

Sweden – innovation example 3

FACILITATION OF COLLABORATIVE LAND USE MANAGEMENT; TECHNIQUES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR HNV PASTURE PROJECTS (FOCLUM-PRP)

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:** A couple of hundreds hectare
- **Timespan:** Has operated for app. 7 years
- **Keys to success:** Entrepreneurs with an interest in HNV-farming, and with broad and deep competence as well as an ability to collaborate with both authorities, animal keepers, land owners and other HNV-stakeholders.

Problems addressed by this example

Land owners usually do not have the time nor access to resources, for instance machineries, or experience enough to restore semi-natural grasslands in a way which give us successful results.

Story in a nutshell

An entrepreneur based in the neighboring county to the learning area has developed a service package directed toward HNV-pasture restoration projects. The company offers a number of services, and can help a land owner through the process from making the first plans to the first grazing seasons. The services are directed towards restoring former HNV-land that has been deforested, either due to plantation or spontaneous overgrowing, a situation that is the starting point for the most of the HNV restoration projects in the learning area. In developing the techniques for the restorations, the entrepreneur has invented several machine adaptations, for example a rebuild harrow adapted for assembling branches that are left after felling the trees.

What does FOCLUM-PRP achieve for HNV farming?

- It offers services for restoration of HNV-farmlands, either for specific parts of such projects or as a prime contractor.
- Cost efficient with good impact on HNV-qualities.
- The implementation phase of the FOCLUM-process is facilitated.
- Could be used for HNV-measures also outside of the FOCLUM-process, where the context might be less complex.

Achievements

The entrepreneurial firm participating in most HNV-restoration projects has been working with app. 200 ha semi-natural grasslands. Sometimes the land owner want a prime contractor, sometimes services for specific measures. All different parts needed for a successful restoration is delivered, but based on needs and the level of ambition. The firm can also support with grazing animals during the restoration project and take responsibility for the sometimes quite complex administrative work. Altogether, this firm has worked with app. 30 land-owners during the project period. FOCLUM-PRP has proven to be an efficient tool to implement the goals which the FOCLUM-process and the FOCLUM-LUP-tool has generated.



Figure 1 & 2



Economics of HNV farming

The restoration projects are less expensive and with a better end-result if the entrepreneur take the whole responsibility for the implementation phase (to be compared with a situation where you work with many different entrepreneurs without any professional coordination). The potential to make restorations in a cost-effective way, and where the animal keepers does not have to spend unnecessary time, has made the preconditions for future restorations more favourable. In some areas and processes this might have been the final factor that made land owner and animal keepers to dare to go for a bigger restoration project.

Maintaining or improving HNV values

All individual operations have been developed so that they generate as high HNV-effect as possible and could both lead to maintenance and improvement of HNV values.



Figure 3 & 4

How does FUCLUM-PRP respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?

