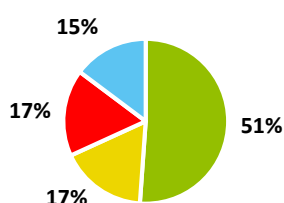


A2.3 Policy goal: Reduced environmental impact

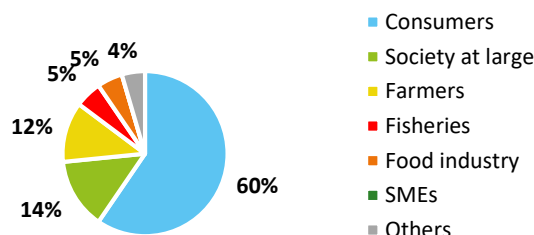
Many of today's environmental challenges are systemic and complex, as they have multiple and interdependent causes and impacts. The **agricultural sector** is one of the main land users in Europe and therefore has direct and indirect impacts on the environment, both contributing to and being affected by **climate change**. Faced with growing global demand and competition for resources, European food production and consumption patterns need to be seen from a **systemic perspective** that links agriculture, energy and food security and embraces all food system stakeholders. Indeed, a holistic approach and a reconnection of the various policies affecting these resources are essential for realising the SDGs and meeting the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Proportion of mapped environmental policies by ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY

'Reduced environmental impact' goal

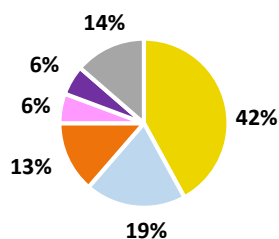


All goals

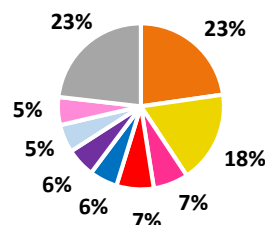


Proportion of mapped environmental policies by PRIMARY TARGET

'Reduced environmental impact' goal



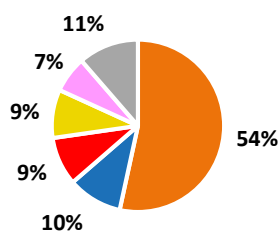
All goals



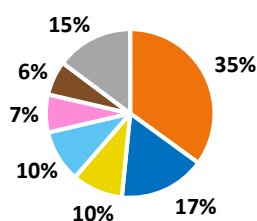
- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Food industry | Farmers | Import/export companies |
| School food services | Research sector | Public authorities |
| Fisheries | Industry-based research | Others |

Proportion of mapped environmental policies by INSTRUMENT

'Reduced environmental impact' goal



All goals



- Regulation
- R&I
- Information measure
- Food and agricultural standards
- Labelling measure
- Border measure
- Others

Subgoals

Plant health policies aim to protect plants from harmful pests and diseases by preventing their introduction into the EU or spread within the EU and imposing eradication and containment measures in case of outbreaks.

Climate policies aim to limit greenhouse gas emissions, support organic production methods and regulate pesticides use through regulations, advice and grants.

Resource efficiency and waste management policies aim, on the one hand, to improve energy efficiency and promote the use of renewable energy and, on the other hand, to reduce waste and losses along the entire food chain.

Multiple subgoals policies address all sub-areas covered by the 'Reduced environmental impact' goal (e.g. by allocating funds for environmental programmes).

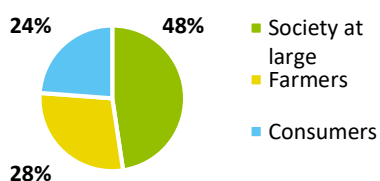
Water and soil management policies aim, on the one hand, to protect water quality, prevent and reduce its pollution and promote its sustainable use and, on the other hand, to preserve soil functions, prevent its degradation and restore it if degraded.

Animal welfare policies aim to raise animals' health status and ensure that they do not endure avoidable pain or suffering by obliging their owner or keeper to respect minimum welfare requirements.

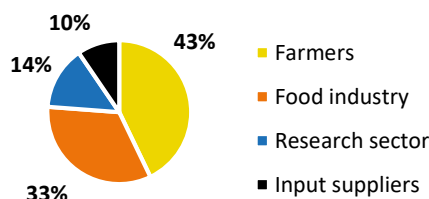
Biodiversity policies aim to conserve and sustainably use the biological diversity relevant for food and agriculture (e.g. by regulating the plant breeding sector, setting catch limits for fishing gears, protecting animal species at risk of extinction).

