



Study on public rural youth policies

November 2021



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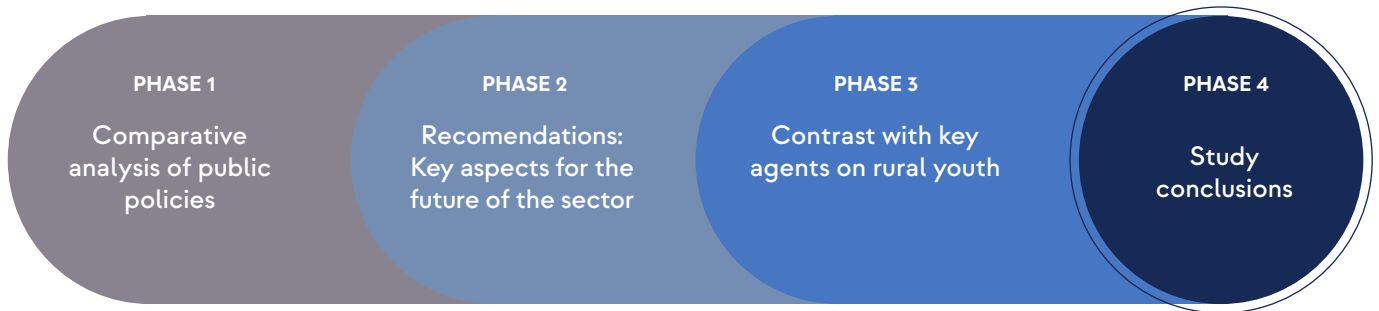
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Introduction

For the purposes of finding out about and raising awareness on tools that might contribute to the constant development of young people in rural areas and improving their quality of life, the WORLD RURAL FORUM (FRM/WRF/ML) decided to draw up a study on public policies devoted to young people in rural areas.



The above diagram summarises the methodological process followed in the study through the 4 aforementioned phases.

This study was financed by the call for grants to develop youth programmes and activities for 2021 from the Youth Department of the Basque Government.

This study intends to produce a reference document that might be used by different actors, such as the Basque Country CRAF (Regional Committee for Family Farming) to share proposals inspired by other experiences and from actual young Basques in rural areas.

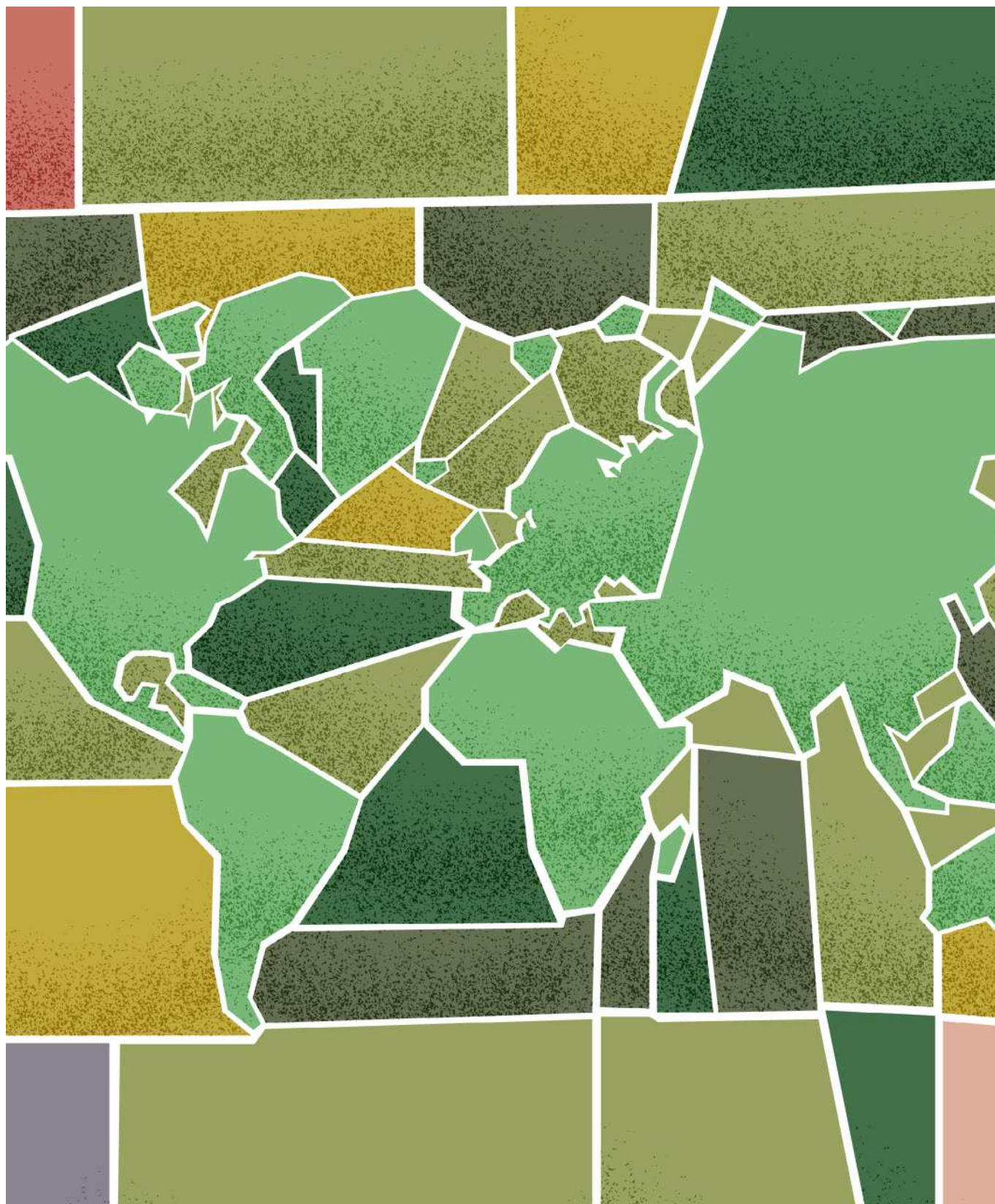
This document began with a comparative study of policies adopted in 4 countries, internationally and in Europe: Chile, Australia, Canada, Uruguay, and the EU. Assessments are added from key actors involved in this policy implementation. The chapter concludes with a comparative table for the main identified initiatives, their focus points, and the type of assistance.

Subsequently, it compiles the main conclusions on young people in rural areas from the Study on the “Future of the Agro-food and Forestry-Timber sectors in the Basque Country” that was commissioned from PROSPEKTIKER in 2018 by the Cándido Iturriaga - María Dañobeitia Foundation and the Basque Country.

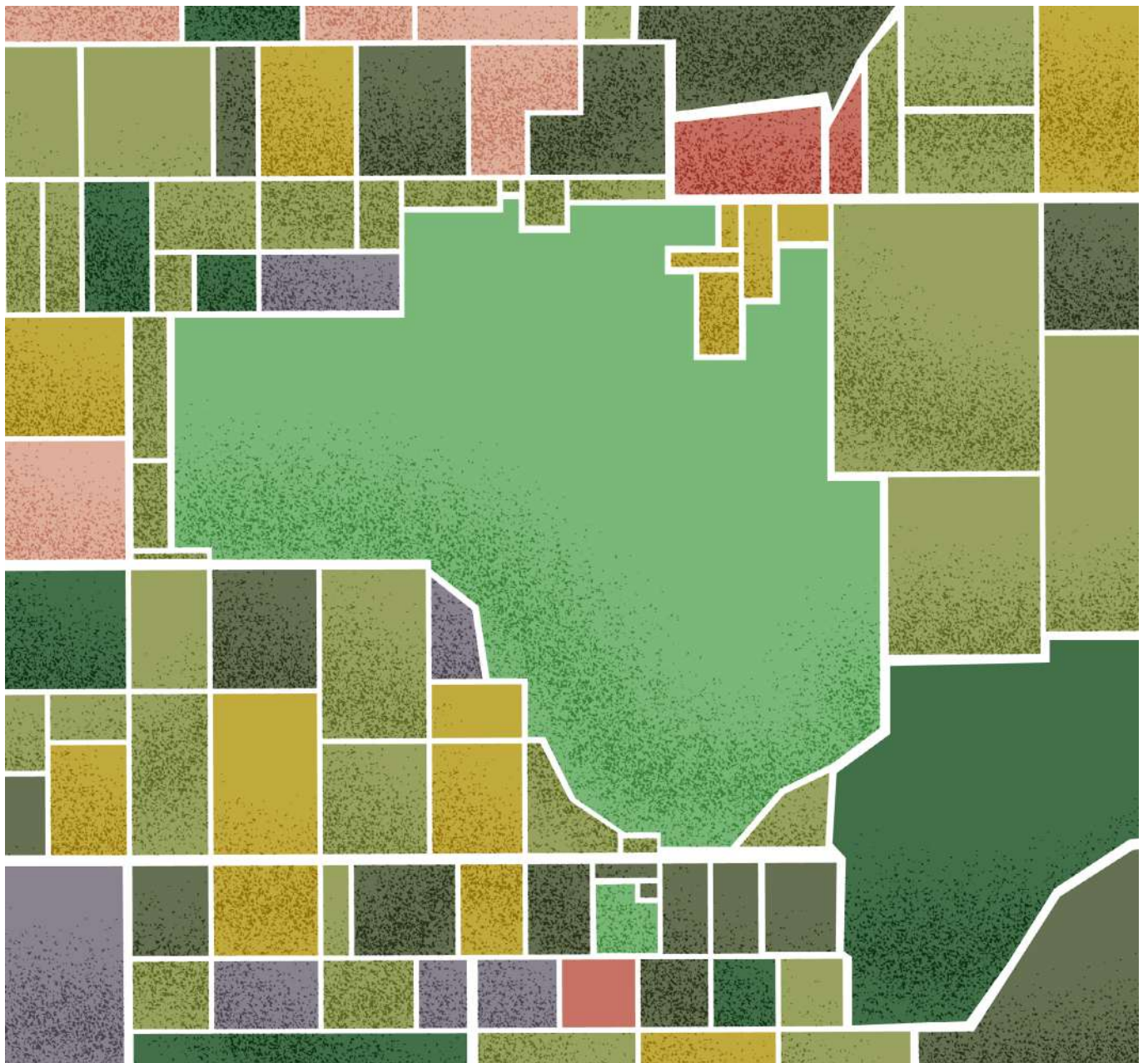
The following chapter summarises the main conclusions of the contrasting interviews carried out with key actors from the sector in the field of rural youth.

