Romania: Why and how CAP should support HNV farming in Transylvania?

László Demeter, dr Barbara Knowles, Gergely Rodics

Pogány-havas Association, European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mosaic</th>
<th>Adept</th>
<th>Green Agora</th>
<th>Pogany-havas</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size of the area (km²)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>1975 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>250-500 m</td>
<td>400-800 m</td>
<td>450-950 m</td>
<td>700-1500 m</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural population size</td>
<td>3260</td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>7500</td>
<td>23000</td>
<td>53760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Some NGO-s working in the field of HNV farming.
Some geographic terms related to our area (Pogány-havas Association)

- Pogány-havas - Pagan Snowcap

- Csík Basin, Csík Mountains (pronounce: „cheek“) - Weatherfish Country (*Misgurnus fossilis*)

- Gyimes – Deer Valley
Pagan Snowcap - highest known occurrence of the Eastern Pasqueflower – *Pulsatilla patens* in Romania (Europe?)

**Csík Mountains**

**Csík Basin**

View to the East
Medieval drawings on the tower of a church
Some important natural features of the area among the drawings
Csík Mountains – Gyimes – hay storage buildings in the foreground (view to the South)
Csík Basin – Weatherfish, Corncrake and White Stork heaven
The scale of small farming and the services provided to European society

- 3.5 million small farms in Romania
- Created and manage HNV farmland, and especially HNV grassland – both good for biodiversity and human society, providing services like:
  - Maintaining soil, reduce erosion, filtering water, protection from flooding
  - Pollination, protection against pests and diseases
  - Carbon storage; Biodiversity including genetic and ecological diversity
  - Cultural heritage – part of European cultural heritage
  - Healthy food products
  - A „living library” of knowledge about sustainable agriculture
  - Social cohesion – e.g. children taking part in the family business and doing useful work
  - RESILIENCE to social, environmental and economic threats
- They are payed for food - the other services are valuable but unpaid
Key features of HNV farming in Transylvania

- **Small**
- **Small plot size, fragmented ownership (economic handicap) – mosaic habitat structure and refuge**
- **Community and landscape level land stewardship**
- Low fossil fuel and chemical input
- High human and animal labor input
- Huge traditional ecological knowledge (see Molnár and Babai)
Key features of HNV farmland in Transylvania

- Huge biodiversity: genetic, species and ecological diversity
- High connectivity of functional ecosystems (landscape scale)
- Abandonment and quick, ecologically damaging changes (energy crops, afforestation – driven by new rules and opportunities)
Products and problems of HNV grassland farmers in Transylvania

** Marketable products**
- Milk and milk products (milk is of key importance for HNV grassland conservation)
- Meat
- Honey, jam, herbs
- Handicrafts

** Problems**
- Finding markets – where to sell milk? and meat?
- Too strict food safety rules – developed originally for large scale producers – flexibility needed
- Understanding regulations and policies
- Access to grants and subsidies – eligibility problems
The role of EU policies in HNV farming

• Creating equal opportunities for small producers
  – So that small and large producers can compete equally in the market

• Rewarding the services that HNV farmers provide to Society
  – Agri-environment scheme and other agricultural payments at a realistic level

• Change in philosophy: not only compensation for loss, but also payment for services
Increasing the efficiency of RDP payments for maintaining HNV farm services to society – principles for support systems

- **Recognize and Maintain Diversity** = regionalized rules for agri-environment packages (no one rule for a whole country)
- **Maintain Landscape Heterogeneity** – include small plots, as an ecologically optimal system of habitat management
- **Reward Non- and Little-Mechanized Farming** as cultural heritage and minimal ecological footprint in food production and providing ecosystem and socio-economic services
- **Reward Being Small** – it’s not size that matters most (as opposed to policies that aim to increase farm size)
- **Respect Traditions** (traditional agricultural and ecological knowledge) in existing historical HNV farmer communities – farmers often know better how to manage the land sustainably
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