Climate action as driver for agroecology

Building alliances in Central Eastern Europe

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Capacity building for ambitious climate action in CEE

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#AEEUForum2023
Capacity building for ambitious climate action in Central Eastern Europe

Aim: strengthen the collaboration and exchange of experiences among stakeholders in order support strategic planning for climate friendly and resilient agri-food systems in CEE.

Increase awareness and knowledge of:

- agricultural measures that deliver both climate and other environmental and socio-economic benefits
- risks and trade-offs associated with some solutions
- the need for holistic policies that recognize not just the role of improved emission intensity, but also reducing total emissions alongside the need to manage intensity of agricultural production, and long-term productivity and resilience of agricultural systems

Analyse the climate ambition set in the national strategic plans of the Common Agricultural Policy (CSPs) for the 2023-2027 and national climate policies, and providing insights into where gaps and opportunities are to improve the alignment of the CAP with long-term climate targets

Enable collaborative conversations and networking among stakeholders for implementing win-win measures and integrated agri-climate policies in CEE
Webinars

Farming with nature: mitigating climate change and building resilience at farm and landscape level
Webinar | 19 October 2023

Tools to facilitate nature friendly climate action and sustainability transition in agriculture
Webinar | 26 October 2023

Is CAP supporting climate friendly and resilient agri-food systems in CEE? – Lessons learned and way forward
Webinar | 30 November 2023

Final report - April 2024
Estonian government declares emergency situation in agriculture sector

The Czech Republic, with drought covering almost its entire territory, is the region's worst affected. Yet the whole of Central Europe has been in a state of drought, with the Czech Republic experiencing particularly severe conditions.

"Wake-up call": How extreme weather is hitting Lithuania's farmers and wildlife

Nemcsak megsülűnk, éhen is halunk a klímaváltozás miatt

A kutatás szerint itt az ideje, hogy felébredjünk: az éghajlatváltozás súlyosan fenyegeti az élelmiszer ellátási láncot, és eddig alábecsülték a világ nagy élelmiszertermelő vidékein várható termékesések kockázatát.
GHG emissions and removals (Mt CO2e per km² agriculture plus forestry) for agriculture, LULUCF and energy (agriculture, forestry, fishing), for the EU27 and for the CEE EU11, 1990 to 2020.
### Mitigation potentials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criterion</th>
<th>Managing peatlands</th>
<th>Agroforestry</th>
<th>Maintain and enhance SOC on mineral soils</th>
<th>Livestock and manure management</th>
<th>Nutrient management on croplands and grasslands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon farming actions</td>
<td>Maintenance / rewetting /management, paludiculture</td>
<td>Creation, restoration, and management of woody features in the landscape</td>
<td>Cropland and grassland management (e.g. cover cropping, crop rotations, organic farming)</td>
<td>Technologies to reduce enteric methane, manure management, increased herd and feed efficiency</td>
<td>Improved nutrient planning, timing and application of fertilisers; reduction in fertilisers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total EU mitigation potential (Mt CO$_2$-e/yr)</td>
<td>51- 54 Mt CO$_2$-e/yr</td>
<td>8 – 235 Mt CO$_2$-e/yr</td>
<td>9 – 70 Mt CO$_2$-e/yr</td>
<td>14 – 66 Mt CO$_2$-e/yr</td>
<td>19 Mt CO$_2$-e/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per hectare mitigation potential (t CO$_2$-e/ha/yr)</td>
<td>3.5 - 29</td>
<td>0.03 – 27</td>
<td>0.5-7</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigation mechanism</td>
<td>Avoided emissions</td>
<td>Removal</td>
<td>Removal and avoided emissions</td>
<td>Reduced emissions</td>
<td>Reduced emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of change</td>
<td>Land use</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Management and land use</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-benefits for farmers</td>
<td>Potential for paludiculture</td>
<td>Diversification of outputs, protects against single crop failure</td>
<td>Improved water holding capacity and workability of soils, productivity</td>
<td>Lower input costs (feed, fertiliser, energy), soil health, productivity</td>
<td>Lower input costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Societal co-benefits</td>
<td>Biodiversity, flood regulation, water quality</td>
<td>Improved water retention, microclimate, soil health, biodiversity</td>
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<td>Decreased nutrient runoff; decreased ammonia emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risks</td>
<td>CH4 emissions (although net GHG benefit), decrease in biodiversity</td>
<td>Non-native species’ impact on biodiversity</td>
<td>Biochar, municipal compost impacts on soil health/biodiversity</td>
<td>Animal welfare; water quality impacts of feed additives</td>
<td>Water quality impacts of nitrification inhibitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguards needed</td>
<td>Resilience to climate change impacts, consider leakage effects</td>
<td>No Agroforestry on peatlands, consider nature conservation objectives</td>
<td>Restriction on biochar and municipal compost</td>
<td>Consider animal welfare and carbon leakage, rewarding for actual reduction (not emission intensity)</td>
<td>Precautionary principle on nitrification inhibitors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technological fixes

• Reduction in emission intensity does not necessarily result in absolute emission reductions
• Risks for soil health (subsoil compaction, soil biodiversity), water balance
• Technological solutions per se do not address underlying drivers that undermine resilience
• Reinforces lock-in for farmers and agri-food systems more broadly
Reframing narratives

• Need improved institutional capacity; limited role and capacity of civil society to push for alternative narratives.

• Civil society primarily focused on biodiversity, not well versed or interested in water, soil, climate or agri-food system perspective

• Funding for civil society unstable, fragmented  □ challenge of how to develop the know-how and capacities to use climate action to drive changes in agri-food systems?

• Coalition and alliance building to create alternative CAP vision, which reframes what climate action is and how it fits with broader sustainability transition in agri-food systems
Today’s conversation

• Needs and entry points for reframing
• Alliance building – interest
• Alliance building - resources and possible steps