



Positive effects of animal production in France: a preliminary study based on interviews of stakeholders in two contrasted territories

Catherine Disenhaus, Yannick Le Cozler, Michel M. Bonneau

► To cite this version:

Catherine Disenhaus, Yannick Le Cozler, Michel M. Bonneau. Positive effects of animal production in France: a preliminary study based on interviews of stakeholders in two contrasted territories. 62. Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP), Aug 2011, Stavanger, Norway. hal-02745406

HAL Id: hal-02745406

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02745406>

Submitted on 3 Jun 2020

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Local breed farmers providing ecosystem services and sustainable development

Soini, K., MTT, Agrifood research Finland, Economic research, Latokartanonkaari 9, 00790 Helsinki, Finland; katriina.soini@mtt.fi

It is generally agreed that local breeds provide many ecosystem services: provisioning services, regulating services, supporting services and cultural services. It has also been showed that the local breeds contribute to the sustainable development of rural areas and society at large. The production of ecosystem services and sustainable development, in turn, depends on the farmers' motives and willingness to keep the local breeds. So, the question is how the farmers perceive the local breeds and biodiversity of agriculture at large, and what kind of farmers keep local breeds. The ultimate aim of the paper is to show the linkages between the ecosystem services, sustainable development and farmers' perceptions of the breeds. The paper will synthesise the results of qualitative studies related to the farmers' perceptions local breeds and biodiversity of agricultural landscapes more broadly, as well as social and cultural sustainability of rural areas. The data originates from several research projects the author has been involved in, and geographically concerns East Siberia (Yakutia), several European countries and Finland. Based on the results of these case studies comparisons between the perceptions of experts' and farmers' of the values of the local breeds, differences between developing and more advanced societies and preconditions for socially and culturally sustainable local breed farming are discussed. Also a typology of the local breed cattle farmers will be presented. The results show that there are a considerable differences how the experts and farmers perceive biodiversity of agricultural landscapes and local breeds underlining a need for community-based and participatory approaches. On the other hand there is a high diversity of the perceptions of local breeds. This can be seen as strength for the preservation of animal genetic resources, although it also constitutes a challenge for policy making. Moreover, the results also show the differences between developing and more advanced societies.

X **Positive effects of animal production in France: a preliminary study based on interviews of stakeholders in two contrasted territories**

Disenhaus, C.¹, Le Cozler, Y.¹ and Bonneau, M.², ¹Agrocampus Ouest, UMR 1080, 65 rue de Saint Briec, 35042 Rennes, France, ²INRA, UMR 1079, 65 rue de Saint Briec, 35042 Rennes, France; catherine.disenhaus@agrocampus-ouest.fr

Within the frame of a national research project on the evaluation of services provided by livestock productions to territories, this preliminary study evaluates stakeholders' perception of these services in a mountain (Chartreuse in the Alps) and in a plain territory (Brittany: intensive animal production and dense human population). Our hypothesis is that services are the same whatever the territory, but with a different hierarchy of interest according to the territory and the stakeholders. Agrocampus-Ouest master's level students conducted 67 semi-directive interviews with local councillors (14), farmers (13), researchers (10), extension workers (9), ecologists (10), food chain (9) and tourism professionals (2). Additionally, 50 consumers were surveyed when shopping. Animal production was overwhelmingly recognised as a driving force for the social and territorial dynamism, in terms of direct or indirect employment, services, animation... Besides the production function, recognised by all protagonists in both territories, a major role of animal production in rural life maintenance was underlined. Animal production was also seen as part of heritage, mostly natural heritage in Chartreuse, mostly cultural and architectural heritages in Brittany. Its role in the maintenance of natural environments was emphasised in both regions by researchers, consumers and ecologists. The various productions were perceived differently: only ruminants (and associated pastures) are positively perceived in both territories. In Chartreuse, it was systematically noticed that maintaining ruminant production is crucial for landscape preservation. In conclusion, in both territories, most stakeholders perceive positive effects of animal production even though environmental effects were more readily mentioned in Chartreuse than in Brittany.