

## Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013 Monitoring and Evaluation progress

### Overview

1. This paper is to update the RDPE Programme Monitoring Committee on progress developing the Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements in particular with respect to:

- collection of monitoring data from delivery bodies;
- the RDPE annual implementation report to the Commission; and
- outputs from the ex post evaluation phase 2.

### Collection of monitoring and evaluation information

2. A key challenge identified in paper RDPE PMC 2-6 (Monitoring and Evaluation Progress report) was the ability to capture all elements of the Programme and to be able to measure against our own national indicators as well as those required by the EU.

3. The majority of input, output and result indicators<sup>1</sup> that we are required to collect for Axis 2 activity can be gathered using existing IT systems and records.

4. In respect of Axis 1, 3 and 4 activity, which is largely the responsibility of the Regional Development Agency (RDA), there is no common system in place to collect these data. Defra agreed to provide resources to put in place a system that each RDA could use to gather the required information and supply it to Defra. Following user testing in early 2008 it was apparent that some further development of the reporting tool was required. The RDPE Programme team and have been working closely with Terry Bradfield who RDAs have asked to lead on this area of work. As a result of this work Defra and RDAs have agreed what information will be need to be recorded. At the request of RDAs this is more that is needed to fulfil the requirements of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF). The final stage of this project, which is currently underway, is to put in place an information technology solution to enable indicators to be recorded, aggregated and analysed.

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<sup>1</sup> **Input indicators** refer to the budget or other resources allocated at each level of the assistance.  
*Example:* expenditure per measure declared to the Commission

**Output indicators** measure activities directly realised within programmes and are measured in physical or monetary units.

*Example:* number of training sessions, number of farms receiving investment support.

**Result indicators** measure the direct and immediate effects of the intervention and provide information on changes in, for example, the behaviour, capacity or performance of direct beneficiaries. They are measured in physical or monetary terms.

*Example:* successful training outcomes, number of holdings introducing new products and new techniques.

5. Defra intends that the PMC will be provided with regular updates of data collected through these systems in the form of a progress report the prototype of which is to be discussed under Agenda item 3 and informed by paper RDPE PMC 5-3a.

### **RDPE Annual Report 2007**

6. The Rural Development Regulation (Article 82 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005) requires us to submit, to the Commission, an annual report. The report for 2007, the first for this Programme, was submitted by in June this year.

7. Although the European Commission has yet to provide us with any official feedback on our report we recognise that there are a number of areas in which the report could be improved. These include:

- inclusion of missing Programme targets;
- information relating to how Programme targets have been derived;
- reviewing Programme targets in the light of changes to RDPE scheme changes.

These issues will be taken forward with delivery partners and policy leads in developing the 2008 Annual Report.

### **Developing monitoring and evaluation for the RDPE**

8. There is a requirement under Rural Development Regulations for Managing Authorities to undertake ex-post evaluation of their Programmes. We have engaged a consultancy organisation, Hyder Consulting, to carry out an evaluation of the predecessor to the RDPE the England Rural Development Programme 2000-2006. The major element of this project will be the production of a report, in line with European Commission guidelines, on results and impact of this programme. We have taken the opportunity to ask Hyder Consulting to use their experience of carrying out the ex-post project to make recommendations for evaluating the RDPE. These recommendations will be used to inform our future RDPE monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

**Rural Development Programme for England  
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