



Assessing the multiple Impacts of the  
Common Agricultural Policies (CAP)  
on Rural Economies (Fp7 SSH - 216672)

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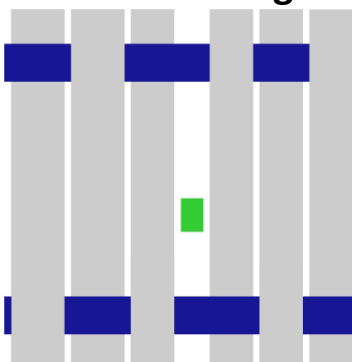
## **TITLE**

**CASE AREA DESCRIPTION - Germany  
Lahn-Dill District /  
Regierungsbezirk Gießen**

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## SUMMARY

### Lahn-Dill District

The case study region 'Lahn-Dill' (NUTS 3) is situated in the central part of Western Germany in the state of Hessen. The district covers an area of 1,067 square kilometres. It has about 260,000 inhabitants and is quite densely populated with an average population density of 243 inhabitants per square kilometre. The district consists of 23 municipalities (NUTS 4) and there are 7 towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants located in the region. The largest city, Wetzlar, has more than 50,000 inhabitants. The GDP accounted for about 6,177 million Euros in 2005, which equals an average yearly GDP per capita of 26,232 Euros. The unemployment rate accounts for 7.3% compared to a national average of 8.1% in April of 2008. According to the employment statistics 1.3 % of the employees work in the agricultural sector, 29.3 % in the industrial sector, and 68.8% in the service sector. The landscape is versatile comprising lowlands and river valleys as well as mountainous areas of Westerwald and Taunus with elevations ranging from 135 meter in the Lahn valley and up to 671 meter in the mountains near Rittershausen. The two main rivers, the Lahn and the Dill, gave name to the district. Due to the diversified landscape, tourism plays an important role. Regarding agricultural production the region provides rather disadvantageous conditions. The most important agricultural crops are silage corn, cereals (mostly wheat and barley, but also rye and triticale), winter rape and sugar beets. With respect to environmental issues, farmers have the possibility to participate in agri-environmental schemes, such as the integrated rural development and agri-environmental program (HIAP). Additionally, there is a new focus on regional agri-environmental concepts (RAK) that are to be developed at NUTS 3 level in a participatory process. Currently, the region has a conservative, christian democratic government. Nevertheless, the left wing parties have a strong political influence as well.

This deliverable report presents a compilation of the relevant data available from Eurostat, the official census, the farm accountancy data network and other statistics. The issues covered are: employment social structure and demography, land use, farm structure and payments.

## 1 IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA (NUTS 2 LEVEL)

### NUTS 2

Name:	<b>Regierungsbezirk Gießen</b>
Country:	Germany
Geographical location:	Western Germany, central part of Hessen; covers an area of five rural and one urban district

Figure 1 – Map of Lahn-Dill District and Regierungsbezirk Gießen

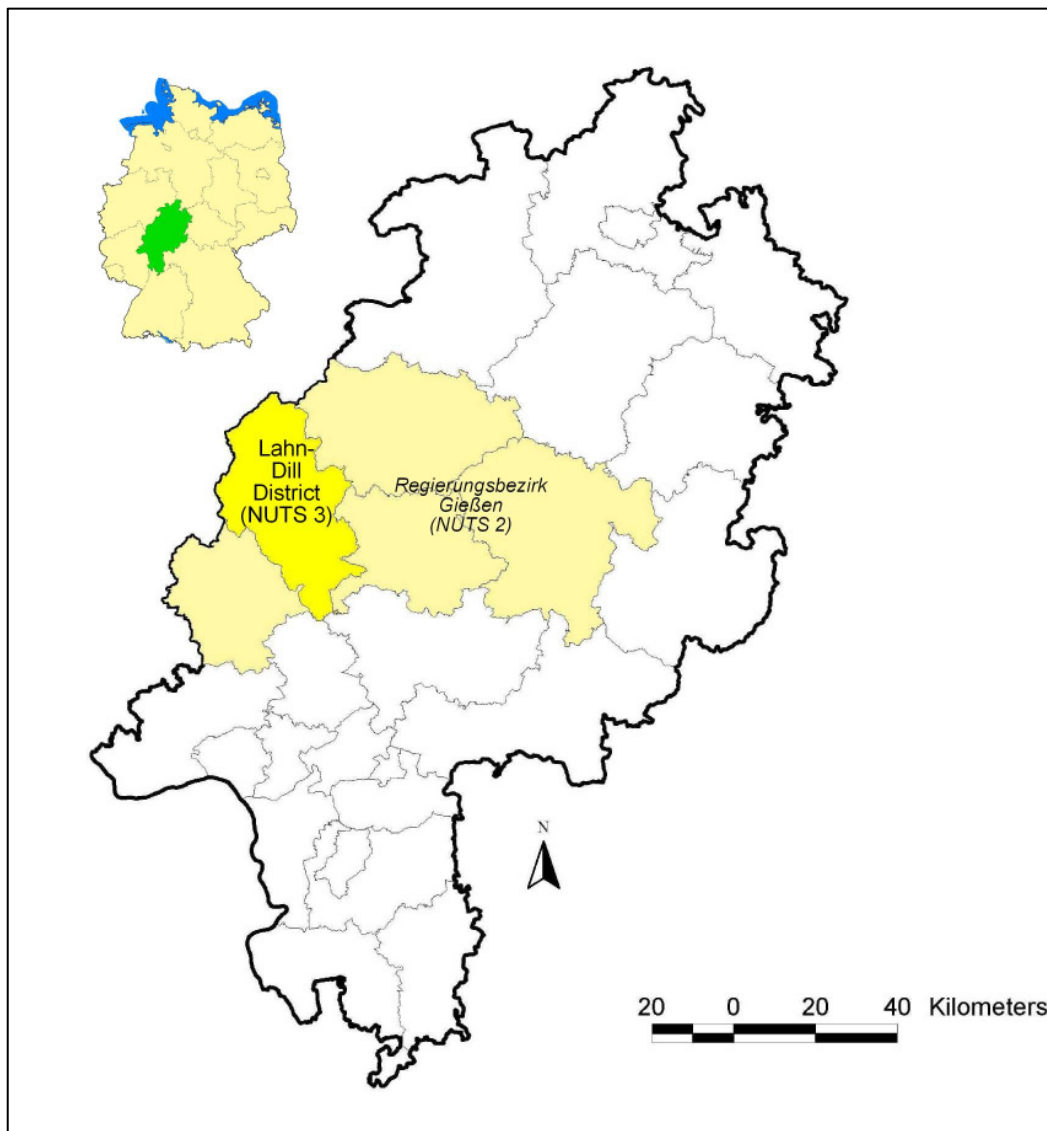


Illustration by authors

## 1.1 Socio-demographic aspects (NUTS 2 level)

Table 1 – Main socio-demographic aspects (2006)<sup>1</sup>

NUT2 region:	Surface		Population	
	Km <sup>2</sup>	% of Bundesland Hessen	Number	% of Bundesland Hessen
Total	5,381.18	25.49%	1,059,400	17.41%
Urban <sup>2</sup>			672,052(63.8%)	
Rural			671,988(36.2%)	

Density/km2	196.87
Average age 2006)	42.0

(EUROSTAT)

### 1.1.1 Social indicators

Table 2 – Employment (2006)

	Females	Males	Total
Employment rate <sup>3</sup>	48.4% <sup>4</sup>	60.8%	54.4 %
Unemployment rate (April 2008)	8.3%	7.8%	8%
Employment rate of older workers <sup>5</sup>	44.5%	62.2%	53.8%
Employment rate in primary sector <sup>6</sup>	.43%	.94%	1.9%
Employment rate in secondary sector	19.53%	51.1%	37.8%
Employment rate in tertiary sector	80%	48%	60.9%

(EUROSTAT/BA)

<sup>1</sup> If not indicated otherwise, dates in brackets indicate year of reference

<sup>2</sup> here: population in towns over 10,000 inhabitants

<sup>3</sup> Employed persons, age 15 and older.