Climate

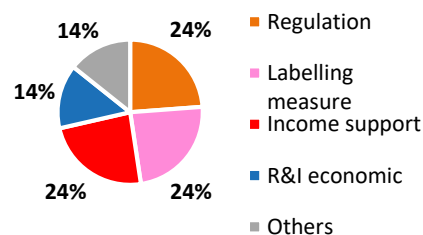
by ultimate beneficiary



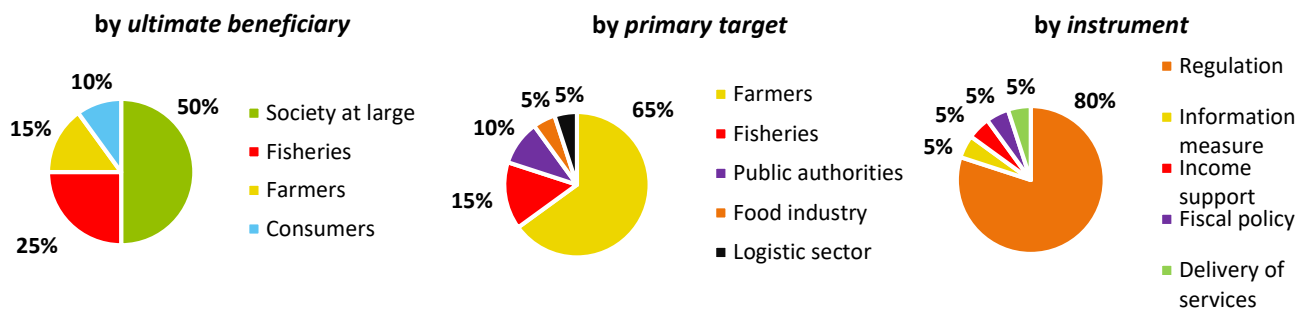
by primary target



by instrument



🐄 Animal welfare



Currently, the only EU system of compulsory labelling on animal welfare is the one for table eggs.

*May the **extension of compulsory labelling** to other types of animal production be effective in **orienting consumers' behaviour** towards welfare-friendly choices?*

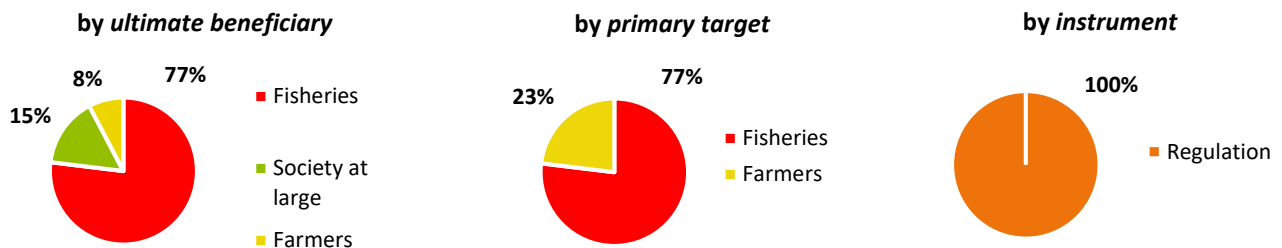
*Other than regulations, could **economic incentives to producers** be an effective instrument to improve animal welfare standards?*

*The **food industry** is a potential channel currently underexploited (5%), could it become a key primary target for animal welfare policies?*

*Beyond labels, can **consumer-oriented information measures** be improved to raise their awareness?*

Few policies seem to act through **food import-export companies** using border measures or education measures. *Could **bilateral technical cooperation** on animal welfare practices with non-EU trading partners be strengthened through **trainings** and **technical assistance**?*

🐟 Biodiversity



As far as plant varieties are concerned, the EU adopted the UPOV international model, according to which only new, distinct, uniform and stable crop varieties can be protected.

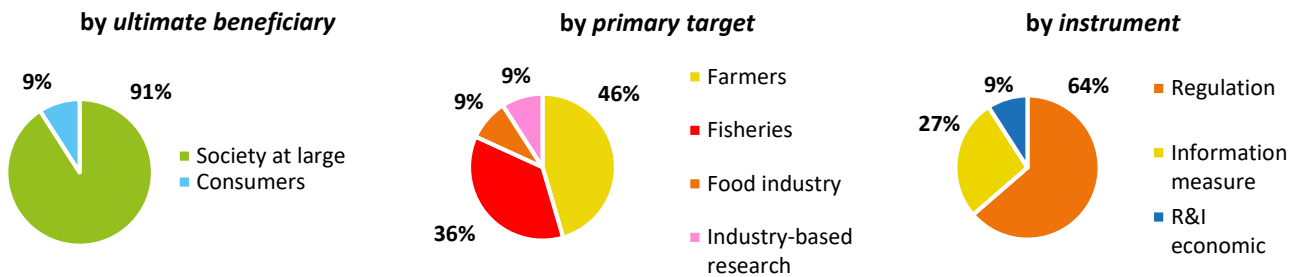
*How can **farmers' heterogeneous plant varieties** be protected at EU level?*

All mapped biodiversity policies are implemented through **regulations**.

*Could **information and education measures** better address, on the one hand, smaller farming realities by enhancing the creation of collaborative networks and, on the other hand, consumers and citizens by raising their awareness on the relevance of biodiversity at all stages of the food system?*

*Could **income support** be an effective instrument to reward those farmers and fishermen who comply with biodiversity-friendly principles?*

Water and soil management

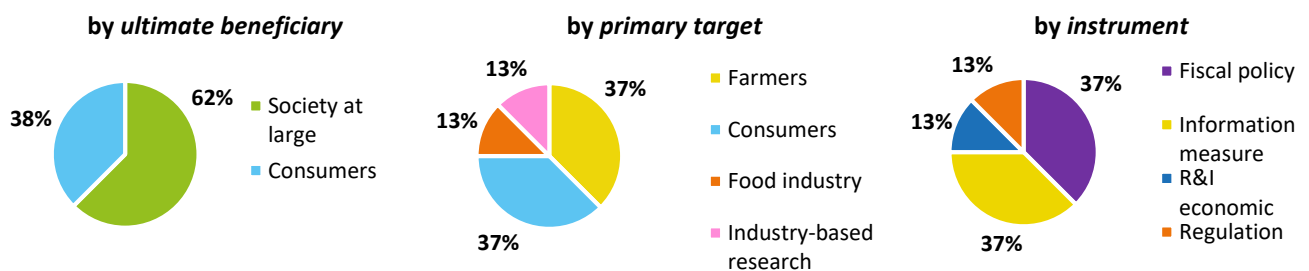


The **agriculture** (46%) and **aquaculture** (36%) sectors are the targets through which most of the mapped water and soil policies are carried out, as water and soil degradation can result from inappropriate farming and fishing practices. In turn, the decline of their ecological state inevitably reduces soil productive capacity and water quality and is therefore detrimental for both sectors.

On this basis, should farmers and fishermen ultimately benefit from these policies, besides contributing to their proper implementation?

*How can **public research** become more involved in identifying viable paths towards a more sustainable management of water and soil? How to encourage its direct collaboration with farmers, fishermen and the food industry to meet their practical needs and **co-create** management strategies?*

Resource efficiency and waste management



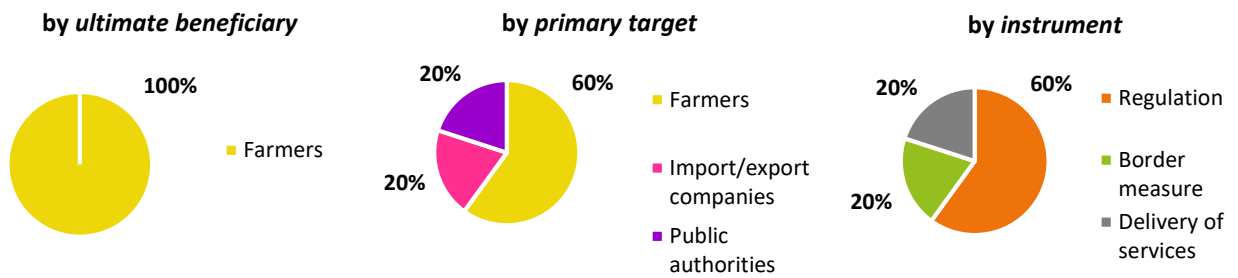
Better waste management can contribute to **creating jobs** in the food industry, including food SMEs, and **boosting competitiveness**. *Should policy formulators consider **food industry** and **SMEs** as ultimate beneficiaries, rather than solely primary targets?*

*Should **public authorities** play a more proactive role in enabling resource efficiency and waste management strategies at national and local level?*

*How can the **education sector** and **public research bodies** collaborate to meet this objective?*

*As for policy instruments, what is the role of **media** in raising awareness among citizens? Could media act in support of a more structured set of **education and information policies** regarding energy and waste? How should these urgent issues be treated in **schools**?*

Plant health



*How can plant health policies specifically benefit, on the one hand, the **society as a whole and consumers** and, on the other hand, the **food industry**?*

*What is the role of **public research bodies**?*

*Can **on-farm trainings** be an effective instrument to align best practices and transfer knowledge both vertically and horizontally?*