

Grasslands, biodiversity and business: Boreal grassland products as value-added agriculture

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I. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the added values of semi-natural grassland produced products?
2. Are the added values used in marketing SNG products?
3. Designing a framework for assessing and communicating added values for SNG products.

II. METHODS

1. Literature Review

Review of:

meat, dairy, honey, grass products, medicinal plants.

2. Case Studies

Examples for:

meat, dairy, TEXTILES, honey, grass products, medicinal plants.

3. Framework for Assessment

Tests for:

meat, dairy, honey, grass products, medicinal plants.

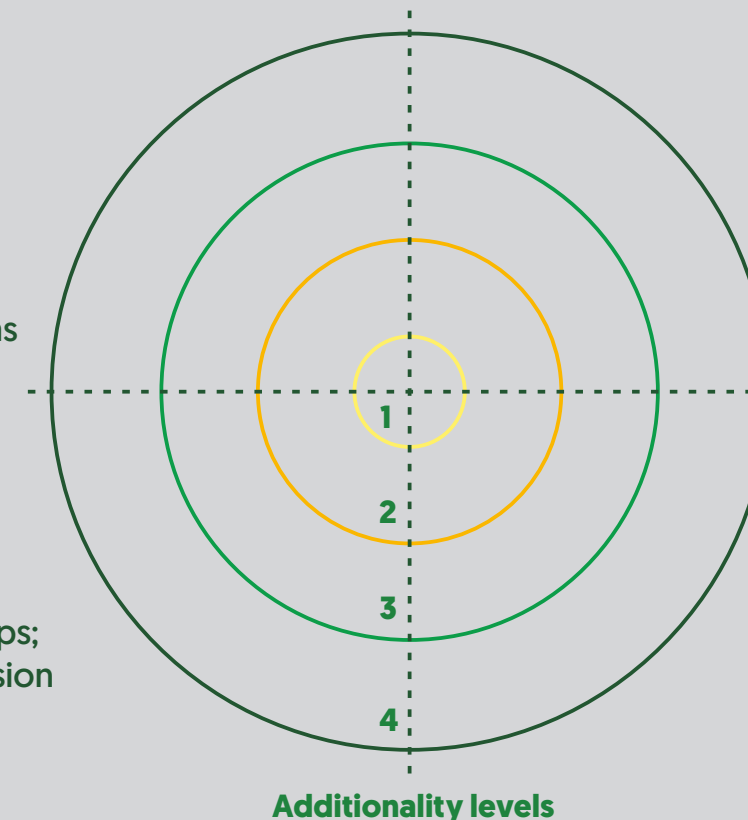
III. FRAMEWORK

Biodiversity & environmental benefits

- Biodiversity;
- Ecosystem function;
- Ecosystem services;
- Sustaining grassland systems (abandonment avoided).

Social benefits

- Equitable trade & viability of small farms;
- Income for vulnerable groups;
- Contribution to social cohesion & community wellbeing



1= Negligible 2= Low 3= Moderate 4= High

Animal welfare benefits

- 5-freedoms;
- quality of life scale;
- species specific criteria.

Health benefits

- Compositional differences favourable to health;
- Reduced agri-chemical, pollutant, adulterant, or pathogenic risk;
- Product traceability may also be included.

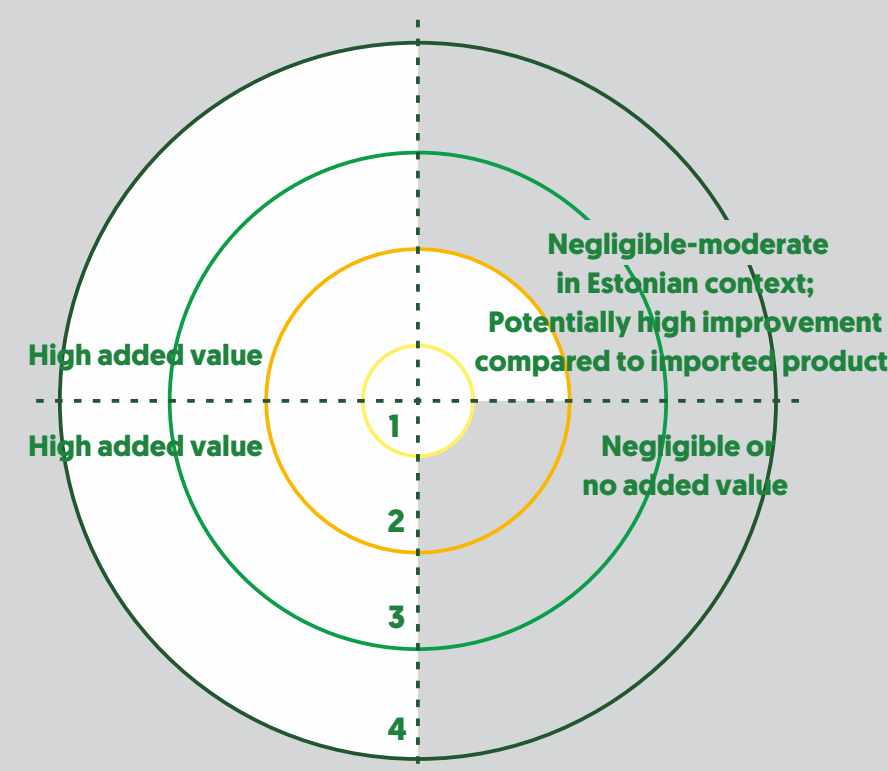
IV. EXAMPLE

Biodiversity & environmental benefits

The wool processing directly supports semi-natural grazing (alvars and wooded meadows) of high nature value farmlands.

