

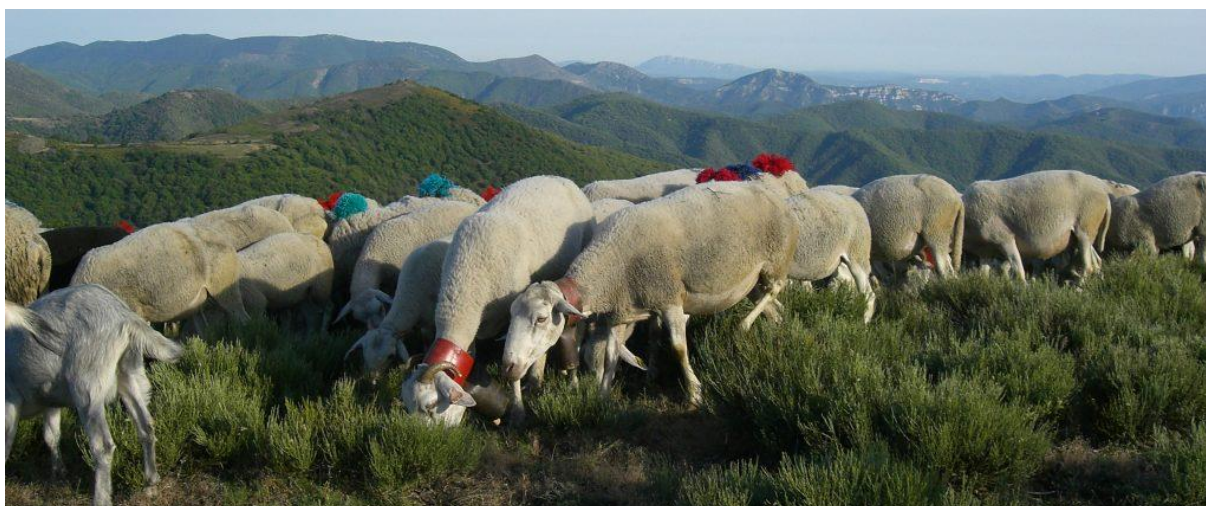
## France – innovation example 1

### A COLLECTIVE APPROACH FOR AN INTER-MUNICIPAL PASTORAL PACT

Local Community of Communes

<https://caussesaignoulcevennes.fr/competences/pacte-pastoral/>

- **Location:** Southern Massif Central, Community of communes
- **HNV system:** agropastoral systems
- **Scale of operation:** Community of communes
- **Timespan:** inter-municipal pastoral pact signed in 2015 and followed by a 3-years action plan
- **Keys to success:** territorial procedure based on a bottom-up approach and jointly constructed by local stakeholders : mobilization of both breeders, some researchers and local actors permitting the creation of a local covenant in order to maintain and develop the pastoral activities on the territory



*Figure 1* Flocks of sheep gathered on summer pastures

#### 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 mobilization 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.

#### 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.

## What does this new territorial approach achieve for HNV farming?

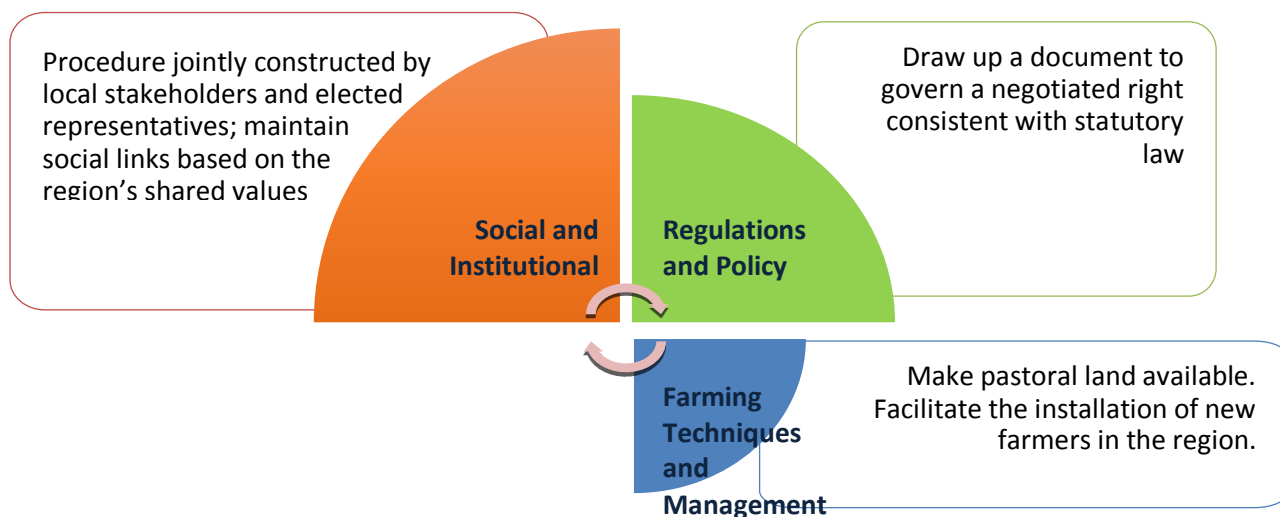
### *Achievements*

This resulted in a feasible action plan in 2016: to make pastoral land available; to ensure the continuation and revival of pastoral activities; organization of the Agreement. Implementation has begun since 2017.

### The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

- 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.

### 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.

- **Social and institutional:** The inter-municipality pastoral pact 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.
- **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.

### Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

- 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.

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