

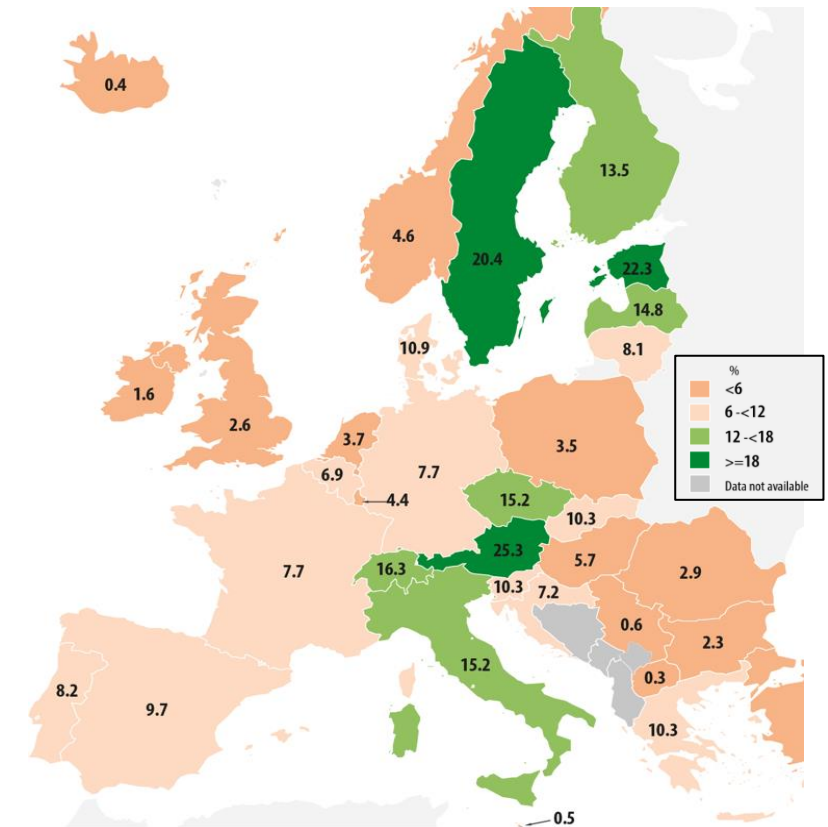
EU's efforts to ensure sustainability

-Towards ensuring sustainability in the agriculture and food area-

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Source: Edited by the author based on the website of the European Commission



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1. European Green Deal

- Policy measures toward the compatibility between sustainability and economic recovery and growth in the EU**

European Green Deal as Top Priority

- Given the new system of the European Commission, which was launched in December 2019, will be responsible for management of the EU for a period of around five years, up to October 2024, the commission has identified **six priority issues**.

1. European Green Deal

2. Economics for the people
3. EU well-suited for the age of digital technology
4. Promotion of a European lifestyle
5. Become a stronger EU in the international community
6. Further promote democracy in the EU

Among the six issues, this issue has been given **top priority**.

The European Commission aims to promote proactive initiatives in a wide range of industrial fields and the lives of citizens to **deal with decarbonization and economic growth hand-in-hand**.

In terms of the budget as well, climate-related initiatives will extended preferential treatment. **Allocate approximately 30% of the budget to climate related initiatives**

Green Recovery and the European Green Deal in Response to COVID-19

- In Europe, aside from the European Green Deal, the concept of Green Recovery is also frequently used.

Idea to integrate the policies for economic recovery from COVID-19 with climate-related initiatives

- ▣ At the 11th Petersberg Climate Dialogue, an informal international meeting held in April 2020, the Green Recovery concept is spreading worldwide, including the consensus that was reached stipulating that **plans for economic recovery in response to COVID-19 must be in line with the philosophy behind the Paris Agreement and SDGs** (Yamamoto, 2020).

Given that Green Recovery is becoming a global trend, **the importance of the European Green Deal**, which aims to establish a society with a sustainable economy, **is gaining more attention**.

Main points of European Green Deal

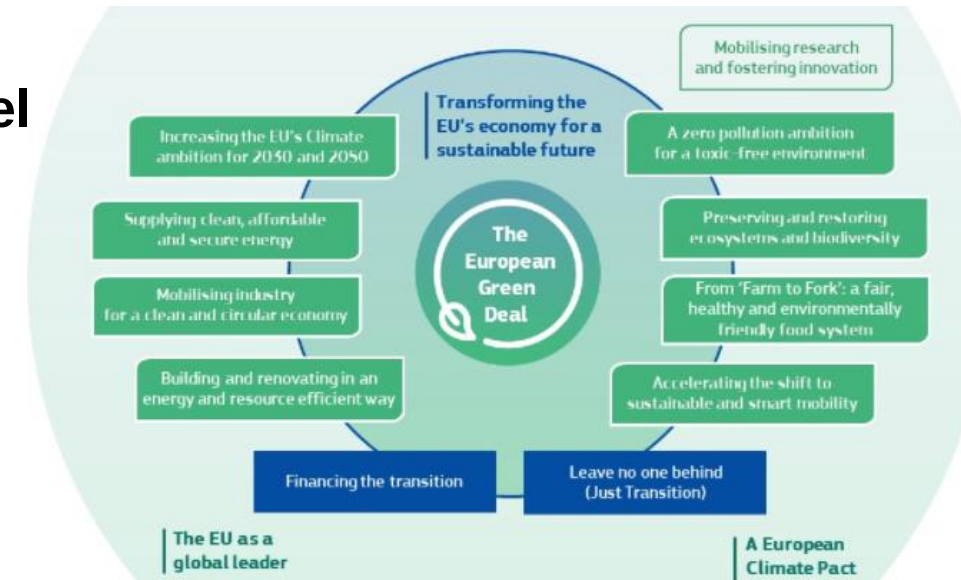
The European Green Deal is a diverse, all-inclusive concept that aims to make the EU economic society sustainable (**achieving decarbonization and economic growth hand-in-hand**).

- As a goal, the EU aims to become **climate neutral** by 2050, which is the achievement of net zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- Protect people and animal from pollution
- Make european enterpirses top-notch leader of clean energy and products
- Left no one, and realise fair and inclusive society

The European Green Deal targets initiatives not only in the agricultural industry but also in various other fields of industry, including transport, energy, construction, steel textile and chemicals

Through the implementation of the European Green Deal

- Provide opportunities for reform in various policy areas by implementing initiatives that will overcome difficulties related to the climate and environment
- Realise an **inclusive society** that is **fair** for all people by making a transition to a sustainable society



(Reference) Legislative package for the realization of the European GD climate neutrality target

- The European GD's climate neutrality target is aimed to be realized in conjunction with the "2 degrees target" and "1.5 degrees pursuit" in international agreements and agreements.

(1) Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 (COP 21)

(2) The Glasgow Climate Agreement of 2021 (COP 26) states that "1.5 degrees pursuit" should be focused rather than the "2 degrees target"

■ European Climate Law enacted in June 2021

- Legislation for "climate neutrality" and "2030 targets" by 2050 (down 55% compared to 1990)
- Under the law, climate and environmental initiatives become legally obliged one (previously political commitments).

■ "Fit for 55" (July 2021); Proposed by the European Commission * Possibility of revision by the European Parliament

- Legislative package for achieving the 2030 targets
- As part of this, climate neutrality by 2035 in the land use, agriculture and forestry sectors have been proposed.

The European Green Deal and the Agriculture and Food Area

■ The European Green Deal targets initiatives in various other fields but the following have particularly high correlation with the agriculture and food industries

- Regarding items in the European Green Deal,
 - "A fair, healthy and eco-friendly food system"
 - "Protection and regeneration of the ecosystem and biodiversity"
- Individual visions, strategies and legal system
 - "European Climate Law," which aims to achieve "climate neutral" by 2050
 - Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy
 - "Biodiversity strategy"

Climate, ecosystem and potential feasibility are keywords connected with the European Green Deal and the field of agriculture



In particular, **F2F** is an important concept/policy, which aim to building of a **sustainable food system (FS)**, will have a major impact on agriculture and food related policies upstream to downstream in the EU overall and member countries, including CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) in the EU.

(Reference) Major developments related to the European Green Deal

2019/12/1	Establishment of a new EU system
December 2019	"European Green Deal" was announced.
January 2020	"European Green Deal Investment Plan", Announcement of "Just Transition Mechanism"
March 2020	European Climate Law Announced
March 2020	Announcement of the "European Industrial Strategy"
March 2020	Submission of a "Circular Economy Action Plan"
May 2020	"Farm to fork strategy" was announced.
May 2020	Publication of "EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030)"
December 2020	Raising the "2030 target" (from 40% down to 55% down from 1990)
December 2020	Adoption of the "Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF, Multiannual Financial Framework) 2021 -2027" by the EU Council (30% of the total budget related to climate change (25% of the total budget proposed by the European Commission) (Note; Current MFF 2014 -2020 requires at least 20% of the climate change-related budget.)
June 2021	"European Climate Law" enacted (Climate Neutrality enacted in 2050)
July 2021	Submission of bill concerning "European Green Deal"
July 2021	Submission of "Fit for 55" proposal (policy package for achieving the 2030 targets)

Source: Prepared by the author based on the European Commission, the European Council website, Shinohara (2021) and Yamamoto (2020).

Note: Of the items shown above, the events that are not particularly specified are those conducted by the European Commission

2. Farm to Fork Strategy

- Significance/Importance of developing organic farming**
- Initiative in international rule-making**

Farm to Fork Strategy

- In May 2020, the European Commission published the **Farm to Fork strategy**.
 - Aim to create a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system that spans production to consumption
 - Core of the agriculture sector to realize the European Green Deal
- Ambitious goals for realising sustainable agriculture
- Action plan of F2F. Comprised of 27 measures (legislation and non-legislation), to be implemented from 2020 to 2024
- The policy of the European Commission is to **promote the adoption of the EU model in other countries, mainly through trade agreements**



Importance of expanding organic agriculture

- Achieving organic agriculture targets will help Member States achieve other F2F targets, such as reducing the use of pesticides, antibiotics and fertilizers.



- Organic agriculture, in combined with other goals, plays an important role in addressing climate change, conserving the environment, and maintaining biodiversity.

Organic farming	- Support initiatives for converting 25% of all agricultural land into organic farmland by 2030
Agrochemical	- Reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% by 2030 - Reduce the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030
Fertilizer	- Reduce the amount of fertilizer use by at least 20% by 2030 - Reduce nutrient loss by at least 50% without diminishing soil fertility
Antibiotics	- Reduce the sale of antibiotics used for livestock and aquaculture by 50% by 2030
Food labelling	- Propose mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling - Develop a sustainable food labelling system that covers nutrition, climate, environment and social aspects
Food loss	- Halve per capita food loss at the retail and consumer level by 2030 - Propose a food loss goal that is legally binding by 2023
Promote a global transition	- Improve the degree of recognition related to the sustainability of food produced in Europe, attain a comparative edge and create business opportunities - Collaborate with third countries and international entities to support global trends targeting a sustainable food system

(Source)
European
Written and
based on
Commission
(2020 b)

Initiative in international rule-making (In the area of sustainability)

- **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** was announced on the same day as the F2F strategy. It is likely a component that will become another key to the European Green Deal.
- These two strategies present a new balance between nature, food system and biodiversity.
(Some overlapping goals, including the ratio of organic farming, the reduction of chemical pesticides, are also interrelated)
- **Goal of both strategies (biodiversity strategy and F2F)**
Establish the EU's status as a leader in the international arena in terms of both protection of biodiversity and formulation of sustainable food supply system, by strengthening the preservation of land and sea and restoring degraded ecosystems.



The EU is aiming not only to address climate change but also to become a rule-maker in the field of sustainability

3. Measures to realise EU-level visions and strategies

- Considerations by policy measures (budget, legislation, national plans)**

Importance of realisation through the affiliation with CAP

- In order to form Customs union and Common Market in the agricultural sector, the EU introduced the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which consists of common financial support, external and internal trade rules, etc., with the aim of unifying agricultural policies of member countries.
- **In order to introduce the principles (sustainable food systems) and policies outlined in the European GDs, F2F, etc., it is important to ensure consistency with the CAP philosophy and to achieve a balance between "consistency" in policy and "flexibility" in each member country by utilizing (1) the CAP budget, (2) the approval process for the CAP country strategy plan, and (2) legislative measures, etc.**

Nine key objectives for future CAP



Source: Reprinted from European Commission website

Nine key objectives in CAP (objectives)	
1)	To ensure a fair income to farmers
2)	To increase competitiveness
3)	To rebalance the power in the food chain
4)	Climate change action
5)	Environmental care
6)	To preserve landscapes and biodiversity
7)	To support generational renewal
8)	Vibrant rural areas
9)	To protect food and health quality

Source: Prepared by the author based on the website of the European Commission

(Policy Instrument 1: Legislation) Trends in the legislation of F2F

- The F2F itself represents the Commission's vision and is not legally binding.

The "Action Plan" (see Attachment), which was presented at the same time as F2F, contains 27 action plans up to 2024, which are also not legally binding.



Legislative measures (stable and effective implementation of F2F, etc.)

- Taking into account the different circumstances of each Member State, it will take time to shift to a legislative objective.

- By the middle of 2023
Verification of sufficient actions for the transition to a sustainable food system
- By the end of 2023
Submission of bills on sustainable food systems



- **Approval required by the European Parliament (composed of elected members) and the European Council (composed of heads of state)**

In order to achieve ambitious targets, it is necessary to take into account the different circumstances and intentions among member countries and to take policy measures.

(Policy Instrument 2: Budget) Support for the realisation of F2F through the CAP budget

■ Entire EU budget

In November 2020, the European Council and the European Parliament agreed to allocate 30% of the total climate-related budget in the MFF 2021 -2027. (above the original Commission proposal of 25%)

■ CAP budget

- In June 2021, the European Council and the European Parliament signed a political agreement on the next CAP.
- **40% of the next CAP budget is allocated to climate-related budgets**



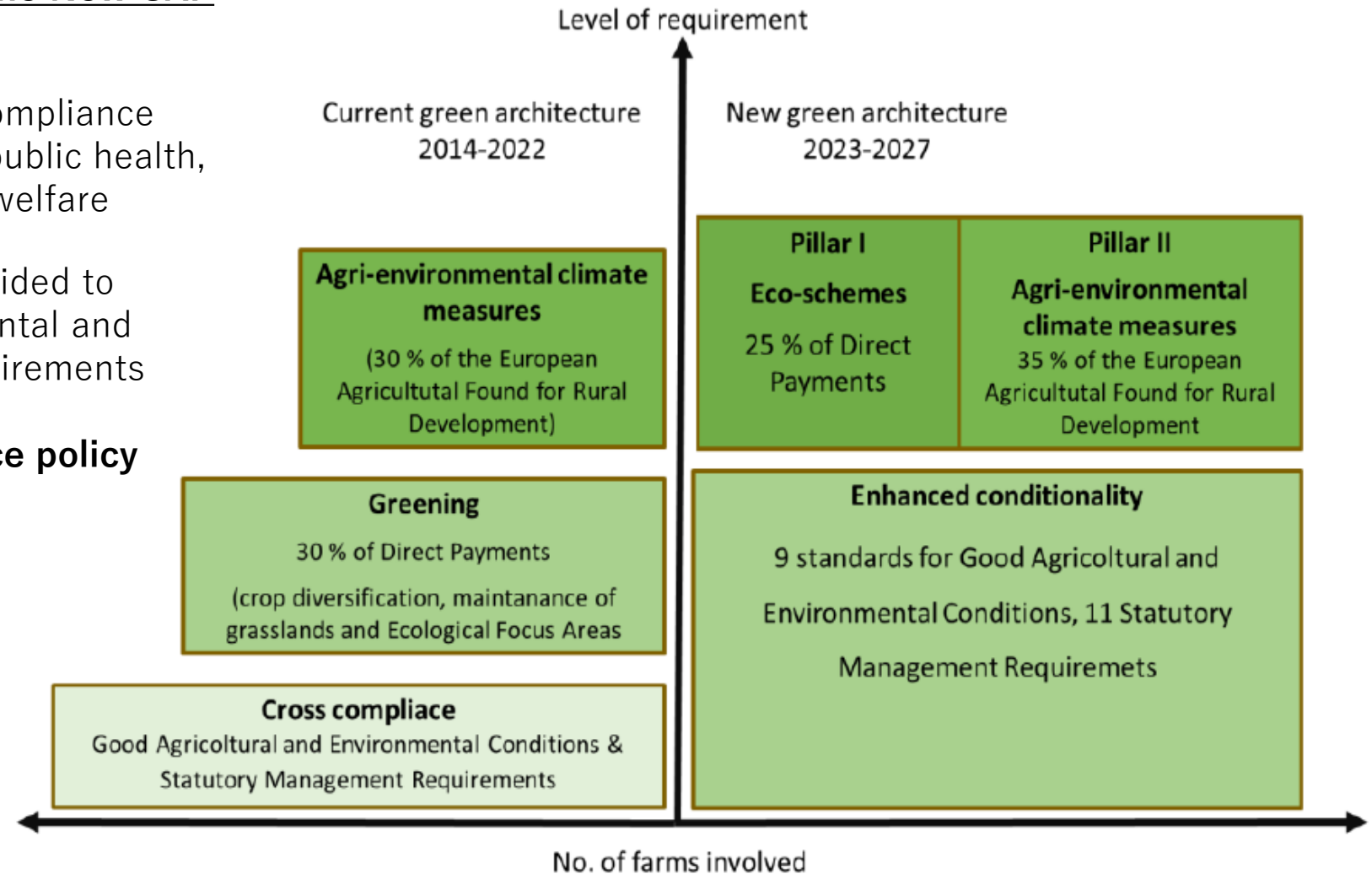
- Budgetary measures are an important means to realise a climate-friendly Europe Green Deal, F2F, etc.
- **The next CAP will expand the discretion of member countries in budget allocation and other matters. It is important to ensure consistency and flexibility through the review and consultation of each country's draft CAP strategic plan.**

