HNV-Link – Learning, Innovation & Knowledge
A thematic Network on High Nature Value Farming

www.hnvlink.eu

PROJECT BOOKLET






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Project

HNV-Link – High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge (H2020 project, 2016-2019)

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Photo credit

HNV-Link Consortium

CONTENTS

What is High Nature Value (HNV) Farming?

The concept of **High Nature Value (HNV) farming** emerged in the nineties and refers to those **farming systems and farmlands that support a high diversity of wildlife species and habitats and/or species of conservation concern.** It comprises mainly low-intensity livestock farming relying on permanent and wooded pastures and hay meadows, and in some areas includes low-intensity crop systems, traditional orchards and olive groves. HNV farming safeguards a diversity of land covers with semi-natural vegetation and important features such as hedges, stone walls, terraces and ponds that enhance landscape structure and connectivity.

It occurs most frequently in areas where natural constraints (e.g. poorer land, steep slopes) hinder intensive production, but it is far from being marginal, as it covers over 25% of the European agricultural land.

HNV farms are multi-functional systems that, on top of producing quality food and conserving biodiversity, habitats and landscapes, supply a range of public goods and services: they contribute to water and soil protection, carbon storage, fire and climate change mitigation, employment, and are part of our cultural heritage. As such, they contribute to the sustainability of agri-food systems.

Owing to its relevance to fulfil sustainable development goals, the HNV farming concept was integrated into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as a rural development priority from 2005, and used in the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) as both an impact and a context indicator for Rural Development Programmes (RDP).

High Nature Value farming is an essential component of sustainable agri-food systems and territories and it must be rewarded as such!

HNV farms face environmental and economic pressures, and are often neglected by public policies and not suitably rewarded for their benefits. This may lead to HNV farmland reconversion or to its abandonment/encroachment, with subsequent irreversible biodiversity loss. The challenge is thus to increase the socio-economic viability of HNV farms while maintaining HNV farmlands' natural values. Clearly, agricultural and rural development objectives cannot be fulfilled without supporting adequately HNV farming, and for this, a more innovative and HNV farming friendly policy framework at all levels and the commitment of all the stakeholders are needed.

How can we enhance the viability of HNV farms while keeping their unique ecological characteristics and the public goods & services they provide?

HNV-Link: a multi-actor network to support HNV farming

HNV-Link **(High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge, H2020, 2016-2019)** is a multi-actor thematic network driving a peer-learning process between **13 partners and 10 HNV territories "Learning Areas" (LAs)** across Europe. It aims at sharing best practices and innovations that support HNV farming systems and communities by simultaneously improving their socio-economic viability and environmental sustainability.

It builds upon the Focus Group on HNV Farming of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI).

The 10 Learning Areas: Western Stara Planina (Bulgaria), **Dalmatian Islands** (Croatia), **Thessalia** (Greece), **Causses et Cévennes** (France), **The Burren** (Ireland), **Sítio de Monfurado** (Portugal), **Eastern Hills of Cluj** (Romania), **La Vera** (Spain), Dalsland (Sweden), **Dartmoor** (United Kingdom)

