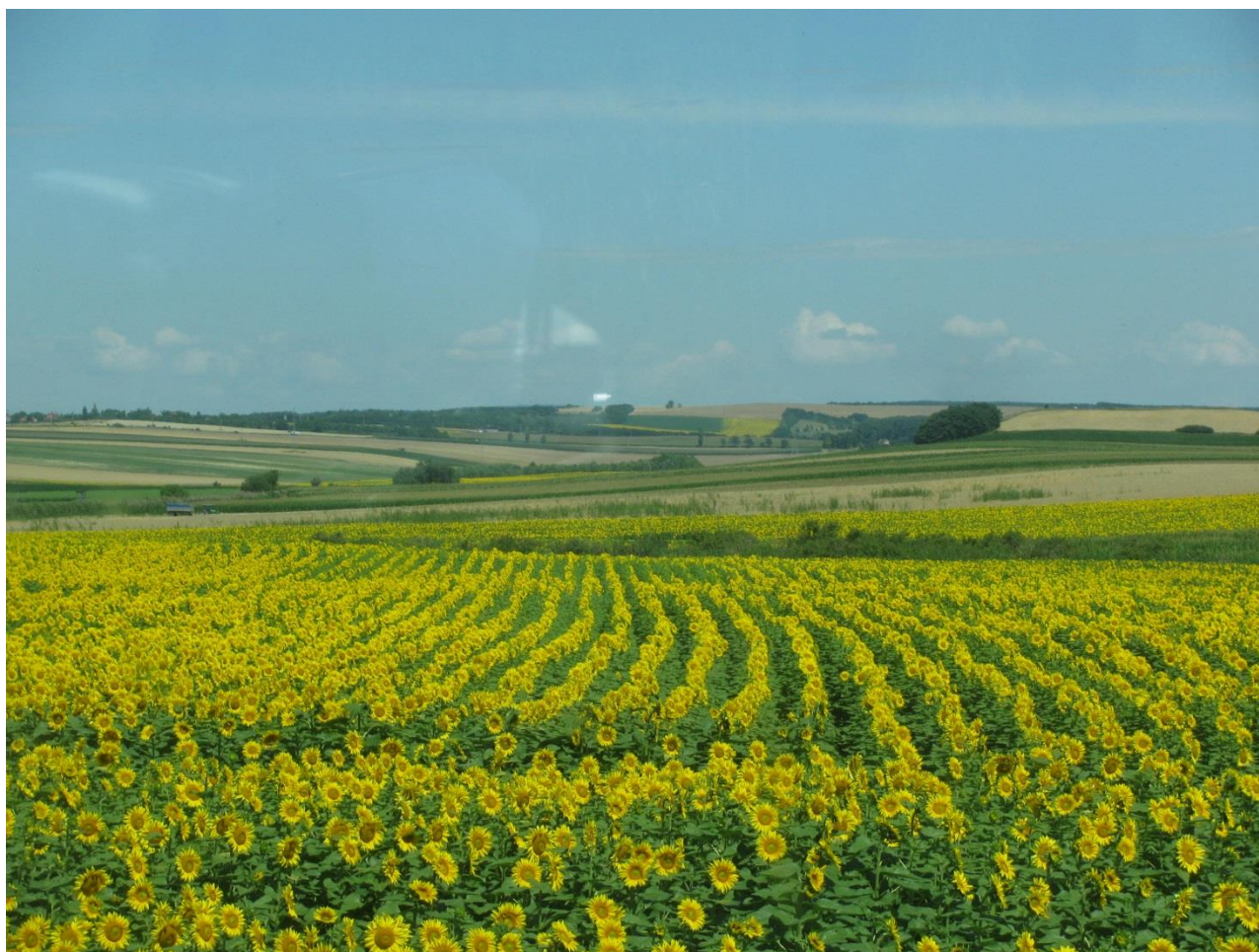




Ecosystems – Products – Conservation SAVE-DAGENE annual Meeting 2018



Sunflowers in full bloom on the way to the Vértesi Nature Park

The SAVE - DAGENE annual meeting took place from 24th-27th June in Kozard, Hungary. After exactly 10 years, the SAVE partners and the DAGENE members met again in the same place. It was impressive to see how the village Kozard developed during this time. The focus on organic farming and ecotourism obviously pays off. In addition, Kozard has developed as a place of sculpture; around 70 sculptures are spread over the entire municipal area so that visitors always discover something new.

