



EURO-INBO 2020

CAP Workshop

Outcomes

INBO 2020



**New Common Agricultural Policy:
An opportunity for water policies?**



The "EUROPE-INBO" group of basin organizations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive was created in Valencia, Spain, in November 2003. It gathers European member organizations and observers from the International Network of Basin Organizations. It mobilizes European Basin Organizations and District Authorities to exchange on their practical approaches and experiences, identify operational problems, and to share difficulties and successes.

Each year since 2013, a participative workshop is organised back to back to the annual General Assembly of the EUROPE-INBO. It aims at exchanging experiences on a specific topic, directly linked to the implementation of the European Directives and regulations related to water and biodiversity.

Prior to the 18th EUROPE-INBO Conference held online, a workshop on "New Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): an opportunity for water policies?" was held on November 9th 2020. It gathered 140 participants that were able to benefit from presentation of experience feedbacks on strategies or case studies from various MS and directly contribute to the identification of recommendations regarding future CAP and water management.

After an introduction part that has set up the scene at European level and various Member States in dealing with the relation between CAP and water policies, working groups have allowed for exchanges and identification of main messages. This document relies on the work done by the participants during these working groups, as well as information from the presentations, combined with background information.

The present document summarises the main outcomes and recommendations of this workshop.



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SYNERGIES BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND WATER

Agriculture: a significant pressure for water bodies

The EEA State of Water Report, issued in July 2018, provides detailed information on the **status of Europe's water bodies**, as reported by the Member States under the WFD. It shows that 74% of the EU groundwater bodies have by now achieved good chemical status and 89% of them have achieved good quantitative status. The situation is less encouraging for surface waters: only 38% of them are in good chemical status and just 40% in good ecological status or potential.

Impacts from agriculture are amongst the most significant pressures identified by Member States in most RBDs as posing potential risk of deterioration or non-achievement of the environmental objectives, both in the form of over-abstraction or diffuse pollution. Basic measures are usually in place. In half the cases no ex-ante assessment is made of the extent to which the measures taken will be sufficient to close the gap to good status. Much will also depend on the effect of voluntary measures, often in the context of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). Some CAP instruments indeed have the potential to contribute to sustainable agriculture by encouraging good farming practices (cross-compliance and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) but they are not always used sufficiently to reduce agriculture pressures.

An environmental ambition for the new CAP

In 2018, the European Commission presented proposals for a **new 2021-2027 CAP** (finally postponed to 2023), aiming to increase the level of environmental ambition with two important environmental directives entering the scope of

conditionality: namely the Water Framework Directive and the Directive on sustainable use of Pesticides.

The Commission's proposals for the new CAP set mandatory requirements for farmers. In addition, the intervention strategy defined by Member States in their CAP strategic plan shall take into account the needs identified in the RBMPs and shall contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the WFD.

The European Commission also considers the **CAP reform proposal is compatible with the Green Deal's ambitions**, since the CAP proposal includes tools to further promote sustainable farming practices across EU, crucial to achieve the Green Deal's ambitions.

Thus, it seems important to try to involve water stakeholders as much as possible in the operational implementation of the future CAP.

In this context of the implementation of the future CAP and in relation to the WFD objectives and the current state of RBMPs implementation, this workshop aimed at facilitate exchanges of experiences, questions and solutions on the "CAP and WFD" theme. Two main topics were addressed: the current synergy between CAP and water policies, and recommendations and perspectives given the context. For each, case studies were first presented by Member States. A split session for the second part of the workshop allowed participants to give some recommendations, on which these outcomes are based.



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PART I: AN ENVIRONMENTAL AMBITION FOR THE FUTURE CAP

In its proposals, the Commission sets out a new green architecture for the CAP, featuring strengthened mandatory requirements and increased funding opportunities for green farming.

A new architecture

Amongst the measures foreseen in the proposals are:

- an obligatory nutrient management tool, designed to help farmers improve water quality and reduce ammonia and nitrous oxide levels on their farms;
- a new stream of funding from the CAP's direct payments budget for "eco-schemes", which will support and incentivise farmers to undertake agricultural practices beneficial for the climate, biodiversity, and the environment.

To address these (and other) CAP objectives, each Member State will draw up a "**CAP strategic plan**". In its plan, each Member State

will analyse the situation on its territory in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) – as well as its related needs – in respect of these objectives. It will set quantified targets against the objectives and design "interventions" (types of action) for achieving them, on the basis of an EU-level menu.

