

DENMARK

Sustainable use of agricultural land

Location

Sønderup Å

Programming period

2007 – 2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 2 – Improving the environment and the countryside

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 38 200
RDP support 28 650
Private 9 550

Project duration

2012 – 2014

Project promoter

Agri Nord

Contact

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Website

www.AgrinORD.dk

A farmers association provided support on planning and facilitation of land stewardship, with particular focus on grazing in Sønderup river valley.

Summary

The Sønderup Å stream valley in Himmerland, Denmark, is a protected area and part of a Natura 2000 designated area. Due to lack of grazing the river valley is threatened by vegetation overgrowth. Previously, nature conservation was mainly coordinated by the North Jutland County. However, after the reform municipalities and regions, coordination had been absent.



In order to cover this gap, the farmers' association 'Agri Nord' organised a project to enable coordination on nature conservation and promote different landscape management options to the landowners in the valley. Activities included a series of meetings and exchanges with a wide range of stakeholders. Participants included landowners, animal holders, civil unions or similar associations in small independent groups, which over time would serve as grazing associations. This process aimed to establish an overview of the areas in need of grazing, the relevant animals to ensure this grazing, and also bring together landowners in shared fencing practices for grazing of bigger areas.

Results

The project helped raise awareness among farmers on how to optimize the grazing conditions, and how grazing can improve the conditions for flora and fauna in the valley.

As a result of this project 14 different landowners set up common fencing around their land within the valley. In some cases, the fencing was combined with clearing of the land and agreements between the owners of the land and the owners of animals on grazing arrangements.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The proactive and supportive involvement of the association ensured that a good result was reached. This was work that needed to be done, but it would not have happen "on its own"/ "by itself". To make it happen, it was necessary that somebody would take the responsibility to initiate, coordinate and support this work.
- ❑ The project showed that the best results are achieved when the facilitation is done in cooperation with the municipalities and farmers advisory groups.
- ❑ Despite very limited funding, such projects that bring together different stakeholders can have a significant impact. For example, many fencing projects in Sønderup Stream Vallue would not have been realised without this project.

Context

The Sønderup Å stream valley in Himmerland, Denmark, is a protected area and part of a Natura 2000 designated area. Due to lack of grazing the river valley is threatened by vegetation overgrowth. Previously, nature conservation was mainly coordinated by the North Jutland County. However, after the reform municipalities and regions, coordination had been absent.

Objectives

In order to cover this gap, the farmers' association 'Agri Nord' organised a project to enable coordination on nature conservation and promote different landscape management options to the landowners in the valley.

Activities

Activities included a series of meetings and exchanges with a wide range of stakeholders. Participants included landowners, animal holders, civil unions or similar associations in small independent groups, which over time would serve as grazing associations. This process aimed to establish an overview of the areas in need of grazing, the relevant animals to ensure this grazing, and also bring together landowners in shared fencing practices for grazing of bigger areas.

Main results

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Key lessons

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Additional sources of information

n/a