THE AUSTRIAN AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL-
PROGRAMME ÖPUL 2015 - 20
GRAZ, 5TH OF DECEMBER 2017, 40TH SWG ASSEMBLY SESSION
Elisabeth Süßenbacher

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water
Management, Div. II/3–Agri-Environment, Mountain Farmers and
Less-Favoured Areas, Organic Farming
STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRIA

- Small structured family-farm-based agriculture – Ø 19.7 ha UAA
- ~ 115,000 IACS-farms, ~ 60% part-time farmers,
- High proportion of organic farming (>22% of agricultural area; 19% of farms)
- High diversity of production sectors, main sectors in terms of agricultural production value are milk (16.5%), cereals & oil fruits (13.6%), beef (12.5%), pigs (10.7%), fruits & wine (10.7%) vegetables & potatoes (9.7%)
- Regional food important for consumers, export important for Austrian agriculture
- CAP-payments have high share on farm income
- High proportion of less-favoured areas (3/4 of the area)
- Relatively low production intensity, ~ 80% of the agricultural area in agri-environment, basically good environmental situation
LESS FAVOURED AREAS IN AUSTRIA

Mountain areas: 69.7% of total area
Areas affected by specific handicaps: 5.4% of total area
Other than Mountain areas: 5.9% of total area
Less-Favoured Areas EU-27

Set up in 1975, the less favoured areas schemes provide compensation allowances to farmers in mountainous areas or in other areas where the physical landscape results in higher production costs. This map illustrates the LFA eligibility on commune basis (200-2000 inhabitants) for the Programming Period 2000-2006. The area of a commune can be Partially or Totally eligible for one of the three LFA-articles:

- LFA Art. 19: Mountain Areas
- LFA Art. 19: Areas in danger of abandonment of landscape
- LFA Art. 20: Areas affected by specific handicaps

The areas are classified as:
- Partially
- Totally
- Not Eligible

Source: EUROSTAT/ICA

© Eurogeographics for the administrative boundaries
cultural landscape in mountain regions

source image: BMLFUW/Haiden
management of mountain meadows
biodiverse alpine grassland
cultivated landscape dominated by arable land
intensively managed grassland

source image: Agrarfoto
**ANALYSIS OF AE SITUATION**

Basically good agri-environmental situation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Biodiversity** | ▪ good natural conditions for conservation of biodiversity (diverse and structured landscapes, high share of mountainous areas..).  
                 ▪ decline of biodiversity-indicators (HNVF, endangered habitats and species, FBI). |          |
| **Water Quality** | ▪ good quantity and quality of water resources,  
                      ▪ Regional nutrient and pestizide pollution in small, intensively used areas. |          |
| **Soil Quality**  | ▪ high share of permanent grassland,  
                      ▪ arable land rich in humus,  
                      ▪ Risk of soil erosion due to topography,  
                      ▪ major issue land consumption. |          |
TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

intensification  ↔  abandonment

agriculturally used land gets scarce and potential high yield land is intensified  

low-productive areas are at risk of abandonment of agricultural usage
STRUCTURE OF CAP

CAP 2015-20

Common Market Organization
Direct Payments

- Common market
  - Intervention rules
  - Export refunds
  - Competition rules etc.

- Direct payments
  - Basic payment scheme
  - Payment for young farmers
  - Voluntary coupled support
  - Small farmers scheme
  - Cross Compliance
  - Greening

100% EU-financed

European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)

Rural Development
2014-20

6 thematic priorities (= targets)
knowledge transfer and innovation, competitiveness,
food chain organisation, ecosystems, resource
efficiency, economic development in rural areas

Implementation of the priorities via measures:
- Agri-environmental programme ÖPUL
- Compensatory allowances for LFAs
- ….

