

COMMITTEE: THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

TOPIC: Strategies for Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Practices in the Green Transition

COUNTRY: ESTONIA

SCHOOL: EMINE ÖRNEK HIGH SCHOOL

Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan in the Green Transition means that many of the planned actions, policies, and techniques to change the systems of agriculture are laid down to make them sustainable while fulfilling the environmental, social, and economic objectives of the nation. These strategies address the sustainable implementation of environmentally sound and resource conserving production processes that offset the detrimental effects of agriculture on ecosystems while responding to climate change and improving food production.

As part of the Green Transition, a number of strategic aids have been provided to advance sustainable agricultural practices in Estonia, including:

support of stakeholders in government, agriculture, NGOs, research institutions and the industry within sustainable farming, innovative production and consumption.

Sustainable agriculture has bearing with the more than 60000 people directly involved in farming and agricultural related business.

While the changes in the production, price, and quality of food and environmental standards impact about 1.3 million Estonian consumers. Furthermore, rural people and the environment in general are affected when moving to more sustainable farming practices.

Sustainable agriculture development is vital for Estonia to fight climate change, protect biological diversity, enhance food security, enhance human health, and foster regional and global sustainability standards. There is a lot to gain here in terms of environmental change that also has the potential of opening new economic opportunities that would enhance the lives of Estonians. They are important in moving towards future stability and wealth of the agricultural sector and society in general.

Words of mouth from UN officials explain why sustainable agriculture is the key to combating climate change, food insecurity, and loss of biological diversity as well as promoting economic stability. Although not always focused on Estonia, these features correspond to the global outlook Estonia has in using Green Transition strategies for sustainable agriculture practices. Underpinning the SDGs, Estonia has signed the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and follows many of its policies from the European Union, making it a key leader in sustainability not just in the Baltic region but also across the planet.

Sustainable agriculture has been transformative in Estonia in the recent past. They have initiated changes in policies, economy, and environment and they have brought new opportunities to the development of rural areas and international business. The said practices are making Estonia's agriculture more sustainable while reducing the effects of climate change and preserving the country's biota. Having a small territory but being a country that looks to the future, Estonia has accumulated practical experience in the use of organic agriculture and sustainable agriculture in general, as innovations in this area make it possible to combine environmental concerns with sustainable agricultural production in the long term.

This paper considers Estonia as an example of a country that has willingly undertaken the shift towards sustainable agriculture through policy change, funding, technology and the reliance on global organizations. Estonia is keen on organic farming, climate-smart agriculture, and agricultural biodiversity as well as rural development hence enhancing its image as a food secure and a sustainable food system in Europe.

Estonia would probably approve UN policies on sustainable agriculture and climate smart agriculture especially those which include incentives, sustainable resources for agriculture, the pro-biodiversity policies, and policies on technological advancement in farming. Smallholders would also be served by adaptable and locally sensitive measures that would suit Estonian context especially for agriculture. It would however likely react negatively to policies that set unachievable production standards, burden farmers with undesired costs or reduce the importance of small to medium farmers and promoter extensive mechanized farming.

In sum, Estonia will be situated between environmental concerns and economical points of view, and the respect for small farmers during the change towards more sustainable production methods.

It is thus expected that Estonia would support UN initiatives for climate smart agriculture, policies to enhance agro-biodiversity, pro sustainable food systems and on support to small holder farmers and rural communities. Measurable actions would be to increase investment in extension services for agriculture, providing funding and expertise to farmers willing to implement sustainable practices, and designing approaches to local food systems. Such engagements would make Estonia a significant contributor to the achievement of sustainability objectives to reasonable, realistic, and relevant standards as per its agriculture requirements.

It can be expected that Estonia would support a number of specific proposals which aim at supporting sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation in the sphere of food production as well as the transformation towards sustainable food systems that can be socially and economically just. The country would focus

on climate smart agriculture, organic farming, bio-diversity, and innovation as the main strategies to these objectives. Estonia also seeks to engage member states to adopt these plans at national level so as to improve international relations, Food security for all and improving support for rural development as the world moves to a more sustainable agricultural environment.

Estonia's ideas for sustainable agriculture are effective because they are grounded in experience and research and are already being employed in Estonia and throughout Europe. As a strategy to enhance sustainable farming, Estonia supports climate-smart measures, policies that encourage and support biodiversity friendly farming, organic farming and digital solutions. All these strategies stand the chance to be scaled up internationally particularly in the areas which bear the biggest challenge in undertaking agriculture and managing the environment. Therefore, the plans of Estonia are the vision that is the strategy and practical roadmap for countries and the entire world to transformational food systems into sustainable at this point in time.