

France – innovation example 1)

Innovative regional procedures supported by elected representatives and local stakeholders:

Intercommunal Pastoral Agreement (Pacte Pastoral Intercommunal - PPI)

Land control and collective land management

- **HNV system:** a project instigated by breeders; extensive grazing and rangelands, specific grazing zones, pastoral usage, development and transmission of pastoralism.
- **Region:** Causses and Cevennes region.
- **Time scale:** 3 years for the PPI, 99 years for the civil law partnership *Terres du Larzac* and the Agricultural Land Groups - GFA (long-term lease signed in 1985).
- **Keys to success:** Territorial procedures based on a bottom-up approach and jointly constructed by regional stakeholders.



Problems addressed by this example

Land control is a priority issue for maintaining pastoralism in the region, in particular access to land for the installation of young farmers. The mobilisation of breeders, with the support of local elected representatives, professional agricultural bodies and researchers has led to the establishment of a regional dynamic around pastoralism.

The story in a nutshell

The Intercommunal Pastoral Agreement (PPI) is a collective regional approach and a project jointly constructed by breeders, researchers and elected representatives. It has enabled the formalisation of local commitment to maintain and develop pastoral activity in the region and was adopted by a ruling of the Community of the Communes of Causses, Aigoual, Cevennes Terres Solidaires in 2015.

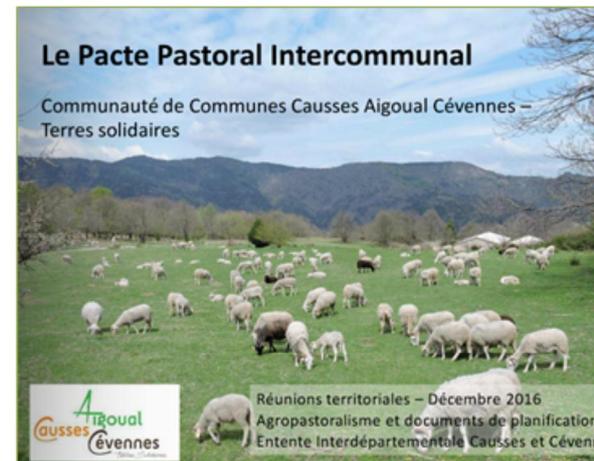
Pastoralism was declared as being of public interest and the principal measures of the Agreement are true legal innovations: grazing rights on all areas suitable for pastoral usage – a pastoral priority clause in all property transfers – specific pastoral zoning in planning policy documents.

Another innovative action in regional procedure relates to collective land management by private structures such as civil law societies. In the 1970s, in opposition to the plan to extend the Larzac military camp, farmers worked together to fight against expropriation of their lands. This led to the creation of 4 Agricultural Land Groups (*Groupements Fonciers Agricoles* - GFA) by Larzac activists in order to block State acquisitions; the 4 GFA were subsequently merged and became the Civil Law Partnership for Larzac Land Management (*Société Civile Gestion Foncière Agricole du Larzac* – SC GFA Larzac). In parallel, in 1984, the civil law partnership for Larzac Land (*Société Civile des Terres du Larzac* - SCTL) was created and signed a 99-year long-term lease with the French State, permitting the State to make Larzac land available to smallholders.

What does new territorial approaches achieve for HNV farming?

Intercommunal Pastoral Agreement :

- ▶ This resulted in a feasible action plan in 2016: to make pastoral land available; to ensure the continuation and revival of pastoral activities; organisation of the Agreement. Implementation is planned for 2017-2018.



Land control and collective land management:

- ▶ The SCTL manages 6,300 ha, 56 rural leases, 28 loans for usage and 11 hunting leases; creation of the Les Bois du Larzac association (The Larzac Woods association).
- ▶ The SC GFA Larzac: acquisition of over 1,400 ha for the installation of new smallholders.