Financed by EU-funds and AT-funds

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
SHARE OF RURAL-DEVELOPMENT-PAYMENTS ON EU-BUDGET


RURAL DEVELOPMENT: STRUCTURES & PROCESSES IN AUSTRIA

General framework

- As a federal republic, Austria is divided into nine states (Bundesländer)
- One single Rural Development Programme since 2000 with funding from federal (60%) and regional level (40%); national co-financing ~50%
- ~2/3 of payments for pillar 2 (1.100 Mio. out of ~ 1.800 Mio. CAP-payments)

Responsibilities for AECM-payments (incl. organic farming, animal welfare)

- Programming of RDP is done by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Agrar Markt Austria (AMA) is the federal paying agency and responsible for receiving and check applications, to contract commitments, to control compliance to commitments and pay/reclaim payments to farmers;
- Bundesländer are involved in programme development and execution of project-measures
DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CAP 2014-20 IN AUSTRIA

- 2/3 of CAP-payments are spent for RDP-measures (50% national co-financing-rate) \( \rightarrow \) \( \approx \) 1.100 m/year
- 2/3 of RDP-payments for area-measures \( \rightarrow \) \( \approx \) 665 m/year
- ÖPUL: 19 AECM operations, 1 OF, 1 NATURA 2000, 2 animal welfare; 1 WFD-measure
- high participation rate in ÖPUL and area wide implementation (water measures regionalized)
- AECM 2016: 91.908 holdings (\( \sim \) 80%), 1,8 Mio. ha (\( \sim \) 80%), 406,8 Mio. Euro

RDP 14-20: share in finance plan
(total = EUR 1 100 m/year)

- Agri-environment 27.4%
- Less favoured areas 22.9%
- Organic farming 10.2%
- Animal welfare 3.1%
- Leader 3.2%
- Technic aid 3.0%
- Others 8.8%
- Investments 11.7%
- Basic services and village renewal in rural areas 9.7%

after 01. program modification
main objectives:

▪ positive contribution to environment and climate by agricultural practices

▪ prevention of environmental risks through broad, preventive measures and improvement of environmental situation in regions / on areas with poor conditions

▪ satisfy increasing social demand of environmental services

▪ high participation rates and a broad land-coverage

▪ clear requirements for application, implementation, controls and calculation

challenges

▪ participation rate in high productive areas

▪ calculation of premias

▪ develop an integrated approach together with farmers and NGOs
### ÖPUL 2015 - MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Arable land</th>
<th>Grassland</th>
<th>Permanent Crops</th>
<th>Art. 28 Agri Environment Climate Measure</th>
<th>Art. 29 Organic Farming</th>
<th>Art. 30 Natura 2000</th>
<th>Art. 33 Animal welfare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management</strong></td>
<td>Greening of arable land/intermediate crops</td>
<td>Preventative groundwater protection (regional)</td>
<td>Erosion protection in vineyards, fruits and hops</td>
<td>Organic Farming</td>
<td>Animal welfare - Grazing of livestock</td>
<td>Natura 2000 - Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nature conservation</strong></td>
<td>Greening of arable land/system &quot;Evergreen&quot;</td>
<td>Preventative surface water protection on arable land (regional)</td>
<td>Maintenance of endangered livestock breeds</td>
<td>Animal welfare - stable</td>
<td>WFD – Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surface-near spreading of liquid farm manure</strong></td>
<td>Direct seeding and seeding on mulch</td>
<td>Management of arable areas particularly threatened by leaching</td>
<td>Use of beneficial organisms in greenhouses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Limitation of yield increasing inputs</strong></td>
<td>Cultivation of rare agricultural plants</td>
<td>Renouncement of fungicides and growth regulators *</td>
<td>* Mandatory combination with measures &quot;Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mandatory combination with measure "Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management" or "Organic Farming"
PARTICIPATION RATE ÖPUL (2016)

Anteil der ÖPUL-Betriebe mit LF an Betrieben mit LF 2016

- ≤ 0,5
- > 0,5 - 0,6
- > 0,6 - 0,7
- > 0,7 - 0,8
- > 0,8 - 0,9
- > 0,9

Quelle: BMLFUW
AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS

Water

Soil

Climate

Biodiversity
BIODIVERSITY-AREAS IN AUSTRIA

AECM and GREENING enhance establishment of **biodiversity-areas**!

