

SERVICES FACILITATED BY THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL USE OF THE MEADOWS FROM BANAT MOUNTAIN AREA

VĂLUȘESCU DANIELA¹, SAUER MARIA¹, CSIZMADIA BIANCA²,
VĂDUVA LOREDANA², PETROMAN IOAN^{*2}

¹Development Research Station for Raising Sheep and Goats, S.C.D.C.O.C. Caransebes

²University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara,

Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Timisoara, Romania

*Corresponding author's e-mail: i_petroman@yahoo.com

Abstract: Adapting to climate change from Banat mountain area and mitigating the effects of grazing, suppose controlled actions that simultaneously bring co-benefits, in synergy, and in addition additional benefits through the diversification of farm activities, for sheep breeders who practice transhumance for the use of fodder resources, for sustainable use of the area. In order to carry out recreational, educational and leisure activities in good conditions, the management of the destination must find new solutions for identifying areas with landscapes with farm tourism vocation, depending on the interest of potential farm tourists towards the farm, nature, heritage, landscape and accommodation and gastronomic possibilities along the itinerary.

Key words: Banat, sheep, meadows, services

INTRODUCTION

The plant species from the flora of permanent mountain meadows fulfill several alternative functions and the arrangements with tourist or agritourism function provide a series of services, which bring benefits to those who manage them through: [3,4,19]

- ensuring access and consumption of products obtained from sheep farming in this area; [15]
- conservation of environmental factors: water, air and soil;
- contribution to the attractiveness of the landscape;
- increasing the productivity of pastoral activities and rural tourism and agritourism; [11,14]
- increasing biotic resistance (the living environment that houses a biocenosis, meaning a set of plant species and sheep graze on meadows;
- favoring adaptation to climate change;
- preserving the biodiversity of the vegetal carpet and the living organisms that live on the surface, in the soil and in the water, including by sowing wild plants;
- preserving the structure of the landscape; [9,13]
- preserving the aesthetic value of landscapes;
- travel and recreation - hiking, driving herds, identifying plant species, consumption of farm products;
- supporting sheep production; [16,18]
- supporting the stability of fodder under climate change conditions.

Adaptation to climate change from mountainous Banat and mitigating the effects of grazing suppose controlled actions that simultaneously bring co-benefits, in synergy, and in addition bring benefits to: [1,7,8,10]

- sheep farmers who practice transhumance;
- consumers of rural tourism, farm tourism and agritourism through the services offered by the hospitality industry;
- local economy; [12,17]
- the natural environment including by preserving/restoring biodiversity. [2,5,6]

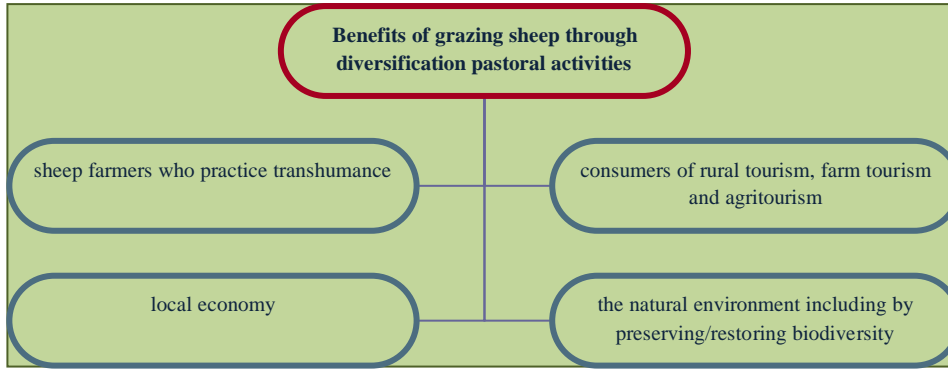


Figure 1. Benefits of grazing sheep through diversification pastoral activities

Source: own creation

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Within this scientific approach, for a good use of the practical mountain heritage and maintaining its sustainability, using the specific methods of evaluation and analysis of the multifunctional potential of Banat mountain area new solutions will be sought for the implementation of farm tourism activities that are gentle with the natural environment, which will diversify the activity of professional sheep farms, by optimizing the rational exploitation of livestock on pastures according to the degree of supportability of the environment and the maintenance of mountain landscapes with pastoral utility and unspoiled tourism and increasing the profitability of farms by using surplus areas and selling the products obtained directly to the consumers of educational farm tourism activities.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The multifunctionality of the functional types of plant species from the flora of permanent meadows of Banat mountain area can be supported by reducing the intensity of pasture management and optimizing the grazing herds, but also by diversifying farm services..

We propose for the evaluation of the potential multifunctional use of functional types of plant and animal species from the flora of permanent mountain meadows, taking into account the following functions:

1. of plant and animal production. The relationship between adaptation, mitigation and sustainable agriculture in the context of climate change is shown in the figure below:

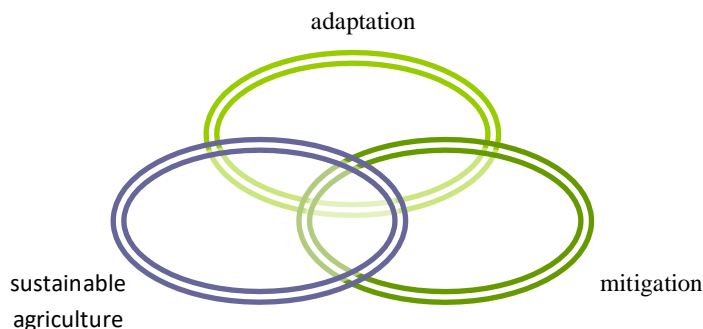


Figure 2. The relationship between adaptation, mitigation and sustainable agriculture

Source: own creation

This function is provided for Banat mountain area by the following facilities:

a. tourist buildings, pastoral facilities as model, stables and other tourist facilities for the implementation of new tourist, mountain activities that include forms of niche rural tourism, farm tourism, agritourism, country tourism, village tourism, ecotourism, tourism in protected areas:

- roads, paths, mountain trails, transhumance trails;
- buildings with a tourist vocation, residences, stables;
- energy and water services;

- the state of the buildings and the approval possibilities for activities: gastronomy, breakfast at the farm, activities to promote pastoral traditions, accommodation, sleeping in the hay.

b. pastoral potential:

- meadow quality classes;
- gravity;
- the areas available for pastoral activities, grazing and pastoral activities.

c. agritourism services and facilities, farm tourism:

- access to farm agritourism services;
- public access;
- water supply, energy, accommodation, meals:

2. recreational and leisure:

a. spending free time in the area of mountain meadows. This function is ensured by the following activities related to farm tourism, pastoral tourism:

- hiking, for leisure: knowing the species of endemic plants on the meadows, identifying the breeds and varieties of sheep;

- accompanying the herds in transmutation;
- participation in farm activities.

Destination management consists of:

- identifying the characteristics of the main paths, the length of the route;
- identification of meadows with potential;
- the time required to cover the distances;
- the interest of potential farm tourists towards nature/heritage/scenic landscape;
- the possibilities of stopping for a day along the mountain hiking itinerary and the

variety of paths;

b. education: potential development depending on existing facilities, facilities and services;

c. leisure: mountaineering, horse riding, rock climbing;

d. rural tourism with niche forms, for the knowledge of traditional tourist products from Banat mountain area:

- access to valley villages;
- access to the meadow;
- season of grazing and leisure activities;
- recurring events;

- tourist accommodation in villages from the valley, in nearby meadows (agritourism on farms, cottages, mountain hotel cabins) and the value of the travel destination (affected by the presence of other nearby meadows).

3. educational is provided by:

a. hiking: to places of educational tourist interest and the time necessary to cover the distances and interest in nature;

b. recreational and leisure activities;

Regarding education must be developed a guide specific to the mountainous area of Banat regarding the issues of:

- territory planning and meadow management;
- transports and waste;
- public participation in decision-making in the context of the environment;
- biodiversity;
- cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;
- sustainable tourism in Banat mountain area.

4. gastronomic, ecological-cultural-social is ensured by:

- nature: meadows, hydrological elements, flora and vegetation and geomorphology;
- heritage: historical facts, historical links between individual meadows and the type of cheese, witnesses of old pastoral activities, witnesses of old historical routes, religious witnesses;
- social values: rural festivals and other social events, promoting the local tourism image in low tourism areas, use of buildings and facilities by local social organizations and symbolic values for the community.

CONCLUSIONS

The multifunctionality of the functional types of plant species from the permanent meadows' flora can be sustainably supported by managerial activities to reduce the intensity of uncontrolled grazing, the optimization of sheep flocks according to the degree of supportability of the meadows and the diversification of rural tourism services offered by sheep farms who practice transhumance in Banat area. The management of the mountain meadow destination must provide measures to identify the main characteristics of the locations with a tourist vocation, the length of the route, the identification of the meadows with recreational-educational tourist potential and the interest of farm tourists towards nature, the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable development. Spending free time at the sheep farm from pastoral area of Banat mountain area involves recreational and recreational activities of a pastoral type, hiking to learn about the plant species on the meadows, accompanying the herds in transhumance and participating in specific farm activities, milking the sheep, traditional preparation of dairy products and other educational activities.

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