healthy and sustainable diets by reducing the sugar content of products and improving resource efficiency via reducing greenhouse gas emissions along the value chain. The European Commission has now launched a study to map companies' commitments and the areas they cover in order to better visualise the efforts made by the food industry and where it is on the road to sustainability. The findings of the mapping study of the 2021 reports will be available at the end of this year.

Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans said: "Food production and consumption is one of the main causes of climate and biodiversity crises. I therefore encourage all companies to adhere to the Code of Conduct. The rapid increase in the number of signatories shows that the sector is becoming increasingly aware that sustainable food production is the only way to achieve this."



Fraud risks in CAP payments

Potential fraud risks in CAP payment schemes have been analysed by the European Court of Auditors (ECA). This centres on direct payments, market measures and rural development, examining data from the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programme periods.

Auditors considered that key risks include those that are linked to: beneficiaries concealing breaches of eligibility conditions; complexity of the financed measures; and illegal forms of 'land-grabbing'. See the [full ECA report](#) and [European Commission replies](#) for all the facts and figures.



New CAP data collection systems for environmental and social results

The EU Member States' [Farm Accountancy Data Network \(FADN\)](#) is to be converted into a [Farm Sustainability Data Network \(FSDN\)](#). This will help better address sustainability challenges thanks to increased data knowledge on EU agriculture.

The FADN is a unique annual source of microeconomic and accountancy data from more than 80 000 EU farms. It monitors farm incomes and business activities to help understand the CAP's impact. This data is instrumental for economic analyses on EU agriculture, as well as for supporting sound evidence-based policymaking.

Reflecting the CAP's evolution towards more environmental and social policies, the future FSDN will add sustainability data on environmental and social matters to its economic analysis. In addition to collecting new data, the system will be modernised to increase data sharing. This will make it possible to provide additional information for advisory services and feedback to farmers with the aim to improve agricultural sustainability. Read the [European Commission press release](#) for more insight.



Video: financial instrument supports French young farmer

See a success story video showcasing how a young farmer from France has received the financing he needed to grow his business using preferential conditions from the CAP-funded Alter'NA subsidised agri-credit scheme.

The CAP financial instrument helped Rémi Labescau purchase livestock and equipment as well as modernise the family farm. He also has other development plans for his business venture including planting more tree cover to provide shelter for his cattle herd and capture carbon. Watch Rémi's story on the European Commission's [fi-compass video gallery](#).



Auditors question the outcome of the

EU's Community-Led Local Development approach

A special report published this month by the ECA considers that there is a lack of evidence to suggest that the benefits of the LEADER approach outweigh the costs and risks involved.

Auditors examined the LEADER approach and compared findings against a [previous ECA assessment in 2010](#). Improvements have been identified in some areas and the report confirms that the LEADER methodology can facilitate local engagement in community development. However, the report does not provide significant evidence that LEADER's benefits are sufficiently demonstrated and recommend a comprehensive cost benefit analysis of the approach. For more details, see the [full report](#) and [replies from the European Commission](#).



Pollinator Park language versions

DG Environment's interactive Pollinator Park tool is an entertaining and educational virtual reality experience designed to raise awareness about the decline of pollinators.

Using an interactive digital format, [Pollinator Park](#) aims to foster public understanding of the threat of environmental degradation and engage different actors to protect and restore nature. Currently the countries covered by the language versions are: Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, France, Spain. More language versions will also become available.



Direct sales of nutritious food support farmers and consumers

A short supply-chain initiative in Romania is using a communication campaign that advocates healthy food choices to increase customer interest and loyalty.

Nutritional advantages of local fruit are explained in the Livezile Tasnadului project's online outlet (which operates with the help from the [Sud - Vest Satu Mare Local action Group](#)). The communication campaign highlights the health attributes from antioxidants in apples and the mineral mix in dry or processed plumbs. Customers can order online providing more direct sales for the farmers involved and you can check out [their website](#) to see how something [similar to](#) this type of multi-benefit initiative might be possible to establish near you.

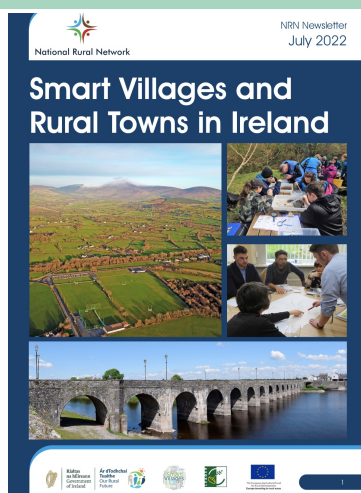


Measuring, reporting, and verifying carbon capture

Seqana is a German project using EU funds to improve knowhow about increasing carbon sequestration. It is one of many new ventures exploring how carbon capture can become a sizable rural and sustainable development opportunity.

Soils hold the largest portion of active carbon on earth. This standpoint is the driving force behind a climate action project that has been highlighted by the ENRD Thematic Group on [Carbon Farming](#). Monitoring, verification, and reporting of carbon capture results sits at the heart of [Seqana's](#) strategic ambitions to enable communities around the world to identify, manage, and certify their sequestered carbon - from the comfort of their homes.

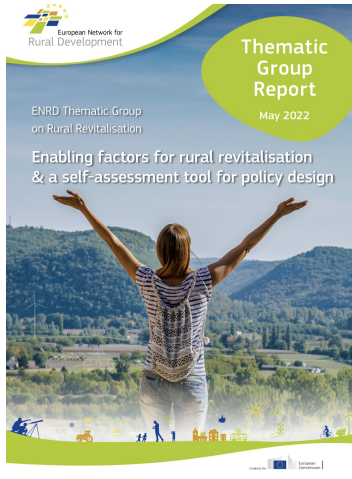
Publications



Smart Villages and Rural Towns in Ireland

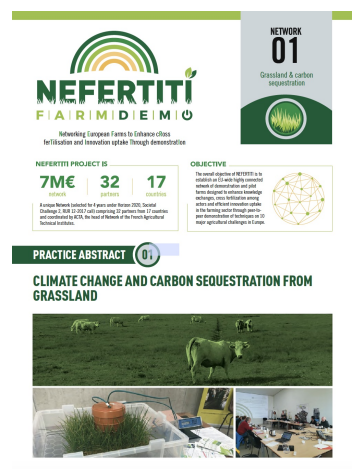
Ireland's National Rural Network (NRN) has published its second edition of their annual [Smart Villages and Rural Towns newsletter](#) inspired by the EU Action for Smart Villages initiative. This new publication's theme focuses on innovative community-led local development. It reinforces the message that villages and rural towns throughout Ireland and Europe need to adapt, rebuild and reenergise as part of their COVID-19 pandemic recovery response.

Enabling factors for rural revitalisation and a self-



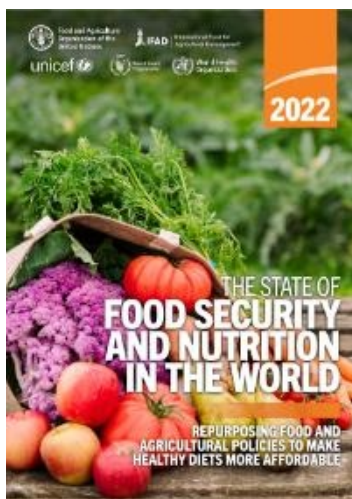
assessment tool for policy design

Published in June, this [document](#) presents the results of the work of the [ENRD Thematic Group on Rural Revitalisation](#). The document introduces the main enabling factors for rural revitalisation identified by the ENRD Thematic Group. It also presents a practical self-assessment tool developed by its members to help stakeholders assess the extent to which key factors for successful policies and programmes to enable the revitalisation of rural areas are in place in their context.



Farm demonstration findings

57 new [NEFERTITI EIP-AGRI Practice abstracts](#) have been published featuring the most interesting agri-food topics implemented during the [NEFERTITI project](#). Abstracts covering [cross-cutting topics](#) (e.g. female farmers, monitoring and evaluation, networking factors, video making etc.) are also available with a focus on the project's Farm Demo Training Kit.



