

Name:

Natural area.

Definition:

For this indicator, the percentage of “Natural area” is calculated. This percentage is the relationship between the natural vegetation area and the total area of the farm. It is based on aerial photography and it takes into account the boundaries of each farm.

An assessment can be made regarding the structure of the natural vegetation (trees, bushes, herbaceous plants, etc.) by multiplying the percentage of area of each point by a value/coefficient that depends on the vegetation structure of each place.

Method of calculation:

The value of this indicator is calculated as:

$$- \text{Indicator} = \sum A_i * C_i / A_T$$

Where:

A_i : Natural area (ha)

C_i : Coefficient of weighting of the importance of the natural area

A_T : Total area of the farm

Interpretation:

Natural areas on the farm provide various environmental benefits (externalities), and therefore they increase or improve the biodiversity.

Information source:

A_i : Natural area is measured in the field or by aerial photography

C_i = Weighting coefficient (see the table below)

Vegetation type	Coefficient
Only trees	1
Trees and bushes	0.8
Only bushes	0.7
Mixture of trees, bushes and herbaceous plants	0.7
Trees and herbaceous plants	0.6
Bushes and herbaceous plants	0.5
Herbaceous plants	0.4

A_T : Total area of the farm: data obtained in a farmers survey.

Maximum and minimum values:

The values of this indicator range from 0 (without natural vegetation area on the farm) to 1 (20% or more of the area of the farm is covered by native trees).

Bibliography and references:

European Environment Agency. Indicator Fact Sheet IRENA 26 – High nature value farmland ([http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2393397/2518916/IRENA+IFS+26+-+High+nature+value+\(farmland\)+areas_FINAL.pdf/839efec2-3663-41f2-ba1d-57d67ea8e7d1](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2393397/2518916/IRENA+IFS+26+-+High+nature+value+(farmland)+areas_FINAL.pdf/839efec2-3663-41f2-ba1d-57d67ea8e7d1))

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (2001):Chapter 6 Wildlife habitats. Environmental indicators for agriculture.Methods and Results, Volume 3. Paris.