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SUFISA

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY

SUFISA aims to identify practices and policies that support the sustainability of primary producers in a context of complex policy requirements, market imperfections and globalization.



The five specific objectives of SUFISA are:

1. To construct a conceptual framework that links market imperfections and policy requirements to primary producers' strategies and performance
2. To investigate the nature of market imperfections, policy requirements and their implications for specific commodity sectors and regions
3. To analyse the impact of market imperfections and policy requirements on the efficiency and performance of primary producers
4. To identify sustainable practices and policies in the agricultural, fish and food sectors that support the sustainability of primary producers and develop future scenarios aimed at countering the identified market imperfections
5. To actively engage a broad spectrum of relevant stakeholders from the beginning of the project in order to optimise both the relevance of the work carried out and its dissemination and uptake by stakeholders



A good functioning of the European food system is key to deliver food and nutrition security for all Europeans



Impact

SUFISA aims to exploit new and emerging research opportunities that address social, environmental and economic challenges.

Therefore, the research contributes to building a European Knowledge Based Bio-Economy, bringing together science, industry and stakeholders. The interaction between science, industry and stakeholders is inherent to the proposed methodology,

whereby (1) the structure of the Consortium allows interdisciplinary scientific debate, (2) an External Expert Advisory Board

guarantees structured and interactive communication with the sector and other stakeholders and (3) the case studies guarantee the involvement and relevance of the research at the European and local level.



WP1: Conceptual framework

The objective of WP1 is to build a conceptual framework that takes into account different approaches, interests and visions among stakeholders and disciplines concerning causal linkages between market imperfections and FNS

The conceptual framework has two main functions:

On the one hand, it is aimed



at organizing further work in the project and in particular at identifying relevant problems, at selecting relevant

information, at setting strategies for analysis.

On the other hand, it will give a contribution to an updated theory of market imperfections and primary producers' strategies and performance, and to give theoretical support to Food and Nutrition Security policies.

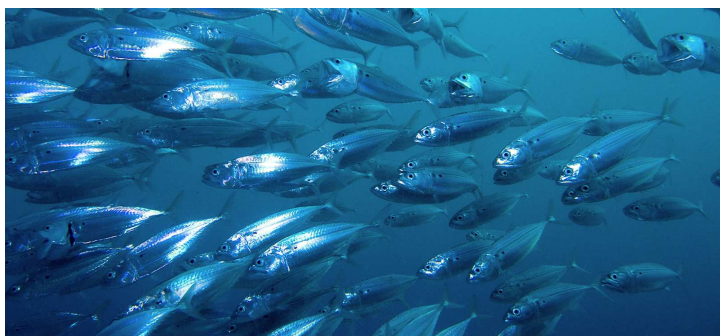
WP2: Case study analysis

There is general consensus that current market conditions and policy requirements have created uncertainty in the agri-food sector, with implications for the performance and contribution to production output, food and nutrition security and sustainability. These external factors are variable, complex and volatile and the way producers (in this case farmers and fishermen, including those

engaged in aquaculture) assess and manage these risk factors is dependent on multiple factors related to the commodity sector, place of production and type of producer. The rationale for WP2 is to move beyond generalised CSP (conditions, strategies and performances) contextualization and to investigate the nature and complexity of market imperfections, policy requirements and their impli-

cations for specific commodity sectors and regions, thereby providing a more holistic regional and commodity-sensitive analysis of CSP. Adopting a regional perspective to capture variable context, the work for this work-package is divided into six consecutive tasks, which move from region-specific to comparative cross-regional analysis.

WP3: Impact evaluation



WP3 analyzes the relation between market imperfections, efficiency variations in the sector and environmental impacts in an extended efficiency approach. The

impact of market imperfections and relevant policy measures on the efficiency of farmers (objective 3) are investigated through the concept of value added. Value

added measures to which extent actors in the food industry receive higher prices for their output than the prices that have been paid for the inputs used in the production process to produce that output. Value added is used to remunerate all inputs and is essential to study market imperfections. Both market power and asymmetric information will be studied.

“Future policy making aiming at healthy and resilient systems needs to take into account differentiation and diversity of approaches”

WP4: Solutions and scenarios

The objectives of WP4 are (1) to identify sustainable practices and policies in the agricultural, fish and food sectors that support the sustainability of farmers and (2) to develop future scenarios aimed at countering the identified market imperfections.

Based on the work developed in WPI-3, this WP will engage in a

dialogue process with stakeholders in order to develop scenarios aiming at the sustainability of primary producers, and to identify through scientific analysis and collective thinking what are the solutions, practices and policies at the level of the agri-food sectors to foster sustainability and FNS.



WP5: Multiactor involvement and dissemination

This cross cutting WP will facilitate reflexivity, networking and knowledge exchange to take place at all stages of the project. The participatory nature of SUFISA means that a range of systematic feedback loops will not only ensure communication within all WPs but also with a broad range of actors. Stakeholders will be engaged at two levels: the national level and the EU level.

Facilitation of the scenario workshops in WP4 will play a key role



in the stakeholder mobilisation strategy.

The communication of project outputs will be coordinated with the EU2020 vision of smart, sustainable growth, aimed at supporting relevant actions in the private

and public sectors.

The groups targeted by communication activities will be: policy makers at EU and national levels, local authorities, farmers and fishermen, actors in the whole supply chain (processing, retailing, consumers, but also input industry, cooperatives and extension services), financial institutions (insurance, banks, regulation authorities), and other relevant stakeholders and civil society groups.

CONSORTIUM



The SUFISA consortium is an interdisciplinary team, with representation of researchers from 13 European institutes. The kick off meeting of SUFISA took place on 28 and 29 May 2015, in Leuven.

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Division of Bioeconomics, Belgium
- University of Pisa, Italy
- University of Gloucestershire , UK
- Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations , France
- Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna, Italy
- University of Hasselt, Belgium
- Nodbinajums Baltic Studies Centre, Latvia
- Universidade de Evora, Portugal
- Aarhus University, Denmark
- Agricultural University of Athens, Greece
- Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde, Germany
- Jagiellonian University, Poland
- University of Belgrade , Serbia



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