

Name:

Buffers and security areas

Definition:

They mean the relationship between the buffers area (artificial margins) and the security areas (safety zones) in comparison with and the total area of the farm. Based on aerial photography and taking into account the boundaries of each farm, it is possible to determine the relationship between the area used as multifunctional buffers and the total area of the farm.

Method of calculation:

This indicator is calculated as:

$$\text{Indicator} = \sum A_i / A_T$$

Where:

A_i : Buffer and security areas (ha)

A_T : Total area of the farm

Interpretation:

The areas used as multifunctional buffers on the farm provide various environmental benefits, therefore their increase encourages biodiversity, and it avoids possible pollution due to the use of fertilizers and plant protection products.

Information source:

S_i : Buffers and security areas are measured in the field or by aerial/satellite photography

S_T : Total area of the farm. Data obtained in a farmers survey.

Maximum and minimum values:

The values of this indicator range from 0 (without areas with buffers or security zones on the farm) to 1 (20% of the farm area is covered with buffers).

Bibliography and references:

European Environment Agency. Indicator Fact Sheet IRENA 26 – High nature value farmland

OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (2001):Chapter 6 Wildlife habitats. Environmental indicators for agriculture.Methods and Results, Volume 3. Paris.