New informatical demands in the agricultural government

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Abstract

To simplify procedures in connection with applications for area payments the The Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) (Mezőgazdasági és Vidékfejlesztési Hivatal; MVH) and the Central Agriculture Office (CAO) (Mezőgazdasági Szakigazgatási Hivatal; MgSzH) started to introduce electronic filling and submission of application forms in 2008. Already in 2007 it was possible for clients (more than 200 ha area) receiving unified area payments (SAPS) (hereinafter referred to as selected farmers) to submit Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS), Top-Up and in connection with those lands with unfavourable conditions relating (KAT) and the Agro-environment Management Programs (AKG) through the electronic form submission system (hereinafter referred to as e-admission). In 2008 every client had the possibility to create and submit his/her application for area payment electronically with a PC. The status of agriculture has changed significantly both from the side of the market and the social expectations in Europe. The CAP has had to be adjusted to the current changes. The reform process of the EU is still about the radical alteration of the market organisations, and a part of the alteration is the separation of the direct payments from the production (income donation) and they increase the prices in the Community so as to reach the world prices (pressure from the WTO, liberalisation in the market). By definition the EU focuses not on the quantity rather the quality and the aspects of environment, consumer protection and animal health when giving the donations (cross compliance). This means the changeover to the SPS (Single Payment Scheme) in the Hungarian Agriculture in the next years. The new SPS means such a donation system for the domestic farmers which doesn’t force the farmers to the production of the unsalable products. The changeover to the SPS also means the decoupling of the donations form of the production. However, in case of certain – underlined economical and sector and social politics – donation titles for example animal husbandry or horticulture the biding of the donation is possible to the production. The condition of the donation of the farmers is the observance of certain environmental, animal health and food quality standards. These conditions together mean the Cross Compliance system. The introduction of the cross compliance is the key task of the MgSZH in 2009. The condition of the agricultural donations is not the production but the observance of the requirements of the cross compliance.

Keywords: information systems, area payment, cross compliance, governmental databases

1. Introduction

Filling and submitting the applications electronically ensures that the data will be exact and the application technically flawless and this can be the basis for the payment of former financial support and avoidance of sanctions or subtractions due to technical faults.

In practice this means that after logging in through the Client Gate farmers can find their applications from former years and can actualize all their data (they can modify data for his parcels, parcel drawings etc.). After completing this they can submit the application form electronically. The program checks the technical appropriateness and completeness of the data
simultaneously with data input so the clients do not need to worry about sanctions due to formalities.

3 steps of submitting an application electronically:

1) The client or the advisor/local stakeholders identifies himself and downloads the 2008 application form for the parcel.
2) With the help of the internet-based form filling software they actualize the application data for 2008 (i.e. new crop type, adding a new parcel, creating a new parcel drawing, etc.)
3) Submitting the completed form through the Client Gate electronically.

2. The application process

- If the client has registered in the Client Gate he can download the application for 2008 after logging in.
- If the client is not registered, then he can call in a local stakeholder’s or a counsellor’s aid. The client supplies his login name and password and then he can download the application for area payment for the year 2008.

Client Gate registration

For submission it is recommended to be registered in Client Gate. Registration can take place in any office of the personal documents, ID-card, personal address card and an e-mail address are needed.

Electronic application package

Drawing in the agricultural parcels on unique block-maps in connection with parcel-row data is possible through the e-admission geographic information system with MePAR software. Before submission data can be saved and edited any time. After completing and closing the application its data cannot be modified electronically.

The electronic form-filler application can be found at e-kereslem.mvh.gov.hu.

3. Logging in the System

1) Logging in is possible through MVH Portal (http://e-kereslem.mvh.gov.hu)
   Click on the following icon:

2) Press this button: ügyfélkapus bejelentkezés.
Login to the Client Gate with your login name; then press this button: **Elektronikus kérelmek**.

3) From the list titled „Kérelem típusa” („Type of application”) choose ‘2008 Területalapú kérelem’ („Area payment application 2008”), or ’2008 Területalapú kérelem módosítása’ („Modification of area payment application 2008”).

Main form handler function buttons:

Exit (Kilépés): Return to the previous interface.

Map view (Térkép nézet): by pressing this button the client can start MePAR and is able to draw in the parcel.

