



LANDSBYGDSVECKAN

Tillsammans lyfter vi hela landet



Castilla-La Mancha

**LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCES FOR THE RURAL PACT IN THE EU
MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE FOR HOLISTIC RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

THE KEY ROLE OF THE REGIONAL LEVEL

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UNIÓN EUROPEA
Fondo Europeo Agrícola
de Desarrollo Rural

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GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA
Y ALIMENTACIÓN



RRN RED
RURAL
NACIONAL

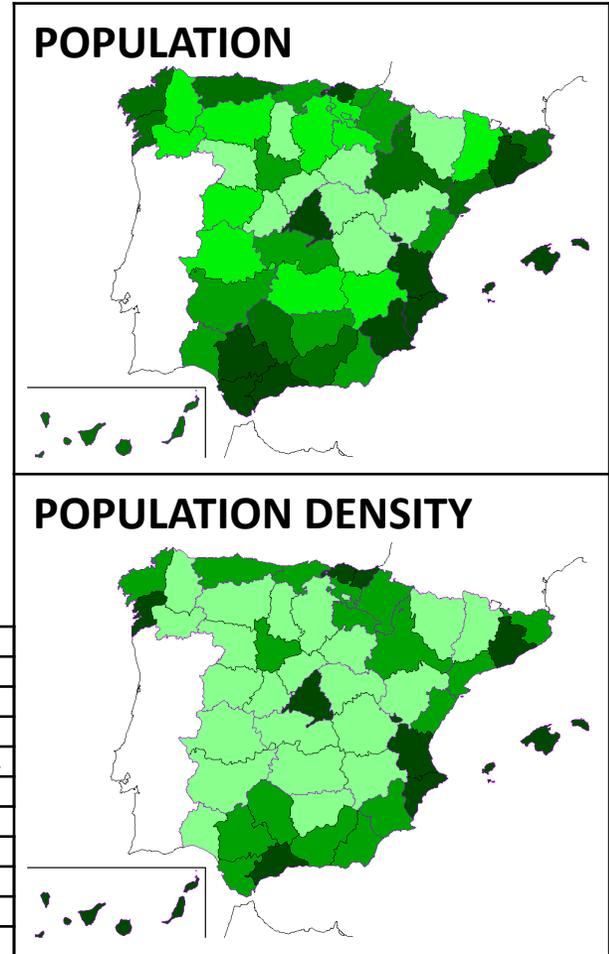


CÁSTILA
LA MAN
CHA

**DESARROLLO
RURAL**

I. SOME DATA ABOUT SPAIN

- The average density is 94 people/km². 3,943 villages have <12.5 people/km².
- RURAL AREAS. 88.5% of the population consider depopulation as a serious or very serious concern (CIS, 2019).
- 10 out of the 17 regions have a negative vegetative balance.
- 5,007 village have <1,000 inhabitants. 62%. As an example, in CLM there are 642 villages, 70%, with less than 1,000 inhabitants.



II. CASTILLA-LA MANCHA: A LABORATORY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

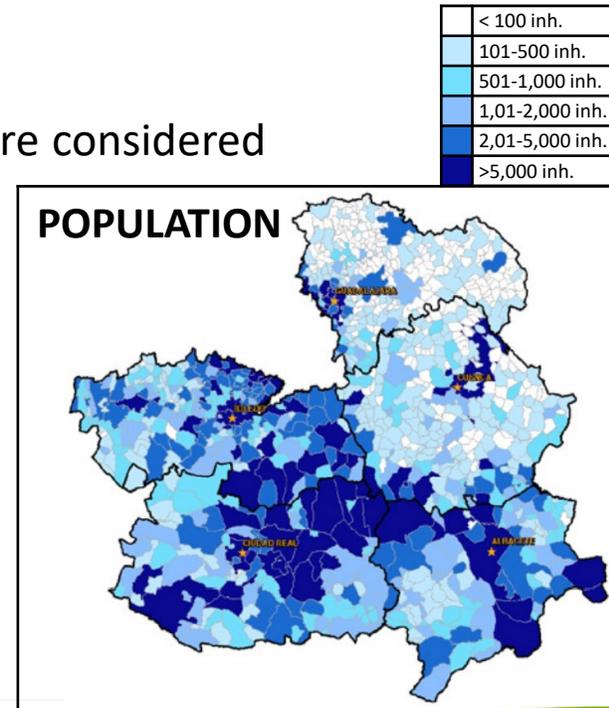
- 2,053,328 people in 79,406 km², while 17,302,116 people live on the Netherlands in 41,543 km² or 5,873,213 people live on Denmark in 43,094 km².