The last chapter includes the study's overall conclusions and recommendations for the future in the field of public rural youth policies.

Comparative analysis of public policies



Australia



Introduction

Context

There are 3.2 million people aged between 14 and 24 years old in Australia, 12 % of the country's total population; this percentage has dropped over the last few decades (in 1971, the percentage of young people was 17 %). 75 % of these young people live in large urban areas or around cities.

230.000
persons

The primary sector in Australia represents 2 % of the active population, around 230,000 persons, of whom 24 % are aged under 35.

€38.541 M
gross value

The gross value of the total farming and livestock production rose 3 % in the 2018-19 period up to a value of 38,541 million euros.

Some relevant information on the sector

49
average age

The average age of primary sector workers is 49 years old.

\$1,038
average salary

The average monthly salary in the primary sector is 1,038 Australian dollars.

Wheat, oats, barley...
main production

Main production: wheat, oats, barley, sorghum, vegetables, fruit, oil-producing seeds, cotton, sugar, tobacco and forage crops. There is also significant meat and wool production and the timber industry revolving around the eucalyptus forests.

Support policies devoted to young people in rural areas

Business support for young farmers

A) Young Farmer Business Program



WEBSITE

www.youngfarmer.farmtable.com.au

ORGANISED BY

New South Wales State Government, Department of Primary Industries.

OBJECTIVE

Match young farmers and fishermen with the right skills and information; Empower farmers aged between 18 and 35 from New South Wales to set up better farming and fishing companies.

DURATION/VALIDITY

This is an annual programme, lasting approximately 10 months. Although workshops and events were held in 2021, the last call for individual economic grants within the programme was in 2020.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The programme was carried out to offer training and assistance on management and administration to young businesspersons in the primary sector. This thereby intends to meet the training needs raised by companies in the farming and fishing sector. The initiative also receives funds intended to finance business training projects in the sector and individual subsidies to help pay for training courses.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS WITHIN THE PROGRAMME

- Training workshops offered: Profit Ready; Bank Ready; Bank Savvy; Startup Stories
- Organisation outreach conferences intended for companies in the fishing and farming sectors.
- Personalised coaching services for young entrepreneurs in the sector.
- Variety of digital resources available on the programme's website: Podcasts, Blog, Toolkit, etc.

IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

- A total of **146 events** were carried out (conferences and workshops).
- A total of **466 individual coaching sessions** have been given and a total of 5297 young farmers have been helped.
- Improvement of participants' **skills and competencies**.
- 71 % of the participants believe that their business skills have improved.
- 75 % of participants believe that they now have better access to certain products and services on the market.
- 84 % of participants believe that after taking part in the programme, they are better connected to other young farmers.

B) Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

WEBSITE

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/conferences-events/scienceawards>

ORGANISED BY

Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

OBJECTIVE

Support young innovators in the farming sector who wish to develop original projects promoting sustainability in Australian farming industries.

VALIDITY/DURATION

The intention is to run the programme annually until 2024. There are various categories and awards, with their corresponding deadlines and application periods.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

The prizes are divided into **2 major categories**: Industries on one hand, and Farming, drought, and emergency management on the other. In turn, the industries category is divided into **different subcategories**: New and emerging rural industries, Eggs, Processing red meat, Pork, Wool, Cotton, Biosafety, Fishing and aquaculture, Forestry and Timber products, Grains, Meat and livestock, Wine industry and enology.

Amount of the Subsidy: the applicant can request up to **14,000 euros**.

There were 12 winning projects in 2021, 11 in 2020, and 14 in 2019. Over time, it has promoted a total of 261 projects.

C) Upskill and Invest Scholarship Young Farmers Scholarship

WEBSITE

<https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/young-farmers-scholarship-program>

ORGANISED BY

Victoria State Government, Department of Agriculture.

DURATION/VALIDITY

This is an annual programme, running since 2015.

OBJECTIVE

Support training and professional development of young people who work in the primary sector in the state of Victoria.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

These are a series of annual grants/subsidies intended for people aged under 35 who have worked or who work in the primary sector, providing financial aid intended to cover theoretical or skills training expenses.

The grants can be up to 3,000 euros, plus another 3,000 from additional funds to invest in activities that can, in turn, be used to train farmers.

Every year, between 12 and 14 grants are distributed among young farmers in the state of Victoria, and since 2015, a total of 76 grants have been awarded.

D) Young farmer and new entrant mentoring program 2022

WEBSITE

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/networks/young-farmers/young-farmer-and-new-entrant-mentoring-program#h2-0>

ORGANISED BY

Victoria State Government, Department of Agriculture. The funds intended for the programme come from the Australian government initiative “Smarter, Safer Farms”, which has been allocated a quantity with a value of 12.5 million euros.

DURATION/VALIDITY

The mentoring period lasts for 12 months.

OBJECTIVE

- Offer young farmers the chance to connect with other more experienced farmers, to help develop skills to run their own farming businesses more successfully.
- Help the apprentice build professional networks, use reliable sources of advice and information and develop skills to set commercial goals and assess risks.

DESCRIPTION AND DETAILS OF THE INITIATIVE

The programme has been devised so that an advisor for farming companies can connect a young farmer with a mentor for a period of no more than one year. Over this period, both parties work together, with the idea that the apprentice farmer gains knowledge and experience not only in the farming world but also concerning business and management.

The 2021 programme brought together a total of **12 apprentice-participants** who were respectively assigned a tutor. The 2022 programme, on the other hand, expects a total of **8 participants**.

E) Business bootcamps for young farmers

WEBSITE

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/networksyouthyoung-farmers/young-farmer-business-bootcamps#h2-2>

ORGANISED BY

Victoria State Government, Department of Agriculture.

VALIDITY/DURATION

The boot-camps, or workshops, last for approximately 6 hours. Two workshops are held every year.

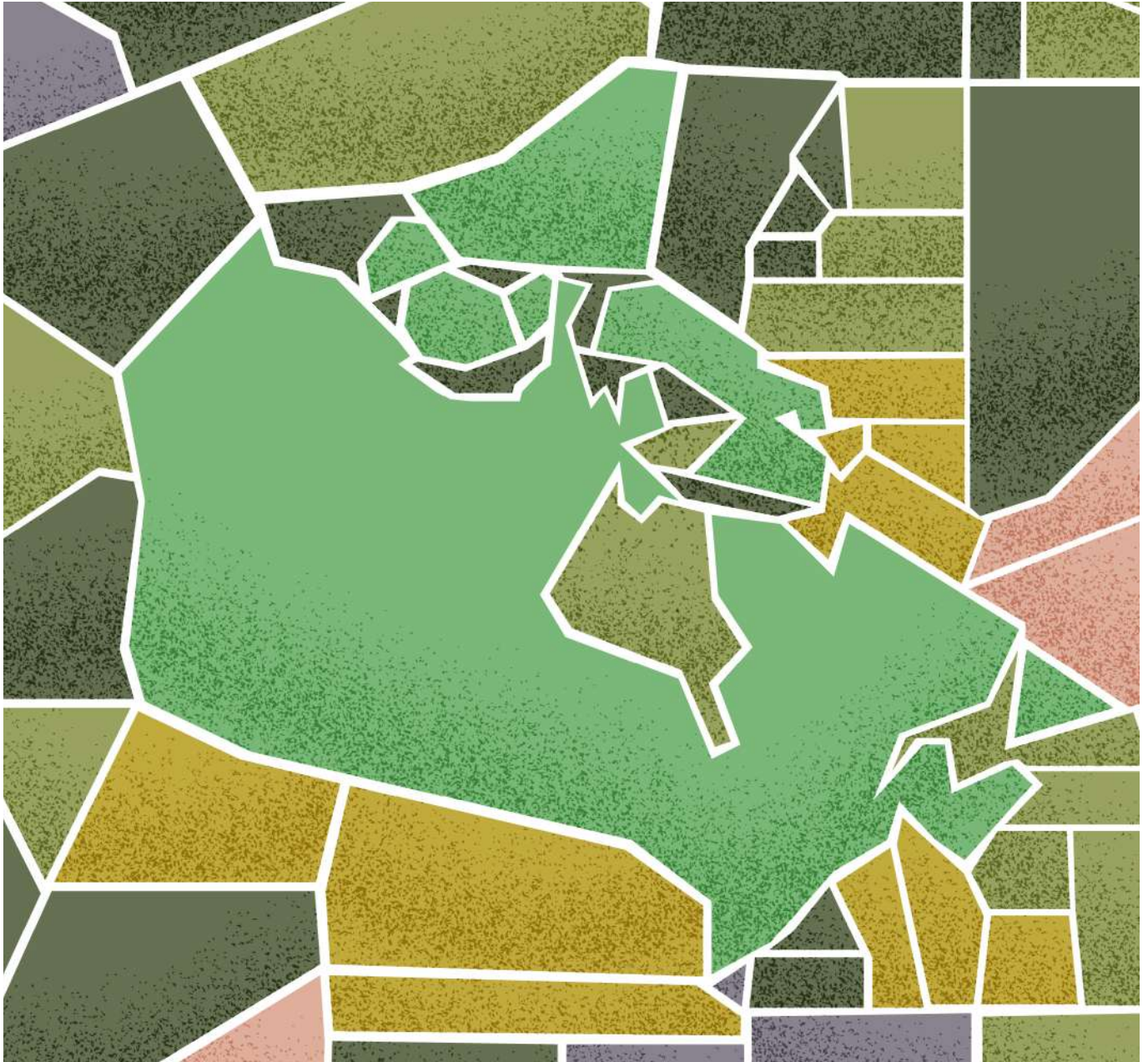
OBJECTIVE

Provide young farmers with skills to help them administer their farming business.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The programme aims to provide practical skills in terms of business and commercial risk management, through “boot camps”, therefore through practical experiences on farms in the state of Victoria. This programme is aimed at young producers from beef, lamb, vegetable, and mixed livestock companies.

Canada



Introduction

Context

In 2018, the youth population of Canada (15-29 years old) rose to 7 million people representing 19.2 % of the country's population. The percentage of young people is predicted to drop by around 1 % by 2035.

Some relevant information on the sector

2,4 % country's GDP

Canada's farming sector is important, despite being a developed economy; 2.4 % of its GDP in 2020 and a total of 280,000 jobs. Only 9.1 % of these farmers are aged under 35 years old.

Durum wheat world's greatest producer

Canada is the world's greatest producer of durum wheat, and this crop occupies 12.6 % of farming land throughout the country. Canada is also the world's third largest exporter of pork.

Wheat, rice, corn and rye

The most important farming products are wheat, rice, corn, and rye; Importance of the agriculture and livestock farming sector (beef, poultry, and pork livestock).

€22,5 K exportations

Exports/Imports of farming products in 2020; 22,500 million euros / 11,000 million euros.

Support policies devoted to young people in rural areas

Young farmers link up with the sector, employment policies and social development

The Canadian Government's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS).

WHAT IS IT?

This is an initiative carried out by the Canadian Government to promote jobs and social development, which has designed actions and programmes particularly intended for the primary sector.

In 2020, the federal government allocation was increased for this strategy, to help alleviate pandemic-related damage to farming and production of basic raw materials.

This strategy includes various programmes to promote youth employment, specifically in the farming sector.

In turn, this includes the results of the interview held with: Rick Fiarchuk, Director of Programmes for the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Canada.

A) Youth Employment and Skills Program

WEBSITE

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/youth-employment-and-skills-program>

ORGANISED BY

Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)- Canadian Department of Agriculture and Agro-Food.

Focus on the direct transmission of know-how between farmers and young people, by promoting internships and on-farm on farms, by helping companies in the sector to recruit and train young people

OBJECTIVE

Help farming projects that offer job opportunities to unemployed young people.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

This is a programme carried out by the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) federal department, creating an assistance fund of 14 million euros aimed at primary sector companies that employ young people in farming jobs.

Eligible employees are organisations related to agriculture, such as farmers, food processing plants and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), that can offer job opportunities to young unemployed people.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

- Support is provided for up to 50% of the salary (max. 10,000 euros per person/year).
- Economic provisions to companies can reach 80% of the contracted employee's total salary, up to 10,000 euros.
- There is an extra grant of 3,500 euros for employing people with certain barriers such as caring for children, living in remote areas, low income or with a mental or physical handicap.
- The programme requires applications to be aged between 15-30 years old to be contracted via the programme.
- Company profile:
 - Farmers who wish to contract farm workers for planting or harvesting crops or animal husbandry.
 - Farming businesses such as greenhouses, vegetable gardens, vineyards, vegetable farmers that require labour.
 - Small companies that supply farming products or services.
 - Food processing plants that require manpower.

PROGRAMME STATISTICS

From April 2020 to March 2021, the federal government committed \$9.2 million to help the industry attract young Canadians, aged between 15 and 30 years old, to their organisations as the sector encountered difficulties to fill jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That year, the Programme supported approximately 1,000 diverse young people (aged 15-30), with the following breakdown of under-represented groups: Indigenous peoples (12%), people with disabilities (3%), minority groups (6%), and women (46%). \$21.4 million were approved for 2021-2022, expecting to finance approximately 2,000 jobs for young people in the farming sector.

EXAMPLES OF FINANCED PROJECTS

- Cultivating a Passion for Organic Farming at Ferme Lève-tôt: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agri-info/good-news-grows/cultivating-passion-organic-farming-ferme-leve-tot>
- Technology and youth on the farm: Bringing Alberta's agriculture into a new age: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agri-info/good-news-grows/technology-and-youth-farm-bringing-albertas-agriculture-new-age>

B) AgriDiversity Program

WEBSITE

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agridiversity-program>

ORGANISED BY

Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)- Canadian Department of Agriculture and Agro-Food

DURATION/VALIDITY

Applications have been open since February 2018. The programme end date is April 2023.

OBJECTIVE

Strengthening the farming sector and helping under-represented groups in Canadian farming, including young people, women, indigenous peoples and people with disabilities, to participate fully in the sector by helping these groups to tackle the key problems and the barriers that they often come up against in the sector.

DESCRIPTION

The AgriDiversity programme, managed by **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**, gives economic assistance to organisations that promote the farming sector in Canada, by bringing out the potential of certain collectives, including young people. The programme provides funds to promote the benefits of a career in the primary sector and improve the public perception of agriculture and its role in the economy.

The project finances activities by non-profit organisations that:

- Help develop business and commercial skills for young people.
- Promote improved participation in the farming sector by young people and other collectives, including awareness-raising and training on the possible professional opportunities in the sector.

SCOPE OF THE GRANT

- The maximum contribution will not exceed 140,000 euros annually.
- The project costs are thereby divided between the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the recipient association, and the grant cannot exceed 50 % of the subsidisable costs.

Between 2018 and 2021, two organisations have been supported, led by youth organisations that helped to establish and expand operations in the farming sector.

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (<https://aitc-canada.ca/en-ca/>) 2 projects:

- “Developing Youth Leadership Skills Capacity for Agriculture and Food Sector”: to raise awareness and trust in the Canadian farming and agro-food sector.
- “Developing Youth Leadership Skills Capacity for Agriculture & Food Sector”: to extend the teaching tools tied to the current study plan, develop new ones and offer opportunities for experience in agriculture and food for Canadian educators and students. As a result of this project, the students will have significantly increased their awareness and participation in farming, thus inspiring future farming leaders, participants in the sector’s workforce, and informed consumers, while they continue generating public trust.

Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Inc.: this project aims to organise an authority to provide young Canadians with the chance to develop communication skills and provide the workforce required by competitive farming and the agro-food industry in Canada.

C) The Canadian Agricultural Youth Council



WEBSITE

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/youth-agriculture/canadian-agricultural-youth-council>

ORGANISED BY

Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

DURATION/VALIDITY

On August 2022 the names of the 25 members were announced. They represent a diverse mix of individuals from subsectors across the agriculture and agri-food sector, with broad regional representation from across Canada.

OBJECTIVE

Provide consultancy and enable continuous dialogue on challenges and opportunities related to food, and also the policies and programmes from the farming and agro-food sectors.

DESCRIPTION

This is an advisory body comprised by a total of 25 young people who represent the agro-food sector in Canada in very different aspects. The Council encourages continuous dialogue on challenges and opportunities in the primary sector, exchanges information and best practices and offers advice on the available programmes and policies.

D) Agriculture in the Classrooms

WEBSITE

<https://aitc.mb.ca/>

ORGANISED BY

Manitoba Government; Canadian Government Funds

VALIDITY/DURATION

The project began in 1988.

OBJECTIVE

Encourage agricultural literacy, and awareness raising on the importance of the sector.

DESCRIPTION

This is a not-for-profit organisation that receives funds both from the Government of Canada and from the government of the province of Manitoba. It aims to encourage public understanding of farming and offers educational resources at many levels. The organisation has a series of programmes, activities, and resources so that primary teachers and their students can learn about farming and the role it plays in the province. The organisation's website also includes interesting information on grants and training opportunities and resources available in the environment.

RESULTS/IMPACTS

- A total of **56,491 students** from different year groups and ages have taken part in some type of course or training session within the "Agriculture in the Classroom" programme.
- **7019 education packs, content, courses, and files** have been **downloaded** from the platform's website.
- The website was a tool used in up to **416 schools** in Canada.
- Around **1126 teachers** have used the educational resources available on the platform.

Chile



Introduction

Context

The population between 15 and 24 years old in Chile represents 24.3 % of the total population, over 3,670,000 people. Furthermore, rural youth only represent 3 % of the total population.

Some relevant information on the sector

3% country's GDP

Agriculture represents 3% of the country's GDP, largely concentrated in the country's southern and central regions

Asia main importer

The primary sector includes many of the country's exports. The volume of exports, not only to Europe but above all to Asia, has increased greatly in recent years. In 2018, 80 % of the cherries China received were exported from Chile.

3 main products

The most relevant and more produced products include cereals (oats, corn, and wheat), fruit (peaches, apples, pears, and grapes), and vegetables (garlic, onions, asparagus, and beans).

“The fruit-growing sector is exporting 6,500 million dollars, it has planted 350,000 hectares, that produce 5 million tonnes of fresh fruit for export that is sold to more than 140 countries all over the world, generating 750,000 jobs in Chile”.

Chile's Ministry of Agriculture

Support policies devoted to young people in rural areas

Business support, participation and training

A) Credit Financing Programme for Young People in the Chilean Countryside “Rural Youth Entrepreneur Programme”

WEBSITE

<https://www.indap.gob.cl/plataforma-de-servicios/programa-de-financiamiento-credificio-para-jovenes-del-campo-de-chile>

ORGANISED BY

Institute of Agriculture and Livestock Farming Development (INDAP), Chilean Ministry of Agriculture.

OBJECTIVE

Provide the capital to finance work and investment required to develop economic and productive activities among the Country's rural youth.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

This is a refundable financing loan aimed at young people aged between 18 and 35 in rural areas of the country, to thereby help finance capital for their businesses and organisations.

The recipient projects must “Have a pertinent project for the economic development of rural youth,” and the loan should be repaid over up to 10 years.

B) Rural Youth panels

WEBSITES

<https://www.minagri.gob.cl/noticia/mesa-de-jovenes-rurales-de-indap-maule-fortalece-la-articulacion-entre-sus-miembros/>

ORGANISED BY

Institute of Agriculture and Livestock Farming Development (INDAP), Chilean Ministry of Agriculture.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

These are citizen participation bodies that strive to provide a meeting point or a forum for young farmers in rural areas of Chile. These bodies aim to compile the needs and concerns of the young people in the sector, to thereby design and carry out joint actions.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

Currently, there are **57 panels** both **regional and local**, that bring together around **660 young people**. National panels have also been held, featuring representatives of young farmers from the 16 regions in the country, and meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture.

This initiative shows strong backing from INDAP (Agriculture and Livestock Farming Development Institute) to give a voice to and gather together young people from the most rural areas of each region in the country.

C) Rural Seedbed Grants Programme



WEBSITE

<https://www.fucoa.cl/productos/beca-semillero-rural/>

ORGANISED BY

The Foundation of Farming Communications, Skills Training and Culture (FUCOA), from the Ministry of Agriculture and working with the Ministry of Education.

