



Unit 4

Getting Along with Weather Conditions and Climate Change

* Glossary

Threat: the possibility of trouble, danger or ruin

Challenge: a task or situation that tests someone's abilities

Stem: to originate

Drought: a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water

Grassland: a large open area of country covered with grass, especially one used for grazing



How can farms reduce emissions now?

The future of agriculture has to take climate change into account and there are a variety of adjustments which can be made. In order to meet these changes planting, harvesting, watering and fertilizing crops has to become more precise. The most important factors in the future of farming will include the diversification of crops and careful management practices. Mitigation has the potential of reducing climate change impacts, and adaptation can reduce the damage of those impacts. Together, both approaches can contribute to the development of societies that are more resilient to the **threat** of climate change. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) offers a number of instruments to adequately respond to the **challenges** of climate change.

Given the strain on natural resources, agriculture will need to improve its environmental performance through more **sustainable production methods**. Farmers will also have to learn to adapt to challenges **stemming** from climate change. They will have to pursue mitigation and adaptation activities to develop a greater resilience to disasters such as flooding, **drought** and fire.

Improved sustainability can be achieved by the combined complementary effects of various instruments. For instance, in 2015 CAP introduced a new policy instrument called the Green Direct Payment. The Green Payment is granted to farms that implement three compulsory practices. These include crop diversification, ecological focus areas and permanent **grassland** areas. These methods have proven to have environmental benefits in biodiversity, water and soil quality, carbon sequestration and landscapes.

(Adapted from: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/climate-change>, 2015)





Understanding the text

1. Read the text and choose the correct meaning. Remember to check the context.

1. Threat means:

- a. danno
- b. minaccia
- c. avvertimento

3. Challenge means:

- a. sfida
- b. soluzione
- c. domanda

2. Policy means:

- a. polizza
- b. normativa
- c. politica

4. Drought means:

- a. alluvione
- b. siccità
- c. gelo

2. Find verbs in the text that are associated with the terms and expressions below. One has been done as an example.

- 1. planting, harvesting, watering, fertilizing existing crops
- 2. management practices
- 3. climate change impacts
- 4. adequate answers
- 5. challenges
- 6. mitigation and adaptation practices
- 7. a new policy instrument

Understanding the text

3. Read the text again and provide the information required.

1. Examples of farming practices to be taken in order to reduce the impact of climate change.

- a:
- b:
- c:

2. Two approaches mentioned for dealing with the threat of climate change.

- a:
- b:

3. Purpose of the Common Agricultural Policy.

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