

Recommendations to enhance resilience of farming systems: the (young) farmer perspective

Marion Picot, Policy Advisor | European Council of Young Farmers

A CORE RESILIENCE CHALLENGE: GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

Supporting generational renewal is supporting, among many positive externalities, **dynamic landscapes, vibrant rural territories, environmental and climate action, and the uptake of innovation** in the long run.

1

Use all leverages of action at EU, national, regional and local levels

2

Embrace the evolving nature of farming and young people's aspirations

3

Make it intergenerational
Channel the expertise of older generations while empowering new generations to access new opportunities

4

Optimise CAP instruments
Installation aid, investment support, cooperation measures, knowledge and education exchange, risk management instruments.



Consider individual resilience!

Risk management and insurance

- *Challenges to overcome:*
 - Difficulty to maintain savings for buffer (esp. for young farmers);
 - Lack of trust and knowledge on risk management instruments and insurances.
- *Pathways for action:* risk assessment in business plans; pooling of resources; clear public-private framework on risk management instruments; co-creation processes; education, training and advisory services;

Support farm ability to invest and build multifunctionality strategies

- *Challenges to overcome:*
 - Capital-intensive sector vs difficulty to access credit;
 - Willingness to invest vs investment capacity in the first years;
 - Multifunctional farming requires important resources.
- *Pathways for action:* financial instruments; measure to prevent and mitigate capitalisation of the land (i.e. land planning, reflection on direct payments); policy and market measures to remunerate the production of public goods (eco-schemes?; carbon farming schemes)

ADAPTABILITY

On adaptability, many lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic: closure of Horeca channels, cancellations in the agritourism sector, lack of workforce in the fields and along the food chain...

Education and life-long learning

- Enlarge the scope of farming education: public goods, climate adaptation and mitigation, entrepreneurship skills (incl. finance and marketing);
- Improve availability of training for farmers, farm workers;
- Continuous Professional Development for farm advisors.

Provide adequate infrastructure

- Boost investment in high-quality broadband, e.g. to facilitate direct selling online, through relevant funds.

Boost collective capacity

- Farmers' cooperation, including through adaptation of competition rules;
- Integration of the whole food supply chain;



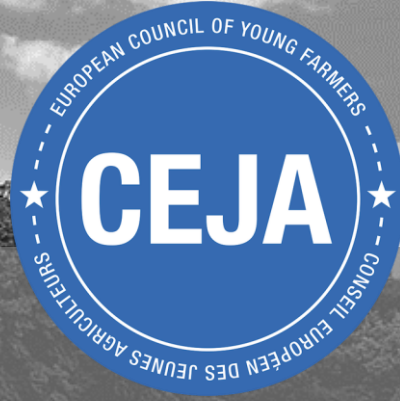
TRANSFORMABILITY

In CEJA, we have many examples of young farmers who have completely transformed their business environments to better fit their interest and specific conditions.

A few reflections on the question of transformability:

- **Age factor:** significant investments required from young farmers;
- **Intergenerational factor:** willingness to follow own interest and projects vs. peer or family pressure;
- **Anticipation factor:** predictability is key to transformability. If some megatrends are obvious, other require more information and research, and readiness to face inherent risks;
- **Knowledge factor:** transforming a farm requires strong entrepreneurship skills, starting with the capacity to assess the feasibility of the transformation.
- **How do we act to empower transformability?**
 - Collective action for production, marketing and innovation;
 - Education, training, advising services, peer-to-peer learning;
 - Enabling policy instruments.





Thank you for your attention!