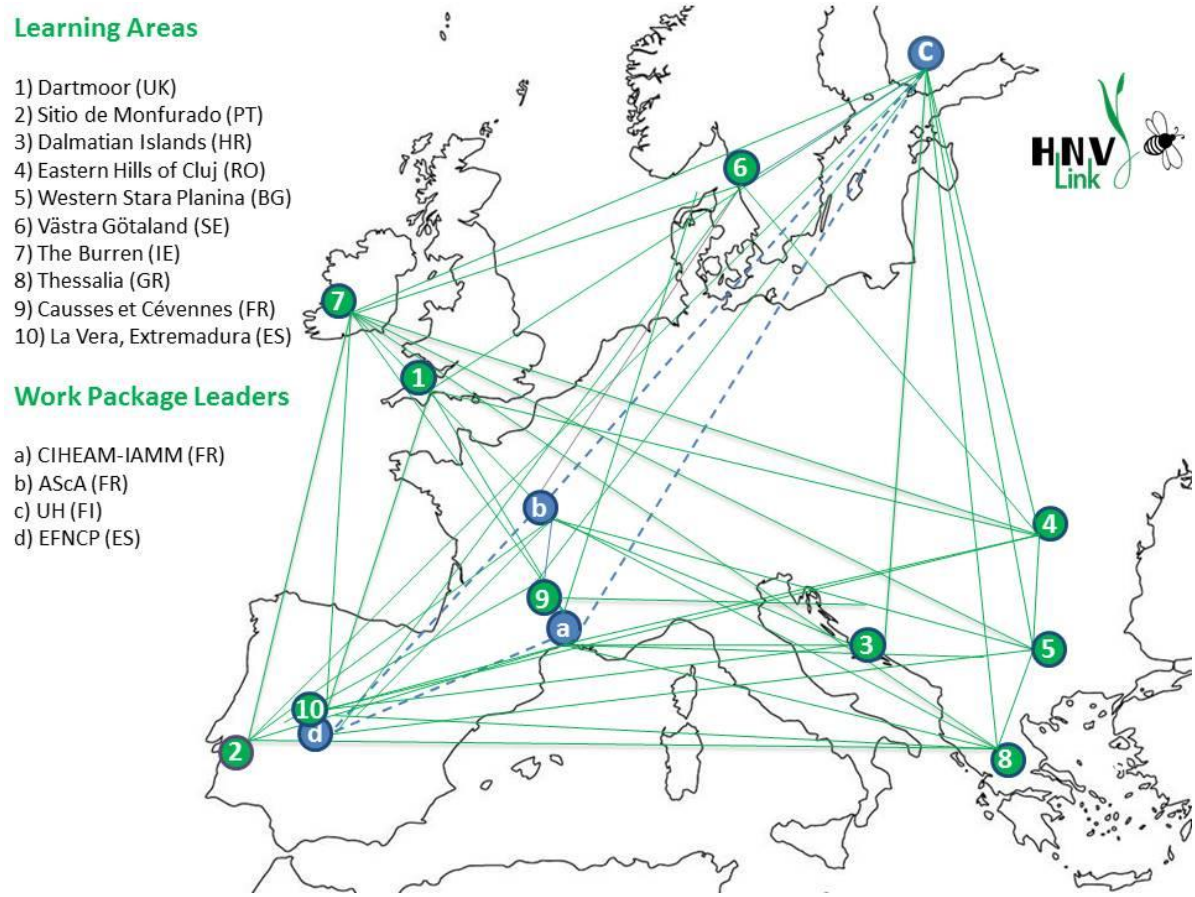
Learning Areas gather farmers, practitioners, advisers, Non-Governmental Organizations, authorities, and education/research institutes that work hand in hand to support the viability of HNV farms and the range of environmental and socioeconomic benefits they provide. These territories may have contrasting contexts and dynamics, but they share challenges. Each one has experience to share in terms of actors' organisation and collaboration, enabling policy, successful projects, innovative approaches to adding value to farm products, etc.

Learning Areas have formulated their own visions of sustainable HNV farming development pathways, identified the barriers to those and the opportunities to seize. But more importantly, they have identified, shared and implemented a range of solutions to achieve their goals, combining innovations in the social/institutional, regulations/policy, farming techniques/management, and products/market fields.

We have identified a wealth of innovations suitable for HNV farming, and sharing and discussing these across diverse social and geographical contexts enabled us to inform how widely applicable each one is. The Project highlighted the urgent need to actively support HNV farming, by spreading innovation and implementing appropriate CAP Strategic Plans and measures focused on realising the potential of these areas in an integrated, targeted and results-focused policy framework.

Multi-actor networks such as HNV-Link drive innovation & policy change, as they connect research, policy and practice and foster co-innovation.

HNV-Link conducted its peer-learning and innovation brokering activities in 10 regions ("Learning Areas"), spanning across Europe, in Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Each Learning Area has substantial HNV farmland with one or more Natura 2000 sites and a multi-actor cluster of stakeholders, and most have outstanding recreational values and are the focus of rural and nature tourism.



Map of the HNV-Link network and Learning Areas

In these Learning Areas, the multiple stakeholders, including farmers, professional associations, NGOs, local authorities, and education and applied research institutes, work together towards sustainable rural development in a changing socio-economic environment.

Learning Areas have both specific and common challenges and strengths, and most have implemented a range of solutions worth sharing and diffusing (e.g. new forms of farmer organisation and shared land access, innovative approaches to adding value to products, biodiversity friendly technologies and farm management approaches).

