High Nature Value Farming in Italy
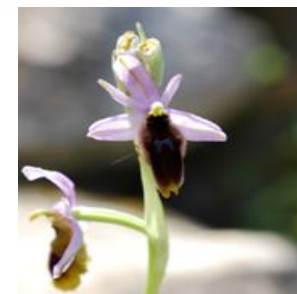
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INEA

**Rural development:
a critical opportunity for people and biodiversity.
With a spotlight on the Alpine region.**

Turin, 6 november 2013

High Nature Value Farmland

HNV farmland (HNVF): "Those areas in Europe where agriculture is a major (usually the dominant) land use and where agriculture supports or is associated with either a high species and habitat diversity or the presence of species of European conservation concern or both" (Andersen, *et al*, 2003)

High Nature Value Farming

➢ HNVF is typically characterised by a combination of low intensity land use, the presence of semi-natural vegetation and unfarmed features, and a diversity of land cover and land uses (Beaufoy and Cooper, 2008)

➢ Broad types of farming that, because of their characteristics, are inherently high in biodiversity (Beaufoy, 2010)

➢ HNV farming system: interaction of farmland characteristics and associated farming practices
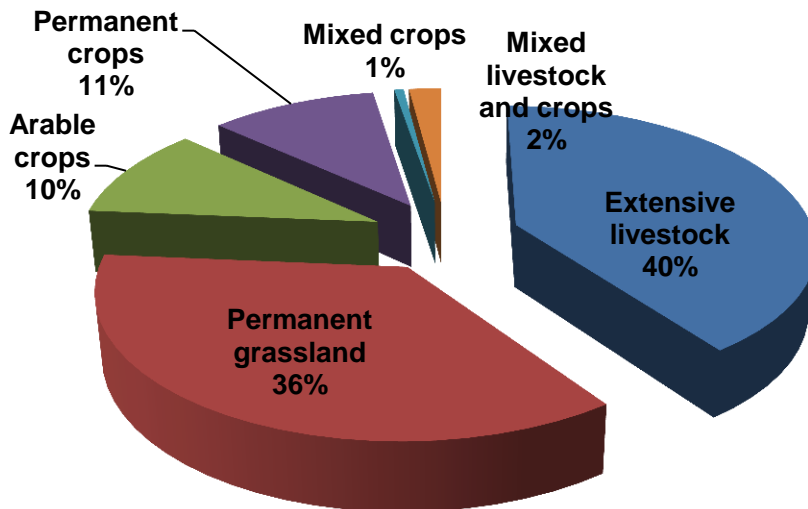
High Nature Value Farmland in Italy

- 6 main HNV farming systems:

- permanent grassland, extensive livestock, arable crops, permanent crops, mixed crops, mixed livestock and crops.

- Methodology (Census data, 2010)
  - Presence/absence of livestock
  - Prevalence of land use
  - Livestock density
  - Presence/absence of irrigation
  - Organic farming
  - Presence/absence of unfarmed features (e.g.: stonewalls), fallow land, cover crops/understorey
  - Presence/absence of olive groves

- 3.24 million ha
  - 25% of UAA; 10,4% of Italian territory;
  - 17% of Italian farms.

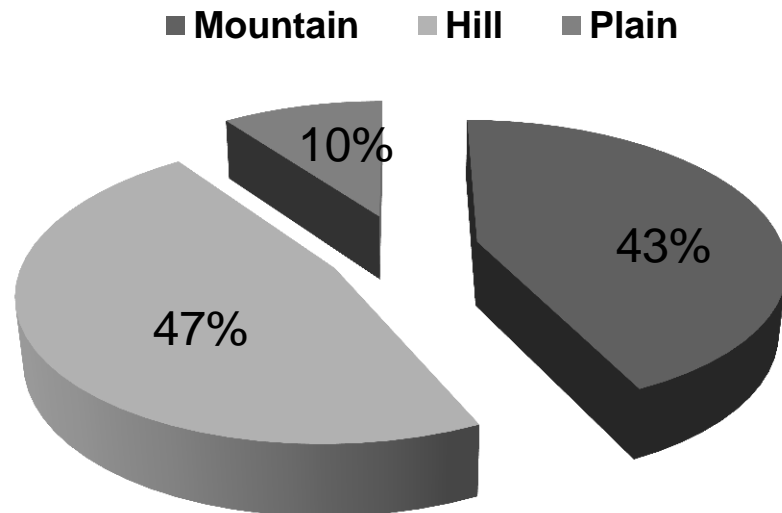- Regional differences: from 11% to 70%

HNV farmland and farming systems in Italy

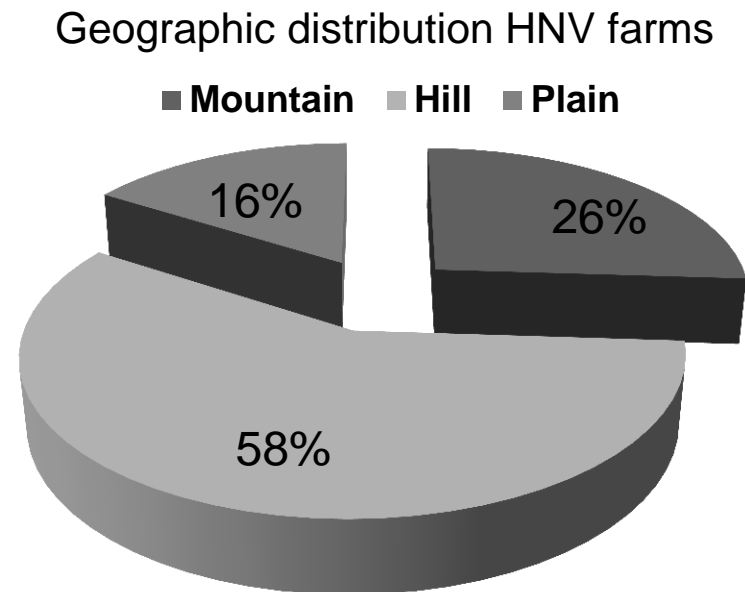| HNV Farmland in Italy |
|---|
| 3.24 million hectares |
| ➢ **25% of total UAA** |
| Mountain 43%; Hill 47%; Plain 10% |
| Avg UAA of HNV farms: **12 ha** (Avg UAA of Italian farms: **8 ha**) |

HNV farmland

Permanent crops 11%
Arable crops 10%
Mixed crops 1%
Mixed livestock and crops 2%
Extensive livestock 40%
Permanent grassland 36%

Geographic distribution of HNV farmland

■ **Mountain** ■ **Hill** ■ **Plain**

10%
43%
47%

HNV farms and farming systems in Italy

HNV Farms in Italy
267 830 farms
➢ **17% of total farms**
Mountain 26%; Hill 58%; Plain 16%

HNV farms

- Mixed livestock and crops 1%
- Mixed crops 3%
- Extensive livestock 8%
- Permanent grassland 25%
- Arable crops 10%
- Permanent crops 53%

