

Does the CAP support the UN's SDGs?

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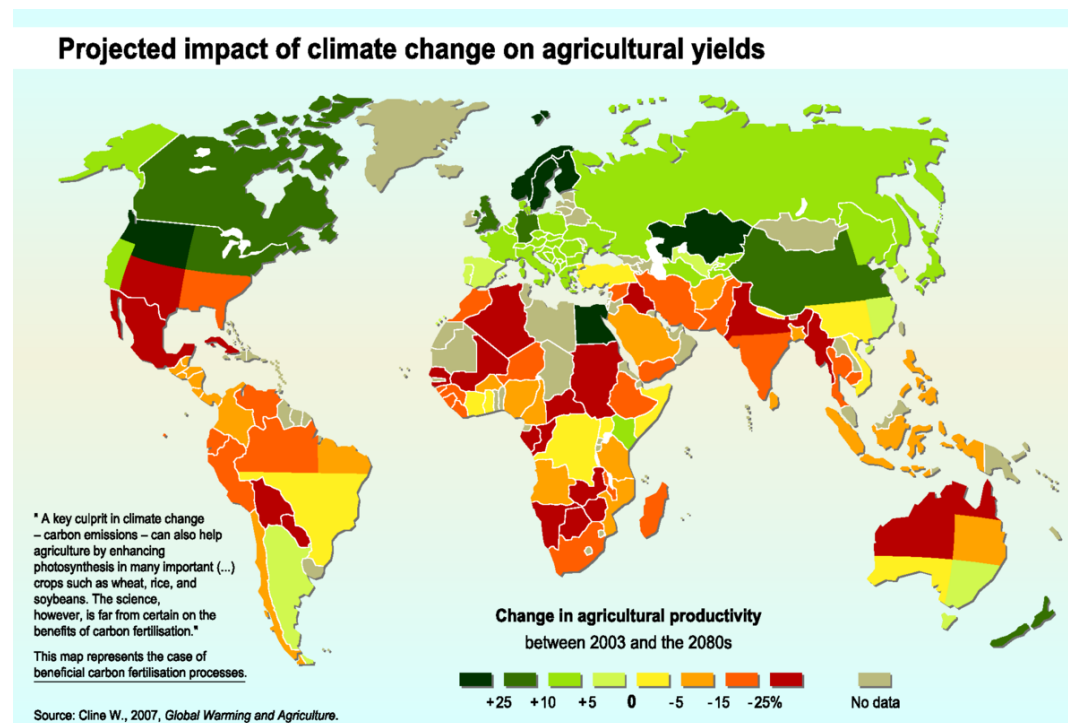
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Sustainability in a broader sense

Requires acknowledging...

- Social, economic and environmental dimension
- Agriculture as a Socio-Ecological System
- The CAP as a whole
- Impacts across all scales, in and beyond the EU



Source: Cline 2007. Taken from website:

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a9/Projected_impact_of_climate_change_on_agricultural_yields_by_the_2080s_compared_to_2003_levels_\(Cline,_2007\).png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a9/Projected_impact_of_climate_change_on_agricultural_yields_by_the_2080s_compared_to_2003_levels_(Cline,_2007).png)

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Methods:

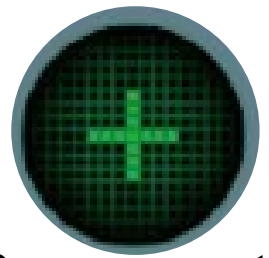
- Assignment of papers based on topics
- Separation between direct and indirect effects
- Scoring based on overall CAP effects

replies could range from yes to „cannot deliver“

yes
some support
Limited support
not sufficient
cannot deliver
n.a.

SDG 1: No Poverty

SDG 2: Zero Hunger



Some support

Caveat: extreme poverty or food security are not key challenges in the EU → global relevance

In the EU: CAP supports incomes and wellbeing through DP and RDP

- improves farm economy; subsidises poorer MSs

Weaknesses:

- Unequal distribution of payments
- low accessibility for the poorest
- strong leakages away from farmers

Impacts on developing countries:

- Market distortions reduced, export subsidies abolished, improved access to markets

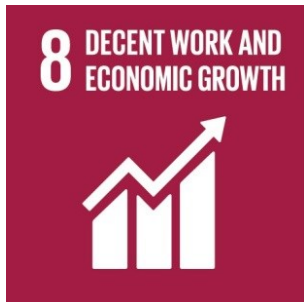
Weaknesses:

- developing countries and poor farmers therein benefit least
- Impacts through environmental degradation must be considered too

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

SDG 5: Gender equality



Caveat with the assumption that growth is desirable and attainable

Positive

- Seems to reduce the speed of employment decline
- Supports organic farming (“green growth” agenda)
- Young farmers’ scheme

Weaknesses:

- Agricultural employment continues to decline
- Remaining challenges in rural vitality, generational renewal, unemployment among youth
- Does not explicitly promote sustainable intensification where need be.



Limited support



Positive:

- Subsidies to support (more) balanced territorial development
- Support for areas with natural or other specific constraints
- Some support for young farmers.

