

A short summary of the breakout sessions

- Design of CAP interventions
- Successful practice

Conference on successful environmental practice within the framework of the EU's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), Malmö, 23-24 May

Nutrient Management

Facilitators: The Swedish Board of Agriculture and The Swedish Advisory Service Programme “Focus on Nutrients”

Challenges

- Many regulations regarding nutrients creates a difficult baseline e.g. can lead to complicated design with conditions that are not always easy to control.
- A great variation between regions e.g. livestock concentrations and access to manure means that measures have different effect depending on local and national perspective in the design
- Difficult to find a balance between flexibility and specified conditions to ensure attractive and efficient interventions for a wide range of farmers

Inspiration and good examples: Interventions for use of sewage sludge, extensive grassland management, use of compost and green manure.

Support actions of efficient use of fertilisers e.g. with FaST or other advisory service programmes.

Carbon Farming

Facilitators: Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure (Sweden) and the EU CAP Network

Challenges

- To find attractive payment levels for rewetting of peatlands. Can national finance or result-based payments based on article 31.7.a. (EU) 2021-2115 give more flexibility?
- To find good forms of collaboration in a catchment area when working with actions that involves several farmers e.g. rewetting or wetlands. A solution might be the cooperation measure.
- How to measure and find reliable systems for calculation of carbon storage? This is needed for efficient interventions and trust by farmers and society.
- It is relatively easy to get a good uptake to interventions that are more temporary such as intermediate crops while more long-term interventions are more difficult. This is related to an unsecure future e.g. when it comes to taxes, regulations and payment schemes.

Inspiration and good examples: Ley management with longer rotation period, agroforestry, organic production, extensive grassland management on peatsoils, crop rotation with higher scores for some crops, investment support for rewetting.

Biodiversity

Facilitators: WWF Sweden and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Challenges

- To find the balance between a high environmental ambition and simple and attractive design that can be interesting for both small and large farms.
- To adapt interventions to local and regional needs, practices and ambitions.
- How to find good ways of evaluate the environmental effect of the interventions.
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Inspiration and good examples: Activities that support and encourage networking and peer-to-peer learning for farmers e.g. a mandatory seminar or certificate during the first years of the commitment.

Animal Welfare

Facilitators: the Swedish Pasture Beef and Lamb Association and the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Fisheries

Challenges

- Lack of communication with end user in the design process, this creates a barrier for the uptake.
- Many conditions mean documentation for the farmer that is consuming too much time.
- How can we design interventions that can be monitored for effect without adding to the cost of implementation?

Inspiration and good examples: support for animal welfare for bees developed in good dialogue with beekeepers association.

Increased ambition and simplification- Area Monitoring System

Facilitators: the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the EU CAP Network

Challenges

- To get the farmers acceptance of being monitored.
- The burden of geotagged photos.
- Many conditions are not monitorable by satellite.

Solutions

- Highlight benefits such as flexibility to change application without sanctions and early warning to the farmers.
- Geotagged photos can work well in several cases.
- Higher resolution satellite photos so we can see more objects .
- Use of digital farm books where farmer registers activity on-farm that improves data register.
- Use of drones.

Synergies and combinations of different interventions and actions

Facilitators: the Swedish Rural Network and the Swedish Advisory Service Programme “Focus on Nutrients”

Highlights from the discussion

- The farmer should be in the centre.
- If advisers understand and are positive to the interventions they can promote them! So, train and motivate the advisers and also let them be part of the development of the interventions.
- Advisers is building trust between farmers and the authorities and can work for encouraging farmers to take ownership of the issues faced and finding solutions that work with their systems.
- The National CAP Networks can work as a neutral platform and facilitate discussions between different stakeholders. An example is to find solutions to take a step forward in the process of simplification of CAP or how to promote interventions with low uptake.
- The stakeholder involvement that the CAP Networks can support have the potential to lead to increased knowledge, understanding and incentives for implementation.

Catchment Officer Programmes and similar initiatives

Facilitators: SEGES Innovation (Denmark) and Federation of Swedish Farmers

Highlights from the discussion

- It can be a challenge to gather farmers in groups and find attractive forms of collaboration - this is why not only technical aspects but good pedagogic knowledge is needed to facilitate these processes. Apart from this the following factors was mentioned:
 - There is a need for clear targets that everyone in the group can agree to work towards.
 - The work has to be based on trust, if no trust it will be difficult.
 - The interventions must be proven to be accepted.
 - A good interaction and collaboration between authorities on national, regional and local level is needed.
- In short: a successful supporting architecture for farmers consist of relevant actors that are motivated and collaborate as well as access to finance and knowledge.

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Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure