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The Eco-Schemes in the new CAP strategic plans

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ENRD Workshop on Implementing the CAP Green Architecture

20-21/09/2022



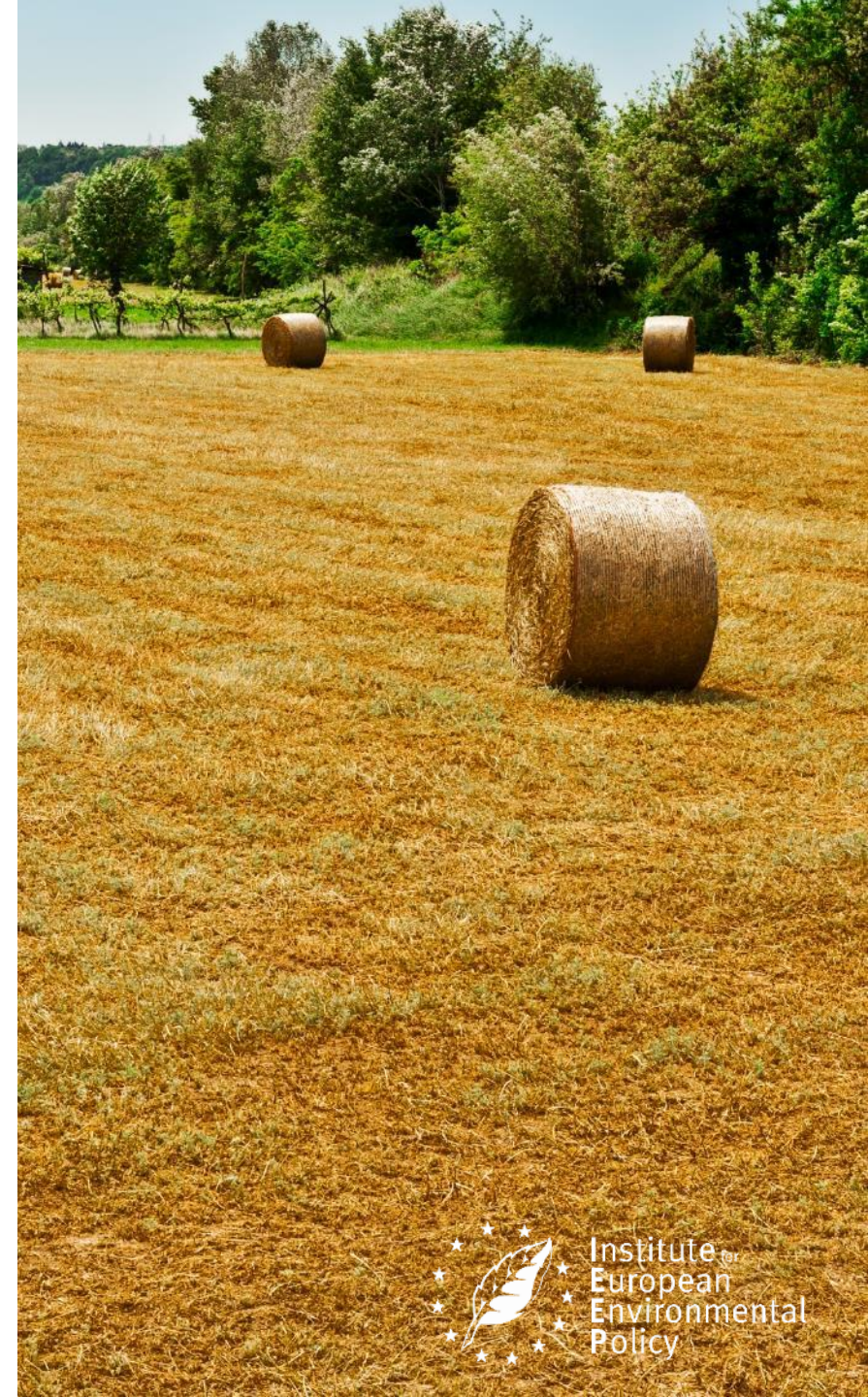
Introduction

- Ecoschemes (ES): one of the key instruments available in the new CAP for environmental and climate action, together with conditionality and agri-environmental and climate commitments
- Member States have to propose ES in their CAP National Strategic Plans
- Plans in the process of being approved
- 9 plans approved so far, 5 publicly available (FR, PL, ES, IE, AU)

What do we know of the Ecoschemes in these plans?