New green architecture under the new CAP (2023 – 27)

Changes in Support Measures under the New CAP

Income and price policies

- Requirements for payment of legal compliance related to climate and environment, public health, animal and plant health, and animal welfare
- In addition, additional support is provided to farmers who make further environmental and climate efforts beyond the basic requirements (eco-schemes).
 - **at least 25% of the income price policy budget**



(Examples of budgetary measures) Conditions and examples of the "Eco-Scheme"

After establishing the scheme in the CAP Strategic Plan, Member States will obtain the Commission's approval of the Strategic Plan. The conditions for support are as follows.

- a. **Including activities related to climate, environment, animal welfare, and drug resistance (AMR)**
- b. Defined in national and regional needs and priorities
- c. The intention and ambition of the efforts exceed the minimum prescribed in the baseline.
- d. **Contributing to the achievement of the EU's Green Deal targets**

[Examples of initiatives that can be supported under the Eco Scheme]

Actions specified in EU policy instruments	Other initiatives
Efforts in Organic Agriculture (Example) Conversion and maintenance of organic agriculture	carbon pharming (Example) Re-wetting of wetlands, peatlands, etc.
Measures for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (Example) Introduction of varieties that are resistant to pests and diseases	precision agriculture (Example) Minimizing the use of fertilizers, water, etc. through the implementation of precision agriculture
Other initiatives agroecological system (Example) Implementation of crop rotation including beans	improvement of nutritional management (in agriculture) (Example) Introduction of nitrate measures beyond mandatory measures
Livestock and animal welfare plans (Example) Comprehensive plan to reduce the risk of disease transmission	Protection of water resources (Example) Management of water demand, such as conversion to grains with low water consumption
agroforestry (Example) Improvement and maintenance of landscapes beyond mandatory measures	Efforts that contribute to soil (Example) Construction and maintenance of terraces, strip cultivation
high natural value agriculture (Example) Creation of subnatural habitats and environmental improvement	Measures related to greenhouse gas emissions (Example) Improvements in compost and fertilizer storage

Source: Prepared by the author based on the European Commission (2020 a)

(Policy Instrument 3: National Plan) Consultation and coordination through the CAP Strategic Plan Review

- To achieve EU-level objectives, affiliating with the CAP Strategic Plan is strongly effective
- The CAP Strategic Plan was drafted by each country (due by the end of 2021) and reviewed and approved by the European Commission.
 - The plan includes the setting of organic agriculture targets for the realisation of F2F, etc., and the contents of fiscal support.
 - Prior to the development of the draft plan, the Commission shall inform each Member State:
 - **Agricultural policy objectives set at EU level**
 - **How specific objectives should be set in the CAP strategic plan**
- and other issues, taking into account the circumstances of each country.
- The Commission is conducting a review of the next CAP in January 2023.



Increased discretion of member countries from the next CAP. The key to achieving EU-level goals and achieving consistent policies is consultation and coordination through the review of the draft CAP strategic plan.

Toward the realization of EU-level strategies and plans

- In order to build a sustainable food system, it is important to implement policy management appropriately and effectively with "consistency" in which consistent policies are implemented from upstream to downstream.
- Under the new CAP, which will be introduced in 2023, member countries will have greater discretion.
 - **While allowing "flexibility" for each Member State, and**
 - Subject to differences in production conditions and current achievements among Member States, attention needs to be paid to how the EU as a whole can achieve its ambitious goals.
- ✓ **In the EU, while allowing a certain degree of "flexibility" to member countries, it is necessary to pay close attention to whether the development of a sustainable food system will be promoted by implementing consistent and comprehensive policy development based on ambitious goals and strategies, etc., and the EU legislative measures, budget, and country plan approval process, etc.**

(Reference) Major F2F-related movements

2019/12/1	Establishment of a new EU system
December 2019	"European Green Deal" was announced.
May 2020	"Farm to fork strategy" was announced.
May 2020	Publication of "EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030)"
March 2021	"Action Plan for the Development of Organic Agricultural Production" was announced.
June 2021	Political agreement on the next CAP (2023 – 2027)
2022/12/31	Deadline for submission of proposed CAP strategic plan by each Member State to the Commission
2022/1/1	Enforcement of the "Organic Production and Labeling Regulations for Organic Products"
2023/1/1	Launch of next CAP (2023 – 27)
By the middle of 2023	Verification of sufficient actions for the transition to a sustainable food system
By the end of 2023	Submission of bills on sustainable food systems

Source: Prepared by the author based on the European Commission, the European Council website, and Yamamoto (2020).
 Note: Of the items shown above, the events that are not particularly specified are those conducted by the European Commission

4. The situation and challenges surrounding organic farming in the EU

Current status and issues related to organic farming

- The current level is 8.5% for all 27 EU countries in 2019.
The target of "25% by 2030" is difficult and requires strong commitment from member countries through CAP strategic plans, etc.

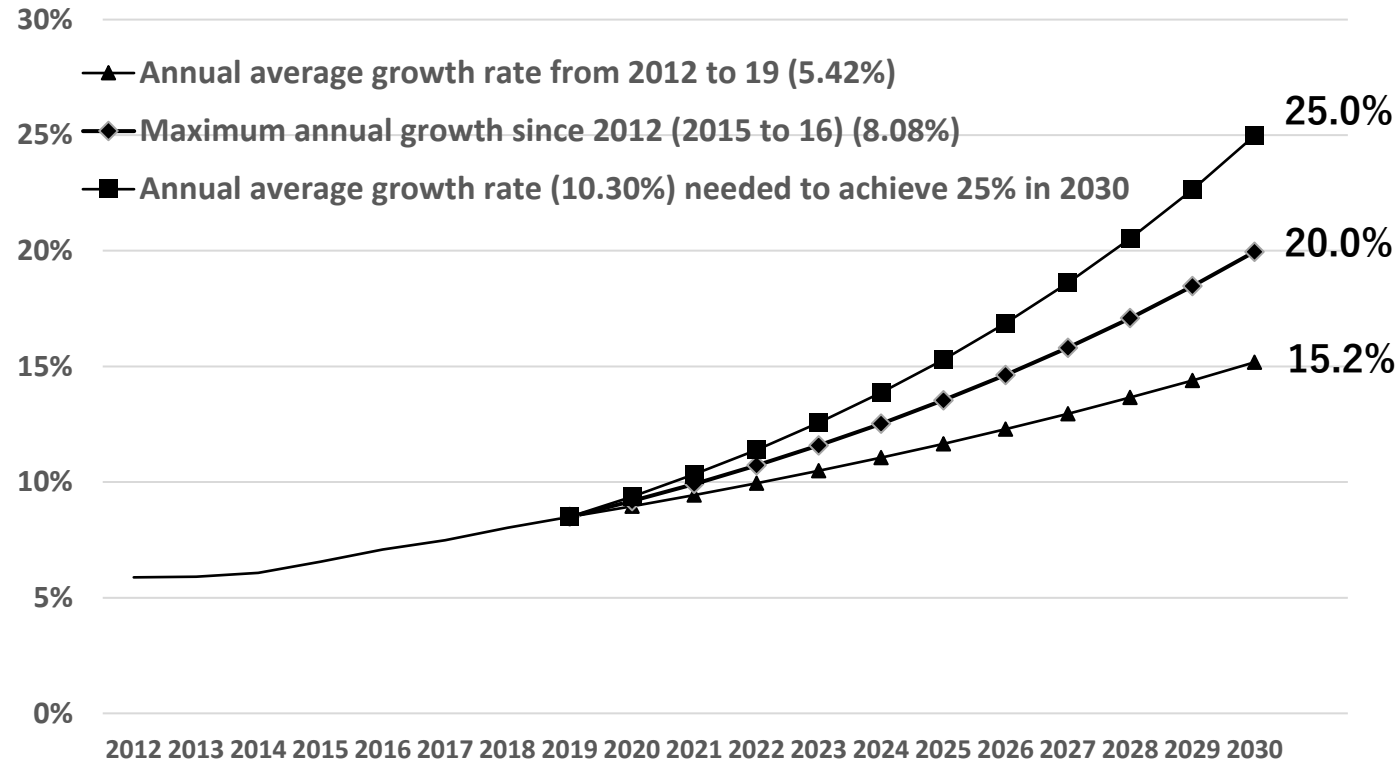
Total farmland in 27 EU countries
Share of organic agriculture and annual growth rate (area basis)]

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Share of organic farming (area basis)	5.9%	5.9%	6.1%	6.6%	7.1%	7.5%	8.0%	8.5%
Annual increase ratio		0.5%	2.9%	7.9%	8.1%	5.5%	7.4%	5.7%

Source: Calculated by the author based on Eurostat.

