

## POLAND

### Program Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2007-2013

(Programme for Development of Rural Regions 2007-2013)

*(The text of this summary sheet was finalised in November 2010 in accordance with the version of the RDP that was current at this time)*

### Relevant Contact Details

**Address:**

Wspólna Street No. 30,  
00-930 Warsaw,  
Poland

**Telephone number:** +48 22 623 10 00

**E-mail:** [Rzecznicz.Prasowy@minrol.gov.pl](mailto:Rzecznicz.Prasowy@minrol.gov.pl)

**Managing Authority Website:** <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/>

**Other useful links:**

Rural Development Programme (RDP):

(English version, July 2007) <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/index.php?eng/content/view/full/18575>

Polish version (March 2010) <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/pol/Wsparcie-rolnictwa-i-rybolowstwa/PROW-2007-2013/PROW-na-lata-2007-2013/Dokumenty-PROW-2007-2013/PROW-2007-2013/Program-Rozwoju-Obszarow-Wiejskich-2007-2013>

National Strategy Plan (NSP):

English version (July 2007) <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/index.php?eng/content/view/full/18575>

Polish version (November 2009) <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/pol/Wsparcie-rolnictwa-i-rybolowstwa/PROW-2007-2013/PROW-na-lata-2007-2013/Dokumenty-PROW-2007-2013/KPS-ROW-2007-2013>

National Rural Network (NRN): <http://www.ksow.pl/>



### Climate Change and Renewable Energy issues in 2007-2013 RDP

Climate change (CC) is fundamental to the context for agriculture and policy making. EU agriculture must play an important role in mitigating this phenomenon by curbing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; at the same time it needs to adapt to the expected climatic adversities which will have serious consequences on production processes. Rural development offers a range of possibilities to support farming practices and investments that can contribute to climate change *mitigation* efforts (including the increase of the use of *Renewable Energy* (RE) resources) and additionally effect *adaptation* benefits. CC challenges have been well recognized in the baseline analysis of the 2007-2013 EU Rural Development Programmes (RDP) and addressed in their strategies. Following the Health Check (HC) of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the 'new challenges' of the RD policy include 'climate change' and 'renewable energy' for which an additional budget of approximately €1 billion<sup>1</sup> have been made available for Member States (MS) to spend on these issues<sup>2</sup>. As a consequence, the operations related to these newly introduced EU priorities have been further strengthened in the RDPs.

<sup>1</sup> 19.8% of the total additional funds released.

<sup>2</sup> The budget allocated to the 'new challenges' includes the funds released by the HC of the CAP (including voluntary modulation and transfers according to Art. 136 of regulation (EC) N. 73/2009) and the European Economic Recovery Package (EERP).

## **Introduction - overview of the Polish RDP**

All the three dimensions of climate change (mitigation, adaptation and the potential for renewable energies) are addressed by the baseline analysis provided in the Polish RDP. These three aspects have been considered and correspondingly addressed in the RDP strategy and within the implemented measures.

As far as greenhouse gases (GHGs) are concerned, although agricultural producers have reduced some forms of gaseous emissions (notably ammonia), further work is required to mitigate climate change and to meet international agreements. This includes the better retention of carbon through appropriate forestry management (such as protection against forest fires) and promotion of technologies to develop renewable energies and to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This will also be influenced by measures which include improve the infrastructure of agricultural holdings to help contain and manage such pollutants and strengthen agri-environment standards.

Moreover, the RDP recognises international climate change commitments in relation to national energy effectiveness; promotion of sustainable silviculture to ensure absorption and retention of green house gases; promotion of sustainable agriculture; promotion of technologies that use renewable energy sources and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Carbon sequestration by soils under sustainable farming is regarded as significant by the RDP. However, the diminishing organic carbon (humus) as well as peat soils mineralisation is a source of carbon dioxide emissions.

The RDP notes that Poland's forests play a significant role in carbon sequestration and that reforestation will further support this. Measure under Axis 2 which aid such activities on agricultural and non-agricultural land will therefore help prevent climate change.

The renewable energy sector is considered to be on the verge of dynamic development with energy sources include biomass, wind, sun and geothermal wells. Potential support for the sector is available from various sources, including RDP funding the modernisation of agricultural holdings and diversification of the rural economy.

Various other aspects of the strategy do not mention climate change, but nonetheless focus upon relevant activities.

Although Poland is regarded as poor in water resources, the level of investment in water management systems is considered inadequate to fulfil their intended purposes. Furthermore, preparation for droughts and other mechanisms for dealing with water shortages have not received the necessary attention to deliver an appropriate response in times of crisis. In addition, water pollution from agricultural sources is problematic, including nitrates and pesticides. Overall, it has been suggested that water may become the limiting factor for agricultural production – although paradoxically, flooding has caused serious problems as a result of torrential downpours which have significantly tested the outdated flood embankments.

A significant gap exists between the existing technical infrastructure (including environmental infrastructure) in Poland and other EU Member States. This includes inadequate livestock buildings and manure storage facilities, many of which are causing water pollution problems, as well as compromising animal welfare. Relevant adaptations are required to meet environmental standards.

The RDP supports the development of integrated production techniques and the participation of Polish farmers in the "Integrated Production" (IP) scheme. The RDP notes that this approach enables the production of high quality products with a reduced environmental impact, although

in recent years the area of land that has been entered into the IP scheme has declined. However, the organic farming sector has undergone rapid growth thanks to favourable policies and, due to the inherent environmental benefits associated with this growth, organic production continues to be targeted for further support in the RDP strategy.

A large portion of farmers face unfavourable natural conditions for agricultural production including weak and acidified soils, low precipitation, poor water retention and a short growing season. As such, potential land abandonment is a threat, which would lead to degradation of the rural landscape and plant and animal biodiversity.

Poland's biodiversity is claimed to be one of the most abundant and diverse in Europe. This has been sustained by traditional farming methods which have included the use of extensive farming practices, primitive crops and farm animal breeds. Moreover, biodiversity has benefited from the maintenance of large permanent forests as well as sustainable forestry management which has carefully introduced multispecies and resistant tree types. Consequently, high nature value farming and forestry are important concepts in the Polish RDP.

Soil quality is also reported to be variable with many areas affected by negative agricultural impacts and land management, including lack of crop rotations, excessive acidification, contamination and erosion.

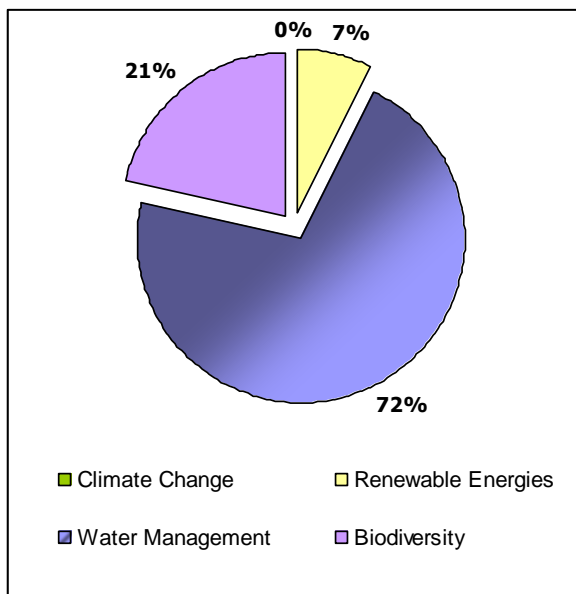
The modifications introduced by the CAP HC and incorporated in the updated 2009 RDP have further aligned the RDP strategy towards improving water management, developing renewable energies and enhancing biodiversity.

With regard to improving water management, the HC revisions noted that additional support would be prioritised towards the construction of water retention infrastructure. A large proportion of Polish soil has low water retention capacity and droughts have frequently occurred. The additional resources will be used to recreate the land's natural water retention capacity, particularly with regard to counteracting soil dehydration and the "renaturalisation" of peat land and water courses.

Additional support will also be targeted at developing renewable energy sources given the long-term challenges which climate change presents. Projects will therefore be initiated relating to generating energy from biomass, sun, wind and geothermal energy.

In addition, the HC revisions emphasise the requirement to enhance the protection of biodiversity. This will facilitate protection projects that cover areas both inside and outside of Natura 2000 sites.

## Allocation of the additional resources per type of priority



The overall budget of the Polish RDP in terms of total public expenditure amounts to €17,417,472,996 of which €13,398,928,156 comprises the EAFRD contribution. This includes an additional allocation of €168,890,000 (EAFRD contribution) as a result of the new challenges raised by the HC and the adoption of The European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP). These new financial supports should be considered in addition to the initial RDP which was already addressing issues linked with the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Full details of the overall RDP budget allocation can be found in the RDP fiche for Poland that is available at:

[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-information/rural-development-policy-fiches/en/rural-development-policy-fiches\\_home\\_en.cfm](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-development-policy/country-information/rural-development-policy-fiches/en/rural-development-policy-fiches_home_en.cfm)

## Mitigation

### *Activities aimed at reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions*

The Polish RDP provides support for a range of activities which contribute towards reducing agricultural emissions (such as improved storage of animal manures and organic production methods), improving soil conservation techniques (such as support for growing catch crops) as well as protecting and enhancing forests in order to encourage better carbon sequestration.

