

Exchange of views on post 2020 CAP and its effect on farming on organic (peat) soils

Report

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Executive summary

As an activity foreseen under the REPEAT¹ project, on 9th April 2019 Wetlands International European Association together with Greifswald Mire Centre organised an exchange of views with EU actors on post 2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its effect on farming on wet organic (peat) soils called paludiculture.

*Paludiculture is the **productive** use of **wet peatlands**.* First used by Hans Joosten (1998), paludiculture is known as a land management technique that cultivate commercially interesting crops on wet or rewetted peatlands under conditions that maintain the peat body, facilitate peat accumulation and sustain the ecosystem services associated with natural peatlands. Unfortunately, this land use technique is not well known by farmers and decision makers. Obstacles and counteracting incentives exist in the current CAP, which are preventing farmers to go for it and the new proposal under discussion needs improvements to allow such a practice.

The meeting aimed at building a common understanding of the importance of peatland rewetting to reduce CO₂ emissions, to inform about the concept and examples of paludiculture, to feed the current policy discussions on the post 2020 CAP, and to inform policy makers how to support larger scale implementation of paludiculture before the approval of the final amended legislation documents and the CAP national strategic plans.

An overview of the new CAP **legislative proposal** and the state of play of the co-decision procedure was presented by **Zelie Peppiette** and **Olivier Diana** from EC Directorate General Agriculture. The new proposal² presented on 1st June 2018 aims at increasing CAP's environmental and climate ambition. Among the nine specific objectives set up, three³ of them refer to the **new green architecture** of the CAP. To achieve these objectives members states have to submit strategic plans after identifying needs through a SWOT analysis and designing type of actions which will be approved by the European Commission. New elements of the proposal include: a) enhanced conditionality: a new obligation include preserving carbon-rich soils through protection of wetlands and peatlands; b) Eco-schemes, a pillar I instrument which are voluntary for farmers and mandatory for Member States.

¹ **REPEAT - RE**storation and prognosis of **PEAT** formation in fens - linking diversity in plant functional traits to soil biological and biogeochemical processes, is the first project to systematically address fen peat formation using an interdisciplinary, multi-method and multi-site approach across Europe. It is led by Warsaw University and funded by ERA-NET Cofunds BiodivERSA3. www.repeat-project.com

² Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

COM/2018/392 final - 2018/0216 (COD)

³ 1. Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy
2. Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air
3. Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.

The discussion is far to find an agreement, above all because of the European election held in May, EP did not vote the dossier in plenary setting. The EP Committees of Environment and of Agriculture met in April to approve the tabled amendments, among which a specific amendment n. 91 referring to **paludiculture** was approved⁴. The new configuration of EP still needs to agree whether the dossier will be voted in plenary or re-discussed from scratch. It will be decided in September 2019. The Romanian Presidency advanced the work on the CAP but now it is up to the Finnish Presidency to try to come to an agreement.

From decision making process, the discussion moved to a more scientific focus on peatlands and paludiculture, starting with a video sent by **Wiktor Kotowski**, University of Warsaw, where he explained the food-carbon footprint related to peat and the current destructive agricultural practices on peatland with the products coming thereof.

Dr. Franziska Tanneberger, Greifswald Mire Centre, helped the audience to better understand that peatlands in their natural state are unique and important natural ecosystems with high value for biodiversity conservation, climate regulation and human welfare. They are wetlands with a waterlogged organic soil layer (peat). Peatlands represent the world's most effective carbon stores. Globally they cover 3% of the land surface but they hold 20% of global soil carbon – two times more than all the world's forests biomass combined. When peatlands are drained for cultivation, they become net carbon emitters instead of active carbon stores. European peatlands have been and are mainly drained for agriculture, forestry and peat extraction. **Paludiculture** presents the necessary paradigm shift towards sustainable regional economies with global climate benefits. Instead of draining them, peatlands are kept productive under wet, peat-conserving conditions. It provides valuable ecosystem services that are not (yet) paid, including reduction of GHG emissions, protection of ground- and surface water, retention of water in the landscape and conservation of biodiversity. From a macroeconomic point of view, stopping transfer payments to farms that operate on drained peatlands and shifting to farms that put paludiculture into practice are therefore a very cost-effective way to fulfil international commitments with respect to protecting climate, water and biodiversity.

Despite the cost-effectiveness of paludiculture, the current CAP as implemented by most Member States discriminates crops suitable for cultivation on wet or rewetted peatlands (e.g. reed, cattails, sedges and peat mosses) as not eligible for payments within the pillar I (Representatives from DG Agri stressed that these crops can be regarded as eligible, and that there had been little interest by Member States to clarify this question with DG Agri) . There are no incentives for farmers to raise water levels and shift to more climate-friendly farming on organic soils. On the contrary, drainage-based agriculture with adverse environmental impact for climate, water, soil and biodiversity is supported by CAP subsidies. Additionally, greening requirements for the preservation of permanent grassland hinders the cultivation of climate-smart paludiculture crops on nowadays deeply drained peaty grasslands (Czybulka & Kölsch 2016)⁵. **Jan Peters**, Michael Succow Foundation, helped understanding what should be improved in the new CAP and suggested key elements to be included: **Overarching objectives have to be set by the EU**

- ➔ **Paludiculture integrated** into spatial planning and new CAP (Pillars I + II)
- ➔ Clear **GHG emission reduction targets** needed to fulfil Paris Agreement e.g. via strict GAEC 2

⁴ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2019-0200_EN.html

⁵ **Briefing Paper on the role of peatlands in the 2021 European Union's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)**, Compiled by the Greifswald Mire Centre, March 2019



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- ➔ Clear targets for other goals (**water quality, biodiversity** etc.)
- ➔ **Eligibility** of paludiculture for CAP payments
- ➔ Paludi-crops (reed, cattail, peatmoss etc.) qualify as **agricultural activity**
- ➔ **No cut of funds in 2nd pillar** to allow for ambitious peatland agri-environmental schemes to reach targets
- ➔ Flexibility for member states by **national strategy plans** to reach the goals can provide **chances for peatland-rich member states to create schemes** in both pillars for paludiculture to fulfil climate goals (e.g. EcoSchemes in 1st pillar, Agri-environmental Climate Schemes in 2nd pillar)
- ➔ This can help to adopt **country-specific situation** (environmental, socio-economic)

BUT: **Exchange of experience** between peatland-rich regions in Europe needed

BUT: **Risk of low environmental and climate ambitions** in member states

- ➔ **Clear EU wide environmental policy targets need to be set**

After getting the policy and scientific insights, two examples of farming on organic soil were given.

On one side, **Alfred Smolczynski, reed cutter from Rozwarowo Marshes, Poland** who managed to have his reed farming recognised as CAP eligible practice, but he is now affected by import from China. On the other **Aldert van Weeren, Cattail farmer** from the Netherlands working in Germany is struggling to get his activity recognised as agricultural practice, but also to have ecosystem services from his activity paid. Despite the differences, both of them are asking for better legal recognition of paludiculture and its products, to allow farmers to apply it without incurring in fines and problems. They want also to be protected by the EU against non-EU import.

The future CAP: State of play and the role of peatlands in the green architecture presented by European Commission (DG AGRI)

Zelie Peppiette, DG AGRI, set the scene by presenting what is new in the European Commission's legislative proposals on the future of the CAP for the period after 2020.

The main element of the new CAP is applying a result-based delivery model. Member States have to submit strategic plans in which they have to set targets and design interventions. These plans have to be linked to national planning tools from EU legislation, non-CAP legislation and strategies like climate change, water, biodiversity etc. and have to be approved by EC.

WHAT THE FUTURE CAP WILL BRING TO THE TABLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE - KEY ELEMENTS

1. A needs-based, targeted approach to addressing environmental and climate objectives through the whole CAP in coherence with other EU policies

- Three out of nine of the CAP's objectives to cover the environment and climate
- Assessment of needs, targeting and performance monitoring to cover both CAP "pillars" (direct payments to farmers and support for rural development) in a single plan per Member State, for greater coherence
- New link to other EU legislation on the environment and climate

2. An improved system of conditions ("conditionality") to be met by farmers receiving area- and animal-based CAP payments

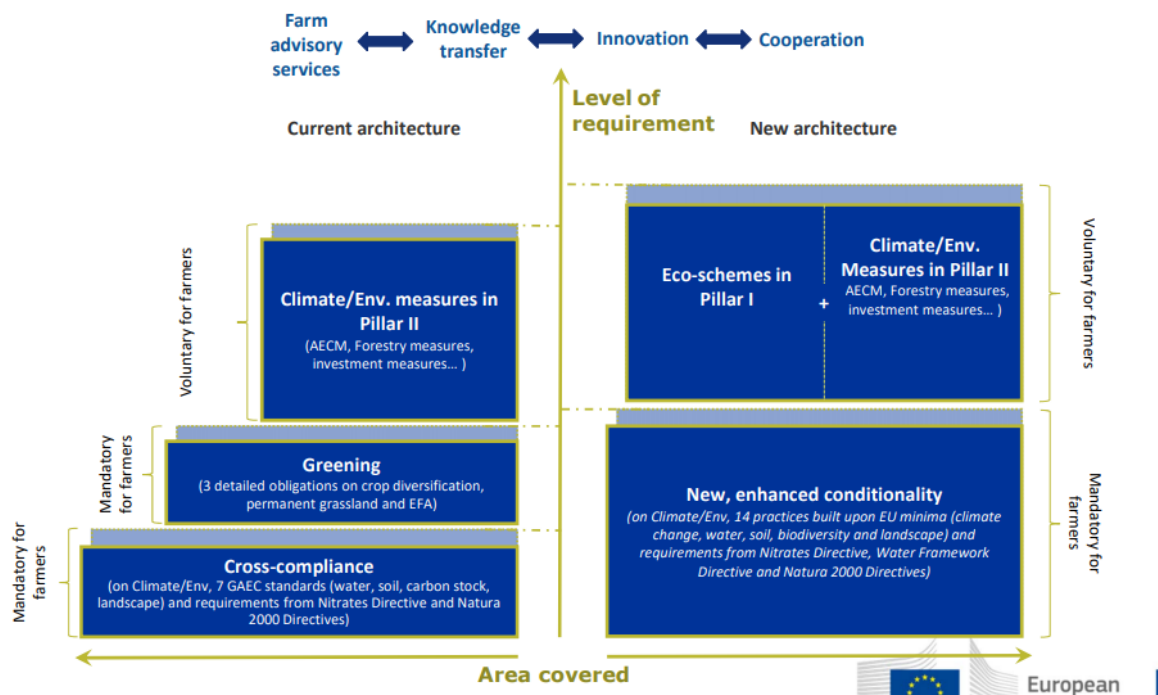
- Member States to plan implementation to match overall CAP objectives and national assessment of needs – with approval by Commission
- A small number of new standards, strengthened existing standards