The HNV-Link network's mission is thus to create a "community of practice and knowledge", in which innovation for HNV systems can be shared, spread and adapted when necessary. As such, the Learning Areas strengthened their innovation and networking capacity, but the activities inspired and benefited a range of HNV territories and actors involved in the promotion of sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Dartmoor, United Kingdom

Dartmoor is the southernmost of the United Kingdom's National Parks and also the southernmost area of upland vegetation in the UK. Large areas of Dartmoor are designated under both national and EU legislation, with the core areas of blanket bog and dry heath. The area also delivers a much wider range of ecosystem services and public goods, ranging from an unparalleled density of archaeological remains to clean drinking water, from carbon storage to recreation. Nearly 36 000 ha of Dartmoor are common land grazed by sheep, cattle and ponies. Over half of the registered agricultural holdings in the Park have registered commons rights. For the last 30 years, there has been a unique and Dartmoor-specific commons system of commons governance through the Dartmoor Commoners' Council. The major challenges are achieving socio-economic viability and support and regulatory environments which fit well with common land systems.

More information: www.dartmoor.gov.uk
Contact person: Gwyn Jones (ENFCP)

- Baseline Assessment
- Report from the Innovation seminar
- UK Innovation seminar Presentation
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach, Dartmoor, the UK

Sítio de Monfurado, Portugal

Sítio de Monfurado, Portugal, is part of the Natura 2000 network, and includes complex montado systems of oak trees, diverse shrubs and grasslands, sometimes intermixed with agricultural crops and grazed by domestic and wild herbivores. Farming aims at cork harvesting and low intensity livestock production. The area has considerable heritage values and has hosted LIFE projects. The municipalities put considerable efforts into increasing farmers' awareness of nature values, related recreation values and public goods. It is an example of close engagement of farmers in the Nature 2000 site planning process. Most recently, an innovative approach targeted urban dwellers.

More information: www.evora.net/percursos/monfurado.htm
Contact person: Maria Isabel Ferraz de Oliveira (UEvora)

- Baseline Assessment
- National Language Report Innovation seminar
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach, Sítio de Monfurado, Portugal

Eastern Hills of Cluj, Romania

The Eastern Hills of Cluj, Romania, are part of the Natura 2000 network. The area includes a series of ridges with semi-natural pastures and meadows, associated arable land and orchards. Outstanding biodiversity is associated with traditional farmed habitats and farming practices, such as large-scale shepherded systems. The area hosts a range of agri-environment options. Good understanding of current land use and trends, fruitful links among local community, grassroots NGO, and researchers, as well as successful grassroots projects characterize this area that struggle to find ways for long-term sustainability.

More information:
www.efncp.org/hnv-showcases/romanian-carpathian-mountains/
Contact person: Mugurel Jitea (USAMV CLUJ)

- Baseline Assessment
- Report from the Innovation seminar
- Presentation Innovation Seminar (See also: Prezentare seminar inovare)
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach in Eastern Hills of Cluj, Romania

Western Stara Planina region, Bulgaria

Western Stara Planina region, Bulgaria, is an area with extensive pastures surrounded by forests and patches of small-scale arable land and traditional orchards. Farming systems rely on extensive grazing by dairy cows and suckling cows, sheep and goats, and grassland mowing. The key issues faced in the area are privatisation of the common pastures and their abandonment. There is a need to add market value to agricultural products from the area. The area has hosted many grassroots-level activities, such as two Leader-led local groups, active farmer participation in the agri-environment measures, special legal framework for the governance of common/municipal pastures, and active environmental NGOs.

More information:
www.efncp.org/projects/hnv-bulgaria-romania/western-stara-plania/
Contact person: Yanka Kazakova (STEP)

- Baseline Assessment
- Report from the Innovation seminar (website)
- National Language Report Innovation seminar
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach, Western Stara Planina region, Bulgaria

Dalsland, Sweden

Dalsland, Sweden, is an area with several Natura 2000 habitat types and cultural heritage elements. Farming systems are based on use of permanent pastures and meadows for beef and dairy production. Key issues faced in the area are: abandonment, plantation of forests, farmer retirement, economic viability, and relatively small production units. The area was a focus of important social innovations in grassroots networks, tourism, and entrepreneurship connected to mixed farming practices.

