



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rural Development Programme

An overview of what is available

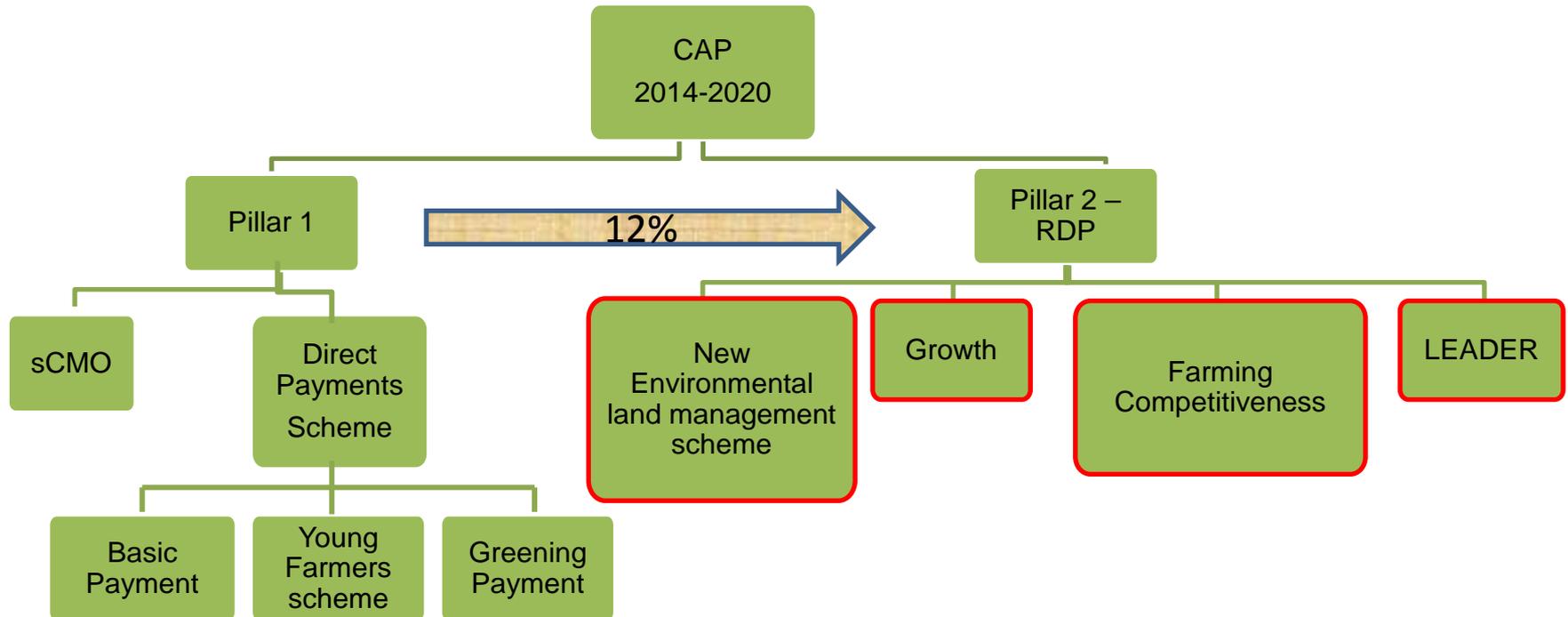
Naomi Oakley
26 November 2014



Rural Development Programme part of the CAP and covers England.

The CAP has two pillars:

- Pillar 1 for direct payments to farmers and market control measures; and
- Pillar 2 to promote rural development. **The new England RDP has three main elements all relevant to the organics sector.**



New RDPE

- The new programme is a major opportunity to:
 - Improve the environment
 - Promote strong economic growth
 - Increase the productivity and efficiency of farming and forestry businesses
- We can build on the successes of the 2007-2013 programme

Rural Development Programme negotiations – update on timings

- Formal comments received 10 November
- Intensive negotiations are ongoing
- Very tight deadline for approval
- If Programmes not approved in principle by end 2014, they will be delayed till June 2015

