



HAL
open science

Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 -A lever for transforming agriculture or a missed opportunity in the face of climate and environmental challenges?

Cécile Detang-Dessendre

► **To cite this version:**

Cécile Detang-Dessendre. Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 -A lever for transforming agriculture or a missed opportunity in the face of climate and environmental challenges?. *Innovations Agronomiques*, 2024, 90, pp.1-3. 10.17180/ciag-2024-vol90-art01-GB . hal-04718697

HAL Id: hal-04718697

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-04718697v1>

Submitted on 2 Oct 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License



Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 - A lever for transforming agriculture or a missed opportunity in the face of climate and environmental challenges?

Cécile DETANG-DESSENDRE

¹ INRAE - CESAER UMR1041, INRAE, Institut Agro, Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté, F-21000, Dijon, France

Correspondence: cecile.detang-dessendre@inrae.fr

Key words: CAP, National Strategic Plan, Green Deal

Introduction

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) came into force at the beginning of 2023, after more than 5 years of negotiation. It is too late to criticise its intentions and hope to change its programming, and too early to analyse its impact. What's more, the discussions on a post-2027 CAP are about to get under way... We are currently experiencing a 'political pause', which allows us to take a step back and analyse what we can and cannot expect from this new version.

The climate, environmental, economic and social challenges facing the agricultural and food systems are now well documented: these systems are not sustainable, and are responsible for almost a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in France¹, for part of the erosion of biodiversity, water and air pollution, soil degradation and erosion²... At the same time, farmers find it difficult on average to earn a decent income³, territorial inequalities do not diminish and the farming and food sector no longer attract young people to set up as farmers or employees throughout the industry.

In the light of these facts, the ten objectives set out by the European Commission⁴ in 2018 to provide a framework for the reform of the CAP after 2020 are bound to win consensus: the CAP must support the development of agriculture practices that

- (i) Protect the environment (3 objectives: combating climate change, preserving landscapes and biodiversity, and protecting natural resources such as air, water and soil);
- (ii) Fairly remunerate farmers (3 economic objectives: a fair income for farmers, the competitiveness of the agri-food sector and the sharing of value with an improvement in the position of farmers in the food chain);
- (iii) Assume a social role (3 objectives: providing healthy food to the population, with quality products, revitalising rural areas and encouraging the renewal of generations).

A tenth cross-cutting objective targets support for the creation and dissemination of knowledge and innovation.

¹ <https://www.aefinfo.fr/assets/medias/documents/5/1/519466.pdf>

² <https://www.ofb.gouv.fr/la-biodiversite-source-de-nourriture/la-biodiversite-malade-de-certains-modes-de-production>

³ <https://hal.inrae.fr/ARINRAE-PRODANIM/hal-03515337v1emploi>

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-2023-27/key-policy-objectives-cap-2023-27_fr



The question then arises: are these objectives being translated into actions that meet the challenges?

The CAP is often described as a "policy of small steps" aimed at transforming agricultural systems to make them more sustainable. But can we be satisfied with just one more small step, at the risk of missing the boat and failing to meet the challenges facing farmers and, more generally, all those involved in agricultural and food systems?

This Carrefour de l'Innovation agronomique (CIAg) addresses this vast issue.

Jean-Christophe Bureau (AgroParisTech) opened the day with a presentation of the French National Strategic Plan, emphasising its position in relation to the challenges and issues defined at European Union (EU) level, in particular through the Green Deal for the EU. The presentation, based in particular on a study carried out for the European Parliament⁵, shows that the CAP will not be able to meet the challenges of this Green Deal.

The second session, moderated by Vincent Chatellier (INRAE), brought together the 3 perspectives of an economist (Pierre Dupraz, INRAE), a sociologist (François Purseigle, ENSAT) and an agronomist (Frédéric Perlot, Université de Lorraine) on the question of the CAP's contribution to changes in agriculture. Frédéric Perlot traces the major changes in agricultural practices and their environmental impact over the last 50 years, and compares the development of various policy tools to illustrate their limited impact. Pierre Dupraz questions the nature of the CAP: is it an industrial, social or environmental policy? Undoubtedly industrial in nature when it was set up in 1960 and until 1990, Pierre Dupraz shows how it has been transformed into a social policy in part and an environmental policy in part, but undoubtedly insufficiently so. François Purseigle shows how the CAP has to deal with the fragmentation of European agriculture and the diversification of models within each Member State.

A round table discussion, moderated by Hervé Guyomard (INRAE), closed the morning session, Mathieu Courgeau (farmer and co-president of the "Nourrir" collective), Sophie Hélaïne (Head of the Policy performance Unit, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development at the European Commission), Christiane Lambert (farmer and President of Copa-cogeca) and Serge Lhermitte (Deputy Head of the General Directorate for Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises (DGPE) at the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty) taking part. The discussions centred on the question of the day: is the CAP on track to meet the major challenges, and how do exogenous shocks, and in particular the war in Ukraine, disrupt and challenge this path? Participants agreed that the CAP has never been greener, and that there is still a long way to go. Then, positions differed when it came to the paths to be taken: how far should we go in reducing inputs and supporting farmers' incomes? How can we link the CAP to other public policies, including food policies? How can we link food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture? These are just some of the questions addressed by this rich round table.

Four workshops opened the afternoon's proceedings, each looking at a different aspect of the transformation of farming and food systems: reducing the use of inputs and phasing out pesticides; the question of the energy transition in agricultural production; food security and the necessary transformation of diets, with a focus on Martinique, an overseas territory; and the role of the territory in the management of bioresources, with a particular focus on the role of the [Liaison Entre Action de Développement de l'Economie Rurale \(Leader\)](#) programmes.

Catherine Laroche-Durpaz (Institut Agro Rennes) concluded the day by putting the debates into perspective. She sketched out possible avenues for a post-2027 CAP that would contribute more effectively to the objectives of the Green Deal. The transformation of agricultural and food systems will require a change in the way we support agriculture, but not only. Various avenues are suggested: compensating those who lose out when aid systems are overhauled; supporting risk-taking by farmers

⁵ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/fr/document/IPOL_STU\(2020\)629214](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/fr/document/IPOL_STU(2020)629214).




willing to commit to redesigning their production systems; supporting farm transfers-takeovers-settlements at all stages; and introducing food policies to bring about a profound transformation in diets.

Declaration on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence Assisted Technologies in the Drafting Process.

The authors have used artificial intelligence-assisted technologies to translate from French to English.

Declaration of interest

The author declares that she does not work for, advise, own shares in, or receive funds from any organisation that could benefit from this article, and declares no affiliation other than those listed at the beginning of the article.

	This article is published under the Creative Commons licence (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/ When citing or reproducing this article, please include the title of the article, the names of all the authors, mention of its publication in the journal <i>Innovations Agronomiques</i> and its DOI, and the date of publication
---	---