



# **The implementation of greening in Hungary**

**Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016**

# Overview

- Total area of Hungary: 9,3 million ha, of which:
  - Agricultural land - for SAPS 4,95 million ha
- Utilized agricultural area:
  - 80 % arable land,
  - 14 % grassland,
  - 6 % kitchen gardens, orchards and vineyards

# Overview

- **SAPS - 145€/ha**
- **Greening - 81€/ha**
- National permanent grassland ratio
- No equivalent practices
- No regional/collective EFA approach
  - Collective EFA in progress (Polish example)
- No designation of further environmental sensitive permanent grassland except for Natura2000

# Permanent Grassland

- Delineated in LPIS
- Establishment of PG location and conversion/ploughing by Paying Agency (Agricultural and Rural Development Agency):
  - Single application data
  - LPIS data
  - OTSC data
- Farmers shall not convert or plough Natura 2000 PG without permission (Nature protection authorities).

# Maintenance of PG

- ***PG must be:***

- kept clear of weeds (especially certain dangerous weeds: *Cuscuta spp.*, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Asclepias syriaca*).

**Clear of weeds:** if the farmer, using either physical, chemical or biological means, prevented weeds from being present on the parcel in such a density that would cause competition between the crop and the weed either on root-level or by overshadowing one another.

- clear of undesired woody vegetation
- in good condition, i.e. should never be overgrazed
- those PG areas that are not grazed on a regular basis should be clear-mowed at least once each year before 31 August

# PG challenges

- - single applications of 2015 – **confusion**: many farmers declared fallow land instead of permanent grassland
  - - **no reconverted land** in 2015
  - - **problems with LPIS** - new landowner:  
**no information on layer** – no information on use – permanent crops – later information that this land has been used as fallow land/grassland – **CONSEQUENCE** reconverted land
- Institute of Geodesy Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI)**: difficulties with delineation – without the layers more incorrect application

# Ecological Focus Areas

- Hungary is among the MS who has introduced the most EFA elements (from 19 EFA elements 18 EFA elements, except stone walls). Most common ones:
  - 1. **land laying fallow** (from 1 January – 31 August)
  - 2. **nitrogen fixing crops** (bean, pea, alfalfa, lupin, clover) – certified seed
  - 3. **catch crops** – no minimum duration on field, certified seed or filling farming book

# Ecological Focus Areas

## Landscape features protected under GAEC (delineated in LPIS)

- Terraces
- Isolated trees
- Trees in group, field copses
- Ponds
- Cumanian mound, Shadoof
- Buffer strips along water courses

## Landscape features outside GAEC

- Wooded strips
- Trees in line
- Field margins
- Diches

## Other EFA

- Land lying fallow
- Hectares of agro-forestry
- Strips of eligible hectares along forest edges
- Short rotation coppice
- Afforested areas
- Catch crops/green cover
- Nitrogen-fixing crops



# Ecological Focus Areas

## EFA elements - 2015

EFA elements	Net claimed area (ha)	Number of farmers applying for EFA	farmers % (SUM=172 000)
Land lying fallow	121 711	19 492	11,33%
Nitrogen fixing crops	213 810	16 086	9,35%
Catch crops	157 262	10 453	6,08%
Wooden strips	2 011	2 345	1,36%
Isolated trees	0	309	0,18%
Trees in line	202	680	0,40%
Trees in group	221	1 123	0,65%
Field margins	3 950	1 996	1,16%
Ponds	35	117	0,07%
Water courses	934	1 795	1,04%
Cumanian mound	116	198	0,12%
Shadoof	0	24	0,01%
Buffer strips along water courses	0	102	0,06%
Hectares of agroforestry with production	1 580	1 153	0,67%
Hectares of agroforestry without production	289	263	0,15%
Short rotation coppice	579	35	0,02%
Afforested areas	4 824	388	0,23%
	507 524	56 559	33,27%

# Ecological Focus Areas - challenges

- - ***wide range of EFA elements*** – Hungarian farmers do not make use of the possibility
- - ***landscape features protected under GAEC*** – less „apetite”
- - ***landscape features outside GAEC*** – only for safety reasons
- - ***catch crops*** – too many notification obligation

# Disposal of landscape features

- introduced only by Hungary
- **rule of „disposal”** are to be applied in the case of landscape features adjacent to the arable land of the holding (**wooded strips, trees in line, field margin, ditches**).
- Landscape features are not at the disposal of the farmer if the owner/property manager denies it.
- Farmer has to **protect the „area at disposal”** against dangerous weeds, eliminate solid waste and fight against rodents.

# Crop diversification

- HU: 1<sup>st</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> September
- The duration on field is established on the base of dates notified in the single aid application and on the spot controls.
- No major problems – no penalties

# ECA special report

- 22 November 2016 - **EU climate action: *serious risk that 20 % spending target will not be met, say Auditors***
- „The introduction of a Green Payment **does not guarantee a significant change of the contribution of direct payments to climate**. This new scheme, while having a certain climate action impact, rests in practice largely on already existing agricultural practices”

# ECA special report

- HCA opinion

The problem: greening = administrative requirements

- The rules of the greening not realistic

## What is needed?

Environmental sustainability + realistic rules



**Thank you for your attention!**