
Collective Incentives in Agri-Environmental Schemes: Species Protection applied to the case of the European Hamster

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Résumé

Using novel collective agri-environmental scheme data from a species protection measure this paper investigates the environmental effectiveness of a cAES approach for a spatially defined biodiversity dilemma. However, individual agri-environmental schemes have not shown effective in assuring a spatially connected corridor of favorable habitat for the species. As an umbrella species to the local ecosystem, protection of the European hamster in Alsace is relevant in at least two aspects: (1) The need for protection of the endangered species may provoke alternative farming practices that are more sustainable for the local ecosystem as a whole and serve many threatened species in this intensively-managed agricultural landscape. (2) Due to its habitat in agricultural landscapes, the dilemma of the European hamster in Alsace has the potential to highlight the problems of intensive farming practices for biodiversity in this region. The results of the collective scheme show that cooperation among farmers across a common territory benefits from (i) the presence of a moderating farmer association, (ii) flexibility in contract design and (iii) visibility of environmental outcomes achieved through the scheme.

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Mots-Clés: collective agri, environmental scheme, conditionally collective incentives, threshold public goods, environmental dilemma, species protection