- 2nd region with less population density.

- Only 13 of the 919 municipalities have more than 30,000 people (1%). 99% of our towns are considered rural towns.

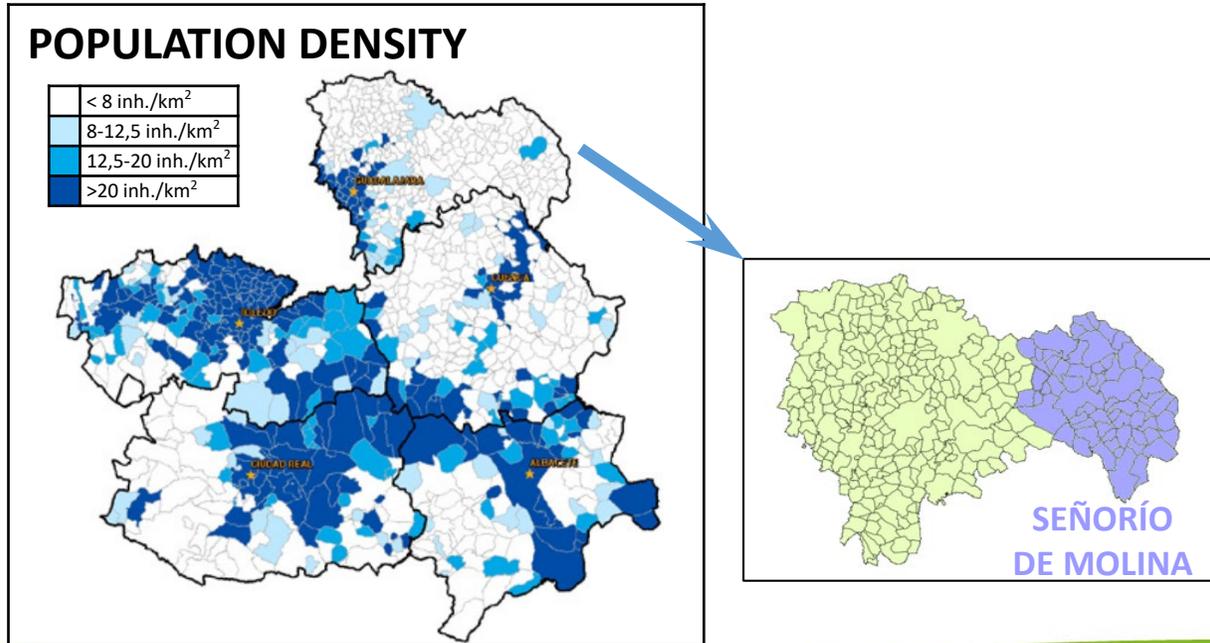
- The main sector in the rural economy is agriculture.

Level of **specialization by sector** according to a Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) zone and the rest of the territory (in terms of employment)



Castilla-La Mancha is a region of central Spain where:

- The average density is <math><26</math> inhabitants/km², up to 94 inhabitants/km² of average in Spain.
- 619 villages have <math><12.5</math> inhabitants/km² (67%), which the EU determines as areas with very low population density. Cuenca (NUTS 3) has a density of 11.4 inhabitants/km².



