
Supporting farmers doing more for the environment

— Suggestions for CAP eco-schemes —

Jabier Ruiz - 5 October 2018



What are eco-schemes expected to deliver?

Meet one or more of the specific environmental- and climate-related objectives defined for the future CAP:

- Art. 5 (General objectives)
 - (b) **to bolster environmental care and climate action and to contribute to the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union;**
- Art. 6 (Specific objectives)
 - (d) Climate Change
 - (e) Natural Resources (water, soil, air)
 - (f) Biodiversity and Landscapes

Further features for eco-schemes

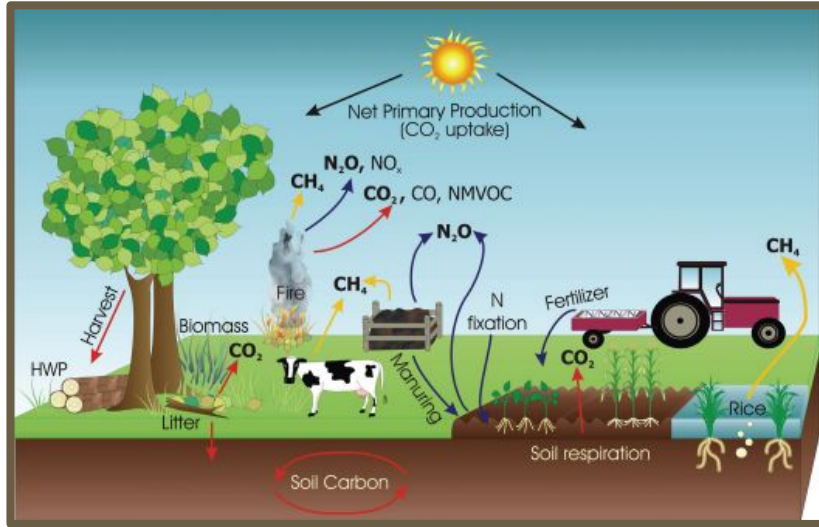
- Simple and suitable for yearly commitments and payments.
- Going beyond minimum requirements (conditionality, legislation).
- Different from agri-environment-climate measures (AECM), but can be equally ambitious.
- All Member States need to programme them, but not for all farmers (overlap with conditionality-greening), at least in first phase.
- Expenditure in eco-schemes ring-fenced at a minimum, and extended in proportion to number of farmers expected to join.
- Eco-schemes reward farmers doing more for the environment.



Types of eco-schemes (long list)

- Organic farming
- High Nature Value farming
- Farming in Natura 2000 sites
- Space for nature - Green infrastructure
- Strips of natural vegetation along water courses
- Agroforestry
- Pollinator-friendly farming
- Enhanced crop rotation
- Agro-ecological soil management
- ...

Relevant for...



High Nature Value farming



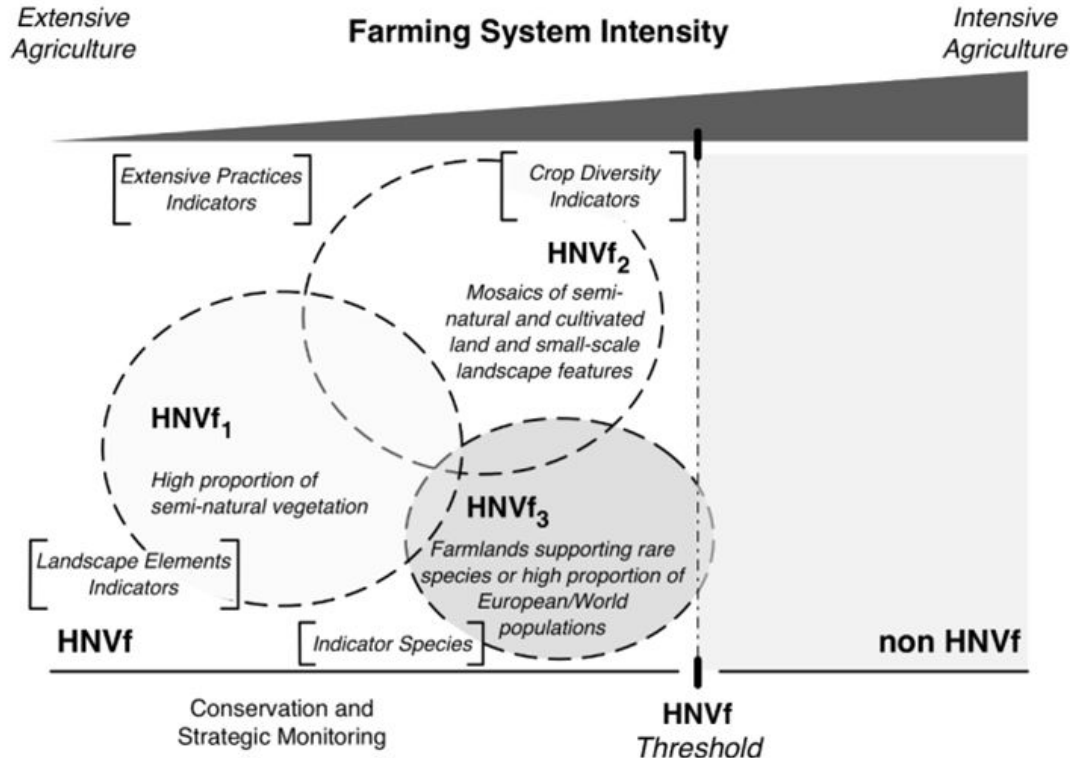
High Nature Value farming



High Nature Value farming



High Nature Value farming



- Maintaining biodiverse pastures and grasslands, many protected by EU law.
- Mosaics and extensive forms of agriculture.
- Low level of inputs and associated impacts on soil, water, air.
- Relevant for climate change objectives.

Lomba et al,
2014

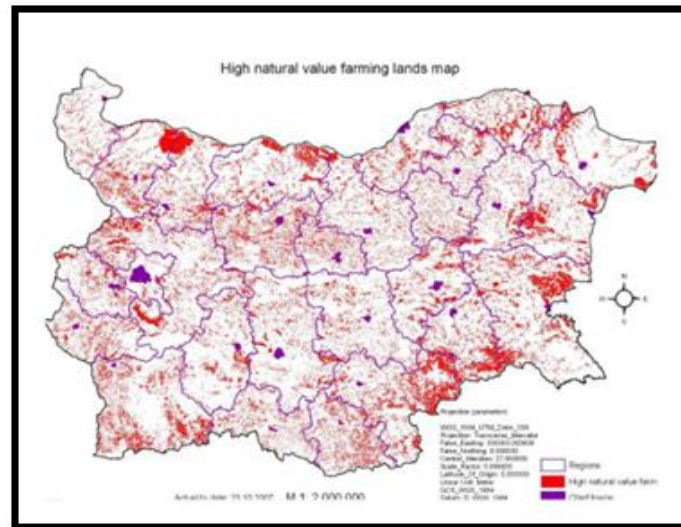
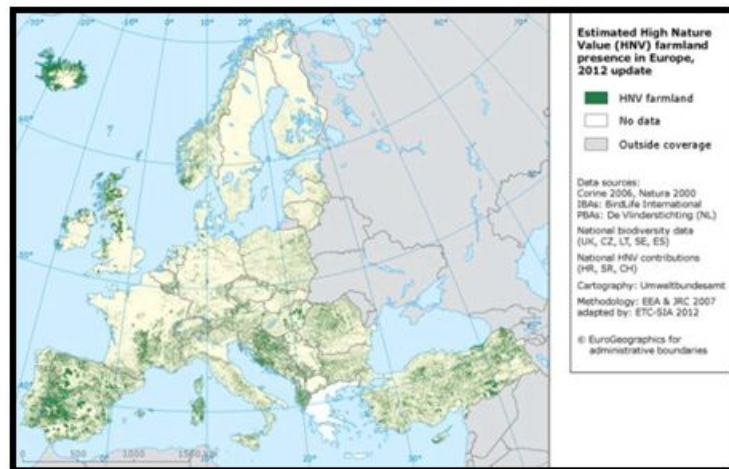


High Nature Value farming

CAP HAS ALREADY INVESTED TIME AND MONEY



- 2005** HNV indicator mandatory
- 2007-13** The Community strategic guidelines for rural development highlight the preservation and development of HNV agricultural land systems as a priority (Council Decision 2006/144 / EC)
- 2009** Introduction of biodiversity as one of the new challenges of the CAP- Health Check (Council Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009)
- 2014-20** Relevant concept for the whole CAP. It includes the restoration and preservation of biodiversity in areas of high natural value within one of the EU's six priorities for rural development (Priority 4A). Indicators CCI 37 and I9 of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



Farming for Natura 2000



Farming for Natura 2000

- Natura 2000 sites aiming to protect Europe's biodiversity.
- High biodiversity linked to low productivity - marginal farmland.
- Approximately 40% of surface area of N2K is farmland.
- Farm management adapted to meet conservation objectives.
- Payments to compensate for restrictions or special needs.
- Strong coherence with environmental law.

Farming for Natura 2000

It could contain different levels of payments, in accordance with change of management required

- Sheep grazing to maintain open pastures and biodiverse grasslands.
- Reduced fertilizer use on pastures or measures to prevent nutrient runoff.
- Shift to a different crop production.

o *Temperate and boreal heath and scrub*

Dry heaths are semi-natural habitats derived from woodland through a long history of grazing and burning. Historically they were used as permanent pasture within mixed farming systems. They also provided fuel, livestock bedding, winter fodder, thatching and even road building material. Wet heaths are also sometimes extensively grazed but are very sensitive to damage by over-grazing. Alpine heaths have traditionally been seasonally grazed under a transhumance regime, as well as by wild grazing species. Boreal heaths are grazed by reindeer.

(Photo: John Houston)



North Atlantic wet heaths in New Forest, England (Photo: Steve Humble)

o *Sclerophyllous scrub (matorral)*

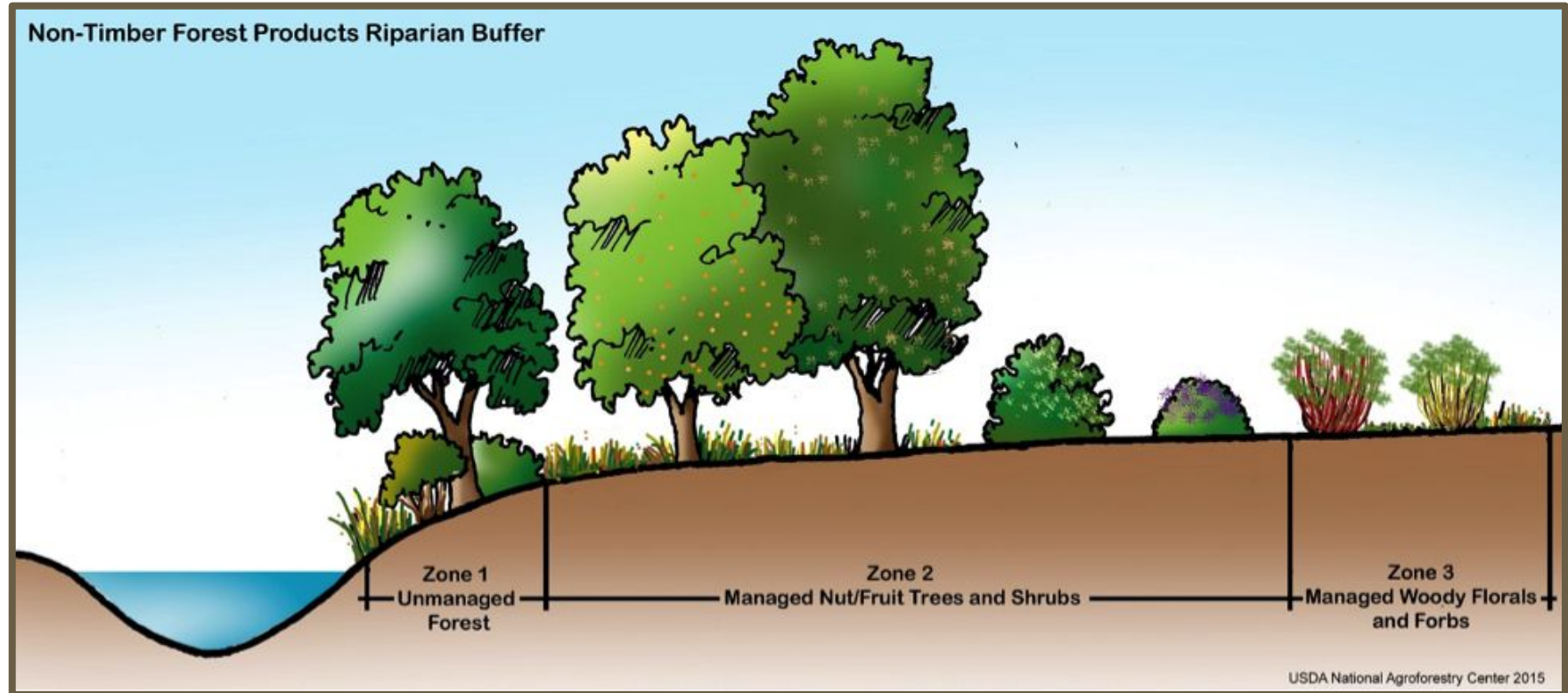
Sclerophyllous scrub habitats are found around the Mediterranean. A few patches of natural vegetation occupy sites with extreme conditions, and these should be left alone. But most are secondary habitats formed by the destruction of oak forests and successive centuries of open grazing with sheep and goats and regular burning. For example, Juniper scrub formations on heath or calcareous grassland are widespread in nearly all regions of Europe, and rely on extensive grazing to maintain their characteristic mosaic of scrub and grassland.



