

**SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
PRIORITY 8.1.
SPECIFIC SUPPORT TO POLICIES**



SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION

SASSPO-SSP4-022698

Agriculture for sustainable development: A dialogue on
societal demand, pressures and options for policy

Final Report (D23)

Activity and management report

February 2007

1 ACTIVITY REPORT

1.1 Summary

SASSPO project was conducted by MTT Agrifood Research Finland (coordinator) and LEI Agricultural Economics Research Institute, the Netherlands. The overall objective of the project was to move towards a more integrated and sustainable approach to agriculture and rural development in Europe by using the existing research results and democratic deliberation. The approach was strongly future-orientated.

The objectives of the SASSPO project were to

- understand the critical linkages between market reform, the rural development policies and agri-environmental schemes
- bring together policy makers, stakeholders and scientists of these policy areas to reach a common understanding on the policy issues
- establish a co-operation pattern between authorities responsible for agricultural policies, rural development and agri-environmental issues
- exchange experiences between old and new member states
- identify a new research agenda based on options for policy reform.

The activities of this SSA project are structured around 5 work packages consisting:

WP1 included the preparation of four Background note documents based on existing literature. The focus and structure of each background note were discussed in detail with the Advisory Board.

WP2 and **WP3** included two Policy Dialogue seminars. The aim was to bring together scientists, policy makers, politicians, producers, consumers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the achievements as well as future needs related to scientific support to agricultural policies in Europe. First Policy Dialogue seminar was organised in Helsinki in Finland 7.-8.9.2006 with participants from the EU countries of Eastern and Northern Europe and the second in the Hague in the Netherlands 12.-13.10.2006 with participants from the EU countries of Western and Southern Europe. The total number of participants was 51 and they represented Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden and the UK. In addition to the country representatives from agricultural and environmental administration and research, there were representatives from the European Commission, OECD, Friends of Earth, Farmers association (FNSEA) and European Landowners' Organisation (ELO).

WP4 included the production of four policy briefs based on the four background notes and the findings of the Policy Dialogue seminars. The policy briefs were then summarised into one document. The summary displays the main results of the whole project: 15 crucial current CAP policy issues, eventual policy recommendations connected to them as well as the respective research needs. The summary concludes with ideas on the use of policy dialogues.

As a part of **WP5**, MTT has set up a website for the project (www.mtt.fi/SASSPO). All documents (excluding the manuscripts of articles) are available on the project website. A press release in English and newsletters in Dutch, English, Finnish, German, Hungarian, French and Swedish languages have been prepared and disseminated.

WP6 included the coordination and management tasks, which were carried out by MTT.

1.2 Scientific, technical and administrative staff

Partic. No.	Participant name	Participant short name	Country	Date enter project**	Date exit project**
1	Agrifood Research Finland - Prof. Hilkka Vihinen (scientific) - Dr Jyrki Aakkula (scientific) - Laura Kröger (scientific) - Kanerva Kuokkanen (scientific) - Salla Punkari (technical) - Krista Kettunen (technical) - Elina Kohonen (administrative)	MTT	Finland	1.1.2006	31.12.2006
2	Agricultural Economics Research Institute - Dr Floor Brouwer (scientific) - Dr Huib Silvis (scientific) - Vivian Luttikhuisen (administrative)	LEI	NL	1.1.2006	31.12.2006

D1

The kick off-meeting with the Advisory Board took place on 25.-26.1.2006. It was organised in Hotel Linna in Helsinki. In addition to the research team (Hilkka Vihinen, Floor Brouwer, Huib Silvis, Jyrki Aakkula and Laura Kröger) the following advisory board members were present:

- Professor Ana Barbic, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Mr Hayo Haanstra, Ministry of Agriculture, the Netherlands
- Professor Franco Sotte, Polytechnic University of Ancona, Italy
- Research Director Ilkka P. Laurila, MTT Agrifood Research Finland

D2-D5

Four Background Notes were prepared. Each BN was a responsibility of one member of the research team. The drafts were circulated and revised by the whole team. They were also sent to the Advisory Board for comments.

