High Nature Value Farming in the Alps – from the perspective of Piedmont

Mario Perosino
Regione Piemonte – Direzione Agricoltura
mario.perosino@regione.piemonte.it
Outline
(from the perspective of Piedmont)

1. The three types of High Nature Value Farming (HNVF) in Piedmont
2. The evolution of the Mountain Farming in Piedmont
3. HNVF and the Rural Development Programme of Piedmont 2007-2013
4. HNVF and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2014-2020
1. The three types of High Nature Value Farming (HNVF) in Piedmont
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Piedmont falls in three biogeographical regions of the Natura 2000 Directive and there are many Natura 2000 sites for each region.
In Piedmont there are also examples of the three types of HNVF defined in the EU guidelines:

- **Type 1**: Farmland with a high proportion of semi-natural vegetation.
- **Type 2**: Farmland with a mosaic of low-intensity agriculture and natural and structural elements.
- **Type 3**: Farmland supporting rare species or a high proportion of European or World populations.
In Piedmont are also present examples of the three types of HNVF defined in the EU guidelines:

- **Type 1**: Farmland with a high proportion of semi-natural vegetation. ⇒ CLC 3.2.1
- **Type 2**: Farmland with a mosaic of low-intensity agriculture and natural and structural elements. ⇒ CLC 2.4.2 and 2.4.3
- **Type 3**: Farmland supporting rare species or a high proportion of European or World populations. ⇒ CLC 2.1.3
1. The three types of HNVF in Piedmont

Type 1: CLC 3.2.1: Natural grasslands (236,000 ha).

Type 2: CLC 2.4.2 Complex cultivation patterns (199,000 ha) and 2.4.3 Land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation (248,000 ha).

Type 3: CLC 2.1.3 Rice fields (212,000 ha). (Total Piedmont area: 2,538,000 ha).

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1. The three types of HNVF in Piedmont

- Intensively farmed rural areas
- Intermediate rural areas
- Rural areas with general development problems

Rural Development Programme (2007-2013)

- Macro-typologies of areas
- Mountain areas
- Other less favoured areas
- Other areas (hills and plains)

Urban Conglomeration

- Alpine region
- Continental region
- Mediterranea n region

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1. The three types of HNVF in Piedmont

- Mountain areas
- Other less favoured areas
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Regional Ecological Network (Regional Law No 16/2011)

- Protected areas
- Natura 2000 network
- Sites of Community importance
- Special protection areas

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2.
The evolution of the Mountain Farming in Piedmont
The mountain areas and the other LFA have had a demographic evolution very different from the other part of the Piedmont.
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**1982 Census - Standard gross margin distribution by types of farming**

**2010 Census - Standard gross margin distribution by types of farming**
2. The evolution of the Mountain Farming in Piedmont

**Prevailing types of farming**
- Field crops
- Horticulture
- Permanent crops
- Grazing livestock
- Granivore
- Mixed

**Economic size of farms**
- small
- medium
- medium-large
- large

**2010 Census**

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In the § 5.7 of HNVF in Europe ("Rural Development Programmes and how they can support HNV farming") Mark Redman identifies four broad types of EU RD support of relevance to HNV Farming:
1. Measures that can be used to **protect and reward** specific practices of HNVF (measure 214).

2. Measures that provide **income support** to HNV farmers (measure 211).

3. Measures that provide **investment aid** which could be targeted to help maintaining or improving the viability of farms/farming systems with basic HNV characteristics (m. 121, 123, 125, 216, 311).

4. Measures for supporting development of the **quality of life** in the areas where HNV farmland are most commonly found (**axis 3.2 measures**).
Considering the dramatic decline of Mountain Farming in Piedmont, successful implementation of measure 211 (natural handicap payments to farmers) is very important to preserve traditional agro-ecosystems.

