

Overview of Member States applying crop rotation as one of their 'good agricultural and environment conditions' (GAEC) in 2009

| Member State | Crop rotation | Crop diversification | Others | Description |
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| <i>Austria</i> | - | + | | Farms with a stocking rate below 0.5 LU/ha and over 5 ha of arable land may grow cereals (including spelt, durum, barley, oats, rye, triticale and common wheat) and maize on a maximum of 85% of their arable land |
| <i>Belgium Flanders</i> | | | Spreading organic manure or compost; sloughing straw, cover crops | Measuring the content of organic matter and carbon on arable land by farmers. If content too low, farmers must spread organic manure or straw. Analysis numbers depending on the size. |
| <i>Bulgaria</i> | +(cr* for certain crops) | - | Forbids growing of certain crops in 2 consecutive years | The crops are flax, sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>), sugar beet and peas |
| <i>Cyprus</i> | +(cr for certain crops) | - | Set aside | Crop rotation or set-aside is used every three or five years, for potatoes and cereals respectively. |
| <i>Czech Republic</i> | | | | Maize, potatoes, beet, sown beans, soy or sunflower are not grown on land blocks or part thereof, with an average incline exceeding 12 degrees. |
| <i>Estonia</i> | +(crop rotation plan) | - | | Cropping or crop rotation plan (should be available for checking within 5 years after preparation). Exception permanent grassland, fruit crops, berries, medicinal plants or for fields smaller 0.3ha. |
| <i>Finland</i> | - | + | | Farm has to grow at least 2 different crops OR apply at least 2 other forms of managing or using agriculture area within the period 1.5-30.9. Also possible one crop + other form of using agriculture land |
| <i>France</i> | - | + | Cover crop Grinding residues | At least 3 crops, each of which covering 5% or more of the cultivated soil. It is accepted that the smallest crop will only account for 3% of the soil. Farmers who plant at least 10% with leguminous crops or temporary grassland must plant 2 crops. When leguminous crop or grassland are the major crop, the lower limit is 10% for the second crop. If not of the above done, farmers should maintain winter cover or manage residues by grinding. |
| <i>Germany</i> | +(but can be chosen from the farmer) | + | | At least 3 crops, whereby set aside and unfarmed arable land should count as one crop. Each crop must cover at least 15% of the arable land. If farmer has more than 3 crops, the 15% may be divided between crops. If farmer cultivates one or 2 crops in a particular year, he can also prove that he cultivates one other crop in 3 successive years at least. If farmer does not comply with those – a humus balance should be drawn every year and if the results below respective limits, farmer shall take action to improve it. |
| <i>Greece</i> | +(cr with | + | | Where crops subject to rotation are grown a part of 20% of the arable land of the holding should be cultivated each year with leguminous crops. |

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| | legumes, changed now) | | | The implementation has caused several problems. Due to unfavourable climatic conditions (hot, dry, water shortage) the infringement is deemed a minor one. The provision is changed for 2010. |
| <i>Hungary</i> | + (for certain crops) | + | | Rye, wheat, triticale, barley can be cultivated in 2 consecutive years; Maize and tobacco can be cultivated in 3 consecutive years; The following crops can be cultivated for several consecutive years: multiannual horticultural crops, fodder crops, grass seed, apiculture crops, multiannual energy crops and rice; All other crops can be cultivated only besides crop rotation. The standard was amended in July 2009. The amendment was officially reported to the Commission. |
| <i>Ireland</i> | + (chosen from a list with other measures) | | Arable Stubble Management | Crop rotation is one of a number of remedial actions available to a farmer which a FAS advisor may stipulate for a farmer who has a Soil Organic Matter below which the soil may be vulnerable. See also Arable Stubble Management below. |
| <i>Italy</i> | + (cr for cereals, strict definition of cereals) | - | | The repeated cultivation of the same cereal (i.e. mono-cultivation) on a particular land parcel shall not last more than five years. The definition of cereal includes the following crops: wheat, durum wheat, barley, rye, oats, triticale, spelt, millet, Canary Grass, maize, sorghum. The turnover between two or more of the above mentioned crops is considered as a repetition of the same crop. Second-harvest crops (i.e. short-cycle tomato after barley then followed by barley again or any other cereal) are not considered as crop turnovers. In their implementing acts, Regions and Autonomous Provinces may require stricter terms for crop turnover, ranging from 2 to maximum 4 years. Derogations are admitted only when a farmer may demonstrate, by means of official soil analysis results, that no significant variation of soil organic matter levels occurred during the mono-cultivation period. |
| <i>Latvia</i> | | | | The land utilised for agriculture shall be cultivated and crops shall be grown in the growing season (in Latvia from May until September) by utilising agricultural technology (including machinery) for sowing and crop maintenance that is appropriate to the species, i.e., observing sowing periods, necessary fertilisation, as well as weed control and other plant protection measures. |
| <i>Lithuania</i> | + | - | | Subjects engaged in agricultural activity must follow requirements of crop rotation. It is forbidden to grow the same crops in the same field (the same field of crop rotation) more than 3 years consecutively. |
| <i>Luxemburg</i> | - | + | | Each crop shall represent at least 15% of the arable land. Crops of the same species but different varieties are regarded as a single crop. Where there are more than three crops, the requirement concerning the minimum of 15% of the arable land can be fulfilled by adding several crops. |
| <i>Malta</i> | + | - | | On irrigated land, crop rotation should be practised regularly, and crops belonging to the same botanical family should not be grown successively on the same parcel of land. Preferably, crops belonging to the same soil humus depleting category should |

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| | | | | not be grown for more than three years successively on the same parcel and have to be put into rotation with at least one year of the soil-improving crops or with at least one year of set-aside. |
| <i>Netherlands</i> | | | Cover crop | The requirement to sow a green manure crop on parcels taken out of production under the single farm payment scheme (sow before 31 May and do not destroy before 31 August). |
| <i>Poland</i> | + | - | | In the case of wheat, rye, barley and oat, the same plant species can not be cultivated on the same area within cadastral parcel for more than 3 years |
| <i>Portugal</i> | (cr for certain crops) | | Cover crop | 'Rotation of crops' Parcels with temporary spring/summer crops, except parcels cultivated for rice, must feature an autumn/winter crop between 15 November and 1 March or, alternatively, spontaneous cover. Permitted crops include arable crops, temporary fodder crops and open-air horticultural crops. |
| <i>Romania</i> | + | - | | The cultivation of sunflower on the same area for more than 2 consecutive years is forbidden |
| <i>Slovakia</i> | + | - | | Not to cultivate the identical root crop on the same place two years consecutive. |
| <i>Slovenia</i> | (cr for sunflower) | | | |
| | + | - | | Suitable three-year crop rotation system. (Three-year crop rotation system on at least half of the farms arable land is obligatory. Corn is not allowed to be sown in monoculture for more than three years.) |
| <i>Sweden</i> | (cr on at least 50% of arable land) | | Cover crop | At least 50 % (60 % for the three southernmost counties) of a farmers arable land must be covered by vegetation during the most sensitive period in the autumn and/or winter |
| <i>UK England</i> | + | - | List of measures | Menu of different measures to protect and improve soil organic matter. Risk assessment done by the farmer |
| <i>UK N. Ireland</i> | (cr from a list of measure) | | List of measures | All cultivated land must have either crop cover, stubble cover, grass cover or be ploughed or disked over the following winter. Finely tilled seedbeds are not permitted over the winter. |
| <i>UK Scotland</i> | | | List of measures | Use suitable break crops to maintain organic matter in the soil in an arable rotation; farmer must make and keep for 5 years a written record of the organic materials |
| <i>UK Wales</i> | | | List of measures | The soil assessment record ensure that farmers asses the soil issue/damages on their farm annually and identify what action they will take to rectify the issue/damage. |

Source: This overview is based on information provided by DG AGRI in February 2012

*cr – crop rotation