Under the motto "Ecosystems - Products - Conservation", the joint SAVE - DAGENE seminar

was held, which reported on progress in breeding and conservation work, as well as the important role of traditional breeds in biodiversity conservation in "High Nature Value" landscapes. The rural, remote regions of the Carpathians and the Balkans are characterized by very harsh climatic conditions ranging from -40 ° C in winter to + 40 ° C in summer. In such conditions, modern breeds can hardly compete economically. The traditional, robust breeds - adapted over centuries to their environment - can certainly thrive here.



Ethical questions in research must be answered when living material is exchanged or during experimental laboratory work. Gene bank conservation in particular, is subject to far

more ethical aspects: What are the criteria for selecting animals or breeds? Which methods of obtaining breeding material are ethically acceptable? Who decides and who pays? Are in situ and ex situ conservation complementary methods or are there conflicting goals? Within the framework of the Horizon 2020 project IMAGE (Innovative Management of Animal GENetic resources, www.imageh2020.eu) the opinions of the stakeholders in the conservation scene should be obtained. Therefore, in addition to an overview of the status of the IMAGE project, these ethical aspects were discussed at the SAVE-DAGENE meeting. Thereafter, participants were asked to complete a questionnaire asking for their opinion. The described ethical aspects of the ex situ conservation will be explained within the framework of the project at as many conferences and events as possible and opinions will be collected by questionnaire. The goal is to create the broadest possible opinion of stakeholders in conservation work, while at the same time awareness of ethics in conservation shall be promoted.

"Pitch Talks" - a short presentation of the work of the partner organizations - have been established

as an integral part of the SAVE Network Session at the annual meetings during the last years. Projects and topics from "Nature Conservation and Sustainable Rural Development in Bulgaria" to the "Platform of Plant Organizations in the Netherlands" were briefly presented. The subsequent lively discussion finally focused on public relations and the marketing of agrobiodiversity. In order to reach the general public it is important not to stress the endangerment, but the cultural heritage, the tradition. The "Pitch Talks" are available



on the SAVE website under "Conferences".

Another topic of discussion was fairness and best practice among the SAVE partners. In activities such as the branding of a breed or cross-border projects, the dialogue with the network partners should always be looked for so that misunderstandings and discordant noises can be counteracted as early as possible.



The conclusion of the meeting of the cooperation partners was that at the SAVE meeting 2019 less emphasis should be placed on presentations, as they were held in the SAVE seminar, but "pitch-talks" of the participants with fixed topics given beforehand by the network office and a subsequent debate should be deepened. In this way the exchange of views in the SAVE network should be promoted. A goal-oriented

debate thus serves the exchange of best practice experiences. It was also suggested to draft a "SAVE Charter" to strengthen fairness and exchange in the SAVE network. Each partner of the SAVE network is called upon to think about the specific design of such a SAVE Charter and to communicate it to the Network Office.

