

STRATEGIES FOR FARMERS IN SETTING UP OF SOME STRUCTURES OF FODDER CULTURES WITH THE OBJECT OF BEST CAPITALIZATION OF EXISTING DIRECT PAYMENTS – ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

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Payments accorded through European Funds encourage farmers to serve society as whole by introduction or continuation of application of agricultural production methods which are compatible with improvement and protection of environment and landscape. Based on actual supporting Measures and Schemes which are connected with fodder plant species, 11 strategies were proposed. These strategies offer the possibility of choosing by farmer of that strategy which satisfies his economic needs and which responds at society's requirement for environmental services.

Key words: *direct payments, agro-environmental payments, fodder cultures*

MATERIAL AND METHOD

With adhesion to EU, Romania benefits of financial supports financed by European Fund for Guarantee in Agriculture (EAFG), Pillar I, as direct payments in the frame of Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS), respectively as Complementary National Direct Payments (CNDP) and financial support through supporting measures financed from national budget and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), Pillar II [3]. To benefit by direct payments in the frame of Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS) and by Complementary National Direct Payments (CNDP), applicants should be registered in farmers register, managed by Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture (PIAA) [4], and also they should fulfil and respect cross-compliance conditions (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions – GAECs, respectively the requirements of Good Agricultural Practices Code). These payments are available for all agricultural land categories and they don't depend by production. Through these measures is followed the support of a competitive agriculture practicing, sustainable and marketable, by respecting of cross-compliance requirements [5]. Using of payments offered by two Pillars will bring obvious economic, social and environmental benefits toward farmers with big surface farms, for semi-subsistence farms and for society as whole.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In choosing of some strategies farmers, besides the financial opportunities, should take into account the choosing of some structure of cultures and some species which answer the best at actual climatic changes they are confronted with, like drought.

To design the implementation politics in the view of realization of economic and ecological proposed objectives, farmer should know both ecological requirements of species and the requirements which should be respected to benefit by payments and other financial supports mentioned before.

Good agricultural and environmental conditions which are applying now in Romania refer at respecting of five standards (I. Standards for avoiding soil erosion; II. Standards for maintaining the optimum soil organic matter by using adequate agricultural practices; III. Standards for maintaining the soil structure; IV. Standards for maintaining a minimum soil maintenance level; V. Standards for maintaining the existing area of permanent pastures) and 11 conditions [2].

Complementary National Direct Payments (CNDP) in the vegetal sector are payments which represent supplementary appropriation of an amount of money per surface for the cultures scheduled in operation legislation. Among these cultures can be mentioned: fodder cultures in arable land (CNDP1) – cereals (common wheat, rye, barley, oat, two-row barley, maize, sweet corn, sorghum, triticale, millet, buckwheat), protean crops (garden pea, looping, broad bean), industrial plants (rape, soybean), root crops (potatoes, mangel-wurzel), energetic crops (rape, sunflower, soybean, maize) and others [1].

Agro-environmental measures from Axis II (Improving the environment and countryside), financed through EAFRD, have as objectives committal of development of rural zones and satisfaction of increasing society's requirements for environmental services. Payments accorded through this measure encourage farmers to serve society as whole by introduction or continuation of application of agricultural production methods which are compatible with improvement and protection of environment, landscape and its characteristics, natural resources, soil and genetic diversity [6].

Farmers could benefit by some supporting payments through application for some measures like Setting up of young farmers (Measure 112), Supporting of semi-subsistence agricultural farms (Measure 141), both measures of Axis I (Improving the competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sector) and financed through EAFRD funds. Among selection criteria for according of financial support for these measures the access of a package of agro-environmental measures is provided.

The connection between strategy of setting up of annuals and some measures appertaining to the two axes is realized through agro-environmental measures from II Axis, Package 4 – Green crops. Operational objectives of this measure are soil and water protection through encourage of utilization of green crops. This package

can be applied for maximum 80% from arable land surface of farm respecting the requirement from GAEC which specifies the fact that during the winter arable land should be covered with cover crops or let as uncultivated for at least 20% from arable land of farm. Plants assortment recommended for this package includes the following species: pea, vetch, rape, mustard, clover and sweet clover. Through respecting of management requirement for this package it is followed the protection of soil during winter, assuring its covering with vegetation, and the observance of objectives of Framework Directive of Water to maintain a good ecologic and chemical status of all waters. Among these management requirements can be mentioned:

- green crops seeding should be realized till the end of September;
- organic fertilizers using is enabled but chemical fertilizers using is forbidden before setting up of green crops;
- compulsion of incorporation into the soil of biomass grown the last till the end of March. Soil tillage required by next crop could be started just after this action.

Farmers can annually change the surface which for they apply this package with other surfaces placed in the same farm but provided the maintenance of the size of surface in place in the frame of this package in the first year of engagement.

Compensatory payment for green crops covered surface which overpass the surface protected through GAEC (20% from the arable land surface of farm) is about 130 Euro per hectare.

Strategy I

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + CNDP1 (46.71 €) autumn fodder crops – grasses, which release the land the last in the second decade of September (46.71 €) + Green crops package – legumes (130 €) + second year: CNDP1 (46.71 €) spring fodder crops – grasses.

Strategy II

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + other fodder crops which are not stipulated in CNDP1 (46.71 €) but which release the land the last in the first decade of September + Green crops package (130 €) – cole crops + second year: CNDP 1 (46.71 €) spring fodder crops – grasses.

Strategy III

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + other fodder crops which are not stipulated in CNDP1 (46.71 €) but which release the land the last in the first decade of September + Green crops package (130 €) – legumes + second year: CNDP 1 (46.71 €) spring fodder crops – grasses.

Strategy IV

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + CNDP1 (46.71 €) spring fodder crops which release the land the last in the first decade of September (46.71 €) + Green crops package – legumes (130 €) + second year: CNDP1 (46.71 €) spring fodder crops – grasses.

Strategy V

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + CNDP1 (46.71 €) spring fodder crops which release the land the last in the first decade of September (46.71 €) + Green crops package – cole crops (130 €) + second year: CNDP1 (46.71 €) spring fodder crops – grasses.

Strategy VI

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + spring fodder crops which are stipulated in CNDP1 (46.71 €) and which release the land the last in the second decade of August + Green crops package – cole crops (130 €) + second year: spring crop stipulated in payment scheme for energetic crops (45 €), (example: soybean, mayze, sunflower).

Strategy VII

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + spring fodder crops which are stipulated in CNDP1 (46.71 €) and which release the land the last in the second decade of August + Green crops package – legumes (130 €) + second year: spring crop stipulated in payment scheme for energetic crops (45 €), (example: soybean, mayze, sunflower).

Strategy VIII

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + spring fodder crops which are stipulated in CNDP1 (46.71 €) and which release the land the last in the second decade of August + autumn culture stipulated in payment scheme for energetic crops (45 €), (example: rape).

Strategy IX

- First year: application for SAPS (60.75 €) + fodder crops which are stipulated in CNDP1 (46.71 €) and which release the land the last in the second decade of August – legumes + autumn culture stipulated in PNCD1 (46.71 €) – grasses.

Strategy X

- Measure 112 Setting up young farmers + either of Strategies 1-7.

Strategy XI

- Measure 141 Support for semi-subsistence agricultural farms + either of Strategies 1-7.

CONCLUSIONS

Option for choosing of one strategy among those presented appertains exclusively to farmer who directly uses the land. Farmer is directly responsible for five years respecting of management requirements imposed by some financial supporting forms and/or some measures which for he applies. Existing of some verified strategies for representative ecological areas could contribute to a correct decision of farmers.

In these conditions a transdisciplinary research of these strategies is necessary (among universities, research institutes, Paying and Intervention Agency for

Agriculture, County Office for Agricultural Consulting and National Agency for Agriculture Consulting).

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