

STRATEGY FIELD PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	TYPE PRIORITY INDICATORS	MCS D ECONOMY AGRICULTURE
Ratio of agricultural population vs rural population	MSSD 15 AGR_P01	

Strategic Objective:

Diversify the rural economy through the development of non-agricultural activities.

Rationale:

The baseline scenario highlights the on-going diminution in the number of active agricultural populations from 3.60 million in 2000 to 2.25 million by 2010 and to 1.43 million in 2025 in EU-Med 4 countries, dropping the rate of active agricultural populations to only 1.5% in France and 2% in Italy in 2025. Extension of farmlands and abandonment of agricultural space will have significant negative consequences in terms of sustainability. The increasing geographical concentration of agriculture will be detrimental to the maintenance of the quality of Mediterranean space and landscapes. Smaller active populations will reduce collective professional solidarity and the agricultural world's ability to withstand urban sprawl, in particular in coastal plains. In the mountain areas, the even smaller population of breeders will need to turn to invasive techniques, such as burning on a large scale (burn beating). Society will increase the use of public funds for space management (maintenance of waterways, pathways, forests, fire fighting, large fauna regulation).

Definition:

This indicator measures the share of agricultural population vs rural population.

Unit:

Percentage (%)

Objective and/or targeted values:

The creation of non-agricultural employment applied to diversify the rural economy will lead to a drop in the indicator.

Methodological Indications:

The agricultural population definition refers to all people dependent on agriculture, hunting, fishing and forestry for their livelihood (all populations active in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and their dependents).

Rural area residents: In most cases, urban areas, and therefore their inhabitants, are clearly defined, while other areas are considered as rural. In practical terms, the criteria applied to the distinction between urban and rural areas vary from country to country. There are nonetheless three major groups: localities of a given size are classified as urban; administrative centers of smaller civilian divisions are classified as urban. Smaller civilian divisions are classified on the basis of specific criteria, which can include the type of local administration, the number of inhabitants or the share of the active population working in agriculture.

Geographical scope:

NATIONAL LEVEL	CATCHMENT AREAS	MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ZONES (NUTS 3)	COASTAL ZONES	MEDITERRANEAN SITES	MARINE ZONES
YES		YES			

References:

- FAO

International Data Sources:

- FAO : <http://faostat.fao.org/>

Precautions for use:

A share of the agricultural population can be urban.

Methodological Annex:

International comparisons are further complicated by the fact that there are major differences between the criteria (populations not included in urban areas, listed as « cities » or « communes », the number of commune inhabitants, size of urban area population, population density, equipment rate, share of agricultural population among active populations) and thresholds (from 400 inhabitants in Albania to 10 000 in Italy) retained by Mediterranean countries to differentiate between rural and urban.

This indicator can be completed with socio-economic indicators on rural areas (employment, businesses).

STRATEGY FIELD PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	TYPE PRIORITY INDICATORS	MCSD ENVIRONMENT LAND
Loss of arable land	MSSD 16 AGR_P02	

Strategic Objective:

To combat desertification and the loss of productive land by 2015, to reduce by at least one third the current rates of quality farmland lost to erosion, salinization, desertification, urban sprawl and other forms of land abandonment.

Rationale:

Estimates regarding the extent of desertification and degree of irreversibility are often contradictory and very controversial. However, the seriousness of the phenomenon is today widely recognized in the Mediterranean region.

According to evaluations undertaken at the beginning of the 1990s, 80% of arid or dry areas are impacted by desertification in the South and East Mediterranean. In these areas, the impact is most severe on rangelands (84%) and on rainfed crops (74%), and irrigated land is impacted by salinization. Desertification also impacts 63% of arid or dry lands in European Mediterranean countries, in Spain, Greece, and Italy.

This demonstrates that, out of the estimated 245 million hectares of arid land forecast to be impacted by desertification in the Mediterranean, over 188 million (i.e., 77%) were already considered as more or less deteriorated in 1990.

Definition:

This indicator measures the evolution of pressure and use on arable land surfaces: desertification, erosion, salinization, artificialisation, deforestation, and abandonment of agriculture ...

Unit:

Hectares

Objective and/or targeted values:

Reduce by at least 1/3 all losses of farmland to erosion, salinization, desertification, urban sprawl or other forms of abandonment by 2015.

