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Farm Resilience and Ecosystem Services: Experience from the Ötztal Valley, Austria

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Introduction

- Farming in mountain areas preserves several types of ecosystems
- Further, impact on social cohesion; keeping rural areas viable
- Declining importance of food production forced farmers to adapt their farm management to be resilient
- Impact of farm resilience on ecosystem services

Approach & Resuls

- Study investigating farm resilience in the Upper Ötztal valley
- Farm diversification as a strategy to confront the vulnerabilities of mountain farming
- Farmer-based accommodation to generate additional income
  - ➔ Enables farms to adapt and buffer shocks
  - ➔ To innovate and subsidize farming structure

Conclusion

- Enmeshment of agriculture & tourism functions to keep agro-food systems in mountain areas active
- Attractiveness for successors
- Positive influence on farm resilience
  - ➔ Therewith on provision of ecosystem services
- Link of tourism accommodation – farming – ecosystem services not obvious
- More communication needed

Thank you for your attention!