Towards sustainable agriculture in the Danube River Basin

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Platform for transboundary cooperation on water management

- 800,000 km²
- 6,500 m³/s
- 85 Million PE
- 19 countries
- Heterogeneity

Implementation of the DRPC
EU WFD & FD coordination
Policy making and technical work

Organic Pollution
Nutrient Pollution
Hazardous Substances Pollution
Hydromorphological Alterations
Climate Change Effects
Nitrogen loads to Black Sea

Agriculture in the DRB

Important economic component
Favorable soil and climatic conditions
Commodity, food and job
Low intensity in many regions
Less competitive where productivity is low
Large number of small farms

AKIS comparison

Drought events in the DRB


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The ambition...

Decoupling development from negative impacts

- Time
- Quantity
- Pollution
- Development

THE 9 CAP OBJECTIVES

- Increase competitiveness
- Ensure fair income
- Redress power in food chain
- Climate change action
- Environmental care
- Protect food & health quality
- Preserve landscapes & biodiversity
- Support generational renewal
- Vibrant rural areas

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The way ahead...

- **Guidance document** on sustainable agriculture to mitigate drought impacts and reduce nutrient pollution
- Recommended sound **policy instruments**, financial programs and targeted **agricultural measures**
- Facilitating a **dialogue** to jointly implement sustainable practices in **close cooperation** with agriculture
- Strategic **framework** to integrate individual national approaches towards tailor made solutions
- Strong **synergy** between CAP SPs and WFD RBMPs
- Basis for designing targeted **national measures** according to national needs and conditions
- **Policy recommendations** & toolbox for measures
Adapting to climate change...

Scientific knowledge base

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Water balance modelling for the DRB
Lessons learnt and remaining challenges

Lessons

• **Dialogue and partnership** for mutual objectives (water quantity & quality)
• **Nutrient** management, **drought monitoring** & forecasting
• Natural **water retention** and **soil conservation** practices
• **Digitalization & science-practice exchange** facilitated by advisory services
• **Bottom-up** and community led initiatives, **compensation** schemes

Challenges

• How to **attract** agricultural sector
• Growing **expectations** versus **changing climate**
• Small family/ **subsistence farms**
• Differentiating between **favorable and disadvantaged areas**
• **Targeted funds** for water management measures
Thank you for your attention!

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