Note. Market share for 2017 and 19 is estimated, and market share for 18 is provisional

"25% Target" and Three Cases of Mechanical Estimation for Organic farming



Data used

- Eurostat database
- Organic farming area ratio in the EU 27 countries
- Year: 2012 to 2019

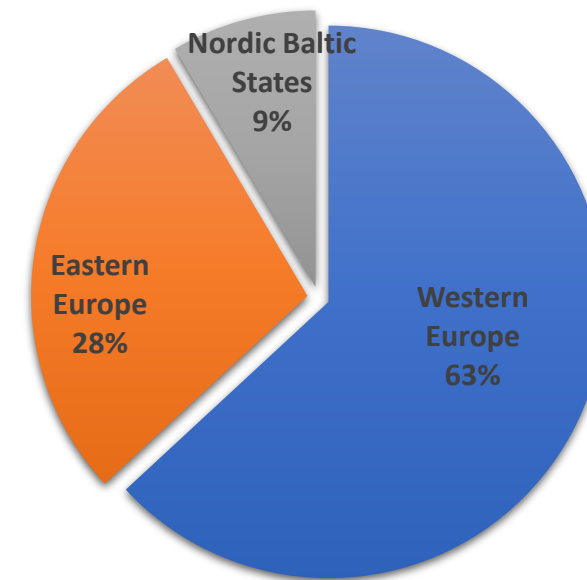
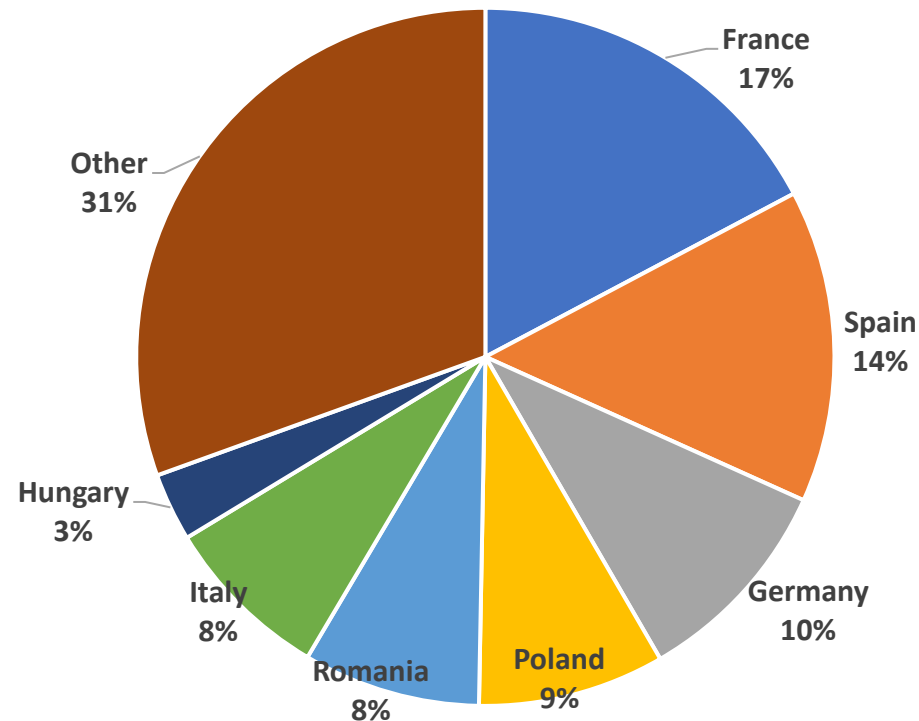
Results of mechanical calculations
In order to achieve the 25% target, it is necessary for all 27 EU countries to maintain growth rates that have never been achieved before.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2027	2030
Case-1; The average annual growth rate between 2012 and 2019 (5.4%) continues until 2019	8.5%	9.0%	9.4%	9.9%	10.5%	11.1%	11.7%	13.0%	15.2%
Case-2; The maximum annual growth rate after 2012 (from 2015 to 2016) continues until 2019	8.5%	9.2%	9.9%	10.7%	11.6%	12.5%	13.5%	15.8%	20.0%
Case-3; The annual growth rate which achieve 25% in 2030. (constant annual growth)	8.5%	9.4%	10.3%	11.4%	12.6%	13.9%	15.3%	18.6%	25.0%

Source: Calculated by the author based on Eurostat.
Note. Of the figures used in using estimates for 2020 and beyond
Of which, the share in 2017 and 19 is estimated, and the share in 18 is provisional.

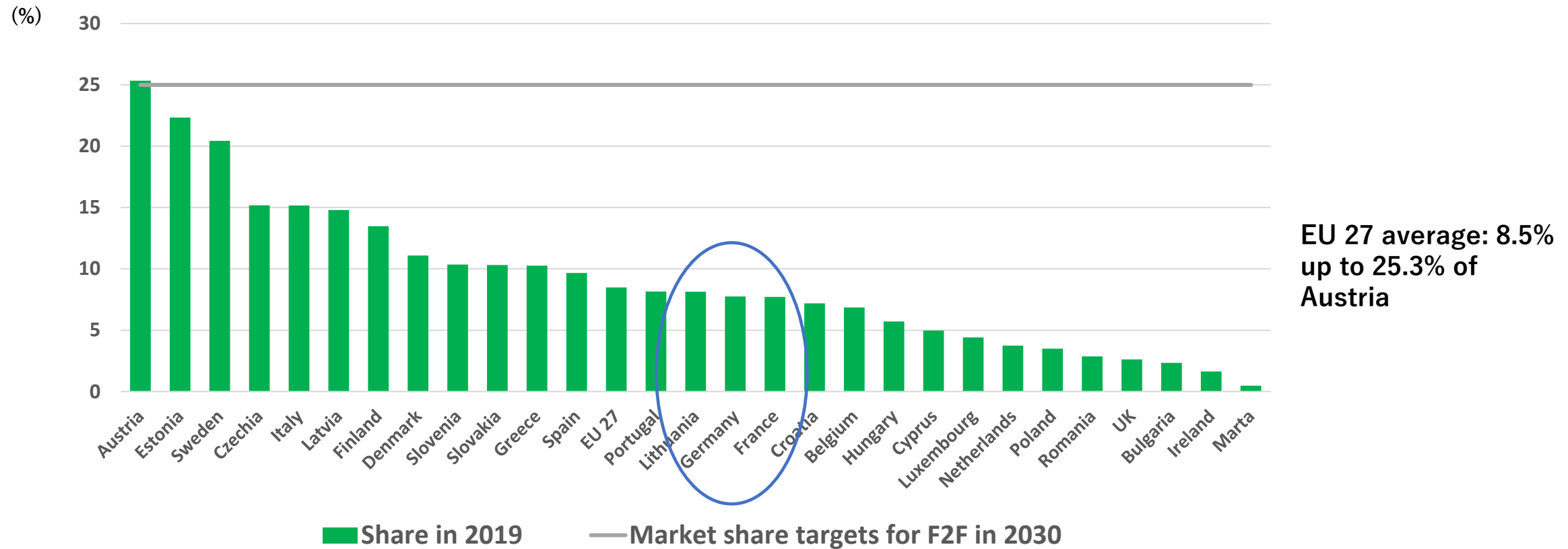
Member States' share of total EU agricultural land (2019)

- The top seven EU countries account for 69% of the EU's total agricultural land area.
- The top four Western European countries (France, West, Germany and Italy) account for 81% of Western Europe's area and 51% of EU's area.
- When we further add top 3 Eastern countries, around 70% of EU's area.



Source: Created by the author based on Eurostat.
Note: "Utilized agricultural area" is used as the farmland area.

