



The Netherlands
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,
Food Security and Nature

27-29 October
Conference

Balancing the EU CAP

Common Goals, Green Ambition, Flexibility

Conference program

Balancing the EU CAP: Common Goals, Green Ambition, Flexibility

Hotel Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne, Vestdijk 47, 5611CA Eindhoven, the Netherlands

27-29 October
Conference

Balancing the EU CAP

Common Goals, Green Ambition, Flexibility



Event moderator:

Judith de Vor

Dairy farmer & international agricultural advocate

October 28th: Conference day

08:45 - 09:15 **Registration and arrival**

09:15 - 09:40 **Opening**

Drs. Marten van den Berg

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature of the Netherlands

Director-General Agriculture and Food

Opening remarks and welcome by Marten van den Berg. In this opening we will briefly reflect on current developments and ongoing discussions surrounding the 2028-2034 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), highlighting the importance of the theme and its relevance for the future of European agriculture.

09:40 - 10:00 **Keynote 1: “Setting the scene: The future CAP and common goals”**

Dr. ir. Sjoukje Heimovaara

Wageningen University and Research (WUR)

President of the Executive Board

Sjoukje Heimovaara will share strategic insights into the context for the new Common Agricultural Policy, from her perspective as President of Wageningen University & Research and insights as a participant in the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture.



10:00 - 10:45	Panel 1: “The CAP in motion: What, why, and where to?”	Representatives from the following organizations: • Gijs Schilthuis (European Commission Directorate Generale Agriculture and Rural Development, DG AGRI) • Anna Strolenberg (Member of European Parliament) • Paul Savage (Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Assistant Secretary General for International and EU Affairs) This panel brings together representatives from DG AGRI, DG Environment, the European Parliament and the current EU Presidency, Ireland, to discuss different perspectives on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The panel will explore challenges and opportunities from various viewpoints.
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15 - 11:35	Keynote 2: “The Importance of a “Common” Agricultural Policy”	Prof. Dr. Harald Grethe <i>Humboldt University of Berlin / Agora Agriculture</i> <i>Professor of Agricultural Development & Trade</i> Professor Harald Grethe will provide an economic and policy perspective on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy. In this keynote he will reflect on the proposed CAP architecture and instruments and explore how common goals can be achieved while addressing the diversity of European agriculture.
11:35 - 12:20	Panel 2: “Insights from the field”	Speakers: • Alex Datema (Rabobank) • David Baldock (Institute for European Environmental Policy, IEEP) • Viktoria Östlund (Copa-Cogeca) The panel will dive into the practical challenges and barriers in delivering common ambitions. We will explore where current policies and instruments are falling short and what is needed to make sustainable farming achievable and economically viable.
12:20 - 12:30	Introduction to breakout sessions: ‘What solutions are available and how can we get there?’	



12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 - 15:00 **Breakout round 1**

Breakout A: Market orientation and perspectives for farmers

Ruben Wanders (FrieslandCampina), Sanne Dekker (FrieslandCampina) and Pieter Zwaan (Clingendael)

Sustainability is a central topic for the new CAP, both in terms of green ambition as well as economic robustness. In times of decreasing budgets, how could market actors and governments contribute to stronger economic perspectives for farmers? This break out session aims to contribute to this line of thought and explores considerations from the private sector.

Breakout B: Enabling and accelerating innovative solutions

Inge van Oost (former DG AGRI), Jacob van den Borne (VDBorne Campus)

This session will explore the importance of innovation in agriculture and the role of the CAP in enabling and accelerating innovative solutions. We will reflect on how CAP instruments have been used to support experimentation, pilot projects and innovative farming practices. Examples will be given from across the EU, including the experience of Van den Borne Campus in precision agriculture.

Breakout C: Inspiration and examples of a target-based approach

Ronald Luijkx (AgriFood Capital), Erna van der Wal (BO Akkerbouw)

This session explores the potential of a target-based approach and what it could mean for farmers and agricultural practice. Through examples from the field, including Agrifood Capital and BO Akkerbouw, participants will learn more about experiences with applying a target-based approach to nitrate challenges in agriculture, and reflect on the opportunities, practical experiences and lessons learned.

15:00 - 15:30 **Coffee break**

15:30 - 16:30 **Breakout round 2**

Same breakout sessions as Round 1



16:30 - 17:00	Closing remarks	Drs. Marten van den Berg <i>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature of the Netherlands</i> <i>Director-General Agriculture and Food</i>
17:00 - 18:00	Networking reception at the Pullman hotel	
18:00 - 20:00	Buffet dinner at the Pullman hotel	



October 29th: Site visits

08:00 - 13:00 **Site visits**

Participants will visit local organizations, exploring one of the following topics:

Option 1: Agroforestry

Agroforestry Blueprint demonstrates how agroforestry is put into practice. Participants will gain a hands-on understanding of how green ambitions can be translated into new farming systems, while exploring the practical challenges, opportunities and potential business models associated with agroforestry.

Option 2: Circular chicken farming

Kipster showcases an innovative approach to poultry farming that combines animal welfare, circularity and a reduced environmental footprint. The farm uses food industry by-products as feed and generates renewable energy on-site. It has also achieved notable marketing success, showing that that sustainable production can be economically viable.

Option 3: Agricultural water management

This farm, located in the southeastern sandy region, takes part in a project guiding farms across the Netherlands in testing a target-based approach to reach these targets. The farmer, together with the researcher involved, will talk about the farm, the search for applicable strategies, and the project's results.

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 **End of program**