

Workshop 4
Connecting with the new CAP; what are our messages for policy makers and how do we get these across?

Summary report of the results

Below are background discussions, the questions and issues the participants of the Workshop 4 raised.

The benefits of the collective approaches are accepted by all. Considering that the most debated by the implementers/ associations are the methods of control of rules and goals. For example, they should be flexible enough to permit nature to take its course, when the goals are related to nature. The emphasis is to have more policing inside the groups as opposed to the policing by the agencies, like Dg Agri. “Self-assessment, self-control, self-policing” were key words used by the participants who wanted to see self-certification of goals. Christiane Canenbley from DG Agri highlighted that that approach may be not acceptable because it is public money and the required legal obligations, procedures and controls should be followed. Examples might be collected to create showcases to demonstrate to other groups, collectives, regions, or countries what is successful, but considering those mechanisms which exist to allow that as with the Leader approach.

Building trust is one of the basic conditions to make collective approaches work. Get-together and discuss in full transparency between farmers and environmentalists, farmers and authorities help to build trust and understand each other positions. Not all collective approaches work in the same way and are effective in the same manner in all the EU countries, especially in the ex-socialist ones. An alternative is to spread to other actions or measures, example, Lags, Leader, etc. However it takes a long time to build and to have good results. Incentives and sanctions are important to keep the system functional.

- Flexibility in the regulation of the collective approach, tolerable lack of precision on measurements of the goals
- The meeting required more self-certification of achievement of goals also to reduce the burden of inspections
- Creating publicity and information for the cooperative schemes and their availability to enable them to be adopted by all the members, old and new, north and south.
- Allow for contracts giving projects duration longer than the actual programming perspective may permit

- Trial projects/exercises with greater flexibility to test the viability in the field considering the huge diversity between countries and regions
- The participants required more trust and working together to find ways to build trust with the collectives themselves and between the collectives and the agencies.
- Explore further opportunities for collective approaches like Erasmus +, Innovation partnerships, Leader, etc.
- To consider the time frame for the collective proposals, the new period and the mid term revision of the CAP.