<sup>4</sup> Share of women on total number of employees

<sup>5</sup> Employees subject to social security contributions, age 55-64

<sup>6</sup> For all sectors: share of total workforce subject to social security contributions

**Table 3 – Social cohesion (2005)**

	Females	Males	Total
Long-term unemployment rate <sup>7</sup>	34.4%	29.2%	31.8%
Jobless households	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dispersion of regional employment rates <sup>8</sup>	4.9	6.3	5.2
Early school leavers <sup>9</sup>	n/a	n/a	8%

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

**Table 4 – Social inclusion**

Inequality of income distribution	
Lifelong learning	57,600 <sup>10</sup>
Individuals' level of Internet skills	n/a

**Table 5 – Demographic changes (2005)**

	Females	Males	Total
Life expectancy at birth, by gender	81.42	75.88	78.65
Net migration	n/a	n/a	-1,316
Average exit age from the labour market, by gender in Germany	61	60.7	60.8

(HSL/BA)

**Table 6 – Other indicators**

Number of towns above 100,000 inhab	none
Number of agricultural holdings with industrial plants	1,610

(HSL)

<sup>7</sup> Share of population unemployed for a period over 12 months on total number of unemployed, date of reference: April 2008

<sup>8</sup> Coefficient of variation based on NUTS level 2

<sup>9</sup> Share of students leaving secondary education institutions without any degree

<sup>10</sup> participation of adults aged 25-64 in education and training

### Comments

#### Indicators:

Average exit from labour market: Publicly available statistics, provided by the Deutsche Rentenversicherung (German Central Pension Funds Administration) do not specify the numbers for NUTS 2/3 level.

## 1.2 Territorial aspects (NUTS 2 level)

Table 7 – Main territorial aspects

NUT2 region:	Surface		Population	
	HA	%	Number	%
Total				
Plain	n/a		n/a	
Mountain	n/a		n/a	

Table 8 – Agricultural area (2003)

	Ha
Utilised agricultural area	199,915
Unutilised agricultural land	38,477
Area under agri-environment support	n/a
Area under nature protection	135,887

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

### 1.3 Economic aspects (NUTS 2 level)

#### 1.3.1 General economic indicators

Table 9 – Main economic aspects (2005)

NUT2 region:	Mio. €	%
GDP	24,022	13.3% of total GDP of the state of Hessen
GDP of primary sector	179	19.71% of GDP of primary sector of the state of Hessen
GDP of secondary sector	7,774	17.35% of GDP of secondary sector of the state of Hessen
GDP of tertiary sector	16,070	11,88% of GDP of tertiary sector of the state of Hessen

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

#### 1.3.2 Farm classification

Table 10 – Farm classified by class of size (2005)

Class of size (ha UAA)	Number of farms
0 - 2	147
2-10	1,980
10-20	1,216
20-50	1,211
50-100	766
> 100	511
Total	5,831

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

Table 11 – Farm classified by class of income

Class of income	Number of farms	Ha
n/a		

**Table 12 – Farm classified by land use (2003)**

Land use	Ha
Arable crops <sup>11</sup>	116,644
Fodder crops	9,614
Permanent grasslands	83,013
Fruit plantations	215
Wooded area	213,416

(EUROSTAT)

**Comments**

Number of farms – difficult to relate to the above mentioned figure, since most farming business are large and active in more than one land use type, e.g. arable land and grassland management.

