Farming in a changing climate

Advisory letter on climate and agriculture

Why this advisory report?

- The agricultural and horticultural sector is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The climate is becoming both drier and wetter, with extreme weather events expected to occur more frequently in the future. As a result, the sector is grappling with uncertainty and declining yields.
- The sector is contributing to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide. The pace of emission reductions is insufficient to meet the climate goals.
- In the future, agriculture will remain a key driver in food supply, land and water management, adaptation and social cohesion, and rural employment. At present, farmers lack the perspective needed to fulfil this role effectively.

How is perspective defined in relation to farmers?

To fulfil their role effectively, farmers must have perspective. Perspective comprises five distinct aspects:

Financial and economic perspective

Clarity and consistent long-term policy

Greater autonomy

Appreciation and recognition

Fair distribution

Five recommendations for expanding perspectives:

Set clear short- and longterm frameworks and goals, particularly in relation to climate and the environment. These are essential for goal-oriented management.

Offer farmers both financial assistance and practical guidance to help them transition to a business model that is in keeping with the above-mentioned climate and environmental frameworks.

Involve farmers in decisions that affect the future of agriculture. Ask the various agricultural sectors to indicate how they propose to fulfil climate and environmental goals. Integrate their input into subsequent discussions with other stakeholders. Rebuild mutual trust among all parties involved.

Implement targeted policies to establish a growing and economically viable sales market for sustainably produced agricultural and horticultural products.

Invest in initiatives to foster collaboration within the farming community and strengthen partnerships between farmers and consumers.

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