Europe’s wood pastures: condemned to a slow death by the CAP?
A test case for EU agriculture and biodiversity

“Wood pastures in Spain”

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Objectives of this presentation

1.- To present the diversity, relevance & richness of “wood pastures” in Spain

2.- To describe the eligibility system for permanent pastures used on Pillar 1 Payments

3.- To draw your attention on the problems associated to the system

4.- To request EU and Spanish authorities to modify the system and to guarantee that wood pastures are fully supported by CAP direct payments
Spain is a *pastoral country*

Its landscape and its habitats were conformed by millenia of *pastoral use*.
Grass pastures are only a minor part of total (13%). Pastures with brushes and trees are predominant.
Permanent pastures occupy more than 18.5 million hectares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Type</th>
<th>Area (Mill. ha)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grass pastures</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush pastures</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree pastures</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wood pastures</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>87%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Forest" 8.7

According to Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), 2015 called SIGPAC in Spanish

Wood pastures occupy more than 16.1 million hectares

32% of total national area

Therefore, the consideration of this land type by the CAP is a major and relevant national question.
Grazing even takes place on forests!

“Monchina” cows under Basque pine forests
There is a great diversity of wood pastures in Spain:

- Iberian pigs in dehesas from Extremadura feed on acorns
- Tudanca cattle on Cantabrian shrublands
- Cows in Zamora’s oak forests
- Goats on steep Malaga’s brushlands
- Latxas sheeps under Navarre oak forests
- Sheeps on Gran Canaria’s pine forests
- Monchina cows under Basque pine forests
- Cows in Soria’s pine forests
Local races have adapted to harsh conditions, …

like this “cachena” cow from Galice

Maintaining productive wood pastures is essential for the survival of these adapted races, a valuable European heritage
Celtic pigs on “montanera” in chestnuts forests in Galicia
The scientific Spanish Society for the Study of Pastures (SEEP) has systematized the different types of pastures and the extensive farming systems.
These farming systems:

1. Maintain profitable holdings
2. Provide animal products of extraordinary quality:
   - Iberic ham
   - Diverse cheese
3. Create employment
4. Sustain population on remote and less favoured areas
5. Conserve endangered local races
6. Provide highly valuable ecosystem services
7. Prevent forest fires
And the area **really grazed changes with time**

It was

- 34,4 M ha in 1940
- 24,8 M ha in 1980
- but only 8,4 M ha in 2015 (24,4 % of 1940)

**Area grazed in Spain (mill.ha)**
In this context of such a strong reduction in grazing is where we have to consider the sensitivity of the CAP effects on pastoralism.

One of the aims of Pillar 1 payments is to prevent abandonment.
Because the major risk is a really sensitive question for Spanish and Mediterranean societies . . .
A link between pastoralism and forest fires that European and national policies are not considering.

... The main reason for not finding a solution to that problem!
In this national context, the last CAP revision (2013) is worsening the situation!
European Reglaments have improved considerably . . .

But their application in Spain is not being adequate!
Elegibility of wood pastures is the problem and it’s a serious one!
From Aragón, to Andalucía... through Salamanca
National and regional authorities have decided to establish a pro-rata Reduction Coefficient of the area of permanent pastures eligible for pillar 1 payments, called Pastures Admisibility Coefficient, that reduces eligibility for the presence of 3 factors:

- Slope
- Rocks
- Woody vegetation
It does not consider:

1.- Actual **farming use** of the parcel
2.- Many woody species do have a high **forage value**
3.- **Slope is not a real** limiting factor

The possibility of considering **adapted local practices** is not being applied
These two oak forests in Salamanca might have the same coefficient (0) . . .

Although, one is actually being grazed and . . .

the other is abandoned!
It’s excluding payments in large areas actually being grazed and base of productive and highly valuable farms:
Resumen de nueva situación del CAP.

**NUEVO CAP ARAGÓN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provincia</th>
<th>Has declaradas</th>
<th>Has ajustadas</th>
<th>Coef ajuste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teruel</td>
<td>375.671</td>
<td>234.143</td>
<td>0,63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaragoza</td>
<td>241.246</td>
<td>144.287</td>
<td>0,60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huesca</td>
<td>256.400</td>
<td>107.016</td>
<td>0,42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>873.317</strong></td>
<td><strong>485.446</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,56</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Has ajustadas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inicial</td>
<td>232.227</td>
<td>96.863</td>
<td>0,42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Añadidas (1)</td>
<td>24.173</td>
<td>10.153</td>
<td>0,42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>256.400</strong></td>
<td><strong>107.016</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,42</strong></td>
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(1) Improductivos CAP > 20 => se pasan a PR

**CAP ARAGÓN 2014** 0,53
In Aragón or Andalucía around 50% of pastures are being rejected!
Problems arise:

1.- For farmers, that have to look for (and presumably pay for) new pasture areas.

2.- There is a risk for trees and brush to be cleared from pastures, since they are perceived as “problematic”

3.- There is a derived risk for biodiversity, because a large proportion of these wood pastures are declared part of Natura-2000

4.- There is a widespread increase in wildfire hazard, with accompanying carbon release and soil erosion
Worldly recognized farms are suffering the impacts . . .

http://elcabrerodebolonia.blogspot.com.es/
DG Agri auditors are insisting that the Spanish authorities take a very restrictive approach.

The threat of a fine of 290 Million € is forcing the process to be even more strict.
Different groups have organized a **Platform for Pastoralism** that has proposed different **solutions** to the **Spanish Ministry** of Agriculture and has written to **Eu Commision:**

- D.G. Agriculture and
- D.G. Environment
Solutions are needed!

Spanish farmers, foresters and conservationists need a new and better adapted system for eligibility of pastures

- A dynamic approach is needed

- Better coordination among
  - national and regional
  - agrarian and forest

  Administrations is needed

- The Land Parcel Identification System (called SIGPAC in Spanish) needs to be improved,
  integrating information on species composition of the tree, brush and grass vegetation layers
Solutions are needed!

Asturias Regional Government announced last week to be the first region to declare

Traditional Grazing Areas under Local Practices

(BOPA – 2015, Nov. 4th)

Conclusions

1.-The implementation of CAP eligibility rules to pastures with trees and shrubs in Spain goes against the overall objectives of both the

- Common Agricultural Policy and
- EU Environmental Policy.

2.-It will create serious environmental problems, it will worsen the problem of forest fires in Spain and it will compromise the continuity of thousands of farms increasing productive land abandonment.

3.-We request that the European Parliament ask the European Commission and the Spanish authorities to revise the method and to fully guarantee that all land that complies with the Permanent Grassland definition and is in active grazing use is fully eligible for CAP direct payments.
Thanks for your attention!

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