More information: www.lansstyrelsen.se
Contact person: Lars Johansson (LST VG)

- Baseline Assessment
- National Language Report Innovation seminar
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach, Dalsland, Sweden

Thessalia, Greece

Thessalia, Greece, is an area of permanent pastures and meadows, natural grasslands dependent on agricultural activity, and cultural heritage elements. Farming systems are extensive agro-sylvo-pastoralism, extensive sheep and goat farming in coexistence with intensive and irrigated agriculture, natural aromatic and medicinal plants. Diverse practices in the area include shepherding, artisan cheese making, agro-tourism activities, cultural activities, small agro-food entrepreneurship. The key issues faced by the area are sustainable pasture management, managing high fire risk, and lack of extension services on livestock. There is a clear need for new techniques as well as tools for improving the viability of extensive systems and sustainable interplay between extensive systems and efficiency in using natural resources. The area has seen several important innovations in increasing added value from the resources through a participatory guarantee system to producers, integration of stakeholders, marketing and territorial development.

More information: www.terrathessalia.gr
Contact person: Dimitra Gaki (UTH)

- Baseline Assessment
- Presentation in Innovation Seminar
- National Language Report Innovation Seminar
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach, Thessalia, Greece

The Burren, Ireland

The Burren, Ireland, encompasses Natura 2000 site and a National Park, whose grazing management is undertaken by local farmers. It is largely karst limestone landscape dominated by calcareous grassland and heaths with associated areas of limestone pavement and Atlantic Hazel woodland. Farming systems are dominated by extensive cattle rearing. The key issue is polarization of agricultural activities into more intensive practices, on one hand, and abandonment on extensive grasslands and heaths, on the other. The ageing farm population and change to part-time farming threaten labour-intensive traditional practices. The area has been a learning ground for several innovations: design and implementation of results-based agri-environment scheme, links with local landscape and education trust, development of the learning landscape concept (curious kids, landscape learners and heritage helpers programmes, Burren Winterage Weekend). Marketing opportunities have been investigated. Award winning EU LIFE project Burren LIFE took place here.

More information: www.burrenbeo.com/burren & burrenlife.com
Contact person: Declan Feeney (ITSLIGO)

- Baseline Assessment
- Report from the Innovation seminar
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach, The Burren, Ireland

Dalmatian Islands, Croatia

The Learning Area on Dalmatian Islands, Croatia, encompasses territories of LAG Škoji, LAG Brač and LAG 5, covering the area from Dubrovnik-West Coast in Dubrovnik-Neretva County to the island of Šolta in Split-Dalmatia County. Farming is dominated by permanent crops (olives, figs, caroub, almonds), but also supports remnants of pastoral systems as well as cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. The key issues faced by the area are: agricultural and rural development policies, abandonment and "reconquest" of marginal Mediterranean lands. The area is a ground for local action group activities and successful participatory projects.

More information: www.lag5.hr/hnvlink
Contact person: Katarina Slejko (LAG5)

- Baseline Assessment
- Report from the Innovation seminar (website)
- National Language Report Innovation seminar
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach, Dalmatian Islands, Croatia

Causses et Cévennes, France

Causses et Cévennes, France, is a Unesco World Heritage Site. It encompasses open landscape and dolines, grassland steppe type cover on a karst plateau, high-altitude grass and moorlands, peat soils and wetlands on a granite substrate. Farming is dominated by livestock production and extensive agro-sylvo-pastoralism of sheep and goats. Transhumance endures in the region. The key issues are management of the cultural landscape allowing for its resilience and transformations, patrimony and rural sustainable development, and sustainable livestock production. The area's strengths are in its advocacy work towards the national government and the EU in favour of extensive livestock systems, coordination of multiple layers of territorial authorities and sectorial competences, and control of predators.

More information: whc.unesco.org/en/list/1153
Contact person: Thibaut Rodriguez (CEN-LR)

- Baseline Assessment
- Report from the Innovation seminar
- Presentation Innovation seminar
- Innovation report
- Participatory approach Causses & Cévennes

La Vera, Spain

La Vera, Extremadura (Spain), occupies the southern slopes and foothills of the Gredos mountains, bounded to the south by the Tiétar river. The upland landscape is a mosaic of grassland, scrub and forest, shaped by extensive grazing by goats, sheep and suckler cows, with terraces of olives, cherries, chestnuts, figs, etc. Most uplands are designated as Natura 2000 SAC (Sierra de Gredos y Valle del Jerte). HNV farming is in severe decline, with abandonment of pastoral habitats and increased incidence of wildfires. The challenges are: lack of economic viability, high labour requirement, a national/regional CAP model lacking incentives, low social status of graziers, weak institutional support, regulatory restrictions. Innovation needs are multiple: a joined up institutional approach for maintaining upland grazing, CAP payments to reward extensive grazing, better labour organization, management/improvement of common pastures, farmer's networks, increased products' added value, and adaptation of the regulatory framework for farmers/cheese-makers.

More information: hnvlink.entretantos.org
Contact person: Pedro M. Herrera (FENT)

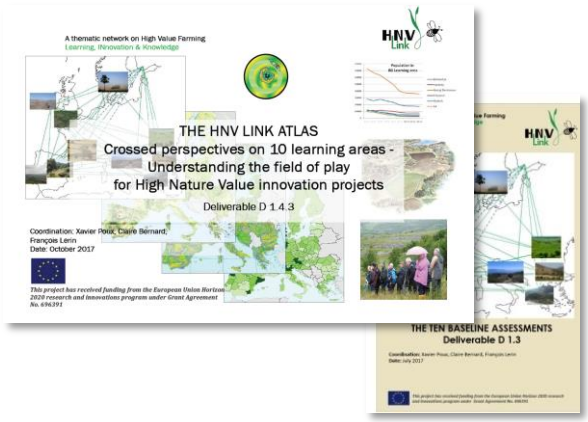
- Baseline Assessment
- Report from the Innovation seminar
- Innovation report
- Proceedings from event 27-28 March 2017: Territorios Pastoreados 2 (national language)
- Participatory approach, La Vera, Extremadura, Spain LA

What has HNV-Link achieved?

HNV-Link supported a wide range of analytical and innovation brokering activities within and between the Learning Areas, from the local to the international scale.

Characterising and understanding HNV farming territories.

- Co-construction of methodological guidelines for carrying out territory baseline assessments and fruitful peer-learning activities **(Guidelines for territory assessment, Innovation Transfer Plans, Regional Meetings, and Cross-Visits).**
- Assessment of the socio-agro-ecological characteristics, design of a HNV farming vision, identification of needs, drivers, and opportunities in the 10 Learning Areas **(10 Baseline Assessments, 1 HNV-Link Atlas).**



Identifying & sharing best practices that enhance HNV farming viability.

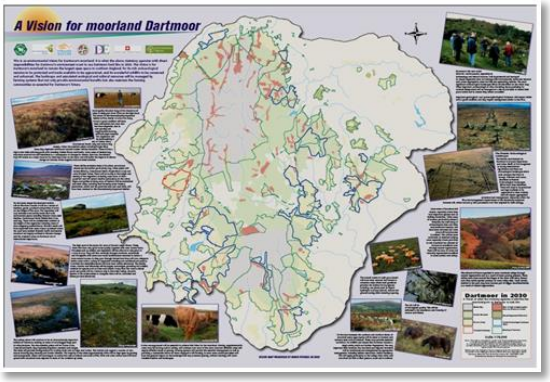
- Inventory, analysis and dissemination of over 140 innovative solutions of technical, commercial, social, institutional, and policy nature that support HNV farming **(Literature review on EU HNV farming innovation, 10 Reports describing the participatory processes in the Learning Areas, 40 Innovation Fiches, 1 Innovation Compendium, 1 Interactive Innovation Map).**

Promoting cooperation, peer-learning and HNV farming innovation across Europe.

- Organisation of seminars to work on methodological issues and foster multi-actor cooperation and innovation exchange **(e.g. Methodological Seminar in Saint Martin de Londres, France, 2016; Innovation Fair in Évora, Portugal, 2017).**
- Organisation of **local, regional and national meetings** to boost dialogue on HNV farming, stakeholder engagement, innovation diffusion and action in the field.
- Implementation of **10 Learning Areas Innovation Transfer Plans, 13 Regional Meetings**, and **16 Cross-Visits** to discuss best practices, identify the factors of success and the potential for innovation transfer and upscaling.

Promoting locally-led projects fostering HNV farming.

- Engagement of local actors in the development of a **shared vision for HNV farming territories** and in the implementation of **HNV farming-friendly development pathways.**
- **Mobilisation of funding** to better support long-term territory animation, and to reward HNV farmers for their biodiversity conservation results.



Improving teaching, sharing knowledge & raising awareness on HNV farming

- Development of **open-source educational materials on HNV concepts, challenges and opportunities,** to support agricultural, rural development and environmental educators.
- Preparation of **scientific papers and master theses** on HNV farming innovation impact and brokering.
- Production of **policy recommendations to improve the CAP, CAP Strategic Plans, and Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems**.
- Broad **dissemination of the products and recommendations** through the project and partners' **websites, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube Channel, and newsletters**.
- **Collaboration/synergies with other EU, national and local initiatives** related to sustainable farming and biodiversity conservation (e.g. CAPSELLA, PEGASUS, SALSA, SUFISA, ENABLING, LIFE+ Mil'Ouv, The Burren Programme).
- **Presentations of HNV-Link achievements at regional, national and international fora** (e.g. Silvo-Pastoral Systems – 2016, Évora, Portugal; IALE European Congress – 2017, Ghent, Belgium; 19th EGF Symposium – 2017, Alghero, Italy; Territorios Pastoreados – 2018, Plasencia, Spain; SISA-3 Workshop – 2018, Riga, Latvia).

- **An International Conference, "Innovation to sustain High Nature Value farming: Who needs to do what?"** (31 January 2019, Montpellier, France) to disseminate HNV-Link's results and discuss the measures that can help actively support HNV farmers and fulfil EU Biodiversity Strategy and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

HNV-Link outputs

- **Baseline Assessments and Atlas:** Whereas the Baseline Assessments describe each Learning Area, HNV-Link's Atlas takes this a step further by showcasing the diversity of HNV farmlands at the large scale using a comparative approach.

- **Innovation fiches and Compendium of Innovation Experiences, Needs and Lessons:** The Innovation fiches are standardized presentations of each Learning Area's innovations. The Compendium collates this work and identifies the main innovation gaps for making HNV farming sustainable in the long term.

- **Interactive Map:** Combines the data of the Baseline Assessments and Innovation Fiches to showcase HNV-farming in each of the Learning Areas in an interactive online map. It is suitable for non-experts and is searchable by key topics.

- **Educational Materials:** Mainly targeted toward vocational and university level students: 3 sets of slides on HNV farming, 4 sets of case study slides, 10 assignments for work in class, field and farm.

- **Videos and slide shows:** A substantial collection of videos on HNV-Link's YouTube channel, including reflections on conducting the Baseline Assessments, participating in cross-visits and other project activities, testimonies of stakeholders and slide shows explaining the concept of HNV farming and its innovation potential.

- **Guidelines and methodological notes:** Conducting Baseline Assessments, planning innovation transfer, and organising study visits.

- **National language reports:** Grassroots innovation process to promote "HNV vision". Multiple innovation examples are available in national languages.

- **Policy brief:** recommendations to improve the Common Agricultural Policy and CAP Strategic Plans.

- **Research papers and conference materials:** project's approach to sharing and spreading innovation, and Learning Areas' approaches to promoting HNV farming.

- **Newsletters and press articles** to share the project's progress and findings.

All HNV-Link outputs are available at www.hnvlink.eu

"There is something about ensuring that you are clear about what your vision is for an area and that you bring people along with you in that vision"

Alison Kohler, Dartmoor National Park Authority, UK

Fostering High Nature Value farming – Way forward

HNV farms are multi-functional and must be recognised and rewarded according to their ecological, social and economic benefits.

- HNV farming is often practiced extensively in areas where natural constraints hinder food production capacity, and it may be considered less competitive and more fragile than more intensive forms of farming when the multiple ecosystem services it provides are not accounted for. But if policy also incentivises and rewards biodiversity conservation, landscape maintenance, food quality/ethics, rural economy and society's welfare, then this "disadvantage" becomes an opportunity.

- HNV farmers apply low quantities of inputs, a prerequisite for biodiversity conservation and self-sufficiency. They take advantage of a variety of spaces and resources (e.g. semi-natural grasslands, scrublands, forests) and are therefore more resource-efficient. They also slow down scrub encroachment onto open cultural landscapes, which is important in the context of climate change and increased fire risk. Thus, grazing land with shrubs or trees grazed directly or fed to livestock, should be eligible for CAP payments and other forms of support.

