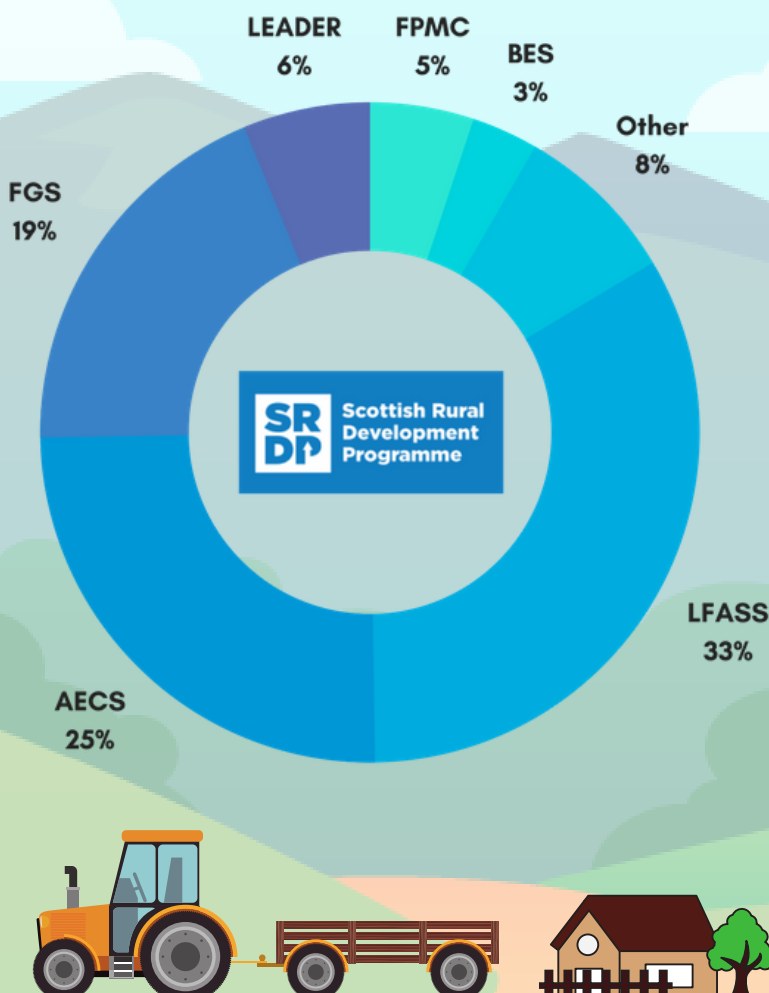




The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) allocates EU and Scottish Government funding to economic, environmental and social measures for the benefit of rural Scotland. It does so through a comprehensive range of bespoke schemes, designed to enhance the rural economy, support agriculture and forestry, improve the environment, address climate change and support rural communities.

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) monitors and reports on progress in the SRDP in detail. It is presented to the EU every year.

Structure



Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (LFASS)

Provides essential income support to farming businesses in remote and constrained rural areas.

Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS)

Promoting land management practices to protect and enhance natural heritage, water quality, manage flood risk and respond to climate change.

Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS)

Supporting creation and sustainable management of woodlands.

LEADER

Bottom-up support to communities for rural development.

Food Processing Marketing & Co-operation (FPMC)

Provides grants for construction of buildings, market research, product development and co-operation.

Beef Efficiency Scheme (BES)

Developing cattle genetics and management practice on-farm.

Other

Farm Advisory Service, Technical Assistance, Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme, Knowledge Transfer & Innovation Fund, New Entrants Capital Grant Scheme, Environmental Co-operation Action Fund, Broadband, Improving Public Access, Small Farms Grant Scheme, Young Farmers Start-up Grant Scheme, New Entrants Start-up Grant Scheme

The AIR contains an independent assessment of the performance of the SRDP from 2014 to 2016. Although it is too early to assess the impact of schemes against their objectives, it concludes that **the design of the schemes and their operation are working towards addressing SRDP aims**. More detail overleaf.



PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE



- More than **three quarters** of the expenditure in the first three years of the Programme has been delivered through three schemes: **LFASS (€135.0M)**, **AECS (€89.7M)** and the **FGS (€84.7M)**
- Expenditure to the end of 2016 was **€396.6M**. This is **23.4%** of the planned total for the Programme (2014 - 2020)
- Spending on **AECS** and **FGS** was higher than average due to continuing commitments from the previous Programme
- Some newer schemes incurred no spend to the end of 2016 due to start up time: **Beef Efficiency Scheme**, **Improving Public Access** (although some applications were approved), **Broadband**, and **Environmental Co-operation Action Fund** (now withdrawn)

OUTPUTS



- The level of expenditure and outputs has been **lower than anticipated** in the first three years of the Programme due to its formal approval only being agreed in May 2015. All schemes are now launched and outputs should **increase through 2017**
- **AECS** supported **895,950 ha** of land including **63,00 ha** supporting **organic farming**
- The **FGS** supported **179,725 ha of land** including **12,145 of woodland creation**
- **LEADER** supported **263 projects**, of which **29 were co-operation projects**
- **LFASS** supported **11,488 holdings** and **2,305,901 ha of land**
- The **Young Farmers Start Up Grant Scheme** has supported **105 beneficiaries**

COMMUNICATIONS



- SRDP Communications is underpinned by an **Information and Publicity Strategy**. It is publicly available at bit.ly/SRDPCOMMS
- Engagements with customers have been through the **media**, the **Rural Payments and Inspections** website and through events such as the **Royal Highland Show**
- The **Scottish Rural Network** is set up as a dedicated resource to engage with the public on SRDP and other rural development matters



Scottish
Government
gov.scot