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## **Traditional and modern crofting practices; trends and current issues**

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The machair landscapes of the Uists both offer opportunities to and place constraints on agriculture. These have interacted with the legal framework of crofting and the social constraints of working on open common grazings to produce a characteristic and valued landscape and biologically-rich and rare habitats. The presentation looks at likely future developments in the still largely prevalent 'traditional' agricultural systems in the light of changing agricultural techniques and current financial and administrative pressures and outlines the importance of comprehensive support measures which take a holistic view of the crofting economy and crofter aspirations.