

## **Z. Drillet (2009): Factors affecting diversity of plants in rural agriculturally utilized landscape**

In the PhD thesis we applied a holistic approach in the study of factors affecting biodiversity of HNMF (High Nature Value Farmland) habitats in changing socio-economic conditions. This approach required us to look at environmental, management factors and other related factors as for instance landscape metric indices, socio-economic and legislation factors. Environmental factors and landscape metrics indices were found to be less important determinants of species richness, compared to the management factors of the grassland sites. The results further strongly emphasize the importance of extensive traditional management for preservation of the greatest biodiversity in the study area. Unfortunately, measures adopted through CAP only partially cover these important biodiversity areas. Extensive management of meadows, orchards and grassland bales which possess a considerable share of the biodiversity is mainly undertaken by hobby farmers, who receive no compensations for their utilization and who are therefore slowly giving up farming activity. This process is to some extent natural as traditional farming is ceasing also due to the higher prosperity of people in the area and the fact that hobby farming is very labour-intensive. In the Slovakian context (and many other CEECs) it is the priority to undertake more fitted actions to preserve the existing species-rich HNMF habitats. We are persuaded that the restoration of species-rich communities on lands previously intensively managed cannot compensate the loss of biodiversity caused by abandonment of existing species-rich sites.

**Key words:** biodiversity, High Nature Value Farmland habitats, holistic approach, Slovakia