IPA III Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator code and name
IPA III RF 4.3.1.3: Total agricultural land (ha) under the agri-environment-climate and organic farming measures
2. Technical details
OPSYS and Results Dashboard code: 260978.
Unit of measure: Hectare (ha)
Type of indicator: *Quantitative: Numeric; Actual (ex-post); Cumulative (not annual).*
Level of measurement: This is an outcome indicator. As such the hectares in question must be considered by the IPARD Managing Authority to be in the process of changing or have changed situation (i.e. there must be application of specific agri-environment-climate and organic farming commitments supported under the relevant IPARD measure). The indicator is closely related to the IPA III RF output level Indicator 4.3.1.5 "*Number of IPARD recipients under the agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure*".
Disaggregation: No particular disaggregation is foreseen other than that which may be required by a IPARD Managing Authority or stated in a IPARD programme.
DAC sector codes: 31110;31120; 31130; 31164; 31165; 31181; 31182; 31191
Main associated SDG: **SDG 15**: Life on Land.
Other associated SDGs: n/a.
Associated IPA III Level 1 indicator: • Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP) (source: Eurostat, online data code: nama_10_a10) (Ind. 4.0.5, same indicator presented under Window 4 – OO & TP 4).
Associated IPA III Level 3 indicators: none.
3. Policy context and Rationale
• **IPA III PF: Window 3** Green agenda and sustainable connectivity, and **Windows 2**: Good governance, EU acquis alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication., **Window 4** Competitiveness and inclusive growth – **Thematic priority 3** Agriculture and rural development • **Chapter of the *Acquis***. The concerned chapters of the EU *acquis* relative to this indicator are: **chapter 11** "Agriculture and rural development", **chapter 12** "Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy", within cluster 5 (Resources, agriculture and cohesion). Concerned also is the **Chapter 27** *Acquis* on Environment and climate change which includes regulatory requirements related to water and land use, relevant to interventions to support agri-environment-climate and organic farming. • This indicator is used to assess the level of participation in agri-environment-climate and organic farming actions supported by the relevant measure within an IPARD programme. Stimulating farmers to become involved in such necessary measures aimed at protecting and improving the environment and addressing climate change is an achievement and

first step towards more mainstreamed implementation of tools addressing environmental sustainability in farming land management.

- Natural resources should be managed to reinforce the sustainability of their conservation. Particular vulnerabilities of ecosystems and rural environments triggered by climate change consequences should be anticipated and addressed in line with the goals of the European Green Deal [COM/2019/640 final; https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2019%3A640%3AFIN] and as part of sustainable agriculture and organic farming approaches.
- The more land under agri-environment-climate and organic farming measures, the better the measures' impact on the status of natural resources and the environment.
- As formulated the indicator is to be used for IPARD financed interventions only.

4. Values to report

All of the following values must be determined according to the definitions provided in Section 5 below.

- **Reporting values in the logframe:**
  - **Baseline value**: The value assumed by the indicator at time t0, against which progress will be assessed.
  - **Reporting of current value** is done at least once a year: actual latest value on the total number of hectares of land by the time of reporting and according to the applicable definitions provided in section 5 of the note. Values will be reported cumulatively across the whole implementation period.
  - **Final target value**: estimated total number of hectares of land by the target year and according to the applicable definitions provided in section 5 of the note.
- **Intermediate targets (milestones).** A tool has been developed in OPSYS to automate the generation of intermediate targets[1].
  - For outputs, the intermediate targets are generated using a linear interpolation between the baseline and target values because it is assumed that outputs materialise sooner and more progressively over implementation (than outcomes).
  - For outcomes, the expected progression over the course of implementation will vary across interventions. During the creation of a logframe, the expected outcome profile must be selected (OPSYS offers four options[2]) and this selection triggers the generation of intermediate targets for all 30 June and 31 December dates between the baseline and target dates for all output and outcome quantitative indicators. All automatically generated intermediate targets values and dates can be subsequently

[1] This has been done in the framework of the **Intervention Performance Assessment.** Two composite indicators have been developed to provide an overall assessment of an intervention's current implementation and future prospects. These scores will be calculated for all NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.