Share of organic farming area in total farmland in 27 EU countries and the UK



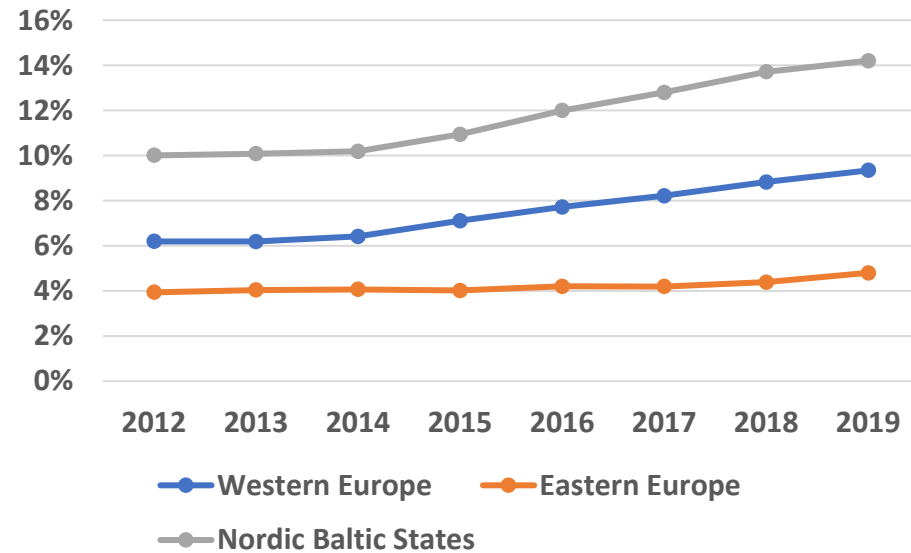
Source: Created by the author based on Eurostat.

Note 1: Figures for Poland, Portugal and all 27 EU member countries are estimates.

2. "Utilized agricultural area," which includes permanent grassland, etc., as the "organic agricultural area," is used for agricultural land. land that has been completely converted to organic agriculture or land that is undergoing conversion is used.

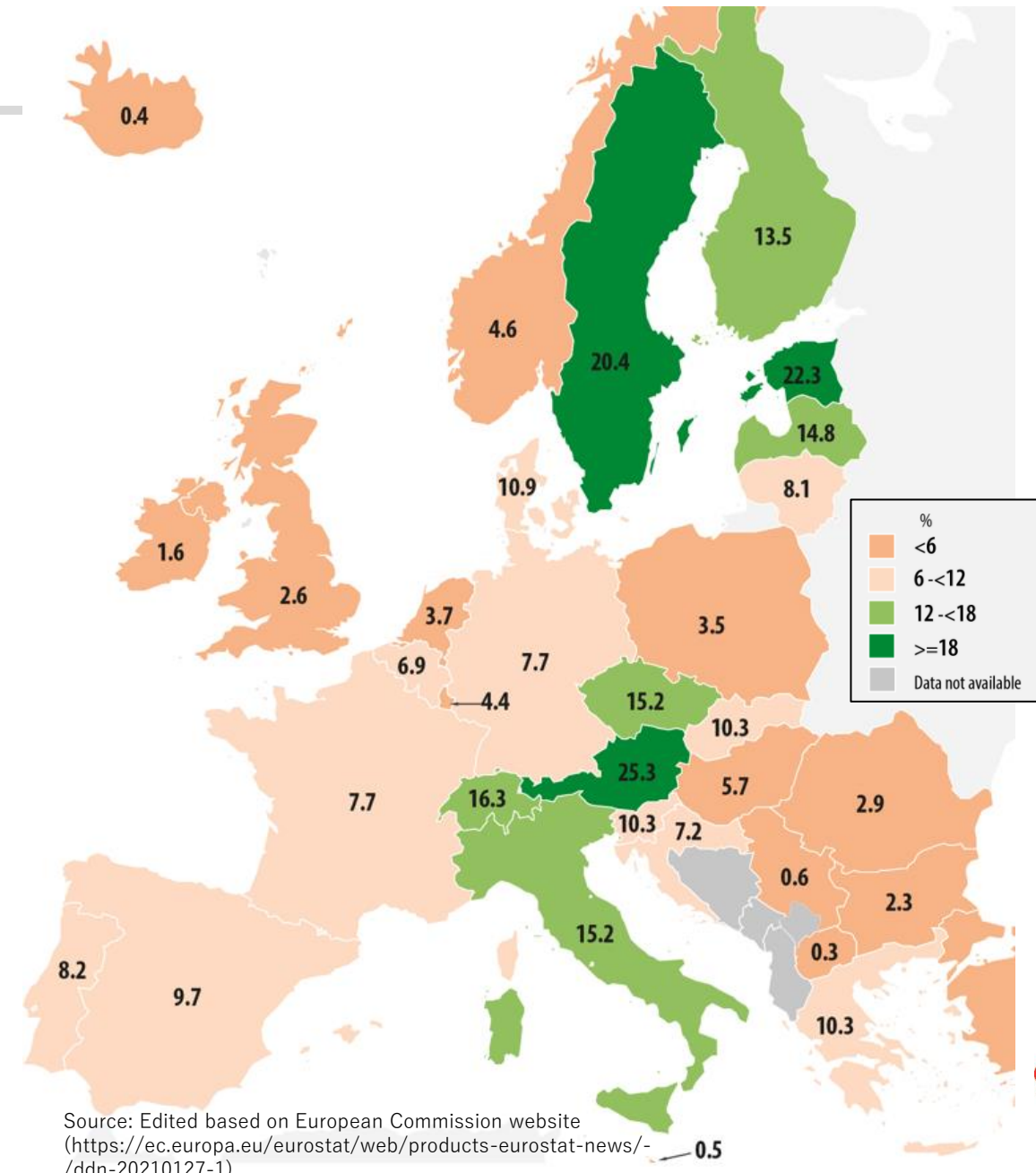
Divergences in organic farming area share among regions

- Northern Europe and the Baltic States have a high share.



	2012	2014	2016	2018	2019
Western	6.2%	6.4%	7.7%	8.8%	9.4%
Eastern	3.9%	4.1%	4.2%	4.4%	4.8%
Northern/Nordic	10.0%	10.2%	12.0%	13.7%	14.2%

Source: Created by the author based on Eurostat



Source: Edited based on European Commission website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20210127-1>)

