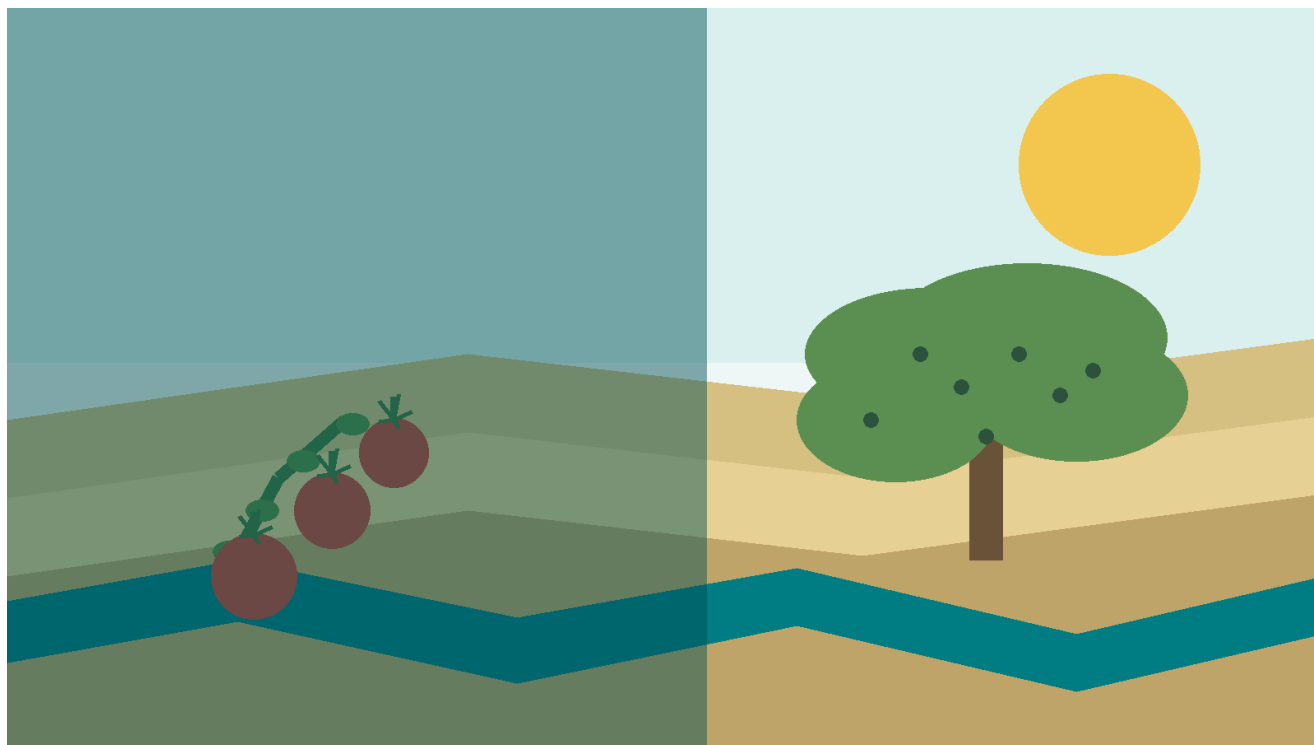




REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Food security, agricultural livelihoods and drought resilience in Basilicata

Priority sectors: Tomatoes and olives | Implementation horizon: 2026-2030

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

A practical policy submission for regional authorities, agricultural actors and decision makers. It consolidates the ECO-READY planning arguments into an operational contingency plan that can be activated, funded and monitored.

Prepared as an operational policy draft

Primary source: ECO-READY Task 5.3 report, "Contingency planning arguments - the case of Basilicata, Italy". Planning values should be validated against current regional data before formal adoption.

June 2026

Document control and use

Item	Description
Region	Basilicata, Italy
Primary hazard	Drought, water scarcity and heat stress
Priority products	Processing tomatoes and olives / olive oil
Primary target groups	Farmers, farm households, seasonal workers, cooperatives and linked processors
Decision audience	Regione Basilicata, municipalities, irrigation consortia, national authorities, producer organizations, processors, retailers, banks, insurers, advisory bodies and civil society
Planning horizon	Immediate activation measures plus a 2026-2030 resilience programme
Status	Submission-ready policy draft; operational thresholds and baselines require validation before formal adoption

HOW TO USE THE PLAN

Use Sections 3-5 during an emerging drought alert. Use Sections 6-12 for programme design, funding decisions and implementation monitoring. The annex provides a compact action matrix for operational meetings.

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Executive decision brief	Policy choice, immediate decisions and headline targets
1	Purpose and food-security relevance
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Executive decision brief

Basilicata requires a coordinated drought-contingency strategy that protects food-system functions and rural livelihoods without attempting to preserve every production pattern unchanged. The recommended response is a hybrid strategy: stabilize tomato production in viable irrigated zones, strengthen olive production as a resilience pillar, and support farms in high-risk areas to transition towards lower-water crops and diversified income sources.

3,000 ha Tomato area exposed to water stress	600 L/s Indicative peak tomato irrigation allocation cited in the report	EUR 55m RTC-DI core multi-source investment envelope
EUR 6.5m Optimal coordination budget through 2030	2,000 ha Tomato area to preserve in viable zones	500-800 ha Land to transition to legumes, olives or herbs

RECOMMENDED POLICY POSITION

Approve the hybrid pathway as the regional default: preserve strategically viable tomato production; protect olive-based livelihoods and landscapes; activate a transparent early-warning system; and establish a Regional Coordination Unit for Agricultural Climate Resilience (RCU-ACR).

Decisions requested in the first 60 days

1. Approve the hybrid contingency strategy as the regional operating framework.
2. Establish an interim RCU-ACR coordination team and mandate a formal Regional Council decision.
3. Validate the priority zones, current reservoir thresholds, affected hectares and farm baselines with ALSIA, irrigation consortia, municipalities and producer organizations.
4. Launch a rapid water-efficiency and emergency-readiness package before the next high-risk summer period.
5. Prepare a multi-source funding package with a full RTC-DI envelope of EUR 55 million and a limited-budget fallback package.
6. Agree a public drought-status communication protocol and an annual monitoring dashboard.

Headline outcomes by 2030

Outcome area	Target
Tomatoes	Approximately 2,000 ha preserved in viable zones; 70% of tomato farms using precision irrigation
Transition and olives	500-800 ha transitioned to lower-water systems; at least 1,500 ha of olive groves under resilient management
Knowledge and markets	More than 200 farmers trained; at least five alternative or strengthened value chains operating
Coordination	RCU-ACR operational with annual reporting, participatory reviews and an action dashboard

Source basis: ECO-READY Basilicata report, especially pp. 32-39. Targets are programme design values and should be confirmed during inception.

1. Purpose and food-security relevance

This plan translates the source report into an operational framework that can guide decisions before, during and after drought-related agricultural crises. It combines emergency response, farm-income protection, production stabilization and structural adaptation.

1.1 Why this is a food-security plan

The immediate risk is not the complete disappearance of tomatoes or olive oil from consumer markets. Basilicata can trade with other regions. The deeper concern is the erosion of regional food-system capacity: declining production, weakened processors, lost jobs, falling purchasing power in rural households and abandoned agricultural land. These effects reduce stability and resilience and can increase social vulnerability.

Food-security dimension	Regional risk	Planning response
Availability	Lower output of tomatoes, olives, vegetables and linked products	Protect viable production zones and emergency water allocation
Economic access	Income losses for farms and seasonal workers reduce household purchasing power	Bridge finance, insurance, risk funds and livelihood diversification
Stability	Recurring crop shocks disrupt processors, logistics and farm planning	Early warning, contracts, mutual funds and coordinated supply planning
Long-term resilience	Farm exits, land abandonment, soil damage and rural outmigration	Water efficiency, dryland transition, olive-grove renewal and value-chain development

1.2 Guiding principles

- Act early, before reservoirs and farm liquidity reach crisis levels.
- Target public support where it prevents the largest cascading losses.
- Protect production only where future water supply and economic viability are credible.
- Prioritize farm incomes, regional employment and rural continuity.
- Use co-financing and private participation to stretch limited public funds.
- Review the plan annually and adjust it as climate conditions and funding opportunities evolve.

2. Regional risk profile and baseline

Basilicata is a predominantly rural region in southern Italy. Its food economy combines high-value irrigated production in lowland areas with extensive olive groves and mixed farms in hilly and interior zones. The source report identifies drought and water scarcity as top-tier risks, intensified by hotter summers, aging infrastructure and soil degradation.

