



THE INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE

An opportunity for agriculture and rural areas

Gregorio Dávila Díaz
DG AGRI-Unit H1
European Commission
gregorio.davila-diaz@ec.europa.eu

Agriculture
and Rural
Development

General objectives – agriculture and rural areas (Article 9 EFSI)

- (a) Research, development and innovation
- (d) Financial support to SMEs and mid-caps
- (e) Development and deployment of ICT:
 - (iv) broadband network
- (f) Environment and resource efficiency:
 - (i) environmental protection and management
 - (ii) eco-system services
 - (iii) rural development
 - (iv) climate change actions
- (g) Human capital:
 - (i) education and training

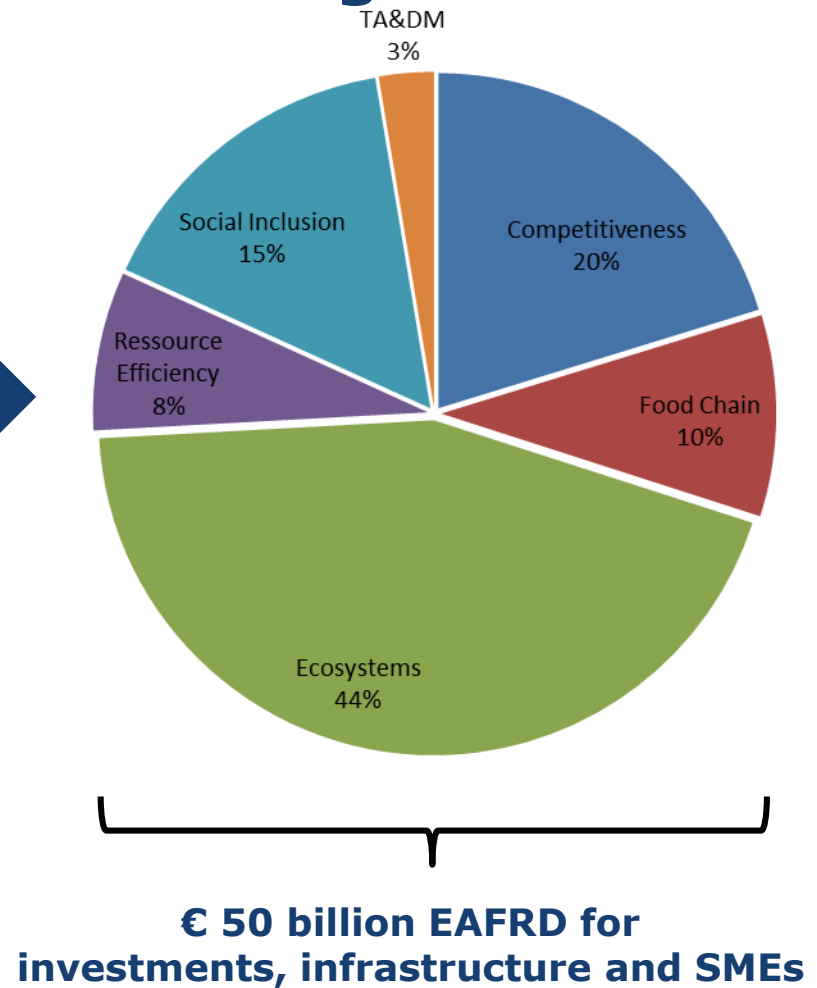
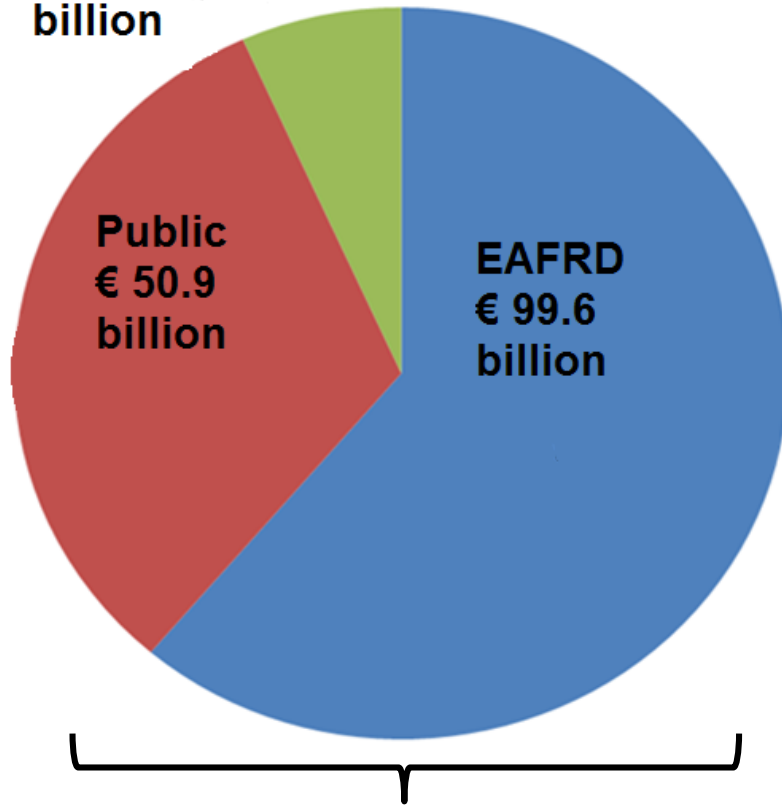
Union priorities for rural development 2014-2020

