Autochthonous species for provision of ecosystems services

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Introduction

IAS-CSIC: 36 researchers, aprox. 250 people.

Soil Erosion Laboratory: José A. Gómez, Gema Guzmán, Manuel Redondo, Auxiliadora Soriano, Azahara Ramos, Clemente Trujilllo, José Manuel Cabezas, Elena de Luna, Ignacio Lorite, Ángel Lora, Rafael Pérez, José Mora, Enriqueta Martín Fernández,
What are we taking about?

Vegetation (in lanes or farm boundaries) plays a major role in providing ecosystem services.

1. Erosion control.
2. Improvement of soil quality, some carbon storage.
3. Biodiversity.
4. Landscape aesthetic values.
5. Regulation of hydrological cycle.
6. Production (grasslands, biomass for energy).

HABITAT MANAGEMENT ON THE PANNONIAN GRASSLANDS IN HUNGARY
(LIFE05 NAT/HU/000117)
2006-2010
Why autochthonous?
1. Harvest of natural populations in authorized areas, semi-manual process.
2. Propagating subcontracted to farmers.
3. Multiplication and mechanical processing of selected species. Very few species.

in authorized
Who provide this?

Usually SME, sometimes larger companies but only a very limited number of species (those that can be scaled up).

1. Market volume, Spain estimated by one of this companies, 5 M€/year. Best years, approximately 10 M€/year.

2. Approximately 50% goes to restoration on civil engineering projects, 30% gardening, 20% agricultural sector.

3. At international level large companies only in N. Europe and USA.
issues/bottlenecks?

Cost. Out of range of agricultural sector, particularly in non-intensive crops.

Complex administrative procedures. Duplicated requirements for processing, dead-ends for certification.

*I wonder if it is only an Spanish issue*

Quality of the product. It greatly varies across suppliers.

Limitations in quantity and species.

Basic and applied research on species and mixes in agricultural or engineering environments, seeding.
Appraisal

1. Large potential for providing public services, as well as moderate opportunities for SME companies attached to the territory.

2. Risk of not fulfilling its potential.

3. This failure can reinforce skepticism of farmers in changing management.
What is been trying?

1- Basic research through I+D programs or more applied programs (e.g. LIFE).

2- Emerging initiatives through the EIP. Operational group in multiplication and processing technologies.

3- Rural development plan incentive use (through subsidies) of use of mixes.
Comments

1- It is very interesting situation where increasing orientation of CAP on environmental services can have a large impact on agricultural areas.

2- The weakest point is the industrial base, which seems to be a clear case of activity attached to the territory in rural areas.

3- It needs tailored actions to address bottlenecks and consolidating the sector (beyond subsidizing its use) to become a reality.