European Biodiversity Conference

Farming for Biodiversity

Scaling up good management practices: what’s missing?

Online Event – 8th of December 2020
14h00 – 16h00
Welcoming Words

MEP Álvaro AMARO
President of the Intergroup “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside”

Thierry de L’ESCAILLE
ELO Secretary General
MEP Álvaro Amaro

President of the Intergroup
“Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside”
Thierry de L’ESCAILLE

ELO – Secretary General
I. Policy Changes

Pierre BASCOU
DG AGRI – Director, European Commission

Alberto ARROYO SCHNELL
IUCN – Senior Policy Manager
Pierre BASCOU

DG AGRI – Director, European Commission
Alberto ARROYO SCHNELL

IUCN – Senior Policy Manager
Farming for Biodiversity

ELO - European Biodiversity
online Conference

Alberto Arroyo Schnell
IUCN European Regional Office

8 December 2020
Agriculture and the Environment

- Agriculture depends on and affects the environment
  - Soil, Water, Climate, Pollinators
  - Unsustainable farming is a key threat for the EU nature

- In the past, failing to achieve environmental goals is linked with the lack of ownership of these targets.
Sustainable agriculture

• The EU Green Deal has raised the environment and **sustainable practices** very strongly in the political agenda.

• For a transformative change, we should strive for a mutual understanding based on a **common language**.
IUCN and Sustainable Agriculture

• IUCN has collected key info on sustainable agricultural approaches and practices

• Report: structured collection of unbiased information based on a literature review, with contributors from a number of key stakeholders from environmental and agricultural sectors, and academia

https://www.iucn.org/news/europe/202006/sustainable-agriculture-explained
IUCN Europe identified key sustainable agricultural approaches

- Low external input agriculture
- Sustainable intensification
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Ecological intensification
- Nature-inclusive agriculture
- High nature value farming
- Circular agriculture
- Biodynamic agriculture
- Permaculture
- Carbon farming
- Regenerative agriculture
- Conservation agriculture
- Organic Farming
- Agroecology
Key conclusions

- While the approaches share some important commonalities, they are still different - but their diversity is a strength in itself.

- The choice of approach depends very much on the local contexts and specific individual priorities.

- To help inform the choice of approach: there is a need for common metrics on environmental performance.
Common Practices

- A main takeaways from the report is the identification of certain common practices:
  - Crop rotation;
  - The inclusion of cover and companion crops;
  - Mixed crop and intercropping;
  - Reduction of synthetic pesticide and mineral fertiliser use;
  - No or minimal tillage;
  - Lower livestock densities, managed grazing, free range.

As well as crop diversification, mixing farming and forestry, mixed crop and animal farming, nutrient balancing, recovery and reuse, and the inclusion of landscape elements such as hedgerows and flower strips.

- These can be considered truly sustainable agricultural practices.
The challenges ahead

- Important to ensure coherence between the CAP and the European Green Deal
- MSs important role
- The lack of metrics represents a challenge in the monitoring of the Member States’ progress on the national level.
Thank you for your attention!
Questions & Answers
II. Corporate Changes

Carole ZAKINE
Bioline by InVivo – Public Affairs Director

Florence JEANTET
OP2B – Managing Director
Carole ZAKINE

Bioline by InVivo – Public Affairs Director
InVivo's contribution to improving biodiversity in agricultural areas

Carole Hernandez-Zakine
Group Public Affairs Director

• 08/12/2020 •
InVivo's mission: creating value

A business approach in an agro-ecological transition’s context
● InVivo presentation: Agricultural Cooperatives Union (200 cooperatives/300,000 farmers) and professions;

● Observation: in France, the desire to change the norms of an economic activity, rather than to create value;

● Value creation at InVivo

● The sectors projects

● Conclusion
InVivo group

InVivo's mission is to restore and replace French agriculture and agricultural cooperation to their rightful place in the global food value chain, while respecting the planet and people.

Being France's leading agricultural cooperative group, InVivo is organized around three business units: Bioline by InVivo (agriculture), InVivo Retail (gardening and food distribution) and InVivo Wine (wine).
Group Organization

INVIVO GROUP
- bioline group
  - Seeds
  - Plant Protection
  - Biosolutions
  - Agrodigital
  - Agricultural consulting

- invivo retail
  - Gardening
  - Food distribution
  - Marketing

- invivo Wine
  - Services
  - Brands
  - Distribution

INVIVO GRAINS
- Grains Overseas
- InVivo Trading
- InVivo Trading Asia
- Triomphe Shipping
- Participations
19 countries of implementation

Europe
- Germany
- Belgium
- Spain
- France
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- Portugal
- United Kingdom
- Switzerland

America
- Brazil
- Canada
- United States

Africa
- South Africa

Asie
- China
- South Korea
- Japan
- Singapore

5,435 collaborators
Observation: in France, the desire to change the normality of an economic activity, more than to create value.

