XIV European Mountain CONVENTION

30 June - 2 July 2026 | Sallanches

EUROMONTANA

Suaci Montagn'Alpes

Socioeconomic performance of pastoral systems

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Interreg

Co-funded by the European Union

IPA ADRION

Survey identity and outcomes

- Design a **farm typology** for pastoral sheep farms per country (based on local/national experience and particularities – Consultation with stakeholders)
- Farm **survey** on **representative sheep farms** per country
- Questionnaire prepared and sent to partners
  - Collection of detailed technical and economic data
  - A guide with data from a Greek sheep farm was provided
- **Technical and economic analysis per farm type and for each country**

7 countries involved – 76 farms in total

Italy (CNR and UNIVPM) – Sardinia and Marche

Cyprus (CIRRD)

France (INRAE - SELMET) - Corsica

Turkey (CUNI) - Adana

Algeria (INRAA) - Setif

Croatia (UZ) - Istria

Greece (ELGO-AUTH) – Central Greece

	Dairy	Diversification	Grazing intensity	Land cultivation	Trans-humance
A1			2439	X	
A2			2524	X	
A3			2459	X	
Cr1	X	X (Cheese)	2537	Low	
Co1	X		2555	X	
Co2	X	X (Cheese)	2555	X	
Cy1	X	X (Cheese)		Low	
G1	X		2096		X
G2	X		2030		
M1	X	X (Cheese, Other)	2297		X
M2	X	X (Agritourism)	1626		
S1	X		1710	Low	
S2	X	X (Cheese)	1710	X	
T1			3962	Low	
T2			3928	Low	
T3a			4302	Low	X
T3b	X	X (Cheese)	4057		

Some questions….. Are there responses?

"These farms are small and unproductive"

"Pastoral farmers live off subsidies"

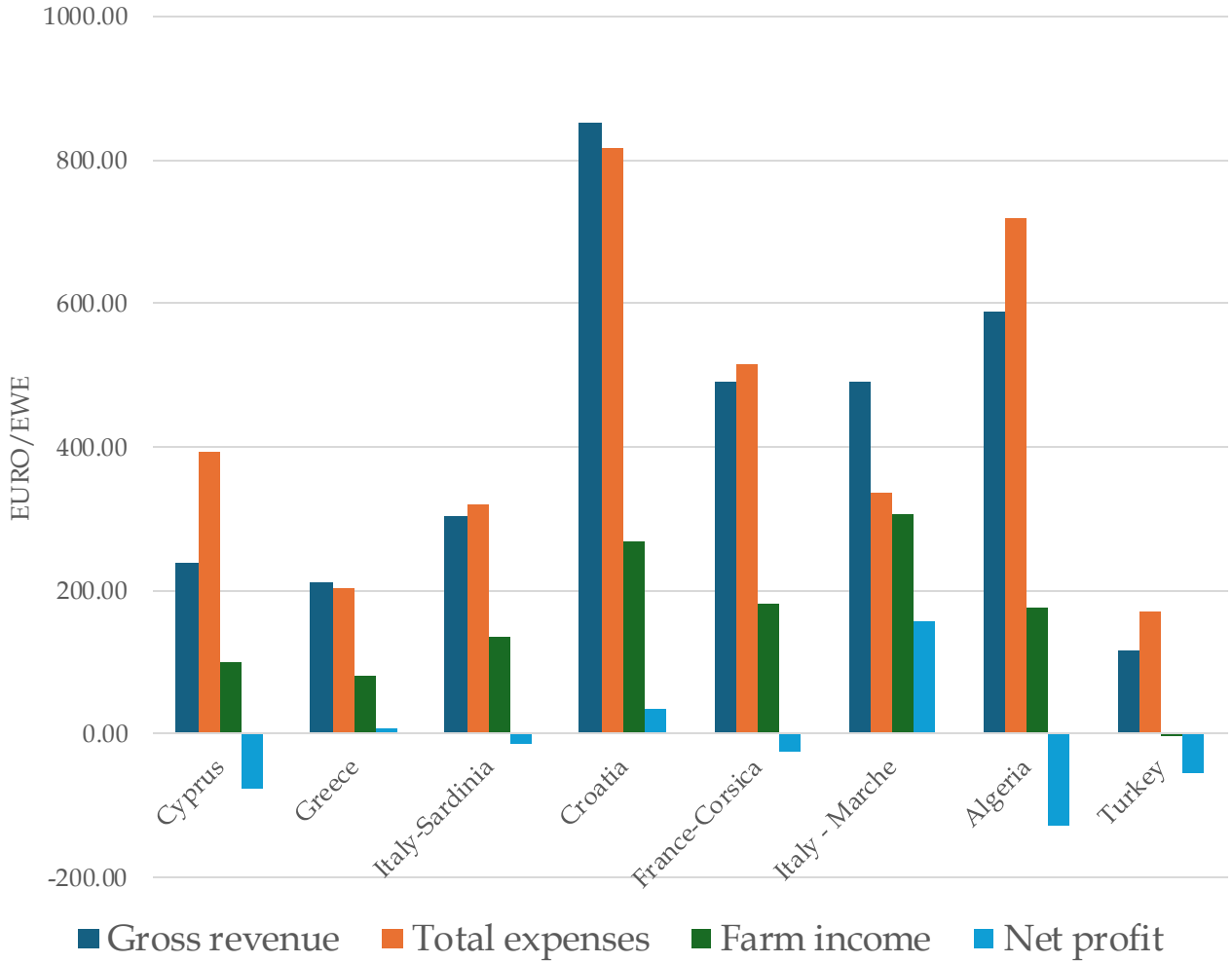
"Higher feed costs are a disaster"



"It is not possible to live off livestock pastoralism"

