

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO TURN EUROPEAN FARMING SYSTEMS MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Resilience integrated assessment across 11 farming systems in Europe reveals:

- 1 **Accumulating challenges** cause farming systems to approach critical thresholds.
- 2 The **resilience** of the farming systems is **perceived as low to moderate**, with robustness prevailing over transformability.
- 3 Past strategies mainly focused on remaining economically viable, leading to a **decline in the provision of public goods**.
- 4 Strategies should **improve multiple functions and attributes at once**.

We develop a framework to assess the resilience of farming systems that allows:

- 1 Assessing resilience to deal with **specific challenges** and the “**unknown unknowns**”.
- 2 Studying **interwoven processes** (risk management, demographics, policies and agricultural practices).
- 3 Considering that farming systems provide **multiple functions** (provision of private and public goods).
- 4 Going beyond **robustness** and distinguishing the **adaptability and transformability capacities**.
- 5 Deploying a **mixed methods** (quantitative and qualitative) approach.

Policy recommendations to support farm demographics and generational renewal:

- Targeting the policy instruments on the **stage preceding farm take-over**, when successor identity develops. **1**
- Increasing the **attractiveness of farming and rural areas** as both an occupational and a lifestyle choice. **2**
- Giving high priority to facilitate **access to land and labour**. **3**
- Developing **alternative business and ownership models**. **4**

Guiding principles for an enabling environment fostering resilience

The enabling environment should:

- 1 Provide **temporary resources** to cope with the adverse consequences of the **shock**.
- 2 Assist farming system to **detect and address long-term trends**.
- 3 Foster a **diversity of responses**, rather than focusing on a limited set of actions.

The enabling environment and farming system should:

- 1 Shift resources towards building **capacities of adaptability and transformability** when shocks are reoccurring.
- 2 Find a **balance** in putting resources in **immediate versus future challenges**.
- 3 Conduct more systemic **in-depth analysis** of the drivers of challenges and vulnerabilities.



- 1 Supporting a **diversity of strategies**.
- 2 Enabling **long-term strategies**.
- 3 Strengthening **learning and sharing of risks strategies**.
- 4 Following a **multi-actor** approach targeted beyond the farmer.
- 5 Supporting the development of a wide and diverse set of **innovative insurance solutions**.

Policy recommendations to support risk management:

How the CAP can enable resilience capacities of European agriculture

- 1 Phasing out **area-based direct payments**.
- 2 Using **eco-schemes** to foster public services and adaptation to climate change.
- 3 Defining **points-based payment systems** to enable regional differentiation and flexibility.
- 4 Acknowledging **equivalent certification schemes** that meet eco-scheme requirements.
- 5 Supporting **cross-sectoral cooperation and learning** in RDP, LEADER and EIP-Agri.
- 6 Providing more **project-type funding** instead of predefined measures in RDP.
- 7 Strengthening **AKIS and advisory services** to integrate ecosystem services in production systems.
- 8 Replacing young farmers' premium with support for **start-ups in rural areas**.