



Multifunctional Agriculture and Rural Development

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ABSTRACT

The agriculture not only produces foodstuffs but performs tasks of employment and environment protection too. It takes a prominent part in preserving the economic activity, natural environment and the traditional country. The taxpayers will give considerable subsidy for the agriculture if the work-stations and natural recourses will be able to keep and the quality of foodstuffs will be able to improve. The afore mentioned functions are in the society's service. The most activities, which are not a part of the basic function, connect with the rural development. Among other things, to enlarge the possibilities of acquiring of the alternative income, to develop the economy, which is careful of environment, human resources, agricultural infrastructure, are in the scope of the agricultural tasks and rural development as well as to preserve the local communities and traditions. All these will be realized if local initiatives and the part in enforcement of the agricultural interest will be made stronger. The professional consultancy, education, training and the retraining course for adults learning a new trade have to solve many important tasks. The economic competitive sphere have to take an active part in the rural development, however, to this an adequate stimulating factor need. It is essential to enlist the services of capital, organizer and governing forces and the sphere of civvy street. In the interest of the safe actuation of small settlements, it is considerably to have another think and form a new method of the budgetary allocation.

(Keywords: multifunction, public goods, diverzifikation, environmental and land management)

ÖSSZEFOGLALÁS

Multifunkcionális mezőgazdaság és vidékfejlesztés

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A mezőgazdaság nemcsak élelmiszert termel, hanem foglalkoztatási és környezetvédelmi feladatokat is ellát. Fontos szerepet tölt be a gazdasági aktivitás fenntartásában, a természeti környezet és a hagyományos táj megőrzésében. Az adófizetők csak akkor hajlandók tartósan jelentős összeget fordítani a mezőgazdaság támogatására, ha ezzel hozzájárulnak a munkahelyek megőrzéséhez, a természeti erőforrások védelméhez és az élelmiszerek minőségének javításához. Az említett funkciók a szolgáltatások körébe tartoznak, és az egész társadalom érdekét szolgálják. Az alap-tevékenységen kívüli egyéb termelés és szolgáltatás zöme a vidékfejlesztéshez is kapcsolódik. Az alternatív jövedelemszerzési lehetőségek bővítése, a környezetkímélő gazdálkodás, a mezőgazdasági (falusi) infrastruktúra javítása, a humán erőforrás fejlesztés, valamint a helyi közösségek és hagyományok megőrzése a mezőgazdaságnak, továbbá a vidékfejlesztésnek egyaránt

feladata. Mindezek megvalósításához fontosak a helyi kezdeményezések, a mezőgazdaság és a vidék érdekvédelmi szerepének erősítése. Nagy feladat hárul a szaktanácsadásra, az oktatásra, a képzésre és átképzésre. A vidék sorsának jobbra fordításában az eddiginél nagyobb szerepet kell vállalnia a „versenyszférának.” Ehhez megfelelő ösztönzőkre van szükség. Nem nélkülözhető a szakemberek, a tőke, a szervező és irányító erők, továbbá a civil szféra aktív közreműködése. A kistelepülések biztonságos működtetése érdekében újra kell gondolni, és át kell alakítani a költségvetés elosztási módját.

(Kulcsszavak: multifunkcionalitás, közjavak, diverzifikáció, környezet és tájvédelem)

INTRODUCTION

In the last ten years, besides the conventional agricultural tasks – the production of foodstuffs, raw of crop production and animal husbandry – other functions were come to the front of the sector in several development countries of Europe and the world. The repeated reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), attitude of mind of the OECD, WTO and the requirements of sustainable development have played an important part on this point. It is important to emphasize the environment protection, natural conservation and the protection of country just as the wide range of functions of the consumption and service which tightly relate the rural development therefore, the multifunctional agriculture can not be separated the rural development issues.

THE FUNCTION OF THE CAP REFORMS IN THE ENLARGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL TASKS

The agriculturist have reckoned with the environment protection, the protection and reservation of countries more and more, since 1992 when the new reform of CAP was initiated. Besides the creation of competitive European agriculture, the importance of the public goods, environment protection, preservation and the increase of the employment have been recognised. By means of the afore mentioned factors, the agricultural has turned into a multifunctional economic sector.

Reforms have been worked out in *AGENDA 2000* published in 1999 by the Council of the European Union. In the frame of reforms referring to the period of 2000-2006, the prime ministers and the heads of states has determined the multifunctional agriculture like a new agrarian modell with 3 functions for Europe.

