Developing win-win outcomes across a range of grassland-based livestock farming systems

Preliminary results of collective expertise 'Roles, impacts and services provided by livestock in Europe'

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Why to look for win-win outcomes in grassland-based LFS?

- Livestock farming systems undeniably contribute to improving human condition (proteins, income, social roles), but are regarded as a major cause of world's most pressing environmental problems
- Grassland-based systems limit competition with human food supply and provide products with + image and high nutritional Q

14.5% of world GHG emissions (cattle 9.3%)

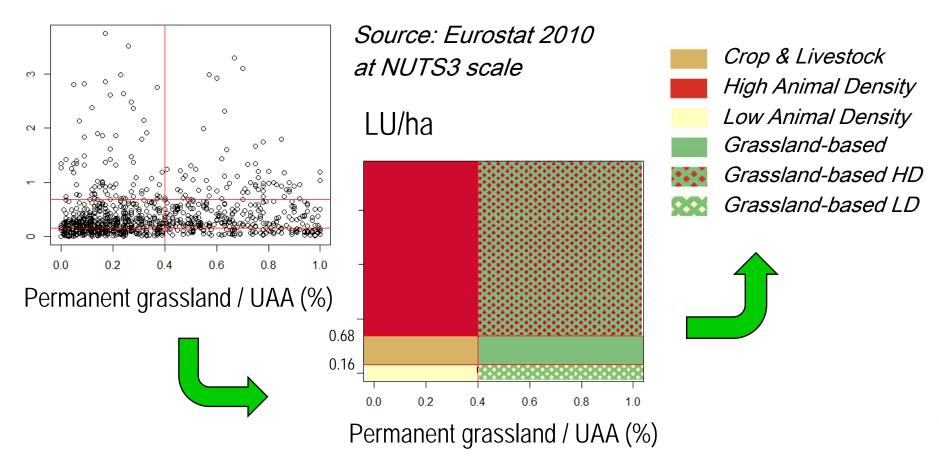


 Grassland-based systems provide a large number of regulating and cultural services, and are more likely to lead to some win-win outcomes



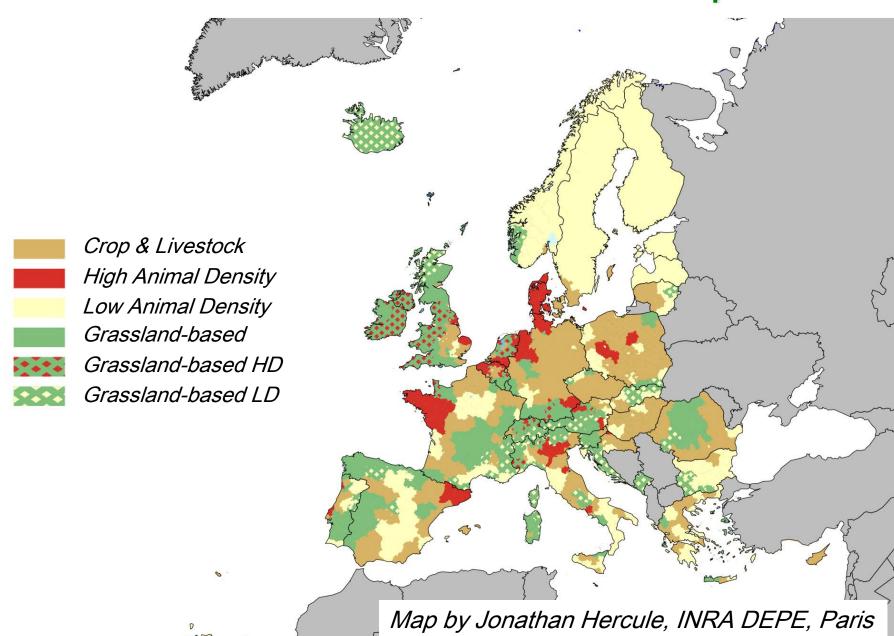
Where are European grassland-based territories?