Methodological Indications:

« Arable land » is land dedicated to temporary crops (surfaces harvested twice are accounted for once only), temporary prairies to be cut or reserved for grazing, marketing and vegetable gardens (including greenhouse products) and temporary fallow land (under 5 years). Land abandoned after shifting cultivation is not taken into account (FAO definition).

« Desertification » is to be understood as « the deterioration of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-wetland areas, due to various factors, which include climate variations and human activity ». Desertification is therefore not the advance of desert as such, but rather a process of gradual loss of soil productivity and depletion of land cover mainly attributable to human activity in dry areas.

Geographical scope:

NATIONAL LEVEL	CATCHMENT AREAS	MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ZONES (NUTS 3)	COASTAL ZONES	MEDITERRANEAN SITES	MARINE ZONES
YES		YES			

References:

- FAO
- « A Sustainable Future for the MEDITERRANEAN : The Blue Plan's Environment & Development Outlook», Plan Bleu, 2005

International Data Sources:

Precautions for use:

Methodological Annex:

STRATEGY FIELD PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	TYPE PRIORITY INDICATORS	MCSD LAND AND AREAS RURAL AREAS
Share of public budget allocated to sustainable rural development programmes	MSSD 17 AGR_P03	

Strategic Objective:

To promote sustainable agricultural and rural development programs, particularly in marginal rural areas.

Rationale:

Sustainable agricultural and rural development programs are components of alternative national and regional strategies, to further the reduction of rural poverty, hinterland rehabilitation, the development of domestic and international markets, and the conservation of environmental public goods.

Definition:

The existence of other sustainable rural development programs in favor of underprivileged rural areas is measured by the relative proportion of the budget of the departments concerned by agriculture and environment which is allocated to these programmes.

Unit:

Percentage

Objective and/or targeted values:

Methodological Indications:

Sustainable rural development programs for underprivileged rural areas, reconciling human development requirements and environmental protection, including biosphere reserves and natural parks (relative proportion of the budget of the departments concerned)

Geographical scope:

NATIONAL LEVEL	CATCHMENT AREAS	MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ZONES (NUTS 3)	COASTAL ZONES	MEDITERRANEAN SITES	MARINE ZONES
YES	YES	YES			

References:

- http://www.fao.org/sd/index_en.htm

International Data Sources:

Precautions for use:

Methodological Annex:

<p style="text-align: center;">STRATEGY FIELD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TYPE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRIORITY INDICATORS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MCSO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ECONOMY AGRICULTURE</p>
<p>Proportion of agriculture quality products and Share of the agricultural land area used by organic farming</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">MSSD 18 AGR_P04</p>

Strategic Objective:

Increase added value from agriculture through the development, recognition and commercialization of quality Mediterranean products.

Rationale:

The growth of international and domestic demand for typical and quality Mediterranean products constitutes a unique opportunity to increase the global competitiveness of Mediterranean agriculture.

Definition:

This indicator measures:

1. The share of quality agricultural products (identification, labels of origin, regional products, organic agriculture) in all Mediterranean countries.
2. The share of farmland dedicated to organic agriculture.

Unit:

Percentage

Objective and/or targeted values:

Methodological Indications:

Products labelled as organic are products that are stored, processed, managed and commercialized in compliance with specific technical standards and certified as « organic » by supervisory organizations. Labels are awarded by these organizations after assessing compliance with standards. Labelling depends on the supervisory organization, but guarantees that all essential ingredients are « organic », from agricultural production to sale; organic labelling applies to the full production process, i.e., modes of production and of processing specific to organic agriculture. The “organic” label is therefore not limited to quality certification.

"Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasises the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system." (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, 1999).

Geographical scope:

NATIONAL LEVEL	CATCHMENT AREAS	MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ZONES (NUTS 3)	COASTAL ZONES	MEDITERRANEAN SITES	MARINE ZONES
YES					

References:

- http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/foodqual/quali1_en.htm
- FAO, Agriculture biologique : <http://www.fao.org/organicag/default.htm>
- The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends – 2004
http://www.soel.de/inhalte/publikationen/s/s_74.pdf

International Data Sources:

- The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends – 2004
http://www.soel.de/inhalte/publikationen/s/s_74.pdf

Precautions for use:

Organic production systems and products are not always guaranteed. This is specified on labels reading: 'agriculture and products not certified as organic'; this definition excludes agricultural systems which use no synthetic ingredients by default (i.e., systems which do not apply land quality maintenance systems, and which are therefore responsible for land deterioration).

Methodological Annex: