

TASK FORCE ON AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

The road towards self-sustainability



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Agri-environmental Measures and Animal Genetic Resources

What are Agri-environmental measures?

Measures given to “*apply agricultural production methods compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, the landscape and its features, natural resources, the soil and genetic diversity*”

Legal Framework

1. Regulation on Rural Development

1. Rgt. 1698/2005 (2006-2013)

Art. 39. 5. Support may be provided for the conservation of genetic resources in agriculture

2. New Rgt. (2014-2020)

2. National regulations



What are the TF objectives?

1. Agri-environmental measures analysis:

To know the different measures undertaken, analysing their success (or failure) and reasons; as well as knowing different important features, such as (cost/benefits; problems/solutions; etc.)

2. Elaborate a document of conclusions and proposals:

To help breeds to achieve self-sustainability, allowing the conservation of animal genetic resources, especially in endangered autochthonous breeds.

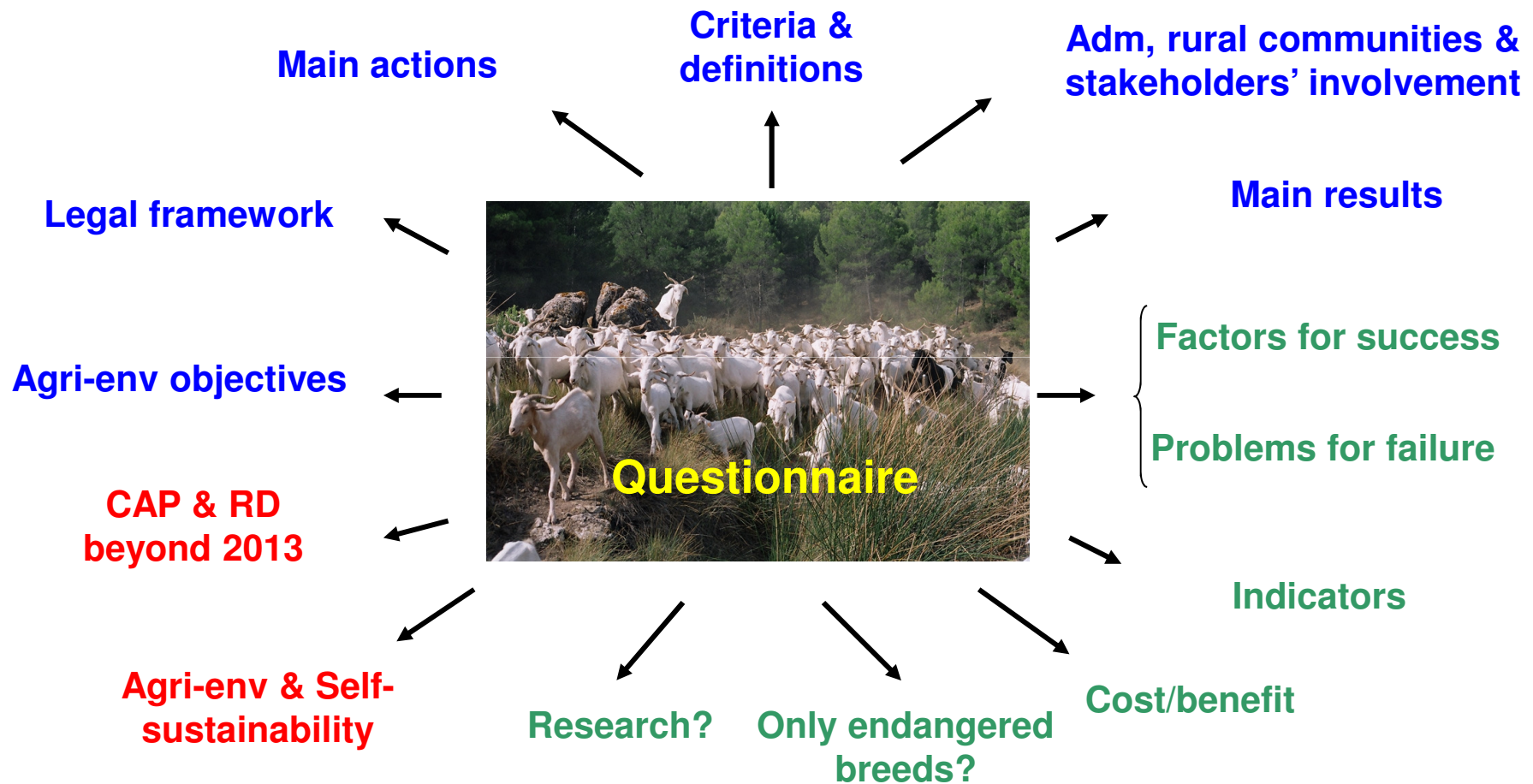




Methodology and preliminary results

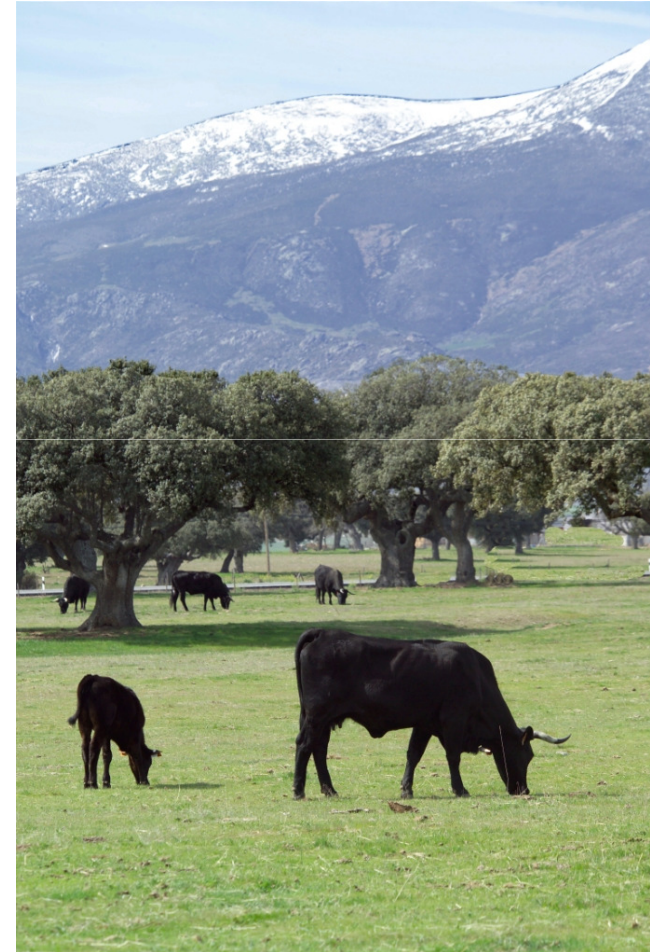


Step1: Questionnaire



Step2: Conference in Spain

- **Date**
 - 19-20th September
- **Program**
 - Discussion
 - Technical visit



Preliminary Results- 1

Agri-environmental measures' objectives: Biodiversity (including AnGR) important, but not first (*Serbia: Farm sustainability in mountain and rural areas/Spain: Water and soil quality*)

Legal framework: EU-MMSS RD Regulation & Specific provisions

Main actions: Support production systems more compatible with the environment

Criteria & definitions:

- Autochthonous/native (endangered) breeds
- Breed associations and herd book
- Breeding programs
- Environmental commitments

Administration, rural communities & stakeholders' involvement:

- Administrations (national/regional) important role (control)
- Individual farmers
- Farmer associations
- Civil society

Main results:

Conservation/increase populations of endangered breeds



Preliminary Results- 2

Indicators:

- Change in number of protected breed populations
- Number of farms with agri-environmental measures
- Number of animals under these measures
- Number of contracts

Cost/benefit: No studies available

Factors to success:

- Farmer commitment with breed and rural area
- Subsidy amount
- Support research
- Media (promotion)

Problems to failure:

- Breed performance and profit
- Uncertainty (lack of annual program)



Preliminary Results- 3

Only endangered breeds?

- All autochthonous breed can help to natural environment conservation
- Biodiversity
- Budget

Research? (not under RD regulation)

Breeding programs

Conservation (in farm, *ex-situ*) programs

Product diversification

Agri-environmental measures & Self-sustainability

- Help but not enough, autochthonous endangered breeds usually have worse performances and lower profitability
- Need of programs (specific): diagnosis and possibilities
holistic approach: environmental stewardship, quality products, rural tourism



Agri-environmental measures within new CAP (beyond 2013)

AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES HELP TO MAINTAIN BIODIVERSITY AND TO THE CONSERVATION OF BREEDS, BUT ...

Farmer's commitment is essential

Self-sustainability needs quality (breed-specific) products

Some criteria could be revised

- Breed definitions (local/autochthonous/native)
- Endangered vs non-endangered

Cost/benefit studies

New indicators?



COUNTRY SPECIFICITIES NEED FLEXIBILITY



Thank you for your attention