VALIDITY/DURATION

Programme in force since 2013. The programme has benefited 214 students during its seven editions. Due to the pandemics, the call is closed until 2023. Each edition last 5 months.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

This is a training programme for students attending technical-farming high schools in Chile, in their last year of secondary

education, for them to get a work placement in companies in New Zealand in different specialties within the primary sector.

The programme divides up into 3 specialties: fruit crops, dairy produce, and agriculture, intensive in sheep and cows. On the one hand, it aims to go into greater depth on the participants' knowledge and technical skills. They will spend between 5 and 8 months working on tasks in the sector's companies in New Zealand. It is also intended to strengthen the students' level of English.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To date, a total of **214 students** in the last year of their secondary studies have had the chance to take part in the programmes.
- The **2019 edition** (the last time it was held) featured **32 work placements**; 19 in fruit crops, 7 in dairy, and 6 for agriculture.
- Before the placement, students are given access to an online language learning platform to strengthen their English skills.

D) Chilean Agricultural Online Skills Training School



WEBSITE

<https://www.chileagricola.cl/>

ORGANISED BY

The Foundation of Farming Communications, Skills Training and Culture (FUCOA), from the Ministry of Agriculture. Educational content developed by the actual Ministry of Agriculture.

DURATION/VALIDITY

Active since 2020.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

This is a web platform developed by FUCOA that offers a wide variety of educational and didactic material revolving around agriculture issues, such as pest control, use of water, food security...

The website offers a wide variety of training courses, thematic sheets, relevant laws, and audiovisual content, on widely varying topics, always focused on workers in the farming sector, although not exclusively young people

RESULTS/IMPACTS

In July 2020, a few months after launching the platform, **1,900 users** had already registered in the website, with more than **87,000 hits** on the site.

Since its launch, users have been able to make the most of **over 250 instructive content items** (videos, manuals, sheets, etc.). To date, the manuals and worksheets have been downloaded as many as **2000 times**.



The most popular topics were **water, sustainable farming, commercial management, financing, pest control**.

INTERVIEW

Below, please find the results of the interview held with:

- Andrea Riquelme, Punto Focal Juventud Chile, National Youth Supervisor – Institute of Agro-Fishery Development (INDAP) - Ministry of Agriculture
- Juan Guido Vidal Acuña – INDAP organisation unit, former RELAC coordinator

There is a **National Youth Institute** (tied to the Ministry of Social Development). A great deal of work went into steering this institute towards family farming. It had been more focused on urban youth issues as rural matters were seen as topics strictly linked to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Problems identified

- “Young people miss out on their youth”: What does it mean to be young? Particularly in rural areas. The youth population requires administrations to be able to adapt and respond to them, which does not always correspond to the time and

The key elements for the success of policies towards rural youth are institutionalism, working together with agricultural organizations through spaces for participation and articulation, and a dedicated budget and staff

outlook of the institutions. Young people have a lot of energy, there are many changes, they force people from institutions out of their comfort zone. The institutions need to acquire skills to meet the needs of these young people.

- Administration changes: the programmes which have been developed are subject to uncertainty due to changes in administration - cancellation, change of work axes, for instance.
- This is a matter of institutional interest and the intention to make rural youth more visible.

Results of the interview

Positive evaluation:

- Over the last few years, some institutionality has arisen around the issue, such as setting up a Youth Unit.
- The financing has been maintained, with a variety of programmes: “Rural Youth Entrepreneur Programme”, a programme on forming partnerships, currently involving 12 cooperatives.
- Skills training activities are developed, depending on the demand from young people. Many young people are taking part. It should be highlighted that there is significant demand this year for agroecology; there are also leadership and digital strategy courses.
- Participation and articulation spaces such as Rural Youth Panels are working well, and young people use these mechanisms.
- There has been a virtual rural youth community since 2017/2018 on Facebook that brings together INDAP users plus others from other sectors and countries. The idea is that they can share their experience, sell their products, and swap advice. This is a very dynamic platform, adapted to young people’s communication methods.

What were the keys to its success?: It should be emphasised that the policies and measures that were implemented have been in force for a short while, so it is difficult to highlight any precise key points, although we do have a rough outline. Nor can the impact be measured for the very same reason.

- Participation from actors and joint work from institutions/ organisations: promoting participation from organisations dedicated to young people is fundamental to implementing the programmes. As a result, there are slow processes regarding the knowledge and development of the relationship with the actors. The Rural Youth Panels work very well, they link the institution with the young people’s demands and needs. These

are consensual spaces, bringing together various institutions and young people. Very dynamic proposals have been raised, and the work is done together, as a community.

- Budget and institutionality: the boost required to be able to carry out the measures, without which it is very hard to move forwards.
- Need for a person to run the programme/measure: it is crucial to have someone encouraging young people who also understand how it works.

We should highlight the INDAP study, “The grandchildren of the farming reform - jobs, reality and dreams of the rural youth in Chile,” on how young people have evolved in light of the farming reform. Read here: <https://www.indap.gob.cl/sites/default/files/2022-02/los-nietos-de-la-reforma-agraria.pdf> (only available in Spanish)

Uruguay



Introduction

Context

58 % of Uruguay's population is aged over 60 years old. Young people aged between 15 and 25 make up just 15 % of the total population. Only 7 % of the population lives in rural areas.

Some relevant information on the sector

82,6 %
agricultural area

Uruguay is the country with the greatest national territory surface area occupied by agriculture and livestock farming activities, taking up 82.6 % of the country.

140.000
workers

In 2016, there were more than 140,000 workers in the primary sector, a figure represents 7.8 % of the total active population.

90 %
total exports

Farming or transformed farming products represent around 90 % of Uruguay's total exports. The weight of the primary sector was 6.3 % of GDP in 2016.

Wheat, soya, barley, corn, rice...

The main harvests revolve around the production of wheat, soya, barley, corn, rice, oilseed rape... Livestock is also important within the sector, and there were around 40,000 ranches in 2016.2016.

Support Policies devoted to young people in rural areas

Promote education and participation of rural youth in support of rural development

A) "Somos de acá" (We're from here) programme

WEBSITE

www.inju.gub.uy

ORGANISED BY

Promoted by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fishing, through the General Directorate of Rural Development and the Ministry of Social Development via the National Youth Institute.

DURATION/VALIDITY

Initiative was set up in 2012. Six editions have been held since then.

OBJECTIVE

Promote participation from young people in rural development processes; contribute to the citizenship construction processes from young people tied to the countryside and/or agriculture and livestock farming activity; help generate projects linked to the countryside.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme consists of giving non-refundable financial support so that groups of young people can present and carry out proposals related to a topic of their interest. They can also be steered towards productive, cultural, sporting, skills training, and infrastructure aspects, among others.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

- The main recipients of the programme are **young people aged between 14 and 29**, living in the countryside and/or directly linked to agriculture and livestock farming. **Group projects are financed for a maximum of 5 young people in each group.**
- Each edition finances around **50 initiatives-projects**, and so far, it has funded around **300 projects** by young people in agriculture and livestock farming activities.
- Each youth group receives **up to 2,000 euros**. Along with this, technicians from the organising entities provide **expert mentoring** in different phases of the projects.

B) “Tierra de Jóvenes” (Land of Youth) Programme

WEBSITE

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-desarrollo-social/comunicacion/convocatorias/tierra-jovenes>

ORGANISED BY

National Colonisation Institute, General Directorate of Rural Development Ministry of Livestock and Fishing, National Youth Institute - Ministry of Social Development.

DURATION/VALIDITY

This initiative has been running since 2019.

OBJECTIVE

Generate conditions so that groups of young people can live and develop production projects in the countryside; Promote youth routes to emancipation; Embrace projects that provide knowledge and consumables to design public policies.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

This is a pilot programme that began as a proposal to provide tools to support groups of young people to generate their own productive processes in the countryside.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

The amounts consist of:

- Provision of a piece of land to run the activity.
- Provision of production resources for the activity (capitalisation and investments) and technical assistance.

The target population for the project is groups of **young people aged between 18 and 29 years old**, who present initiatives within farming production, particularly agroecology.

The pilot experience was limited to 3 specific regions of Uruguay: Salto, Lavalleja, and Canelones.

C) Rural high schools and vocational schools

ORGANISED BY

Secondary Education Council (CES), National Public Education Administration, Uruguay Government.

DURATION/VALIDITY

The Vocational Schools began working in 1996, and Rural High Schools in 1987.

OBJECTIVE

Facilitate access to secondary education for students from rural schools who were not able to continue their studies due to a lack of offers in the area.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

These schools emerged in the 80s and 90s to meet the needs of young people who had to drop out of education due to lack of offer in the countryside.

RESULTS/IMPACTS

There are currently 19 Rural High Schools and 5 Vocational Schools that house around 3,700 registered students.

D) “La Bujia” programme

WEBSITE

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ganaderia-agricultura-pesca/comunicacion/campanas/bujia-encendemos-tus-ideas>

ORGANISED BY

General Directorate of Rural Development - Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fishing

DURATION/VALIDITY

The programme began in 2019.

OBJECTIVE

Help to increase the active participation of young people in rural areas and/or tied to agriculture and livestock farming in processes of adopting new production and/or management technology, development of new agriculture and livestock farming services, and forming associations or groups.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme consists of providing non-refundable financial support to partially cover the costs of implementing projects aimed at starting production activities, improving existing agriculture, and livestock farming production undertakings economically, socially and environmentally, or developing agriculture and livestock farming services from rural youth groups and/or linked to agriculture and livestock farming production.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME

- The project provides an **economic grant** for each entrepreneurial project of approximately **1,700 euros** and constantly provides **expert help** to formulate, monitor the evolution of the project, and close it.
- The programme was devised to help groups of at least **5 young people aged between 18 and 29**, who live in a rural area and are involved in agriculture and livestock farming production, on national territory.
- Impact: In its first edition (2019), the project was able to finance a total of **22 innovative projects** all over the country.

