



Slow Food®

Slow Food's Contribution to the Debate on the Future of Food and Farming

Survey & recommendations
2018



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With the contributions of experts from the Slow Food network in Europe and of the Slow Food headquarters' offices.

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1. Introduction

Since 2012 Slow Food has called on the European Union to move from a Common Agriculture Policy to a Common Food Policy, integrating the distinct policy processes affecting food systems and aiming to achieve the objective of facilitating sustainable food systems.

Currently, issues relating to the food system are largely regulated by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), while other measures that strongly influence the food system are regulated separately, resulting in incoherence (i.e. conflicting outcomes between policies) and policy gaps (i.e. missing policy instruments).

Over the last few years, multiple actors (civil society, policymakers, researchers) have come together with the goal of integrating policy processes and developing coherent food policies. These diverse initiatives need a common framework at EU level, while existing EU policy tools need to be realigned and harmonized in order to facilitate sustainable food systems.

The political momentum for the development of a more holistic approach to food policy has grown: not only has the number of organizations (civil society organizations, academia, institutions) calling for a more integrated and coherent approach to food systems increased, but so has the number of those specifically calling for a Common Food Policy.

The last being the European Economic and Social Committee that, in December 2017, adopted the own-initiative opinion on "Civil society's contribution to the development of a comprehensive food policy in the EU" aiming to identify existing challenges, policy inconsistencies and obstacles to a more coherent food policy approach at EU level; to provide examples of ongoing transitions to more sustainable food policies at local/regional/national levels; to highlight the role of civil society in building partnerships among stakeholders across the food supply chain; and, to define how a comprehensive food policy for the EU should look, including an indicative roadmap.

At the same time, in 2017, the European Commission started a consultation process on the future of the CAP in order to better understand where the current policy can be simplified and modernized.

Slow Food replied to the consultation on "Modernizing and simplifying the CAP," launched in the spring of 2017 (closed on May 2) by the European Commission. While welcoming the consultation as a tool of dialogue, we regret that the questionnaire was biased and often included questions demanding a trade-off between essential elements.

In response, Slow Food commissioned Kantar Public to create an online survey for small-scale farmers and food artisans of its and partner organizations' networks. The survey was conducted between July 24 and November 21, 2017, and aimed to collect information on policy measures that support or hinder their work (the CAP being the main policy explored) and to provide policy recommendations.

The added value of the survey is the particular target, namely the small-scale farmers, who are often neglected and not taken in due consideration in the current debates.

On November 29, 2017, the European Commission presented its Communication outlining ideas on the future of food and farming. While the inclusion of the word "food" in the title of the consultation was welcomed as a recognition of the link between food and farming, the Communication lacks a thorough analysis of this link and of the need for a more integrated, holistic approach to food systems.

The full legislative proposal on the CAP will be published on May 29, 2018, following the discussions on the EU's seven-year budget post-2020 (the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework, or MFF).

The results of the Slow Food survey and the related policy recommendations will inform the debate leading to the Commission's CAP proposal and the following legislative process.

2. The survey

The following pages/chapters summarize the methodology of the survey and its main findings.

2.1 Methodology

Objectives

The survey targeted members of the Slow Food network and of partner associations' networks, asking them what policy measures support or hinder their work. The survey had two specific objectives:

- To collect feedback from the network on what works/what does not work, and which measures help/which do not help
- To provide policy recommendations on the basis of the responses

The target

The target group consisted of farmers and artisan producers, members of Slow Food and of partner associations' networks in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain and Sweden. These countries were chosen in order to have adequate geographical representation across Europe. Please note that the Slow Food members are involved either in Slow Food Presidia projects or Food communities working to preserve food biodiversity and committed to adopting production protocols based on sustainable farming criteria. Many of these producers work in remote areas and play a fundamental role in the protection of local ecosystems.

The partner associations involved in the survey were:

- Associazione delle Casare e dei Casari di Azienda Agricola (Italy)
- QueRed (Spain)
- Fermes d'Avenir (France)
- Idoki (France)
- Syndicat du petit épeautre de Haute Provence (France)
- SZH-Stichting Zeldzame Huisdierrassen (Netherlands)
- Toekomstboeren (Netherlands)
- Stichting Streekigen Producten Nederland (Netherlands)
- Stichting Week van de Smaak (Netherlands)
- Gilde van Traditionele Schaapherders (Netherlands)
- Solawi (Germany)
- Eldrimner (Sweden)
- The National Association of Sami (Sweden)
- Eco Ruralis (Romania)
- Adept (Romania)
- Asat (Romania)

Please note that the partner associations include producers of organic, biodynamic and agroecological products.

Respondents

Overall, 10,054 farmers and food artisans were contacted, with the sample size varying greatly by country (Table 1). The questionnaire was anonymous and confidential.

