



The CAP and HNV farming - policy conclusions -

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European Parliament
28th June 2011
www.efncp.org



EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



Most widespread HNV farmland is permanent pastures and meadows in semi-natural condition



HNV tree crops - fruits, nuts, olives

Characteristics are large trees + semi-natural understorey



Orchard in Romania



**Olive grove in Córdoba,
Spain**

Arable HNV - small field size, semi-natural field boundaries, diversity of crop types



Poland

Mixed HNV steppelands – arable with large proportion of fallow (2-3 years), semi-natural pasture



Spain

HNV farming is diverse but has some common characteristics

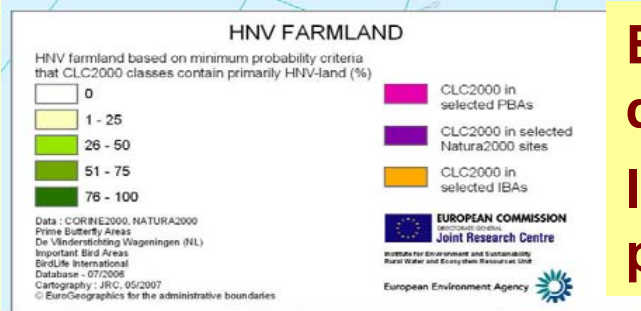
- ☐ Mostly on poorer land with limited potential for high yielding production
- ☐ Farms usually small in economic size, often part-time activity
- ☐ Incomes from the farming activity mostly low or very low
- ☐ Severe threat of decline and abandonment, with emigration to urban areas



But on the positive side HNV farming is...

- ☐ **Very rich in public goods – biodiversity, landscape, water quality, fire prevention**
- ☐ **Quality of products**
- ☐ **Low carbon system - production and distribution**
- ☐ **Diversified rural economy more resilient in times of crisis**





EEA map of approximate HNV farming distribution.

Is competitiveness in high volume production the right aim for all farmland?



What is the future vision for these areas and farming systems?

Conventional path of restructuring, rationalisation, intensification?

- ☐ Massive environmental and cultural losses
- ☐ Reduced farm employment and rural resilience
- ☐ No guarantee of economic viability for farms following this path



Alternative path integrating conservation with development of a pluri-active farm economy

- ☐ Maintain environmental and cultural values, partly through public payment for public goods
- ☐ Maintain farm employment and rural resilience
- ☐ Seek economic viability for diversified farm economy
- ☐ Less vulnerable to commodity price changes



Policy should make this option possible

- ☐ HNV farming should remain as one of CAP's priorities, as it has been since 2005
- ☐ Specific changes to policy are needed to take better account of HNV farming



Pillar 1 should be adapted to HNV farming needs



Minimum payment for small farms, e.g. 500 euros



Premium payment for permanent pasture that is not ploughed, reseeded or fertilised



**Correct eligibility
payments so that
pastures with shrubs
and trees are eligible.**

**They are actively farmed
and rich in public goods.**



Hedges of 5-10 metres width are common in high-nature-value landscapes



They do NOT need cutting down to a size (2 or 4 metres) dictated by Auditors from Brussels



Pillar 2 – rural development programmes

- ❑ Develop agri-environment schemes further
- ❑ More ambitious scale
- ❑ More focus on supporting the farming system, not just certain practices for certain species



Pillar 2 – rural development programmes

- ❑ Funding for local partnership projects to support HNV farming
- ❑ Several excellent projects around EU like Pogany-Havas and ADEPT in Romania
- ❑ But they are rarely funded by Pillar 2
- ❑ This approach needs to be mainstreamed into Rural Development programmes



Please see brochures and website for more details

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The European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP) is a Europe-wide network which raises awareness of the importance of **low-intensity farming for nature conservation** and aims to improve the way public policies respond to the needs of these farming systems.

The maintenance of 'High Nature Value' farming systems ([HNV farmland](#)) - now a central aim of the EU Common Agricultural Policy - raises huge challenges.

The Forum believes that securing a sustainable future for HNV farmland requires addressing a wide range of socio-economic and cultural questions, going far beyond traditional agri-environment policy.

EFNCP is the only organisation which regularly brings together

- farmers,



FROM THE FORUM ...

- Available now: - A comprehensive document on the characteristics of High-Nature-Value farming systems ... (10 Mar 2009)
- EU Commission: GREEN PAPER on agricultural product quality ... - a response from EFNCP (01 Jan 2009)
- Scottish Government consultation on the Less favoured Area Support Scheme - Joint response of SCF and EFNCP, PDF-Documnet (29 Dec 2008)
- HNV farming - Explaining the concept and interpreting EU and national policy commitments - PDF-Documnet (13 Oct 2008)
- CAP Health Check Consultation - a response from EFNCP (15.01.2008) - PDF-Documnet (23 Sep 2008)

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HNV farming concept:

Some broad types of farming and farmland are inherently rich in biodiversity, and have common low-intensity characteristics.

They are mainly on land with physical or structural limitations where viability is a key concern.

The main biodiversity challenge is to *maintain* them on a large scale.

To *change* practices is *not* the priority

