

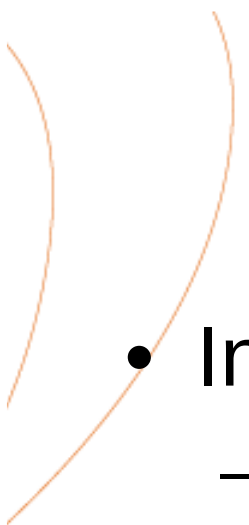


The challenge of sustainability for local breeds and traditional systems: dairy sheep in the Basque Country (Spain)



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EAAP - Barcelona - 24th August 2009



Guidelines

- Introduction:
 - Basque Country
 - Sustainability
 - Dairy Sheep
 - Local Breeds
 - System:
 - Programmes: Improvement & Sustainability
 - Challenges
 - Conclusions
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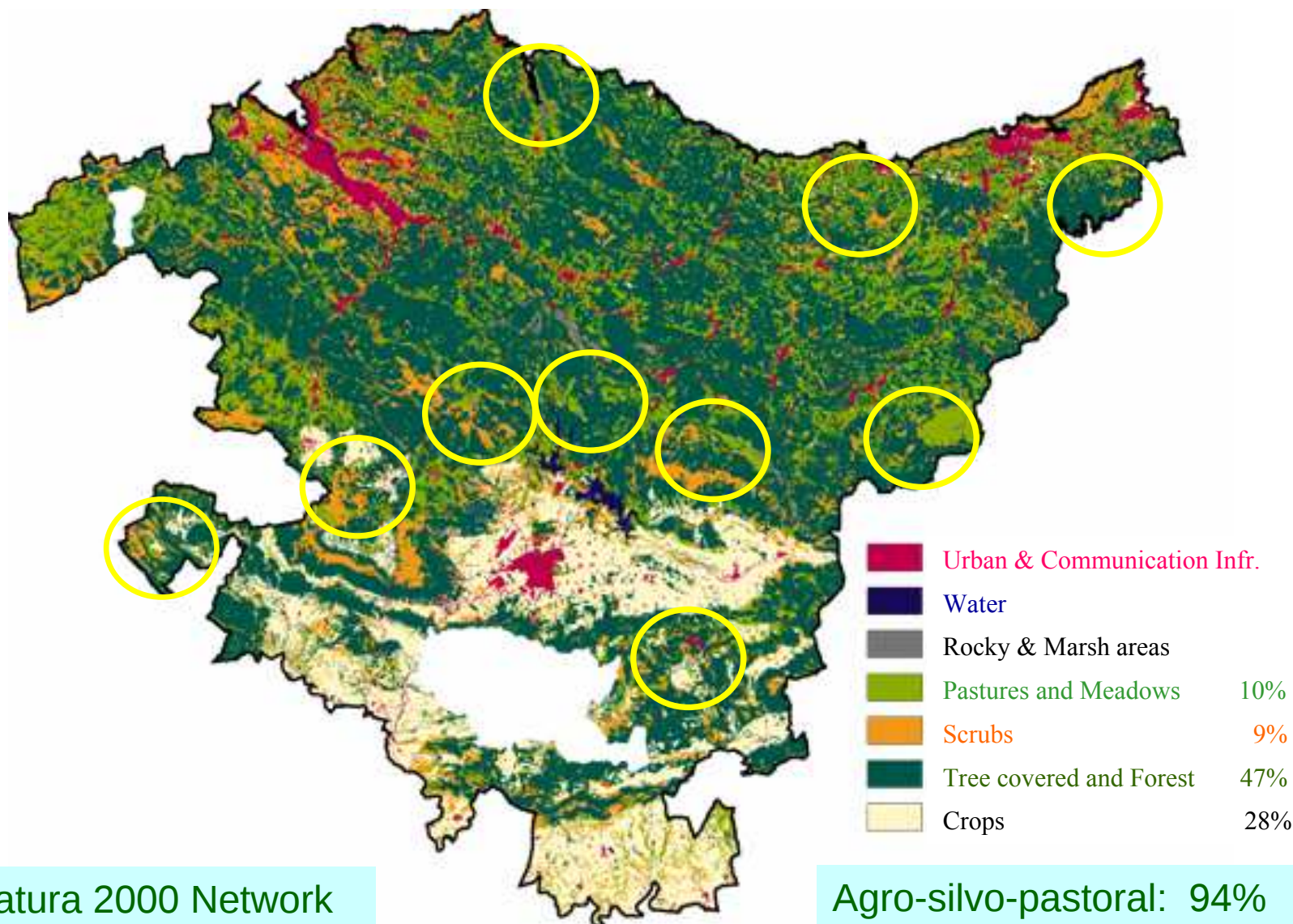
Introduction