- Main trends in agriculture (D2)
- Driving forces of European Agriculture (D3)
- Contribution of the CAP to the general objectives of the EU (D4)
- Implementation of policies for sustainable development in the context of CAP. New challenges for research

D9

A research team meeting (D9) in order to prepare the policy dialogue events was held in Helsinki 24.-25.8.2006. The whole research team participated in the meeting. The following issues were discussed: management issues of the project (deliverables, deadlines, financial issues etc.), final contents of the background notes, contents of the SASSPO webpage, practical organisation of the policy dialogue sessions, content of the seminar information package, the process of making summaries and conclusions of the dialogue sessions, preparing the policy briefs, organisation of the second Advisory Board meeting.

D6-D8, D10-11

The first SASSPO Policy Dialogue was held in the Sokos Hotel Presidentti in Helsinki 7.-8.9.2006 (D7) and the second in the Hague in the Netherlands 12.-13.10.2006 (D10). The objective of the policy dialogue was to bring together scientists, policy makers, producers, consumers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the achievements and future needs related to scientific support to the CAP. The focus of the Helsinki Policy Dialogue was on the Northern-Eastern dimension of Europe especially on the issues concerning the new Member States, while the Hague Policy Dialogue focused on Southern-Western Dimension of Europe.

When registering in the event, every participant was given the information package (D6) including the programme of the event, list of participants, the Background Notes, handouts of the presentation and practical information. The information packages were built up by the organising team.

For the Helsinki Dialogue SASSPO project team invited Dr Tassos Haniotis from DG Agri and Professor Mark Schucksmith from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne to the keynote presentations on the CAP reform and on the Future Challenges of the CAP. Unfortunately Dr Haniotis cancelled his participation because of illness just before the event. Mr Juha Korkeaoja, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the Chair of the Agricultural Council of Ministers of the EU, opened the event.

The Hague Dialogue was opened by Mr Ate Oostra, member of the board of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, and Mr Barto Piersma from the same ministry was invited to give the first keynote presentation 'The choice for agriculture: a vision on the future Dutch agriculture'. The second keynote was Dr Wilfrid Legg from OECD. He gave a presentation on the international context of agriculture and sustainable development. Dr Nicolas Durand from INRA to presented French research programme: Agriculture and Sustainable development.

Representatives from the following organisations were also invited to the events

- Officials from the European Commission (DG Agri, DG Environment, DG Research, DG JRC)
- Members of the Agricultural Committee of the European parliament
- European Environment Agency
- European organisations such as COPA-COGECA, CEJA, EFMA, ELO, BEUC
- International organisations such as OECD, FAO, WWF and Friends of the Earth
- Representatives from business such as Arla, Danisco and Danone
- Representatives from the member states (2 persons from 25 country: one representing administration and the other one from research sector)

For both Policy Dialogues the invitations were sent by email. The invited person was asked to suggest someone else from their organisation if he/she was not able to participate or thought that he/she was not the right person to participate. For each dialogue 120-150 invitations were sent.

The total number of participants was 51 and they represented Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden and the UK. In addition to the country representatives from agricultural and environmental administration and research, there were representatives from the European Commission, OECD, Friends of Earth, Farmers association (FNSEA) and European Landowners' Organisation (ELO).

Summaries of the results from both Policy Dialogues (D8 and D11) were prepared by the research team. The summaries are available on the SASSPO internet page.

D12-13

The research team working meeting (D12) took place on 7.11.2006 at the Radisson SAS EU Hotel, Rue d'Idalie 35. The whole research team participated in the meeting.

The summary meeting with the Advisory Board (D13) was held in Brussels on the 7.-8.11.2006 at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union, Rue de Trèves 84. In addition to the members of the research team, the following advisory board members were present:

- Professor Ana Barbic, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Professor Franco Sotte, Polytechnic University of Ancona, Italy

D18

The final dissemination plan (D18) was prepared as planned in month 6 when the final content and scope was decided. The dissemination activities were carried out according to this document.

D14-17, D19

Four Policy Briefs were prepared based on the four Background Notes and the findings of the Policy Dialogue seminars. Each Policy Brief was a responsibility of one member of the research team. The drafts were circulated and revised by the whole team. They were also sent to the Advisory Board for comments.

- Main trends in agriculture (D14)
- Driving forces of European Agriculture (D15)
- Implementation of policies for sustainable development in the context of CAP. New challenges for research (D16)
- Contribution of the CAP to the general objectives of the EU (D17)

The policy briefs were then summarised into one document (D19). The summary displays the main results of the whole project: 15 crucial current CAP policy issues, eventual policy recommendations connected to them as well as the respective research needs. The summary concludes with ideas on the use of policy dialogues.