INTERVIEW

Below, please find the results of the interview held with:

- Elisa Rodríguez, **General Directorate of Rural Development – Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fishing**
- Virginia Porto, **Uruguay Youth Focal Point, Youth Institute of the Uruguayan Government**

Outstanding aspects

- Learning from the institutions: the specific work on rural youth is very recent, since 2010. Initially, it was more closely related to education, through farming institutes. The interesting and innovative take is that this is not organised through education side, but the Rural Development Board. This is a learning and adaptability process for the institutions.
- Support for young people: it provides financial support, particularly for production aspects. These are non-refundable grants, so the young people do not have to pay them back. Work is also done towards improving land access.
- Encouraging participation from organisations: these processes revolve around a public/private field of participation, involving organisations from civil society and youth groups that are not necessarily formalised.

The cross-sectoral and inter-institutional approach to breaking stereotypes, understanding the specificity of young agrarians and encouraging their active participation is essential for the implementation of public policies for rural youth

Results of the interview

Outstanding aspects:

- Inter-sectorial and inter-institutional focus: this perspective is required to address rural youth issues. The Colonisation Institute is also involved. Historically, there has been demand for land access from young people. For example, a young person does not necessarily have a medium- or long-term life project - it changes all the time. It is therefore necessary to change the nature of land access policies.
- Breaking with the stereotypes and understanding young people: in 2013, the first diagnosis was performed on rural youth, which changed the institutions' perspective. Now we talk more about types of youth, where there is a great deal of diversity. It is necessary to understand young people, to constantly refresh this knowledge by looking at arrangements anew, but the institutions are not always on the ball. Young people are perceived as a risk; namely, they cannot get a loan. Institutions require training and awareness raising: What does it mean to be young?
- One of the weaknesses pinpointed is that actions are renewed from year to year, they are never guaranteed to last. The 'Somos de acá' project no longer exists, as it belonged to the previous organisers. Now, there is a very valuable participation space.

It is difficult to highlight impacts as these measures have not been in force for very long.

European Union – CAP



Introduction

Context

There are around 74 million people aged between 15 and 29 years old in the European Union. Furthermore, 40.2 % of the member states' population lives in cities, 32 % in intermediate rural areas, and only 27.8 % in rural areas.

Some relevant information on the sector

10 %
young farmers

Young farmers in the European Union only represent 10% of the total sector.

24,78 %
arable land

The percentage of land dedicated to agriculture or cropland in the EU as a whole is 24.7 % of the whole territory.

2,1 %
country's GDP

In 2019, the weight of farming for the European Union as a whole was 2.1 % of GDP, although figures varied wildly from country to country (0.23 % in Luxemburg compared to 4.12 % in Romania). Furthermore, jobs tied to the primary sector represent 4.67 % of all work among member states.

€138 K
exports

In 2018, the EU was the greatest exporter of agro-food products in the world, and these products were 7 % of all goods exported, with a value of 138,000 million euros. That same year, the EU was also the second largest importer of products tied to the primary sector (116,000 million euros).

How does the EU support young farmers?

Funding, training, support for intergenerational change are key actions to stimulate young farmers

Analysis of the Situation of the Agro-food Sector in the EU

Surveys on young farmers' needs, publications, research, etc. providing a real diagnosis of the sector.

2023-2027: "Generational Sustainability" as a key goal

The new key goals for the CAP defined for the 2023-2024 period include the structural change and greater participation in the farming sector from young and qualified workers.

Help for Young Farmers

- *Direct Income for Young Farmers: direct grants for farmers aged under 40 years old.*
- *Financing policies and programmes to support rural youth designed by the member states: subsidies for young farmers' facilities, grants for marketing, investment, etc.*

Support policies devoted to young people in rural areas

A) CAP-EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) Programmes

WEBSITE

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development_es

DESCRIPTION

These are initiatives carried out in member states, jointly financed by the CAP as they match its priority goals. Member states pick the projects to finance, even though part of the funding comes from the EAFRD.

“EU countries enable EAFRD funding through rural development programmes (RDP). The RDPs are jointly financed by national budgets and can be devised nationally or regionally. Although the European Commission approves and supervises the RDPs, decisions related to selecting projects and awarding payments are made by national or regional authorities”

European Commission

RESULTS/IMPACTS

- In the 2014-2020 period, **8,297 million euros from EAFRD funds have been invested** in Spain, among all the Autonomous Regions' Rural Development projects. The Rural Development projects in the Basque Country have benefited from a total of **87 million euros**.
- In the 2015-2019 period, grants from the Basque Government, coming partly from EAFRD funds, have enabled activating **318 Rural Development projects in the Basque Country**. In 2018, as many as **458 LEADER project applications** were presented, largely financed by the EAFRD.

Examples of Support for Young Farmers through EAFRD: Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural Ejemplos Prácticos (These are EAFRD projects developed in Finland, Italy, Ireland, Sweden, Estonia...)

B) Rights to basic payments from the National Reserve (European Farming Guarantee Fund)

WEBSITE

<https://www.fega.gob.es/es>

DESCRIPCIÓN

These rights are new forms of economic assistance that are not linked to production intended for young farmers from European Union member states. They replace the former assistance system known as single payment.

This is a state reserve to objectively provide economic assistance to young farmers who meet certain requirements. Recently, more grants have been set up for entrepreneurs and companies.

REQUIREMENTS TO ACCESS THE GRANTS

- Applicants must not be over 40 years of age in the year of the application for the rights to basic payment from the National Reserve. The young person should have effective long-term control of the legal entity that is requesting the allocation of basic payment rights.
- Proof of appropriate training and skills training in the farming field.
- Setting up a farm for the first time as its manager, and not having worked in farming for the five campaigns prior to the date considered as their first set-up.

RESULTS/IMPACTS

- In the 2015-2020 period, around **22,000 farmers** benefited from the European Farming Guarantee Fund from all over Spain. The sum of the grants from this period amounts to almost **107.2 million euros**.
- In 2020, over **17 million euros** were allocated from the National Reserve for Basic Payment, making it possible to help around 3,270 farmers, of whom around 2,700 were young.

C) Cultiva Programme (Spain)

WEBSITE

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/jovenes-rurales/visitas-formativas/default.aspx>

ORGANISED BY

Spanish Government, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Collaboration of Entities Representing the Farming and Livestock sector. Jointly financed by the EU.

DURATION/VALIDITY

This year is the second edition. A pilot project run in 2020. Placements between 5-14 days.

OBJECTIVE

Provide access to training and practical knowledge of national farming youth, meeting their training needs.

DESCRIPTION

This is a programme for young farmers who aim to offer crop and livestock farmers practical training in receiving model farms through training placements, thereby easing the acquisition of technical and management knowledge which can be transferred to their own farm work.

CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME

The topics covered include:

- Mechanisation, inclusion, and use of technology in production processes.
- Water: techniques and technology for rational use.
- Farming crops and soil, tilling, and fertilisation techniques.
- Plant health.
- Animal health, feed, and well-being.
- Recovery and handling of native species.
- Use of digital technology.
- Inclusion of environmental criteria and sustainable practice.
- Organic and integrated practices and production methods.
- Management of sub-products and waste.

D) Exchange programmes for young farmers

WEBSITE

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/thematic-work/generational-renewal/exchange-schemes-young-farmers_es

ORGANISED BY

ERASMUS + , Agro ecology , Access to land.

DURATION/VALIDITY

Programme organised since 2015. Duration of each exchange programme varies widely (some last 6 months, other just a few days).

OBJECTIVE

Promote knowledge and exchange of experiences in the farming sector among young farmers.

DESCRIPTION

There is a wide range of exchange programmes for young farmers in all EU countries, also open to young people from outside the EU, partly financed by the EU itself.

In 2015, the European Commission conducted a study on the needs of young farmers in the union, which identified and described the exchange opportunities available in the member states. The study praised the exchange experiences as training tools.

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG FARMERS IN THE EU:

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/exchange-schemes-young-farmers_eu-wide.pdf

ECORYS STUDY FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

Pilot project: Exchange programme for young farmers.

COUNTRY	FOCUS	INSTITUTION/ENTITY	NAME OF THE PROGRAMME/INITIATIVE	TYPE OF GRANT
Australia	TRAINING	New South Wales State Government Regional Government	Young Farmer Business Program	Technical training in business management, coaching services.
	FINANCING	Government of Australia Ministry of Agriculture	Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Economic grants for entrepreneurs
	TRAINING	Victoria State Government Regional Government	Upskill and Invest Scholarship Young Farmers Scholarship	Economic grants for training expenses
	TRAINING	Victoria State Government Regional Government	Young farmer and new entrant mentoring program 2022	Practical training
	TRAINING	Victoria State Government Regional Government	Business bootcamps for young farmers	Practical training, aimed at business and commercial practice
Canadá	FINANCING	Government of Canada Department of Agriculture	Youth Employment and Skills Program	Economic grants for contracting companies
	FINANCING TRAINING	Government of Canada Department of Agriculture	AgriDiversity Program	Economic grants for educational projects
	INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	Government of Canada Department of Agriculture	The Canadian Agricultural Youth Council	Advisory body for advice and representation
	TRAINING	Gobierno del Estado de Manitoba Gobierno Regional	Agriculture in Classrooms	Awareness-raising and training on agriculture
Chile	FINANCING	Government of Chile Ministry of Agriculture	Credit Financing Programme for Young People in the Chilean Countryside "Rural Youth Entrepreneur Programme"	Credits to finance capital expenses
	INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	Government of Chile Ministry of Agriculture	Las mesas de Jóvenes Rurales	Forums for meetings, local and regional representation
	TRAINING	Government of Chile Ministry of Agriculture and Education	Rural Seedbed Grants Programme	Academic exchange; theoretical-practical training abroad
	TRAINING	Government of Chile Ministry of Agriculture	Chilean Agricultural Online Skills Training School	Online theoretical training
Uruguay	FINANCING	Government of Uruguay Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing	"Somos de acá" (We're from here) Programme	Economic grants for entrepreneurship, technical mentoring
	EMANCIPATION	Government of Uruguay Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing, Ministry of Social Development	Tierra de Jóvenes (Land of Youth) Programme	Allocation of land, technical assistance, production resources
	TRAINING	Government of Uruguay National Administration of Public Education	Rural High Schools and Vocational Schools	Give access to education in rural areas
	FINANCING	Government of Uruguay General Directorate of Rural Development Ministry of Agriculture	La Bujia Programme	Direct economic aid, technical assistance
CAP	FINANCING	EU (CAP)-Member States	CAP Rural Development Programmes (EAFRD)	Joint financing of projects in the Member States
	FINANCING	EU (CAP)-Member States	Basic payment rights from the National Reserve (EGF)	Basic Payment Rights
	TRAINING	EU (CAP)-Member States	Cultiva Programme	Practical training, Training stays on farms
	TRAINING	UE, Agro Ecology , Acces to land	Exchange programs for young farmers	Practical training; academic exchanges

Recommendations: key points for the future of the agro-food and forestry-timber sectors 2030



Some of the challenges identified by the study are: **increasing profitability, continuous and quality training, and highlighting the positive contribution of the sector**

The study on the “**Future of the Agro-food and Forestry-Timber sectors in the Basque Country**” was commissioned from PROSPEKTIKER in 2018 by the Cándido Iturriaga - María Dañobeitia Foundation and the Basque Government. It aimed to run a diagnosis on the Agro-food and Forestry-Timber sectors in the Basque Country, and propose solutions for the future of these sectors. It also intended to generate a wide-ranging debate, involving all relevant actors from the Basque Country Agro-food and Forestry-Timber sectors, so as to enrich both diagnosis and solution proposals.