Table 1. Number of farmers and food artisans contacted per country

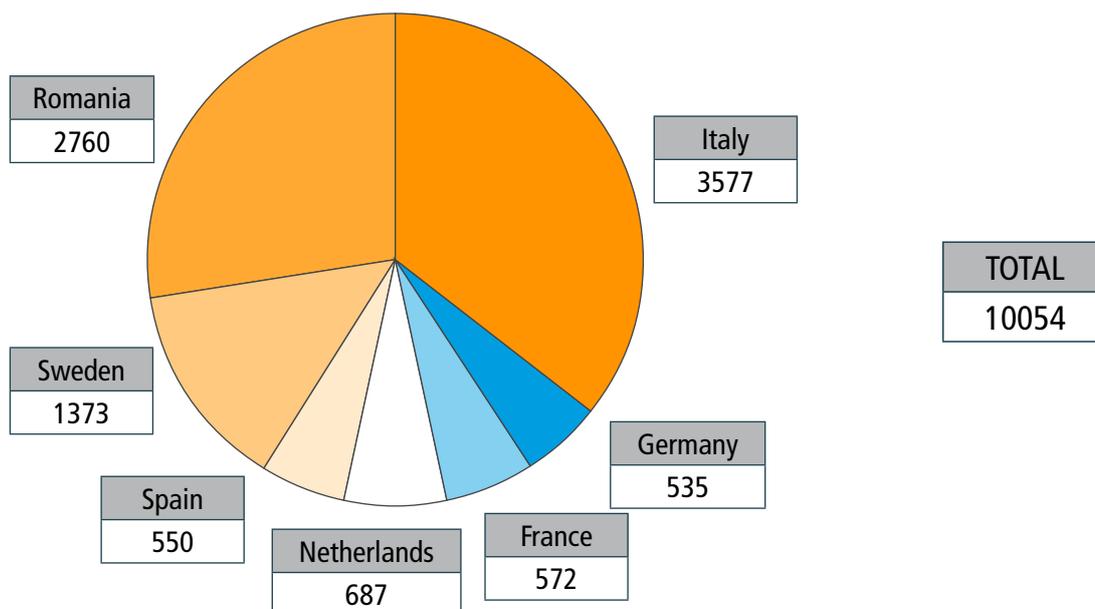


Table 2: Number of respondents and response rate by country

Italy	Spain	France	Netherlands	Germany	Sweden	Romania	TOTAL
250	45	57	63	82	114	58	669
7%	8%	10%	9%	15%	8%	2%	7%

Given the number of farmers and food artisans contacted for this survey, the results provide a good view on their profile and perceptions of the policy measures, despite a limited sample size. However, results based on a sample size lower than 50 should be interpreted with caution.

2.2 Structure of the survey

The survey was structured in four sections:

- The first part of the questionnaire was dedicated to profiling the sample.
- The second section focused more on CAP provisions and on the level of support given to producers and on how much they depend on financial aid. It also aimed at collecting information on perceived obstacles hampering producers' activities. It must be taken into consideration, however, that there are some issues strictly connected to how the national governments implement EU provisions and on the efficiency of their administrations.
- The third section consisted in only one open question that gave producers the opportunity to give policymakers their suggestions on what farmers and food artisans really need. Respondents could answer in writing or by recording a short video.
- The fourth part asked respondents about existing policy instruments and their recommendations.

2.3 Main findings

A. Profile of the Respondents

Type of Farming Activity

Crop farming is the most widespread activity (on average it represents 48% of respondents' overall food production activity):

- About 1 in 5 (21%) are "crop farming exclusives" (100% of their activity), whereas about 1 in 4 (24%) have no crop farming activity at all.
- Italy (67%), Romania (58%) and France (54%) are the countries where this type of activity is the most widespread.
- 35% of the respondents involved in crop farming owned between 1 and 10 hectares, 22% between 11 and 25 hectares, and 11% owns land up to 1 hectare, showing the small-scale size of the businesses involved the survey.

Food processing is the second most widespread activity (on average it represents 32% of respondents' overall activity):

- About 1 in 10 have exclusively food processing activities (10%), whereas about one-third have no food processing activity at all (32%).
- Sweden (50%), Spain (35%) and Germany (34%) are the countries where this type of activity is the most widespread.

Livestock rearing is the least widespread activity (on average it represents 18% of respondents' overall food production activity):

- Only a small minority (4%) engage exclusively in livestock rearing, whereas almost two-thirds (62%) have no livestock rearing activity at all.
- The Netherlands (36%) and Sweden (29%) are the countries where this type of activity is the most widespread.

It is worth highlighting that 3 out of 4 respondents supplement their revenues with additional activities:

- Mostly farm shops (53%), especially in Italy and Sweden
- 18% also run a holiday farm and 13% an educational farm

Results suggest that work in the field alone cannot adequately support the livelihood of small-scale farmers.

Model of agriculture

Overall, for 43% of respondents, their main activity is certified organic farming (all types of activities considered), with the practice being most widespread in France (68% of the respondents) and Italy (49%).

The survey also allowed respondents to indicate whether they practiced non-certified organic farming: although "non-certified organic farming" is conceptually incorrect (organic farming is always certified), the option was provided so as to identify farmers who do not fall squarely within the organic label and at the same time are not familiar with the concept of agroecology – a term that is not yet widespread. This option allowed respondents to indicate that they farm with respect for the environment, potentially following the organic protocol, but with no certification (for some farmers the fee is too expensive or their connection to clients is so close that they choose not to get the certification). Taking into consideration non-certified organic as well, this amounts to 70% of all respondents who practice organic farming. Romania was singled out with 43% non-certified organic respondents compared to just 9% certified producers.

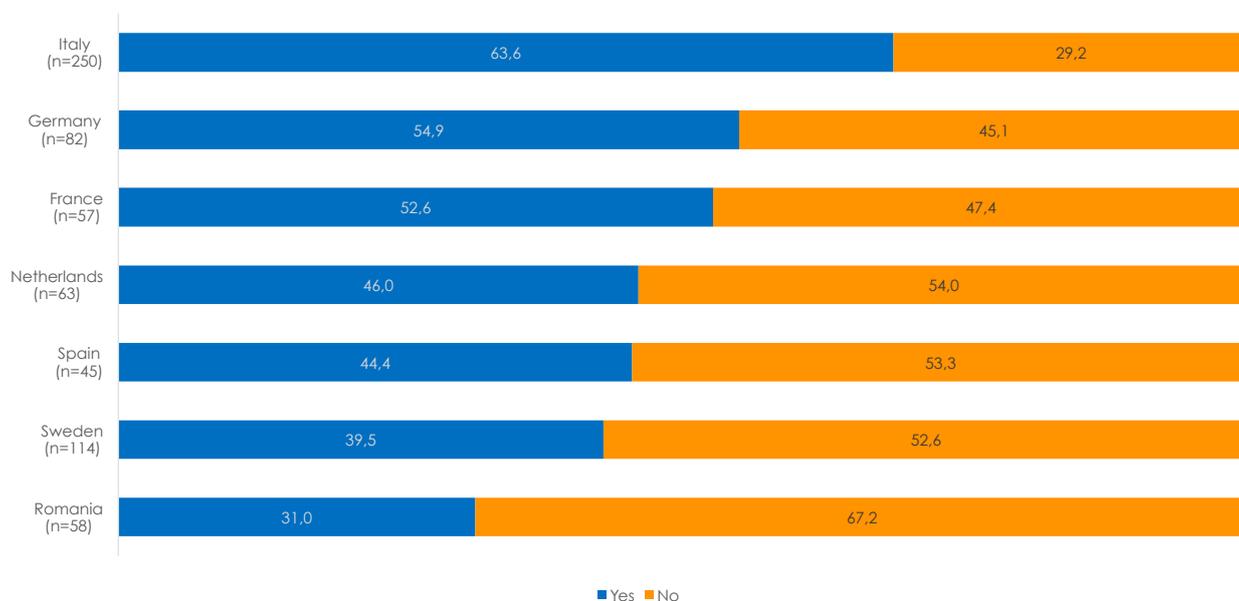
Agroecology is especially practiced by respondents in Spain (38%), France (32%) and Romania (28%). A very low rate of agroecological producers has been recorded, instead, by respondents in Sweden (3%) and in Germany (2%).

B. Barriers and support measures for small-scale production

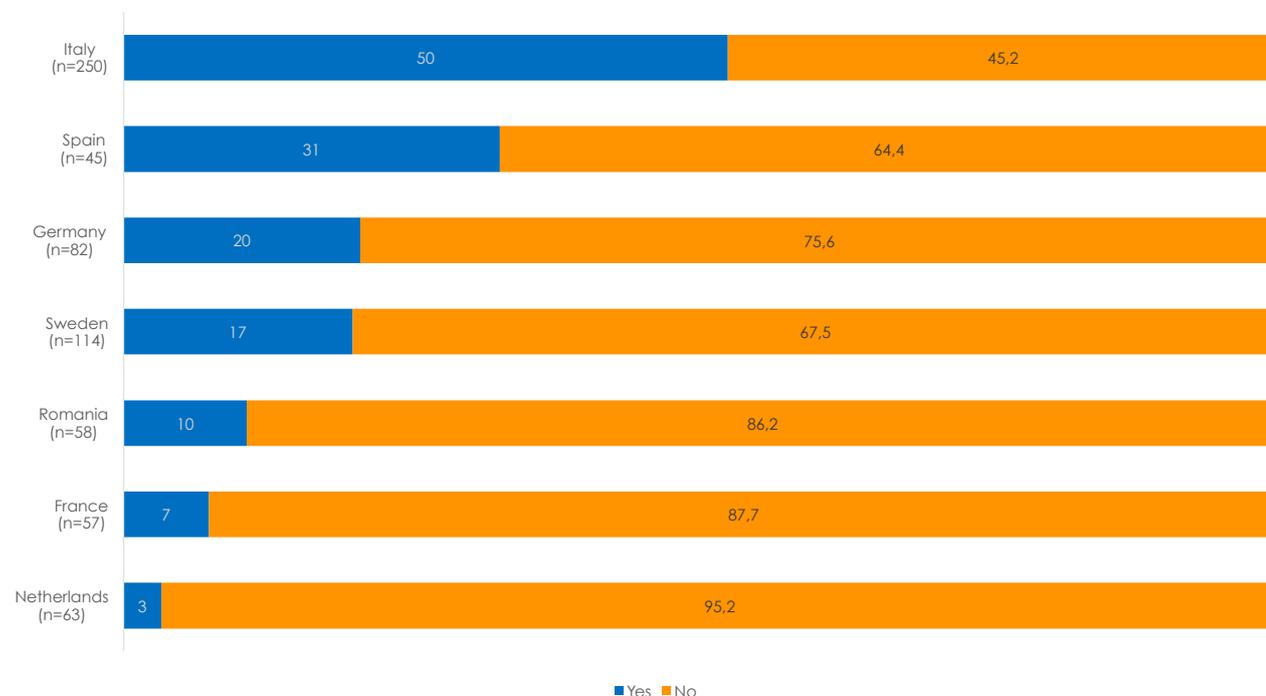
Incidence of overall CAP Financial Support

The following graphs summarize the number of respondents receiving direct payments and support through Rural Development Plans:

Percentage of businesses currently receiving economic support through subsidies/direct payments in the frame of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)



Percentage of businesses currently receiving economic support in the frame of the Rural Development Plan (RDP)



While direct subsidies are able to reach at least nearly half of the respondents, the funds from the Rural Development Plans are less effective, as just 28% of respondents are able to access this kind of support.

Overall, the financial support received impacts about 17% of the producers' revenues (all types of activities considered):

- Financial support impacts revenues especially for livestock rearing (25%, versus 15-16% for other activities).
- It is highest in Romania (38%), Sweden (26%), Germany (25%) and Spain (24%).
- In Romania, almost 1 in 4 (22%) depend on economic support for more than half of their revenue.

A large proportion of food producers (40%) who received financial support expressed that they did not receive it in time for it to be useful. There was no main difference between the type of activity and the problems receiving the payments. The issue of delays was especially high in France (50%) and Italy (47%).

Reasons for not receiving CAP Direct payments



Most respondents mention they have not applied because it is not worth dealing with the bureaucracy (35%) or because they do not meet the eligibility criteria (31%). An analysis of the differences between countries shows the following:

- Bureaucracy is even more strongly perceived as a barrier in Romania and France.
- Non-eligibility is mostly mentioned in Sweden.
- In the Netherlands, 38% of respondents mention they are not recognized as farmers because they do not own the land.
- In France, 41% of respondents mention 'lack of time' as an additional reason to not apply for subsidies.

Among the respondents indicating that there were other reasons for not receiving direct payments, many mentioned that they do not feel comfortable entering the subsidy system, as they do not trust financial aid or because they do not feel subsidies effectively help in developing their businesses. They would not need subsidies if they gained enough from their agricultural activity.