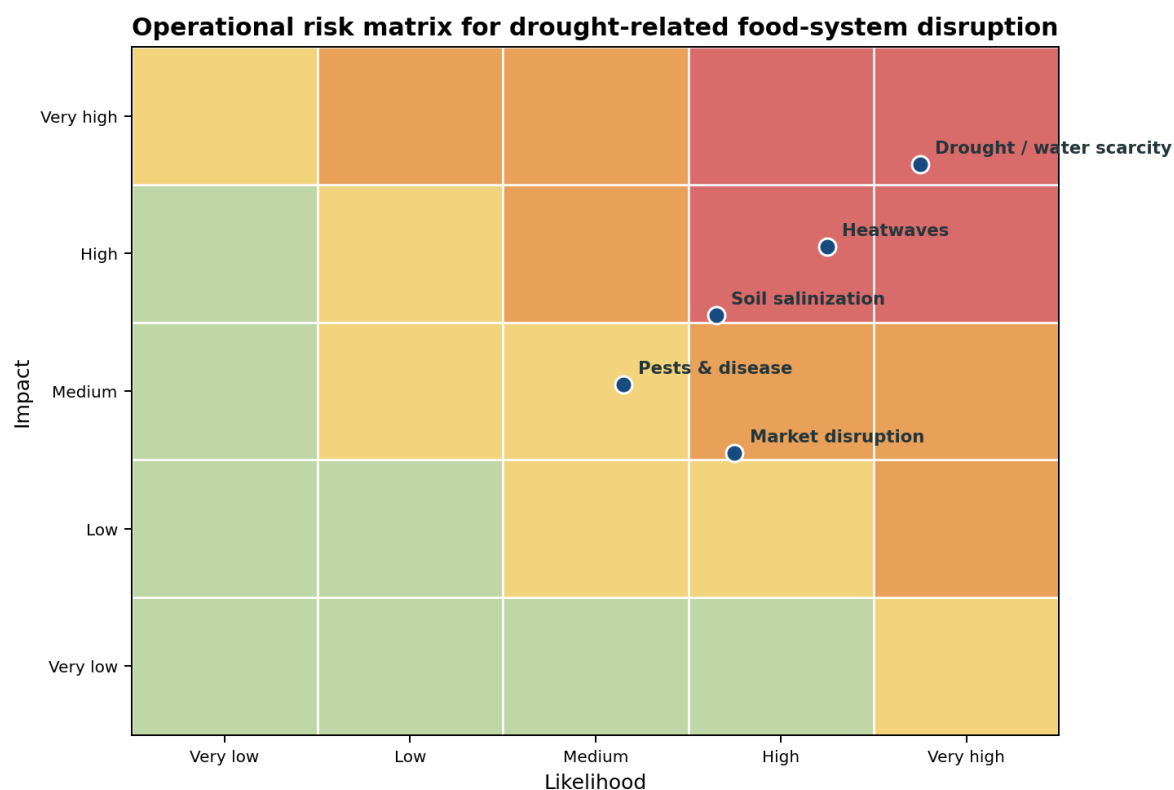


Figure 1. Operational risk matrix. Positions are planning judgements derived from the source report and must be updated with current monitoring data.

2.1 Main hazards

Hazard	Main mechanism	Affected functions	Operational priority
Drought and water scarcity	Reservoir depletion, low river flow and restricted irrigation	Tomato yields, olive yields, vegetable output and farm liquidity	Very high
Heatwaves	Flowering disruption, low fruit set, sunscald and quality loss	Tomatoes and horticulture; olive fruit retention	Very high
Irrigation inefficiency	Leakage, undercapacity and unequal delivery during peak demand	Irrigated production and conflict over allocation	High
Soil degradation and salinization	Long-term decline in water retention and productivity	Intensive tomato zones and dryland conversion areas	High
Pests and plant disease	Climate stress increases vulnerability and management cost	Tomatoes and olives	Medium-high
Market and processor disruption	Insufficient raw material and uncertain supply volumes	Processors, logistics and rural jobs	High

2.2 Tomato exposure

Tomatoes are a strategic cash crop in irrigated areas, particularly in Lavello and Metapontino. The report cites approximately 3,000 ha exposed to drought and only around 600 L/s allocated for tomato irrigation during peak

periods. Farm-level net profit is estimated at EUR 2,000-5,000 per hectare. For specialized irrigated farms, tomatoes can account for 50-80% of income; for mixed farms, the crop often provides 20-40% of net income and essential summer liquidity.

CASCADING RISK

A sudden tomato-production collapse would affect more than farms: processors, packing facilities, irrigation consortia, suppliers, logistics providers and seasonal employment would also be exposed. The report estimates a gross farm-revenue loss of roughly EUR 12-36 million if production stopped across 3,000 ha.

2.3 Olive exposure

Olive production is widespread across Basilicata and is central to family incomes, landscapes and cultural identity. The consolidation section of the report highlights more than 32,000 olive farms cultivating approximately 27,000 ha and describes a dramatic olive-oil output collapse during the 2024 drought. Small holdings are especially vulnerable because a near-zero harvest can remove an important supplementary income source while increasing the risk of grove abandonment.

2.4 Baseline values requiring validation

Indicator	Planning value from source report	Validation lead
Tomato area exposed	Approximately 3,000 ha	ALSIA, producer organizations and irrigation consortia
Peak irrigation allocation for tomatoes	Approximately 600 L/s	Irrigation consortia
Tomato gross revenue per ha	EUR 4,200-12,000	Producer organizations and processors
Tomato net income per ha	EUR 2,000-5,000	Farm-accountancy review
Olive-farm count	More than 32,000 holdings cited in consolidation section	Regional agricultural register / ISTAT
Olive area	Approximately 27,000 ha cited in consolidation section	Regional land-use data
RCU-ACR budget options	EUR 3.3m minimum / EUR 6.5m optimal through 2030	Regione Basilicata

Important: the plan uses the attached report as its primary evidence base. Figures are indicative planning values and should be audited before legal or financial commitments are made.

3. Strategic choice: a hybrid pathway

The source report compares three broad directions: phasing out tomato production, attempting broad stabilization, and applying a hybrid strategy. The hybrid option is recommended because it balances near-term economic continuity with long-term resilience and lower future public burden.

Scenario	Main approach	Strengths	Limitations
A. Accelerated withdrawal	Phase out tomato production in severely exposed areas	Reduces irrigation pressure and avoids repeated rescue spending	High farm-income losses, supply-chain disruption and difficult transition
B. Broad stabilization	Maintain current production through extensive infrastructure, insurance and support	Lower initial disruption; strong olive-specific support	Higher cost; depends on infrastructure success; recurring public support likely
C. Hybrid strategy - recommended	Preserve viable tomato zones, strengthen olives and transition exposed farms	More climate-resilient and cost-effective; supports continuity and adaptation	Requires zoning, coordination, transition support and transparent prioritization

3.1 Recommended policy logic

- Stabilize production clusters that are strategic for the value chain and can be supplied efficiently with water.
- Avoid spending scarce funds to maintain permanently vulnerable cropping patterns.
- Treat olive groves as an economic, cultural and landscape-resilience asset.
- Provide structured transition support where tomato production is no longer credible.
- Use market contracts, processing investment and cooperative action so that alternative crops generate income rather than merely reduce water demand.

