

CAP 2020: Green Growth or Green Deal?
Green Group workshop

EU Food and Agriculture Policy for the 21st Century Alternatives to the CAP

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Room ASP 1G3, European Parliament
Brussels
June 9th, 2010

Policy principles

1. A secure and adequate food supply
2. A suitable food supply
3. Redress food value chains
4. Do no harm to other countries

1. A secure and adequate food supply

Make food prices:

- high enough to earn producers an adequate income
- no higher than necessary, in consumers' interests
- regulated to make them stable
- open to subsidy where necessary, with price supports or from public funds
- but not subsidised in the case of exports

Further policy requirements

1. Policies ought to be:
 - applied on equal terms in all member states
 - flexible enough to meet the needs of different regions and markets
2. Manage supplies in order to match availability with demand, and so stabilise prices
3. Meet the needs of family farms
4. Integrate rural development with agricultural policy

Policy dilemmas

1. Tension between countries with structural food surpluses and those with structural deficits
2. Should farm support depend on budgetary finance or retail prices of food?
3. Policy should be extended fully to the 12 newest member states. But are special instruments also required to meet their needs?

2. A suitable food supply

Provide nutritious and climatically and culturally appropriate food

Reduce to the minimum all greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental damage

Agriculture and the environment

Policy aims:

- Reduce the transportation of crops, livestock, inputs and outputs
- Reduce or end the use of artificial fertilisers and other chemicals
- Support biodiversity
- Permanently outlaw GMOs, including in imports
- Assist adaptation to climate change
- Increase low-input, diverse small-scale production
- Produce food and energy for people, not vehicles

Agriculture and the environment

Policy idea:

Make the *best* forms of agriculture become the norms

- Investigate rules and targets to achieve this

Some further ideas:

- Permit only organic and low-input methods
- Taxes or quotas on production of nitrogen fertilisers
- No GMOs
- Mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions
- Targets to promote biodiversity

Types of produce deserving support

Possible selection criteria:

- Nutritional value
- Climatic suitability in temperate Europe
- Environmental impact
- Avoiding competition with poorer countries

3. Redress food value chains

Correct the balance of market power

- Regulate value chains to achieve fair distribution of incomes
- Consider eliminating middlemen's power altogether, for example with the use of marketing boards
- Full compliance with labour rights, including the right to a living wage
- Policies on land ownership, inc. for new member states
- Strict maxima for EU payments to any one farm

4. Do no harm to other countries

Support the poor majority of the world by managing the EU's trade in agricultural products

For example:

- Restrict European farming to crops that are suitable for European climates
- Use quotas, minimum import prices and other measures for tropical produce
- Restrict agribusiness to take its impact on developing countries into account
- Review external fisheries policies

Thanks for listening!