

Public debate on the Common Agricultural policy after 2013

As a member of the Coordination Committee I hereby bring in the points of view from a Danish regional level.

The contribution includes points of view from 4 out of 5 danish regions. The one region that didn't contribute is the region covering the Copenhagen area. It means that this contribution from the Danish regional level excepting the Copenhagen area represents the regional level covering most of Danish rural areas.

The contribution is made from inputs from the regional rural development network and the regional food network under Danish Regions, representing regional authorities working with regional development. The contribution is made by an email-call within these networks.

This contribution describes how the Danish regions see the CAP/RDP, how the instruments can be more efficient and how the administration can be improved.

What should be the objectives of the future rural development policy?

The objective of the future CAP must be:

- Strengthening the development in rural areas by:
 - Strengthening the business possibilities in the rural areas both for the agricultural sector as well as other sectors, fore example tourism, production and service-businesses as well as production of green energy as well as green technologies.
 - Strengthening the quality of life in rural areas.

The objectives can be realized by:

- Agricultural development including and as an integrated part of
 - Regional development as a tool for development in all regions as well as the whole of EU also strengthening development in the rural areas.
 - Production of high quality food also used together with local history in developing new experiences/tourism industries in rural areas
- Developing the rural potential for production of green energy but also producing as well as testing clean-tech products
- Setting up a broad educational toolbox addressing the educational needs in rural areas; fewer occupations in agricultural sector combined with a lower educational rate in rural areas.
- Facing the rural needs of methods for knowledge as a tool for development, fore example clusters and networks
- Addressing the structural challenges the rural areas meet as a consequence of the changes in the agricultural sector (Setting up a toolbox addressing the rural areas challenges going from industry society to knowledge society). It calls for the possibility to work with rural development as cross sector process including important types off organisation, ex. educational institutions as well as developing business opportunities in other sectors than

the agricultural sector in order to keep a future rural business development and job opportunities possible at the same level as now.

How can the policy instruments be made more effective?

The policy instruments can be made more effective by:

- Further addressing the cross sector challenges the rural areas meet; lower educational level, fewer service businesses, higher level off production businesses, infrastructure.
- Further integration and cohesion between CAP/RDP and the structural funds.
- Acknowledgement of the need off new ways off thinking in order to develop rural areas and tools that makes that possible, fore example analysis and pilot projects.
- A wider use of RDP's business possibilities aiming at broader business development (addressing the business challenges in rural areas not mainly focused on primary sector).
- Consider how the RDP can initiate (bigger) strategic initiatives aiming at the broader structural challenges the rural areas meet, and focusing on the broader business development.

LEADER is a strong tool for local engagement. Especially concerning LEADER the administrative setup should be as flexible as possible.

Evaluation can be implemented in RDP as an important tool of developing methods and learnings about rural development. This should be implemented as a process in the program as well as bringing the knowledge out.

The policy instruments can be strengthened by modulating further from pillar 1 to pillar 2, so the pillar 2 holds more than 10 % off the CAP.

How can the management of the policy be improved?

The management of the policy can be improved by:

- Less sector oriented management.
- Better cohesion between structural funds and CAP that will improve a cross sectorial, integrated management that will strengthen the EU-funding ability to address and initiate successfull rural development creating new and long term business development and jobs and through this quality of life in rural areas.