After these inspiring sessions, conference attendees learned about practical conservation work over the next two days: during a ride in the covered wagon in Csakvar near Pro Vertes in the Vértesi Natural Park, the group experienced the endless breadth of the landscape, kept open by grey steppe cattle and cross-breedings with Char-



olais cattle. To protect the turf, the animals are stabled in the winter months. The other time of the year the cattle and water buffaloes range freely in the area of the nature park. On an area of approx. 2'000 ha, around 800 grey steppe cattle and about 200 water buffaloes graze. The animals are on the pasture until December 10th. Then the offspring are separated from the mothers. The bulls are already stabled in November. In the middle of April the animals return to the pasture. The pedigree breeding is carried out by a breeding association. Grazing displaces invasive plants such as the Goldenrod. In a former tobacco house, which was renovated by Pro Vertes in 1994,

the Böszenfa Game Reserve, which is run by the University of Kaposvar, presented itself with culinary delights: salami, lard and pâté made from donkey, deer and wild boar, before the actual lunch with local meat of buffalo and grey steppe cattle was served.



The second day of the excursion led to the Hungarian Plant Biodiversity Center (NÖDIK) in Tapioszele, where the Genbank and the outdoor areas were inspected with various experimental and replica plots. Finally, in Gödöllő, the participants got an insight into the conservation of poultry, fish and the Pannonian bee of the Carpathian Basin.

The **Arca Deli Award 2018** went to the Archehof Windeck, Germany for a particularly innovative woven cardigan: The weft is made of



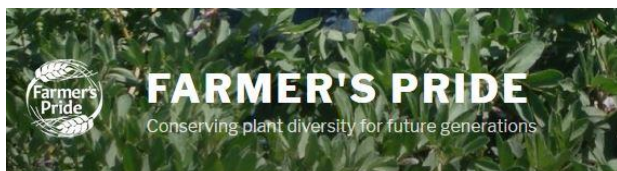
hand-spun wool of Ben-theimer land sheep, the warp threads of the wool of Co-burg fox sheep, made in a hand-weaving manufacture. In the Lebensgemeinschaft Sassen e.V. the wool is washed and prepared for spinning. This fulfils more than the required



conditions for the Arca-Deli Award. We wish much success for the marketing!

The next SAVE annual meeting will take place from **Sunday 25th August 2019 on in Belgium**. The annual exhibition of the Stichting Levend Erfgoed (SLE) is held on this date. To make a participation in the SAVE network meeting of interested SLE members possible, the SAVE network sessions shall take place after the exhibition. **SAVE the date the date already today!**

Farmer's Pride



The SAVE network office has contacted the initiators of the EU project Farmer's Pride and has been involved, informed and interviewed about the progress of the project proposal during the last year.

Farmer's Pride, a project funded under Horizon 2020, is establishing the European Network for In Situ Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources. It will bring together stakeholders and sites across the region and coordinate actions to conserve diversity for crop enhancement and adaptation in the future.

Farmer's Pride will:

- a) build relationships between existing diverse PGR stakeholder networks, and where necessary create new partnerships to establish a unified network of stakeholders involved in PGR conservation and sustainable use;
- b) enhance existing knowledge of European land-race and crop wild relative genetic diversity and

showcase how it can be effectively secured and managed;

- c) use social science and economic tools to establish the value of in situ PGR populations and individual traits, as well as a cost-effective means of conserving them;

- d) use predictive characterization methods to identify valuable traits in In-Situ PGR populations, targeting those most vital for satisfying future agricultural and market needs;

- e) establish a mechanism to facilitate the flow of plant genetic material from in situ populations to the user community, both directly and via ex situ collections;

- f) develop and establish a durable governance and resourcing structure for the European network of in situ PGR conservation sites and stakeholders;

- g) promote public awareness of the value of PGR for agriculture and consumers; and

- h) design and implement a network of European sites and stakeholders that conserves the breadth of PGR diversity found in situ.

Through these activities, Farmer's Pride will result in significant strengthening of European capacities for the conservation, management and sustainable use of in situ PGR as a foundation for increased competitiveness in the farming and breeding sectors, and ultimately for long-term food and nutritional security in Europe.

Please feel free to distribute the link to this survey among potential respondents in your network.

Stakeholder Consultation 'Farmers' Pride'

This consultation aims to understand which stakeholders are involved or have an interest in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources in situ.

If you are involved in conserving wild or cultivated plant genetic resources in situ or if continued access to plant genetic diversity is important to you, please take 10–15 minutes to complete the survey.

ESA is a consortium partner in this project, with the role of representing the breeding community and bringing in the view of plant breeders and seed companies on the topic of in situ conservation.

More information: www.farmerspride.eu

Complete the survey: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/FarmersPride2018Stakeholders>.

Seed exchange becomes world heritage

(RARA Magazine 4/2017)



Seed exchange among farmers and gardeners is an elementary act in connection with our diet. Since the beginning of agriculture more than 12'000 years ago, food crops have been spread by the propagation of seeds and the migration of peoples.

As unbelievable as it sounds: Exactly this simple activity is no longer a matter of course today! This is due to arbitrarily awarded patents on the characteristics of our crops and restrictive seed laws in many countries. But, also, the fact that more non-replicable F1 hybrids are offered on the market, makes one listen up.

Several factors have made it necessary for ProSpecieRara, and other organizations that have established networks to conserve thousands of varieties, to suggest that this seemingly mundane act is made more difficult or impossible.

In 2011, ProSpecieRara therefore submitted an application to the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, which compiles the list of Switzerland's intangible cultural heritage, to place the seed exchange on this list. 2017 the application was accepted. But that's just the first step. Together with the partner organization Arche Noah, who succeeded in Austria a few years ago, and with another country, we could manage to protect the seed exchange worldwide as a UNESCO recognised cultural heritage. Seed exchange should not be limited to one country but should be a natural act of humanity. It is hard to believe that today we have to fight for its protection and survival.

Seed - the germ of hope

About a year ago we were contacted by the 15th Garden Network, a Syrian network of peasant organizations, urban gardeners and agricultural initiatives in refugee camps. They asked for the seeds of varieties that can flourish in Syria on brownfields in the besieged cities. It was particularly important to them that the varieties can also be propagated themselves, because the seed replenishment cannot be guaranteed. This property is found less and less among modern varieties. Of course, we delivered a seed package. This example makes it alarmingly clear that the seed and agricultural systems that are now established worldwide only work where agricultural production systems are running and where there is good infrastructure and enough money. A war quickly collapses this vulnerable system. Therefore, it is advisable not to rely solely on an agricultural system, but to rely on alternatives also in good times.

EU budget: the CAP beyond 2020

(EU press release June 2018)



For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing to modernise and simplify the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

With a budget of €365 billion, these proposals make sure the CAP remains a future-proof policy, continues to support farmers and rural communities, leads the sustainable development of EU agriculture and reflects the EU's ambition on environmental care and climate action. Today's proposals give Member States greater flexibility and responsibility for choosing how and where to invest their CAP funding in order to meet ambitious goals set at EU level towards a smart, resilient, sustainable and competitive agricultural sector, while at the same time ensuring a fair and better targeted support of farmers' income.

The main features of the Commission's proposals for a modernised, simplified CAP are:

A new way of working: Member States will have more flexibility in how to use their funding allocations, allowing them to design tailor-made programmes that respond most effectively to farmers' and wider rural communities' concerns. Member States will also have the option to transfer up to 15% of their CAP allocations between direct payments and rural development and vice-versa to ensure that their priorities and measures can be funded. A level playing-field amongst Member States will be ensured through:

Strategic Plans covering the whole period, setting out how each Member State intends to meet 9 EU-wide economic, environmental and social objectives, using both direct payments and rural development. The Commission will approve each

plan to ensure consistency and the protection of the single market;

The Commission will closely follow each country's performance and progress towards the agreed targets.

A fairer deal through better targeting of support:

Direct payments will remain an essential part of the policy, ensuring stability and predictability for farmers. Priority will be given to supporting the small and medium-sized farms that constitute the majority of the EU's farming sector, and to helping young farmers. The Commission remains committed to achieving a fairer distribution of direct payments between Member States through external convergence.

In addition:

Direct payments to farmers will be reduced as of €60'000 and capped for payments above €100'000 per farm. Labour costs will be taken fully into account. This is designed to ensure a fairer distribution of payments;

Small & medium-sized farms will receive a higher level of support per hectare;

Countries will have to set aside at least 2% of their direct payment allocation for helping young farmers get set up. This will be complemented by financial support for rural development and different measures facilitating access to land and land transfers.

Higher ambitions on environmental and climate action: Climate change, natural resources, biodiversity, habitats and landscapes are all addressed in the EU-wide objectives proposed today.

Farmers' income support is already linked to the application of environment and climate-friendly practices and the new CAP will require farmers to achieve a higher level of ambition through both mandatory and incentive-based measures:

Direct payments will be conditional on enhanced environmental and climate requirements;

- Each Member State will have to offer eco-schemes to support farmers in going beyond the mandatory requirements, funded with a share of their national direct payments' allocations;
- At least 30% of each rural development national allocation will be dedicated to environmental and climate measures;

- 40% of the CAP's overall budget is expected to contribute to climate action;
- In addition to the possibility to transfer 15% between pillars, Member States will also have the possibility to transfer an additional 15% from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 for spending on climate and environment measures (without national co-financing).

Greater use of knowledge and innovation: The modernised CAP will take advantage of all the latest technologies and innovations, thereby helping both farmers in the field and public administrations, notably through:

A budget of €10 billion from the EU's Horizon Europe research programme set aside for research and innovation projects in food, agriculture, rural development and bioeconomy;

Encouraging Member States to use big data and new technologies for controls and monitoring (for example, verifying farm sizes for direct payment claims using satellite data), thus significantly reducing the need for on-the-spot controls;

Stepping up the digitisation of rural life, for example through extending broadband access in rural regions, thereby improving the quality of life in such regions and further contributing to the competitiveness of European agricultural production.

Next steps:

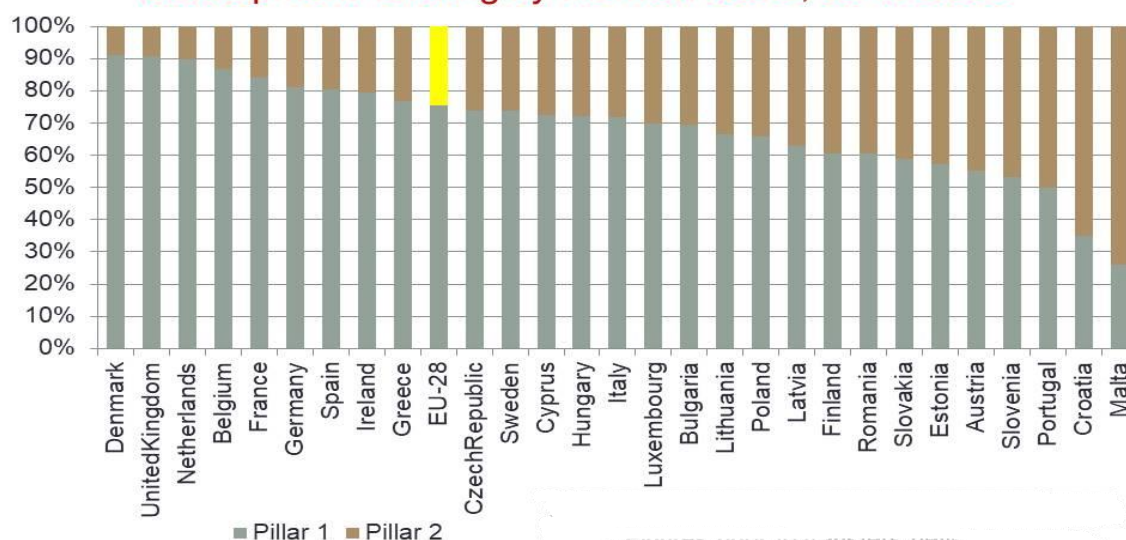
A swift agreement on the overall long-term EU budget and its sectoral proposals is essential to ensure that EU funds start delivering results on the ground as soon as possible and that farmers are provided with the necessary certainty and predictability for their business and investment decisions.

Delays similar to the ones experienced at the beginning of the current 2014-2020 budgetary period could potentially mean that farmers and national administrations would not benefit from the reduced bureaucracy, greater flexibility and more effective results that the new CAP will bring. Any delays in approval of the future budget would also delay the start of thousands of potential new projects across the EU designed to support farmers and rural communities, tackling issues from strengthening environmental protection to attracting new farmers.

An agreement on the next long-term budget in 2019 would provide for a seamless transition between the current long-term budget (2014-2020) and the new one and would ensure predictability and continuity of funding to the benefit of all. See: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-18-3974_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-3974_en.htm)

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Relative importance of direct payments and rural development funding by Member State, 2015-2020



Newsflash

Agrobiodiversity Hotspot Identification



Agrobiodiversity is seriously threatened worldwide and strategies to preserve it are dramatically required. A recently published study shows a methodological approach to identify agrobiodiversity hotspots (MAPAs) in Europe by means of a prioritization process for the first time: In order to contribute to development of strategies for agro-

biodiversity conservation, a methodological approach is proposed which aims to identify areas with a high level of agro-biodiversity where to set or enhance in situ conservation of plant genetic resources (i.e. landraces and crop wild relatives). These areas are identified using three criteria: Presence of Landrace diversity, Presence of wild species and Agro-ecosystem ecological diversity. A Restrictive and an Additive prioritization strategy have been applied on the entire Italian territory and have resulted in establishing nationwide 53 and 197 agrobiodiversity hotspots respectively. These strategies can easily be applied at a European level and can be helpful to develop conservation strategies elsewhere, provided an adequate base of data is available.

Full text see: PACICCO L., BODESMO M., TORRICELLI R., NEGRI [vn1] V. 2018 A methodological approach to identify agrobiodiversity hotspots for in situ conservation.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0197709>

June 1, 2018

Forbidden Market



The agricultural seeds market is covered by European legislation, with an official seeds catalogue. Until now, this legislation banned no fewer than two million varieties of French-grown seeds. Ninety per cent of the planet's cultivable varieties have already

died out in the 20th century (source: FAO). The result is less varied diets and more limited biodiversity.

Last September, Carrefour joined producers in their fight to make fruit and vegetables grown from farmers' seeds available to consumers and called on the public authorities to get the law changed. This approach was driven by Carrefour's desire to promote high-quality food and biodiversity. It marked the starting point for the "forbidden market" campaign. This campaign was based on an extensive programme of action.

The marketing of a range of fruit and vegetables grown from farmers' seeds and... banned as a result! Forty or so stores in the Paris region and Brittany began selling varieties of fruit and vegetables that had never previously been marketed in supermarkets and hypermarkets, including Armorican pink onions,

Camus artichokes from Léon, Glas Ruz artichokes, half-length Cléder shallots, Angélique pumpkins, Kouign Amann butternut squash, Kanevedenn tomatoes, Trégor white beans, Brittany tangy rhubarb and Armorican black radishes.

Carrefour signed long-term agreements with producers with the aim of developing a sustainable line of farmers' varieties. The Carrefour Foundation also contributed to the campaign by setting up a Farmers' Seeds Company within the framework of a Biodiversity Fund support initiative that it has recently created worth €1 million.

The public was made aware of the situation and asked to support the campaign, and their response was extremely positive: the online petition at Change.org was a success, gathering 82,000 signatures. It was sent to Jean-Claude Juncker at the European Commission, the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and two French ministers, Nicolas Hulot and Stéphane Travers.