Below you can find a sample of the explanations provided by the respondents¹:

“I am not interested in subsidies. I think a company has to support itself, and not rely on public aid.” (Italy)

“For the moment, we do not believe in the agricultural subsidy system.” (Spain)

“I do not want to make every European citizen pay to allow me to exist.” (France)

“Even if we are entitled to it, we do not need it --- so why should we claim it?” (The Netherlands)

“The subsidy policy leads to an incorrect orientation of the companies and results in production prices that are entirely too low.” (Germany)

“I do not think production should be supported, but get the income from the sale.” (Sweden)

“The [cultivating] surface is too small to justify the effort. I do not need those amounts.” (Romania)

Activities funded thanks to Rural Development Plan financial support

RDP funds are mostly used by respondents to purchase or renovate infrastructure (58%) and equipment (56%).

Respondents have also accessed economic support provided to finance measures related to environmental protection and biodiversity enhancement. In particular, for the use of energy from renewable resources, for the cultivation of local plant varieties or for the rearing of local livestock breeds. Marginal areas are better supported in Germany and in the Netherlands, but this remains an issue in all countries.

Reasons for not receiving financial support through the Rural Development Plan



¹ Quotes from the answers to question B4.

Most respondents mention they have not applied because it is not worth dealing with the bureaucracy (31%) or because they are lacking information (24%). When looking at differences between countries, the answers show that:

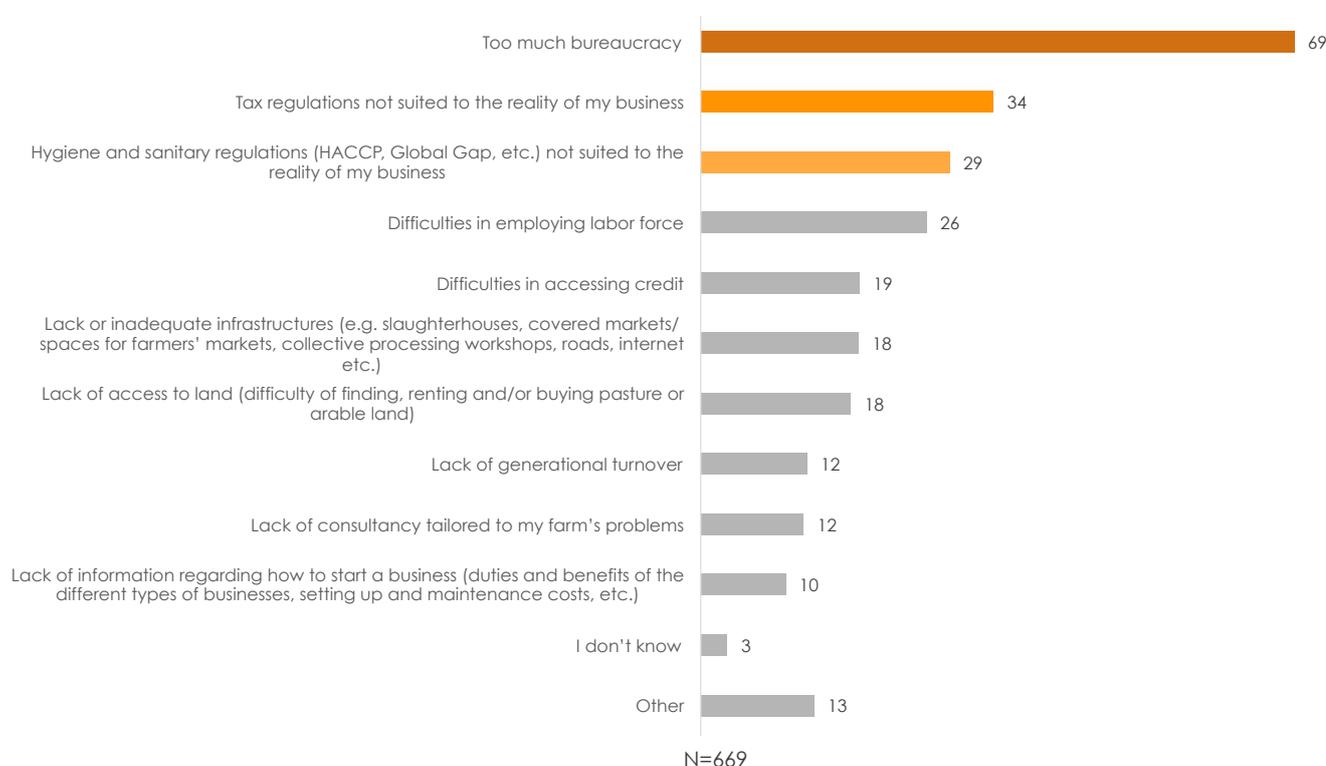
- Bureaucracy is even more strongly perceived as a barrier in Romania and Sweden.
- Lack of information is mentioned mostly in France (42%) and the Netherlands (38%).
- Lack of liquidity to finance the costs in advance is mostly mentioned in Italy and Romania (30%).

There are no main differences by types of activity.

Economic and technical support from other entities or channels

Half of the producers who mention receiving economic support from other entities or channels mention public authority (49%), whereas 22% mention a mix of private associations and 18% mention private foundations. About half of all producers receive technical support (53%), mostly from self-employed professionals (23%) or trade unions (21%). There are strong differences by country, with a very high rate of respondents receiving technical support in Italy (83%) and Spain (71%), and a minority of respondents receiving it in Germany (17%) and Sweden (16%). The answers also show a wide variety of technical support.

Main perceived business obstacles



Also in these answers, bureaucracy appears as the main obstacle in all countries (mentioned by two-thirds of respondents overall). It is even stronger in some countries (90% of the respondents in Italy and 78% of the respondents in Spain identified bureaucracy).

Tax regulations are also mentioned very often (by one-third of respondents), with stronger results in Italy and Romania (47% in both cases).

Some obstacles, on the other hand, are country specific: for example, lack of access to land in France and in the Netherlands, and difficulties in employing the labor force in Sweden and Romania.

C. The Recommendations of the respondents

As reported above, respondents could provide their recommendations in writing or by recording a short video. A total of 17 respondents chose the video option. Given the different format of the answer, the analysis below provides a general overview of the suggestions of the respondents.

As the main obstacle perceived is the bureaucratic load, in this section most of the producers asked for less red tape requirements. However, most of the respondents emphasized that they are not demanding for less rules and controls, but just that these must be commensurate to the size and the reality of their businesses. The answers highlight the fact that the main issue is the distance between policymakers and the reality on the ground: small-scale producers do not demand less bureaucracy as such, but for more consideration of their role.

"We would like to have a government that takes the cultural value of the work we do and the landscape we safeguard into consideration, and that does not consider us the same as big, industrial businesses." (Italy)

"Without sacrificing quality and hygiene, to interpret the rules somewhat more broadly, so that you can make your products more efficiently." (The Netherlands)

"It is not a question of lack, it is about too much, too many laws, taxes, standards that are not related to reality or real needs but only to perpetuate an agricultural logic that is obsolete and dangerous for humanity..." (France)

"Laws more adequate and differentiated according to the size of companies and/or self-employer. Local, national and international administration should take initiatives to make small-scale producers visible..." (Spain)²

Respondents from all the countries reported that local governments are badly structured and uncoordinated. Moreover, they highlighted the lack of expertise in governmental offices dealing with agricultural matters and also in the professional associations that are usually the bodies through which they apply for funds.

"[...] unification of the entities responsible for monitoring: it is not possible that we have to communicate the same identical thing to 2, 3, 4 different entities that do not communicate with each other." (Italy)

"The Swedish Board of Agriculture does not stick to its promises. They are unreliable. It is a dysfunctional public authority. Another dysfunctional authority is called Lantmateriet (Swedish Land Registry): buying land and obtaining permission to build takes a lot of time. They have the market, but it is very difficult to develop a business at a reasonable pace." (Sweden)³

As already emphasized above, producers are skeptical regarding the subsidy system. Indeed, they do not feel that this is the solution to increased support:

"We farmers do not need anything as we really know well what we have to do to produce high-quality products...the only thing that hurts us and makes us waste too much energy that we could be using in the field is the knackered bureaucracy that takes our breath away!" (Italy)

"There were big delays in paying the subsidies that led to financial problems in our activity. It states that without subsidies, we work almost at a loss -- without profit. It would be desirable for us, the producers, to get more involved in the necessary collateral activities, especially to sell and not to wait for others to solve our problems. The Romanian government has no real concerns about supporting agricultural producers anyway, except for the subsidies." (Romania)

"I am satisfied. My CAP funding is about to expire, because I could not afford the huge bureaucratic effort for the small amounts of money for that, then I'm even happier." (Germany)⁴

² Quotes from the answers to question C1.

³ Quotes from the answers to question C1.

⁴ Quotes from the answers to question C1.

3. Recommendations

The results of the survey echo the recommendations that Slow Food developed in 2017 in its reply to the European Commission consultation on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy.

We hereby summarize the main recommendations by Slow Food, based on the results of the survey and taking into account the messages of the Communication on the Future of Food and Farming (published by the Commission on November 29, 2017). Specifically, according to the Communication, in the delivery model of the future CAP the Union should set the basic policy parameters (objectives of the CAP, broad types of intervention, basic requirements), while Member States should bear greater responsibility and be more accountable as to how they meet the objectives and achieve agreed targets.

While we continue working together with civil society organizations and researchers in defining a Common Food Policy for Europe, we believe that the new CAP reform can play a fundamental role as a transition policy towards sustainable food systems.

These food systems are:

- Environmentally sustainable: they maintain the quality and renewability of natural resources over time, preserve biodiversity and guarantee the integrity of ecosystems.
- Economically sustainable: they generate long-term income and workplaces, and provide a competitive environment, where quality prevails over quantity and prices reflect the true value of food.
- Socio-culturally sustainable: they guarantee fair access to fundamental rights (safety, health, education, etc.) and conditions of well-being (e.g. social relations), provide opportunities to create and develop relations between different actors of the food system, and recognize the cultural value of food.

Accordingly, what Europe needs are diversified agroecological food systems, based on farming agro-biodiversity, with lower dependency on external inputs, stimulating social relationships and short supply chains, to build long-term healthy agro-ecosystems and secure livelihoods.

The recommendations below start from a reframing of the prevailing narrative and then go into the concrete recommendations for ongoing CAP reform.

Reframe the prevailing narrative

- Scientifically assess and recognize the socio-cultural, economic and environmental problems related to EU food systems.
- Set the record straight and change the prevailing narrative: from food security to food sufficiency. Today, the goal to increase food production and business as usual is widely promoted, with the justification that by 2050 the world population will reach 9 billion and the challenge is to “feed the world.” However, this is a deceiving and factually incorrect argument. Firstly, one-third of the food produced worldwide is lost or wasted. This is a clear indicator that the challenge is not to increase food production, but to guarantee fair access to resources (land, seeds, water) and to food. Secondly, strengthening domestic food production in the global south is recognized development policy, confirmed in the Sustainable Development Goals. Aggressive export strategies and the unfair dumping of subsidized EU food go in the opposite direction: they hinder the development of local supply chains, drive out local producers and interfere with local diets.

The future CAP must ensure policy coherence and consistency

- Acknowledge that many of the obstacles faced by producers are related to the lack of integration and coherence between the CAP and other food-related policies (e.g. food safety; food waste; regional policy, etc.): a systemic approach is needed to tackle food systems related issues.
- Adopt a system approach that analyzes in a comprehensive way the food system and all the links between system activities, including both production and consumption.
- Reorganize existing CAP tools (direct activity regulation, market-based tools, knowledge-related tools, governance tools and strategic tools) around the new objectives to ensure coherence with other food-related policies.
- Commit to creating a cross-sectoral and inter-institutional task force, involving different Commission DGs and other EU institutions, to ensure policy coherence and consistency.