Geographic distribution HNV farms

■ **Mountain** ■ **Hill** ■ **Plain**
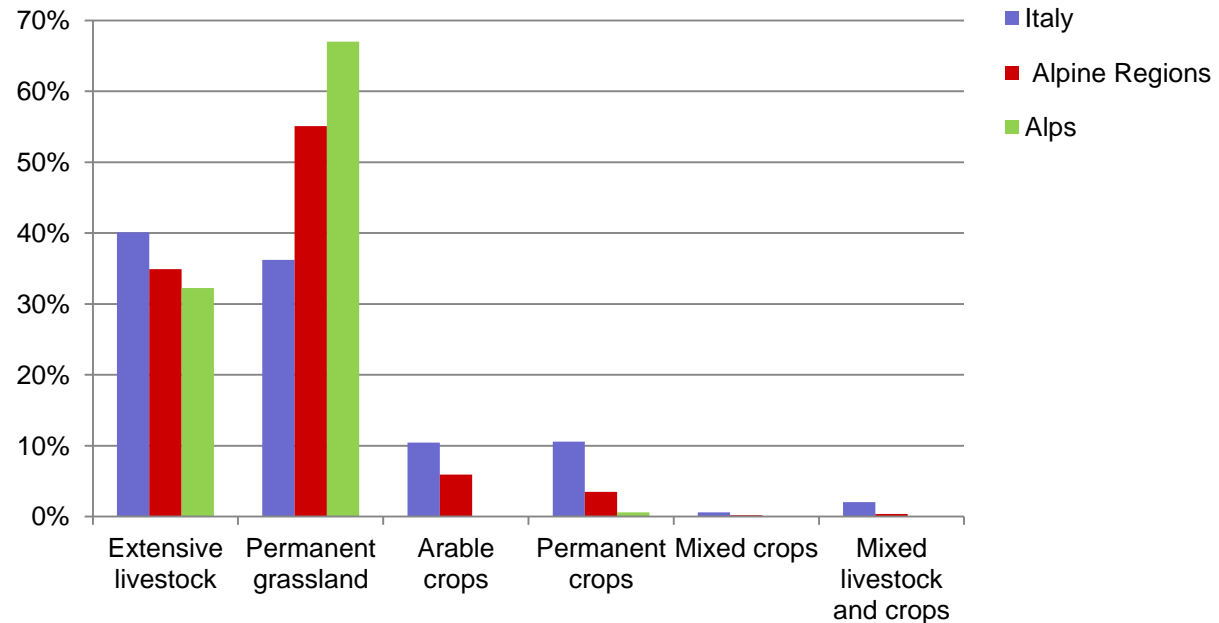

- 26%
- 58%
- 16%
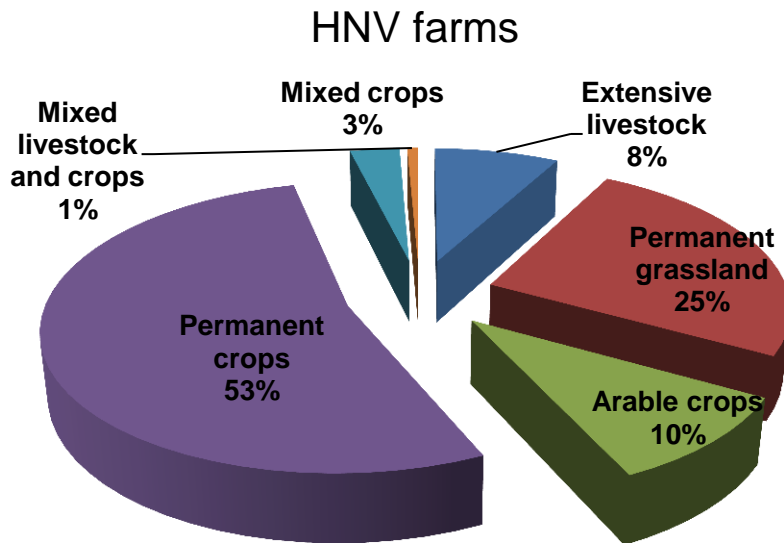
Share of HNV farmland on total UAA
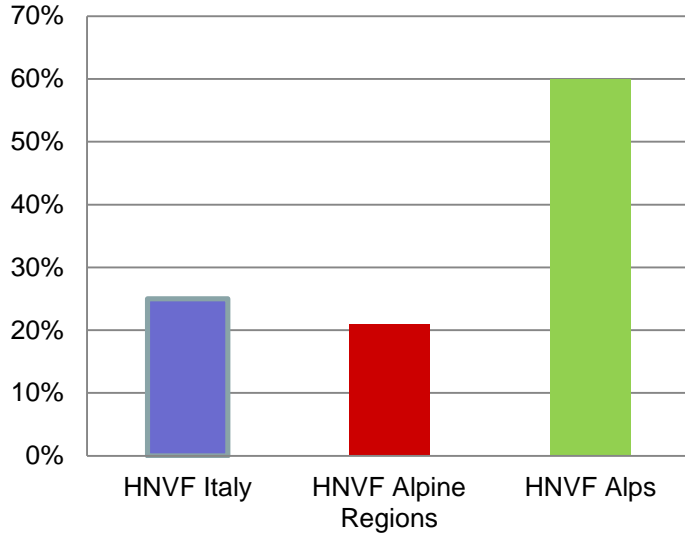
Alpine Regions