4. Editing application header data


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Here the parcel data approved by the farmer in 2007 are present. As in the case of the header (main page) all data can be overwritten, modified, expanded or deleted. To make any row active just click on any of its cells with the left button.
The farmer has to check personalized data to see if they suit the actual parcel data of 2008. If any of them has changed the correct data must be written to the given cell of that data type. This way the data in the modified cells will be the basis for the area payment in 2008.

5. Displaying errors and warning messages

The software basically checks the technical correspondence of data and the connections of the data cells in the filled form (i.e. does the given land block exist, how big area is qualified for payment, etc). As long as all errors are not eliminated there is no way to complete the form and send it through the Client Gate. At the bottom of the web page all errors are listed. By clicking on the code number detailed explanation is available.

6. Drawing parcels with the drawing interface

More explanation for the drawing interface:

Values for given parcel’ data are also displayed on the drawing interface (and of course they correspond to the data given on the main page).

Drawing parcels: the vector-points of each parcel must be drawn with the double click of the mouse. Vector points already given can be moved around with drag-and-drop using the left mouse button.
If the farmer would like to add a new block in 2008 (maybe because he bought or leased a new area) he could do so by searching on the MePAR interface.

Save: Saving geometry.

Online saving to a server.

The program warns the user if the sketch drawn touches an area or block not qualified for area payment.

Checking: with this function the software warns to errors made during drawing the map.

Parcel drawing data import/export

Recently many parcels were measured exactly with GPS. These files can be loaded to the e-SAPS system. At the same time the map drawings created with the system can also be exported.

**Last year’s map:** Shows the block’s image that was scanned during the previous year.

### 7. Confirming and printing the application

- **Confirmation:** Only possible if the application has no errors. It is shown by the following text on top of the application: „Document may be saved and submitted” ("Menthető beadható bizonylat") and at the same time the „Confirmation” (“Véglegesítés”) button becomes active.
- **Methods of submitting the application:**
  - Electronically through the Client Gate: in this case only the legal warrants must be signed and electronically sent to the Client Gate;
  - On paper: in this case all pages of the application must be signed and sent by post to the authorized office of the ARDA;
- **By pressing “Print” (“Nyomtatás”) we can create a *.pdf document containing the application, save or print the application;**
- **Acknowledgement:** After sending the confirmed application through the Client Gate to ARDA the sender receives two e-mails:
  - One of them is the time stamp (its function is the same as the time stamp containing the time and date of bringing the documents to the post office in the case of paper-based applications)
  - The other contains a reference number (also present in the e-mail sent by the ARDA about the reception) to identify the client with the application.

### 8. The Single Payment Scheme

The Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is the principal agricultural subsidy scheme in the European Union. Under the scheme farmers have greater freedom to farm to the demands of the market as subsidies are no longer linked to production, and environmentally friendly farming practices (known as cross compliance) are better acknowledged and rewarded.
Cross compliance requirements apply to anyone who receives direct payments under Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) support schemes or receives payments under certain Rural Development schemes.

There are three types of cross compliance requirements:

- specific European legal requirements, known as Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs)
- domestic legal requirements requiring land be kept in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC)
- requirements to maintain a level of permanent pasture not included in the crop rotation for 5 years or more – this is not currently a cross compliance requirement for individual farmers, but may become one in future years.

Cross compliance requirements apply in addition to underlying obligations under European and UK legislation. All agricultural activities are covered by cross compliance and claimants must comply with the requirements across the whole agricultural area of their holding, regardless of the amount of land entered into the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). The Hungarian Agricultural Government would like to introduce this system in the near future. Introducing this new system requires new informatics demands which will have new challenges.

9. Conclusion

Based on the experiences of the users we can say that the developers of the system have created a well-considered program which is easy to learn and accessible to anyone over the Internet. The limitation of the system is the capacity of the server providing the service (of course only if we assume that users fulfil the minimum requirements of the software). The MgSzH has really composite and incompatible informatics systems and the inner business administration control is completely missing. The adequacy of the above mentioned requirement insures a standard basic database and substitute the composite and obsolete systems and provides modern service for customers. The program requires more institutions cooperation because the function of FVM and the MVH and MgSZH are concerned responsible for different tasks.

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