

Innovative approaches to maintain Romania's HNV farmed landscapes

Fundația ADEPT Transilvania www.fundatia-adept.org

PROBLEMS

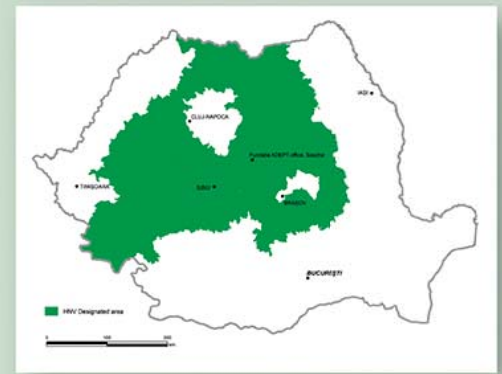
Gains in agricultural productivity in Europe rely on unsustainable levels of inputs, and have come at the cost of significant environmental damage. This is a threat to food security, and to other public goods and ecosystem services. The need to repair these damaged farm ecosystems, to secure our European future, is recognized by the Greening of the CAP 2014-20.

This trend will also extend to parts of Europe whose farm ecosystems are still healthy. The EU recognises the importance of **High Nature Value (HNV)** farmed landscapes, characterised by small and traditional farms, which still supply many valuable public goods and ecosystem services. How can we avoid the same pattern of unsustainable and destructive development being repeated in these better-preserved farm ecosystems?

A SOLUTION

Since 2005 Fundația ADEPT has been implementing a training and information programme in Romania. This has demonstrated that imaginative, integrated use of Rural Development measures can succeed in supporting farmers and communities in sustainably farmed landscapes. **This requires innovative approaches to:**

- **local communication** to overcome barriers to access to measures
- **local advice** to effectively integrate and implement available measures
- **local training** to link measures to commercial initiatives and economic viability.

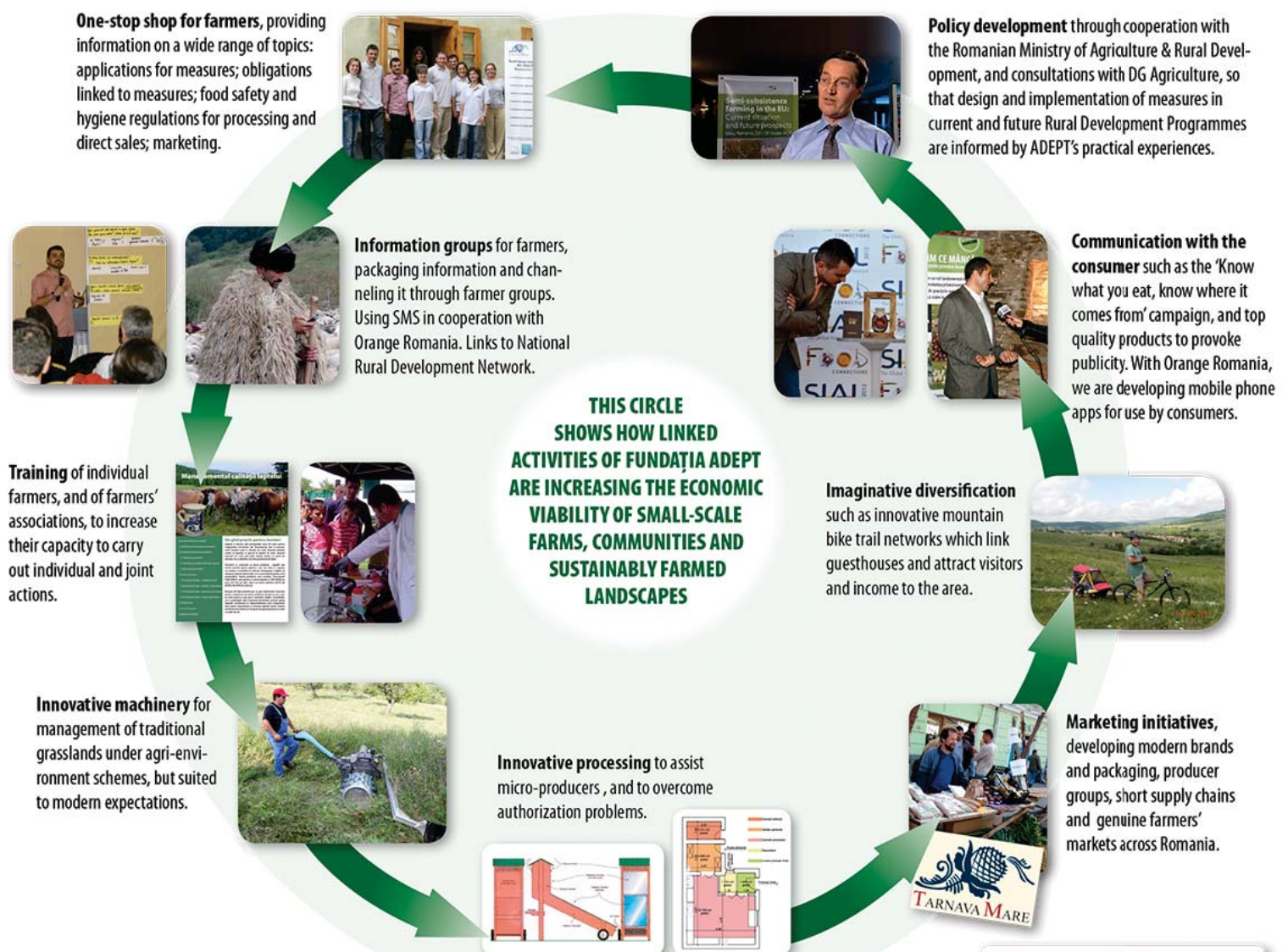


ROMANIA AS A CASE STUDY

There are about 3 million hectares of **High Nature Value** farmland in Romania, managed by hundreds of thousands of farmers. The survival of these rich agricultural ecosystems depends on support for the small-scale farming communities that live within them and maintain them.

Romania has been very successful in implementing agri-environment schemes. But this on its own is not enough to create socio-economic viability in these communities and landscapes.

Romania's, and wider Europe's, HNV farmed landscapes can only be maintained by **INNOVATION** and **INTEGRATION**. The scale of this problem is significant. 30% of the EU's farmland is HNV, extremely important for Europe's environmental and food security, but under threat owing to loss of economic viability.



The impact of this integrated information programme has been remarkable... increased local incomes of over €2m per year for 2,000 small-scale farmers in the Târnavă Mare area, increasing farm viability and community prosperity while supporting sustainable farming practices.

