knowledge intensive business services



Independent Evaluation Service of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 of the Campania Region for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

CIG: 7205166314 - CUP: B29G17000550009

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT 2021 Non-Technical Summary

Rome, September 2021













INDEX

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Methodological Approach	3
3.	Progress of the Programme	4
4.	Characteristics of survey participants	7
5.	Survey results and analysis of company trajectories	8
6.	Delphi analysis for the identification of business clusters	10
7.	Main results	11
8.	Conclusions and recommendations	18



1. Introduction



The **2021 Annual Evaluation Report** (EVR) analyses the use of resources, the state of implementation and the verification of the effectiveness and efficiency of the 2014-2020 RDP of the Campania Region as at 31/12/2020.

The document is structured as follows:

- ▶ Illustration of the Methodological Approach adopted for the conduct of the analysis and description of the main information sources;
- Presentation of the progress of the Programme;
- Analysis of the characteristics of the survey participants;
- Presentation of survey results and analysis of company trajectories;
- Description of Delphi analysis for the identification of business clusters;
- Sharing of key findings;
- ▶ Conclusions and recommendations according to the "logbook" structure.

2. Methodological Approach

This Chapter describes the main detection and analysis techniques adopted, consistent with what is indicated in the tender documents and in the reports prepared by the Assessor for the structuring of activities, with particular reference to the Annual Evaluation Plan.

In particular, a number of in-depth studies were carried out using "transversal" investigation methods/tools functional to the evaluation of different Focus Areas (FA):

- (i) <u>territorial analyses</u> to support the enhancement and deepening of some result and impact indicators;
- (ii) the <u>analysis of company trajectories</u> to verify the characteristics of Campania's farms and the development path undertaken with respect to some key variables (competitiveness and ecological footprint).

The techniques used for the analysis and collection of functional data for the drafting of the AER 2021 are as follows:

- ► Techniques based on secondary data collection, including analysis of regional/national monitoring systems/databases, scientific literature, official and unofficial statistical sources;
- Case studies on 3 business cases related to water saving referred to 4.1.1;
- ► Territorial Elaborations and Cartographic Analysis on Agro-environmental and Forestry Measures;
- ► Techniques based on the collection of primary data of sample type): survey with structured or semi-structured questionnaire to be carried out with CATI, CASI or CAWI method;
- ► Techniques based on the collection of primary and/or participatory data including: focus groups, evaluative brainstorming, Delphi, Nominal Group Technique, check-lists, Social network Analysis;



Counterfactual analysis.

3. Progress of the Programme

The spending capacity of the RDP Campania is about 50% and, as expected, sees a greater advancement of expenditure of non-structural measures that show a higher spending capacity (61.9%) compared to structural measures (39.9%). However, 2020 has seen the publication of numerous final rankings of calls for proposals related to previous years - 13 in total - made public in the second half of the year or at the turn of 2021, thus configuring a scenario that suggests a substantial advancement of expenditure for the months to come. Among the rankings published at this stage, there are also those of the calls Integrated Youth Project (4.1.2-6.1.1) and Rural Development Collective Project (6.4.2-7.6.1) both published in 2017.

	Scheduled	Expenditure incurred	Spending capacity
Structural measures*	1.055.694.147,10 €	421.128.216,27 €	39,9
Non-structural measures	753.888.013,23€	466.633.074,51 €	61,9
Total**	1.809.582.160,33 €	887.761.290,80 €	49,1

M20 - technical assistance has also been taken into account.

The progress of expenditure has reached excellent results for Priorities 3 and 4 which, compared to the financial targets for 2023, record values between 75 and 80% of the planned expenditure. The priority that is lagging behind the target values by 2023 is Priority 6, which has reached 21.19% of the planned expenditure: in particular, focus area 6B has reached an expenditure progress of 14.91%.

Priorities	Planned expenditure (€)	Expenditure incurred (€)	Progress on target to 2023 (%)
2	556.992.000,00	264.449.758,83	46,86%
3	162.852.612,00	110.704.190,81	79,56%
4	733.174.531,95	538.302.717,04	75,79%
5	62.878.488,19	22.357.409,60	28,12%
6	263.477.371,52	61.031.740,03	21,19%

The following is an analytical illustration of the information and financial outputs related to the implementation of the Programme, by Priority/Focus Area.

Priority 2 - Enhancing farm profitability and competitiveness of agriculture

^{**} Expenditure for M113 - early retirement is excluded from the total.



The overall spending capacity of Priority 2 is 48%: in FA 2A there is a good spending capacity (60%) in particular due to the measures aimed at supporting investments in agricultural enterprises (intervention 4.1.1) and the creation and development of diversification in agricultural enterprises (intervention 6.4.1.), while in FA 2B the spending capacity is around 30% of the absolute values.

Table 1Total expenditure PR 2

Focus Area/Priority	Programmed (€)	Payment (€)	Spending capacity (%)
2A	318.952.094,22	191.718.058,59	60
2B	238.039.905,79	74.258.747,51	31
Total	556.992.000	265.976.806	48

Priority 3 - Promoting food chain organisation and risk management

As far as FA 3A is concerned, there is a good spending capacity (68%), especially for the intervention that encourages "investments aimed at improving the overall performance and sustainability of agroindustrial companies through process and product innovations, giving priority to environmentally sustainable investments in a logic of integration between the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors" (intervention 4.2.1) which has 41 paid projects out of 81 started. FA 3B is exclusively affected by interventions aimed at preventing damage or restoring production potential damaged by natural disasters, adverse weather conditions, and catastrophic events (interventions 5.1.1 and 5.2.1) and this has an excellent spending capacity (75%). Therefore, PR 3 reaches the 68% of the expenditure capacity.

Table 2- Total expenditure PR 3

Focus Area/Priority	Programmed (€)	Payment (€)	Spending capacity (%)
3A	155.392.187,21	105.363.972,88	68
3В	7.460.424,79	5.593.332,20	75
Total	162.852.612,00	110.957.305,1	68

Priority 4 - Preserve, restore and enhance ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

The spending capacity for this priority stands at 74%, the highest progress is recorded by M11 and 13 which have practically exhausted their financial allocation in terms of payments and represent about 65% of the entire financial allocation of the priority.

Another measure that has a significant financial weight is the one aimed at encouraging farmers to apply voluntary integrated production methods (M10), which shows an advancement of the supported expenditure compared to the programmed 83%.