Set clear objectives in the new delivery model and move the CAP towards the delivery of diversified agroecological food systems

- Set new objectives in the proposed new delivery model to genuinely achieve a transition to diversified agroecological food systems, to maximize agriculture's contribution to meeting Europe's international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, and to ensure a fair distribution of resources based on the contribution to the goals defined.
- Farmed agrobiodiversity must be a central element of the delivery model.
- Propose a new delivery model providing long-term solutions instead of only a tweaking of practices.
- The governance of the new delivery model at national and local levels must guarantee democratic access to the support measures (whether technical or economic) for small-scale agroecological farmers and young generations: they should not be excluded by governance dynamics that favor only a few and hinder the entrance of newcomers.
- The delivery model must guarantee the independence of farmers in the management of the production systems, provided that they meet the objectives as defined above.
- Subsidiarity for Member States should only be granted within a common set of rules and tools agreed at EU level; a monitoring and evaluation system should be set up to ensure timely delivery of the common objectives agreed upon at EU level by Member States.
- Ensure that a results-based approach fosters performance and impact rather than compliance.
- The indicator-based assessment tools shall be used to reward producers who cultivate and farm agrobiodiversity.
- Performance and impact should be adequately monitored via SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely) indicators, including an appropriate system of quality control and penalties.
- Include an adjustment mechanism based on the results of the monitoring of the performance indicators. If Member States are not achieving the goals agreed, the EU must be entitled to demand that Member States take immediate action to be able to deliver – and not shift responsibility for results exclusively to the good will of Member States.
- Develop a different set of indicators to measure short, medium and long-term results based on environmental, economic and socio-cultural sustainability.
- Ensure the necessary resources (including the allocation of dedicated research funds) to establish baselines and define indicators involving the relevant stakeholders (that include DGs other than DG Agriculture, such as DG Environment, Sante, Grow, Clima; research institutes and CSOs).
- Involve producers and primary food systems actors in the construction of performance and impact indicators, ensuring that the voice of small and micro business is taken into due consideration.
- Provide the competent authorities and beneficiaries of the measures with appropriate resources, training opportunities and tools to measure performance and impact.
- Whereas the monitoring system put into place requires a contribution from the beneficiaries (e.g. on-farm measurement), ensure that: a. the workload for the beneficiaries is proportionate to the size and the reality of the support received; b. the beneficiaries are provided with tools for data collection.
- Ensure that the delivery model can be realistically carried out in a timely manner by Member States and local authorities. There is sufficient evidence indicating that there are currently CAP delays by national/local authorities that result in support measures not being delivered in a timely manner, further hampering local development.

Public money for public goods

- Public money must be spent only for public goods. Food and farming systems that harm the environment, contribute to food waste and disrespect the wellbeing of workers and animals should not receive subsidies. Only diversified agroecological farming systems producing food for human and animal consumption and contributing to the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of their farms and regions should receive financial support.
- Payments should not be given on a hectare basis: this contributes to ever larger farms, reducing the possibility for small-scale farmers to enter the market.
- Support schemes should prioritize quality over quantity.
- Reorient support away from chemical-intensive monocultures, and towards diversified agroecological systems: agroecology is the most effective form of sustainable farming.
- Acknowledge the specific needs of small-scale agroecological producers.
- Reward producers who cultivate and farm agrobiodiversity, who preserve the traditional agricultural landscape (e.g. old vineyards), know-how (e.g. milling and slaughtering) and architecture (water mills, mountain dairies, old wood ovens, etc.), who work in marginal areas, and who create associations and cooperatives.

- Reward those who differentiate supply by supplementing agricultural production with educational, cultural, social and tourist activities to promote knowledge of the environment, local areas and agriculture (multifunctional role of farms).
- Develop mechanisms so that prices reflect the true cost of food, including its environmental, sociocultural and economic impact.
- Invest in independent research to scientifically assess the products used in agriculture instead of relying solely on industry research, which is the basis for their authorization.

Commensurate bureaucratic workload and clarity of information

- Readjust the bureaucratic workload so that it is commensurate with the reality of the dwelling. Rules and controls are fundamental to well-functioning support measures and must be implemented, but they should be commensurate to the size of the farm.
- Guarantee clarity and ease of access to information on criteria for accessing the support measures.
- Provide adequate training to national and local authorities on the dissemination of information to beneficiaries on existing measures.
- Supply clear information and simplify the prerequisites for the starting up of new businesses and the red-tape necessary for their management.

Fair land management

- Approve mechanisms that allow new farmers, young people in particular, access to land.
- Guarantee access to state-owned land and rental agreements that allow for medium-long term planning, especially for pastures.
- Boost transparency in land purchasing deals and international investments in the land market, in order to counteract the phenomena of land grabbing and land concentration.
- Provide legal protection to farmers during acquisition processes.

Innovation & research, training and technical support

- Dedicate innovation and research measures/funds to support the promotion of agroecology and the exchange of knowledge between farmers and researchers on equal terms.
- Promote innovation that respects food sovereignty and local know-how: innovation should foster the potential of producers and not make them dependent on external inputs controlled by a few multinationals.
- Envisage strong incentives, technical advice, transfer of agricultural knowledge, training and support to encourage farmers to convert their farms to agroecological food businesses.
- Support the organization of producer groups.
- Provide training in business management and marketing (labelling, eco-sustainable packaging, etc.).
- Stimulate entrepreneurship by supplying knowledge and (co-)funding for tools that help farmers add value to their produce.

Support marginal areas

- Define "marginal areas" through participatory processes and taking into account all factors that determine a lower capacity to reach consumers, for social, organizational, logistical, environmental and other reasons.
- Envisage greater support for agroecological small and medium producers in marginal areas with specific support for the strengthening of collaboration between value chain actors.
- Develop support measures for the efficient management of wild and semi-wild resources (e.g. pastures), for example, the promotion of associations for common management and for land requalification
- Envisage effective infrastructural recovery and development plans in rural and deprived areas, ensuring Internet coverage in particular, through participatory processes of local development, for instance, through the Strategy for Internal Areas in Italy.
- Ensure that in the overall evaluation of Member States' performance, marginal areas are not left behind (e.g. an overall positive result at national level could hide a situation where poor performance of marginal areas coexist with excellent performance of other areas).