Although the strategy and overall objectives of the RDP clearly acknowledge the importance of these mitigation actions, these are not always explicitly reiterated at measure level.

A measure which is clearly linked to mitigation is first afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land (merged measures 221 and 223) which supports schemes aimed at enlarging and maintaining the area of forest land. These schemes have a number of specific objectives, including an explicit reference to increased carbon sequestration and the "increased participation of forests in the global carbon balance and restriction of climate change".

Another key measure for developing mitigation activities, and which includes reference to climate change mitigation, is **measure 214** (agri-environment payments). This measure aims to contribute to sustainable development by promoting production methods in line with meeting requirements to protect the environment. This includes encouraging farms to introduce more sustainable management practices such as organic production systems; maintenance of extensive permanent grassland; soil and water protection techniques such as the under-sowing of winter cover crops, and; the creation of buffer zones to limit the leaching and run-off of polluting substances. The anticipated impact of these activities are stated as reversing biodiversity decline, reducing climate change, improving water quality and maintaining high nature value farming systems.

Support provided by **measure 121** (modernisation of agricultural holdings) provides aid to assist with the capital investment needed to reduce the negative environmental impacts (e.g. water pollution and gaseous emissions) often associated with larger, more intensively managed

farms. A good example of this is the support available for the modernization of manure management facilities and equipment, both for solid manures and liquid slurries, in line with EU standards.

**Measure 226** (restoring forestry production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention instruments) will grant financial assistance for activities which will support the restoration of forests destroyed by biotic and abiotic factors and introduce mechanisms to prevent forest fires. This includes projects for the preparation of forest reproductive material; cultivation and protection of nurseries; and enhancement of fire protection systems. Although this measure does explicitly refer to climate change, it will support the maintenance of a greater area of forest land which will contribute to carbon sequestration.

Measures 111 (vocational training for person employed in agriculture and forestry) and 114 (advisory services for farmers and forest owners) aim to provide professional training and advisory services to farmers and foresters about environmentally-friendly production techniques in farming and forestry. Neither measure explicitly mentions climate change issues, but given the focus of other measures it seems likely that there will be some support provided for mitigation actions.

## Adaptation

### *Prevention of, and coping with, potential impacts of climate change on agriculture*

In terms of adapting to cope with the potential impacts of climate change, a number of actions are eligible for support through the RDP.

One of the key measures for supporting the development of adaptation activities is **measure 214** (agri-environment payments). This measure aims to support biological and landscape diversity as the basis for coping with the anticipated impact of climate change and for maintaining rural areas in good agricultural and environmental condition. Relevant sub-measures include encouraging farms to introduce methods for protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats outside of Natura 2000 areas; protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats in Natura 2000 areas; preservation of endangered genetic plant resources; preservation of endangered genetic animal resources. The HC provides additional support for protecting biodiversity inside and outside of Natura 2000 sites.

**Measure 125** (Improvement and development of infrastructure related to the development and adjustment of agriculture and forestry) is not explicitly linked to climate change, but nonetheless aims to improve water supply/efficiency. Eligible activities for improved water resource management in agriculture include the construction or modernisation of gravity irrigation systems; improvement of facilities for water retention/storage, such as reservoirs; construction and modernisation of water inflow and outflow facilities; improved protection against floods; and improved use of water for agricultural purposes. Furthermore, the HC provides additional support for procuring water retention equipment; counter-acting soil dehydration, and; the "renaturalisation" of peats and water courses.

Another measure which may support adaptation activities is **measure 121** (modernisation of agricultural holdings). This includes support for the modernization or adaptation of farm buildings which might be used to improve ventilation systems etc. in livestock buildings.

Interestingly, **measures 211** (natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas) and **212** (payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas) which aim to help prevent depopulation and land abandonment are also anticipated as supporting adaptation to climate change.