Table 2Total expenditure PR 4

Focus Area/Priority	Programmed (€)	Payment (€)	Spending capacity (%)
4	733.174.531,95	542.513.682,93	74
Total	733.174.531,95	542.513.682,93	74

Priority 5 - Stimulating resource efficiency and the shift towards a low-carbon economy

Priority 5 registers a discrete percentage of financial progress (34%): the main measures involved - "Investments aimed at the realization of public plants for the production of energy from renewable sources" (intervention 7.2.2), "Investments aimed at the reduction of gaseous emissions in livestock farming, greenhouse gases and ammonia" (intervention 4.1.3) and "Afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural areas" (intervention 8.1.1) - have a certain delay in implementation. The M16 does not record any commitment while the M1 and 2 have committed a minimum amount of resources only within the FA 5A and 5C.

Table 3Total expenditure PR 5

Focus Area/Priority	Programmed (€)	Payment (€)	Spending capacity (%)
5A	31.132.900,60	9.517.760,03	31
5C	8.978.976,08	1.898.576,74	21
5D	9.088.530,04	2.872.612,74	32
5E	13.678.081,47	7.355.131,26	54
Total	62.878.488,19	21.644.080,77	34

Priority 6 - Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

Finally, with regard to Priority 6, both FA 6A and FA 6B have low spending capacities, respectively 27% and 15%. The only significant progress is recorded for FA 6C with the intervention aimed at the creation of fiber optic access infrastructures (intervention 7.3.1) for the realization of broadband, which has a spending capacity of 45%, but remained unchanged from last year.



Table 4Total expenditure PR 6

Focus Area/Priority	Programmed (€)	Payment (€)	Spending capacity (%)
6A	132.974.073,32	35.535.241,86	27
6B	109.778.557,03	16.529.642,50	15
6C	20.724.741,17	9.254.485,00	45
Total	263.477.371,52	61.319.369,36	23

4. Characteristics of survey participants

The final numbers of the direct survey carried out by the evaluator in the years 2020 and 2021 (April-May 2020 and March 2021), record the **direct participation of 296 subjects: 192** in the survey carried out in the year 2020 and **104** in the one conducted in the year 2021, **considering not only** the owners of the farm but also the agronomists who offered their collaboration instead of their own assistants. According to these considerations, about 21.8% of the beneficiaries, randomly selected and invited to participate, contributed to the survey.

The following graph provides an **overview of the characteristics of the participants**: most of the respondents carried out projects related to Priority 2 "Enhancing the competitiveness of agriculture in all its forms and the profitability of farms" with 42.9%, these are then divided into FA 2A (26.01%) and 2B (16.89%). Another important portion of participants falls within the various FAs of priority 4 "Preserve, restore and enhance ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry" (34.12%). In spite of the concentration on these two priorities, the graph shows a satisfactory representation of the participants with respect to the FAs activated by the RDP of the Campania Region.

77 50 48 34 28 19 17 12 6 5 2A 2B ЗА 3B 4A 4B 4C 5A 6A 6B

Chart 1- Actual number of survey participants per FA (year 2020 and 2021)

The participants in the survey conducted by the VI varied greatly in terms of type of intervention and, as we can see from the following graph, a good range of I.T. was covered. This scenario helps to



have a significantly broad overview of the companies, their choices and their objectives. Most of the participants are beneficiaries of I.T. of measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets" (41%) - in particular I.T. 4.1.1 "Support for investments in agricultural holdings" is the most popular (20%) - followed by I.T. 13.1.1 "Compensatory payments for mountain areas" with 15%.

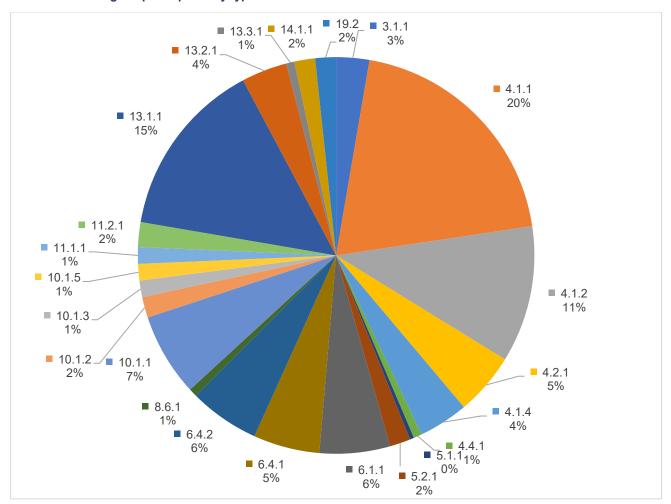


Chart 2- Percentage of participants by type of intervention

5. Survey results and analysis of company trajectories

Of the 296 participants in the survey, 67% are sole proprietorships. 67.5% of the companies are run by males and slightly more than 30% by women (5 empty answers) with an average age of 46 years. The prevailing qualification is the high school diploma (46%) followed with the same percentage by the specialist degree and the lower secondary school diploma.

The prevailing average size is the economic class ranging from 25,000 € to less than 50,000 € (19.6%). The average number of workers - 246 valid answers - is about 9 employees.

The prevailing OTE is fruit growing (14.5%), followed by cereal, oil and protein crop producers (13%), farms dedicated to viticulture (11%) and olive growing (10%).

The average UAA value is almost 21 ha and most of the participating farms are located in hilly areas.

► Company development strategies



In the area of "competitiveness and market", most of the actions carried out concern the actions dedicated to the adhesion to quality systems, proving the interest of farms in this topic. As far as actions for the protection of the environment and climate are concerned, several training activities have been carried out which have contributed positively to the training of the conductor and, in substance, interventions have been concluded for the "Improvement of the systems of regulation (drainage, etc.) and water accumulation" and for the introduction of energy production from renewable sources.

For the macro-theme "link with the territory" the greatest number of actions was carried out to adhere to promotional campaigns of local agricultural products.

► Results of the participation in the RDP and achievements of the interventions cofinanced by the RDP

Basically, 219 participants declare that the interventions carried out have allowed the company to face the main developmental criticalities mainly in the field of competitiveness and market (147 answers). In 57 cases, instead, a negative answer was given.

Respondents from 2021 (104 companies in total) were also asked to specify this positive statement (78 useful answers): these subjects registered an average increase in company turnover of about 24% and declared that they had created 0.7 jobs. In 40 they also introduced "technical-organizational innovations in the production processes of cultivation and breeding" and "Innovations that increase the environmental sustainability of the enterprise". 29 subjects have focused on organizational and managerial innovations while they remain "behind", as already seen, the "introduction of transformation and/or innovations of transformation processes already present", the "diversification of products/creation of new products" and the "diversification of marketing channels/new marketing channels".

