



Labelling of interventions in CAP Strategic Plans by farm practices

Purpose and approach

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List of acronyms

| | |
|------|--|
| CAP | Common Agricultural Policy |
| CSP | CAP Strategic Plan |
| GAEC | Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions |
| JRC | Joint Research Centre |
| UA | Unit Amount |

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1. Introduction

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) have jointly labelled all CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) interventions with an environmental, climate or animal welfare objective by farm practice. These labels are published on the [Catalogue of CAP Interventions](#)¹ for the purpose of policy monitoring, analysis and evaluation, thereby contributing to improving the design of CSP interventions.

The Catalogue includes a searchable function by categories considering, but not limited to, Member State, intervention, planned output, financial allocation and farm practice. On the Catalogue's webpage, the farm practice labels can be accessed and downloaded in Excel.

This brief report describes how the work was undertaken including an explanation of the method applied for the labelling and its limitations.

2. The purpose of labelling CSP interventions by farm practices and how the labelling was undertaken

The new delivery model of the 2023-2027 CAP requires Member States to draft CSPs that provide a comprehensive overview of the policy choices, their justifications and expected contribution to Specific Objectives (SOs). Member States provide descriptions of the interventions that support farm practices (chapter 5 of the CSPs). However, the terminology used in relation to the types of environmental, climate and animal welfare interventions and the farm practices they support differ significantly across CSPs. A common classification system of farm practices was therefore developed and used to align the terminology so that the design of interventions supporting environmental, climate and animal welfare practices could be compared and aggregated across Member States' CSPs.

During 2022, the JRC developed a farm practice classification scheme, which offers a typology of more than 350 farm practices organised by 18 sections, with 45 farm practices at 'Tier 1', 164 farm practices at 'Tier 2' and 157 farm practices further refined at 'Tier 3'. Each farm practice class includes a definition of the concerned practice, where Tier 1 stays at a more general level while Tier 2 and 3 further define the Tier 1 level practice – see [Figure 1](#) below for an illustration related to the section on 'Fertilisation and soil amendments'. Each farm practice class is also associated with a code, allowing for unique identification of each class without having to spell out the full farm practice name. The original farm practice classification has since been revised with the final farm practice classification published in April 2024². For further details on the farm practice classification itself, the reader is referred to this document which explains the classification in detail.

1 Catalogue of CAP interventions - https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/catalogue_interventions.html

2 A classification scheme based on farming practices - <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC133862>



Figure 1. Example of the farm practice classification tiers

| SECTION | Farm practices Tier 1 | Farm practices Tier 2 | Farm practices Tier 3 |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>FX – Fertilisation and soil amendments</p> | <p>FX – Limitations on the use of fertilisers – This class includes the practices where there are limitations or a complete ban in the use of fertilisers (excluding on buffer strips)</p> | <p>F11X – Ban on the use of fertilisers other than along water courses – This class includes practices where the use of fertilisers is forbidden other than alongside water courses. The label should be used only if all fertilisers are forbidden on the whole area under commitment during the whole commitment period or at least for one full season of the main crop. When the ban applies to buffer strips along watercourses, the respective class should be used. Similarly, when the restrictions apply to a limited area of the field such as landscape features, the respective class should be used. When the ban does not cover the whole commitment period or at least one full agronomic year (e.g. ban only limited to cover crops), the practices should be included in the class ‘Limitations on fertiliser timing’. When the application of fertilisers is forbidden but grazing is allowed, the specific Tier 3 classes ‘ban on mineral fertilisers’, ‘ban on manure application’ and ‘ban on sewage sludge’ should be used.</p> | <p>F111 – Ban on organic fertilisers – the ban refers specifically to organic fertilisers</p> |
| | | <p>F112 – Ban on mineral fertilisers – the ban refers specifically to mineral fertilisers</p> | |
| | | <p>F113 – Ban on manure application – the ban refers specifically to the application of manure (note: manure deposited by grazing animals may still be allowed; only in the class ‘ban on organic fertiliser’, see above, the deposition of manure from grazing animals is also forbidden)</p> | |
| | | <p>F114 – Ban on P fertilisers – the ban refers specifically to phosphorous fertilisers</p> | |
| | | <p>F115 – Ban on sewage sludge – the ban refers specifically to the use of sewage sludge</p> | |
| | | <p>F116 – Ban on slurry – the ban refers specifically to the use of slurry</p> | |
| | | <p>F12X – Limitation on fertiliser quantity – This class includes practices where there are limitations on the quantity of fertiliser allowed other than alongside water courses. The limitations should apply to the whole area under the commitment. Limitations put on limited area of the field, such as landscape elements, should use the respective class.</p> | <p>F121 – Max mineral fertiliser input – This class includes practices where a maximum quantity of mineral fertilisers is set</p> |
| | | <p>F122 – Max organic fertiliser input – This class includes practices where a maximum quantity of organic fertiliser is set</p> | |
| | | <p>F123 – Max N surplus – This class includes practices where a maximum quantity of nitrogen surplus is defined</p> | |
| | | <p>F124 – Max N total input – This class includes practices where a maximum quantity of nitrogen is set</p> | |
| <p>F125 – Max P total input – This class includes practices where a maximum quantity of phosphorous is set</p> | | | |



