



Kick-off Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Agri-Environment Policy
13 – 14 March 2018
Tirana, Albania

Agri-environmental policy, with focus on animal husbandry

A short overview of the current situation

Prof. Dr. Kristaq Kume

ALBANIA

Agri-environmental issues International level

Documents – International conventions

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Rio Declaration

Agenda 21

Convention on Biological Diversity

Kyoto Protocol commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions... etc...

Referring to recent development in EU and OECD member states regarding the agri–environmental policies, can be affirmed:

To monitor the environmental performance of agriculture and track trends in the environmental impacts, as well as to provide policy makers and citizens with useful information to assess the effects of the integration of environmental concerns into policy measures, a set of Agri-Environmental Indicators (AEI) should be developed.

AEI are key tools for policy makers and other stakeholders:

- **To improve the understanding** of agri-environmental processes and the impact of agricultural policies on the environment.

- **To monitor and evaluate** agricultural and environmental policies

- **To improve** policy effectiveness in promoting sustainable agriculture.

AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

ALBANIA

Legislation

The Constitution of the Republic of Albania (1998) pays special attention in including the environment and its protection in the group of the most important issues.

Chapter V of the Albanian Constitutions

Article 56 of the Constitution emphasizes that:

“Everyone has the right to be informed about the state of the environment and its protection”

Article 59 of the Constitution emphasizes that:

“The State, within its constitutional powers and available means, as well as fulfilling private initiative and responsibility, aims at ensuring:

- a) A healthy and ecologically sustainable environment for current and future generations;**
- b) Rational exploitation of forests, water, pastures, and other natural resources on the basis of a sustainable development principle.**

In general terms in the Albanian Constitution emphasizes that:

- ▶ The environment and its protection are considered to be fundamental goals of the state;**
- ▶ The core requirement of environmental protection is continuous conservation of a healthy and ecologically suitable environment;**
- ▶ Environmental protection is a permanent duty at any time and under all circumstance, and related to the life and health of the population;**
- ▶ Sustainable development is a fundamental requirement and thus the Constitution guarantees the protection and preservation of the environment for current and future generations;**
- ▶ The public has the right to be informed about the state of the environment and state institutions are obliged to inform the public concerning the environment and measures taken for its protection.**

Legal framework

Laws

Law no 106/2016 **“For biological production, labeling of biological products and their control”**

Law no 1043, dated 09.10.2011 **“On Environmental Protection ”**

Law no 10463/2011 **“For integrated waste management”**

Law no 10440, dated 07.07.2011 **“For Environmental Impact Assessment”**

Law no. 10465, dated 29.12.2012 **“For veterinarian service in Republic of Albania”**

Law No. 9587, dated 20.07.2006, **“On Biodiversity Protection”, amended in 2012**

Law No. 9199 dated 26.02.2004 **“For the production, processing, certification and marketing of "Bio" products”**

Sub ordinary legal framework

Regulation no. 2, dated 1.11.2002 *"On the protection of animals during slaughter and the requirements applicable to slaughterhouses"*

Regulation no. 1 dated 28.07.2003 *"On the maximum level of some residues in dairy products"*

Order no. 313, dated 26.06.2006 *"On the adoption of the Regulation on maximum levels of pesticide residues in foodstuffs and food of plant origin"*

Order no. 10, dated 13.01.2010 *"On the evaluation and categorization of establishments of food products of animal origin".*

Instruction no. 5 dated 25.03.2011 *"On specific hygiene requirements for the production, collection and processing plants of milk and milk-based products"*

Agri-environmental issues and Albanian legislative framework

According to the legal framework – the agriculture production should be developed in respect of following principles:

- a) Conservation, management and development of natural soil fertility, soil stability and biological diversity in the soil, prevent and combat erosion, compaction of soil and plant nutrition primarily through the soil ecosystem;
- b) Reduction the use of non-renewable resources and off-farm inputs;
- c) Recycling of waste and by-products of plant and animal origin as input in plant production of the animal;
- d) Taking account of local or regional ecological balance in making decisions on production

According to the Albanian current legislative frameworks the basic principles for environmental protection are:

- principle of sustainable development
- principle of care
- principle of prevention
- principle "polluter pays"
- principle of legal responsibility
- principle of high-level protection
- the principle of integrating environmental protection into sectorial policies
- principle of awareness and participation of the public in environmental decision-making
- principle of transparency

Policie`s documents

Strategies

- Cross-cutting Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, 2014-2020
- The National Strategy for Development and Integration 2014-2020, the Medium Term Budget Program and the sectoral, sub sectoral and crosscutting strategies
- National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation and use of Farm Animal Genetic Resources
- The Environmental Cross-Cutting Strategy
- Integrated waste management strategy (draft), 2018-2033

Agri-environmental issues and policies documents

In Cross-cutting Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, 2014-2020 it is emphasized that:

...attention should be paid to adapting environmental friendly practices, given that Albania should support intensive subsectors that often have adverse environmental impacts, such as animal production...