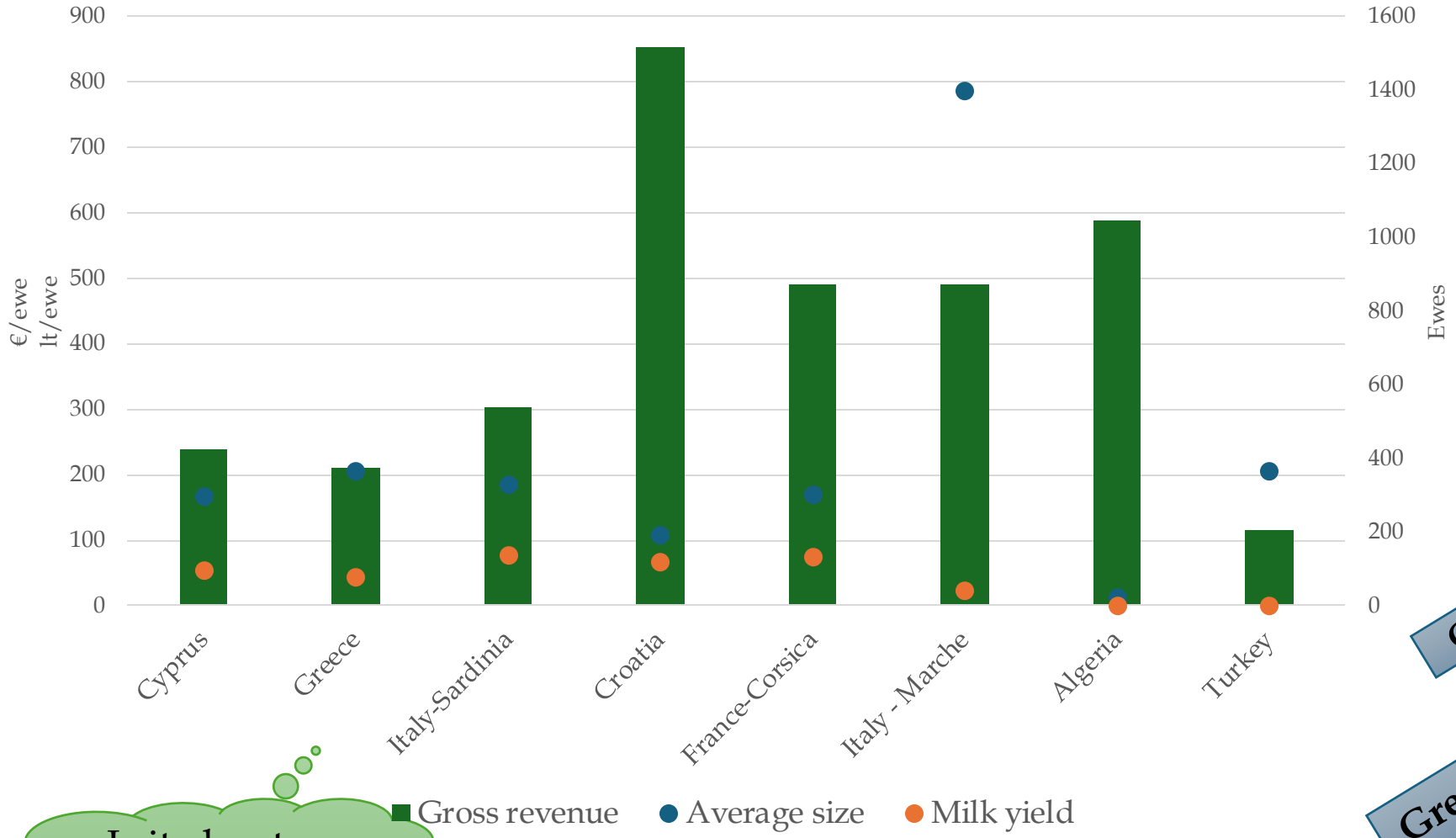
"Who needs salaried shepherds?"

“It is not possible to live off livestock pastoralism”





“These farms are small and unproductive”



Is it about productivity?

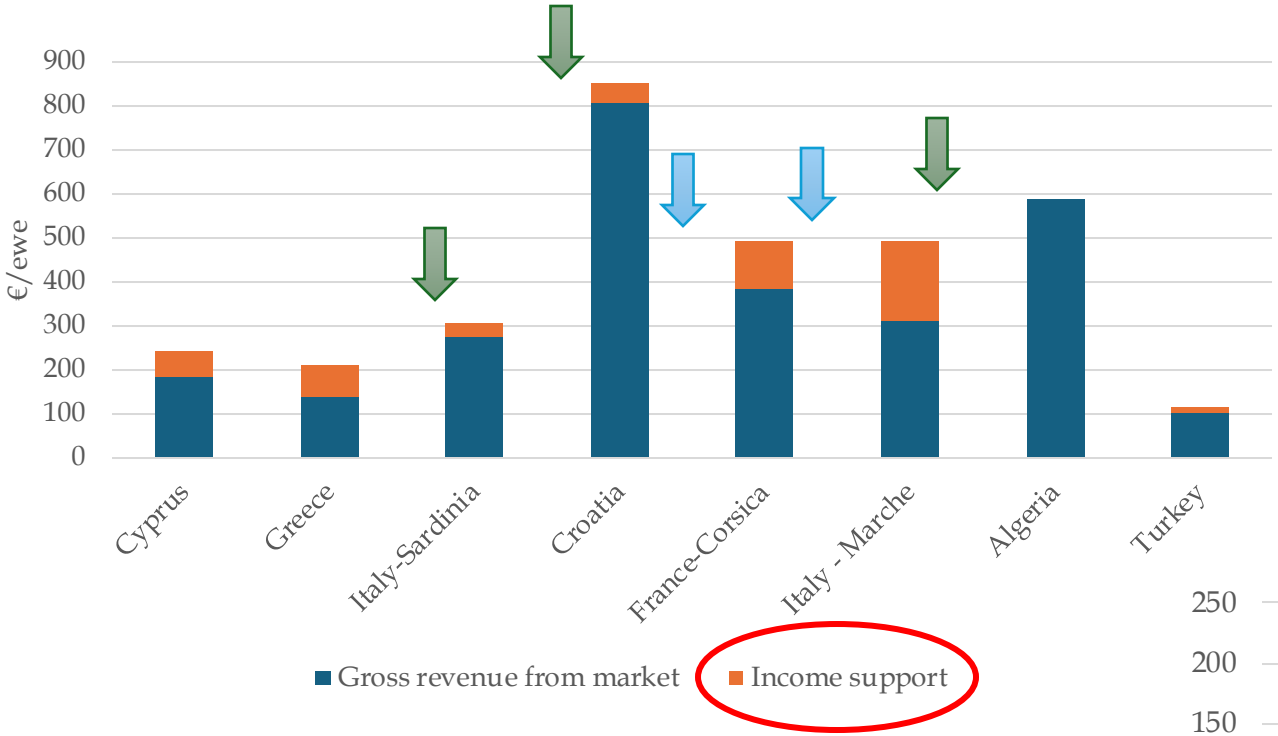








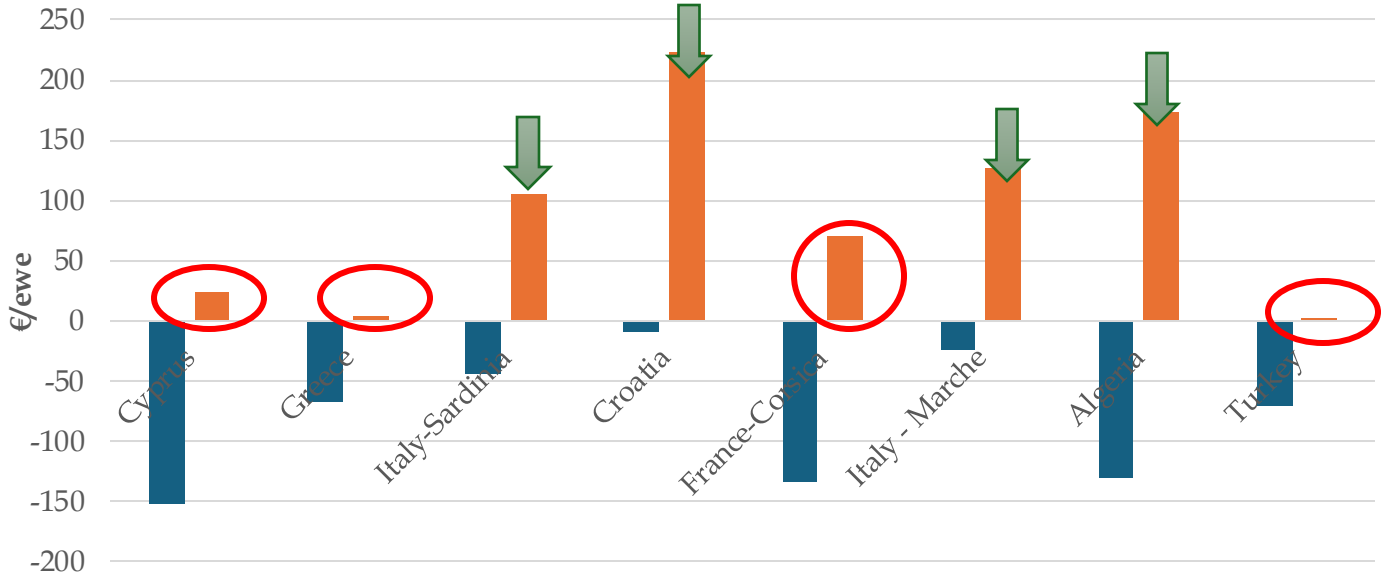
“Pastoral farms live off subsidies”