| SECTION | Farm practices Tier 1 | Farm practices Tier 2 | Farm practices Tier 3 |
|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| FX – Fertilisation and soil amendments | F1X – Limitations on the use of fertilisers – This class includes the practices where there are limitations or a complete ban in the use of fertilisers (excluding on buffer strips) | F13 – Limitations on fertiliser timing – This class includes practices where there are limitations of periods of time for the application of fertilisers (including limitations only for intermediate crops, catch crop or cover crops) other than alongside water courses. The limitation should apply to the whole area under the commitment. Limitations put on limited area of the field, such as landscape elements or along water courses, should use the respective classes | |
| | | F14 – Ban and restrictions of fertilisers on limited areas of the field other than alongside water courses – This class includes the ban and other restrictions of fertilisers on limited areas of the field such as when the ban is on landscape features. For restrictions alongside water courses the specific labels should be used. | |

Source: EU CAP Network supported by Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2024) based on 'A classification scheme based on farming practices'³

Within the framework of the study 'Mapping and analysis of CAP Strategic Plans – assessment of joint efforts for 2023-2027', the Evaluation Helpdesk used the preliminary farm practice classification scheme from the JRC to identify farm practices supported by Member States in their CSPs⁴. CAP interventions supporting the implementation of farm practices beneficial for the environment, climate, animal welfare (i.e. eco-schemes⁵, ENVCLIM⁶ (agri-environment-climate commitments), INVEST⁷ (investment support) and GAECs⁸ (good agricultural and environmental conditions) were labelled to reflect which farm practices were supported by the different CAP interventions in each CSP. All

interventions designed in the CSPs must contain at least one unit amount (UA), although many interventions consist of numerous UAs, each with its own specifications and/or options. See [Table 1](#) for an example of what the breakdown of an intervention by UA may look like. As each UA may support different farm practices for eco-schemes and ENVCLIM, the labelling was done at the level of the UA, reflecting the differences between the various UAs pertaining to the same intervention. Annex I contains examples of the labels assigned to various eco-scheme and ENVCLIM interventions, each with a breakdown per UA, allowing the reader to visualise how the labels were assigned and how the labelling may differ between UAs.

³ A classification scheme based on farming practices – <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC133862>

⁴ The original labelling was done on the versions of the CSPs as approved by the end of 2022

⁵ Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 Strategic Plan Regulation

⁶ Article 70 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 Strategic Plan Regulation

⁷ Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 Strategic Plan Regulation

⁸ Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 Strategic Plan Regulation



Table 1. Example of an intervention with multiple UAs

| Type of intervention | Intervention name | Unit amount name in English |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ECO-SCHEME | Eco-scheme for crop diversification | Eco scheme 08_Crop Diversification to 10 ha |
| | | Eco scheme 08_Crop Diversification_10-30 ha |
| | | Eco scheme 08_Crop Diversification_over 30 ha |

Source: EU CAP Network supported by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2024)

In total, about 5 000 UAs, interventions and GAECs were labelled across the 28 CSPs. All farm practice categories identified in the CSP for a UA or intervention were labelled, hence each UA/intervention may (and normally does) contain more than one farm practice label. Overall, about 28 000 labels were assigned.

The results of the farm practice labelling were shared with Member States' Managing Authorities in July 2023, along with a request to analyse these results and provide feedback (i.e. suggested changes). In parallel, the JRC conducted a similar labelling exercise. While the purpose of the labelling done by the Evaluation Helpdesk was to allow for policy analysis, the labelling done by the JRC was for modelling purposes, whereby sometimes different considerations had to be taken into account. Both labelling exercises have been compared and aligned with the aim of giving them coherence while respecting the particularities of each exercise so that they can fulfil their purpose.

During 2023 and 2024, the Evaluation Helpdesk, together with the JRC and Managing Authorities, quality reviewed all labels assigned to all concerned interventions, UAs and GAECs. The lessons learned from this process led to a revision of the farm practice classification itself and, as a result, to the re-labelling or additional labelling of many concerned interventions. In addition, the amendments to the CSPs during this period⁹ have been taken into account where relevant. The first version of the complete set of farm practice labels is now ready to be made publicly available.

It is to be noted that the CSP amendments approved by 15 March 2024 are included in the first round of publication. The labelling will be updated regularly to reflect future amendments to the CSPs.

9 Note, for CSP amendments approved by March 15, 2024



3. Methodological aspects to be aware of when using the farm practice labelling

When using the farm practice label data, the end user needs to be aware of the assumptions made for assigning labels, ensuring that the data is used in the correct way.

First, at this stage, **farm practice labels reflect the planned interventions**. Thus, the labels show potential farm practices that can be supported through various interventions. It is possible that not all farm practices labelled for an intervention will be implemented, or not implemented on the whole area under the commitment. This is particularly the case for interventions supporting a range of eligible farm practices where the implementation of potential farm practices depends on both the uptake by beneficiaries and selection of support applications by Managing Authorities. It is also possible that, in the implementation, a more specific farm practice than the one labelled (i.e. of a higher tier – see the tier system classification in [section 2](#)) is implemented.

Secondly, **farm practice labelling was done with different levels of detail for different types of interventions**. Labelling was done at UA level for eco-schemes and ENVCLIM (Article 70 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115). For investment support (Article 74 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115), the information available in the CSPs did not allow for detailed labelling, therefore it was done by intervention. Also, usually, investment support interventions are labelled only at the Tier 1 level, or sometimes at the level of the section of the farm practice classification when information available in the CSP did not allow the inclusion of more details.

Thirdly, **the labelling at UA level needs to be interpreted with care**. The description in CSPs is sometimes very specific to the farm practice supported by a respective UA. However, in other cases, the description of an intervention is held at a more general level and it is unclear which farm practices will actually be supported in relation to an UA. In these instances, all farm practices that may be supported through an intervention have been labelled for all concerned UAs.

Through the design of the interventions, a beneficiary is only able to apply for support from one of the UAs in some cases, while in others, the different UAs under the same intervention are complementary. Thus, the beneficiary may choose to apply for several UAs when the different UAs may support the same or different farm practices. Finally, in some cases, UAs work as supplements to another basic UA e.g. the uptake of one UA is required to access a supplementary UA. In all cases, the labelling refers to the farm practices that may be supported through the UA based on the description in the CSP, but the supplementary UAs received labels for commitments being additional to the basic commitment and not from basic payments. Nevertheless, where the farm practice label data is combined with, for example, planned outputs or financial allocation, the end-user should take care to avoid double counting.

Furthermore, **the farm practice labels do not reflect any difference in scale**. For example, there are farm practice classes to describe that a minimum stocking density is required. However, the assigned label does not provide information on what that minimum is. As such, the labelling allows the identification of where minimum stocking densities are in place, but it does not allow for the comparison of

required stocking densities across CSPs. Another example is a restriction on grazing periods. The farm practice code indicates whether there is a restriction but not the length or dates of that restriction.

A farm practice has not been specifically labelled when it is considered inherent to another farm practice class. In some instances, the design of an intervention in a CSP requires undertaking a single or group of farm practices inherent to another farm practice class. This is specifically the case where organic conversion, organic maintenance and animal welfare requirements are supported. The organic farm practices have been assigned for interventions that support organic farming as defined by Regulation (EU) 2018/848, which includes farm practices related to bans and limitations in the use of plant protection products and mineral fertilisers, cultivation of nitrogen fixing/protein crops, use of green manure, partial feed from a farm, sufficient fibre intake, specific treatment plans (livestock), provision of adequate shelter, non-confinement systems, provision of enrichment materials and mutilation with appropriate pain-avoiding practices. Thus, these farm practices are understood to be inherent to organic farming and have not been labelled in addition to the organic farm practice unless the requirements defined for the intervention in a CSP are stricter than those required under the EU's organic farming regulation. This is particularly relevant for crop rotation, limitations on the use of organic fertilisers, outdoor access for livestock, minimum space allowances or maximum group sizes for indoor livestock raising, improved litter and indoor flooring, and maximum stocking densities.

The equivalent process was followed for animal welfare relevant farm practices i.e. additional farm practices were allocated only when the intervention requirements were identified to go beyond those required by EU regulations. (The farm practice classification identifies where practices are considered inherent to another farm practice class, including references to the relevant regulations.)

Finally, **the labelling leaves some room for interpretation of the results due to limitations in methods or language constraints**. The farm practice labelling has been done on the basis of the farm practice classification, where the purpose is to be able to systematise all CSP interventions with an environmental, climate or animal welfare objective. However, this systematic approach may not adequately reflect all the types of farm practices undertaken across the EU, and in particular, some more local or regional actions may not be correctly reflected or captured in the classification. In addition, some of the practices may be difficult to translate to other languages, making it difficult for an external reviewer to correctly capture the supported practice. Furthermore, as the labelling has been done by experts in the field, some of the labelling has taken place on the basis of machine translations of the CSPs, where certain details of an intervention description may have been lost. Hence, even if the outcome has been reviewed by native speakers, there may still be labels that do not correctly reflect the intention of an intervention's design.