Weaknesses:

- highly unequal allocation of payments
- low accessibility of funding for smallholders
- Payment inequality in new MS has even increased
- Gender inequality: no targeted funding (*but: not assessed*)



Limited support

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

SDG 12: Sustainable consumption and production

SDG 11: sustainable cities and communities



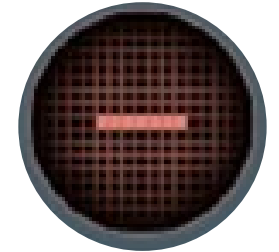
Caveat: health relates to a) pollution, b) food quality, c) mental well-being

Positive:

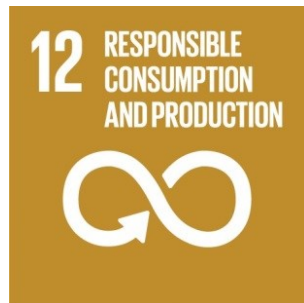
- CC, Organic farming, School schemes
- AECM promote preservation of aesthetic recreational lands

Weaknesses:

- Few mechanisms to address unhealthy diets, obesity, and health issues relating to these
- Over-proportional subsidies for animal products (70% share)



Not sufficient

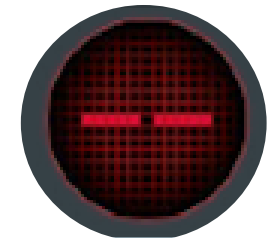


Positive:

Reduced problems of overproduction by decoupling

Weaknesses:

- No targeted instruments to address
 - unhealthy diets, obesity (and related health issues)
 - Food waste (20% of production)
- Animal products over-proportionally subsidised
- Increasing global footprint („virtual land“)
- Recent recoupling



Does not support SDG

Indirect contribution to consumption behaviour come in conflict SDG 12

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

SDG 15: Life on land



Caveat: relates to the WFD and Nitrate Directive.

Positive:

- Designated mechanisms exist (CC, AECM)
- Demonstrated local successes
- Reduction in pollution in some old MSs

Weaknesses:

Increasing use of agrochemicals in new MSs

Limited budgets and implementation and weak sanctions do not scale up to halt the overall negative trends of environmental degradation.



Limited support

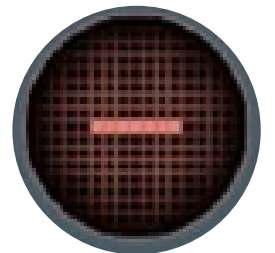


Positive:

- Targeted instruments exist (CC, AECM)
- Demonstrated local successes but also mixed outcomes

Weaknesses:

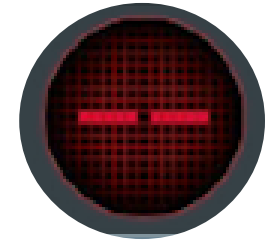
- Insufficient support for HNV farming
- Greening unlikely to reverse the trends of farming intensification.



Not sufficient

Continued intensification, partly supported by CAP subsidies, is unlikely to halt or reverse declines in biodiversity and ESS

SDG 13: Climate Action



Does not support SDG

Positive:

- Some AECM options support climate-change mitigation
- Some EFA options support GHG reduction if leading to land-use change (e.g. N-fixing crops)

Weaknesses:

- No CAP instruments to deal with main sources of GHG emissions
- Inclusion in AECM is marginal to needs, especially with reduced budget
- Global footprint especially from feedstock imports → export of land-use changes not addressed
- **(Re)coupling and over-proportional support of animal product conflict SDG 13.**

Caveats:

some GHG emissions not listed in the CAP and not reported to UNFCCC

We did not evaluate

- climate-change adaptation potential
- Contributions to forest restoration and afforestation

Key lessons on sustainability and the SDGs

- 1. Sustainability along its social, economic and environmental dimensions has not been achieved and is unlikely to be achieved under current CAP design**
 - not sufficiently equipped for addressing the challenges of agricultural sustainability
 - does not act to moderate current trends of agricultural intensification
 - lack of support for sustainable intensification where need be
 - Small farmers receive insufficient support and incentives to deliver public goods
- 2. The failure to reduce the global ecological footprint caused by European consumption sets a major barrier in meeting the SDGs**
- 3. Adoption of SDGs by the EU requires rethinking how can the CAP deliver**
 - SDG indicators (wellbeing, farm economy, equity, biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, climate)
 - Hidden tradeoffs between CAP instruments
 - Thinking along the entire food supply chain and strengthening farmer's role therein
- 4. The CAP lacks policy packages that would link diverging objectives and instruments. "Sustainability" could offer one**
 - Likely to result in higher effectiveness, efficiency and public acceptance.

Closing remarks

Rapid scoping and literature assessment , with limited human resources

- A limited proportion of the literature reached
- Important topics and SDGs of relevance not (yet) covered
- Not all CAP instruments assessed

A strong knowledge-base and a rigorous, transparent assessment, as a foundation for

- a broader Fitness Check complementing current processes
- a more informed dialogue
- A more inclusive process including also the scientific community

To make best use of knowledge for optimising the spending of nearly €60 Billions/yr

Towards a

- **modern, simpler, and smarter CAP**
- **which will support a healthy and sustainable European agriculture**

Acknowledgements

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