AUDIT REPORT

Efficiency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food in adapting agriculture to climate change

Performance audit
Audit period: 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2022
Climate change increasingly affects agriculture

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather patterns caused by natural processes and human activities.

- raising temperatures
- changing precipitation patterns
- extreme weather conditions
- longer growing seasons

Adapting agriculture reduces vulnerability of agriculture to climate change.

Necessary because:

- CLIMATE CHANGE
  - agriculture is one of the most sensitive sectors
  - only reducing greenhouse gas emissions* will not be enough to combat climate change
  - a negative impact on food self-sufficiency*

*The Court of Audit has already implemented audits: reducing greenhouse gas emissions and food self-sufficiency.
The Ministry failed to pay enough attention to strategic planning

- The Ministry failed to monitor impacts of climate change on agriculture. It had only the data about damage caused by natural disasters.
- The Ministry failed to develop vulnerability assessment which is the basis for the strategy and it failed to develop the adaptation strategy for agriculture.
- Measures were planned in other documents, mainly to achieve other objectives of the agricultural policy.

CONSEQUENCES:

- Adapting agriculture to climate change is not planned fully and systematically.
- Possible differences in vulnerability of agriculture across Slovenia are not considered.

There is a risk that ADAPTATION WILL BE MORE EXPENSIVE!
Measures were implemented despite the absence of strategic planning.

### 2015–2021 agricultural adaptation measures
(rural development programme)

- **Other measures**
- **Education and demo projects**
- **Greenhouses**
- **Irrigation systems**
- **Establishing permanent crops**

#### Assessed scope of damage 2003–21
- **Drought**
- **Frost**
- **Hail storms**

#### Approved State aid 2003–21

- **€ 5.78 mio annually**

#### 2015–2021 agricultural adaptation measures
(rural development programme)

- **Education and demo projects**
- **Greenhouses**
- **Irrigation systems**
- **AECS (Agri-environment-climate payments)**

#### AECS (Agri-environment-climate payments)
Indirectly supports adapting to climate change (improvement of soil structure)

#### € 23 mio annually

- **Most of the funds** were allocated for adapting to drought, which causes most damage in the long term.
- **More funds** were allocated for preventive measures than approved State aid for damage.
- **→** but the **scope of funds** for adapting is still **smaller than the damage caused**.
- **The Ministry failed to fully monitor** implementation of measures and **failed to measure** efficiency of implemented measures.
Generating and transferring knowledge can be improved

The Ministry financed research and advisory service for farmers.

**RESEARCH**

- 9 adaptation related European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) 2018-2022
- 8 indirectly linked targeted research projects 2018-2022
- +2 directly linked

**ADVISORY SERVICE:**

- 31 trainings for farmers per year 2018-2020
- 2,638 hr of consultation to farmers per year 2018-2020
- 84 developed materials and articles 2018-2020

- Priorities for research not defined.

- The EIP-AGRI which enables better knowledge transfer is financed by the Ministry only from 2022.

- Knowledge transfer to farmers and connecting partners must be improved.

- The Ministry promoted adaptation via advisory service, but it failed to provide additional resources.

- The Ministry partially monitored knowledge transfer via advisory service and cooperation among stakeholders.

- Past planned measures are still not implemented (regional testing and demo centres, cataloguing existing knowledge).
Audit opinion of the Court of Audit

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food was **partially efficient** in adapting agriculture to climate change.

The Ministry has prepared an action plan to develop: vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy.

The Court of Audit proposed 9 recommendations, among them:

- systematic monitoring of climate change impacts on agriculture
- better monitoring of adaptation measures impacts
- setting priorities in research related to adaptation of agriculture
- improving knowledge transfer and cooperation among public services

Without early response of competent authorities, **we shall be forced to resort to unplanned adaptation** which may cause higher expenses. **Adaptation must thus be strengthened!**