



Agrobiodiversity within the CAP: a chance for rural and social development

Elli Broxham, SAVE Foundation
7th European Seminar on Agrobiodiversity 2013

20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013

CAP History and Reform

- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) came into being in 1962
- *“the overall objectives were to ensure a fair standard of living for farmers and to provide a stable and safe food supply at affordable prices for consumers.”*
- Criticism of its promoting of industrial scale agriculture that ignored the environment and the needs of small-scale farming.



20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013

The CAP towards 2020

- In November 2010 the EU launched a debate on "The CAP towards 2020"
- After almost two years of negotiations a political agreement on the reform (CAP) was reached in June 2013.
- The formal adoption of the reform by the European Parliament and the Council will come later in 2013 with a view to having the CAP reform in place as from 1st January 2014.



20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013

Effects of Reform on Agrobiodiversity

- Most important question for SAVE Foundation is: what effect will this reform have on the conservation of agrobiodiversity?



- SAVE sees conservation work as also having an effect on the ecology and the rural development of Europe.



20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013

Agro-Eco-Systems

- SAVE supports “agro-eco-systems”, in which agriculture works with the local environment rather than against it and can also support small-scale farming and production systems which can help improve livelihoods in rural areas.
- Many rural areas in Europe are suffering from:
 - economic degradation,
 - a migration of young people towards urban areas
 - a lack of infrastructure.
- It is important that not only the biosphere is enriched, but also the economy.



Diversity

- Over 77% of the European Union is classified as “rural” and about half of the population lives in rural areas.
- Enlargement has led to a greater diversity in European agriculture - a wide range of traditions and practices, livestock breeds and cultivated plants as well as expectations and needs.
- Some areas are industrialising further towards agribusiness whilst others face marginalisation and land abandonment.
- Different areas need different strategies. But the basics remain, EU citizens want:
 - Conservation of the uniquely European landscapes
 - A wide choice of high-quality products, including those of local origin
 - Sustainable and inclusive growth in rural areas and equality of opportunity.



20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013

Help for Young People

- The reformed CAP aims to make farming more attractive, and to give young people help in entering the sector.
- The 2013 reform introduces a new type of aid for young farmers: a bonus payable to young farmers in their first five years of working in the sector.



20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013

Invest, Modernise and Support

- CAP supports programmes to invest, modernise and support activity – both agricultural and non-agricultural – in rural areas.
- The CAP budget for rural development from 2014-20 for all 28 member countries totals €95 billion.
- Funds for rural development can be used for both agricultural and non-agricultural activities:



- Knowledge transfer
- Enhancing ecosystems
- Promoting social inclusion
- Poverty reduction
- Economic development



SAVE's Aims Are Supported

- Individual countries can add support for small farmers and mountain areas.
- We need to lobby to make sure they ARE!
- Each rural development programme must also include action to protect and improve the EU's natural resources and landscapes in rural areas.
- All these factors combine to help to support the aims of SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network!



20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013

Thank you for your attention!



www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity



20th Anniversary Meeting of the SAVE Network, Biezenmortel, Netherlands, 19th September 2013