In 2007-2013 the utilised agricultural area (UAA) involved in contracts of measure 211 was averagely 35% of pertaining UAA (33% in mountain areas and 44% in other LFA_s).
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Many actions of measure 214 (agri-environment payments) are interesting for HNVF in mountain and other LF areas:

- action 1: Integrated production;
- action 2: Organic farming;
- action 6: Extensive grazing;
- action 7: Maintenance of natural elements (in combination with measure 216: Non-productive investments);
- action 8: Local breeds in danger of being lost to farming.
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The action 214.6 (Extensive grazing) has interested (annual average of 2007-2013 period):

- 1,000 farms;
- 75,000 hectares of pastures (31% of Piedmont pastures) located in 334 of 1,206 municipalities (LAU 2 level).

Support under this action of the Piedmont RDP 2007-2013 covers:

- “basic” extensive grazing;
- extensive grazing based on pasture plans.
Early impact evaluations of action 214.6 were made by Ipla s.p.a. (see web site on monitoring and evaluation of Piedmont RDP 2007-2013).
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These evaluations have been pursued using two impact indicators on biodiversity:

- **Farmland Bird Index (common impact indicator)**\[\Rightarrow\] positive correlation between areas **sub action 214.6 contracts** and **abundance of Anthus spinoletta and Saxicola rubetra**.
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3. HNVF and the RDP of Piedmont 2007-2013

Figura 18. Correlazione tra superficie interessata dalla misura 214.6.1 e l’abbondanza dello spioncello.

Figura 19. Correlazione tra superficie interessata dalla misura 214.6.1 e l’abbondanza dello stiaccino.
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These evaluations have been pursued using two impact indicators on biodiversity:

- Lepidoptera Rhopalocera Index (additional impact indicator) ⇒ positive correlation between areas sub action 214.6 contracts and presence of Maculinea arion and Parnassius apollo.
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The Common Agricultural Policy 2014-2020 is integrated in the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) for cohesion policy:

![Diagram showing links between RD Priorities and CSF objectives]
Links between RD Priorities and CSF objectives

Union priorities for rural development

1. Horizontal priority: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation
2. Competitiveness of all types of agriculture and farm viability
3. Food chain organisation and risk management
4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems
5. Resource efficiency and transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy
6. Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development

CSF Thematic Objectives

1. Research, technological development, innovation
10. Education, skills and lifelong learning
3. Competitiveness of SMEs, agriculture and fisheries
5. Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
4. Low-carbon economy
6. Environment and resource efficiency
2. Information and communication technologies
8. Employment and labour mobility
9. Social inclusion and combating poverty
11. Institutional capacity and efficient public administration

EU 2020 Headline Targets

1. Employment
   • 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed
2. R&D / innovation
   • 3% of the EU’s GDP (public and private combined) to be invested in R&D/innovation
3. Climate change / Energy
   • greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990
   • 20% of energy from renewables
   • 20% increase in energy efficiency
4. Education
   • reducing school drop-out rates below 10%
   • at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education
5. Poverty / social exclusion
   • at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion

Technical assistance and ex ante conditionalities
Also the **two pillars** of the CAP are better integrated than in the past programming periods:

![Diagram showing Pillar I specific objectives and Pillar II priorities](image)

Source: Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development

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4. HNVF and the CAP 2014-2020

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- Rural development: A critical opportunity for people and biodiversity.

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The basic acts for the 2014-2020 period will be approved before the end of 2013.
Important decisions relevant for new RDPs would be assumed by Member States before 31 December 2013 (flexibility between pillars) or by 31 July 2014 (active farmer, payments regionalization, convergence of entitlements, greening arrangements, voluntary coupled support etc.).

Payments regionalization and convergence of entitlements may considerably change the territorial distribution of Pillar 1 payments.
Value of entitlements (EUR/ha)

- < 100
- 100 - <250
- 250 - <500
- 500 - <750
- 750+

2012 Payments (basic + special)

- mountain areas
- other LFA
- other areas

Axis 1
Axis 2
Axis 3

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