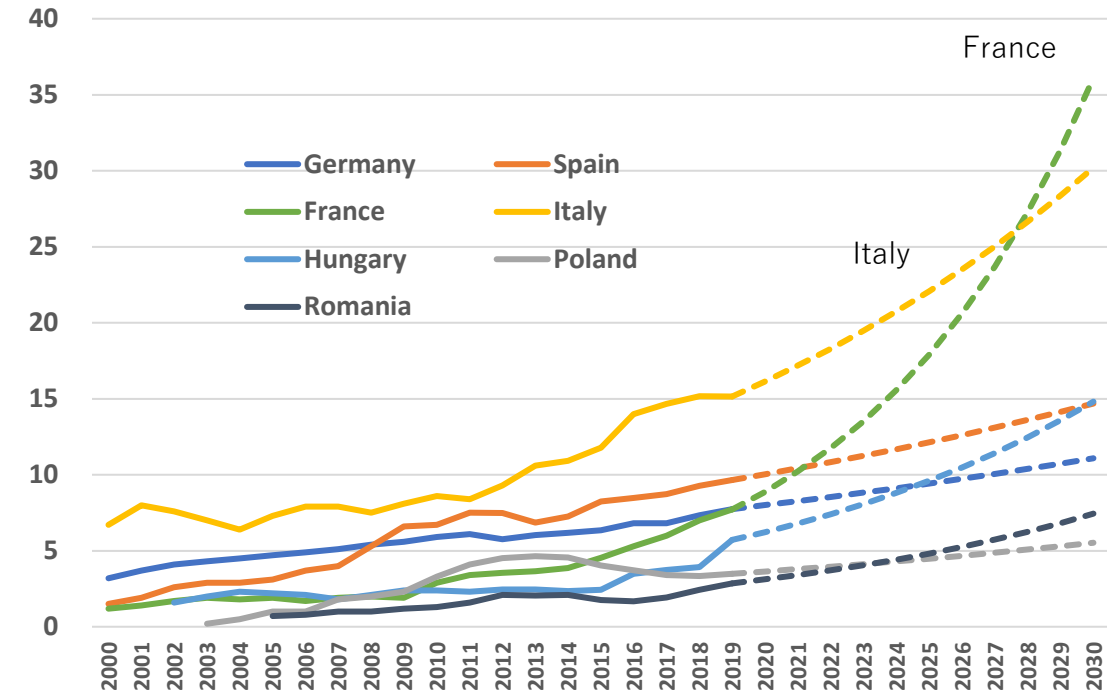
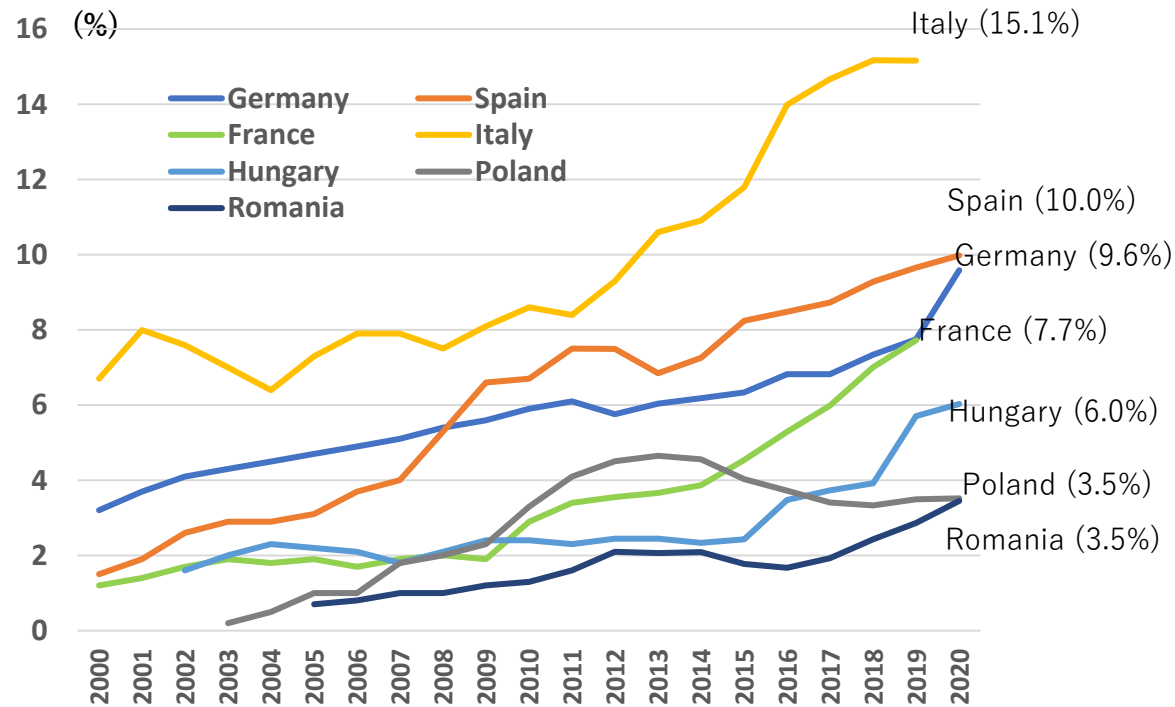
Divergences in the share of organic agricultural land between Western and Eastern European countries

Viewpoint of

- 1) developing a "sustainable food system" consistently in the EU and of
- 2) allowing for differences between Member States

If the average growth rate for the 10 years in the 2010s continues through the 2020s,

- France (36.1%) and Italy (30.2%) are above EU target (25%).
- Eastern European countries are at 5 ~ 15%



Source: Created by the author based on Eurostat

■ It is also necessary to pay attention to differences in starting points among Member States.

- In the growth rate in the 2010s (10 years), major Eastern European countries (except Poland) were replaced by major Western European countries.

comparable to (other than Buddha)

(Poland (9% of EU), the largest agricultural land in Eastern Europe, has decreased in recent years.)

【 Average organic share change rate in major Western and Eastern European countries (2010s) 】

	France	Spain	Germany	Italy	Poland	Romania	Hungary	EU27
2010-2019	15.0%	3.9%	3.3%	6.5%	4.3%	9.1%	9.1%	
2010-2014	15.3%	1.9%	2.0%	6.1%	14.7%	11.7%	-0.5%	
2015-2019	14.8%	5.9%	4.6%	6.8%	-5.2%	6.5%	19.5%	6.9%
2020		3.3%	23.7%	6.5%	0.9%	20.6%	5.6%	

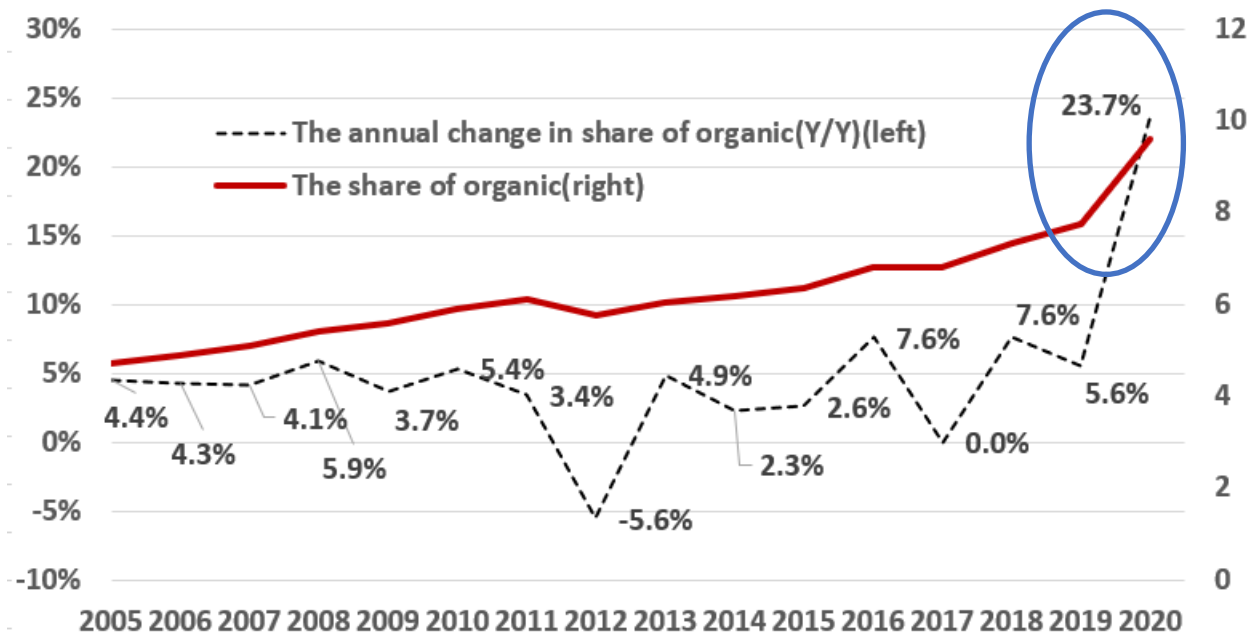
Source: Created by the author based on Eurostat
Note. "Utilized agricultural area" is used as the farmland area.

Annual rate of increase in organic area ratio in Germany and France

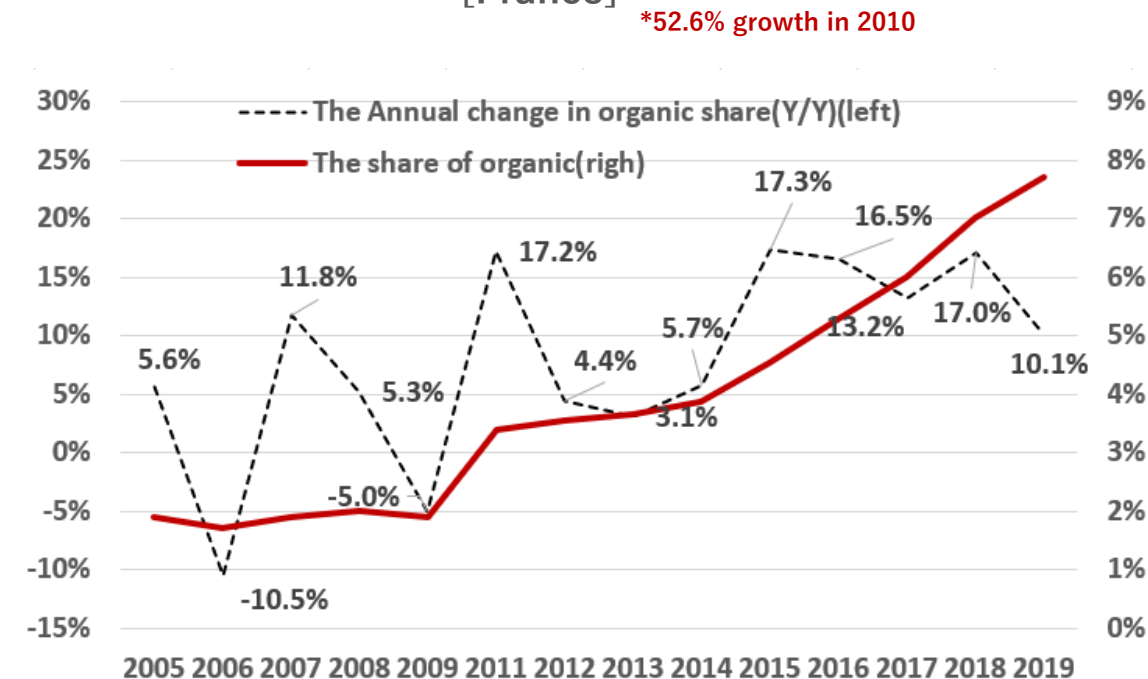
Germany's rapid increase in 2020 (up 23.7% YoY) France's increase over 10% annually over the past 5 years

- Rising demand for organic products due to the German coronavirus pandemic
- Ambition bio 2022 (France) (including targets for organic agriculture by 2022)
By 2022, (1) 15% of farmland will be organic, and (2) 20% of foodstuffs procured in public facilities will be organic.

