

Generational renewal in farming - an Irish perspective

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Introduction

This research aims to assess the effectiveness of Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan in terms of generational renewal and seeks to evaluate the impact of the CSP on rural areas, in terms of providing necessary support for young, new farmers and rural start-ups. The research covers a wide range of topics, including the intervention logic, measurement and the impact of CSP subsidies and policies on generational renewal.

Research aims

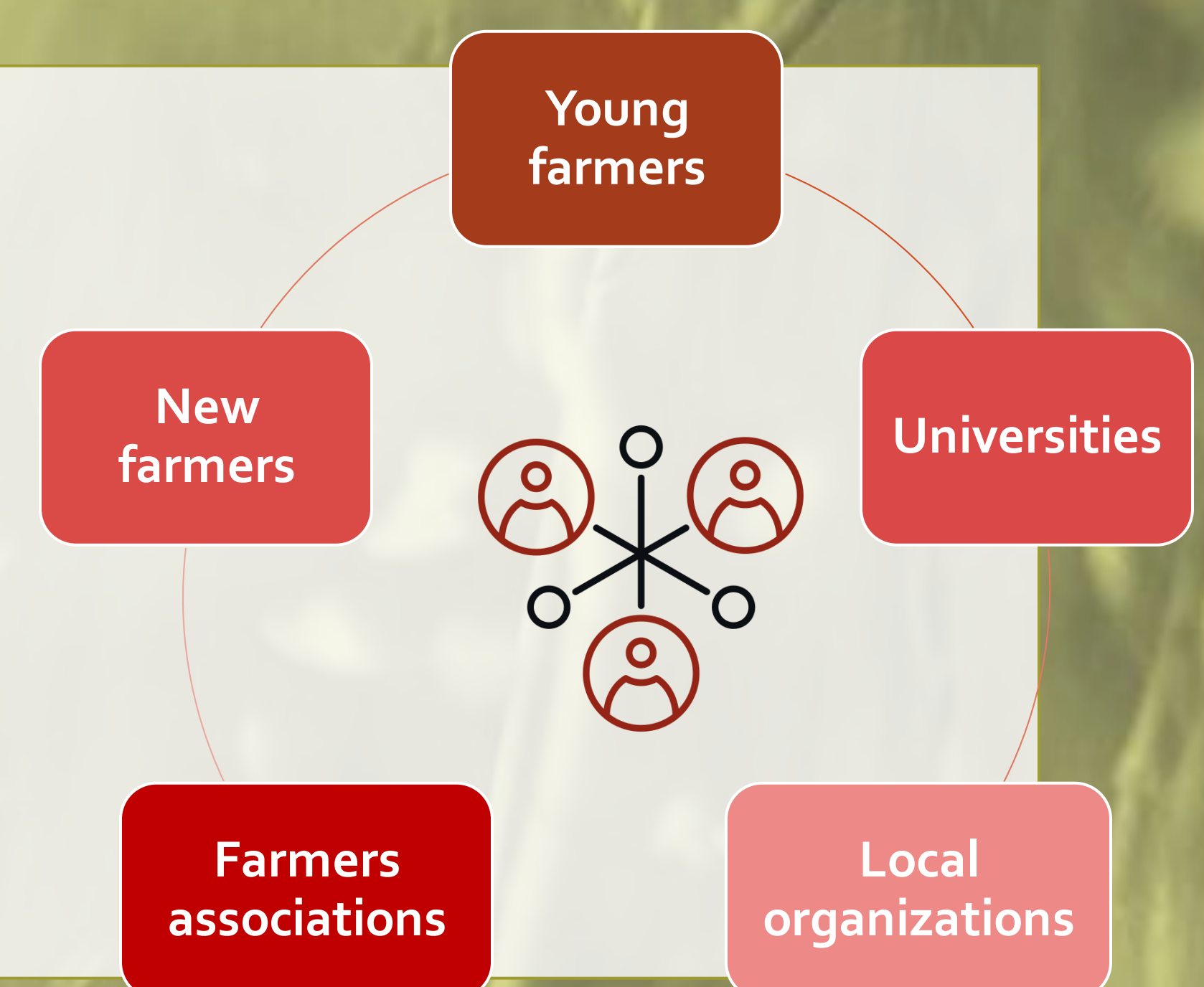
The ultimate goal of this research task is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the CSP and to offer policy recommendations on how to improve the support for generational renewal in rural areas.

If we tell our kids to study so they don't have to be as poor as we were, how is policy going to change that?

About the stigma farm poverty

Methodology

The research was conducted two phases: an extensive review of the CSP and case study interviews with key stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of Objective 7 'Attract and sustain young farmers and other new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas'. Results were divided into two assessments: the national CSP and the EU framework, comprising criteria for definitions and indicators and interventions framework.



"Ireland has a narrow focus that is not being addressed. There are underlying cultural norms that CAP is not embracing"

Results

- ✓ SWOT analysis fails to adequately address generational renewal, with opportunities not exploited and threats not covered.
- ✓ The definition of an 'Active' farmer is an important factor in limiting other definitions. The definitions of Young farmer and New farmer represent a small group of farmers, who have been 'invisible' to the regulation.
- ✓ Lack of awareness and research requires increased focus on diverse profile of farming, future projections, and social/cultural aspects.
- ✓ Young farmers occupy a large space in intervention logic, what will happen with new farmers or rural start-ups is not entirely clear.
- ✓ European policies are not properly translated into regional contexts, requiring a bottom-up approach and clearer guidance from European institutions.

Discussion

The SWOT analysis used to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats does not adequately represent the diversity of farming communities, limiting the effectiveness of policies to support intergenerational renewal.

The assessment of the EU framework showed that there are common criteria. However, there may be gaps in the implementation of these in the regional context.

Conclusion

The current policy review and stakeholder interviews have revealed several policy limitations affecting the generational renewal in the farming industry. To address these limitations and ensure the success of generational renewal policies, it is necessary to conduct more research from the bottom-up and increase the focus on the diverse profile of the farming industry, its future projections, and its social and cultural aspects.

"Research has already embraced the aspect that farmers are not only food producers but now policy but now policy needs to embrace this aspect also"