



## Advancing Capacity and Analytical Tools for Supporting Common Agricultural Policies post 2027

March 18, 2024

**A new project entitled the ACT4CAP27 Project funded under Horizon Europe is launched to providing continuous support for evidence-based EU agri-food policies post 2027 aligning with the objectives of the European Green Deal.**

### Challenges in Policy Impact Assessment

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) stands as the European Union's cornerstone for supporting agriculture, ensuring food security, and driving rural development. Aligned with the objectives of the European Green Deal, encompassing the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategy, the CAP plays a pivotal role in reshaping Europe's agri-food systems for sustainability.

In the evolving landscape of the European Green Deal, existing quantitative modelling tools face a huge challenge in comprehensively addressing all components of the policy. The need to align with the ambitious goals of the Green Deal, including sustainability and biodiversity, demands a significant enhancement in thematic coverage.

### Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of regulatory pathways

The project aims to enhance analytical capabilities, tools, and collaborative technical infrastructure within the policy modelling community. This effort is directed towards providing continuous support for ex-ante analyses of EU agri-food policies post 2027 aligning with the objectives of the European Green Deal. The project adopts a comprehensive food system approach.

*“We need to simultaneously look at the economic, social (including health), environmental, and climate sustainability of food systems. By taking a holistic view on the policy landscape and through the identification of synergies, trade-offs, and linkages, the project will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of regulatory pathways, particularly in the context of ongoing shocks and disruptions across Europe and globally.” – explains Siemen van Berkum, coordinator of the ACT4CAP27 project and senior researcher at Wageningen Economic Research.*

PRESS RELEASE



## Assessing policy impacts, guiding policymakers

The objective is to assess both short-term and long-term policy impacts on the EU's agri-food systems, providing evidence-based knowledge crucial for designing agri-food policies post-2027. The project goes beyond modelling and tools; it launches an Interactive Roadmap designed to guide EU, national, and regional policymakers. This tool facilitates informed decision-making by helping policymakers weigh up policy objectives towards more sustainable outcomes.

ACT4CAP brings together 13 research institutions from eight EU countries, Ukraine, the UK, and builds on established modelling tools that are used to predict the impacts of climate, agricultural, and forestry policies, at the local, national, and regional levels.

### Project kick-off in the Hague

At the kick-off meeting, hosted by Wageningen Economic Research between 18 and 19 March 2024, the partners discuss how the project can address current challenges to policymakers in the EU and draw up a road map for the first year of the project.

To ensure that the project meets the EU's policy needs in the short- and long-term, representatives of the European Commission, as well as noted experts in agricultural policy and impact assessment participate in the kick-off meeting. An important point on the agenda is to discuss how recent developments may impact on the proposed research agenda.

*“European agriculture faces enormous challenges. The impact of European agriculture on the environment, biodiversity and climate change (and vice versa) is becoming increasingly visible. The COVID pandemic and the Ukraine crisis led to significant disruptions in international food markets, and increasing geopolitical tensions in the world could affect trade relations. To address the adverse long-term trends impacting EU agriculture, it is imperative to enact substantial policy changes in the agricultural sector. However, policymakers and opinion leaders often do not have enough information to properly assess the policy options for their country. As a result, they miss the opportunity to identify, design and implement policy actions that can best avoid short- and long-term risks and seize opportunities.” – concludes Hans van Meijl, ACT4CAP27 scientific coordinator and chief economist at Wageningen Economic Research.*

### Further information

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