Introduction



Land uses



Sustainability

Productive

Fair

Adaptable

ECONOMIC

SOCIAL

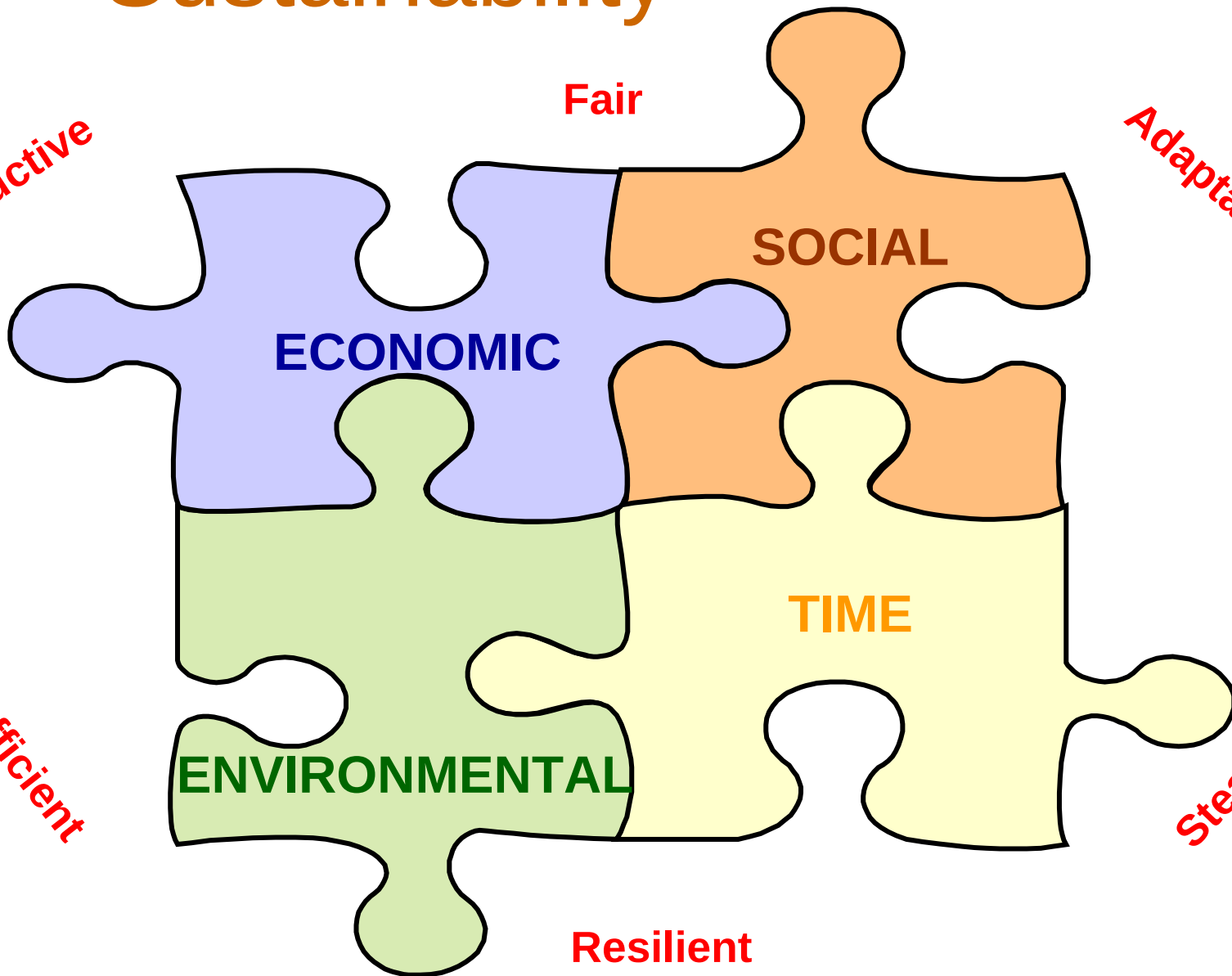
Self-sufficient

TIME

ENVIRONMENTAL

Steady

Resilient



Main actors



Local Breeds: Features

- Live Weight: 50 - 65 kg
- Rustic = Well Adapted:
grazing, humidity, cold & slopes.
- Low prolificacy: 1.1 to 1.4 lambs / year
- Milk yield:
 - 1981: < 100 l.
 - 2009: > 180 l.
 - Breeding scheme: + 3% annual improvement

Latxa Black Faced



Basque Country
147.207 sheep
3.503 flocks

Navarre
100.088 sheep
985 flocks



Latxa Blonde Faced



170.502 sheep
3.393 flocks

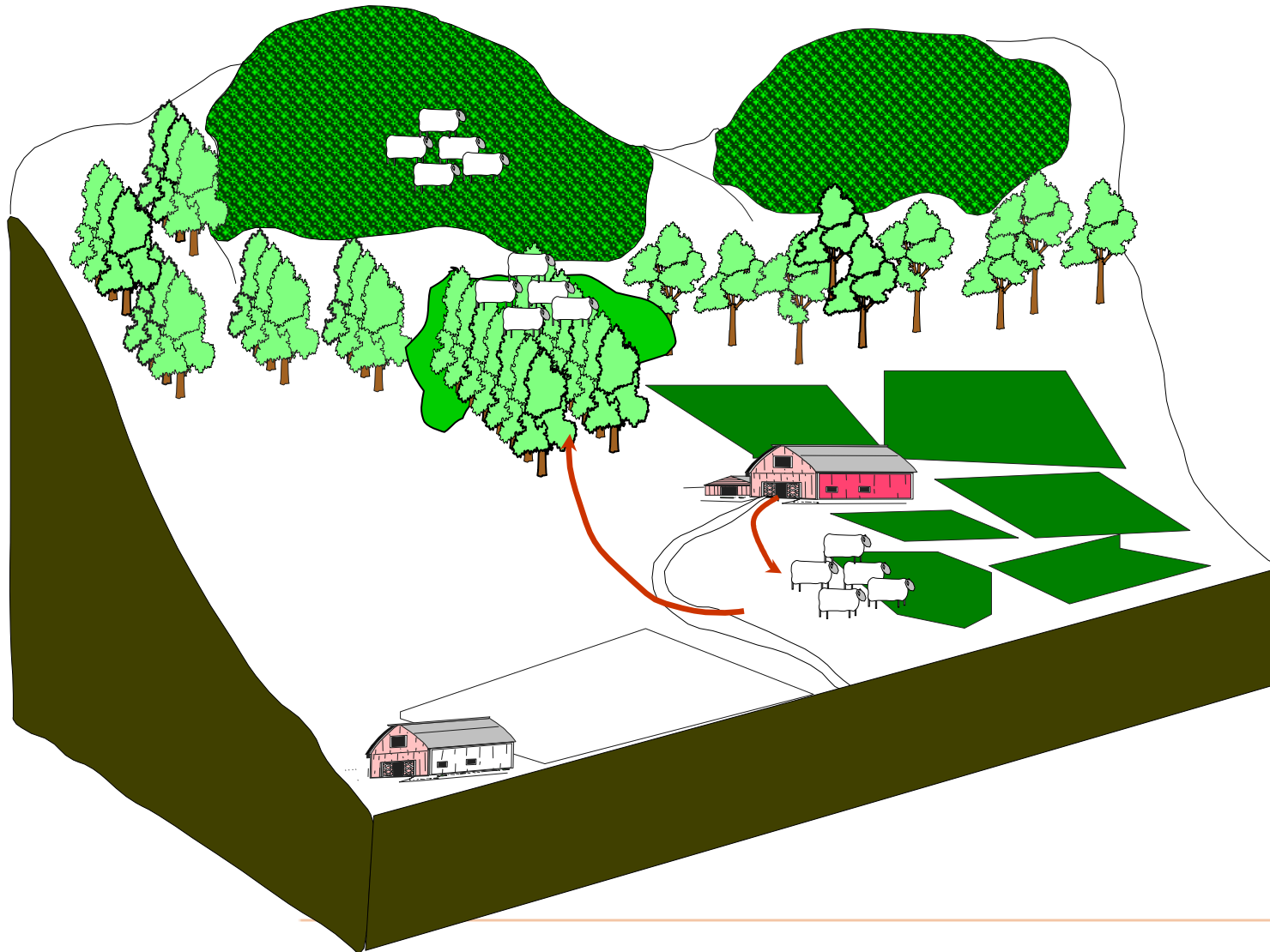
Carranzana



10.720 sheep
601 flocks



Traditional System: Transhumance





Livestock Farming

Improvement Programmes

Sustainability



- 
-
- **1981. Farmer's Associations**
 - Health: brucellosis, tuberculosis, agalactia,...
 - Reproduction
 - **1984. Breeding Scheme:**
 - Milk recording programme
 - Artificial Insemination centre
 - **Added Value & Quality Products:**
 - **1987.** P.D.O. Idiazabal cheese
 - Payment for milk quality
 - **1993.** Quality Label: Young lamb (10 kg LW)
- 
-

- **Management Centres:**

Cooperatives to provide advisory to farmers:

- 1971 Lurgintza; 1984 Lorra...Sergal, Abelur
- Feeding, Reproduction, Pastures management (fertilization, re-seeding,etc.), technical and economical management

- **Research and Development**

- 1981. Neiker - Tecnalia

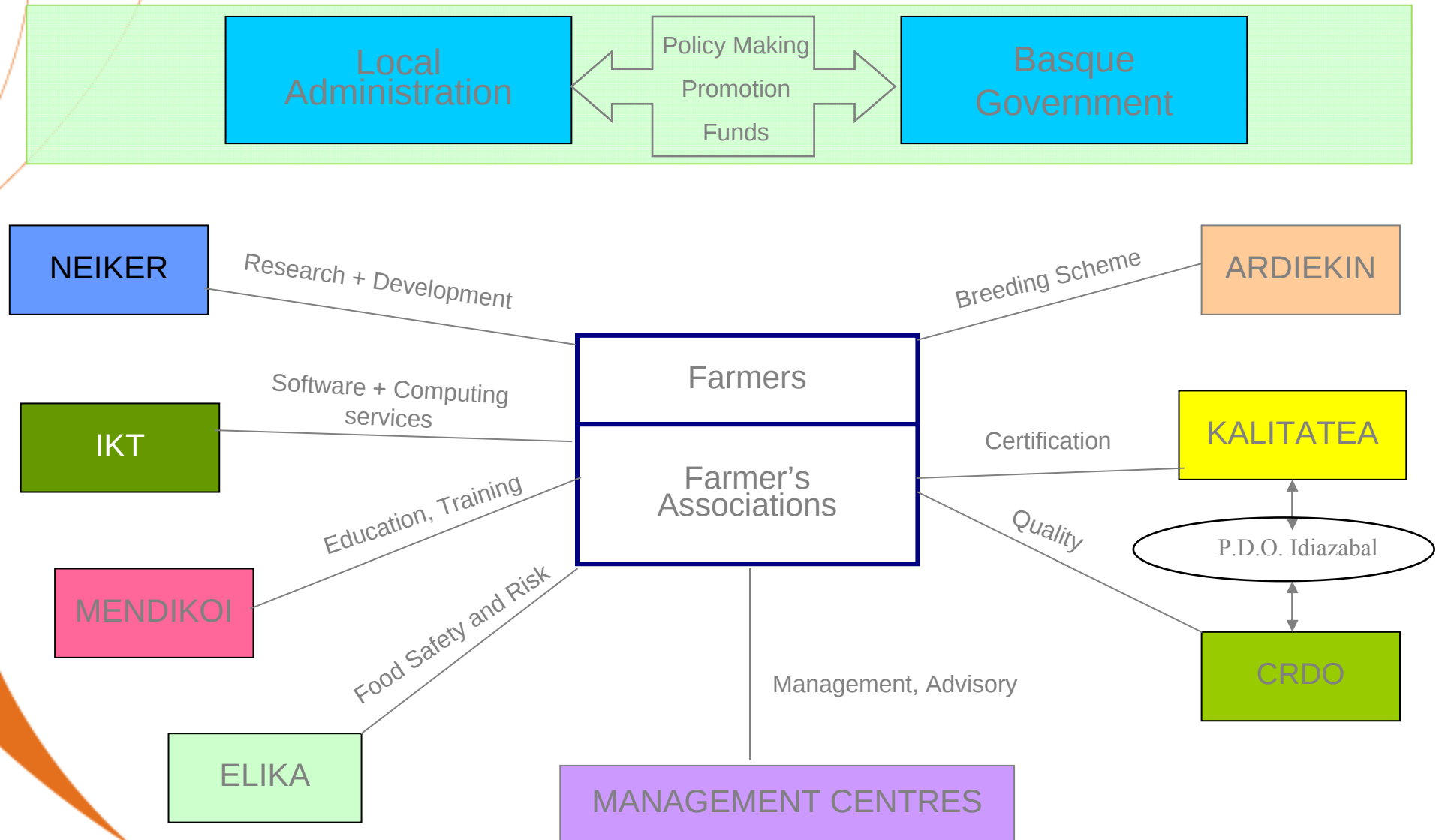
- **Food safety, Risk assessment and Alerts.**

