



> for teachers

L launched in 1962, the common agricultural policy (CAP) is a partnership between agriculture and society, between Europe and its farmers. As European Union (EU) citizens we are the ultimate beneficiaries of the CAP. There is always plenty of food in our shops and supermarkets at prices that are affordable.

The EU supports its farmers in providing safe, high-quality, traceable and sustainably produced food for over 500 million European consumers. Europe is renowned for its huge range of fine foods, wines and beers, as reflected in our great culinary traditions. An integrated EU approach to food safety aims to assure a high level of food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health within the EU through farm-to-table monitoring at every stage of the food chain.

At global level, food production will have to double in order to feed a population of 9 billion people in 2050. The EU has around 11 million farms. The EU food sector is the largest employment sector in the EU, providing some 44 million jobs (which represents around 7 % of EU gross domestic product). The EU supports its farmers because food production is vulnerable to factors beyond farmers' control such as economic, environment- or weather-related crises. Thanks to its agricultural policy and the resources provided, the EU plays an important role in ensuring food security for us.

In this module, students will discover that much of what they consume and use every day comes from a farm — milk, meat, fruit, vegetables, bread, olive oil, eggs, flowers, clothing, cosmetics and so on.

Specifically, students can explore:

- ▶ food specialties of their region and organic produce, and see how the EU supports farmers in the production and marketing of such products (see **worksheet 'A taste of quality'**);
- ▶ how the EU's high production standards and its labelling and traceability schemes guarantee quality food (see **worksheet 'Can you crack the code?'**);
- ▶ the importance of regional foods produced by farmers in Europe in maintaining our traditions and culture (see **worksheet 'Celebrating European food traditions'**);
- ▶ how farmers need to farm efficiently to feed the world's growing population, the types of crops and produce grown by farmers, production methods and techniques and why we should take steps against food waste (see **worksheet 'Harvest 2050'**);
- ▶ how they can make healthy nutrition choices, plan a balanced diet and make an informed choice when buying food (see **worksheet 'The food in your life'**).

The module closes with a project suggestion of a class visit to a horticulture or market-garden farm.



Additional resources

- EU agriculture map
- CAP factsheet
- Glossary

