

EU Policies on Biodiversity Conservation and Contribution of Organic farming in



Vyara Stefanova, Sofia, 30th September 2009

Biodiversity Conservation on Farmland in CAP

□ Pillar 1

- GAEC , CC and modulation
- Coupled and decoupled payments
- Preservation of permanent pastures

□ Pillar 2

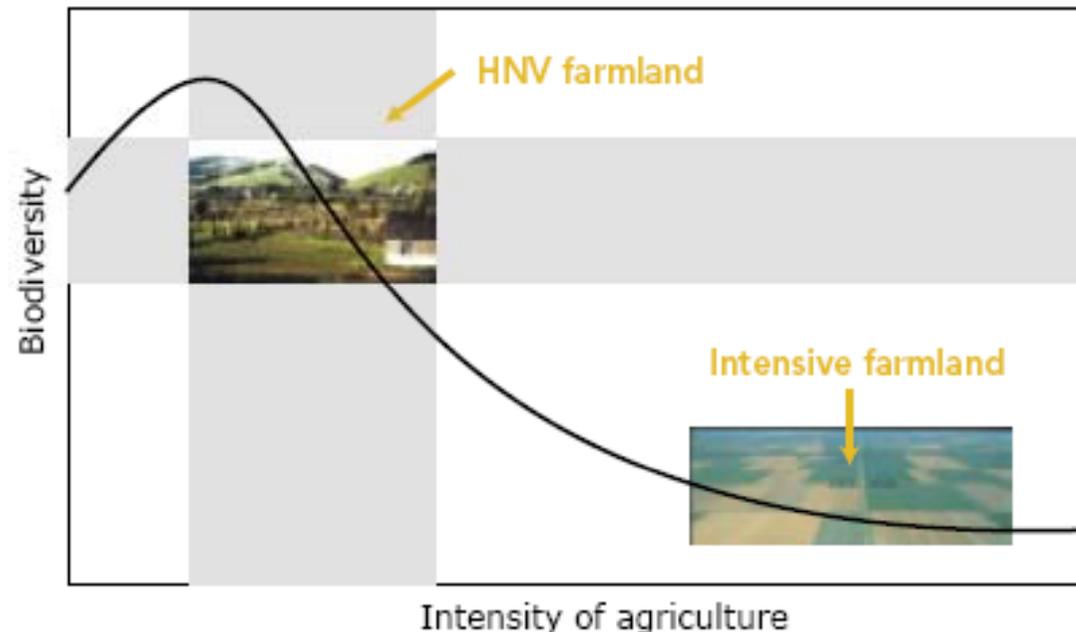
- Axis 2 measures : LFA; Natura 2000; AE;
Non- productive investments; Forestry
- Contribution of Axis 1 and Axis 2 measures

EAFRD Strategic Guidelines

- “To protect and enhance the EU’s natural resources and landscapes in rural areas, the resources devoted to Axis 2 should contribute to three EU-level priority areas: biodiversity and the preservation and development of high nature value farming and forestry systems and traditional agricultural landscapes”
- In 2007 - 2013 RDPs, Member States will need to have measures in place to maintain HNV farming and forestry systems and Traditional Agricultural Landscapes (TAL).

What is High Nature Value Farming?

- Typically, HNV farming systems are low intensity, low input systems with high structural diversity.
- Utilisation of semi natural vegetation by livestock, often in combination with the presence of other semi-natural features, is a key characteristic of these systems.



Organic farming in CAP

- ❑ Regulation on OF (834/2007 and 889/2008)
- ❑ EU action plan for Organic food and farming
- ❑ Could be supported by Pillar 2, Axis 1 and Axis 2 payments

How is OF contributing to biodiversity conservation (Europa website)

- Practices that contribute to high levels of biodiversity are often the result of **good farming practice**, as well as of EU organic farming regulation
- When the term biodiversity is used in OF, it doesn't just mean more plants and animals but also **more of the plants and animals native to a particular area grow in a natural way**

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- Organic farming is one of several complementary instruments applied in EU for conservation of biodiversity

and

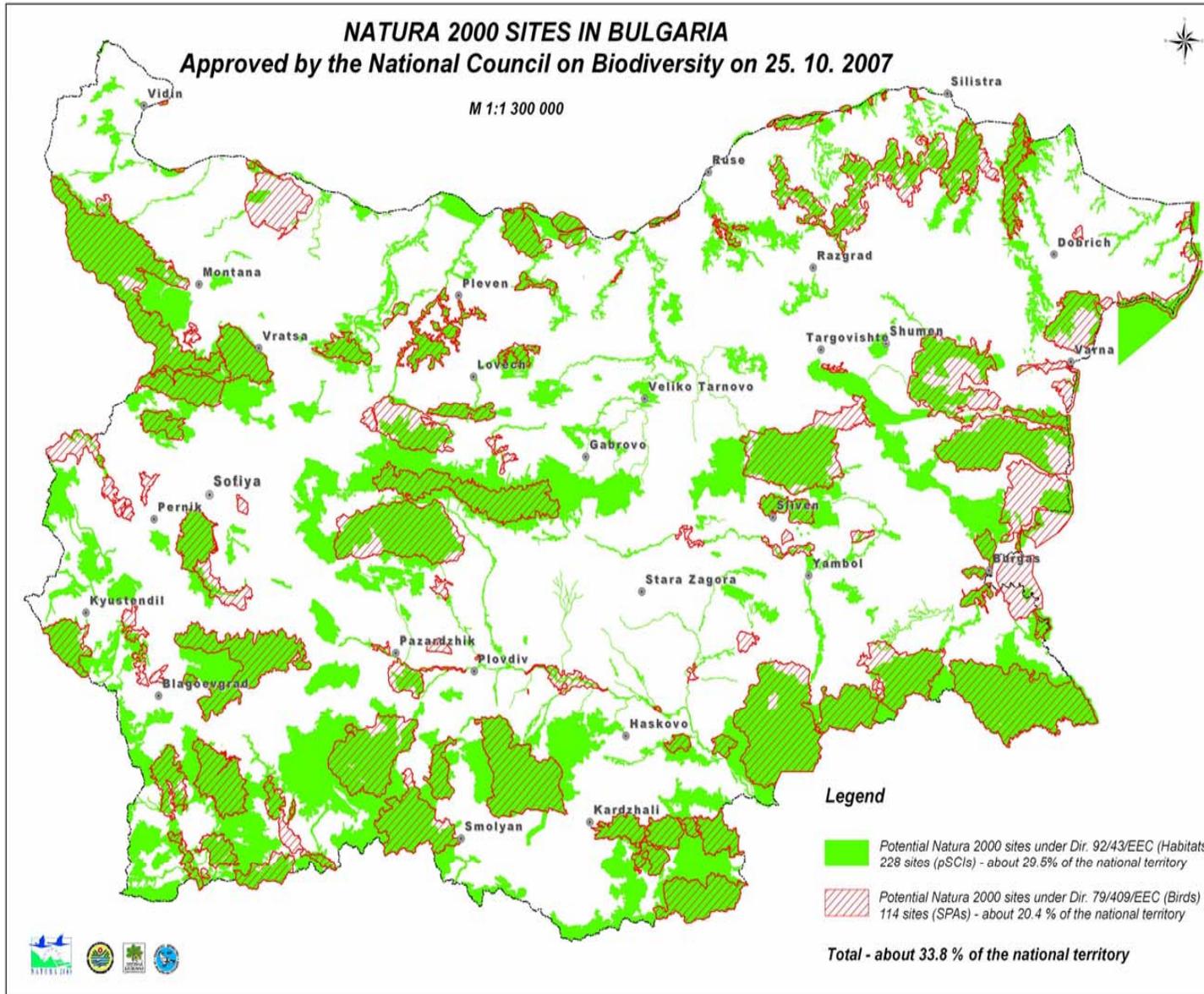
- the results for biodiversity conservation depend on how it is applied

Bulgarian context

Measures in RDP 2007 -2013 targeted to biodiversity conservation:

- Natura 2000 payments
- Agri – environment
 - HNV Farmland including traditional orchards and pastoralism
 - OF
 - preservation of rare breeds

Natura 2000 sites in BG



Natura 2000 sites in BG

- 114 SPAs (Bird directive) – 20,4% of the national territory
- 228 psCIs (Habitat directive) -20,4% of the national territory
- Total – about 33,8% of the National territory,

But Orders for designations only for 90 SPAs so far...

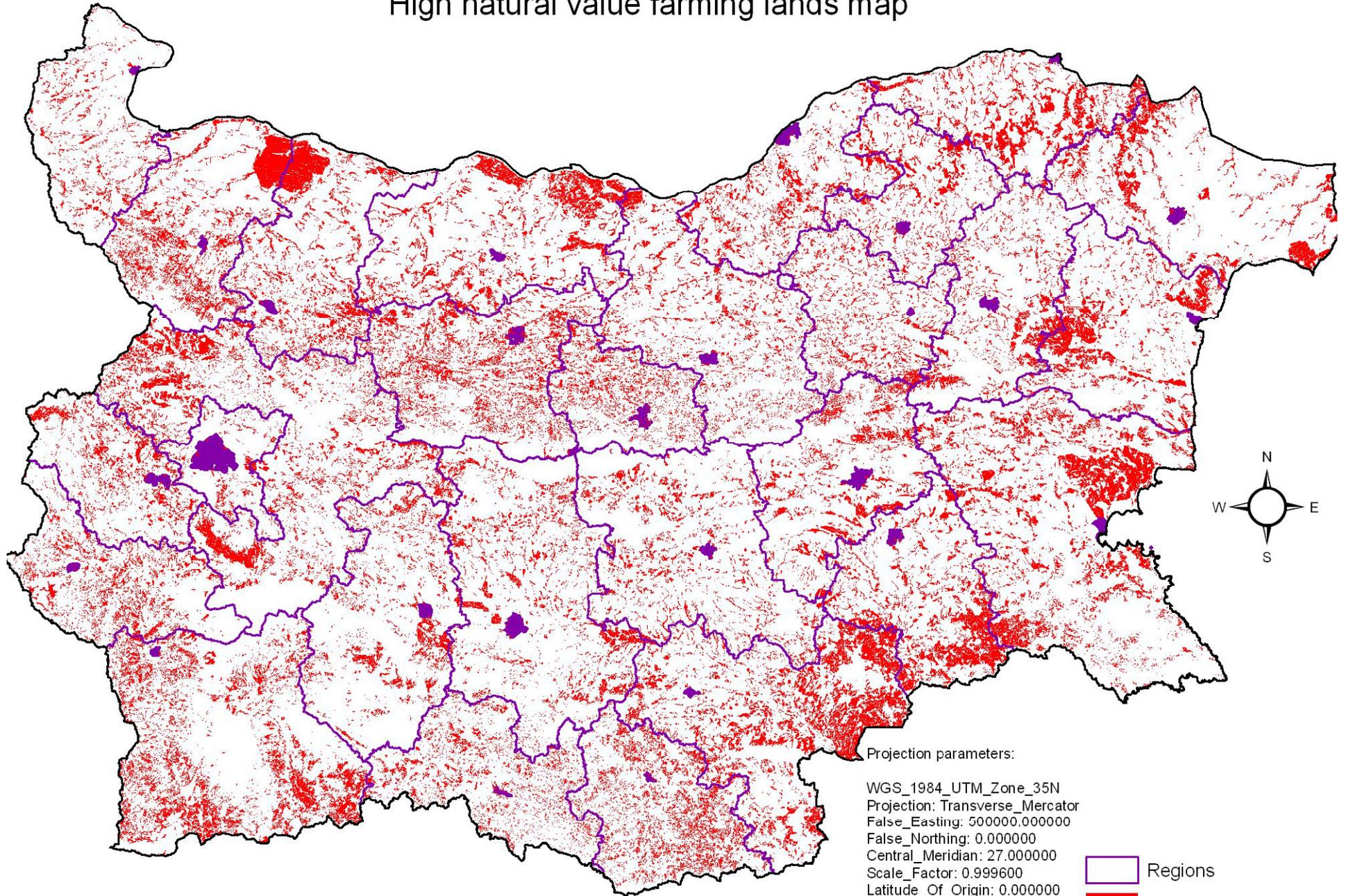
HNVF – present situation in Bulgaria

- Bulgaria adapted the approach used by the EEA by using several databases for biodiversity situation:
 - CORINE land cover 2000;
 - Natura 2000
 - IBAs
 - Grassland inventory
 - Habitats of triton, souslik, marbled polecat, Romanian hamster, tortoise and butterflies

HNVF – present situation

- The layers were then overlapped with the database for the physical blocks in the LPIS as per September 2007.
- The following codes for land utilization were used for the map
 - Arable land – 359 116 ha
 - Permanent crops – 401 555 ha
 - Permanent grassland- 951 256 ha
 - Mixed utilization – 279 013 ha
- As a result 1 630 035 ha – defined as HNVF

High natural value farming lands map



Projection parameters:

WGS_1984_UTM_Zone_35N
Projection: Transverse_Mercator
False_Easting: 500000.000000
False_Northing: 0.000000
Central_Meridian: 27.000000
Scale_Factor: 0.999600
Latitude_Of_Origin: 0.000000
Linear Unit: Meter
GCS_WGS_1984
Datum: D WGS 1984

-  Regions
-  High natural value farm
-  Chief towns

Actual to date: 23 10 2007 M 1: 2 000 000

Steps of elaboration of the Action Plan for Organic Farming

- ❑ **Creation of an Expert Group and drafting the Plan**
October 2004 – May 2005
- ❑ **Six regional consultations** (more than 1 000 participants)
May 2005
- ❑ **Adoption by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**
November 2005
- ❑ **Approval of the financial justification of the Plan with external institutions**
March-December 2006
- ❑ **Adoption by the Council of Ministers**
March 2007

Strategic objectives of Bulgarian National Plan for Development of Organic Agriculture

- ❑ Development of internal market for organic produce;
- ❑ 8% of the UAA should be managed under organic production methods by the year 2013;
- ❑ Effective legislative framework, supporting the development of organic agriculture, should be in place by the year 2007;
- ❑ Scientific research in the area of organic agriculture should be orientated towards actual practices; training and education systems, and consultancy capacity in organic agriculture should be available by the year 2010;
- ❑ Effective system for control and certification of organic products should be established.

Budget of the Plan

- Total budget: 164 Million BGN
(~ 83 MEuro)

Sources of funding:

- EU funds ($\frac{1}{2}$ of the budget)
 - SAPARD Programme (2000-2006)
 - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (2007-2013)
- National budget ($\frac{1}{2}$ of the budget)

Axis 2: Agri-environment Payments

High Nature Value Farmland Scheme (HNV)

Five packages (sub-measures):

HNV 1: Restoration and maintenance of undergrazed HNV Grassland

HNV 2: Restoration and Maintenance of Overgrazed HNV Grasslands

HNV 3: Maintenance of Waterfowl Habitats

HNV 4: Maintenance of Protected Species Habitats

HNV 5: Restoration of Riparian Habitats

Organic Farming Scheme (OF)

OF 1: Organic Farming Support

OF 1C – organic apiculture

Landscape Features Scheme (LF)

Three packages (sub-measures):

LF 1: Lowland Mosaic Landscapes

LF 2: Creation, restoration and maintenance of Field Boundaries

LF 3: Maintenance of Traditional Orchards

Traditional Livestock Breeding Scheme (LB)

Three packages (sub-measures):

LB 1: Preservation of Traditional Local Breeds

LB 2: Mountain Pastoralism

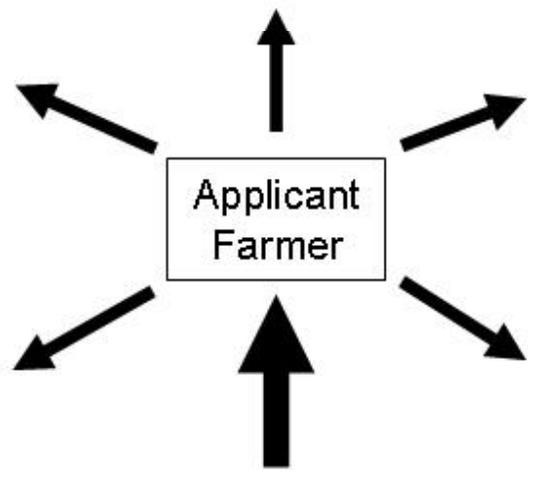
Soil and Water Protection Scheme (SW)

Two packages (sub-measures):

SW 1: Crop Rotations for Soil and Water Protection

SW 2: Control of Soil Erosion in Catchments

Applicant
Farmer



Agri-environment Training
*[Axis 1 – Vocational Training
and Information Actions]*

Results for the 1st year of implementation of support

- HNMF under AE support -32981 ha
- Organic farming – 3573 ha
- Organic beehives – 17244
- Mountain pastoralism – 1272 ha
- Traditional orchards – 26 ha

Thank you for your attention!

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