



KLIIMAMINISTEERIUM



KESKKONNAAMET



MAASTIKE
ELURIKKUSE
TÖÖRÜHM



RESULT-BASED SUPPORT PILOT ACTIVITY IN THE SEMINATURAL GRASSLANDS SUBSIDY SCHEME IN ESTONIA

Annaliisa Kaaremaa - Environmental Board



LIFE IP ForEst&FarmLand, LIFE18 IPE/EE/000007

Management regulations of Estonian seminatural grasslands

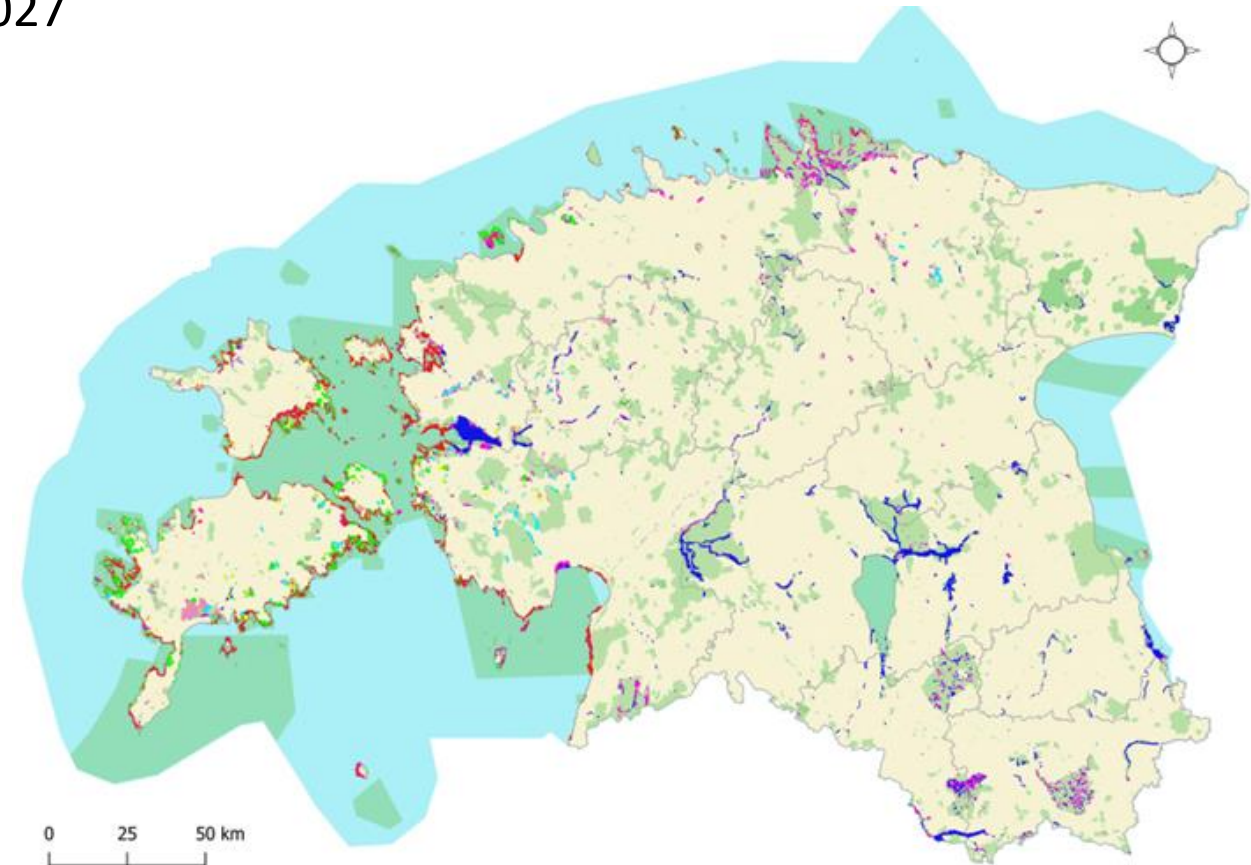
- ~80 000 ha of semi-natural grasslands on protected areas, only half managed
- Goal is to increase from 42 000 to 50 000 ha by 2027

National semi-natural grassland
subsidy scheme



Restrictions from protection
management plans or species
action plans

- ❖ There is no well-working personalized counselling system
- ❖ Biodiversity is not communicated as an economic outcome for farmers and public
- ❖ Payments are too low to cover the minimum required costs



Estonian semi-natural habitats

(Hybrid) result-based support system piloting on 500 ha coastal and flooded meadows



Lead by **Estonian Environmental Board**, partner is **University of Tartu**

Work-process:

1. Selecting pilot sites and preparing an individual action plan for each land manager (hybrid system)
2. Preparation of scorecards (structure + species) and guides
3. Trainings for learning species and filling out the scorecards
4. Biodiversity monitoring by experts
5. Evaluation of the success and applicability of results-based payment scheme

- ❖ We do NOT test different payment levels according to the received result (lack of finances). Participants get **extra 15 eur/ha** for being part of the piloting activity
- ❖ The money comes from the **CAP** not from the LIFE-IP project

Selecting pilot sites and preparing action plans

- **500 ha of coastal and flooded meadows** were selected
- **10 managers**
- Selected grasslands have **problems** which require flexible management plan
- An **action plan** considering site specificity and manager capabilities was made
- **Cooperation** with managers, Environmental Board and University of Tartu



Selecting pilot sites and preparing action plans

Example of action plan (1): Matsalu flooded meadow – problem with *Anthriscus sylvestris* and *Angelica archangelica* dominance despite regular mowing

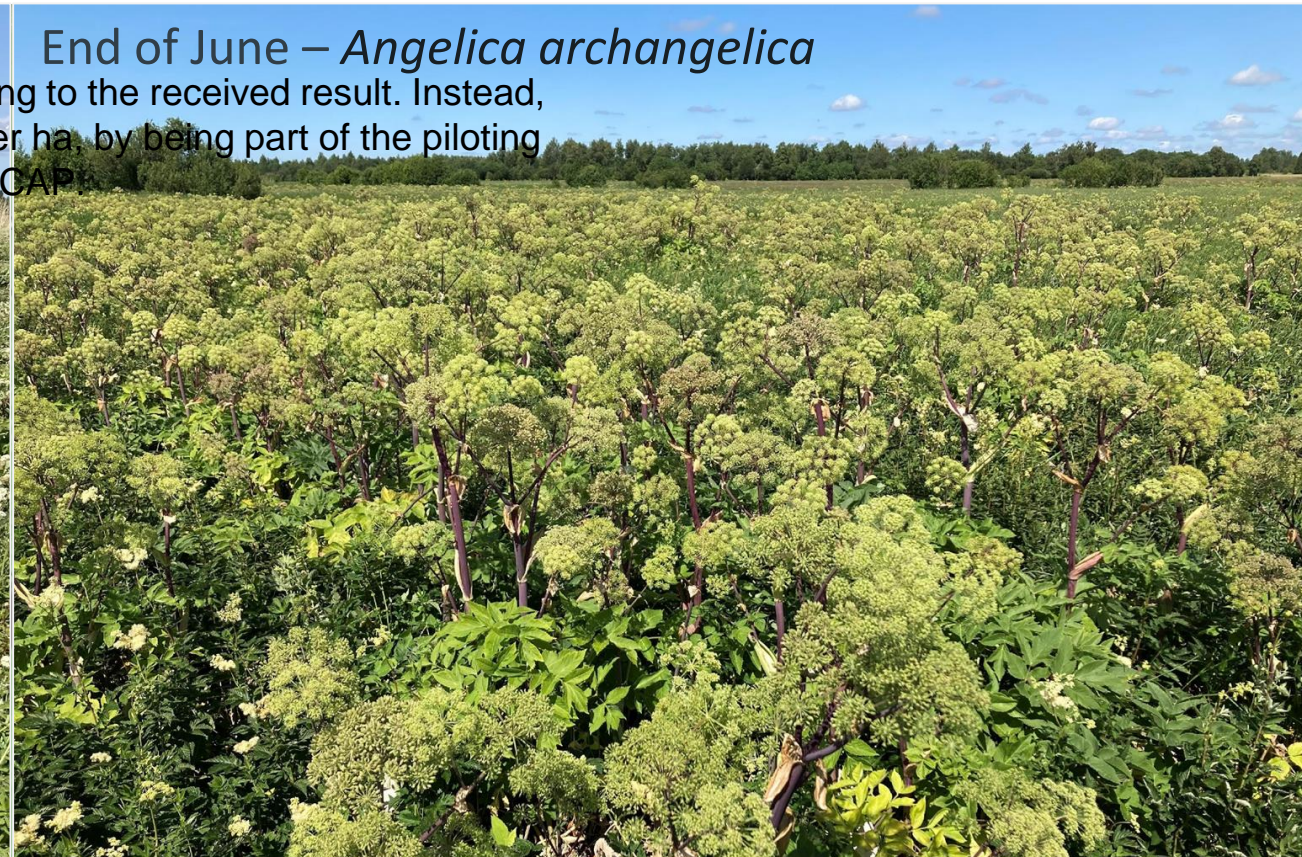
- We test earlier mowing, twice a year, to weaken the expansive sp population and reduce their seeds production

