

CONTEXT PROFILE



FARMER

Helmut Premstaller



INNOVATION

Implementation of grazing with local cattle breed on steep terrain



[Video](#)



MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Improvement of grassland management



SOIL TYPE

Sand



FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Low



AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Alpine



MANAGEMENT

Pasture Dairy



MARKET

Local-rural



CLIMATE

Little rainfall



TECHNICAL

Easy



SOCIAL

Part-time farmer

CONTEXT PROFILE

ITALY

Case Study: IT_06	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Access to local consumer markets to practice direct marketing	+++	++	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+
Adopt short daily grazing times to cope, with steep slopes and limited grazing area	+++	X	X	+	X	X	X	+	+
Availability of grazing paddocks directly connected to the stable	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

+++ Strong transferability ++ Slightly limited transferability + Very limited transferability X Generic information/not relevant

Implementation Gaps

- Too high investment costs, extra labour for direct marketing, marketing skills and market required
- Management attractive only in contexts in which farmers receive subsidies for meadow management and need to maintain the meadow status combining mowing and grazing. Otherwise, the management could be more intensive
- Feasible only for farms with paddocks adjacent to the stable for short walking distances
- Short-sward pasture on steep mountain slopes with risks of summer drought is usually not recommended because of potential overgrazing of areas with favourable topography and undergrazing of less favourable slopes. Therefore, only feasible for stable-feeding farms who want to include grazing as a dietary supplement rather than the dietary basis

Research Gaps

- None

Suggestions to Adapt

- Implement more easily with a half-day-grazing system, sending the animals out to graze specifically when they are hungry to induce competitive grazing and utilise the available herbage most efficiently and stimulate continuous grass growth on a short-sward pasture
- During grazing, reduce CP content of concentrates because of high CP contents in grass; reduce fluctuating rumen conditions due to changes between pasture and stable feed
- Switch to winter block calvings to compensate nutritional demand with concentrates; spring block calving may cause too competitive grazing on small paddock

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	low
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	low
• Initial advisory costs	low
• Initial buildings and machineries	low
• Initial certification costs	low
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	low

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	low
On-going certification costs	low
On-going buildings and machinery costs	low
On-going working capital	low

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

◦ Economic

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	none or low
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	high
Payback period	high
Product value added	none or low
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	not applicable/not known

◦ Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	none or low
Biodiversity increase	none or low
Improved nitrogen cycling	none or low
Soil regeneration	none or low
Animal health and welfare improvement	high

◦ Social

Workload reduction	none or low
Engagement of young generation	none or low

Literature

National Language

- Comparison of half-day and full grazing systems (in German): https://www.lfl.bayern.de/mam/cms07/publikationen/daten/schriftenreihe/vergleich-vollweide-stundenweide_lfl-schriftenreihe.pdf
- Bulletin for successful grazing (in German): <https://www.fibl.org/fileadmin/documents/shop/cover/1714.pdf>