



FOR A FAIRER CAP THAT IS BASED ON SOLIDARITY

Family farming and small and medium-sized farmers are in an unprecedented situation in the European Union. It is these farmers, who make up the vast majority of farmers across EU countries, who, through their work create wealth, feed the population with healthy food, preserve seeds and traditional production methods and who guarantee the population of rural areas. Family farming continues to play a key role in the preservation of the environment and biodiversity, in defence of animal welfare and is at the forefront of the fight against climate change.

Today, the recognition of the role of family farming and small and medium-sized farmers is unquestionable, underlined by the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas by the UN itself in 2018.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) can no longer ignore family farmers. A new CAP must recognise their importance and promote all mechanisms for their development, as well as the defence of the food sovereignty across countries and regions.

Currently, we see unconditional support for competitive agribusiness and a vision of highly industrialized agricultural production that unsustainable intense and controlled by large economic groups and investment funds. This governs the entire implementation of the CAP, and has led to the disappearance of millions of small and medium-sized farms (between 2013 and 2016 alone, 2 million family farms disappeared in the EU). This causes an increasing concentration of agricultural production. Currently, 52% of agricultural land in the EU is controlled by only 3% of producers and the 5 largest agri-food industries control 52% of the entire market. Such concentration means that the only winners are the shareholders who own these companies.

The main characteristic of this CAP, adapted and linked to WTO agreements and "free trade" treaties, is the elimination of small and medium-sized farmers and family farming, as well as the concentration of land and production resources, with unacceptable environmental and social impacts. The CAP reform as it stands will fail to change the course of this decline.

This is why farmers' organisation CNA, from Portugal, with the support of the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) and with the participation of ECVC member organizations COAG, SLG, EHNE Bizkaia and SOC-SAT from Spain and La Confédération Paysanne from France, are taking action against the CAP, to defend a social and sustainable agricultural model based on small and medium farmers and family farming, for environmentally friendly production that produces healthy food, in a demonstration in Lisbon at the door of the EU Presidency on June 14.

No to the current CAP: We defend a fairer CAP based on solidarity

In particular, we demand:

1. Improving the income of farmers

For family farming and small and medium-sized farmers, being paid a fair price and being able to sell their products are essential conditions for earning a decent living and for receiving a fair income from their work. In order for fair production prices to exist and for farmers to be able to sell their products, the CAP must resume market control measures, allowing for a better distribution of the value generated along the chain (farmers today receive a very small part of all the value generated). The CAP reform proposal ignores this issue and opts to push forward with a highly liberalised market, relying on the supposed self-regulation that never has and will never work.

In addition to fair prices, we need subsidies that are better distributed, that are paid to those who actually produce. Currently, 20% of CAP beneficiaries still account for more than 80% of all direct aid. This requires:

- Mandatory application of the reduction of payments from 60,000 onwards and a limit of 100,000 €.
- Mandatory application of the redistributive payment, with allocation of a percentage of direct payments, to significantly counteract the current concentration of aid.
- Mandatory application of the small farming regime
- The definition of active farmer needs to effectively link support and production and cannot be limited only to a negative, non-compulsory list.

2. Support for an environmentally friendly agricultural production

Effective environmental protection and sustainable food production can and must be achieved by valuing family farming practices. Today we are witnessing a real attempt to greenwash the CAP. In the end, on paper everything may look good, but in reality what will happen is that the changes arising from the environmental rules will continue to support the same people as always, as they support practices and not truly sustainable modes of production.

We defend a relocation of production, marketing and consumption, focusing on short sales circuits and promoting local markets. We defend the recognition of traditional production methods, biodiversity and the rights of farmers to use and exchange their seeds. We defend livestock production that respects animal welfare. We defend the adoption of environmentally friendly production methods with the support and development of agroecology and alternative certification systems.

It is also necessary to apply the same requirements to agricultural products imported from third countries as the requirements imposed on European agriculture, especially in terms of health and environmental standards. Otherwise, it will not really be possible to guarantee healthy and safe food for all European consumers.

3. Application of social conditionality

As has become clear in this latest health crisis, both small and medium-scale producers and rural (mostly migrant) workers are essential to guarantee food security for the population, despite the fact that many are live and work in degrading conditions caused by the social dumping promoted by the agribusiness model.

It is inconceivable to accept violations of labour, social and exploitation rights in companies, be those agricultural or not. The CAP must set an example, which is why social conditionality must be applied to these subsidies immediately, in order to ensure that beneficiaries comply with the labour legislation in force and, in the case of serious infringements, lose the right to receive this aid. We cannot accept soft measures that fail to link CAP subsidies to respecting workers' rights.

The CAP needs a real reform. Family farmers and their organizations have been fighting for a fairer and more supportive CAP for a long time, and they will continue to fight until they achieve the adoption of a real agricultural policy that promotes the development of rural areas and ensures the population is supplied with quality food produced locally by family farming.