

European Low Energy / Carbon Label of Agricultural Products

Main results / outcomes

- The idea of labelling agricultural products for the benefit of the final consumer (e.g., organic logo) has produced distinctive labels that make it easier for consumers to identify them and help farmers to market them with potential better prices and economic aid.
- Such labelling can only be used on products that have been certified by an authorised control body, using a certain methodology to check the fulfilment of strict conditions in the production system.
- An EU defossilisation labelling system for agricultural products could act as an official certification scheme for foodstuffs produced with sustainable direct and indirect energy use practices that end up to GHG reductions.



Practical recommendations

- **Clear and transparent official certification scheme** for direct and indirect energy use reduction by introducing a framework for monitoring, reporting and verification of the energy use reduction level and the GHG emissions reductions **approved by an official authority of the EU and registered in an official registry** to prevent double-counting and avoid green-washing.
- The certification framework should be initially set from the EU's responsible authority (top-down) but should also **allow externals to propose certification** of specific products (bottom-up) that after reviewing by a specialised committee could be a part of the official certification scheme.
- Labelling low or zero fossil energy agricultural products should be of **low cost for farmers** and the products should receive **higher market prices** and **CAP support** to attract farmers into sustainable energy use and efficiency.
- Extension services, private advisors and innovation brokers should inform farmers about such schemes and provide **services to receive this label** and promote these products to consumers.

Further information

AgroFossilFree D3.7: Report on identified policy gaps and policy guidelines
(<https://www.agrofossilfree.eu/deliverables/#1606215127215-a809e42c-7525>)

About this abstract

Authors: Thanos Balafoutis (IBO - CERTH)

Date: July 2023

AgroFossilFree is a H2020 multi-actor project that will evaluate the current status in EU agriculture regarding energy use and assess existing needs, allowing farmers to optimize agricultural production through more efficient energy use and reduced GHG emissions, resulting in economic, agronomic and environmental benefits. AgroFossilFree will create a framework under which critical stakeholders will cooperate to evaluate and promote the currently available Fossil-Energy-Free Technologies and Strategies (FEFTS) in EU agriculture. The project is running from October 2020 to September 2023.

Website: www.agrofossilfree.eu



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement ID 101000496