![Image 1](source image: BMLFUW)

**Arable + grassland** (2016)
- Nature Protection (AECM) 73.459 ha
- Biodiversity-areas (partly EFA-equivalent) 66.332 ha
- EFA-land lying fallow 7.238 ha
Total 147.028 ha

~6.4% of UAA (without alpine pastures)
ÖPUL 2015 – APPROACHES

Approaches for maintenance and increase of ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>broad approaches</th>
<th>focussed approaches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biodiversity</strong></td>
<td>Organic farming, landscape elements, flowering-areas, maintainance of grassland, renouncement on silage, training</td>
<td>Nature conservation measure, maintain alpine pastures, cultivation of mowed mountain-grassland, rare agricultural plants, endangered livestock breeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water-quality</strong></td>
<td>Organic farming, maintainance of grassland, intermediate crops, renouncement on N-fertilizers and plant-protection, training</td>
<td>Management of arable areas particularly threatened by leaching, reduction of fertilizers and plant-protection, training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soil-quality</strong></td>
<td>Organic farming, maintainance of grassland, intermediate crops, crop diversification, training</td>
<td>Erosion protection permanent crops, direct seeding and seeding on mulch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Positive contribution to climate protection, animal welfare and air quality
**AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL PAYMENTS**

- The agri-environmental programme aims to preserve and promote the necessary changes to agricultural practices that make a positive contribution to environment and climate.

- Payments cover only those commitments going beyond the relevant mandatory standards of pillar 1, and beyond relevant minimum requirements for fertilizer and plant protection products use as well as other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law.

- Commitments shall be undertaken for a period of five to seven years.

- Payments are granted annually and compensate beneficiaries for additional costs and income foregone resulting from the commitments made.

![Diagram showing the difference between Reference farm and ÖPUL farm.](bmlfuw.gv.at)
CALCULATION – WHOLE FARM – APPROACH IN ORGANIC GRASSLAND

REFERENCE FARM

ORGANIC FARM

-15% GRASS =
- 15% COWS =
-15% MILK

PREMIA!
EXAMPLES ÖPUL ON ARABLE LAND

- **Catch crops** → 120-200 €/ha
- **Biodiversity-areas** (fellow land) → 450 Euro/ha
- **Renouncement of fungicides/growth regulators on cereals** → 40 Euro/ha
- **Organic farming** → 230 Euro/ha
- **Reduced N-fertilization, training** → 100 Euro/ha
- **Maintenance of LSE** → 7,20 Euro/LSE

Source image: Paul Weiß
EXAMPLES ÖPUL ON GRASSLAND

Renouncement of N-fertilizers → 60 Euro/ha

Nature protection – specific cultivation → 300 – 600 Euro/ha

Organic farming → 230 Euro/ha

Maintainance of LSE → 7,20 Euro/LSE

source image: Neudorfer
EXAMPLES ANIMAL RELATED ÖPUL

- Alpine pasturing → 40 – 230 Euro/LU/ha
- Rare breeds → 120 – 180 Euro/LU
- Grazing of livestock → 55 Euro/LU

source image: Neudorfer
SHARE OF MEASURES ON AEP 2016

Payments total 406,82 Mio. Euro, average 4.400 Euro/farm, 225 Euro/ha UAA

- Organic farming: 26%
- Environmentally friendly and biodiversity promoting management: 16%
- Intermediate crops: 10%
- Nature conservation: 9%
- Grazing of livestock: 7%
- Mountain grazing and herding: 6%
- Preventative groundwater protection: 5%
- Renouncement of silage: 4%
- Limitation of yield increasing inputs: 4%
- Intermediate crops-System „Evergreen“: 3%
- Others: 10%
- Limitation of yield increasing inputs: 4%
- Renouncement of silage: 4%
- Intermediate crops-System „Evergreen“: 3%
- Others: 10%
CREATE MARKET VALUE WITH AEP
SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

Agri-environment programme 2014-20

- Area-related payments of CAP II are very important for agriculture in Austria
- Good environmental status and high participation rates in ÖPUL 2015, target to maintain and improve status with broad and specific approaches
- Area-related payments as basis for special products (organic products, hay-milk, animal welfare labels), support by project-measures and education/training

CAP 2020+

- Financial allocation and structure of CAP-measures is a key issue
- Visibility of the impact of the measures is crucial → evaluation and acceptance
- Maintain broad and integrated approach of RDP - special focus on rural areas
- Further development of AECM measures – focus on regions and topics, but keep broad coverage of areas
Questions?

Elisabeth Süßenbacher
Division II/3, Agri-Environment, Mountain Farmers and Less-Favoured Areas, Organic Farming
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT
Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna
T +43 1 71100 605797
elisabeth.suessenbacher@bmlfuw.gv.at