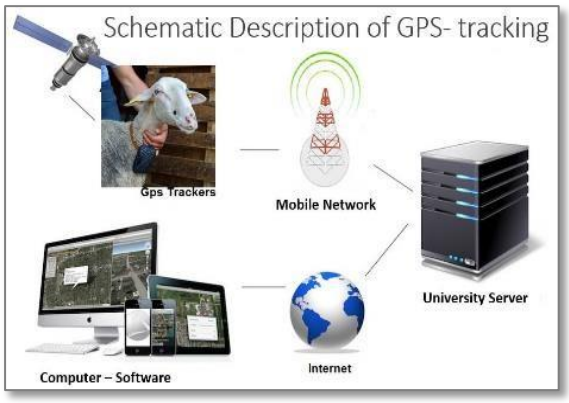
- HNV farms provide a multitude of goods and services to society, on top of producing food, and they are an important component of sustainable agri-food systems and of our cultural heritage. They deserve to receive a stronger support as without HNV farming, biodiversity and habitats cannot be preserved across sufficiently large scales, and EU Biodiversity Strategy goals cannot be reached.

Suitable innovations exist that can sustain HNV farming, and they must be adopted more widely, considering national, regional and local contexts.

- Addressing HNV farming challenges through innovation is not merely a question of individual initiatives, and the reality is more complex. Indeed, different types of innovation feed-off each other, creating synergies. In the most successful cases, there is a long-term, multi-actor "HNV innovation process" involving a bundle of innovations in different sectors (social/institutional, regulations/policy, farming techniques/management, products/market).

- Institutional and regulatory barriers might prevent support from reaching HNV farming, whilst blocking innovation on the ground from farmers and other actors in the civil society. Consequently, social/institutional and regulatory/policy innovation must be encouraged at all scales.

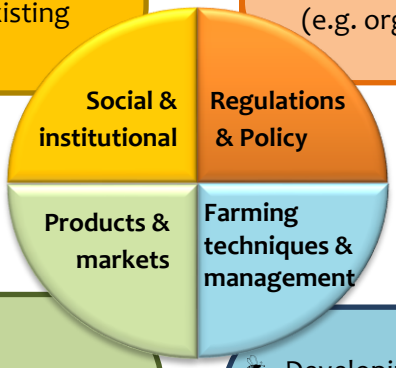
- Plenty of successful practices supporting HNV farming are available in Europe and can be adapted to different HNV farmland territories. Nonetheless, driving and sustaining an effective HNV innovation process is challenging. Actors should agree on a shared vision of what the territory could look like in the future, and commit towards common goals. Then, active brokers with suitable skills must catalyse innovation processes and projects, working locally with HNV farmers to build trust and commitment. This in turn requires a continuity of institutional cooperation and support, with a stability of personnel over the years.



- EIP Operational Groups and locally-led projects can help kick-starting innovative processes. Very successful initiatives exist in Europe that can inspire new ones.

- Supporting farmers organisation, cooperation, representation
- Boosting cooperation & dialogue between farmers and other stakeholders
- Strengthening advisory services & building capacities
- Fostering coordination & integration across institutions & sectors
- Improving rural living conditions & securing land tenure to attract new/young farmers & keep existing ones

- Adjusting agricultural, environment, rural development & food policies at EU & national levels (e.g. CAP – direct payments, eco-scheme, AECM, CAP Strategic Plans, Natura 2000)
- Adjusting the implementation of the regulations concerning on-farm production, processing, marketing (e.g. food hygiene, animal health)
- Articulating better HNV farming with other sustainable farming approaches (e.g. organic farming, agroecology)



- On-farm processing & sale of HNV products (e.g. cheese, meat)
- Collective processing/marketing initiatives & infrastructures (e.g. cooperative shops, markets, slaughterhouse)
- Branding, labelling, certification for improved added-value
- Farm diversification to secure additional incomes (e.g. agro-tourism, environmental services)
- Valorising agricultural by-products

- Developing infrastructures & technologies to improve efficiency, reduce costs, add value to HNV products (e.g. livestock GPS-tracking, apps, butterfly-friendly mowers, small scale & low-impact mobile abattoirs, poultry & cheese-making units)
- Improving farm management/planning to enhance productivity & living conditions (e.g. pasture/animal disease management)
- Carrying out nature-friendly pasture improvement (e.g. scrub control)

Supporting HNV farmers' empowerment, organisation, and cooperation with other stakeholders is key to improving their working and living conditions.

- Overall, HNV farmers' interests are poorly represented, both by mainstream farming unions (for whom profitability and competitiveness are priorities) and by some conservationists (whose interests may be purely environment-oriented). Supporting the empowerment, organisation and cooperation of HNV farmers is thus critical to advocate for change.

- Multi-actor networks such as HNV-Link play a key role in boosting innovation & driving policy change, by fostering knowledge exchange, co-innovation and by bridging the gap between researchers, practitioners and the civil society.

