



PEASANT PERSPECTIVE ON THE CAP

**SMALL FARMERS
BIG SOLUTIONS**

The Common Agricultural Policy is the European Union's instrument for managing agriculture. It was created in the post-war era to ensure Europe's food security, although there have been many changes since then. Today, the CAP receives more than €30 billion a year, i.e. 38% of the EU budget.

Ensure a fair standard of living
for the agricultural population

Ensure security of supply

What are
the objectives
of the CAP?

Stabilize the markets

Increase agricultural productivity
through technical progress

Ensure reasonable prices
for consumers

What is ECVC's position on the CAP?

We are in favour of a strong CAP that is not just a collection of subsidies, but uses **regulatory instruments** to achieve the objectives for which it was created. More than receiving aid, we want to earn a living through fair production prices.

Food must be seen as a **common good** and not as a commodity, and for this reason, food must not be subjugated to trade policy. We think that the objective of increasing agricultural productivity must be replaced, instead aiming for a much-needed **environmental sustainability** within the production model, as well as within the marketing and consumption model.

However, in practice, the current CAP does not benefit all farmers equally, as it has been detrimental to small farmers. These farmers are at the heart of European agriculture and are **the driving force behind a fairer, ecological, political and economic agriculture**.

How does the CAP favour agribusiness?

Financial support for farmers is allocated according to **the size of the farm**. In this way, more land means more money. These incentives lead to **land grabbing**, which makes it impossible for young or new farmers to access land, and so farms are increasingly larger and more industrialised. The CAP is shaping a liberalised and export-oriented agriculture.

Food products are sold on the world market at **competitive prices** that **do not cover production costs**, which destroy the food systems of importing countries and make European farmers **dependent on subsidies**.

The distribution of aid is skewed in favour of agribusiness: **2% of CAP beneficiaries** receive around **30% of first pillar support**, 80% of CAP beneficiaries receive less than 20% of support, and around 40% of European farmers do not benefit from this type of support.

Why does this concern all of us?

This phenomenon leads to the **mechanisation of practices**, the establishment of monocultures, the intensive use of pesticides, the use of GMO crops, soil erosion and the collapse of the number of farms and agricultural jobs.

All these consequences play a key role in the struggles for **climate** and **human rights** that society faces today.

On the contrary, a **small-scale farming system** makes it possible to meet today's main challenges: climate change, loss of biodiversity and depopulation of rural areas, all while **ensuring healthy, fresh and local food**. This is why small and medium-sized farmers must be the target of the CAP.

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