Beginning of June – *Anthriscus sylvestris*

test different payment levels according to the received result. Instead, managers get just an extra 15 eur per ha, by being part of the piloting activity. The money comes from the CAP.



End of June – *Angelica archangelica*



In addition to following the action plan participants need to fill out the SCORECARDS

Scorecard consists **4 parts**:

- A** – background information
- B** – condition of the grassland
- C** – species composition
- D** – feedback

- ❖ Scorecard needs to be filled out across whole site
- ❖ Online forms available

D. Tagasiside

D1. Kas täiendasid hindamisankeeti hooldusperioodi jooksul mitmel korral?

Jooni alla.	Jah	Ei
-------------	-----	----

D2. Kui palju kulus Sul hindamisankeedi täitmiseks ja täiendamiseks aega?

Märgi ligikaudne ajakulu minutites. Kui täiendad ankeeti hooldusperioodi jooksul mitmel korral, siis lisa vastavalt ka iga täiendamise ajakulu.

Esmakordse täitmise ajakulu:	Täiendamiste ajakulu:
Soovi korral täpsusta, kas see ajakulu oli Sulle liiga suur või jõukohane:	

D3. Kui lihtne või keeruline oli hindamisankeedi küsimustele vastata?

Jooni alla.	Väga keeruline	Pigem keeruline	Nii ja naa	Üsna lihtne	Väga lihtne
-------------	----------------	-----------------	------------	-------------	-------------

Kui ankeedi küsimustele oli keeruline vastata, siis lisa selgitus:

Alljärgnevad ankeedi küsimused ja/või juhendi punktid vajaksid lihtsustamist või ümbersõnastamist:

D4. Kas Sulle on oluline tunda enda hooldatava pärandniidu väärtusi, mis on seotud elurikkuse ja elupaiga seisundiga?

Jooni alla.	Väga oluline	Pigem oluline	Pigem ebaoluline	Ei ole üldse oluline	Ei oska vastata
-------------	--------------	---------------	------------------	----------------------	-----------------

Soovi korral lisa kommentaar:

D5. Kas Sinu arvates sobib niitude hooldamise puhul paremini tulemuspõhise või tegevuspõhise toetuse süsteem?

Tulemuspõhine toetus - hooldajale pole ette antud tegevusi ega reegleid pärandniidu hooldamiseks; toetus oleneb hooldustulemusest: mida parem on niidu seisund ja suurem elurikkus, seda suurem on toetus.

Tegevuspõhine toetus - hooldaja saab toetust ettekirjutatud tegevuste täitmise eest; toetuse suurus on enne kindlaks määratud ning see ei olene niidu eripäradest ega elupaiga ja elurikkuse seisundist.

