

Learning Area

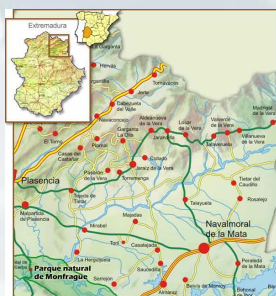
La VERA (Cáceres) Spain

Pastando La Vera / Grazing La Vera

Starting a process of dialogue and shared problem solving, to create the conditions for extensive pastoralism to flourish

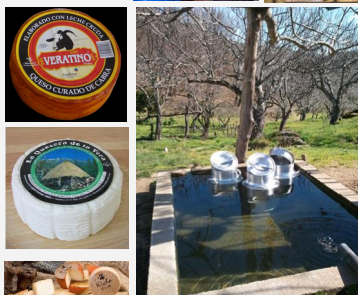
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Coordinator: Fundación Entretantos / EFNCP

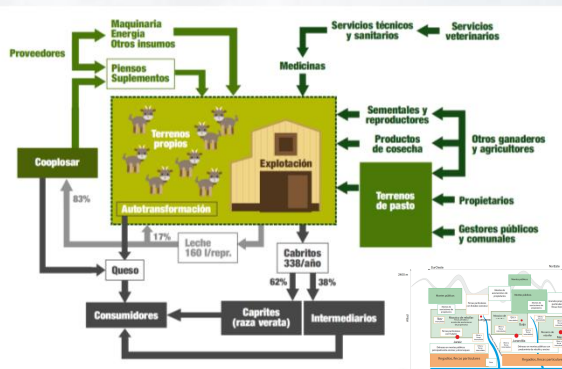


Baseline analysis (WP1): drawing the challenges

- The HNV pastoral system, specially goat grazing, is declining.
- Scrub encroachment and closure of the mosaic landscape is leading to losses of Natura 2000 values and increasingly damaging wild fires.
- Farms struggle with poor economic viability, harsh living conditions and very limited public support (including the CAP) compared with other sectors and other Member States.
- They face a stifling regulatory system (food hygiene, animal health, Natura 2000, land-use planning) and a stiff bureaucracy.
- Pastures are poorly managed, with low investment, no management plans, Natura 2000 restrictions and competition with hunting.
- Proper marketing, on-farm processing and direct sales of HNV production are not developed. HNV Production is not properly valued.
- Thousands of goats have been slaughtered by a severe, top-down campaign to eradicate TB, but there is no programme for carrying wildlife (deer or wildboars).
- Regional government policy has no vision for the future of upland grazing. Instead there is a fragmented set of divergent policies that are driving the HNV system into terminal decline.



HNV-System: Extensive livestock farming in uplands (goats) and dehesas (cattle)



What to do from HNV-Link?

The overall objective was to begin a process of awareness and dialogue between farmers, authorities and other actors, with the focus on constructive, shared problem-solving. The goal is to achieve clear understanding among the relevant authorities of the specific challenges faced by pastoralism in La Vera, and of the set of concrete solutions proposed by the project.



Main priorities

- To facilitate a dialogue between farmers, experts and regional authorities, in order to find ways to adapt the sanitation (TB) programs and make it less punishing for extensive grazers.
- To facilitate (potential) producers to cope with food hygiene regulations and adapt them to artisan, on-farm dairies: ditto for regulations affecting direct meat sales.
- To work with authorities to adapt regulations in 2 ways: 1) awareness about the adaptability of EU food hygiene regs, and 2) adaptation of land use and environmental regulations that constrain HNV systems.
- To promote and discuss with regional authorities incentives for extensive grazing in upland Natura 2000 sites: e.g. specific payments (CAP and RDP)
- To develop a local case-study in Garganta-la-Olla of the needs for innovation in a municipality, to reinforce lobby and communication actions with concrete examples.
- Capacity-building of farmers' groups and links to support development help give them a voice
- Continuity of the project – seek funding especially from LAG and regional authorities



- Promote and facilitate local farmers association
- Design measures and proposals to include in LAG funding projects
- Establish permanent contact between farmers and regional government
- Organise training dissemination and social activities with farmers and other stakeholders
- Develop social awareness around local HNV farming
- Include farmers in events and activities
- Promote exchange of experiences
- Celebrate national events in the LA
- Host visits from external farmers and other specialists
- Help farmers to participate in networks and consultations
- Collaboration and networking with other projects such as Mosaico...



