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German Introduction of Single Farm Payments

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Prepared for the National Audit Office

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Summary

1. National Audit Office (NAO), as part of VFM study into the way Single Farm Payments were introduced in England, asked RAND Europe to undertake a comparative analysis of the introduction of Single Farm Payments in Germany. The context of this study is the problematic and delayed distribution of Single Farm Payments by the Rural Payments Agency in England.
2. This comparison aims to shed light on the relative success of the introduction of payments in England and may draw out examples of interesting practice in terms of the technicalities of the scheme introduced in Germany and any remedial steps taken to address problems in the processing of farm payments.
3. The study produced the following findings:
 - The German decision on the payment model occurred at the end of 2003 after intense negotiations with the federal states and stakeholders.
 - The federal states administer payment and measurement systems in Germany.
 - The 'dynamic hybrid model' will evolve in the period 2009-2013 to a 'regional model'.
 - The 50,000 new claimants in Germany are mainly small and/or specialised farmers.
 - There were three main causes of delays of payments in 2005: the determination of entitlements; the Geographic Information Systems used by the federal states; and cross-compliance.
 - The German government resorted to partial payments in September 2005 when it became clear that a single final payment could not be made by December 2005.
 - Single farm payments in 2006 seem on track.
 - The German government effectively managed the expectations of the farming community.