So many policy bottlenecks – NOT THE INCOME SUPPORT

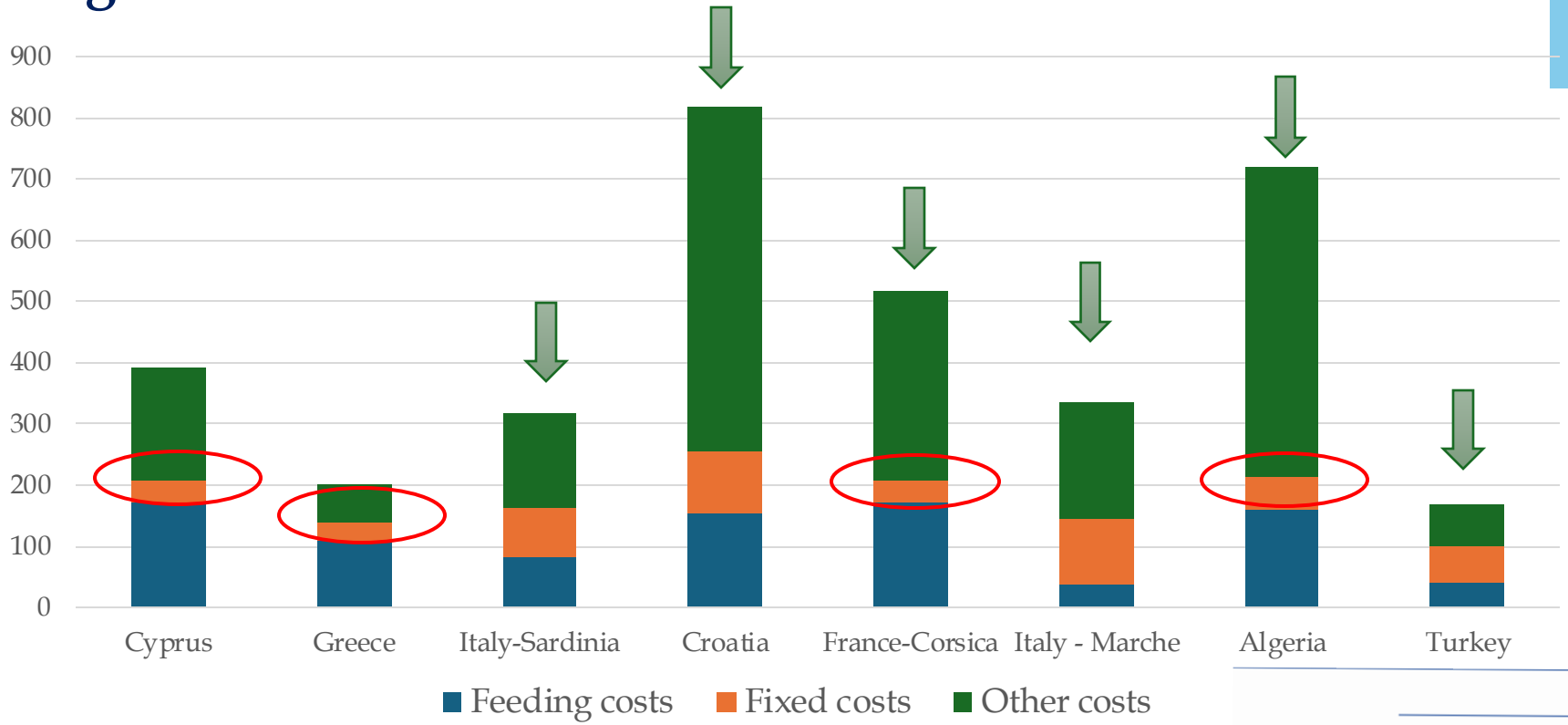






"Higher feed costs are a disaster"

Climate change – Feed autonomy
Rangeland management



15 **Collective and individual approaches to pastoral land governance in Greek silvopastoral systems**

The case of sheep and goat transhumance

Athanasios Ragkos and Stavriani Koutsou



Algeria



Sardinia



	2010			2014		
	Expensesper farm(€)	€/ewe	% of totalexpenses	Expenses per farm(€)	€/ewe	% of totalexpenses
Land rent	4,947.0	20.3	6.4	3,581.9	16.4	4.7
Labour expenses	18,620.1	76.4*	23.9	18,497.2	84.6*	24.5
Family labour	15,322.9	62.8*	19.7	17,569.2	80.4*	23.3
Hired labour	3,297.2	13.5*	4.2	928.1	4.2*	1.2
Capital expenses	54,199.5	222.3*	69.7	53,344.2	244.0*	70.7
Variable capital	28,891.0	118.5*	37.2	28,035.7	128.2*	37.2
Feedstuff expenses	22,437.8	92.0*	28.9	22,412.4	102.5*	29.7
Other variable expenses	6,453.2	26.5	8.3	5,623.3	25.7	7.5
Fixed capital	25,308.5	103.8	32.5	25,308.5	115.8	33.6
Total production expenses	77,766.6	319.0*	100.0	75,423.3	345.0*	100.0

"Who needs salaried shepherds?"





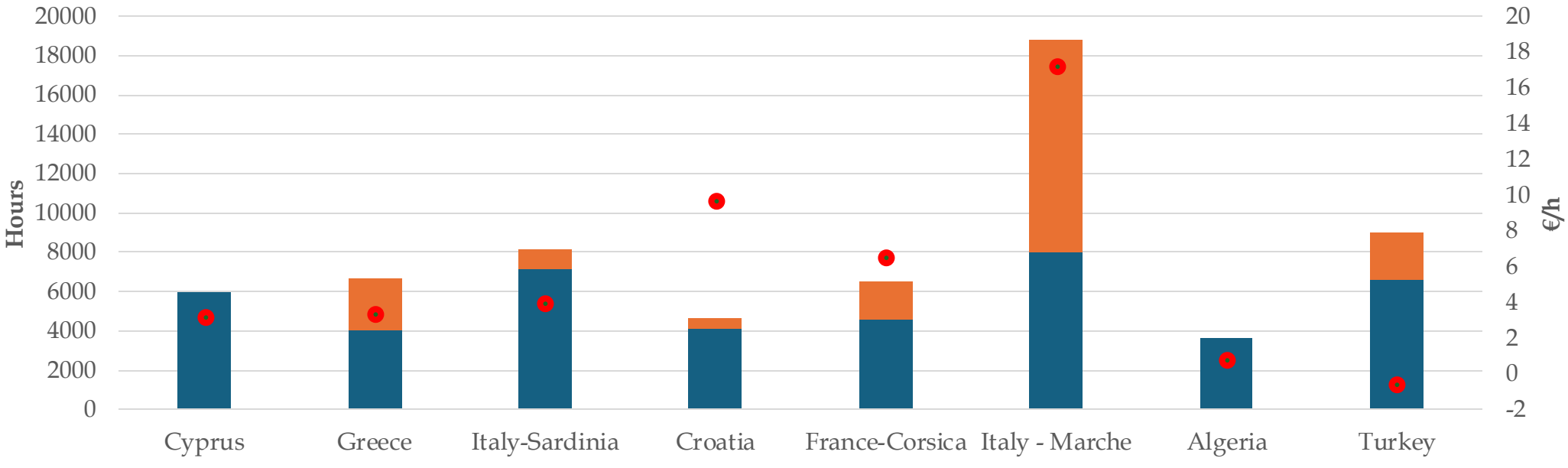
Shepherd Schools



Make pastoralism attractive for family members







Why stay in the family farm?

