


Crop management advisory supported by farm register books and monitoring

Goal	Promote advisory systems by experts for continuous improvement
Short description of the measure	<p>Farm advisory structures can be very diverse. Some of them are National/Regional Authorities staff, but this role can also be played by farmer unions, farmer associations, environmental organizations or staff from private companies (such as quality or agriculture departments). All of them support farmers on a regular basis in the implementation of good practices, for ensuring the compliance with legal obligations and company requirements, as well as for training farmers.</p> <p>This close support is usually complemented with written documents that help to keep track of actions and to produce valuable information that is kept as a verification mean, and that can be used as a monitoring tool in the midterm for improving farming activities efficiency, reducing impact on the environment and become more competitive.</p> <p>The EC recognizes Farm Advisory Systems as a tool for helping farmers to better understand and meet the EU rules for environment, public and animal health, animal welfare and the good agricultural and environmental condition.</p>
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	Advisory needs to be performed regularly and permanently
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	By checking that companies provide farmers with own or hired permanent farm advisory system contributing at least to the following aspects: continuous training, delivering to farmers reminders with legal obligations (banned products and practices, limitations in the land use according to local regulations), promoting the use of farm register books, revising farm register book for identifying mitigation actions.
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	Means of verification that proof that an effective advisory occurs. Farm register Book are excellent proofs of verification. Simple interviews with farmers can help too.
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	<div>  <p>In general terms, good and expert advisory avoid undesired impacts on the environment. More specifically it can help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Better plan crop rotations ■ Better soil and nutrient management ■ Better irrigation performance and complex irrigation equipment management ■ Better pest management </div>

Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of farmers per advisory staff
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/direct-support/cross-compliance/farm-advisory-system_en

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

Editor: LIFE Food & Biodiversity; Fundación Global Nature

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