

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
Working Group on Mountain Agriculture and Mountain
Forestry
FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2022
(BETWEEN THE XVI AND XVII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE
CONFERENCE)**

1. Overview of the mandate given by the XVI Alpine Conference

Summary of the objectives according to the 2021-2022 mandate or work programme

The Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry Working Group has been established by the decision A6 of the XV Alpine Conference as part of the priority 4 "Greening the Economy" of the Multiannual Working Programme 2017-2022.

Its activities relate to mountain agriculture and to sustainable management of mountain forests and their respective value chains. The WG mandate states that it will contribute to the operationalisation of the recommendations contained in the "Climate Target System 2050 of the Alpine Convention" and will also contribute to the implementation of the Action Program for an Alpine Green Economy (GEAP) by supporting actions envisaged in the Program in its relevant action fields.

The mandate included 2 objective and 3 specific tasks:

Objective 1: Promoting climate-friendly agriculture by taking the first implementation steps as defined by the Alpine Climate Board 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). Obj. 1 had two planned tasks:

Task 1 Stocktaking on organic agriculture in the Alps (implementation step for ACB IP_Agr2) and **Task 2 Developing organic agriculture scenarios for Alpine regions** (implementation step for ACB IP_Agr2). The planned outputs were a stocktaking report, including a collection of scenarios.

Objective 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 centres. The objective will contribute to the implementation of the Action Program for an Alpine Green Economy (GEAP) as well as contributing to IP_Agr1 and IP_Fo of the ACB. Obj. 2 had one task: **Task 3: Study on the**

status of value chains in regions and selected sectors of agriculture and forestry, for which a report was the planned output.

For each objective a thematic workshop was planned.

Objective 1 - Expert workshop on the topic of organic agriculture in the Alps;

Objective 2 - Stakeholder workshop on the enhancement of value chains in selected sectors and regions – with presentation of case studies and good practices.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings held (date, place, main topics and milestones)

- April 28th, 2021 - 1st meeting (online): presentation of mandate 2021-2022, Thematic discussion on Task 1 "*Stocktaking on Organic Agriculture in the Alps*" and on potential steps of stocktaking strategy, presentation of some research projects carried out in some alpine contests; presentation of the template devoted to data collection and discussion.
- July 2nd, 2021 – 2nd meeting (online): thematic discussion on Task 2 "*Developing organic agriculture scenarios for Alpine regions*" and on potential steps for their definition, presentation and discussion of a proposal of template for a common methodology to define future scenarios in the different Alpine contests.
- November 12th, 2021 – 3rd meeting (online): organization of the expert workshop on Organic Agriculture, Status of the activities related to the Task 1; discussion and methods for Task 2; proposal and inputs for Task 3 "*Study report on the status of value chains in regions and selected sectors of agriculture and forestry*"; discussion on potential steps of study report on value chains development.
- January 19th, 2022 – 4th meeting (online): organization of the stakeholder workshop on the value chains, Planning the report 1 for Task 1 and Task 2, Planning the second report for Task 3.
- April 13th, 2022, 5th meeting (online): discussion for finalizing the new mandate 2023-2024 of the MAMF Working Group, its future possibly objectives and discussion on the Tasks to reach them; drafting and discussion of the two final reports related to the tasks of previous mandate.
- April 28th, 2022 – 6th meeting (online): brief update on the proposal of the next mandate. Discussion and reviewing the final reports.

All the meeting were organised online, with the efficient use of the Alpine Convention Webex platform.

3. Activities carried out

Synthetic description of further activities carried out (including outreach and communication activities)
<p>In the mandate period, two Workshops were also organized, to streamline and collect inputs, suggestions and best practice on the topics of Task 1 and 2 (workshop 1) and Task 3 (workshop 2).</p> <p>Due to the pandemic situation, both workshops were hold online, using the Zoom platform.</p> <p><u>November 18th, 2021:</u> 1st Workshop: "Status and perspectives of Organic Agriculture in the Alps". Organised in two sessions and a round table.</p> <p>Session 1: "Initiatives, good practices, projects in the field of organic mountain agriculture and in the agroforestry sector and their relations with agritourism, conservation of agro-forestry bio-diversity and genetic selection and protection of species".</p> <p>Session 2: "Overview on current state of organic agriculture at the Alpine level and perspectives in the development of future scenarios".</p> <p>Round table: "Socio-economic changes and developments in Alpine organic agriculture – An exchange between experts, stakeholders and local actors".</p> <p><u>1st February 2022:</u> 2nd Workshop "Value chains in mountain forests and mountain agriculture: opportunities for sustainable economy and development", Organised in two sessions and a discussion table.</p> <p>Session 1: "Initiatives, good practices, projects, policies in the field of value chains in organic mountain agriculture and in the forestry sector from Alpine Convention Countries".</p> <p>Session 2: "Role of value chains in sustainable economy and development in mountain areas".</p> <p>Discussion table: "Criticisms in the agroforestry sectors for the Mountain economy".</p>

4. Outputs and results

Description of the main outputs and results achieved
<p>Two reports have been produced:</p> <p>Report 1: "ORGANIC FARMING IN THE ALPS: A FIRST ANALYSIS AND SOME DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS", targeting Task 1 (Stocktaking in organic agriculture in Alps) and Task 2 (Developing organic agriculture scenarios for Alpine region).</p>

Report 2: "VALUE CHAINS IN ALPINE REGIONS AND SELECTED SECTORS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY", targeting Task 3 (Study on the status of value chains in regions and selected sectors of agriculture and forestry).

5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation developed with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and of the resulting benefits

10-11.06.2021: online participation to the EUSALP Territorial Brands Workshop on Territorial Brands in the Alpine Region.

17.06.2021: online participation to the Workshop of the Thematic Working bodies of the Alpine Convention (with presentation).

16.11.2021: online participation to the Alpine Convention Permanent Committee (PC73), with specific input on biodiversity.

25.01.2022: online participation to the Workshop of the Thematic Working bodies of the Alpine Convention with presentation.

01.03.2022: in person and online participation to the meeting on agricultural topics within EUSALP – Paris – with presentation on WG MAMF mandate and activities and opportunities for cooperation.

07.04.2022: participation to EUSALP Action Group 2 meeting of Subgroup "Wood" - Grenoble (Col de Porte, Chartreuse) – with presentation of Alpine Convention protocol on mountain forests and WG MAMF activities.

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVII Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports, communication materials etc.). *Please kindly provide a PDF file of each attachment. Do not include the minutes of regular meetings!*

Report 1 "ORGANIC FARMING IN THE ALPS: A FIRST ANALYSIS AND SOME DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS"

Report 2 "VALUE CHAINS IN ALPINE REGIONS AND SELECTED SECTORS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY"