

MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP *on Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry* for the period 2021-2022 until the XVII Alpine Conference

1. Introductory remarks

The Working Group on Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry (MAMF) covers two pivotal sectors for the Alpine economy that significantly contribute to shaping the regional landscape and provide employment to a significant share of people settled in the Alps. Both agriculture and forestry show a significant potential for climate change adaptation and mitigation that deserves to be addressed and brought to implementation.

Additionally, MAMF covers, directly and indirectly, a set of topics recalled by the Action Programme for a Green Economy in the Alpine Region (GEAP) of the Alpine Convention. The agriculture and forestry sectors are particularly suitable to offer ideal test-sites for green economy actions for the Alps.

The value chains of these two sectors extend far beyond the Alpine region and have a potential for larger territories including medium-sized towns and larger cities/metropolises localized in the EUSALP region that qualify as potential markets for mountain products and services and as sources of finance, innovation and tourism.

2. Objectives

Description of objectives

1. Promoting climate-friendly agriculture by taking the first implementation steps as defined by the Alpine Climate Board (ACB) for the pathways on agriculture in the Alps: "Promotion of Alpine products and increase in locally retained value added for a sustainable and climate-friendly agriculture (IP_Agr1)" and "Moving to organic and climate-friendly methods in Alpine farming" (IP_Agr2).
2. Promote sustainable value chains in forestry and farming sectors by involving the relevant actors. A focus will be laid on linkages between mountain farming and forestry and urban centers. The objective will contribute to the implementation of the GEAP as well as contributing to IP_Agr1 of the ACB.

3. Tasks

Description of outputs

To objective 1:

Stocktaking on organic agriculture in the Alps (implementation step for ACB IP_Agr2).

Developing organic agriculture scenarios for Alpine regions (implementation step for ACB IP_Agr2).

To objective 2:

Study report on the status of value chains in regions and selected sectors of agriculture and forestry and enhancement of value chains in selected sectors and regions through organizing at least one thematic workshop on the topic with involved actors.

Work plan

Tentative Work Plan (to be adjusted)

Jan 2021 – appointment of national and observers' representatives in the MAMF WG

Feb 2021 – 1st meeting of the MAMF WG

March 2021/June 2021 – Methodology and forms for stocktaking on organic agriculture

June 2021 – 2nd meeting of the MAMF WG

July 2021/September 2021 – Draft stocktaking organic agriculture and forms for scenario building

October 2021 – Workshop on organic agriculture in the Alps

September 2021/December 2021 – Draft scenarios for organic agriculture

Jan 2022 – 3rd meeting of the MAMF WG

Jan 2022/March 2022 – Methodology and forms on value chains in selected sectors and regions

April 2022 – Stakeholder Workshop on Value Chains

April 2022/June 2022 – Draft report on forest and agriculture value chains in selected sectors

July 2022 – 4th meeting of the MAMF WG

July 2022/October 2022 – Finalization of the report and final approval of the outputs of the WG

4. Cooperation

Cooperation with other Working Groups/Boards and partners

The group will work with bodies, groups and initiatives within the Alpine Convention, in particular with the Alpine Climate Board, the Alpine Biodiversity Board and the Green Economy experts. Cooperation with EUSALP, especially with Action Group 6, which is working on agri-food and forest issues, and possible involvement of thematic Alpine Space Programme projects is also foreseen.

Involvement of significant actors in the fields of investigation will allow to collect data and information to build scenarios and describe the status quo.

Through workshops, especially on the topic of value chains, stakeholders on regional or local level will be addressed. This will concern mostly the business sector with regard to distribution and trade channels, as well as research institutions.

5. Communication

Communication activities of the Working Group

Target groups will consist of practitioners involved in implementation of actions from the ACB and GEAP, in particular the business sector. There is also a need to reach consumer groups, citizens and municipalities.

Communication activities will consist of local stakeholder workshops. Interactive updates on the interim results of the group can also be organized and spread through partners and stakeholders. Additionally, a short summary of the importance of value chains and marketing potentials, to be distributed to producers on local level, will be developed.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference

Contribution to and coherence with the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2017-2022 of the Alpine Conference as well as the Convention and its Protocols

The working group on Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry will contribute directly to priority 4 “Greening the Economy” and priority 2 “Taking Action on Climate Change” through the objectives that relate to the work of the Alpine Climate Board and to the Action Programme for a Green Economy in the Alpine Region (GEAP). To a lesser extent, the priorities 1 and 3 (“Focusing on People and Culture” and “Conserving and Valuing Biodiversity and Landscape”) will be targeted as well.

7. Chair

The chair will be held by Italy.