

The G20 Research Group
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presents the

2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Final Compliance Report

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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17. Food and Agriculture: Sustainable Agriculture

“We will promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture, conscious of the importance of sustainable soil, water and riverbanks management supported by individual countries voluntarily, taking into consideration the specific needs of family and small-holder farmers.”

G20 Leaders Buenos Aires Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | 0 | |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | 0 | |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | 0 | |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | 0 | |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | 0 | |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average Score | | +0.55 | |

Background

For the first time G20 leaders discussed the problem of food security and agricultural sphere in Pittsburgh in 2009. The summit declaration said that “sustained funding and targeted investments were urgently needed to improve long-term food security.”³⁶⁷⁷ The leaders supported the food security initiative announced in L’Aquila and “efforts to further implement the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security and to address excessive price volatility.”³⁶⁷⁸ They also committed to supporting innovative bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve global nutrition and build sustainable agricultural systems, including programs like those developed through the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program.

In fulfillment of the G20 Pittsburgh commitment on food security, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program was launched to further implement the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security in 2010. At the Toronto Summit, G20 leaders committed to “exploring innovative,

³⁶⁷⁷ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Pittsburgh). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0925.html>

³⁶⁷⁸ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Pittsburgh). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0925.html>

results-based mechanisms to harness the private sector for agricultural innovation.”³⁶⁷⁹ The urgency to accelerate research and development to close agricultural productivity gaps, including through regional and South-South cooperation, amidst growing demands and mounting environmental stresses, particularly in Africa was also mentioned in the Declaration. Leaders committed to “exploring the potential of innovative, results-based mechanisms such as advance market commitments to harness the creativity and resources of the private sector in achieving breakthrough innovations in food security and agriculture development in poor countries.”³⁶⁸⁰

In 2010, the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan on Development was released. The document featured a special section dedicated to food security and agriculture. The leaders underlined “the need to fulfill ... existing commitments on food security and sustainable agricultural development.”³⁶⁸¹ They also called for support to build capacity in tropical agriculture technologies and productive systems. The section also mentioned that the focus of the actions has to be on “harnessing the potential of the agriculture sector to advance sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction, enhance engagement with the private sector and strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.”³⁶⁸²

In Cannes in 2011, G20 leaders agreed to mobilize the G20 capacities to address these key challenges in food security and agriculture, in close cooperation with all relevant international organisations and in consultation with producers, civil society and the private sector. Agriculture Ministers met for the first time in Paris on 22-23 June 2011 and adopted the Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture, which was welcomed by the G20 leaders. It was decided to act on the five objectives of this Action Plan: (i) improving agricultural production and productivity, (ii) increasing market information and transparency, (iii) reducing the effects of price volatility for the most vulnerable, (iv) strengthening international policy coordination and (v) improving the functioning of agricultural commodity derivatives’ markets.³⁶⁸³

At the Los Cabos Summit held on 18-19 June 2012, G20 Leaders affirmed their on-going commitment to improving domestic food and agricultural practices, with a particular focus on adapting agriculture so as to mitigate its contributions to climate change.

In 2013 in St. Petersburg the leaders acknowledged that food security and nutrition should remain a top priority in G20 agenda. They recognized the importance of “boosting agricultural productivity, investment and trade to strengthen the global food system to promote economic growth and job creation.”³⁶⁸⁴ G20 leaders promised to encourage all “efforts in the agricultural sector to further reduce hunger, under-nutrition and malnutrition, through increased coordination in the G20 to promote the identification and implementation of effective actions in support of production and productivity growth as well as enhancement of food security and nutrition for vulnerable population through, among others, nutrition sensitive policies and comprehensive social protection systems,

³⁶⁷⁹The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Toronto). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communicue.html>

³⁶⁸⁰The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Toronto). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communicue.html>

³⁶⁸¹Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Seoul). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-development.html>

³⁶⁸²Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Seoul). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-development.html>

³⁶⁸³Cannes Summit Final Declaration, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Cannes). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

³⁶⁸⁴G20 Leaders' Declaration September 6, 2013, St Petersburg, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (St Petersburg). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

with particular emphasis on low income countries.”³⁶⁸⁵ They reaffirmed the determination to implement all previous G20 commitments and existing initiatives including that stated in the Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture which the G20 endorsed in 2011.

In Brisbane the G20 Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Framework was issued. It builds on previous work of international organizations and the broader G20 agenda. The FSN Framework provided the basis for the G20 to take a long-term, integrated and sustainable “food systems” approach that would guide future action on food security and nutrition. It recognized that actions within and beyond the agricultural sector are needed to maximize future opportunities and reduce the risk of future crises. The FSN Framework set out three Priority Objectives which were intended to integrate work on food security and nutrition with the G20 core mandate and work streams and guide G20 efforts on food security and nutrition. They are: increasing responsible investment in food systems, increasing incomes and quality employment in food systems, increasing productivity sustainably to expand the food supply.³⁶⁸⁶

In 2015 in Antalya G20 leaders adopted the G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems. It contained actions on several key aspects: promoting responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, improving market transparency for food security, supporting human resource development, fostering sustainable productivity growth, reducing food loss and waste.³⁶⁸⁷

In Hangzhou in 2016, the G20 committed to continue to prioritize its work on food security, nutrition, sustainable agricultural growth and rural development as a significant contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. G20 Leaders supported increasing efforts by the agricultural scientific and private sectors and welcomed the opening of the First G20 Agricultural Entrepreneurs Forum. The role of family farmers and smallholder agriculture in development was also underlined.³⁶⁸⁸

In Hamburg in 2017, G20 leaders emphasized the need to promote food security, water sustainability and rural youth employment. They committed to “increase agricultural productivity and resilience in a sustainable manner, while aiming to protect, manage and use efficiently water and water-related ecosystems”³⁶⁸⁹ and stressed the need for “strengthened cooperation on ICT [information and communications technologies] in agriculture and underline the importance of access to high-speed digital services for farmers and of adequately serving rural areas.”³⁶⁹⁰ The G20 also launched the G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment in developing countries with a focus on Africa. This Initiative will, in alignment with developing countries’ strategies, contribute to creating 1.1 million new jobs by 2022 and to providing innovative skills development programmes for at least 5 million young people over the next five years.³⁶⁹¹

³⁶⁸⁵ G20 Leaders' Declaration September 6, 2013, St Petersburg, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (St Petersburg). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

³⁶⁸⁶ G20 FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION FRAMEWORK, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Brisbane). Access date: 11 May 2019. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_food_security_nutrition_framework.pdf

³⁶⁸⁷ G20 ACTION PLAN ON FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Antalya). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/G20-Action-Plan-on-Food-Security-and-Sustainable-Food-Systems.pdf>

³⁶⁸⁸ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Hangzhou). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

³⁶⁸⁹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Hamburg). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁶⁹⁰ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Hamburg). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁶⁹¹ G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment, G20 Information Centre University of Toronto (Hamburg). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-rural-youth-employment.html>

In Buenos Aires in 2018, food and agriculture became one of the key priorities for the Argentine Presidency. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to tackling the challenges of food security, which is crucial to achieving a world free of hunger and all forms of malnutrition, pledged to encourage the voluntary use and sharing of innovative as well as traditional agricultural practices and technologies, increase efforts to engage with the private sector, the scientific community and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance value addition, productivity, efficiency, sustainability and upgrading in Agro-Food Global Value Chains. They also agreed to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture, conscious of the importance of sustainable soil, water and riverbanks management supported by individual countries voluntarily, taking into consideration the specific needs of family and small-holder farmers.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires promoting development in rural areas and agriculture through actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and water and riverbanks management, taking into consideration the specific needs of family and small-holder farmers.

The first part of the commitment requires promoting development and sustainability in rural areas and agriculture through actions in soil preservation. In 2017, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) issued Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management.³⁶⁹² In this document, the FAO outlined the most important aspects of soil protection:

- Minimize soil erosion
- Enhance soil organic matter content
- Foster soil nutrient balance and cycles
- Prevent, minimize and mitigate soil salinization and alkalinization
- Prevent and minimize soil contamination
- Prevent and minimize soil acidification
- Preserve and enhance soil biodiversity
- Minimize soil sealing
- Prevent and mitigate soil compaction
- Improve soil water management

Government actions aimed at any of these aspects can be counted as compliance with the first part of the commitment. These actions may include allocating resources to soil management research, financing of various programmes aimed at soil preservation and development, promoting education programmes among rural citizens and people employed in agriculture and so on.

The second part of the commitment requires promotion of sustainable water management including taking care of riverbanks. According to FAO, water management consists of several aspects.³⁶⁹³ They are:

³⁶⁹² Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, FAO (Rome) 2017. Access date: 11 May 2019.

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl813e.pdf>

³⁶⁹³ Water Management, FAO (Rome). Access date: 11 May 2019. <http://www.fao.org/land-water/water/water-management/en/>

- Water quality
- Irrigation Management
- Agriculture Water Management
- Water Accounting and Auditing
- Wastewater Treatment and Reuse in Agriculture
- Water Harvesting and Storage
- Transboundary Water Management

Government actions aimed at any of these aspects can be counted as compliance with the second part of the commitment. These actions may include allocating resources to water management research, financing of various programmes aimed at raising the quality of water, promoting sustainable irrigation practices, providing training and capacity building etc.

Full compliance requires member states to take actions in both aspects of the commitment: soil management and water and riverbanks management. Actions on one of these issues is assessed as partial compliance. No actions in any of these two spheres lead to the score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|--|
| -1 | G20 member does not take any actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil or in water and riverbank management |
| 0 | G20 member takes actions aimed at EITHER increasing the sustainability of soil OR in water and riverbank management |
| +1 | G20 member takes actions aimed at BOTH increasing the sustainability of soil AND in water and riverbank management |

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 20 December 2018, the Ministry of Agribusiness of Argentina announced an initiative “Water for all” with a total investment of approximately USD500,000 aimed at strengthening an access to safe water in communities of Santiago del Estero province.³⁶⁹⁴ The initiative will allow to put into operation a water supply system with two modules for water storage of 42,000 liters each. The initiative will increase an availability of safe water to strengthen livestock production. About 60 families of farmers will benefit from the initiative.³⁶⁹⁵

On 8 January 2019, the Ministry of Agribusiness of Argentina and the Ministry of Agriculture and Production of the province of Misiones announced their collaboration on three projects PISEAR (Project of Socio-Economic Inclusion in Rural Areas) with a total cost of 1.8 million pesos aimed at development of watershed protection and community water distribution networks in the municipality

³⁶⁹⁴ Agroindustria fortalece el acceso al agua segura en comunidades de Santiago del Estero, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 30 January 2019.

³⁶⁹⁵ Agroindustria fortalece el acceso al agua segura en comunidades de Santiago del Estero, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 30 January 2019.

of Panambí of Misiones province.³⁶⁹⁶ The project will benefit 53 Panambian families with an access to safe and quality water. The three projects include “Protection of the watershed and water network for Paraje Dorado,” “Recovery of the well drilled and water network in Paraje Tres Vertientes” and “Protected slope for Paraje Mbororé.”³⁶⁹⁷ The projects will be completed by March 2019 to put into operation community networks of water distribution, installation of pumps and placement of elevated tanks to ensure provision of water to farmers engaged in horticultural and tobacco production.³⁶⁹⁸ The slope protection is a simple and low-cost system that helps to address a lack of water, physical and / or bacterial contamination of water as well as to facilitate access to reservoirs for producers. The projects will contribute to protecting water resources and water conservation as well as promoting good practices of cultivation, management and conservation of soil.³⁶⁹⁹

On 29 January 2019, the Ministry of Agribusiness of Argentina presented a map of risks of deficit and excess water in agriculture that affect the main crops (corn, soy, wheat, sunflower and cotton).³⁷⁰⁰ The map is based on two climate change scenarios until 2039. The first one proceeds from the premise that greenhouse gases emissions will decrease, the second one – that they will be the same. The map will allow the Argentinian producers to improve planning and apply various adaptation measures in the different zones of the country.³⁷⁰¹ The Office of Agricultural Risks at the Ministry of Agribusiness has monitored water reserves in the soil for several years, through a water balance model (which includes soil characteristics, dates of crops sowing as well as a level of water needed for crops at every growth step).³⁷⁰²

On 1 February 2019, the Argentine Secretary of Agribusiness announced that it would expand the network of beneficiaries for the recomposition of rural roads, according to the amended Resolution No. 32/2019.³⁷⁰³ With the measure, the consortia and associations are allowed to make agreements to finance the recomposition of roads and road machinery, from the damages caused by emergencies

³⁶⁹⁶ Nación y provincia invierten más de 1,8 millones de pesos para proveer de agua segura a agricultores familiares de Misiones, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 8 January 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-y-provincia-invierten-mas-de-18-millones-de-pesos-para-proveer-de-agua-segura>.

³⁶⁹⁷ Nación y provincia invierten más de 1,8 millones de pesos para proveer de agua segura a agricultores familiares de Misiones, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 8 January 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-y-provincia-invierten-mas-de-18-millones-de-pesos-para-proveer-de-agua-segura>.

³⁶⁹⁸ Nación y provincia invierten más de 1,8 millones de pesos para proveer de agua segura a agricultores familiares de Misiones, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 8 January 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-y-provincia-invierten-mas-de-18-millones-de-pesos-para-proveer-de-agua-segura>.

³⁶⁹⁹ Nación y provincia invierten más de 1,8 millones de pesos para proveer de agua segura a agricultores familiares de Misiones, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 8 January 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-y-provincia-invierten-mas-de-18-millones-de-pesos-para-proveer-de-agua-segura>.

³⁷⁰⁰ Agroindustria elaboró un mapa de riesgo agrícola por el cambio climático, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-elaboro-un-mapa-de-riesgo-agricola-por-el-cambio-climatico>.

³⁷⁰¹ Agroindustria elaboró un mapa de riesgo agrícola por el cambio climático, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-elaboro-un-mapa-de-riesgo-agricola-por-el-cambio-climatico>.

³⁷⁰² Agroindustria elaboró un mapa de riesgo agrícola por el cambio climático, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 29 January 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-elaboro-un-mapa-de-riesgo-agricola-por-el-cambio-climatico>.

³⁷⁰³ Agroindustria amplía la red de beneficiarios para la recomposición de caminos Rurales, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-amplia-la-red-de-beneficiarios-para-la-recomposicion-de-caminos-rurales>.

and / or agricultural disasters. To do this, these entities must be duly registered and authorized by the highest authority in road matters of each jurisdiction to carry out their functions.³⁷⁰⁴ The maintenance and improvement of rural roads are essential to avoid environmental and socioeconomic problems, because they tend to modify the natural runoff of water and the lack of conditioning aggravates waterlogging situations and hinders the development of rural activities.³⁷⁰⁵

On 14 February 2019, the 5th National Table of Wheat was organized in Córdoba province to discuss measures to preserve soils and boost wheat production as well as increase competitiveness and sustainability.³⁷⁰⁶ The meeting was attended by representatives of the public and private sector who discussed the application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and other issues. The participants strengthened an importance of implementation of the National Soil Plan and Fertilizer Law to guarantee good soil nutrition.³⁷⁰⁷

On 14 February 2019, the Argentine Secretariat of Agribusiness launched a special Pro Huerta Project in San Ignacio, Misiones aimed at developing watershed protection and community water distribution networks for family farmers who cultivate cassava and vegetables.³⁷⁰⁸ More than 40 families will access the water through the spring recovery system. The total investment to the project was more than USD1 million. The project measures include an installation of pumps and a placement of elevated tanks to ensure the supply to the farms of the network as well as a slope protection. The project will help to conserve water resources, promote sustainable soil management and facilitate better cultivation.³⁷⁰⁹

On 15 February 2019, the Argentine Secretariat of Agribusiness delivered 34 deeds to small producers of Santa Rita living on 68 hectares in Mendoza province with an aim to expand their access to water to expand their productive capacity.³⁷¹⁰ The project will improve fruit, vegetable and vine production.

On 26 February 2019, the Argentine Secretariat of Agribusiness in cooperation with Secretariat of Family Agriculture, Coordination and Territorial Development, launched activities to increase agricultural production and improve water supply for consumption of 50 family farmers living in the

³⁷⁰⁴ Agroindustria amplía la red de beneficiarios para la recomposición de caminos Rurales, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-amplia-la-red-de-beneficiarios-para-la-recomposicion-de-caminos-rurales>.

³⁷⁰⁵ Agroindustria amplía la red de beneficiarios para la recomposición de caminos Rurales, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-amplia-la-red-de-beneficiarios-para-la-recomposicion-de-caminos-rurales>.

³⁷⁰⁶ Etchevehere encabezó la Mesa Nacional del Trigo en Córdoba, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/etchevehere-encabezo-la-mesa-nacional-del-trigo-en-cordoba>.

³⁷⁰⁷ Etchevehere encabezó la Mesa Nacional del Trigo en Córdoba, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/etchevehere-encabezo-la-mesa-nacional-del-trigo-en-cordoba>.

³⁷⁰⁸ Obras para proveer agua segura a productores de San Ignacio, Misiones, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/obras-para-proveer-agua-segura-productores-de-san-ignacio-misiones>.

³⁷⁰⁹ Obras para proveer agua segura a productores de San Ignacio, Misiones, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (Buenos Aires) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/obras-para-proveer-agua-segura-productores-de-san-ignacio-misiones>.

³⁷¹⁰ Agroindustria entregó escrituras y diseño proyectos productivos con acceso al agua para pequeños productores de Mendoza, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-entrego-escrituras-y-diseno-proyectos-productivos-con-acceso-al-agua-para>.

communities of El Condado and La Misión located in Los Toldos, province of Salta, under the Program for Inclusive Rural Development (PRODERI).³⁷¹¹ The activities that will be finished in next July aim to facilitate for the producers an access to water for self-consumption and their agricultural production.³⁷¹²

On 1 March 2019, the Argentinian Ministry of Agribusiness in cooperation with Secretariat of Family Farming, Coordination and Territorial Development of Misiones province, together with National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) and Ministry of Social Development of Argentina implemented the Special Pro Huerta Project in Misiones aimed at improving conditions of supply of drinking water and electricity for 18 small family producers of the community of Guapoy Poty in the area of Puerto Rico municipality.³⁷¹³ The farmers produce artisanal products as well as corn, squash and cassava. The project will provide an access to the electric power for irrigating 19 hectares. A 91-meter-deep well was drilled, a water tower, two tanks and a safe water distribution network for homes were installed.³⁷¹⁴

On 21 March 2019, the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina organized a workshop to validate the preliminary baseline of land degradation in the country.³⁷¹⁵ The event was organized within the framework of the Secretariat's work to establish voluntary goals to achieve neutrality in land degradation, adopted within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly and incorporated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The participants discussed technical concepts as well as indicators for monitoring of land degradation. The guides for practices of sustainable land management and soil conservation were also presented.³⁷¹⁶

On 29 March 2019, the Argentine Secretariat of Agribusiness participated in the installation of a water tank that serves as a reservoir of 18,000 liters that would allow 15 families from different parts of La Rioja province, to improve cattle watering and sowing pastures to increase their production.³⁷¹⁷

On 2 April 2019, Argentinian Secretary of Agribusiness, Luis Miguel Etchevehere, visited Colonia Hocker town in Entre Ríos province where a solar panel was established to provide water for irrigation to four hectares of rice.³⁷¹⁸ The project of such type is implemented in Argentina for the

³⁷¹¹ Obras hídricas para agricultores familiares en Salta, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/obras-hidricas-para-agricultores-familiares-en-salta>.

³⁷¹² Obras hídricas para agricultores familiares en Salta, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/obras-hidricas-para-agricultores-familiares-en-salta>.

³⁷¹³ En Misiones mejoraron el acceso al agua y la energía para la comunidad de pueblos originarios de Yvira Poty, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 1 March 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-misiones-mejoraron-el-acceso-al-agua-y-la-energia-para-la-comunidad-de-pueblos>.

³⁷¹⁴ En Misiones mejoraron el acceso al agua y la energía para la comunidad de pueblos originarios de Yvira Poty, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 1 March 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-misiones-mejoraron-el-acceso-al-agua-y-la-energia-para-la-comunidad-de-pueblos>.

³⁷¹⁵ Ambiente coordinó una capacitación para el freno a la degradación de la tierra, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-coordino-una-capacitacion-para-el-freno-la-degradacion-de-la-tierra>.

³⁷¹⁶ Ambiente coordinó una capacitación para el freno a la degradación de la tierra, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-coordino-una-capacitacion-para-el-freno-la-degradacion-de-la-tierra>.

³⁷¹⁷ Mejoran el almacenamiento de agua para actividades productivas en La Rioja, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/mejoran-el-almacenamiento-de-agua-para-actividades-productivas-en-la-rioja>.

³⁷¹⁸ En Entre Ríos, realizan un ensayo experimental de riego con energía solar, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-entre-rios-realizan-un-ensayo-experimental-de-riego-con-energia-solar>.

first time. The solar panel works with a pump that provides water to the cultivated surface in the nighttime. This innovation, which was designed by the Entre Ríos electromechanical engineer, Elbio Woeffray, allows the use of 100 per cent solar energy, and reduces production costs, such as the electricity.³⁷¹⁹

On 4 April 2019, the Argentinian Ministry of Agribusiness allocated USD350,000 to a special project of the Pro Huerta Program to improve the storage capacity and water resource quality for self-consumption and agricultural production of small producers.³⁷²⁰ Under the project, pipes and tanks to store and supply safe water for the benefit of 22 family farmers from Santa Martina, located in the Valle del Conlara, in the province of San Luis will be constructed. The project will create better conditions for breeding of cattle, goats and pigs, increase pastures` productivity where sorghum and corn are cultivated.³⁷²¹

On 15 April 2019, the Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina led by Rogelio Frigerio opened the envelopes of the tender for the drainage works in the municipality of Álvarez in Santa Fe province that would require an investment of the National Government of more than 180 million pesos and will allow the recovery of 2,500 productive hectares.³⁷²² The municipality suffers floods since its founding 124 years ago and this project will improve the quality of life of residents and their production capacities. The project includes execution of relieving ducts on the Belgrano – Güemes and San Martín arteries, lining of the Álvarez canal, construction of retardant dams downstream and upstream of the town, cleaning of the channel from the mouth of the Saladillo stream to the boundary of the town, replacement of sewers, location of relief ducts on Calle Caseros and tasks in the Suipacha and Canal Oeste channels.³⁷²³

Argentina has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 15 January 2019, the Australian government announced plans to mechanically pump oxygen into lakes and rivers after hundreds of thousands of fish died in heatwave conditions. To counteract the low levels of oxygen in the state's waterways, the government bought 16 aerators that will pump oxygen into lakes and rivers affected by drought. Niall Blair, the minister for regional water, said

³⁷¹⁹ En Entre Ríos, realizan un ensayo experimental de riego con energía solar, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-entre-rios-realizan-un-ensayo-experimental-de-riego-con-energia-solar>.

³⁷²⁰ Agroindustria fortalece el acceso al agua en San Luis, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-fortalece-el-acceso-al-agua-en-san-luis>.

³⁷²¹ Agroindustria fortalece el acceso al agua en San Luis, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-fortalece-el-acceso-al-agua-en-san-luis>.

³⁷²² Obras para controlar inundaciones y recuperar 2.500 hectáreas productivas en Alvarez, Santa Fe, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/obras-para-controlar-inundaciones-y-recuperar-2500-hectareas-productivas-en-alvarez-santa>.

³⁷²³ Obras para controlar inundaciones y recuperar 2.500 hectáreas productivas en Alvarez, Santa Fe, Argentine Government (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/obras-para-controlar-inundaciones-y-recuperar-2500-hectareas-productivas-en-alvarez-santa>.

these fish will only stop dying if the river flows are improved and the water levels in dams return to normal.³⁷²⁴

On 2 April 2019, the Australian government announced assistance for water resource management in the Indo-Pacific countries with 2019-20 Budget Estimate of AUD50.2 million. Australia is going to share its experience and expertise by supporting and funding technology transfer and training, knowledge sharing, and strengthening key institutions to improve water resource management throughout South and South East Asia and the Pacific.³⁷²⁵ The program includes countries as Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, China, Myanmar, Pakistan, northern India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Australia is planning to guide water resource planning and decision-making, strengthen social and environmental standards associated with development activities in the river basin and build civil society's capacity for involvement in water planning and management.³⁷²⁶

On 1 May 2019, the Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack promised AUD100 million for a new national plan for water management. The plan promises that a re-elected Coalition Government would build new dams in the bush as well as establish a new statutory authority, the National Water Grid, to manage water policy and water infrastructure across Australia.³⁷²⁷

Australia has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anna Kotlyarova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 5 December 2018, the Sustainable Rural Project held the Field Day with 28 participants. The event presented a lecture about Degraded Area Recovery through pasture use.³⁷²⁸

On 11 March 2019, the National Forest Research Center (Embrapa Florestas) launched the project the Herb System 20, which represented a set of practices in planted herbs that aim to increase the efficiency and sustainability of the cultivation of yerba mate. Its adoption is able to increase productivity and increase the quality of the plantations through the improvement in day-to-day

³⁷²⁴ Australia is pumping oxygen into lakes and rivers as a 'Band-Aid solution' to stop thousands of fish from dying, Business Insider (New York) 17 January 2019. Access date: 31 March 2019. <https://www.businessinsider.com/australia-pumping-oxygen-into-lakes-rivers-fish-dying-2019-1>

³⁷²⁵ Overview of Australia's assistance for water resource management, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 2 April 2019. Access date: 1 May 2019. <https://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/investment-priorities/agriculture-fisheries-water/water-resource-management/Pages/water-resource-management.aspx>

³⁷²⁶ Overview of Australia's assistance for water resource management, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 2 April 2019. Access date: 1 May 2019. <https://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/investment-priorities/agriculture-fisheries-water/water-resource-management/Pages/water-resource-management.aspx>

³⁷²⁷ McCormack's 'just add water' plan won't fix water management in Australia, expert says, ABC.net (Sydney) 1 May 2019. Access date: 1 May 2019. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/just-add-water-plan-wont-fix-water-management-expert-says/11061294>

³⁷²⁸ O uso da pastagem para recuperação de áreas degradadas, Rural Sustentável (Brasília) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <http://www.ruralsustentavel.org/noticia/389/prs>

production practices, such as planting, pruning, fertilization, weed control, herbal renewal among others.³⁷²⁹

On 4 December 2018, the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) promoted the seminar “Remineralizers de Soil: Agro-geological Zoning;” The objective of the event was to present the results of the work of the Remineralizers Working Group, established in 2012 and coordinated by the MME. Remineralizadores are fundamental for the sustainability of the mineral activity.³⁷³⁰

On 15 April 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply published a review of good agricultural practices to preserve soil such as protection soil from exposure to rain, wind and products that lead to the loss of organic matter and the reduction of cultivation capacity; agricultural and livestock integration increasing the percentage of organic matter in the soil and productivity by at least 50 per cent; and the creation of a map with detailed data on the characteristics of the Brazilian soil.³⁷³¹

On 11 December 2018, the National Water Agency (NWA) held the Seminar on Sustainable Development Objectives on Water and Sanitation. It was aimed to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.³⁷³²

On 13 December 2018, the NWA, the Secretariat of State for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Minas Gerais Institute for Water Management signed a cooperation agreement to allow the sharing of information and the improvement of governance over water management in the state.³⁷³³

On 19 December 2018, the NWA presented the report Water Resources in Brazil. Among other topics, the report highlights the situation of water quantity and quality, management and regulation actions carried out to minimize the impact of water crises in Brazil.³⁷³⁴

On 27 January 2019, the NWA held a meeting on the breaking of the Brumadinho dam. During the meeting, it was also discussed what are the safety standards of dams, the regulatory framework of the

³⁷²⁹ Conjunto de boas práticas é capaz de aumentar eficiência de plantações de erva mate, Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento (Brasília) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.embrapa.br/busca-de-noticias/-/noticia/41718287/conjunto-de-boas-praticas-e-capaz-de-aumentar-eficiencia-de-plantacoes-de-erva-mate>

³⁷³⁰ MME promove workshop “Sustentabilidade para fechamento de minas e gestão dos impactos ambientais”, Ministério de Minas e Energia (Brasília) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 11 March 2019. http://www.mme.gov.br/web/guest/pagina-inicial/outras-noticias/-/asset_publisher/32hLrOzMKwWb/content/mme-promove-workshop-sustentabilidade-para-fechamento-de-minas-e-gestao-dos-impactos-ambientais-

³⁷³¹ Técnicas sustentáveis de plantio preservam o solo e aumentam rendimento da produção, Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento (Brasília) 15 April 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.agricultura.gov.br/noticias/tecnicas-sustentaveis-de-plantio-preservam-o-solo-e-aumentam-rendimento-da-producao>

³⁷³² Especialistas discutem implementação do ODS sobre água e saneamento no Brasil, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 30 March 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/portal/ANA/noticias/especialistas-discutem-implementacao-do-objetivo-de-desenvolvimento-sustentavel-sobre-agua-e-saneamento-no-brasil>

³⁷³³ Mais qualidade e segurança hídrica: MG firma cooperação com a ANA para aprimorar gestão dos recursos hídricos, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 30 March 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/portal/ANA/noticias/mais-qualidade-e-seguranca-hidrica-mg-firma-cooperacao-com-a-ana-para-aprimorar-gestao-dos-recursos-hidricos>

³⁷³⁴ ANA lança Conjuntura dos Recursos Hídricos no Brasil 2018, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 30 March 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/portal/ANA/noticias/ana-lanca-conjuntura-dos-recursos-hidricos-no-brasil-2018>

sector and what can be improved so that an event such as the rupture of the Brumadinho dam is not repeated. Another point discussed was the water quality of the Paraopeba River.³⁷³⁵

On 5 February 2019, the NWA announced that São Francisco River Integration Project with the Northeastern Hydrographic Basins will be coordinated by a specific committee from now on. The goal of PISF is to bring water from the São Francisco River to 12 million people in 390 municipalities in Ceará, Paraíba, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Norte, which are vulnerable to drought.³⁷³⁶

On 7 February 2019, the NWA announced the meetings with governor of Rio Grande do Norte Fatima Bezerra to address opportunities for technical cooperation and management of water resources, the reuse of treated water in irrigated areas.³⁷³⁷

On 20 February 2019, the NWA campaigned to regulate water users in the Piranhas-Açu and Piancó river basins. The regularization of water users is important for the National Water Agency to manage water resources as the region is still suffering a critical hydrological situation.³⁷³⁸

On 1 April 2019, the NWA issued a research about the prospect of increasing water use in Brazil by 2030. The use of water is expected to grow 24 per cent by 2030, exceeding the 2.5 million liters per second mark. This research on water uses guides water planning and water management, as well as being important for water infrastructure planning national. This database was used, for example, in the construction of the Plan and the National Water Safety Program, which will be launched by NWA soon.³⁷³⁹

On 11 April 2019, the NWA published that the federal government had launched action plan to guarantee water security in the country. Recommendations of the NWA include studies, projects and works on dams, canals, integration shafts and water adductor systems. With the Plan, there were also identified priorities to guarantee water security to the Brazilian population in the future.³⁷⁴⁰

Argentina has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Polina Petrova

³⁷³⁵ ANA, CPRM e IGAM monitoram qualidade do rio Paraopeba e divulgarão dados sistematicamente, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 27 January 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019.

<http://www3.ana.gov.br/porta/ANA/noticias/ana-monitora-qualidade-do-rio-paraopeba-e-divulgara-dados-sistematicamente>

³⁷³⁶ Ações da ANA no PISF terão gestão centralizada com criação de Comitê de Implementação, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 5 February 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/porta/ANA/noticias/acoes-da-ana-no-pisf-terao-gestao-centralizada-com-criacao-de-comite-de-implementacao>

³⁷³⁷ ANA se articula com autoridades nordestinas nas temáticas de água e segurança de barragens, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/porta/ANA/noticias/ana-se-articula-com-autoridades-nordestinas-nas-tematicas-de-recursos-hidricos-e-seguranca-de-barragens>

³⁷³⁸ ANA faz campanha para regularizar usuários de água das bacias dos rios Piranhas-Açu e Piancó, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/porta/ANA/noticias/ana-faz-campanha-para-regularizar-usuarios-de-agua-das-bacias-dos-rios-piranhas-acu-e-pianco>

³⁷³⁹ ANA aponta perspectiva de aumento do uso de água no Brasil até 2030, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/porta/ANA/noticias/estudo-da-ana-aponta-perspectiva-de-aumento-do-uso-de-agua-no-brasil-ate-2030>

³⁷⁴⁰ Governo Federal lança plano de ações para garantir segurança hídrica do País, Agência Nacional de Águas (Brasília) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www3.ana.gov.br/porta/ANA/noticias/governo-federal-lanca-plano-de-acoes-para-garantir-seguranca-hidrica-do-pais>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 11 February 2019, Minister of International Development Marie-Claude Bibeau, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay announced an investment of up to CAD1.8 million under the Dairy Processing Investment Fund. The funding will allow Smucker's Foods to invest in upgrades to equipment which will enable them to introduce production of heavy cream, and process new formats of evaporated and condensed-sweetened milk.³⁷⁴¹

On 12 February 2019, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay announced the new Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program, an investment of CAD50.3 million over five years. Funding available through this program will help facilitate the sector's ability to address emerging issues and capitalize on opportunities.³⁷⁴² The program also builds on other Government of Canada initiatives to support competitiveness and sustainability in the agricultural sector. These include the CAD3-billion, five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership, CAD70 million announced in Budget 2018 to support agricultural discoveries in science and innovation to address climate change and soil and water conservation.³⁷⁴³

On 6 March 2019, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defense Lawrence MacAulay, on behalf of Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau, was at the Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting to announce a federal investment of up to CAD11.5 million to the Horticulture Cluster under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.³⁷⁴⁴ The cluster, led by the Canadian Horticultural Council, will include an additional CAD6.5 million in contributions from industry, for a total investment of CAD18 million. The cluster will support cutting-edge research to develop new technologies and practices for better pest and disease management, post-harvest storage and handling for apples, berries, field vegetables, potatoes and greenhouse grown crops and strategies to improve soil health.³⁷⁴⁵

On 11 March 2019, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Member of Parliament for Kelowna-Lake Country Stephen Fuhr announced an investment of up to CAD4.2M under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, AgriScience Program to the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association. This funding will support the Association in developing innovative,

³⁷⁴¹ Government of Canada invests in Quebec dairy processor to help expand operations and improve competitiveness, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2019. Access date: 18 February 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-invests-in-quebec-dairy-processor-to-help-expand-operations-and-improve-competitiveness.html>

³⁷⁴² Government of Canada invests over \$50 million to help the agricultural sector address emerging challenges and opportunities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2019. Access date: 23 May 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-invests-over-50-million-to-help-the-agricultural-sector-address-emerging-challenges-and-opportunities1.html>

³⁷⁴³ Government of Canada invests over \$50 million to help the agricultural sector address emerging challenges and opportunities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2019. Access date: 23 May 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-invests-over-50-million-to-help-the-agricultural-sector-address-emerging-challenges-and-opportunities1.html>

³⁷⁴⁴ The Government of Canada invests to advance Canadian horticulture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 6 March 2019. Access date: 2 April 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/03/the-government-of-canada-invests-to-advance-canadian-horticulture.html>

³⁷⁴⁵ The Government of Canada invests to advance Canadian horticulture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 6 March 2019. Access date: 2 April 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/03/the-government-of-canada-invests-to-advance-canadian-horticulture.html>

commercially successful Canadian-bred apple and sweet cherry cultivars that enhance the profitability of Canada's tree fruit sector.³⁷⁴⁶

On 1 May 2019, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Minister of International Trade Diversification Jim Carr announced actions to support Canadian farm families. Minister Bibeau announced that the Government intends to amend the Agricultural Marketing Programs Regulations to temporarily increase loan limits under the Advance Payments Program. These changes will help ease cash flow pressures that farmers are facing and help them manage the impacts of market disruptions in key export countries.³⁷⁴⁷

Canada has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Uliana Koptiyukh

China +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 26 January 2019, Beijing authorities set a plan to protect and restore the Yangtze River. The plan aims to increase the water quality of more than 85 per cent of the river by 2020. Yangtze River protection measures include strengthening agricultural pollution treatment, ensuring safety of drinking water quality and cracking down on ecological destruction.³⁷⁴⁸

On 4 March 2019, the Jiangsu province authorities closed about 3,000 heavily polluting factories in order to improve the water quality of the Yangtze River.³⁷⁴⁹

On 5 March 2019, National Development and Reform Commission delivered a Report on the Implementation of the 2018 Plan for National Economic and Social Development and on the 2019 Draft Plan for National Economic and Social Development. The report reaffirms China's efforts to promote the rural revitalization strategy including projects ensuring safety of drinking water in rural areas. The report also set a task to tackle soil erosion in rural areas and ensure small water basins are ecologically clean.³⁷⁵⁰

³⁷⁴⁶ Government of Canada announces funding to support the fruit industry. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 11 March 2019. Access date: 2 April 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-support-the-fruit-industry.html>

³⁷⁴⁷ Government of Canada Taking Action for Canada's Canola Sector. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2019. Access date: 1 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-taking-action-for-canadas-canola-sector.html>

³⁷⁴⁸ China unveils action plan to protect, restore Yangtze River, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 26 January 2019. Access date: 27 April 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-01/26/c_137775761.htm

³⁷⁴⁹ Factories closed in Jiangsu to protect Yangtze River: report, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 4 March 2019. Access date: 27 April 2019. www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/04/c_137867511.htm

³⁷⁵⁰ Report on the Implementation of the 2018 Plan for National Economic and Social Development and on the 2019 Draft Plan for National Economic and Social Development, National Development and Reform Commission (Beijing) 5 March 2019. Access date: 27 April 2019. www.xinhuanet.com/english/special/2019lh/download/Full%2520text%2520Report%2520on%2520China%27s%2520national%2520economic,%2520social%2520development%2520plan.doc+&cd=22&hl=ru&ct=clnk&gl=ru

On 26 March 2019, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress held a forum inviting experts to advise on the enforcement of the country's water pollution control law.³⁷⁵¹

On 5 April 2019, Beijing authorities adopted an action plan issued by the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau to prevent soil contamination and improve rural environment. An action plan specified 20 tasks by 2020 for the protection of drinking water sources in rural areas, decreasing the use of pesticides and fertilizers, agriculture water management and increasing the public awareness of environmental protection for rural citizens.³⁷⁵²

On 1-3 April 2019, an EU delegation headed by EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella visited China to continue and deepen EU-China environmental bilateral relations.³⁷⁵³ The Commissioner co-chaired the 7th Environmental Policy Dialogue and initiated two new high-level dialogues on Water and Circular Economy. He also met several Chinese ministers to discuss shared priorities related to water and circular economy, the EU-China Ocean Partnership, etc.³⁷⁵⁴ The first China-EU Water Policy Dialogue was expected to deepen the EU-China cooperation on water, allowing partners to exchange information and experience and provide political steer to the work of the China-Europe Water Platform. The European Commission supported the work of this platform through a EUR6 million Partnership Instrument project, addressing issues such as water policies, integrated water resources management, water disaster mitigation, protection of water ecosystems, etc.³⁷⁵⁵

China has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Yekaterina Litvintseva

France: 0

France has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 31 December 2018, a Scientific and Technical Committee: "Nutrient Management and Emissions to the Environment" was established.³⁷⁵⁶

³⁷⁵¹ Top legislature hears experts on water pollution law enforcement, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 26 March 2019. Access date: 27 April 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/26/c_137925062.htm

³⁷⁵² Beijing tackles pollution in rural areas, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 5 April. Access date: 27 April 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/05/c_137952088.htm

³⁷⁵³ EU and China Step Up Their Cooperation on Environment, Water and Circular Economy, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2019. Access date: 29 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-and-china-step-their-cooperation-environment-water-and-circular-economy-2019-apr-01_en.

³⁷⁵⁴ EU and China Step Up Their Cooperation on Environment, Water and Circular Economy, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2019. Access date: 29 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-and-china-step-their-cooperation-environment-water-and-circular-economy-2019-apr-01_en.

³⁷⁵⁵ EU and China Step Up Their Cooperation on Environment, Water and Circular Economy, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2019. Access date: 29 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-and-china-step-their-cooperation-environment-water-and-circular-economy-2019-apr-01_en.

³⁷⁵⁶ Comité scientifique et technique: « Gestion des éléments nutritifs et des émissions vers les milieux », Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt (Paris) 31 December 2018. Access date: 1 April 2019. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/comite-scientifique-et-technique-gestion-des-elements-nutritifs-et-des-emissions-vers-les-milieux>

On 30 January 2019, the Franco-Italian consortium led by the Agency for the Development of International Cooperation in the Fields of Agriculture, Food and Rural Spaces won the “support to the implementation of a quality approach within the Algerian services of plant protection and technical controls.” It is a member of the Conseil General de l’Alimentation de l’Agriculture et des Espaces Ruraux (CGAAER) and includes a two-year program that begins in spring with an expert to oversee the coordination between the French and Italian ministries.³⁷⁵⁷

On 31 January 2019, Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Secretary of State to the Minister of the Economy and Finance, signed the Strategic Committee (CSF) contract for the water sector. The CSF Eau sets itself the ambition to provide new solutions to the imperatives of modernization and optimization of infrastructures, control of micropollutants in order to face the environmental challenges and technological changes in the sector.³⁷⁵⁸

On 5 April 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food launched a call for projects with the aim to encourage the French aquaculture industry in its innovation dynamic and is aimed at businesses, professional organizations and scientific and technical organizations.³⁷⁵⁹

France has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Darya Myasnikova

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 4 December 2019, German federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced that additional EUR13.6 million will be spent to the lower Havel floodplain project. This is one of the largest river renaturation projects of the German Nature Conservation Union (NABU) funded by the government since 2005. With its extension until 2025, flooding areas in particular will be re-connected to the river.³⁷⁶⁰

On 6 December 2018, the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety presented its projects in support of the Global Peatlands Initiative, which will be funded by the German government with EUR2 million. Germany is supporting the International Peatlands

³⁷⁵⁷ Jumelage franco-algérien en faveur des services phytosanitaires algériens, Ministère de l’agriculture, de l’agroalimentaire et de la forêt (Paris) 30 January 2019. Access date: 1 April 2019. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/jumelage-franco-algerien-en-faveur-des-services-phytosanitaires-algeriens>

³⁷⁵⁸ Signature du Contrat stratégique de la filière Eau, Le portail de l’Économie, des Finances, de l’Action et des Comptes publics (Paris) 31 January 2019. Access date: 1 April 2019. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=084D6F7C-76A0-4353-8326-89B18FD955B1&filename=1000%20-%20Signature%20du%20Contrat%20strat%C3%A9gique%20de%20la%20fil%C3%A8re%20Eau.pdf

³⁷⁵⁹ LANCEMENT D’UN APPEL À PROJETS « INNOVATION AQUACULTURE 2019 », FranceAgriMer (Paris) 5 April 2019. Access date: 1 May 2019. <https://www.franceagrimer.fr/Actualite/Filieres/Peche-et-aquaculture/2019/Lancement-d-un-appel-a-projets-innovation-aquaculture-2019>

³⁷⁶⁰ Untere Havelniederung: weitere 13,6 Millionen Euro für die Renaturierung, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/untere-havelniederung-weitere-136-millionen-euro-fuer-die-renaturierung/>.

Initiative coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme with an aim to save peat bogs and thus prevent CO₂ releases into the atmosphere.³⁷⁶¹

On 21 February 2019, Minister Svenja Schulze announced that for 2019 the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety provided for EUR4 million to be allocated to the “Förderprogramm Auen.” This program is aimed at supporting sustainable development of floodplains along federal waterways.³⁷⁶²

On 19 March 2019, the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety held a conference devoted to new measures for the reduction of substances originating from the production, use and disposal of medicines, pesticides, industrial and household chemicals in water. Companies, environmental associations, federal states and municipalities agreed on a set of steps to be taken in this regard during the one-year pilot phase.³⁷⁶³

On 4 April 2019, the relevant ministers of the nine contracting parties of the Alpine Convention, including Germany, agreed to increased cooperation on soil protection in the Alps. A target system for climate-neutrality in the Alps by 2050 was adopted, covering several areas including agriculture. A working group on soil protection was established, that will focus on protection of peatlands. The Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety will chair the working group with the support of Bavaria and other partners.³⁷⁶⁴

Germany has taken actions aimed at both increasing the sustainability of soil and water and riverbank management.

Thus, it is given a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 10 December 2018, the first International Conference ‘Sustainable Water Management’ was organized under the aegis of National Hydrology Project, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation at Indian School of Business, Mohali.³⁷⁶⁵

On 13 December 2018, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a USD60 million Loan Agreement in New Delhi to continue financing riverbank protection works, renovation

³⁷⁶¹ World Soil Day: Peatland conservation is an essential part of climate action, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/weltbodentag-moorbodenschutz-ist-wichtig-fuer-den-klimaschutz/>.

³⁷⁶² Neues Förderprogramm zur Auenrenaturierung für ein "Blaues Band" durch Deutschland, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/neues-foerderprogramm-zur-auenrenaturierung-fuer-ein-blaues-band-durch-deutschland/>.

³⁷⁶³ Besserer Schutz der Gewässer vor Spurenstoffen, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/besserer-schutz-der-gewaesser-vor-spurenstoffen-1/>.

³⁷⁶⁴ Alpine region to be climate neutral by 2050, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/alpenregion-soll-bis-2050-klimaneutral-werden/>.

³⁷⁶⁵ 1st International Conference on Sustainable Water Management inaugurated at Mohali today, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December. Access date: 10 December. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1555482>

of flood embankments, and community-based flood risk management activities in critically flood-prone areas along the Brahmaputra River in Assam.³⁷⁶⁶

On 11 January 2019, the Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh for the construction of Renukaji Multi-Purpose Dam project in the Upper Yamuna Basin. Shri Gadkari also presided over the ceremony of signing of concession agreement for Namami Gange projects in Prayagraj under Hybrid Annuity Mode and One-City-One-Operator concept.³⁷⁶⁷

From 16–18 January 2019, the 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference on Modern Agriculture at Aurangabad in Maharashtra was organized by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, in association with International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, Indian National Committee on Surface Water and WAPCOS Limited. The event was a multi-disciplinary dialogue in the form of a conference discussing issues related to micro irrigation for modern agriculture and various related issues like new techniques in micro irrigation for increased crop productivity, micro irrigation in cluster level farming etc.³⁷⁶⁸

On 29 of January 2019, the governments of South Africa and India agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The ministers recognized the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Research and Education between the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 2018.³⁷⁶⁹ Further agreements were made on working together on mutual food and security initiatives directed towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with specific reference to SDG 1 – addressing poverty; SDG 2 – addressing hunger; and sharing their experiences in the development of drought resistant varieties and bio-fortified varieties.³⁷⁷⁰

On 7 February 2019, Central Ground Water Authority under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation had notified revised guidelines to regulate and control ground water extraction in India. Water Conservation Fee would be levied for use of ground water depending on the category of area, type of industry and quantum of ground water withdrawal.³⁷⁷¹

On 7 February 2019, Central Ground Water Board was entrusted with the responsibilities of developing and disseminating technologies, monitoring national policies for the scientific and sustainable development and management of India's ground water resources.³⁷⁷²

India has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

³⁷⁶⁶ The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sign a \$60 Million Loan Agreement to reduce floods and the riverbank erosion in Assam, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 December 2018. Access date: 13 December 2018. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1555846>

³⁷⁶⁷ Enough Water available, Key is efficient Water Management: Nitin Gadkari, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 11 January 2019. Access date: 11 January 2019. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1559576>

³⁷⁶⁸ International Micro Irrigation Conference (IMIC) 16-18 January 2019, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (New Delhi). http://www.icid.org/conf_microirri.html

³⁷⁶⁹ SA, India to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2019, Access date: 28 March 2019, <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-india-strengthen-cooperation-agriculture>

³⁷⁷⁰ SA, India to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2019, Access date: 28 March 2019, <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-india-strengthen-cooperation-agriculture>

³⁷⁷¹ Water conservation fee 7 February 2019. Access date: 7 February 2019. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1563250>

³⁷⁷² Management of ground water, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Delhi) 7 February 2019. Access date: 7 February 2019. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1563249>

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Polina Stanke

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 11 March 2019, it was reported that Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources allocated budget for drilling additional 650 water bore wells to cover the population's needs for clean water in difficult water areas.³⁷⁷³

Indonesia has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 7 December 2018, the National Table on Coastal Erosion published the version 2.0 of the National Guidelines for the Defense of the Coast from erosion and the effects of climate change.³⁷⁷⁴

On 9 December 2018, the Ministry of Agricultural Policies launched a plan on reservoirs, including the Gallura aqueduct, that puts EUR250 million on the table for the first ten planned interventions, including the dedicated one to the "reconstruction and rehabilitation of the adductor canal" fed by the dam on the Liscia river. A strategic infrastructure should limit the problems caused by droughts.³⁷⁷⁵

On 11 December 2018, the Chamber of Deputies approved the unified text of the proposed law "Provisions for the protection, development and competitiveness of agricultural, food and aquaculture production with organic methods." The unified text developed by the Agriculture Committee of the Chamber reflects the European regulatory framework that recognizes that organic production is based on best environmental practices, on climate action practices, on a high level of biodiversity, on safeguarding natural resources and on the application of strict animal welfare criteria.³⁷⁷⁶

³⁷⁷³ Overcome Water Difficulties, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Allocates Budget for 650 Drilling in 2019, Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 11 March 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/atasi-kesulitan-air-kementerian-esdm-alokasikan-anggaran-untuk-650-sumur-bor-di-2019>

³⁷⁷⁴ Erosione costiera: al via la versione 2.0 delle Linee guida nazionali per la difesa della costa, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 7 December 2018. Access date: 30 February 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/erosione-costiera-al-la-versione-20-delle-linee-guida-nazionali-la-difesa-della-costa-0>

³⁷⁷⁵ Venti milioni dal governo per l'acqua della Gallura, La Nuova (Rome) 9 December 2018. Access date: 30 February 2019. <http://www.lanuovasardegna.it/regione/2018/12/09/news/venti-milioni-dal-governo-per-l-acqua-della-gallura-1.17547753>

³⁷⁷⁶ DISEGNO DI LEGGE, Senato della Repubblica (Rome) 11 December 2018. Access date: 30 February 2019. <http://www.senato.it/service/PDF/PDFServer/DF/341468.pdf>

On 27 December 2018, the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea evaluated the actions related to Water Management Plan - Southern Apennine District, Flood Risk Management Plan - Southern Apennine District, Repercussion of areas at risk induced by natural phenomena - Municipality of Forino.³⁷⁷⁷ Its objectives are optimization and strengthening of the irrigation system, mitigation of hydraulic risk, adaptation and strengthening of the sewage-purification system, strengthening and optimization of the drinking water supply system; evaluation of a transitional protection system on all APSFR identified also through the adoption of safeguard measures where no type of legislation is currently present, preparation of hazard and risk maps based on the identified APSFR, comparison and updating of knowledge among all the institutional subjects involved in safeguarding, of human health, of productive activities and in the protection of the territory, for the purpose of the concerted implementation of the plan measures identified in the first cycle.³⁷⁷⁸

On 29 January 2019, the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea initiated a program for the co-financing of interventions to the sustainable management of green spaces belonging to public health facilities or accredited by the National Health Service was published in Official Newspaper (Gazzetta Ufficiale).³⁷⁷⁹ It aimed at providing the sustainable management of irrigation, the installation of systems for the recovery, treatment and reuse of rainwater, the creation of plant filters (or rain garden); sustainable maintenance of green areas; the management of residues from pruning, mowing and cleaning; the energy efficiency of lighting systems.³⁷⁸⁰

On 30 January 2019, the Franco-Italian consortium led by the Agency for the Development of International Cooperation in the Fields of Agriculture, Food and Rural Spaces won the “support to the implementation of a quality approach within the Algerian services of plant protection and technical controls.” It is a member of the Conseil General de l’Alimentation de l’Agriculture et des Espaces Ruraux (CGAAER) and includes a two-year program that begins in Spring with an expert to oversee the coordination between the French and Italian ministries.³⁷⁸¹

On 20 February 2019, the Gazzetta Ufficiale published the decree of the council of ministries aimed at mitigation of hydrological risks, restoration and protection of environmental resources.³⁷⁸²

On 27 February 2019, Prime Minister of Italy Giuseppe Conte and Ministers of the Environment, of Agricultural Policies and of the South presented the plan “Proteggi Italia” that allocates EUR11 billion to interventions against hydrogeological instability in the three-year period 2019-2021.³⁷⁸³

³⁷⁷⁷ COMUNICATO STAMPA, Conferenza Istituzionale Permanente (Caserta) 27 December 2018. Access date: 30 February 2019.

www.ildistrettoidrograficodellappenninomeridionale.it/comunicato%20stampa%20del%2028_12_2018.pdf

³⁷⁷⁸ COMUNICATO STAMPA, Conferenza Istituzionale Permanente (Caserta) 27 December 2018. Access date: 30 February 2019.

www.ildistrettoidrograficodellappenninomeridionale.it/comunicato%20stampa%20del%2028_12_2018.pdf

³⁷⁷⁹ Gestione sostenibile delle aree verdi delle strutture sanitarie, Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 29 January 2019. Access date: 30 February 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/gestione-sostenibile-delle-aree-verdi-delle-strutture-sanitarie>

³⁷⁸⁰ Gestione sostenibile delle aree verdi delle strutture sanitarie, Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 29 January 2019. Access date: 30 February 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/gestione-sostenibile-delle-aree-verdi-delle-strutture-sanitarie>

³⁷⁸¹ Jumelage franco-algérien en faveur des services phytosanitaires algériens, Ministère de l’agriculture, de l’agroalimentaire et de la forêt (Paris) 30 January 2019. Access date: 1 April 2019. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/jumelage-franco-algerien-en-faveur-des-services-phytosanitaires-algeriens>

³⁷⁸² Proteggi Italia, in Gazzetta il piano contro il rischio idrogeologico, edilportale (Bari) 16 Aprile 2019. Access date: 24 April 2019. https://www.edilportale.com/news/2019/04/ambiente/proteggi-italia-in-gazzetta-il-piano-contro-il-rischio-idrogeologico_69847_52.html

On 19-22 March, the First International Forum on Scarcity in Agriculture was held in Praia, Cape Verde, sponsored by the Government of Cape Verde and organized in collaboration with Italy and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The Forum aimed to identify practical and innovative solutions to solve the problem of water scarcity in agriculture in conditions of climate change and to illustrate good practices to address and transform this threat into an opportunity for sustainable development and food security.³⁷⁸⁴

On 5 April 2019, the Undersecretary for the Environment Salvatore Micillo, met the Councilor for the Territory and Civil Protection Pietro Foroni at the headquarters of the Lombardy Region in Milan for a discussion on the topic of mitigation interventions on the phenomena of hydrogeological instability in the regional territory. Undersecretary Micillo confirmed the attention of the government on the issue of land protection and soil protection, confirming the availability through allocations of the Ministry of the Environment for interventions in Lombardy for an amount of EUR80 million, of which 30 for current year, 50 in the following 2020 and 2021.³⁷⁸⁵

Italy has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Kochetkova

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

In December 2018, Japan's Ministry of Environment as part of its countermeasures against soil contamination presented results of the 2017 Survey of the Implementation of the Act to Prevent Soil Contamination on Agricultural Land, which found there were no areas where the regulatory standard for hazardous substances in soil was exceeded.³⁷⁸⁶

On 9 January 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a grant agreement with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to provide grant aids of up to JPY3.191 billion for improving the largest water transmission pipeline in the Rwanda capital Kigali, pump equipment and a water reservoir with the aim of improving social services through improved access to a stable supply of water and stable water services.³⁷⁸⁷

³⁷⁸³ Dissesto idrogeologico, il governo vara il piano Proteggi Italia. Conte: «11 miliardi in campo», il Messaggero.it (Rome) 27 February 2019. Access date: 30 February 2019.

https://www.ilmessaggero.it/politica/dissesto_idrogeologico_piano_governo_proteggi_italia_conte-4328638.html?refresh_ce

³⁷⁸⁴ 1st WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture, FAO (Rome) 19-22 March 2019. Access date: 30 March 2019. <http://www.fao.org/land-water/events/ws-forum/en/>

³⁷⁸⁵ Dissesto idrogeologico - Micillo incontra Assessore Foroni: "Per la Regione Lombardia stanziati 80 milioni di euro in tre anni", Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 5 April 2019. Access date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/dissesto-idrogeologico-micillo-incontra-assessore-foroni-la-regione-lombardia-stanziati-80>

³⁷⁸⁶ Results of FY 2017 Survey of the Implementation of the Act to Prevent Soil Contamination on Agricultural Land, Japan's Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 25 December 2018. Access date: 15 April 2019. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2390.html>

³⁷⁸⁷ Signing of Grant Agreement with Rwanda: Contributing to a stable water supply and better social services through improving the water supply facilities in Kigali, JICA (Tokyo) 9 January 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2018/190109_01.html

On 31 January 2019, Japan contributed USD8 million to support the Food and Agriculture Organization's work in the conflict-ridden Yemen, including the work on the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and other agricultural facilities.³⁷⁸⁸

On 6 February 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Government of Nepal to support the creation of a high-productivity irrigated agriculture model and the extension of the model while strengthening the capacity of government agencies and water user associations to operate, manage and maintain irrigation facilities.³⁷⁸⁹

On 25 February 2019, Japan's Representative Office to Palestine signed three grant agreements with the Palestine municipalities for water rehabilitation projects.³⁷⁹⁰

On 26 February 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a loan agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia in Phnom Penh to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY3,599 million for constructing and rehabilitating irrigation systems, establishing and strengthening Farmer Water User Communities and Groups and improving the farm management capacity of farmers, thereby contributing to enhancement of agricultural income and living standard of farmers in the West Tonle Sap region.³⁷⁹¹

On 27 February 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a grant agreement with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to provide grant aid of up to JPY1,425 million for constructing an inspection and analysis laboratory to maintain and enhance the capacity to carry out sanitary inspections on fishery and aquaculture products.³⁷⁹²

Japan has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 24 December 2018, the Ministry of Environment of Korea presented the national plan of Korea on implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan

³⁷⁸⁸ FAO receives \$8 million from Japan to boost food security and nutrition in conflict-ridden Yemen, ReliefWeb (Rome) 31 January 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/fao-receives-8-million-japan-boost-food-security-and-nutrition-conflict-ridden-yemen>

³⁷⁸⁹ Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation Project with Nepal: Support for building an irrigated agriculture model for the Terai plains, a food-producing region of Nepal, and extending the model, JICA (Tokyo) 7 February 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2018/190207_01.html

³⁷⁹⁰ Japan funds electricity, water rehabilitation projects in West Bank, Palestinian News and Info Agency (Ramalla) 25 February 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=KpPpDb108557898933aKpPpDb>

³⁷⁹¹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Cambodia: Contributing to an increase in agricultural production by rehabilitating and improving irrigation and drainage facilities in the impoverished West Tonle Sap region, JICA (Tokyo) 27 February 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2018/190227_02.html

³⁷⁹² Signing of Grant Agreement with Mauritania: Contributing to enhancing capacity of sanitary inspection and analysis of fishery and aquaculture product through the construction of a sanitary inspection and analysis laboratory and the provision of equipment, JICA (Tokyo) 28 February 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2018/190228_01.html

contains a set of specified targets to ensure sustainability of Korea, including agricultural development and improvement of water resources management.³⁷⁹³

On 23 January 2019, the Ministry of Environment of Korea reported the pre-announcement of legislation of the Enforcement Decree of the enactment of the Water Management Basic Act, which will be implemented on 13 June 2019.³⁷⁹⁴ This legislation deals with affairs of entrusted in the 'Water Management Basic Act' such as name, position and jurisdiction of the basin water management committee, the public officials and public institutions that are members of the national basin water management committee, the secretariat duties and composition and detailed procedures of adjustment of water dispute etc.³⁷⁹⁵ In addition, it is also stipulated that the types of water management related plans to be established in accordance with the National Water Management Basic Plan and the Basin Water Management Comprehensive Plan, which will present the direction of the water management policy, matters concerning the operation of the Water Management Committee and composition of its subcommittees, agencies that can entrust a part of the affairs.³⁷⁹⁶

Korea has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 10 March 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Commerce and Export Promotion of New Zealand signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation and exchange of agri-food products between the two countries through the implementation of rural development activities, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture. The exchange of experiences allows to develop dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.³⁷⁹⁷

On 1 January 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, held a working meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of the Government of Brazil, Tereza Cristina Da Costa Días and they agreed that they would start meetings

³⁷⁹³ A milestone for the sustainable future, establishing K-SDGs, Korean Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 December 2019. Access date: 2 April 2019.

<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=21&orgCd=&boardId=934470&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³⁷⁹⁴ Establishment of integrated water management system. Pre-announcement of legislation of enactment, Korean Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 January 2019. Access date: 2 April 2019.

<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=21&orgCd=&boardId=949270&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³⁷⁹⁵ Establishment of integrated water management system. Pre-announcement of legislation of enactment, Korean Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 January 2019. Access date: 2 April 2019.

<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=21&orgCd=&boardId=949270&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³⁷⁹⁶ Establishment of integrated water management system. Pre-announcement of legislation of enactment, Korean Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 January 2019. Access date: 2 April 2019.

<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=21&orgCd=&boardId=949270&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³⁷⁹⁷ Fortalecen México y Nueva Zelanda cooperación en desarrollo agropecuario, Mexican Government (Mexico) 10 March 2019. Access date: 21 March 2019. <https://www.gob.mx/sader/prensa/fortalecen-mexico-y-nueva-zelandia-cooperacion-en-desarrollo-agropecuario?idiom=es>

to strengthen the relationship and bilateral cooperation in the area of research, trade and regional development.³⁷⁹⁸ Mexico highlighted its interest in resuming the Brazilian experience in boosting family farming and promoting the exchange of experiences between the National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research of Mexico and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Company.³⁷⁹⁹

On 24 January 2019, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development published Documents of the Production Program for Wellbeing 2019, which include planned measures for agricultural development, that has its objective to provide direct support to 2.8 million small producers and thus contribute to food self-sufficiency. This program allows to develop sustainable agriculture in rural areas.³⁸⁰⁰

On 17 February 2019, the National Commission of Arid Zones and the National Agricultural, Rural, Forestry and Fisheries Development signed a coordination agreement to strengthen the projects of small producers in arid and semi-arid regions of the country. This measure allows advancement in a productive and inclusive rural development.³⁸⁰¹

Mexico has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Nadezhda Kamenkovich

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 20 December 2018, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture Jambulat Khatuov held a conference call on the liming (deoxidation) of agricultural soils. As it was noted at the event with the participation of representatives of the regions and the scientific community, this issue will be given increased attention in order to increase crop yields and preserve and enhance soil fertility in the coming years. As Jambulat Khatuov concluded, activities in this area will be coordinated at the federal level, in connection with which such meetings will be held on a regular basis.³⁸⁰²

On 21 December 2018, the Federal Scientific and Technical Program of the Agriculture Development for 2017–2025 was supplemented with the subprogram “Development of sugar beet

³⁷⁹⁸ Sostiene titular de la SADER reunión de trabajo con Ministra de Agricultura, Ganadería y Abastecimiento de Brasil, Mexican Government (Mexico) 1 January 2019. Access date: 21 March 2019.

<https://www.gob.mx/sader/prensa/sostiene-titular-de-la-sader-reunion-de-trabajo-con-ministra-de-agricultura-ganaderia-y-abastecimiento-de-brasil>

³⁷⁹⁹ Sostiene titular de la SADER reunión de trabajo con Ministra de Agricultura, Ganadería y Abastecimiento de Brasil, Mexican Government (Mexico) 1 January 2019. Access date: 21 March 2019.