3. A complementary set of (voluntary) tools to be offered to farmers to help achieve the CAP environmental and climate objectives

- A new stream of funding for the environment and climate ('eco-schemes') from the CAP's direct payments budget, mandatory for Member States (but design up to them) and voluntary for farmers
- Continued support from the CAP's rural development budget for environment- and climate-relevant management practices, investments, knowledge-building, innovation and co-operation. Ongoing wide range of support possibilities, with at least 30% of the CAP's rural development budget to focus on activities of most direct value for the environment and climate



The new green architecture



Olivier Diana, DG AGRI, presented the legislative proposal of EC, explaining the green architecture of the CAP. Three specific objectives concerning environment and climate:

- Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
- Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;

- Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.

Each Member State needs to submit a **strategic plan** to achieve CAP objectives. To develop the plan, each member state will initially analyse the situation on its territory in terms of **strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) – as well as its related needs** – in respect of these objectives. Based on the SWOT analysis, it will set **quantified targets** against the objectives and **design "interventions" (types of action)** for achieving them, based on an EU-level menu. Member States have **substantial flexibility** to implement designed actions. EC will approve the plan when satisfied with the actions selected by the Member States.

Conditionality, which replaces ‘[greening](#)’ and [cross-compliance](#) of the current CAP, sets the baseline for more ambitious and sustainable agricultural commitments through the adoption of good farming practices and standards by farmers. New elements are:

- **Protection of wetlands and peatlands**
- Water Framework Directive, Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides
- Use of Farm Sustainability Tool for Nutrients

Strengthened elements, e.g. from “crop diversification” (greening) to “crop rotation” (conditionality)

Conditionalities are specified in the form of standards for the Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC). The following GAECs influencing conservation and management (e.g. in paludiculture) of wetlands and peatlands:

<p>Climate change GAEC 1: Maintenance of permanent grassland based on a ratio of permanent grassland in relation to agricultural area GAEC 2: Preservation of carbon rich soils such as peatlands and wetlands</p>
<p>Water GAEC 4: Establishment of buffer strips along water courses GAEC 5: Use of Farm Sustainability Tool for Nutrients</p>
<p>Soil GAEC 7: No bare soil in most sensitive period GAEC 8: Crop rotation: Crop rotation is the practice of alternating growing crops grown on a same field or land in a planned pattern or sequence so as to break weed/pest and disease cycles and improve soil fertility and control insects and diseases. Crops specific for crop rotation should be from 3 distinct families.</p>
<p>Biodiversity GAEC 9: Minimum share of agricultural areas devoted to non-productive features or areas = 7% Retention of landscape features = no destruction of hedges, trees, etc. Ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season 1 April – 1 July GAEC 10: Ban on converting or ploughing permanent grassland in Natura 2000 sites</p>

Beyond the basic standards of conditionality, EC proposes funding instruments for environmental activities of land users in both pillars:

Pillar I:

- **Eco-schemes** – a new way of spending Pillar I funding on the environment and climate (i.e. without co-financing)



- Can be useful to design a scheme that is attractive to a larger number of farmers – and will help achieve a higher level of ambition
- Go beyond the conditionality requirements
- Mandatory for Member States, **voluntary for farmers**
- Many target areas in which Member States has particular challenges (e.g. GHG emissions, nitrates or biodiversity loss)
- **Annual commitments and payments** – can be useful feature
- Member States have **flexibility** to design **content** of eco-schemes
- **...and flexibility over payment** – possibility of incentives
- **Environmental “top-ups” to basic income support; or compensation payments based on costs incurred, income foregone**

ECO-SCHEMES & ENVIRONMENTAL-CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

SCHEMES FOR THE CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – ECO-SCHEMES (ART 28)	ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND OTHER MANAGEMENT COMMITMENTS (ART 65)
Funded by Pillar I (annual, not co-funded)	Funded by Pillar II (multiannual, co-funded)
Payments to genuine farmers	Payments to farmers and other beneficiaries
Payment per hectares eligible to direct payment	Payment per hectares (not necessarily eligible to direct payments)/animal
Annual (or possibly multiannual)	Multiannual (5 to 7 years or more) and contractual commitments
Compensation for cost incurred/income foregone, or Incentive payment: top-up of basic income support (amount to be fixed and justified by MS)	Compensation for cost incurred/income foregone

Pillar 2:

- **Full range** of relevant Pillar II support remains available
- Key relevant support types:
 - Payments for **management commitments** (including agri-environment-climate commitments)
 - Payments to compensate for **constraints** (natural, or related to Natura 2000 / Water Framework Directive)
 - Support for **investments, knowledge transfer, innovation, co-operation**
- **Ring fencing:** Member States to spend at least 30% of EAFRD budget on interventions directly targeted at environment and climate change (payments for Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) no longer included)
- **“Negative list” for investment support** (unsustainable irrigation & forestry)