Fair food supply chains and citizens' right to information

- Fight the exploitation of the labor force, which often concerns migrant workers.
- Review the rules that regulate the supply chain to give all producers fair bargaining power.
- Create market channels for small and medium-scale products; promote farmers' markets, fair trade and alternative food networks based on direct selling.
- Promote the use of local agroecological products in public canteens. School schemes should primarily support the distribution of products that are at once healthy, local and agroecological (not only fruits, vegetables and milk) or at least organic.
- Promote environmental and food education in schools, setting up school gardens as an example. Support awareness-raising activities on food system sustainability.

Review quality schemes and hygiene rules

- Review the definition of "quality" underpinning the "quality schemes," and, consequently, the structure of denominations of origin to include rigorous criteria of sustainability (including the protection of agrobiodiversity and agroecological farming methods).
- Introduce training for food inspectors, vets, and food hygiene authorities on traditional production of artisanal foods, to ensure a tailored approach to different production systems.
- Include clear and obligatory provisions for flexibility in legislative proposals on hygiene rules, guaranteeing simplified and proportionate rules for small producers and local food chains.
- Encourage producers to take responsibility by allowing food safety self-certification processes, wherein they can demonstrate the absence of risk in food processing.

Support young people

- Ensure that young people have a decent income (for example, through direct supplementary payment or tax relief) so that they can have enough security to plan their future.
- Promote the creation of networks of young people – farmers, but also other actors in the food supply chain, such as food artisans, restaurateurs, educators and consumers – by creating spaces, opportunities and tools for connection (events, the Internet, social networks, etc.) to avoid the isolation that often characterizes farming work and discourages young people.
- Promote the training of young farmers and young entrepreneurs in the food system on agroecological farming and sustainable food systems, with secondary school and university courses, short courses, lecture courses by farmers themselves and knowledge exchange.
- Promote knowledge transfer from generation to generation and initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting traditional knowledge.
- Facilitate the setting up of new businesses by young people by simplifying or speeding up red-tape and envisaging incentives such as direct funding, tax relief, favorable insurance schemes, etc.

4. Annex

Slow Food survey on support measures for small- and medium-scale food production in Europe

A. Information about your business

A1. In which country is your business located?

- Pre-coded list of countries

A2. Would you say your business is located...?

- In an urban area: middle or large town
- In a rural area or a village
- In marginal areas (areas far from major communication routes and services, mountains, areas with hard working condition, etc.)
- I don't know

A3. Please indicate how involved your business is in each of the following activities

Please indicate how much time you dedicate (in percentage) to each of the listed activities. Please leave blank if you are not involved in this activity.

- Crop farming _____ %
- Livestock rearing / animal husbandry _____ %
- Food processing _____ %
- I don't know

A4a. More specifically, please select in the list below all the crop farming related activities your business is involved in

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Cereal grains
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Grapevines
- Olive cultures
- Sugar
- Oilseeds and protein plants
- Rice
- Hops
- Potatoes
- Agroforestry
- Other crop farming activities
- I don't know

A4b. More specifically, please select in the list below all the livestock rearing related activities your business is involved in

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Dairy cattle
- Dairy goats or sheep
- Beef cattle
- Goats or sheep for meat
- Pork
- Poultry and rabbits

- Eggs
- Horses
- Beekeeping
- Other livestock rearing activities
- I don't know

A4b. More specifically, please select in the list below all the food processing related activities your business is involved in

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Cheesemaking
- Meat processing
- Fruit processing
- Vegetable processing
- Wild herb processing
- Baked goods
- Milling
- Brewing
- Winemaking
- Spirits
- Oil mill
- Other food processing activities
- I don't know

A5. Additionally, are you involved in any of the following?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Cheese aging
- Cured meat production
- Butchery
- Bread baking
- Pastry/confectionery production
- Farm ice cream shop
- Farm shop
- Holiday farm
- Educational farm
- Non-agricultural activities [please specify: _____]
- No additional activities
- I don't know

A6. Considering your crop farming activities, approximately how many hectares do you cultivate?

Please take into account the total area you cultivate, regardless if you own or rent it.

- hectares used for farm production (arable crops, fruit orchards, vineyards, olive groves, vegetable growing, etc.)
- hectares not used for production (woodland, wetland, swamp, etc.)
- hectares left fallow
- I don't know

A7. Considering your livestock rearing activities...

- How many heads of livestock do you farm?
- heads of livestock
- I don't know
- How many hectares do you use for pasture?
- hectares used for pasture (if applicable)
- I don't know

A8. Considering your main activity of [insert main activity from QA3], what model of agriculture do you practice on your farm?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

if more than one activity gets the highest share in QA3, random allocation of main activity here)

- Agro-ecological
- Permaculture
- Organic (not certified)
- Organic (certified)
- Biodynamic
- Integrated
- Conventional
- I don't know

A9. From what model of agriculture do most of your raw materials come from?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Agro-ecological
- Permaculture
- Organic (not certified)
- Organic (certified)
- Biodynamic
- Integrated
- Conventional
- I don't know

B. Barriers and support measures for small-scale production

B1. Different types of financial support can be made available to farmers and food producers. Please indicate if your business currently receives any economic support through...

- Subsidies (CAP entitlements)/ direct payments in the frame of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Economic support in the frame of the Rural Development Plans (RDP)
- Economic support from other entities or channels

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

B2. Approximately in which proportion does this economic support impact your revenues?

- Slider
- _____%
- I don't know

B3. Did you receive this economic support in time for it to be useful?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

B4. Why do you currently not receive any economic support from direct payments?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- I don't meet the eligibility criteria
- I am not officially registered as a producer
- I don't own land and so am not recognized as a farmer
- I haven't applied because it's not worth dealing with the bureaucracy
- I can't find the payment entitlements necessary to access the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- I haven't applied due to lack of information
- Formal errors in the application
- Other: [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

B5. What have you been able to fund thanks to the Rural Development Plans?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Infrastructure (renovation of buildings, production workshops, greenhouses)
- Purchase of equipment (tractors, pump, etc.)
- Purchase of material equipment (plants, anti-hail nets, etc.)
- Product promotion activities (computerization, brochures, etc.)
- Other: [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

B6. Have you received economic support from the Rural Development Plan for any of these specific activities?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Cultivating local plant varieties
- Rearing local livestock breeds
- Restoring historic/traditional infrastructure (mills, drystone walls, etc.)
- Working in marginal areas
- Using sustainable materials for packaging
- Using energy from renewable sources
- Reducing and reutilizing waste
- Facilitating access to the agricultural sector for young people and for women
- Developing rural tourism activities in marginal areas
- Improving cooperation with other businesses (e.g. supply chain agreements)
- I don't know

B7. What percentage of your project costs are covered by this economic support?