► The company and the health emergency

Due to the health emergency from COVID- 19, practically all the farms participating in the survey - 18 responded that they had not experienced any problems - were faced with different levels of "severity", problems related to a certain revolution in the production, management and commercial routine of the farm.

The main limitations were recorded - responses "limited and significant changes" - for the aspects related to "Employment and procurement of production factors, including family and non-family labour" and "Modes and channels of marketing". The first aspect can be probably connected to the limits imposed by the first lockdown period in Italy (March-May 2020) and by the subsequent limitations in the movements. The second - it is hypothesized also on the basis of the thematic indepth studies conducted by the IA at the turn of 2020 and 2021 - was a limitation especially for those farms whose channels and sales methods are linked to the direct relationship, direct knowledge with the buyer, local sales - including sales to local markets/chains and for farms with products of easy perishability (fruit and vegetables).

In the light of this experience, the company managers were asked to indicate the prospects for relaunching and what further developments they imagine for their company: in first place (with 49 preferences) is the desire to rethink the methods and channels of distribution - this can be seen both as a "lesson learned" from the historical moment and as a desire to "open the company" to the outside world -. Secondly (37 responses) there is the desire to create/strengthen networks in the territory both with other businesses - creating a tourism driver - and with research centres - aiming at innovation - and with public subjects - stimulating and supporting entrepreneurship and work-life needs. There are also objectives that push for continuous training and those that see



the protection of business organization and means of production as a further point to strengthen.

6. Delphi analysis for the identification of business clusters

The following analysis is **based on a path based on the involvement of experts in the agricultural and agri-food sector of Campania**, in order to place the results of the primary surveys, which the Evaluator is conducting on samples of beneficiary farms, within a frame of reference that restores the sense of programming to the different *stakeholders* of the RDP of the Campania Region. The main purpose of the analysis was to build a frame of meaning on the effects of the RDP in favour of regional farms.

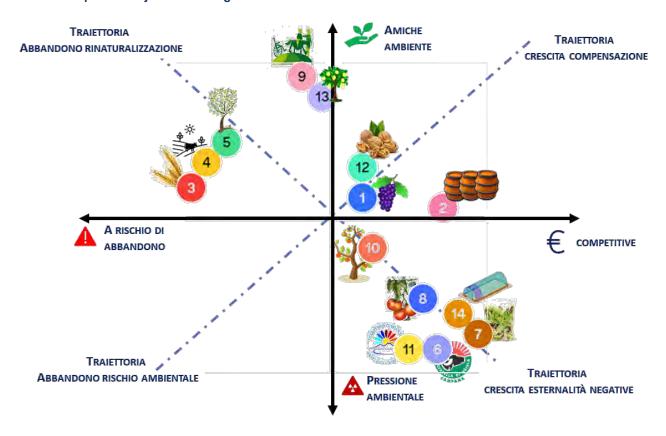
This work was carried out through a qualitative approach, a technique called Delphi "continuous progression" (i.e. without the usual time scanned and spaced of the traditional Delphi), which involved in a time frame of two weeks a *panel of* 15 experts, selected by the Region among: regional officials, heads of national agencies (SVIMEZ), officials of trade associations, experts of the order of agronomists and foresters, consultants and technicians.

Delphi consisted of two phases:

- ▶ Phase 1 was initiated by providing the experts with the following list of possible groups of farms and the experts were asked to connote the groups, enriching the identified groups with more detailed descriptions, or to integrate and/or modify the proposed set-up, only if they considered it necessary, thus identifying new groups. The outcome of the first phase was the identification of 14 different groups of farms (by OTE, RDP measures activated/activatable, economic size, etc.).
- ▶ In Phase 2 the panel of experts placed the groups of farms within the trajectory space connoted by the two dimensions competitiveness/environment. Each axis is described in a dichotomous way by two terms that are the opposite of each other: thus competitiveness is represented by the dichotomy market/support and environment by virtuous ecological footprint/generates pressure. Each cluster is characterized by an image that visually returns its "label".



Chart 3The space of trajectories of regional farms



On the basis of this representation, the sample surveys will be able to provide useful indications on the capacity of the RDP to intervene on the needs of each group, reducing environmental pressure in some groups, favouring turnover in others, increasing competitiveness on the more sustainable ones.

7. Main results

The main evaluation conclusions, formulated on the basis of the drafting of the Annual Evaluation Report, can be summarised as follows.

Priority 2 - Keywords: competitiveness, business development and youth

The contribution of the RDP to the improvement of economic results in the farms benefiting

Competitiveness
Business development
Youth

from the investments subsidised in focus area 2A (TI 4.1.1, 6.4.1 and 8.6.1) is overall satisfactory, even though in the last year, conditioned by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, 69.4% of the farms interviewed declared to have improved the economic results of the farm with the investments subsidised by the RDP.

The beneficiary farms of the intervention type 4.1.1, which by 31/12/2020 have received a payment for projects started or carried out, are 827 (unique number net of double counting, increasing compared to the value recorded at 31/12/2019) and 92.7% of the public expenditure carried out in the intervention type 4.1.1, concerns projects started in the new 2014-2020 programming period by 684 beneficiary farms. The update in 2020, confirms the prevalent presence of beneficiary farms in rural areas D (50.1%) and C (33.2%). The surveys carried out by the evaluator on beneficiary farms in 2020-2021 confirm the prevalent orientation of farms towards the modernisation of plantations, livestock and/or existing farm structures (81.4%) and/or the introduction of innovations and equipment to improve the environmental performance of the farm (74.6%). The I.T. 6.4.1 counts 359



beneficiary farms that have received a payment which are in a very large part (95.0%) located in the macro-areas D (52.3%) and C (42.7%) and in the region. The progress of the RDP confirms the presence of traditional technical and economic orientations, mainly arable crops (49.0% including cereals), specialized fruit growing (16.6%) in particular farms specialized in the production of nuts or with different combinations of permanent crops, farms with mixed production from crops and livestock (9.9%), horticultural farms (8.9%) with outdoor or nursery crops and traditional farms specialized in quality olive growing (7.9%) and viticulture (5.0%).

In conclusion, the first results of the sample surveys carried out for **indicator R2** at the companies benefiting from intervention 4.1.1 of the RDP - although partial and susceptible to further development (in particular through counterfactual analysis) - **allow an overall favourable evaluation of the effects of the co-financed investments on the levels of competitiveness of the companies, after a little more than a year from their completion.** At least if these effects are assessed through the change in labour productivity (common indicator R2), which is estimated to have increased on average by 85 per cent by 2019, thus prior to the health emergency that began in 2020.