Social benefits

Local production boosts local economy and is an important part of the sheep value chain on the islands; The factory and sales have tourism and cultural heritage components.



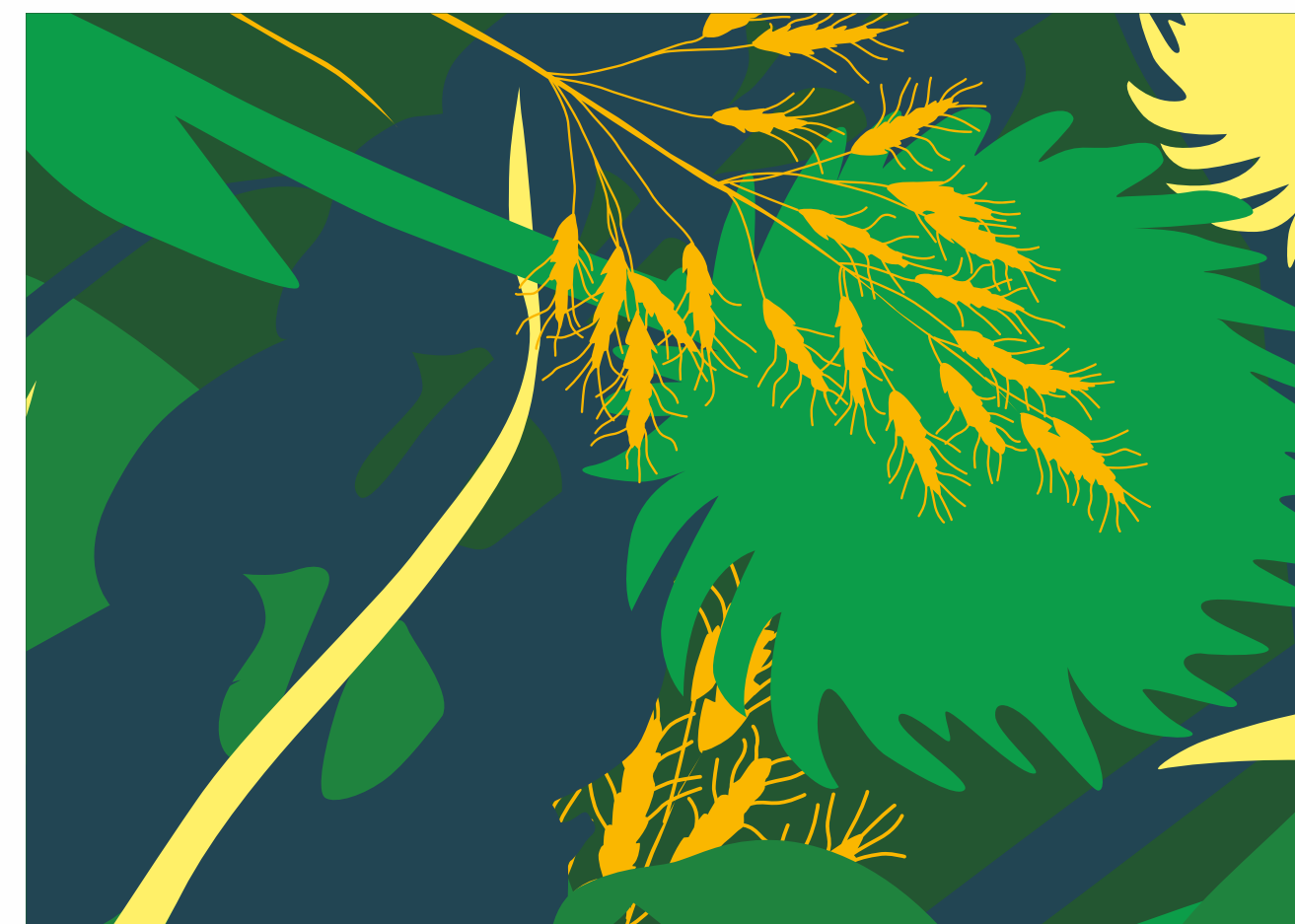
Animal welfare benefits

Wool is from local animals that graze outdoors most of the year.

Health benefits

Not relevant/ comparable to other wool

V. PUBLICATION



The study was prepared as part of the EU-LIFE-funded project, 'GrassLIFE: Restoring EU priority grasslands and promoting their multiple use' (LIFE16 NAT/LV/262). GrassLIFE is led by the Latvian Fund for Nature and focuses on developing, optimising and improving the conservation status of five EU priority grasslands in Latvia. This report contributes to the project objective of improving the economic aspects of sustainable grassland management