Liguria
Aosta Valley
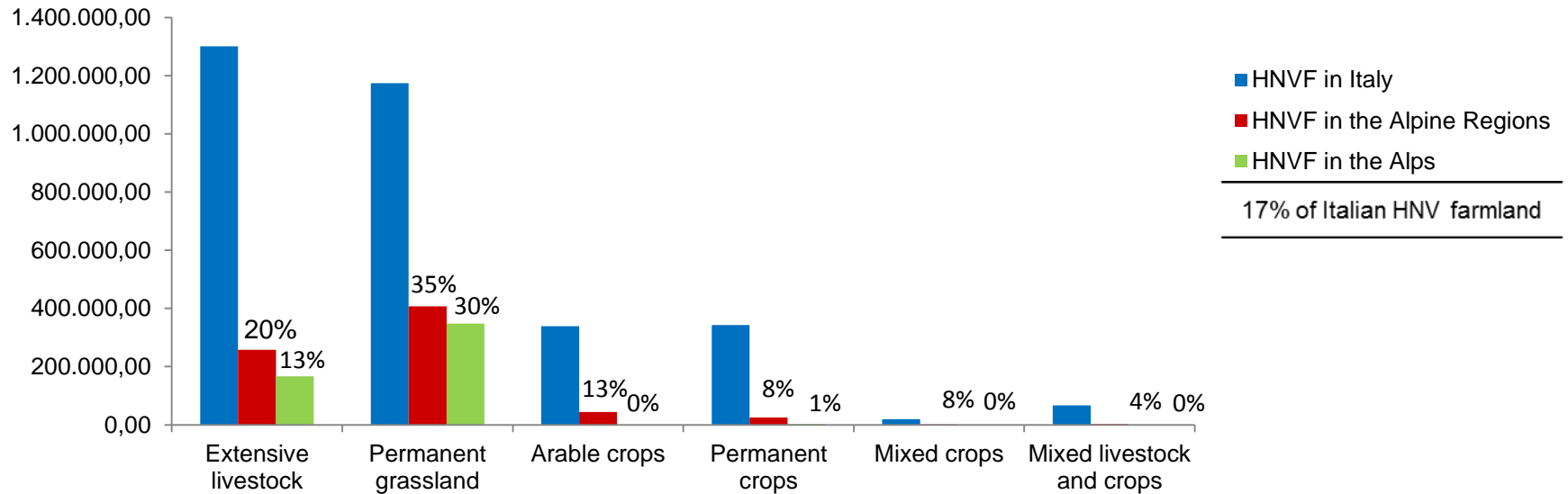Piedmont
Lombardy
Bolzano
Trento
Veneto
Friuli Venezia Giulia

Chart — Share of HNV farmland on total UAA (axis 0%–70%):
- HNVF Italy: ~25%
- HNVF Alpine Regions: ~21%
- HNVF Alps: ~60%

Share of farming systems on total HNVF

Chart legend: Italy, Alpine Regions, Alps (axis 0%–70%)
- Extensive livestock: Italy ~40%, Alpine Regions ~35%, Alps ~32%
- Permanent grassland: Italy ~36%, Alpine Regions ~55%, Alps ~67%
- Arable crops: Italy ~10%, Alpine Regions ~6%, Alps ~0%
- Permanent crops: Italy ~10%, Alpine Regions ~3%, Alps ~0%
- Mixed crops: Italy ~0.5%, Alpine Regions ~0%, Alps ~0%
- Mixed livestock and crops: Italy ~2%, Alpine Regions ~0%, Alps ~0%

HNV farmland
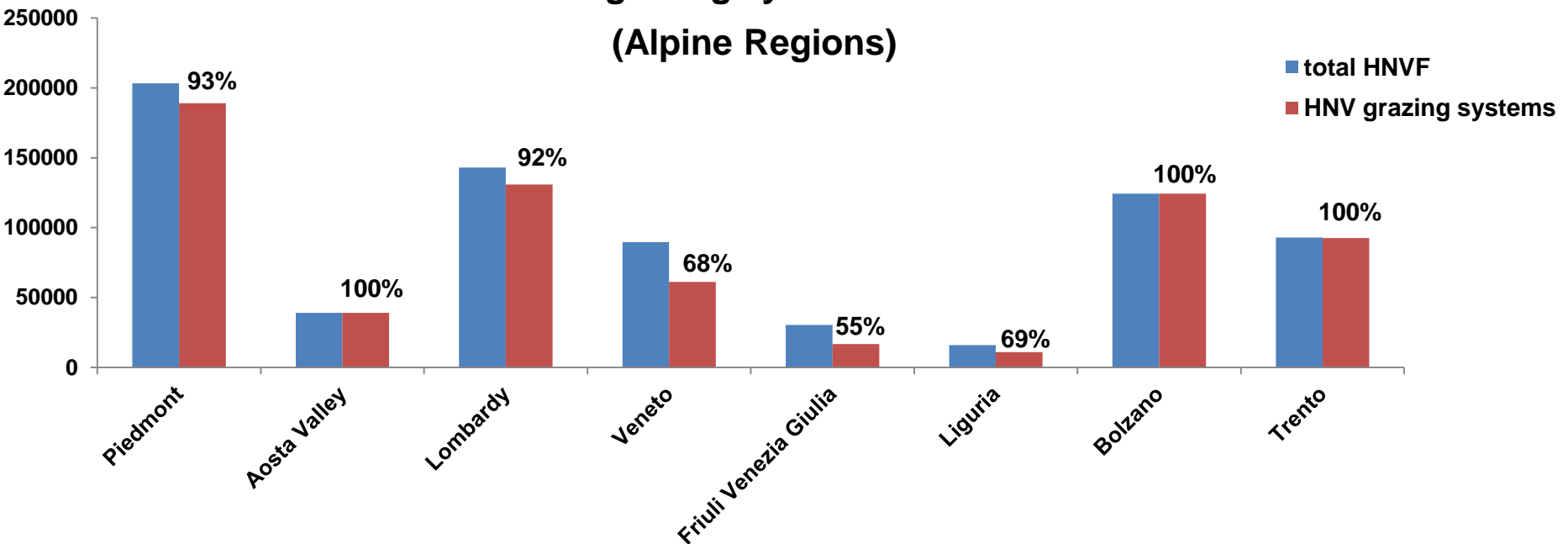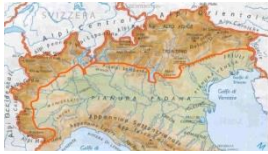**Share of Alpine HNV farming system on total HNVF**

