



High nature value Farmland - Exchange of experiences throughout Europe

High Nature Value Farmland in Italy

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Geography and climate

- From Alps (47° N) to Lampedusa (36° N).
- Mountain ranges (only 23% of lowland) and 8 000 km of coastal line.
- Mean temperatures: from 0° C (Alps) to 17° C (Sicily).
- Annual precipitations: from 300 mm (South) to 3 300 (N. E. Alps).
- **Agriculture is extremely varied**
 - Po Valley: wider areas devoted to arable crops
 - Alpine range and Sardinia: permanent grassland
 - Permanent crops: Southern regions (olive groves and vineyards)
- One of Europe's richest countries in terms of biodiversity
 - Half of the plant species and a third of the animal species



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

High Nature Value Farmland in Italy

- 5 main HNV farming systems: permanent grassland, extensive livestock, arable crops, permanent crops, mixed crops.
- Methodology (2005 FSS data)
 - Presence/absence of livestock
 - Prevalence of land use
 - Livestock density
 - Presence/absence of irrigation
 - Organic farming
 - Presence/absence of unfarmed features (e.g.: stonewalls)
- 3.1 million ha
 - 24% of UAA; 10% of Italian territory.
- Mountains: 49%; Hills: 42%; Plains: 9%.
- Regional differences: from 11% to 71%



Permanent grassland systems

Permanent grassland > 50%

- 1.3 million ha
(42% of HN VF)
- 100 000 farms
(43% of HNV farms)
- 77% on mountains
21% on hills;
- Alpine Arc; Apennines
range and Sardinia;
- 72% common lands
 - 64% public bodies with
an avg. Size of 458 ha.
- 59% of farms managed by farmers over 60 (46% of surface area)
- Organic farming: only 1% of UAA.



Low-intensity livestock systems

< 0,5 – 0,75 - 1 L.U./ha

- 1.1 million ha (35% of HN VF)
- 18 000 farms (8% of HNV farms)
- 51% on hills
39% on mountains
- North-West and main islands
- Common lands: 4% of the total area
- 36% of farms managed by farmers over 60 (27% of surface area)
- Organic farming: 11% of UAA.



Low-intensity arable crops

arable crops > 50%

- 400 000 ha (13% of HN VF)
- 25 000 farms (11%)
- 64% on hills
24% on plains
- Mainly in Central and Southern regions
- Mainly cereals (45%) and fodder crops (23%)
- 49% of farms managed by farmers over 60 (30% of UAA)
- Organic farming: 43% of UAA
 - cereals



Low-intensity permanent crops

< 2 L.U.; arable crops > 50%

- 260 000 ha (9% of HN VF)
- 79 000 farms (35%)
- 71% on hills
10% on plains
- Mainly in Central and Southern regions;
- Mainly olive groves (50%) and vineyards;
- 52% of farms managed by farmers over 60 (43% of UAA)
- Organic farming: 44% of UAA
 - olive groves



Low-intensity mixed crops < 2 L.U.

- 36 000 ha (1% of HNMF)
- 6 000 farms (2.5%)
- 69% on hills
27% on mountains
- Central regions and main islands;
- Mainly cereals (33%), olive groves (18%) and citrus fruits (18%);
- 78% of farms managed by farmers over 60 (53% of UAA)
- Organic farming: 53% of UAA.



