

Farm to Fork strategy risks undermining Europe's food security while driving food prices up if not balanced with science-based solutions, Wageningen University and Research study concludes

Brussels, 21 January 2022: The Wageningen University and Research study concluded that the nutrient losses reduction target embedded in the Farm to Fork Strategy is expected to result in up to 15% decline in production and up to 22% price increase on selected food produce. The researchers' recommendation to policymakers to endorse the Nutrient Use Efficiency indicator and incentivise the application of tools and on-farm solutions is strongly supported by Fertilizers Europe.

Wageningen University and Research published on 20 January 2022 the full report of its Impact Assessment of the European Commission's 2030 Green Deal Targets for Sustainable Crop Production ([link](#)). The analysis looked into four scenarios based on the objectives of the Green Deal¹, including halving nutrient losses and a 20% reduction in the use of manure, organic and mineral fertilizers. Authors concluded that achieving these Green Deal 2030 targets will result in lower output, shifting farm production to non-EU countries and reducing European farm incomes.

Fertilizers Europe Director General, Jacob Hansen, said: *"Fertilizers Europe, together with its members, are committed to work hand-in-hand with farmers and other stakeholders across the value chain to enhance sustainable food systems in Europe. Tools and know-how aimed at improving nutrient management practices will be key in our efforts to reduce losses to the environment. To make it happen, European farmers need a toolbox of solutions, including the Nitrogen Use Efficiency indicator, precision farming and digital tools as well as enhanced efficiency fertilizers, to strengthen sustainable farming practices,"* said Hansen.

"The estimated impact of >15% reduction in production resulted from the Farm to Fork strategy should not be taken light-heartedly. Such steep reduction would mean that the European consumers will be facing reduced food supply/increased import dependency and significantly higher food prices. The number of jobs and income in the agri sector is also likely to decline and with this the capacity to innovate and provide solutions to drive more sustainable food sector", said Hansen.

Jacob Hansen concluded: *"This study only confirms the scale of the challenge posed by the Farm to Fork Strategy. Providing a right legislative framework based on science, together with a financial support and incentives for farmers will be essential to enhance more sustainable agricultural practices".*

¹ 50% reduction in the overall use and risks of pesticides, 50% reduction in nutrient losses and a 20% reduction in the use of fertilizers, 25% of agricultural land set aside for organic production and lastly combined scenario 1-2 with the objective to place at least 10% of agricultural land under high-diversity landscape features.

Note to editors:

1. Impact Assessment Study on EC 2030 Green Deal Targets for Sustainable Food Production by WUR - [LINK](#)
2. Overview of expected impacts related to the achievement of the targets, Table 5.1 page 62 of the Impact Assessment Study on EC 2030 Green Deal Targets for Sustainable Food Production by WUR.

Table 5.1 Overview of expected impacts related to the achievement of the targets

Scenario	Production & prices	Trade	Indirect Land Use Change	Negative impact on the value of production
1 – Reduction of the use and risk of pesticides and the use of most hazardous pesticides	Limited production and price impacts (maize, sugar beet and hops)	Increases in net imports (maize, rapeseed and citrus)	ILUC 1: 0.8 million ha ILUC2: 1.8 million ha	Around EUR 6 billion
	Large price changes for others (wine, olives and hops)	Declines in net exports (tomatoes, olives, wine and hops)		
2 – Reduction fertiliser use and nutrient emission	In most cases, production declines below 15%	Increases in net imports (maize, rapeseed and citrus)	ILUC 1: 2 million ha ILUC2: 1.7 million ha	Almost EUR 8 billion
	Price increases below 22%	Declines in net exports (tomatoes, apples, olives, wine and hops)		
3 – Expansion of organic area	Production declines are below 10% in most cases	Increases in net imports (maize, rapeseed and citrus)	ILUC 1: 0.5 million ha ILUC2: 1.6 million ha	Almost EUR 3.4 billion
	Price increases below 13%	Increases in net exports (hops)		
4 – Combined targets 1 and 2 + 10% set aside	Production declines of around 10-20%	Increases in net imports (maize, rapeseed and citrus)	ILUC 1: 2.5 million ha ILUC2: 4.4 million ha	Almost EUR 12 billion
	Large price increases (olives, wine and hops)	Declines in net exports (olives, wine and hops)		

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