Our understanding of the main types of farmland:

1) Semi-natural grasslands (Type 1 HNV). Mostly (all?) owned by Municipalities, individual or communal grazing.

2) Traditional mosaics of vineyards and arable crops with hedges etc. Type 2 HNV.

3) Intensive arable land – Type 3?
   • The Protected Area covers only habitats next to river, not surrounding HNV farmland.
   • But are we clear about the biodiversity functions of this farmland in its 3 types?
   • And do we know tendencies of these landuses and key issues for the future?
   • Can some broad objectives be proposed?
Semi-natural grasslands

- Value for biodiversity seems clear.
- But is current grazing pressure appropriate? Is there too much grazing pressure on these grasslands? Are more grasslands needed?
- Do reliable data exist on current use of grasslands, especially on livestock densities?
- Will smallest producers disappear in the near future?
- Will medium-sized producers keep going and maintain communal grasslands?
- Will there be a tendency to use cultivated forage from intensive land instead of grasslands?
- What objectives should be considered for the grasslands?
Intensive arable land

• Is it important for species conservation?
• Is it expanding, becoming more intensive? Or the opposite?
• Are there simple positive measures that can be taken to address issues?
• Does cross-compliance protect remaining landscape features?
• Can it be used to require minimum amount of this “ecological infrastructure”, including adding where necessary?
• Is there a role for incentives through agri-environment (or is HNV a higher priority)?
Traditional low-intensity mosaics

• How does it contribute to biodiversity in conjunction with the Type 1? Is its function fully understood and recognised?

• Is its importance recognised in EU context, where it is so much richer in biodiversity than “normal” farmland in central and northern regions? (cf Spain)

• What will happen to it? Conversion to intensive arable use? Gradual intensification and erosion of biodiversity function? Abandonment?

• Are there simple positive measures that can be taken to maintain these landuses and their biodiversity benefits?

• Role for incentives through agri-environment?

• Objectives for the future?
Intensive farmland: Type 3?

Small-scale plot mosaic: Type 2?

Communal pastures: Type 1

What is the “vision” for the future of this whole landscape?
And what is the “vision” for sustaining biodiversity and farmers’ livelihoods?
Thank you for an excellent seminar!