MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD
GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF EU RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MANAGING AUTHORITY OF CAP SP
IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY FOR THE APPLICATION OF DIRECT AID AND SECTORAL INTERVENTIONS

SUPPORT
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

ECO SCHEMES

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICAL FARMING PRACTICES OF CAP SP 2023-2027

INTRODUCTION

Eco-Schemes, also known as eco-schemes, are new, innovative CAP programs that actively support farmers and contribute to the goal of protecting the environment and the climate.

The Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 fully reflects the broader environmental and climate objectives set by the European Union as part of the Green Deal to reduce the environmental footprint of primary production by 2050. Aim that its achievement is connected, among other things, with the adoption of Ecological Schemes. Eco-Schemes in particular provide incentives and support to farmers to adopt - or continue to apply - environmentally friendly farming practices. Cultivation methods that contribute to reducing pollution caused by agriculture and to tackling the climate crisis.

By empowering farmers to participate in Eco-Schemes, the European Union rewards the protection and proper management of natural resources, ensuring the common good of all European citizens. As a type of aid, Eco-Schemes are an innovation of the CAP 2023-2027, since they are applied for the first time and farmers are voluntarily invited to take part in them. If they want to participate, then as a reward they receive the appropriate aid. The Ecological Schemes will be applied every year to eligible areas, which will be declared in the IACS. Areas where the minimum requirements of the Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) standards have to be respected. Producers who have the status of active farmers can choose each year which Ecological Scheme(s) to participate in, depending on the crops on their holding.

For your information regarding the Ecological Schemes and the selection of those that suit your agricultural activity, follows

- guide for the selection of ecological schemes according to the category of agricultural activity (Arable, Olive-Vine, other Permanent, Horticultural, Livestock) and according to the cultivation or breeding,
- a detailed description of each eco-scheme with its actions
- a table with the combinations of eco-schemes and the combinations between eco-schemes with the agri-environmental actions of Measures 10 and 11 of the RDP 2014-2022 as well as with the new agri-environmental actions of Article 70 of the CAP SAC that are not accepted.

Further details can be found in the CAP Strategic Plan, which can be found at:

https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/egkekrimeno_ss_kap_1i_tropopoiisi.pdf

D1-31.1
USE OF RESILIENT AND ADAPTED SPECIES AND VARIETIES

DESCRIPTION: The intervention is articulated in three actions. Under the first action, producers receive aid to grow varieties of winter cereals and short-lived legumes, replacing water-intensive crops such as maize, alfalfa and cotton. Under the second action, producers are assisted in the cultivation of local varieties of annual and/or species and varieties adapted to local conditions and/or wild relatives of cultivated species, for food or feed. Finally, under the third action, the introduction of new and/or innovative and/or innovative use of crops resistant to xerothermic conditions and expected changes due to climate change is also supported.

INTERVENTION AREA: The intervention shall apply to areas under arable crops.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: The beneficiaries of the intervention may be active farmers or groups of active farmers who undertake to implement the commitments of this intervention.

COMMITMENTS: Producers commit to cultivation on the basis of the following options:

31.1-A. varieties of winter cereals and short organic legumes, replacing water-intensive crops, namely maize, lucerne and cotton,

31.1-B. local varieties of annual crops and/or species and varieties adapted to local conditions and/or wild relatives of cultivated species, for food or feed;

31.1.-C. new and/or innovative and/or innovative crops resistant to dry thermal conditions and expected changes due to climate change. Examples of such crops are Quinoa, Chia, Tef, Black Mustard, Nigella, Camelina, Mukuna, Wheat Barley, Sweet Potato, Nettle for fiber and Flax for oil or fiber.

AMOUNT OF AID: The amount of aid ranges from EUR 10.9 per hectare to EUR 82.4 per hectare, depending on the commitment chosen and the type of crop.

D1-31.2
EXTENSION OF THE APPLICATION OF ECOLOGICAL FOCUS AREAS

DESCRIPTION: The intervention is articulated in two actions. Under the first action, support is given to producers with arable land, who convert 10% of the arable land of their holding into ecological focus area. The ecological focus area shall consist of land lying fallow and/or elements of the rural landscape and/or nitrogen-fixing crops (in any case without the use of plant protection products). Under the second action, in addition to the above commitment, producers commit to establish regional zones with pollinator host plants and/or beneficial organisms within the ecological focus area.

