



MINECROP

WP2 - Raising awareness of sustainable crop farming techniques

DESK RESEARCH (SPAIN)

National situation regarding sustainable agriculture + legal framework

Spanish agriculture is characterised by a high contribution to the country's economy, with the primary sector accounting for 2.9% of the country's economy (total GVA). Spanish agriculture is highly varied, with significant diversity in climate, topography, and soil conditions. This results in significant differences in types of farming between territories. Vegetables and horticulture, fruit and pigmeat are the most important sectors in terms of production value. Spain is responsible for half of the EU's production of olives and for one third of fruit.

Spain has designed a strategy that combines national and regional elements. This will provide support to all farmers with a fair approach, while taking into account regional specificities. The Spanish CAP Plan seeks the sustainable development of farming, food, and rural areas, ensuring food security through a competitive agri-food sector. To reach this objective, the consolidation of a lively rural environment will be a key focus, thanks to a wide range of measures aimed at contributing to environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

According to the legal basis, [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2115](#) establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by EU countries under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans).



Climate neutrality – plans for the future in the country

The new CAP, to be applied from 2023 to 2027, retains the essential elements of the previous CAP, but shifts from being a policy based on describing the requirements that final beneficiaries of aid must meet to being a policy oriented towards achieving specific results, linked to three general objectives:

- Promoting a smart, competitive, resilient, and diversified agricultural sector that ensures long-term food security;
- Supporting and strengthening environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action and contributing to achieving the Union's environmental and climate objectives, including commitments under the Paris Agreement;
- Strengthening the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.

These general objectives are further broken down into nine specific objectives, based on the three pillars of sustainability and complemented by a common cross-cutting objective of modernizing the agricultural sector through knowledge, innovation, and digitalization in rural areas.

One of the main novelties of the CAP 2023–2027 is that all Member States must have a Strategic Plan for the CAP outlining the interventions or measures intended to achieve the objectives of the CAP and the ambition of the European Green Deal. The design of these interventions is based on a thorough analysis of the needs of the agricultural sector and rural areas as a whole. In this way, it is intended that the CAP responds better to present and future challenges, such as climate change or generational renewal, while continuing to support farmers to achieve a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector.

On this website, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food collects all information related to Spain's Strategic Plan for the CAP (PEPAC), already approved, and the process of its elaboration. It also contains informative materials about the content of the Plan.



Crop situation regarding ecology

Climate change is already taking its toll on Spanish agriculture. Over 550 million euros, or 6% of Spain's agricultural production value, is lost annually. This is the outcome of "The countdown is on," the first significant enlightening investigation. effects of climate change on Spanish agriculture, published by a group of farmers.

Climate change is one of the great challenges for agriculture and food, given that the consequences of rising temperatures could modify the fragile balance in which many crops are grown. This risk is greater in the Mediterranean countries, one of the regions most affected by global warming, and specifically in Spain, where 75% of its surface area is already at risk of desertification.

At present, agricultural insurance's claims ratio for extreme weather events can result in a loss of at least 6% of the value of agricultural production each year. Climate change would increase the intensity and frequency of these events. In addition, the decrease in vegetation cover due to rising temperatures and decreasing precipitation, combined with its concentration in the form of heavy rainfall, could increase soil erosion and further increase the risk of desertification.

So, the effects of climate change on Spanish agriculture are already being felt severely, with over 550 million euros in losses yearly—roughly 6% of the value of the nation's agricultural output. The groundbreaking study "The countdown is on," carried out by a group of farmers, highlights this terrible truth. The delicate balance of crop production is seriously threatened by the effects of climate change, especially in Mediterranean nations like Spain where 75% of the land is already at risk of desertification. The issues encountered by farmers are made worse by the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather occurrences, as demonstrated by the rising ratio of agricultural insurance claims.



Bibliography

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