

**The CAP and national priorities
within the EU budget
after 2020**



INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL
AND FOOD ECONOMICS
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The CAP and national priorities within the EU budget after 2020

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CHALLENGES, CHANCES, THREATS, PROPOSALS**

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2. Holistic risk management as a response to budgetary constraints

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Abstract

The latest perspective of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) focuses in particular on risk management (RM) issues due to the need for aligning the CAP to the new agricultural operating conditions. The future of agricultural policy has become, as never before, increasingly climate-dependent and threatened by typical agricultural issues of concern, including strong dependence on weather conditions, price volatility, natural disasters or risk of new diseases that can potentially destabilise the farmers' income. Changing tendencies of the existing agricultural policy can also underlay the uncertainty of farm functioning. The on-going debate focuses on income stabilisation tools and shifting from the existing programmes oriented at direct payments and other agricultural support measures. Thus, reorientation of agricultural policy brings the risk of losing the existing support and the need for seeking the new income stabilisation tools. The CAP proposes a holistic approach to risk management and a set of instruments addressing the budgetary constraints. It is, therefore, appropriate to state that limiting budgetary support may contribute to development of a more comprehensive risk management system in agriculture.

Keywords: risk management, holism, holistic risk management, Common Agricultural Policy

JEL codes: Q14, Q18, G23

2.1. Introduction

The next CAP perspective will be most probably related to budgetary constraints that may substantially reorientate the existing agricultural development policy in the European Union (EU). These changes bring the risk of losing the existing support and the need for seeking the new income stabilisation tools.

Thus, the newest CAP perspective focuses on risk management issues as the area to seek solutions that could ensure financial security with minor support from the state budget. The newest CAP 2020+ perspective is largely oriented towards such issues as: supporting private management strategies by enhancing farm advisory, aligning the management systems with the individual sectors and regions or development of the new financial instruments supporting risk management. The issue of risk management in agriculture is not new. Nevertheless, despite numerous concepts of risk management, vast majority of them focuses only on the most common types of risk, including production, financial or market risks. Such approach fails to consider the interlinkages between the individual risk groups as well as impact of risk on the organisation's objectives or strategy [Krysiak, 2011]. The holistic risk management concept that can respond to budgetary constraints presents a completely different approach.

The purpose of this study is an attempt to assess the possibilities of implementing the holistic approach to risk management in agriculture. The study assumes that the OECD's holistic concept is currently the most relevant to position the political interferences in risk management in agriculture.

2.2. The holistic risk management concept

The contemporary concept of holism has been introduced in many scientific fields and refers to a philosophical development theory and social science methodology. Holism is a theory that establishes the primacy of viewing the social phenomena as wholes. In ontological terms, it emphasizes that a whole should be perceived more comprehensively than only as a collection of elements due to interconnections, dependencies and interactions between them, which leads to development of a new structure of specific dynamics. In methodological terms, holism is a theory that establishes the primacy of viewing the social events as wholes and claims that the focus in explaining social phenomena should be on analysing the whole rather than individual elements, since such elements – viewed autonomously without a reference to the whole – can be wrongly understood.

Thus, holistic risk management is an all-encompassing approach, requiring management of all types of risk to which an organisation can be exposed. According to J. Lam, analysing of individual risk groups separately, paying no attention to their interconnections, is ineffective due to dynamic structures of different risk groups and strong interlinkages between them [Lam, 2014]. These interlinkages are addressed by G. Monahan who notes that there is an inextricable link between risk and strategic objectives of an enterprise [Monahan, 2008].

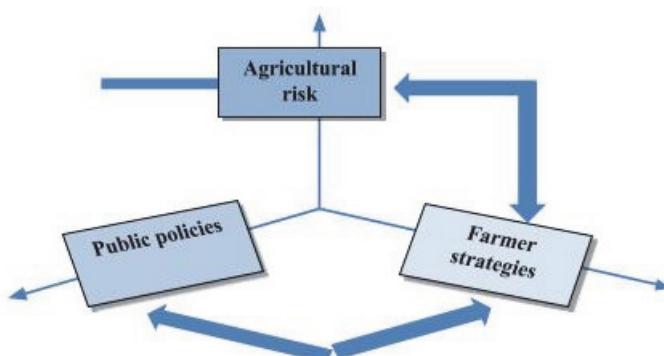
For the purposes of this study an assumption was made that the holistic risk management covers, for instance, comprehensive identification (along with interaction analysis) and reduction of risk by way of implementation of risk coping instruments and strategies in agriculture into the conventional and sustainable approach frameworks.

The holistic approach to risk management was proposed by the OECD in 2009. It stands up to a conventional linear concept perceiving each type of risk on a farm as a separate problem, seeks autonomous strategies for risk reduction and includes public policies into this system. The essential problem with linear approach is that it misses any interconnections between the elements, thus, it is difficult to expect that the analysis will go as planned. Therefore, the OECD proposes the holistic risk management concept constituting the integrated system composed of a set of relations between different risk groups, available management tools and strategies and public policy measures. One should note that in holistic approach all risk groups affecting the farm are interconnected and perceived as a single issue of concern that enables selecting the best possible risk reduction strategy. To perform such risk management, all elements (risk, strategies and policies) should be handled as a whole, including also interactions between these elements. Linear and holistic approach to risk management is presented on Figure 1.

Figure 1. Linear vs. holistic risk management strategy
Linear concept



Holistic concept



Source: own elaboration on the basis of Managing Risk in Agriculture: A Holistic Approach, OECD, Paris 2009.

One should strongly emphasize that the economic practice does not generally recommend a single and universal risk management method. On the contrary, each country needs to establish its own holistic system aligned to its preferences and primarily to its budgetary, organisational and administrative capabilities. Conceptual framework of the holistic risk management system is presented in Table 1. It shows that, while establishing such system, one needs to consider many different risk layers at different management levels, starting from normal risks of high probability and relatively low losses via market transferable risk to catastrophic risk that is infrequent, but causes a large amount of damage. In addition, the presence of catastrophic risk in agriculture is among the justifications for budgetary support, but it can be reduced within the farm by applying e.g. relevant agricultural techniques. This means that a farmer is able to face these groups of risks by optimal selection of coping strategies, which, however, requires accounting for correlations between these risks. This task may be difficult without an explicit support of public institutions.

Table 1. Framework of holistic risk management in agriculture

Risk management instruments and strategies	Risk layers		
	Normal risk – low but repeatable losses	Market transferable risk	Catastrophic risk – infrequent but large, systemic losses
farm-located (diversification, savings, innovation)			
market (insurances, options and futures)			
<i>ex ante</i> policies (principles of <i>ad hoc</i> aid)			
<i>ex post</i> policies (providing support)			

Source: own elaboration on the basis of *Evaluation on the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) 2014-2020, OECD, Paris 2017.*

Each country seeks to establish the holistic risk management templates to follow the interactions between the individual risk groups. Exemplary extreme solutions for selecting the risk management strategy are New Zealand and Spain (Fig. 2). In New Zealand, the state budget remains uninvolved in the risk management system, which leaves a large margin for free market functioning. The Spanish risk management policy has been shaped differently. Risk management policies and strategies dedicated to agriculture in this country are burdensome to the budget and the subsidies displace the other risk management instruments. The examples of risk management systems presented on Figure 2 demonstrate that the holistic approach enables establishing unique solutions, strongly correlated with the strategies and directions of agricultural development in a given country.

Figure 2. Risk management strategies and policy in the New Zealand and Spanish agriculture

a) New Zealand

Strategies and policies	Type of risk		
	catastrophic	market	normal
Farms			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial management • grazing and feed management • flexibility in making business decisions
Market instruments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forward contracts • interest rate security • shares in cooperatives 	
<i>ex ante</i> policies	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">biosecurity</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">water and pest management</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">counteracting undesired events</div>		framework for free market functioning and regulations
<i>ex post</i> policies			

b) Spain

Strategies and policies	Type of risk		
	catastrophic	market	normal
Farms			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • production diversification • financial management
Market instruments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forward contracts • shares in cooperatives 	
<i>ex ante</i> policies	<p>hybrid insurances under the public-private partnership</p>		<p>direct payments and price gap support under the CAP</p>
<i>ex post</i> policies	<p><i>ad hoc</i> aid in case of disaster</p>		

Source: own elaboration on the basis of Managing Risk in Agriculture. Policy Assessment and Design, OECD, Paris 2011.

2.3. Holistic risk management in agriculture – key issues of concern

One of the key CAP orientations applied in risk management system is the diversification strategy that may be used as an equivalent of greening under the Common Agricultural Policy. Data presented in Table 2 demonstrate that the income volatility coefficient in diversified farms fluctuated between 0.12 in Germany and 0.42 in Spain, while in monoculture farms the value of this coefficient reached between 0.16 in Germany for sugar beet and 0.69 in Canada for

wheat and oats. According to the provided data, the farms of diversified crop structure demonstrate lower income variability comparing to monoculture farms. This applies to practically any analysed country. There is a need to emphasize that trade-off that may be reflected by the selected sowing structure, has its limitations since in many cases it requires reorientation of the existing farm development strategy. Thus, explicit and simple recommendations for the most optimal RM systems are difficult to form, since the risk is always correlated with trade-off, where on the one hand, selecting a given strategy enables the delivery of specific goals, while on the other, it may limit the benefits gained in effect of implementation of the other strategies.

Table 2. Income volatility per 1 ha for monoculture and diversified crops (volatility coefficient)

Crops	Germany	Great Britain	Estonia	Netherlands	Australia	Canada	Spain
1. Monoculture							
• wheat	0.20	0.31	0.42	0.64	0.47	0.69	0.48
• barley	0.31	0.33	0.41		0.54	0.45	0.47
• oleaginous	0.31	0.33			0.46	0.47	
• rye	0.29		0.50				
• sugar beet	0.16			0.27			
• oats			0.45			0.69	
2. Diversified	0.12	0.29	0.29	0.35	0.33	0.37	0.42

Source: own elaboration on the basis of *Managing Risk in Agriculture. Policy Assessment and Design, OECD, Paris 2011*.

Table 3. Trade-offs in risk area

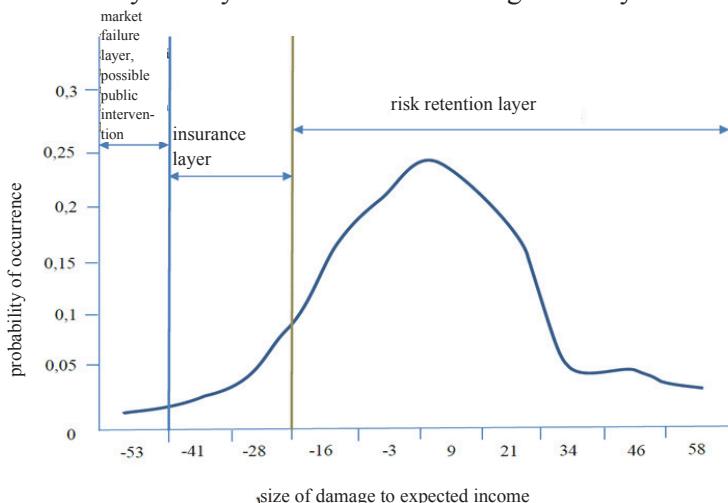
crowding-out (substitutability of risk management instruments)	vs.	crowding-in (complementarity of instruments)
crop and production diversification (lower volatility)	vs.	benefits of specialisation (better effectiveness and competitiveness)
business and life safety	vs.	satisfaction from professional successes and life
risk	vs.	innovation
insurance risk (focus on in minus deviations) (<i>downside risk</i>)	vs.	financial risk (accounting for in minus and in plus deviations) (<i>upside risk</i>)
crop diversification plus negative correlation between crops and prices (<i>natural hedging</i>)	vs.	farmers' income and revenue stabilisation programmes

Source: own elaboration.

Table 3 presents different areas of risk trade-off. For example, budgetary support in a form of subsidies may enhance and even displace (crowding-out) the other risk management instruments as in the case of Spain. Nevertheless, the subsidies can complement the other RM instruments. The issue of greening referred to above (strategic CAP orientation) reflected by crop and production diversification and resulting in measurable and trade-off-related benefits in the form of risk decrease constitutes another example of such dilemmas. One should remember, however, that the benefits from diversification can displace the benefits of specialisation.

