



The development and application of ORC's Public Goods Tool over the years

Assessing public good delivery and sustainability on farm

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YEAR

2010-present

FUNDING - PROJECT

DEFRA

- OCIS Public Goods Tool
- ELMs T&T

EU FP7

- SOLID

EU INTERREG

- TWECOM

EU ERA-NET FACCE SURPLUS

- SustainFARM

EU Horizon 2020

- iSAGE

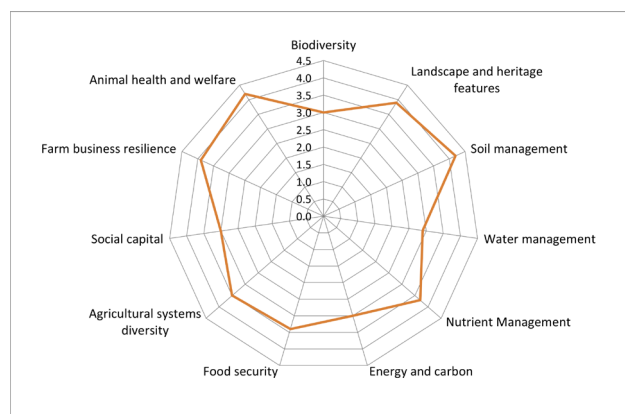
BBSRC

- SEEGSLIP



The interest of organic farmers and also policy makers in the provision of public goods on farm led to ORC developing its first Public Goods (PG) Tool, known as the OCIS PG Tool after the Organic Conversion Information System. The OCIS PG Tool assesses performance across 11 areas or “spurs”: *Soil Management; Biodiversity; Landscape and Heritage; Water Management; Nutrient Management; Energy and Carbon; Food Security; Agricultural Systems Diversity; Social Capital; Farm Business Resilience; Animal Health and Welfare*. Each spur consists of activities (e.g., manure management) and questions on each activity are asked as part of an on-farm interview.

The OCIS PG Tool was tailored during the SOLID project (2011/2015) to evaluate the competitiveness and environmental sustainability of organic and low input dairy systems. It was then adapted within the UK Conventional Pilot (2014) to account for different farming systems, which saw the *Biodiversity* spur change to *Agri-environmental management*. Additional indicators on energy production and landscape character were then incorporated through work completed in the TWECOM project (2014/2015), creating the basis of the tool used today.



Radar diagram visualising the results from a completed OCIS Public Goods Tool assessment

Recent and current adaptations of the tool have occurred within iSAGE (2016/2020), to address the sustainability of sheep and goat production in Europe and create an online decision support tool; SEEGSLIP (2018/2021), to undertake a comprehensive analysis of pasture fed livestock systems; SustainFARM (2016/2019), to create a decision support tool for farmers producing both food and non-food products; and FOODLEVERS (2021/2022), to undertake an ecosystem services assessment. Finally, ORC is currently adapting the PG Tool within an ELMs Test & Trial (2019/2021) to assess public good delivery on farm. This adapts a comprehensive version of the tool, utilising aspects that were applied in SEEGSLIP.

FURTHER READING

1. Gerrard *et al.* (2011) orgprints.org/id/eprint/18518
2. Smith *et al.* (2011) tinyurl.com/pxk69vcn
3. ORC Factsheet no. 8 (2021) tinyurl.com/xzdacf6r
4. SustainFARM Public Goods Tool v. 1.0: www.sustainfarm.eu/en/decision-support-tool