- According to *the function of production* a new agriculture is needed which can produce and acet he challenges of the world market without to be too subsidised because the agrarian subsidy generates more and more displeasure between the tax-payers and also contrast the liberalizing principles of the WTO.
- *The function of environment protection* means the agriculture keeps in order the country where we leave and produces foodstuffs according to the inhabitants' demands. The cultivated land is a cultural heritage and value, thus the agriculture also can produce public goods. These public goods are the environment and the country wich belong to the community therefore the European Union would like the agriculture to be able to generate products for the community (Hunek, 2002).
- *The third element is the social function* as with increasing of the production and productiveness plenty of farmers have left behind the agriculture. The emigration of farmers had admissible as long as some jobs could be found in cities. But after these process had come to a halt, a rural unemployment appeared with the bankruptcy of

the rural supplier and infrastructural frames. It follows that Europe needs a new agriculture which can employ people living in the rural areas.

According to the latest CAP reform in 2003, the general aim is affirming the second pillar with the aid of the rearrangement of resources from the first pillar (modulation). In addition the instruments of rural development is enlarged by way of the improvement of quality of foodstuffs and the circumstances of animal husbandry.¹ In consequence of the reform the „cross-compliance”, which is an instrument connecting with direct payments, based on the environment protection and other regulations of EU, has been come to the front. The compulsory EU standards with „priority-list” consisting 18 elements pertaining the environment protection, animal health and welfare also have been assigned.

THE DEMAND OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is a principle of the environmental policy of EU which supposes the multifunctional agriculture accordingly the more effective harnessing of natural and human resources of the rural areas is greatest important.

The natural resources are all the material goods and occurrences which are indispensable for the remaining of the society and have directly or indirectly economic important, in addition, these are available for nothing for the people.

Because of the restriction of natural resources, the basic condition of the sustainable development is a unit economic result can be obtained by way of the least use of material and power possible.

The developmental activities of agriculture have to be paid, based on contracts with farmers. In this way, the production of environmental and regional economic services can be increase, at the same time the industrial input use (plant protection, chemical fertilizer) can be decrease.

Besides the agricultural basic function (production of foodstuffs and industrial raw), other functions play an important part in the conservation of the capability of living in the country.

Nowadays, 60-80% of population live in cities separated the natural environment. These people think it is worth paying the spectacle of a well-groomed country, the enjoyment of clear air or water and the conservation of the rare species of animals or plants. This is a new kind of the rural service can be available for the population living in cities against an admissible economic acknowledgement (*Buday-Sántha, 2002*).

THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURAL MODEL

The agricultural ministers of the member states of the OECD admitted that besides the primary agricultural functions (production of foodstuffs and raw material) the agriculture contributes to the protection of countries and environment, production of the renewable naturalresources, conservation of biodiverzification and the capability of the social-economic living. These goods and services called non-commodity output, which can not be importable and come into being at the place, are very important for all society and local communities and the agriculture and farmers are due to payment for these services (*Popp, 2003*).

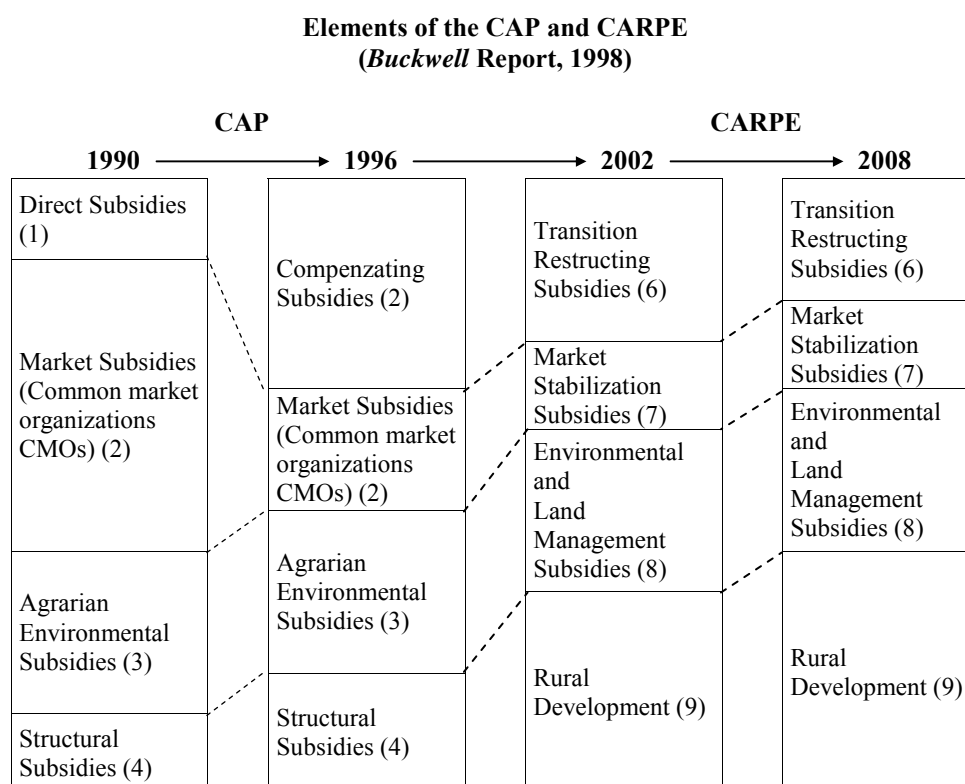
¹The new measures of the rural development and additional modification of the earlier measures number 1257/1999 are involved by the measures number 1783/2003 of Council of the European Union.