Señorío de Molina is a northeast shire of Castilla-La Mancha where:

- 77 villages: 8,202 inhabitants in 4,264 km²
1.9 inhabitants/km².
- Its capital, Molina de Aragón, has 3,152 inhabitants.
- **Señorío de Molina** had 11,887 inhabitants in 2000
11,887 (2000) → 9,949 (2015) → 8,202 (2022)
↓ 31% (3,685)

III. MEASURES APPLIED IN CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

1. **LAW 2/2021 ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TAXES AGAINST DEPOPULATION AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN CASTILLA-LA MANCHA**
2. **LAW 6/2019 STATUTE OF RURAL WOMEN OF CASTILLA-LA MANCHA**
3. **LAW 9/2023 ON FAMILY FARMING AND ACCESS TO LAND**
4. **RURAL DEVELOPMENT MEASURES 2023-2027 CASTILLA-LA MANCHA (2nd PILAR OF THE CAP)**
5. **LEADER**

1. LAW 2/2021 ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TAXES AGAINST DEPOPULATION AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

Objective: to regulate and establish main actions and measures for an integral development of the rural environment and to guarantee the participation of the local social and economic actors of the territory.

Purposes

1. Guarantee the **maintenance of the rural population**, improving their quality of life and economic and social viability.
2. Improvement of the **infrastructures and services** available to the rural population.
3. Promote **balance and social, economic and territorial cohesion**, as well as the comprehensive development of the rural environment, promoting a fair and equitable redistribution of resources between rural and urban areas.
4. Promote and preserve **landscape, heritage, cultural and leisure values**, as well as sustainable production models.
5. Promote and guarantee **equality between women and men**.
6. Establish a **new model of governance** in terms of Rural Development Policy (“bottom-up” approach)



LEGISLACIÓN CONSOLIDADA

Ley 2/2021, de 7 de mayo, de Medidas Económicas, Sociales y Tributarias frente a la Despoblación y para el Desarrollo del Medio Rural en Castilla-La Mancha.

Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla-La Mancha
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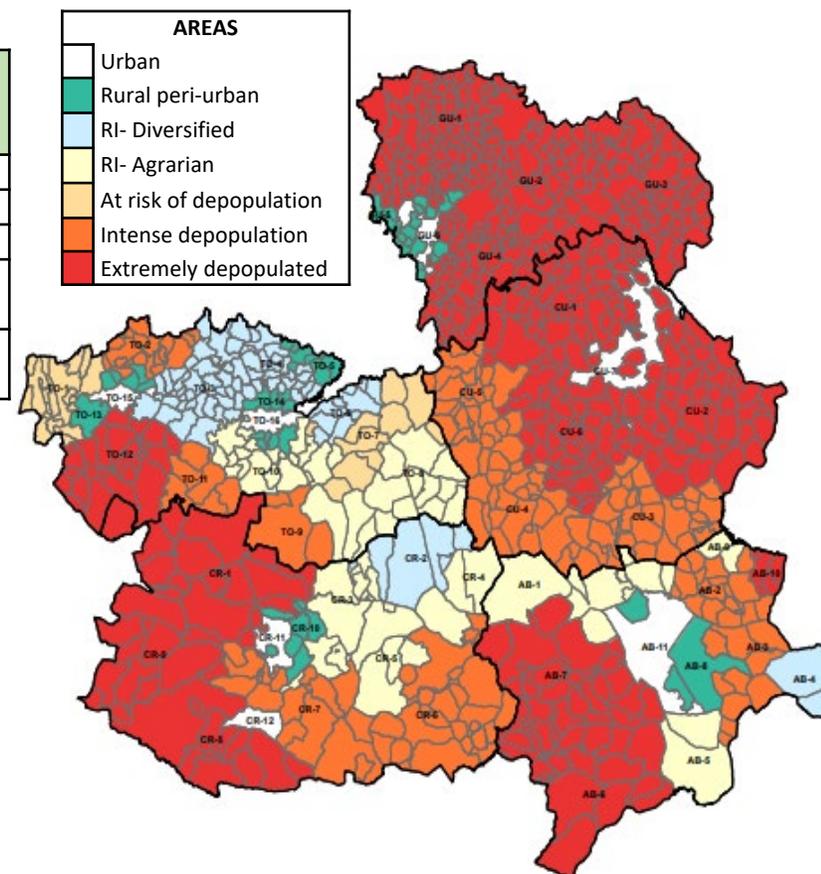
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<https://www.castillalamancha.es/sites/default/files/documentos/pdf/20221230/boe-a-2021-11513-consolidado.pdf>

(1) CLASSIFICATION OF AREAS OF CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

