Result oriented agri-environment measures: examples, strengths and weaknesses



13. Oct. 2015
Vienna/AT

Heike Nitsch

ifls
Institut für Ländliche Strukturforschung
an der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

MERIT

It is true: sitting in our air-conditioned tractors, we are more and more disconnected from nature.

I'm sceptical about result-oriented measures because I don't know if the indicator flower will actually be blooming on the day when monitoring takes place

The obligation to meet a certain result, rather than constraints on methods changes a lot. They don't lecture us on how we do things, and that is a very good thing

I have been mowing my meadows for 30 years, but I do not know much about the plant species growing in them – I hope advice will help

What are result-oriented measures?

- **Direct linkage of payment to the environmental outcome** (e.g. species-rich grassland)
- **No prescriptions for management** (e.g. cutting times, fertilisation)
- **Farmer's choice over how best to achieve the desired outcome** (⟹ flexibility, responsibility).

Pre-condition:

- **Suitable indicators** (e.g. plant species representing species-rich grassland)

Result-oriented measures: Strengthts and weaknesses

+	-
• **Higher flexibility:** no management prescriptions→ local adaptation, integration into farm management, cost effecitveness • **Payments linked directly to result:** result more likely to be reached, visible results, positive for communication; • **Farmers as active participants in nature conservation** (or other environmental issues) • **Lower effort for administration (?):** no adaptation of management prescriptions to local conditions by administrations; monitoring as part of implementation	• **Higher risk for farmers:** e.g. desired result might not be reached due to extreme weather conditions may • **Success depedent on suitable indicators** • **Information and monitoring effort for farmer** • **Administration** (establishment of suitable indicators; provision of information & advice; risk of conflicts with EU-presecriptions)

Result-oriented management of species-rich grassland in German Federal States

- **Introduced in Baden-Württemberg in 2000**
  - To avoid management restrictions
  - To secure good ecological conditions
  - To facilitate controls

  ⟹ Nearly 12% of permanent grassland enrolled
- **National framework and co-financing since 2007**
- **At least 4 indicator plant species out of a catalogue of 20 to 40** (or groups of species; to be determined by Federal States according to regional conditions); **sub-measure with 6 and/or 8 species may be implemented**
- **Farmer has to determine and record the necessary number of species**

Result-oriented management of species-rich grassland in German Federal States

Federal State	Year of introduction	Minimum number of species	Premia (€/ha)
Baden-Württemberg	2000	4	230
		6	260
Bavaria	2015	4	250
		6	320
Hesse	2015	4	190
		6	280
		8	340
Lower Saxony	2007	4	190
		6	220
		8	310
Saxony	2014	4	176
		6	289
		8	361
Thuringia	2007	4	180
		6	240

France: „Prairie fleurie“ (Flowering meadows)

- **Offered in national rural development plan as a territorial measure**
- **Implemented mainly in Nature Parcs/Natura 2000 areas**
- **Defined number of plant species out of a list of indicator plants specific to regional or local conditions**
- **Measure adapted to the target region and accompanied by project managers** (targeted grassland; regional list and number of species)
- **Further conditions:** Reqirements of national measure “Prime herbagère agro-environnementale” (e.g. at least 60% grassland, limitation of fertiliser and pesticides use, < 1.4 LU/ha)
- Trieves/Vercors: 146 €/ha (2013)

Switzerland: Quality payments (part of Biodiversity payments)

1. Stage (areas promoting biodiversity):

Defined minimum quality, includes management requirements e.g. fertilisation , pesticide use, cutting date, additional feeding, cutting of hedges …

2. Stage (result-oriented):

- **Extensive and little intensive meadows:**

Quality of the grassland vegetation according to **indicator species**
(6 species out of > 30; differentiated between North and South Alps)

- **Extensive pastures:**

1.) Quality of the grassland vegetation according to indicator species 6 species out of three different lists with 45-60 species each according to geographical area and altitude
2.) Structural richness: area has to consist of at least 5 % **structural elements** on extensive pastures and at least 10 % on forest pastures

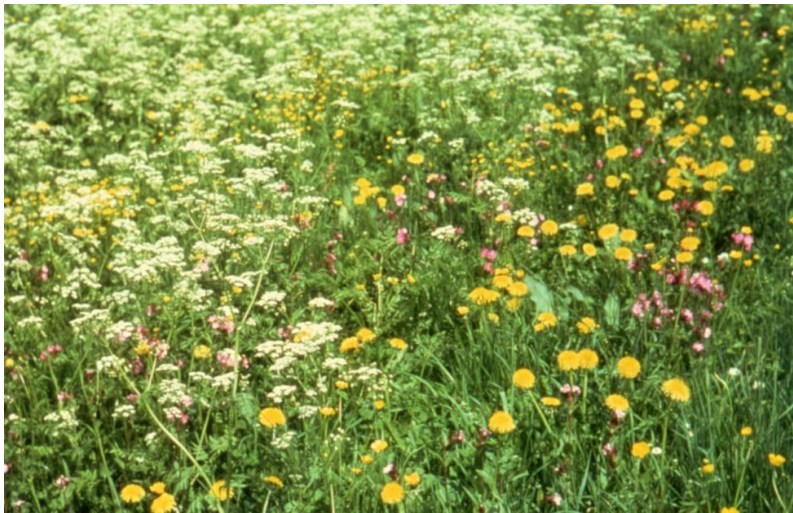
Outcome-oriented measures: CH II

2. stage (result-oriented):

- **High-stem fruit trees:**
  e.g. nesting aids, grassland of 2. stage and/or structural elements
- **Hedges and field woods or woods along surface waters**:
  species richness of hedge species; width; share of native species; cutting rules for herb/grass fringe
- **Vineyards with natural species richness**: indicator plants and structures

Quality criteria may be adapted by Cantons

Control by expert (preferably in presence of farmer)



Resumee

- **Mainly plant species as indicators** (also landscape structure, etc…)
- **Mainly regionally pre-defined targets** (indicator list)
- **Partly management prescriptions as preconditions** (CH, FR)
- **Monitoring by farmers or experts**
- **Mainly maintenance of existing (extensive) management** (different stages give incentives for improvement)
- **Result-oriented nature conservation plan in AT as new and ambitous approach** (farm-and plot-specific targets)

➢ **New way of cooperation between farmers and nature conservation**

Thank you for your attention!

ifls
Institut für Ländliche Strukturforschung
an der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main