



PÕLLUMAJANDUSUURINGUTE KESKUS
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRE



Monitoring and Evaluation (Focus on Agri-Environmental Measures)

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Monitoring and Evaluation System

- To evaluate the results and impacts achieved through Estonian Rural Development Programme (ERDP) 2014-2020, **monitoring and evaluation system** has been formed.
- The system consists of:
 - Monitoring;
 - Evaluation:
 - Ex-ante evaluation 2012-2014 (in parallel to RDP design) + strategic evaluation of environmental impact (SEEI);
 - Evaluation, incl. AIR 2017 and AIR 2019;
 - Ex-post evaluation (by the end of 2024)



Main actors of the Monitoring and Evaluation System in Estonia

Institutions:

- Managing Authority: Ministry of Rural Affairs (MRA);
- Paying Agency: Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB);
- Delegated tasks for forestry measures: Foundation Private Forest Centre (PFC)
- Evaluators: ARC + Estonian University of Life Sciences (until 2017) as „ongoing evaluators“ +“ independent evaluators“;
- RDP Monitoring Committee;
- RDP Evaluation Board;
- Local action groups (LAGs) – for Leader
- Beneficiaries;
- Wider public (indirect beneficiaries).

**Monitoring and
evaluation regulation
for RDP 2014-2020**

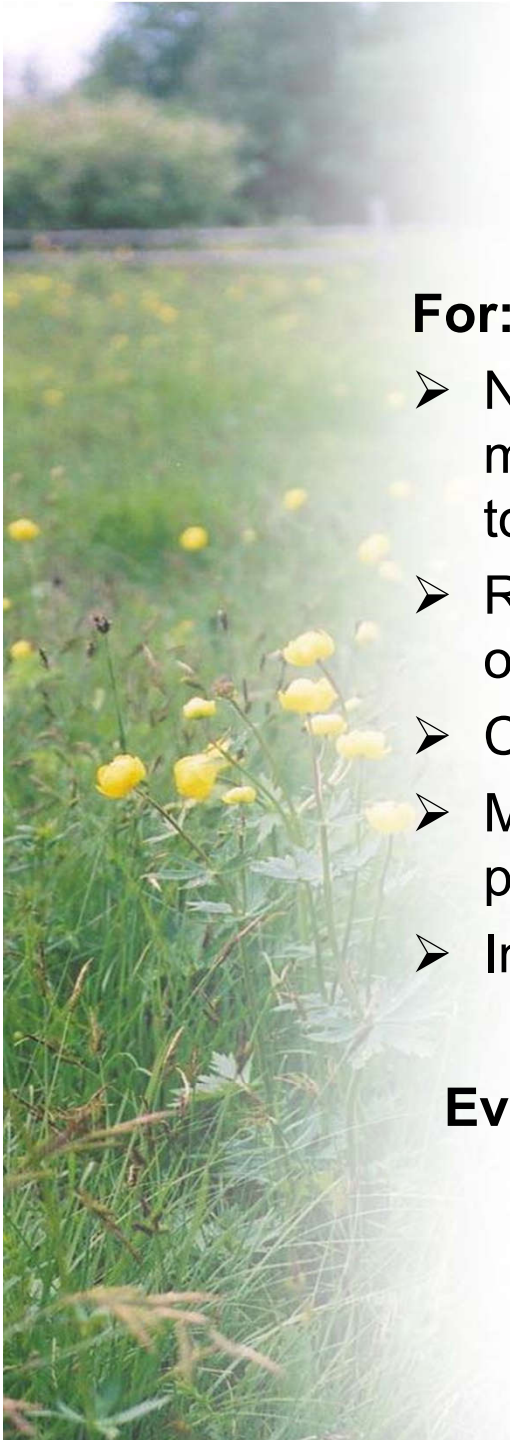


Why evaluation?

For:

- National priority - supporting the improvement of RDP measures (analyse the implementation and progress towards its targets);
- Reporting to the European Commission on the fulfillment of the objectives set for RDP support;
- Collecting information on the effects of agriculture;
- Motivating the producers to change their farming practices;
- Informing society about the use of public money.

Evaluation relies on data and information collected by monitoring (but going beyond!)





Why ARC?

Preparations done in 2002-2004:

- AE requires specific knowledge of its impact to environment + for trendlines continuous data collection is needed;
- Estonia has a good state funded environmental monitoring programme already since 1990s but it included almost no information regarding state of environment of agricultural land;
- ARC already had started with coordination of soil fertility monitoring programme and had established capacity for GIS analysis.



Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) as the Evaluator of Estonian Rural Development Plan (RDP)

- **ARC is the (ongoing) evaluator since 2004:**
 - RDP 2004-2006 agri-environment support scheme (AES)
 - RDP 2007-2013 Axis 2 measures
 - RDP 2014-2020 measures related to environment (Priority areas 4 and 5, measure „Animal welfare“ (Priority area 3), activity „Restoration of stonewalls“ (Priority area 2)
- **Responsibilities of ARC departments since 2018:**
 - Agricultural Research and Monitoring Department (ARMD)
 - Rural Economy Analysis Department (READ) is evaluator of measures of priorities 1, 2, 3 and 6
 - Rural Network Department (RND) is collecting and disseminating project examples that have received support from RDP; CLLD/Leader

Financing evaluation activities: RDP Technical Assistance (TA) measure



Measures related to environment in RDP 2014-2020

4. Investments in physical assets (Priority area 2):

- Support for the restoration of stonewalls

10. Agri-environment-climate (Priority area 4):

- Support for environmentally friendly management
- Regional water protection support
- Regional soil protection support
- Support for environmentally friendly horticulture
- Support for growing plants of local varieties
- Support for keeping animals of local endangered breeds
- Support for the maintenance of semi-natural habitats

11. Organic farming (Priority area 4):

12. Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (Priority area 4):

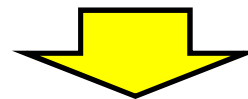
- Natura 2000 support for agricultural land
- Natura 2000 support for private forest land

14. Animal welfare (Priority area 3).



Tasks of ARC as the Evaluator of RDP measures related to environment

- **Collecting and analyzing environmental indicators** of RDP 2004-2006, RDP 2007-2013 and RDP 2014-2020;
- Preparing **surveys of agri-environmental measures** (incl. achievement of targets of the measures);
- **Different tasks** (elaboration of methodologies, participation in several workgroups, international collaboration etc.);
- **Communication activities** (information days, articles, presentations, printed materials);
- Offering other relevant **information**.



ANNUAL NATIONAL EVALUATION REPORT
(SINCE 2016 EVALUATION REPORT + STUDIES REPORT)



Five topics for the evaluation of AES/AECM

Examples of the main indicators we have used to evaluate agri-environment support scheme (AES)/ agri-environment-climate measures (AECM) – most of these are still ongoing

SOIL

- Soil organic matter and soil fertility
- Soil fertility (pH, K, P)
- Soil nutrient dynamics

WATER

- Nutrient balance
- Pesticide use
- Water quality

LANDSCAPE

- Change in the landscape structure in terms of point, linear and area elements
- General upkeep (visual appearance) of the farm

BIODIVERSITY

- Farmland birds
- Bumblebees
- Vascular plants

SOCIO-ECONOMY AND OTHER

- Family farm income
- Environmental awareness



Importance of AE evaluation studies conducted by ARC

- Better knowledge about the condition of the environment of agricultural land;
- Continuity of data collection - better data row;
- Evaluation of the support measures and constant improvement of the support measures;
- Necessary data for answering EC evaluation questions;
- Educational material for farmers (trainings);
- Motivating the farmers;
- New general knowledge.

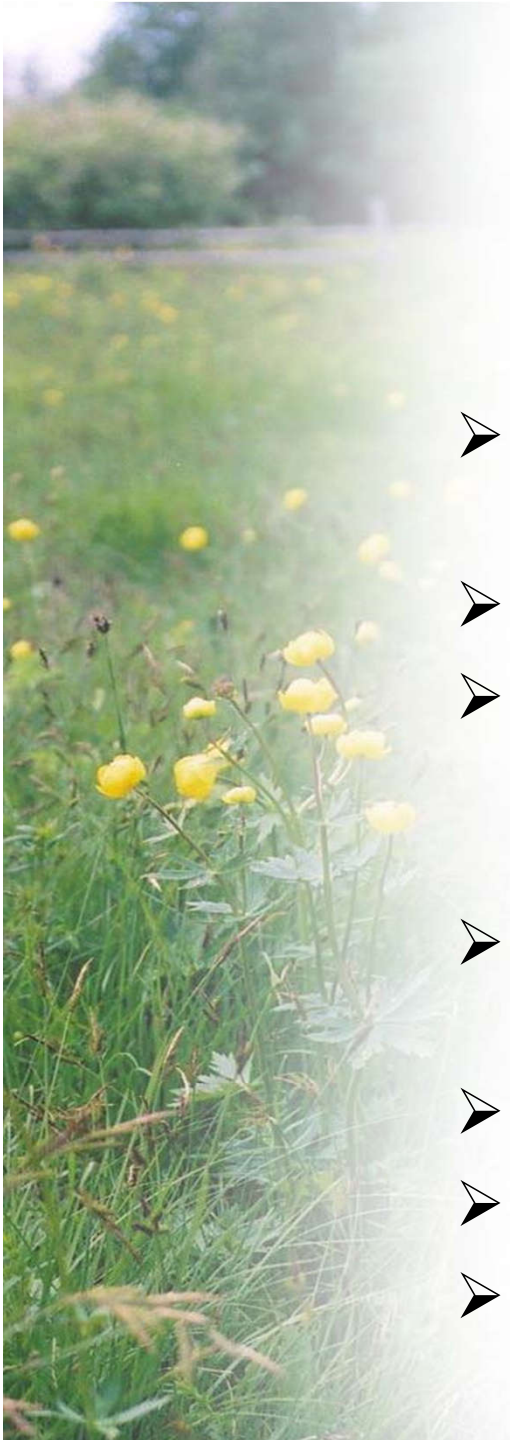




Photo by Arne Ader

Thank you!