The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022

This year's United Nation's report on the [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#) focuses on 'repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable'. It estimates that the number of people who could not afford a healthy diet in 2020 increased by 1 million in Europe. Evidence-based recommendations are included on how governments are supporting agri-food sector.

Rural Development Programme projects and practices

See our most recent [project and practice examples](#) from the EU countries' Rural Development Programmes.

"Lamb lift" Innovation to stimulate lamb production

SWEDEN

Agri-food chain integration & quality

Location: Nationwide

Programming period: 2014 - 2020

Priority: P1 - Food chain & risk management

Measure: M10 - Cooperation

Funding: ERDF budget: 1 420 530 (ERDF), ERDF: 3 321 030 (ERDF), ERDF: 1 000 000 (ERDF), Other: 21 000 (ERDF)

Project duration: 2017 to 2022

Project promoter: Swedish Federation of Farmers (LRF)

Email: lamb.lift@lrf.se

Website: www.lrf.se, organisation@ruralnetworks.eu, www.ruralnetworks.eu

Summary: An EP-AGRI Operational Group established a new quality standard for Swedish lamb in order to increase the competitiveness of the sector.

Project Results: A quality standard for Swedish lambs and accompanying set of best practices. A suite of videos, tools, and checklists freely available online. New knowledge transfer networks and increased collaboration in the sector.

Lessons & Recommendations: Good management of partnerships leads to successful projects.



Upcoming Events

13-23 August 2022

Workshops and study tour on nature conservation and livestock grazing in Europe

Organiser:
European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism

[Find out more](#)

25-30 August 2022

EU AGRI "From farm to fork" pavilion at Země živitelky fair

Organiser:
České Budějovice, Czechia

[Find out more](#)

5 September 2022

Livestock emissions and the COP26 targets - ATF Symposium

Organiser:
Animal Task Force

[Find out more](#)

9 September 2022

European Bee Award

Organiser:
ELO - European Landowners' Organisation

[Find out more](#)

19-23 September 2022

Rural futures - Summer school

Organiser:
ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius

[Find out more](#)

20-21 September 2022

23rd National Rural Networks meeting

Organiser:
ENRD

[Find out more](#)

20-21 September 2022

ENRD workshop on Green Architecture

Organiser:
ENRD

[Find out more](#)

20-21 September 2022

International Conference 'It's time to fly'

Organiser:
Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in association with the Dutch NSU

[Find out more](#)

23 September 2022

EU Organic Awards

Organiser:
European Commission

[Find out more](#)

26-28 September
2022

Smart AgriHubs Final Event

Organiser:
Smart AgriHubs

[Find out more](#)

26-30 September
2022

**European Sustainable Energy
Week**

Organiser:
European Commission

[Find out more](#)

28-29 September
2022

**European research and
innovation days 2022**

Organiser:
European Commission

[Find out more](#)

28-30 September
2022

**13th OECD Rural
Development Conference**

Organiser:
OECD

[Find out more](#)

5 October 2022

**9th Meeting of the Rural
Networks Assembly**

Organiser:
DG AGRI

[Find out more](#)

19-21 October 2022

**Forum Origin, Diversity and
Territories 2022**

Organiser:
ODT

[Find out more](#)

25-27 October 2022

**12th European mountain
convention**

Organiser:
Euromontana

[Find out more](#)

8 November 2022

**EU quality schemes: the
added value for mountain
value chains**

Organiser:
MOVING EU MAP

[Find out more](#)

15-16 November
2022

**Advancing gender equality in
rural areas in the EU**

Organiser:
ENRD

[Find out more](#)

16-17 November
2022

**AGROSMARTglobal
International Congress**

Organiser:
AGROSMART

[Find out more](#)

17 November 2022

**Livestock emissions and the
COP26 targets - ATF Seminar**

Organiser:
EAAP

[Find out more](#)

22-25 November
2022

EUSALP Forum 2022

Organiser:
EUSALP

[Find out more](#)

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