**Table 13 – Farm classified by livestock (2003)**

Livestock	Number of farms	Number of livestock
Cattle	3,254	141,641
Sheep	670	62,900
Poultry	1,830	352,200
Pigs	2,758	174,300

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

**Table 14 – Other aspects**

Total irrigable area	n/a
Average of surface	n/a
Area under organic farming (ha)	n/a
Organic farms (number)	n/a
Holdings in less favoured areas (including mountainous)	3,510
utilised area in less favoured areas (ha)	109,710

**Table 15 – Employment in agriculture (2003)**

	Male	Female	Total
number of workers	1548	594	2,142
family labour force	n/a	n/a	11,930

(BA/HSL)

<sup>11</sup> including fodder crops

## 1.4 Policy aspects (NUTS 2 level)

### 1.4.1 Single Farm Payment (SFP)

The “Einzelbetriebliches Förderprogramm Landwirtschaft Hessen” (Single Farm Support Program Agriculture Hessen) focuses on securing agricultural businesses through compensation of income disadvantages, promoting sustainable rural economy and stable social structures in rural regions. For the period of 2007-2013, € 94.5 Mio. are available (including national top-ups), resulting in 712 new cases with an average support of € 120,000 per case (EPLR Hessen, 168). The total investment volume accounts for € 378 Mio. Emphasis is placed on measures which secure rural employment, production of goods for further processing and conservation of the cultural landscape; investments in dairy farming activities are prioritized.

(EPLR Hessen)

Table 16 – Farm classified by class of SFP

Class of SFP	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
TOTAL			
Average of SFP per hectare of all farms of the study area			
Average of SFP per farm of all farms of the study area			

### 1.4.2 Other coupled and area-based payments

Table 17 – Description of other type of payment

Type of payment	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
e.g. Durum wheat premium			
TOTAL			

### 1.4.3 Cross compliance

Cross Compliance obligations for single implementation efforts work in accordance with EC regulation 1782/2003 (EPLR, Hessen 160).

In terms of Agri-Environmental schemes, minimum standards are devised for subsidy recipients for the application of fertilizers and crop protection agents. Further CC regulations concern soil structure conservation and erosion protection, reduction of air pollution and conservation of grassland share. CC requirements in Hessen are formulated with reference to EC regulations 795/2004, 91/676/EWG, 91/414/EWG and 1698/2005 . (EPLR, Hessen, 161). Measures supported by EAGF subsidies are excluded from support within the budget of the rural development plan.

(EPLR Hessen)

### 1.4.4 Rural development plan (RDP)

The spatial structure of Hessen reveals regional heterogeneity. The highly agglomerated Rhine-Main area is contrasted by very divergent rural regions in Northern and Central Hessen with less favourable socio-economic indicators. The rural development plan aims at improving living conditions and economic prosperity in those areas while at the same time preserving distinctive cultural landscape characteristics. Based on a detailed SWOT analysis as well as on the European model of multifunctional agriculture and in accordance with the axes of the Rural Development Regulation, Hessen's Rural Development Plan formulates following objectives:

#### 1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

Measures reflecting this objective aim at promoting investment in agricultural production, increasing efficiency and market competitiveness. One structural weakness of Hessen's agriculture stems from relatively small farm sizes, which struggle to compete with other regions, particularly in dairy farming as well as cattle and pig farms.

Furthermore, measures are directed at shaping sustainable agricultural production emphasizing regional product chains and regional marketing strategies, the use of innovative approaches to produce high-quality products which help to tap new consumer groups.

Farm consolidation efforts allow for improvement of the road infrastructure in order to use heavy farm machinery; they also aim at solving land use conflicts and providing areas and infrastructure for conservation and recreational purposes.

## **2. Sustainable Use of natural resources and landscape conservation**

In accordance with EU principles, measures under this objective shall contribute to conserving biological diversity, preservation and development of agriculture and forestry with high environmental value as well as conservation of traditional agricultural landscapes, improvement of soil and water protection and climate change. Hessen's strategy follows the principle of "conservation through utilization". Main instruments include environmental impact assessments, impact regulation under nature conservation law, FFH and Natura2000 directives, payments for farmers in disadvantageous regions and for Agro-Environmental Schemes, among others. Besides regulations and financial support, emphasis is put on knowledge transfer and consultation of farmers regarding conservation efforts. In terms of forest management, measures focus on countering instabilities caused by pollution, draughts and other stress factors. With more than 40% of the area covered by forest, Hessen is one of the most densely wooded states. Therefore, emphasis is put on nature-oriented forest management which improves conservational and recreational functions in addition to sustainable economic use.