Some responses……

"Pastoral farmers live off subsidies"

Need for enabling frameworks and equal opportunities

"These farms are old and unproductive"

High quality products for creative marketing ideas

"Higher feed costs are a disaster"

Emphasize local solutions – Big cost savings show the way to others

Let young people evolve

"It is not possible to live off livestock pastoralism"

Accept and promote new activities, new products, more species….

"Who needs salaried shepherds?"

Passionate, happy, experienced people – New roles in inclusive societies

Regional Environmental Change (2020) 20:13
https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-020-01598-6

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

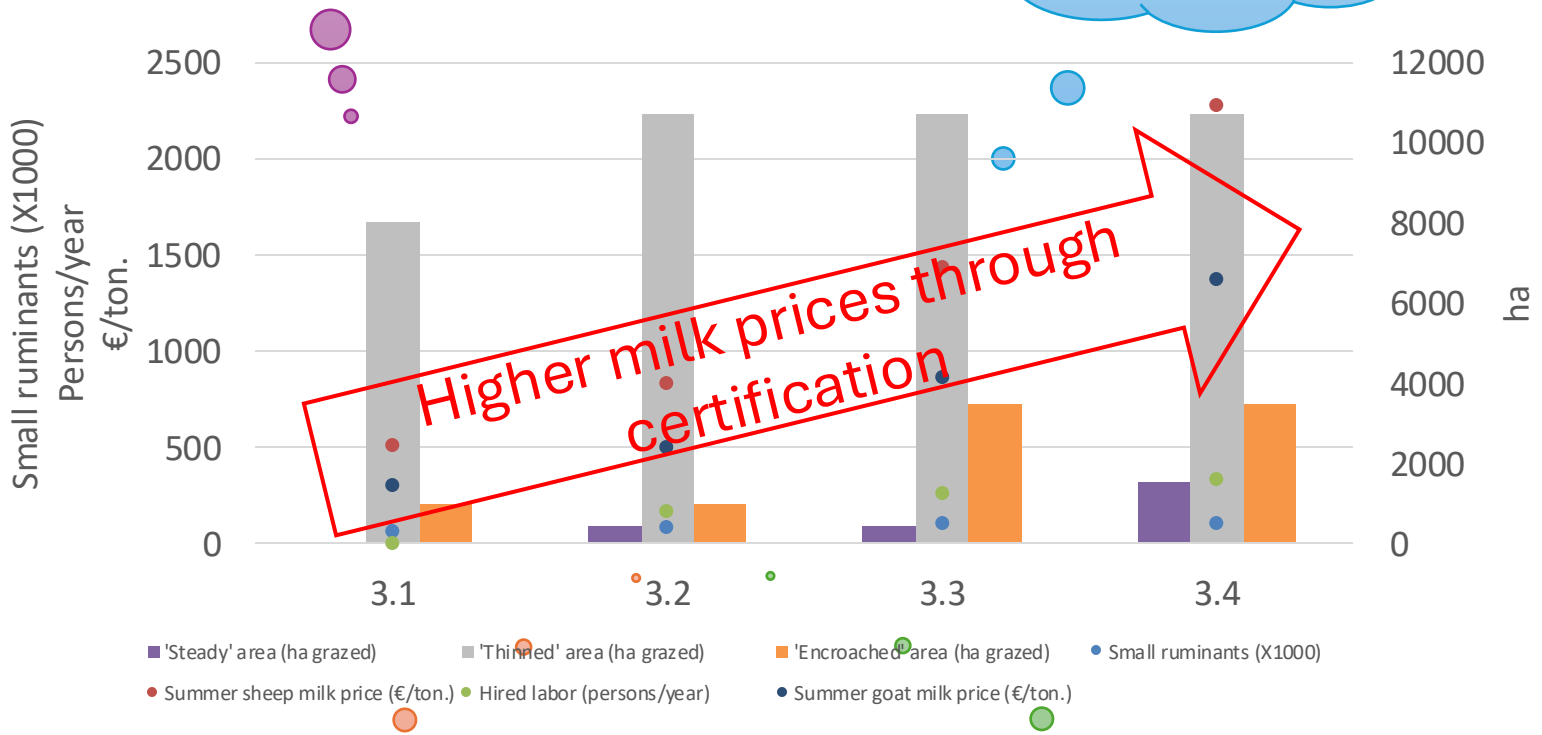
Scenarios of optimal organization of sheep and goat transhumance

Athanasios Ragkos [1] · Stavriani Koutsou [2] · Maria Karatassiou [3] · Zoi M. Parissi [3]

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More jobs (hired shepherds – generational renewal)

More farms – Lower incomes



Higher milk prices through certification

More grazed areas

More livestock

Production intensive ou extensive?

Couts de nourriture

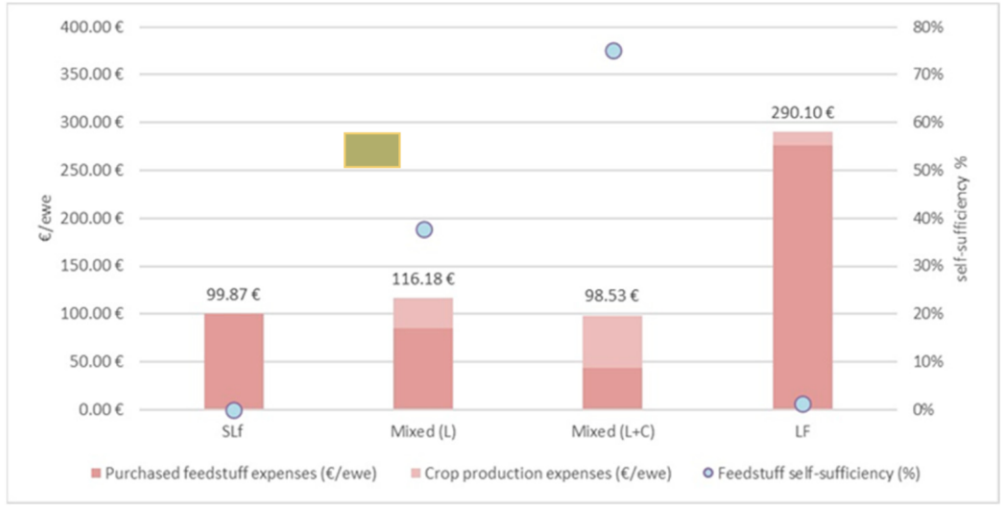


Figure 2. Feedstuff self-sufficiency and total feeding cost.