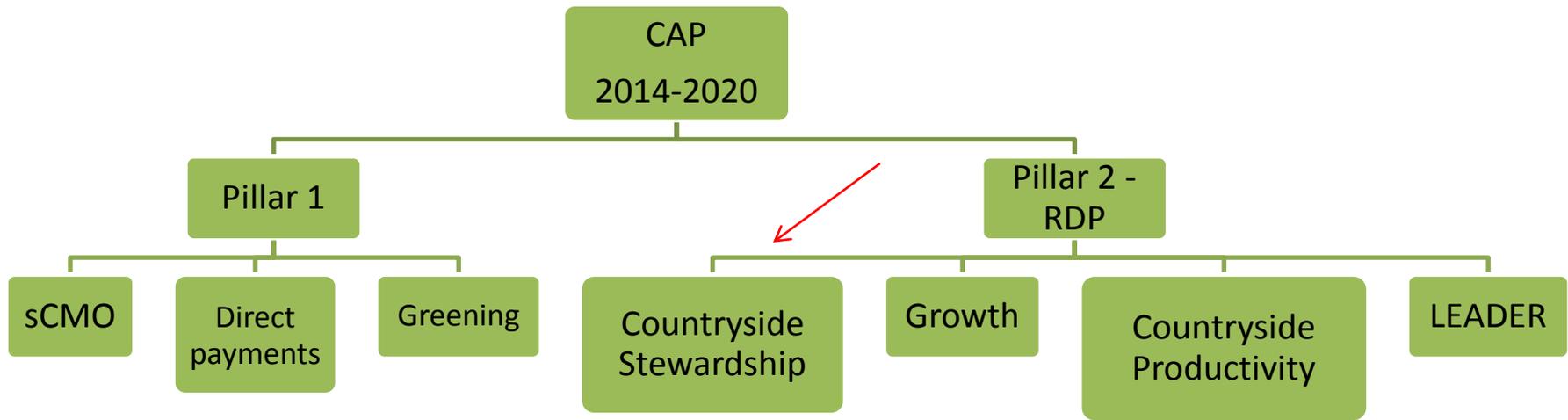
New schemes will deliver across 6 priorities of the EU Rural Development Regulation 2014-20.

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation
- Enhancing competitiveness and farm viability
- Promoting food chain organisation and risk management
- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems
- Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy
- Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.



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Countryside Stewardship £925M



Update – Countryside Stewardship

- Countryside Stewardship scheme announced 4 November, alongside pollinator strategy
- CAP leaflet next week will have more details
- Ministerial stocktake with stakeholders held on 4 Nov
- Stakeholder workshop 4 Dec to take forward work on:
 - Control framework
 - Advice in the middle tier
 - Targeting

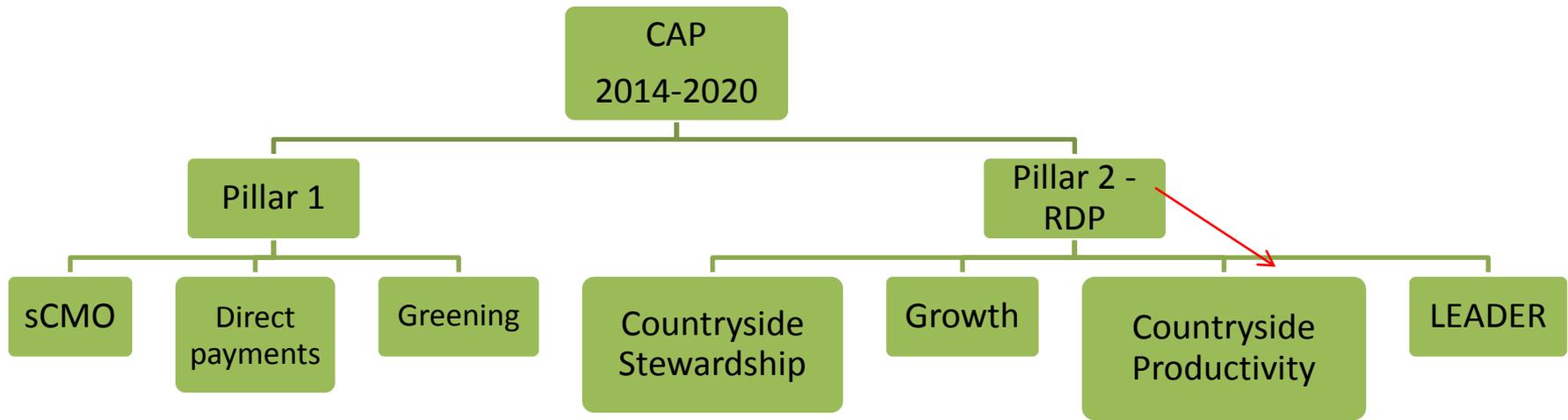
Environment scheme main opportunity for organics sector

