

## GREEN INDICATORS: SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### ZÖLD INDIKÁTOROK- AVAGY FENNTARTHATÓ- E A VIDÉK FEJLESZTÉSE?

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Sustainable development is defined as a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Definitions of sustainable agriculture and rural development are generally concerned with the need for agricultural practices to be economically viable, to meet human needs for food, to be environmentally positive, and to be concerned with quality of life.

The New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan (NHRDSP) consist of the strategic frame of the Hungarian rural development program between 2007- 2013. The NHRDSP is in line with the Lisbon strategy and Goeteborg principles and tries to bridge sustainable development with rural development. This document states the aims and measures of Hungarian agriculture ad rural development. All the measures are evaluated by indicators. Indicators regarding the environment or presenting sustainable development are tight in the document in spite of the importance: *give information for decision makers, help to develop applicable policy and give feedback for the policy.* This study presents the measures set in the NHRDSP and green (sustainability) indicators regarding the measures. Beside applying green indicators presented in the document, improvement of sustainability indicators are desirable in order to promote and realize sustainability in rural development. The method of collecting, assessing and evaluating data is not mentioned in the document. It des not mention publicity or how decision- makers will be informed about results of the targets stated in the plan.

During the process of elaboration of rural development policies we must focus on beside the three aspects of sustainability (as ecology- economy and society) global values. Beside the mentioned lacks of the plan it tries to focus on sustainability considering the EU guidelines. Measuring sustainability by green indicators, which are in line with the priority of sustainable (rural) development, can contribute to the social-ecological process characterized by the fulfillment of human needs while maintaining the quality of the natural environment indefinitely.

**Kulcsszavak:** környezet, gazdaság, társadalom vidékfejlesztés, indikátorok

**Keywords:** ecology, economy, society, rural development, indicators