- _____%
- I don't know

B8. Why do you currently not receive any financial support through the Rural Development Plans?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- I don't meet the eligibility criteria
- I don't own land and so am not recognized as a farmer
- I haven't applied because it's not worth dealing with the bureaucracy
- I haven't applied due to lack of information
- Difficulties in having enough liquidity to pay in advance the costs
- I must show invoices for all the work done in the project financed by the Rural Development Plan, although there are activities that I can do myself at a lower cost (e.g. maintenance of the stall)
- I cannot purchase second-hand equipment
- I cannot purchase equipment to be co-owned with other producers in the area
- I was asked for too complex project plan compared to my needs (e.g. purchase of simple equipment)
- Formal errors in the application
- I don't trust this system: if the project doesn't work, I risk going into significant debt

- I am not officially registered as a producer
- Other: [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

**B9. You mentioned that you received economic support from other entities or channels. Which ones?
(rotation - several answers allowed)**

- Public authority
- Private associations or consortia
- Private foundations and donors
- Other: [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

B10 Approximately in which proportion does this economic support impact your revenues?

- _____%
- I don't know

**B11. Have you received economic support from other entities or channels for any of these specific activities?
(rotation - several answers allowed)**

- Cultivating local plant varieties
- Rearing local livestock breeds
- Restoring historic/traditional infrastructure (mills, drystone walls, etc.)
- Working in marginal areas
- Using sustainable materials for packaging
- Using energy from renewable sources
- Reducing and reutilizing waste
- Facilitating access to the agricultural sector for young people and for women
- Developing rural tourism activities in marginal areas
- Improving cooperation with other businesses (e.g. supply chain agreements)
- I don't know

**B12. Does your business currently receive technical support?
(rotation for codes 1 to 8 - several answers allowed – code 9 exclusive)**

- Yes, from trade unions
- Yes, from producers' protective consortium (PDO or PGI)
- Yes, from promotion association
- Yes, from producers' organization
- Yes, from cooperatives
- Yes, from networks or movements
- Yes, from self-employed professionals
- Other: [please specify: _____]
- No, my business does not receive any kind of technical support
- I don't know

**B13. What kind of technical support do you currently receive?
(rotation - several answers allowed)**

- Agronomic
- Technological (enologist, cheese technician, etc.)
- On legal regulations in general
- For business development
- On hygiene and sanitary rules
- On production quality and health

- Other: [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

B14. Why do you currently not receive any technical support?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- I don't know where to find technical support
- I don't have the resources to pay for technical support
- The technical support available is too generic and doesn't deal with the specific problems of my business
- I don't need any technical support
- Other: [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

B15. What would you say are currently the main obstacles for your business?

(rotation - maximum of 5 options in order of importance from 1 (the most important) to 5 (the least important))

- Difficulties in accessing credit
- Lack of access to land (difficulty of finding, renting and/or buying pasture or arable land)
- Lack or inadequate infrastructures (e.g. slaughterhouses, covered markets/spaces for farmers' markets, collective processing workshops, roads, internet etc.)
- Lack of information regarding how to start a business (duties and benefits of the different types of businesses, setting up and maintenance costs, etc.)
- Lack of generational turnover
- Difficulties in employing labor force
- Too much bureaucracy
- Tax regulations not suited to the reality of my business
- Hygiene and sanitary regulations (HACCP, Global Gap, etc.) not suited to the reality of my business
- Lack of consultancy tailored to my farm's problems
- Other: [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

C. Your suggestions

Introduction

The Slow Food association is interested in hearing what its members (food producers, farmers and processors such as yourself) know and think about measures which currently allow them or would potentially allow them to make their activity more efficient or successful.

To do so, we would greatly appreciate you sharing your comments in a video response. Leveraging this brand new, exciting way to capture feedback allows us to understand what people think, better than ever before. We will be asking you to record a video response of between 15 and 60 seconds (or more if you feel inspired!!).

We are interested in your open and honest feedback.

C1. What would you need most in order to conduct your activity as you really would like to?

Please be as specific as possible and explain what would be the main elements which would allow you to work in the best possible way.

(open question, with the possibility to answer via video)

D. European policies: Clarity and objectives

D1. To what extent are you familiar with the measures contained in the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)?

- Fully familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not very familiar
- Not at all familiar
- I don't know

D2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)?

(rotation of items)

- It's too complicated
- It supports intensive production
- It supports extensive production
- It supports the conventional agricultural model
- It supports the organic agricultural model
- It protects traditional production
- It supports large-scale producers
- It supports small-scale producers
- It protects agro-biodiversity (plant and animal biodiversity)

- Totally agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Totally disagree
- Don't know

Profiling questions

P1. Tell us a bit more about the people working with you.

Please consider all the people working in your activity all year long (excluding seasonal workers).

Position (owner, employee, informal helper, other)

Family member? (Y/N)

Year of birth

Gender

Full time / part time

Do they have another non-agricultural activity?

P2. Do you employ seasonal workers?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

P3. Do you belong to an association or collective?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

P4. What kind?

(rotation - several answers allowed)

- Trade union [please specify: _____]
- Producers' protective consortium (PDO or PGI)
- Promotion association
- Producers' organization
- Cooperative
- Association or movement [please specify: _____]
- Slow Food Presidium
- Terra Madre food community
- Other [please specify: _____]
- I don't know

P5. By which of these do you feel more represented?

(present only answers selected at P4 - one answer only)

- Trade union
- Producers' protective consortium (PDO or PGI)
- Promotion association
- Producers' organization
- Cooperative
- Association or movement
- Slow Food Presidium
- Terra Madre food community
- Other
- I don't know



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