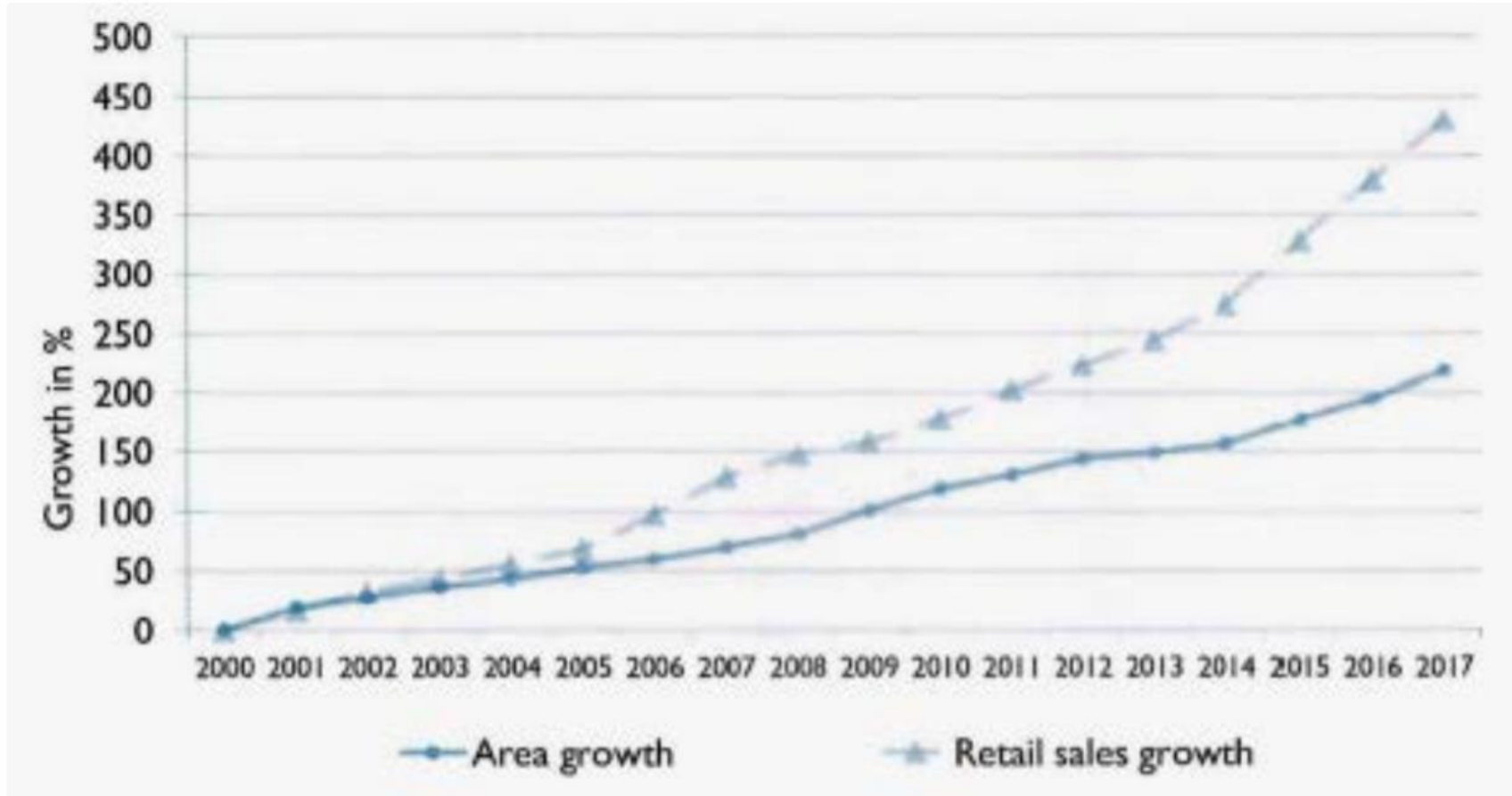
[Germany]



[France]



Necessities of expanding equilibrium of demand and supply



Source: Oyama(2019)

Trend of annual growth rate organic area and retail sales in Europe

Current status and issues in terms of organic farming area ratio by country

- 1: Countries such as Germany and France, which also have a large presence in agriculture (farmland area, etc.), are below the EU average.

▶ Expanding production efforts in these countries is one of the keys

- 2: Austria has the highest area-based share (25.3%)



On the other hand, demand for organic produce is not as strong in the domestic market as it is on the supply side. Relying on exports to Germany and Switzerland, mainly for grain and milk

▶ **For sustainable development, from the perspective of consumption and production, the EU as a whole**

The challenge is how to achieve balanced and expansive development.

- 3: How to respond to the different current situation and policy stance among EU member states

National organic area targets set out in the CAP Strategic Plan

- We need to pay attention to consultation/coordination between European Commission and Member States, budget allocation and trends of demand in organic products

Organic agricultural area targets set out in the CAP Strategic Plan

Austria	30% by 2030
Belgium (Wallonia Region)	30% by 2030
Sweden	30% by 2030
Italy	25% by 2027
Czech Republic	23% in 2027 and 25% in 2030
Finland	Approximately 20% in 2027
Germany	20% by 2030
France	18% in 2027 and 20% in 2030
Denmark	Approximately 20% in 2030
Luxembourg	20% in 2025

Organic agricultural area targets set out in the CAP Strategic Plan

Lithuania	13% by 2027 and 15% by 2030
Bulgaria	10% by 2030
Croatia	10% by 2030
Hungary	10% by 2027
Poland	7%
Spain	No target set (local judgment)
Netherlands	No goal set
Belgium (Flanders)	No goal set
Portugal	No goal set

Source: Proposed CAP strategic plan prepared by the author based on IFAOM (2021) submitted by each country

5. Challenges and Expansion Strategies for Organic Agriculture in the EU

- Strategies for balanced growth of supply and demand

Next, by reviewing the "Action Plan on the Development of Organic Agricultural Production" announced by the European Commission in March 2021, I would like to clarify the EU strategy for balanced and expanded growth of demand and supply, which is considered to be important for the realization of organic agricultural goals in the EU.

Announcement of the EU Organic Farming Action Plan (March 2021)

- In March 2021, the European Commission announced an **action plan for the development of organic agricultural production**. This action plan is composed of **three mutually related axes** and lays out the following 23 actions to **secure balanced development** in the organic farming sector.

Three axes of the EU Organic Farming Action Plan

- **Secure an expansion in demand and the trust of consumers**
- **Promote conversion to organic farming and strengthen the overall value chain**
- **Further contribute to an improvement in sustainability in the organic farming sector**

- A feature of this plan is that it encompasses the overall value chain, and includes the initiatives of a wide range of stakeholders.

First axis: Secure an expansion in demand and the trust of consumers

■ In particular, place focus on **the importance of information provision and communication regarding organic farming and its benefits.**

- ▶ The European Commission will continue to collect related data and **aim to implement** a wide range of communications using social media.
- ▶ **Regarding the EU organic farming logo**, surveys of consumer recognition and an awareness survey will be regularly carried out.

■ **Strengthening measures to deal with illegal transactions and activities and an improvement of traceability** are keys to increasing consumption.

- ▶ In addition to close **collaborations** between member states to introduce policy on preventing fraud, the European Commission is also indicating its intention to **build a database of all farmers that have obtained organic certification** in the EU region, and **also apply this to farmers in third countries that export to the EU** in the future.

