

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

*The importance of High Nature Value Farming –
Views from Romania*



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HNV farming systems



Key characteristics

- Moderate use of agrochemicals
- Low degree of industrialization and technology use
- Breeds adapted to the local environment
- Highly labor intensive
- Often very small scale farms, even micro scale
- Often subsistence and semi-subsistence in orientation, seldom commercial



Romanian Rural Area



General statistics

- 87% from total area is delimited as rural area
- 45% of the total population (9.7 million inhabitants) are living in rural areas
- 64% of the rural population occupied in the primary sector

4.256.152 farms – average size of 3 hectares

- 91% of them are subsistence or semi-subsistence farms



HNV Farming in Romania



Although the concept of High Natural Value (HNV) farming is not yet fully developed it can be considered that many HNV farming systems are present in Romania.

A minimum of **3.32 million hectares** of Romania's agricultural land can be classified as area **were is most likely** that HNV systems are present.

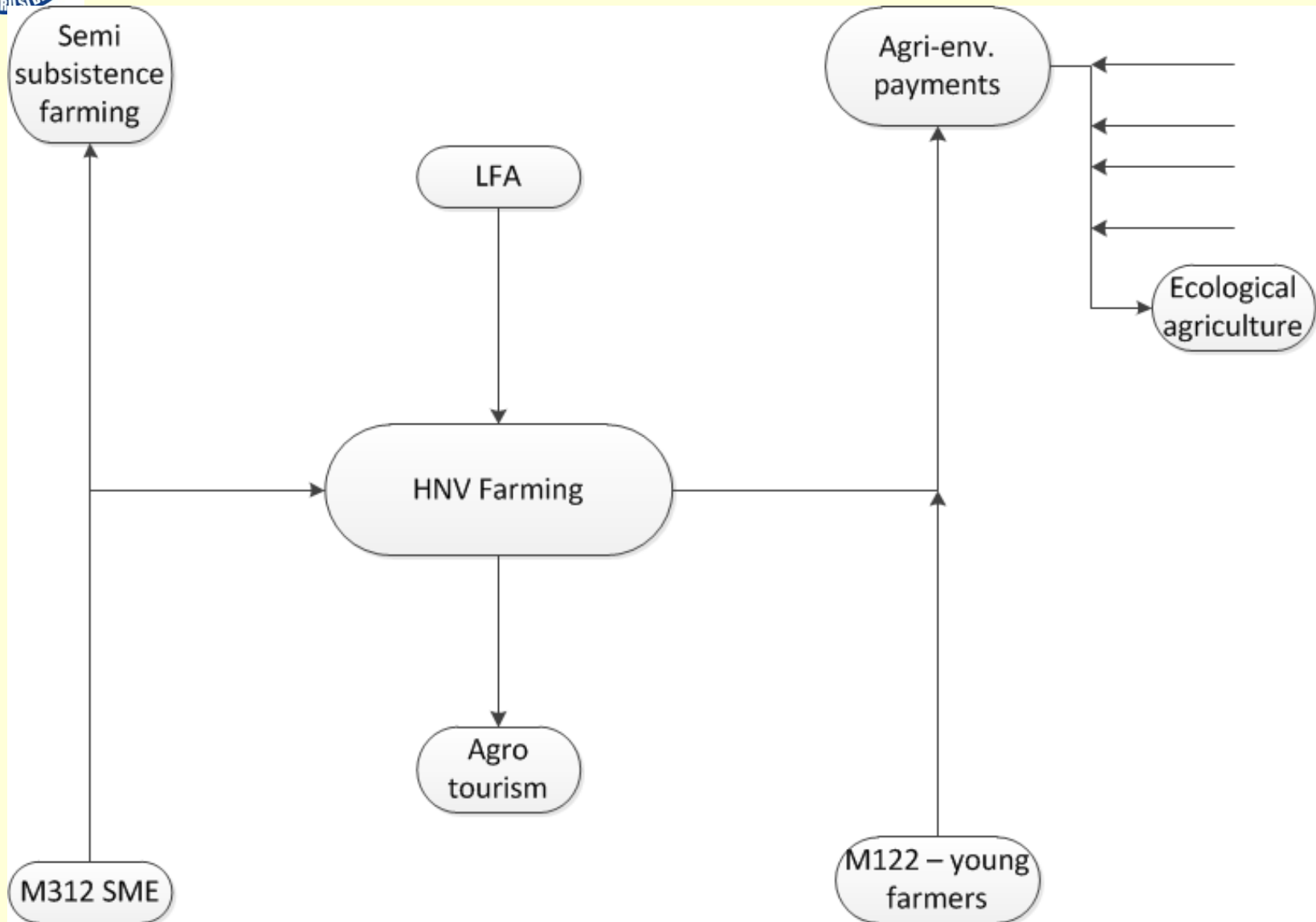
There is significant overlapping with:

- **less favored areas**
- **national protected areas** and **Natura 2000 sites**
- other **specific** environmental conditions

Romania has taken the needs of HNV farmland into account in its Rural Development Plan for 2007-2013 in the form of a 5 sub measure agri-environment package



HNV farming and rural development measures





Mapping the Romanian HNV systems

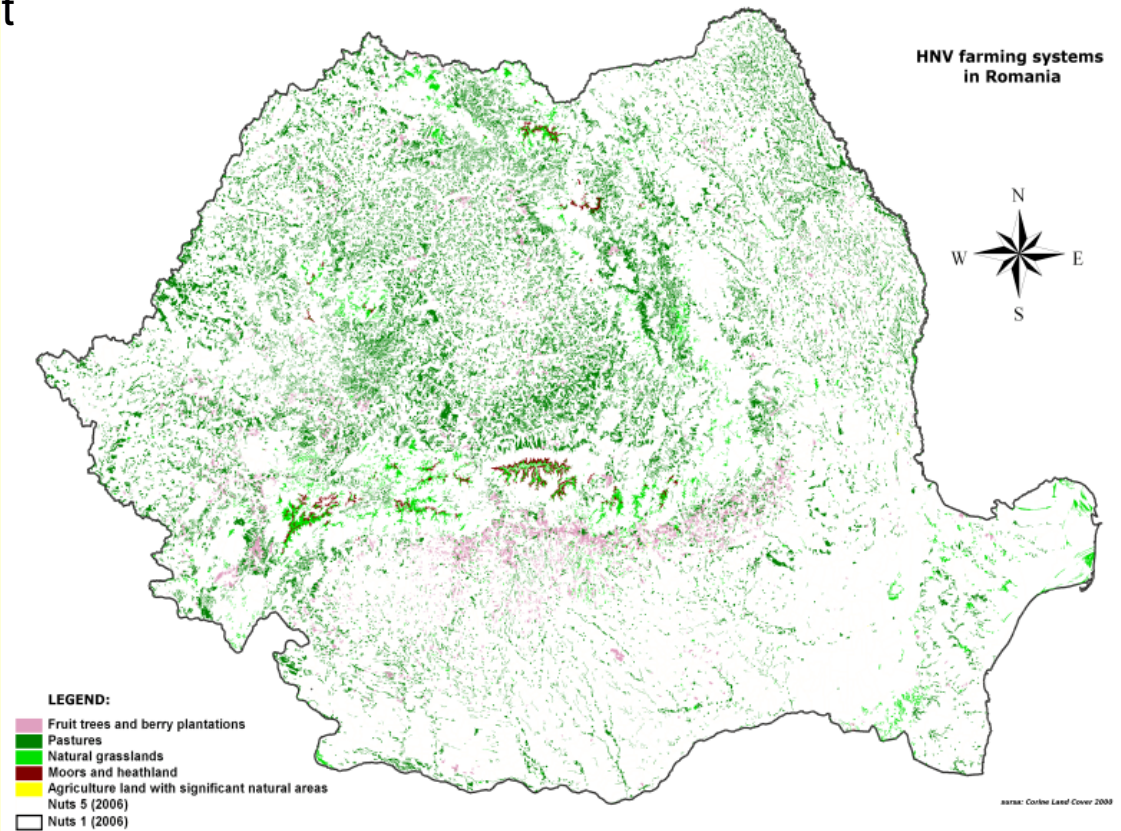


- HNV farmland is found in almost all areas of the country

- **Mostly ‘Type 1’ areas**, those dominated by semi-natural grassland

- **‘Type 2’ areas are frequent** as well: Small-scale low-intensity mosaics of small scale arable plots, orchards, combined with semi-natural vegetation in the plains and lowlands

- **‘Important ‘Type 3’ area** in the delta region for habitats of species of European importance





HNV farming and less favored areas



- Strong link between HNV farming and marginal areas - the same combination of factors can lead to marginal farming and HNV farming
- Romania has included 2 measures in its rural development program aimed at LFA :
 - » Measure 211 (ZMD) – mountain regions
 - » Measure 212 – A (ZSD) – other LFA
 - B (ZDS) – areas with specific natural handicaps
- On the long term, LFA support alone will not have the capacity to ensure HNV farming survival, but it has an important contribution



