Are land managers on the way to multifunctionality? Application to a case study in Southern Portugal.

Daniela Costa1*, Teresa Pinto-Correia2, Isabel Rodrigo3

1Universidade de Évora, 2ICAAM-Instituto de Ciências Agrárias e Ambientais do Mediterrâneo, 3Universidade Técnica de Lisboa-Instituto Superior de Agronomia * email: danielaslcosta@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: Acknowledging the MONTADOS and DEHESAS as High Value Nature Farming Systems. 6-8 February 2013 Évora, Portugal

BACKGROUND

Agriculture is facing great changes: Farm income has decreased due to:
- progressive cuts of production subsidies
- rise of input prices
- fluctuations in the price of agriculture products.

Are there any novel strategies for the survival of farms?

Transition Theory: the theoretical tool to understand and analyse the complex interaction between socio-economic, political and environmental elements of the agricultural process change.

Productivism: Orientation of agricultural activity for the sole purpose of producing food and fiber in quantity

Post-Productivism: Reduction of agricultural intensification, greater emphasis on the role of rural areas for consumption activities (tourism, leisure, ...) and on food quality and sustainability of natural resources

The farms may adopt different ways of transition paths, nonlinear (post-Productivism is not necessary after productivism), heterogeneous (not all geographical areas are liable to adopt identical transitions), progressive, differentiated and complex (not all production units are liable to adopt similar transition agricultural processes).

STUDY AREA: MONTEMOR-O-NOVO

- Demand for the countryside
- Multiple management options and land managers profiles
- People from urban areas of Portugal/other countries develop innovative land management strategies

Large areas of montado High Nature Value

- High conservation value
- Support for multiple functions (forest-grazing, hunting, beekeeping, tourism...)

EXPECTED RESULTS – LAND MANAGER TYPOLOGIES IN MONTADO

1 TRADITIONAL FARMERS
- Supporters of polyvalent agriculture with mixed production on each farm

2 INTENSIVE PRODUCERS
- Supporters of agriculture as an economic activity oriented for maximum profit

3 EXTENSIVE PRODUCERS
- Conservationist about the uniqueness and fragility of the montado ecosystem

4 MULTIFUNCTIONAL PRODUCERS
- Supporters of sustainable agricultural production

- Specialization of production: cork and cattle
- Subsidies: Pillar I
- Use of agrochemicals

- Specialization of production: Intensification of production

- Specialization of production: cork and cattle
- Integrated production to increased income
- Maximization of subsidies

ATTITUDES

- Specialization of production: cork and cattle
- Promotion of other activities such as tourism, hunting, beekeeping
- Commitment to quality products, extensive systems, autochthonous breeds

BEHAVIOURS

- Transformation of products

THE QUESTION UNDER ANALYSIS

Productivist management strategies
- Environmental problems for the montado
- Are land managers adopting post-productivist management strategies? for the survival of farms?
- for the preservation of montado?

METHODOLOGY

Method of survey by questionnaire:
- external factors, biophysical factors, attitudes, behaviors and externalities
- 119 land managers.

DISCUSSION

Attitudes: All groups present social and environmental preoccupations (jobs, soil, montado, water lines, density of animals...)

Behaviours: They are very concentrated in CAP – profitable income

High density of animals

Environmental degradation in montado and others resources

Group 5-Multifunctional Producers presented differentiated strategies of management

CONCLUSIONS

Transition from the productivism to post-productivism?
- Only one group presented post-productivist attitudes and behaviours
- The process of transition is not evident!

For next studies: to clarify the concept of productivism! Productivism in Portugal is different to other countries of EU.

References