The PPI resulted in March 2016 in a feasible 1-year action plan with 3 strategic priorities:

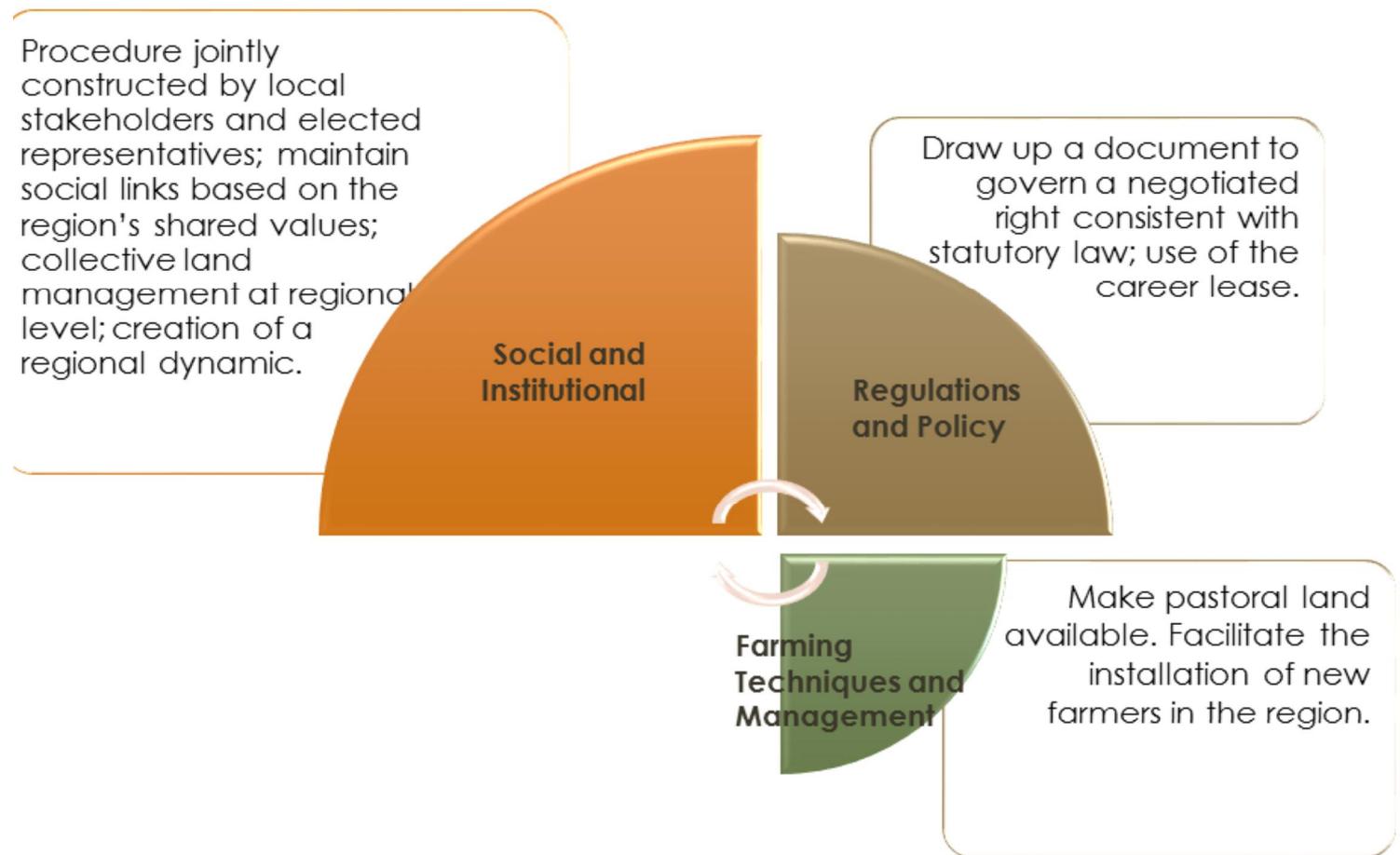
To make pastoral land available: support for local communities in drawing up their planning policy document and for maintenance and repair of the *drailles* (drove roads).

