

From donor sites to demonstration sites



www.salvereproject.eu

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SALVERE

Semi-natural grassland
as a source of biodiversity
improvement -
a CENTRAL Europe Project



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SALVERE

Regionally farming practices have led to a variety of agricultural habitats that host a large number of plant and animal species. The biodiversity of farmland, however, has rapidly declined across Europe in the last few decades.

Vast territories of unaltered semi-natural regions, such as meadows and pastures, containing protected animals and plants, are the resources for agri-environmental protection initiatives.

The project SALVERE wants to promote High Nature Value Farmland (HNVF) with its biodiversity as a valuable resource to support sustainable rural development in Central Europe. The project will contribute to protect biodiversity present in semi-natural grassland.

The use of native seed studied and transferred in the project, will prevent genetic pollution of local populations originating from the use of conventional seed mixtures containing alien species and varieties.

It is important to create technical conditions for an increase of species-rich areas in intensive agricultural or urbanized regions and to add value to extensive semi-natural grassland.



The Project

The Project SALVERE is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, co-financed by the European Regional Development Funds (European Territorial Cooperation). It started in January 2009 and will end in December 2011.

Six countries are involved with 8 institutions. Overall 11 experimental and 11 demonstrations trials were applied through the involved countries. Knowledge transfer into practice will be promoted via five workshops, one final conference, several field trips with interested stakeholders and other public relations events.



High Nature Value Farmland

HNV farmland comprises those areas in Europe where agriculture is a major (usually the dominant) land use and where that agriculture supports, or is associated with, either a high species and habitat diversity or the presence of species of European, and/or national, and/or regional conservation concern, or both (Andersen 2003). HNV farmland makes up about 15-25% of the utilized agricultural area in Europe.



Goals

- To know the current situation of semi natural grassland in Central Europe
- To understand the seed production in semi-natural grasslands
- To improve harvesting and storage techniques of the seed production in those grasslands
- To promote the use of appropriate techniques
- To establish new high value areas by using seed from semi-natural grassland
- Proposal of an European certificate for HNVF native plant material
- Publishing of guidelines for seed production and harvesting on potential donor sites as well as best practice methods for the establishment of species rich grasslands
- Publishing of two handbooks translated into the language of the project partners

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