The study content was divided into four clear areas: sector diagnosis, trend analysis, best practice for farming companies, and SWOT analysis. It concluded with some key recommendations for the future of the agro-food and forestry-timber sectors up to 2030, produced by the consultant team who ran the project.

For both the analysis and the recommendations, the study has integrated the “rural youth” field implicitly and explicitly. The main recommendations formulated by the study are listed below.

The study on the Future of the Agro-food and Forestry-Timber sectors in the Basque Country identified one main challenge and three secondary challenges that are highly relevant to the Rural Youth subject:

- The sector’s main challenge was seen to be the **increase in profitability** of farms, increasing its competitiveness and improving farmers’ standards of living. This will make the sector more attractive for **young people** and it will help to ensure generational sustainability.
- Secondary challenges raise the need for **high-quality, continuous training** adapted to the new needs.
- Another of the secondary challenges identified would be **how to render the sector more visible** in terms of its **positive contribution, which**, on the one hand, provides local, sustainable and high-quality products, and on the other, performs great environmental and ecosystem conservation work.
- As a third secondary challenge, there is a need to **boost collaboration among the various actors in the sector**. In this sense, and transversally in the sector, **cooperativism** must be prioritised as a way of working together.

Contrast with key actors on rural youth (interviews)



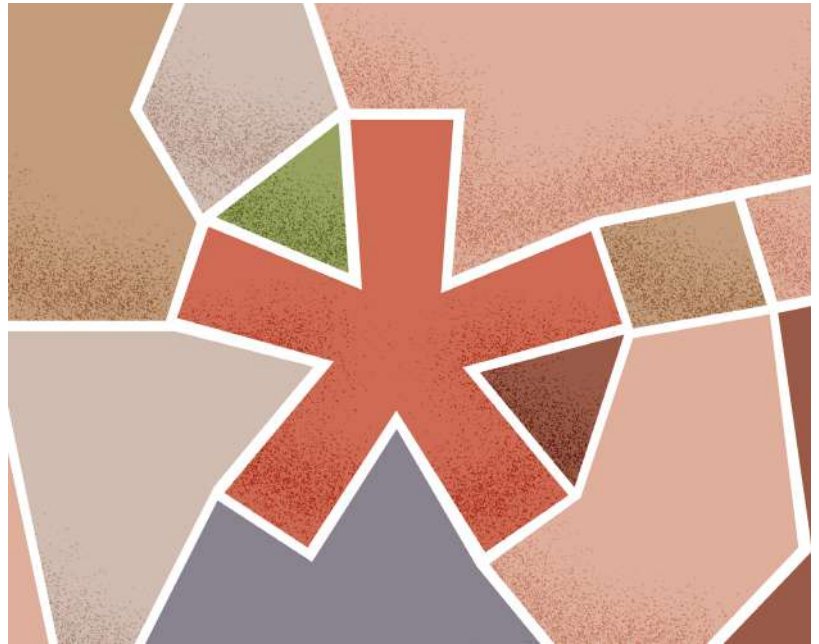
The main conclusions are given below from the contrast interviews with key actors from the sector in the field of rural youth, particularly farming unions representing the Basque Country. In November 2021, a series of interviews were held to contrast the conclusions obtained in the comparative analysis of public policies pinpointing rural youth (the previous chapter of this study) and compile the local outlook from these actors.

The following people were interviewed: Xabier Iraola, ENBA Gipuzkoa; Oneka Zaballa, Landa XXI / ENBA Bizkaia; Javi Torre, UAGA; Unzalu Salterain, EHNE Bizkaia; Nagore Kortajarena, EHNE Gipuzkoa.

The results of these interviews were, in turn, contrasted with another outlook, provided by Martin Uriarte, Director-general of LORRA, and President of the WRF.

General evaluations

It is necessary to recognize the value of agriculture work, guaranteeing a fair price for the entire food chain

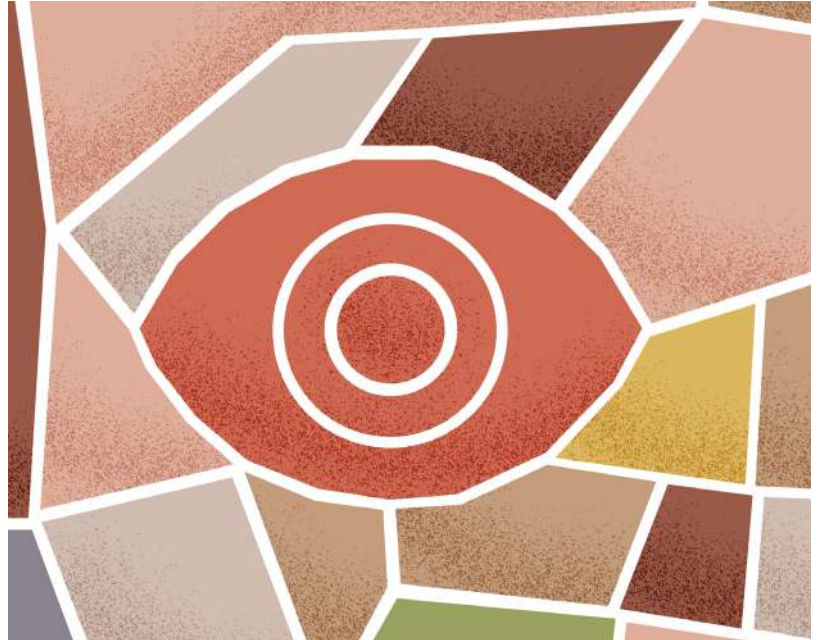


- There is enormous **concern** regarding the ageing situation, lack of relief and loss of assets in the farming activity in the Basque Country, and this is considered a priority to ensure the future of the sector.
- It is necessary to **recognise the value of people working in farming**, which can be transferred to consumption: consumers must evaluate the product from its value and the effort put into it.
- A key element was identified to guarantee a **fair price** for every link in the food chain, ensuring fair margins. Strategies can therefore be diverse, and it is not always necessary to expand farms, but rather favour family farming.
- **Proximity to industry in the Basque Country means that** nowadays and over the last few decades, a **mixed focus has been developed in farms**; meaning that many family farmers in the Basque Country only work part-time. This trend has been observed not only in the Basque Country, but throughout Spain and Europe. There are increasingly fewer people ready to work full-time on farms these days. We must consider the figure of a “**mixed baserritarra**” as they manage a significant share of the territory.
- It is worth pointing out that **all policies mentioned in the analysis are deemed necessary**, from visibility and recognition from society to financing or training issues, and they are all inter-linked.

- **Group work** should be encouraged beyond initiatives to support individuals, as it is almost impossible for just one person to run a farm on their own. It is therefore important to promote collective legal entities such as cooperatives or similar.

Visibility and prestige

Agricultural activity lacks prestige and attractiveness however its relevance to the environment and the structure of the territory needs to gain visibility and value. For this reason, the sector key actors are committed to generate enthusiasm and to show a sector that provides an economic activity and quality of life

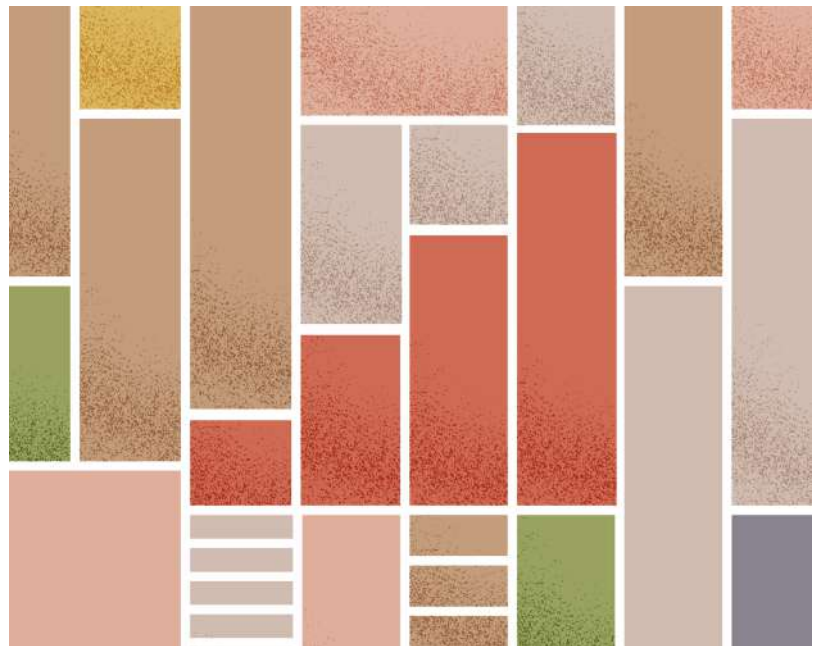


- It was noted that farm work has not been a prestigious activity. In the future, it could be considered highly relevant due to its relationship with the environment, as a backbone element for the territory. For the first time, through the awareness-raising campaign from the Basque Country Family Farming Committee, run by the Basque Government, farmers have been classified as “activists” against climate change.
- Also, in terms of prestige, sub-sectors have been identified with greater prestige and profitability (txakoli), organic production, fruit greenhouses, kiwi production, etc. where there is actually greater participation from young people, compared to others (dairy cattle).
- Product transformation (cheese or yoghurt producers) is more visible and provides prestige to producers.
- Farm work is not appreciated, and in many cases, it is considered a leisure activity.
- The parties involved state the need to motivate young people, always from a real-world perspective, highlighting and disseminating, and placing value on the opportunities that the farming sector generates; not idealising it, but perceiving it as

a supplier for an economic activity, which guarantees income and quality of life. This is a sector that is constantly adapting to automation (control of cows using electronic collars, automation of cheese factories, etc.) and this can contribute to improving working conditions and standards of living for farmers.