How are they designed?

How ambitious are they?



What do we know about ES?

- A diversity of approaches for the design of the eco-scheme(s)
 - Single framework intervention including several measures (e.g. IE) or list of single eco-schemes (e.g. PL);
 - Point systems (e.g. NL),
 - Payment that varies with the level of commitment (e.g. FR), or based on the area/ characteristics of land (e.g. ES)
 - Innovative approaches, including result-based measures (e.g. DE)
- All types of agricultural land targeted, including permanent crops, few ecoschemes targeting livestock production
- Focus on environmental and climate action

Characterisation of eco- schemes in the 15 Member States surveyed (February 2022)

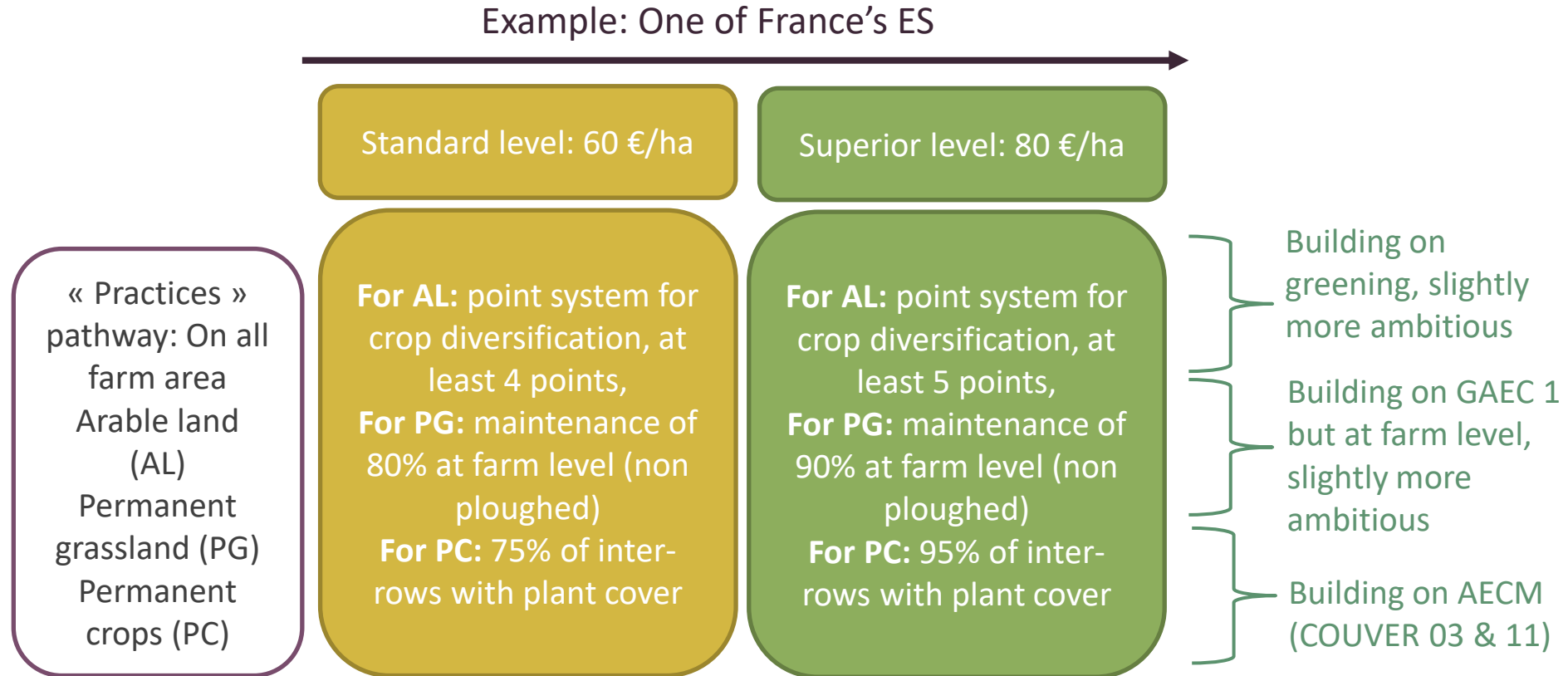
Country	Number of measures	Land targeted	Originating from:		Aspects targeted					
			Greening	AECS*	Climate	Water quality	Soil protection	Biodiversity	Animal welfare	Antimicrobial resistance
Austria	4	AAGP	1	4	X	X	Pr			X
Bulgaria	9	AAAAAAGGGPPLL	2	5	X	X	Pr	Pr		
Denmark	6	AAAAAAGGP	1	1	Pr	Pr	X	Pr		
Estonia	5	AAAAAGGGGPPP	1	3	Pr		X	Pr		
France	6	AAAGGGPPP	2	6**		X	X	Pr		
Finland	4	AAAAGGGG	4	4	X	X	X	Pr		
Germany	7	AAAAAAGGGGGPP	1	6**	X		X	Pr		
Hungary	3	AGP	3	0	X	X	X	Pr		
Ireland	8	AAAAAAGGGGGGGPPPPLL	1	7	X	Pr		Pr		
Italy	5	AAGGGPPPPLL	2	1	X		X	X	Pr	Pr
Latvia	7	AAAAAAGGGGGPPP	2	1	Pr	X	Pr	X		
Netherlands	21	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA GGGGGGGGGGGGPPPPLL	9	0	X	Pr	X	Pr		
Poland	17	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGGGGGGGPPP	3	5**	X	X	Pr	X	X	
Romania	6	AAAAGP	3	5	X	X	Pr	X		
Spain	7	AAAGGGPPR	3	3	X	X	X	Pr		
Number of countries targeting aspect					13	12	14	14	3	1