### Main RDP measures which contribute to address CC mitigation/adaptation issues

Axis/Measure	Description	Type of operation	Potential effects
<b>Axis 1</b>			
Measure 121	Modernisation of agricultural holdings	Investments to modernise holdings to meet requirements for environmental protection. This includes infrastructure for limiting the escape of nitrogen and for storing fertiliser; and animal welfare.	Increased number of farms receiving support and introducing new techniques that improve environmental protection, such as limiting gaseous emissions.
Measure 125	Improvement and development of infrastructure related to the development and adjustment of agriculture and forestry.	Delivery of a scheme for agriculture water resource management in relation to construction of irrigation systems; improvement of land facilities for water retention such as reservoirs; construction and modernisation of water inflow and outflow facilities; improved protection against floods; improved use of water for agricultural purposes.	Enhancement of water management (supply and efficiency of use) on a significant area of agricultural land.
<b>Axis 2</b>			
Measure 221 and 223	First afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land	Delivery of two afforestation schemes which aim to extend and maintain forest land.	This will lead to the enlargement and maintenance of forest land with a subsequent increase in carbon sequestration
Measure 214	Agri-environment payments	This measure encourages a range of more sustainable farming practices with specific objectives to protect endangered bird species and natural habitats in Natura 2000 areas; preserve endangered genetic plant and animal resources; encourage organic farming systems; maintain extensively managed permanent grassland; protect soil and water resources, and; establish buffer zones.	This measure will both help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage more diverse and resilient farming systems with greater capacity to adapt to climate change.
Measure 226	Restoring forestry production potential damaged by natural	Activities support the restoration of forests destroyed by biotic and	This measure will support the maintenance of a greater area of forest land

Axis/Measure	Description	Type of operation	Potential effects
	disasters and introducing appropriate prevention instruments	abiotic factors and introduce mechanisms to prevent forest fires. This includes projects for the preparation of forest reproductive material; cultivation and protection of nurseries; and enhancement of fire protection systems.	which will contribute to carbon sequestration
Measures 211 and 212	Support of management in mountain areas and areas with natural handicaps	Aims to prevent depopulation in mountain and less favoured rural areas in order to prevent negative environmental effects and to maintain environmentally friendly sustainable farming.	These measures will encourage the continued maintenance of farming systems in mountain areas and their potential adaptation to climate change

## Renewable energies

*Electricity, heating and transport fuels produced from biomass (such as biofuels, biogas) and other renewable sources (solar, wind, geothermal)*

The Polish RDP specifically encourages the development of the renewable energy sector. Axis 3 is particularly important and aims to enhance the capacity of the renewable energy sector by a) supporting the emergence of microenterprises and employment in the field and b) developing the technical infrastructure for the production and distribution of renewable energy.

**Measure 311** (diversification into non-agricultural activities) aims to develop non-agricultural income sources and employment, including the production of bio-energy products (biomass and bio-gas), whilst **measure 312** (establishment and development of microenterprises) supports the set-up and development of microenterprises in various sectors, including the production of energy products from biomass. Both measures aim to support economic growth in rural areas and the creation of more jobs, but could also contribute significantly to expansion of the renewable energy sector in Poland.

Meanwhile, the implementation of activities under **measure 321** (*basic services for the economy and rural population*) will provide technical infrastructure including the production and distribution of renewable energy (such as energy from wind, water, geothermal sources, sun, biogas and biomass). The scope of the projects will cover investment costs, purchase of materials and construction services. The HC provides additional support for infrastructure installation connected to biomass production and other renewable energy sources.

Axis 1 also provides some support for the processing of agricultural products for renewable energy purposes.

The "scope" of **measure 121** (modernisation of agricultural holdings) explicitly states that investments in technologies for the production and use of energy from renewable sources for agricultural production is eligible under the measure. Additionally, **measure 123** (adding value of basic agricultural and forestry production) aims to increase the competitiveness of enterprises by supporting investments for the processing of agricultural products for energy purposes.

### Main implemented RDP measures related to the development of RE sources

Axis/Measure	Description	Type of operation	Potential effects
<b>Axis 1</b>			
Measure 121	Modernisation of agricultural holdings	Investments in the modernisation of infrastructure for the production and use of renewable energies.	Increase in the number of farms receiving support and introducing new techniques/technologies targeted towards the development and use of renewable energy.
Measure 123	Adding value of basic agricultural and forestry products	Developing competitiveness by supporting investments for the processing of agricultural products for energy purposes.	Increase in the number of firms receiving support and introducing new techniques/technologies targeted towards the development and use of renewable energy.
<b>Axis 3</b>			
Measure 311	Diversification in non-agricultural activities	Development of non-agricultural income sources and employment which encompasses production of energy products from biomass.	Increase in the number of jobs connected to the production of renewable energy from biomass.
Measure 312	Establishment and development of microenterprises	The set-up and development microenterprises will be targeted in sectors including the production of energy products from biomass.	This will lead to an increase in the number jobs including the production of energy products from biomass.
Measure 321	Basic services for the economy and rural population	Implementation of activities under will provide technical infrastructure including for the production and distribution of renewable energy such as energy from wind, water, geothermal sources, sun, biogas and biomass.	This will lead to an improvement of rural services and an increase in the quantity and distribution of energy produced by renewable sources.