More synergies between CAP and water

To achieve these goals, the need to link CAP with water policies was mentioned during the workshop.

A first step towards this is the addition of the Water Framework Directive to the scope of conditionality in this future CAP.

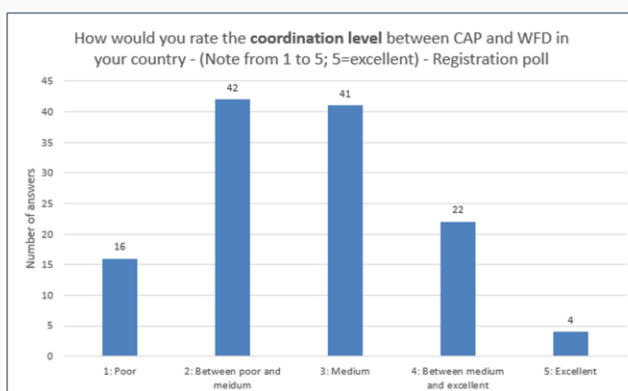
The importance of the local context

One of the main evolution of the future CAP will consist in merging and streamlining two elements in the current CAP – known as "cross-compliance" and "greening". CAP rules will not

The coordination level between CAP and WFD

Together with the registration form, a poll was sent to the participants asking how they would rate the coordination level between CAP and WFD in their country.

Most respondents think this coordination is not so good in their country (80% medium or less).



Coordination level between CAP and WFD – Results of the poll

set out the full detail of how this can be done - individual Member States will have a much greater say in the process. This will give them the opportunity to **better tailor implementation of the standards to the particular situations of their farmers**, which should make the resultant rules at national/regional level more acceptable to those affected.

The importance of this adaptation of CAP measures to the local context was underlined by the participants, especially at basin level, mainly concerned for water management.

Necessary exchanges between actors

All along the workshop, **stakeholders' involvement** was a key point: according to the participants, farmers, citizens, managers, industries... should all collaborate and trust each other to ensure a better articulation between agriculture and water policies.

A **sectorial cooperation** between water, agriculture and even nature conservations sectors has also been evoked as a powerful mean to ensure this articulation.

During the introduction of the workshop, the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) highlighted the importance of the involvement of local actors for the elaboration of the national strategic plans. In France for example, in addition to meetings with key stakeholders, a broad citizen consultation was carried on for the elaboration of the national diagnosis.

Beyond cooperation between national stakeholders, transnational and inter-territorial cooperation is also important to develop and share solutions to common issues. LEADER program and EIP-AGRI were reported to have key roles in this cooperation.

Last but not least, giving information to all stakeholders on the benefits of these greener practices, on the links between food and health, was also evoked as a lever to allow a change in the demand for food products.


The European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIP-AGRI)

The aim of the EIP-AGRI is to foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector that "achieves more from less". It relies on closing the innovation gap between research and practice by linking actors via the EIP Network.

EIP-AGRI relies on Operational Groups, innovative projects that aim to find practical solutions to problems or opportunities which European farmers and foresters are facing.

EIP-AGRI works with different funding streams.

What is an Operational Group?



EIP-AGRI Operational Groups intend to bring together multiple actors

PART II: A MULTITUDE OF TOOLS

To implement CAP, several kinds of tools can be used.

Exchanges between participants during the workshop highlighted the following points.

A greener orientation for the measures

The need to link CAP measures with their **environmental impact** was highlighted by the participants. According to them, agro-ecology, ecosystemic services, extensive agriculture, nature based solutions (NBS), organic agriculture... all practices that help preserving water resources and have an environmental ambition should receive CAP support. A focus was especially made on measures that promote water retention and infiltration such as Natural Water Retention Measures.

Keeping in mind the economic impacts of the measures was also stressed by some participants as a key to success towards this greener approach.

Tools to facilitate the implementation

Some tools could be useful to facilitate CAP implementation. Were most mentioned by the participants:

- GIS tools;
- softwares;
- use of data: water quality, quantity, precipitations;
- decision support tools;
- teledetection.

These tools have to be easy to use, and accessible for the targets.

A focus was made on NBS and NWRM: as they are popular, these measures could be used as a basis for implementation and communication.

The need of **training and information** on how these tools work and their benefits is crucial so that they can be used on the field.

The need for transdisciplinary approaches when using these tools have been mentioned.

Assessment and controls

When implementing European policies, assessment and controls are essential steps. Some of the aforementioned tools can be used for the assessment of measures.

Some participants suggest to have **result-based measures**: the idea would be to link the payments with the effective results of the measures on water and the environment.

Some others also suggest a mid-term evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the program of measures, and refocus if needed.

In terms of **controls**, the participants of the workshop also underlined the importance of **coherence**, between several policies for example with the Nitrates directive.

The problem of differences between EU and non EU regulation and controls was raised.

PART III: FUNDING: A KEY POINT

CAP strategic plans will allow for a greater degree of flexibility between the two funds and will include the ambitions of the European Green Deal, in particular the farm to fork strategy.

The total allocation for the CAP amounts to €386,6 billion, divided between the two pillars. Overall, 40% of total CAP expenditure will be dedicated to climate action.

The participants of the workshop made some propositions for the optimal use of funds.

Targeted funds?

Beyond the environmental aspect, several propositions were made to limit the importance of size in CAP funds allocation.

The idea to rather link payments with **environmental obligation** or to **penalize** practices impacting water and nature resources was mentioned by several participants. Dedicate some funds for climate change issues or area suffering the most from it was also proposed during the workshop. Payment for environmental services have been quoted as an example to increase CAP impact.

Another idea was to propose payments not only for creating or maintaining new infrastructures, but also to support an efficient management of existing elements or practices.

Directly linked to the proposition of result-based measure, some participants evoked the necessity to better link allocation of funds and control results, to ensure funds are targeted for greener practices.

To allow for a better **harmonisation between CAP and WFD issues**, participants of the

workshop noticed that it could be interesting to establish joint funding between water and agriculture sectors, and to seek coherence between the funding already existing.

Administrative aspects

From an administrative point of view, an important issue related to funding relies on the necessity to have a **less complicated application process**, especially for small interventions.

The participants also emphasizes the importance to have **quick payments**, and to **limit the administrative burden** for farmers was also an important element for the participants.

Sometimes, farmers are just not aware of the type of interventions which could be funded, and to what extent. A better information could be a first step for a better implementation of measures.

CONCLUSION

In 2018, the European Commission presented proposals for a new CAP, aiming to increase the level of environmental ambition. This new CAP could be a turning point to reach sustainable agricultural practices that preserve water.

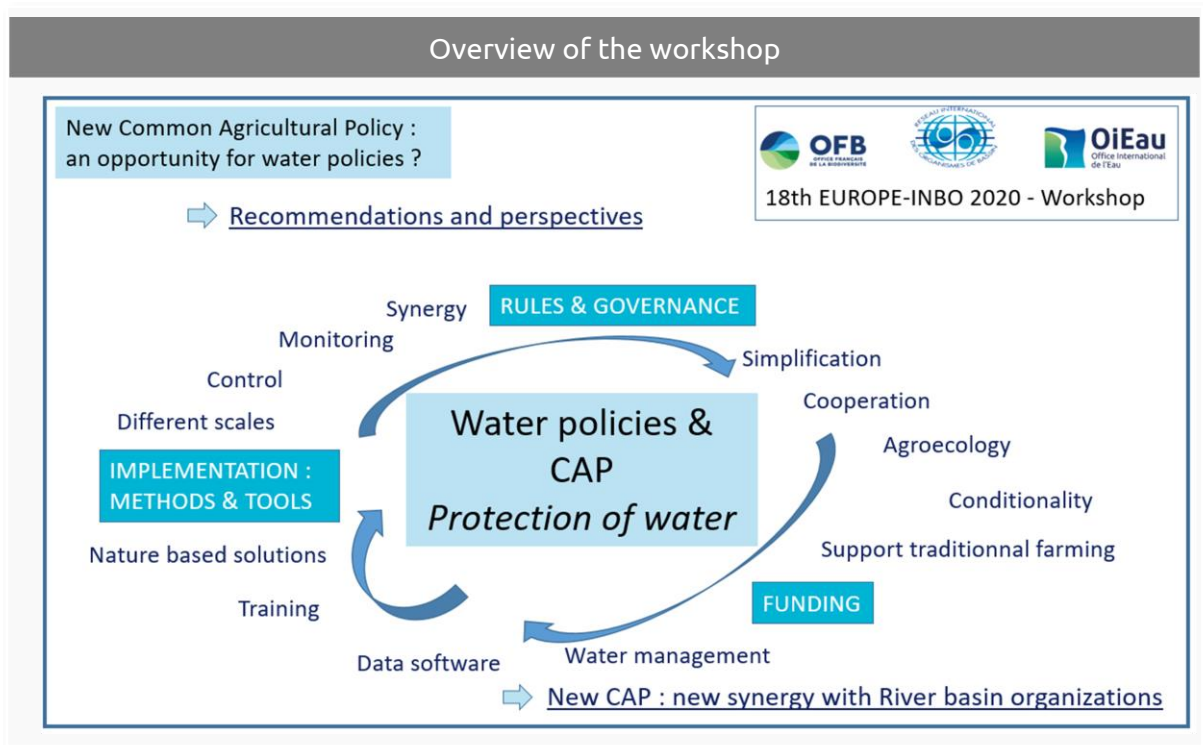
During this workshop, different participants gave a lot of recommendations and perspectives on rules, funding, governance, tools for this CAP to come. For example, they emphasized the significance of CAP simplification, or the need to set conditions for according subsidies. To reach a greener CAP, these subsidies will have to help small farmers, sustainable agro-ecological practices... Monitoring and controls have also a key role for a good implementation of the CAP.