HNV farmland in the Italian Alps

Prevalence of **HNV grazing systems**, i.e. extensive livestock (35%) and permanent grassland systems (56%)

Great relevance in Italy in terms of UAA, social patterns and environmental services
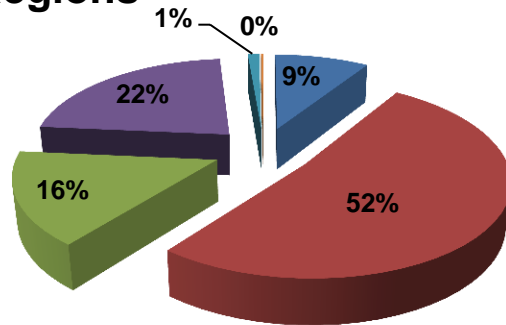
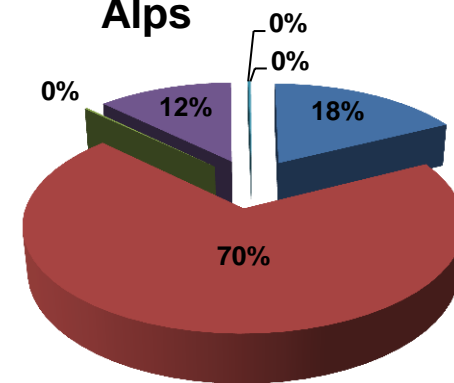**Share of HNV grazing systems on total HNVF (Alpine Regions)**

- total HNVF
- HNV grazing systems

Piedmont 93% · Aosta Valley 100% · Lombardy 92% · Veneto 68% · Friuli Venezia Giulia 55% · Liguria 69% · Bolzano 100% · Trento 100%

HNV farms

Alpine Regions

Alps

Legend:
- Grazing livestock
- Permanent grassland
- Arable crops
- Permanent crops
- Mixed crops
- Mixed livestock and crops

Alpine Regions pie chart values: 9%, 52%, 16%, 22%, 1%, 0%

Alps pie chart values: 18%, 70%, 0%, 12%, 0%, 0%
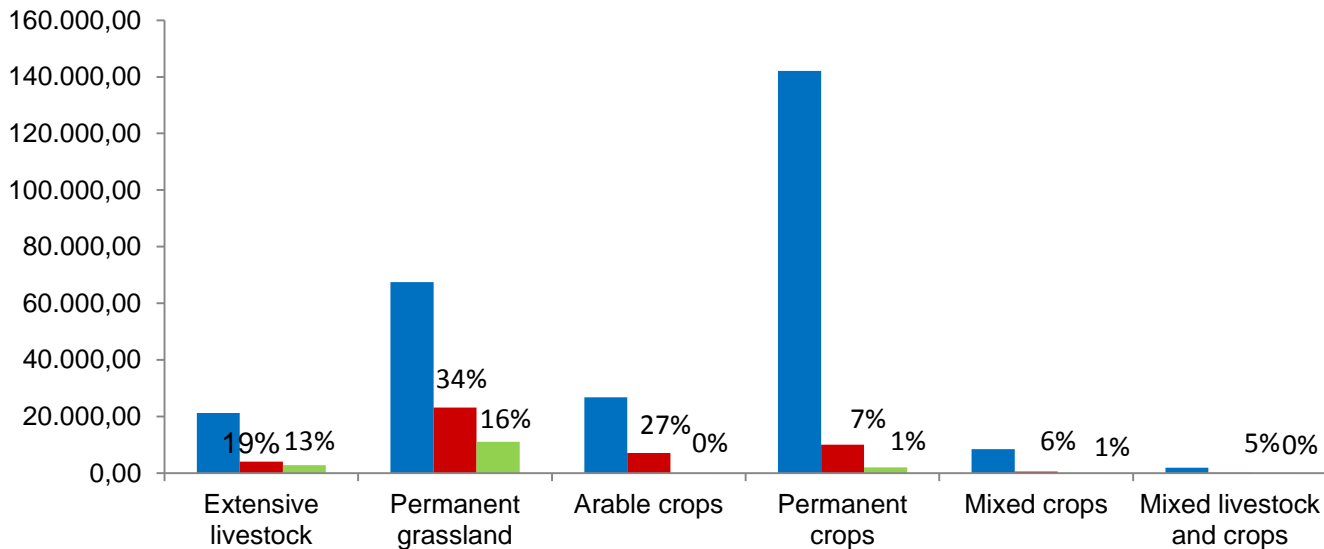
Bar chart legend:
- HNV Farms in Italy
- HNV farms in the Alpine Regions
- HNV Farms in the Alps

6,5% of Italian HNV farms

Bar chart categories: Extensive livestock (19%, 13%), Permanent grassland (34%, 16%), Arable crops (27%, 0%), Permanent crops (7%, 1%), Mixed crops (6%, 1%), Mixed livestock and crops (5%, 0%)

Current support to HNVF: main RDP's measures

➢ *Agri-environment* (Measure 214), supporting management practices, such as:

  ➢ Maintenance and management of permanent grasslands (only in a few cases management regimes according to type of grassland)

  ➢ Alp-system, named "Alpeggio" i.e. vertical transhumance (Aosta Valley, Bolzano, Lombardy)

  ➢ Input restrictions on grasslands

  ➢ Conversion of arable land into permanent grassland

  ➢ Appropriate grazing regimes

➢ *LFA* (Measure 211). Levels of payment are sometimes raised where farming shows HNV characteristics, such as steep alpine pastures in Aosta Valley, terraced vineyards in Valtellina and Camonica Valley in Lombardy

➢ *non-productive investments* (Measure 216). I.e. establishment/recovery of landscape elements and ecological infrastructures. Among the Alpine Regions, this measure is implemented only in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardy and Veneto

Other tools supporting HNVF

➤ Regional laws: i.e. in Aosta Valley: recovery of *Alpeggi*; consistent mix of measures supporting low-intensity livestock systems taking into account socio-economic and environmental aspects.

➤ LIFE+ programmes: a relevant tool for the improvement of effectiveness of AE schemes and the conservation of species and habitats. I.e. those targeted to specific types of grasslands, like the alpine *Nardus* grasslands in Piedmont (LIFE02 NAT/IT/008574)

Priorities for future support to HNVF

➢ *targeting* support to HNVF

➢ farm-level eligibility criteria (based on HNVF/farming systems characteristics)

➢ integrated and territorial approaches: a coherent *mix* of measures and actions combined and tailored as to address HNV farms needs taking local characteristics into account

➢ involvement of local communities and potential beneficiaries in scheme design

➢ addressing socio-economic challenges of HNV farms encouraging economic viability and profitability (I.e. investment aid, support for joining food quality schemes; diversification into non-agricultural activities; advice and training)

Priorities for future support to HNVF

➢ Integration of key HNV characteristics into agricultural statistics (i.e. Agricultural Census, FSS, FADN) and LPIS-IACS databases ⟹ to target measures and monitor HNVF trends.

➢ Availability of data on a geographical basis (environmental, socio-economics, RDP measure uptakes).

➢ Cooperation between agricultural and environmental departments.

➢ Synergy among funds, and policies (socio-economic, agricultural and environmental).

Thank you for your attention!