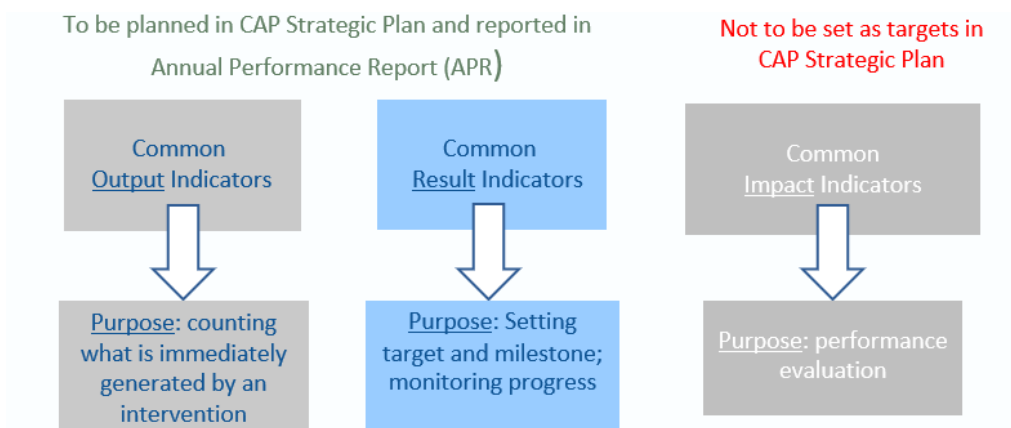
Zelie Peppiette helped us understanding what is new in the draft report discussed in the European Parliament. With regards to wetlands/peatlands and paludiculture, EP amended the EC proposal by amending the Art.4 the definitions: *Rewetted areas used for paludiculture as eligible area (amendment 91).*

In the CAP strategic plans, Member States have to pursue the CAP's **specific objectives** among which *d) soil carbon sequestration; e) systems delivering multiple environmental benefits; f) supporting High Nature Value farming systems* are listed. Member States have to also include services to advise farmers of CAP support on land and farm management (the compulsory coverage of these **Farm Advisory Services** has been extended (art.13).

According to EP Agri committee, Members States should include specific practices in their **list of agricultural practices** ex: *"where applicable, appropriate maintenance of wetland and peatland"* in art 65 on agri-environmental sustainable practices to get payments for. Another example of what it should be included in the list of agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment as management commitment is: *"appropriate protection of wetlands and organic soils"*

The legislative proposal of EC introduced new standards of conditionality (annex 3), linking to current cross-compliance and Greening requirements. GAEC 2 and GAEC 10 have been amended as follows: **GAEC2** *"maintenance of wetland and peatland in sensitive areas of Natura 2000"* and **GAEC 10:** *"appropriate protection of permanent grassland in Natura 2000 sites recognized as sensitive areas"*.

The CAP foresees a new monitoring and evaluation framework to be included in the CAP strategic plans and reported in the Annual Performance report.



Two roundtables⁶ on the green architecture of the CAP were organised in 2018 putting together agricultural and environmental stakeholders to explore the potential to support both environmental objectives and sustainable farming.

Food and Peatlands

Almost half the EU's land is farmed. This makes agriculture extremely important for the EU's natural environment, and for the climate. **Wiktor Kotowski**, University of Warsaw, via video link from a supermarket, explained the food-carbon footprint related to peat and the current destructive agricultural practices on peatland with the products coming thereof. He shared key data:

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/round-tables-green-architecture-cap-2018-nov-12_en



- Globally peatlands emit 2 Gt CO₂ per year = 5% of anthropogenic GHG emissions. Most is due to agricultural drainage for food production and peat extraction for agriculture and horticulture
- 1 liter of milk produced on peatland is equivalent to an additional 2 kg CO₂ emissions
- 1 kg condensed milk or cream is equivalent to an additional 50 kg CO₂ emissions
- 1 kg of butter is equivalent to an additional 100 kg CO₂ emissions
- 1 kg of cheese produces 40-50 kg CO₂ emissions

- Vegetables are grown in greenhouses and nearly all are grown on peat coming from extracted peatlands, even from prior pristine peatlands in the Baltic states, Canada or Belarus

- Pots of vegetables and flowers contain pure peat
- Flowers you buy are most often grown on drained peatland
- Majority of potting soil we use contains high proportion of peat
- Chocolate is made with palm oil produced on drained tropical peatlands

It is good to have a more environmental and climate friendly CAP, but we should avoid to use drained peatlands for food production and other activities. *“If you want to use peatlands, use them wet”*, said Hans Joosten, Greifswald Mire Centre.

➔ *A shift to 'wet' agriculture (paludiculture) on organic (peat) soils is needed to reach the EU's climate protection goals. Interestingly, such shift would provide plenty of additional ecosystem services to society.*

Paludiculture - showing environmental damage of drainage, environmental benefits of paludiculture, land use opportunities

Peatlands occur in almost every country of the world, covering 3% of the global land surface. According to IPCC, **organic soils include i.a. land with a peat layer at the surface**, explained **Franziska Tanneberger**, Director of Greifswald Mire Centre, Germany. Peat accumulates when soil is permanently waterlogged and died-off plant remains do not completely decompose. It contains a large proportion of organic carbon. On European scale, peat soils make up 21% of Ireland and up 26% of Finland.

Drainage allows oxygen to enter the soil, leading to microbial decomposition of the peat and thereby emission of substantial amounts of CO₂ and N₂O. Further negative consequences of drainage are mobilisation and discharge of nutrients to ground- and surface water, and soil subsidence (1-2 cm yearly) which results in increasing drainage costs, higher flooding risks and -ultimately- to loss of productive land. Over centuries, European peatlands have been drained for agriculture, forestry and peat extraction. For example, in Ireland 82% of peat soil is drained and in Finland 61% is drained. The



negative consequences of this use become more and more obvious. When peatlands are drained, they become net **greenhouse gas (GHG)** emitters, much higher in comparison to agriculture on mineral soils. The deeper peatlands are drained, the more GHGs are emitted. From a hectare of degraded soil, roughly 30-40 tonnes of GHG emissions a year are released. In the brown countries in the figure, we have 50 % of total agricultural emissions from drained peatlands.

How is it possible that this problem (emission from peatlands, subsidence) has been overlooked for such a long time?

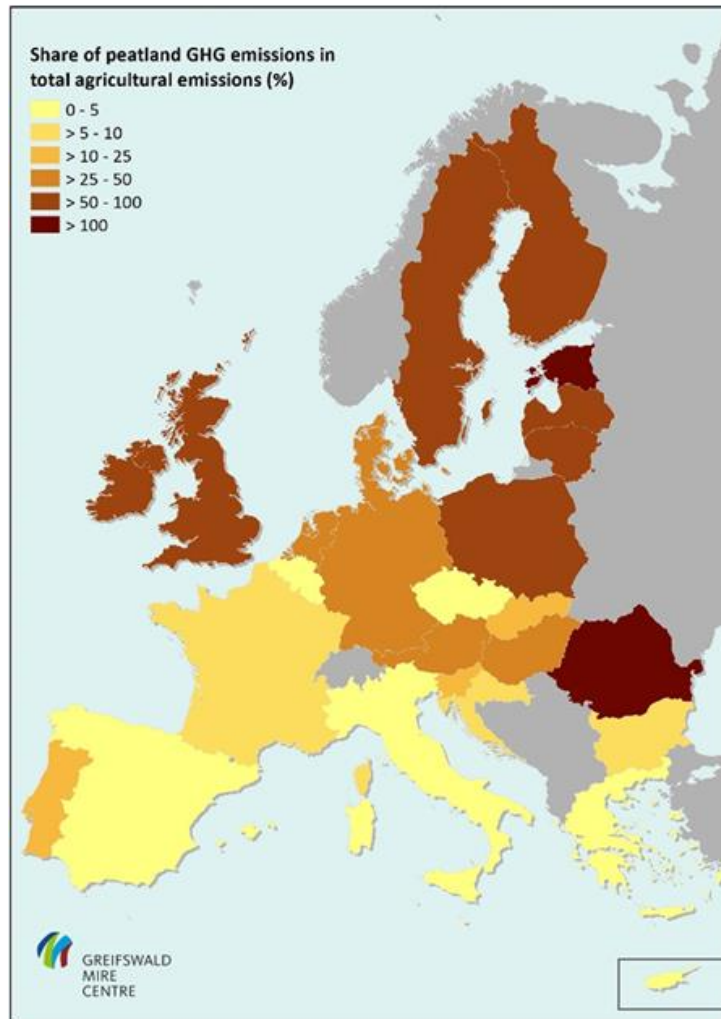
Two main reasons are: 1) peatlands are very little recognised, experts called it as “**cinderella syndrome**”, 2) agriculture in Europe comes from semi-desert/ dry regions. For millennia, the paradigm was that productive land must be dry and regularly ploughed.

Solutions: Peat is preserved at ground water levels close to surface so raising water levels stop subsidence and CO₂ emissions.

Paludiculture presents the necessary paradigm shift towards sustainable peatland use with global climate benefits. Paludiculture is the wet alternative to drainage based land use on peatlands. The word comes from the Latin “**palus**” – swamp and means *the use of wet peatlands which combines the production function with the provision of essential ecosystem services*. Instead of draining them, peatlands are kept productive under wet, peat-conserving conditions. It mitigates climate change and helps adapt to a changing climate.

Additional ecosystem services are: reduced nutrient run-off = water purification; decreased evapotranspiration = landscape cooling; increased flood protection; Increased groundwater storage and often increased biodiversity.

Paludiculture products⁷ can be used for several purposes, see table below.



