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GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE,
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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL PAYMENTS AGENCY

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY STRATEGIC PLAN (CAP) FOR MALTA 2023-2027

Supplementary Guidelines for the Implementation of
Agri-Environmental-Climate Commitments (AECCs)

Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA)
*Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal
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Scope

The aim of these guidelines is to supplement the detailed Guidelines concerning the Agri-Environmental-Climatic Commitments (AECCs), which are published on the website of the Agriculture and Rural Payments Agency (ARPA) <https://arpa.gov.mt/>, with important information for the correct implementation of these schemes.

AECC 5 – Implementation of a Soil Management and Conservation Plan on a parcel

1. Interpretation of irrigation material on parcels declared as dry

1.1 General Considerations:

Irrigation Pipes: Parcels with irrigation pipes connected only to isolated permanent crops at field margins should still be classified as ‘dry.’ These installations do not impact the soil organic matter of the committed area.

Water Storage Infrastructure:

- Structures like water reservoirs or wells that are visibly unable to store water (e.g. filled with rubble or in disrepair) should be classified as ‘dry.’
- Temporary water storage capacity up to 4,000 litres per parcel may be considered ‘dry,’ as per below:

1.2. Specific Scenarios:

Temporary Water Storage Infrastructure Filled with Water:

- If capacity is 4,000 litres or less and no irrigation pipes are laid out or set up for use, the parcel shall be considered as ‘dry.’
 - If capacity is 4,000 litres or less, and pipes are set up for irrigation, the parcel shall be considered as ‘irrigable’.
 - If capacity exceeds 4,000 litres, even if empty, the parcel shall be considered as ‘irrigable.’
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2. Procedure for Addressing Incorrect Classifications

2.1. Misclassification of a parcel as non-irrigable:

- This will not directly result in a breach of commitment. Instead, a 5% checklist penalty will automatically apply.
- Furthermore, provided that this is a result-based intervention, beneficiaries will be provided with the following options by ARPA:

2.1.1. Reclassify the parcel to irrigable:

- The parcel is reclassified as irrigable, and the 3% organic matter limit must be met by the end of the commitment period.
- The following year's SMP must be updated accordingly.

2.1.2. Close the commitment:

- If the beneficiary opts not to reclassify the parcel to irrigable status, this parcel will be removed from commitment and any funds related to this parcel must be refunded to ARPA as from the first year of commitment.
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