- **Higher Tier:** multiple year agreements for farmers and land-owners, with a main focus on designated and priority sites.
- **Mid-Tier:** multiple year agreements for farmers and land-owners, aiming for agreements addressing the environmental priorities in each geographical area.
- **Capital grants:** To support environmental objectives, including boundary features maintenance and restoration; water capital and woodland creation.



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Countryside Productivity £140M



Countryside Productivity

- We will run a new Countryside Productivity Scheme which will invest around £141m into the English countryside from 2015-2020.
- Grants will be available to:
 - support businesses wishing to invest in innovative new equipment and structures. Available early 2015 when we'll publish a detailed list of the specific items that will be eligible for funding and arrangements for applying.
 - business start up grants for young farmers and other businesses. Available summer 2015. May ask for expressions of interest in early 2015
 - run EIP operational groups. Available summer 2015. May ask for expressions of interest in early 2015
- The second part of the scheme will consist of a wide range of support targeted at a number of high priority areas. Initially these will include:
 - support to skills, knowledge exchange and demonstration farms. Currently available but new offers will start to begin from spring 2015.
 - **Integrated projects combining grants, training and advice. Covering animal health endemic disease, the wood-fuel supply chain and nitrogen efficiency.** Begin later in 2015.

Grants to help translate latest research and innovation into practice

Grants for researchers, advisers, foresters, and farmers to test out new ideas, apply research in practice, and exchange knowledge and information.

Type of support available:

Grants for the costs of running groups to conduct innovative projects on issues of sustainability and productivity.

How will it be targeted?

Support to help groups form provided by National Rural Network events and communications. Grants available to bring partners together and aligned with agri-tech strategy implementation. Stakeholders are very keen on this.

When available?

Expressions of interest and publicity in

Early 2015

Grant applications from **July 2015**

£5m available between **2015-2020**

An example of the type of projects we are looking at would be:

Soil Association/Duchy Originals Future Farming Programme, comprising:

- “Field Labs” - farmers and growers (organic and non-organic) meet with a researcher and facilitator up to 4 times, to trial solutions and exchange knowledge on farmers’ research questions.
- Applied research fund – grants of up to £25,000 for applied research or pilot projects, developed jointly between farmers, growers and scientists.

