



*High Nature Value Farmland: The key to a nature-rich future in Scotland?  
Part of Agroecology: Enabling the transition, funded by the Scottish Government's  
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# High Nature Value farmland: the wider European context

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*Leading the way in Agriculture and Rural Research, Education and Consulting*



# Intensive cropland



Morri362 CC BY-SA 3.0,



T. Birge



I. Herzon

# Semi-natural vegetation & mosaic landscape



B. Dunford



T. Spek



A. Indermaur



C. Valdecantos/SEH  
EAM-MMA

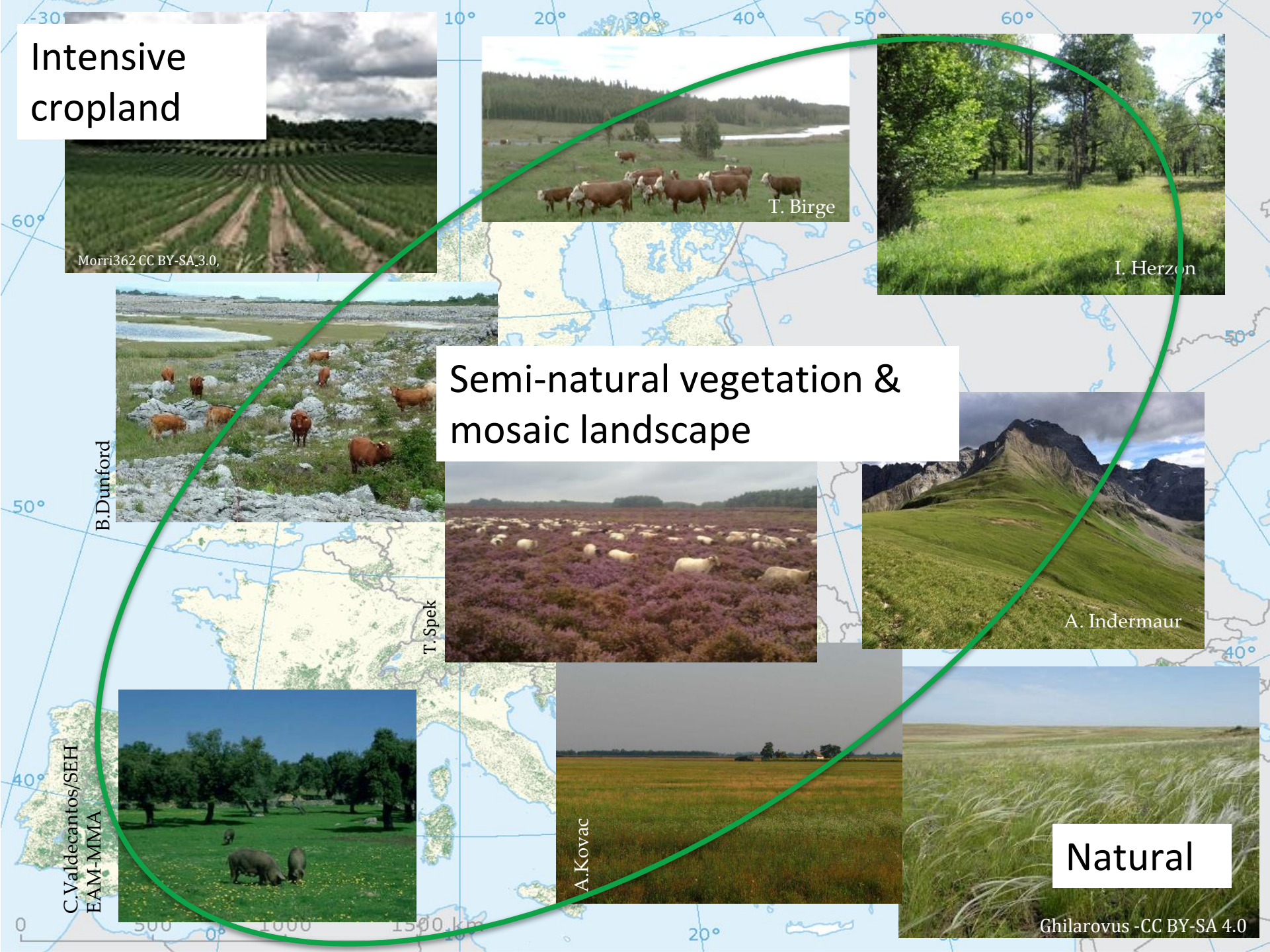


A. Kovac



# Natural

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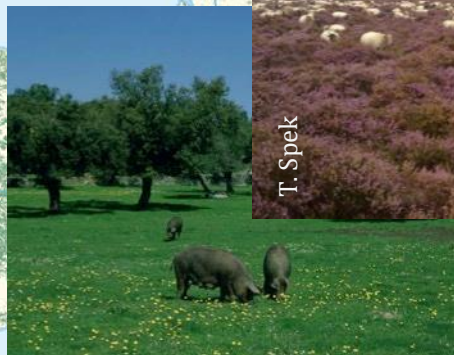




# HIGH NATURE VALUE FARMLAND



*"Areas in Europe where **agriculture is a major** (usually the dominant) land use and where agriculture sustains or is associated with either **a high species and habitat diversity**, or the presence of species of **European conservation concern**, or both"* (Andersen et al. 2003)



**About 30% of  
EU farmland**

# HNV farming (HNVf) systems

Whole-farm HNVf system

Partial farm HNVf system

Whole-farm HNVf

Partial HNVf

Remnant HNVf

Low-intensity management of all land, common land, transhumance, seasonal grazing, mixed crops and livestock, fallow, hand labour, shepherding

HNV farmland is managed alongside more intensive land. Some common land, seasonal grazing, fallow, mixed crop and stock

HNV farmland unrelated to production. It is managed for cross-compliance, nature conservation or agri-environment payments

## Examples

Mountainous regions, islands

(organic) livestock farms, esp. suckler cows or sheep

Small patches of SNG habitats

SNG = semi-natural grassland

Traditional multifunctional systems

SNG mown for payments only

Remnants of landscape features



# Whole farm HNVf systems

- Mountainous landscapes, areas with difficult terrain

Extremadura, Spain



Seasonal grazing



West Ireland

Shepherding and transhumance



Commons, transhumance



Sevenne, France

Images: HNV-Link



# Whole farm HNVf systems

- Diversified traditional systems



Dehesa in Spain & Montado in Portugal:  
Quercus spp, pasture and arable



Mediterranean perennial crops: olives and  
other high value trees (e.g. nuts), honey,  
pasture, herbs



# Challenges



Depopulation

Hygiene situation and reaching consumers



Abandonment of remote pastures



Pastures not eligible for CAP direct support



Shepherding viability

# Partial HNVf systems

- Probably the commonest type in Central & Northern Europe



Suckler cows



Beef steers



Improved grasslands

Mixed crop rotations

Fallow land

Semi-natural area





# Challenges



Incentive to further intensify or abandon semi-natural patches



Limited & highly variable productivity of semi-natural patches



Adding value to products from such mixed production

# Unique products

Whole-farm  
HNVf system  
Partial farm  
HNVf system



Preserved chestnuts from Cevennes, France

HNV farms produce products of **Protected designation of origin (PDO)**



© HNV-Link

Feta cheese from Thessaly, Greece



Myrabella / Wikimedia Commons, via Wikimedia Commons



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**France:** 65% of the endangered breeds of sheep and 42% of cattle are from HNVf areas

- *Lacaune* dairy sheep: milk mainly for Roquefort cheese



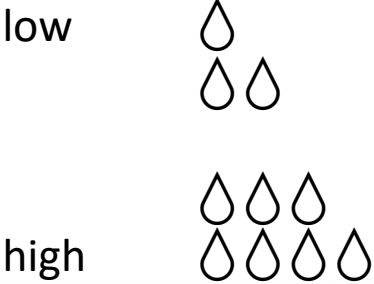
# Provision of public goods by HNV farmland

Whole-farm HNVf system  
 Partial farm HNVf system

<b>agricultural landscapes</b>	<b>farmland biodiversity</b>	<b>water quality</b>	<b>water availability</b>	<b>soil functionality</b>	<b>climate sustainability</b>
△△△	△△△△	△△△	△△△	△△△/△△	△△
<b>air quality</b>	<b>resilience to flooding</b>	<b>resilience to fire</b>	<b>rural vitality</b>	<b>animal welfare and health</b>	<b>food security</b>
△△△	△△△	△△△	△	△△△△	△

environmental goods

social goods



modified from [Cooper et al., 2009](#)

# Whole farm HNVf systems

Whole-farm HNVf system



## Opportunities:

- Marketable products exist
- Considerable public goods
- Some are touristic destinations

## Needs:

- Comprehensive policy (incl. adapted regulations, payments for public goods)
- Specialist marketing & technological solutions
- Novel social arrangements
- Novel (transformative) strategies for development



# Partial HNVf systems

Partial farm  
HNVf system



## Opportunities:

- Marketable products exist
- Special product(s) & diversification
- Considerable public goods
- Efficient use of farm-level resources

## Needs:

- Policy for maintenance of extensive areas
- Specialist marketing solutions
- Technology & know-how also for extensive production

# That's all there is to it then?





**That's all there is to it then?**



# Existing constraints:

## Ecological

## Agricultural



Reluctance to recognise HNV farmland as actually being farmland or to be of any 'real value'

Rewilding is all about...