New technology are also useful tools to help farmers: data software, GIS tools... In addition to these tools, the use of nature based solutions was highlighted as a key to help farmers protect water and fight against climate change.

Inputs from the participants revealed that watershed managers have very high expectations from the CAP.

As water quantity and quality are both very important in agricultural, a strong cooperation between water and agriculture sectors is a basis towards a more sustainable management of water in agriculture.

Integrated Water Resources Management is key to facilitate this transition towards more sustainable practices, since it helps to manage and develop water resources in a sustainable and balanced way, taking account of social, economic and environmental interests.



CAP Workshop speakers:

- Mrs. Bettina DOESER, **Head of Water Unit, DG Environment of the European Commission**
- Mr. Manuel SAPIANO, **Executive Director, Energy and Water Agency (EWA), Malta**
- Mr Yannick POCHON (**Office International de l'Eau - OiEau**)
- Mr Cyrille BARNERIAS (**French Office for Biodiversity**)
- Ms Céline KARASINSKI (**EIP AGRI**)
- Mr Nicolas SURDYK (**BRGM – Project Fairway**)
- M. Ramiro MARTNEZ COSTA (**REMOB**)
- Dr. Eric TARDIEU, **Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)**

PROGRAM AND PRESENTATIONS

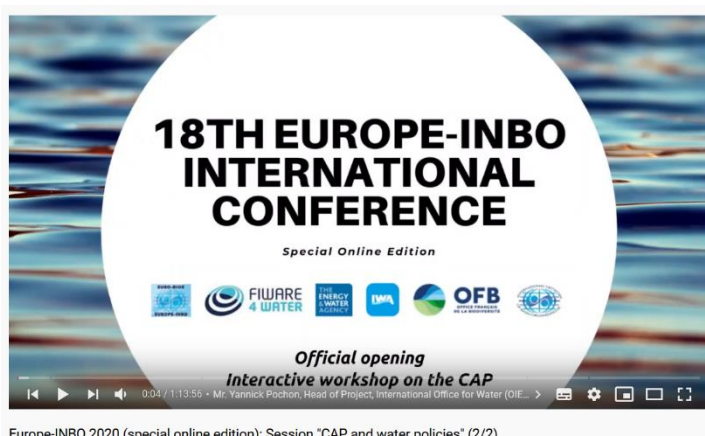
<https://www.riob.org/en/events/europe-inbo-2020>

OPENING AND SESSION "CAP AND WATER POLICIES" (1/2)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nnj8ctQrgUQ&list=PLMDb_q2pav_NjLbbsEq09jBQIFH9yoghS&index=10

SESSION "CAP AND WATER POLICIES" (2/2)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwtQZdY6i8M&list=PLMDb_q2pav_NjLbbsEq09jBQIFH9yoghS&index=9



Europe-INBO 2020 (special online edition): Session "CAP and water policies" (2/2)

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