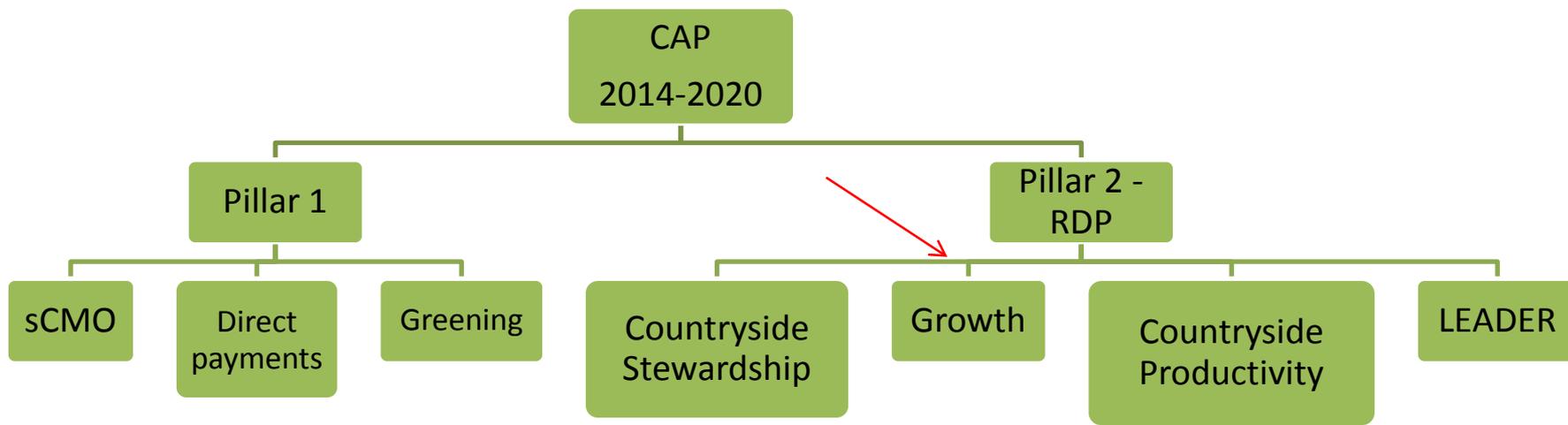


In first 2 years of the programme, 450 farmers participated in field labs on 22 topics; £111,000 was granted in 7 practical research projects.



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Growth Programme £177M



Growth Programme can also be possible avenue for forest sector

The following menu of options is available to LEP areas, which they can choose from to meet specific local priorities. (Figures are based on LEP local strategies.)

Micro, small and medium-sized business support (£96m)

- Capital or revenue grants to individual businesses

Promoting rural tourism (£20m)

- Support for collaborative Destination Management
- Grants for individual tourist attractions, initiatives and businesses

Investments in rural broadband and renewables (£37m)

- Broadband infrastructure for hard-to-reach rural areas
- Grants for renewable heat and energy projects

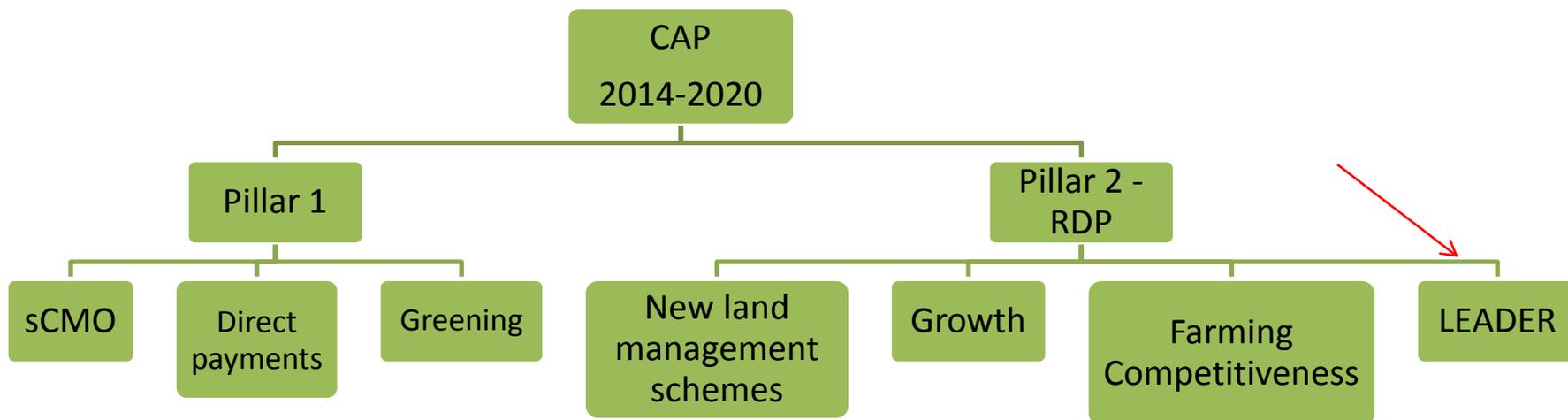
Training and skills for rural businesses (£24m)

- Procured business training advice services



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LEADER £138M



LEADER can directly support organics

Grants

Funding delivered through LEADER Local Action Groups to create jobs and growth in rural areas

Grants mainly for smaller projects in rural areas. Grants are available in six main areas:

- To increase farm productivity
- To support SMEs and start-up businesses in rural areas
- To support rural tourism
- To provide rural services
- To provide cultural and heritage activity
- To increase forestry productivity

LEADER groups

70% of funding directly supporting the rural economy to create jobs and growth

87 applications received, to be assessed equally against selection criteria. Unlikely to support all

Approval panel to make decisions and announcements in **mid-November**

New groups to be up and running from **January 2015** subject to conclusion of appeals and issuing of contracts

Nationally consistent operating manual to be issued to successful LEADER groups in **February 2015**, with full suite of training offered to staff

