Overview of the implementation of the CAP

Implementation CAP

The new CAP is going to invest around EUR 37.5 billion in Italy’s farming sector and rural areas. Key political priorities defined at European level are: jobs, sustainability, modernisation, innovation and quality. In parallel, flexibility is given to Italy to adapt both direct payments and rural development programmes to its specific needs.

National Implementation path:
- May 27, political agreement on National priorities.
- June 5, meeting of the Permanent Committee for Coordination in Agriculture.
- June 12 and July 31: meetings of the State-Regions Conference.
- August 1, notification to the European Commission.

Resources for Italy:
Pillar 1: from 2013 to 2019: -10.4%; from 2015 to 2019: -5.1%.
Pillar 2: from 2007/13 to 2014/2020: +16%.


Implementation: EC factsheet on Italy and the CAP

For 2014-2020, Italy has been allocated around EUR 10.4 billion for measures benefitting its rural areas. This will be spent in accordance with well-defined priorities set out in so-called “rural development programmes” (RDPs): 21 will be defined at the regional level, while two will be managed at national level (the Italian Rural Network and a National Programme on risk and water management and biodiversity).

Italy will focus in particular on strengthening research, fostering knowledge transfer and innovation as a cross-cutting priority, together with a specific attention to the Digital agenda, for facilitating the access to information and communication technologies for rural areas. Moreover, efforts will be made on enhancing the competitiveness of production systems and particularly of agricultural enterprises; supporting sustainable energy and quality of life; promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency.


Co-financed by the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Union
Situation of mountain supply chains

Mountain supply chain

47.5% of Italy comprises by mountains and 31% of Italian farms are located in mountain areas. Italy produces 30% of total European Union mountain food production. Mountain food production in Italy is therefore capital for the national economy and it is well recognized both nationally and internationally for its quality and general excellence.

Food production in the mountains has both disadvantages (such as climate, remoteness, less fertile soils, shorter productive seasons) and advantages (funds for mountain producers are higher than the ones dedicated to farms located elsewhere).

According to DG AGRI data, mountain output of Italy totals at 7200 M€, of which 66% comes from mountain crops and 34% from mountain livestock. Italian production of mountain milk is 17% of the EU total, and Italy is also by far the leading producer in the EU of fruit, with 72% of the EU total mountain fruit production.

The national implementation of the new CAP enhances the attractiveness of mountain farming by i) considering Italy as a single Region, thus opening the whole country to admissibility for indirect payments, ii) creating level playing fields for enhancing convergence, and iii) raising the exemption threshold for farmers to EUR 5,000.


Agrofood production

Italian tradition of excellence in food production is well known worldwide.

As per mountain food production, Italian farmers can take advantage, in addition to other labels and certifications, of the newly approved «Mountain Product» optional quality term, under EU regulation 1151/2012 and the June 2014 approved delegated act. According to the regulation, raw materials and foodstuff have to come essentially from mountain areas, and the transformation has to take place no more than 30km away from mountain areas.

In Italy, mountain production was already indirectly protected by the IGP and DOP marks. The optional label «Mountain Product» represents a new opportunity that, at present, could appeal both to producers and the general public: according to a study commissioned by the EC, to 65% of European consumers, the term «mountain» evoke ideas of purity, authenticity, and quality.

The new CAP clearly states and provides for the role of «active farmers» as providers of essential services, and figures in environmental protection, cultural preservation, social inclusiveness, and economical revival, also by means of the enhancement of tourist and agrotourist activities.
Most interesting rural development measures

**National Overview**
The new CAP provides a strong financial enhancement for Italian RDPs: +16% compared to the 2007-2013 CAP. 30% of the national RDP must be invested in greening procedures, and at least 5% in the LEADER approach.

**Campania**
Specific interventions for mountain agriculture are foreseen in recognition of the mountain farmers’ role in safeguarding the calcareous and volcanic soils, that are very fertile but very subject to erosion and instability.

**Emilia-Romagna**
One of the many objectives is the valorization of productions also by means of the “Mountain product” label. Adaptation of intervention guidelines, LEADER approach and services to mountain populations are the main mountain focuses.

**Lombardy**
Compensations are envisioned for mountain farmers, focusing on permanent meadows and pastures, with special focus on the most disadvantaged areas in terms of slope and altitude. Compensations for Natura 2000 areas.

**Marche**
Special focus on the regional mountains, with specific attention to mountain forestry and tourist development of mountain areas. Focus on the mountain landscape of the Region: cultural offer linked to agro-food excellence.

**Piedmont**
Investments are foreseen for the modernization of mountain farming infrastructures. Modernization of alpine pastures and improvements for local mobility and linkages with the regional transport net are also covered.

**Veneto**
More than 35% of the total RDP budget has been allocated to mountains. Entrepreneurship, young people and the mountains are at the core of the new Veneto RDP.
**LEADER approach**

In Italy, for 2007-2013, a total of 192 LAGs (Local Action Groups) were selected, for an investment of about 1300 M€. Traditionally, LAGs work in remote and disadvantaged areas, including mountain areas. In 2014-2020, the LEADER approach will coexist with thematic mountain programmes and subprogrammes. Chances for integration can be increased by not duplicating interventions in the same areas and by simplifying and harmonizing available tools. The new CAP can be instrumental to this aim.

*Source: Italian Rural Network, 2014.*

**LEADER and the CAP**

The new CAP grants a bigger flexibility to operate with other funds in local areas, such as, e.g., the urban/rural cooperation. The LEADER approach is, in the new CAP, considered as the common model for local participatory development processes. The Italian Rural Network LEADER Task Force has been following the debate led by GALs and Regions at local level in order to build an informed participatory process for local actors and stakeholders on the opportunities and procedures of the 2014-2020 programmes.

---

**LEADER in Veneto**

Representatives of Veneto mountain areas have launched “Montagna Veneta 2020”, a pact signed with three priorities: sustainability, development and solidarity, to safeguard the environmental and cultural heritage, support productivity and grant access to basic services.

**LEADER in Tuscany**

50 M€ is the record sum allocated by the Tuscan RDP to the LEADER approach, to finance the so-call bottom-up strategies of the regional LAGs, thus strengthening the bottom-up approach and the public/private partnerships.

**LEADER in Lombardy**

Measure 19, dedicated to LEADER, has been activated and focuses on the improvement of the economic performance of mountain farms, the enhancement of competitiveness for producers and the use and provision of renewable energies.