

# HUNGARY

## Agriculture

(Government focal point(s): Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

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### Decision-Making: Coordinating Bodies

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) is the government institution which is primarily responsible for agriculture and rural development, but there are also certain issues where the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) has also responsibilities (e.g. Natura 2000 network, Environmentally Sensitive Areas etc.), so the two ministries are working together on these special crosscutting issues.

### Programmes and Projects

The framework for the accomplishment of a sustainable, conformable and ecology-based land use in Hungary were established in the National Agri-Environmental Program (NAEP) 2000-2004, then the National Rural Development Plan (NRDP) 2004-2006 and now in the New Hungary Rural Development Programme (NHRDP) 2007-2013.

### Policies and programmes to achieve food security and sustainable agriculture

The second axis of the New Hungary Rural Development Programme contains support measures targeting the sustainable use of agricultural land, such as: less favoured area payments, Natura 2000 payments, agri-environmental payments, preservation of genetic resources, first afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land, agroforestry, forest-environment payments, restoring forestry potential.

The goals of these schemes briefly:

- Less favoured area payments:

The main purposes of the measure are: development of a production pattern in accordance with the specificities of the production area, promoting extensive

cultures (grassland and forage crops) on environmentally sensitive areas, enhancing the environment-conscious farming and sustainable landscape use. Furthermore the expansion and improvement of rural employment and income generation opportunities, development of a new, alternative rural economic environment, complying with the requirements of environmental protection, and ensuring the continuation of agricultural activities and the maintenance of agricultural land use on less favoured areas, as well as contribution to the preservation of viable rural communities are the main objectives of the measure.

- Natura 2000 payments:

The main objective of the measure is to preserve and sustain, by way of upkeeping environmentally sound land use methods, the favourable conservation status of the indicative species and selected habitats listed in the respective EU legislation; ensuring the settings for the natural condition and for a management of creating and sustaining such a condition, protection of the species and of habitats in the indicated areas (with particular regard to grasslands with high levels of biodiversity), as well as the enforcement of compliance with the rules of land use, in line with the provisions.

- Agri-environmental (AE) payments:

The main targets of action: to support the sustainable development of rural areas, to preserve and improve environmental conditions, to reduce load on environment from agricultural sources, to offer environmental protection services, and to promote agricultural practice based upon the sustainable use of natural resources. The preservation of biodiversity under natural living conditions (on farm), the protection of nature, waters and soil with the establishment of farming structures adequate for production area features, environmentally aware farming and the establishment of sustainable land use are also strongly supported.

There are horizontal and zonal programmes in the AE measure:

zonal	anti-erosion scheme(wind)			
	anti-erosion scheme (water)			
	nature conservation purpose farming - Red-footed Falcon	nature conservation purpose grassland establishment		
	nature conservation purpose farming - habitat management	landscape protection purpose land use change		

	<div>nature conservation purpose farming - bird / small game</div> <div>nature conservation purpose farming - wild goose / crane</div> <div>nature conservation purpose farming - great bustard</div>	<div>water protection purpose set-aside</div> <div>nature conservation purpose farming - habitat management</div> <div>nature conservation purpose farming - great bustard</div>	<div>management of traditional orchards</div>	<div>Conversion of arable land into wetland</div>
horizontal	<div>management of traditional homesteads („tanya”)</div> <div>organic arable farming</div> <div>integrated arable farming</div>	<div>organic grassland management</div> <div>extensive grassland management</div>	<div>organic fruit production</div> <div>integrated fruit production</div>	<div>Management of wetlands</div> <div>reed management</div> <div>extensive fishponds management</div>
	arable schemes	grassland schemes	plantation schemes	wetland schemes

- Preservation of genetic resources

The main target of this action is to preserve the genetic resources of native and endangered farm animal species on farm among „*in situ*” conditions that are similar to the original traditional breeding and feeding practices and the preservation through animal husbandry in the framework of legally binding legislations on gene preservation and breeding programmes ensuring the survival of the animal species concerned.

- First afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land:

The main aims of the measure is to increase the forest cover of the country, to enable the agricultural restructuring, to use areas in alternatively, to increase the economic, environmental protection, social and public welfare role of forests and to improve the level of employment in rural areas by developing the forestry sector.

- Agroforestry

Global aims are the following: improving the income possibilities on rural areas, contribution to environmental protection aims, to the protection of rural landscape and to the preservation of biodiversity. Specific aims: improving biodiversity, establishing mosaic structured landscape, maintaining the traditional and developing new landscape management practices, introducing new agro-forestry systems, diversifying income possibilities on rural areas, introducing alternative use of agricultural land, protection against wind and water erosion. Operational aims: combating the abandoning of agricultural land and maintaining soil cover by introducing agro-forestry systems .

- Forest-environment payments

As schemes, the objectives of the forest-environment payments are as follows:

1. Repression of aggressively expanding non-indigenous tree and shrub species
  2. Selection forest management
  3. Conversion of forest stands and maintenance based on manual work
  4. Reduction of clear-cutting with artificial regeneration
  5. Ensuring special forest habitats, and the conditions for natural forest regeneration
    - a. Creation and maintenance of micro-habitats
    - b. Leaving groups of trees after final felling
    - c. Bush regulation to ensure the success of forest regeneration
  6. Postponement of final felling in order to protect soil and habitat
  7. Maintenance of forests for public welfare purposes
  8. Creation and maintenance of forest clearings
- Restoring forestry potential

The objective of the measure is to mitigate and terminate the factors threatening the the fulfilment of society's public welfare, leisure time and environmental needs, and to prevent and abolish the abiotic and biotic damage. An other objective is to decrease the risks related to forest management, to prevent and cease the damages that threaten the ecologic and welfare functions of the forests. Another important objective is to decrease the risk of production in private forest managers lacking capital, which is the guarantee for ensuring the ecological and public welfare purposes and services of the forests, equally it is also very important to prevent and terminate the damage of the forests.

Measures to improve and develop infrastructure to enhance distribution to markets

The development of the infrastructure, in particular investments in logistics would strongly promote the market access of agricultural products and commodities.

The NHRDP has measures like “Modernisation of agricultural facilities” (Art. 26) and “Improvement and development of infrastructure related to the development and modernisation of agriculture and forestry” (Art. 30). These measures are to improve and develop infrastructure to enhance distribution to markets.

Completed bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements relating to liberalization of agricultural product markets, including under WTO’s Doha round of trade negotiations

Since Hungary has joined the European Union in May 2004, the country signs agreements under the „aegis” of the EU. The EU represents a single standpoint in WTO negotiations as well.

Measures taken to diversify agricultural production systems, including development of new markets for value-added agricultural products

The NHRDP provides support in order to diversify the rural economy. There are three measures with this aim in the programme:

1. Diversification into non-agricultural activities

Purpose of the measure is primarily to improve the earnings position of the rural population living from the agriculture, to create and preserve jobs outside the agricultural activities that may contribute to diminishing the migration from the rural areas and to improving the rural living conditions. Its aim is to encourage the additional income generating, product producing and service activities of households with earnings from the agriculture, promotion of products produced locally in entering the market.

2. Support for business creation and development

Aim of the measure is to give answer to the above problems and thus, to practically influence the rural labour market. In line with the Lisbon objectives, it should enhance the business activity, facilitate entering the entrepreneurs’ market, put the existing micro enterprises to a developing path.

3. Encouragement of tourism activities

- a. Improvement of the hospitality capacity of the settlements by extension and improvement of the local tourism-related services;

- b. Coupling of the agricultural production and local sales with the tourism offer of the villages;
- c. Conservation and exploitation of the country's values as well as presentation of the natural values and establishment of the conditions for active recreation.
- d. Establishment of accommodations providing high quality services, renovation, modernization and improvement of the existing accommodations and services and assisting them in entering the market.
- e. Supporting the tourism-related enterprises of the region