

October 2002

# *Implementing the new EU Rural Development The Spanish Case*

**Document prepared by :**

**E1 Unit (Rural Development Programs in Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Finland)  
Agriculture Directorate-General  
European Commission**

<b>SPAIN – AN OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HORIZONTAL PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>5</b>
Accompanying measures (EAGGF Guarantee section)	6
Improvement of production structures (EAGGF Guidance and Guarantee sections)	7
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT REGIONAL LEVEL</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>LEADER+</b>	<b>10</b>
Horizontal Leader+ programme	10
Regional Leader+ programmes	10
<b>ANDALUSIA</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ARAGON</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ASTURIAS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>THE BALEARIC ISLANDS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>THE BASQUE COUNTRY</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CANARY ISLANDS</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>CANTABRIA</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>CASTILE-LA MANCHA</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>CASTILE-LEON</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>CATALONIA</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>EXTREMADURA</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>GALICIA</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>LA RIOJA</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>MADRID</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>MURCIA</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>NAVARRRE</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>VALENCIA</b>	<b>43</b>

## Spain – an overview

The varying climate and natural conditions in Spain have, together with human activities, contributed to shape a broad variety of farming systems and settlement patterns. The country can be divided into three main agri-ecological environments: 1) the wet Atlantic system, with sufficient precipitations, 2) the dry Mediterranean systems, with insufficient humidity over the year and very dry summers of three to five months, and 3) the semiarid system, (an “extension” of the Mediterranean system) with dry periods of six months or more per year.

A look at the strong and weak sides reveals a series of key areas where support is needed to help the agrarian sector become sustainable: compatible with the natural environment, able to offer income and employment, and meeting the consumers’ needs for quality products.

The agrarian sector in Spain has many strong sides to build on. In the Mediterranean regions, the climate is advantageous for agricultural activities. In areas where irrigation is used, the outcome is high and the production is stable and often diversified. Irrigation systems create more job opportunities, directly or indirectly, and in general, these areas are more densely populated. There are holdings with a high technical standard and a dimension which allows for a profitable production. There is a renewed interest for rural life among young people and young farmers have more of an enterprise spirit in running their farms. The landscapes are a rich heritage and many regions show a rich biodiversity and also keep livestock that are well adapted to the specific surrounding.

In other areas, the situation is opposite from the one described above. Climate or natural conditions may limit the outcome of the agricultural activities. Insufficient water resources or irrigation systems in bad estate lead to low and irregular productivity. Insufficient services and infrastructure make farming less efficient. Some of these areas also have a low population density. Depopulation and an ageing and decreasing farming population is another reality. Small family farms are less profitable, and have less margin to enable investments to modernise and make better use of the resources available. There are also areas with serious problems of pollution, erosion and loss of soil fertility. Abandoned farm land has a negative impact on the natural environment, and may also lead to uncontrolled vegetation, fires, erosion, floodings, etc. Over-exploitation of subterranean water resources is another problem.

Nevertheless, opportunities and possibilities are not missing. There is an increased demand of Mediterranean quality food products (an expanding food industry in its turn requires a stable agricultural production). There is technological innovation in the sector of irrigation. There are new opportunities for diversification of the agricultural activities (within craft, processing and packing of products, rural tourism, etc). The interest in forests is increasing, with a higher demand for wood and increased interest in forests as recreation areas. The agricultural policy takes increasingly into account the environmental impact of agricultural activities.

The support given by EAGGF is for the benefit of the farmers and their families, who need to have a steady income, for the consumers, who look for quality food produced in the best way, and for the natural environment and the rural areas.

### Water resources

Water resources is one of the key issues, being a determining factor for a stable and profitable agricultural production. Some 67 % of the total water demand in Spain is for

irrigation. Nevertheless, irrigation may also lead to problems, such as over-use of groundwater supplies, the water becoming salt by disturbed ground water levels or polluted by nutrients and pesticides, erosion of the soil and damage to wetlands and natural habitats of high value. A continuous work is carried out to reduce these negative effects, at European and national level, and to make the best use of the resources available, with the outmost respect to the natural environment

### Dryness

The climate is subhumid, semi-arid or arid in two thirds of the country. Especially the Southern and Eastern parts of Spain suffer from aridity.

### Erosion

Erosion is a problem all over the country, with often long periods of dryness, followed by heavy rainfalls. Half of the surface suffers intensive erosion, and access to water is insufficient and irregular. The dryness reduces harvest and income, increases the erosion and is in some areas accentuated by intensive stockbreeding. Geographically, the distribution of water resources is unequal.

### Forest fires

Approximately 100 000 hectares of forest area burn every year in Spain (although this figure may rise to over 400 000 hectares in very dry years). The risk of forest fires increases when traditional agriculture and livestock farming are no longer being carried out, when people no longer live in the rural areas and when there is no agreed-upon planning for how to use the mountains for production and recreation. The disappearance of cover vegetation increases the soil erosion, and the loss of biodiversity speeds up the process of land turning into desert.

## Horizontal programmes

Given that some of the problems are common for all Spain, the Spanish authorities wish to apply certain measures at a horizontal level. These measures are essential for a sustainable development of agriculture and rural development, and should be carried out in the same way in all autonomous communities, to ensure that all farmers are equally treated, wherever they live and work. Each autonomous community is responsible for the management and implementation of their programme, under co-ordination of the national central administration.

In addition to the horizontal programmes, each autonomous community has elaborated a regional programme. In the regional programmes, the measures are applied in the way that best suits the specific conditions in the territory.

The autonomous communities of Navarre and the Basque Country have their own tax and legal system which allows them to finance this group of measures with their own financial resources and integrate them in their respective programmes for rural development.

### What are the priorities?

Four main priorities have been set up for the horizontal programmes:

- to rationalise the input by reducing the use of pesticides and irrigation water, by more integrated management of the holding, etc.
- to improve the viability of the agricultural holdings, by encouraging sustainable and environmental-friendly farming, diversifying the production, etc.
- to reorganise the productive sector,
- to improve the quality of life and the protection of the natural environment.

### What are the measures?

<b>Accompanying measures (EAGGF Guarantee)</b>	
Covers all autonomous communities (except Navarre and the Basque Country, who include these measures in the respective regional development plans)	
Agri-environment (mandatory)	A series of measures to support environmental-friendly agricultural production techniques.
Compensatory allowances in less favoured areas	Compensation to farmers in areas where geographical, climate or environmental conditions reduce the productivity (for example in mountain areas or areas with slopes).
Early retirement	Support to enable farmers to retire at the age between 55 and 65, under the condition that the farm is made available for a a new holder to take over.
Afforestation of agricultural land	Support to afforestation of agricultural land, to reduce the area used for agricultural production.

<b>Improvement of production structures (EAGGF Guarantee and Guidance)</b>	
Outside of objective 1 (Guarantee section): Aragon, the Balearic Islands, Catalonia, Madrid, La Rioja and Navarre (for Navarre, only the management of water resources; the Basque Country includes these measures in the regional development plan)	
Objective 1 (Guidance section): Andalusia, Asturias, Canary Islands, Castile-la Mancha, Castile-Leon, Extremadura, Galicia, Murcia and Valencia (Cantabria includes support for young farmers in the regional programme)	
Investments in agricultural holdings	Support for investments in agricultural holdings, for farm holders who present improvement plans.
Setting up of young farmers	Support for farmers of age up to 40 who wish to set up farming activities.
Management of water resources	Most actions in this programme are included in the National Irrigation Plan (2000-2008). The measure includes mainly improvements on existing systems in order to rationalise the use of water for irrigation.

***Accompanying measures (EAGGF Guarantee section)***

There are four so-called accompanying measures: agri-environmental measures, compensatory allowances, early retirement and afforestation of agricultural land. These measures address some of the most important structural weaknesses in Spanish agriculture, and support changes that are essential to ensure a sustainable development of the agrarian sector, taking into account the farmers and their families, the consumers and the environment.

Agri-environmental measures

The agri-environmental measure is the only measure that the member state or region must include in the rural development plan. It consists of a whole range of sub-measures and the aim is to make agriculture more environmental-friendly. Farm holders who shift to production techniques that are more compatible with good environmental protection may receive a grant to compensate for the loss of revenue.

Example:

Extensification of the cultivation in order to protect flora and fauna. In order to receive the grant, the farmer should (among other things):

- use seed that is free from any chemicals dangerous for birds
- increase the quantity of seeds, to compensate for the seeds eaten by birds
- maintain natural islands of vegetation or borders without cultivation on at least 1 % of the holding
- ensure that the timing of the agricultural activities take into account the nesting period of the birds

The grant is of 56 euro per hectare, and is calculated to compensate for the extra cost for more seeds, the increased workload and the loss of income caused by the maintenance of the reserve area.

Other examples are support to farmers who wish to introduce practices and techniques to reduce or completely stop the use of chemical products (integrated production and organic farming) and thereby reduce the negative impact on soil and water. Another sub-measure

aims to protect flora and fauna in wetlands, prevent humid zones from drying out, thereby protecting the water resource and the quality of the water, as well as the wild birdlife of these areas. Support is also given for measures to save irrigation water and to encourage extensification of the production. This will not only save water, but by changing to less demanding cultivations, the soil will also be more protected. Support is also given to encourage integrated management, which means to carry out livestock farming in a way that reduces the pressure of animals on the land and thereby the level of nitrates in the soil.

#### Compensatory allowances

Compensatory allowances in less favoured areas (LFA) and areas with environmental restrictions. The areas concerned are for instance mountain areas or areas where soil or climate limit the conditions for a good production output. The aim is to give support to the farmers who work in such areas, to improve their quality of life, and thereby also contribute to conserve the natural resources and maintain a living rural world. It is expected that some 150 000 farm holders will benefit from this measure, which will cover an area of some 12 million hectare.

#### Early retirement

This measure gives farm holders the possibility to retire between the age of 55 to 65, under condition that the farm is made available for another farmer to take over. This will ensure a financially more stable transition for the farmers who cease their activities, and will increase the opportunities for young farmers to take over farms. The expected outcome is 12 000 farm holders in early retirement, and 180 000 ha of land made available.

#### Afforestation of agricultural land

This measure gives support for plantation of forest species on agricultural land, and their maintenance. It also offers an annual grant to compensate for the loss of income due to abandoned agricultural activities. This will contribute to reduce erosion and desertification, two big problems in many Spanish regions. The measure will also contribute to the creation of new job opportunities, which is especially important in rural areas with risk of depopulation. The support will cover up to 150 000 hectares of agricultural land and some 14 000 beneficiaries.

#### ***Improvement of production structures (EAGGF Guidance and Guarantee sections)***

The funding for these measures comes from two different sections of the EAGGF, and consequently, there are two separate programmes, one for the objective 1 regions (Guidance section) and one for the regions outside of objective 1 (Guarantee section). The content is the same in the two programmes, and for facility, the description and data below refer to the two programmes together.

#### Investments in agricultural holdings

This measure gives support to farm holders who wish to invest to modernise the production methods with a view to make them more efficient and more environmental-friendly. Beside a direct economic impact for the farmers concerned, the measure is expected to have a positive social impact in the region, by stabilising the job situation and improving the living and working conditions for farmers. Investment aid to improve irrigation systems within the farm holdings will lead to better use of the existing water resources and a better protection of the

environment. Support may also be given for investments to start up new activities, to diversify the economy.

#### Setting up of young farmers

The aim is to support young people, up to 40 years of age, who want to take on the responsibility of a farm and start up agricultural activities. This is a way to modernise and increase the dynamism in the sector and encourage the younger generations to stay in the rural areas. The aid is available to those who have sufficient training and knowledge in the field. Some 3 000 young farmers are expected to take over farms with help of this measure, which will also contribute to create new farms and maintain job opportunities.

The support to young farmers could have a positive impact also on the goods and service sectors, to increase the economic dimension of farm holdings and to create new jobs, directly and indirectly. It is also expected to reduce the existing imbalances in markets with overproduction. The planned start-up programmes will involve investment in construction and in rural housing, thereby helping to improve quality of life for farmers and their families. The diversification programmes linked to start-up will also have a positive effect on employment for women.

#### Management of water resources

Water resources are a key input in Spanish agriculture, and also one of the weaknesses in the farming sector. Many of the installations are outdated and a third of them do not distribute water to their full capacity.

The National Irrigation Plan aims to achieve a more rational use of the water resources, and the Spanish authorities hope to reduce the consumption within the agricultural sector with 2 600 hm<sup>3</sup>. Most of the actions in this programme are included in the National Irrigation Plan (2000-2008).

Support is given mainly to consolidate and improve existing irrigation systems and networks. In concrete terms, this means to modify transport and distribution systems, modernise the irrigation systems, improve the drainage systems, improve the control of the water and the quantities being used, etc.

With a more rational use of water, reduced (electricity) costs and a more effective application of biotechnology, the holdings will become more profitable. With less excess irrigation water and improved natural drainage system, there is a better control of soil erosion, and better chances to restore humid areas that are damaged by over-exploited aquifers. The works will also contribute to create jobs, both on temporary and permanent basis.

*Some 67 % of the water demand in Spain is related to agricultural activities. 3,3 million hectares are under irrigation, or 13 % of the utilised agricultural area (UAA).*

*The two horizontal programmes with EAGGF support aim to improve the existing network for an area covering 830 000 ha.*



## Rural development at regional level

In addition to the horizontal programmes, each Autonomous Community has designed a regional development plan, taking into account the specific needs and priorities of the region.

Each plan includes a selection of measures, all of which are defined in the Council Regulation 1257/1999.

- Training
- Improving processing and marketing of agricultural products
- Forestry measures (on non-agricultural land)
  
- Promoting the adaptation and development of rural areas (article 33):
  - land improvement
  - reparacling
  - setting-up of farm relief and farm management services
  - marketing of quality agricultural products
  - basic services for the rural economy and population
  - renovation and development of villages and protection and conservation of the rural heritage
  - diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes
  - agricultural water resources management
  - development and improvement of infrastructure connected with the development of agriculture
  - encouragement for tourist and craft activities
  - protection of the environment in connection with agriculture, forestry and landscape conservation as well as with the improvement of animal welfare
  - restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention instruments
  - financial engineering

This document gives a brief overview region by region of the activities planned to be carried out with support from EAGGF in 2000-2006, with a view to build up a sustainable agriculture and maintain a living rural world all over Spain.

**It is important to keep in mind that the horizontal and regional programmes go together. Whereas the horizontal programmes constitute the main body of support, and address the big structural difficulties within the agrarian sector, the regional programmes add to this the specific support designed for the unique situation of each Autonomous Community.**

## **Leader+**

The Community Initiative Leader+ is a complement to the mainstreaming programming. It aims to develop integrated cross-sector strategies for rural areas, which seek to exploit all the potential of the local economy together. The local population is actively involved to elaborate and carry out the strategies and to participate in Local Action Groups (LAGs), with equal representation from the public and private sector. The initiative also encourages co-operation and networking between rural areas.

### **Are there any specific priorities?**

Priority is given to those strategies that focus on equal opportunities for women, and on young people in rural areas.

The strategies should develop around the following priority themes:

- the use of new information technology in rural areas
- the quality of life in rural areas
- to add value to local products
- to make the best use of the natural and cultural resources

### **What kind of actions may receive support?**

- Integrated territorial rural development strategies of a pilot character
- Co-operation between rural territories, either within or between Member States
- Networking of rural areas

### ***Horizontal Leader+ programme***

The horizontal Leader+ programme in Spain complements the general rural development policy by the following three objectives :

- to develop the innovative character of Leader+, by disseminating the experiences and learnings from Leader and by ensuring coherence in the organisation of the LAG's,
- to consolidate a good implementation of the initiative, by follow-up of selections of LAGs and projects, by monitoring of administrative and financial management, and by ensuring that the four main themes are carried through and that the actions do complement the mainstream programmes.
- to develop cooperation over region and country borders and to establish networks to exchange experiences .

This programme supports 5 interregional Local Action Groups (LAGs) and their cooperation, and the establishment of a network of the 150 Spanish LAGs.

### ***Regional Leader+ programmes***

Altogether 150 LAGs will be selected in Spain. Most Leader+ territories are small, covering a community of less than 30 000 inhabitants and with a population density of less than 120 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. More about the regional Leader+ programmes on the following pages.

## Andalusia

Surface:	87268 km <sup>2</sup> (17 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	7 235 000 (83 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	45 % arable land
Land use:	12 % meadows and pastures
	30 % wooded area
Most important products:	Fruit, vegetables, olive oil
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	4 866 000 ha
No. of agricultural holdings:	274 100
Average size of holdings:	16,7 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	68 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	37 %
Irrigation:	780 000 ha (appr 16 % of UAA), of which 42 % by gravity and 37 % from local systems
Organic farming:	62 318 ha (of which 34 % in olive groves)
	2 570 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	7 %
Farm holders older 55 years:	58 %
How many women among farm holders?	24 %
Forest fires:	more than 12 000 fires on 19 400 ha every year (average 1991-99)
National Parks:	Sierra Nevada and Doñana (137 000 ha together)
Natura 2000:	127 sites - 2 414 000 ha (28 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	Six vulnerable zones are identified, in Valle de Guadalquivir, the northern zone of Málaga, Vega de Granada and in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean coasts.

Topography and climate are extremely varied in Andalusia, representing alpin mountains, arid deserts, fertile irrigated plains with cultivations of subtropical fruits, etc. Some of Spain's most fertile soils are found in Andalusia.

Almost 40 % of the territory is considered being at high or very high risk of erosion.

Andalusia is world leading producer and exporter of olive oil. Fruits and vegetables are other key products in the agrarian sector, and are also exported.

*Agricultural activities go back to 4000 BC. The muslims not only gave the region its name, Al-Andalus, but also introduced the sugarcane, almonds and apricots, still cultivated today.*

The agricultural sector needs modernisation and an improved infrastructure. Traditional production methods are insufficient for today's competition and both processing and marketing need to be modernised to reach the full potential of the agri-foodstuff industry. Unemployment is high, and it is necessary to start up new agrarian activities in order to assure job opportunities and incomes in rural areas.

On the other hand, the proportion of young people in the population is higher than anywhere else in Europe. Environment and natural heritage are increasingly seen as important factors in the process of development, and efforts are made to reduce the pressure on natural areas and to slow down the desertification. Another factor that will support rural development is the increasing co-operation between municipalities.

## Operational programme (EAGGF Guidance)

### Agri-foodstuff industry

Support is given for investments to modernise the sector, introduce more efficient and environmental-friendly production methods, and improve the marketing of products. The programme encourages initiatives to establish logistic transport centres and networks for production and distribution, and a wider co-operation within the food industry. Companies may receive support to carry out necessary market studies and to concentrate the offer of agricultural products to their origin of place.

### Forestry and environment

In mountain areas, support is given to prevent and treat forest diseases, to clean up bush areas, prevent forest fires and to improve forest roads. Plantation of new forest and vegetation cover will help reduce soil erosion. Hydrological works will help protect cultivations and prevent destruction of farm land by floodings. Works will be carried out to preserve and restore the habitats in Natura 2000 sites. Old cattle roads, used for more than 500 years to move cattle from pasture to pasture, will be restored and clearly marked. This will give access to pastures that are not fully used today, and will also help build up recreational tourism, allowing visitors to pass through the varied scenery of the landscape, following the steps of many generations of farmers and trade people.

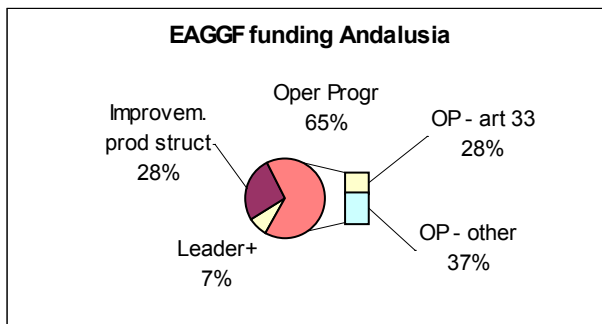
### Agriculture and rural development

The programme gives support for modernisation of the agricultural sector and to encourage a more diversified production. It aims to improve infrastructure and basic services in rural areas. Concrete examples are to improve rural roads for better access to the farmland and to build up public centres with agri-foodstuffs laboratories to support the production system. The programme also aims to raise the quality in the food production. In addition, support is offered to Rural Development Associations (Asociaciones de Desarrollo Rural, ARD), for initiatives to renovate and maintain villages, improve marketing of quality products, encourage tourism and craft or support small and medium sized enterprises and the commercial service structures.

## Leader+

The 20 Local Action Groups will develop strategies to complement the rural development programmes, and thereby add an innovative and experimental character to the process. The LAGs may be selected in rural areas, with exception of coast areas specialised on tourism or areas of intensive export agriculture or where more than half of the agrarian surface is occupied by greenhouses. Special priority is given to equal opportunities and the participation of women and youth in the rural development. The programme will, among many other things, facilitate small producers' access to the market by encouraging cooperative activities.

20 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Aragon

Surface:	47720 km <sup>2</sup> (9 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	1 221 000 (26 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> , or 12/km <sup>2</sup> outside of Saragossa)
	38 % arable land
Land use:	14 % meadows and pastures
	27 % wooded area
Most important products:	Cereals, meat (sheep, cattle), fruit, wine
Final agrarian production:	52 % comes from livestock farming
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	2 550 000 hectar
No. of agricultural holdings (97):	64 900
Average size of holdings:	39,3 hectar (2nd biggest average after Castilla La Mancha)
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	70 %
Agric. area in Mointain area:	31 %
Irrigation:	395 000 ha (15 % of UAA), of which 80 % by gravity
Organic farming:	15 638 ha (of which 46 % for cereals/grains)
	197 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35:	9 %
Farm holders older than 55:	54 %
How many women among farm holders?	12 %
Food industry:	contributes to 14,5 % of all industrial production
Forest fires:	320 fires on more than 6 000 ha every year (average based on 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	37 sites - 213 000 ha (4,5 % of total surface, this is expected to extend to 12 % when all sites are defined)
National Parks:	Ordesa y Monte Perdido, 15608 ha (was declared National park in 1918, and is thereby the oldest in Spain)
Nitrates Directive:	Vulnerable zones have been identified in the areas of Jalón Huerva and Gallocanta (May 1997)

The Ebro basin naturally divides Aragon into two parts, with the Pyrenees in the north, and the Iberian Cordillera (Sierra de Gúdar) in the south. The climate is Mediterranean in most parts, with exception for the Pyrenees. Precipitations are generally concentrated to spring and autumn.

Livestock farming is an important part of the agrarian sector, dominated by production of meat from sheep and cattle. Cereals is another important product. One of the environmental problems is erosion, which causes problems on more than half of the territory.

Many agricultural holdings are small and with a low production level. Few young farmers take over farming activities. Abandonment of traditional agricultural practices risk to have a negative impact on the environment. The sector is characterised by a high degree of individualism, producer associations are few, and agri-foodstuff industry is not developed to its full potential.

Nevertheless, there is a good potential to develop the processing and marketing of products, thanks to the access to raw materials of high quality. Cultivations with irrigation are highly productive. The region has valuable ecosystems and landscapes and tourism has a potential to grow further thanks to the cultural and historical heritage and the possibilities for sports and recreation.

## Rural Development Plan (EAGGF Guarantee)

The programme aims to reinforce the threefold functions of agriculture and of rural areas: economic, social and ecological. The measures are presented in accordance with the five main objectives of this programme:

### Competitiveness and diversification

Working conditions for farmers will improve, by better access to farm management services, and reparcelling of farm land. Associations in the agrarian sector may receive support to increase the joint use of machinery and new technology and thereby improve the viability. Companies in the agri-foodstuff industry can get support for investments that allow them to improve processing, marketing, quality control, environmental protection, etc. Some of the priority areas are investments related to quality agricultural products or products promoted by agrarian associations, investments with impact on the complete production chain or investments that contribute to create jobs.

Local Action Groups will select and support projects that help farmers and rural inhabitants to start new activities, close to agriculture, and find alternative incomes. This can be for example within tourism and craft, possibly linked to the natural resources in the area.

### Forestry and environment

The programme aims to improve forest areas and to ensure a sustainable management of these. Some examples are projects to prevent forest fires and erosion, improve marketing of forest products or establish associations of forest holders. Plans will be elaborated how to protect endangered species and habitats, and how to make most rational use of resources for forestry, pastures and hunting.

### Training

The programme provides training, targeted on specific groups (farm holders, farm associations, workers on experimental farms, etc) or addressing specific issues (fire extinguishing in forest areas, agri-environmental measures, etc).

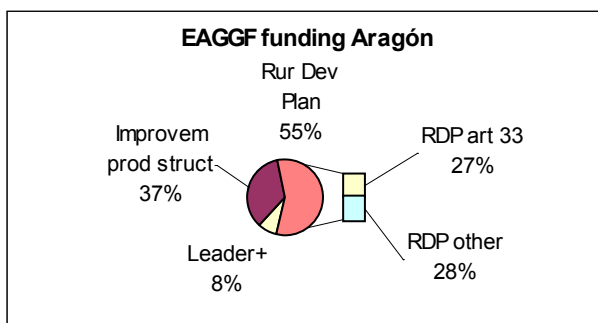
### Quality of life in rural areas

Works on rural roads, public lighting and pavings will improve the infrastructure in rural areas and encourage the inhabitants to stay.

## Leader+

The Leader+ territory covers a population of almost 540.000 inhabitants. It is expected that the economic and social network in the rural society will improve, that the communities will improve their way of organising themselves, and that new jobs are created thanks to the Leader+ programme.

12 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Asturias

Surface:	10 004 km <sup>2</sup> (2 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	1 087 000 (109 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	3 % arable land
Land use	28 % meadows and pastures
	41 % wooded area
Most important products	Milk, veal
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	312 000 hectar
No. of agricultural holdings:	39 900
Average size of holdings:	8,8 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	90 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	89 %
Irrigation:	4 300 ha under irrigation (1,4% of UAA), half gravity/half sprinkler
Organic farming:	65 ha - 30 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35:	6 %
Farm holders older than 55:	59 %
How many women among farm holders?	43 % (highest rate in Spain)
Final agrarian production:	79 % livestock farming - 11 % agriculture - 9 % forestry
Forest fires:	1 079 fires every year on almost 9 500 hectares (average 1991-99)
National Parks:	part of Picos de Europa is situated in Asturias
Natura 2000:	34 sites -216 078 ha. (20,4 % of the region's surface), and in addition 387 km of river beds
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas defined)

Asturias is a mountainous region, situated far away from Spanish and European economic centres. A major part of the population is concentrated in the central part of the region, whereas the eastern and western parts have a more scarce population.

The agrarian sector is mainly based on livestock farming and production of milk products and meat. The region has a rich nature environment, and the complex water system is an important resource, fundamental for economic activities.

Many agricultural holdings are small, productivity is low and the average age among the farm holders is high. The level of technology and professional training is often insufficient. It is also difficult for the farmers to shift from milk production to other alternatives.

The sectors to build on and develop are the traditional industries which produce quality products, such as cider. There is also non-industrial production of agricultural products. The forest sector in Asturias has a big potential to grow further. Rural tourism is another promising area, given the abundance of natural areas and landscapes, and the many cultural traces that have remained through history and until our days.

*The average density of the forest is four times higher in Asturias than the national average (136,6 m<sup>3</sup> wood per hectar in Asturias, compared to 30-35 m<sup>3</sup>/ha in average in Spain).*

## Operational programme (EAGGF Guidance section)

### Agri-foodstuff industry

Support from the EAGGF will help the agri-food industry in Asturias to become more competitive. Support is given for investments that aim to raise the product quality, rationalise the production methods and increase the use of new technology. The measure goes beyond the handling of raw materials in the production, and also addresses improvement of the business management.

### Forestry and environment

In the forestry sector, support is given to improve and increase the existing woodland, to protect the soil and maintain the hydrological cycle. Works will be carried out to prevent forest fires and reduce the damage caused by these. The programme also finances activities to improve the areas included in Natura 2000 and to work towards a sustainable use of the existing biodiversity, by projects to improve public access and restore rivers and riverbanks, to name a few examples.

*Examples of measures:*

- *There are two populations of brown bear in the region. Ecological reserves and corridors will be created and maintained, to enable a link between these two populations.*
- *Rules for hunting and fishing will be set up, to ensure the necessary conservation of species and habitats.*

### Agriculture and rural development

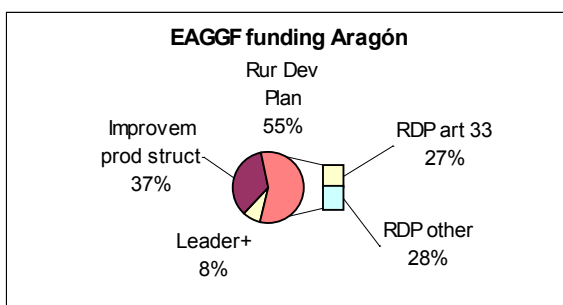
The programme offers support for re-parcelling of farmland, to help farmers with small land plots to increase the yields. Access to pastures will be improved, especially in mountain areas. Investment support is given to farm holder who wish to, for example, introduce new production techniques, make production more environmental-friendly or diversify the production to get new income sources. Joint use of machinery, improved professional qualifications and support services will help farmers raise the rentability. The programme encourages business activities which may strengthen other rural resources and conserve the natural and cultural heritage. Rural tourism and craft work are examples of potential areas in this respect. The programme intends to increase the participation of local institutions and associations and to stimulate the involvement of women and youth in the diversification of the rural activities.

## Leader+

The focus of the activities depends on the specific area in question. In rural areas near cities, farms are generally more competitive, but they also face more environmental problems due to the urban centres nearby.

Traditional milk farms are most in need to modernise and look for alternative income sources, whereas in the mountain areas, it is important to stop the depopulation and see how the the rich and varying ecological system can offer new possibilities.

4 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.



## The Balearic Islands

Surface:	4 992 km <sup>2</sup> (1 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	746 000 (149 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	36 % arable land
Land use:	0 % meadows and pastures
	35 % wooded area
Most important products:	Fruits, vegetables
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	223 100 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	17 400
Average size of holdings:	12,8 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	44 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	12 %
Irrigation:	17376 ha (8 % of UAA), 57 % with sprinkler system
Organic farming:	3 623 ha - 127 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	3 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	65 %
How many women among farm holders?	23 %
Forest fires:	125 fires every year, on 1 060 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	29 sites - 89 370 ha (18 % of total surface)
National Parks:	Archipiélago de Cabrera, 10 021 ha
Nitrates Directive:	(existence of vulnerable areas)

The Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands consists of an archipelago located in the Mediterranean sea. The landscape is varied, with lowlands, plateaus and undulating hills. The annual precipitation is low, and most rain falls in spring and autumn.

The deterioration of the landscape is an environmental problem. Forest fires, waste water and household garbage are some of the factors that contribute to the process, and the environmental awareness/training among the inhabitants is insufficient. Erosion is another environmental problem.

*More than 40 % of the territory is defined as protected area, in one form or another. The entire archipelago of Cabrera is a national park and the whole island of Menorca has been declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO.*

After some modernisation of the agricultural sector and with increased use of irrigation, the main production has shifted from grapes, cereals and olives, to fruits and vegetables. Agriculture is often carried out on a parttime basis in combination with seasonal work related to the tourism along the coasts. The average age among farmers is high and few young people are interested or able to take over farming activities. The production is very specialised, and many farms are small.

The high quality of the agricultural products is one of the strengths and can, together with craft and traditional trade, grow and contribute more to the rural economy. There is a potential to create alternative forms of tourism in rural areas, as complement to the coastal tourism. The landscape, as well as the historical and cultural heritage, are other assets to build on to achieve a sustainable development in rural areas.

### **Rural Development Plan** (EAGGF Guarantee section)

The main objectives of the programme are to maintain and increase job opportunities and income, encourage young people to stay in rural areas and ensure protection of the natural environment and landscape. The measures are grouped under five headings:

Modernisation and adaptation to market needs

The programme will help increase the offer of farm relief services and management assistance for farmers. Support is offered to farmers who wish to create alternative income sources, for example to process and sale products from the farm, build up tourism or to recycle waste products from the forest sector into bio-energy or organic manure.

Rural infrastructure

Support is given to improve the infrastructure, by reparcelling of farm land, or by providing electricity, improving roads, telecommunications or drainage systems for rain water.

Improvement of processing and marketing of agricultural products

Support is given for investments that aim to create new industries or restructure existing ones. The general aim is to increase the added value to agricultural products and create or maintain job opportunities. The support will contribute to improve sanitary conditions, improve marketing of ecological products and products of quality label, make the production methods more environmental-friendly, etc. Special attention is given to local co-operatives.

Development and conservation of natural resources

Within forestry, support is for example given to projects that aim to prevent forest fires, protect the soil against erosion or degradation, or to preserve the biodiversity and the landscape, shaped by agriculture and forestry. Support may also be given to farm holders who wish to renovate terrass systems and partitions between properties.

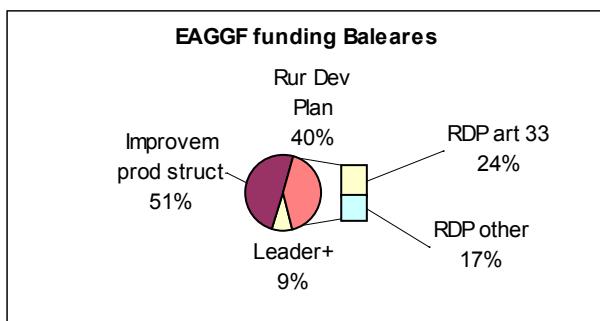
Restore agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters

In case of natural disaster, support may be given to restore public roads, to compensate farm holders for income foregone and to help them build up the damaged production infrastructure.

**Leader+**

More than 200.000 people live in the territory eligible for Leader. The activities are expected to help villages in rural areas to create conditions more similar to the ones in capitals and along the coasts. The strategy is to develop alternative tourism, encourage local products related to the environment and introduce new technologies as a mean to overcome the geographical isolation. The innovative character must be ensured, for example by linking sectors in the economy that are traditionally not linked, or by finding new ways to involve the local population.

3 LAG's



Note that:  
- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).  
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## The Basque Country

Surface:	7 234 km <sup>2</sup> (1,4 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	2 109 000 (292 inhabitants /km <sup>2</sup> )
	13 % arable land / cultivated land
Land use:	21 % meadows and pastures
	54 % wooded area
Most important products:	wine, wood, milk
Final agrarian production:	52 % agriculture, 25 % livestock farming, 21 % forestry
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	237 000 ha (€)
No of agricultural holdings:	22 700
Average size of holdings:	10,5 ha (Eurostat 1997)
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	85 %
Agric. area in mountain area:	80 %
Irrigation:	13 130 ha (near 6 % of UAA), of which 90 % by sprinkler system
Organic farming:	347 ha - 65 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	4,5 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	66 %
How many women among farm holders?	28 %
Forest fires:	173 fires, covering 870 ha every year (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	25 sites - 87367 ha (12 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	The hydro-geological unity of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Sector Oriental

Most of the population lives along the coast. The population in the Ebro basin is mainly gathered in villages surrounded by fields and vineyards. In the Pyrenees, there are more small caseríos, individual farms, with cultivations on small plots in the mountains.

The farming structure is dominated by small holdings of family character, and the production is varied. The wine production makes up 19% of the agrarian sector, followed by production of wood (18%) and milk (13% - this was historically the most important production in the Basque Country). Horticulture and cattle breeding are other important sectors.

There is a high number of small agricultural holdings facing difficulties in keeping up with technological and professional progress. The infrastructure is insufficient and rural areas loose inhabitants. The lack of territory is a limitation, and the agricultural sector and the growing urban and industrial society are competing about the available land.

On the other hand, the existing sectors have potential to develop further. The forest industry has a strong position, with production of quality wood for furniture. The companies within the agri-foodstuff sector are well aware of quality as competitive factor. The landscape attracts tourists to the rural areas, and this is another sector with potential to develop. There are already several products of quality label and/or designation of origin and a dynamic wine sector.

### **Rural Development Plan** (EAGGF Guarantee section)

The Basque Country has its own fiscal and legal system. It is not covered by the horizontal programmes, but includes the same measures in the regional development plan.

The aim is to achieve sustainable development and promote the many aspects of the rural world. The strategy is to consolidate the agrarian activities as being an important part of the socio-economic rural fabric, by raising professionalism and competitiveness, and steering the production towards the market (in particular the local quality products). Some of the expected results are a more environmental-friendly production, better services for the rural inhabitants and more women integrated in the rural economy.

Accompanying measures\*

Early retirement to farm holders of age 55-65 who wish to cease their activities; compensatory allowance to support farms in less favoured areas and areas with environmental restrictions; agri-environmental measures to encourage agricultural methods that are compatible with environmental protection and finally afforestation of agricultural land.

Improvement of production structures\*

Support is given to young farmers (up to the age of 40) who wish to start up agricultural activities, for investments in agricultural holdings and for management of water resources. The investment support aims to help farm holders to modernise the farm, reduce costs and improve the production technology and structure. Special attention is given within horticulture and flower growing.

\* Other Autonomous Communities cover these measures by the horizontal programmes (Navarre only participates in Management of water resources).

Processing and marketing of agricultural products

Support for investments to modernise and rationalise production and marketing, to steer the production towards the expected market, strengthen the production of quality products, etc. The support may also co-finance improvements in for example business management, quality systems and environmental control.

Forestry

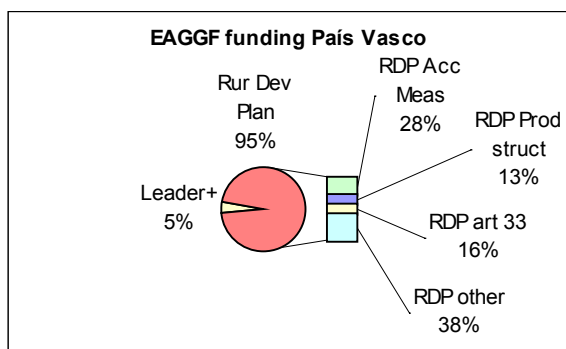
The forestry sector receives investment support to increase the added value of wood (in particular in small enterprises involved in the first transformation), to improve processing and marketing of forest products, etc. Reafforestation, restauration of deteriorated forest areas and creation of fire-breaks are other examples of improvements to maintain the ecological value of the forest areas.

The programme also aims to provide more basic services in rural areas, such as libraries, pharmacies, etc, and to create farm relief services. Training will contribute to increase the professional competence among farmers, livestock breeders and forest holders, and to encourage women's participation in rural activities. Reparcelling of farm land will improve working conditions and output for farmers, and support is also given to village renewal, diversification of agricultural activities and to encourage rural tourism and crafts.

**Leader+**

A long list of specific aims has been set up, in addition to the general objectives of Leader+: to make the information society as available in rural areas as in urban areas ; to create and maintain jobs linked to new technologies ; to search for co-operative working methods within the primary sector ; to elaborate new models for training and information ; to carry out co-operative projects between rural territories ; to reduce the obstacles caused by isolation.

3 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures and Improvement of Production structures are included in the Rural development plan.
- Water resources management, although being an art 33 measure, is here sorted under Improvement of production structures (together with investments and young farmers).

## Canary Islands

Surface:	7 447 km <sup>2</sup> (1,5 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	1 606 000 (216 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	7 % arable land
Land use:	9 % meadows and pastures
	15 % wooded area
Most important products:	Fruits, vegetables
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	143 000 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	15 100
Average size of holdings:	3,6 ha (smallest Spanish average)
Agric. area in Less Favoured area:	100 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	86 %
Irrigation:	29 000 ha, of which 65 % with local systems
Organic farming:	5 075 ha (of which 78 % for pastures, meadows and fodder)
	300 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	3 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	65 %
How many women among farm holders?	24 %
Final agrarian production:	76 % comes from agriculture (of which 80 % is for export)
Forest fires:	62 fires every year, covering more than 1 500 ha (average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	173 sites - 457200 ha (61 % of total surface)
National Parks:	32 771 ha : Teide (18 990 ha), Timanfaya (5 107 ha), Caldera de Taburiente (4 690 ha) and Garajonay (3 984 ha)
Nitrates Directive:	Vulnerable areas have been identified on Gran Canaria, La Palma, Tenerife and La Gomera (April 2000)

The main islands of this Autonomous Community, situated in the Atlantic Ocean, are Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, La Gomera, La Palma and El Hierro. The climate is subtropical, with warm temperatures that vary little over the seasons.

The agrarian activities on the islands are dominated by agriculture and are mainly based on cultivation of fruits and vegetables, of which some 80 % are exported. The possibilities to develop the agrarian sector are limited, due to the climate, the geographical location and the topography, with slopes that make it difficult to access and mechanize the holdings or to create bigger holdings. Many of the farms are small and family-run, often on a part-time basis.

With an increasing population, the pressure on land is high, especially in coastal and rural areas. Water resources are insufficient. It is important to guarantee the ecological diversity and avoid damage caused by human activities.

### *Ultra-peripheral region*

*The Canary Islands are recognised as an ultra-peripheral region, i.e. a region with disadvantages caused by its physical features, and not based on socio-economic criteria. Accessibility is a great problem for ultra-peripheral regions. The distance from the Canary Islands to the nearest point of the Iberian peninsula is 1 100 km (and only 115 km to the African continent).*

Being the linking point between three continents may also be an advantage in new business initiatives. The richness offered by nature in the archipelago has a big socio-economic value and is a true asset for the region. A high degree of young people in the population is another promising factor for future socioeconomic development.

## Operational programme (EAGGF Guidance section)

### Agri-foodstuff industry

Companies within the agri-foodstuff industry may receive support to improve product quality and marketing, with the aim to make agricultural products reach out better to the consumers. Other investments that may receive support are, for example, introduction of new technologies and modernisation of production methods, ecologically compatible. The programme aims to stimulate quality products protected by mark of origin or other geographical, protected indications. First priority among the beneficiaries are producers' groups and associations which work to maintain the yield and to increase the added value of their products.

### Forestry and environment

The programme intends to strengthen the threefold function of the forest sector: ecological, economical and social. This means to restore and protect forest areas and to arrange the infrastructure in such a way that it can be used for production (fire wood, timber etc), while still conserving the natural values and balances. Maintenance of forest areas and their use for recreation and production offer job opportunities, which contributes to stabilise the situation for the population and improve the conditions for a sustainable development. Works will also be carried out to prevent forest fires, improve forest roads and improve the silvicultural system.

### Agriculture and rural development

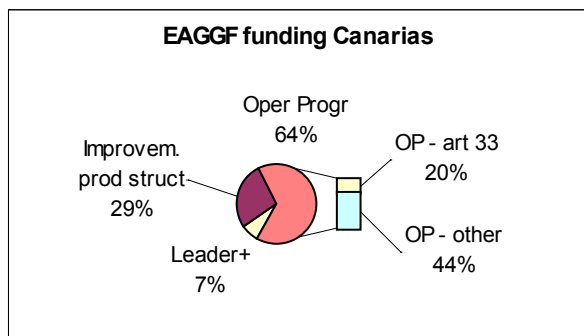
With a better use of the existing local resources, the rural economy will be reinforced, offer more job opportunities and increased social well-being. Some of the means to achieve this is by giving support to help farmers to re-orient the production, to improve the product quality as well as hygiene and animal welfare, to improve the management of their farms and learn how to better meet the market needs. The programme encourages the creation of producers' associations. One of their tasks could be for example to supervise the use of mark of origin and quality marks in agricultural products.

## Leader+

One Local Action Groups will be selected from each of the seven islands. Environmental issues are central in the archipelago. It is therefore important to assess carefully the economic processes and the interaction between human activities and natural environment on the islands. For a successful adaptation, the solutions must come from the rural world itself.

7 LAG's

*An example from Leader II : Thanks to the introduction of a simple water saving device for households and awareness raising activities, the private water consumption was reduced as a means to deal with the scarce resources.*



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Cantabria

Surface:	5 231 km <sup>2</sup> (1 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	530 000 (101 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	3 % arable land
Land use:	27 % meadows and pastures
	52 % wooded area
Most important products:	Milk and dairy products
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	159 000 ha (?)
No of agricultural holdings:	16 400
Average size of holdings:	13 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	78 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	78 %
Irrigation:	is of minor importance: 2 600 ha (of which 89 % with sprinkler system)
Organic farming:	842 ha - 62 producers and processors
farm holders younger than 35 years:	9 %
farm holders older than 55 years:	52 %
How many women among farm holders?	36 %
Final agrarian production:	livestock farming represents 88 %
Forest fires:	yearly average 1991-99: 333 fires, covering 3 800 ha
Natura 2000:	18 sites - 118 700 ha (23 % of total surface)
National Parks:	Part of Picos de Europa, 15 200 ha (total area is 64.660 ha, located also in Castile-Leon and Asturias)
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas)

It is said that the name Cantabria derives from the Celtic, and means “people of the mountain”. And it is a mountainous region, located along the northern Atlantic coast. The population is concentrated along the coastal areas.

Livestock farming represents almost 90 % of the regional agrarian product and milk production plays an important role. With a high degree of family farms, run on part-time, the trend is to concentrate more and more on this activity, rather than starting up new ones. A big part of these products are processed outside of Cantabria. It is therefore important to broaden the production systems in the region. The average age among workers in the agricultural sector is high.

The process of implementing modern techniques in production and management is advancing slowly in the agrarian sector. It is also difficult for companies to meet the higher competition with the development of the European market.

Nevertheless, the rich natural heritage offers an important potential for development of economic activities based on leisure and tourism of different kinds (green, hunting, sportive, etc). Women are getting more involved in the labour market. Forestry and environment are areas in which new activities could develop, involving more women and young people (groups with a particularly high degree of unemployment). Cantabria could turn into a model region in terms of environmental management and thereby attract new investments.

## Operational Programme (EAGGF Guidance section)

Cantabria is in phase of transition from objective 1.

### Agriculture and rural development

Farmers' working conditions and yields depend on the infrastructure, and the focus is set to improve public services, rural roads and irrigation systems on the farms, and to carry out reparcelling to reduce the high number of small plots. Investment support will contribute to improve hygiene and quality, facilitate for agrarian products to reach out on the markets, modernise the production methods with new technology and make production more environmental-friendly. The starting up of new activities will add new income sources to the rural economy and create new jobs. In this context, the natural resources offer many possibilities, such as tourism. Special attention is also given to the local population, in particular young people linked to the agrarian sector, and to women.

### Forestry and environment

Works will be carried out in forest areas, such as prevention of forest fires, reforestation and cultivation of quality plants. The programme also plans to set up groups of forest owners to coordinate preventive work. Support is given to improve and increase natural areas, maintain the biodiversity, protect endangered species, improve river flows, disseminate the code of good agricultural practice, etc.