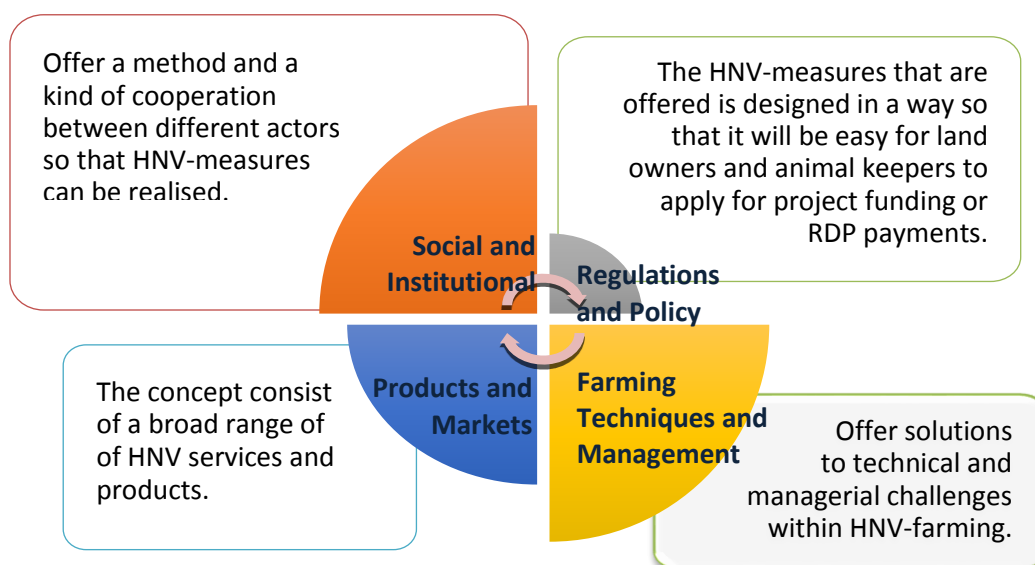


Figure 5 Shows how this innovation addresses the four themes of the HNV-Link innovation framework.

This innovation helps us manage challenges in all four categories of innovations. FOCLUM-PRP is used in a phase where land-owners, animal keepers and other HNV-actors move from dialogue and deliberation on specific HNV-goals to the implementation of measures needed to reach the goals. Therefore, it is not strange that the main part of this innovation lies in the field of Farming techniques and management. Making implementation work is nevertheless strongly related to the other innovation areas. From another perspective one would perhaps argue that FOCLUM-PRP is an innovation in Products and markets because the entrepreneur deliver a mix of services and products which facilitate customers possibility to reach their goals. It is also services which are traded on an open market. Or, from another angle, the innovation could be seen as a social and institutional innovation because it gives us a working approach so that we can do concrete HNV-measures.

The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

- A common need for cost-effective restorations with the best possible HNV-effect.
- Project funding were available, both to enable time spent on development among advisors and to finance concrete HNV-measures.

Before this concept was established land owners and animal keepers had, with support from the County Administration and the Swedish Forest Agency, made restorations on their own or by hiring specialized entrepreneurs for different measures. All actors felt a need for a more coordinated, cost-effective and HNV-oriented approach.

After having tested the new approach, the County Administration found that the way the entrepreneur organized and did the restoration was much more efficient and with higher quality compared with before. Also for the land owners the process became much smoother. As an individual land owner you does not do many restorations during a life-span, but as an entrepreneur you could develop your skills and the technologies for each project you became involved in. Today the entrepreneur has trained employees and a specialized machinery to fits its purpose.

It has mainly been two factors that has been important for this innovation to exist. One is that there has been financial resources for this kind of restoration projects with enabled employees at the authorities to coordinate activities and to develop the method/process design (FOCLUM). This enabled them also to spend much time interacting with farmers and entrepreneurs. The second factor has been the availability of public project funding (within RDP) for restoration-projects on overgrown semi-natural grasslands. This has been necessary for land owners whom otherwise would have had hard time paying the entrepreneur for their services.



Figure 6-8

Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

This is an efficient HNV-tool if:

- It is part of an overall HNV-process such as FOCLUM
- A good basis for decisions has been developed for HNV, for instance by FOCLUM-LUP
- All actors have planned and prepared themselves so that they have the economy to pay the entrepreneur during a restoration phase. Consequently, this could mean that possibilities for such project funding must be available under the RDP.

Our experience is that FOCLUM-PRP is a very effective tool to make HNV-restorations of high standard, but also as part of other measures on landscape and object level. In complex projects the implementation must be based on a process which has developed strong drafts for decisions and trust among involved actors (f.i., FOCLUM-LUP). The restoration projects benefitting from FOCLUM-PRP is often part of long-term initiatives which per se create a strong foundation (f.i., through the FOCLUM-process) for actors to finally deliver the desired HNV-qualities.

Where you have capital strong land owners they can start restoration projects without public support. But our experience is that a close dialogue with authorities still is necessary. It has often meant unnecessary work for the entrepreneur if not some procedures are taken into account, as well as some missed opportunities to create high HNV-qualities. When working with this innovation and tool, it is important to keep in mind that the preparatory work, the dialogue and network arrangements, the challenge of future land management, issues related to economy, etc., all are parts of a bigger process, where the chain is not stronger then the weakest link.



Figure 9



Figure 10

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