CORE PROGRAMME

Implement the Resilient Tomato and Crop Diversification Initiative (RTC-DI), with a EUR 55 million multi-source envelope. Add a Regional Coordination Unit for Agricultural Climate Resilience (RCU-ACR), budgeted at EUR 3.3 million in a minimum scenario or EUR 6.5 million in the recommended scenario.

4. Activation levels and decision triggers

The plan should be activated through a five-level drought-management system. The final thresholds must be defined using current reservoir data, rainfall and heat forecasts, crop-stage information, irrigation demand and field observations. The values below are governance rules rather than hydrological thresholds.

Level	Situation	Illustrative trigger signals	Required decisions
0 - Preparedness	Normal operations with structural drought risk	Seasonal planning period; no immediate shortage	Update risk maps, training, maintenance, funding readiness and contact lists
1 - Alert	Drought risk is emerging	Below-average rainfall, reservoir deterioration or heatwave forecasts	Convene RCU-ACR, publish status note, increase monitoring and prepare water prioritization
2 - Serious shortage	Restrictions likely; crop stress increasing	Low reservoir trajectory, reduced river flow or visible field stress	Activate irrigation schedule, rapid advisory support, processor coordination and insurance documentation
3 - Crisis	Major losses expected or occurring	Severe allocation limits, widespread stress or harvest-failure risk	Emergency grants, targeted water measures, labour and social support, damage assessment
4 - Recovery and transition	Immediate crisis eases but structural damage remains	Post-harvest loss assessment and farm-liquidity review	Replanting, diversification, processor investment, evaluation and plan revision

4.1 Minimum information dashboard

Data stream	Update frequency during alert	Responsible actor
Reservoir levels, river flows and irrigation delivery	Weekly; more frequently during crisis	Irrigation consortia
Rainfall, heatwave forecasts and soil moisture	Weekly / event-driven	ALSIA, universities and weather services
Crop-stage and field-stress observations	Weekly in priority zones	ALSIA, cooperatives and farm advisers
Expected processor supply volumes	Biweekly	Producer organizations and processors
Farm-income and employment effects	Monthly during crisis	Regione, municipalities and farm organizations
Funding commitments and payments	Monthly	RCU-ACR and AGEA liaison

5. Operational response: first 90 days

5.1 Actions within the first 30 days of an alert

Action	Lead	Supporting actors	Immediate result
Convene emergency coordination meeting	Regione Basilicata / interim RCU-ACR	ALSIA, consortia, municipalities, producer organizations	Shared operating picture and decision log
Publish a drought-status report	RCU-ACR	Technical and research bodies	Transparent communication and common assumptions
Map critical tomato and olive zones	ALSIA	Cooperatives, municipalities and advisers	Targeting of scarce water and assistance
Implement temporary irrigation-priority rules	Irrigation consortia	Regione and farmer representatives	Protection of crops at critical growth stages
Deploy rapid farm advisory services	ALSIA	CREA, university, cooperatives	Lower avoidable yield losses
Notify processors of supply scenarios	Producer organizations	Processors and logistics providers	Continuity planning for facilities and contracts
Support loss documentation and claims	AGEA liaison / insurers	Cooperatives and advisers	Faster payouts and lower liquidity stress
Monitor seasonal-labour impacts	Municipalities	Labour organizations and civil society	Early identification of social risks

5.2 Actions within 30-90 days

- Provide bridge financing or emergency grants to farms with verified drought losses and credible continuation plans.
- Use targeted emergency irrigation only where it protects high-value crops and does not undermine longer-term water sustainability.
- Accelerate small water-efficiency investments: leak repairs, drip-line upgrades, sensors and scheduling support.
- Launch processor adaptation meetings and alternative-crop purchase discussions.
- Establish a rural-employment response for seasonal workers and labour-intensive farms.
- Begin post-crisis land and crop-transition assessments in the most exposed zones.

5.3 Emergency decision checklist

Question	Decision owner	Deadline after Level 2 activation
Which production zones receive priority water and why?	Irrigation consortia with RCU-ACR oversight	Within 7 days
Which farms qualify for immediate bridge support?	Regione / AGEA liaison	Within 21 days
What raw-material volumes can processors expect?	Producer organizations and processors	Within 14 days
Where are social and labour risks emerging?	Municipalities and civil society partners	Within 30 days
Which measures require budget reallocation?	Regione and RCU-ACR funding group	Within 30 days

6. Resilience programme 2026-2030

The RTC-DI core investment envelope is designed as a multi-source programme rather than a single subsidy instrument. It combines water efficiency, farm transition, risk management, processing and knowledge transfer.

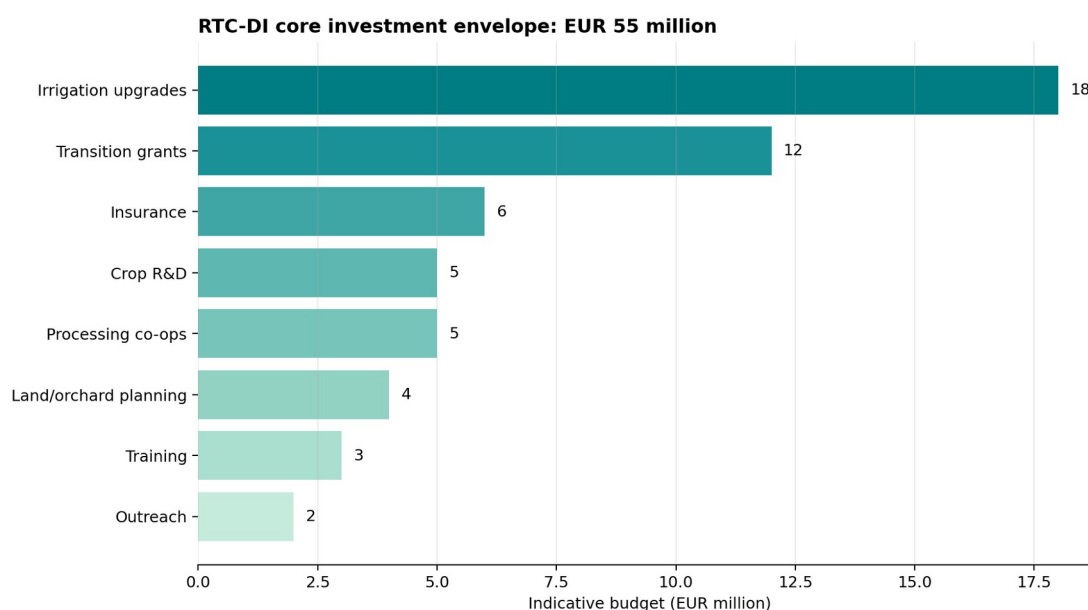


Figure 2. Indicative RTC-DI core envelope. Total requested funding: EUR 55 million.

Action area	Period	Budget	Purpose
Irrigation upgrades in core tomato zones	2026-2028	EUR 18m	Improve water delivery and expand drip systems
Transition grants for diversification	2027-2030	EUR 12m	Per-hectare support for switching to dryland crops and resilient systems
Tomato crop-insurance support	2026-2029	EUR 6m	Subsidize climate-indexed risk insurance
R&D for drought-tolerant tomatoes	2026-2029	EUR 5m	Develop heat-resilient and water-efficient cultivars
Processing support for legumes, herbs and olives	2027-2030	EUR 5m	Infrastructure and coordination grants
Land-use planning and orchard transition	2027-2030	EUR 4m	Zoning, orchard support and leasing platforms
Training for dryland farming	2026-2030	EUR 3m	Agronomic and financial training
Community outreach and knowledge transfer	2026-2029	EUR 2m	Cultural engagement and diffusion of local knowledge

6.1 Programme design rules

- Use geographical targeting, not blanket subsidies.
- Require co-financing where farms and processors can contribute.
- Link transition grants to market plans or purchase contracts.
- Make water-saving commitments a condition for stabilization support.
- Use annual reviews to shift funds towards measures with demonstrated results.

7. Sector action plan: tomatoes

Tomato support should focus on viable production clusters in Lavello and Metapontino, where investment can protect strategic value chains. The objective is to stabilize approximately 2,000 ha rather than preserve all exposed hectares regardless of future water viability.

7.1 Tomato measures

Measure	Timing	Indicative cost basis	Expected benefit
Emergency irrigation and verified loss support	Crisis years	Source report example: EUR 2m immediate package	Avoids total crop failure on exposed hectares and protects processor supply
Irrigation infrastructure upgrade	2026-2028	Core programme: EUR 18m; detailed report example includes dam and canal works	Improves water availability and distribution reliability
On-farm water-efficiency package	2026-2028	Cost-share for drip upgrades, moisture sensors and decision-support tools	Lower water use per ha, greater yield stability and improved input efficiency
Heat-resilient variety trials	2026-2029	Part of EUR 5m crop R&D line	Identify cultivars with stronger fruit set under heat stress
Crop insurance and mutual fund	2026-2030	Part of EUR 6m risk-support line	Reduce income volatility and need for ad-hoc bailouts
Processor supply agreements	Annual	Contractual and co-investment measures	Improve planting confidence and raw-material planning

7.2 Eligibility criteria for stabilization support

- Location in a designated viable tomato-production zone.
- Demonstrated processor, cooperative or producer-organization relevance.
- Adoption of water-saving practices and farm-level monitoring.
- Participation in drought-status reporting and loss documentation.
- Commitment to insurance or approved risk-sharing instruments where available.

7.3 Farm-level adaptation pathways

Farm type	Risk profile	Recommended pathway
Specialized tomato farm	Very high income exposure; weak substitution options	Precision irrigation, insurance, processor contracts, partial diversification pilots and transition support where viability fails
Mixed farm with 1-3 ha tomatoes	Summer cash-flow exposure but greater flexibility	Gradual tomato reduction, legumes, olives, aromatic crops and market contracts
Young or new entrant	Capital constraints and climate uncertainty	Mentoring, startup grants, demonstration farms and low-risk diversified packages

The report illustrates that even high-value substitutes do not fully replace specialized tomato income. Transition assistance must therefore combine agronomy, markets and temporary income support.

8. Sector action plan: olives

Olive production should be treated as a resilience pillar because it supports rural livelihoods, landscape stabilization and cultural continuity. Olives are comparatively drought-resilient, but repeated extreme heat and water deficits can still cause severe output losses and threaten small family holdings.