## **3. Conservation and Development of attractive income diversifications in rural areas**

Efforts under Axis 3 focus on developing and preserving chances for future development and countering the effects of demographic change in rural areas. Measures in Hessen address the economic disparities between the Rhine-Main region and rural regions in Northern and Central Hessen. Development strategies are based on regional development concepts, which foster cooperation and integration of regional stakeholders and interests. Regarding economic diversification, measures focus on renewable energy sources, investment in agricultural businesses to promote rural tourism, promotion of regional marketing strategies and support of start-up companies.

In order to improve quality of life in rural areas, emphasis is laid on provision of consumer services, telecommunication infrastructure and better allocation of social services in order to efficiently meet demands in areas struck by demographic decline, and the improvement and conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Since strong emphasis is put on nature protection and landscape conservation, axis 2 is the most important pillar of Hessen's rural development plan in terms of financial contribution.

(EPLR Hessen)

**Table 18 – RDP budget characteristic –State of Hessen**

<b>RDP</b>	
Total budget	637 mio. €
Participation (2000-2006):	n/a
Number of farms	
Surface (ha)	
Budget per axis (2000-2006)	
Axis 1	131.2 mio. €
Axis 2	278.4 mio €
Axis 3	160.8 mio. €
Budget per axis (2007-2013)	
Axis 1	120.2 mio. €
Axis 2	230.8 mio. €
Axis 3	38.4 mio. €
Leader	41.6 mio. €
Average amount per ha (euro/ha of UAA)	

(EPLR Hessen)

### 1.4.5 Other policies

There is a wide range of governance and planning policies on federal (national), state (“Länder”) and local level which affect rural area development. This multi-level government structure is completed by programmes on regional and supra-local level, such as metropolitan regions or regional planning associations, which have been gaining influence and political legitimacy in Germany over the past two decades.

In this co-operative federalist system, spatial planning authority is shared by all tiers of the government and has to be connected through crosscurrent mechanisms. In short, the federal government provides basic principles and framework regulation for spatial planning and allocates funds through a complex financial equalization system (“Finanzausgleich”), while state and local level have widespread competencies for framing and implementing planning policies. Recently, the decision making process in spatial planning and its influence by varying political interest on the different government levels has been subject to an intense discussion concerning federalism reform.

## Core Elements of Planning

On the federal level, the Regional Planning Act (Raumordnungsgesetz) and the Federal Building Code (Baugesetz) lay out the basic principles and framework for spatial planning. The Regional Planning Act formulates objectives, guidelines and responsibilities of spatial planning policy as well as the competencies and instruments of planning on state level. The Federal Building Code basically regulates building control by setting basic principles and restrictions for building activities and also responsibilities of building regulation on state and local level.

Spatial planning in Germany is conducted according to a set of basic guiding principles or “Leitbilder”. These principles represent the objectives and the aspired spatial structure in Germany and are developed by the ministers responsible for spatial planning on federal and state level. The current “Leitbild” was finalized in 2006 and consists of three main objectives:

“Growth and Innovation” – postulating the importance of regional strengths and recommending different development strategies for growing metropolitan areas, innovative regions outside agglomerations and peripheral rural regions with structural problems;

“Maintaining Essential Services” - framing a response strategy to the consequences of demographic change which puts many regions under pressure, in order to provide public services to their inhabitants, according to the Central Place principle. While provision of basic services such as health care, education and transportation shall be guaranteed through minimum standards, new flexible models and instruments have to be implemented in regions affected by demographic and economic shrinkage;

“Preserving Resources, Designing Cultural Regions” – laying out the principles for sustainable spatial development, preserving the diversity of land use functions and distinct cultural landscapes.

Each of the 16 Länder in Germany has its own regional planning legislation, implementing the federal guidelines and enacting its own objectives and instruments for spatial development.