AREAS		Population density	Aging according to the regional mean	Population	Relationship with municipalities >30,000 people	In municipalities <2,000 people	Agrarian weight	Forest surface
Rural peri-urban		>50	↓	↑	↑			
Rural intermediate		20-50	→	↗	→	>75%	↗	↗
At risk of depopulation		12,5-20	↑	↓	↘	>75%	↑	↑
Sparsely populated	Intense depopulation	8-12	↑	↓	↓		↑	↑
	Extremely depopulated	<8	↑	↓	↓		↑	↑

NAME	Area	Villages		Population 2020		Surface	
Urban	7	7	1%	608.026	30%	3.201	4%
Rural peri-urban	6	51	6%	314.729	15%	2.963	4%
Rural intermediate - Diversified	5	78	8%	284.704	14%	5.189	7%
Rural intermediate - Agrarian	8	62	7%	399.738	20%	10.442	13%
At risk of depopulation	2	25	3%	31.693	2%	2.437	3%
Intense depopulation	10	173	19%	208.569	10%	16.392	21%
Extremely depopulated	14	523	57%	197.762	10%	38.737	49%
TOTAL	52	919		2.045.221		79.361	



(2) MEASURES AND SUBSIDIES

The regulatory bases and regional measures will incorporate **positive incentive criteria and specific support measures for applicants from sparsely populated areas or at risk of depopulation**, in order to support access to public aid and subsidies for applicants from the most depopulated rural areas:

- Establish **SPECIFIC SUBSIDIES LINES FOR THESE AREAS**.
- **RESERVE A PART OF THE BUDGET (minimum 30%)** of the calls for projects from these areas.
- **INCREASES IN THE INTENSITY OF AID** (minimum 20%), **up to 40%** in the case of projects in areas of extreme depopulation.
- Grant **ADDITIONAL SCORE IN THE COMPETITION PROCESSES** (minimum 20%) of the total of the planned score, **up to 40%** in the case of projects in areas of extreme depopulation.

(3) GUARANTEE OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREAS

(1) **Access to the Public Educational Services.** Rural Schools with ≥ 4 students and school canteens and morning classrooms.

(2) **Access to Public Health.** Guarantee in primary care and access to emergency services. 

(3) **Public Access to the Social Services System and Attention to Dependency and equality services.**

(4) **Access to Public Transport in Rural Areas.** The implementation of a technological and telephone pre-contracting system for collective transport will be promoted. Coordination of schedules with public transport services.

Art. 27. **Access to basic equipment and services in rural areas.**

In any case, the access time from any core to the basic service provision core does not exceed 30 minutes.



(4) TAXES

Tax benefits are established for people living in these areas:

(1) **Priority projects in sparsely populated areas or areas at risk of depopulation.** The projects will be considered as a special contribution to the reactivation of economic activity.

(2) Taxes:

- Tax reduction for **people living** in rural areas of up to 25% in extremely depopulated areas.
- Tax reduction for the **acquisition or rehabilitation of houses** in rural areas: 15% of the total regional fee, up to € 12,000 per year.
- Tax reduction for **transfer of habitual residence** of up to € 500.
- Reductions of the tax quota for actions on **industrial and tertiary land** of up to 95% in areas of extreme depopulation.

(5) OTHER ASPECTS

ECONOMIC COHESION

- (1) **Creation and Maintenance of Employment in Rural Areas** with the "Return of International Knowledge" program.
- (2) **Support for economic and business promotion in rural areas.**
- (3) **Support to the agricultural, livestock and forestry sector.**
- (4) **Support for the region's demand for agro-ecological and quality products**, as well as the creation of consumer groups in the field of collaborative, inclusive, social and supportive consumption.