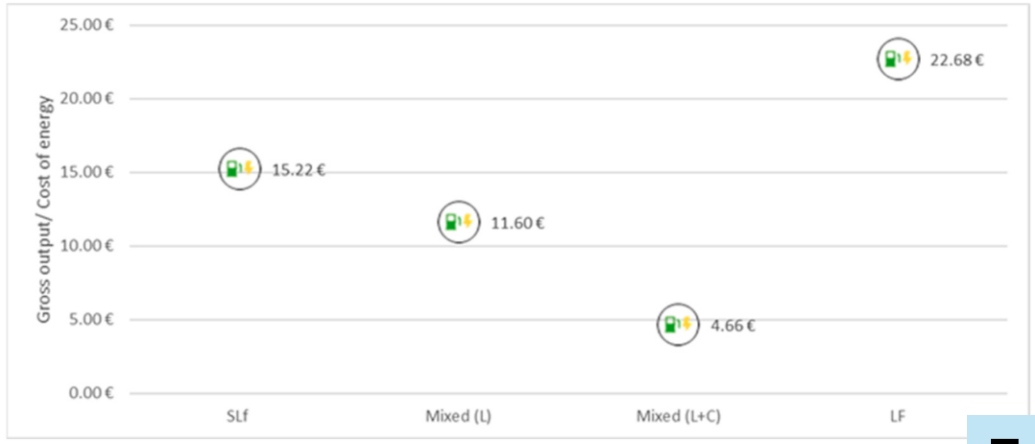


Figure 3. Efficiency of energy use per group.

Engrais et pesticides

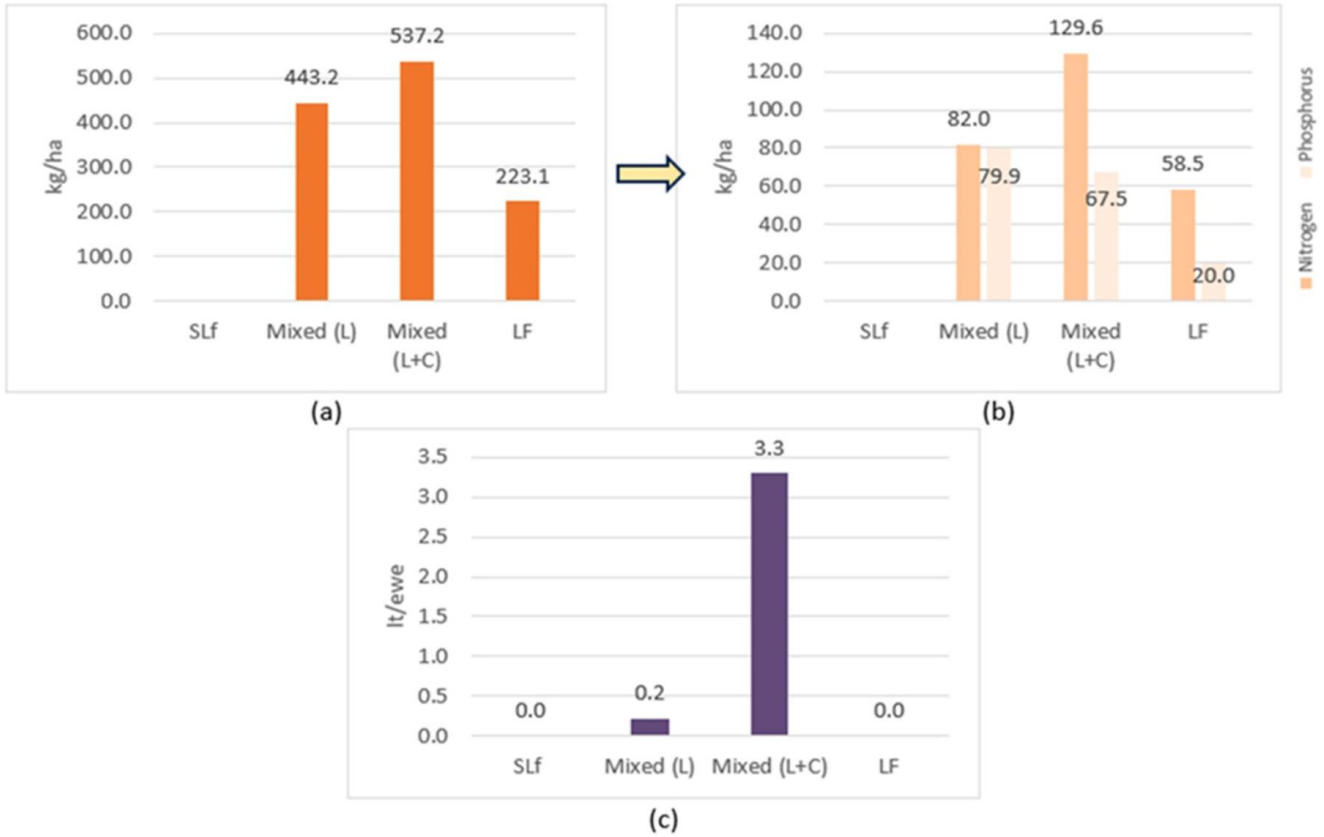


Figure 4. Agrochemical use: (**a**) fertilizers; (**b**) quantity of nitrogen and phosphorus; (**c**) pesticides.

Energie

The policy framework

The priority areas

Attractiveness:
Making farming a viable and appealing career

Competitiveness:
Strengthening the sector's position in global markets

Future-proofing:
Embracing innovation and sustainability for long-term resilience

Connection:
Valuing food and fostering fair living and working conditions in rural areas.

A sector where food is valued and offers a fair living and working condition in rural areas:

How?

- Fostering fair living and working conditions in vibrant rural areas
- Reconnecting food with territory, seasonality and traditions
- Attracting more women to the profession
- Ensuring the protection of workers' rights
- Supporting agri-food SMEs

Main Actions:

- → Updating the EU Rural Action Plan and Rural Pact
- → Establishing a Women in Farming Platform
- → Holding an annual Food Dialogue with food system's actors
- → Reviewing the legal framework on public procurement
- → Reviewing the EU school scheme
- → Promoting further uptake of geographical indications
- → Updating the EU animal welfare legislation

A competitive and resilient sector:

How?

- Pursuing international partnerships
- Diversifying our trade relations
- Creating new export opportunities
- Reducing critical dependencies
- Increasing the resilience of the agri-food sector through effective risk and crisis management
- Simplifying policies

Main Actions:

- → Presenting simplification packages for farmers and food businesses
- → Reinforcing agri-food diplomacy and pursuing a stronger alignment of production standards
- → Establishing a Unity Safety Net to protect the agri-food sector in the face of global challenges
- → Launching a workstream on livestock to develop policy pathways for its long-term development
- → Adopting a European Climate Adaptation Plan
- → Develop a comprehensive plan to address protein supply challenges

An attractive sector:

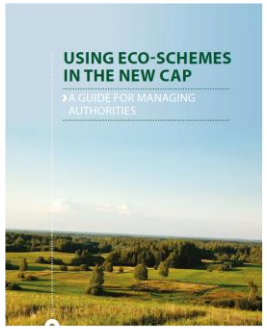
How?

