Sustainable Agriculture

Pierre SCHMELZLE
Member of EUROPARC France
Which **criteria** for sustainable agriculture?

- **Product**: which one?
- **Production**:  
  - Low level of treatment, organic farming, intensive / extensive productions,  
  - Others ...
- **Distribution of products**:  
  - Short circuits from the farmer to the consumer (max one intermediary)  
  - Use of local products for school lunches, factory canteens or institutional catering
- **Economical aspect**: improve the farmer income, ...
- **Social aspect**: employment, quality of life, a future for young farmers,...
Which **actions** for sustainable agriculture?

**Some possible approaches:**

- Maintain agricultural areas
- Promotion of:
  - Biodiversity (ex: Flowering meadows contest)
  - Agroforestry
- Promotion of local products:
  - Short circuits from the farmer to the consumer
  - Use of local products for school lunches, factory canteens or institutional catering
- Highlight local products: specific label linked to the park, ...
- Exchange of know-how and good practices, ...
- Preserve biological and domestic heritage (ex: ancient race of animals, endangered local species, ...)

What happen in Regional Nature Parks?

A Regional Nature Park is:
• a fragile rural area, a remarkable heritage,
• organized around a project (Charter Park) designed to ensure its permanent protection with respect to its management, and its economic and social development.

What for?
1) Protect its heritage
2) Implement economic and social development
3) Participate in the spatial planning of its area
4) Welcome and inform the public
5) Carry out experiments
Agricultural diversity
What do the RNP in term of Agriculture / biodiversity?

- Protect agricultural land
- Conduct agri-environmental programs
- Support quality productions
- Promote short-circuits developments
- Carry on agri-tourism projects
- Transverse : pedagogy, research programs...

Some examples following
What is a « Flowering Meadow »?

• Not sowed herbaceous environment, rich in a wide variety of species
• A biodiversity-friendly habitat
• A fodder resource
• Des usages et types divers : fauchées, pâturées, sèches, humides, plaines collines ou montagne

Why choosing « Flowering Meadows »?

• Could desapear rapidly
• Basis of the territory biodiversity
• The major fodder resource

Why this contest on « Flowering Meadows »?

• Create dialogue between actors
• Highlight the need to preserve biodiversity
• Communicate on the interest of these natural meadows in the breeding and also in their conservation
• Communicate on the link between biodiversity and quality of the products
Flowering Meadows National Contest

What do we judge?
• Balance between agricultural and ecological value based on six criteria

How does it work?
• Farmers are candidates
• A jury of experts
• The local winner is candidate at the national contest
Grassland: a natural and cultural heritage
Promotion of local products

High quality products
Trademarks
Tastes

Flowering meadows products from the Bauges Massif
Farmers and local products two main issues for rural tourism in France and Slovakia

A transnational cooperation on practices:
- Rural tourism
- Traditional products
- Direct sale of local products

- 3 Local Action Groups (LAGs): Malohont, Podpolanie, Pilat
- Leader 2007-2013
Exchanges between producers

March 2011: 4 farmers from Pilat visited their colleagues from Malohont and Podpolanie.

November 2011: 4 Slovak farmers were received at home for one week of work in farms in Le Pilat.

Main subjects:
- Knowledge of producers
- Short distribution channels
- Collective farm shops
Other exchanges

Presentation of local products, of the supply of tourism and culture as part of special events in each country:

• May 2012: cheese and wine of Condrieu festival
• June 2012: folk festival of Klenovec
Context in France

• Many signs are already existing (AOC, AOP, organic, labels, ...)
• Each Natural Regional Park has its charter as a roadmap for 15 years
• Low income of the agriculture
• Regulation governing European agriculture is complex and not well understood
• EUROPARC is unknown by inhabitants in parks
• ...

  • Risk of confusion between Europarc Charter for Sustainable Agriculture and European programs
  • Opportunity to carry messages to the European Commission