

**Farmers objectives and environmental concerns in Aurland coastal mountains, Norway**

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Small-scale sheep and goat farming in Norway is an important activity in remote areas located in north-alpine and coastal (fjord) mountains. This activity represents a minor and decreasing contribution to the local economy, which is largely dependent on tourism. However, sheep and goat farming is essential to maintain cultural landscape and provides other public goods (cultural heritage, quality food products). Twenty-seven farms (48% of total) in Aurland were surveyed with a face to face questionnaire collecting data on farming recent changes, prospects for changes in the future, farmers objectives and opinions, and farmers perceptions on relationships between farming and the environment. Five objectives got an average figure of 4 or more in a 5-points Likert scale of importance (in decreasing order): give farm in good conditions for children, increase quality life of family, have a good relationship with neighbours, improve product quality and improve/renew facilities. Other important objectives were: minimise production costs, be more environmentally friendly and reduce workload. Six opinions about farming got an average figure of 4 or more in the degree of agreement: connect animal farming to landscape and nature, proud of being a farmer, society needs to know more about farming, subsidies are essential for animal farming, updated information to take good decisions and use more grazing. Open questions on positive impacts of farming on the environment resulted in the following aspects: traditional/beautiful landscape, open landscape/vegetation, rural development and economic activity, local food/quality, use of local resources, cultural heritage and social issues, maintenance of soils and biodiversity.