⁷ Paludiculture briefing , GMC

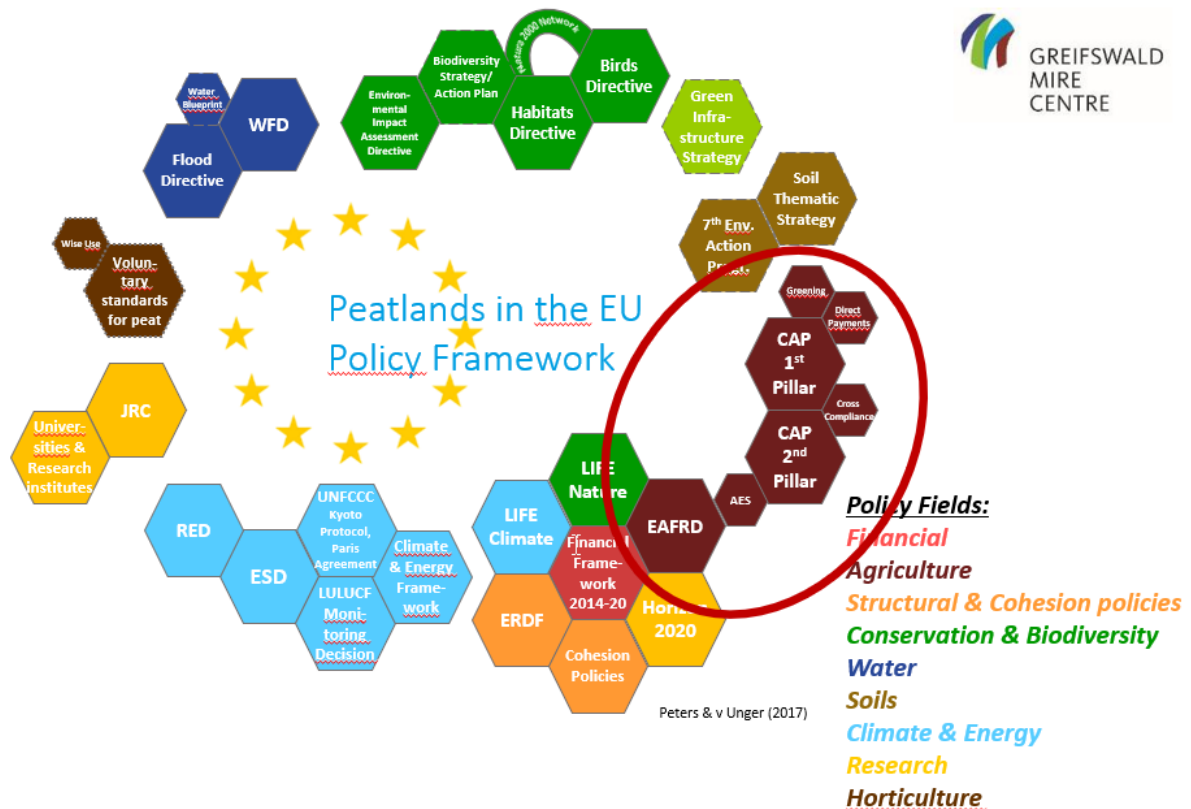
<i>Type of crop</i>	<i>Purposes</i>
Reeds canary grass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>)	for combustion, biogas
Common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>)	for construction materials and energy
Sedges (<i>Carex spp.</i>)	for energy (combustion, biogas), fodder and litter
Cattail (<i>Typha spp.</i>)	for construction materials, fodder, energy (biogas) The additional benefit of <i>Typha</i> is that it takes up much more N and P and can be used for purification of polluted sewage water.
Black alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)	for carpentry, interior fittings, and furniture and energy cultivation
Peatmoss (<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>)	For horticultural substrate

The **Database of Potential Paludiculture Plants (DPPP)**⁸ collects information on useful wetland plants in order to catalogue existing and identify new options for paludiculture. Currently, over 1.100 species have been recorded and assessed for their paludiculture potential. More than 200 species seem promising for commercial paludiculture. They can be grown at high water levels, preserving the peat body, and there is a market demand for the products they provide.

⁸ <https://greifswaldmoor.de/dppp-109.html>

Is Europe ready for paludiculture? Implications of the EU policy framework with special focus on CAP

Peatlands relate to many EU policy frameworks (water, biodiversity, climate) especially to the agricultural field (CAP), showed **Jan Peters**, Michael Succow Foundation, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre.



Reasons why there is no large-scale implementation of paludiculture are due to socio-economic challenges such as resistance to the break of the tradition of draining peatlands. Making peatlands wet is difficult as landownership is fragmented and convincing all landowners in an area to participate is difficult.