<https://www.gob.mx/sader/prensa/sostiene-titular-de-la-sader-reunion-de-trabajo-con-ministra-de-agricultura-ganaderia-y-abastecimiento-de-brasil>

³⁸⁰⁰ El bienestar comienza a llegar al campo, Mexican Government (Mexico) 05 February 2019. Access date: March 21 2019. <https://www.gob.mx/sader/es/articulos/el-bienestar-comienza-a-llegar-al-campo?idiom=es>

³⁸⁰¹ Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, Mexican Government (Mexico) 3 December 2019. Access date: 21 March 2019 <https://www.gob.mx/sader/prensa/formalizan-entrega-recepcion-administrativa-en-la-secretaria-de-agricultura-y-desarrollo-rural?idiom=es>

³⁸⁰² The Ministry of Agriculture discussed the implementation of soil deoxidation measures, Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation (Moscow) 20 December 2019. Access date: 8 May 2019. <http://mcx.ru/press-service/news/v-minselkhoze-obsudili-realizatsiyu-meropriyatij-po-raskisleniyu-pochv/>

breeding and seed production in the Russian Federation.”³⁸⁰³ The purpose of this subprogram is to ensure stable growth in industrial production and sales of high-quality competitive seeds in order to ensure the profitability of domestic breeding based on new high-tech Russian developers and the implementation of comprehensive scientific and technical projects of the full innovation cycle.³⁸⁰⁴

On 28 April 2019, the federal law introduced by the State Duma expanded the list of cases allowing agricultural producers to receive insurance compensation. It also clarifies the procedure, terms and conditions for the conclusion of the agricultural insurance contract. The insured amount for which this contract is concluded was reduced from 80 per cent to 70 per cent of the value of the insurance object. This should reduce the financial burden on agricultural producers.³⁸⁰⁵

Russia has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil but did not take actions aimed at water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anna Piekalnits

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 14 February 2019, SABIC (a 70 per cent state-owned petrochemical company) announced its intention to improve effectiveness, crop yield and profits of the local farms in Saudi Arabia by means of incorporating new technologies and practices. As a part of the initiative, soil testing was conducted in many regions of the country.³⁸⁰⁶

On 22 March 2019, the Government of Saudi Arabia announced a new program aimed at reduction in water use. The program was titled the Qatrah and aimed at promotion of sustainable use of water in harsh weather conditions of the country. The program is designed to reduce daily water consumption from 263 liters to 150 by 2030.³⁸⁰⁷

Saudi Arabia has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

³⁸⁰³ Russian Government. On Amendments to the Federal Scientific and Technical Program for the Development of Agriculture for 2017-2025 (Moscow) 21 December 2018. Access date: 15 February 2019. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/Aa4pyASB4dEANcOqFVxYAlBPPpqHwtZ3.pdf>

³⁸⁰⁴ Russian Government. On Amendments to the Federal Scientific and Technical Program for the Development of Agriculture for 2017-2025 (Moscow) 21 December 2018. Access date: 15 February 2019. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/Aa4pyASB4dEANcOqFVxYAlBPPpqHwtZ3.pdf>

³⁸⁰⁵ The President of Russian Federation signed the Federal Law developed by the Government on Improving the Agricultural Insurance System, Russian Government (Moscow) 28 December 2018. Access date: 15 February 2019. <http://government.ru/activities/selection/525/35351/>

³⁸⁰⁶ SABIC Insights Give Farmers Roadmap to Improve Effectiveness and Profits, SABIC (Riyadh) 14 February. Access date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.sabic.com/en/news/17402-sabic-insights-give-farmers-roadmap-to-improve-efficiencies-and-profits>

³⁸⁰⁷ Saudi in fresh move to reduce water consumption, Gulf News (Abu-Dhabi) 22 March 2019. Access date 9 April 2019. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-in-fresh-move-to-reduce-water-consumption-1.62813813>

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 29 of January 2019, the governments of South Africa and India agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The ministers recognized the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Research and Education between the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 2018.³⁸⁰⁸ Further agreements were made on working together on mutual food and security initiatives directed towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with specific reference to SDG 1 – addressing poverty; SDG 2 – addressing hunger; and sharing their experiences in the development of drought resistant varieties and bio-fortified varieties.³⁸⁰⁹

On 19 March 2019, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Senzeni Zokwana launched a programme of Small-Scale Fisheries Sector of KwaZulu Natal, eMandeni, KwaMazitapele. The programme was launched in line with the government strategic framework's Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth; Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing to food security for all; and Outcome 10: Protect and enhance environmental assets and natural resources.³⁸¹⁰

South Africa has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Arseniy Zakharov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 10 January 2019, Turkey appointed former Forestry and Water Affairs Minister a special envoy to Iraq to resolve the water sharing and management issues between the two countries; the envoy will lead a working group comprising representatives from Turkish forestry, foreign affairs and energy ministries that will interact with counterparts from Iraq on equitable sharing of water from the Tigris and the Euphrates, as well as on sharing Turkey's experience and know-how in efficient management of water.³⁸¹¹

On 23 January 2019, it was reported that Turkey and the World Bank had agreed on USD254 million (USD252 million as a loan, USD2 million as a grant) worth project to modernize irrigation

³⁸⁰⁸ SA, India to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria), 28 January 2019, Access date: 28 March 2019, <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-india-strengthen-cooperation-agriculture>

³⁸⁰⁹ SA, India to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria), 28 January 2019, Access date: 28 March 2019, <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-india-strengthen-cooperation-agriculture>

³⁸¹⁰ Minister Senzeni Zokwana: Launch of Small-Scale Fisheries Sector, South African Government (Cape Town), 19 March 2019. Access date: 28 March 2019, <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-senzeni-zokwana-launch-small-scale-fisheries-sector-19-mar-2019-0000>

³⁸¹¹ Former minister appointed special envoy for water affairs with Iraq, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 10 January 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/2019/01/10/former-minister-appointed-special-envoy-for-water-affairs-with-iraq>

infrastructure in Turkey, and to implement relevant projects for innovation, institutional support, and project management.³⁸¹²

On 7 March 2019, it was reported that Turkey's President Erdogan announced new incentives for Turkish farmers, which will include subsidies worth TRY3.7 billion, including subsidies on electricity used in irrigation systems; Erdogan also announced increase in the number of farmlands having the status of protected areas.³⁸¹³

Turkey has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 5 December 2018, on an International Soil Day, Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey announced that a new system of “public money for public goods” will reward farmers for environmental outcomes such as clean air and water, flood prevention, thriving plants and wildlife and the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.³⁸¹⁴

On 18 February 2019, the Countryside Stewardship scheme opened for farmers, foresters and land managers to request 2019 application packs. These agreements provide a viable, long-term source of income to those who deliver environmental benefits on their land – including habitats for wildlife, pollinator plots and increased biodiversity. Improvements have been introduced this year to make the scheme easier to apply for.³⁸¹⁵

On 12 April 2019, the Environmental Agency announced that ecological and environmental surveys will be carried out in 2019. Further environmental surveys are being carried out which will inform the development of the River Thames Scheme. The ecological surveys will be carried out over the spring and summer of 2019 to ensure species are surveyed at the optimal time. A range of species will be targeted in these surveys. These surveys will involve a team of ecologists. The programme of data collection covers soil and river investigations, ground and gas monitoring and a range of ecological and habitat surveys.³⁸¹⁶

United Kingdom has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of soil and in water and riverbank management.

³⁸¹² World Bank to fund modernization of Turkey's irrigation, Hurriyett Daily News (Istanbul) 23 January 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/world-bank-to-fund-modernization-of-turkeys-irrigation-140705>

³⁸¹³ Erdoğan pledges new incentives for farmers, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 7 March 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2019/03/07/erdogan-pledges-new-incentives-for-farmers>

³⁸¹⁴ World Soil Day marks importance of healthy farmed environment, UK Government (London) 5 December 2018. Access date: 6 May 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-soil-day-marks-importance-of-healthy-farmed-environment>

³⁸¹⁵ Countryside Stewardship opens for applications in 2019, UK Government (London) 12 February 2019. Access date: 6 May 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/countryside-stewardship-opens-for-applications-in-2019>

³⁸¹⁶ River Thames Scheme: Environmental Surveys 2018, UK Government (London) 12 April 2019. Access date: 6 May 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/river-thames-scheme-environmental-surveys-2018>

Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Mariya Kalugina

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 4 December 2018, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing USD1.2 billion to help rebuild and improve rural water infrastructure for 936,000 rural Americans living in 46 states. The funding can be used for drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems for rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents.³⁸¹⁷

On 18 December 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded more than USD30.8 million to Arizona's clean water and drinking water State Revolving Fund programs. These infrastructure improvements will directly benefit thousands of Arizonans by improving access to healthy drinking water and modernizing wastewater treatment.³⁸¹⁸

On 18 December 2018, the EPA awarded more than USD20.8 million to Nevada for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.³⁸¹⁹

On 18 December 2018, the EPA awarded more than USD187.3 million to California for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.³⁸²⁰

On 26 March 2019, Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Joel Baxley today announced that USDA is investing USD116 million to help rebuild and improve rural water infrastructure for 171,000 rural Americans in 23 states.³⁸²¹

On 30 April 2019, the EPA announced the availability of nearly USD87 million in grant funding to assist states, tribes, and territories with improving drinking water. New Jersey is eligible to receive up to USD2.26 million in available funding.³⁸²²

United States has taken actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of water and riverbank management, but no actions aimed at soil management were registered.

³⁸¹⁷ USDA announces \$1.2 billion investment for improving and rebuilding of rural water infrastructure, United States Department of Agriculture (Washington) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 31 March 2019.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/12/04/usda-invests-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-46-states>

³⁸¹⁸ EPA announces more than \$30.8 million funding to Arizona for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvement, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 31 March 2019.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-arizona-308-million-drinking-water-and-wastewater-projects>

³⁸¹⁹ EPA announces more than \$20.8 million funding to Nevada for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 31 March 2019.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nevada-208-million-drinking-water-and-wastewater-projects>

³⁸²⁰ EPA announces more than \$187.3 million funding to California for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 31 March 2019.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-california-187-million-drinking-water-and-wastewater-projects>

³⁸²¹ USDA Announces Investments in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in 23 States that will Benefit 171,000 Rural Residents, United States Department of Agriculture (Washington) 4 December 26 March 2019. Access Date: 30 April 2019. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/03/26/usda-announces-investments-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-23>

³⁸²² EPA Announces Available Funding to Improve Drinking Water for Schools and Small and Disadvantaged Communities, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 30 April 2019. Access Date: 30 April 2019.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-available-funding-improve-drinking-water-schools-and-small-and>

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Dmitriy Lukanin

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

On 5 December 2018, the inaugural meeting of the National Interagency Steering Committee of the European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) took place in Minsk, Belarus in support of a national dialogue on water sector policy.³⁸²³ The participants representing various ministries and entities responsible for water resources management discussed the role of the EUWI+ in implementing national water sector policy, enhancing transboundary cooperation, advancing river basin management planning and in further development of laboratories and ground and surface water monitoring. The discussions under the long-term priorities for the water sector focused on the development and implementation of the River Basin Management Plans, also in the context of finalizing the development of the National Water Strategy until 2030.³⁸²⁴

On 19 December 2018, the European Commission launched a call for experts such as farmers, foresters, advisers, scientists and other relevant actors for five new agricultural European Innovation Partnership Focus Groups. Two of these focus groups focus on soil salinization and protecting agricultural soil from contamination. The groups would start its work in May-June 2019.³⁸²⁵

On 22 January 2019, the Environmental Committee of the European Parliament stated their support for the plans to counter water scarcity by facilitating the reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation. The legislation defines minimum quality standards for reclaimed water to be used for agricultural irrigation.³⁸²⁶ It also sets out obligations for production, distribution and storage operators, as well as risk management measures. Members of the European Parliament say that while the legislation is being adopted, member states in the meantime may allow reclaimed water to be used in other ways, such as industrial water reuse and for amenity-related and environmental purposes, provided that human health, animals and the environment are thoroughly protected.³⁸²⁷

On 5-6 February 2019, the workshop on investments in water and agriculture was held in Bucharest, Romania. This workshop was the second of three EU-level regional workshops being organized over the period of 2018-2019 by the European Commission's Task Force on Water and Agriculture.³⁸²⁸ Hosted by the Romanian EU Presidency, this workshop brought together experts from Member

³⁸²³ European Union and Belarus to step up cooperation on water policies, the Council of the European Union (Brussels) 3 December 2018. Access date: 19 February 2019. <https://euprojects.by/news/european-union-and-belarus-to-step-up-cooperation-on-water-policies>.