Public aid/fiscal/regulations (sanctions)/remunerations

In France, today, an exclusive public dynamic
How to change the norms of an economic activity?

Public aid/fiscality/regulation (sanctions)/Remunerations

In France, today, an exclusive public dynamic.
A stack of public rules to change agricultural normality

- Public/semi-public specifications
  - High environmental value/ecological compensation
- Public aid/favourable tax treatment
- Regulations
THE REGULATORY BASIS
a basis for coercion:
a policeman behind every farmer?
Should the constraint be reinforced with penal consequences? (ecocide incentives)

THE REGULATORY BASIS FOR AMENDING AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS
norms do not create value: how to make it profitable

THE REGULATORY BASIS FOR A COMPENSATION PACKAGE THAT MUST GO BEYOND
Value creation at InVivo

A corporate approach in a context of agro-ecological transition
Our Objectives

Together, let's build on

The 3rd Agricultural way

- Sanitary Quality
- Nutritional Qualities
- Dietary diversity
- Climate Change
- Soils
- Biodiversity
- Fair Wages and Equity
- Income Stabilization
- Working Life Quality
Our Objectives:

Higher protection and increase in AGRICULTURAL INCOME through a better qualification of productions/benefits for consumers and citizens.

Targeted development of volumes and areas under CONTRACT AND SPECIFICATIONS valorised/benefits to consumers and citizens.

INPUTS & TOOLS QUALIFIED/ benefits Consumer & Citizen
Sector projects

Strategies are designed to create value by relying on an upstream service for citizens/consumers.
Regain control over the upstream agriculture sector

Objective: Value creation for the farmer

**Liebig's law, the law of minimums**

The law of the minimum was enunciated in 1840 by the chemist Justus Liebig.

Plants cannot reach their full development due to a lack of critical elements necessary for this growth. These elements include water, light, heat, as well as phosphoric acid, sulphur, iron or chlorine.

*The upstream agricultural sector must not be the limiting factor in the creation of value.*

*The upstream agricultural sector must be able to provide the necessary information to the sectors (in the broadest sense) in order to trace the products sold.*
Cooperatives involved in commodity chain contracts that promote biodiversity

Contractual chain organised around an agricultural product that complies with a set of specifications (quantity, quality, environmental and biodiversity requirements) and is valued at a higher price.

The actual price paid for biodiversity is hard to estimate given that the specifications include other practices (climate issues, remuneration of farmers, production quality, etc.). Farmers' remuneration therefore varies but is generally around €10/t of common wheat, the equivalent of roughly €75-80/ha. The channels Harmony, Nestlé and the "Filière CRC" offer farmers a premium level totalling €3.5 million for 760,000t of soft wheat. InVivo assists cooperatives in setting up these sectors by:
- Offering products/inputs that are favourable to/respectful of biodiversity;
- Testing, measuring and demonstrating the impacts and benefits of agricultural solutions and practices on biodiversity;
- Listing and advice is done on the basis of concrete results.
- Tracing our practices from the farmer to the consumer (or vice versa);
- InVivo also acts as a research and expertise consultant via Agrosolutions in the agri-food sector (see AS-Harmony relationship);
CONCLUSION

Transition Period: how to finance the transition while creating sustainable markets?
To finance agro-ecology and therefore the agricultural standard via public aid and adapted taxation.
To finance the services rendered in addition to the society via PES.
Payments for environmental services: who pays? Who agrees to do it? For what type of improvements?

PES makes it possible to monetize the services provided by agrosystems: water quality, carbon storage and biodiversity.

• The amount of payment for the service rendered is the result of a negotiation between the parties and is usually a compromise between the opportunity costs of changes in the practices of service providers (farmers) on the one hand and the willingness to pay of the beneficiaries on the other.

• Beneficiaries can be the State, public authorities, companies, associations, consumers, etc.

The meeting of the consents is central to conclude the contract but also to allow a good realization of the PES.

Which supposes:

• Willingness to pay / willingness to do and commit to the very long term;
• Trust between the parties: when the state distrusts private individuals and prefers to work alone.
• The ability to put in place indicators to define the improvements due to the change in practices; and therefore to define how much these improvements cost and how much the funder is willing to put in to continue the improvements or even develop them.
Thank You for Listening
OP2B mobilizes 25 companies along the agricultural value chain to drive transformational systemic change and catalyze action to protect & restore biodiversity.
OP2B focuses on 3 pillars on which members make commitments and take actions.

**Pillar 1**
Regenerative Agriculture
- **Scale up Reg Ag** to improve soil health, farm biodiversity and farmer livelihood

**Pillar 2**
Product portfolio diversification
- **Drive cultivated and consumed biodiversity** through product offer
- **Increase supply chains traceability** and **monitor impact on biodiversity** (index)
- **Raise awareness** and demystify biodiversity (internally & for consumers)

**Pillar 3**
High Value Ecosystems
- **Ecosystem conversion avoidance** for main commodities
- **Deployment of high value ecosystem restoration actions**
The **private sector** has a central role to play...

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**Business role**

**To scale up Regenerative Agriculture**

- Accompany the sustainable **financing** of the transition
- Protect farmers’ **livelihoods**
- Maintain an **outcome-based** approach to strengthen supply-chain resilience

**To restore and protect High Value Ecosystems**

- Engage in **restoration** action & avoid any further conversion
- Guarantee **sustainable sourcing & transparency** of supply chain
- Ensure **long-term positive** social, econ. & environmental impacts

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...and can follow **5 guiding principles*** to take action

1. **No net loss** of biodiversity as of **2020** and transition to **net positive by 2030**

2. **No leakage** throughout the supply chain: positive action on regeneration cannot compensate for loss of intact ecosystems elsewhere

3. **Transparent** long-term planning & commitments, with baselines, targets, metrics and adaptability

4. **Multi-objective** approach, with clear targets and verifiable impact on biodiversity, quality habitat, connectivity, carbon capture in soil & vegetation, water quality, flows of water, and livelihoods

5. Commitment to and active engagement in **community empowerment**, enabling supply chain actors to participate in efforts and benefits

*Science to Solutions Dialogue process. June 2020*
The support from the legislators is essential.

1. Position Regenerative Agriculture as a lever of the climate and biodiversity recovery strategies at European level.

2. Establish a common language and unified & simple assessment framework for companies to measure the impacts of their supply chains, of the changes in the agricultural practices on biodiversity, on soil health.

3. Accelerate the transition to Reg Ag through:
   - Mainstreaming finance towards farmer’s transition in the short-term & shift of the payment model to value ecosystemic services in the long-term.
   - Enabling farmers’ transition through capacity building and knowledge sharing.
   - Encouraging research, innovation & technology development of nature-based solutions.
   - Facilitating consumer’s uptake and development of a supportive market for sustainable products.
Questions & Answers
III. R&I Changes

Markus ERHARD
European Environment Agency (EEA) – Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Expert

Nils GERBER
BEESharing

European Landowners’ Organisation
Markus ERHARD

European Environment Agency (EEA):
Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Expert
Niels GERBER

BEESharing
1 Ecological crisis

EEA 2020 status report: 80% of natural surfaces endangered

Massive loss of insect diversity & quantity

Food production becomes increasingly volatile due to Climate change

Food producers and suppliers urge for supply chain transparency to reduce risks of Food fraud
BEEsharing’s contribution
The pollination dilemma

University Hohenheim (GER) 2020 finding:

Pollination contributes 1-2% to global GDP

Conclusion
There is an increasing shortfall in pollination in Europe and thus a significant potential for better yields and increased resource efficiency.
2 Pollination  Our solutions

1. Innovative Planning Tools
   Agriculture 4.0 in pollination

2. Network
   Matching farmers and beekeepers

3. Smart Products
   Easy application of pollinators
BEEsharing’s vision:

We are solving the pollination dilemma with our digital & smart products and services. Until 2030 we aim to pollinate every 2nd fruit worldwide.
3 Honey Our solutions

1. Smart sourcing
   A.I. supported sourcing platform for resellers and producers.

2. „Real honest honey“
   BEEsharing brand with transparent value chain and quality.
BEEsharing’s vision:

We solve the Sourcing & transparency dilemma with our smart platform. Until 2030 we aim to source every 2nd kg of honey through the BEEsharing system.
BEEsharing’s challenges:

1. **Fund**  Publicly: too complicated and slow. Privately: quick & efficient, Investors expectations: grow fast, ROI. Market entrance costs are relatively high in agriculture, as it takes many years to establish.

2. **Reach**  Farmers and their (consulting) organizations are hard to reach if there is no “opinion leader” introduction or alike.

3. **Convince**  by consulting and results. But: there is only one season a year in Europe. Farmers think long-term. Education takes time & money.

4. **“Old” structures**, old interests.
How to support BEEsharing (& Ag/ FoodTech Start-ups)

1. **Fund** Support in developing and scaling our solutions through (public) funding (direct) and subsidies (indirect, e.g. C.A.P.).

2. **Reach** Support by spreading the word to decision makers and potential channel partners.

3. **Convince** others by sharing what you´ve learned today and think of it during relevant legislative processes.

4. “**Overcome old habits & structures**” by doing what is necessary. Take action. NOW.
Any questions?
Feel free to ask!

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Concluding Remarks

MEP Franc BOGOVIČ

Host of the European Bee Award
Thank you for Attending!

You will receive the recordings of the meeting shortly.

To download the presentation please visit:

http://europeanlandowners.org/events/biodiversity-conference

http://biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu