



Towards farms with zero carbon-, waste- and water-footprint. Roadmap for sustainable management
A preliminary assessment of sustainable agricultural practices in Cyprus

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7 partners from 5

countries

❖ Albania

❖ Bulgaria

❖ Cyprus

❖ FYROM

❖ Greece





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BalkanRoad main objectives:

- ❖ Develop strategies and methodologies for natural resources conservation, GHGs and waste generation reduction, increase recycling/reuse ratio in farm systems
- ❖ Develop a common Balkan protocol for the production of eco-labeled agricultural products



Why focus on agriculture sector?



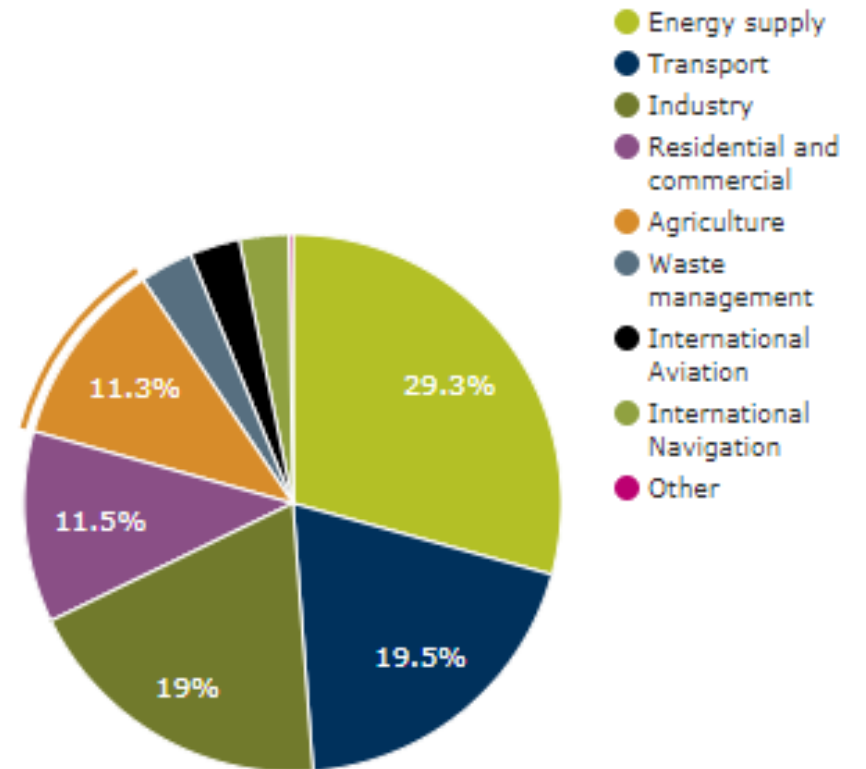
The agriculture sector:

- ❖ is responsible for ~430m tons of CO₂ eq. (
- ❖ 11% of EU CO₂ emissions
- ❖ Main byproducts: CH₄ & N₂O

EU goals:

- ❖ 40% reduction on GHGs emissions by 2030
- ❖ Net-zero emissions by 2050

**Emissions share per main sectors in 2014 —
Sectoral greenhouse gas emissions by IPCC
sector**





Cyprus GAP analysis

- ❖ Determining and assessing the gaps for the adoption of sustainable practices in the agriculture sector
- ❖ Questionnaire survey targeting policy makers (TG2), regional authorities and other stakeholders
- ❖ Questionnaire survey targeting farmers (TG1)



Questionnaire

- ❖ Available online and on mobile app.
- ❖ Duration of 10 min.
- ❖ Questions regarding educational and social background, agricultural activities, use of ICT, sustainable practices, etc.



Key survey findings

	TG-1: Farmers	TG-2: Policy Makers
Age	80% ≥ 40 years old	
Education	90% have received no higher education (jus primary or secondary)	University graduates or even with a PhD.
Further training	Very limited	Special courses or seminars related to sustainable practices (no field training though)
Familiarity with ICT & other technologies	Very limited	Full extend
Familiarity with sustainable practices	Limited or none	yes



Key survey findings

	TG-1: Farmers	TG-2: Policy Makers
Agricultural sector environmental impact	80% believe that the agricultural sector does nothing wrong related to the environment	
Familiarity with legislation in force	50% do not comply or rarely comply with current legislation	yes
Crop yield monitoring and business plan	90% have no business plan in place and 50% do not monitor their crop yields	
Government subsidies on	90% unaware of such funding schemes	Most of them already exploited of such



Key survey findings

	TG-1: Farmers	TG-2: Policy Makers
Importance of sustainability	70% consider it to be not important at all	
Challenges on sustainable practices implementation	Complexity of sustainable practices, lack of information and support,	
Favourable environment on sustainability	90% stated that this is not the case	
Reasons hindering sustainable development	Insufficient education and training of the producers, low level of education on the topic of local counselors and agronomists, lack of significant economic and other incentives	



Conclusions

- ❖ Aging human workforce in the agri sector.
- ❖ Sufficient lack of education and training of farmers in Cyprus.
- ❖ Unfamiliarity with the use of ICTs and other emerging technologies.
- ❖ Incomprehension of sustainable practices and circular economy concepts.
- ❖ Unfamiliarity with the actual causes of climate change



Conclusions

- ❖ Lack of knowledge and training on sustainable practices adoption
- ❖ There is a huge gap related to policy makers perception on sustainability in the agricultural sector and the farmer's perception on it.
- ❖ Poor knowledge dissemination and transfer mechanisms between state (policy making) level and farmer's level



Thank you for your attention



Questions?