- Helping farmers get a better return from the market by ensuring a fair functioning food chain
- Offering fair and targeted public support
- Supporting farmers to access new sources of income
- Properly rewarding ecosystem services
- Attracting future generations to the profession
- Helping the agri-food sector leverage its entrepreneurial potential

Main Actions:

- → Proposing a fairer, simpler and more targeted common agricultural policy
- → Reviewing the unfair trading practices directive and common market organisation regulation
- → Presenting a Bioeconomy Strategy
- → Delivering a Generational Renewal Strategy
- → Nature and carbon credits
- → Advancing an EU Observatory on Farmland





Sustainable production models

- Targeted – Territorial solutions
- More extensive systems beneficial to climate, biodiversity and landscapes
- Investments technology innovation

- Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy of the EU for 2030
- European Green Deal
- FAO Sustainable Development Goals
- EU Circular Economy Action Plan



The White Paper on Pastoralism in the Mediterranean Area

Realization that pastoralism is evolving, adapting

"Pastoral photos are always black and white"



















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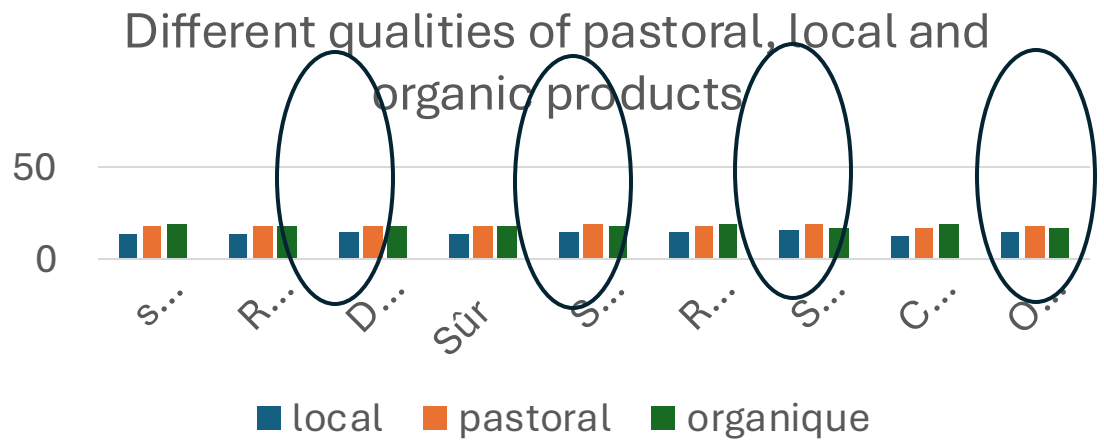
MERCI

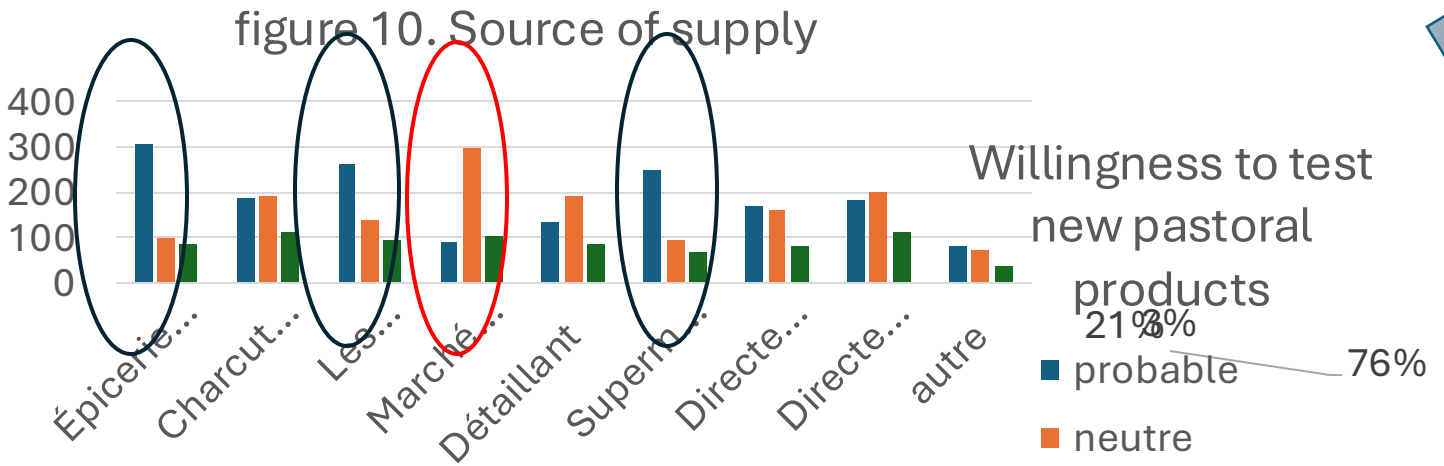
DE VOTRE ATTENTION !

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Local pastoral products – Certification and labelling





Local breeds gastronomy - Traditional cheese-making

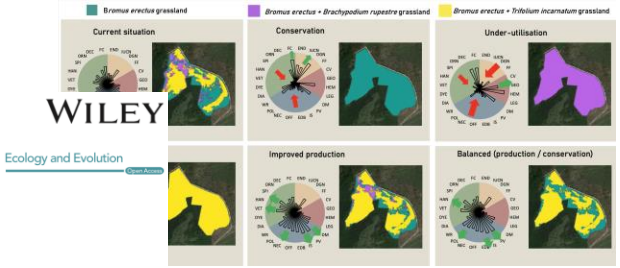


Valorization of local environmental resources

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Agri-Environmental Agreements for ES provision – Climate change dynamics

Italy



WILEY

Ecology and Evolution

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Modeling Climate-Driven Vegetation Changes Under Contrasting Temperate and Arid Conditions in the Mediterranean Basin

Marco Bianchini[1] | Mohamed Tarhouni[2] | Matteo Francioni[1] | Marco Fiorentini[1] | Chiara Rivosecchi[1,3] | Jamila Msadek[2] | Abderrazak Tlili[2] | Farah Chouikhi[2] | Marina Allegrezza[1] | Giulio Tesei[1] | Paola Antonia Deligios[1] | Roberto Orsini[1] | Luigi Ledda[1] | Maria Karatassiou[4] | Athanasios Ragkos[5] | Paride D'Ottavio[1]

Silvopastoralism

France

ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Small Ruminant Research

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/smallrumres

Assessing the operational perspectives of agrosilvopastoralism in the Mediterranean Region: Learnings from observations in Corsica

Jean-Paul Dubeuf[a,*], Fanny Biehlmann[b], Regis Lorton[c], Jean-Michel Sorba[a], Marion Valenti[b]

Hydroponic fodder and by-product valorization

Tunisia

Algeria

Morocco







Land management and climate change

Tunisia

Greece

climate MDPI

Article

Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change Scenarios on Soil-Adjusted Vegetation Index in North African Arid Montane Rangeland: Case of Toujane Region

Jamila Msadek [1], Abderrazak Tlili [1], Farah Chouikhi [2], Athanasios Ragkos [3] and Mohamed Tarhouni [1,*]

land MDPI

Article

Forecasting of Grasslands Distribution on Mount Zireia Using Ecological Niche Modeling and Future Climatic Scenarios

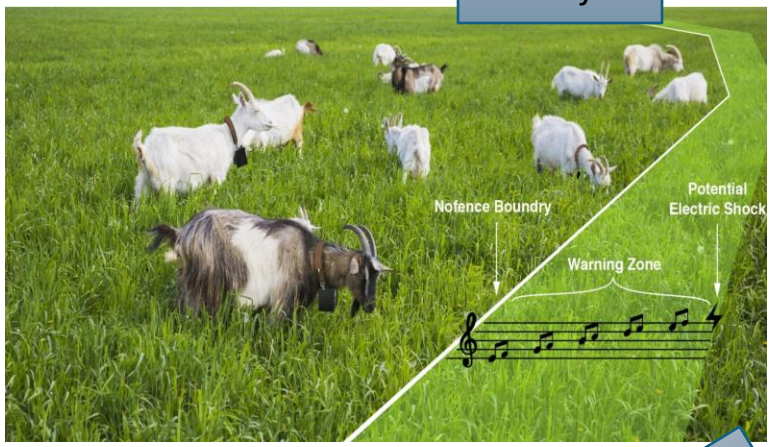
Maria Karatassiou [1,*], Afroditi Stergiou [1], Dimitrios Chouvardas [1], Mohamed Tarhouni [2] and Athanasios Ragkos [3]

Technologies for pastoral farmers

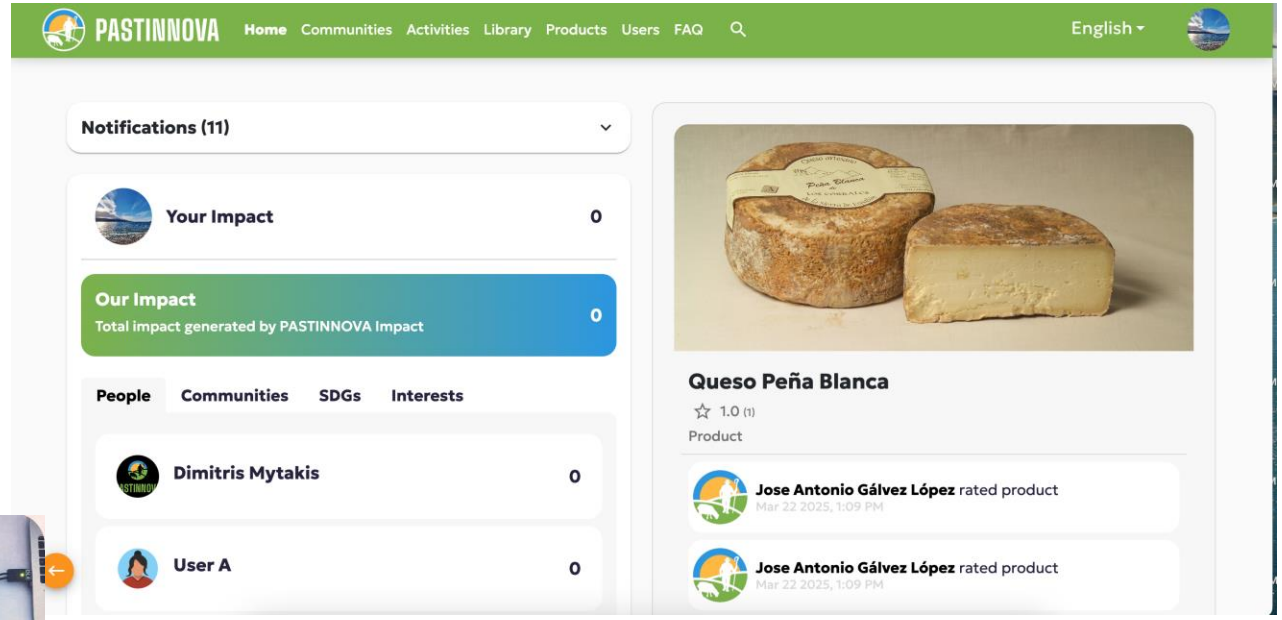
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Virtual fences

Slovenia
Italy



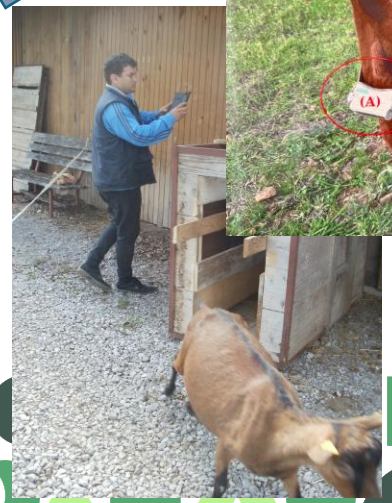
PASTINNOVA Platform



E-ear tags



Slovenia

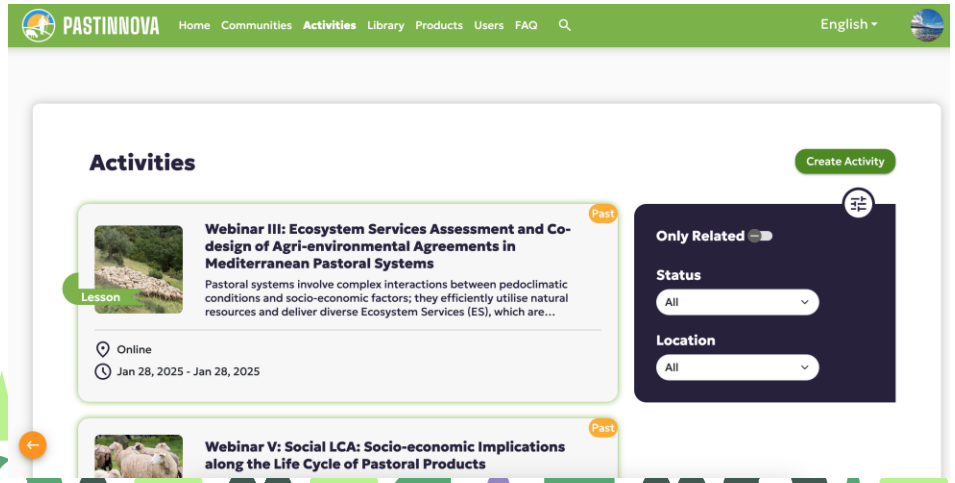


Morocco

GPS trackers







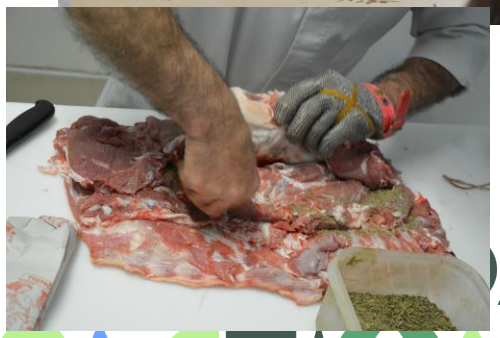
Diversification of activities – New value chains

Agritourism

Italy



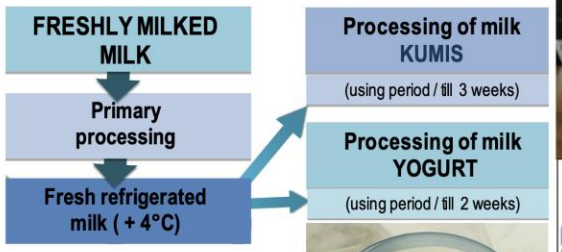




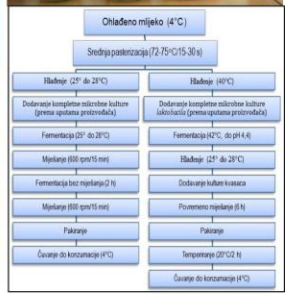


Undervalorized pastoral species

What can we do with milk?







Croatia



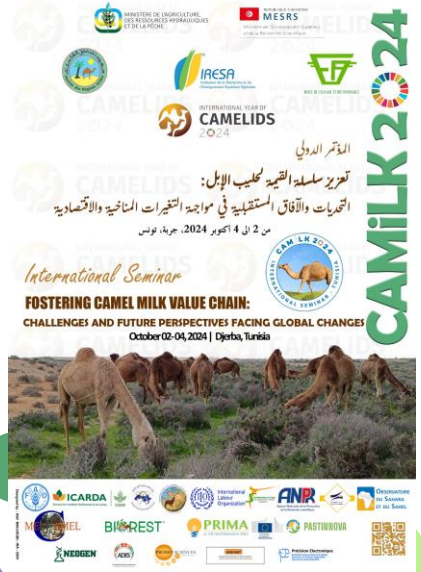
Co-creation and cross-country exchanges

Tunisia









Women and young people in pastoralism

Pastoral Schools



Spain
Italy
Greece
Morocco
France



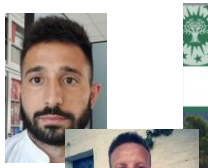




Spain



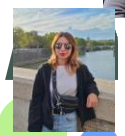
Training of young scientists





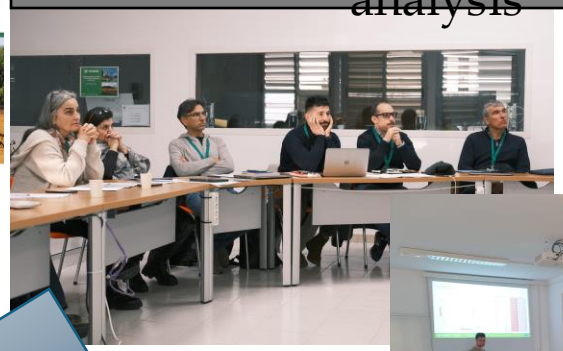








Participatory methods and ES analysis





Italy

Spain

Lebanon



Turkey



MOUNTAIN HER
Empowering women in mountain farming communities

Production intensive ou extensive?

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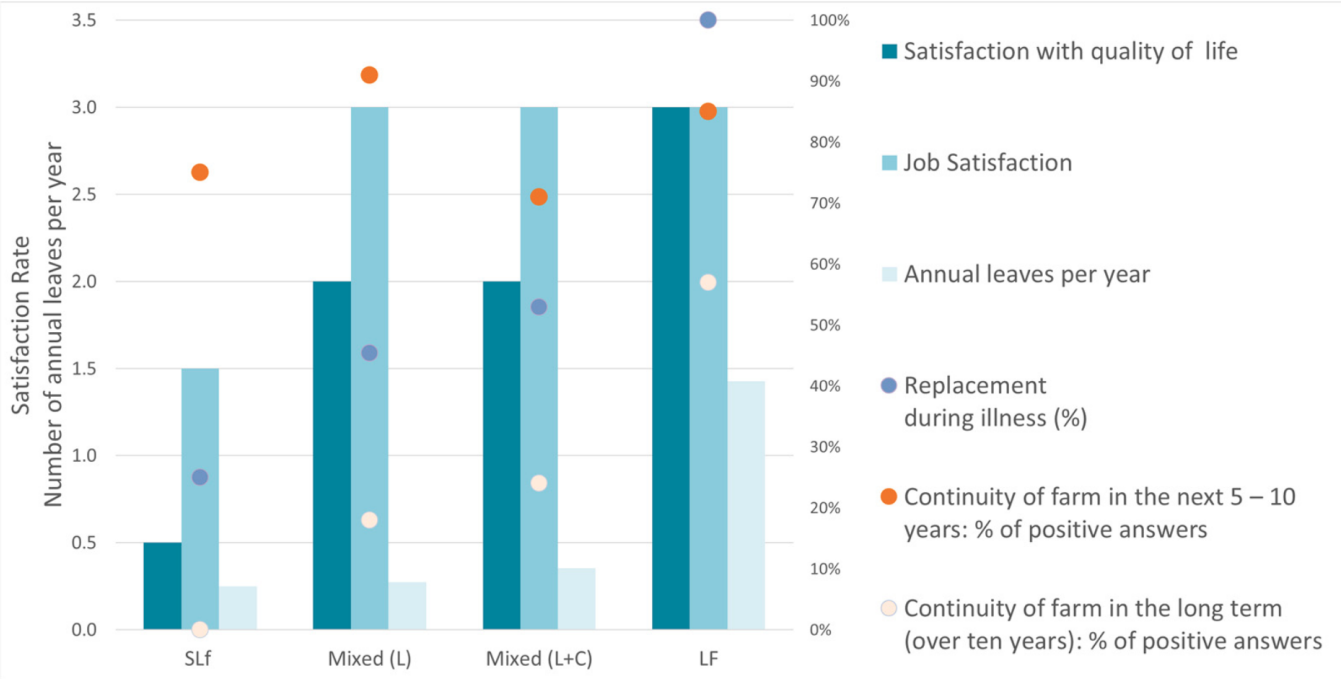
Les résultats économiques

Table 3. The economic performance of the groups.

Indicators	SLf	Mixed (L)	Mixed (L + C)	LF
Gross revenues with Income Support (EUR/ewe)	EUR 286.77	EUR 281.03	EUR 551.37	EUR 481.53
Income Support (EUR/ewe)	EUR 43.47	EUR 59.61	EUR 112.67	EUR 46.88
Total production cost (EUR/ewe)	EUR 280.25	EUR 359.36	EUR 696.13	EUR 476.73
Purchased feedstuff expenses (EUR/ewe)	EUR 99.87	EUR 84.83	EUR 43.85	EUR 276.67
Other production expenses (EUR/ewe)	EUR 180.38	EUR 274.53	EUR 652.28	EUR 200.06
Net profit/loss with Income Support (EUR/ewe)	EUR 6.51	EUR −78.36	−144.76 €	4.80 €
Farm family income with Income Support (EUR/ewe)	EUR 93.08	EUR 70.77	78.70 €	63.88 €
Milk yield (liters/ewe)	186.3	160.3	160.0	383.4
No. Income sources (Scale)	1.0	1.0	3.4	1.0
Subsidy dependence (%)	15%	21%	20%	10%

- La production agricole donne des opportunités pour divers sources de revenu mais pas d' avenir grâce aux couts des production très augmentés
- Spécialisation sur la production animale augmente la productivité
- Pas de graves différences parmi les fermes intensives et extensives animales

Production intensive ou extensive?



Les défis

- Conditions de travail dur
- Incapacité de trouver quelqu'un pour remplacement
- Difficile d' avoir quelques jours de vacances
- Satisfaction moyenne de l' emploi et de leur mode de vie

La situation est plus grave parmi les SLf (seulement production animale) et un peu meilleure pour les LF (Lacaune production intensive)

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Nos partenaires

Our partners