Thoughtful policies and regulations, in the agriculture, environment, food and rural development sectors, can strongly benefit HNV farming.

- The CAP and CAP Strategic Plans should be thoughtfully designed and implemented to better account for HNV farming specificities, and fairly reward HNV farmers for their essential contribution to nature conservation and sustainable development.
- HNV farming has been a priority for EU rural development policy since 2005 and lots of work has been done and public money spent to support and monitor HNV farming since then. The HNV farming context and impact indicators that have been developed and implemented so far by Member States should not be abandoned, or should be properly integrated in/covered by related indicators.
- A long-term innovation process is needed to gradually build a consensus and political commitment around the need to sustain HNV farming systems across Europe, and to drive action in the field.

- There is scope to adjust nationally/regionally food hygiene regulations to suit better local/artisan food production and processing, to help generate a greater added-value for HNV farm products, and enhance the viability of HNV farming systems.
- As HNV farms may be exposed to animal diseases (e.g. tuberculosis) and predators (e.g. wolf), which can affect their viability, authorities should adapt animal health regulations and control planning to the realities of extensive grazing systems and give stronger support to alleviate predation impacts.

What policy adjustments would benefit HNV farming?

Policy recommendations for the Common Agricultural Policy:

- Integrating **HNV farming in the CAP vision, objectives and Strategic Plans**, as a diversity of farming systems irreplaceable for achieving EU biodiversity conservation objectives and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Accompanying the **definition of permanent grasslands/pastures** with EU and national guidelines that ensure the full eligibility of all areas that are effectively grazed or produce fodder, whatever the vegetation type.
- Improving **CAP Pillar 1** (direct payments and market measures) to remove the historic system of rights and payments and its bias against extensive farming and better reward the provision of public goods by HNV farming (eco-schemes to support HNV systems, semi-natural pastures, etc.).
- Improving **CAP Pillar 2** (rural development policy), adjusting the overall budget balance in favour of Pillar 2 with explicit measures for locally-led HNV conservation projects and results-based incentive schemes (overall budget, transfers between Pillar 1 and 2, climate/environment scheme, etc.).
- Adjusting the **Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** (PMEF) to improve the characterisation and monitoring of HNV farming systems/territories (assessment of the quality of HNV farmlands in addition to their extent) and the evaluation of CAP measures, including an income indicator for HNV farms.

Policy recommendations for accompanying HNV farming at national, regional, and local levels:

- Strengthening **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)** across Europe to boost HNV farming innovation, including a facilitation and advisory role for NGOs.
- Enhancing **joined-up policies and institutions for integrated land management** and sustainable development.
- Improving **land access/stewardship, management & monitoring**, to support the installation of new HNV farmers, longer-term investments in HNV farming, more sustainable land planning, and the assessment of environmental results/services.
- Adjusting the implementation of **animal health and welfare regulations** (e.g. Tuberculosis eradication campaigns) to fit better HNV farming conditions.
- Adjusting the implementation of **food production, processing and marketing regulations**, to support the creation of added-value and outlets for HNV farming products, including small-scale processing and direct sales.

HNV-Link Partners

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UNIVERSITATEA DE STIINTE AGRICOLE SI MEDICINA VETERINARA CLUJ NAPOCA (USAMV CLUJ)
http://www.usamvcluj.ro

SOCIETY FOR TERRITORIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROSPERITY (STEP)
http://www.step-bg.bg

LÄNSSTYRESLSEN I VÄSTRA GÖTALANDS IÄN (LST VG SWEDEN)
https://www.lansstyrelsen.se/vastra-gotaland/privat.html

APPLICATION DES SCIENCES DE L'ACTION (AScA)
http://www.asca-net.com

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SLIGO (ITS)
https://www.itsligo.ie

PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS (UTH)
http://www.uth.gr

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI (UH)
https://www.helsinki.fi

CONSERVATOIRE DES ESPACES NATURELS DU LANGUEDOC ROUSSILLON (CEN-LR)
https://www.cenlr.org

FUNDACIÓN ENTRETANTOS (FENT)
http://www.entretantos.org

HNV Link





Don't we all wish for good food, diverse and beautiful landscapes, thriving wildlife and vibrant rural communities?

HNV farming is about all that! It produces quality and ethical food, safeguards unique habitats and biodiversity, reduces wildfire risk, employs people, and preserves our cultural heritage.






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