



Saving water by changing the CAP

- Workshop “**Drought and water deficiency: from research to policy making**”
- Session 3 “**Long term management**”
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Problems and drivers

- problems are relevant for the environment and for a number of water users
- combination of causes: inter alia a reduction of available water resources and increased water demand





Reduction of available resources

- over the twentieth century river discharge decreased considerably in many southern European basins
- by 2070, river discharge is expected to decrease due to climate change by up to 50 % in southern and southeastern Europe
- stress on water resources





Increase of water consumption

- agriculture is the main water user in Southern Europe
- stimulated by
 - agricultural subsidies that support production
 - inadequate pricing system
 - the lack of compliance with water related legislation
- ‘solved’ by constructing more dams and inter-basin water transfers





CAP: driver of water consumption

- by differentiating subsidies for irrigated and non-irrigated crops,
- by investing into irrigation systems,
- by not applying compulsory water standards as a basis for CAP subsidies,
- by subsidising the export of over-production in Europe inter-basin water transfers





Olive production: CAP Pillar 1

- low difference of yield between intensive farming without irrigation (4500 kg/ha) and with irrigation (6500 kg/ha)
- increase of income of 90 €/ha under irrigation
- overproduction of olives in the EU
- produced in arid areas: Jaén was pointing an annual 'hydrological deficit' of 480 millions m³





Sugar production: CAP Pillar 1

- financial support from the CAP through different ways
- Even if drought tolerant, 77% of the sugar production now irrigated in Spain
- *Tablas de Daimiel* National Park: massive demands on the aquifer upon which the wetlands depend
- agri-environment scheme has been established: only need to meet the legal limit for abstraction





Strawberry production: CAP Pillar 2

- affect water quality and quantity because of pesticides and irrigation: downstream Doñana National Park's aquifer
- boreholes in this region for the use of groundwater are mainly illegal
- Pillar 2: Training, Investment in holdings and infrastructure, marketing and promotion
- roads and other measures financed under the Structural Fund





Future scenarios

- Climate change: critical factor is water supply and uncertainty of regional precipitation
- in some parts of southern Europe, agriculture may be threatened
- increasing conflicts with other water users





Policy proposals

- CAP is a significant driver of land-use practices in Europe
- annual budget of approximately Euro 43 billion
- Drives unsustainable water demand
- high-water-demand crops exceed EU-assigned quotas, forcing farmers to leave them unharvested or to sell them onto the international market often at 'dumping' prices





Recommendations for pillar 1: Cross-compliance

- Cross-compliance consists of a set of standards that all recipients of CAP subsidies must respect in order to receive their subsidies
- Water Framework Directive is not included, only nitrates, groundwater and sewage sludge directives: 2007 review
- Sugar and horticulture reviews 2005-





Recommendations for pillar 2

- Now: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013.
 - Mentioning WFD as an objective
 - Criteria for effective water management
 - measures for supporting WFD objectives
 - rural budget is maintained or strengthened
 - water standards apply also to all pillar 2 payments





Conclusions

- CAP subsidies: major driver of water consumption in drought-facing areas of Europe,
- Examples: olive, cereal, cotton, sugar and strawberry production in Spain and Greece.
- Action: Introduce WFD in the reform of the EU agricultural policies, as well as in its National and Regional implementation plans.

