



OSCAR

Optimal Strategies for Climate change
Action in Rural areas



Project Background

Climate change resulting from the emission of greenhouse gasses as a result of human processes, is a challenge which affects us all. As a result, society must address two key climate objectives:

- Firstly, to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs), and
- Secondly, to adapt to any climate changes that arise, and ensure that the ecosystem services upon which society relies are sustained.

Rural areas, businesses and communities have a significant role to play in meeting these objectives, with agriculture alone accounting for 9% of Europe's total GHG emissions. There have been numerous policies, programmes and mechanisms implemented to support rural communities, the most notable of which are the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) developed under the "second pillar" of the CAP. With the CAP due to be reformed post 2013, there is an opportunity to develop more holistic measures and operations in order to tackle both rural issues and climate change. DG-CLIMA of the European Commission has therefore funded the OSCAR project to support the development of these optimal measures and operations (Contract No.: 071201/2011/609681/SER/CLIMA.A.2).



The OSCAR Project



OSCAR is a one-year project which will examine a number of properties of the relationship between RDP measures and meeting climate change policy objectives. It will include:

- The use of Life Cycle Assessment together with an Adaptive Capacity Impact Assessment (a new technique developed for this project) to determine the impact of future RDP measures and operations on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Identification of 'Regional Variation Categories' with similar climate change mitigation and adaptation properties through GIS techniques.
- The development of marginal abatement and adaptation cost curves for RDP operations in order to assess their relative costs and benefits.
- Production of a manual and checklist to facilitate the optimisation of RDPs with respect to climate change objectives, developed in consultation with Member States.

The OSCAR Project Team

The OSCAR project is being carried out by AERU (the Agriculture & Environment Research Unit) at the University of Hertfordshire (UK), in collaboration with Wroclaw University of Life Sciences (WUELS - Poland) and Solagro (France).

Contacts

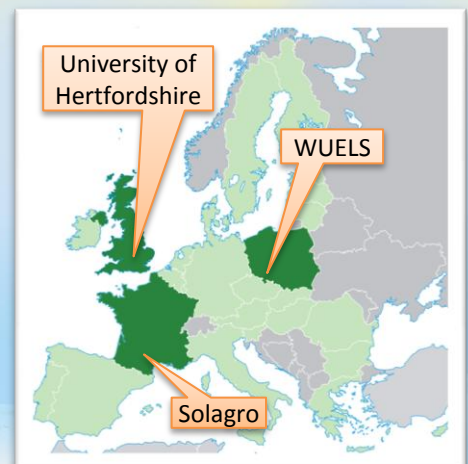
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