Profitability

Public policies should contribute to increase farms profitability, ensuring rural development and the future of the sector

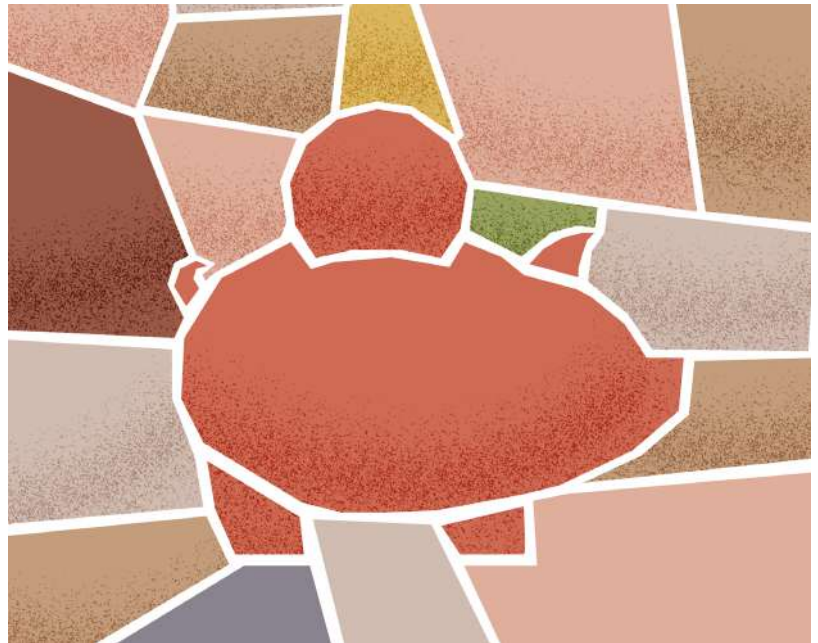


- Public policies must help ensure profitability in farms as a key element of rural development and the future of the farming sector.
- This identifies that work must continue from the demand side improving knowledge of the product cycle, the value chain, etc.
- The European “Farm to Fork” brand is a valuable strategy to follow.
- Differentiation of production from generation of added value -such as dairy- is an influential strategy. The transformed product (yoghurt, cheese) is more highly-appreciated than the intermediate product (milk). In the case of meat, it appears that while the end consumer pays a certain price, the margin reaching the original producer is very small.
- Another important policy, widespread in regions throughout the world, is public purchasing from family farming. Here as well, it is proposed to include criteria in public administration spending that encourage purchasing local produce (Zero-km).

- There are many individual farm owners, which does not mean that they are working the farm on their own. They usually work in a team both in agriculture and livestock.
- It should also be mentioned that there are certain sub-sectors with higher potential for profitability, such as Txakoli (although this sector was greatly affected by the pandemic). Other sub sectors that might be attractive for young people and that could be reinforced: agroecology production (ensuring its economic solvency for the projects), vegetable projects in greenhouses and fruit growing, plus growing kiwis that require less land, as this is a considerable obstacle for young people.

Financing

Financial and training policies are the most developed and valued by the Basque Country. It should be noted that farms continue to be highly dependent on financial grants, it is necessary to adapt the grants to the type of holding



- The most advanced policies in the Basque Country refer to **financing and training** (through HAZI, Artzain Eskola, etc.), related to the two reference mechanisms.
- There is a **positive evaluation of the financing for the facilities**, and it is regarded that the grant amount should reflect the scale of investment required. This highlights the need to adapt grant conditions to the type of farm.
- The set-up grants do not cover all needs; consequently, the allocated budget should be increased.
- It is observed as a possibility to create a single-counter to manage grants for initial set-up through Gaztenek, with grants from €30,000 up to €70,000. It is noted that the training requirements or training paths to obtain the grants should

have been started beforehand, even before the set-up, and maintained throughout the activity (as a continuous training).

- It is noted that there is a trend to prioritise new set-ups, although it is emphasised that importance should be given to taking over older facilities.
- It is seen that most farms have a **major dependency on grants**, and are therefore at the mercy of changes in the CAP, generating considerable uncertainty in the future.

Training

There is a need for comprehensive training support with a practical approach, promoting exchanges with other communities and countries



- We should highlight the need for **comprehensive mentoring**: institutional support and from different actors in the sector should offer this mentoring, helping to create an ecosystem to share experiences and knowledge, adapted to each reality.
- It is necessary to promote implication from schools and education centres; both through purchasing local produce, and educational initiatives that promote values tied to the countryside and local produce.
- Regarding regulated training in farming schools, it is highlighted that **few people leave these schools and start working on a farm**; many turn to gardening or become foresters. In this respect, it is considered relevant to analyse the positioning of these schools, in terms of contribution to jobs in the farming sector.

- It is noted that there is a lack of practical focus in the training, which should be developed by following the example in France or other examples in Canada (long work placements, greater responsibility, etc.). Company-management and marketing training should also be increased.
- The lack of vocation among young people is also an important matter, the crisis of the dairy sector is an example. In turn, there is a critical mass in schools, and interest from young people in working in agriculture. However, farming work needs to be reevaluated as it is not recognized as a worthy profession right now.
- We should highlight the importance of support for training not only prior to set-up or during the first few years of the activity, but throughout the farmer's whole working life.
- Reinforcing business, marketing training, etc. should be highlighted.

Good practice: The Artzai Eskola experience is mentioned as a good practice, which is backed up by continuous training (such as Esne Eskola). It is recommended to follow the along these lines.

- This brings out the relevance of setting up an ecosystem of actors to **exchange experiences and knowledge**.
- It is advisable to allocate financing not only for primary sector schools, but also for: i) trips and learning about other experiences in other communities and countries and ii) practical training for young people on farms in other territories, such as the Erasmus+ funds for farm school students. Both the trade unions and this study have identified relevant initiatives and have made useful contacts. These visits not only encourage exchange of knowledge, practices and learning (technological captures, new handling systems, production techniques, marketing trends, business learning, etc.) but also forge new leaders while encouraging ties and future networks between farmers, helping to provide a backbone to this sector.
- Exchange trips should be properly analysed to combine the interests of different sub-sectors and overcome limitations of scale.

Support for the next generation

There is strong concern about the serious problem of the transfer of holdings. Financial grants alongside transfer planning programmes are essential



- A strong concern has been raised regarding the relay in the future. The Basque Farming Collective has an average age of 60 years old, and numbers are dropping year by year. The whole sector is struggling with this, as reflected in the number of partners in cooperatives, which might mean the actual cooperatives have to start producing themselves to be able to meet market demand (which is already beginning to happen), endangering the family farming model.
- Financing for generational relief is greatly appreciated. This has a dual focus: implementing measures that make it easier for older people to stand down (measures related to pensions or early retirement) and for young people to enter.
- There is support for continuing the “relief contract” experiences.
- There is concern in the ‘caserio’, or homestead, between its function as a home and a farm. If a farmer offers their property, this includes everything (land, home, farm, etc.) which complicates the transfer to another person, particularly if this person comes from outside the family or close circle.
- **Planning the transfer.** Transfer planning should begin at the age of 55, not waiting for effective retirement. This is particularly difficult in some farms, as is the case of dairy production. Existing facilities should be used, although the relief processes should be improved.
- Regarding the young people and relief, installation processes in the primary sector should become the centre of the strategy,

with a comprehensive viewpoint.

- This requires greater support in mentoring the transfer of farms outside the family circle. This concept is not included in the CAP and should be strengthened locally by competent institutions. The support should be focussed both on farming training and business management.
- Emphasis should be put on the need to give new uses to the homesteads that are left empty; this would help young people to leave their homes.

Territorialisation and involvement of actors

Underlines the need for an adapted and contextualized approach based on the needs of each area, promoting better coordination, participation and dialogue between actors, and create a favorable environment for young people



- The actors involved must adopt a territorial approach, contextualised to the needs of each zone. A sector-based or territorial diagnosis is required. For example, Kaiku requires a diagnosis on how supplier dairy farms are faring in terms of relief.
- To maintain territorial balance, it is proposed to identify the areas where the situation of the farms is least favourable.
- Public mountain land could be offered to Artzai Eskolak for training.
- The need for greater participation from all actors should be considered when developing public policies. Certain actors identify the need for better communication and new dynamics between institutions and farming actors.

- Full coordination should be guaranteed among the different actors in the sector such as Lanbide.
- There is a significant need to create a favourable atmosphere for young people to learn about farming unions, adapted to the youth profile by offering them specific and flexible activities.
- Participation of young people in farming trade unions should also be promoted. In this respect, the work of the trade unions must also be focused on young people.

