

Spain – innovation example 3

MOSAICO LANDSCAPE-SCALE PROJECT FOR FIRE PREVENTION

<http://www.mosaicoextremadura.es/el-proyecto/>

- **Location:** Sierra de Gata and Hurdes, Extremadura
- **HNV system:** Extensive goat grazing, trees crops (e.g. chestnuts)
- **Scale of operation:** 24 municipalities
- **Timespan:** Started in 2015, funding is secured until 2018
- **Keys to success:** The trigger was a massive wild fire in 2015. University academics put together the project and convinced the Regional authorities to support and fund it. Funding is key, but equally the dedication of specific individuals who set up the project and the positive response of the local population and institutions.



Figure 1

Problems addressed by this example

The project addresses the problem of wild fires, by going to the root cause: the gradual abandonment of the traditional mosaic landscape and the farming systems that constitute this landscape. The project provides a support service to help local people to overcome barriers, such as bureaucracy and market limitations, that prevent the continuation of small-scale farming systems.

Story in a nutshell

Multi-actor project aiming to restore productive and fire-resistant mosaic landscapes in a very large area that has been suffering from severe wildfires in recent years. The project is highly participatory, involving the local population. The project supports individuals and communities that wish to start or maintain appropriate farming or forestry activities that will contribute to creating and maintaining a mosaic landscape.

What does Mosaico achieve for HNV farming?

- New social dynamic in the area, with the local population and authorities working together to maintain a mosaic and fire-resistant landscape.
- New forest management associations and restoration plans for the burnt area, incorporating farmland as fire-breaks.
- Collaborative projects with 3 municipalities and with NGOs to undertake planning and restoration.
- More than 100 individual projects in the pipeline, including a pilot project with eight goat farmers for fire-prevention grazing.



Figure 2

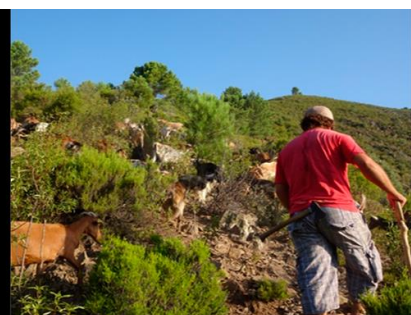


Figure 3



Figure 4

Achievements

To-date, the main achievement is a new and extremely positive and optimistic social dynamic in the area, with the local population and authorities working together with the regional government to address the question of how to maintain a mosaic and fire-resistant landscape. There have been numerous workshops and public meetings to generate ideas and actions. Many individual projects are now in the pipeline.

Economics of HNV farming

Data is not available on the economic impact of the programme for HNV farms.

Maintaining or improving HNV values

The project is not designed to achieve specifically HNV or conservation objectives, but undoubtedly has important potential benefits in terms of maintaining extensive grazing systems and traditional tree crops.

How does Mosaico respond to the HNV LINK innovation themes?

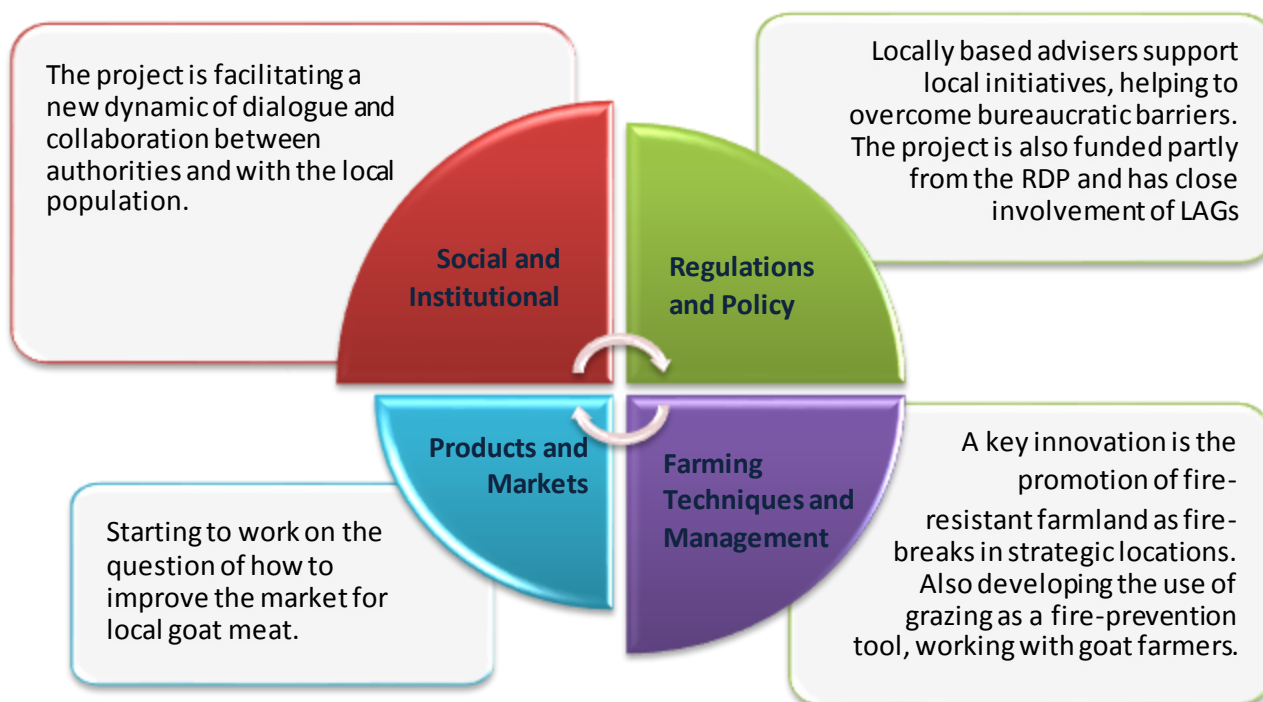


Figure 5 Shows how this innovation addresses the four themes of the HNV-Link innovation framework.



The process that made it happen and critical factors for success

- The catalyst/trigger for the initiative was the disaster of a massive wild fire in 2015.
- Key actors are the University academics who put together the project and convinced the Regional authorities to support and fund it.
- Funding is a key factor, but also the dedication of specific individuals who set up the project, and the positive response of the local population and institutions.
- Different levels of government are showing willingness to work together.

The project is run by the University of Extremadura (Forest Faculty), with funding from the Regional Government (Department of Environment, Rural Development and Agriculture). It is truly a multi-actor project (University; Regional, Provincial and Local authorities; 2 LAGs).

Support for projects from local people is delivered by 4 dedicated project officers at local level, offering a range of technical, administrative and commercial advice.

The main problems have been the very slow pace of the public administration, and the lack of training of the local people with an interest in developing projects (the intention of Mosaic is to harness the ones with most knowledge to train the others).

Lessons learnt from this innovation example, and its potential replication

- Very good potential for replication in all areas of extensive livestock grazing.
- Requires funding and institutional commitment over the long term.
- Needs a dynamic and committed individuals with a clear vision and ability to convince and collaborate with different institutions

Disclaimer: This document reflects the author's view and the Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

