

Funds for Farm Advisory System (FAS) AGROffice mandatory system for a professional advise performance



By the end of 2007, the European Commission, Joint Research Institute (JRC) publicised an **"Overview of the Implementation of the Farm Advisory System in Member States"**

This report provides information on how Member States have implemented the Farm Advisory System (FAS); it is produced to monitor the implementation of FAS in Member States without producing any guidelines for their implementation.

The general objective of this report is to provide an overview on how Member States have set up the Farm Advisory System in the first year of its compulsory implementation. The report is built up on some technical visits in Member States, a workshop with Member States held in October and the analysis of the answers given by Member States to a questionnaire on the implementation of FAS prepared and sent by JRC. The report informs on the legal framework, on how there is organised FAS in the single countries, on FAS operating bodies, on control systems, on target farmers population, on the ways how advice is provided to farmers, on financial supports, selection criteria for advisors, and FAS concerns. For more information on the report, download it from

http://mars.jrc.it/marspac/API/fas_report_pubsy_final.pdf

One of the key messages of the report is, that there is a **big lack of advisors** (pointed out by 9 of 19 Member States). This can be due to the difficulty in recruiting suitably-qualified advisors, to lack of expertise in cross compliance in the advisory services or to money constraints that limit the recruitment of advisors. **Further, we know that there are no suitable tools on the market supporting advisors in their activities and encouraging individuals in their efforts to get accredited as farm advisor.**

It's undoubtedly that also in the agro-forest business area, advanced **ICT-technologies and tools are requested** to handle the ever growing complexity of advice activities. PROGIS may help advisory bodies or individual advisors by providing smart software tools enabling ICT-supported advise to all group of farmers. The **AGROffice mandatory** system allows to give advise to up to 250 farmers with just one license. Farm Advisory System is considered to play a more and more important role for the success of the new elements of the Common Agriculture Policy. In particular a strategic role of the advisory system should be to increase farmers' awareness in cross compliance which still seems to be perceived by some categories of farmers just as additional burden and costs for farming, a cost that in some farmers' opinions should be somehow compensated by an increase of the financial support. In this respect a proactive role of advisory services towards the most sceptical and less informed groups of farmers can be advisable.

Feel free to contact us to get more information on our AGROffice approach for farm-advise.