The results also show how the investments made have improved labour productivity (and from this point of view business competitiveness), especially in larger enterprises. At the same time, it is worth noting the phenomenon of the enterprises of limited initial economic size that, thanks to the investments supported by the RDP, have increased the levels of productivity (and it is expected competitiveness) by starting up processes of transformation in the company of the basic agricultural production, able to increase the value of production to a greater extent than the necessary increase of the work output.

The strategy of the RDP aimed at business start-up for young farmers and farm development is implemented through integrated projects, which make it possible to adhere to both types of intervention 6.1.1 and 4.1.2 in order to carry out technically and economically effective investment projects. In TI 6.1.1, 593 young farmers received payments amounting to € 23,510,000.00; in TI 4.1.2, payments amounting to € 44,105,249.82 were made to 559 beneficiary farms.

With regard to the interventions declared as "carried out" by the interviewees for the macro-theme related to "competitiveness and the market", most of the young farmers declare to have completed the investments for the adhesion to quality systems (38%), while 24% concentrated on the diversification of cultivation and breeding (a further 26% are carrying out this type of investment). Finally, between 12 and 14% of those interviewed have completed interventions for the introduction/development of on-farm processing and direct sales to consumers.

Investments aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change concerned, in particular, the improvement of the contribution of organic substance to the soil (30%), the improvement of water regulation and accumulation systems (26%), the purchase of machinery and equipment for the adoption of conservative agricultural techniques (22%) - this category reaches 16% of the projects "in progress" -, the construction of systems for the production of energy from renewable sources (22%) and the introduction of high or medium efficiency irrigation systems (16%). Training, in which 46% of the young people interviewed took part, has also contributed to improving the environmental sustainability of production processes.

In conclusion, the possibility of addressing the different aspects related to business establishment and development through the integrated project was considered positive by 88% of the young farmers interviewed. The implementation of the RDP strategy aimed at young farmers appears overall satisfactory, the projects financed are being completed and, therefore, their effects are still partial, but 68% of those interviewed already judge positively the effects obtained from the investments in changing the farm into a competitive and sustainable one.

Priority 3- Keywords: quality productions, supply chains and risk management



The development of the quality of agricultural production and its certification are strongly

Quality productions
Chains
Risk management

supported by the Campania RDP within the agri-food production chains through the support to the participation of farmers in quality schemes, local markets, short supply chains and other producer associations/organisations in order to improve business competitiveness. A further specific objective of P 3 is to facilitate the access of agricultural enterprises to risk management schemes and related exercises.

Intervention type 3.1.1 supports the adhesion of individual or associated farmers to certified quality schemes: for the majority of the interviewees (62.5%), adhesion to quality systems has had positive effects on competitiveness and the market of products, determining both an increase in the quantities of agricultural products delivered to processing and transformation enterprises or sold directly on the market and an increase in the prices paid to farmers.

Regarding cooperation, there are no M16 beneficiaries at the direct survey and therefore the main considerations made in the in-depth study on M16 for the drafting of the RVA 2020 remain.

Turning to intervention 4.2.1, which encourages "investments aimed at improving the overall performance and sustainability of agro-industrial enterprises through process and product innovation, giving priority to environmentally sustainable investments in a logic of integration between the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors", the effectiveness of the RDP in addressing the weakness of the system appears satisfactory. All the investments undertaken or carried out are aimed at introducing innovations in products and/or production processes and adherence to quality systems. The effects of the investments made are judged positively by all the participants in the survey and these effects are mainly recognised on the side of the consolidation and development of agricultural production.

Regarding the difficulties encountered during the health emergency by COVID- 19, 4 out of 7 respondents from 2021 stated that they had faced significant changes specifying that these changes mainly concerned the marketing methods and channels.

As regards the M14 "Animal welfare", the target indicator "number of beneficiaries" programmed to 2023 was already well exceeded (+152%) at the end of 2019. For this reason, in the September 2020 version of the RDP - which is still in force - the financial allocation for M14 was significantly increased. In 2020 the number of beneficiaries is 591 subjects, the total number of admitted applications was 3612 - a number on which there are the "double counts" deriving from the possibility for each beneficiary to be able to activate more actions.

Examining the distribution of the considered variables by Action and type of breeding, it is evident in the first place, the greater share of applications (45,8%) in Action C, addressed to the improvement of sanitary conditions of breeding. The remaining half of the applications and LUs are distributed almost equally between Actions A (increase in space) and B (continuation of natural lactation) with a slight prevalence of the former (26.8%) compared to the latter (25%) which mainly involves dairy buffalo breeding and which, compared to 2019 has increased by 5 percentage points compared to the total number of applications. Regarding Action D, dedicated to the improvement of health conditions and management of sheep and goat farms, the participation increases by about 50 farms confirming the emergence of a small sector.

On the other hand, as far as risk management in the agricultural sector is concerned, in the typology of intervention 5.1.1, as of 31/12/2020, 11 projects have been started with an expenditure amounting to 1,109,957.37 €. Of these, 7 projects have been settled for a total of €536,919.25. The majority (63.6%) of the companies involved in the prevention interventions are specialized in the production of fresh fruit. The perception of the beneficiaries interviewed by the Evaluator on the improvement of the prevention and management of business risks is generally positive. No additional beneficiaries participated in the 2021 survey.

With regard to the typology 5.2.1 - call for tender 2016, floods 2015 - the beneficiary farms that by 31/12/2020 have carried out the interventions are 45, plus two beneficiaries (Consorzi di bonifica)



for interventions in dragging from the 2007-2013 programming (Measure 126). The total public expenditure is equal to \leq 4,476,438.69 and 34 projects have been settled for a total expenditure of \leq 936,561.32.

Priorities 4 and 5- Keyword: environment and sustainability

Priority 4 of the RDP pursues the objective of preserving, restoring and enhancing agricultural and forest ecosystems with particular reference to the conservation of

biodiversity and the improvement of water and soil quality.

Environment Sustainability

The agricultural area of the RDP that has a positive effect on biodiversity is 245,022.04 ha equal to 37% of the Regional Agricultural Area. The area related to allowances contributes to this

result. From the distribution of SOI it emerges that there is a greater concentration of SOI in protected areas and Natura 2000 areas compared to the average regional data.

The FBI index in 2020 is equal to 83.59, with a 16.4% decrease compared to 2000 and a slight recovery compared to the progressive decrease recorded since 2010. The regression analysis carried out has confirmed the importance of maintaining agricultural activity in mountain areas through the Measure 13.1, and in fact it has highlighted how, for many mountain habitats, agriculture, understood in the cultural form of extensive cultivation and forage cultivation related to livestock, preventing the evolution of habitats towards the forest, maintaining a mosaic of different landscapes in space and time, reducing the risk of fire, favors the presence of target species of avifauna.

