

## REPORT ON THE CROSS-VISIT TO LA VERA (SPAIN)

Visiting LA: Sítio de Monfurado

HNV-Link partner: University of Évora

Host LA: La Vera

HNV-Link partner: Entretantos Foundation

Duration of the visit: 2 days

Dates: 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, coincident with the Regional Meeting "Territorios Pastoreados 3"

Report by: Isabel Ferraz de Oliveira

### Portuguese participants' list

| Name                      | Actor      | Institution/Farm               |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Elvira Sales Baptista     | Researcher | ICAAM/Universidade de Évora    |
| Isabel Ferraz de Oliveira | Researcher | ICAAM/Universidade de Évora    |
| João Trindade             | Farmer     | João Trindade, Unipessoal, Lda |
| Nuno Falé Inácio          | Farmer     | Casa Agrícola de Matraque, Lda |
| José Raposo               | Farmer     |                                |

#### 1. Objective of the cross-visit:

To participate in the workshop "Territorios Pastoreados 3" and to gain knowledge on the innovations going on in extensive grazing systems all around Spain. Furthermore the Portuguese team was particularly interested in: (i) understanding the participative and collaborative processes that are going on among producers/ganaderos and commercialization and (ii) getting to know about pasture management in the Dehesa.

#### 2. Introduction

The initial motivation for the visit of the HNV-Link to Spain, was the participation on Territorios Pastoreados 3. The Spanish partner, gently invited the Portuguese team that participated with a talk on the overview of innovation in the Portuguese LA - "A innovation portrait of Sítio de Monfurado", by Isabel Ferraz de Oliveira and another talk on "Monitoring of mobility and pasture availability in Portugal", by Elvira Sales-Baptista. The invitation was then extended to 2-3 Montado farmers that would be interested and willing to join and to exchange experiences with their counterpart's livestock producers in Spain. Three Montado farmers have responded to this "call" and participated in both the workshop, the farm visit and the final meeting with participants of HNV-Link and third parts interested on wildfire prevention using pastoralist strategies. It should be highlighted that the Territorios Pastoreados organization payed both travel and accommodation expenses for all the Portuguese visitors, which we appreciate and thank.



## The “Territorios Pastoreado 3”

The workshop (see program attached) enabled us, visitors, to have a grasp of the innovations that are going on, across the extensive grazing systems in Spain. The main innovation themes dealt with were social innovation and product and market innovation related to extensive livestock production. There was also a session dedicated to grazing management entitled “Innovation for extensive grazing sustainability”. The workshop was also a very important space for exchange among mostly farmers and also some researchers both Spanish and Portuguese. The Portuguese farmers had the opportunity to mingle with the Spanish participants and share common problems and hopefully solutions as well. For the Portuguese team it was particularly remarkable the strength of the different number of collective initiatives among livestock producers, which is a different reality from what we have in the Montado and particularly in the Portuguese LA.



Fig 1. Opening session of Territorios Pastoreados and session on HNV-Link by Fabrice Gouriveau, project coordinator



In the second day of the workshop we had the opportunity to taste different, delicious traditional and innovative products from the Dehesa, such as goat and sheep cheese, various sausages and different innovative lamb products (hamburger, carpaccio..) that are the result of a collaborative work that is dedicated to the development and dissemination in the market of new lamb products (Interovic).

Fig 2. Product innovation on extensive grazing systems



### 3. Visit to the farm Casablanca

At the end of the workshop we head to a farm (Dehesa) nearby Placencia where we were gently received by the owner Enrique Vega. Enrique took us on a tour (in a open tractor trailer) through his farm, where we could see and ask about pasture management practices, livestock management, channels of commercialization, meat product development, etc. It was another great moment to exchange experience in a relaxing and informal way.



Fig 3. Visiting the Dehesa farm Casablanca



The Portuguese farmers were particularly pleased with this opportunity to discuss and see *in loco* a similar system to the Montado, with often different approaches to common problems.

### 4. Informal meeting – pastoralist strategies for wildfire prevention

After the farm visit a smaller group that included the coordination team of HNV-Link and various other third parties, gathered around a table with snacks and beer to discuss possible collaboration on developing a project on the use of pastoralist strategies for wildfire prevention in Mediterranean countries.

## Conclusions

The cross-visit to Spain accomplished its objectives. The Portuguese team felt “at home” and greatly benefited from the easiness of communication among the two languages. There were contact exchanges for future connections, mostly due to the similarity of the Dehesa and Montado system.

The main take home message for the Portuguese team was the impressive strength of the collaborative initiatives within the livestock farmers (ganaderos) and also with other actors, across the whole country.

Special thanks are due to the Spanish HNV-Link partners Pedro Herrera and Julio Majadas for the excellent organization, including all logistic details.

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