The afore mentioned perception has lead to the drafting of the European multifunctional agricultural model. According to the model, the CAP has got two pillars, *the production policy pillar* and *the rural policy pillar* consisting the enviromental, social, regional, and employmental elements.

A detailed proposal has been worked out in a study written by *Allan Buckwell* (Towards a Common Agricultural and Rural Policy for Europe – CARPE) in which the name of common agricultural has been changed into *Common Agricultural and Rural Policy for Europe – CARPE* (Figure 1). The Common Agricultural and Rural Policy for Europe have 4 important elements are the following:

- the help of the compliance with transition,
- the stabilization of the market,
- the subsidies relating to the environment and the well-groomed country,
- the stimulating factors of the rural development.

Figure 1



1. ábra: A CAP és CARPE elemei (*Buckwell Report, 1998*)

Direkt támogatások(1), Piaci támogatások (Közös piaci szervezetek, CMOs)(2), Agrár-környezeti támogatások(3), Strukturális támogatások(4), Kompenzációs támogatások(5), Átmeneti átalakítási támogatások(6), Piacstabilizációs támogatások(7), Környezeti és tájgazdálkodási támogatások(8), Vidékfejlesztési támogatások(9)

The agricultural policy is stimulated by the proposal of the CARPE that it is not to be only a policy of the sphere helping farmers on the market of products but the contrary, the market subsidies should be decreased and direct (compensation) subsidies, the environmental subservencies, land management and the rural development given to farmers should be pro term accrue. „It is positive fact, the reform of common agricultural policy works on the mentioned lines. However, this process will be surely slower than it can be seen on the *figure 1* namely the transition will be kept on (Kovács, 2003).

The provisions connecting with the second agricultural pillar and rural policy have been put in a uniform system and the rules of its adaptation have been determined by the decree number 1257/1999. of the Council of EU. The subsidised arrangement of the mentioned decree are the following:

- the agrarian environment protection and land management,
- the low facility areas (LFA),
- the agricultural investments,
- the processing and marketing of the agricultural products,
- the afforest,
- the subsidy of the confirmation and the development of the rural areas,
- the young farmers' subsidy,
- the farmers' education and training.

The agriculture in seventies in Hungary was the functional herald of the multifunctional agricultural model. The released labour was employed in the additional agricultural sector just as the families' part-time work was utilized well by the market gardens (Gazdag, 2003). The enrichment of the functional structure by means of ancient observations nowadays, can contribute to the foundation of work-stations in many villages.

The accession to the EU is a good possibility for the hungarian rural development namely the CAP demands the realization of developments, aims which can gradually eventuate the winding up the hungarian agricultural and developmental disadvantages.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE

The basic functions of the multifunctional agriculture are the copr production, animal husbandry, horticulture, silviculture, wild animal farming and fishing. Nowadays, other functions are put among the basic agricultural functions. These functions are the following:

- the alternative copr production (e.g: biomass, fossil source of power) and alternative animal husbandry (e.g: apiary, breeding of unique animal),
- the diversification of the alternative employment and the requiring of income,
- the considerate environment economy, organic economy,
- the increase of the rural infrastructure and services,
- the development of the human resource,
- the conservation of the rural communities, non governemet organizations, traditions and cultural values,
- the strengthening of young entrepreneurs' chaffing the country,
- the certain tasks of the development of people, economy, environment, country and regions,

- the environment protection, land management, the preservation of the biodiverzification, just as
- the development of the rural tourism.

Nowadays – in the first place, because of the globalization – among the inhabitants' needs – new demands appear which can be comply with the collaboration of the agricultural and rural areas. Although, the agriculture and rural development is not the same, there are close attachment between them. It means that the agricultural functions has been appreciated and the agricultural tasks, which able to completed in keeping with the rural development policy, has been become wider.

THE TASKS OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The enlargement of the alternative employment and requiring of income

The cabality of living of rural areas depends on the stabilization of their economy. These stabilization can not be available only by agricultural, therefore, other economic activities called alternative rural economic need developing. For this reason, it is important to reorganize the systems of production, processing, marketing and integration in order to the increase of the rate of prepared products, which representative the more significant value-added. It is particularly justified to make stronger the activities demanding better using up of labour and connecting with the local specialities (e.g: certain wood-, building-, leather and skin-, and textile industrial activities, rural and detached farm-, cultural-, therapeutical-, viticultural-, hunting-, angling-, regional- and national tourism as well as commercial-, catering trade, repair and administrative services). It is suitable to subsidize the activities wichh demand „inside resources” and it is directed by the local community. The diverzification is needed especially in the rural areas where agriculture and forestry are highly important and the disadvantages are amassed. The possibilities of employment and income can be improved by the diverzification of the agricultural production, enlargement of activities closing to the agriculture (the utilize of empty agricultural and other buildings, processing of agricultural and forestry products inside farms, production and marketing of special local foodstuffs). Similar effect can be available by means of the resuscitation of the traditional rural trades and handicraft industry.

The increase of the proportion of considerate environmental management and organic economy

The organic economy is a production which harmonize the development agricultural methods and possibilities of the natural enviroment. Because of the agricultural condition is better in Hungary than in the developed Western Europe, if Hungary use consideration procedures of the environmental management the hungarian agriculture will has comparative advantages as the efficacy of these metodhs are automatically better.

The organic economy constitues market background for the entrepreneurs of rural areas but it care must be taken that the organic economy not only manufactures but processes, packs, and markets the produces as well as the proffesional consultancy is a substantial part of organic economy too. The organic economy can become a new alternative line of the production, and employment taking into account the increasing trends of the national and international consumption, capability of the realization under

favourable prices and the exemption of quota in the EU. By this means the neglected factor (organic economy) can become a potential motive power of rural development.

In the European Union at the end of 2000, the organic economy used 546 000 hectares of agricultural areas which is 21% more than it was last year. The total symmetric of factories running a farm, based on the organic economy was 3% respectively 3.2% concerning the whole areas (*Göcze and Tassy, 2002*).

According to the principal of the organic economy, the government resolution number 2253/1999. (X. 7.) was made in Hungary „about the National agrarian environment protection and the provisions of its initiation” (NAKP). When the programme was made the ecological controlled production had been in progress on 33 hectares, however, this area will have needed increasing ten times by 2006. The government resolution says that the programme should have been initiated in 2000 and 6.5 milliard forints should have been separated as a subsidy of the agrarian environment protection within the scope of the agrarian budget. Unfortunately, firstly, all in all 2.2 milliard forints was not available for the realization of the afore mentioned programme in 2002.

The rural infrastructure project

The infrastructure project of settlements have pushed into the background for long. After the transition of the economic and political system, several elements of inhabitants infrastructure (services of water and gas communication and telecommunication) spectacularly improved in consequence of the central subsidies, on the other hand there are some spheres (financial services, medical services and condition of the approximation) which did not become better and what is more regression occurred in certain fields. Keeping home rural inhabitants and the improvement of the circumstances of life can be ameliorate by additional infrastructural project. This is why necessary to make quicker the organization and modernization of the productive infrastructure. The preservation of secondary railway lines and building roads are justified by the improvement of the approximation (*Molnár, 2001*). It is important to improve the safety of the supply of water and the level of economy with water as well as the gradually solution of the cleaning of dirty water. Significant possibilities is concealed in open up and use of the local alternative source of power. The organize of the financial, communicational and informatic infrastructure is justified by the stimulation of entrepreneur's settle and the improvement of the settled ones' functional possibilities. The buying up, classification and the organize of the institution system may contribute to increase of the market safety.