- 2001. Eliko

- **Education:** Itsasmendikoi

- 1997. Shepherd's school
-

Organization



Breeding Scheme



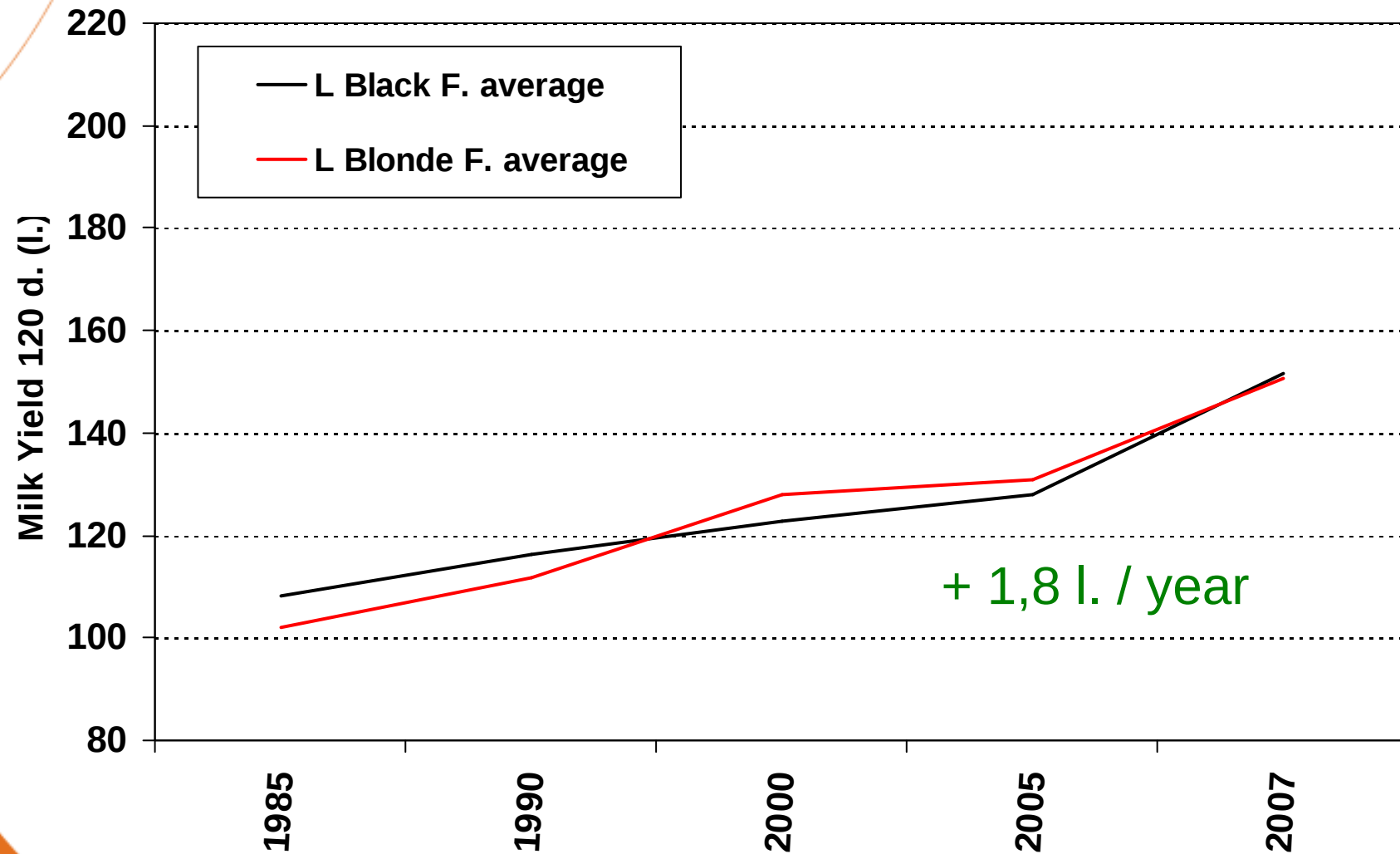
Milk Recording



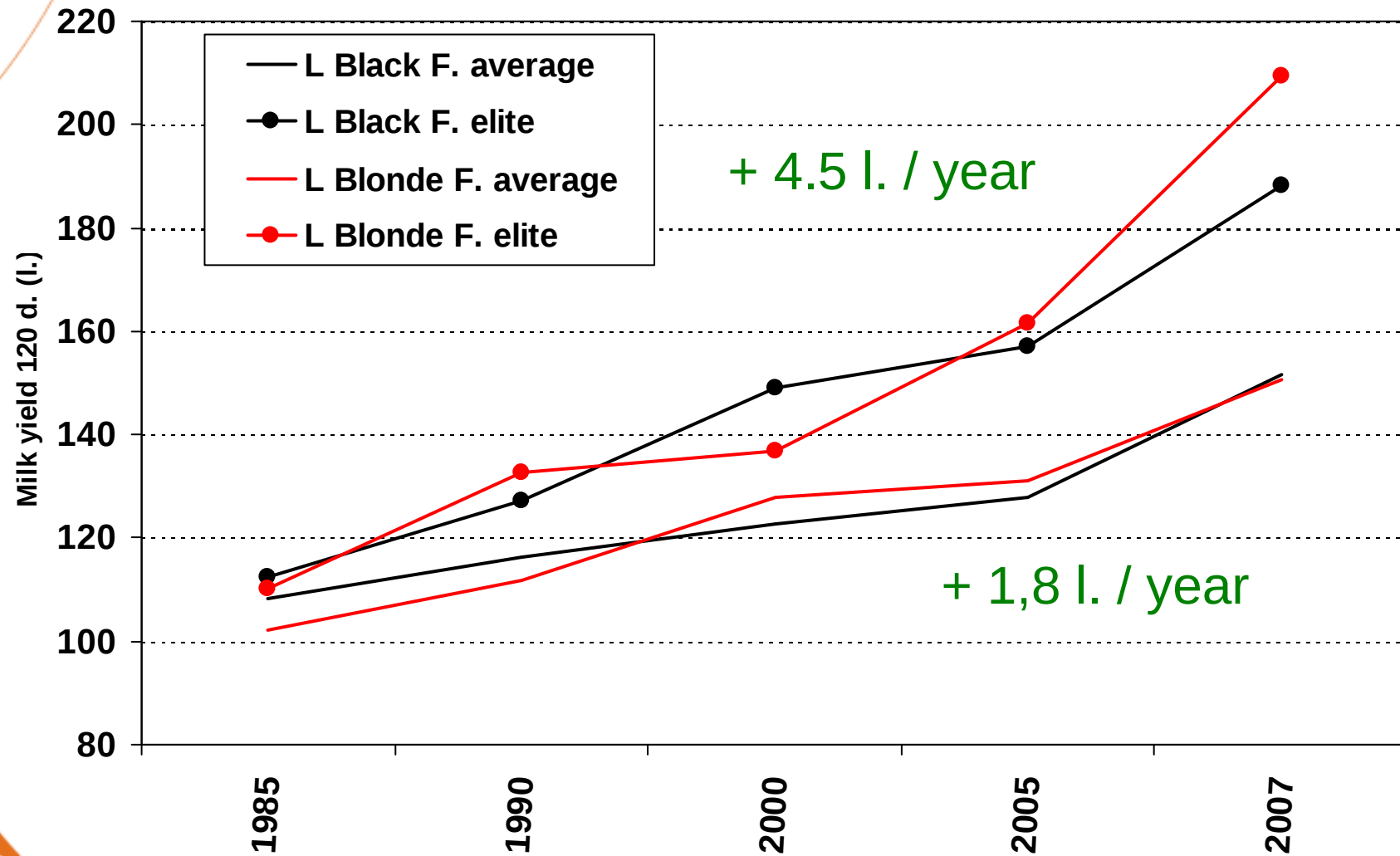
Artificial Insemination



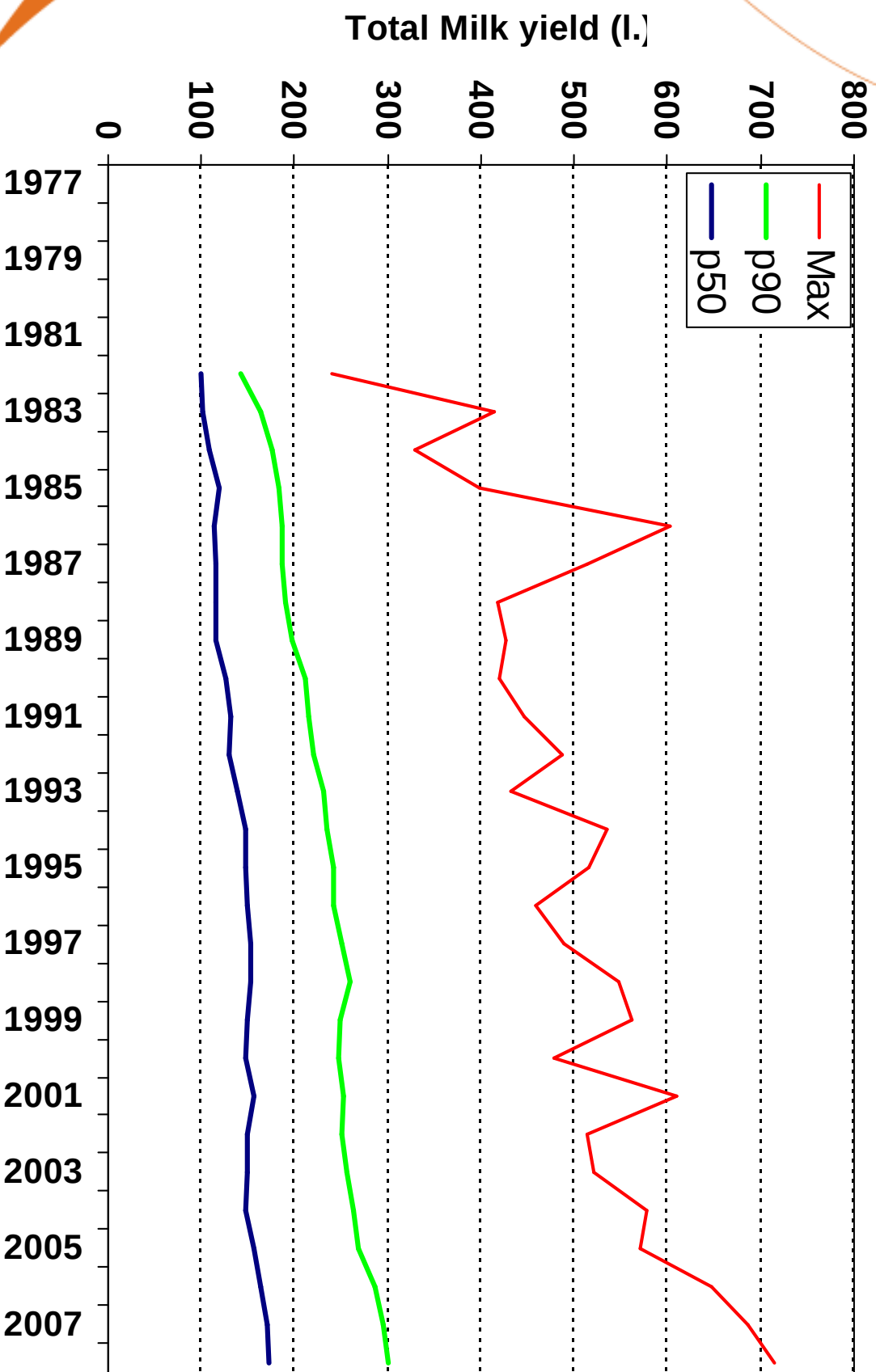
Breeding Scheme: Evolution



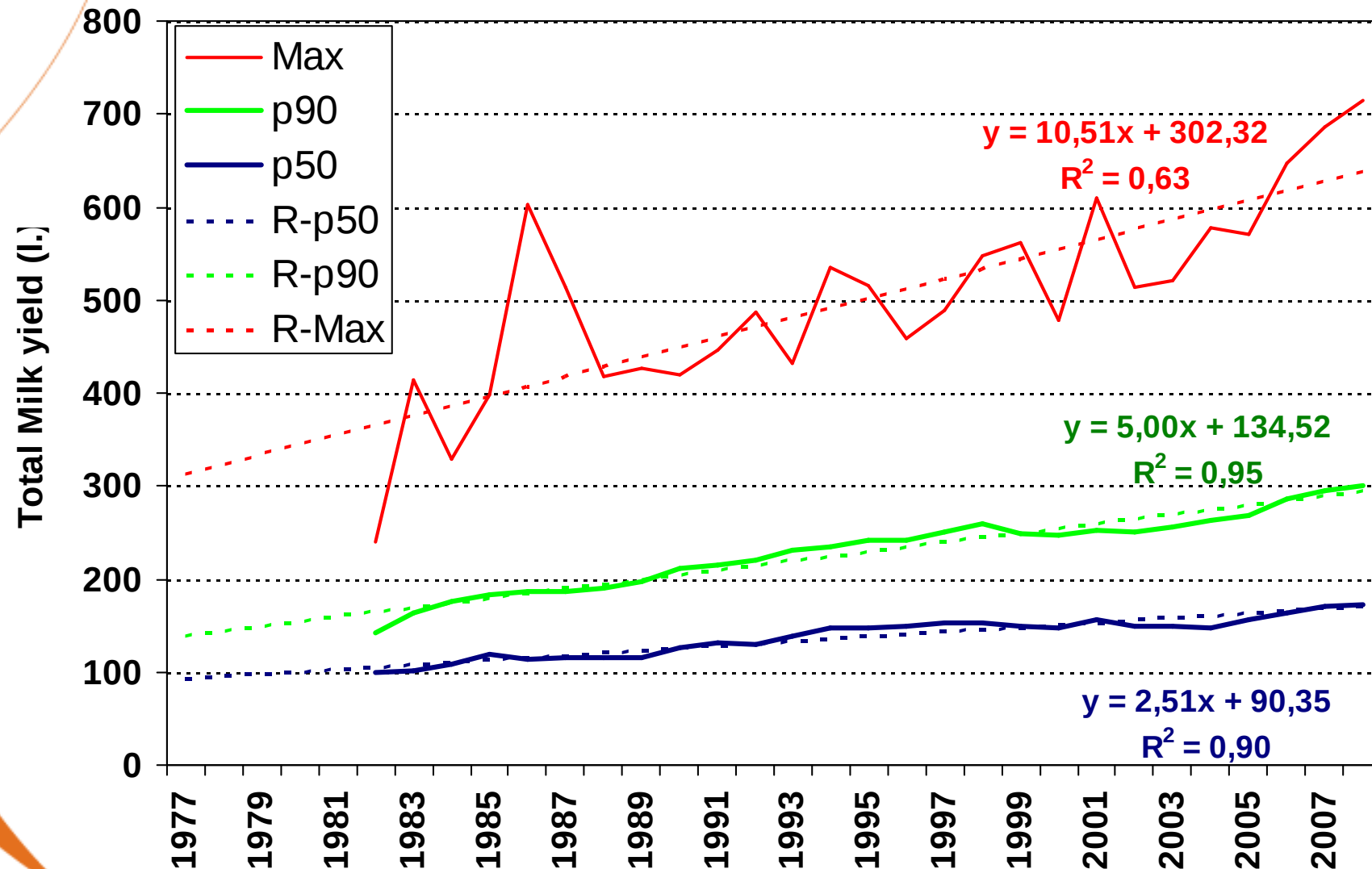
Breeding Scheme: Evolution



Breeding Scheme: Potential



Breeding Scheme: Potential



EVOLUTION

- Professional
- Organized
- Technology
- Intensification
- Continuous Impr.
- Quality
 - Activity
 - Products