(Article 5 RD Regulation)

- (1) Fostering knowledge, transfer and innovation
- (2) Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness
- (3) Promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management
- (4) Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems
- (5) Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy
- (6) Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

Rural development funding

Top-up: €10.7
billion



Main areas (1): Circular/Bio-economy

1. Sustainable and integrated use of biological resources and waste streams for the production of food, energy and bio-based products
2. Ensure that food waste in the manufacturing, retail/distribution, foodservice/hospitality sectors and households is reduced by at least 30 % by 2025
3. Phosphorus: enhance its recycling, foster innovation, improve market conditions and mainstream its sustainable use in fertilisers, food, water and waste.

EXAMPLE 1:
ÄÄNEKOSKI BIO-MILL PLANT
IN FINLAND

EXAMPLE 2:
ENVO BIO-GAS PLANT IN
DENMARK

Main areas (2): Precision farming

1. Overall technical solutions need to become smarter and integrated into farm management systems, to support farmers in their decision-making
2. Precision Farming tools that are specifically designed for small and medium-sized farms are needed
3. Technical solutions: i) electric drives to facilitate precise electronic control of equipment and implements; ii) Internet of Things to facilitate machine and processor communication; iii) nanotechnology and biosensors; iv) drones and autonomous platforms
4. New business models for data management, sharing and open-data sources

Main areas (3): Broadband and smart villages

1. Aggregation of bottom-up demand for high-speed broadband using state of the art technology.
2. Broadband investments in rural areas in line with the Commission broadband targets by 2020 (30 Mbps or more for all; 50% of households having 100 Mbps subscriptions or higher) and beyond.
3. Overcome the lack of technical capacities of public administrations as regards the support for the roll-out of high-speed broadband networks.

EXAMPLE 3:
2 BROADBAND PROJECTS IN
FRANCE (ALSACE, NORD-
PAS DE CALAIS)

Main areas (4): Water infrastructure

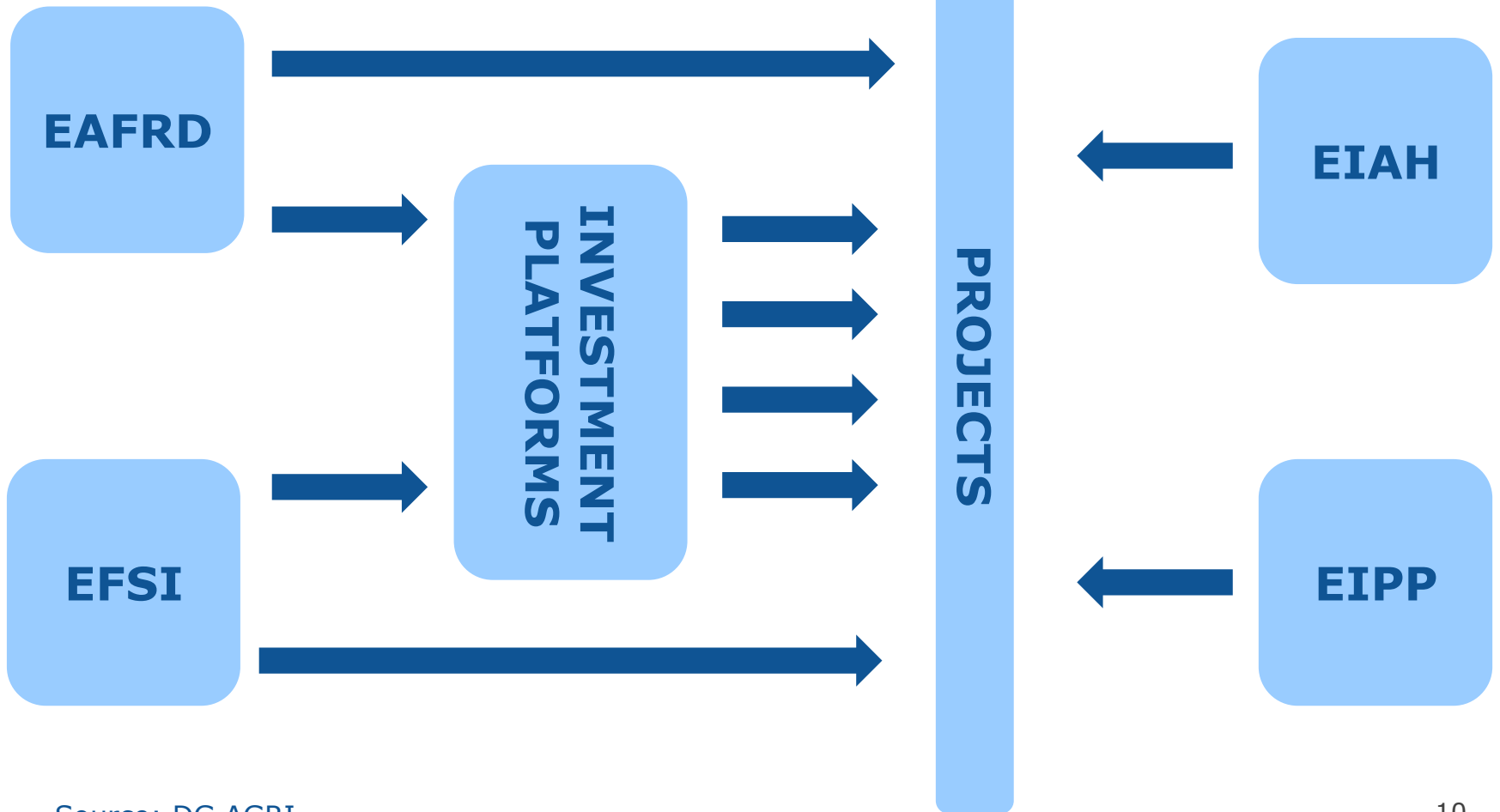
1. Bundling small-scale irrigation investments (farm level) with large scale water infrastructure (hydraulic works and village renewal)
2. Fulfilment of the Water Framework Directive: addressing pollution from urban waste water and from agriculture, good status of all waters and obligatory pricing policy
3. Water savings and water efficiency projects

Main areas (5): Access to finance

1. Develop financial products (typically, risk capital or guarantees) for agricultural holdings, forestry holders and SMEs in rural areas
2. Complement existing financial instruments under EAFRD and other EU policies (e.g. H2020 or COSME)
3. Maximize the leverage effect, taking advantage of EFSI architecture

EXAMPLE 4:
GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR
AGRI-SMEs IN GERMANY

How?



Next steps

1. Workshop on Investment Platforms and complementarities with ESI Funds (date to be confirmed)
2. Dissemination of projects and information through the European Network for Rural Development
3. Periodic update of the Investment Plan for Europe as regards agriculture and rural development
4. Active dialogue with stakeholders: national promotional banks, financial institutions, sectorial organisations, managing authorities, national rural networks and innovation brokers.