



Community Research Programme in Agriculture



AGRICULTURE

G R E E N E U R O P E

COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROGRAMME
IN AGRICULTURE

(1989-1993)

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF COMPETITIVENESS OF AGRICULTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (1989-1993).

Research and Technological Development in the field of competitiveness of agriculture and management of agricultural resources (1989-1993)

The Council has adopted the Decision for the fourth Community programme to coordinate agricultural research in the Member States⁽¹⁾. This new five year programme has a budget of 55 MECU and is part of the overall Community efforts on research and technological development covered by the second Framework Programme. The agricultural research programme, to be executed in the Directorate General for Agriculture, will be closely coordinated with all actions in the Framework Programme, especially the sub-actions on biotechnology (BRIDGE) and agro-industrial research (ECLAIR and FLAIR).

Whilst this fourth programme contains some of the themes of the earlier Community programmes to coordinate agricultural research, there are much clearer orientations towards research which will aid the common agricultural policy as it is adapted, and to rural development. Many of the results of the other Community programmes, which have been running since 1976, have already been published⁽²⁾,⁽³⁾ and made use of.

The objectives of the fourth programme are :

- to help farmers to adapt to the new situation created by over-production and a restrictive policy on prices and markets ;
- to maintain the incomes from holdings and encourage structural reform whilst controlling output and reducing production costs ;
- to care for and improve the agricultural situation, in line with the market situation, in all regions with weak agricultural structures and which have been slow to develop, thus promoting greater economic and social cohesion in the Community ;
- to conserve natural resources and the countryside, ensuring that an improved environment will result from the application of the technologies to be developed and from changes in production systems ;
- to develop agricultural information services and infrastructures to improve the dissemination of research results within and between Member States.

The research activities have been divided into four sectors, each setting out the priority topics to be covered :

(1) OJ No L 58, 7.3.1990, p.9

(2) OOPEC EUR 9764 En Coordinated Agricultural Research - A record of achievement

(3) OOPEC EUR 11323 En Coordinated Agriculture Research - Partners in Progress

1. Conversion, diversification, including extensification of production, reduction of costs and protection of the rural environment :

- 1.1. introduction of new and improved varieties of crops, out of season products, and by-products, especially to encourage higher added value ;
- 1.2. alternative livestock systems to avoid surpluses involving in particular goats, sheep, suckler cows, horses and game ;
- 1.3. examination of farm woodland production systems, integrated forest grazing systems, and the cultivation of a wider range of crops in woodland and forest undergrowth ;
- 1.4. improved biological and integrated pest control, better utilisation and reduction in the use of fertilisers, fungicides, herbicides, pesticides in farming systems ;
- 1.5. development of alternative agricultural practices, especially of organic farming, aimed at conserving natural resources and the countryside ;
- 1.6. support for the development of the common agricultural structures policy by providing the range of data necessary for its conception, evaluation and management ;
- 1.7. identification of alternative uses for land which may no longer be required for agriculture, including the establishment, in environmentally sensitive areas, of systems of land and water use and management ;

2. Product quality, new uses for traditional products, and aspects of plant and animal health :

- 2.1. definition, measurement and determination of quality in products where market opportunities might exist especially where there are possibilities for higher added value ;
- 2.2. pre and post-harvesting techniques, including transport and storage, to improve quality ;
- 2.3. effects of residues, toxins and other noxious substances occurring in agricultural products ;
- 2.4. preparation for and packaging of agricultural products to ensure better quality and environmental safety ;
- 2.5. detecting and controlling crop and animal diseases that threaten the Community and improving the welfare of farm animals ;
- 2.6. developing alternative uses and improving the quality of traditional products

3. Socio-economic aspects and specific actions for regions lagging behind in development :

- 3.1. assesment of the structural, social and economic consequences of applying the agricultural policies of the Community in these regions ;
- 3.2. investigation of constraints to development in these regions and orientation of subsequent research and development actions ;

- 3.3. specific regional problems arising from the conversion, diversification and extensification of crop and animal production ;
- 3.4. specific regional problems arising from the conversion into woodland and forest production ;
- 3.5. specific regional actions to overcome the problems posed by the poor composition, excess and/or lack of water ;
- 3.6. actions to improve agricultural mechanisation in specific regions ;
- 3.7. integrated rural development.

4. Methods and services to disseminate agricultural research information particularly from this programme

- 4.1. Integrated Community Agricultural Research Information Systems to improve access, to disseminate results to research and extension services and to respond to the needs of the common agricultural policy and the rural society ;
- 4.2. developing agricultural information technology to avoid duplication, to improve the quality of agricultural research in the Community, and to increase its added value;
- 4.3. applying computers and information modelling to agricultural production systems to better identify the research and information needs of Community programmes.

About 75 % of the budget will be dedicated to research contracts. This part of the programme was launched on 21 October 1989 with the publication of a call for proposals in the Official Journal of the European Communities⁽⁴⁾. This call remains open until 31 December 1991. Proposals must be submitted on the special forms which are available from the Directorate General for Agriculture, Division for the Coordination of Agricultural Research. Each proposal must address at least one of the priorities listed above and should, in general, be carried out by participants from more than one Member State. Preference will be given to projects which promise early and useful results. It is possible to submit a fully elaborated proposal, or to submit a summary proposal. People responsible for summary proposals that have been considered and regarded as worthwhile elaborating will be invited to prepare a full proposal for assessment. The forms and procedures to be used will be much the same as for other Community programmes such as ECLAIR and FLAIR. Proposals will be assessed by independent experts helping the Commission services to select the successful proposals.

