

## **AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL SUBSIDIES IN HARGHITA COUNTY, ROMANIA (DILEMMAS AND PROBLEMS)**

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Agriculture is the main landscape forming element in Seklerland in the last centuries, a fact that resulted in a very varied mosaic landscape.

The mosaic landscape is home for a complex biodiversity, which can be measured both in plant and animal diversity. Agriculture is represented in this hilly/mountainous area by small size, subsistence and semi-subsistence farms. The local farmers are not specialized on a specific product, they have livestock (cow, horse, pigs and poultry) and also crops in their production.

As a result of the EU accession these small farms are forced to grow and specialize, which can result in loss of biodiversity. The utilization of EU subsidies is good, a little bit higher than the national average, but we will show in the presentation the lack of the Paying Agencies monitoring activities.

The information for farmers is weak; they didn't get any specialized information on agri-environmental programs or on other good practices in the field of environmentally friendly agriculture. Most of the farmers don't have even the most basic information on the agri-environmental program, goals and practices, so the results are not measurable and positive.