

ENCA Engagement Pieces
High Nature Value Farmland – nature friendly farming
&
Improving the biodiversity performance
of agricultural policies

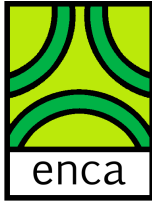
Meeting with Commissioner Jessika Roswall



European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies



- Founded in 2007, informal network
 - Currently 17 members (EU and outside); meet twice a year
 - Technical work carried out in Interest Groups
- > Promotion of nature conservation and biodiversity in the EU;
- > Exchange of knowledge and experience regarding the implementation of political measures relating to nature conservation and biodiversity;
- > Support to political decisions (European Commission, European Parliament, IPBES, national) through statements, recommendations, technical reports, etc.

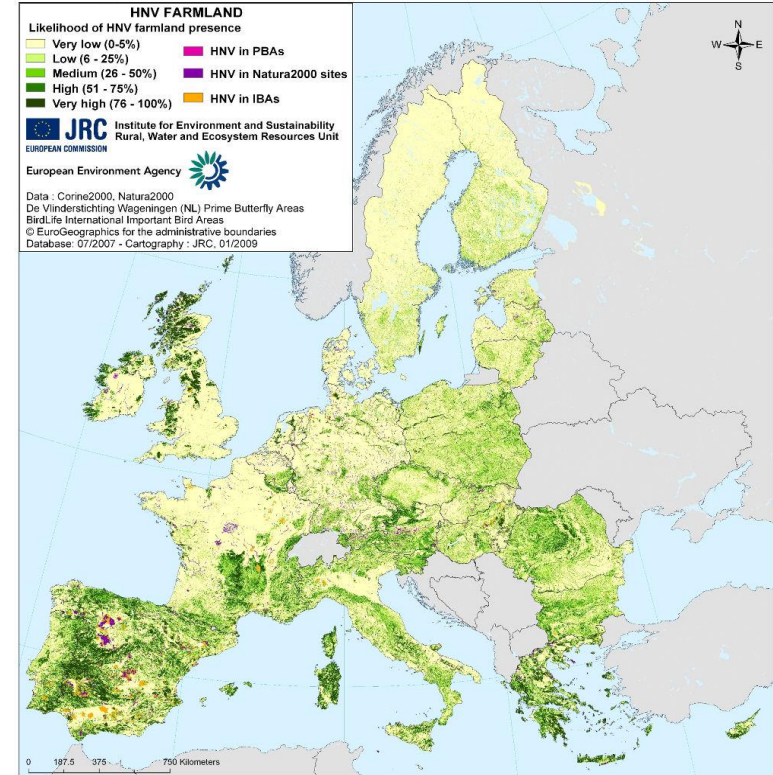


High Nature Value Farming (HNV-f)

Obligatory indicator (AEI) under previous CAP periods
Since 2008: EEA published HNV map

- most common HNV type → Low-intensity animal husbandry on semi-natural pastures → shaping European landscapes
- Many systems with traditional and cultural heritage
- Providing various ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation and variety of goods and products

- **Often not economically viable**
- **Threatened by abandonment or intensification**





Policy context of HNV-f

Biodiversity strategy:

- Effective management of protected areas and habitats → extensive grazing to maintain habitats
- Bring nature back to agricultural land → HNV defined by species richness, landscape elements
- Pollinator target → benefiting through extensive grasslands

Nature restoration regulation:

- Extensive grazing specifically mentioned as typical restoration measure in agro-ecosystems
- Currently not enough extensive livestock flocks to maintain existing habitats depending on extensive farming
- Cost-effective tool for fire prevention and shrub management
- National HNV definitions to track national targets

Soil Strategy

- Prevent desertification through grazing, increased soil moisture and organic matter
- Increase of soil biodiversity



Conclusion & Recommendations

Integration of HNV-f into Nature Restoration Plans

- Recognition of HNV-f as key contributors for the NRR targets for agricultural ecosystems
- Map and quantify HNV-f as priority zones for restoration in agricultural ecosystems; especially where the disappearance of traditional practices endangers species-rich habitats

Provide targeted funding and incentives

- Promote result-based payments for biodiversity outcomes, aligned with HNV practices
- Facilitate access to funds for restoration and innovation (e.g. LIFE, Horizon Europe, collaborative schemes) in HNV projects

Strengthen Monitoring, Research and Knowledge exchange

- Fund research and pilot projects to demonstrate the potential of HNV for nature restoration
- Promote knowledge sharing platforms and farmer-to-farmer networks

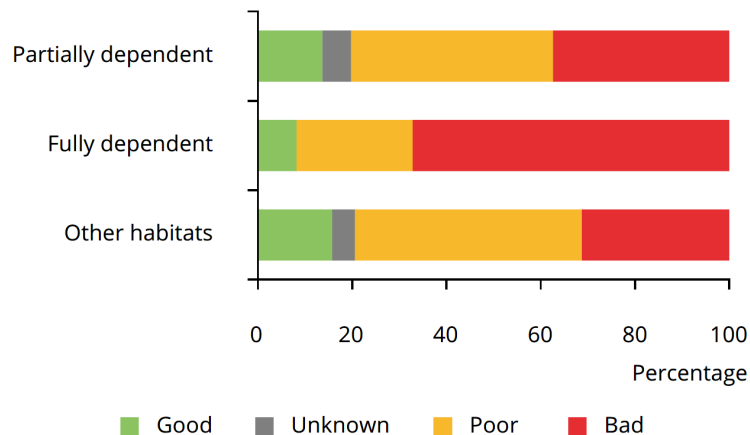


Agricultural policies and nature protection

The Nature Restoration Regulation sets clear goals as opposed to agri-environmental policies of the last decade

- NRR: National Estimate Germany article 4 = **1.7 billion € per year**
 - CAP 2025: Only **344 million €** for EVENCLIM scheduled (compared to 2.6 billion € DP)
- **Shrinking CAP budgets jeopardises biodiversity measures**
- **Dismantling of environmental CAP standards reduces effectiveness of biodiversity measures**

Figure 6.4 Conservation status of agricultural habitats (partially and fully dependent on agricultural management)

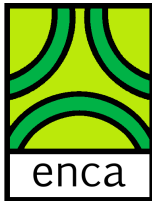


Source: EU State of Nature report 2020 (EEA)



Conclusion & Recommendations

- CAP has to play a major role in achieving the NRR goals
 - **Multi-purpose** measures (economic resilience, biodiversity, water, soil health, well-being)
 - farmers should be partners in implementing nature restoration plans
- Biodiversity data has to better inform CAP measures
 - needs more **investment in data** collection and **sharing** of data
 - Coordination by EEA to improve the **design** of measures and to **monitor outcomes**
- Collaboration between nature protection and agricultural agencies and policy makers
 - Explore possible joint activities between ENCA and DG ENV to promote a holistic approach to transform the agri-food sector towards more sustainability



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