

CONTEXT PROFILE

 PORTUGAL



FARMER

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INNOVATION

Improvement of the grasslands through liming
and by clearing bush vegetation



[Video](#)



MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Improvement of plant protection



SOIL TYPE

Loam



FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Mid



AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Mediterranean south



MANAGEMENT

Ley farming



MARKET

Local-rural



CLIMATE

Moderate rainfall



TECHNICAL

Easy



SOCIAL

Full-time farmer

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Case Study: PT_05	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Liming – dolomite lime	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+++	+++
Applying new organic fertiliser	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
Introducing legumes	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
Organic	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
Forestry management	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+++	+++
Irrigation	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++

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

Implementation Gaps

- Is Irrigation Necessary for Pasture Growth?
- Depends on regional climate: In temperate regions, well-managed grasslands may not require irrigation, while in arid and Mediterranean areas, supplemental irrigation could be needed to ensure consistent pasture growth.
- Soil type matters: Sandy soils drain quickly and may require irrigation, whereas clay soils retain more moisture.
- Alternative water management: Practices like rotational grazing, cover cropping, and improving soil organic matter can enhance water retention, reducing the need for irrigation.
- Animal Welfare as a Social Advantage - Access to natural grazing: Allows for species-specific behaviors, reducing stress.
- Novel Organic Fertilizer – Composition & Cost
- Clear Legume and Grass Seed Mix Composition;
- What is the increase in grassland productivity
- What is the increase in animal production

Research Gaps

- Evidence of improved animal welfare
- Information about the organic fertiliser – influence on herbage production and quality and animal performance. Also soil characteristics. How much lime? When is it applied?
- Best grass seed mix

Suggestions to Adapt

- Demonstration
- Adapt the grassland seed mix to local particularities & needs
- Decide if irrigation is needed;

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	not applicable/not known
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	low
• Initial advisory costs	low
• Initial buildings and machineries	not applicable/not known
• Initial certification costs	not applicable/not known
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	not applicable/not known

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	low
On-going certification costs	not applicable/not known
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.	mid
Payback period	not applicable/not known
Product value added	not applicable/not known
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	high

◦ Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	high
Biodiversity increase	mid
Improved nitrogen cycling	high
Soil regeneration	high
Animal health and welfare improvement	mid

◦ Social

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

Literature

English

- <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy11030514>
- <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/9/3758>
- https://doi.org/10.3920/9789086865680_021