Example 1: olive groves



Otus scops *
European Scops
Owl

Upupa epos
Hoopoe

*Caprimulgus
europaeus* *
Nightjar

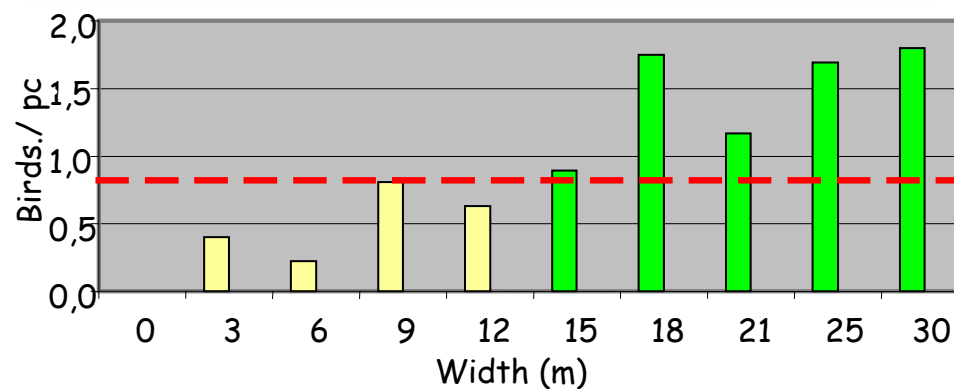
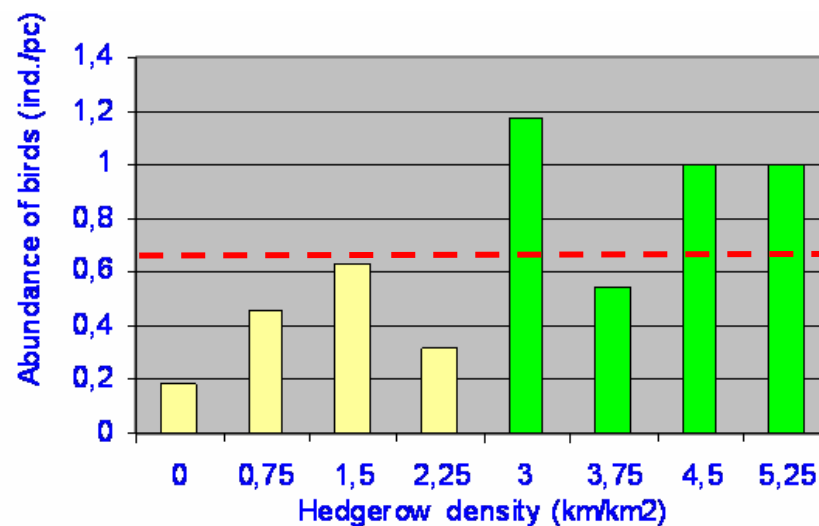
Lanius senator *
Woodchat shrike

