

Policy Options

27/09/2018 Ana Frelih-Larsen



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RE CARE

Preventing and Remediating
degradation of soils in Europe
through Land Care



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Brussels, Belgium
September 27th - 2018



Introduction

- Effective soil management measures are available and ready to be deployed
- There is scope and need to increase policy ambition



- What are the barriers to better uptake of soil management measures and effective policies?
- What are some ways that EU policy could better support sustainable soil management?

Barriers to soil protection

Policy

Absence of long-term strategies

Technical

Lack of methodologies to measure, assess and monitor

Conflicting guidance

Institutional

Lack of clear leadership, coordination, collaboration

Socio-cultural

Traditional practices and perceptions

Financial

Lack of resources
Insufficient incentives

Information

Missing risk assessments, monitoring of impacts



Why EU-level policy improvements?

Incoherencies in design or implementation
of EU policies



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Limited implementation at MS level



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Incoherencies in design or implementation of EU policies

Limited implementation at MS level

Need to set a common playing field

Limited ambition and funding



How to improve?

Legally binding
targets to
incentivize
coordination and
integration

Common
Agricultural Policy

Capacity building:
land managers,
decision-makers

R & D for
sustainable soil
management

Legally binding targets

- Mixed views by Member States on a coordinated and/or legally binding approach
- Would legally binding targets be politically feasible and effective and how would they be defined?
- What legal form could these take?
- Would supporting measures need to be defined?

How to improve?

Legally binding targets to incentivize coordination and integration

Common Agricultural Policy

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Common Agricultural Policy

- Unsustainable agricultural practices are a key driver for soil degradation
- Legislative proposals leave a lot of uncertainty because of flexibility given to Member States
- Need to earmark sufficient funds and ensure ambition for environment

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Common Agricultural Policy

- GAEC standard 6

Minimum land management under tillage to reduce risk of soil degradation including on slopes



Sustainable land management to reduce risk of soil degradation including on slopes

- Increased ambition for soil management under voluntary measures
- Infrastructure / machinery investments → clear safeguards for soils
- Eligibility of contractors to receive payments?
- Design of measures to respond in a timely fashion

How to improve?

Legally binding targets to incentivize coordination and integration

Common Agricultural Policy

Capacity building: land managers, decision-makers

R & D for sustainable soil management

Capacity building: Land managers

- Regulation may not always be effective or workable
- Empower and engage by increasing knowledge and competence
- Importance of agricultural schools and curricula
- Capacity building for advisory services needed (technical soil knowledge)

Capacity building: Decision-making

- Improved risk mapping and monitoring → spatial variation of effectiveness of measures and targeting / timing can greatly improve efficiency
- Ecosystem service assessments can better capture value of measures
- Improved monitoring of policy impacts



Sharing of best practices and experiences can be formalized and coordinated from EU level

How to improve?

Legally binding targets to incentivize coordination and integration

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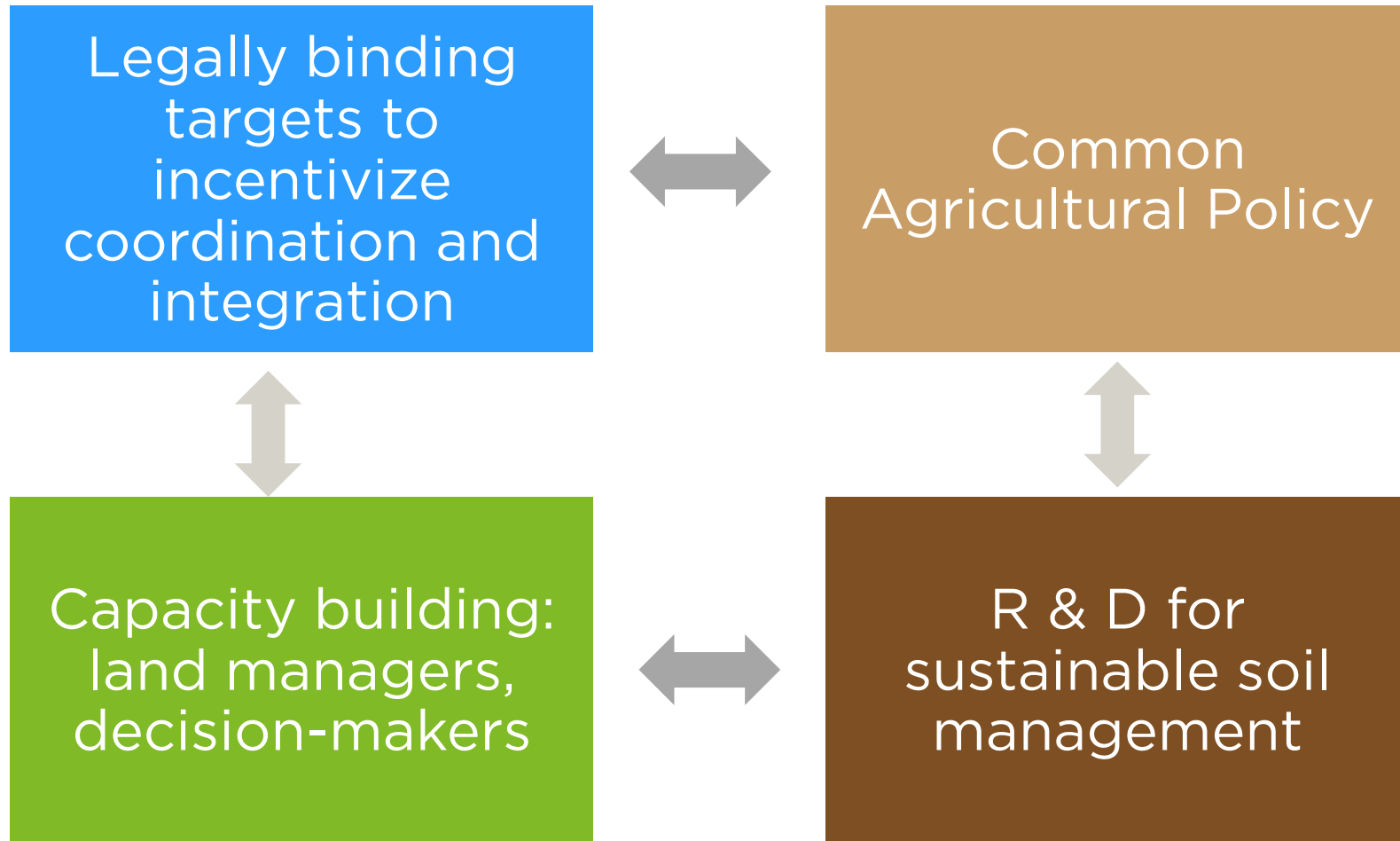
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R & D for sustainable soil management

- Many soil threats driven by the structural and technological developments in the agricultural sector
- Some solutions are also technological in nature, not just management focused
- European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) and national research funding
- Independent applied agricultural research as a basis for designing sustainable solutions

Mutually reinforcing



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Thank you for your attention.



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