**Hessen’s** state development plan of 2000 describes the region of Mittelhessen (Regierungsbezirk Gießen / NUTS 2) as having three important functions in terms of the state’s spatial structure: besides being a distinct economic area it has a bridging function for the agglomerated areas of northern and southern Hessen and serves as “compensation area” (Ausgleichsraum) for the Rhine-Main metropolitan area. In order to secure the future development of the area the development plan postulates endogenous development with activation and strengthening of regional potentials as spatial development objective (LEP 2000:10).

In order to maintain and develop a polycentric spatial structure, regional planning distinguishes between agglomerated areas ("Verdichtungs- / Ordnungsräume) and rural areas. In these rural areas, planning aims at preserving the small-town structure with high quality of life and attractiveness as well as promoting distinct economic development and sustainability based on particular regional ways of life, cultural landscapes, regional value added chains and rural tourism (LEP 2000:11).

The development plan also contains statements on open space preservation in order to protect significant areas for agriculture and forestry as well as ecological and social open space functions (25ff).

The regional plan of Mittelhessen (published in 2001) specifies objectives postulated in the state development plan for the NUTS 2 region of the Regierungsbezirk Gießen.

The regional guiding principle aims at sustainable development that focuses on protection and connection of natural and cultural resources and areas; the attractiveness of the low mountain ranges, forest areas, high-quality agricultural areas and high-quality water streams and ground water reservoirs are emphasized (Regionalplan Mittelhessen 2001:11).

Planning policy for rural areas is oriented towards maintaining sustainable infrastructure, reducing de-migration and dealing with the consequences of demographic change. Small and middle-scale enterprises are to be supported, agricultural and forestry activities are to be prioritized, co-operation and participation among regional actors are to be promoted (Regionalplan Mittelhessen 2001:20).

## 2 IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA (NUTS 3 LEVEL)

Country:	Germany
NUTS 3 Name:	<b>Lahn-Dill District</b>
Geographical location:	Eastern part of Hessen, east of the Westerwald low mountain range

### 2.1 Socio-demographic aspects (NUTS 3 level)

Table 19 – Main socio-demographic aspects (2006)

NUT2 region:	Surface		Population	
	Km <sup>2</sup>	% of Bundesland Hessen	Number	% of Bundesland Hessen
Total	1,066.52	5.05	259,900	4.27%
Urban <sup>12</sup>			161,964 (62.6%)	
Rural			96,562 (37.4%)	

Density/km2	243.7
Average age	42.4

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

<sup>12</sup> here: population in towns over 10,000 inhabitants

## 2.1.1 Social indicators

**Table 20 – Employment (2005)**

	Females	Males	Total
Employment rate <sup>13</sup>	40.5% <sup>14</sup>	59.5%	46.4 %
Unemployment rate <sup>15</sup>	7.8%	6.8%	7.3%
Employment rate of older workers <sup>16</sup>	n/a	n/a	21.7%
Employment rate in primary sector <sup>17</sup>	.29%	.82%	1.3%
Employment rate in secondary sector	26.53%	62.3%	29.3%
Employment rate in tertiary sector	73.2%	36.9%	68.8%

(EUROSTAT/BA)

**Table 21 – Social cohesion**

	Females	Males	Total
Long-term unemployment rate <sup>18</sup>	44.27%	35.77%	40.3%
Jobless households	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dispersion of regional employment rates <sup>19</sup>	8.4	10.2	8.7
Early school leavers <sup>20</sup>	n/a	n/a	8.1%

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

**Table 22 – Social inclusion**

Inequality of income distribution	
Lifelong learning	
Individuals' level of Internet skills	

<sup>13</sup> employees subject to social security contributions

<sup>14</sup> Share of women on total number of employees

<sup>15</sup> Date of reference: April 2008

<sup>16</sup> Employees subject to social security contributions over an age of 50

<sup>17</sup> Share of total workforce subject to social security contributions within economic sector

<sup>18</sup> Share of population unemployed for a period over 12 months on total number of unemployed; date of reference: April 2008

<sup>19</sup> Coefficient of variation based on NUTS level 3

<sup>20</sup> Share of students leaving secondary education institutions without any degree

**Table 23 – Demographic changes (2005)**

	Females	Males	Total
Life expectancy at birth	81	75.4	78.2
Net migration	n/a	n/a	-305
Average exit age from the labour market, by gender			
Germany	61	60.7	60.8

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

**Table 24 – Other indicators**

Number of towns above 100,000 inhab	none
Number of agrifood processing plants	n/a

**Comments**

See NUTS 2 section

## 2.2 Territorial aspects (NUTS 3 level)

**Table 25 – Main territorial aspects**

NUT2 region:	Surface		Population	
	HA	%	Number	%
Total				
Plain	n/a		n/a	
Mountain	n/a		n/a	

**Table 26 – Agricultural area**

	Ha
Utilised agricultural area	22,323
Unutilised agricultural land	14,886
Area under agri-environment support	n/a
Area under nature protection	33,729

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

## 2.3 Economic aspects (NUTS 3 level)

### 2.3.1 General economic indicators

Table 27 – Main economic aspects (2005)

NUT3 area:	Mio. €	%
GDP	6,177	3.4% of total GDP of the state of Hessen
GDP of primary sector	27	2.97% of GDP of primary sector of the state of Hessen
GDP of secondary sector	2,666	5.95% of GDP of secondary sector of the state of Hessen
GDP of tertiary sector	3,483	2.57% of GDP of tertiary sector of the state of Hessen

(EUROSTAT)

### 2.3.2 Farm classification

Table 28 – Farm classified by class of size (2003)

Class of size (ha UAA)	Number of farms
0 - 2	22
2-10	366
10-20	154
20-50	133
50-100	99
> 100	50
Total	824

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

Table 29 – Farm classified by class of income

Class of income	Number of farms	Ha

**Table 30 – Farm classified by land use (2003)**

Land use	Ha
Arable crops <sup>21</sup>	9,097
Fodder crops	833
Permanent grasslands	13,184
Fruit plantations	16
Wooded area	50,145

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

**Comments**

See NUTS 2 section

**Table 31 – Farm classified by livestock (2003)**

Livestock	Number of farms	Number of livestock
Cattle	416	13,753
Sheep and goats	n/a	n/a
Poultry	n/a	n/a
Pigs	2,758	11,198

(EUROSTAT/HSL)

**Table 32 – Other aspects**

Total irrigable area	n/a
Average of surface	n/a
Area under organic farming (ha)	n/a
Organic farms (number)	n/a
Agricultural-Holdings with another gainful activity (number)	n/a
Holdings in less favoured areas (including mountainous)	n/a

**Table 33 – Employment in agriculture (2005)**

	Male	Female	Total
number of workers	380	93	473
family labour force	n/a	n/a	

(BA/HSL)

<sup>21</sup> including fodder crops

## 2.4 Policy aspects (NUTS 3 level)

### 2.4.1 Single Farm Payment (SFP)

See NUTS 2 section

**Table 34 – Farm classified by class of SFP**

Class of SFP	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
TOTAL			

Average of SFP per hectare of all farms of the study area	
Average of SFP per farm of all farms of the study area	

### 2.4.2 Other coupled and area-based payments

**Table 35 – Description of other type of payment**

Type of payment	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
e.g. Durum wheat premium			
TOTAL			

### 2.4.3 Cross compliance

See NUTS 2 section

## 2.4.4 Rural development plan (RDP)

See NUTS 2 section

**Table 36 – RDP budget characteristic**

<b>RDP</b>	
Total budget	
Participation (2000-2006):	
Number of farms	
Surface (ha)	
Budget per axis (2000-2006)	
Axis 1	
Axis 2	
Axis 3	
Budget per axis (2007-2013)	
Axis 1	
Axis 2	
Axis 3	
Leader	
Average amount per ha (euro/ha of UAA)	

## 2.4.5 Other policies

Describe briefly specific urban and planning policy with implications for rural areas

See NUTS 2 section

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