Ensure the continuation and revival of pastoral activities: support for a project for setting-up (installation) in an area of pastoral land recovery, secure the land through pastoral diagnostics, etc.

Implementing the Agreement: employment of an organiser to implement and monitor the programme during 2017-2018.

The SCTL decided to allow all its farming members to benefit from career leases, long-term rural leases that guarantee farmers the right to remain on their farm until they reach retirement age, enabling them to invest more heavily than they would with a classic lease (for pens, fencing, drinking troughs, etc.). This led to 56 rural leases being drawn up. Additionally, loans for usage with buildings available for use by non-farmers were signed, as were hunting leases with communal hunting associations.

How does new territorial approaches respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?



- Social and institutional:

The PPI is a procedure that has been jointly constructed by breeders, researchers and elected representatives, also involving departmental, regional and national institutions. Working groups, public meetings and other encounters permitted the validation of the various successive versions of the Agreement which was finally adopted by a ruling of the combined communes in May 2015. Collective management of the land by the two land associations (SCTL and SC GFA Larzac) has permitted the creation of a genuine regional dynamic that fosters many other collective instruments in the Larzac: economic interest groups (GIE), farmers' markets, the *Marché Paysan* (smallholders' market) in Millau, the Larzac shepherds' cooperative (*Bergers du Larzac*). Outside the region another structure, the "*Association Terre de Liens*", also makes use of career leases to support small farmers.

- Legal and statutory:

The Agreement is a document that is not binding for third parties; it is an appendix to the planning policy document and is taken into consideration in public policies by the Gard Department, the Region and the State. The design of the Agreement is experimental and innovative and constitutes a "negotiated right" agreed by all the region's participating stakeholders.

The SCTL has put in place career leases for farmers. The career lease is linked to the working life of the lessee and is designed for a minimum 25-year period, ending at the end of the growing year during which the lessee reaches retirement age. The career lease guarantees land security for the lessee.

- At the technical level:

The two tenure structures on the Larzac are dynamic instruments for land acquisition for the installation of new smallholders and have enabled the number farmers in the Larzac region to increase by 20.

The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

Intercommunal Pastoral Agreement

Procedure jointly constructed with regional stakeholders around a shared heritage.

Procedure adopted by local elected representatives and supported by the researchers.

Document taken into account in public policies by the Gard Department, the Region and the State.

Control and collective management of land

Mobilisation of smallholders in the Larzac has mobilized activists nationally.

Instruments that are suited to the specific context and to the region: land management structures, career leases.

Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

Intercommunal Pastoral Agreement

Create a methodology guide for the procedure and replicate it in other intercommunal regions. Form a small working group to raise the awareness of other intercommunal bodies.

Land control and collective land management

Collective land management is possible through a civil law partnership or an association such as *Terre de Liens* or a local community and can be replicated in other regions as a response to the problem of access to land and the installation of young farmers.

The goal is to create a methodology guide for the procedure and replicate it in other regions. The process of joint construction of the procedure with the support of researchers and elected representatives permits the project to be better taken on board and accepted by the local stakeholders who have been associated with it throughout working meetings and at public meetings. A small working group will be set up to raise the awareness of other intercommunal bodies in the Causses and Cevennes region concerning the methodology for this innovative procedure. Collective land management can also be put into practice by a local community. This has been done by a Commune on the Causse that owns land and took the opportunity to put in place a Natura 2000 contract with the support of the Grands Causses Regional Natural Park and other partners, in order to prepare parcels of grazing land and permit the installation of a herd of cattle in satisfactory economic conditions on a site of exceptional biological diversity.

A thematic network on High Value Farming
Learning, INnovation & Knowledge

HNV-LINK



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