TOOLS4CAP

# CASE STUDY FACTSHEET

# Integrated Vision-Building Tool for Agricultural Policy 2040

## SLOVENIA

## Description and relevance

The Slovenian case study supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF) in preparing a **participatory, evidence-based vision** for the future of food, agriculture and rural development by 2040. It aimed to build an **integrated process combining participatory foresight, scenario analysis,** and **indicator-based monitoring**.

The rationale was to provide a shared long-term policy framework, **aligning CAP interventions with broader sustainability and food system goals**.

The University of Ljubljana's Biotechnical Faculty steered the process in collaboration with MAFF, using expert group meetings and stakeholder consultations to define strategic objectives. The approach aimed for **inclusion, legitimacy, and data-driven dialogue** to ensure that the future vision reflected both scientific evidence and evolving societal demands, ultimately serving as a foundation for the next CAP Strategic Plan.

## ABOUT THE CASE STUDY

**TOOL CATEGORY: Integral tool (multi-tool approaches)**

**GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL: National**

**TYPE: Full adoption:** Participatory Vision Building, Policy monitoring tool; **Ready-to-use:** Scenario building

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## Tools applied

- **Participatory Vision-Building**

A methodological approach designed to strengthen inclusiveness and transparency in policymaking by involving diverse stakeholders in a co-design process. In the Slovenian case, the method was applied in two steps: first, a draft vision was developed through expert consensus; second, broader deliberations with selected stakeholders refined and validated the vision. The Vision is now in final redaction stage and is intended to be used by the Ministry as a basis for preparing Slovenia's National and regional partnership plan (NRPP).

- **Scenario Building for Impact Assessment**

The approach constructs alternative futures to explore different agricultural policy options. The method supports evidence-informed discussions of trade-offs and risks, improving strategic foresight and transparency in selecting policy directions.

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- **Indicator-based Policy Monitoring Tool**

The tool draws on indicator-based monitoring frameworks, in particular the CAP's Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PMEF) in combination with selected national statistics data. It provides a structured basis for both scenario analysis and vision building.

## Results and practical innovations

The process produced a broad dataset of **around 120 sustainability indicators, trend analyses to 2040**, and **alternative policy scenarios** exploring economic, environmental, and social aspects of sustainability. Expert discussions and public consultations refined a draft vision centred on **agreed strategic objectives**.

Innovations included integrating multiple tools into a single policy process and using **a systems map** as a visual tool to capture and discuss interdependencies across the agri-food system. The approach entailed cross-sector collaboration and exposed **data gaps in a number of areas such as health, consumer behaviour, and food systems knowledge**.

The vision-building exercise became both a technical and institutional learning process, aiming to establish a foundation for long-term, evidence-based policymaking.

## Benefits, limitations, and risks

Key benefits included enhanced **analytical capacity** within the MAFF, confrontation of different strands of highly specialised, siloed expert knowledge and stakeholder views, strengthened interdepartmental cooperation, and improved appreciation of policy trade-offs. The participatory element provided a chance to increase **legitimacy and ownership** among stakeholders, though the process is still ongoing.

Limitations emerged from **incomplete or missing datasets, delayed inclusion** of some stakeholders, occasional **institutional changes** and information asymmetries between decision-making levels. Furthermore, even though the process was supported by a relatively sound evidence base, **stakeholder discussions still often reverted to clichés and opinion-based declarations**, revealing a rather weak ability to relate data indicators to subjectively understood issues.

Risks also included potential **dilution of ambition** during political transitions and challenges in finalising the vision text. Finally, the political fate and subsequent legitimacy of the document are still uncertain.

## Recommendations

Member States should consider **conducting regular fact-based and inclusive agenda-setting** processes with regular and formalised engagement **with academia and civil society** in relation to CAP Strategic Planning (or its equivalent in future programming periods) to promote a culture of co-creation, legitimacy, ownership and policy learning.

The weak ability to link data and complex substantive issues in the policy community revealed the need to **strengthen analytical capacity**. It is highly likely that the data and knowledge gaps revealed in the Slovenian vision-building process are also present in other countries.

The same can be stated about **limited indicator coverage for non-traditional issues** in agricultural policymaking. Food systems' aspects of social sustainability, consumer preferences and public health are all poorly covered in both national and EU databases, not only due to poor data coverage but because of **poor conceptualisation**, indicating a strong need to strengthen the indicator framework.