

EVALUATION OF EU SUPPORT TO SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN PARTNER COUNTRIES (2014-2020)

KEY MESSAGES



- 1 The EU has **strongly committed to support** sustainable agri-food system changes at the global and regional level and in Partner Countries
- 2 The EU **faced many obstacles** in applying a more integrated, systemic approach to supporting Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture
- 3 The EU needs to improve **collaboration and alignment** amongst European actors, foster **a common approach** to Sustainable Agri-food Systems transformation, and intensify its investment in agri-food **knowledge and innovation systems**

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the evaluation is to produce an **independent assessment** of the past and current support of the EU in food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture, and fisheries, at country, regional and global levels; draw lessons and **produce recommendations**

EU support in partner countries during the period 2014–2020, covering spending and non-spending activities and all EU aid delivery methods and channels, including budget support and EU Trust Funds

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE METHODOLOGY

9
case studies

An extensive
documentary review and
portfolio analysis

404
semi-structured
interviews

Review of available
databases and global
indicators

175
E-survey
respondents

conducted by

CONCLUSIONS

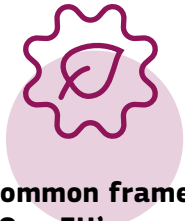
ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1 **EU** support was directed at several strategically chosen **entry points**
- 2 The **EU** played an instrumental role at the **global and regional level**
- 3 The **EU** made substantial contributions to facilitating sustainable agri-food systems transformation at country level, but the **effects observed at the system level are largely scattered**

CHALLENGES

- 1 The **EU** applied an **integrated, systemic approach** at the country level only to a limited extent
- 2 Several **obstacles to a more integrated European approach** to SAFS in partner countries persist due to the absence of a common approach

RECOMMENDATIONS



Adopt a common framework to foster a 'One EU' approach to sustainable agri-food systems

The EU should ...

- 1 ... develop clearer overarching **'rules of engagement'** for European actors
- 2 ... anchor external action support to sustainable agri-food systems in broader, **long-term EU-country partnership** agendas
- 3 ... maintain a clear focus at the country and regional level on creating opportunities for the **most vulnerable food system actors**



Operationalise this 'One EU' approach at all levels

The EU should ...

- 1 ... **upgrade the Commission and EU Member States' mechanisms** at headquarters level to support more high-level strategic coordination
- 2 ... develop a common understanding of **context-specific challenges** and opportunities at the country and regional level
- 3 ... co-develop and **empower Team Europe initiatives** for supporting sustainable agri-food systems. system actors
- 4 ... strengthen EU engagement in sustainable **agri-food systems diplomacy**



Enhance learning by articulating, orienting, and strengthening agri-food knowledge and innovation systems

The EU should ...

- 1 ... intensify support for **networking, experimenting and learning** for agri-food actors at all levels
- 2 ... **enhance participation** of smallholders, women, youth and small and medium enterprises in co-innovation processes
- 3 ... consolidate mechanisms to **learn from experience** from EU joint efforts to support sustainable agri-food systems

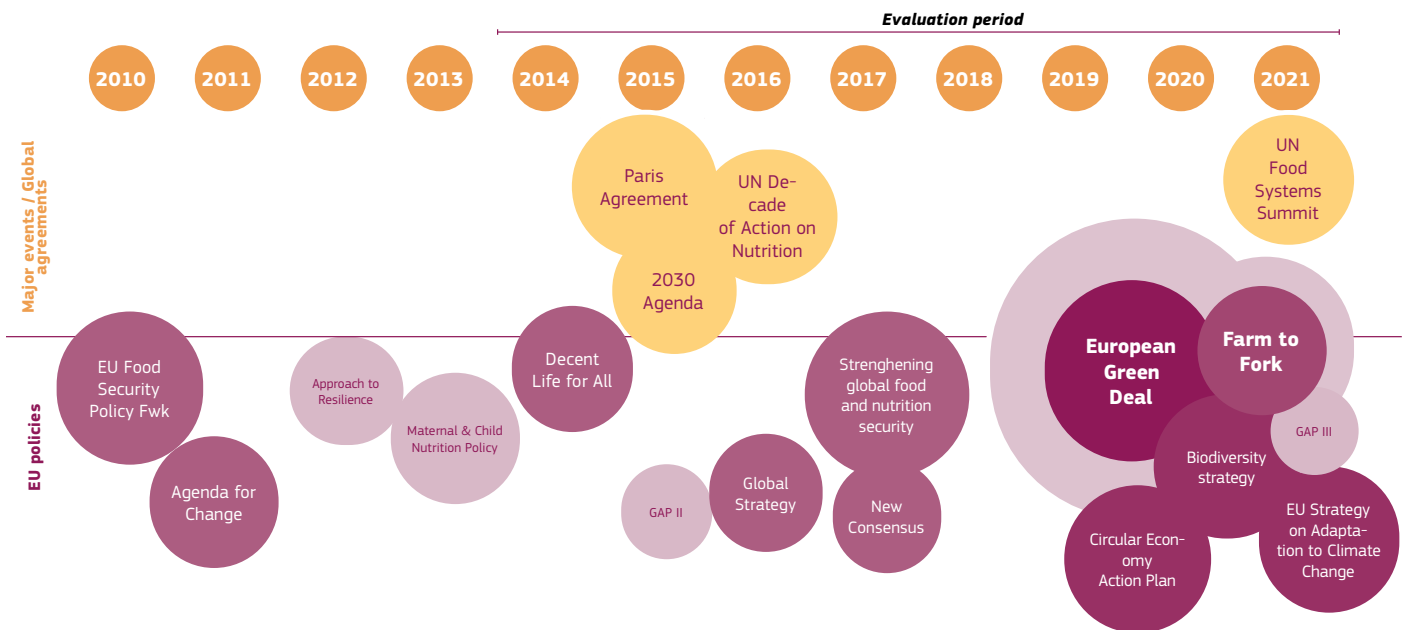
»Sustainable agricultural support has been always there as part of **EU** Development policies for the sector, it is only for the post-2021 programming that more efforts are put into integration and mainstreaming of farm to fork approaches.«

staff from EU Delegation

KEY FEATURES OF EU SUPPORT TO AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

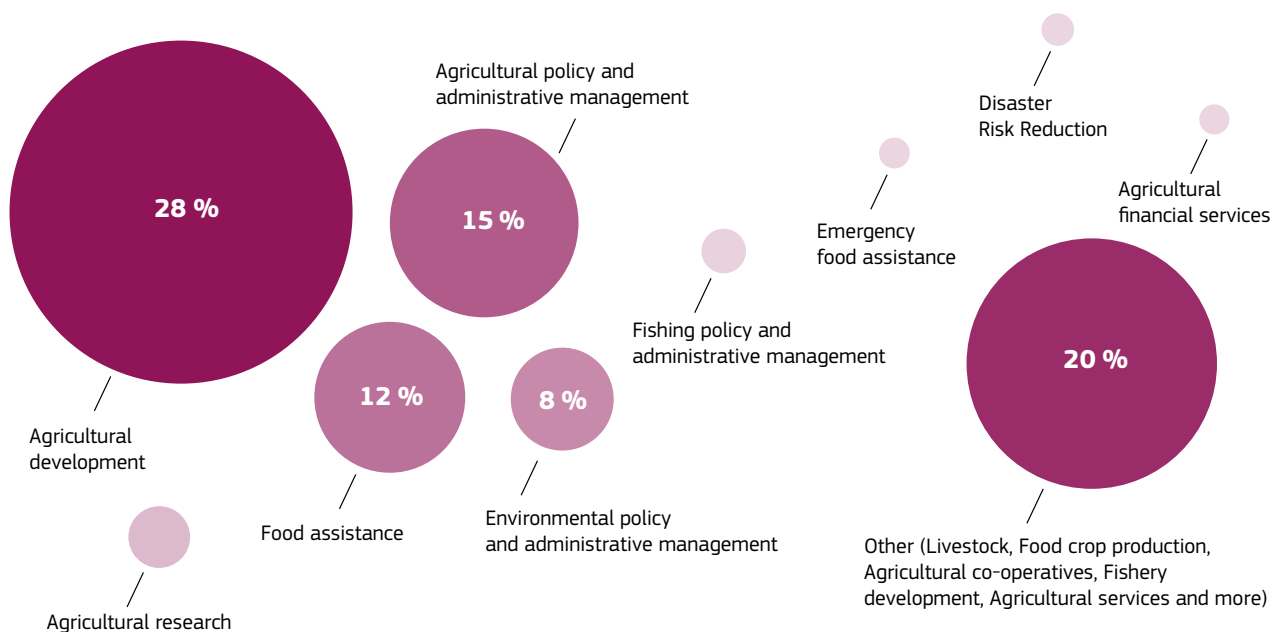
The EU has moved towards a more systemic approach to agri-food system transformation

The **EU's Farm to Fork Strategy** aims to provide a **single overarching frame of reference for a systems approach** to supporting sustainable agri-food system transformation. It integrates previous policy frameworks of EU external action on key issues such as poverty and inequality, nutrition and health, climate change and resilience to shocks.



The EU invested in several areas of agri-food system transformation ...

EU support has been mostly geared towards agricultural development, agricultural and environmental policy, and food assistance.

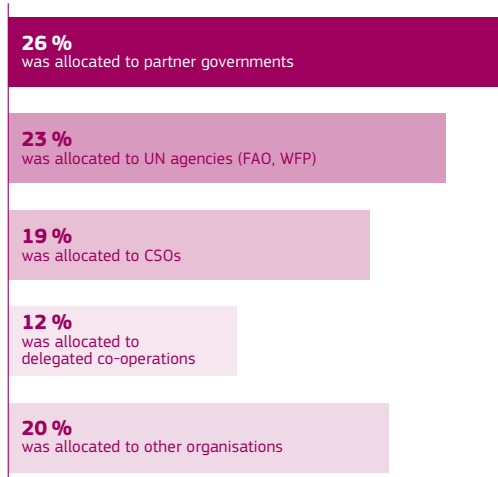


TOTAL SPENDING

Total spending: **EUR 13.2 billion** for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture interventions (2014–2020)

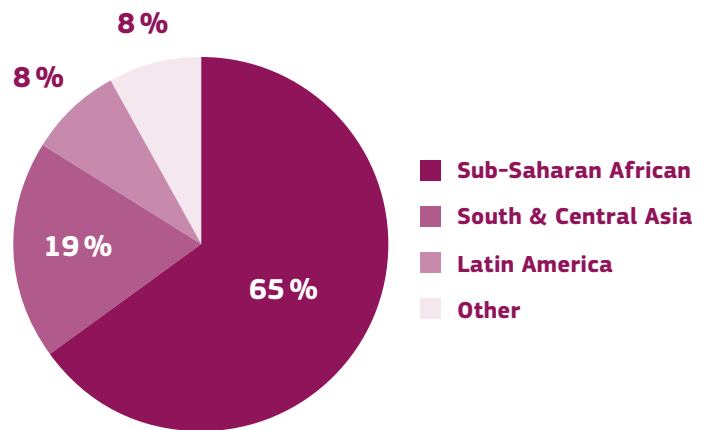
EU funding was allocated through different channels ...

EU funding per channel (2014–2020)



... and targeted to 59 countries across these different regions

EU funding per region (2014–2020)



EU support was guided by four priorities ...

- ▶ Enhancing the **resilience** of the most vulnerable to food crises.
- ▶ Increasing **responsible investments** in agriculture and food systems.
- ▶ Fostering specific **nutrition** outcomes.
- ▶ Stimulating **innovations** for sustainable agri-food systems.

... and mainstreamed three cross-cutting themes.

- ▶ Addressing **climate change** and preserving natural resources and **biodiversity**.
- ▶ Promoting **gender equality**.
- ▶ Strengthening **multi-stakeholder governance**.

»A lot of EU work should focus on making the operating environment conducive to benefit the marginalized groups such as farmers/smallholder organizations, women groups, agri-MSMEs«

representative from civil society organisation

»Programmes have most of the time [been] implemented in silos. The Team Europe Initiative might bring this collaboration and enhance linkages.«

staff from EU Delegation