

Design of Agricultural Policies in Slovakia

Policy Brief

Introduction

- The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023–2027 serves as the primary framework for the development of the agricultural sector, with national priorities defined in Slovakia’s CAP Strategic Plan.

The CAP provides the overarching rules, funding mechanisms, and strategic objectives that guide how Slovakia shapes its agricultural interventions. Through its national CAP Strategic Plan, Slovakia translates these EU-level priorities into targeted measures that reflect domestic needs, sectoral challenges, and long-term development goals.
- Agricultural policy is closely interconnected with environmental, energy, climate, rural development, and bioeconomy policies.

Decisions made in agricultural policy directly influence land use, resource efficiency, emissions, and economic opportunities in rural areas, making coordination across sectors essential. A coherent policy approach helps prevent conflicting objectives and supports more sustainable, resilient, and competitive development of the wider bio-based economy.

CAP specific objectives

S01	S02	S03	S04	S05	S06	S07	S08	S09	Cross-cutting
Viabile farm income and resilience	Market orientation and competitiveness	Farmers’ position in the value chain	Climate change and sustainable energy	Natural resources water, soil, air	Biodiversity, ecosystems habitats, landscapes	Young farmers and business development	Employment, inclusion, local development, bioeconomy and forestry	Food and health, and animal welfare	Knowledge, information and digitalization

Source: Slovakia - CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027: Key Facts & Figures

Key Findings

- Sustainability and resilience in agriculture:** reducing environmental impacts pressures the sector to adopt climate-smart practices, in line with the EU Green Deal. CAP-SP tools, such as eco-schemes, rural development, and organic farming, support alignment with environmental goals.

Strengthening sustainability requires farmers to transition to practices that reduce emissions, protect soil and water resources, and enhance biodiversity. Instruments under the CAP Strategic Plan help ease this transition by providing financial incentives and technical support for environmentally responsible management.
- Agriculture as a foundation of the bioeconomy:** agriculture provides feedstock for bio-based materials, food innovation, and bio-products. Coordination with policies supporting science, research and the circular bioeconomy, such as the Smart Specialization Strategy, is crucial.

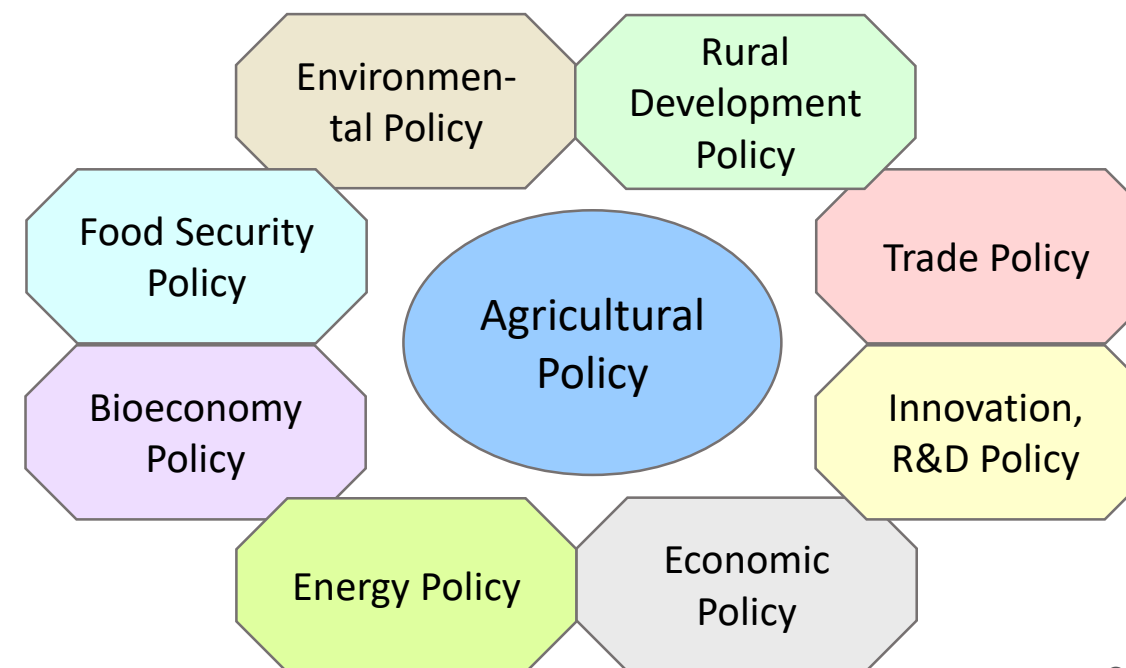
As a primary source of biological resources, agriculture underpins value chains that extend far beyond food production, including bioplastics, pharmaceuticals, bioenergy, and other bioproducts. Effective coordination across innovation and bioeconomy policies ensures that these resources are used efficiently and that new high-value bio-based sectors can emerge.
- Renewable energy contributions:** biogas and biomethane from agricultural and forestry residues contribute to Slovakia’s renewable energy goals. The National Energy and Climate Plan sets a target for of renewable energy (19.2% in gross final consumption by 2030), with biomass playing a key role.

Agricultural by-products offer significant potential to expand domestic renewable energy generation while reducing waste and enhancing rural energy security. The growing role of biomass and bioenergy technologies positions the agricultural sector as a strategic contributor to Slovakia’s long-term climate and energy objectives.

Policy Recommendations

- **Establish inter-ministerial coordination:** Create working groups across key sectors (agriculture, environment, economy, and energy) to co-design and monitor integrated policies that support sustainability.
Stronger coordination mechanisms would help align objectives, reduce policy conflicts, and ensure that agricultural measures complement environmental and energy strategies. Regular joint monitoring and data sharing would improve policy coherence and enable more effective implementation of cross-cutting initiatives.
- **Enhance support for low-impact farming:** Increase financial incentives and provide technical assistance to farmers transitioning to organic and environmentally friendly practices.
Targeted funding and advisory services would help reduce the financial and knowledge barriers associated with adopting sustainable practices. Supporting innovative and low-input farming systems can also improve long-term soil health, reduce emissions, and strengthen climate resilience.
- **Promote bio-based innovation and strengthen energy infrastructure:** Facilitate investments in the use of biological resources for industrial production. Modernize energy infrastructure for decentralized renewable energy generation from agricultural and forestry residues.
Encouraging innovation in bio-based value chains can stimulate new markets, increase value added, and diversify the rural economy. Upgrading energy infrastructure will enable more efficient integration of bioenergy, biogas, biomethane, and biomass-based technologies into the national energy system.
- **Apply strategic foresight tools:** Use scenario planning and modelling tools to assess the impacts of proposed policies on agricultural output, biomass flows, land use, the environment, and rural livelihoods.
These tools can help policymakers anticipate risks, explore alternative futures, and design policies that remain effective under different conditions. Incorporating foresight into decision-making enhances long-term planning and ensures more resilient and evidence-based agricultural strategies.

Integrated Policy Framework: Agricultural Policy and Related Policies



Source: own illustration

Conclusion

- Although agricultural policies primarily target farmers, food production, and food security, Slovakia's agricultural policy needs to be designed as part of a broader, integrated strategy that advances climate objectives, promotes renewable energy, and supports the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy. Enhanced cross-sector coordination can create synergies, foster innovation, and strengthen a resilient and environmentally friendly rural economy.

Acknowledgement

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