....waste management is a serious concern. ... the major environmental problem in Albania is the lack of recycling plants. There is a strong need to improve environmental protection by building recycling facilities... and facilities for used water in slaughterhouses and fat separation equipment at meat processing units.

...there is a significant need for the implementation of legislation regarding the collection and management of animal waste...

In National Strategy for Integrated waste management (draft), 2018-2033 it is emphasized that:

From animal production activities, considerable residues are produced in the form of excrements which, together with straw and other wastes, form organic manure. About 1.89 million tonnes of livestock remains were produced in 2015 in Albania. It is estimated that half of that amount is used as organic fertilizer in agriculture, a negligible amount used in the production of energy (in the form of biogas).

In 2016, the remains of animals from slaughterhouses, processing and storage facilities of meat, milk, eggs, fish, etc. were estimated at about 1.99 thousand tonnes. All this amount of organic waste is not administered. Often they are distributed in the environment, run into rivers or in the municipal landfills.

Agri-environmental indicators and animal production General information and Albanian situation

Thirteen indicators subject areas have been identified: nutrients, pesticides, water use, land use and conservation, soil quality, water quality, greenhouse gases, biodiversity, wildlife habitats, agricultural landscapes, farm management, farm financial resources, socio-cultural issues. In addition, a further set of contextual indicators covering land cover and land use has been developed.

Most of them are related with the Animal husbandry activities.

The best practices has shown that, these indicators could be monitored in a proper way and their values will be at optimal level, if the farmers develop their activities according to the principle of “good farming practice”.

This requires that, as a minimum, farmers should respect general requirements in regards of environmental care without specific payment. This means that all farmers should follow compulsory laws in relation to pesticide use, to fertilizer application, water use and where appropriate, national or regional guidelines on good farming practice.

The Polluter-Pays-Principle should be implemented.

In Albanian case

-Legislative framework relevant to issues that will be monitored using the agri-environmental indicators is inadequate.

- Although the Polluter-Pays-Principle is foreseen in the legislation, for most of issues that are subject of agri-environmental indicators, no relevant indicators have been compiled, yet.

Agri-environmental indicators and animal production General information and Albanian situation

As a general rule, wherever society asks farmers to pursue environmental objectives beyond good farming practice, and the farmer incurs a cost or foregoes income as a result, then society must expect to pay for that environmental service.

Albanian case

The current payment system to farmers does not provide this kind of subsidy

In rural areas environmental objectives are often more ambitious than “good farming practice”. In such cases, environmental objectives will be achieved only if appropriately remunerated. It is therefore appropriate to pay farmers to preserve the environment through privately owned resources or factors of production, provided that this goes beyond good farming practice

Albanian case

There are currently no policies to support this kind of approach

The agri-environmental policies with the focus to animal husbandry Albania

**In order to compile agri-environmental policies focusing in animal husbandry it is necessary:
To have a legal framework in which the issues that are related to agri-environment are developed in the most complete and comprehensive way.**

The current legal framework elaborates only issues related to:

- collection and management of animal waste in farm
- the remains of animals from slaughterhouses
- processing and storage facilities of meat, milk, eggs, fish
- determining the rates of greenhouse gas emissions, discharge of ammonia and bad odor substances.

Law 10465, dated 29.09.2011 "On veterinary service in the Republic of Albania", determines that the producers and veterinary services have the responsibility for dealing the waste derived from the animal products activities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should adopts the National Waste Monitoring Plan for livestock products.

In order to elaborate legal framework for agri-environmental policies, with focus on animal husbandry, should be taken into account issues related to:

- farm management
- soil quality
- water use for animal, processing animal products, forage products
- animal genetic resources for agriculture and food
- farm financial resources
- socio-cultural issues

The agri-environmental policies with focus on animal husbandry Albania

In order to compile the agri-environment policies it is necessary, also:

The elaboration of agri-environmental indicators, methodology for their assessment and structure and the instruments to be used for their assessment.

In Albania the indicators that could be use for compiling the agri-environment policies, focused to animal husbandry, are not elaborated. Therefore it is necessary to:

- develop a conceptual and analytical understanding of the various animal production and environmental processes**
- identification of appropriate indicators and methods of measurement;**
- collection of data and calculation of the indices;**
- integration of indicators into policy analysis.**

The agri-environmental policies with focus on animal husbandry Albania

The type of livestock determines the impact on the environment, according to the animal fodder, water requirements, and farming practices (e.g. grazing).

Actually in FAO Agri-environmental dataset includes as an important agri-environmental indicator - [Livestock Patterns](#) (stocks, density and share).

The livestock patterns indicator present a driving-force indicator and provides information on the state of farming with consequent positive as well as negative influences on the environment. This indicator provides general information on trends in the agricultural sector, which are important to the development of agricultural policy.

Albanian public statistical service need to strengthen their capacities for collecting and elaborating the data that can be use to calculate and periodically evaluate the livestock patterns indicator.

ELABORATION OF BOTH LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND AGRY-ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS IS NECESSARY AND IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTION RELEVANT TO THE COMPILATION OF AGRY-ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES FOCUSED ON ANIMAL HUSBANDRY



**Thank you
for your attention!**