



Generalitat de Catalunya  
**Departament d'Agricultura,  
Alimentació i Acció Rural**

Supporting food policy through the  
management of agricultural markets

## **THE CATALAN FOOD AND RURAL POINT OF VIEW**

Nantes 23 October 2008

## Total area distribution in Catalonia.

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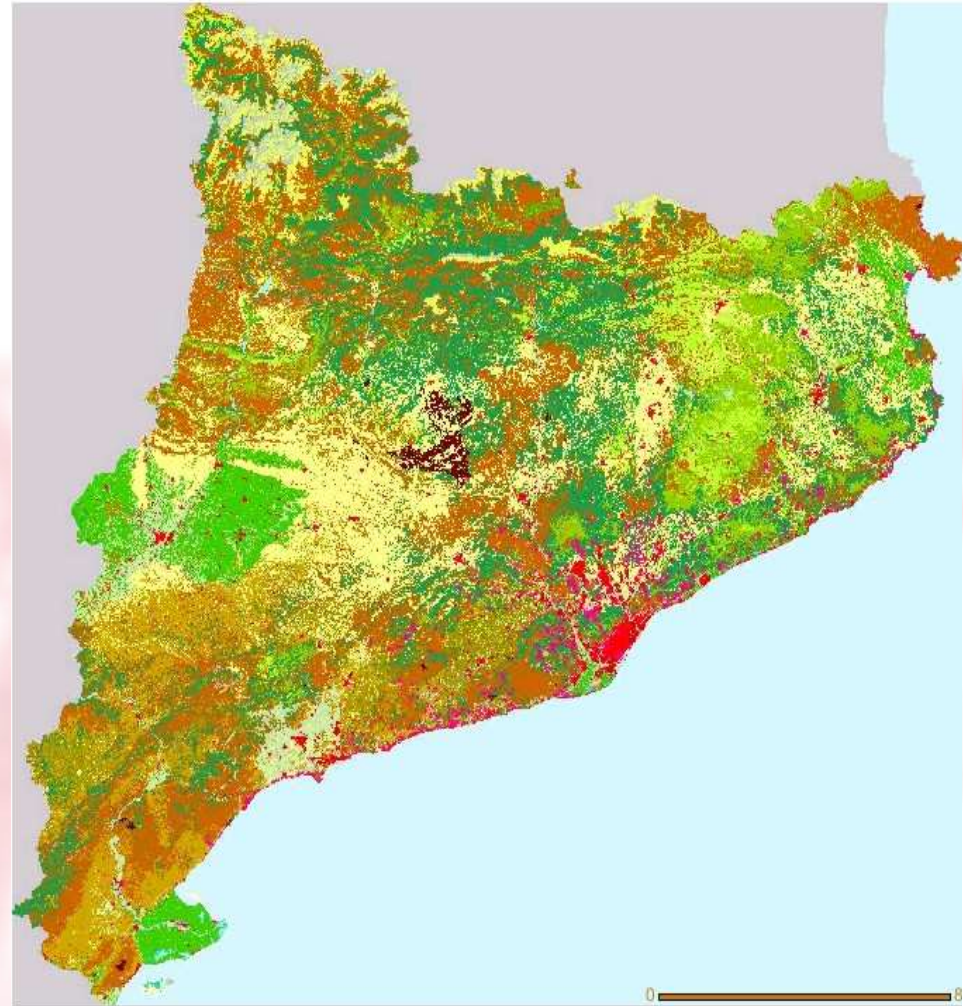
**Total area:**  
3.200.000 ha

**Forest:**  
2.000.000 ha

**Arable land:**  
922.000 ha

**Irrigated areas:**  
258.000 ha

**Urbanised areas:**  
213.000 ha



Font: DAR



# Main figures of agro- food Catalan sector (2007)

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- **Final Agricultural Production (FAP): 4.000 M €**
  - Agriculture : 40%
  - Livestock : 60%
  - Only 25% of FAP has direct aids
- **GDP at current prices:**
  - 32 % : pork production
  - 17% : fruits and vegetables
  - 11% : poultry
- **Number of farms: 40.000**
- **Sales agro industry:**
  - 18.000 M € (1<sup>st</sup> industrial sector in Catalonia)
  - Number of employees 80.000



## Percentage of production value Catalonia vs Spain (2007).

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	Catalonia vs Spain (%)
Pork production	23%
Pork export	61%
Production of apples, pears and peaches	40%
Exports of apples and pears	63%
Export of peaches, apricots cherries and prunes	25%
Chicken production	34%
Industry agro food sales.	22 %

## Supporting food policy through the management of agricultural markets

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- **62% of the Catalan surface is a forest area.**
- We are interested in preserving agriculture in mountain areas.**
- Agro food is an strategic sector for Catalan economy.**
- **In a future where markets will be more opened, we want to participate in them, and we shall boost all policies that lead us to this target.**
- Catalan agriculture stands mainly on pork , fruits and poultry production. For these sectors, market EU regulations are scarce and they do not include any direct aids. Only 25% of average farms income comes from EU direct subsidies.**
- Farms are negatively affected by price fluctuations and in each crisis the farms continuity is endangered.**

## Supporting food policy through the management of agricultural markets

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- We have to compete with farmers from third countries that produce with less labour rights, and lower environmental costs.**
- Import policy is managed by the EU, but export policy is managed by 27 Member States**
- Catalonia has successfully developed an agricultural insurance network and other tools, to protect farmers against natural risks: e.g. we have supported establishing anti-hail nets for fruit trees to guarantee market supply.**
- Catalan government has implemented EU policy on quality products and promotes supply concentration by promoting cooperatives and producers organisations.**
- We stand for a competitive agricultural sector and so we support production and transformed quality products.**



# Supporting food policy through the management of agricultural markets

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## Catalan proposals.

- 1.- EU has to set up a set of tool to mitigate market turbulences that create uncertainty to producers.
- 2.- Insurance has to be considered a useful instrument to protect farmers against natural risks.
- 3.- We propose an EU policy for international trade including both import and exports and not only imports as now.
- 4.- In a world market with foreseen food scarcity, EU has to consider agricultural activity an strategic and competitive sector.



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