



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

PEAK PERFORMANCE

New Insights into Mountain Farming in the European Union

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Consistency of Rural Development

- **CAP was the first EU policy to specifically address mountain regions**
- **Since 1975 needs and policy instruments have significantly developed**
- **European Parliament Resolution of 23 September 2008 on the situation and outlook for hill and mountain farming**
- **Lisbon Treaty: specific mention to mountain areas**

Objectives



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- *Provide an updated insight into the situation of mountain farming in the EU*
- *Increase the visibility of the support tools available*
- *Make a contribution to the debate launched by the EP*
- *Contribute to the forthcoming discussions on the CAP after 2013 as well as to the wider debate on territorial cohesion.*
- *N.B.: the analysis focuses on the agricultural sector and does not bring forward specific policy options*

Analysis



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1. *Situation of mountain farming: FSS, FADN, expert hearings*
2. *Policy tools available: RDPs screening, CAP-Idim, CATS, expert hearings*
 - *16 NSPs & 60 RDPS concerned*
 - *SWOT analysis in NSPs*
 - *Measures that specifically address mountain farming (8 most popular measures)*
 - *Supplementary potential: 5 measures in particular*

Results (recommendations)



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- Fully exploit the potential offered by the CAP to increase farm competitiveness
- Tailor the 'top down' measures available
- Promote integrated bottom-up approaches based on public-private territorial cooperation (include transborder) involving the local population
- Improve the coordination with structural funds and with surrounding areas
- Enhance innovation and capacity building in mountain areas, involving the local population
- Maintain flexibility for Member States

Next steps



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1. *Give more visibility to the support instruments currently available for mountain farming;*
2. *Assess feasibility of optional reserved term for 'product of mountain farming';*
3. *Develop the study of land abandonment indicators;*
4. *Examine maximum aid amounts of the aid under LFA scheme and AEM;*
5. *Use RDPs mid-term evaluation to appraise the targeting on mountain areas of all the potential offered by the current rural development policy;*
6. *Contribute to the discussions within the Convention of the Alps*