

Sweden – innovation example 1

FACILITATION OF COLLABORATIVE LAND USE MANAGEMENT (FOCLUM)

County Administrative Board of Dalssland

www.lansstyrelsen.se/vastragotaland/

- **Location:** Dalssland and Bohuslän, Sweden
- **HNV system:** Livestock, mosaic and multi-functional farming
- **Scale of operation:** FOCLUM used in 13 municipalities, in dialogues with 400 participants, on 4 000 ha.
- **Timespan:** FOCLUM operated for app. 7 years. The practical work has been put on a back burner since 2014 due to lack of funding.
- **Keys to success:** The method facilitate dialogue and collaboration between actors, resulting in shared goals, joint measures and a coordinated approach for a more sustainable land use.

Problems addressed by this example

Cessation of or discontinuing the traditional use and management of (former) HNV-farmlands

Story in a nutshell

Many land-owners at small farm-holdings are now at a crossroad: Will they turn their grassland and farmland into forest, should they try to lease the land, or even sell it? Land-owners and animal keepers are physically separated in the landscape and it is difficult for them to develop viable collaborations. Furthermore, the HNV farmland in the area consists of smaller, isolated hotspots. The question is: What could make farmers cultivate HNV-farmland again? And how could the authorities support another development? The key to success is dependent on a shift in perspectives: If the animal keepers searched for larger, connected areas and if organized correctly the smaller patches of farmland could create these areas, but this would only be possible if a constructive dialogue between all involved actors could be initiated and successfully facilitated over a longer period of time. The innovation in this case is the development of a process design and a facilitated approach which enable learning and joint action based on a constructive dialogue among local actors and other relevant stakeholders, aiming for collaborative land use management.



Figure 1

What does FOCLUM achieve for HNV farming?

Facilitate the process from first contact to implementation of concrete measures:

- Identify the land area which is HNV or has a HNV-potential
- Identify and bring together the actors whom are central to the preservation and restoration of HNV-farmland
- Facilitate the dialogue and development of a cross-sectorial basis for decision
- Design and facilitate a collaborative process
- Present an overview of potential economic support
- Support when practical measures are taken on HNV-farmlands

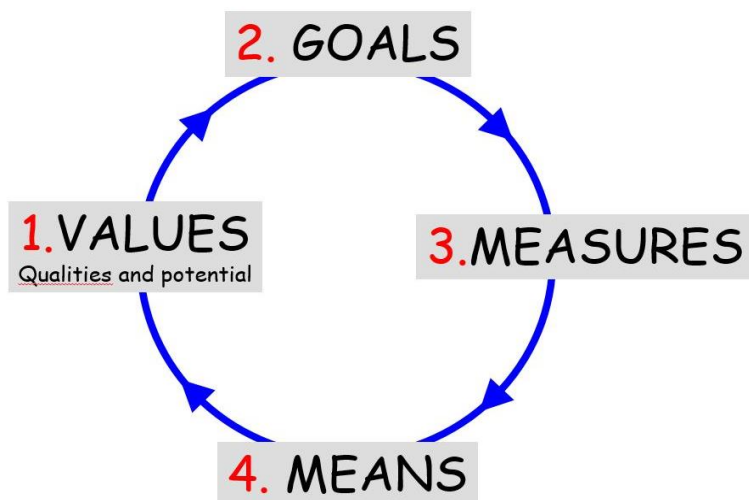


Figure 2 The process design builds on some specific phases and steps, and where additional facilitative tools are implemented or developed if needed.

Achievements

FOCLUM was a response to the need to facilitate network-building, dialogue and to develop joint basis for decisions regarding land use issues, not least in relation to HNV-issues. The approach and process design has, until today, resulted in restoration of app. 500 ha, that land management on many farms have become more oriented towards HNV (a couple of thousands ha), and that many landowners have chosen to put aside parts of their estates in different forms of nature protection (a couple of hundreds ha).

Economics of HNV farming

The applied method has resulted in a number of new or extended animal husbandries and that the turnover of these farms have increased.

Maintaining or improving HNV values

The method has a clearly expressed HNV-focus and evaluations of regained, traditional management has shown clear and positive HNV-effects. The processes the method facilitate is usually long-term. To reach the highest possible HNV-qualities it is necessary that the supporting actors, f.i., public authorities and research institutes, have a long-term commitment. There is also a need to have competent facilitators (with relevant experience) to coordinate and strengthen the work, as well as basic funding to take initiatives and to take care of the outcomes of the process.

How does FOCLUM respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?

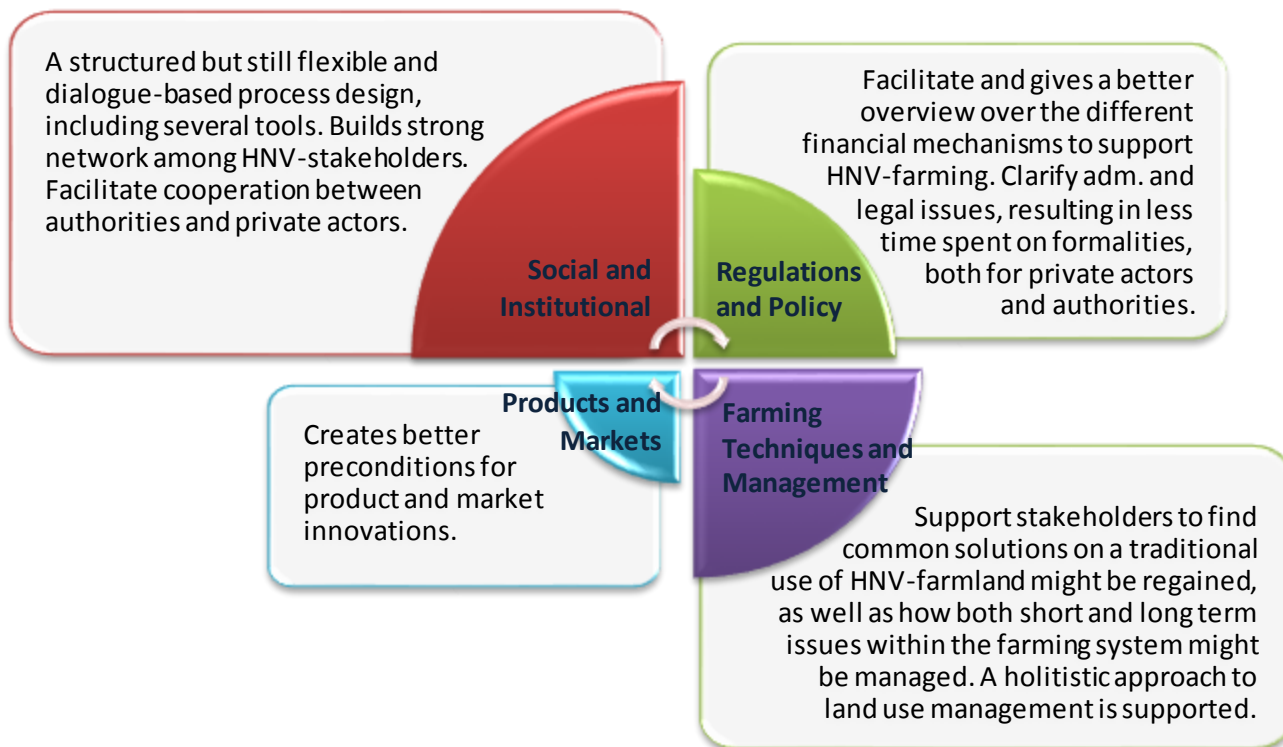


Figure 3 Shows how this innovation addresses the four themes of the HNV-Link innovation framework.

The core of the method (innovation) is mainly social and institutional. Less so an issue of farming techniques and management, and even less related to regulations and policy. There is no strong connection to the development of products and markets per se. We believe this is reasonable and that all four categories does not necessarily need to be treated equally. Rather, our experience is that a strong focus on social and institutional innovations creates the best preconditions for innovations in other areas.

The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

- A will and commitment from land owners, animal keepers and other local actors to support HNV-farming
- A willingness, competence, continuity and sustained effort from core individuals at relevant authorities
- Time (money) to develop the method, to build network and trust, and to create a common ground
- Funding to realise concrete HNV-measures

Some 15 years ago the authorities interacting with land-owners in the area managed their affairs without much contact with each other, although some issues was about managing the same estates or land areas (the County Administration and the Swedish Forest Agency). But there were persons in each organization that experienced that they, in their professional roles, were not able to support land-owners in an efficient way by not communicating with each other, and by not working with a systemic approach. In fact, they struggled with their professional role as well as the ways in which their organizations should work in relation to the farmland managers. Although having a deep understanding and a good ambition, they realized that the way they worked would not be sustainable in the long run.

To overcome the challenges surrounding the HNV-farmlands in the learning area the County Administration in 2007 applied for and also got funding to develop a new working approach to make land-owners and animal keepers collaborate and by such measures help conserving HNV-farmland. The project broadened its scope in 2009, were pre-longed in 2013 and was, as a project, ended in 2014. For each year the collaboration between the authorities was strengthened, but most of all a strong network of farmers in the area had been established and several examples of successful collaboration developed.

Since 2015 this working approach lack funding. Furthermore, the funding for restoration projects on HNV-farmlands, as in the earlier initiatives, has ceased. In practice this means that new initiatives are not taken, and existing engagement and interest not taken care of. No doubt there is a will to start working with the same or similar approaches again among many local actors. During our workshops in the LA Dalsland in spring and summer of 2017 this was also clearly stated among participating stakeholders.



Figure 4

Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

- The importance of willingness and a commitment to HNV-measures among local actors
- The method works well to strengthen HNV-qualities, but demands training and continuity
- Long-term funding for working time and specific measures is very important
- The method has a big potential for replication
- If the crucial issue of funding is solved, the method will have a big effect on the HNV-qualities in the landscape

Before initiating the first project in 2007 there were some doubts that the local actors, especially land owners and animal keepers, would not be enough interested in HNV-issues. Especially that they would not be committed to do specific measures. These doubts proved to be unfounded. The interest was very big.

Another fear was that it would not be possible to find enough grazing animals for the areas which were identified as desirable and feasible to restore. Also this has shown to be unfounded. When actors collaborate and make a thorough preparatory work, that is tries to find holistic solutions so that the preconditions for animal keeping in an area is as good as possible, there has always been HNV-oriented animal keepers that has come forward and shown an interest and high competence.

In Dalsland and Bohuslän there is a variety of natural environments, from coastal zone to forest areas, and in all these environments the methods have shown to work well. Therefore it should have a potential to be replicated to other countries, regions and natural environments.

Long-term funding of competent individuals is a prerequisite for continuity. Such a continuity among core persons is important to be able to build on already made experiences, existing networks, established trust and social capital. It takes time to build such capital in an organisation, why a strategy must exist on how to secure long term funding, training and commitment among key employees in these organisations. Furthermore, some kind of financial support to farmers who aim to do important HNV-measures are necessary. This are measures which society at large benefit from, why public support is relevant. In the long run, a combination of public support and market solutions are probably the most common solution.



Figure 5

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