8.1 Olive measures

Measure	Timing	Indicative focus	Expected benefit
Disaster relief for verified losses	As needed	Income support for vulnerable olive-farming families	Avoid abandonment and stabilize local purchasing power
Community micro-irrigation pilots	2026-2029	Shared tanks, shallow wells where permitted, and supplemental drip lines	Protect trees during critical stress periods and sustain milling activity
Resilient grove renewal	2027-2030	Replanting, grafting and nursery support for hardy cultivars	Improve long-term productivity and climate resilience
Soil and orchard management incentives	2026-2030	Cover crops, mulching, pruning and integrated pest management	Improve soil moisture, erosion control and yield stability
Intercropping and diversification	2027-2030	Legumes, aromatics, beekeeping and agritourism	Supplement household income and create local employment
Marketing and cooperative support	2026-2030	Mill upgrades, quality certification, IGP / PDO and organic marketing	Raise value added and strengthen regional identity

8.2 Olive-specific policy additions

- Map underutilized land suitable for olive-grove renewal or expansion.
- Promote intercropping with legumes and aromatic plants where agronomically appropriate.
- Support collective branding and quality certification for Olivo Lucano and related regional products.
- Integrate olive-based agritourism, gastronomic routes and community events into rural-development measures.
- Use landscape benefits - erosion control, carbon storage and wildfire-risk reduction - when prioritizing support.

WHY OLIVES MATTER

Olive support is not simply a crop intervention. It protects household income, rural landscapes, cultural heritage and the viability of local mills. These wider public benefits justify targeted regional support.

9. Farm transition and diversified livelihoods

Farms in the most exposed areas require structured transition pathways. Replacing tomatoes with a single alternative crop is rarely sufficient. The plan therefore combines agronomic support, market access, processing investment and temporary income protection.

9.1 Suitable transition options

Option	Role in transition	Conditions for success
Chickpeas, lentils and other legumes	Lower-water rotations and new food products	Purchase contracts, processing capacity and branding
Aromatic and medicinal plants	Niche income under lower-water conditions	Market study, aggregation and quality standards
Almonds, figs and prickly pears	Drought-resilient perennial systems	Site selection, orchard grants and long-term planning
Selective zucchini, peppers and eggplants	Partial substitution where irrigation remains credible	Water access, processor or retailer demand
Olive-grove expansion or renewal	Long-term resilience and landscape stability	Careful zoning, training and value-added marketing
Beekeeping, agritourism and short chains	Supplementary family income	Training, local destination development and cooperative promotion

9.2 Transition sequence for mixed farms

Stage	Typical changes	Support package
Early adjustment	Reduce tomato exposure; introduce legumes; upgrade water efficiency on remaining high-value crops	Farm advisory, small grants, contracts and soil-management training
Structural reallocation	Expand olive and dryland crops; add aromatic plants or niche products	Transition grants, orchard support, processing and branding
Drought-resilient model	Consolidate mixed perennial, legume and niche-crop system with supplementary income	Cooperative marketing, insurance and continuous advisory services

9.3 Safeguard for farm incomes

Transition grants should cover a portion of initial yield losses and conversion costs. They should be time-limited and linked to a viable business plan. Stabilization support should protect farms that can remain competitive under improved water management; transition support should help farms for which continued tomato production is no longer credible.

10. Governance and coordination

The report identifies a coordination gap: Basilicata has institutions that can contribute, but no permanent multi-actor mechanism dedicated to a cross-program drought-adaptation strategy. The plan therefore proposes a Regional Coordination Unit for Agricultural Climate Resilience (RCU-ACR).

10.1 Institutional design

Element	Proposed design
Host institution	Regione Basilicata - Assessorato Agricoltura
Governing board	Chair: Regione Basilicata. Members: ALSIA, AGEA liaison, University of Basilicata, CREA, irrigation consortia, producer organizations, processors, municipal delegate and civil-society representative.
Executive secretariat	Seconded and dedicated staff for logistics, reporting, stakeholder communication, funding coordination and dashboard management.
Thematic groups	Water and soil; tomatoes and horticulture; olives and landscape resilience; diversification and markets; social impacts and employment; funding and monitoring.
Legal anchor	Regional Council decision, linked to rural-development programme structures and recognized as a consultative coordination body.
Outputs	Annual adaptation report, public dashboard, action matrix, biannual funding-alignment brief and participatory review process.

10.2 Coordination budget

Scenario	Budget through 2030	Capacity
Minimum model	EUR 3.3m	Basic staffing, coordination, meetings and reporting
Recommended model	EUR 6.5m	Full technical capacity, digital systems, stakeholder engagement and innovation support

RECOMMENDATION

Use the EUR 6.5 million coordination model. The wider programme involves multiple sectors, municipalities, funding sources and value-chain actors. Weak coordination would reduce the effectiveness of much larger investments.

10.3 Actor responsibilities

Actor	Primary responsibilities
Regione Basilicata	Political leadership, funding alignment, regional decisions and accountability
ALSIA	Technical coordination, demonstration farms, advisory services and monitoring
Irrigation consortia	Water monitoring, infrastructure investment and transparent allocation

Actor	Primary responsibilities
AGEA / national authorities	CAP implementation, payments and compliance support
Municipalities	Land-use planning, permits, local employment and community support
University of Basilicata / CREA	Applied research, crop trials, climate analysis and evaluation
Farmers, cooperatives and OPs	Implementation, data provision, peer learning and market aggregation
Processors and retailers	Supply planning, purchase agreements, co-investment and product development
Banks and insurers	Bridge finance, guarantees, insurance and risk instruments
Civil society and cultural bodies	Community engagement, social monitoring and heritage initiatives

11. Funding strategy and budget prioritization

The source report contains two complementary funding perspectives: a full RTC-DI programme envelope of EUR 55 million, and a more limited operational public-investment concept that uses co-financing and leverage. This plan presents both so that decision makers can select a realistic pathway without losing the strategic logic.

11.1 Full programme envelope

Component	Indicative amount
RTC-DI core hybrid programme	EUR 55.0m
RCU-ACR recommended coordination model	EUR 6.5m
Total recommended programme envelope	EUR 61.5m

11.2 Funding sources

- CAP Strategic Plan and rural-development measures for investments, diversification, climate practices, producer organizations, risk management and technical assistance.
- National and regional resources for emergency aid, irrigation modernization and co-financing.
- ERDF and related regional development instruments for processing, infrastructure and competitiveness.
- LIFE, Horizon Europe and related innovation programmes for pilots and knowledge transfer.
- Private co-investment from farmers, cooperatives, processors, retailers, banks and insurers.
- Community and cooperative reserves, especially for shared infrastructure and resilience funds.

11.3 Limited-budget fallback

Where the full envelope cannot be secured immediately, the region should implement a phased package. The first financing round should prioritize measures with rapid and system-wide benefits and use co-financing to extend public funds.

Priority	Measure	Reason
1	Repair critical water losses and support on-farm precision irrigation	Immediate output effect and high leverage
2	Create the RCU-ACR and early-warning dashboard	Enables all other measures and transparent targeting
3	Deploy rapid advisory services and field monitoring	Low-cost, fast implementation and fewer avoidable losses
4	Establish risk instruments and bridge support	Prevents viable farms from closing after one severe season
5	Support olive-grove management and cooperative processing	Broad territorial and household-income effect
6	Fund diversification pilots with purchase contracts	Builds long-term resilience and alternative income
7	Scale processing, branding and agritourism	Strengthens value added after core resilience measures are secured

12. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Monitoring should be practical, transparent and linked to annual funding decisions. The RCU-ACR dashboard should distinguish operational indicators during drought alerts from programme indicators used for annual review.

12.1 Programme indicators

Indicator	Baseline task	2030 target
Tomato area preserved in viable zones	Confirm zoning and current production	Approximately 2,000 ha
Tomato farms using precision irrigation	Establish baseline	At least 70%
Land transitioned to lower-water systems	Create annual transition registry	500-800 ha
Olive groves under resilient management	Define eligible practices and baseline	At least 1,500 ha
Farmers trained	Track participation and farm type	More than 200
Tomato variety trials	Confirm trial programme	At least 5 varieties
Olive cultivar trials	Confirm trial programme	At least 3 trials
Alternative value chains	Define operational criteria	At least 5
Water losses in priority networks	Measure before investment	Documented reduction
Farm-income volatility	Establish survey and reference years	Reduced negative-income years
Seasonal employment	Establish baseline	Preserve jobs and document new opportunities

12.2 Annual review cycle

- Publish an annual drought-risk assessment before the high-risk season.
- Publish an annual implementation and expenditure report.
- Map projects, actors and supported farms in a public dashboard, with privacy safeguards.
- Compare farm-income, employment and water-use indicators against reference scenarios.
- Reallocate funds annually towards measures with demonstrated performance.
- Complete a mid-term strategy review in 2028 and a full evaluation in 2030.

13. Implementation roadmap

Indicative implementation roadmap

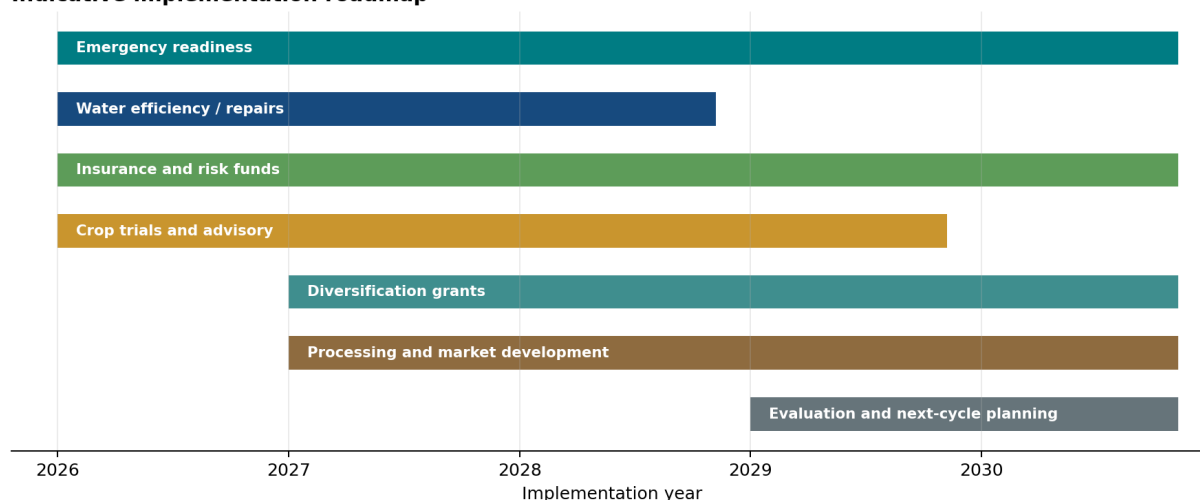


Figure 3. Indicative implementation roadmap for the 2026-2030 policy cycle.

Period	Main actions	Milestones
First 3 months	Create interim coordination team; validate baselines; define drought triggers; update contact lists; identify critical repairs	Regional decision package and readiness checklist
Months 4-12	Launch rapid repairs, advisory services, insurance support and pilot diversification; establish olive-sector priority map	First funding calls and dashboard prototype
2027	Formalize RCU-ACR; scale precision irrigation; activate contracts and cooperative projects	Operational coordination unit and first annual report
2028	Complete mid-term review; adjust zoning; expand olive resilience and processing support	Rebudgeting decision and updated targets
2029	Scale proven diversification, quality and market initiatives; prepare next funding cycle	Investment pipeline for post-2030 cycle
2030	Evaluate resilience, income, employment and environmental outcomes	Climate-Resilient Agriculture Report and next-cycle strategy

14. Risks, side effects and safeguards

The plan itself can generate side effects if poorly targeted. These risks should be managed openly through eligibility rules, monitoring and stakeholder review.

Implementation risk	Potential side effect	Safeguard
Overinvestment in water-intensive production	Public funds lock farms into unsustainable systems	Use viability zoning and annual water-balance review
Unequal access to support	Large or well-connected farms capture most benefits	Transparent criteria, small-farm windows and published allocations
Crop switching without markets	Farmers adopt alternatives that cannot be sold profitably	Require market analysis, buyer engagement or cooperative business plans
Emergency irrigation becomes routine	Short-term relief delays structural adaptation	Limit emergency measures to defined crises and pair them with transition assessment
Olive expansion on unsuitable sites	Low productivity or landscape damage	Use mapping, agronomic advice and site-specific approval
Administrative overload	Slow decisions and delayed payments	Fund the RCU-ACR secretariat and simplify procedures
Labour displacement	Reduced tomato area lowers seasonal work	Track impacts and promote processing, orchard renewal, diversification and tourism jobs
Data uncertainty	Decisions based on outdated or inconsistent figures	Complete validation during inception and publish assumptions

15. Decision agenda

The following decisions convert the plan from a policy draft into an operational regional programme.

Decision	Responsible authority	Recommended timing
Approve the hybrid strategy and launch an inception phase	Regione Basilicata	Within 60 days
Establish interim RCU-ACR and prepare legal foundation	Regione Basilicata / ALSIA	Within 60 days
Validate baselines, risk zones and drought triggers	RCU-ACR technical group	Within 90 days
Approve first-round water-efficiency and advisory actions	Regione and irrigation consortia	Before next high-risk season
Prepare EUR 55m RTC-DI funding package and limited-budget fallback	RCU-ACR funding group	Within 6 months
Agree insurance, bridge-finance and loss-documentation protocol	Regione, AGEA liaison, banks and insurers	Within 6 months
Launch olive-resilience and diversification pilots	ALSIA, municipalities and cooperatives	Within 9 months
Publish first annual dashboard and policy review	RCU-ACR	Within 12 months

FINAL POLICY MESSAGE

Basilicata cannot prevent drought, but it can prevent drought from becoming an unmanaged agricultural, economic and social crisis. Timely prioritization, transparent water management and coordinated investment can preserve viable production, protect rural livelihoods and create a more resilient food system.

Annex A. Operational action matrix

Phase	Action	Lead actor	Supporting actors	Output
Preparedness	Update zone maps, contacts and funding readiness	RCU-ACR	ALSIA, consortia, municipalities	Annual readiness file
Alert	Issue status report and convene actors	RCU-ACR	Technical group	Decision log and public note
Alert	Implement irrigation schedule and advisory campaign	Consortia / ALSIA	Cooperatives and advisers	Priority allocation plan
Crisis	Activate emergency grants, claims and labour monitoring	Regione	AGEA liaison, insurers, municipalities	Verified support package
Recovery	Assess viability and transition pathways	ALSIA	Farm advisers and cooperatives	Farm-level transition portfolio
Programme	Deliver RTC-DI investments and contracts	Regione / RCU-ACR	All partners	Annual implementation report
Evaluation	Review indicators and reallocate funds	RCU-ACR board	University / CREA	Updated budget and targets

Annex B. Validation checklist before formal adoption

- Confirm current reservoir capacities, irrigation allocations and drought thresholds.
- Confirm tomato and olive areas, farm counts, yields and income ranges using current regional sources.
- Confirm processor capacities, contract arrangements and supply dependencies.
- Verify the legal route and funding eligibility for each proposed measure.
- Agree selection criteria and safeguards for small farms, young farmers and labour impacts.
- Review all quantitative values in the document and replace indicative figures with validated baselines where available.

Annex C. Source and status note

This contingency plan was developed from the attached ECO-READY Task 5.3 report, "Contingency planning arguments - the case of Basilicata, Italy". The source report was designed as a collection of planning arguments rather than as a validated operational programme. This document consolidates those arguments into a coherent submission format. Quantitative values remain planning estimates unless validated by the responsible regional body.

Primary source: ECO-READY Horizon Europe project, grant agreement no. 101084201, Task 5.3 report on Basilicata. Document created as a policy-ready draft in June 2026.