³⁸²⁴ European Union and Belarus to step up cooperation on water policies, the Council of the European Union (Brussels) 3 December 2018. Access date: 19 February 2019. <https://euprojects.by/news/european-union-and-belarus-to-step-up-cooperation-on-water-policies>.

³⁸²⁵ Call for expression of interest for experts participating in Focus Groups of the European Innovation Partnership on 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability', European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2018. Access date: 18 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/20181219_calltext_fg34-38.pdf.

³⁸²⁶ MEPs back plans to promote water reuse for agricultural irrigation, European Parliament (Brussels) 22 January 2019. Access date: 15 February 2019. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190121IPR23924/meps-back-plans-to-promote-water-reuse-for-agricultural-irrigation>.

³⁸²⁷ MEPs back plans to promote water reuse for agricultural irrigation, European Parliament (Brussels) 22 January 2019. Access date: 15 February 2019. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190121IPR23924/meps-back-plans-to-promote-water-reuse-for-agricultural-irrigation>.

³⁸²⁸ Workshop on investments in water and agriculture, European Commission (Brussels) 6 February 2019. Access date: 15 February 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/workshop-investments-water-and-agriculture>.

States, organizations and others from across the EU.³⁸²⁹ It aimed at exploring good examples and best practices on investment measures, using innovative financial resources and ensuring funds to create positive synergies for water and agriculture in the post-2020 implementation of the Water Framework Directive, Nitrates Directive and Common Agricultural Policy.³⁸³⁰

On 26 February 2019, the European Commission published the report on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC).³⁸³¹ The report looked at how Member States had implemented EU water legislation, highlighting successes and shortcomings. It assessed Member States' river basin management plans that run from 2015 to 2021. It showed that water quality in Europe is slowly improving, thanks to urban wastewater treatment, reduced pollution from agriculture and greater numbers of rivers and lakes returning to a more natural state.³⁸³² The findings included significant improvements in knowledge and reporting on the Water Framework Directive compared to the previous reporting cycle. Compliance with the Water Framework Directive objectives was reported to be increasing gradually. For the Floods Directive, very important steps were taken: the report confirmed that all Member States had fundamentally embraced the concept of flood risk management, although the quality of the results varies.³⁸³³

On 14 March 2019, the European Commission announced that the Horizon 2020 project AquaNES would present their innovations in cooperation with BLUE PLANET Berlin Water Dialogues, the leading platform for exchange on water-related issues, in Berlin on 9 April 2019.³⁸³⁴ During the conference each of the 13 AquaNES projects would be presented in various ways: there would be lectures, interactive workshops with the participants of the conference and a gallery-tour. One of the keynote speakers was announced to be Stefan Uhlenbrook, Coordinator and Director of the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme. One of the key goals of the event would be presenting ways to combine natural and engineered systems in water management.³⁸³⁵

On 19 March 2019, the European Commission announced the prize winner for zero power water monitoring. Aiming to address the challenges of water scarcity, the European Commission offered a Horizon prize with a cash reward of EUR2 000 000, received by the Fenix Hub solution.³⁸³⁶ With the prize, the Commission rewarded a viable solution that could be applied in European water management systems. The purpose of the prize is to stimulate broader European efforts to develop

³⁸²⁹ Workshop on investments in water and agriculture, European Commission (Brussels) 6 February 2019. Access date: 15 February 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/workshop-investments-water-and-agriculture>.

³⁸³⁰ Workshop on investments in water and agriculture, European Commission (Brussels) 6 February 2019. Access date: 15 February 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news/workshop-investments-water-and-agriculture>.

³⁸³¹ Commission reviews progress made in water quality and flood risk management, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access date: 22 March 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-reviews-progress-made-water-quality-and-flood-risk-management-2019-feb-26_en.

³⁸³² Commission reviews progress made in water quality and flood risk management, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access date: 22 March 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-reviews-progress-made-water-quality-and-flood-risk-management-2019-feb-26_en.

³⁸³³ Commission reviews progress made in water quality and flood risk management, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access date: 22 March 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-reviews-progress-made-water-quality-and-flood-risk-management-2019-feb-26_en.

³⁸³⁴ Inspired by Nature: Combining Natural and Engineered Systems in Water Management, European Commission (Brussels) 14 March 2019. Access date: 21 March 2019. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=D1B6C054-B114-C563-EE15552BC1B659DA>.

³⁸³⁵ Inspired by Nature: Combining Natural and Engineered Systems in Water Management, European Commission (Brussels) 14 March 2019. Access date: 21 March 2019. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=D1B6C054-B114-C563-EE15552BC1B659DA>.

³⁸³⁶ Winner of the Horizon prize for zero power water monitoring, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2019. Access date: 22 March 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/winner-horizon-prize-zero-power-water-monitoring>.

solutions for sustainable water management. Fenix Hub was a solution submitted by Aqua Robur, a young company originating from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. It was an all-in-one, zero-power, wireless, real-time sensor and data communication platform for smart water monitoring that is deployable anywhere.³⁸³⁷

On 20 March 2019, the European Commission published the Final Report of the High-Level Panel of the European Decarbonisation Pathways Initiative, which presented a number of research proposals, among which were topic such as the development of low-impact, innovative products, as well as soil preservation and regeneration schemes, including biobased and biodegradable chemicals/materials/products associated with effective risk-management strategies.³⁸³⁸

On 28-29 March 2019, the European Commission in cooperation with the European Soil Data Centre and Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Global Soil Partnership held a plenary meeting in Italy.³⁸³⁹ Soils4EU Workshop was organized on behalf of the European Commission Directorate-General for Environment. This project provided support to DG Environment of the European Commission on soil policy. Soils4EU elaborated a report entitled "Review of *economic, social and environmental impacts of and implementation barriers for soil protection and sustainable management measures for arable land across the EU.*" This workshop aimed at presenting and discussing this report with the European Soil Partnership partners and experts working in this field, with the objectives of 1) disseminating this work, 2) providing information of the state of implementation of the FAO "Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management" in EU countries and 3) gathering feedback on the topic from the workshop participants.³⁸⁴⁰

On 1-3 April 2019, an EU delegation headed by EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella visited China to continue and deepen EU – China environmental bilateral relations. The Commissioner co-chaired the 7th Environmental Policy Dialogue and initiated two new high-level dialogues on Water and Circular Economy. He also met several Chinese ministers to discuss shared priorities related to water and circular economy, the EU-China Ocean Partnership, etc.³⁸⁴¹ The first China-EU Water Policy Dialogue was expected to deepen the EU-China cooperation on water, allowing partners to exchange information and experience and provide political steer to the work of the China-Europe Water Platform. The European Commission supported the work of this platform through a EUR6 million Partnership Instrument project, addressing issues such as water policies, integrated water resources management, water disaster mitigation, protection of water ecosystems, etc.³⁸⁴²

³⁸³⁷ Winner of the Horizon prize for zero power water monitoring, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2019. Access date: 22 March 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/winner-horizon-prize-zero-power-water-monitoring>.

³⁸³⁸ Final Report of the High-Level Panel of the European Decarbonisation Pathways Initiative, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2019. Access date: 21 March 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/research_by_area/documents/ec_rtd_decarbonisation-report_112018.pdf.

³⁸³⁹ European Soil Partnership Plenary Meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 29 March 2019. Access date: 30 March 2019. <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/event/european-soil-partnership-plenary-meeting>.

³⁸⁴⁰ European Soil Partnership Plenary Meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 29 March 2019. Access date: 30 March 2019. <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/event/european-soil-partnership-plenary-meeting>.

³⁸⁴¹ EU and China Step Up Their Cooperation on Environment, Water and Circular Economy, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2019. Access date: 29 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-and-china-step-their-cooperation-environment-water-and-circular-economy-2019-apr-01_en.

³⁸⁴² EU and China Step Up Their Cooperation on Environment, Water and Circular Economy, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2019. Access date: 29 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-and-china-step-their-cooperation-environment-water-and-circular-economy-2019-apr-01_en.

On 29 April 2019, the EU announced that on 11-12 June 2019 the 1st meeting of the Agricultural European Innovation Partnership Focus Group on protecting agricultural soils from contamination would be held in Italy.³⁸⁴³ The main tasks of this new Focus Group included identifying the main soil pollutants in different regions and challenges each of them poses, reviewing existing knowledge about ways to measure soil contamination and share information, identifying innovative methods to prevent soil contamination in particular through improved management on farm, identifying a set of good practices to prevent agricultural soil contamination from various sources and to remedy agricultural soil contamination, identifying remaining research needs from practice and propose possible directions for further research on soil contamination, proposing priorities for innovative actions by suggesting ideas for Operational Groups to test solutions for the prevention of soil contamination or remediation of contaminated soils and other ways to exchange the practical knowledge gathered beyond the Focus Group.³⁸⁴⁴

The EU has fully complied with its commitment to promote dynamism in rural areas and sustainable agriculture.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Karina Khasanova

³⁸⁴³ Protecting Agricultural Soil Form Contamination, European Commission (Brussels) 29 April 2019. Access date: 29 April 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/focus-groups/protecting-agricultural-soils-contamination>.

³⁸⁴⁴ Protecting Agricultural Soil Form Contamination, European Commission (Brussels) 29 April 2019. Access date: 29 April 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/focus-groups/protecting-agricultural-soils-contamination>.