HOW WILL EU CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES AFFECT EU AGRICULTURAL POLICIES


Helle Ørsted Nielsen, Eleni Karali, Sergio Castellari, Anders Branth Pedersen
OUTLINE

1. Climate change and agriculture: the challenge
2. Analytical framework: policy integration
3. EU adaptation strategy
4. Integration of climate adaptation into agricultural policies
5. Conclusion: how will adaptation strategy affect agricultural policy?
Climate change: The challenge

Changes

• Longer term changes in precipitation and temperatures
• Year-to-year variability and extreme events

Impacts

• Volume, quality and stability of food production
  – Risks: decreased crop productivity, water scarcity and increased irrigation needs, flooding; soil quality degradation; desertification, livestock production
  – Opportunities: increased crop productivity, water abundance, livestock production
• Indirect effects on natural environment

Regional variation
Climate adaptation in agriculture

• Adapting food production to changing climate
  – Farm-level: Adjustment of farm management
  – Sector level: policy, planning and research

• Providing ecosystem services
  – Efficient use and management of water
  – Prevent biodiversity loss, ensure connectivity
  – Contribute to multifunctional landscapes
Our question

• How will the EU adaptation strategy affect agricultural policies?
Analytical framework

4.3. Climate-proofing EU action: promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors

One priority and responsibility for the Commission is to mainstream adaptation measures into EU policies and programmes, as the way to ‘climate-proof’ EU action.

- FROM: An EU strategy on Adaptation to climate change COM (2013)216 Final

Policy integration

- Inclusion, consistency and weighting (Brouwer et al. 2013)
- (Reporting)
- Instruments
Analytical strategy

Content analysis of

- Main EU agricultural policies, CAP
- Directives relevant for environmental impact and delivery of ecosystem services:
  - Water framework directive
  - Nitrate directive
  - Habitat directive
EU CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

• Action 6: Facilitate the climate-proofing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

• Four broad types of instruments
  1. Improved framework for sustainable management of resources
  2. Financial support through rural development fund for targeted measures
  3. Research and innovation: EIP on agricultural productivity and sustainability
  4. Knowledge transfer

• Partnership agreements: reporting
Proposed CAP

• Inclusion of climate adaptation as objective
  – *Objective 2: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate action* includes climate adaptation
  – In the direct payment regulation
  – In the rural development programme
    • Two of six priorities relate to climate adaptation
    • Cross cutting objectives to be pursued horizontally include climate change adaptation
Ecosystem impacts 1

  - Objective: to promote sustainable water use …to contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts
  - Consistent with adaptation objectives
    - Ensure efficient water management
    - Ensure water quality through water management practices
Ecosystem impacts II

• Nitrate directive (91/676/ECC
  – Objective: to reduce water pollution from nitrates coming from agricultural sources.
  – Consistent with adaptation objectives
  • Efficient use of resources
    – water management, preventing runoff
Ecosystem impacts III

• Habitat directive, 92/43/EEC
  – Objective: to promote the maintenance of biodiversity
  – Consistent with adaptation objectives
    • preventing biodiversity loss through multifunctional landscapes with connectivity
    • Improved pest management through crop rotation, monitoring etc.
  – Consistent with agricultural production?
Policy consistency?

• Consistency with other policy objectives
  – Viable food production: farm income and limiting variability √
  – Water management and biodiversity policies √

• Consistency not explicitly addressed

• No weighting of policy objectives
Adaptation in CAP - Instruments

- **Single payment (income support):**
  - Greening: 30 percent of income support
  - Cross compliance to include climate actions

- **Rural development fund**
  - Targeted support to large array of adaptation measures
Conclusion: policy integration

• Adaptation is included in CAP
• No major policy inconsistencies
• But no weighting of multiple policy objectives

So: does this mean adaptation strategy was effective?
Conclusion: policy effectiveness?

- Consistent objectives, but competing for attention and distribution of funding?

- Compulsory measures vs. voluntary measures

- Farmers: attention and motivation?
  - Perception of adaptation: supporting production (adapting to weather variability, business as usual)?
  - Broader ecosystem services