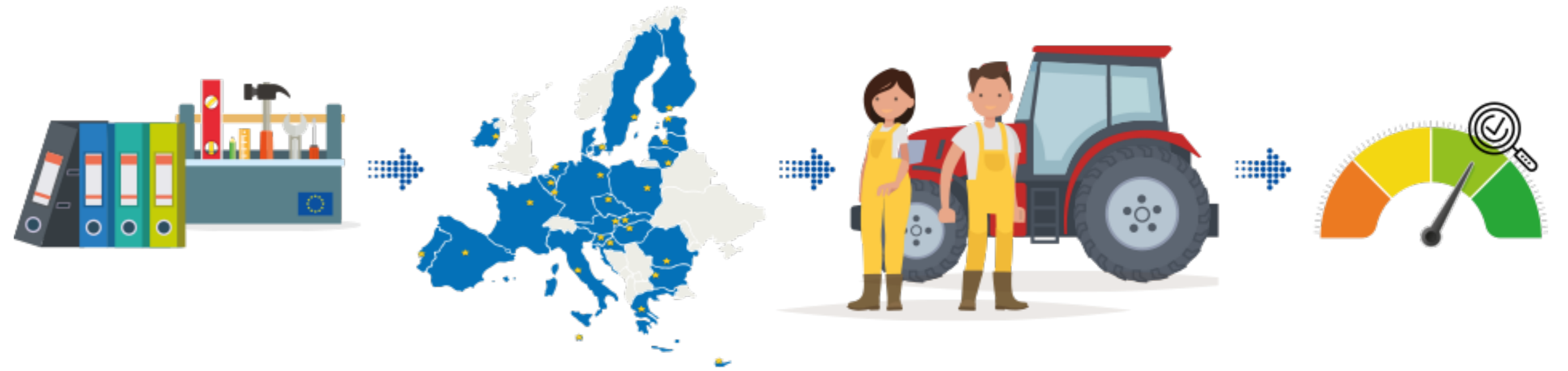# Impact and Context indicators

Expert group meeting

19 September 2018

- **There are 28 impact indicators (Annex I of Strategic plan Regulation)**
  - Out of which 13 are new impact indicators => 12 new fiches required
  - They are classified by specific and cross-cutting objective

- **We propose to have 48 context indicators**
  - It's 3 more than currently, because they include 26 of the proposed 28 impact indicators
  - 6 require the elaboration of new fiches (on top of the fiches for the new impact indicators)

- **They rely on data already collected by ESTAT, other DGs, …**

- **No new data requirements, however there is a need to improve data quality and completeness for some indicators**

European
Commission

- What?
  - Share of CAP expenditure dedicated to knowledge exchange and information (Article 72) and EIP operational groups (Article 114)
  - (Support to innovation through operational programmes?)

- Why?
  - Measure efforts on knowledge and innovation

- How?
  - Calculation based on financial transactions

European Commission

- What?
  - Share of support received by 20% of the largest beneficiaries of the CAP
  - Interquartile range of CAP support by beneficiary.

- Why?
  - Check the fairness of support distribution
  - Measure notably the impact of the redistributive payment to small and medium size farms, capping, degressivity,...

- How?
  - Calculation based on ranked level of payment per beneficiary (and per AWU?)
  - CAP support: at least all pillar I and ANC payment (unique beneficiary identifier required).
  - Currently based on CATS, the audit database

European Commission

- What:
  - Difference between total nutrient inputs and total nutrient outputs (nitrogen and phosphorous) on agricultural land.
- Why?
  - Gross nutrient balances indicate the total potential risk to the environment (air, water and soil) by **over- or undersupply of nutrients**.
- How:
  - The output side of the balance presents the nutrient uptake by harvested (and grazed) crops and fodder, and crop residues removed from the field. The input side of the balance counts all nutrients supplied to the soil.
- Threats:
  - Methodologies and data sources vary substantially between MSs, therefore cross-country comparisons are not possible;
  - Incomplete country coverage; no legal obligation for data collection (ESS agreement since 2018).

European Commission

- What?
  - Population trends of 39 selected bird species that are common and characteristic of European farmland landscapes
- Why?
  - An indicator for the biodiversity of agricultural landscapes in Europe. Birds are sensitive to environmental change and their population numbers can reflect changes in ecosystems as well as in other animal and plant populations.
- How?
  - National monitoring data collected by the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS), a partnership of NGOs; harmonised and aggregated at EU level and published by Eurostat.
- Threats:
  - Incomplete country coverage; long time lags.
  - Voluntary data collection by (sometimes underfunded) NGOs threaten the future availability of this indicator.