Notes: A = arable land; G = grassland; P = permanent crops; L = livestock;
 X = aspect addressed by eco-schemes;
 Pr = aspect targeted with priority (measures specifically designed to target one particular aspect);
 * including organic farming; ** at least in some regions.
 For countries in which the number of eco-scheme measures (column 2) is lower than the sum of their origins (columns 4+5), multiple original measures have been merged into a single eco-scheme. This applies to Austria, France and Romania.

Source: Runge et al. 2022

Do eco-schemes include anything new compared to 2014-2020?

- Origin of ES: building upon greening, conditionality obligations and current AECM.



- Some sustainable practices newly funded under Pillar I, sometimes shifted from Pillar 2
- Potential positive effects:
 - Large areas targeted -> might contribute to mainstreaming these practices
 - Might free up space for Pillar 2 to fund more targeted action



An overall increase in ambition?

- But... ES have lower ambition than AECM, remain fairly close to conditionality
- Will shifting support from AECM to ES have a positive or negative impact?
*-> Is there an **overall** increase in ambition in the CAP?*
- Will need to monitor and evaluate:
 - ES uptake: Which are the most chosen practices/ES?
 - Do ES deliver in practice? Are they fostering change or mostly financing existing practices (windfall effects)?
 - Did MS took the opportunity of these schemes to fund new practices, either under PI or PII? Is there an overall increased ambition compared to 2014-2020?