Jooni alla.	Pigem tulemuspõhine toetus	Mõlemad sobivad	Neid tuleb omavahel kombineerida	Pigem etteantud tegevuste/reeglite põhine toetus
-------------	----------------------------	-----------------	----------------------------------	--

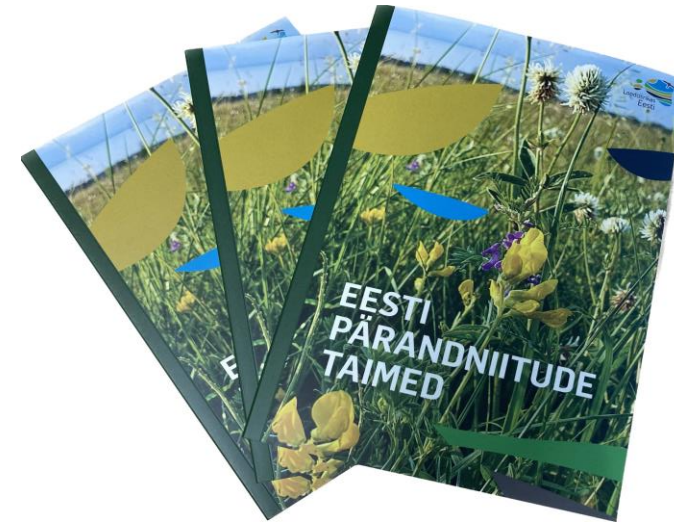
Soovi korral lisa kommentaar:

Trainings

- ❖ 10 managers have individual trainings to fill out the scorecard every year



ForEst &
FarmLand



Biodiversity monitoring in pilot sites 2023 and 2027

- Vascular plants – 1x1 m squares + full list
- Birds across whole site
- Soil DNA, bulk density, geochemistry



Evaluation of the methodology and applicability of results based payment scheme in Estonia

- Comparison of scorecards – managers vs experts
- Whether the scorecard point system is appropriate and in accordance with the site status and biodiversity
- Calculation of payment levels
- Have different management techniques helped to increase biodiversity in pilot areas?
- Which support system managers prefer?

❖ Evaluation will be done in 2027



Additional value assessment activity for all managers

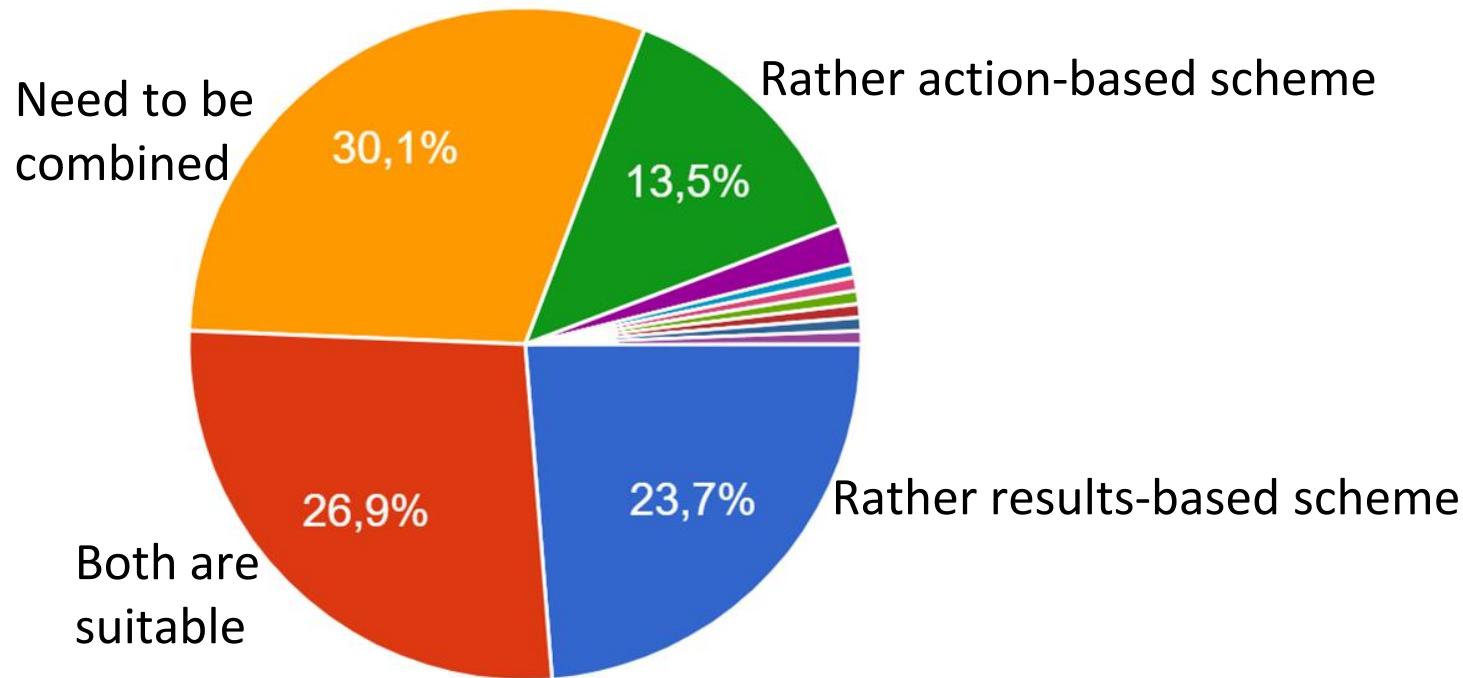
- **Payment 10 eur/ha** for filling out the scorecard, knowing plant species is voluntary
- To **advertise and train managers** for future results-based system
- Includes **all managers and grassland types**
- **Since 2023**