### Agri-foodstuff industry

The programme also addresses the structural problems in the food industry. Investment support is given to rationalise the processing methods, to improve quality and quality control of the products. The support will help the food industry companies and the marketing chain to get more competitive and to increase the added value of the products.

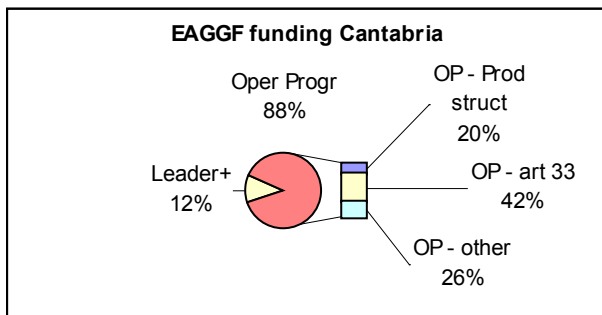
### Young farmers

Installation allowance will help young farmers who are willing to take over a farm to get started. This is expected to somewhat reduce the average age among farm holders and ensure that young people enter into the sector.

## Leader+

The two Local Action Groups will in the first hand support projects which help women and young people getting involved in the local economy. Use of new technology will be essential for the success of the projects, as well as their innovative and transferable character. Some 54.000 people live in the area eligible for Leader+.

2 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is here sorted under Improvement of production structure (together with investments and young farmers)



## Castile-la Mancha

Surface:	79 461 km <sup>2</sup> (16 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	1 712 000 (22 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> , the less densely populated in Spain) 51 % arable land
Land use:	9 % meadows and pastures 24 % wooded area
Most important products:	Cereals, vineyards, vegetables, olives
Final agrarian production:	54 % agriculture - 37 % livestock farming
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	4 748 000 ha
No. of agricultural holdings:	133 300
Average size of holdings:	32 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	87 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	25 %
Irrigation:	354 000 ha (7 % of UAA), of which 55 % with sprinkler system
Organic farming:	7 632 ha (almost half of which for cereals/grains) 189 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	6 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	61 %
How many women among farm holders?	17 %
Forest fires:	540 fires, covering 8 100 hectares (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	66 sites - 1 166 800 ha (15 % of total surface)
National Parks:	41 234 ha in total: Cabañeros (39 306 ha) and Tablas de Daimiel (1 928 ha)
Nitrates Directive:	Vulnerable areas in Mancha Occidental (6 953 km <sup>2</sup> , 32 townships) and Campo de Montiel (3 192 km <sup>2</sup> , 17 townships)

Castile-la Mancha has a geographical key position in the center of the country, in north-south and east-west directions. Two big rivers pass through the region, Tajo and Guadiana. Rain is scarce and unequally distributed over time.

Almost a third of the farmable land is used for cereals, which is the base of the agricultural production. Olive grove and vineyards are also of importance. There is also livestock farming with production of meat from sheep and cattle. The agri-foodstuff industry plays an important economic role (representing 27 % of the regional industrial production).

The primary sector is struggling with a series of structural difficulties, such as insufficient water resources, small dimension of the farms and an ageing farm population. Vast rural areas are being abandoned. The added value in the production chain is low, the professional training for farmers is insufficient, and so are the research and development (R&D) activities in the agrarian sector.

*Hunting is important and represents:*

- 23 % of the national total for big game and 11 % for small game (no. of animals).
- 15 % of the national economic value of hunting.

*The hunting sector offers job opportunities and has a big socio-economic influence in the region.*

Nevertheless, the natural and cultural heritage offer possibilities to develop rural tourism. The strategic position of the region is another important factor in the further development.

## Operational programme (EAGGF Guidance section)

### Agri-foodstuff industry

Within the food industry sector, investment support is given for improvements in the production chain, ranging from processing, packaging and marketing, over to the search for new ways to use by-products or facilitate the elimination of waste products. Support is also given to improve the sanitary conditions and the protection of the environment.

### Forestry and environment

The programme supports projects that aim to protect and re-establish the balance between water, soil and vegetation and restore the hydrological cycle in forest areas. Works on the infrastructure and preventive treatments are expected to reduce the number of forest fires. Other activities aim to control forest pests and diseases and to improve the cover vegetation. The forestry sector has potential to contribute to a diversification of the economy and serve as a complementary income source. The wild flora and fauna is conserved by a series of environmental measures, and the programme also supports the creation of a regional network of protected areas.

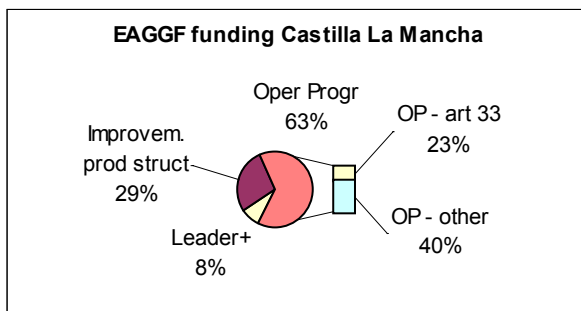
### Agriculture and rural development

Investments in technology and machines, use of new technologies or a switch to new types of cultivation are some of the ways to help farmers get a better position in the competition. Other measures focus on professional training for farmers and stockbreeders and increased co-operation in associations and professional groupings. The programme gives support to enable farmers to keep native breeds and cultivations, and includes measures for conservation and selection of breeds. Building of public rural roads, and other improvements of infrastructure will improve living conditions and help fix the population in rural areas.

## Leader+

Some 1.2 million inhabitants live in the areas eligible for Leader+. The Local Action Groups will support local innovative projects in 28 rural zones over the region, all facing the similar problems, such as ageing population, low birth rates, high degree of inactivity, many women not yet incorporated in the labour market and a need for more education.

13 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Castile-Leon

Surface:	94 244 km <sup>2</sup> (19 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	2 508 000 (27 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	40 % arable land
Land use:	17 % meadows and pastures
	25 % wooded area
Most important products:	Cereals, sunflower, meat (sheep, cattle)
UUA (utilised agricultural area):	5 510 000 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	117 500
Average size of holdings:	40 ha (biggest average for Spain)
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	96 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	25 %
Irrigation:	486 700 ha (9 % of UAA), of which 61 % with gravity
Organic farming:	43 245 ha (of which 95 % in pastures, meadows and fodder)
	207 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	9 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	55 %
How many women among farm holders?	18 %
Forest fires:	1 850 fires every year, covering almost 30 400 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	44 sites - 1 201 700 ha (13 % of total surface)
National Parks:	Part of Picos de Europa, x ha, is located in Castile-Leon (remaining part of the total 64660 is located in Cantabria and Asturias)
Nitrates Directive:	Five vulnerable areas were declared vulnerable in 1998, all situated in the province of Segovia.

Castile-Leon is the largest of the Spanish regions (and one of the largest regions at European level). A big part of the territory is made up of a platform surrounded by mountain ranges in the north, east and south. Winters are normally long and cold, summers are short and hot, with little rain.

The agricultural sector is highly specialised in cereals and industrial cultivation, such as sunflowers and beetroots. Livestock farming is concentrated on meat production, especially sheep and cattle. The farms are generally big, but there is also a high number of small farms.

Low rentability results in abandonment of agricultural activities. Rural areas loose inhabitants, and the depopulation leads to degradation of the forests. Other problems are erosion, and irrigation systems that have become out of date.

Nevertheless, the location and the size of the region is an asset, and so are the cultural and natural resources, with a big diversity of habitats of flora and fauna in most parts of the region. Other strenghts are an expanding food industry and the possibilities to sell in other markets. There is also a potential to develop alternative tourism in the rural areas. In the forest sector, production of other products than wood can be developped, for example chestnuts, pine-nuts, mushrooms and resin. There is also potential to improve and increase forest areas in the region.

## Operational Programme (EAGGF Guidance section)

### Agri-foodstuff industry

Companies in the agri-foodstuff industry may get support to steer the production towards the needs of the market and facilitate for new products to reach out to the consumers. Support may be used to improve processing methods, or the presentation and marketing of the products. The programme will also contribute to innovative investments, implementation of new technologies, better quality and quality control, and improved sanitary conditions.

### Forestry and environment

Active prevention of forest fires and improvement of forest areas are some of the planned activities. To increase not only the ecological but also the economic and social value of the forest, support is given for investments that aim to increase the outcome of forest products, by improving harvest and processing methods, and marketing of the final products. The environmental measures focus on restoration and preservation of habitats of interest and aim to strengthen the network of protected natural spaces (Red de Espacios Naturales Protegidos). The programme will also work on protection of the existing population of animals.

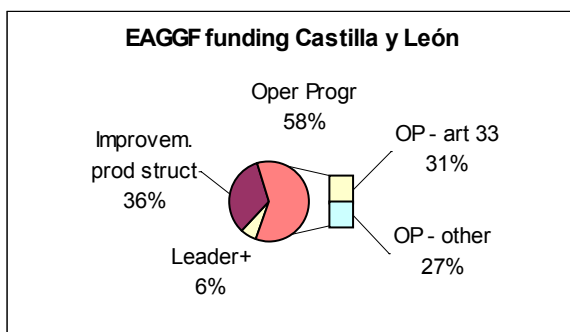
### Agriculture and rural development

The programme allows farmers to make investments to modernise and rationalise their holdings. Some examples are reparcelling of land to improve the structure of the farms, support to help farmers switch to new types of cultivations, to improve the quality of raw cow's milk, etc. The programme aims to improve the services offered to farms as well as the marketing of quality agricultural products. The programme supports farmers in areas where, despite preventive work, the production is damaged or reduced due to very extreme climate conditions or natural disasters, such as drought or floodings. In addition, money is given to village development projects, selected by local action groups, with representatives from public and private sector. Focus is here on local products and resources, ranging from local food and craft to landscape and architecture. The aim is to build up sustainable economic activities around the existing local resources and to involve the local population.

## Leader+

The area eligible for Leader+ has some 500.000 inhabitants. As a complement to the regional policies, Leader+ aims to keep the population in rural areas and encourage new residents to move in. The programme encourages especially women and young people to get more involved in the rural society, to create and find new job opportunities, participate more in professional organisations and networks and reinforce their educational level.

17 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Catalonia

Surface:	32 113 km <sup>2</sup> (6 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	6 116 000 (190 inhabitants /km <sup>2</sup> )
	29 % arable land
Land use:	8 % meadows and pastures
	44 % wooded area
Most important products:	meat (mainly pig meat), wine, oil, vegetables and fruits
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	1 102 000 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	71 100
Average size of holdings:	15,5 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	55 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	38 %
Irrigation:	264 800 ha (near $\frac{1}{4}$ of UAA), of which 69 % with gravity
Organic farming:	9 570 ha (of which 35 % in woodland and forestry crops)
	422 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	6 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	57 %
How many women among farm holders?	17 %
Final agrarian production:	64 % comes from livestock farming, 1 % from forestry
Forest fires:	760 fires every year, on 13 800 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	62 sites - 618 690 ha (19 % of total surface)
National Parks:	Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici, 14 119 ha
Nitrates Directive:	Six vulnerable zones identified (370 000 ha) - five of these are in areas of concentrated stockbreeding - code of good farming practice is obligatory in these areas

Most parts of Catalonia have a Mediterranean climate, with hot and dry summers, and mild winters, with some rain.

The agrarian sector is dominated by intensive stockbreeding, mainly pigs. Other important sectors are wine, oil, vegetables and fruit. The food industry is important, and there is a close link between the agricultural production and the agro-industry.

In areas with irregular rain, the production is unstable, and there is risk of depopulation. The intensive livestock farming is important, but industrial farming has also caused some environmental problems, such as erosion and pollution. Smaller food industry companies in the sector may have difficulties competing and surviving in an internationalised market. Cooperatives and producers' associations are not sufficiently developed.

The agricultural production is varied and there is a high number of quality products (DOP, IGP etc). The agri-foodstuff industry has a strong position. A good use of water resources contributes to a stabilized production in semi-arid areas. In mountain areas, tourism and leisure activities are increasing, and there is a potential to further develop the food industry in these areas. Young farmers and women are getting more involved in the rural economy. The production is modernised (use of machines, genetical improvements, etc).

### **Regional Development Plan (EAGGF Guarantee section)**

The main objectives of this programme are to adapt the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors to the market conditions, to improve the competitiveness in the rural world, to maintain and improve the environment and encourage sustainable forest management.

Production structure in the agricultural holdings

Drainage infrastructure in areas with erosion problems will help preserve the soil quality. Other measures to improve the production structure are reparcelling of land, replacement and management support services and support for joint purchase of machinery.

Production structure and marketing within the agri-foodstuff industry

Support for investments to improve processing and marketing and make the agrarian products more competitive. The programme aims to steer the production towards the market, and to achieve better preparation, presentation and marketing channels of the products, more use of new technologies, improved quality control and more environmental protection. Support is also given to improve marketing of quality products or products from organic farming.

Human resources

Training is offered to strengthen the professional competence among farmers and others involved in agricultural activities. The training also aims to reinforce the integration of women into economic activities in the rural world.

Rural infrastructure and services

Investment support is given to improve the basic infrastructure (electricity, drinking water, etc) and increase the use of new technology. Creation of basic services will facilitate for women to get access to the labour market. Environmental improvements and conservation of the cultural and architectural heritage will contribute to increase quality of life in rural areas.

Rural economy and diversification of activities

The programme supports creation of alternative income sources, for example development of tourism and craft, as well as business support, communication services, support to micro-enterprises in the forestry sector, etc. These measures are expected to support the rural economy and facilitate for women and young people to integrate into the labour market.

Forest resources

A series of measures will support a sustainable development of forest areas. Some examples are to protect and improve forest areas, prevent forest fires, support forest owner associations and preserve fauna of high interest in the Pyrenees and pre-Pyrenees. Support is also given to increase the output, processing and marketing of forestry products.

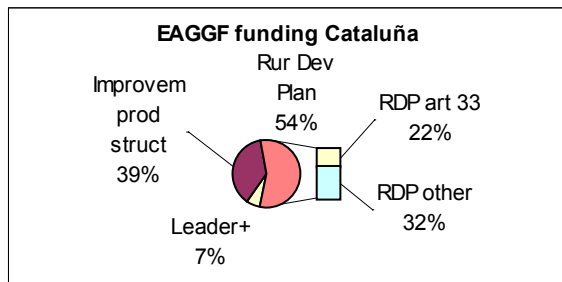
Natural environment

Environmental-protection measures and investments will ensure conservation of natural habitats, and hydrological works in forest areas will help protect the soil and fight erosion.

**Leader+**

The eligible area covers most of the mountain areas and less favoured areas, and a population of more than 500.000 people. A broad participation of the local players is expected. The rural development strategies should, among other things, promote the area by emphasising the local character and provide equal opportunities for women and men and young people.

12 LAG's



Note that:  
- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).  
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Extremadura

Surface:	41 634 km <sup>2</sup> (8 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	1 070 000 (26 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	32 % arable land
Land use:	22 % meadows and pastures
	38 % wooded area
Most important products:	meat, cereals, fruit
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	2 223 000 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	68 400
Average size of holdings:	39 ha (3rd biggest average in Spain)
Agric. area in Less Fav oured Area:	91 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	9 %
Irrigation:	210 500 ha (9 % of UAA), of which 69 % with gravity
Organic farming:	167 800 ha (of which 62 % in pastures/meadows/fodder)
	6 757 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	5 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	62 %
How many women among farm holders?	20 %
Forest fires:	920 fires every year, on nearly 9 400 ha (average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	59 sites - 661 450 ha (16 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas defined)

The continental climate of the central plateau extends into Extremadura but is somewhat modified by Atlantic Ocean influences, which travel up the Tagus River valley. Extremadura is one of the less densely populated regions in Spain, with an average of 26 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>.

Extremadura is a region with generally big agricultural holdings, although there are also a high number of small holdings. The agrarian production consists of cereals, fruit and meat from sheep, cattle and pig of Iberian origin. The industry of agricultural food products plays an important role in the region's activities. Many of the enterprises are small, family-run and of non-industrial character.

Infrastructure and social services for the inhabitants are insufficiently developed, which is one of the reasons the population is not evenly distributed over the territory. Agriculture and livestock farming are not sufficiently modernised and are not fully exploited.

Some of the strenghts are the existing production of agricultural products of recognised quality and the available raw materials to add new products with designation of origen (for example Iberian pig, lamb, cheese, wine, honey). The varied landscape and the cultural resources offer possibilities to build up tourism centred on agrarian activities, hunting or sports.

*Organic farming  
In 1999, almost half of the agricultural land used for organic farming in Spain was located in Extremadura. Some 168000 ha has been converted to organic farming, of which more than 60 % is used for pastures, meadows and fodder.*

### **Operational programme (EAGGF Guidance section)**

#### Agri-foodstuff industry

The programme will help the agri-foodstuff industry to modernise and rationalise the production. Priority is given to those products for which Extremadura has a strong position in the competition, such as olives, olive oil, wines, fruits, fresh vegetables, goat or sheep milk,

beef and meat from sheep and Iberian pig. Priority is also given to projects run by associations in the agrarian sector and to small and medium sized enterprises (SME).

Forestry and environment

In addition to its environmental values, the forest sector has an important socio-economic role to play in rural areas. A continued income in forestry may prevent people from moving to urban areas. To maintain forest areas in good condition, works will be carried out to prevent erosion, desertification and forest fires, to conserve areas of ecological value, for example sites included in the Natura 2000 network. Support is also given to ensure balance in the wildlife population.

*Cattle roads*  
 There are 7000 km of cattle roads in Extremadura. They have been used to bring the animals from summer pastures in the mountaneous areas in the north to winter pastures in the plains in the south. More of the cattle roads will be marked out again, and alternative possible uses will be exploited. An historical archive will be created, where institutions and associations that are interested will have access to documentation. At the end of the period, a publication will describe the state of the regional network of cattle roads.

Agriculture and rural development

The infrastructure will be improved, by works on public rural roads and redistribution of farm land to improve the dimension of the agricultural holdings. Farms in the sectors of fruit, horticulture and woody crops (important parts of the agrarian economy) may receive investment support. The programme also encourages initiatives to start up new activities or to help farm holders to reduce costs, improve environmental protection, reduce the use of energy and water and improve the sanitary conditions and the animal welfare. The programme aims to strenghten extensive livestock farming, still preserving the ecological system surrounding it. The programme encourages farmers to get organised in associations and to share the use of machinery and equipment.

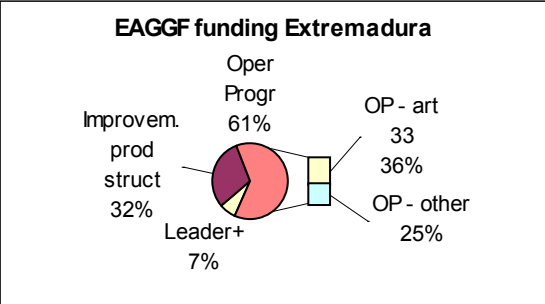
**Leader+**

The population in the elgibile areas amount to some 800.000. The final aim of the Leader + programme is to avoid depopulation of rural areas, guarantee sustainable landscape and natural resources, and achieve the

10 LAG's

*Leader II, an example how transnational co-operation can boost border areas:  
 LAGs in Extremadura and on the Portuguese side created a network, to set up of a joint annual fare, a statistical database for players involved in rural development, joint thematic working groups for the agricultural sector and SMEs, etc. It started in 1994, and over the years, a common area identity emerged among the inhabitants, and transnational co-operation has increased. both in nprivate and nublic sector.*

feeling that local culture and heritage belongs to and includes the whole society. The projects are expected to have an impact on, among other things, living conditions, evolution of work and income, equality between men and women, agrarian production, quality and competition, environmental and forest resources.



Note that:  
 - Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).  
 - Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.



## Galicia

Surface:	29 575 km <sup>2</sup> (6 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	2 807 000 (95 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	13 % arable land
Land use:	15 % meadows and pastures
	62 % wooded area
Important products:	milk, wood
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	900 000 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	114 800
Average size of holdings:	5 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	18 %
Agric. area in Mountain area:	32 %
Irrigation:	85 500 ha (near 10 % of UAA), of which 64 % by gravity
Organic farming:	181 ha - 83 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	4 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	66 %
How many women among farm holders?	40 % (2 <sup>nd</sup> highest rate in Spain)
Forest fires:	some 10 000 fires every year, covering 22 800 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	53 sites - 324 850 ha (11 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas defined)

Galicia has a mild ocean climate and generous rainfalls. The landscape is characterised by hills, and half of the territory is at an altitude of 200 to 600 meter and a third is higher. The mountains in the east have contributed to a certain isolation of the region from the rest of the country.

Milk production is important in Galicia and is mainly carried out on small farms. The wood sector is also important, producing 45 % of all Spanish wood. This sector offers a number of side activities and has a potential to grow further.

There is a limited tradition of co-operation in the agrarian sector and distribution channels are not sufficiently developed. Farmers and food producers may have difficulties competing in an increasingly international market. Especially young people tend to leave the rural areas, and there is a big need to provide more social services for the rural inhabitants.

Nevertheless, recent experiences of economic growth has contributed to a good social and economic business climate. There is a potential to improve and find new directions within agriculture, livestock farming and forestry, by raised quality and increased export. Cultural similarities with neighbouring Northern Portugal opens up a broader market for Galician products. The abundance of natural resources and the well preserved landscape offer a good potential for tourism as well as production.

### **Operational Programme (EAGGF Guidance section)**

#### Agri-foodstuff industry

Companies in the agri-foodstuff industry may receive investment support to restructure and modernise. This will help the companies to, among other things, reduce the production costs, diversify the production, adapt to existing quality certificates, improve the marketing of products that are not widely used or known, or make the production more environmental-

friendly. The programme encourages co-operation among food industry companies and also gives support to agrarian associations.

Forestry and environment

Financial aid is given for works to protect, improve and increase forest areas, private as well as public. Private forest owners may receive support to organise themselves in associations. The programme will enable the public forest sector to improve the infrastructure, elaborate genetic improvement programmes within forestry and set up nursery gardens. Training, awareness rising activities and creation of more fire-breaks are expected to reduce the forest fires. In mountain forests, works are planned to plant cover vegetation and carry out hydrotechnical works to reduce the risk of floodings.

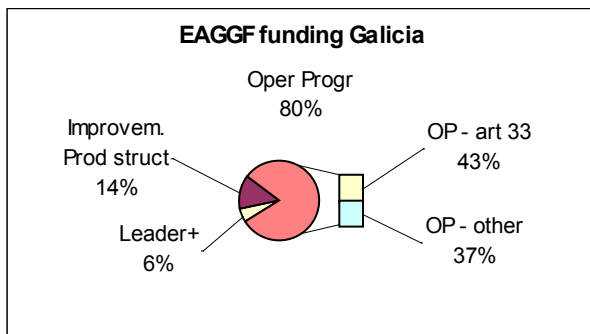
Agriculture and rural development

The programme enables reparcelling of farm land to rationalise its use, improvement of rural roads and more socio-cultural services for the rural inhabitants. Training is provided in order to reinforce the professional skills, in particular with a view to encourage young people to take over family farms and in general to contribute to a more stable employment situation among farm workers. The programme supports investments to make the production within agriculture and livestock farming more efficient and environmental-friendly and more adapted to the market needs. By building on the local heritage, a range of activities can emerge to bring alternative incomes within tourism, craft works and in the service sector. In this context, agrarian products can be given a new value.

**Leader+**

The Leader+ territory in Galicia have a population of 1.9 million people. Leader+ will contribute to create jobs also outside of the agrarian sector, to strenghten the rural economy and facilitate for people to stay in rural areas.

40 LAG's



Note that:

- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## La Rioja

Surface:	5 045 km <sup>2</sup> (1 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	268 000 (53 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	31 % arable land
Land use:	24 % meadows and pastures
	27 % wooded area
Most important products:	wine, vegetables - food industry is important
Final agrarian production:	78 % agriculture, 20 % livestock farming, 2 % forestry
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	225 090 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	14 600
Average size of holdings:	15 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	42 %
Agric. area in mountain area:	42 %
Irrigation:	49 350 ha, of which 66 % by gravity
Organic farming:	1 342 ha - 79 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	7 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	57 %
How many women among farm holders?	9 % (lowest rate in Spain)
Forest fires:	100 fires every year, on 270 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	6 sites - 166 520 ha (33 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas defined)

The climate in La Rioja is best described as continental, with some Atlantic influence. Most rain falls in the northwestern part of the region. The population is mainly centred along the Ebro river with its irrigated farmland.

Agriculture dominates the agrarian sector. Almost half of the cultivations are vineyards, followed by cultivations of vegetables (almost a third). There is also production of meat from cattle, pigs and poultry. The food industry is one of the most important industrial activities in La Rioja, and is well spread over the region.

The farming population is ageing and women's participation is very low. The sector is dominated by small holdings, with the farm land divided into small land plots. The work is often carried out on a parttime basis. Production costs are high and the production is limited, especially in mountain areas. Water resources are unequally distributed and the irrigation infrastructure is deteriorating.

*Some 9 % of the farm holders are women, which is less than in any other of the autonomous communities. The rural development plan aims to have raised this figure to 14 % by the year 2006.*

The strength of the agricultural sector is that it is productive, mechanised and turned towards the market. The vineyards present a very profitable sector, as well as the orchards. There is a well-rooted tradition of livestock farming in the mountains. The food industry holds an important position in the region, and there are many possibilities to develop a competitive agri-foodstuff model. There is also an important forest area, and the natural areas present a rich biological diversity, giving potential for development of green tourism. Fire prevention and extinction is working efficiently.

### **Rural Development plan** (EAGGF Guarantee section)

The programme aims to maintain the population in the rural areas, achieve economic growth and improve the living conditions. It aims to reduce erosion and increase the forest areas. The

programme is expected to help especially women to find new job opportunities. The measures are grouped in four priority areas:

Agricultural structures and production systems

Examples of concrete activities are to make the working conditions better for arable and livestock farmers, by setting up farm relief services and provide training programmes adapted to the local and regional conditions. Farmers are encouraged to find new income sources. This is especially important in mountain areas, where mountain products and handicrafts can play an important role, and there is a potential to develop green tourism.

Agricultural infrastructures

This priority intends to increase the size of the agricultural holdings to make them more viable. It also covers works to improve the rural road infrastructure, both in view of facilitating the agricultural activities and improving the communication between rural centres. Support is also given to tidy up fields to increase their ecological value and ensure a sound balance between plant cover, soil and cattle.

Processing and marketing of agricultural products

Support is offered to guide the food industry sector towards quality production and to better reach out to the customers. A series of issues are addressed and supported, such as quality and health conditions, marketing channels, distribution networks and the importance of agricultural associations. The programme promotes closer links between the producers and the food industry.

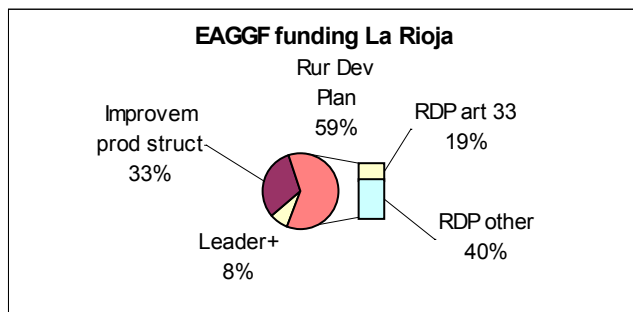
Environment and natural resources

Support is given for management of forestry resources, for instance to prevent forest fires, and to protect natural spaces. Afforestation will continue, not only in view of increasing the forest area, but also to create a diversified forest environment that takes into account the multifunctional nature of the forest and its social importance. Education activities and other necessary support will be offered to the population living in or near protected natural areas.

**Leader+**

The projects selected by the Local Action Groups are expected to promote the cultural heritage, to increase the use of new technologies in social and economic activities in rural areas, and to bring new ideas and initiatives into the production of traditional and local products. Further, Leader + encourages initiatives to start up additional services for the inhabitants, to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

3 LAG's



Note that:  
- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).  
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Madrid

Surface:	8 028 km <sup>2</sup> (2 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	5 030 000 (626 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> , but can be less than 10 in mountain areas)
Land use:	29 % arable / cultivated land 17 % meadows and pastures 24 % wooded area
Most important products:	poultry, wine, oil, fruits, vegetables
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	302 800 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	11 900
Average size of holdings:	25 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	22 %
Agric. area in mountain area:	21 %
Irrigation:	28 000 ha (9 % of UAA), of which 86 % by gravity
Organic farming:	1 303 ha - 60 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	4 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	68 %
How many women among farm holders?	18 %
Forest fires:	209 fires every year, covering 867 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	7 sites - 320 044 ha (40 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas defined)

The autonomous community of Madrid is situated in the very heart of the Iberian peninsula.

Poultry farming is intensive and well developed in Madrid, and there is also an important production of wine, oil, fruits and vegetables.

Small dimension of the farms, difficult farming conditions in mountain areas, insufficient infrastructure and insufficient diversification are some of the reasons behind the low agrarian production and profit in some areas. Consequently, the farmers have limited possibilities to finance a necessary modernisation and to keep up with competition. The ecosystems change due to abandonment of livestock-farming.

There are also areas with favorable climate conditions and farmland under irrigation, where yields are higher. New technologies are used and there are innovative agricultural projects, especially in those areas covered by the Community initiative Leader. Other strong sides in the agrarian sector are the production of quality products and an increasing co-operative functioning of agricultural services. Rural tourism has potential for further growth and could build on the agro-pastoral heritage, where old livestock trails, formerly used to move cattle from pasture to pasture, now may be used for recreational tourism.

### **Regional Development Plan (EAGGF Guarantee section)**

The programme is expected to have a socio-economic impact in rural areas, bringing diversification of the economic activities and improvements in terms of, income, quality of life, population trend, human resources, structure of the agri-foodstuff industry, organisation of services and of the forestry sector. The measures are grouped in four priority areas:

Rural infrastructures

Reparcelling, better basic services for the rural population and improved infrastructure in the agricultural sector will improve the working and living conditions in rural areas, to the benefit of farmers and their families.

Economic diversification and more dynamism in rural areas

Farmers may receive support to develop tourism and craft activities connected to agriculture and to carry out activities to protect and preserve the rural heritage. Support is also given to improve farm relief services and to rationalise the production methods. The programme aims to reinforce the links between the rural and urban worlds and to integrate rural women in the economy.

Processing and marketing of agricultural products

Some of the problems to overcome within the agri-foodstuff industry are the small economy of scale, the lack of training and the insufficient financial means to undertake studies and get launched on the market. The programme offers financial aid for technological innovations in production methods, control and management, and encourages new products and raised quality. New technology will also help reduce pollution. It is especially important to support investments in the areas suffering the most from depopulation.

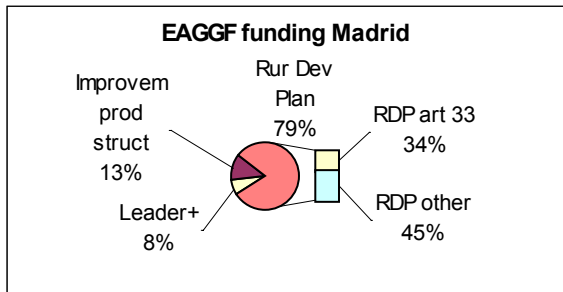
Forestry, environment and natural resources

The programme will contribute to improvements in management of resources, natural sites and waste. Further, support is given for improvement of soil, afforestation and protection against forest fires. Training on environmental issues will be organized.

**Leader+**

The Local Action Groups will be selected in the areas of La Campiña, Las Vegas, Lozoya-Somosierra and Sudoccidental. The eligible Leader+ territory has a population of some 190.000 people. The priority initiatives are those that help young people to get access to the labour market, and that aim to achieve equal opportunities for women and men.

4 LAG's



Note that:  
- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).  
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## Murcia

Surface:	11 314 km <sup>2</sup> (2 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	1 097 000 (97 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	38 % arable land
Land use:	17 % meadows and pastures
	24 % wooded area
Most important products:	Fruits and vegetables
Final agrarian production:	74 % agriculture (in 1995, fruits and vegetables alone represented 63 % of the final agrarian production) - 24 % livestock farming - 2 % other
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	621 000 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	47 400
Average size of holdings:	10,6 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	70 %
Agric. area in mountain area:	31 %
Irrigation:	192 700 ha (31 % of UAA), of which 60 % by gravity, 37 % by local systems
Organic farming:	8 406 ha (of which 38 % in vineyards)
	340 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	6 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	54 %
How many women among farm holders?	27 %
Forest fires:	127 fires every year, on 3 224 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	37 sites - 142 111 ha (12 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas defined)

Murcia is situated along the Mediterranean coast. The climate is warm, with temperatures that vary little over the seasons. It is a dry region with very little rain (less than 50 mm/year in average, which is lowest national and not even a fifth of the national average).

Fruit and vegetables are the main agricultural products. Irrigation of farmland is necessary for a profitable outcome, and the insufficient water resources is a serious constriction. The outcome of the irrigated cultivations is in its turn important for the agri-foodstuff industry, which is also an export sector. Farms are abandoned due to salinisation and the higher costs incurred to restore the environmental balance.

Thanks to the geographical location, the natural resources and the climate, agriculture and food industry have potential to grow and thereby trigger other sectors in the region. The well developed agriculture with irrigation is one of the biggest potentials, well adapted to the market and technically advanced, with good export opportunities. With new technology and innovative methods, traditional agriculture and agri-foodstuff industry may come to play a main role in the development of the region.

### **Operational Programme (EAGGF Guidance section)**

#### Agri-foodstuff industry

Support for modernisation will make the food industry more competitive and more environmental-friendly. The aim is to help the companies to steer the production towards the market needs and to encourage the opening of new markets for agricultural products. The support covers all steps of the production chain, from the processing procedures – taking into

account also quality issues, sanitary conditions and environmental impact - to how the products are finally presented on the market. The impact in the region will be more job opportunities, a strengthened production structure, added value to the local agricultural products and more competitive companies.

Forestry and environment

Some measures aim to maintain the biodiversity and protect endangered species. Activities and programmes will be designed to combine the public use of natural areas for recreation and education on the one hand, and their conservation and protection on the other hand. Within forestry, priority is given to the areas most affected by (or at risk for) erosion and areas with woodlands in need of better maintenance and conservation. The works will consist of reforestation, hydrological improvements and other forestry measures.

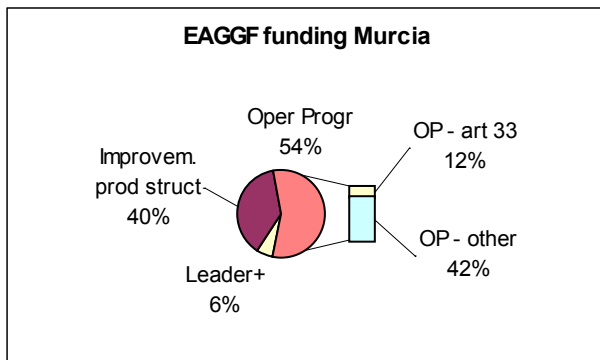
Agriculture and rural development

Communications are essential and rural roads will be improved for better access to agricultural holdings and country houses. Product quality and food safety are other issues addressed by the programme, and in this context, support is given to start-up or run organisations that work with quality issues, designation of origin, quality labels, etc.

**Leader+**

The rural areas eligible for Leader+ represent 70 % of the territory, and 25 % of the population. Expected outcomes are for example increased use of new technologies to make products and services more competitive; a wider offer of training opportunities (professional, within new technologies, development or business matters...); improved services and cultural infrastructure for the inhabitants; more joint activities among small producers; activities related to the natural environment (use of renewable energy, green tourism, landscape conservation, environmental training...) etc.

4 LAG's



Note that:  
- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).  
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.



## Navarre

Surface:	10 391 km <sup>2</sup> (2 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	523 000 (50 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	34 % arable land
Land use:	25 % meadows and pastures
	30 % wooded area
Most important products:	cereals, fruit and vegetables, wine, fruit, beef and dairy products
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	582 400 ha
No of agricultural holdings:	23 800
Average size of holdings:	24 ha
Agric area in Less Favoured Area:	66 %
Agric. area in mountain area:	35 %
Irrigation:	81 700 ha (appr. 14 % of UAA), of which 89 % by gravity
Organic farming:	6 793 ha (of which 50 % for pastures/meadows/fodder)
	208 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	6 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	61 %
How many women among farm holders?	14 %
Forest fires:	103 fires every year, covering 636 ha (yearly average 1991-99)
Natura 2000:	42 sites - 242 659 ha (23 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	(no vulnerable areas defined)

The Autonomous Community of Navarre is situated in the north of the Iberian peninsula. The northern half of the region is dominated by the Pyrenees mountain range.

The population density is low, the number of inhabitants is decreasing, while the average age is rising. The agricultural sector is diminishing. Some of the difficulties in the sector are the small dimension of many farms, insufficient infrastructure for water supply and lack of professional training and of new machinery. Inadequate ownership distribution is another obstacle (most of the farm land is rented). Abandon of farm land or inadequate farming leads to erosion and pollution. "Sustainable" must become an issue in the region.

Nevertheless, the geographical location is an advantage, as a link between the Mediterranean and the northern parts of the country, and to France. The production within agriculture and livestock farming is varied. Although the food industry is of small scale, it produces some recognised quality products, such as cheese, wine and asparagus. The forest areas are increasing and the natural and cultural heritage offer possibilities to build up alternative tourism, attracting visitors interested in history and culture.

### **Rural Development Plan** (EAGGF Guarantee section)

The rural development plan aims to encourage people to stay in rural areas, to help them find alternative income sources and to stimulate women's participation in the rural economy. The development of the agrarian sector must at the same time ensure a long-term protection of the environment and the natural resources.

Navarre has its own legal and fiscal system, and therefore participates in the horizontal programmes with one measure only: management of water resources. The other measures (normally covered by the horizontal programmes) are covered by this rural development plan.

Improving the efficiency of agricultural holdings

Support is given to young farmers (up to the age of 40) who wish to start up agricultural activities, and for investments in agricultural holdings, to make the agricultural holdings more efficient.

Agricultural infrastructure

This measure enables reparcelling of land plots and improvement of irrigation systems on the farms, all in order to reduce costs, save water and increase the viability of the agricultural holdings. Special priority is given to areas that are to be put under irrigation, or to areas that require a restructuration or improvement of existing irrigation systems. Further, irrigation will be introduced on non-irrigated land.

*Reparcelling*  
 Support is given to the whole process of restructuration, from studies and plans to the work on the spot. Roads or drainage systems may need to be adapted to the new structure, one has to ensure that environmental concerns are maintained, etc. The grouping of small parcels into larger units will cover an area of 35 000 ha.

Agri-foodstuff industry

The agri-foodstuff industry is important for the socio-economic development in Navarre and for the balance of the economic structure over the region. The programme aims to maintain and strengthen its position, by supporting investments to improve the processing and marketing of agricultural products, to introduce new technologies, create better marketing channels, etc.

Accompanying measures

Early retirement to farm holders of age 55-65 who wish to cease their activities; compensatory allowance to support farms in less favoured areas and areas with environmental restrictions; agri-environmental measures to encourage agricultural methods that are compatible with environmental protection and finally afforestation of agricultural land.

Forestry, natural environment and landscape

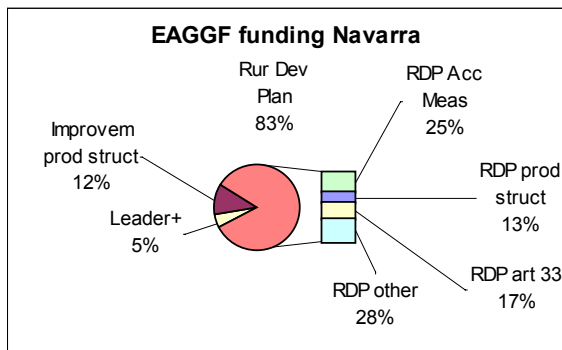
There are also measures to preserve and improve the forests and forest resources. Plans will be elaborated to carry out improvements on some 100 000 ha of forests, and the management of forests will be improved, with focus on reafforestation, infrastructure and preventive actions. The programme also contributes to the conservation of environmental values of interest and gives support for works to be carried out in some 20 protected natural areas.

**Leader+**

The programme puts big hopes in the service sector - in particular tourism - as a field for new innovative projects. Environment and natural resources also offer possibilities for a sustainable local development. Key factors for success are the existing tradition to work in associations and co-operatives, the high degree of

5 LAG's

local authority's involvement in rural development, and finally, the geographical location, which allows for co-operation with dynamic neighbouring territories on the Cantabrian coast and in France.



Note that:  
 - Acc. meas, farm investment and young farmers are included in the Rural development plan, whereas water resources are covered by Improvement of production structures.

## Valencia

Surface:	23 255 km <sup>2</sup> (5 % of the country surface)
Number of inhabitants:	4 009 000 (172 inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	33 % arable land
Land use:	4 % meadows and pastures
	48 % wooded area
Most important products:	Fruits and vegetables
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	927 000 ha
Agric. area in Less Favoured Area:	61 %
Agric. area in mountain area:	25 %
No of agricultural holdings:	165 300
Average size of holdings:	4 ha (2nd smallest)
Irrigation:	350 500 ha (near 40 % of UAA), of which 80 % by gravity
Organic farming:	17 947 ha (of which 58 % for pastures/meadows/fodder)
	649 producers and processors
Farm holders younger than 35 years:	5 %
Farm holders older than 55 years:	62 %
How many women among farm holders?	32 %
Forest fires:	603 fires on 28 090 ha every year (yearly average 1991-99) - this represents more than 2 % of the forest area!
Natura 2000:	39 sites - 420 577 ha (18 % of total surface)
Nitrates Directive:	Decree 13/2000 designates a number of townships (municipios)

Valencia stretches out along the Mediterranean coast, between Catalonia in the North and Murcia in the south. The landscape is varied, with plains along the Mediterranean side and mountains in the west, whereas the southern part is dominated by hills. The climate is mainly Mediterranean, winters are rainy and mild, although colder in the interior than along the coast.

The agrarian sector in Valencia is dominated by agriculture, with cultivation of fruits and vegetables as main activity. Some 40 % of the used farmland is under irrigation, which contributes to give better yields. Nevertheless, irrigation may also cause water pollution, groundwater exhaustion, salinisation and erosion, the latter being a serious problem in the region.

Many agricultural holdings in Valencia are small (the so-called minifundismo) and the production in the agrarian sector is not sufficiently diversified. The agri-foodstuff industry is dynamic and has a high potential for industrialisation. The geographic location offers a strategically good position for development of the region. The possibilities lay not only within the agrarian sector, but also in the big diversity of landscapes and unique natural areas of high value in the coastal areas. There are also many wide spaces with potential for public use.

### **Operational programme (EAGGF Guidance section)**

#### Agri-foodstuff industry

Companies within the agrarian, food and forest industries will receive support for investments to introduce better technology, improve quality and sanitary conditions, create new products or adapt the production more to the consumers' needs. The support also addresses quality management and the environmental conditions of the industries.

Forestry and environment

In order to stop the deteriorating process caused by climate, fires and human activities, support is given to projects to protect the soil, improve the cover vegetation and control pasture and shrub to prevent forest fires. The programme also co-finances initiatives that aim to co-ordinate the different uses of the forest resources (wood production, pasture for animals, hunting, bee-keeping, etc) and will also encourage the use of forest areas for recreation, sports and increased winter tourism. Support is given to restore old cattle roads, which are part of the historical rural heritage and constitute a network of ecological corridors in the landscape. Other areas covered by the programme are protection of biodiversity, conservation of wild flora and fauna, sustainable management of hunting resources and actions to encourage long term use of cork trees, by restoring deteriorated forests.

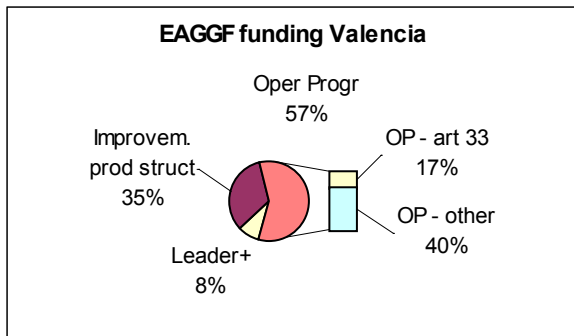
Agriculture and rural development

Investment support is given not only for reparable, but also to farmers who wish to use the farmland more efficiently by cultivating their land parcels jointly, without reparable and changing the ownership structure. This will reduce production costs and improve working conditions for the farmers. The programme also co-finances activities carried out under development plans, established at local level. Priority is given to plans from the interior of the region, focusing on for example ecological agriculture and livestock farming, water saving, investments in new technologies, environmental protection or use of renewable energies.

**Leader+**

The specific objectives in Valencia are to encourage inhabitants to stay in rural areas in the interior of the region (where depopulation is often a problem), and discourage the emmigration to the coastal areas (where high population density leads to environmental problems). Job opportunities are crucial to achieve this. The programme also aims to encourage initiatives from women and young people, to increase their role in the development of rural areas.

10 LAG's



Note that:  
- Accompanying measures are not included (the regional breakdown is not known).  
- Water resources management, although being an article 33 indent, is covered under Improvement of production structure.

## About the sources

Surface:	Horizontal programmes
Number of inhabitants:	Horizontal programmes
Inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup> :	Horizontal programmes
Land use:	Facts & Figures 2000, Ministry of Agriculture, Madrid Figures refer to the situation in 1998.
Most important products:	respective programme
UAA (utilised agricultural area):	Horizontal programmes
No of agricultural holdings (97):	outside obj 1: Horizontal programmes obj 1: Facts & Figures 2000, Ministry of Agriculture, Madrid, figures from 19??)
Average size of holdings:	Horizontal programmes
Agric. area in LFA:	EUROSTAT 1997 (database NewCronos)
Agric. area in Mointain area:	EUROSTAT 1997 (database NewCronos)
Irrigation:	Facts & Figures 2000, Ministry of Agriculture, Madrid (no year given) The predominant irrigation system is indicated (sprinkler, gravity or local). Most irrigated areas in Spain use gravity systems (59 %), 24 % sprinkler and 17 % local systems.
Organic farming:	Facts & Figures 2000, Ministry of Agriculture, Madrid. Figures refer to situation in 1999 . If one crop type is predominant, it is mentioned "Operators" refer to producers, processors and importers.
farm holders < 35 years:	Horizontal programmes
farm holders > 55 years:	Horizontal programmes
women among farm holders:	EUROSTAT 1997 (database NewCronos)
Final agrarian production:	respective rural development plan, if mentioned at all
Food industry	
Forest fires:	yearly average based on the period 1991-1999
Natura 2000:	Naturália Hispánica, Ministry of Environment, Madrid
National Parks:	Ministry of Environment The national parks form part of a national network
Nitrates Directive:	Respective regional decree (if applicable)