SOCIAL COHESION

- (1) **Make compatible work and family life.**
- (2) **Childcare and Family Support.** Promote access to remote work.
- (3) **Housing.** Creation of an Office for the promotion of rural housing with a Rural Housing Exchange.
- (4) **Culture propotion.**

TERRITORIAL COHESION

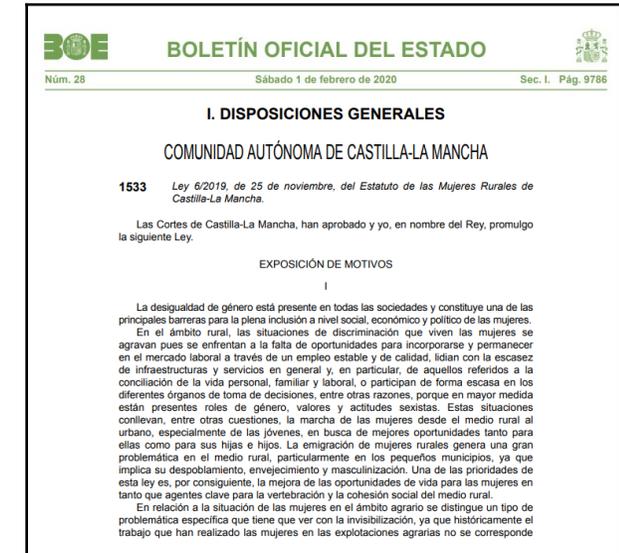
- (1) Promotion of **renewable energies**, solar and wind energy, also taking advantage of resources from the agricultural and forestry sector and the production of biofuels.
- (2) Efficiency in **water consumption** (new irrigation systems).
- (3) **Guarantee quality, reliable and broadband connectivity** for 100% of villages.

2. LAW 6/2019 STATUTE OF RURAL WOMEN OF CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

Main objective: to establish **measures that promote autonomy and the support** of the social, professional and non-discriminatory position **of women in rural areas**.

Purposes

- 1. Balanced representation.** Professional and business associations in rural areas will only be able to receive public aid and subsidies if they have at least 40% women in their management bodies. They have a deadline until the end of 2023 and they have already fulfilled almost all of them.
- 2. Prioritization of applications from women from a company with at least 50% women, or from cooperatives with an Equal Opportunity Plan.**



<https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/02/01/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-1533.pdf>

PUBLIC MESURES AND SUBSIDIES

We have an **Equality Unit** that reviews all the Regional Ministry's publications to ensure that the Statute for rural women in Castilla-La Mancha is complied with.



Some examples:

- **YOUNG SUPPORTS.** Aid for the creation of agricultural companies by young people grants women 25 out of the 30 minimum points required for their approval. This has meant that 30% of the aid has been granted to women: no woman has been left without public supports.
- **LEADER.** Women lead 12 of the 29 Rural Development Groups in Castilla-La Mancha. The presence of women in the boards of director and in the projects supported has increased in the last years. Women represent 40% of the beneficiaries of LEADER projects in 2016. In 2021 they represented almost 50%.
- **BASIC PAYMENT IN THE NEW CAP.** Nearly 40% of the beneficiaries of the basic payment of the CAP are women.
- **AGRIFOOD INSTRUMENT PAYMENTS.** Agri-food industries with an Equality Plan or with more women on their governing board are prioritized.

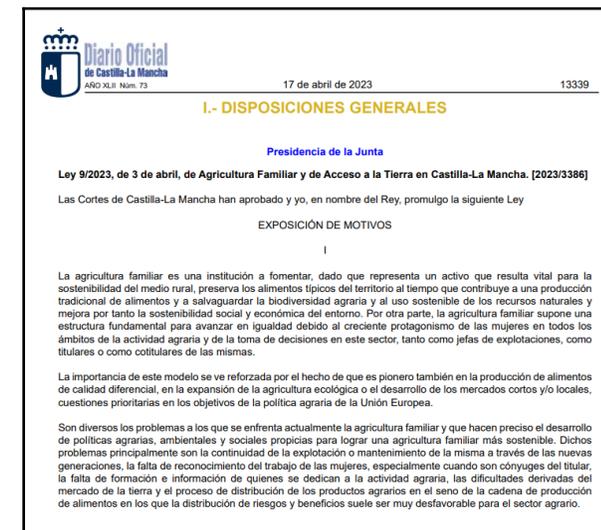
3. LAW 9/2023 ON FAMILY FARMING AND ACCESS TO LAND

FAMILY FARMING: The way of life and agricultural work practiced by people from the same family nucleus at last 50% of the labor force comes for the family nucleus. Its outcome is destined for trading of self-consumption or treating, and may come from harvesting, agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing, food crafts or services, in various sectors, such as horticulture, fruit, forestry, beekeeping, livestock, industrial rural, artisan food, aquaculture and agrotourism.