- ❖ **287 managers** chose this activity in 2024 out of ~800
- ❖ **5 training days a year** for filling out the scorecards and learning the plant species

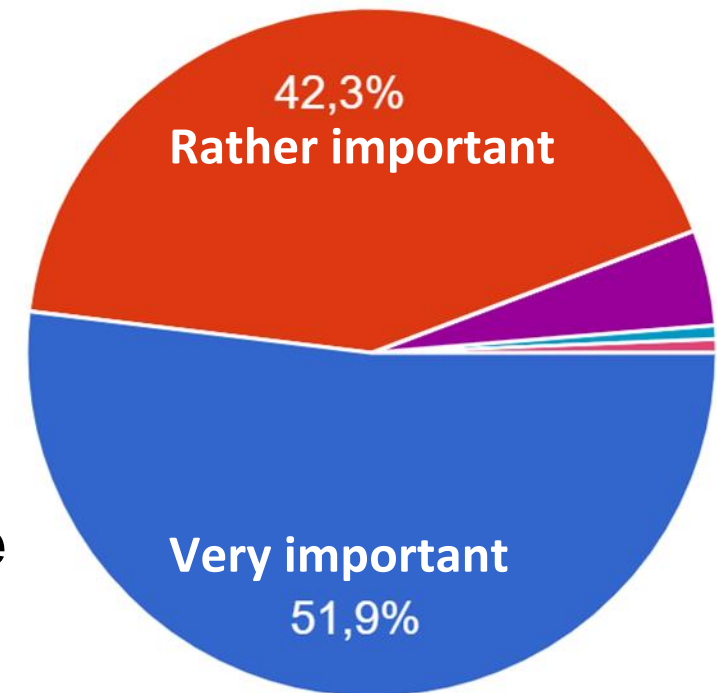


First feedback from managers

- ❖ **Most of the participating managers are not against results-based scheme (N=156)**

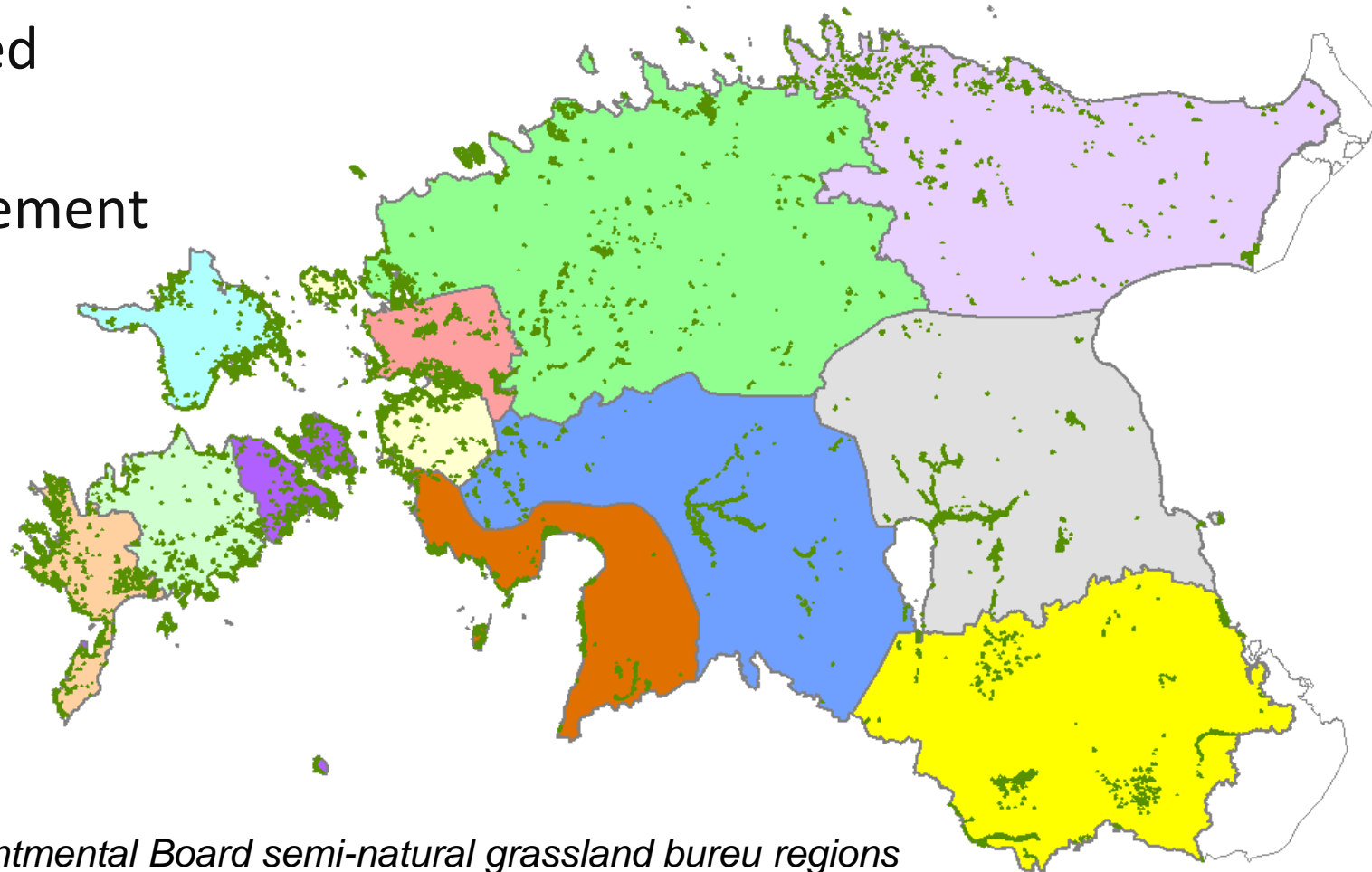


- ❖ **It's important for managers to know the values of their land (N=156)**



How the scheme can be upscaled to reach more farmers

- Efficient and user-friendly IT system
- Comprehensive communication plan
- Development of personalized counselling system
- Reallocation of land management specialists tasks



Estonia Environmental Board semi-natural grassland bureau regions

Key messages



KESKKONNAAMET



- ❖ **Payments according to the results** together with effective **personalized counselling system** and **habitat-specific trainings** can be key for a successful, motivating and long-term management of semi-natural grasslands
- ❖ **Biodiversity** needs to be communicated as an **economic outcome**, which could be more understandable and motivating for farmers to continue extensive management instead of intensive
- ❖ **Payments** need to be high enough to **cover the costs** of extensive management of semi-natural grasslands (income is smaller in Estonia)

