



High Nature Value grasslands: securing the ecosystem services of European farming

7- 9 September 2010, Sibiu, Romania

EFNCP, in partnership with Fundația ADEPT and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, are proud to announce a major 2½ day international conference to address the importance of High Nature Value Farmland for the delivery of ecosystem services in Europe.

This conference will be held in the historic city of Sibiu, the 2007 European city of culture and home of Samuel von Brukenthal, the renowned 18th century patron of the arts and sciences. Central to the conference is the field trip to some of the most biodiverse farmed lowland landscapes remaining in Europe - rich in wildflowers, birds, butterflies and large mammals including bears and wolves.

This conference will assess the role of HNV farming systems in providing a wide range of ecosystem services: not only biodiversity conservation, but other services vital to our long term future such as resistance to climate change, carbon sequestration, fire and flood resistance, quality and security of water and food.

HNV farmed landscapes are dominated by semi-natural grasslands, and small scale traditional management. Should these farming systems be treated as the poor relation of competitive, intensive farming? Their ecosystem services make them of global importance.

Nevertheless, both the grasslands and the farming systems that use them are under threat. This conference will propose improved EU strategies for maintaining them – the CAP reform debate of 2010-13 is a major opportunity for re-targeting CAP resources, so that they help to secure the future of these HNV grasslands and the ecosystem services they deliver.

Thanks to generous support from the European Commission, Orange Romania and Lucian Blaga University, participation is free of charge. However, those intending to participate are required to register by 15 May by email to info@efnccp.org using the form at **XXXXXX**.

We have reserved rooms at a variety of lovely pensions and hotels in the old city of Sibiu and will provide you with details of how to contact them, and of preferential room rates, when we confirm your registration.

Sibiu Airport is easily reached from a variety of European airports. It is about 4 hours by car from Bucharest, where there are 2 international airports – public transport connections are available. Transport to and from Sibiu airport may be arranged through the organizers. Further details will be available in your confirmation email.



DG Environment



Programme Summary

Tuesday 7th September

Session 1 – Introduction to the conference and the area

Wednesday 8th September

Session 2 – Field trips to Târnava Mare region *which will be arranged specifically to illustrate and elicit discussion of themes to be covered in the next day's sessions.*

Thursday 9th September

Session 3 – Biodiversity and carbon storage: key ecosystem services of HNV grassland

Semi-natural pastures and meadows (“HNV grasslands”) are central to the ecosystem services of European farming, and at the same time represent a major part of European biodiversity.

The place of HNV grasslands within ecosystem services needs to be clarified and flagged up – landscape, water-catchment functions, quality food production on land with limited economic options.

The climate change debate has many potential implications for HNV grasslands. Can we explain and quantify their positive services: carbon storage, fire resistance in dry areas, large-scale habitats that allow species to adapt to climate change. How can negative policy responses, such as the drive for intensification, changes of land use for biofuels or intensive biomass, be avoided?

Session 4 – Public money for public goods – what that means for HNV grasslands

Low-intensity HNV livestock farming links food quality, culture and nature. We will draw lessons on the socio-economic situation of HNV farming systems and farming communities, with data and case studies from around the EU.

Session 5 – Improving policies to support HNV farming – local level

We will draw key policy lessons from local projects such as ADEPT's, highlighting common challenges.

Session 6 – Improving policies to support HNV farming – EU level

What can the CAP do to address HNV challenges across EU? How can the CAP reform of 2010-13 secure a sustainable future for HNV grasslands?

Speakers from a wide range of EU Member States to include

H.E. Mr Mihail Dumitru, Minister of Agriculture, Romania

DG Agriculture and DG Environment (to be confirmed)

Ministry of Environment, Romania

Prof Peter Veen (Netherlands)

Prof Michael Dower (UK)

Colin Tudge (UK)



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