Use of new technologies by young people in rural work

New technologies are gradually being incorporated into agricultural production. Training and promotion of investments in technologies adapted to each holding shall be important for the future

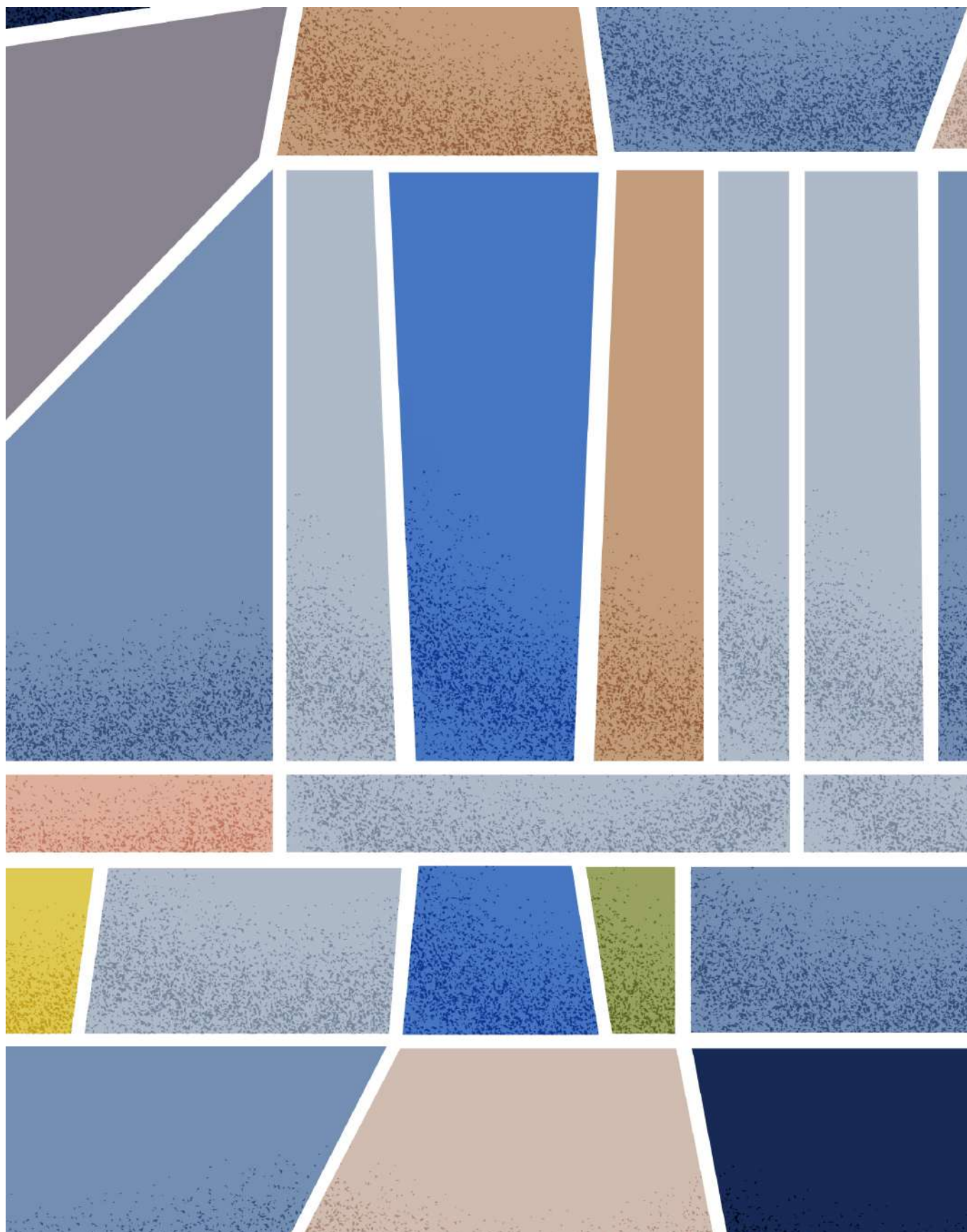


- The regular use of new technologies is reasonably extended nowadays (computers, smartphones, social media, etc.), as well as for Administration-related matters (TicketBai, administrative paperwork...). Although there seem to be certain limitations, the context of the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the trend of a greater use of technology among professionals and the administration.
- Little by little, technology is being incorporated in farming production (GPS in tractors, precision agriculture), although the situation is quite unequal.
- In general, young people are not afraid of technology and they are adapting. For many young people, this has become an essential part in their lives (online sales, consumption groups, etc.). The problem lies in the fact that this is an ageing sector, and the older age group finds it harder to get on board with technology.

Economic problems are identified in terms of investing in technology and there are still connectivity issues in some areas, which must be improved.

- It is important to provide training on these technologies and ensure investments in technology within the context of each farm (avoiding unnecessary major investments).

Conclusions



Some relevant information on the sector

Institutional support, visibility and representation

Although most public policies have a support approach in funding and training, there are several projects aimed at institutional support, visibility and representation of the sector.

Ageing, depopulation and abandonment

The reasons for creating these policies are the accelerated ageing of the sector, the depopulation and abandonment of rural areas, the foreseeable increase in demographic pressure over the next decades or the difficult situation of the sector during the pandemic.

Practical skills development

Projects with a formative or educational approach are focused on promoting learning and practical skills.

Joining the workforce

Encourages the incorporation into the workforce by promoting profitability, entrepreneurship, business management and business development.

Rewarding sustainable practices

Several policies incorporate environmental criteria and requirements and promote and reward sustainable practices.

Understand and adaptation

Understanding and adapting to the public will be fundamental when implementing policies in a sustainable manner.

Training, financial and institutional support are the main axes of public policies developed for rural youth

Most public policies implemented by the countries analysed, which support young farmers focus on **financing and training support**. At the same time, there is a wide range of projects to provide **institutional support, visibility, and representation** to the collective; and to a lesser extent, policies have been identified to ease access to land and **emancipation**.

Most projects are promoted and completed by the Ministries and Departments of Agriculture in the aforementioned countries, and are therefore **dependent on the Central Administration; except for the case of Australia, where projects are mostly organised by public bodies on a regional level** through departments of agriculture in the country's different states.

The policies being analysed are generally **new**, and in most cases, they have not been running for more than 10 years. **There are several pilot programmes which have finished or have not been continued**. In addition, they are also mainly annual programmes that are organised periodically.

The reasons behind the development of this type of policies over the last few years are common to many of the projects: **accelerated ageing in the sector, the dwindling population and desertion of rural areas, the foreseeable increase in demographic pressure over the next few decades, the difficult situation for the sector during the pandemic...**

Projects with a training or educational focus are mainly centred on **promoting learning and development of practical skills**, and less so on theory. Academic exchanges, coaching programmes or grants for contracting companies are some of the examples in this respect, clarifying that **the policies and programmes being analysed emphasise incentives for taking the leap into the world of work, ensuring profitability and entrepreneurship** among young farmers. Both practical and theoretical programmes aim to boost knowledge in terms of **business management and development**.

In the field of financing, policies are mainly presented as **aid for entrepreneurship, either in the form of a subsidy, loan or grant**. Nonetheless, **barely one single programme has been identified to provide aid for companies in the sector to contract young people**.

In addition to boosting entrepreneurship among young farmers, several policies **include criteria and environmental requirements and promote and reward sustainable practices** in the primary sector, as well as innovation, new farming techniques, and use of new technologies.

Perspectives of the actors interviewed (international level)

As a result of the interviews held by the WRF with key actors from the governments whose policies were analysed in the first section of the study (Canada, Chile, and Uruguay), some common challenges have been identified for those countries. This refers to actors who are working on implementing policies that appear in the study and their opinion on the difficulties and strengths was thought to be very useful. Specifically, meetings were held with:

- Elisa Rodríguez, Punto Focal de Juventud, General Directorate of Rural Development - Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fishing, Uruguay.
- Virginia Porto, Punto Focal Alterna de Juventud, National Youth Institute - Ministry of Social Development, Uruguay.
- Andrea Riquelme, Punto Focal Juventud, National Youth Supervisor - Institute of Agriculture and livestock farming Development (INDAP) - Ministry of Agriculture, Chile.
- Juan Guido Vidal Acuña – INDAP organisation unit, former coordinator of the MERCOSUR Specialised Family Farming Meeting (REAF - MERCOSUR), Chile.
- Rick Fiarchuk, Director of Programmes for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in Canada.

The main elements to consider when sustainably implementing public rural youth policies, according to the interviews held with some of the **international actors**, are:

- **Understanding and adapting to the audience:** young men and women are a special audience who institution experts must get to know (internal skills training).
- **Promoting intersectoral policies, which helps to ensure policy sustainability and their lasting anchoring.**
- **Changes in administration:** public policies are subject to changes in administration. As rural youth is a recently institutionalised topic, it is necessary to anticipate these dynamics working with all the actors and political groups, to ensure that agreements are reached to guarantee that established programmes are not cancelled and that they are producing results.
- **Actor participation and mutual agreement** is key for embracing the measures, which are strengthened and long-lasting.
- The **budget** and the existence of a **specific institutional framework to cover these programmes** are fundamental factors for these public policies to function properly.

Perspectives of the actors interviewed (Basque Country)

- Public policies should be developed around **comprehensive strategies** based on a **holistic approach**, promoting **participation** from all relevant actors, guaranteeing coordination and the creation of **common spaces** to exchange experiences.
- The importance of **integrating training and mentoring**, from a **practical perspective**, as well as establishing **ecosystems** that ease this mentoring, was highlighted. Similarly, the need of a comprehensive advice and group work when mentoring young farmers was stressed. In terms of training, emphasis was placed on more practical training combined with training in fields, and more closely related to business management; as well as training and mentoring throughout all farming activity, not only upon the set-up.

It is essential to continue developing comprehensive strategies for the sector, promoting participation and coordination between actors, facilitating the exchange of experiences, and integration between training and mentoring. Transfer and installation programmes will be assessed positively

- Special mention is made of the training that can be provided in other territories through i) visits and getting to know other experiences from other communities and countries and ii) work placements in other territories.
- As for generational renewal, existing open renewal programmes and integration programmes are praised, but it is emphasised that **new mechanisms** are required to **facilitate this**, from a longer-term viewpoint and seeking to attract entrepreneurs from outside the rural world.

Demand from the actors interviewed (Basque Country)

The interviewees highlight the visibility of the sector as a source of job opportunities and lifestyle. The improvement in the profitability of farms and the introduction of new technologies are key elements to make visible the real future of the sector

- The **visibility of the sector as a source of job opportunities and lifestyle** is key, and special efforts are proposed to spotlight them and give them prestige.
- A mention should be given to promoting the “**Farm-to-fork**” and **Zero-km** proposals.
- Improving farm **profitability** is essential, working to guarantee a fair price is key for all actors taking part in the different links of the food chain.
- **New technologies** are being introduced gradually and, in this regard, it is fundamental to provide adequate training in their use.
- All actors involved must join forces to boost **motivation** and **facilitate tools** to materialize this motivation in a real and specific manner.

World Rural Forum

Study on public rural youth policies

