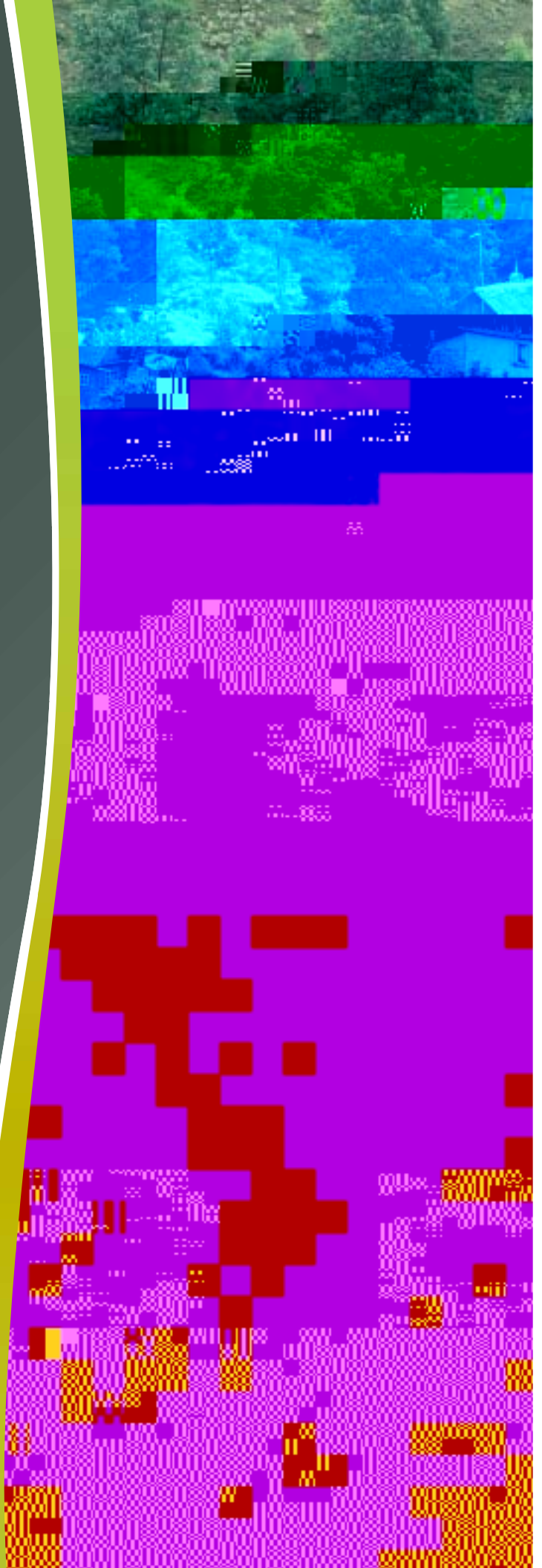


# Agriculture in the Central and Eastern Europe

## Background

The policies of the European Union have a large impact on biodiversity both within the Union's borders and beyond them. In Western Europe the intensification of agricultural practices, promoted by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the EU, has led to widespread habitat loss and fragmentation. Although reforms are currently underway to the CAP and more funds are being allocated to rural development, further work is required to integrate biodiversity conservation into agriculture policy and practice. In Eastern Europe, as countries went through a period of dramatic political change, the use of chemical inputs and irrigation declined dramatically, however practices such as land abandonment, under-grazing and poverty of rural communities are presenting new problems. Farmers and their communities lack alternative income sources to enable them to continue farming practices which are beneficial to the maintenance of landscapes and biodiversity.



oject focuses on high-nature-value areas

