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# Simplification of the common agricultural policy – is it possible?

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## ABSTRACT

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The common agricultural policy (CAP) conducted by the European Union is the key support mechanism for the EU farmers. With each consecutive reform it gets more complicated which creates costs and administrative burden both for farmers and member state administration. At the same time, farmers and their organizations as well as member states call for simplifying the rules and making them easier to comprehend and apply. Currently, the call for simplification is also part of the European Commission's agenda. Yet, the progress is slow and the new proposals for CAP 2020+ seem to bring the contrary of simplification. The paper is based on desk research. Analyzed are EU regulations and literature review. The analysis covers the reforms and changes in the CAP implemented in the 21st century as well as the proposals for the CAP 2020+. The results show that there is still some room for simplifying the rules and procedures under the CAP. Yet, it must be borne in mind that safeguarding the correctness of spending public money is a top priority for the regulations governing the CAP as the public interests must be protected.

**KEYWORDS** common agricultural policy; simplification; policy implementation

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