Learning from multifunctionality of livestock farming to foster sustainability: a case study in South Eastern France

Lasseur Jacques (a), Garçon Lucile (a), Muller Jean Pierre (b), Bousquet François (b), Maizi Pascale (c)
(a) SELMET, Université Montpellier, INRA, Montpellier SupAgro, CIRAD, 34000, Montpellier, France
(b) GREEN, Université Montpellier, CIRAD, 34000, Montpellier, France
(c) GREG, Université Montpellier, Montpellier SupAgro, 34000, Montpellier, France

In a territorial sustainability perspective and to meet SDGs, it is needed, for maintaining a specific activity, first to ensure renewal of resources it relies on but also to consider relationship with other stakeholders and foster its own abilities to cope with the interest of these stakeholders. We assume that using a multifunctional framework of activities foster these abilities and help stakeholder to envision future.

From the framework elaborated within action network "restoring value to grassland", we organized focus group of stakeholders at regional level to foster abilities of a large range of actors interested with livestock activities (from livestock sector, environment, local development and local elected) in identifying main issues to address future of livestock farming and foster sustainability.

Livestock farming in Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region:

2500 livestock farmers (mainly meat sheep farming)
- A weak contribution to economic value of food products
- But 70% of farming surfaces linked to livestock farming (pastoral)
- Strong public supports almost justified on multifunctionality
- Once considered as « environnementally friendly », contribution of pastoralism is now controversial

Debates using videos to share gazes, discuss points of view.

Stakeholders and arguments reshaping multifunctionality and future of livestock farming:

Mains outputs

- A multifunctional framework helps to confront centrifugal arguments about future of livestock farming and to redefining conditions of its future sustainability
- Such confrontations of stakeholders point of views have to be accompanied
- Depending on institutional belonging, narrow views on the activity are expressed and are contested by farmers. These last are fighting for a more integrative one and to keep control of their future.
- In our situations multifunctionality is narrowly connected to multiple use of land and is so define by attributes of local values