



FAIRWAY

EU POLICY MAKERS

In the context of water resource protection, local adaptation and result-based schemes directed at the implementation of clear objectives have better environmental impacts and higher cost-effectiveness than uniform payments and greening schemes in CAP.

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FURTHER DETAILS

[Boekhold, S. et al. \(2021\) From farm to drinking water - fit for the future? FAIRWAY Project Deliverable 6.5, 9 pp](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



FAIRWAY received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727984

KEY MESSAGE

Economic pressures in agriculture severely limits farmers' room to maneuver. The effect of local optimisation processes is only a fraction of what can be achieved with more structural policy choices that reduce inputs and pressures at their source.

EXPLANATION

Agricultural activity to date has been the major source of pollution of drinking water resources throughout Europe. In view of current policy initiatives such as the Green Deal and From Farm to Fork, the EU, its Member and partnering States should incorporate water quality impact in assessments and policy choices at all levels.

In the Farm to Fork initiative the EC stipulates that a sustainable food system is essential to achieve the climate and environmental objectives of the Green Deal (and upcoming Climate Directive). The initiative also highlights this as an opportunity to improve the incomes of primary producers and reinforce the EU's competitiveness.

EVIDENCE

Stakeholders in the [FAIRWAY case studies](#) emphasized the tensions between taking measures to protect water resources and trying to achieve (small) economic revenues for farmers. The assessment shows that further revisions of the CAP are necessary because uniform payments and greening schemes have shown to be ineffective in delivering environmental benefits. Instead, local adaptation and result-based schemes directed at the implementation of clear objectives indicate better effects and cost-effectiveness.

