

# Europe and the Common Agricultural Policy



## Why does Europe have a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)?

The origins of the CAP date back to the post-war era. Its aim was to guarantee European food supply and produce enough food for everyone. This is why, when the cornerstone of the European Union was created with the Treaty of Rome, the foundation was laid for a common agricultural policy.

Today, food security alone is no longer the sole priority, instead the focus is on the common standards of the 27 states of the EU, for the around 450 million EU-citizens and around 11 million farms, in the areas of environmental and nature protection, animal welfare, sustainable soil management, rural development, consumer protection, digitisation, international competition and trade agreements. These challenges can no longer be addressed on a regional level, but rather only in a European – or even global – context.

## The agricultural markets of the world are interconnected

A single European country is insignificant on the global market. But all of the European countries together as the European Union are an important global player. Indeed, the EU is the world's second largest exporter and importer of agricultural products. At the same time, farmers in the EU depend on international developments: global markets determine the prices for milk, meat, feed and inputs. China, Russia, the USA, South America or Asian countries, New Zealand or Australia: they are all part of the discussions and negotiations. This is why robust trade relations and bilateral agreements are more and more important.