European Commission

- What:
  - (Change in the) Number of (young) farmers who have been classified as manager of an agricultural holding
- Why?
  - Generational renewal is one of the 9 objectives of the future CAP.
- How:
  - The exact definition and methodology for this indicator is under development. The newly adopted regulation on **integrated farm statistics** will provide data for the following variables:
    - The holder is a young farmer or new entrant into farming who has received financial support for this purpose under the common agricultural policy (CAP) in the previous 3 years
    - The year in which the manager of the agricultural holding took up this role
    - The year of birth of the manager of the agricultural holding
  - Data will become available every 3-4 years.

European Commission

- What?
  - Sales of antimicrobial substances corrected by a Population Correction Unit (PCU: proxy for the size of the food-producing animal population)

- Why?
  - EU level harmonised indicator linked to the European One Health action plan on antimicrobial resistance: long term objective for responsible use of antimicrobials

- How?
  - Data on antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products provided by MS **voluntarily** and collected in the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) coordinated by the European Medicines Agency (EMA)
  - Data available from 2010, with annual frequency and 2 years delay
  - Data collection should become **compulsory** with new Regulation on veterinary medicinal products (from end 2021)
  - Pilot project to be developed in 5 MS to calculate use data on animal species level.

European Commission

- What?
  - Index based on the annual volume of active substances sold

- Why?
  - EU level hazard-based harmonized indicator of risk associated with pesticides: Annex IV of Directive 2009/128/EC (sustainable use of pesticides), currently under discussion (DG SANTE)

- How?
  - The indicator is based on Eurostat statistics on the placing on the market (sales) of pesticides (Agri-environmental indicator 6. Consumption of pesticides) available at MS and EU level
  - The proposed Annex IV of the Directive indicate a methodology for categorisation and weighting based on the properties of active substances, in order to obtain a single harmonised and EU level index; MS values to be provided by MS
  - The annual values are calculated based on a three-years average; proposed delay 20 months

European Commission

- What?
  - Variation in trends of the overall resilience of the sector to climate change

- Why?
  - Resilience to climate change will be crucial for the future sustainability of the agriculture sector

- How?
  - A composite indicator of other impact indicators, capturing several dimensions that may affect the farm's potential to face climate change
  - Components: I.3 (income) + I.12 (Soil Carbon) + I.13 (soil erosion) + I.15 (water use) + I.20 (landscape features)
  - Methodology under development

European Commission

- What?
  - An indicator for nitrates' concentration in groundwater, aiming at improving the status on areas where the groundwater quality is 'poor' (above 50 mg/l).

- Why?
  - Leakage of nitrates is an important source of groundwater pollution, and agriculture is an important contributor to the problem.

- How?
  - An index measuring the % of groundwater stations with nitrates' concentration over 50 mg/l,
  - Builds on data reported by Member States, as foreseen under the provisions of the Nitrates Directive

European Commission

- What?
  - An indicator of the pressure or stress on the freshwater resources

- Why?
  - Agriculture, which has an important share of water use in Europe, must contribute to improving water resource efficiency, particularly under climate change

- How?
  - WEI+, a measure of the total water use (abstraction minus return) as a percentage of the renewable freshwater resources for a given territory and time scale.
  - It can be disaggregated (e.g. by river basin, by sector)
  - WEI+ is a hybrid combining reported data by Member States, with some gap filling through other sources (e.g. Eurostat, FAO). So far, substancial gap filling on water abstraction for irrigation.

European Commission

- What?
  - An index of overall change in status of agriculture-related biodiversity, as listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

- Why?
  - Links the biodiversity targets of the CAP with the existing EU legislation on biodiversity, addressing policy performance

- How?
  - Index is under development
  - Percentage of assessments of agricultural species and habitat types with a favourable or improving conservation status trend
  - It will build on information reported by MS as the regular reporting obligations under art 17 of Habitats Directive.

European Commission

- What?
  - An estimation of landscape features relevant to the provision of ecosystem services

- Why?
  - The CAP aims at preserving (and restoring) ecosystem services in the 40% of EU territory covered by UAA
  - Certain features (woody features, water spots) can be used as a proxy of farmland landscape value

- How?
  - Methodology under development
  - Builds on potential of Copernicus ('Small Woody Features' (SWFs), wetlands), and likely the use of LUCAS surveys.
  - Information would be periodically and systematically captured (SWFs every 3 years)

European Commission