

## **Working methods in the SASSPO Policy Dialogue Roundtable discussions**

The idea of a policy dialogue is to facilitate thematically focused information exchange and solution-seeking among major stakeholders in relation to a certain policy framework.

In the SASSPO Policy Dialogue sessions keynote presentations, thematic introductions and roundtable discussions are employed to identify key policy issues and the most relevant research topics in the context of the CAP and sustainable development.

In order to acquaint oneself with the key themes of the SASSPO Policy Dialogue, every participant should read the four Background Notes. Participant should have a preliminary and sustainability-oriented view about essential policy issues concerning main trends and driving forces of European agriculture, implementation of the CAP and the relationship between the CAP and the general objectives of the EU. The roundtable discussions are the core of the SASSPO Policy Dialogue. In these discussions the participants shall express their views and present their arguments concerning the subject matters under debate.

Each roundtable discussion is organised as follows:

- The participants are divided into four groups in advance.
- Every group elects a chairperson and a reporter. The chairperson is responsible for organising the group's work and the reporter is responsible for writing down the key points of discussion and the conclusions drawn during the group's work.
- Results of the group's work will be presented to the other groups. The chairperson decides who carries out this task.
- In every group there is also a facilitator, who is one of the organisers. The facilitator helps and instructs the group in operational matters when needed, but she or he does not participate in substance work of the group.

The first roundtable discussion on Thursday (October 12) will start after the presentations by dividing the participants into four groups. After organising itself, the group starts to identify policy relevant issues related to the main trends and driving forces of European agriculture, keeping in mind the sustainability focus. The group lists a number (5-10) of issues and argues briefly (also in the written form) why these issues have been selected. Then the groups report their findings to the other groups, which are free to comment the choice of issues and the argumentation behind them.

After the reporting session, the group will continue its work (2. Roundtable) by listing (in the written form) the most crucial research needs (what and why) related to the identified policy relevant issues. It is recommendable that when the second roundtable discussions start, the group elects a new chairperson and a new reporter. The results will be presented in plenary.

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On Friday (October 13) the roundtable discussions (3. Roundtable) will start after the presentations by re-dividing the participants into four groups. After organising itself, every group starts to identify major policy relevant issues related to the implementation of the CAP and the relationship between the CAP and the general objectives of the EU, keeping again in mind the sustainability focus. The group lists a number (5-10) of this kind of issues and argues briefly (also in the written form) why the issues have been selected. Then the groups report their findings to the other groups, which are free to comment the choice of issues and the argumentation behind them.

After the reporting session, each group will continue its work (4. Roundtable) by listing (in the written form) the most crucial research needs (what and why) related to the identified policy relevant issues. Also these findings will be summed up by the organisers in the conclusions session at the end of the SASSPO Policy Dialogue.