LU/ha

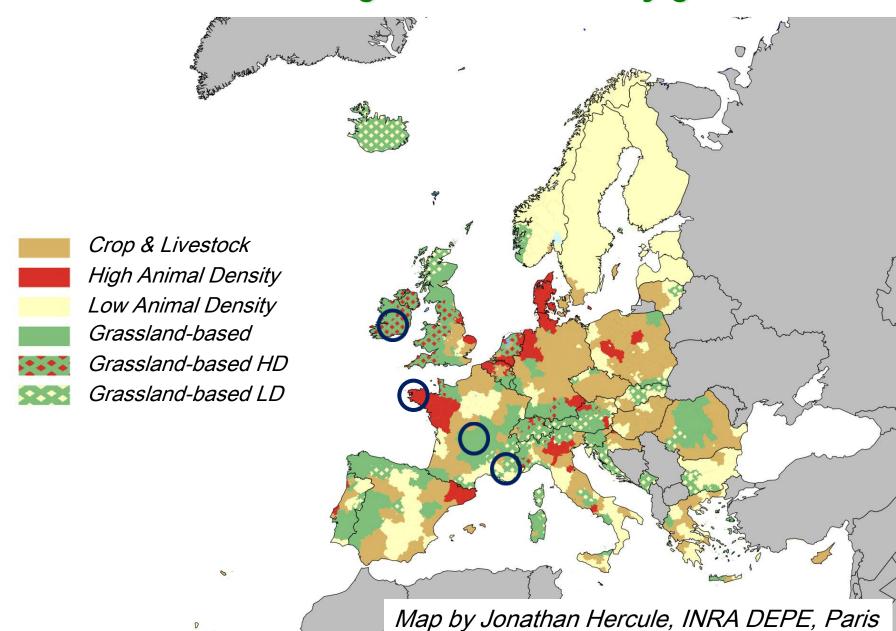


Thresholds based on expert view, so that outcomes also match the 'services provided by livestock' map proposed for France by Ryschawy et al. (2015)

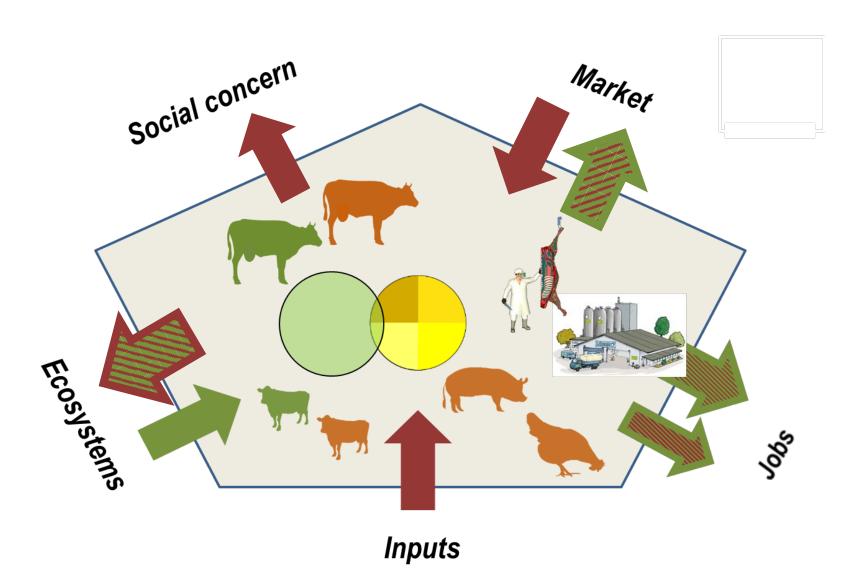
Grassland-based territories across Europe

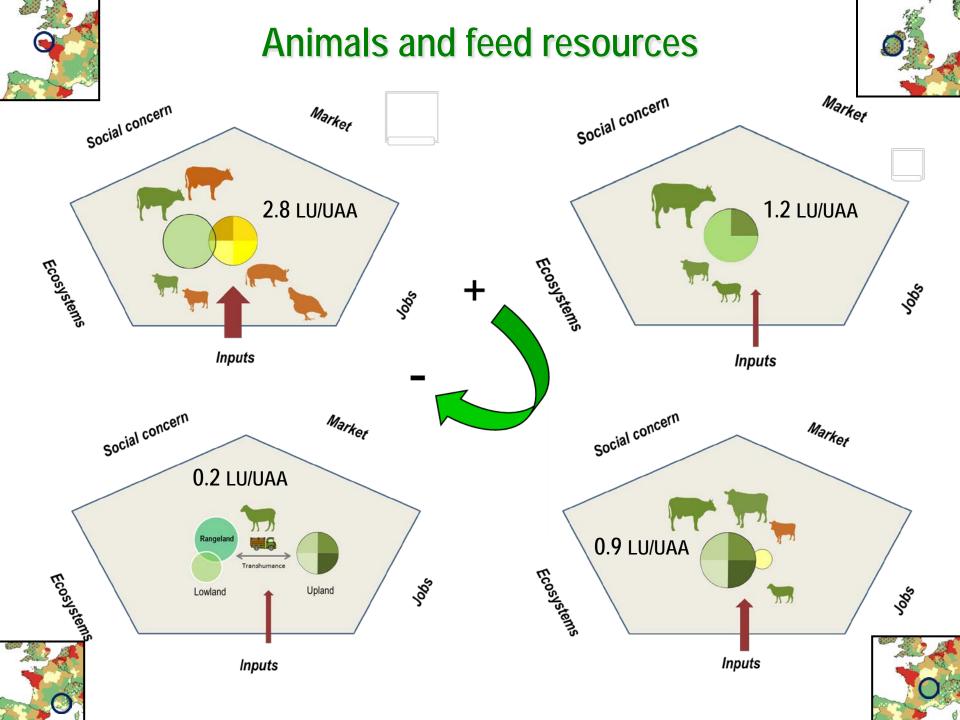


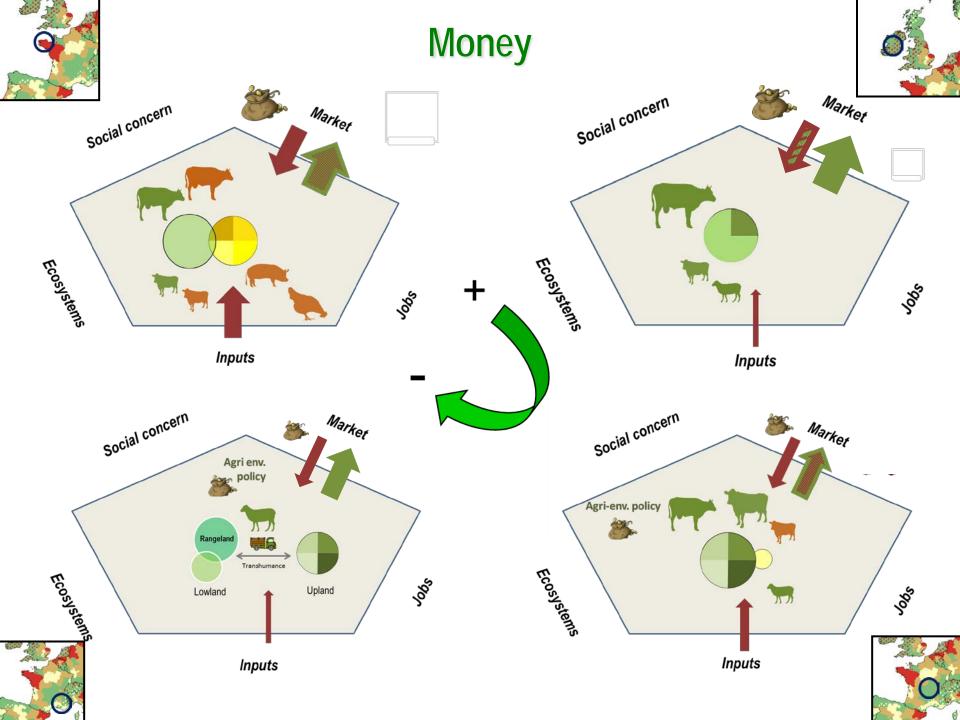
Four territories along an animal density gradient

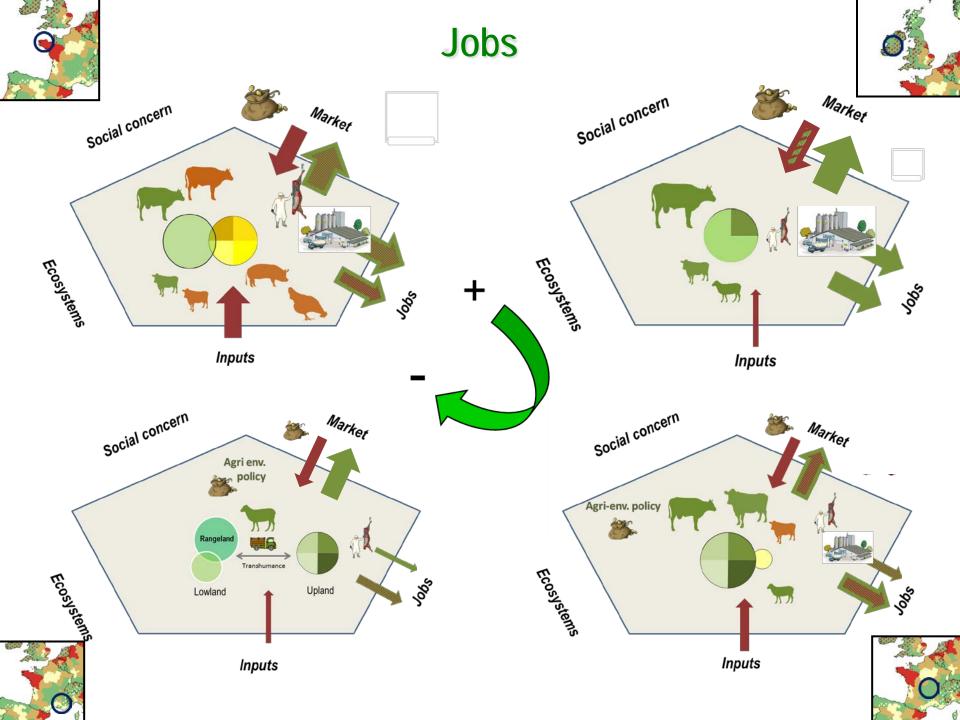


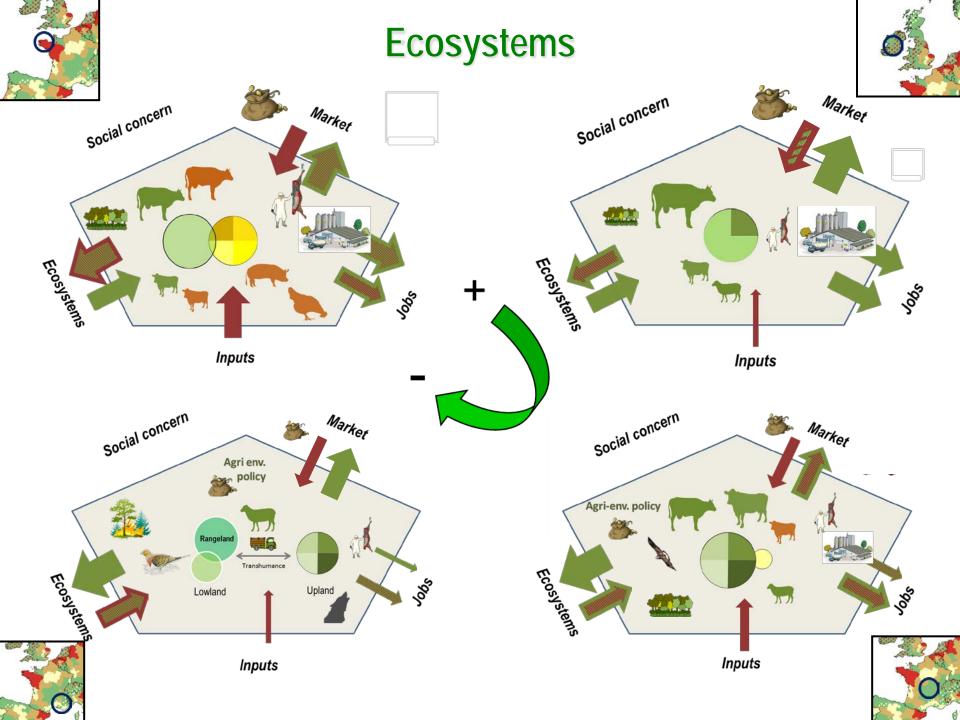
How do we represent territories?

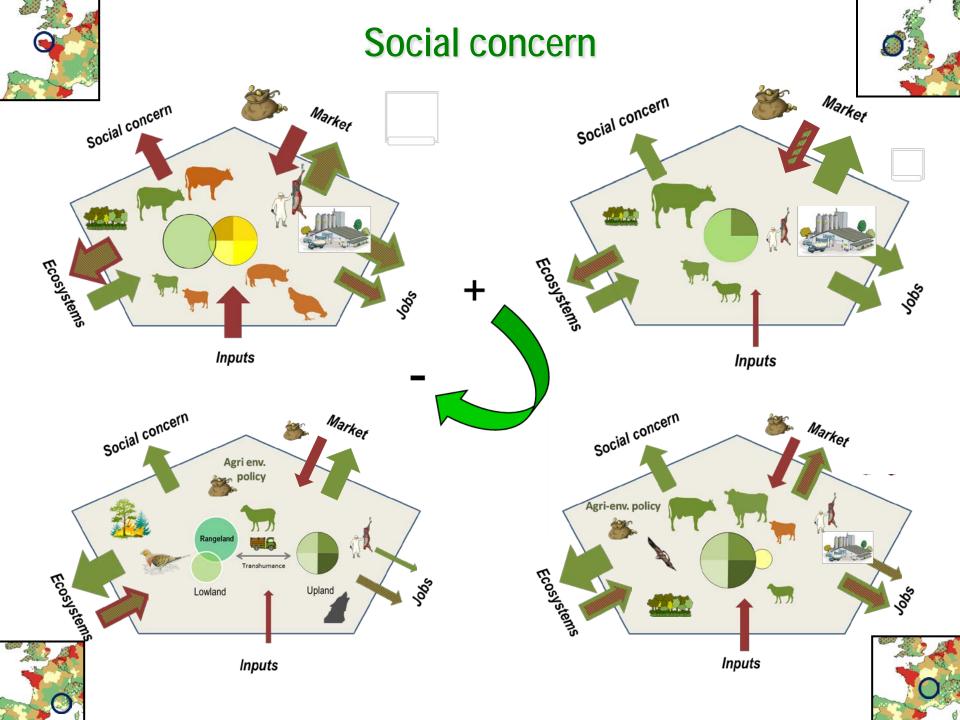




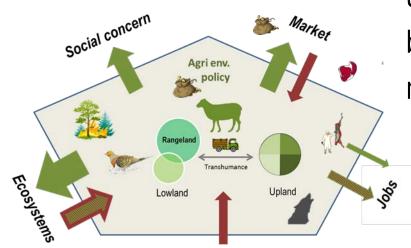








These four contrasted territories provide ≠ levels of goods and services



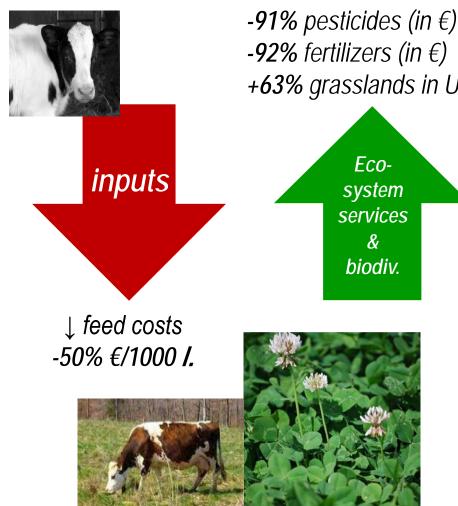
use various grasslands and ≠ input levels benefit from ES and cope with dis-services meet more or less consumer expectations

Inputs

- In each territorry, trade-offs exist betwen economic, environmental and social dimensions
- Both technical and organizational innovations can shift trade-offs towards improved productive, ecological and/or social performance
 - Redesign of systems
 - Landscape management
 - Collective organization

Switching from external inputs to ecosystem services

A new equilibrium between inputs and productive objectives; increasing forage self-sufficiency in the RAD network (data 2014 from Dieulot 2015)



-92% fertilizers (in €) +63% grasslands in UAA

28 k€ vs. 16 k€



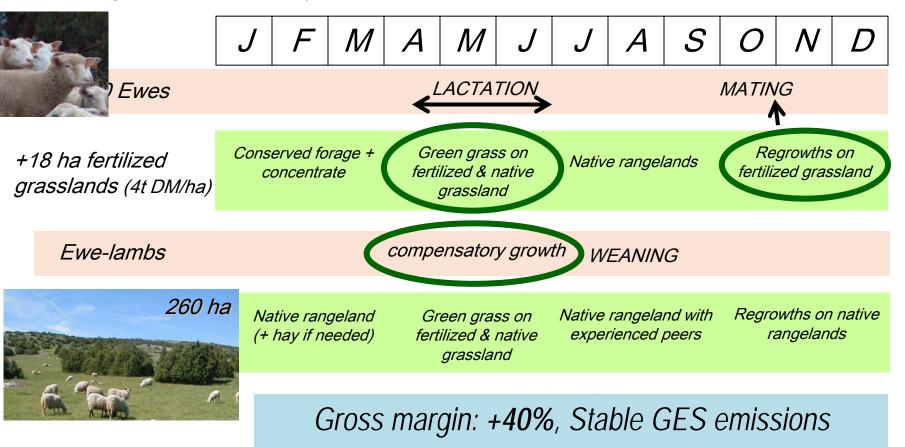
income per work unit

Moderate ↓ in productivity -22% I./cow, -20% LU/ha

- ↑ Decisional autonomy
- Not less work but more interesting work!

Organizing production cycle to better use rangelands

■ Forage self-sufficiency: 73% → 93%

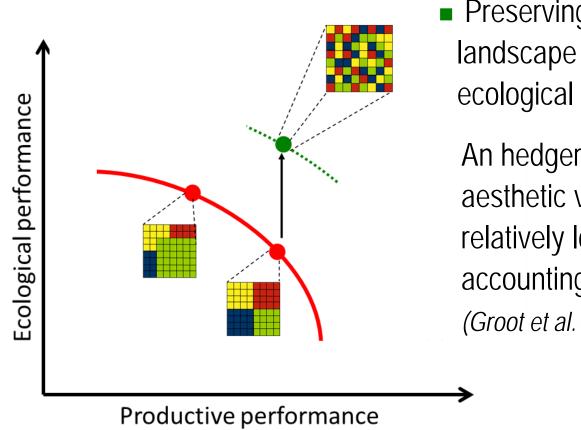


Control of shrub encroachment, Preservation of species-rich grasslands

Energy consumption: -29% (Jouven et al. 2011)

Managing landscape heterogeneity

 Increasing landscape heterogeneity shifts the production-biodiversity tradeoff towards improved ecological performance



 Preserving hedgerows and other landscape features (shade to livestock, ecological corridors/shelter to wildlife)

An hedgerow network of greater aesthetic value was restored at a relatively low cost in the NL by accounting for all stakeholders view (Groot et al. 2007, 2010)

Sabatier et al. 2014

Sharing knowledge and views to create win-win situations

■ Teaching farmers feedback loop between biodiversity, ecosystem services and management practices using role-playing games (Lamarque et al. 2014)



- + simulating changes in ES under climatic and socio-economic scenarios
- ⇒ Sharing knowledge between peers
- ⇒ Comparing his own farm 'ecological performance with those from neighbours
- ⇒ Shifts in practices based on better understanding of agronomic and ecological processes (e.g. ↓ fertilization in a drought context)
- \Rightarrow ↑ productive and ecological perf.

Organizing production sector to create added value

 Institutional mechanisms of regulation allow protecting the competitive advantage resulting from the link between the product and the territory

Transparency of PDO rules guarantees system management to consumers

Consumer willingness to pay premium prices for products with a positive

image

Leading products can benefit to others sold in the same 'basket of goods'

 Local transformation creates jobs and allows controlling product quality

LFS maintained in 'marginal areas' preserve landscape & species-rich grasslands
 ⇒↑ productive, social and ecological performance

Take-home messages

- Grassland-based territories provide different bundle of services according to livestock density and biogeographical areas
- In each territorry, trade-offs exist betwen economic, environmental and social dimensions
- Various technical and organizational innovations can shift trade-offs towards improved productive, ecological and/or social performance
- Win-wins situations are more likely to occur when solutions have been codesigned by various stakeholders (Groot et al. 2007, 2010)
- Getting rid of the assumption that provisioning services should always dominate any other ES is likely to create win-win situations (Howe et al. 2014)

Thanks for your attention!