On the basis of the analysis carried out, the agricultural surfaces of the RDP that contribute to the maintenance of the areas of high and very high naturalistic value (HNV) are 67,386.42 hectares, that is 35.28% of the UAA, which does not allow to appreciate a greater concentration in these areas.

The forest area covered by the RDP Submeasure 15.1 is 38,949 ha: 94.2% of the area is protected and 88.5% is Natura2000. The location shows high percentages of implementation of the commitments in the areas where the environmental effect is maximized by strengthening both the biodiversity protection system and the connectivity between habitats to the benefit of wildlife.

The RDP surface area that has a positive effect on water quality is 105,887 hectares, equal to 16% of the regional agricultural surface area, higher than what was obtained in the previous programming period. The territorial distribution of the intervention surface does not appear optimal as it does not determine a desired "concentration" in the priority areas, i.e. where the environmental risks are greater: in the ZVN the SOI/SA ratio is only 9.5% of the total agricultural surface, while the same index, calculated for the region as a whole is 16%. Among the probable causes, the lower economic convenience for farmers in these areas (where the most intensive and productive agriculture is located) in adhering to agri-environmental actions. The reduction in the nitrogen load for integrated agriculture (specific impact) and organic farming is 33 and 29 kg/ha respectively, corresponding to a percentage reduction of -28 and -30%, with more marked reductions in tree areas for integrated farming (-36%) and in arable land for organic farming (-35%). As for the efficacy on the reduction of phosphorus load (P2O5), the operation of 10.1.1 involves a reduction of 26.6 kg/ha equal to 53%, similar values to those obtained by organic farming, which results in a reduction of 24 kg/ha equal to 50%.

The area of the RDP that has a positive effect on soil quality is 118,502 ha or 17.9% of the Regional Agricultural Area. The distribution of SOI in the areas at risk of non-tolerable erosion (>11.2 t/ha year) shows a concentration of 17.9%, compared to the regional average of 16.7%, showing a moderate effectiveness of the measures on the erosion phenomenon. On the basis of the analysis carried out it emerges that the RDP commitments reduce erosion by 860,557 Mg/year, corresponding to 47% of the total erosion present in the 118,502 hectares involved. It is estimated that the agri-environmental-climatic actions as a whole bring the average value of erosion in the areas of intervention from 15.3 to 8.1 Mg/ha/year, thus the reduction of erosion is 7.2 Mg/ha/year (I13). The RDP measures do not seem to have a concrete effect on the increase of organic carbon



in soils, as this increase due to the measures is only 0.06%. However, the analysis shows that the measure dedicated to the increase of organic substance in soils (10.1.2) determines an increase of SOC equal to 0.13%.

Priority 5 aims at encouraging, in the agrifood and forestry sector, the efficient use of resources and the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. The sustainability of agri-food production is aimed, in particular in the Campania RDP, at determining the saving of water resources, increasing the use and production of renewable energy, reducing climate-altering gases and conserving and implementing carbon sequestration.

The RDP of the Campania Region 2014/2020 provides a wide range of interventions with the aim of saving water resources, from the "dedicated" measures (4.1.4,4.3.2), up to what is subsidized within measures with different primary objectives (above all the operation 4.1.1). On the other hand, the resources allocated to this objective are on the whole limited (little more than 2% of the total), even if this data does not intercept the investments counted in other Focus Areas, above all the economic ones. In this regard, the importance of reserving, also for the future, a financial endowment dedicated to this type of investment is underlined, otherwise there is a risk that these interventions will assume a marginal weight among the projects financed by the investment measures. The first results are on the whole satisfactory: a fairly homogeneous set of measures aimed at introducing high-efficiency irrigation systems on farms has been completed. This structural adjustment of the beneficiary farms has determined a considerable reduction of water consumption for irrigation purposes, both in absolute terms (-38%) and in relation to the value of productions (-42%). From the interviews carried out it was also found a strong sensitivity on the part of farmers regarding the issue of water saving and the importance of protecting the resource and also a certain propensity to invest further in this direction, however, it is still desirable for the future, in line with the aims and objectives of the so-called "New Green Deal", even greater attention from the region towards the so-called agriculture 4.0 in order to involve those who still mistrust the usefulness of tools put in place.

The Rural Development Plan of Campania intervenes in the direction of the **production of energy** from renewable sources through different financing lines and involving different actors, from farms to local authorities. The operations that the RDP addresses primarily to this objective, the operations 7.2.2 and 16.6.1, however, have implementation delays partly related to their innovative nature. The only investments completed as of 31.12.2020 that involve the construction of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources are therefore those, more traditional, financed within the scope of the operations aimed at farms (4.1.1 and 4.1.2) and processing companies (4.2.1) and aimed above all at the economic consolidation of the same. A total investment of more than 7 million \in , for more than 400 projects carried out, but almost all of them concern the simple installation of photovoltaic panels.

The energy that can be produced by these plants is interesting in absolute terms, amounting to 465 tonnes of oil equivalent, but it assumes a negligible weight if considered in relative terms, both with reference to the overall "green energy" produced by the primary sector and to the Burden Sharing objectives.

The surface of the RDP that determines a **GHG reduction is** 118,115 hectares, equal to 17.8% of the regional agricultural surface. The total reduction of GHG emissions is 130,174 MgCO2eq year; of these 5,881 MgCO2eq are due to the reduction of mineral fertilizers and 124,294 MgCO2eq is the quantity obtained thanks to the absorption of C-sink in agricultural soils.

The RDP measures examined do not seem to have a significant impact on the reduction of GHG in the agricultural sector, representing only 0.35% of the total emissions of agriculture and 4.3% of the mineral fertilizer sector.

The interventions of the RDP Campania directly related to the **conservation and sequestration of carbon are represented by the sub-measure 8.1, which** aims at the realization of afforestation and tree plantations on agricultural and non-agricultural land in order to contribute to the mitigation of climate change, and 8.5, which aims at investments to increase the resilience and environmental



value of forest ecosystems. The analysis of the monitoring data provided by the Campania Region shows that for the sub-measure 8.1, Support to forestation/afforestation, 15 projects have been started for an expenditure of € 441,050. The payments concern the expenses related to planting costs that are accounted for among the structural measures, while there are no payments for premiums for loss of agricultural income and maintenance premiums accounted for among the surface measures. As far as the submeasure 8.5 is concerned, aimed at favouring the improvement of the ecological efficiency of forest ecosystems, 17 projects have been started for an amount of expenditure of € 2,719,602, but none of them has been paid. On the whole, the contributed forest areas that contribute to carbon sequestration or conservation represent 1.86% of the total regional forest area. Considering only the afforested surfaces that have been carried over from the previous programming period, it is estimated that they could determine the fixation of about 20,263 tCO2eq/year. This value accounts for 0.1% of total regional emissions and, if compared with the CO2 absorption of the regional forestry sector accounted for in the NIR, it represents 1.1%.

Priority 6- key words: local development and LEADER

Priority 6 has the general objective of making the rural territory a "solidarity" area suitable for families,

Local development LEADER

guaranteeing an adequate quality of life, and suitable for the development of local businesses.

The activation of FA 6A within the Campania RDP aims to encourage the diversification of agricultural and non-agricultural activities in rural areas and stimulate the implementation of innovative system actions in the provision of essential services to

rural populations, thus also promoting the design capacity of local actors.

Measure 6 has registered a certain progress in terms of settled projects on which it is possible to elaborate some first quantitative analyses thanks to the monitoring data and some first qualitative considerations thanks to the contribution of the participants to the direct survey.

As far as TI 6.2.1 is concerned, a total of 300 interventions have been recorded, of which 136 have reached the balance: as foreseen by the call, the aids are concentrated in areas C and D where the Business Development Plans foreseen for the start-up of non-agricultural activities presented for the majority by women (61.6%) will be implemented.

The beneficiary farms of the type of intervention 6.4.2 that by 31/12/2020 have received a payment for projects started are 94 for a public expenditure of 4,830,110.86 € (only new projects) and almost 100% of the interventions have made interventions for the implementation of production activities - only 1 project has the purpose "activities of personal services in the social sector". The interviewees (16 out of a total of 17) also declare that the interventions carried out through 6.4.2 in conjunction with the other measures have contributed to improving the business capacity to respond to the complexities of the context.

The diversification activity in a strict sense has privileged the choice of the tourist/accommodation purpose with the realization of room rentals for short stays especially in the realities in which the farm does not carry out further agricultural activity. The other interventions have foreseen the realization of direct sale points and the working/processing of agricultural and vegetable products.

The main objective of AF 6B is to activate local development through the LEADER method, whose added value is the development of the potential of the rural territory with a bottom-up approach that stimulates the emergence of the specific needs of each rural reality. The FA 6B has a low spending capacity (25%), partly due to the longer time needed for the approval and start-up of the SSL. In addition, during the year 2020, several LAGs have chosen to reprogramme resources in order to respond more effectively to the needs of the reference territory and to take into account, among other things, the actual interest received by the published calls for proposals.

Most of the resources available for measure 19.2 are concentrated on I.T. 6.2.1 'Business start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas' (19%) and 7.5.1 'Support for investments for public



use in small-scale recreational and tourist infrastructure' (24%) reflecting the strategic role of the LAGs in rural areas which aims to encourage territorial rather than sectoral development. The measure 16, with five different I.T. activated, commits 21% of the financial allocations (more than 16 mln €) testifying the ability of the LAGs of Campania to promote the creation of synergies and collaborations on the territory within the implementation of their strategies. Moreover, the centrality of measure 16 and in particular of T.I. 16.1.1 underlines the importance of the LAGs in promoting innovation in rural territories.

The implementation progress of the sub-measure 19.2 is not homogeneous and the monitoring data show situations of full commitment of resources against others where this value is practically nil.

In Campania the sub-measure 19.3 'Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action group' has a total budget of € 5,250,000 which corresponds to € 350,000 for each LAG. The cooperation projects presented, which have involved all 15 LAGs of Campania, are 8 - of which 3 Transnational and 5 inter-territorial - all approved except one, which has been delayed due to problems and delays encountered by a Sicilian LAG partner in the project. The expenditure capacity remains very low since only the drags have been paid, due to the implementation delays at regional level, LAGs, national and foreign MAs that have been added also to the unexpected problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At present, in the absence of completed projects, the added value of LEADER can be seen in the planning, implementation and self-assessment of participatory bottom-up development practices by the LAGs. In their work, the LAGs have placed great value on proximity to the area and close contact with institutional and socio-economic actors, including through animation activities. This situation is not uniform and there are many contexts in which the implementation process is slow or unsatisfactory, since for at least four LAGs concessions are close to zero and in another just 10%, against an average of over 50%.

Consistent with the Digital Growth Strategy 2014-2020 and the National Strategy for Ultra-Wideband, the RDP Campania, through the FA 6C, provides funding for the improvement of the internet connection ensuring a capacity of more than 30 Mbps in rural areas (macroareas C and D) where deficiencies have been ascertained and where investments by private companies are not expected in the near future.

The M1, as repeatedly noted over the years, does not record either commitments or payments while the M7, with the specific intervention entirely programmed in this FA, has 100% of the committed resources and has a spending capacity of 45%.

In conclusion, FA 6C has not progressed in physical terms- intervention 1.1.1- nor financial terms compared to FY 2019. Therefore, the same considerations made for the exercise of AER 2020 apply.



8. Conclusions and recommendations

Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
FA2A	Completion of investments is accelerated (total value reached about 65% of target) for restructuring and modernisation of beneficiary enterprises (70% of target). The selection criteria directed support mainly to enterprises led by young people and operating in mountainous areas or other constraints. Investments and innovation of existing production processes, also to improve their environmental performance, prevail; investments for new products are limited. The implementation of interventions for the economic diversification in the companies is of minor entity but in line with the programmed targets. Interventions in support of the forestry sector are very limited in quantity. The judgments of entrepreneurs and company surveys confirm, until 2019, an improvement of the economic results in the companies benefiting from Intervention 4.1.1 in the post-investment situation. This occurs in particular in the enterprises with specialized address, of greater economic size and also in the medium-small ones with business processes of transformation of agricultural production (e.g. wine, oil). The first positive investment results verified in 2019, were sharply reduced in 2020 due to the health emergency.	 For post-2020 programming, it is suggested that: To promote and disseminate innovation and more efficient and sustainable overall business management methods. Review the intervention strategy for the protection and economic valorisation of the forest heritage Further strengthen the economic diversification processes of enterprises. Satisfy the new needs for innovation, modernization and reconversion that have arisen as a result of the health emergency (see in-depth study on RDP and innovation). To strengthen the actions of consultancy towards the enterprises that with the investments have brought innovations to the total management modalities of the company.
FA2B	The farms benefiting from the measures 6.1.1 and 4.1.2 judge positively - 88% of the answers - the experience of the implementation of the Business Development Plan. Moreover, thanks to the progressive completion of the financed projects, the results of the interventions are starting to become evident in terms of positive effects on the evolution of the farm where the generational change has taken place. 68% of those interviewed judge positively the effects obtained in terms of modernization of the structure, stability on the market, competitiveness and sustainability in the use of the resources - human, environmental and energy - available. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the consequences that it has generated mainly in terms of the sale of products, has led young people to a general reflection/adaptation of the channels and methods of trade.	 Verify if and how the implementation performances of the generational turnover improve if carried out through the Youth Package. For further considerations in this sense, please refer to the monothematic report "The dynamics of generational turnover in rural households in Campania"; Strengthen consultancy and coaching actions towards companies led by young people on more professionalizing actions.



Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	The direct survey, with regard to the beneficiaries of TI 3.1.1, shows that in 62.5% of the cases, the adhesion to the quality systems had positive effects on the competitiveness and on the marketing of the products, determining both an increase in the quantities of agricultural products delivered to the processing and transformation enterprises or sold directly on the market, and an increase in the prices paid to the farmers.	
	As far as TI 4.2.1 is concerned, the effectiveness of the RDP in addressing the weakness of the system appears satisfactory: all the beneficiary enterprises interviewed by the evaluator expressed positive judgments on the opportunity offered by the intervention.	
FA3A	The effects of the investments made are judged positively by all the respondents to the survey and these effects are mainly recognised on the consolidation and development of agricultural production.	
	As far as the "planned" activities are concerned, those linked to strengthening the link with the territory, understood as the adhesion to networks of promotion and local sales, favouring the short supply chain, seem to be of interest.	
	The main difficulties encountered during the COVID- 19 pandemic related to marketing difficulties.	
	Finally, with regard to the revision of the physical and expenditure targets of the M14, it is noted that these have been adequately modified in the RDP ver. 8.1 of September 2020 in line with the request of the territory.	
FA 3B	As reported in the analysis of M 5.1, the perception of the beneficiaries with respect to the contribution that the measures on risk management bring to the prevention of adverse events on the farm is positive. It will be important to verify that this feeling is also conveyed by the new beneficiaries selected with the ranking list published in early 2021.	
FA 4A	The agricultural area of the RDP that has a positive effect on biodiversity is 245,022 hectares or 37% of the Regional Agricultural Area. The area related to allowances contributes to this result. From the distribution of SOI it emerges that there is a greater concentration of SOI in protected areas and Natura 2000 areas compared to the average regional data.	
	The regression analysis carried out in order to highlight correlations between the presence of agro-climatic-environmental measures and the presence and number	



Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	of avian species linked to agricultural environments (FBI), even if it has not produced results able to measure in a precise way the impact on biodiversity of the application of agro-environmental measures as a whole, has however confirmed the importance of maintaining agricultural activity in mountain areas through Measure 13.1.	
	On the basis of the analysis carried out, the agricultural surfaces of the RDP that contribute to the maintenance of the areas of high and very high naturalistic value (HNV) are 67,386.42 hectares, that is 35.28% of the SAU that does not allow to appreciate a greater concentration in these areas	
	The forest area covered by the RDP Submeasure 15.1 is equal to 38,949 hectares: 94.2% of this area is covered by protected areas and 88.5% by Natura2000 areas. The localization shows high percentages of implementation of the commitments in the areas where the environmental effect is maximized by strengthening both the biodiversity protection system and the connectivity between the habitats for the benefit of wildlife.	
FA 4B	The quality status of water in the region is suboptimal especially for groundwater surface water: it is hoped that the new perimeter of NVZs approved in 2017 (entered into force in 2019) will lead to an improvement in water quality.	
	The area of the RDP that has a positive effect on water quality is 105,887 hectares or 16% of the Regional Agricultural Area, higher than what was achieved in the previous programming.	
	The territorial distribution of the intervention surface does not appear to be optimal, since it does not lead to the desired "concentration" in the priority areas, i.e. where the environmental risks are greatest: in the NVZs the SOI/SA ratio is only 9.5% of the total agricultural surface, while the same index, calculated for the region as a whole, is 16%. One of the probable causes is that it is less economical for farmers in these areas (where the most intensive and productive agriculture is located) to participate in agri-environmental actions.	
	The reduction in nitrogen load for integrated farming (specific impact) and organic farming is 33 and 29 kg/ha respectively, corresponding to a percentage reduction of -28 and -30%, with more marked reductions in tree areas for integrated farming (-36%) and arable land for organic farming (-35%).	
	As for the efficacy on the reduction of phosphorus load (P2O5), the operation of 10.1.1 involves a reduction of 26.6 kg/ha equal to 53%, similar values to those	



Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	obtained by organic farming, which results in a reduction of 24 kg/ha equal to 50%.	
	The effectiveness of the measures in reducing nitrogen surplus in SOI is high and equal to about 56%, while phosphorus is reduced by 15%, overall in the regional UAA the reductions of the two macronutrients are 11.6%% for nitrogen and 3% for phosphorus.	
FA 4C	The area of the RDP that has a positive effect on soil quality is 118,502 hectares or 17.9% of the Regional Agricultural Area. The distribution of SOI in the areas at risk of non-tolerable erosion (>11.2 t/ha year) shows a concentration of 17.9%, compared to the regional average of 16.7%, showing a moderate effectiveness of the measures on the erosion phenomenon.	
	On the basis of the analysis carried out it emerges that the RDP commitments reduce erosion by 860,557 Mg/year, corresponding to 47% of the total erosion present in the 118,502 hectares involved. It is estimated that the agro-climatic-environmental actions as a whole bring the average value of erosion in the areas of intervention from 15.3 to 8.1 Mg/ha/year, thus the reduction of erosion is 7.2 Mg/ha/year (I13).	
	The measures of the RDP do not seem to have a concrete effect on the increase of organic carbon in the soil, as this increase due to the measures is only 0.06%. However, the analysis shows that the measure dedicated to the increase of organic substance in soils (10.1.2) determines an increase in SOC equal to 0.13%.	
FA 5A	The RDP of Campania 2014/2020 puts in the field a wide range of interventions with the aim of saving water resources, from "dedicated" measures (4.1.4,4.3.2), up to what is subsidized within measures with different primary objectives (above all the operation 4.1.1). On the other hand, the resources allocated to this objective are on the whole limited (little more than 2% of the total), even if this figure does not intercept the investments counted in other Focus Areas, especially the economic ones.	investments in water saving, otherwise there is a risk that these interventions will become marginal among the projects
	The first results are on the whole satisfactory: a fairly homogeneous set of interventions aimed at introducing high-efficiency irrigation systems on farms (drip systems with an efficiency of at least 80%) to replace obsolete and inefficient systems has been completed. These are necessary investments, that sometimes the farms cannot support directly without the public support, able to contribute to	



Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	the saving of resources and to the environmental sustainability of the productions, but at the same time to strengthen the farms from the economic point of view thanks to the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the productions. This structural adjustment of the beneficiary farms has determined a considerable reduction of water consumption for irrigation purposes, both in absolute terms (-38%) and in relation to the value of productions (-42%).	
	From the interviews carried out, it has been noticed a strong sensibility of the farmers on the theme of water saving and on the importance of the protection of the resource, and also a certain propensity to invest further in this direction, also taking advantage of the new tools made available by computer technologies. Contradictorily, however, the actual use by the beneficiary farmers of the tools of "irrigation advice" made available with the Regional Plan of irrigation advice is still rather limited, discounting a certain mistrust of the fund compared to the actual usefulness of the same. It is therefore desirable for the future, in line with the aims and objectives of the so-called "New Green Deal", an even greater attention from the region towards the so-called agriculture 4.0 and the tools that it makes available to farmers, both in terms of programming (e.g. surface measure dedicated to water saving that provides for commitments to use these tools; selection criteria and / or contribution percentages rewarding; etc.), and in terms of training, information, promotion and dissemination.	
FA 5C	The Rural Development Plan of Campania intervenes in the direction of energy production from renewable sources through different funding lines and involving different actors, from farms to local authorities. Le-Operation <u>i7.2.2</u> , which the RDP addresses as a priority to this objective, le operazioni 7.2.2 e 16.6.1, has nehowever implementation delays partly related to its innovative <u>itàloro</u> characterdi.	istruttorio ed for action i7.2.2 e 16.6.1, direttamente aimed at eproducing energy from renewable sources, be speeded up as much as possible, con l'obiettivo ultimo di accrescere l'energia
	The only investments completed as at 31.12.2020 that involve the construction of plants for the production of energy from renewable sources are therefore those, more traditional, financed within the framework of the operations addressed to farms (4.1.1 and 4.1.2) and to processing companies (4.2.1) and mainly aimed at the economic consolidation of the same. A total investment of more than 7 million euros, for more than 400 projects carried out, but almost all of them concern the simple installation of photovoltaic panels.	
	The energy that can be produced by these plants is interesting in absolute terms, amounting to 465 tonnes of oil equivalent, but it assumes a negligible weight if	



Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	considered in relative terms, both with reference to the overall "green energy" produced by the primary sector and to the Burden Sharing objectives.	
FA 5D	The surface of the RDP that determines a GHG reduction is 118,115 hectares, equal to 17.8% of the regional agricultural surface. The total reduction of GHG emissions is 130,174 MgCO2eq year; of these 5,881 MgCO2eq are due to the reduction of mineral fertilizers and 124,294 MgCO2eq is the quantity obtained thanks to the absorption of C-sink in agricultural soils.	
	The RDP measures examined do not seem to have a significant impact on the reduction of GHG in the agricultural sector, representing only 0.35% of the total emissions of agriculture and 4.3% of the mineral fertilizer sector.	
FA 5E	At present it has only been possible to count the areas relating to carryovers from the previous programming period.	
	On the whole, the forest areas that contribute to carbon sequestration or conservation represent 1.86% of the total regional forest area.	
	Considering only the afforested areas carried over from the previous programming period, it is estimated that they could determine a total of approximately 20,263 tCO2eq/year. This value accounts for 0.1% of total regional emissions and, if compared with the CO2 absorption of the regional forestry sector accounted for in the NIR, it represents 1.1%.	
6A	Regarding TI 6.2.1, the numbers on physical and financial progress are progressively approaching the target objectives. The projects launched for TI 6.4.2 which have not yet been settled cannot yet give an account of the results obtained in terms of their contribution to the creation/maintenance of jobs, as well as to the actual creation of enterprises.	 An in-depth analysis of the projects selected under M 6.2.1 could be undertaken to deepen the purpose of the interventions (true VA of the intervention TI). The same applies to projects launched on TI 6.4.2. where the "social" purpose has so far been selected by only 1 project out of 94.
Sample survey	Five years after the formal launch of the RDP, the farms in Campania - according to the cross-section returned by the sample survey - have primarily provided for the needs of growth in terms of competitiveness and/or efficiency in terms of mitigation of environmental impacts. The themes of the internalisation of the supply chain and its continuous innovation remain the main levers for company development in the future.	 The repetition of the sample survey is showing its effectiveness in terms of its ability to detect trends in company positions. In this sense, it is important to continue raising awareness on the issue of cooperation on the part of the beneficiaries; Aiming at new marketing channels/methods also means having adequate computer and/or marketing skills that allow a certain degree of decision-making autonomy to the



Theme/area of analysis	Conclusions	Recommendations
	Strong attention is also paid to the territory, to the link with the local product that needs adequate recognition and protection. Finally, the COVID- 19 pandemic has made clear the need to rethink the channels and ways in which agricultural products are sold.	farmer. As already highlighted in the in-depth thematic study dedicated to young people, it could be appropriate to link training activities to more professionalizing themes such as these;
		▶ It seems evident that Campania's farmers are developing a "glocal" vision for their trade - from niche productions to certified ones and so on It would be opportune to understand the various positions and needs that are composing this new strategy in order to define an adequate support from the RDP.
	The topic of administrative simplification has been at the core of the activity of the MA during the previous years, thanks to the implementation of practices aimed at reducing the administrative burden on the beneficiaries, facilitating the administrative procedures for accessing the contributions and facilitating the activity of examining the dossiers and adopting actions, among which the following are mentioned:	On the subject of procedural simplification, it is now clear that it is necessary to complete the process of administrative simplification of the management of the Rural Development Policy, its obligations, its rules and its regulatory procedures.
Procedural and management BPs	 the dematerialisation of calls for tender; automated scrutiny also for area-related measures; adoption of the guidelines and related application for the reasonableness of technical expenses adoption of the maximum reference cost price list for certain types of expenses; Substantially reducing the error rate, making the RDP management and control system more efficient; Implementation of the SIS.M.A.R. (Regional Agricultural Monitoring System) Measures to simplify procedures for RDP beneficiaries related to health emergencies. 	For the future, it seems necessary, therefore, a decisive intervention of discontinuity at a regional level, applying with greater coherence the strategies on simplification already foreseen by the (regional and communitarian) regulations, realizing an integrated system that strengthens the relationships among the different subjects involved, enhances the subsidiarity and the role of the CAA, promotes an adequate system of agricultural and rural development services on the whole territory, rationalizes the bureaucratic impact and the business management for the producer, simplifies the relationships with the public administration and increases its efficiency.