The landscape elements consist of:

hedgerows, individual trees or clusters of trees, rows of trees,

Ditches, including open water courses for irrigation or drainage purposes, excluding channels made of concrete;

Small lakes, small wetlands,

Streams,

Heaps of stones serving as landmarks,

Stone walls / dry stone walls

Cultural characteristics,

Field margins, buffer strips.

NTERVENTION AREA: The intervention shall include areas under arable crops.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries of the intervention shall be active farmers or groups of active farmers who cultivate arable crops and undertake to implement the commitments of this intervention.

COMMITMENTS:

31.2-A. The producers' commitment is to convert 10% of the farm's arable land into ecological focus area. If nitrogen-fixing crops (e.g. legumes) are involved in the area of the ecological focus area, then at least 60% of it should be land lying fallow and/or corresponding to non-productive landscape elements (i.e. 6% of the total area will be lying fallow or landscape elements and 4% legumes). Regardless of the size of the farm in the areas left as ecological focus areas, synthetic fertilisers or pesticides are not applied in order to protect water resources from pollution but also to reduce gas emissions caused by the use of fertilisers and thus improve air quality.

31.2-B. Irrespective of the size of the holding, additional aid shall be granted for the sowing and maintenance, within ecological focus areas, of plants attracting beneficial insects

or pollinating insects. This practice, in addition to enhancing the presence of pollinators by providing host plants for them, also reduces the needs for the use of plant protection products by supporting the presence of beneficial ones.

AMOUNT OF AID: The aid rate for action 31.2-A ranges from EUR 1.0/ha to EUR 3.7/ha, depending on the crop. For the establishment of a zone with host plants, 0,5€/hectare is added to the aid level for action 31.2-A, so that the aid level for action 31.2-B ultimately varies from 1,5€/hectare to 4,2€/hectare, depending on the crop.

P1-31.3
IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVED GREEN COVER PRACTICES, WHILE ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION: The aim of this intervention is to protect soils from erosion while enhancing biodiversity.

31.3-A and B As regards permanent crops (Actions 31.3-A and 31.3-B), intervention concerns the sowing of species whose crops are not intended for production and plants which attract beneficial insects or pollinating insects within and/or around permanent crops.

When intervention is applied to arable crops (Actions 31.3-C and 31.3-D), it concerns the application of plant cover practices by sowing seed crops, sowing herbaceous grasses, sowing species with the aim of maintaining and/or increasing organic matter in the soil (e.g. legumes), and by sowing plant species that act as hosts of pollinators and beneficial organisms. These crops will not be intended for production.

INTERVENTION AREA: The intervention shall apply to areas under permanent crops and/or arable crops.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries of the intervention shall be active farmers or groups of active farmers who hold parcels with permanent crops and/or arable crops and undertake to implement the commitments of this intervention.

COMMITMENTS: The commitment of producers lies in the implementation of improved plant cover practices.

31.3-A. Sowing within permanent crops, and between trees or stumps, of mulch plants whose cultivation is not intended for production and stripping, at least 1,5 m wide, of wildlife and enrichment thereof or existing ones by planting herbaceous, perennial or even shrubs not intended for production. The use of synthetic fertilisers is not allowed in these zones.

31.3-B. Sowing of the subfloor in permanent crops with cover crops and creation of peripheral zones with plants attracting beneficial insects and pollinators.

31.3-C. Application of non-productive plant cover practices on arable land. After harvesting the spring crop during the winter season, the following shall apply: sowing of seed crops,

sowing of herbaceous grasses,

sowing of species (e.g. legumes), with the aim of maintaining and/or increasing organic matter in the soil and reducing the use of synthetic fertilisers by partially meeting the nutrient needs of the main crop through green manure,

31.3-D. Seeding of plant species acting as hosts of pollinators and beneficial organisms on arable land.

Fertilizers and pesticides may not be used in cover crops.

AMOUNT OF AID: The aid amounts to permanent crops, EUR 10,0/str and arable crops to EUR 5,0/str for the sowing of undersown crops, herbaceous grasses and nitrogen-fixing species (e.g. legumes).

In both permanent and arable crops, when the holding applies green cover practices with pollinator and/or beneficial host plants, an additional payment of €5.0/ha shall be granted.

P1-31.4
CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURE

DESCRIPTION: The intervention concerns the management of plant residues in arable crops and pruning in permanent crops, with the aim of both mitigating climate change and improving the structure and increasing soil organic matter.

INTERVENTION AREA: The intervention shall apply to areas cultivated with arable or permanent crops.

COMMITMENTS: In the context of intervention, producers follow the following steps:

A. Control trees and crops to detect the presence of phytopathological problems or entomological enemies and collect prunings in appropriate areas.

B. If no contaminants are detected either using their own equipment or through the provision of third-party services, they crush prunings with a diameter of less than 7 cm and crop residues.

C. Either using their own equipment, they follow the process of composting the residues in special areas/facilities or they procure compost for use on the assisted areas of permanent and arable crops.

D. Whether using their own equipment or through the procurement of third-party services, they apply the compost on the territory of the parcels.

Alternatively, they apply on-site composting.

The beneficiary of this intervention may not request authorisation for burning even in the cases referred to in GAEC 3 (phytosanitary problems). The burning of plant residues on arable land and pruning on permanent land is a breach of the obligation undertaken in the context of this intervention, even with all the relevant authorisations.

In the event of phytosanitary problems, the beneficiary of the intervention is obliged to collect and remove plant residues or prunings, which he is not allowed to burn. These residues will be treated differently during the composting process to ensure that the risk of contamination with pathogenic micro-organisms is minimised to zero.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries of the intervention shall be active farmers or groups of active farmers who hold parcels with permanent crops and/or arable crops and undertake to implement the commitments of this intervention.

AMOUNT OF AID: The aid for the collection and withdrawal of crop residues and prunings, the composting or supply of compost with a guaranteed nutrient content and free of contaminants and the spreading of compost on crops shall be:

€11.0/ha for arable crops

20,0 €/ha for vegetables

€11.2 per hectare for kiwifruit and vines

€14.0/ha for the remaining arboreal crops

6 €/ha for on-site composting (purchase of formulation, spraying of residues with formulation and incorporation of sprayed residues into soil)

P1-31.5
IMPROVEMENT OF AGROFORESTRY ECOSYSTEMS RICH IN LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

DESCRIPTION: The intervention is articulated in two actions. The first action (31.5-A) consists in improving existing agroforestry systems. Agroforestry systems are defined as cultivated areas where scattered trees (usually naturally occurring) or on the margins (planted in rows) occur with sufficient frequency. These trees can be either forest (e.g. oaks, pines, poplars, cypresses) or fruit/productive (e.g. citrus, pome and stone fruits, tree nuts, olives, carobs and mastic trees), which are combined with the cultivation of cereals or vegetables. The second action (31.5-B) concerns the areas with wood meadows. These areas consist of partially forested areas (sparse forests) or pastures with tree cover of up to 40% and subfloor with herbaceous or woody vegetation. Protected elements of the rural landscape include terraces, ditches, water collections, islets where wildlife is maintained, due to e.g. its rocky area, roads, paths, small buildings and hedges

INTERVENTION AREA: The intervention applies to cultivated areas (Action 31.5-A) or pastures with trees (Action 31.5-B)

The intervention consists in the systematic care/cleaning of trees/shrubs, without the use of plant protection products, the obligation for controlled grazing and the carving and removal of foreign and invasive trees and shrubs from the eligible area adjacent to the parcels, during the winter season.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries are active farmers or groups of active farmers who own parcels with agroforestry systems (Action 31.5-A) or partially forested areas (sparse forests) of pastures with tree cover of up to 40% and subfloor with herbaceous or woody vegetation (Action 31.5-B)

AMOUNT OF AID: The amount of aid is 10,0 €/ha.

D1-31.6
AID FOR PRODUCERS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, USING A DIGITAL APPLICATION FOR MANAGEMENT OF INPUTS AND MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETERS

DESCRIPTION: The intervention consists in assisting producers to use an electronic application for input management and monitoring of environmental data and to implement, with the assistance of an agricultural consultant, one or more practices selected from a list of proposed practices.

INTERVENTION AREA: The intervention shall apply to areas under arable and permanent crops.

COMMITMENTS: Under the intervention farmers are obliged to activate action 31.6-A:

31.6-A. Producers must use a digital application for input management and environmental data monitoring and draw up, monitor and adapt a management plan, with the assistance of a consultant. Producers will choose the digital application from among the digital applications approved for compliance with the intervention implementation requirements.

The management plan shall reflect how the practices applied by the producer in the context of the individual actions of the intervention are implemented.

Intervention measures, among which producers may choose, fall into the following four categories:

1. Aid for the use of alternative ways of combating pests and diseases.

2. Aid for alternative use of crop residues.

3. Aid for the use of equipment and automation to reduce pollution and risks in the application of plant protection products and fertilisation

4. Aid to improve nutrient management.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries are active farmers (natural and legal persons) or groups of active farmers, who own parcels with arable and/or permanent crops.