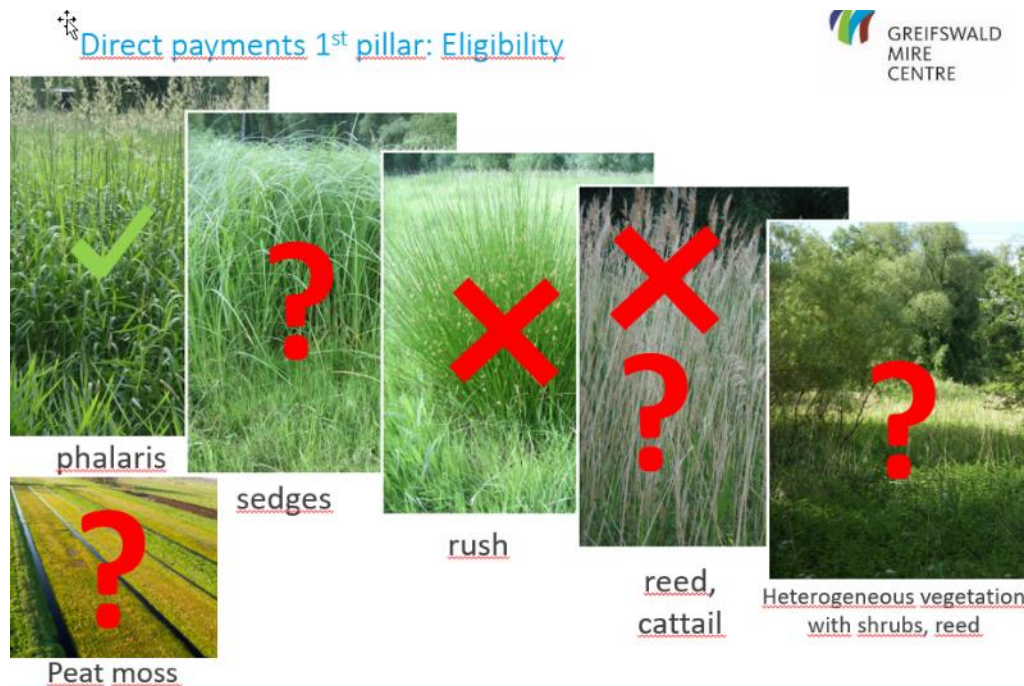
- ➔ Solutions could include raising awareness on importance of preserving peat soils, creating advisory services for farmers, working with land consolidation and regional corporations, bringing the different stakeholders together to create clear inclusive area specific strategies, safeguarding biodiversity.

CAP is main driver of peatland degradation due to **payments for drainage-based agriculture** as direct payments counteract major policy targets (climate, water, biodiversity etc.). For instance in Germany, farmers receives **€ 300 Mio./yr.** CAP direct payments (pillar I) for drained peatland agriculture, which causes **€ 2.8 - 8.6 Bn./yr.** long-term climate damage, due to CO₂ released.

- ➔ Solutions could be to phase-out CAP funding for drainage-based peatland utilization
- ➔ Set clear EU-wide environmental policy targets and Monitoring, Reporting and Validation (MRV) schemes

Concerning CAP Pillar I, it is an obstacle for paludiculture because farmers can lose direct payments after land use changes and certain paludi-crops such as peat mosses are not regarded as „agricultural crops“. This creates uncertainty whether they will receive the direct payment

For instance, *Phalaris* being considered as grassland species receives payment. Sedge is problematic. Rush not receiving, reed and cattail very much depends on the Member State’s payment agency’s decisions. For peat mosses is the same, farmers have no certainty to receive direct payments.



What is needed:

- ➔ Paludiculture qualifies as agricultural activity, paludi-crops are regarded as agricultural cultures
- ➔ Eligibility of paludicultures as “eco-schemes” (Pillar I)

Under current CAP, strict permanent grassland protection hampers conversion of grassland to wet crops (“Greening”), Weak “Cross Compliance” (GAEC standard 6 „Maintenance of soil organic matter“) and uncertainty and discrimination frustrate interested farmers.

- ➔ Clear standards and safeguards for peatlands
- ➔ Consistent use of proposed GAEC 2: “Appropriate protection of wetland and peatland” in (climate) “Conditionality for climate change”

The amendment 717⁹ of the Agri Committee of EP ask that GAEC 2 refers to area located in Natura 2000 sites. This is an issue because many deeply drained peatlands are located outside Natura 2000 sites.

- ➔ GAEC 2: “Appropriate protection of wetland and peatland” should also apply to area outside Natura 2000 sites

⁹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2019-0200_EN.html

Pillar II: Only voluntary measures can lead to low acceptance if obligations are ambitious

Agri-environmental climate schemes (AES) have been mainly used to stimulate low-intensity fen grasslands management, focusing more on biodiversity benefits than on climate action. In the future to allow farmers to apply AES benefitting peatlands it is needed that:

- ➔ Compensation through economic incentives for conversion
- ➔ Remuneration of ecosystem services: additional income + long-term perspective (15-20 years)
- ➔ Efficient monitoring system needed (MRV e.g. for GHG)
- ➔

Farmers' experience



To conclude the set of presentations moving from policy to science, we included the practice with two farmers sharing their experience with paludiculture in two different approaches: On one side **Alfred Smolczynski** from Poland who succeeded in having his activities recognised as an agricultural practice and subsidized, on the other side **Aldert van Weeren** struggling for the recognition of cattail as agricultural product to access CAP payments in Germany and The Netherlands.

CASE 1: REED farming in Poland

Alfred Smolczynski, reed cutter from Rozwarowo Marshes, Poland

In a peatland area in NW Poland, with a traditional history of family farming in collaboration with local communities, they are harvesting reed, which can be used as insulation in housing and roofs. Their type of farming got noticed and questioned whether good or not for nature and how to be classified. A commission was set up to check whether their activity on marshes was beneficial for environment. In 2001 it was agreed that they could keep harvesting, but still with monitoring. When Poland entered EU, it was difficult to understand how to pay this type of practice. They went with local farmers to the Agricultural ministry to help subsidise their type of agriculture that was beneficial to nature. It is called "complementary payment".

"It is time for each country in EU to discuss about wetlands and their special protection."

However financial stability which has been stable since now is threatened by competition with Chinese imports of reeds

"EU should make framed schedule for reed and come up with new ideas to finance this."

CASE STUDY 2: CATTAIL – The Netherlands

Aldert van Weeren, landscape architect – new Cattail farmer

Aldert is trying to grow cattail on only 6 hectares of land. There are machineries for wetlands. Some are new. He is suggesting of growing cattail in constructed wetlands, which has many benefits:

Environmental aspects with typha in constructed Wetlands

Growing Typha brings the following (Eco)system services

Stops soil subsidence of peatlands für 90 % or more.....peat growing may be possible

- Better biodiversity
- Improved ecological landscape structure
- Winterharvesting does not hurt animal life
- Growing typha without fertilizer in areas with polluted (nutrient rich) waters
- Typha fields clean water
- Fields around naturereserve-areas can feed those with CLEAN water
- Cooler more humid microclimate makes for better cityair and counters heatstress
- Constructed wetlands help coping with extrem weather situations
- Holding back water for dryer times
- Use as temporally floodplains (water retention)
- Dykes around wetlands can be recreational used

Cattail can be used for different purposes, among which biogas production. The amount grown from 1 hectare of cattail is 5 times the amount of biomass harvested from woodlands. He has used cattail as insulation material for his house. This bioproduct is easy to make. He showed also a sauna completely made of typha, super insulated.

Van Weeren stressed the following actions to make cattail farming possible:



- Use planning systems to make paludiculture work and paludiculture strategy involves using no fertiliser;
- Look for places to rewet from a strategical point of view should involve places such as buffer zones of nature reserves to reduce nutrient inflow or weakly managed reserves to create ecological bridges;
- By rewetting peatlands, farmers should be paid for the ecosystem services they contribute to, like water cleaning, biodiversity protection. Rewetting and growing cattail is contributing to produce bioproducts that can be used as income source for farmers.

Aldert is encountering a big problem, because in 100 square meters of his land, he has planted cattail as crop and unconsciously created a protected habitat. Current legislations requires now special permission from the local conservation agency for entering and harvesting. Modification is needed to allow for agricultural practice on such lands.

Discussion with the audience

Zelie Peppiette (DG AGRI) facilitated the session with the audience by asking to share their understanding on what paludiculture is and how to link it with the nine objectives of the CAP.

Messages collected after the participatory exercise:

- ➔ Paludiculture means environmental + climate benefits
- ➔ Also economic benefits + bio based products (bio-economy)
- ➔ CAP framework to be adapted to paludiculture
- ➔ Positive changes in the proposal, but more to be done to secure paludiculture options in the final text to be approved in EP
- ➔ Obstacles have to be reduced
- ➔ Improvement in the text need to be locked up
- ➔ Recognition of paludiculture crops and land use needed in reset CAP
- ➔ Is the crop or land use of paludiculture eligible? Not on food list crop. Currently some crops (maize) used for biogas
- ➔ Plants lists – clarification/extension for paludi-crops needed
- ➔ Sustainable growing media – potential for paludiculture
- ➔ CAP: restoration/ preservation
 - Are other wetlands (not peat) converted to croplands?
 - Demand for reed – import from China
 - Relation food protection – diversify strategy
- ➔ Needs: awareness raising and knowledge sharing

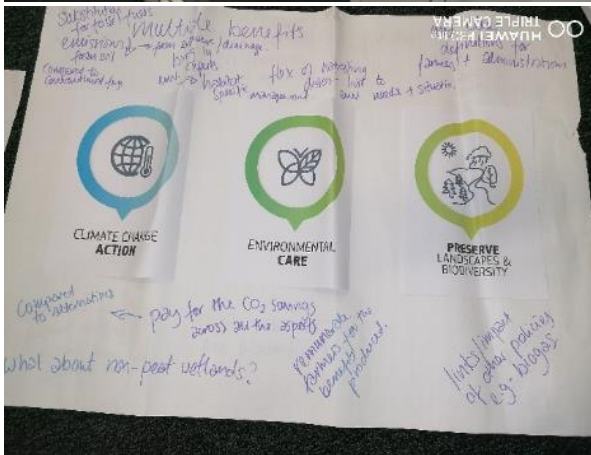
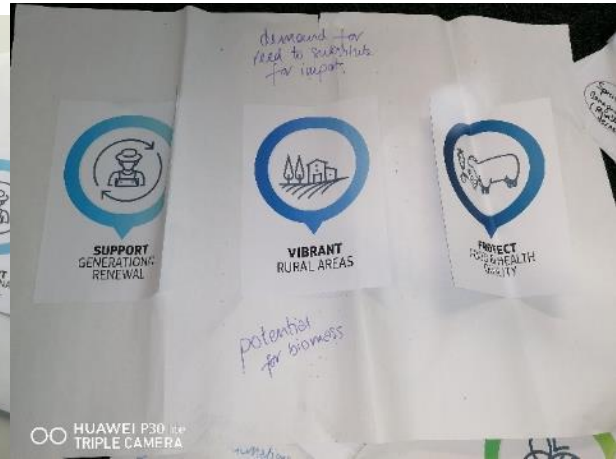




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