LFA Romania

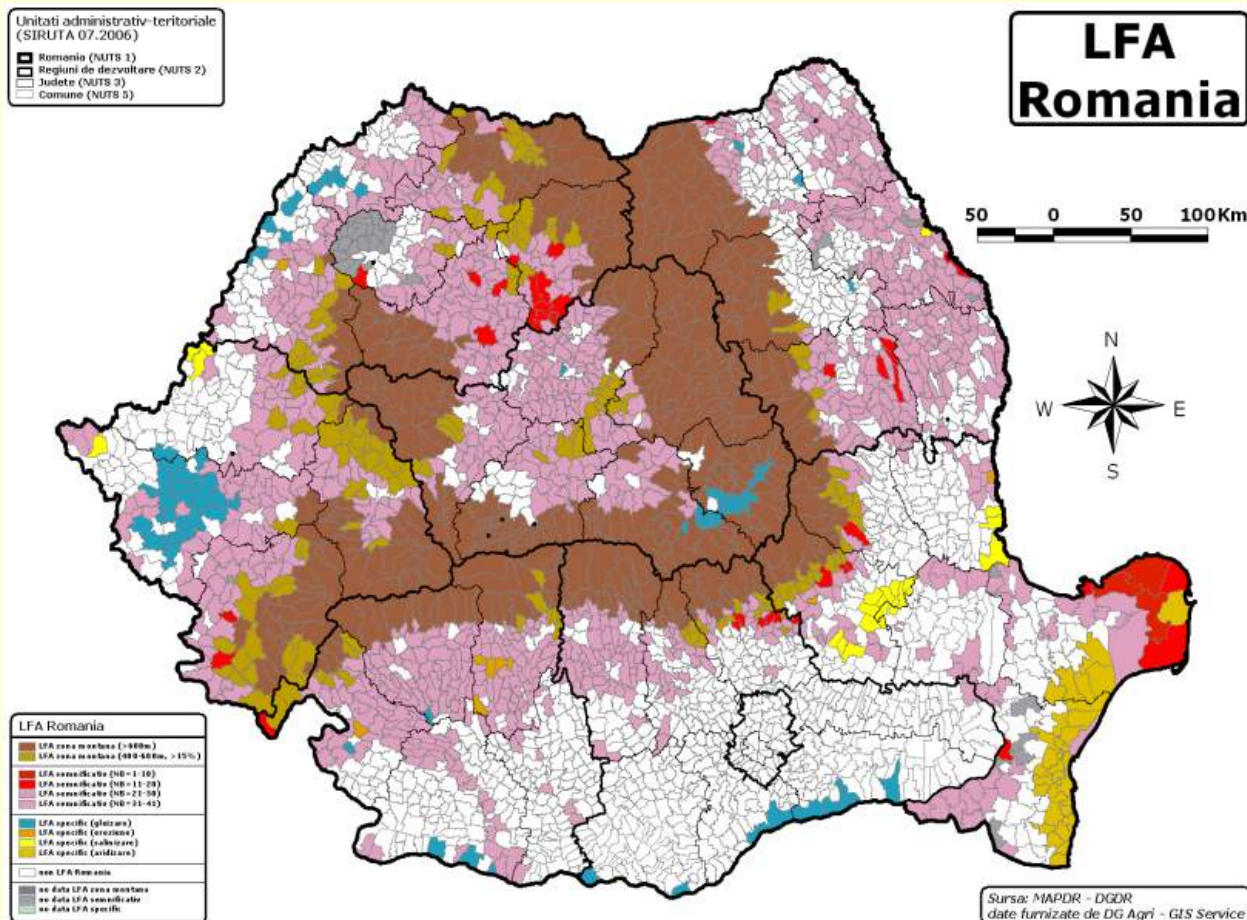


Territorial Administrative Units (TAU):

- ZMD: 657 TAU
- ZSD: 24 TAU
- ZDS 293 TAU

Payments:

- ZMD – 107 €/ha
- ZSD – 94 €/ha
- ZDS - 80 €/ha





HNV farming and semi subsistence farming



- the areas **managed by subsistence and semi-subsistence farms** are also the areas with the highest farming-related nature values
- in Romania there are 3,4 million subsistence farms with an average size of 1,17 ha and almost a million (947 484) semi-subsistence farms
- In general, the majority of the HNV farms are small scale, normally classified as subsistence and semi-subsistence
- at national level, estimations of the semi-subsistence farmers eligible for support from the 2007-2013 Rural Development Program is : 85 000
- the support equals 1500 euro/year for 5 years, and farmers are also eligible for free advisory services to prepare application documents.



Agri-environment payments



5 sub-measure package for agri-environment projects payments:

- Management of HNV grasslands [124 euro/ha]
- HNV 2: Support for traditional farming practices [58 euro/ha]
- HNV 3: Support for grasslands for important birds [101-201 euro/ha]
- HNV 4: Green cover [130 euro/ha]
- *HNV 5: Ecological agriculture (5 types of cultures)*

Operational objectives:

Maintain grasslands of high nature value, assure adequate management of habitats for important species, ensure water and soil protection, conserve natural resources



Agri-environment payments – HNV grasslands



Scope and objectives

- Insure sustainable rural development by addressing environmental issues
- Offers incentives for using green methods in agricultural exploitations
- More efficient use of natural recourses
- Maintain the integrity of high natural value farmlands

Eligibility requirements

- Holds legal ownership of agricultural land (pastures) with a minimum dimension of 0.3 ha (0,1 in case of fruit bearing trees and brushes)
- Engages in a 5 year commitment to sustain the investment
- Restrains from using chemical based fertilizers and pesticides
- Conducts a log of all agricultural activities related to environmental requirements



HNV farming in Romania



Current issues and future challenges:

- The understanding of the environmental, social, cultural and economic values of the HNV farming systems is low
- HNV farmers are often socially marginalized
- Their contribution to nature values is not well understood by policy makers
- The added value they create for local economies is not recognized
- Lack of cooperation with each other, impossibility to expand
- HNV farmers are underrepresented on a national level
- Inability to negotiate prices



Thank you for your kind attention!



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