

# Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

European Rural Networks' Assembly

## **#RNSubInnovation - @EIPAGRI\_SP** 18 February 2016

#### Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting – 18 February 2016

08:30 - 09:00 Registration & welcome coffee

- 09:00 09:10 Welcome & introduction Rob Peters, Head of Unit AGRI H.5
- 09:10 10:10 Session I "Rural Networking in 2016

Presentation by DG AGRI & discussion in groups

10:10 – 10:30 Session II "Supporting Operational Groups"

EIP-AGRI implementation in RDPs: first elements from the 94 RDPs supporting

OGs through Measure 16 – Presentations by DG AGRI & EIP-AGRI Service Point

- 10:30 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 13:00 Session II "Supporting Operational Groups" (continued) *Discussion in groups* Support for Operational Groups – *DG AGRI & MAs from Austria, Spain, Sweden, England*
- 13:00 14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 15:00 Session III "EIP-AGRI Focus Groups"

State of play - EIP-AGRI Service Point & DG AGRI

Making best use of Focus Groups' outcomes – Presentations by Portugal, Hungary

& Spain / Presentation by Mark Redman, coordinating expert FG HNV Farming

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:40 Making best use of Focus Groups' outcomes – Discussion in groups

16:40 - 17:00 Wrap up / next steps

17:00 Closing











EIP-AGRI Focus Group Sustainable High Nature Value (HNV) farming

<sup>ohoto:</sup> CAEB International

How to improve the **social and economic sustainability** of High Nature Value (HNV) farming without losing the HNV characteristics?



5 farmers5 advisers / consultants8 NGO representatives7 researchers



European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism

Nature Value Farming



High Nature Value farming throughout EU-27 and its financial support under the CAp 1 Co-ordinating Expert 1 Guest Expert Task Manager





## **"AGRICULTURE, NATURE AND INNOVATION"**

#### 4-5 June 2015

Hotel New Montana, Sinaia, Romania

Over 1 million ha of HNV grasslands in Romania managed with agri-environment payments in 2007-2013 - but what's the **next step** with preserving these valuable wildlife habitats and landscapes? Are there <u>new</u> approaches and ideas for improving the social and economic viability of HNV farming in Romania?







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- Explore the question of how can HNV farming in Romania be more profitable, without losing the valuable biodiversity?
- **2. Share** the results / conclusions of the EIP-AGRI Focus Group on improving the sustainability of HNV farming
- **3. Introduce** the specific opportunities presented by Measure 16 of the 2014-2020 Romania RDP (notably M16.1)
- **4. Brainstorm** and develop project ideas for potential EIP-AGRI Operational Groups addressing the needs of HNV farming in Romania







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### **Outcomes of the Romanian NRN meeting**

- 63 participants approx. 40% farmers, 30% NGOs, 20% academics, 10% institutional
- Key issues clarified relating to Operational Groups e.g. small farmers and researchers
- 31 "questions" generated and sent to Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development
- Potential identified for a number of HNV-related Operational Groups
- Increased interest in HNV-related research (e.g. nutrient flows on HNV farms)
- NRN Thematic publication (July 2015) Agro-pastoral Landscapes & Biodiversity

#### Follow-up #2

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Focus Group meeting in Cluj-Napoca, Romania (21-22 October 2014)
- Idea emerged from an independent member of the Focus Group for a H2020 Thematic Network on HNV Farming
- Proposal submitted in June 2015 under ISIB-02-2015 "Closing the research and innovation divide: the crucial role of innovation support services and knowledge exchange"



# Thematic Network Title: High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge (HNV-Link)

- 13 partners (11 Member States) of which 6 partners have a direct link to the Focus Group
- Budget of EUR 2.2 million for 36 months
- Network aims to "to tackle the complex issue of innovation in HNV farming" by creating a "dynamic chain of agricultural innovations for HNV areas, through an innovative knowledge transfer community"
- Very well-constructed proposal makes extensive reference to the HNV Focus Group, but goes well beyond the scope of the FG in terms of consortium partners and theoretical / practical content.....scored 14/15

#### Four main actions in HNV-Link:

- 1. Link 10 zones where HNV farming systems are prevalent and where appropriate innovations have been made -> "Learning Areas"
- 2. Identify the agro-ecological, socio-economic and institutional characteristics of each "Learning Area"
- Carry out an inventory of grassroots innovations in each "Learning Area" technical, product / market-based, social / institutional and regulatory innovation
- 4. Consolidate and disseminate knowledge of innovation (and associated processes) between "Learning Areas" and more widely

For more information contact the HNV-LINK communication person (and Focus Group member) – Irina Herzon (herzon@mappi.helsinki.fi)

#### **Evaluator's comment:**

"The consortium is strong in terms of relevant knowledge, skills and experience of HNV farming based on prior projects, and connections to established networks. It includes a range of different and complementary multi-actor partners representing science and civil society."

This also reflects the <u>strength</u> of the Focus Group approach within the EIP-AGRI network —> as a **node**, a **junction**, a **fusion point** connecting and engaging existing networks and pools of expertise / alternative perspective in **creative and inspiring dialogue** 



#### **Thank-you for your attention**

Mark Redman redman.consultancy@gmail.com