4. Annex 1 – Extract from farm practice labels assigned to CSP interventions (according to the latest versions of CSPs approved on 15 March 2024)

| Type of intervention | MS | Intervention name | Intervention code | Unit amount code | Unit amount name in English | Farm practice labels |
|----------------------|----|---|-------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| ENVCLIM | X | Environmentally sound and biodiversity-promoting management (UBB) | 70-01 | 70-01-EB01 | EB basic module payment arable, exclusive DIV plots | R14; TX |
| ENVCLIM | X | Environmentally sound and biodiversity-promoting management (UBB) | 70-01 | 70-01-EB02 | EB DIV plots of arable land incl. > 7% | G22X; L1AX; L211; F14; G28; G29; P24; R132 |
| ENVCLIM | X | Environmentally sound and biodiversity-promoting management (UBB) | 70-01 | 70-01-EB03 | EB DIV plots of arable land > 7% | G22X; L1AX; L211; F14; G28; G29; P24; R132 |
| ENVCLIM | X | Environmentally sound and biodiversity-promoting management (UBB) | 70-01 | 70-01-EB04 | EB DIV supplement with average arable land number 50 or more | L1AX |
| ENVCLIM | X | Environmentally sound and biodiversity-promoting management (UBB) | 70-01 | 70-01-EB05 | EB DIV supplement for at least 1 DIV area greater than 5ha per 3ha started | L1AX |
| ENVCLIM | X | Management commitments to improve climate change mitigation | EL-0101 | DE4-EL-0101-03-a-01 | Anti-moor storage (40 cm) | L51X; P21X; F112; G11; G21; L521; L522 |
| ENVCLIM | X | Management commitments to improve climate change mitigation | EL-0101 | DE4-EL-0101-03-a-02 | Anti-moor storage (30 cm) | L51X; P21X; F112; G11; G21; L521; L522 |



| Type of intervention | MS | Intervention name | Intervention code | Unit amount code | Unit amount name in English | Farm practice labels |
|----------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| ENVCLIM | X | Management commitments to improve climate change mitigation | EL-0101 | DE4-EL-0101-03-a-03 | Anti-moor storage (20 cm) | L51X; P21X; F112; G11; G21; L521; L522 |
| ECO-SCHEME | X | Eco-scheme for crop diversification | '1.-i.8 | I.B.8_EKO-08_01 | Eco scheme 08_Crop Diversification to 10ha | R14 |
| ECO-SCHEME | X | Eco-scheme for crop diversification | '1.-i.8 | I.B.8_EKO-08_02 | Eco scheme 08_Crop Diversification_10-30ha | R14 |
| ECO-SCHEME | X | Eco-scheme for crop diversification | '1.-i.8 | I.B.8_EKO-08_03 | Eco scheme 08_Crop Diversification_ over 30ha | R14 |
| ECO-SCHEME | X | Eco-scheme for organic farming | 5 | 5.01 | Basic support, EUR per hectare | O1X |
| ECO-SCHEME | X | Eco-scheme for organic farming | 5 | 5.02 | Conversion supplement, EUR per hectare | O12 |
| ECO-SCHEME | X | Eco-scheme for organic farming | 5 | 5.03 | N supplement, EUR per hectare | D21 |
| ECO-SCHEME | X | Eco-scheme for organic farming | 5 | 5.04 | Fruit/soft supplement, EUR per hectare | F1X; O11; O12; P1X |
| GAEC | X | GAEC 8 - Minimum share of agricultural area devoted to non-productive areas or features | N/A | N/A | N/A | F14; G29; L112; L116; L118; L122; L124; L126; L13X; L15X; L211; L223; L22X; LX; P24; R13X; S14; Z13; Z16; L71; L72; W11; W12X |
| GAEC | X (different MS) | GAEC 8 - Minimum share of agricultural area devoted to non-productive areas or features | N/A | N/A | N/A | F14; G29; L112; L114; L116; L118; L122; L123; L124; L126; L13X; L14X; L17X; L18X; L19X; L1AX; L221; L223; L22X; LX; P24; R13X; S14; Z16; G28; L71; L72 |



| Type of intervention | MS | Intervention name | Intervention code | Unit amount code | Unit amount name in English | Farm practice labels |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| GAEC | X (different MS) | GAEC 8 - Minimum share of agricultural area devoted to non-productive areas or features | N/A | N/A | N/A | F14; G29; L10X; L112; L114; L116; L118; L122; L124; L126; L13X; L15X; L17X; L211; L223; L22X; LX; P23; P24; R121; R122; R13X; R16; R17; S14; Z16; L71; W11; W12X; W132 |

Source: EU CAP Network supported by Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2024)



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