

# European Union School Fruit Scheme

– a first step in the right direction?

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European Agriculture and Health Consortium



# Very brief history

## Reform of CMO for fruit and vegetables and EU School Fruit Scheme:

the importance of fruit and vegetables consumption as part of a healthy diet is advocated by the Commission White Paper "A strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity and related health issues", which stresses the need for coherent action at European level and draws attention to the role the CAP could play in shaping the European diet, especially to combat obesity and overweight. It states that "a School Fruit Scheme would be a step in the right direction".

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# Public Health Nutrition

What do we want to achieve?

- More whole foods (agricultural products)
- Less processed foods
- Less “fast food”, “junk food” in general food of poor nutritional quality

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# Public Health Nutrition

What do we want to achieve?

- Less energy dense, more nutrient dense>Increased consumption of F/V, grains (whole), plant based diets.
- Decreased consumption of high fat dairy and meats, red meat and confectionary products high in fat and sugar.
- Nutrition recommendations=environment

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# Does CAP affect nutrition?

- Consensus – but difficult to measure impact
- Subsidies can affect directly i.e. school milk program or indirectly “intervention stocks”
- Sector spending does not reflect nutrition needs
- Effects on public health are far reaching – i.e. nutrition transition
- Agriculture Policy can be used to promote healthier diets in Europe

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# CAP Reform

- Decoupling of subsidies
- School Milk measure – flat rate payment
- Increased funding of pillar 2 (modulation)
- Cross compliance
- Budget Review 2008/2009
- Post 2013 CAP



# Crisis

- Financial Crisis
- Environmental Crisis
- Public Health Crisis

Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases are currently one of the greatest threats to public health in EU (Daar et al. 2007) and the social and economic costs are staggering



# Crisis

- The bad news: Financial crisis will probably exacerbate existing inequalities in diet and health
- The good news: recommendations for an “environment friendly” and “healthy” diets point in the same direction.





# Future directions

- Status Quo
- Ensuring that “public money” is used for provision of public goods
- Polish old instruments or create new ones
- Debate on CAP 2013 and beyond...

*“Move support, so its not only the single farm payment, but to such things as Fruit and Vegetables, promote healthy eating and help agriculture and help society at the same time”*

Neil Parish, Chairman, EP Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

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# Or create radically different approach ?

## From CAP to a Common Sustainable Food Policy

- What would a sustainable food system look like?
- what policy pointers does the EU have to progress that vision?
- what obstacles need to be overcome?
- what indicators for a sustainable food system are needed and best options?
- in short: how can health, environment, infrastructure and agriculture be better linked?

Courtesy of Tim Lang, Professor Food Policy

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# Thank you!

- Any questions, comments or just good ideas, please send me a mail at:

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