Changes are now being made to European legislation! After the European Parliament approved the unrestricted marketing of farmers' seeds in April, organic seeds no longer have to stand up to industry-friendly criteria such as uniformity. This finally clears the way for the commercial use of old land varieties, which may now be freely marketed. Source:

www.carrefour.com/current-news/forbidden-market-7-months-after-launch



Irish Seed Savers: Fruit DNA Identification Scheme 2018



Historically fruit identification has involved visually examining a fruit and trying to determine its identity from this. As there are thousands of varieties this is an error prone

process and is largely dependent on the level of expertise of the identifier. Advances with DNA fingerprinting now allows us to identify fruits more quickly and more accurately in a laboratory and the Irish Seed Savers collection was fingerprinting between 2014 and 2015. Peter Laws of FruitID in the UK is organising an Apple, Pear and Cherry identification scheme through the East Malling laboratory NIAB-EMR in Kent, UK. See more at: www.fruitid.com. On this

webpage already 413 apple varieties are published. Cobnut, pear and plum will follow see more at: <http://www.irishseedsavers.ie/blog/2018/life-on-the-farm/fruit-dna-identification-scheme-2018/>



Wilderness for whom



Livestock farming has been described by some as a scourge of "natural" landscapes that cause devastation through grazing and browsing. The return to an idealized "wilderness" is seen as a solution whose values are improved aesthetics, tourism, and improved ecosystem services.

This debate covers all of Europe, where the reintroduction and subsequent proliferation of large predators such as bears and wolves is causing much controversy. While tourists in the mountains may be amazed by the sight of a wolf or a bear, others see it as a threat. Furthermore, not everyone is convinced that the advent of forest and scrubland is aesthetic when removing grazing animals. With larger forests the open hills disappear, which were created over centuries by human hands. The debate over how many grazing animals a landscape can tolerate is political and about the control of nature.

Wilderness as an idea originated in the National Park movement in the USA. Yellowstone was the

first and archetypal example. This idea spread through colonialism in Africa, when national parks were founded and locals were excluded there. Some of these game reserves were set up for white settlers to hunt in. Private parks and nature reserves have become playgrounds for a global elite.

Such game reserves are always managed. Fences are set up, certain species introduced, fire and vegetation management systems worked out. Of course it's about biodiversity, but also about aesthetics, economic value and so on. It's about decisions. "Naturalness" is often not one of the themes. But ultimately it's all about which landscape we want and who benefits from it. Where are the livestock owners' voices in all these debates? Whether it's the sheep farmers of Wales or the shepherds of East Africa, they often do not get a voice. Political decisions on the landscape - and thus on livelihoods and economic change - must be shared by everyone, especially the poor and marginalized people who have lived in these areas for centuries.

More about: Ian Scoones; a blog learning from pastoralists on how to respond to uncertainty: <https://pastres.wordpress.com/2018/04/20/wilderness-for-whom-negotiating-the-role-of-livestock-in-landscapes>

In Memoriam of Jean Boyazoglu (1937 – 2018)



On May 17th 2018 Jean Boyazoglu passed away at the age of 81 in Menton (France). Jean Boyazoglu was an expert on small ruminants. He dedicated both his personal and professional life to animal production all around the world. His passions for small ruminants and the Mediterranean were probably rooted in his

Greek and East Mediterranean origin. Jean Boyazoglu received two of France's highest

honors: Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour) and Ordre du Mérite Agricole (Order of Agricultural Merit).

He was one of the founders of IGA. He personally led the negotiations between IGA and Elsevier in the 1980s for the creation of Small Ruminant Research (SRR). Thanks to this initiative, small ruminants received a high-quality scientific review. This shows Jean Boyazoglu's key role in the awareness and importance of sheep and goat production, their sectors, their originality, their specificity and the role they play in many countries where they are also a part of the culture. Jean Boyazoglu was also passionate about wine and cheese: He was President of the Scientific Committee of the European Denominations of Origin for wine in Brussels for many years.