PRIORITY
SECTOR

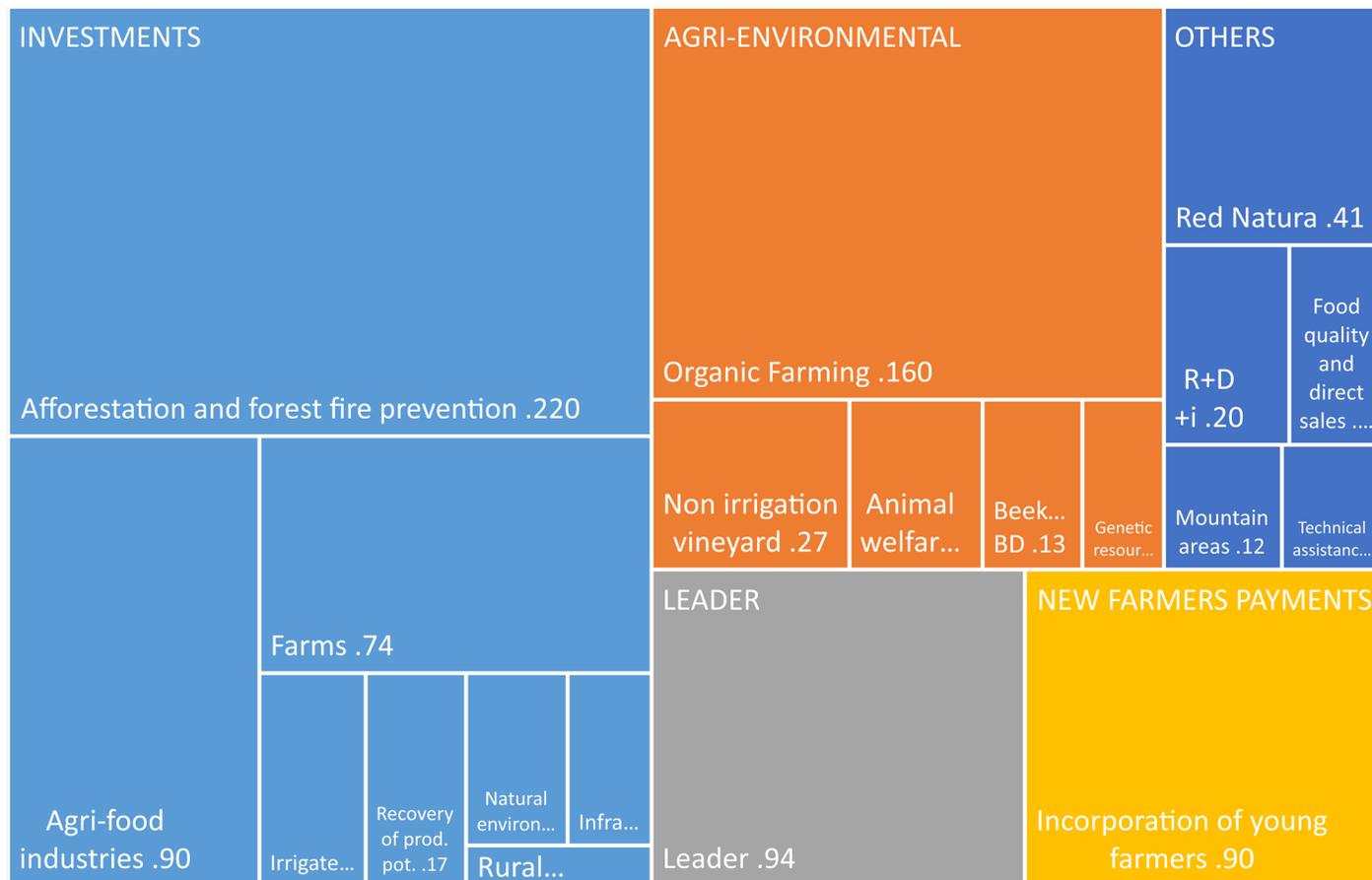
AID
PRIORITY

PUBLIC
LAND BANK



https://docm.jccm.es/docm/descargarArchivo.do?ruta=2023/04/17/pdf/2023_3386.pdf&tipo=rutaDocm

4. RURAL DEVELOPMENT MEASURES 2023-2027 CASTILLA-LA MANCHA (2nd PILAR OF THE CAP) – €966 MILLION



Some data:

- **Environmental goals** has reached 56.3% of the budget.
- **NON IRRIGATED VINEYARD.** New aid of €27 million for vineyards >50 years old.
- **EXTENSIVE AGRICULTURE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE COMMON CRANE.** €1.6 million for (1) overseeding, (2) use of seeds that do not contain phytosanitary products that endanger the survival of birds and (3) late sowings.
- **ORGANIC FARMING.** €160 million (17%), emphasizing conversion and livestock.
- **LEADER.** €94 million (10%). From 2023 they will be able to finance new entrepreneurship in rural areas with a basic payments similar to the new farmers income.

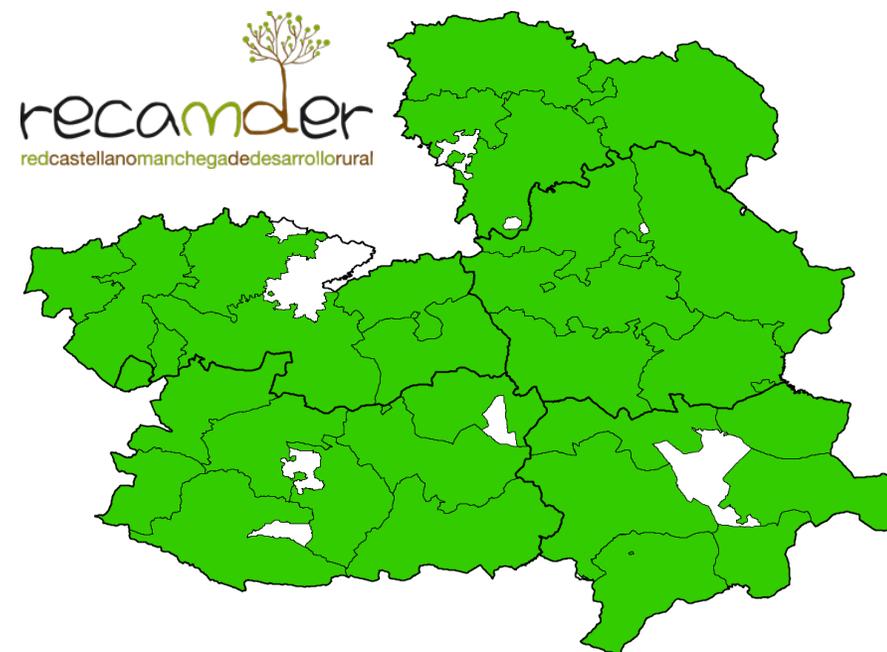
5. LEADER

Article 92. Minimum financial allocations for LEADER

1. At least 5 % of the total EAFRD contribution to the CAP Strategic Plan set out in Annex XI shall be reserved for LEADER.

[\[http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj\]](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj)

Castilla-La Mancha → 10% of the EAFRD funds 2023-2027 will go to LEADER
€94 million out of 966



Regional Rural Network Anniversary. Toledo. March 2023

SOME NEWS OF THE LEADER APPROACH 2023-2027

- ✓ **Private projects** in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants will not be financed.
- ✓ **New aid for entrepreneurship:** €27,000 to promote the development of non-agricultural economic activities.
- ✓ **More autonomy:** The RDG will be able to choose which projects they finance, prioritizing employment, women and projects that are developed in towns of less than 10,000 people.

We will not be able to safely face the demographic challenge if we do not take into account those who live in the villages and towns (actors of the territory “LEADERS”)





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Castilla-La Mancha

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Francisco Martínez Arroyo [@fmartinezarroyo]



Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development of
Castilla-La Mancha (Spain) [@AgriculturaCIm]



<https://www.castillalamancha.es/gobierno/agriaguaydesrur>