Source: www.idiazabalgaztarenmuseoa.com



- Flocks < 100 sheep:
 - 89% of flocks
 - 44% of sheep population

“GARDENERS”

- Flocks > 100 sheep
 - 11% of flocks
 - 56% of sheep population

“PROFESIONALS”

- 200 flocks in Breeding Programme

Energy supply of different sources to total requirements

		Mountain (%)	Lowlands (%)	Indoors (%)
Traditional	From	30	53	17
	... to ...	50	38	12
Intensive	From	-	40	60
	... to ...	33	33	33



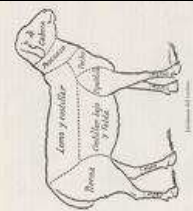
Commercialization & Marketing



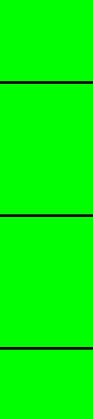
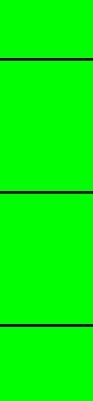
Seasonality

December			
November			
October			
September			
August			
July			
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Seasonality

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Seasonality

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Production Basque Country

- Milk = 9.2 Million Tons
 - 46% for home-made cheese
 - 51% sold to dairy factories
 - 3% for self-consumption, sold as fluid milk, etc.
 - Meat:
 - 145.000 young lambs (10 kg Live weight)
 - 11.000 heavier lambs
- 



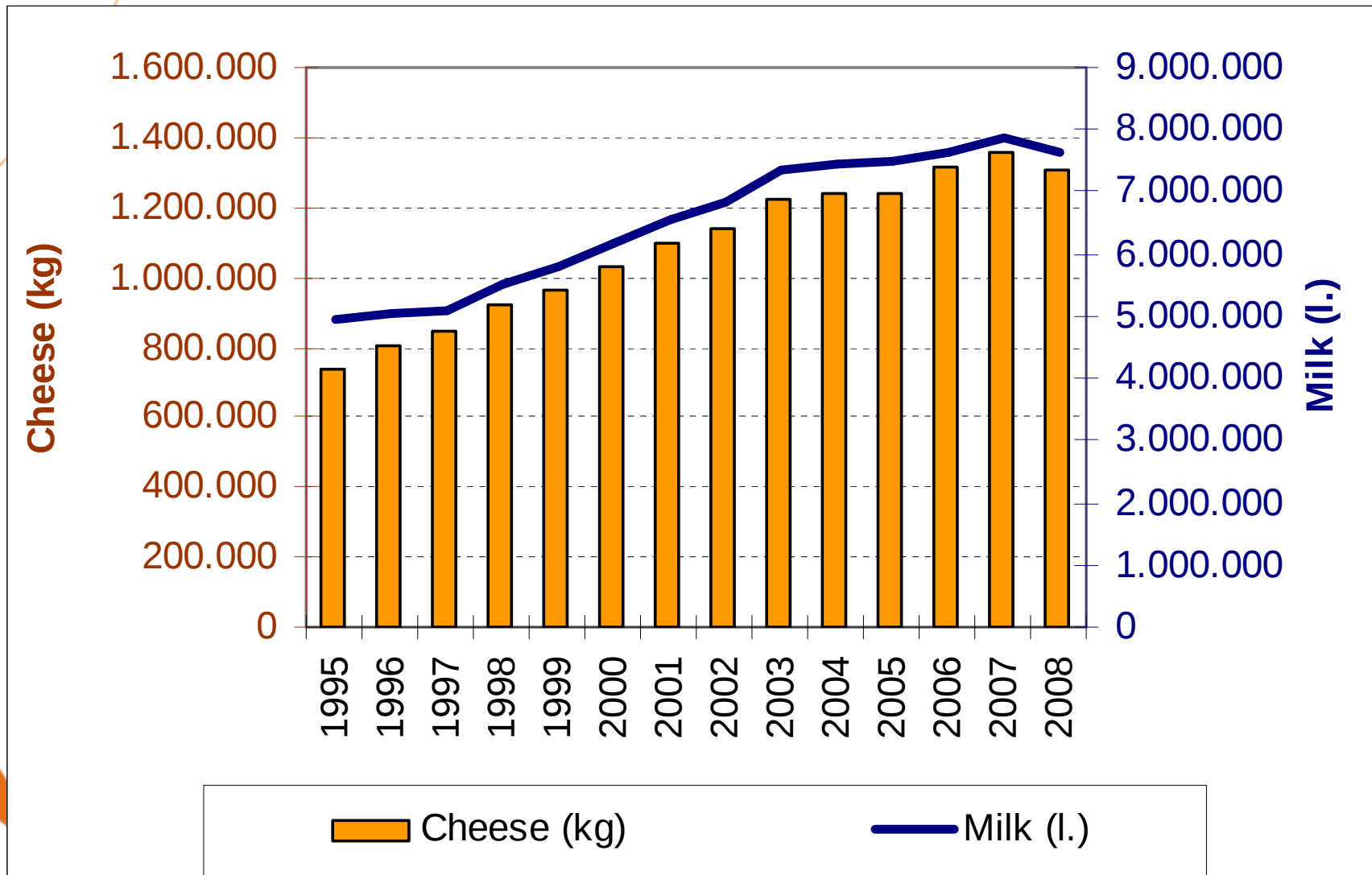
1988: Regulatory Council P.D.O. Idiazabal:

