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RESULT-BASED NATURE PROTECTION PLAN (RNP) IN AUSTRIA

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Less-Favoured Areas, Organic Farming

ONE MINUTE FOR THE CONTEXT

- Austria is a „**pillar-2-country**“ (1/3 % pillar 1; 2/3 % pillar 2)
- **115.000 IACS-farms** in Austria
- **91.000 IACS-farms (= 80 %)** take part in **agri-environment-climate measures**
- **18.000 farmers** take part in the specific „**nature protection measure**“ (based on project confirmations by the Nature Protection Departments of the Austrian provinces)



Result-based Nature Protection Plan (RNP)

- **pilot project** since 2015
- **70 farmers** throughout Austria
- aim until 2020: **250 farmers**

RESULT-BASED CONTROL SYSTEM

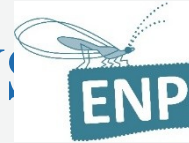
common obligatory measure:
2 times mowing/no
fertilizer/fix regular
times

general objective:
high diversity on the
grassland

implemented measure to achieve the specif. objective:
decided by the
farmer

specific objective decided on spot:
presence/absence of
certain species, structures
or habitats

THE KEY OF THE SYSTEM



content of farmer's
RNP-“Logbook”

specific objectives
on spot

qualitative indicators
on spot



additional information & advice on
nature conservation knowledge

evaluation, discussion & conclusion

quantitative control
criteria *on spot*



control & sanction

GRASSLAND: SUPPORTING WHINCHAT



specific objectives on parcel level

- successful breeding of two pairs of whinchat (*saxicola rubetra*)
- suitable nesting-habitats should be available on 15 % of the parcel until middle of June
- perches should be provided in regular intervals (50 m distance)

additional info and advice

- how to identify nesting whinchats
- what suits for perches near nesting-habitats
- how to make sure that nesting-habitats are built in those parts mowed after middle of June

control criteria

vegetation must be higher than 40 cm on at least 5 % of the parcel until the middle of June

PROCESS & CONTROL

application of the interested farmer (parcels on High Nature Value farmland)



visiting the parcels with ecological expert, determining & documenting the specific objectives & control criteria on parcel-level, calculating the premium based on classic list on AEM, - 5 %, + EUR 70



registration for taking part on RNP & submitting the details to the consulting firm & to the Nature Protection Departments of the provinces



farmers receive a personalised „RNP Logbook“ containing specific objectives, control criteria & additional info for personal documentation



midterm controlling visit by the ecological expert (control criteria)



midterm evaluation (farmers, ecological experts, consulting firm)

CHALLENGES & ADVANTAGES

- not suitable for all agri-environment-climate measures nor for all farming types; appropriate for: grassland, permanent meadows (some arable land and vineyards)
- only suitable for farms up to a certain size
- implies a certain administrative effort

- + clear biodiversity objectives on the spot help to secure the farmer's acceptance of certain management activities
- + higher flexibility in management activities for farmers
- + investment in awareness & education: farmers feel more responsible and do better understand interrelations between management activities and general objectives

- farmers are interested in nature but not in abstract commitments
- learning to think in results – even if having measures in mind



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Questions?

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