AMOUNT OF AID: The aid covers the authorisation to use the digital application, compensation for the time that the producer will need for the correct and regular completion of the data, analyses, preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and adaptation of the environmental management plan of the holding and the necessary environmental improvements, as well as the increased costs and reduced income resulting from the implementation of the management practices.

In particular and per action:

31.6-A. For the use of the application, the preparation, monitoring and adaptation of the management plan 3.0 €/ha

31.6- B. For the continuation of the method of sexual confusion of lepidopterans (Confusio) per culture:

Peach, nectarine and apricot 40,2 €/ha

Plums 58,5 €/ha

Milia, pear and quince 94,8 €/ha

Wine grapes 36,6 €/ha

Table grape including raisin 63,3 €/ha

31.6-C. For the release of beneficial predatory insects and mites in the cultivation of apple, peach, nectarine and cherry 35,8 €/hectare, in the cultivation of pear 30,0 €/hectare, in the cultivation of citrus fruits (for the control of granules, floury and aphids) 39,9 €/hectare and in the cultivation of citrus fruits (for the control of tetranyx) 95,1 €/hectare

31.6-D. For the use of entomopathogenic nematodes against various insects – pests in peach, nectarine, apple and plum crops 20,0 €/ha

31.6-E. For the application of mechanical weed control, with parallel coverage with mulch 18,3 € / ha.

31.6-F. For the application of multiple summer prunings for olive groves and orchards 17,5 € / ha.

31.6-G. For the use of spray nozzles with reduced dispersion 3,0 €/ha

31.6-H. For the management of spray fluid residues in arable land 1,0 €/ha and in horticultural and permanent crops 3,0 €/ha

31.6-I. For the use of precision agriculture services during spraying 7.0 €/stremma and during fertilization 10.0 €/stremma

31.6-I. For the use of slow-release fertilisers in arable crops 4,5 €/hectare and in vegetables and trees 6,0 €/hectare

31.6-K. For the use of fertilisers with inhibitors in arable crops 4,5 €/hectare and in vegetables and trees 6,0 €/hectare

31.6-L. For the use of fertilisers and products with biostimulants in arable crops €3.0/ha and in horticultural and arboreal crops €6.0/ha

31.6-M. For the implementation of the voluntary integrated pest management guidelines in olive cultivation 35,0 €/ha and in citrus fruit 17,5 €/ha

P1-31.7
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

DESCRIPTION: The intervention concerns the improvement of the environmental status of grazing land in areas at risk of desertification due to erosion and degradation. For this purpose, an annual Grassland Management Plan of the holding is drawn up, with the assistance of a certified consultant, where it should be ensured that grazing complies both with the rules of good practice and with the management plans of the NATURA areas where they exist. The obligations of producers in these areas concern (a) the suspension of grazing in grazing areas and the creation of artificial grassland to meet the animals' nutritional needs or (b) the movement of herds to usually mountain grazing land that faces problems of incomplete grazing due to reduced accessibility and therefore increased fire risk. This suspension of grazing is imposed at the beginning of the main growing season in order to allow the vegetation to develop.

Farmers are also supported (d) to implement a programme of appropriate enrichment and ultimately optimisation of the diet in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mainly in ruminants, but also to reduce the use of antibiotics in all farms.

INTERVENTION AREA: Intervention applies to pasture areas

COMMITMENTS: The beneficiaries shall make one of the following commitments:

31.7-A. Suspension of grazing of grazing land at the beginning of the main vegetative period based on a Grassland Management Plan by an agricultural consultant. In particular, grazing shall be suspended:

A) for the months of March and April in the lowland elevation zone (<600m.)

B) for the months of April and May in the semi-mountainous elevation zone (600-800 m.)

C) and for the month of May in the mountainous elevation zone (>800m).

To this end, farmers undertake to create artificial grassland to meet the animals' nutritional needs during the grazing restriction.

31.7-B. Move all livestock to mountain grazing land for at least four (4) consecutive months per year on the basis of a Grassland Management Plan by a certified consultant.

31.7-D. Establishment of a diet in cooperation with a consultant, aiming on the one hand at reducing greenhouse gases and on the other hand at enriching the food with natural ingredients with antimicrobial action. The use of an electronic application for calculating greenhouse gas emissions based on the ration and the management practices of the holding is also enhanced.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries are active farmers and groups of active farmers who undertake one of the above commitments.