Second axis: Promote conversion to organic farming and strengthen the overall value chain

- • Promote investment in organic farming/**share and promote best practices**
- Improve transparency via analysis owing to the strengthening of market data collection, and regular public disclosure of reports related to organic production
- • **Support the downsizing and systemization of a supply chain** in a region
Through this, provide support so that **regional and small-scale producers can easily secure customers**
 - ▶ 1) From the perspective of **trade during COVID-19 when mobility, etc. is easily restricted**
 - 2) From the perspective of **environmentally-friendly trade, including carbon footprints** deployment of policies that should be watched

Third axis: Further contribute to an improvement in sustainability in the organic farming sector

- In particular, **the importance of promoting R&D and innovation** is a common factor indicated in all actions.
 - ▶ Investments in the protection and use of genetic resources, pre-breeding, breeding, organic seeds, and an expansion in yields from organic farming are being illustrated by examples.
 - ▶ Pesticides and controversial inputs are positioned as the key to coming up with alternative approaches through R&D and innovation.
- To realize the items above, **at least 30% of the research and innovation budget for agriculture, forestry and rural promotion fields will be allocated to the organic farming sector and related matters.**
 - ▶ This coincides with Japan's Green Food System Strategy concept, which aims to both improve sustainability through innovations and to secure productivity.

(Reference) Three axes in the Organic Farming Action Plan and the 23 action plans

	Actions Laid Out in the Organic Farming Action Plan
First axis Secure an expansion in demand and the trust of consumers	Promote organic farming and improve recognition of the EU organic logo by providing information, through communication and via advertising and PR activities
	Expand procurement by public institutions, promote the supply of organic products to cafeterias
	Promote the provision of organic products to school lunch programs
	Prevent fraud related to food, strengthen trust from consumers
	Improve traceability
Second axis Promote conversion to organic farming and strengthen the overall value chain	Promote contribution by the private sector, including wholesalers, retailers, deliverers, and restaurants
	Promote conversion to organic farming, promote investments and shared best practices
	Improve transparency via analysis owing to the strengthening of market data collection, and regular public disclosure of reports related to organic production
	Provide support to regional and small-scale processors, promote the shortening of the supply chain
	Improve the nutritional status of animals in accordance with organic rules (breeding using organic vitamins and other nutrients)
Third axis Further contribute to an improvement in sustainability in the organic farming sector	Strengthen organic aquaculture
	Reduce climate and environmental footprint
	Improve genetic biodiversity, enhance productivity of organic farming
	Develop alternatives for controversial inputs and pesticides
	Improve animal welfare
	Effectively use resources

Source: Prepared by the author based on the European Commission (2021)

Note: There are 23 actions listed in the Organic Farming Action Plan. However, the author organized duplicate descriptions, etc., therefore the number of items do not match. In addition, from the perspective of clarifying the content, the author implemented supplementary remarks

(Legislative measures) Enforcement of new EU regulations on organic agriculture (January 2022)

■ Complementing the Organic Agriculture Promotion Plan from an Institutional Perspective

- On January 1, 2022, the new Regulation on Organic Products (the Regulation on Organic Production and Labeling of Organic Products) came into effect with the aim of ensuring fair competition, preventing fraud, and ensuring consumer confidence.

- Strengthen management systems through stronger checks and more stringent precautions throughout the supply chain
- Need for third country farmers exporting organic products to the EU to comply with the same rules as EU farmers
- Facilitating the acquisition of certification by small-scale farmers through the introduction of group certification
- More products (Salt, beeswax, etc.), additional provisions (poultry, etc.)
- Simplification of rules (arrangement of exceptions)

- In order to achieve the targets set forth in F2F, it is necessary to appropriately and effectively implement policy management through the design of systems and support measures, the CAP strategic plan, etc., in order to achieve balanced and expansive development on both the supply and demand sides.

(Examples of Specific Matters) Procurement by Public Institutions

- As an initiative carried out through public institutions, in the F2F strategy suggests backing the potential use of healthy foods at institutions, including schools and care houses.
- The following was mentioned regarding the supply of food at public institutions, including schools and hospitals.
 - a. To improve the potential use of sustainable food products and pricing, and to promote the provision of sustainable healthy foods for meals provided at public institutions, the European Commission has **decided on minimal mandatory standards for sustainable food procurement.**
 - b. Standards which the European Commission is slated to decide on in the third quarter of 2021 will aid cities, regions and public organizations when supplying food to schools, hospitals, and other public institutions and will also **promote sustainable farming, including organic farming.**

Conclusion

- ✓ **There are many aspects in common between Japan and the EU concerning agriculture and food, such as the agricultural structure, such as the aging of society, and food consumption, such as the strong preference for high value-added products.**
 - ▶ As the necessity of strengthening supply chains becomes more important in the post-corona era, policy development based on F2F and the European Green Deal has significant implications for policy making in our country.
 - ▶ The European Green Deal is a growth strategy aimed at establishing leadership in international competition. Our country needs to keep a close watch on future developments in the EU.
 - ▶ The growth gap between organic retail market and organic farming area is widening. How about Japan's case?

(Reference)

(Reference) Glasgow Climate Pact (Extract)

(Omitted) Recognizing the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and the critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems in delivering benefits for climate adaptation and mitigation, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards,

Linkage between natural and ecological systems and climate change

15. Reaffirms the long-term global goal to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 ° C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 ° C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

16. Recognizes that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5 ° C compared with 2 ° C, and resolves to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 ° C;

(Reference) Glasgow Climate Pact (Extract)

17. Also recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5 ° C requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases;

18. Further recognizes that this requires accelerated action in this critical decade, on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and equity, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

Efforts based on the different circumstances, responsibilities and capabilities of each country

F2F Action Plan

ACTIONS

Proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems	2023
Develop a contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security	Q4 2021

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

Adopt recommendations to each Member State addressing the nine specific objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) , before the draft CAP Strategic Plans are formally submitted	Q4 2020
Proposal for a revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive to significantly reduce use and risk and dependency on pesticides and enhance Integrated Pest Management	Q1 2022
Revision of the relevant implementing Regulations under the Plant Protection Products framework to facilitate placing on the market of plant protection products containing biological active substances	Q4 2021
Proposal for a revision of the pesticides statistics Regulation to overcome data gaps and reinforce evidence-based policy making	2023
Evaluation and revision of the existing animal welfare legislation, including on animal transport and slaughter of animals	Q4 2023
Proposal for a revision of the feed additives Regulation to reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming	Q4 2021
Proposal for a revision of the Farm Accountancy Data Network Regulation to transform it into a Farm Sustainability Data Network with a view to contribute to a wide uptake of sustainable farming practices	Q2 2022
Clarification of the scope of competition rules in the TFEU with regard to sustainability in collective actions.	Q3 2022
Legislative initiatives to enhance cooperation of primary producers to support their position in the food chain and non-legislative initiatives to improve transparency	2021-2022
EU carbon farming initiative	Q3 2021

Source: The website of the European Commission

F2F Action Plan

STIMULATE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROCESSING, WHOLESALE, RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND FOOD SERVICES' PRACTICES

Initiative to improve the corporate governance framework , including a requirement for the food industry to integrate sustainability into corporate strategies	Q1 2021
Develop an EU code and monitoring framework for responsible business and marketing conduct in the food supply chain	Q2 2021
Launch initiatives to stimulate reformulation of processed food, including the setting of maximum levels for certain nutrients	Q4 2021
Set nutrient profiles to restrict promotion of food high in salt, sugars and/or fat	Q4 2022
Proposal for a revision of EU legislation on Food Contact Materials to improve food safety, ensure citizens' health and reduce the environmental footprint of the sector	Q4 2022
Proposal for a revision of EU marketing standards for agricultural, fishery and aquaculture products to ensure the uptake and supply of sustainable products	2021-2022
Enhance coordination to enforce single market rules and tackle Food Fraud , including by considering a reinforced use of OLAF's investigative capacities	2021-2022

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FOOD CONSUMPTION, FACILITATING THE SHIFT TOWARDS HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE DIETS

Proposal for a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices	Q4 2022
Proposal to require origin indication for certain products	Q4 2022
Determine the best modalities for setting minimum mandatory criteria for sustainable food procurement to promote healthy and sustainable diets, including organic products, in schools and public institutions	Q3 2021
Proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices	2024
Review of the EU promotion programme for agricultural and food products with a view to enhancing its contribution to sustainable production and consumption	Q4 2020
Review of the EU school scheme legal framework with a view to refocus the scheme on healthy and sustainable food	2023

REDUCE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Proposal for EU-level targets for food waste reduction	2023
Proposal for a revision of EU rules on date marking ('use by' and 'best before' dates)	Q4 2022

Source: The website of the European Commission

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