Another issue to be addressed is the presence of catastrophic risk in agriculture being the key argument for existence of the public support policy in the EU agricultural policy. Figure 3 presents three basic types of risk – normal, market and catastrophic. Analysis of the latter one could benefit from the probability density function being an alternative approach to the holistic concept. It should be underlined that there are some events of very low probability of occurrence, but of enormous potential damages. This is the case of catastrophic risk, in which the state involvement may become necessary and even desired. It should be added that the boundary (a specific demarcation line) between catastrophic and market risk (blue vertical line), similarly as between market and normal risk, is blurred and established on arbitrary basis, frequently with a view to social and political factors. On the example presented on Figure 3 this boundary is established by the state on arbitrary basis.

Figure 3. Probability density function and risk management layers



Source: own elaboration on the basis of *Managing Risk in Agriculture: A Holistic Approach*, OECD, Paris 2009.

According to the literature review, we can distinguish two catastrophic risk management models applied by the governments of the EU Member States (Table 4). These include [Garrido and Bielza, 2008]:

- model I – free-market, functioning in the Northern and Central Europe states with a significant role of the market based mechanism in catastrophic risk management and additional focus on trainings;
- model II – pro-intervention, functioning in the Mediterranean states with a moderate role of market based mechanism and specific support for development of new and innovative forms of insurances.

According to comparative analyses performed by the IAFE-NRI “virtually extreme approaches to catastrophic risk management in agriculture can be distinguished even within the EU: at one extreme there are countries enhancing the effectiveness of *ex ante* and risk transfer instruments, while at the other – the states with a dominating role of *ex post* instruments implemented in the case of catastrophic events” [Soliwoda, Pawłowska-Tyszko and Gorzelak, 2017, p. 685].

Table 4. Catastrophic risk management models in Europe

Specification	Model I	Model II
Countries	Northern and Central Europe (Germany, Great Britain)	Mediterranean states (Spain, Italy), Austria
Role of market based mechanism	↑↑	
Comments	trainings and other farmer-oriented forms	supporting development of innovative forms of agricultural insurances (e.g. index-based)

Source: adaptation of typological approach after A. Garrido, M. Bielza (2008). *Evaluating EU risk management instruments: policy lessons and prospects for the future*. In: M.P.M. Meuwissen, M.A.P.M. Van Assel-donk, R.B.M. Huirne (ed.), *Income stabilisation in European agriculture. Design and economic impact of risk management tools*. Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers.

Taking account of extremely high costs related to occurrence of catastrophic event, there is a need for diversification of catastrophic risk including in particular its market facilitation – considering the fact that in many countries this is the state that takes responsibility for covering the resulting losses. The methods for involving the market based mechanism in catastrophic risk management may include [Michalski and Pajewska, 2001]:

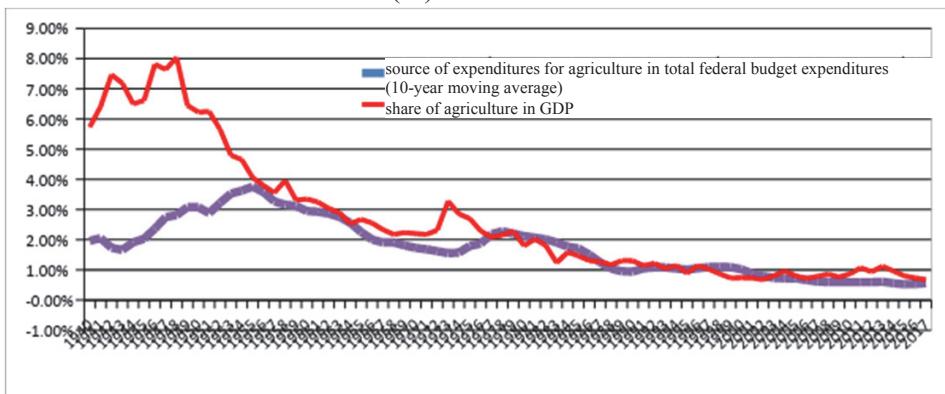
- Reinsurance of risk transfer or its part from the other insurances (assignors) to the insurer (assignee/reinsurer),
- Co-insurance – division/distribution of risk to at least two entities at the side of the insurer.

Reinsurance capacity of the insurance market may pose a barrier, which brings the need for support by the international companies. Internationalisation leads, however, to the new issues of concern, including the occurrence of foreign exchange risk that will require addressing.

2.4. Holistic risk management in agriculture on the example of the United States of America

Apart from the previous examples of the countries such as New Zealand or Spain, which adopted the models of risk management in agriculture that can be considered holistic, it is worthwhile to have a closer look at the US agriculture being an example of continuous evolution and development of the risk management system. Let us start with emphasising the fact that since the second half of the 1940s, the share of agriculture in the United States' GDP has continued to drop (Fig. 4). Following the growth period in the 1940s and early 1950s, the share of expenditures for agriculture in total federal budget expenditures has been also decreasing on quite regular basis. Interestingly, the trend for maintaining the share of expenditures for agriculture in total budget expenditures below the agricultural share in GDP has been observed in the US for the last several years.

Figure 4. Share of expenditures for agriculture in total federal budget expenditures of the United States in 1940-2017 (%).

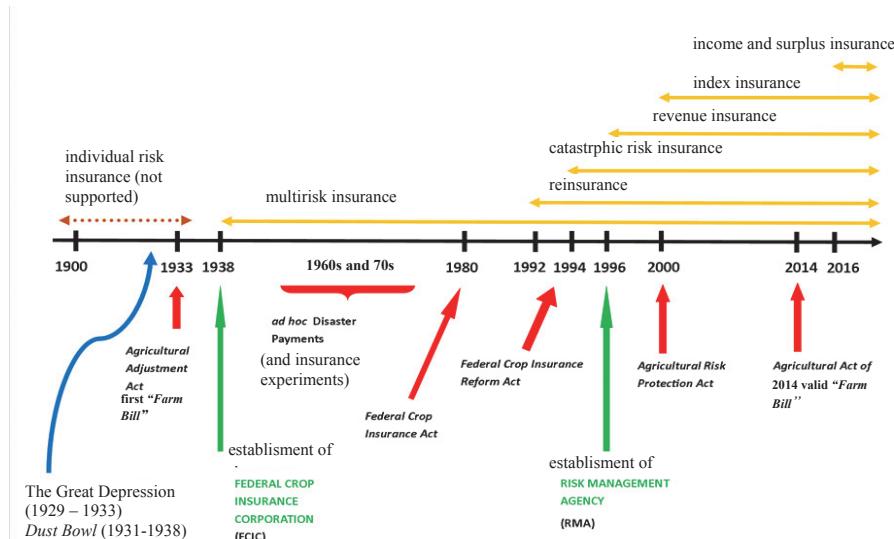


Source: own elaboration on the basis of BEA and Office of Management and Budget of The White House data.

Long-term quantitative trends described above are accompanied by qualitative changes, including in particular in the area of subsidising the property insurance in agriculture. The history of governmental support for insurances in the US agriculture dates back to the 1930s, when, in effect of the Great Depression and the so-called Dust Bowl, it was decided to take actions in this area (Fig. 5).

At the same time, in 1933, the first agricultural act (the so-called Farm Bill) was enacted, followed by establishment of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in 1938 – to manage the first federal crop insurance programme. The next four decades account for the period of primarily *ad hoc* disaster payments under subsequent Farm Bills and experiments with the governmental crop insurance support. The situation has begun to change since 1980s with implementation of partial subsidies for crop insurance premiums. Since 1996, the crop insurance support programmes have been managed by dedicated Risk Management Agency. Since the early 1990s, a regular growth of a group of insurance products supported by the federal government has been observed. After several decades of supporting only the multirisk insurances, the last twenty five years brought the support for reinsurance, catastrophic risk, revenue and index insurances, followed by – in the last two years – income and surplus insurances. This extension of the range of supported instruments can be considered an evolution towards the holistic approach to risk management in the US.

Figure 5. Evolution of the governmental support for insurances in agriculture of the United States

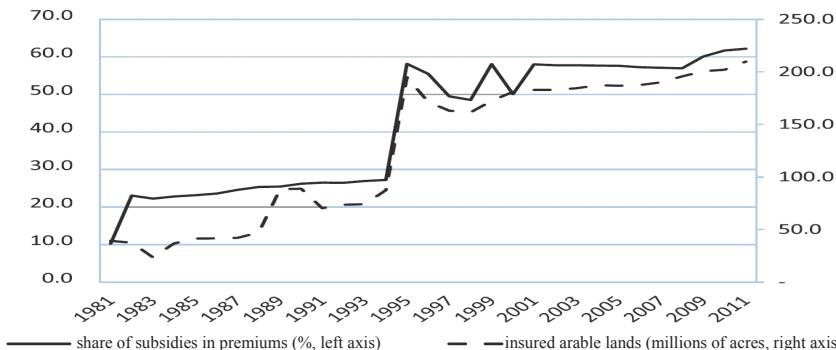


Source: own elaboration.

The changes that have taken place in the agricultural support system in the US since the 1980s were reflected primarily in the increasing support for insurances that resulted in higher interest of the US agricultural producers in insuring their crops. According to Figure 6, this interest – measured by a size of insured arable lands – is closely correlated with the amount of governmental support

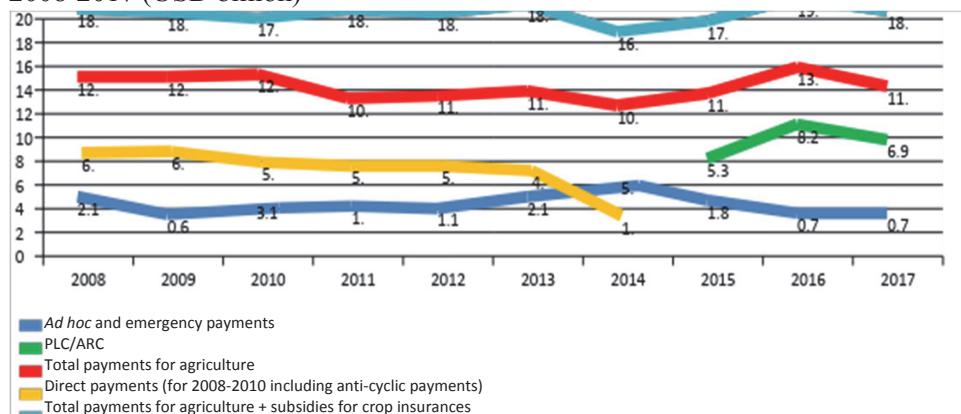
measured by the share of subsidies in the value of insurance premiums. This correlation poses a challenge to the economic authorities in the US that must face one still unsolved issue: how to decouple the interest of the farmers in property insurances from the value of related federal support.

Figure 6. Subsidies and insured arable land for six main crops in the United States in 1981-2011



Source: K.E. Coble, B.J. Barnett, "Why Do We Subsidize Crop Insurance?", *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 95(2), January 2013, p. 502.

Figure 7. Governmental support provided to agriculture in the United States in 2008-2017 (USD billion)



Source: own elaboration on the basis of U.S. Farm Income Outlook (2015, 2018) and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Summary of Business Report (2005-2014, 2015-2018)

The changes to the support system for agriculture in the USA have been taking place not only throughout decades but also within the last years. According to empirical data, during the term of the latest agricultural act [Farm Bill, 2014] the US Government managed, for instance, to reduce the scale of emergency and *ad hoc* payments and simultaneously increase the involvement of

federal government in the promotion of non-insurance risk management instruments to replace the existing direct payments; subsidies to crop insurances maintained at the stable level (Fig. 7).

2.5. Summary and conclusions

The key conclusions from the possibility of applying the holistic management system are as follows:

- The policymakers and agricultural administration take the primary responsibility for making use of the potential of reasonable expenditure of public funds contained in the holistic risk management concept.
- The EU farmers, brought up in a specific subsidy culture are reluctant to accept the recommendation that managing normal risks lies upon them.
- The occurrence of catastrophic risk in agriculture justifies the budgetary support, however, the amount of this support and ratios between the individual risk management instruments depend on financial capacities and preferences of individual countries.
- Budgetary constraints in the new CAP perspective may pose an incentive for development of a comprehensive risk management system in which each stakeholder will hold a set of mutually complementary instruments.

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