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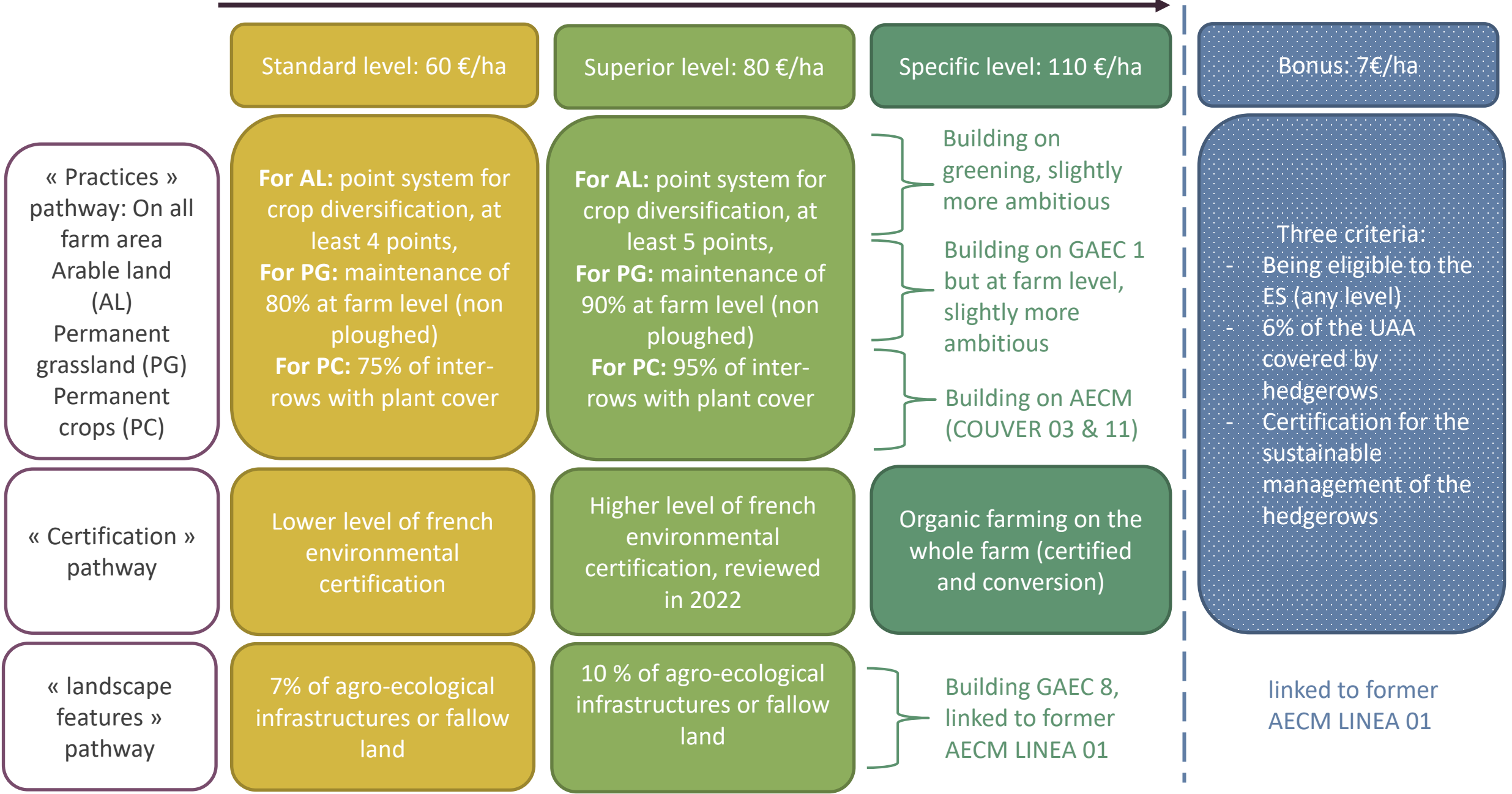
Some examples of Eco Schemes

