Measure 221 – First afforestation of agricultural land

Basic Information:
Measure 221 – First afforestation of agricultural land

Programmed total public expenditure, 2007-2013 (EU 27): €2.6 billion (of which €1.7 billion EAFRD contribution).

Actual total public expenditure, 2007 to 2013 (EU 27): €2.1 billion or 79.6% of the programmed expenditure for 2007-2013. (Figure 1 shows the financial implementation up to 2013, whereas the output data presented below are up to 2012).

Definition of output indicators of the measure:
1) “Number of beneficiaries receiving afforestation aid” - refers to the number of private persons or public authorities receiving support to cover establishment / maintenance costs due to afforestation of their agricultural land.

2) “Number of hectares of afforested land“ – refers to the total amount of hectares of agricultural land that has been afforested.

Measure 221 – Number of beneficiaries receiving afforestation aid from 2007 to 2012*

*Data refer to the Member States for which information on the number of hectares of afforested land was available.

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During the first six years of implementation, almost 29,600 beneficiaries have been supported across EU by measure 221 (see figure 2). This number accounts for 26% of the number of beneficiaries envisaged to receive support for the period 2007-2013 at the EU27 level (see figure 3).

By 2012, Spain and Poland had supported the largest number of beneficiaries among the MS (almost 6,700 both in Spain and Poland) reaching the 41% and 28% of their national targets on number of beneficiaries to be supported in the current programming period.

The United Kingdom is the most advanced MS in terms of implementation. The number of supported beneficiaries exceeds its national target level of beneficiaries for 2007-2013.

Denmark and Cyprus have also supported beneficiaries under measure 221 with an implementation rate between 50-56%.

During the six years of implementation, almost 260,500 of hectares of agricultural land had been afforested across EU through measure 221 (see figure 4). The number accounts for almost 46% of the overall number of hectares of agricultural land envisaged to receive support for the period 2007-2013 at the EU27 level (see figure 5).

By 2012, the United Kingdom had supported the largest area (in hectares) among the MS. The around 144,000 hectares supported account for more than 100% of the national envisaged target for the whole programming period.

In terms of number of hectares supported, Spain, Hungary and Poland follow with around 35,000, 26,000 and 25,000 hectares respectively.

Considering overall progress against 2007-2013 targets, Denmark and Lithuania show the highest implementation rates (around 45%) after the United Kingdom.

*Data refer to the Member States for which information on the number of animal welfare contracts was available.
Key facts and figures

Measure 221 is programmed in 64 out of the 88 Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) across the EU 27.

Overall, Spain has allocated the highest RDP budget (programmed total public expenditure) to measure 221 - first afforestation of agricultural land - accounting for €616 million (see figure 6).

Among the new Member States, Poland, Hungary and Lithuania have programmed a significant budget for the measure equal to €294.5 million, €244 million and €50 million respectively.

The Member States which have allocated the largest shares of their Axis 2 – Improving the environment and the countryside through land management – budget to measure 221 are Portugal and Hungary with almost 15% each.

Source of the data:
1) Programmed expenditures 2007-2013: RDP budget allocation following Health Check revision (December 2013)
2) Expenditures 2007-2013: DG AGRI
4) Output targets 2007-2013: DG AGRI

For further detailed information on financial / physical and output indicators data please refer to the dedicated ENRD website section on Monitoring Indicators.