
Aide memoire

<i>Session</i>	SESSION 8 – INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURE – PART IV: CHANGING PRACTICES
<i>Title of presentation</i>	Promoting positive incentive measures for biodiversity conservation in agriculture
<i>Name of presenter</i>	Paul Melville

Abstract

New Zealand has historically had many incentives for agricultural development. New Zealand had a financial crisis in 1984 which led to an economic reform, including removal of agricultural subsidies and deregulation of the agricultural sector. Since removal of subsidies agricultural output has continued to expand but has become more efficient and competitive. Farming also remains pasture based, but land use is now more flexible, moving between meat, dairy, forestry, wine, arable and fruit crops. Farmers are dynamic, increasing production or decreasing costs as prices rise and fall. The lack of subsidies leads to less intensive farming systems that utilise biodiversity and ecological services. Biodiversity is also mainstreamed within sustainability policies, such as the retirement of marginal land and riparian planting.

Key considerations

- Understanding the local agriculture and biodiversity context is important for designing incentive.
- New Zealand’s market based policy framework is focused on ensuring efficiency and sustainability – and responsiveness and flexibility to market signals.
- Aichi target 3 addresses incentives, including subsidies, and discusses both harmful and positive incentives. Important countries consider harmful impacts of incentive regimes in addition to the opportunity of integrating biodiversity into incentive regimes.

Key discussion points and conclusions

- Building capacity, use of technology and information to enhance productivity has to be central to policy frameworks. This is for social sustainability (food security and development) and also to create the environment in which farmers have the capacity to respond to government and market signals.
- Macro policy/incentive framework will direct investment and actions. Policy coherence within this macro level framework is important. Biodiversity can be mainstreamed through this wider policy framework

Key question/s that you would pose at the roundtable discussions

- As a first move for countries, is it more efficient to mainstream biodiversity into current policy frameworks and ensure policy coherence, or target biodiversity incentives in key areas?