- Defend the Denomination of Origin
- Apply the Regulations,
- Watch over its fulfilment,
- Promote and control the quality

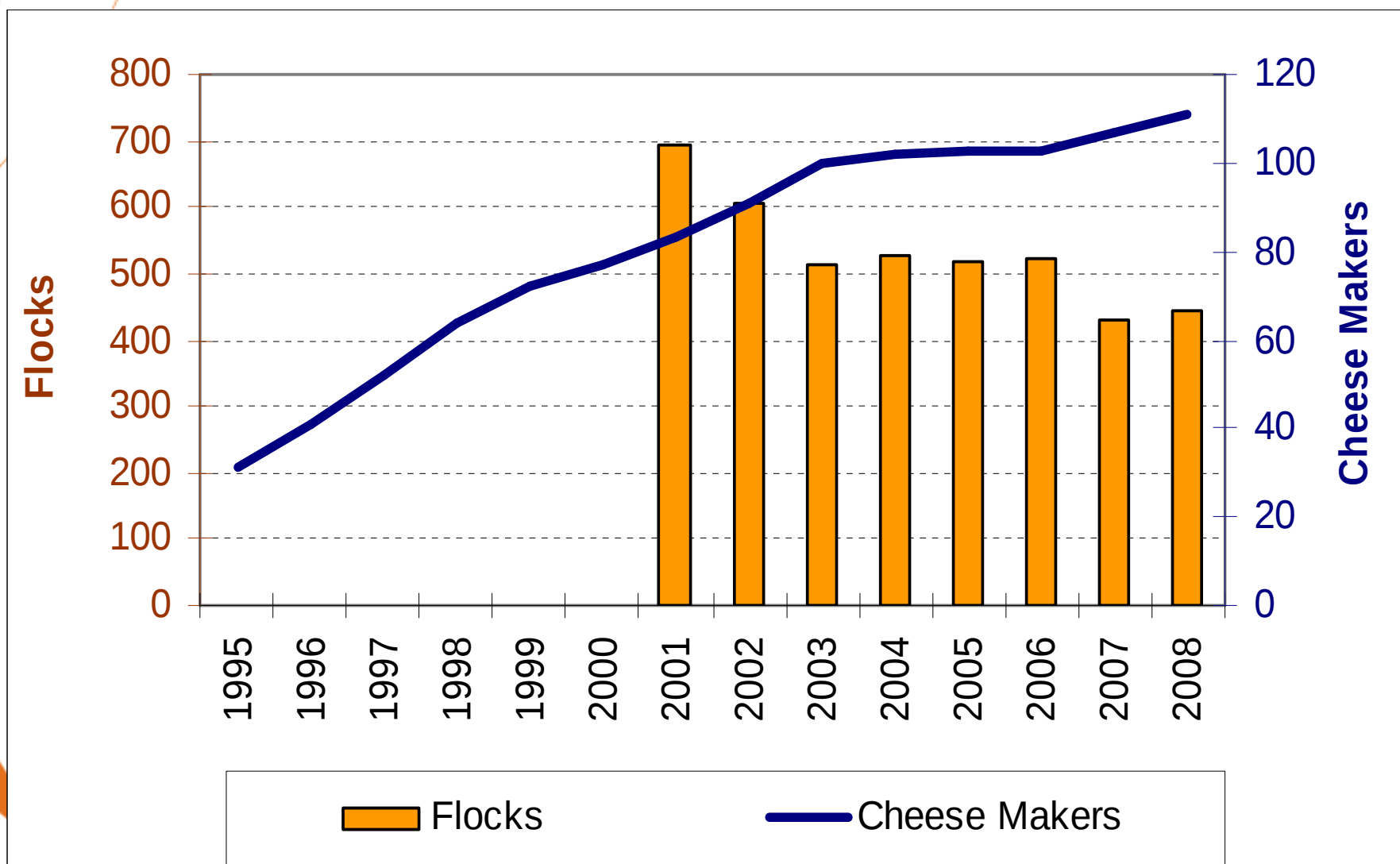


- **Product:** Raw milk + Ripening >2 months
- **Breeds:** Latxa & Carranzana
- **Area:** Basque Country & Navarre
- **Awards:**
 - 1992. "European Food Heritage Product"
 - 1993. International Academy of Gastronomy: "Gold Medal" = IDIAZABAL top-quality cheese.
 - 2008: World Cheese Awards, Dublin = 28 medals
7 gold + 9 silver + 12 bronze
2400 cheeses & 140 countries

Idiazabal P.D.O.. Volume



Idiazabal P.D.O.: Actors







Training & Education:

Shepherd's School

Since 1997



Shepherd's School – Artzain Eskola



1997 – 2008 = 166 “students”

- 14 per year
- 24% women vs. 76% men
- age: 27 years old
- 54 % descendants from “shepherds” (n = 91)
- 389 sheep / flock on average

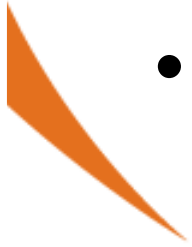


12 years = 81 new young shepherds





Challenges

- Price of outputs
 - Lamb
 - Wool
 - Multifunctionality: environmental assets
 - Access to land
 - Climate change: adaptation
 - Conflicts Livestock – wildlife: wolf
 - ...
- 
-

Conflicts livestock - wildlife



Absent since '50s + Re-entry in '90s

2008: **146 casualties**

135 sheep + 9 cattle + 2 horses

Damages assessed in 16000 €

average = **109 € / casualty**

Conflicts livestock - wildlife

Administration

- Payment: casualties only
- Plan for the “Management of Wolf Population” Draft in discussion
- Coexistence
- Mastiffs
- Electric fences



Farmers

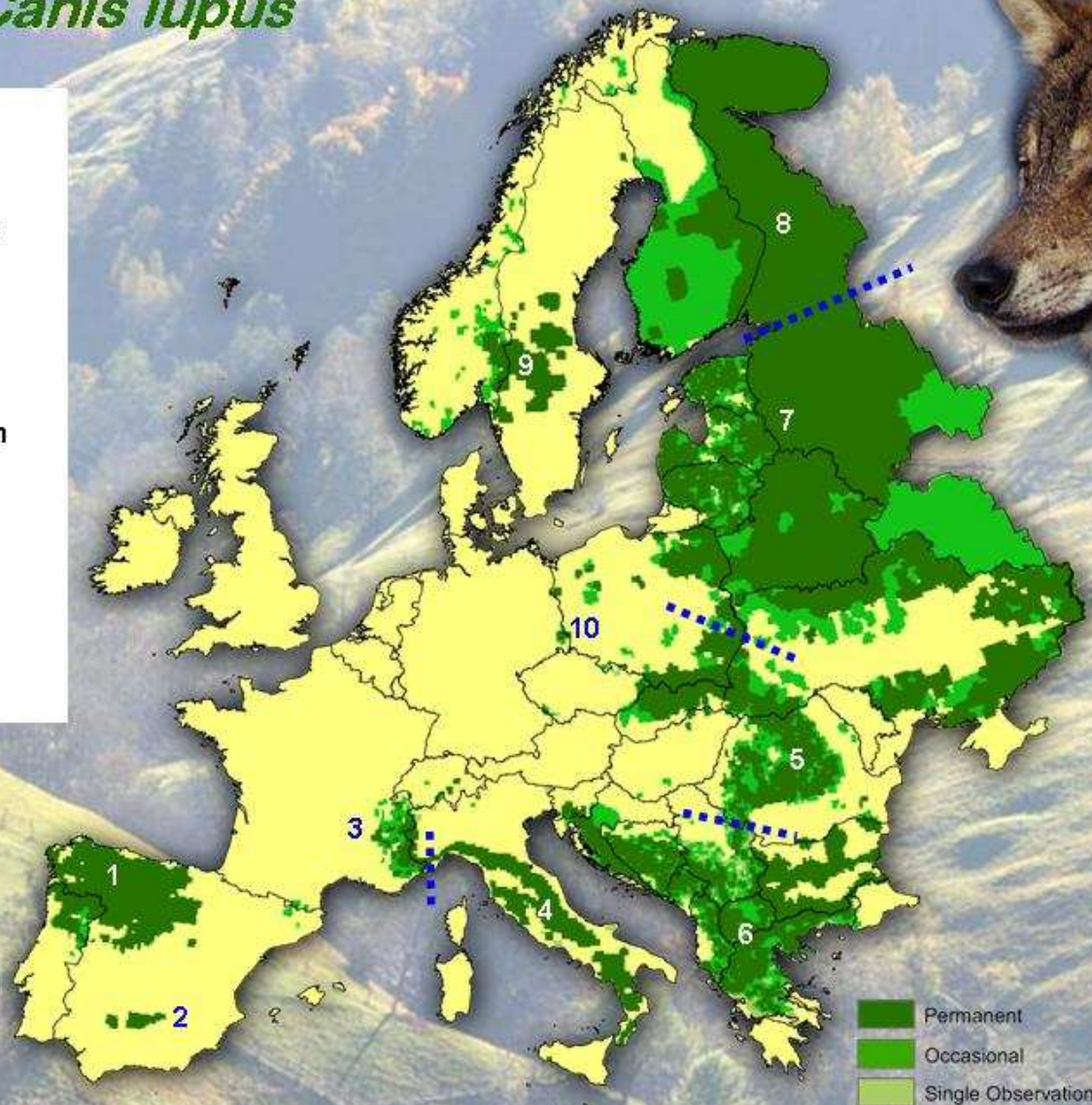
- Payments
 - Lost animals
 - Injured
 - Abortions, milk...
 - Extra work?
- No Coexistence



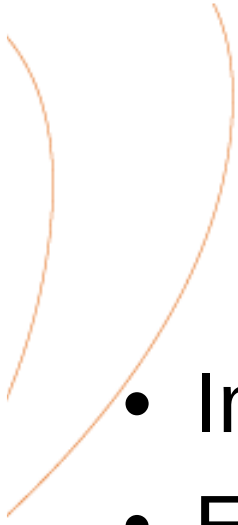
Wolves *Canis lupus*

Populations

1. NW Iberia
2. Sierra Morena
3. Alps
4. Italian
5. Carpathian
6. Dinaric-Balkan
7. Baltic
8. Karelian
9. Scandinavian
10. German / W. Poland



Source: www.lcie.org/project1.htm



Conclusions

- Importance of local breeds
 - Effective Tools to improve sustainability features from technical and economical
 - Adding value activities: impact upon incomes and social assets (self-esteem)
 - Valorisation of multifunctionality
 - Important challenges still to be faced
- 
-



Gracias



Thanks



Merci



Eskerrik asko