*Sylvia
melanocephala*
Sardinian
warbler

Emberiza cirlus *
Cirl bunting

Example 2: unfarmed features for Red-backed shrike

Red-backed shrike needs
hedgerows and isolated trees





Egretta garzetta
Little Egret



Nycticorax nycticorax
Night Heron



Falco vespertinus
Red-footed Falcon



Tetrax tetrax
Little bustard

Oenanthe hispanica
Black-eared Wheatear



Crex crex
Corncrake



Lanius collurio
Red-backed shrike



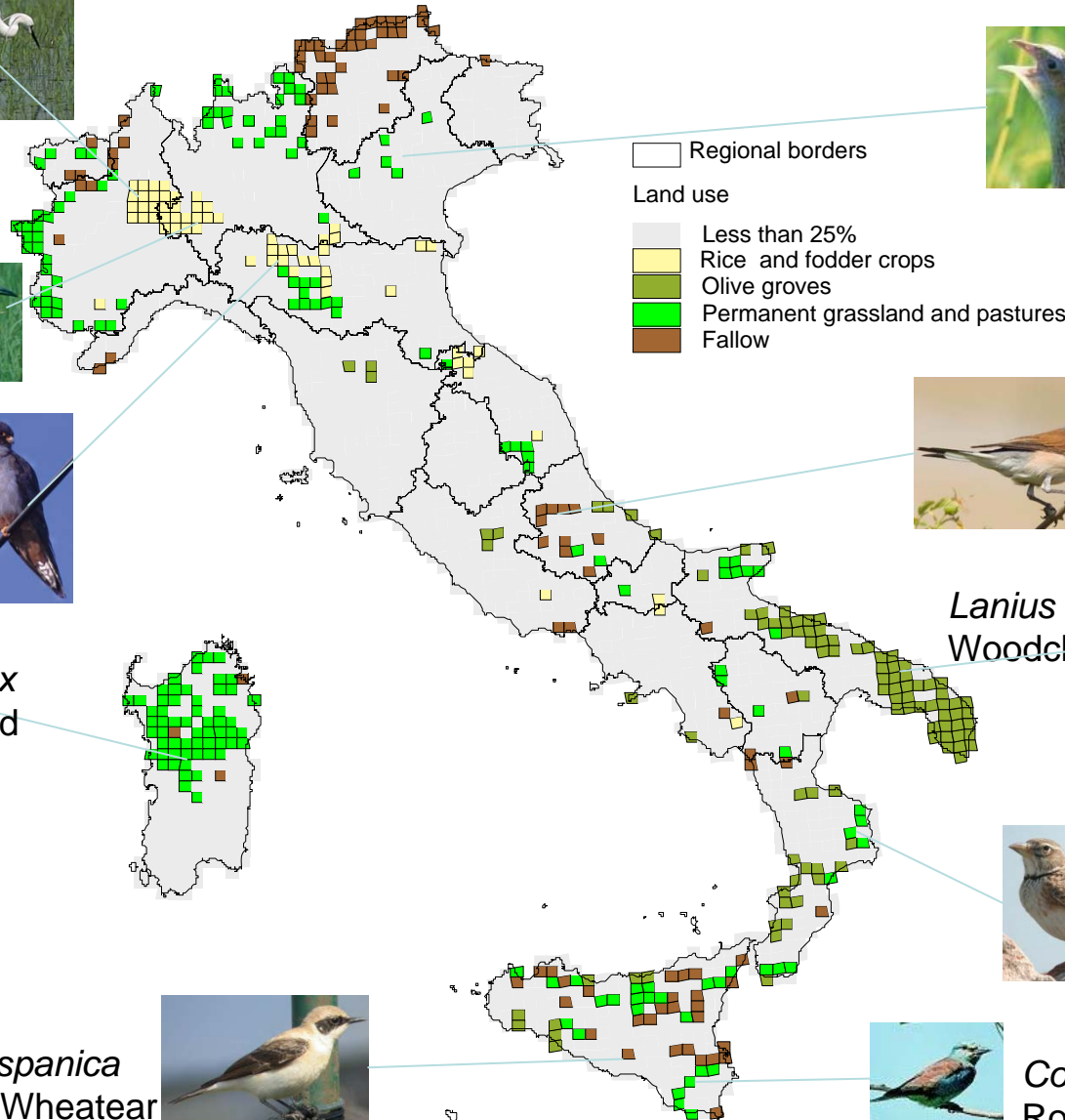
Lanius senator
Woodchat Shrike



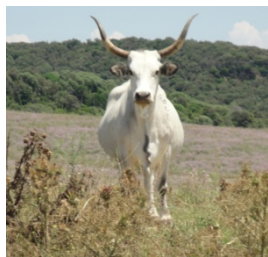
Melanocorypha calandra
Calandra Lark



Coracias garrulus
Roller



Farms location



Case study: extensive livestock system - 1

- 56 years; high education level
- *“Livestock rearing activities as the only way to use renewable resources offered by the rural territory in a sustainable way”.*
 - Prevent fire
 - Maintenance of grassland (at the expenses of shrubs/woodland)/territory.
- *Extensive livestock rearing activities by themselves help conserve biodiversity*
- *Sheperds’ work is not gratified by society; perception they “threaten”, rather than enhance, biodiversity*
- *Enhancement of typical/regional cheese products is often “forgotten” by local/central policy makers.*
- *Lot of paperwork*
- *So: WHY? It’s a MISSION!*



Case study: extensive livestock system - 2

- *Farmers' activities fundamental in mountain areas*
 - *Control of water flow, weeds...*
- *No high school, internet... the young are leaving*
- *Paperwork*
- *Park: introduction of wild boars that destroy crops*
- *Future expectations: strongly dependent on CAP support*






Farmers' motivations and personal perspectives

- Future Tendencies: personal perspectives
 - Higher incentives for sustainable agriculture are required (high costs)
 - Heavy dependance on CAP support (for economic viability)
- Sufficient access to advice and funding?
 - Lack of advise on HNV & biodiversity conservation issues
 - Most of the farmers do not apply to measures specifically aimed at maintaining and protecting biodiversity
 - Young farmers and organic farmers (approaching agriculture from other working experience) pay more attention to biodiversity issues.
 - Although traditional farmers effectively favour nature conservation and biodiversity, they are not always aware of it.
- Legal rules that make life too difficult for HNV farmers?
 - Too much paperwork
 - Parks: wild animals; burdens on the cutting of the trees.

Key issues

- Economic viability
 - Dependence on CAP support
 - HN VF  HSVC (importance of market opportunities)
 - Importance of diversification (agri-tourism, educational farms, etc.)
- Farmers' ageing and depopulation of marginal areas
 - Importance of generational turn-over
 - Importance of making rural areas appealing (especially for the young)
- Importance of advice and training of farmers on biodiversity.



Steps forward

- Further interviews
 - North-West, main islands, etc.
 - Farms specialised in the conservation of agri-biodiversity
- Comparison of the results with those obtained by using FADN data
 - Input use, economic information
- Analysis of quantitative biodiversity data
 - E.g.: birds distribution, reptiles, etc.

A dirt path winds through a lush green field with many trees, leading towards a building in the distance. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast by the trees. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in white on the path.

Thank you for your attention