- Training activities for entrepreneurs and potential and actual on-farm and artisan transformers
- Information campaigns on HNV production in the LA
- Promoting organic certification among HNV-farming including collective initiatives
- Participation in local events, fairs and fairs to help promoting HNV products among locals and visitors

Innovation needs and initiatives included in La Vera Action Plan

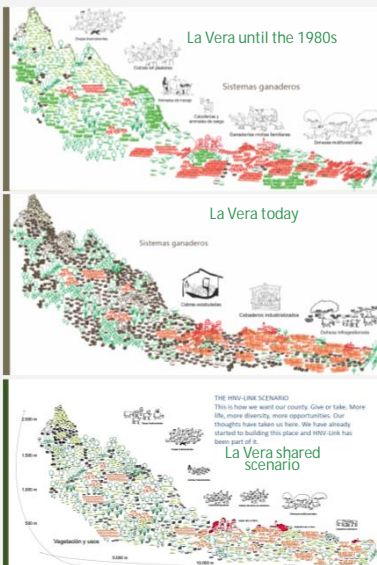
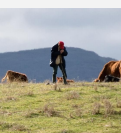
Social and institutional Needs
Capacity building
Voice of farmers
Participation of farmers
Social fabric among farmers

Policies and regulations Needs
Improved CAP Pillar 1 and RDP payments
Adapted regulations (hygiene, health, land use, Natura 2000, environment...)
Reduced impact of TB program

Products and markets Needs
On-farm production
Direct sales
Differentiated markets
Entrepreneurship
Integration with other productions

Farming and management Needs
Integrated management plans
Better production infrastructures
Public support
Better access to land

- Design and discuss with regional authorities measures to improve Pillar 1 and RDP payments
- Lobby for agri-environmental measures underdeveloped on Regional RDP
- Contact and training public servants on the adaptation and flexibility of EU regulations
- Disseminate contents of TB programme and develop a campaign for including participation of farmers
- Identify target habitats and management measures for Natura 2000 management plans



Activities developed
Baseline assessment (WP1), technical reports and analysis, maps
Technical diagnosis of farming, modelling and assessment of their main conditions (WP1)
Social map and baseline analysis of current situation
Participatory strategic workshops: future scenario building, strategic planning, project development...
Graphics and videos showing the building of a shared vision for the LA
Participation in Atlas of HNV in Europe
Innovation analysis (needs, solutions from other LA, solutions from other areas, double proposals, feasibility...), including an innovation report (WP2)
Workshops, training courses, technical meetings
Communication activities: Leaflet, webpage, magazine articles, congress communications, event presentations, La Vera Farmers' WhatsApp Group... (WP3)
Territorios Pastoreados 3, national event on pastoralism, land and innovation
Participatory meetings on farming issues (2), environmental issues (2), capacity-building (3), entrepreneurship (1)
Designs and first stage implementation of a pilot project of integrated management for the municipality of Garganta
Meetings with different authorities: (Animal health (2), Environment (5), health & sanitation (2), local authorities (2), Regional Ministry of Agriculture and environment (2), Extremadura 2030 Action Plan (1).
Promoting alliances on innovation tools as grazing for wildlife prevention (WP4)
Cross-visit to Causses and Cévennes L.A.
Document compiling different innovative proposals for each one of the 4 fields displayed
Participation in Regional, National and European networks (WP4)

Partners:



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