

SPAIN WAS PROMISED MORE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

but this is what we got!



PROMISE



We were promised a space for nature on farmland, but...



REALITY



55%

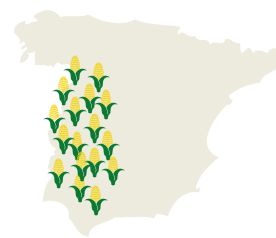
of farmland in Spain, or more than 82% of all farmers will not have to respect rules that protect biodiversity.¹

1

Over half of farmland in Spain will not be required to include natural elements that will protect biodiversity, such as buffer strips between fields, trees, hedges and ponds. This will make it more difficult for animals, such as birds, insects, butterflies, bees and small mammals to survive in farmland areas. Less space for nature has further negative impacts on water and soil quality which affects agricultural production by reducing natural pest control and the farms capacity to withstand the effects of climate change.



We were promised less monoculture farming and a more diverse and healthy landscape, but ...



20%

of arable land in Spain, or more than 37% of all arable farmers are not required to carry out any meaningful crop diversification.²

2

Although crop rotation is a traditional agricultural practice on dry Mediterranean farms, more than one fifth of the arable land in Spain will not be required to do a three crop diversification. The government is thereby allowing large monocultures to perpetuate biodiversity loss, soil depletion and increased pesticide and fertilizer use. This results in irreversible and damaging consequences for the climate as well as air and water quality.



We were promised more targeted funding for environmental measures, but ...



the more environmentally targeted part of the CAP - Rural Development - received a relative financial cut 4.2 times larger than the cut in the blunt income support of the direct payments.³

3

Disproportionate cuts to the more conditional and environmentally-focused Rural Development Fund means that there will most likely be less money available for green farmers who are applying better farming practices to their everyday work.

¹ Statistics from Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Agri-environmental_indicator_-_soil_cover

² Statistics from Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Agri-environmental_indicator_-_cropping_patterns

³ Statistics from the European Council Conclusions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-202 and the CAP



The average European household contributed €277 per year to the CAP between 2007-2013.

In exchange for the billions of euros paid annually in taxes, Europeans were promised a green and more sustainable CAP reform.

But now the reform is over and greener and more sustainable farming is unlikely to take form because exemptions from green measures have become the rule rather than the exception. Even worse, in Spain this so called "green" reform will constitute a step backwards on previous

environmental achievements by considering all the permanent crops as environmentally friendly, without any additional requirement. Therefore, certain areas of olive groves with the highest rate of loss of fertile soil and agrochemical pollution problems may receive these green payments without implementing any good agricultural practices.

But it is not over yet.

Now all efforts have to focus on getting the most out of the implementation of the reform. The Spanish government has the ability to make this happen.

Decision makers are urged to take this final opportunity and:

1

Avoid any Rural Development funds being used to create newly irrigated areas as well as ensuring that irrigation investments for modernization are conditional upon strong environmental criteria to ensure real water savings, and a good ecological status of water bodies.

2

Ensure Rural Development Programmes only contain truly sustainable measures that are going significantly beyond the greening requirements and cross compliance under Direct Income payments.

- Ensure that the 30% minimum spending for the environment is only filled with high quality environmental measures, such as agri-environment-climate, forest-environment and Natura 2000 measures.
- Reject all environmentally harmful measures under Direct Income and Rural Development payments.
- Introduce thematic sub-programmes which address the challenges for High Nature Value and organic farming.
- Use the advisory measures to offer support on environmental issues, especially regarding the Natura 2000 Network and WFD.

3

Reinforce the cross compliance systems (GAEC and control mechanism) and promote a real internal convergence to achieve a redistribution of direct payments in favour of the most social and environmentally friendly farms.

Only if this is achieved can we see a Common Agriculture Policy that gives some hope on protecting nature, maximizing opportunities for Spanish farmers and delivering on its promise for a greener Europe.