ES, FR, IE



Example: France's ES

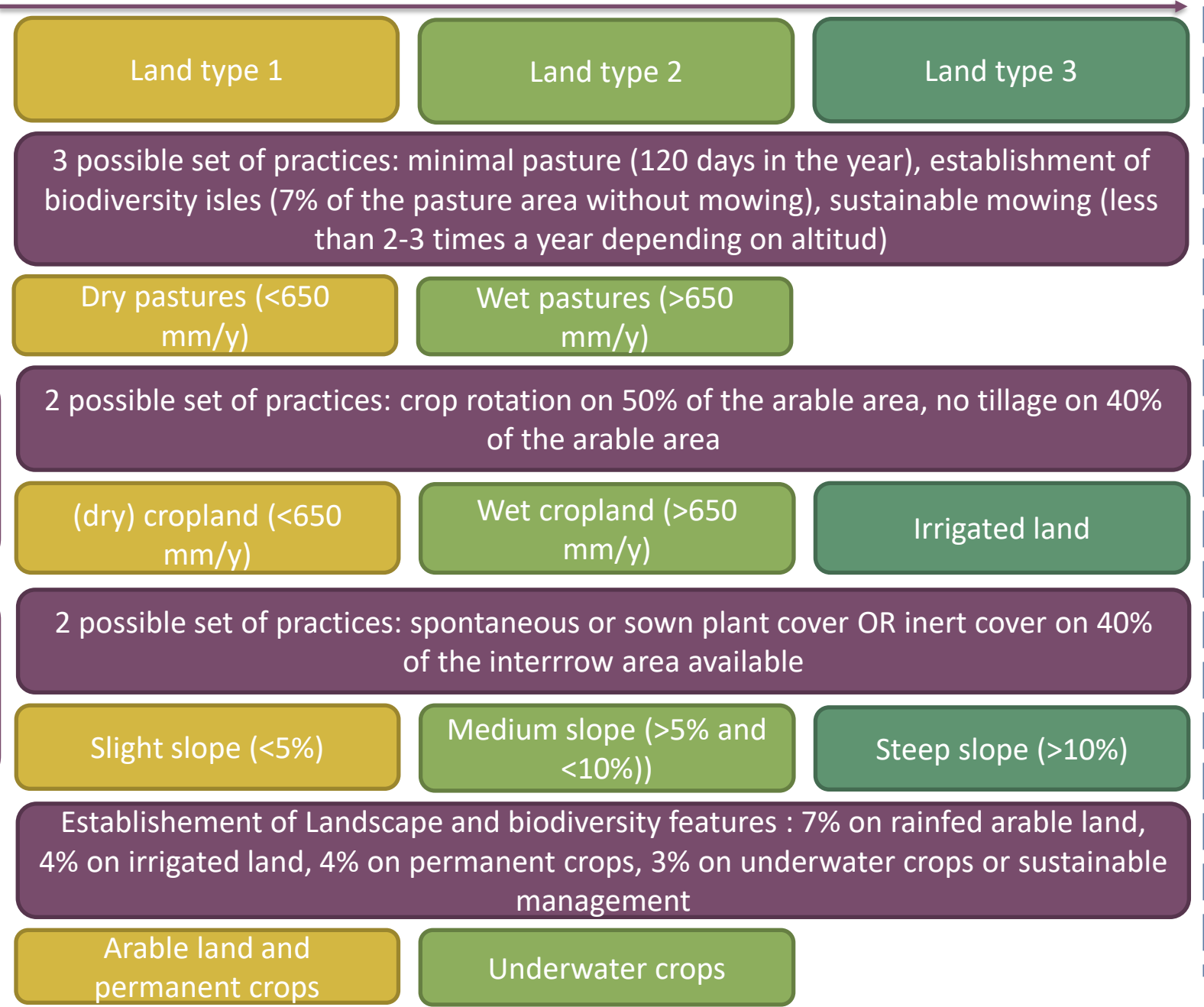
Payment increasing →



linked to former AECM LINEA 01

Example: Spain's ES

Payment increasing →



Bonus: 25€/ha if the farmer commits for a second year in a row, only for some ES on some types of land

Example: Ireland's ES

Choose 2 agricultural practices (AP) amongst 8
Payment amount: 77€/ha

Agricultural practices	counts as 1 AP	counts as 2 AP
Space for nature/ biodiversity friendly features	7% of UAA	10% of UAA
Extensive livestock production	Between 0,10 and 1,4 LSU/ha	Between 0,10 and 1,2 LSU/ha
Limiting nitrogen usage	Maximum permitted application	
Planting of native trees/ hedgerows	3 trees of 1 m HR / ha of eligible land	6 trees of 2 m HR / ha of eligible land
Use of GPS controlled fertiliser spayer	Application of 100% of chemical fertiliser	
Soil sampling and appropriate liming	only possible once every three years	
Planting of break crops	20% of the arable area	
Planting of multi-species sward	7% of the eligible area	

Further reading

- European Commission, 2022, Proposed CAP Strategic Plans and Commission observations Summary overview for 27 Member States.
- Becker S, Grajewski R, Rehburg P (2022) Where does the CAP money go? : Design and priorities of the draft CAP Strategic Plans 2023–2027. Runge et al., 2022, Implementation of Eco- schemes in Fifteen European Union Member States
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