Juniper matorral in Central Italy.
(Photo: Foreste Casentinesi National Park)



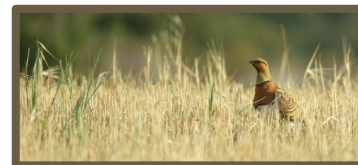
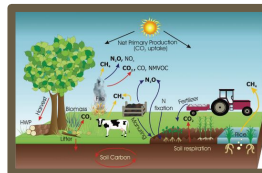
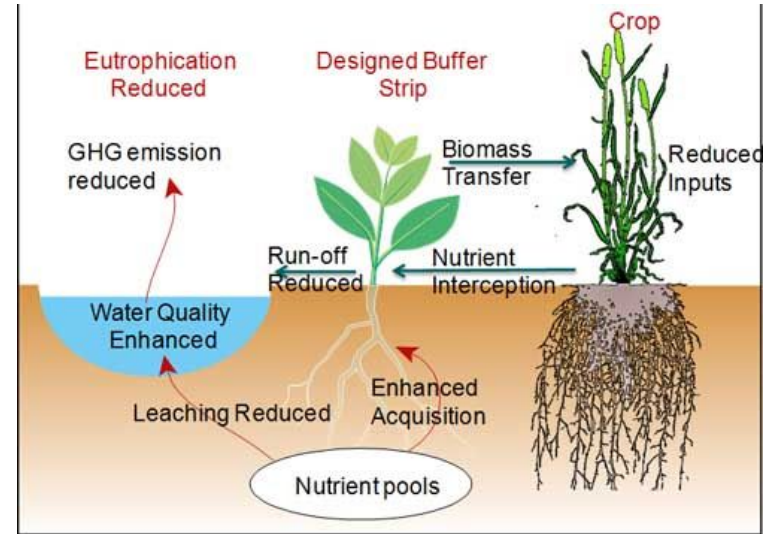
Strips of natural vegetation along water courses



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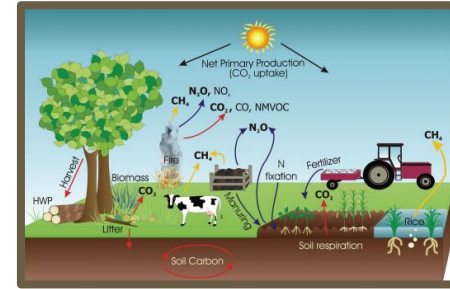
Wider zone of non-intervention along permanent water streams for ensuring continuity of woody vegetation.

- Absorb carbon, buffer for floods.
- Sustain soils, filter run-off.
- Maintaining water quality and oxygenation.
- Refuge for wildlife and biodiversity corridors.



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