

**An unavoidable step after Paris: cutting emissions from farming**  
**Study on cost effective climate mitigation measures in France, Germany, Spain, Ireland**  
**and Hungary (with a focus on the socio-economic parameters/barriers including the**  
**Common Agricultural Policy (CAP))**

**A call for tender from the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and**  
**BirdLife Europe**

**Context:**

Agriculture currently accounts for just over 10% of EU greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and not only does the sector contribute to climate change but it also bears one of the highest costs of climate disasters.

The 2030 climate and energy package is the EU's main tool to make the commitments made in the Paris agreement a reality. Notably, the package consists of the new Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) and rules on Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), as well as specific new plans on how to ensure European countries meet EU energy and climate targets (the Governance of the Energy Union). These three files are all now in the final stages of co-decision.

At the heart of the debate is the status of the agriculture sector which is very much perceived as a special sector where mitigation potential is limited and for which maximum flexibility should therefore be given. Yet at the same time there is mounting evidence which shows that without serious action to tackle the climate impact of the agriculture sector, the effectiveness of the climate agreement as a whole is at risk. There is also an increasing body of literature which shows that climate mitigation measures do exist and can be effective in the farming sector. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), accounting for almost 40% of the EU budget - 59 billion euros a year- is a big driver behind farmers' choices. While in theory it could play a significant role in cutting emissions from farming, to date its efficiency towards sustainable and climate friendly farming in Europe has been heavily criticised. A recent study commissioned by the EEB and Birdlife Europe that followed the European Commission's own 'Fitness Check' methodology concluded that "current trends and the CAP's performance indicate that sustainability, along the axes of social, ecological and environmental dimensions, has not been achieved and is unlikely to be achieved under current conditions". Furthermore, in a recent public consultation marking the beginning of the CAP post-2020 reform process, farmers and civil society representatives called for the EU's agriculture policy to deliver more for the environment and climate (over 60% of the farmers and 90% of civil society).

Discussions on the CAP post-2020 are now getting underway, with a Communication published at the end of November 2017. The whole focus is on ensuring the next CAP will deliver tangible results especially on the environment and climate. It is expected that legislative proposals will be out in May/June 2018.

A strong coherence between the climate package, the national plans and the future CAP will be of paramount importance, but it is equally important that any policy on climate and agriculture is strongly evidence-based.

## **Objectives of the study:**

There is already a certain amount of literature that analyses the mitigation potential of the agricultural sector but often these are EU-wide studies highlighting the theoretical potential of various measures, but not investigating the *actual uptake* of the measures in various Member States and regions, as well as the potential barriers.

In order to get a better grasp of the mitigation potential of the sector and the costs/benefits of mitigation measures, our study will specifically be focused at Member State level and will focus on the socio-economic and environmental aspects of measures to mitigate GHG emissions from agriculture. It will in particular look at the multiple side effects of climate mitigation measures for the environment (covering at least biodiversity, soil and water) and animal welfare in general and investigate the costs/benefits of each measure<sup>1</sup>. It will also investigate the role of EU farming policy, the current CAP (e.g. Pillar 2 agri-environment and climate measures along with other measures such as investments) in farmers' choices. These results should then be scaled up at the European level.

This study will be of paramount importance to counter the dominant argument that farming's mitigation potential is either non-existent or too costly, and it will also be of paramount importance for a future scientifically robust sustainable farming policy.

## **Content and scope of the study:**

The study will focus on 5 Member States, which, to provide geographical balance, have been identified as France, Ireland, Hungary, Spain and Germany, with the aim of scaling up the results up at the EU level. It will be anchored in the framework of a project involving national partners in each Member State and a project coordinator in Brussels.

It is foreseen that the study will be divided into five main steps (to be refined with the selected researchers):

1. Rapid identification of mitigation measures in literature - and pre-identification of their potential pitfalls (negative side effects on biodiversity, soil, water etc) and/or positive side effects.
2. Questionnaires to be elaborated together with the steering group and to be sent to farmers in the various target Member States with the help of implementing partners. Partners will also help ensure there is a good and balanced representation of the sector (individuals; farm unions; organic, conventional, arable, and livestock farmers or sectors). The questionnaires will be articulated around questions on the uptake of the measures, costs (investment), benefits (reduction of inputs), impacts on jobs and the role of the farming policy in it.
3. Presentation of the preliminary results of step 1 and 2 within science-civil society workshops in the Member States (Discussion between NGOs, farmers and scientists) and discussion of CAP's role in it- workshops to be organised and paid for by the partners.

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<sup>1</sup> This analysis should also aim to investigate the cost of no action

4. Identification of the win-win measures (environmentally, economically and socially) in each Member State and at EU level from the outcomes of step 1+2+3 and further investigation of the role of the CAP in it.
5. Compilation of all the mitigation measures, ranking them according to their additional benefits (water, soil, animal welfare etc.) and explanation of how they interact with CAP subsidies.

### **Deliverables:**

- The study should consist of an overview of the 5 Member State mitigation measures and an EU summary.
- It should contain visual tables for each Member State, ranking the value (environmental and socio economic) of each measure.
- It should also contain a dedicated deliverable on the interaction with CAP subsidies.

### **Timeframe and Budget:**

The deadline for the proposals to be submitted is **30 January 2018**. The proposals should be sent to Faustine Bas Defossez (EEB) and Harriet Bradley (BirdLife Europe).

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[harriet.bradley@birdlife.org](mailto:harriet.bradley@birdlife.org)

The proposal (max. 3 pages plus annexes) should include a narrative on how the consultant plans to implement the terms of reference, justification on why you or your organisation is qualified to implement the research, an explanation of the team proposed, their roles, relevant experience<sup>2</sup> and a financial breakdown of the project. The selection of the consultant and the managing of the report will be done by the NGO steering group, consisting of Faustine Bas-Defossez (EEB), Harriet Bradley (BirdLife Europe) as well as other members of the project. The consultant will sign a contract with the EEB.

The study should be completed no later than **31 May 2018**, unless agreed otherwise. At least three phone conferences or face to face meetings should take place during the project period to update the NGO steering group on the progress of the study. Consultants should present the outcomes of the study at an EU-wide workshop in Brussels in June 2018.

The budget for the study is **EUR 20 000 EUR (incl VAT)**.

The payment will be made in two instalments. The first payment of 70% of the total amount will be made after the contract is signed between the EEB and the consultant. The remaining payment will be done when the final report is received and approved by the EEB and the steering group.

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<sup>2</sup> CVs should be annexed