

France – innovation example 3

NEW METHOD OF DIAGNOSIS AND ADVICE FOR BREEDERS (LIFE+ MIL'OUV PROJECT)

Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels Languedoc-Roussillon (CEN L-R), Idele, Cévennes national park, Montpellier SupAgro, chambers of agriculture

<http://www.lifemilouv.org/>

Location: Southern Massif Central, in particular the Causses and Cévennes

- HNV system: Diversity of pastoral livestock farms
- Scale of operation: Large scale
- Timespan: LIFE+ project lasted 4 years (2013-2017), and has been followed by an appropriation of the method in several territories and by different structures
- Keys to success: Individual and collective accompaniment of breeders and shepherds by pastoral and ecologist experts ; dialogue facilitated helping identify and meet the needs of the different stakeholders ; training and sensitisation in the pastoralism sector with regard to future issues ; production and dissemination of technical references in the field of pastoralism



Figure 1 Advisory visit to a breeder

Problems addressed by this example

Necessity to develop and share a method gathering agricultural and environmental teams and skills to support breeders with new pastoral practices, in order to improve both the conservation status of mediterranean open habitats and their economic sustainability.

Story in a nutshell

The LIFE+ Mil'Ouv method aims at dispensing adjusted and approved management supports to breeders and shepherds, and at enhancing awareness of the importance of eco-pastoral management. At the end of the project, we can state that involved breeders are familiar with the new elements



(pastoral referentials, adjusted method and tools) which facilitate an improved understanding of the problems. This allowed the recommendations to be adopted by breeders who benefited from an advisory visit. This will help improve the conservation status of Mediterranean agropastoral natural open habitats directly.

What does this method for HNV farming?

- Numerous heritage species of flora and fauna linked to Mediterranean pastoral open habitats can be preserved by the maintenance of pastoralism
- It promotes and improves breeders pastoral practices, and highlights the advantages of pastoralism

Achievements

- 8,300 ha of open habitats have been diagnosed within the framework of this project
- 75 eco-pastoral diagnoses answer the farmers' technical questions and accompany them in developing their practices
- 12 technical workshops and 3 training days to share and discuss experiences and know-how
- 1 technical guide to promote knowledge and experimentations
- 1 collective reflection game for pastoral stock farmers: pastoral rummy (construction of a food system, adaptation to different

Economics of HNV farming

Developing pastoral practices can be interesting for breeders to reduce their costs of food supply for their livestock. These agricultural activities create farm products and contribute to trade within their territories (purchase/sale of animals, equipment, buildings, etc.). They also contribute to the dynamics of the territory through their professional activities (tourism, farm visits, discussion between peers, etc.) and personal activities (school, grocery, associations, etc.).

Maintaining or improving HNV values

The approaches are linked to extensive systems using local resources and so support for this type of farming permits the continuation of forms of HNV agriculture in the region. However, the method have a clear agro-ecological objective.

The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

Actors and roles

The LIFE+ Mil'Ouv project was aimed at all those involved in agro-pastoralism: breeders, technicians, students, teachers, and decision-makers. One of the objectives has been to develop and share a method gathering agricultural and environmental teams and skills to support breeders with new practices. It has been allowed the implementation of a close partnership between an association for the conservation, management and exploitation of natural areas (CEN L-R), a national technical research and development institute to support stock-breeding and the agricultural industry (IDELE), a National park (PN Cévennes) and an educational institute for the agro-environment (Montpellier SupAgro). Their common project has been accepted and funded by the LIFE+ program.

Limiting factors

After a 4 years period funded by LIFE+, several discussions have been held with the relevant partners and drivers with regard to the coordination and maintenance of a collective dynamic but it is quite difficult to find new funding opportunities at a large scale. At present, the costs linked to this type of



method would seem more feasible in terms of finance through local public partners. More broadly, there is also a need for all actors in the territories to get involved in favor of pastoralism, but this is not yet the case.

How does eco-pastoral method respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?

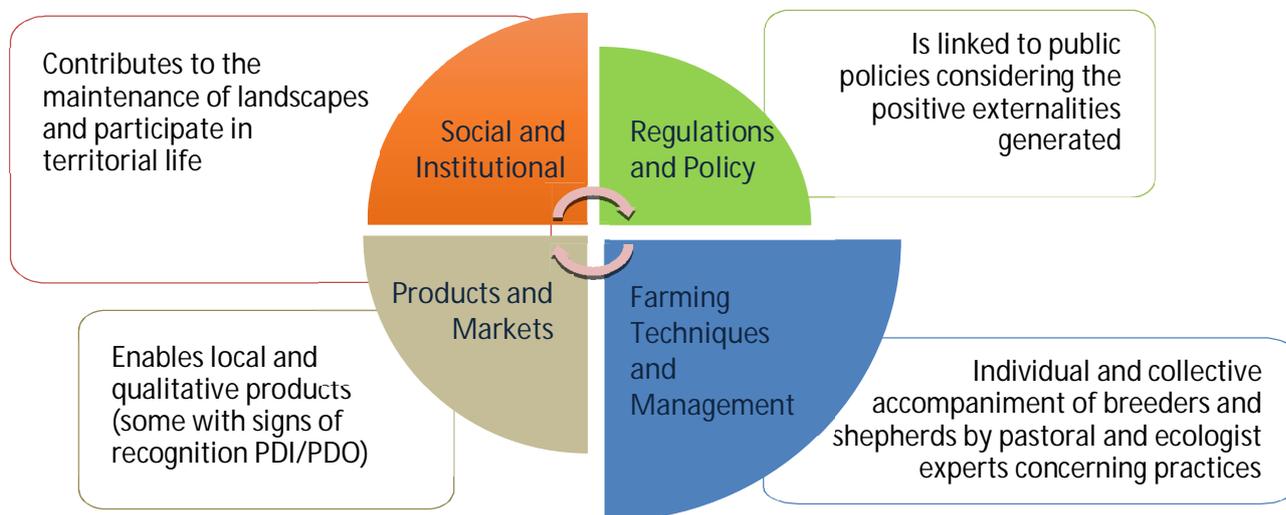


Figure 3 The framework HNV-Link used for evaluating innovations for high nature value farming.

Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

Eco-pastoral method used in supply to breeders needs:

- Can be replicated
- Are adaptable
- Are increasingly agro-ecological
- *But needs public funds...*

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