AMOUNT OF AID:

31.7-A. The aid for the establishment and maintenance of artificial grassland and the rent of the area for the additional time that the animals will be excluded from the pasture is 30,4 €/ha.

The costs of the preparation and monitoring of the pasture management plan are also covered. The cost for this amounts to 1,0 € / acre.

31.7-B. The amount of aid for the movement of animals to mountain undergrazed pasture is set at 6.5 €/hectare for goats and sheep and 5.5 €/hectare for cattle.

31.7-D. The costs of training, implementation (purchase of ration components), monitoring and adaptation of an improved ration as well as the costs of purchasing a license and updating the electronic application for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the use of antibiotics amount to 3,0 €/ha.

P1-31.8
MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF CROPS ON TERRACED LAND

DESCRIPTION: The continuation of cultivation with the maintenance of terraces, which in most cases are supported by dry stone structures. These terraces exist in extensive areas of both permanent crops and, to a lesser extent, arable crops and are important elements of the ecological landscape as they are a refuge for wild flora and fauna (insects, birds, reptiles and small mammals).

INTERVENTION AREA: The intervention shall apply to areas under terraces cultivated with permanent crops or arable crops.

COMMITMENTS: The producer is strengthened to maintain the dry stone walls in the traditional way. Examples include repairs of small-scale damage such as the repositioning of stones that have been moved due to heavy rainfall. The use of concrete or other binders for the purpose of stabilising the structure is prohibited. At the same time, it is necessary to protect wildlife on and near terraces through a) a ban on the use of herbicides, b) a ban on the removal of shrubs and trees, c) set-aside at a distance of 0.5 meters from the terraces.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries shall be active farmers or groups of active farmers holding eligible areas under arable and permanent crops with terraces.

AMOUNT OF AID: The aid for the maintenance and protection of crops in areas with terraces amounts to €25.0/ha.

D1-31.9
CONSERVATION OF ORGANIC FARMING AND LIVESTOCK FARMING

DESCRIPTION: The intervention consists in strengthening the continued application of organic farming and livestock farming methods.

INTERVENTION AREA: The intervention concerns all eligible areas either cultivated or declared as pasture and to which the organic farming system applies in application of Regulation (EU) 848/2018.

COMMITMENTS: Producers must have parcels and/or pastures and/or farms that are part of the organic farming/livestock system. This inclusion shall be documented by the contract with an inspection and certification body and by the corresponding certificate of conformity for cultivation at a full organic stage issued by that body.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries shall be active farmers or groups of active farmers who hold the necessary certificate from the Control and Certification Body with which they are affiliated. In-conversion crops/pastures shall not be supported.

AMOUNT OF AID: The aid has been calculated on the basis of the increase in production costs and the reduction in the quantity produced and depends on the type of crop and/or rearing, ranging from 12,0-144,0 €/ha.

D1-31.10
PROTECTION OF LANDSCAPES AND FARMING SYSTEMS OF HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE

DESCRIPTION: The preservation of agricultural systems is enhanced by using traditional farming practices that have contributed and are helping to improve the rural landscape.

INTERVENTION AREA: The first application of the intervention is in olive groves and vineyards of the Ionian islands which are characterized by their high value for nature and mainly in olive groves with old trees and a high education shape and

vineyards with old vines

Emphasis will be given to the monumental olive groves. Monumental olive groves are those in which more than 20% of the olive trees bear the following characteristics: Monumental trees (and especially olives) are those that have large dimensions, age, cavities in the trunk, special configuration in the trunk, rich biodiversity within the cavities of the trunk and/or are associated with historical memories and/or cultural activities, traditions and/or religious customs of the area.

Excluded from this intervention are areas financed by the action for the maintenance of terraced systems and areas receiving the basic payment as irrigated.

COMMITMENTS: Producers are supported to maintain agricultural systems consisting of agricultural land use and traditional cultivation practices that have contributed and contribute to the improvement of the rural landscape and in particular the protection of extensive olive groves and vineyards as well as the protection of the monumental olive groves of the Ionian islands.

BENEFICIARIES / CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY: Beneficiaries are active farmers or groups of active farmers who own eligible areas with the above characteristics

AMOUNT OF AID: For the protection of extensive olive groves and vineyards of the Ionian Islands 10.0 € / str. and for the protection of monumental olive groves of the Ionian Islands 15.0 € / str.

With the co-financing of Greece and the European Union