Habitats expanding instead of shrinking



Wildlife multiplying instead of disappearing



People reconnecting with the wonder of nature



Communities flourishing with new opportunities

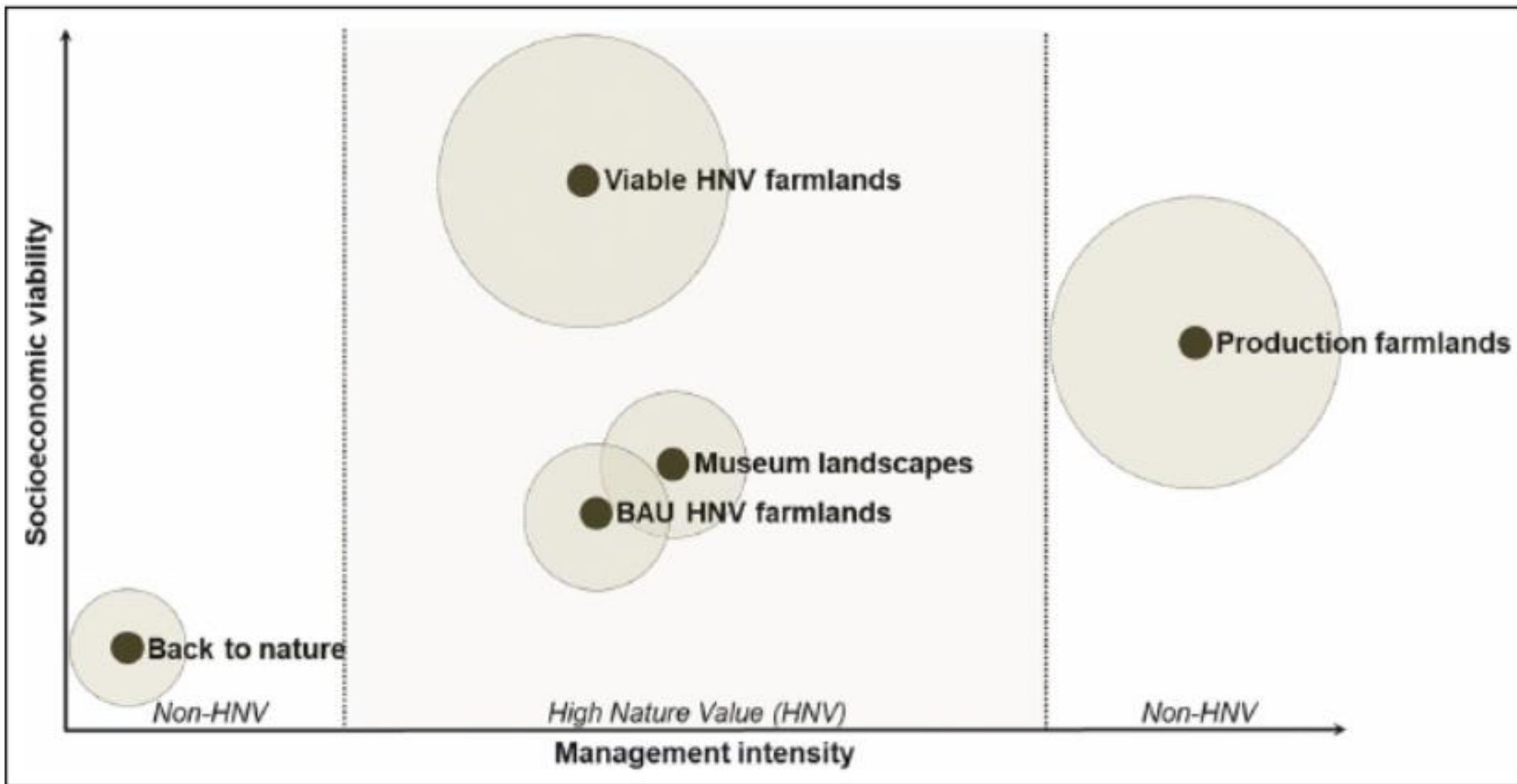
[Find out more](#)



Seen as being small & not cost-effective production  
Reluctance to 'move' agricultural support payments  
It's a Verification Issue







**Promoting societal demand, recognition and reward for HNV systems**

**Rewarding HNV farmers for the delivery of ecosystem services**



**Empowering HNV farmers and rural communities through social innovation**

**Fostering technological innovation in HNV farming systems**

**Encouraging multifunctionality and economic diversification in HNV farming systems**

**Broadening and improving services and well-being in HNV communities to slow rural population decline**





# The HNV-Link innovation themes

- Co-operation between farmers and with other actors
- Catalysing farmer groups, institutions and institutional structures operating in innovative ways
- Facilitating innovation across different institutional levels

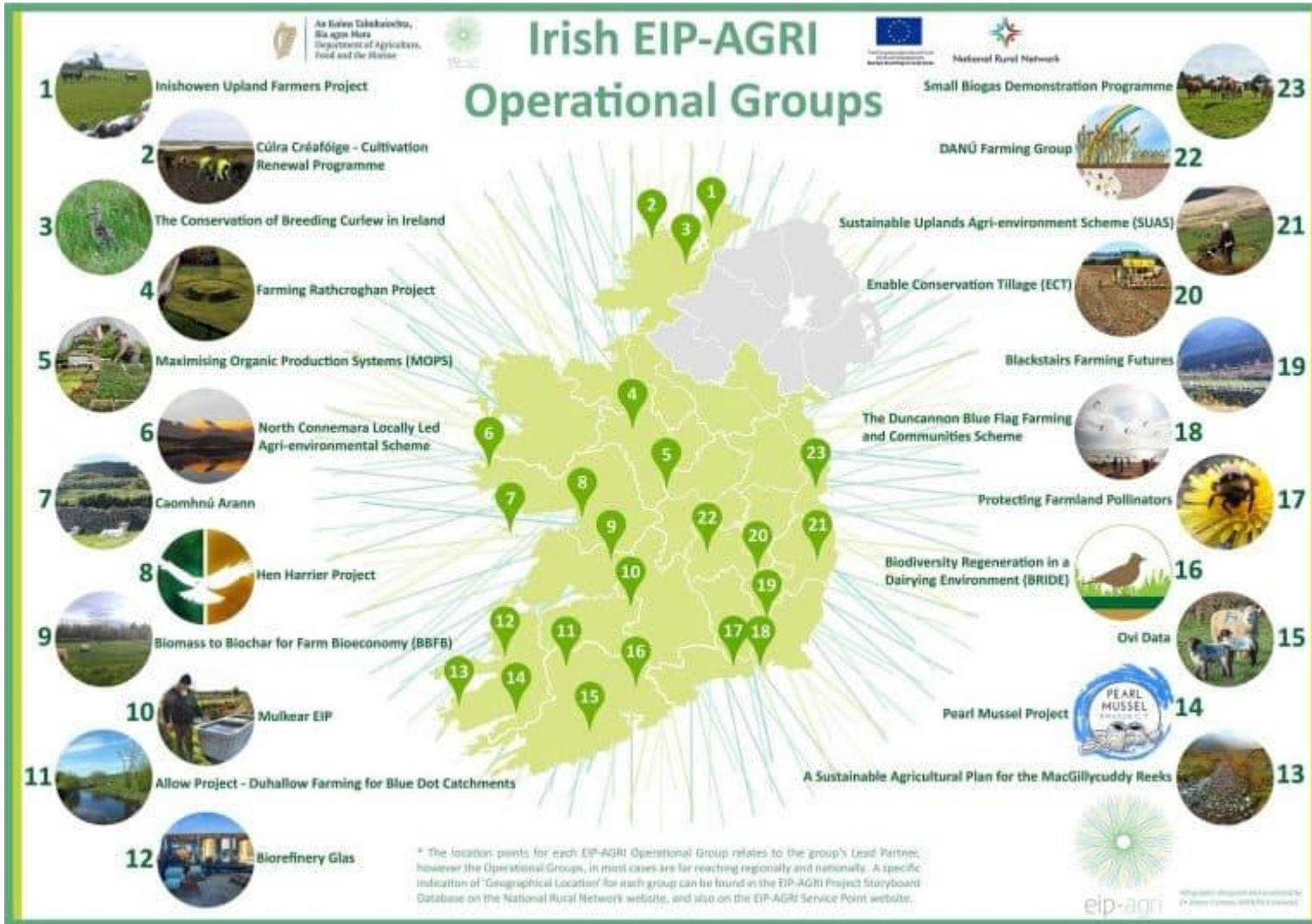


- Policies and legislation that affect HNV farming, processing and marketing; how to design them to support HNV systems and favour innovation

- Development of new products
- Product processing
- Adding value
- Marketing of products from HNV farming systems and areas

- Development of appropriate technologies
- Farming techniques and management approaches, incl. management plans and monitoring

# The need for bottom-up approaches



European Innovation Partnerships - Agriculture (EIP-AGRI) in Ireland 2014-20 – lessons and recommendations for policy post-2020

Gwyn Jones, James Moran & Mark Robins



The innovations and lessons of EIP-Agri projects in Ireland

A compendium to inform the next RDP as set out by the projects themselves



[www.efncp.org](http://www.efncp.org)

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# HNV is managed farmland



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# *High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge HNV-Link*

*Working together for a sustainable  
future*

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