The first assessment of the proposals will start after 7 March 1990 with those received in the Commission by that date. The second procedure to select will begin after 11 October 1990. There will be a third wave examined after 31 December 1991. These dates are the deadlines for all wishing to participate in the shared-cost research contracts.

About 20% of the budget will be dedicated to coordination actions, and training and mobility grants. Meetings, seminars, workshops and grants will be well publicised and results from all actions will be thoroughly promoted in the Community.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ N° C 269, 21.10.1989, p.3

In executing the programme the Commission will work in very close cooperation with the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR). As with all Community research and development activities there will be an evaluation of the programme to assess to what extent the objectives have been achieved.

It is expected that this programme will strengthen the competitiveness of agriculture and the management of agricultural resources ; will respond to the needs of the common agricultural policy and the rural society ; and will promote greater economic and social cohesion and protection of the environment.

Further information on the fourth Community programme to coordinate agricultural research in the Member States can be obtained from :

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ECLAIR

PERIOD: 1988-1993
BUDGET: ECU 80 MILLION
DECISION: Council Decision adopted on the 23th.2.89 (OJ L 60,3.3.89)
TYPE: Transnational cooperation on a cost-sharing basis
OBJECTIVE: See COM(87) 667 and 89/160/EEC Decision (OJ L 60, 3.3.89)

The ECLAIR programme's objective is the application of recent progress in life sciences and biotechnology to projects concerning both agriculture and industry.

- PRODUCTION AND EVALUATION TRIALS OF CANDIDATE SPECIES OR ORGANISMS (plants, livestock, other).
- INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.
 - . creation of more precise and effective inputs to agriculture (biodegradability)
 - . creation of more precise and effective extraction, transformation and production processes to increase the use and value of agricultural produce.
- INTEGRATED APPROACHES
 - . Valorization of crops by the creation of harvesting, preservation and separation systems and techniques
 - . Studies and development projects for the integrated use of new technologies and biotechnology applied to farms.

FLAIR

FOOD-LINKED AGRO-INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

PERIOD: 1988-1993
BUDGET: ECU 25 million
DECISION: Council decision of 20 June 1989 (OJ N° L 200, 20.6.1989)
TYPE: Transnational cooperation on a cost-sharing basis and training/mobility grants
OBJECTIVE: COM(88)351 modified by COM(89)250.

The FLAIR programme's objectives are to promote food industry efficiency and competitiveness and to improve food safety and quality for the consumer.

It concerns:

- Evaluation and improvement of food quality
 - . quantitative measures of quality and freshness of processed food
 - . new technologies and processing innovations which enhance food quality
 - . the quality aspects of raw materials as they affect processing and end products
- Hygiene, safety and toxicity problems (tests to predict potential toxicity factors, studies concerning food allergies)
- Nutrition and health problems:
 - . bioavailability of nutritional constituents (vitamins and mineral salts)
 - . dietary or tonic foods
 - . foods for newborn babies or elderly people
 - . new processing techniques and applications which provide high nutritional and wholesomeness values.

BRIDGE

Biotechnology Research for Innovation Development and Growth in Europe

PERIOD: 1990-1993
BUDGET: 100 MUA for the Community contribution
DECISION: Re-examined proposal of the Commission
TYPE: Transnational coordination, shared-cost research
AIM: See COM(88) 806 modified by COM(89) 251.

This research programme will continue the research, training and concertation activities started under the BAP biotechnology programme currently under way.

Action I: Research and training

- easy access to the most important culture collections in the Community
- processing and analysis of biological and biotechnological data
- protein design
- biotransformation
- gene mapping, genome sequencing, new cloning methods
- physiology and genetics of industrial micro organisms
- basic biology of plants and associated organisms
- biotechnology of animal cells
- research into bio-safety
- in vitro evaluation of the toxicity and pharmacological activity of molecules.

Action II: Concertation

- monitoring developments in biotechnology
- identifying paths of development
- disseminating knowledge
- measures to encourage small business
- actions concerning the wider implications of research and development in the areas of biotechnology (consumers, society, environment).

GREEN EUROPE

Newsletters issued since 1988

1/88	Restoring equilibrium on agricultural markets	FR, EN, DE, DA, IT, NL, GR, ESP, PORT
Special issue	Agricultural prices 1989/1991 and related measures - Commission proposals	FR, EN
1/89	Agricultural prices 1989/1990 - Council decisions	FR, EN, DE, DA, IT, NL, GR, ESP, PORT
2/89	Agricultural prices 1990/1991 and related measures - Commission proposals	FR, EN
1/90	From agriculture to consumers	FR, EN, DE, DA, IT, NL, GR, ESP, PORT
2/90	Community research programme in agriculture	FR, EN, DE, DA, IT, NL, GR, ESP, PORT

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