

## **Agriculture and climate change**

*Possibilities to reduce agricultural emissions*

### **Agenda:**

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| 09.00 – 09.30 | <b>Arrival, registration</b>   |
| 09.30 – 09.45 | <b>Opening the workshop, introducing the EUKI project</b><br>Presenter: Orsolya Nyárai, CEEweb for Biodiversity  |
| 09.45 – 10.30 | <b>Potential ways to reduce agricultural emissions</b><br>Presenter: Dr. Zsolt Hetesi, National University of Public Service   |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | <b>The role of agroforestry in sustainable land use and in the adaptation to climate change</b><br>Presenter: Dr. Andrea Vityi, University of Sopron   |
| 11.00 - 11.15 | <i>Coffee break</i>  |
| 11.15 – 12.15 | <b>Agricultural emissions reduction in Hungary and the post-2020 CAP</b><br>Presenter: Dr. Anikó Juhász, Deputy State Secretary responsible for agricultural economy - Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture |
| 12.15 – 13.00 | <i>Lunch break</i>   |
| 13.00 - 13.30 | <b>Interactive session: Agricultural policies (EU, national) supporting emissions reduction - Possibilities, obstacles and recommendations</b><br>Facilitator: Orsolya Nyárai, CEEweb                    |
| 13.30 – 14.00 | <b>Insect-based protein - A sustainable alternative in livestock feed</b><br>Presenter: Bence Antonovits, Pannon Pro Innovations Ltd.  |
| 14.00 – 14.30 | <b>Nutrient management and GHG emissions</b><br>Presenter: Zoltán Hajdu, SOLTUB Ltd.   |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | <b>Discussion</b><br>Facilitator: Orsolya Nyárai, CEEweb   |

**Minutes:**

Opening the workshop, Ms Orsolya Nyárai, who represents *CEEweb* in the EUKI project, introduced the project, its main objectives and results to the audience. She provided a critical description of those measures in the current Hungarian Rural Development Programme that directly or indirectly contribute to climate mitigation and detailed the recommendations that the six project partners have given on the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy and climate policies. These recommendations, that have already been disseminated to multiple high-level national and EU decision-makers as well as to the leaders of the CAP2020 Working Group in relation to Hungary's CAP Strategic Plan development, build on the following main arguments:

- promote the EU-wide adoption of agroecological farming practices
- enforce optimal nutrient management on agricultural lands
- prevent soil erosion and degradation and by the right farming practices, build soil health and fertility
- protect and manage permanent grasslands for climate and biodiversity
- help farmers adapt to a changing climate by building a resilient and diversified agriculture sector
- integrate climate, trade and agriculture policy

The workshop started with the presentation of Dr Andrea Vityi of Sopron University who demonstrated through theory and practical examples what role agroforestry can play in sustainable land use and in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. She says, if done well, an agroecological transition is possible, but policy instruments and funding opportunities need to catch up to help it achieve its full potential.

Dr Zsolt Hetesi from the National University of Public Service, shared (via Skype) his vision and hands-on experience as a farmer himself on the agriculture of the future, in which agroecological practices, cover crops, reduced tillage, soil conservation, a holistic approach and supporting policies are key and can lead to a win-win situation.

Dr Anikó Juhász, Deputy State Secretary for agricultural economy at the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, shared details on the policy development process of the future CAP, its environmental and climate targets, eco-scheme, stricter conditionality, new measures for rural development and the Hungarian Strategic Plan. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2020, the Hungarian CAP2020 Working Group organized a round-table discussion for various stakeholders, among them environmental NGOs like *CEEweb*, on the agro-environmental and climate protection aspects of the new EU agricultural policy. The roundtable was part of the development process of Hungary's Strategic Plan to the post-2020 CAP.

An interactive session has given participating stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the possibilities, obstacles and recommendations for a low-carbon national and EU agricultural sector. Lots of visionary ideas, constructive criticism and personal experience with the imperfect elements of the current system were shared. Gaps in legislation, harmful subsidies and beneficial agricultural practices not getting sufficient funding were among the most common comments. While there are more and more

events and opportunities to discuss issues related to agriculture and climate change, several participants shared their experience of always meeting the same people on these occasions, people who are mostly already aware of the challenges and potential solutions. It would be necessary to involve sectoral representatives, decision-makers in larger numbers in these constructive discussions.

Deviating from the original programme of the workshop, the next presenter, Mr Bence Antonovits of *Pannon Pro Innovations Ltd.*, presented the possibilities and ambitious objectives of a project that aims to, on one hand, promote the potential of insect-based proteins as a sustainable livestock feed alternative and, on the other hand, to build an industrial complex producing livestock feed from insect-based protein with a gradually increasing capacity. Mr Antonovits shared details on the current legislative framework on an EU level behind insect protein-based feed and how it could potentially contribute to lower GHG emissions.

Mr Zoltán Hajdu, representing *Soltub Ltd.*, held a detailed presentation on the topic of nutrient management and GHG emissions, comparing EU Member States along their livestock density, manure management, soil cultivation and the legislation behind these. He pointed out possibilities for reducing emissions both in crop production and in livestock farming. "Soil health is a national capital that should not be privatized."- he said, emphasizing that for a sustainable agriculture, fertile, healthy soils are inevitable. Mr Hajdu briefly introduced the activities of the Horizon 2020 Nutri2Cycle national nutrient management working group.

The interrelated nature of agriculture and climate change has received a surprisingly increased attention in Hungary in recent months. Last year, Hungary's Minister of Agriculture, Dr István Nagy has spoken on various occasions and has given multiple interviews on the challenges that climate change means to agriculture and especially to Hungarian farmers, calling attention to the necessity to adapt to the changed environmental and climatic conditions, and introducing new measures (mostly related to afforestation and technological modernization in the agricultural sector) with increased funding to reduce emissions from agriculture, food production and food waste.