- The **implementation score** reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness already achieved by the intervention. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided by the logframe data, if sufficiently available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- The **risk score** reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability to be achieved by the intervention in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational manager's responses to questions in a survey.

[2] a. Constant: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. Accelerating: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. At the end: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. None of the above.

modified by the Operational Manager or the Implementing Partner with the approval of the Operational Manager.

5. Calculation of values

The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the **number of (#) hectares of land that are under, i.e subject to IPARD supported interventions falling under an agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure within an IPARD programme (2021-27),** using the Technical Definitions and Counting Guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the Quality Control Checklist below.

Technical Definitions

- **Agri-environment-climate and organic** are terms defined in the relevant measure. All IPARD programmes that include this measure provide detailed information of relevant regulatory issues and definitions.

Counting Guidance

- The calculation method is a simple count of the total agricultural land (ha) under the IPARD measure 4 ('agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure').

Quality Control Checklist

1. Has the baseline and final target been encoded with the right dates?
2. Did you encode the latest current value available?
3. Did you use the comment box to inform on the values encoded?

6. Examples of calculations

In Country A, Measure: Agri-environment-climate and organic farming will be implemented under IPARD III. Recipients, in receipt of grant from this measure, must apply agri-environment-climate and organic actions on their farms. At application stage, farms declare the surface area in hectares that will be subject to agri-environment-climate and organic actions as defined in the Measure.

Previous similar measures have existed in the past such that a baseline value for Country A of 15 100 ha corresponds to the surface of farms that are already applying relevant measures from the past. The IPARD Programme has a target to have supported or be supporting farms with a total surface area under agri-environment-climate and organic measures of 30 000 additional ha by end 2028 with an intermediate target for end of 2026 of 14 000 additional ha. For purposes of this example we will look at the situation up to end 2026.

Base-line – Year 0: = 15 100 ha

Current Values:

In Year 1 (2023), contracts are signed with new farms under the Measure with the aim of increasing the ha of land applying agri-environment-climate and organic farming practices as follows:

Year 1 (2023): 40 farms - total surface area is 3 500 ha.

Year 2 (2027): 50 farms - total surface area is 5 000 ha.

Year 3 (2026): 35 farms - total surface area is 3 000 ha.

Thus by end of Year 3 (end 2026): the aggregate count against the indicator is: 11 500 ha |+ baseline (15 100 ha)] = 26 600 ha

Against the intermediate target (end Year 3) of additional 14 000 ha it is clear the measure is slightly lagging against this indicator.

7. Data sources and issues

Data sources in the logframe:

- Data for this indicator must derive directly from the intervention, i.e. intervention internal monitoring and reporting systems from implementing organisations (e.g. governments, international organisations, non-state actors).
- The number of hectares falling under a particular IPARD supported action will be stated in grant application forms and contracts and collated by the MA for the entire programme
- Other possible sources include studies carried out in the framework of the interventions and external monitoring and/or evaluation reports.

Data source categories specified in OPSYS:

- EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems (Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention)

8. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

Who is responsible for collecting and reporting the data?

- The implementing partner (i.e. the entity responsible for delivering the results) will need to ensure the counting starts at the lowest level of intervention and is reported upwards and aggregated for the entire intervention in the framework of regular monitoring and reporting systems.
- Data will be collected from programme interventions by IPARD Managing Authorities (MAs) in each of the IPA beneficiaries. It will be reported directly to DG Agri. DG AGRI will report further, as requested, to DG NEAR.
- It is then the responsibility of DG NEAR to centrally receive and verify data for this indicator from all relevant interventions and to eventually ensure aggregation within and across all IPA Beneficiary countries.

This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:

- *IPA III via the Annual Report*

9. Other uses

IPA III RF 4.3.1.3 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:

- IPA III RF Window 4: Competitiveness and inclusive growth (IPA III W4)

For more information, see: Predefined indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)

10. Other issues

Since the indicator refers only to IPARD financing, DG AGRI alone will provide data to DG NEAR for purposes of IPA III RF aggregate reporting.