The development of the human resources

The agrarian intellectual class and skilled-workers are in take of the human resources in the agrarian and rural development. It is necessary to create the admissible level and kind of the education toward the prevention of the rural intellectual impoverishment. It is important to help on the structural change of the agriculture by assure of conditions of the professional consultancy, language and informatic education. It should be expedient to make a special system and modell of the education and training which takes into account the differing demands of the rural population (adult retraining, vocational training, improvement of the work and behaviour culture, reemployment of the pensioner educators) and the special educational and training needs of purposful number of the gypsy. Beyond that local governments of the rural settlements should be helped to be able to advocate the secondary and higher education of the young people who want to live in rural settlements.

The prevention of the rural social commons, non government organizations and cultural values

The communities connecting with the typical characters of the smaller areas taking up the production and sale, and the originality prevention of the products are especially important. The prevention of the cultural values and traditions can form the self-awareness and togetherness of the population living in countries. It is essential to prevent and form the agrarian organizations (e.g: professional and grazing association), communities of rural settlements (governmental communities of the settlements), cultural and sports communities (dance ensemble, choirs, orchestras, sports circles, literary and artistic circles), religious and different non government organizations, ancient monuments and the plaques of settlements, libraries, local museums, folk artistic values (pottery, carving, fancy work) remembrances of agrarian history, local traditions and typical characters (customs, holidays, special knowledge) as well as the local knowledge, characters and values.

Strengthening of the young people' and entrepreneurs' rural chaffing

To boosterism the economic of the countries, local enterprises, entrepreneurs and qualified labour are needed. Their durable retting can be helped by economic allowances. The competitive sphere, specialist, capital, non governmental organizations, local politic should take part more and more in natural turn of fate of the countries. For this it is important to reconsiderate and alter the allocation of the local budget, system of the subvention and find the stimulating instruments too, wich make the sphere to manage the alfore mentioned tasks (*Varga, 2004*).

The aligned development of people, the economy, environment and regions

The operative programmes concerning the agriculture and country of the National Developmental Plan can be found in *Appendix 1*. The Plan consisting four measures financed by the guarantee section of EMOGA² – determined by the decree number 1257/99 of the Council of the EK – and other three temporary measures for the new member state formulated in the Accesion Contract. In many ways, forming of the multifunctional agriculture is helped by these measures involving the undermentioned subservencial pretenceses (Hungarian Communiqué number 2004/7) are the following:

- the agrarian environmental management,
- the subvention of the disadvantaged areas limiting by the environmental protection,
- the afforest of the agricultural areas,
- the early retirement (from 2006),
- the contribution to stand all demands of the corp production, animal welfare and hygiene regulation of the EU,
- the subvention the semi self-sufficient farms being reorganization,
- the subvention the foundation and function of farmer's cooperative groups.

The agrarian environmental protection

The postulate of foundation of the multifunctional agricultural model is the environment compliance namely the soil is only used without its lession. One of the most essential condition of the farming to found a new land development system, based on the environment and its natural endowment and limit. After the hungarian land development

²European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Found

system line system had been finished, it can be easily defined how suitable certain areas to generate agricultural products in Hungary (Ángyán *et al.*, 2003). The National Agrarian-environment Conservation Programme (NAKP) is the frame of the execution of the mentioned basic conception. Aim-programmes of the NAKP maintaining the environmentally sound land development have two essential classes: the horizontal (national) class extending all the areas of the national agricultural soil-using and the zonal (areas) aim programmes helping the soil-using laying emphasis on environmental and natural conservation. Aim-programmes of the NAKP are the following: the agrarian environment management basic programme, the integrated economy, the ecological economy, the extensive grass-usage, the watery-habitat usage, the insurancing the Sensitive Natural Conservationist Areas usage, and the research, planning, consulting and demonstration aim-programme.

Involvement in the aim-programmes is unbidden. After farmers decided to access, they contract with the state for five years and shoulder the condition of it. In return the farmer gets payment for the period of the contract. This covers the contingent income-deficiency and the cost incurring caused by the undertaken measures and involves further 20% stimulating factor to make attractive the aim-programmes and competitive environmentally sound economic forms for the farmers.

CONCLUSIONS

The tasks of multifunctional agriculture have three main classes. The first class is the basic functions consisting the production of foodstuffs, raws of the crop production and animal husbandry, as well as the wild animal farming and fishing. Additional tasks of the sector – alternative crop production and animal husbandry, environment, natural and land conservation, just as the maintaining of the biodiversity – belong to the second class. The third class consisting the agricultural tasks connecting with rural development (e.g. diversification of possibilities of the employment and acquiring of income, conservation of the rural communities, traditions and cultural values, development of the human resources, improvement of the rural infrastructure and services). Besides the productive pillar of the CAP (market regulation), the second pillar called rural development pillar has been found. This construction gives admissible subsidy for the agriculture to be able to realize the tasks being out of the basic functions. The tasks to be executed in the National Development Plan, especially in Operative Programme of the Agrarian and Rural Development, the National Rural Development Plan, the National Agrarian-environmental protection Plan, and the efficient usage of the communal and national subsidies connecting with the aforementioned programmes can help on the realization of the Hungarian multifunctional agriculture.

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Appendix 1

**Measures of the National Developmental Plan promoting the multifunctional agricultural unfolding 2004-2003
(NFT, 2004)**

Regional Development (1)	1. Development of the Tourist Appeals (2) 2. Improvement of the Tourist Reception (3) 3. Subsidy of the Disadvantaged Areas and Sub-regions(4) 4. Subsidy of the Local Initiations (5)
Agrarian and Rural Development (6)	1. Subsidy of Agricultural Investments (7) 2. Fishing Modernization (8) 3. Young Farmers's Subsidy (9) 4. Professional Postcourse and Retraining (10) 5. Improvement of the Processing and Sale of the Agricultural Products (11) 6. Enlargement of the Possibilities of the Income Requirement in the Countries (12) 7. Agricultural Infrastructure Project (13) 8. Village Development and Resurrection, Conservation the Material and Intellectual Heritage (14) 9. Leader+ (15)
Economic Competitiveness (16)	1. Technologic Development of the Small and Medium-size Companies (17) 2. Development of the Culture of the Enterprise (18) 3. Development of the Cooperation in the Sector of the Enterprise (19)
Development of the Human Sources (20)	1. Prevention and Management of the Unemployment (21) 2. Employmental Improvement of the Disadvantaged People (22) 3. Subsidy of the Training Connecting with the Creation of workstations and Ability of being Entrepreneur (23)
Environmental Conservation and Infrastructure (24)	1. Improvement of Quality of the Water (25) 2. Execution of the Investments for Treatment of Carrion (26) 3. Natural Environment and Sustainable Flood-prevention (27) 4. Development of Energetics (28)

1. melléklet: A Nemzeti Fejlesztési Terv sokfeladatú mezőgazdaság kibontakoztatását elősegítő intézkedései, operatív programokért, 2004-2006 (NFT, 2004)

Regionális fejlesztés(1), Turisztikai vonzerők fejlesztése(2), Turisztikai fogadóképesség javítása(3), Hátrányos helyzetű régiók és kistérségek elérhetőségének támogatása(4), Helyi foglalkoztatási kezdeményezések támogatása(5), Agrár- és vidékfejlesztés(6), Mezőgazdasági beruházások támogatása(7), A halászat modernizálása(8), Fiatal gazdálkodók támogatása(9), Szakmai továbbképzés és átképzés(10), Mezőgazdasági termékek feldolgozásának és értékesítésének fejlesztése(11), Vidéki jövedelemszerzés lehetőségeinek bővítése(12), Mezőgazdasághoz kötődő infrastruktúra fejlesztése(13), Falufejlesztés és falufelújítás, a vidék tárgyi és szellemi örökségének megőrzése(14), Leader+(15), Gazdasági versenyképesség(16), Kis- és középvállalkozások műszaki-

technológiai fejlesztése(17), Vállalkozói kultúra fejlesztése(18), Együttműködés fejlesztése a vállalkozási szektorban(19), Humánerőforrás-fejlesztés(20), A munkanélküliség megelőzése és kezelése(21), Hátrányos helyzetű emberek foglalkoztathatóságának javítása(22), Munkahelyteremtéshez és a vállalkozóvá váláshoz kapcsolódó képzések támogatása(23), Környezetvédelem és infrastruktúra(24), Vízhőesség-javítás(25), Állati hullák kezelését célzó beruházások megvalósítása(26), Természetvédelem és fenntartható árvízvédelem(27), Energiagazdálkodás környezetbarát fejlesztése(28)