The summary as well as the Policy Briefs are available on the SASSPO internet page.

D20-22

The preparation of a manuscript (D20) for an article to be submitted to EuroChoices has started based on the discussion with the editor of EuroChoices. The preparation of a manuscript for a scientific article (D21) has started and it will be submitted to a relevant journal later this year.

Internet pages for the project (D22) were set by Ms Salla Punkari during March and April. They have been regularly updated by Ms Krista Kettunen.

1.3 Deliverables List

Del. no.	Deliverable name	WP	Partnert	Person-months	Estimated delivery month	Actual delivery date
D1	Kick off meeting with the Advisory Board	1	1	0	1	25.-26.1.2006
D2	Background note on the wider context of EU policies	1	1	1	4	18.8.2006
D3	Background note on the driving forces of European agriculture	1	1	1	4	18.8.2006
D4	Background note on main trends in agriculture and their relation to sustainability	1	1	1	4	18.8.2006
D5	Background note on the implication for policy and research, and for policy implementation	1	1	1	4	18.8.2006
D6	Seminar information package	2	1	1	8	7.9.2006
D7	Policy Dialogue1	2	1	3	9	7.-8.9.2006
D8	Summary from Policy Dialogue1	2	1	1	10	28.9.2006
D9	Research team working meeting	2	1	0	9	24.-25.8.2006
D10	Policy Dialogue2	3	2	2	10	12.-13.10.2006
D11	Summary from Policy Dialogue2	3	2	0,5	10	31.10.2006
D12	Research team Working meeting	3	2	0	10	7.11.2006
D13	Summary meeting with the Advisory Board	4	1	0	10	7.-8.11.2006
D14	Policy Brief 1	4	2	1	11	17.12.2006
D15	Policy Brief 2	4	2	1	11	17.12.2006
D16	Policy Brief 3	4	2	1	11	17.12.2006
D17	Policy Brief 4	4	2	1	11	17.12.2006
D18	Final Dissemination Plan	5	1	0,25	6	27.6.2006
D19	Summary of the project results to be put on web	5	1	0,25	12	29.12.2006
D20	Manuscript of an article to be submitted to e.g. EuroChoices	5	1	1	12	14.2.2007
D21	Manuscript of a scientific article	5	1	0,5	12	In process
D22	Project Website	6	1	1	3	3.5.2006
D23	Final report	6	1	0,5	12	14.2.2007

1.4 Use and dissemination of the knowledge

SASSPO is a policy-oriented project. The Background Notes (D2-5) and the Policy Briefs (D14-17) as well as the Policy Dialogue Seminars were effective measures to target the main users of the project. It is expected that the key users of the project – the policy makers and stakeholders as well as a scientific researches in the policy areas, the representatives of the NGOs (e.g. farmer unions,

environmental protection associations, rural LAGs) and private companies – will contribute to achieve the main aim of the project, i.e. to support the linkage of the CAP reform and RDR to reach a better understanding of both.

MTT has set up a website for the project (www.mtt.fi/SASSPO). It has been regularly updated and has the latest available information regarding the project. All documents (excluding the manuscripts of articles) are published on the website.

A press release in English and newsletters in Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian and Swedish languages have been prepared. These are also available on the SASSPO internet page. The newsletter, (or in Finland, its summary) or the press release has been sent to following organisations: contact persons of the EURAGRI forum, the SCAR (Standing Committee for Agricultural Research) and ERANET, AlphaGalileo, some of the European and Finnish universities and research institutes, Finnish media of agriculture, the food sector and economy, Finnish ministries, regional administration and agricultural interest and expert organisations and the representation of the European Commission in Finland. Moreover, the participants of the policy dialogue events (and some people who were interested on the topic but could not attend) and the members of the advisory board were informed via email about the results. During the Finnish policy dialogue, the MTT Media and PR Services made a press release about the project, and after both dialogues in December, there was an article about SASSPO in the MTT Bulletin (Koelypsy 4/2006). The contacts and knowledge of the MTT Media and PR Services were used in the dissemination.

The articles to EuroChoices and to a scientific journal will be completed later. However, drafts for both articles were written during the project. EuroChoices has also been contacted on the subject and it has been interested in publishing an article.

All the above-mentioned activities and the results expected will be linked to ongoing projects on national and European level currently carried out by the partners. The members of the advisory board will use their networks to disseminate the results and key findings, as well.