

**2024 Events**  
**#ForumforAg**

# **Research lessons to inform future CAP reform**

Exploring Data-Driven Models as Solutions  
in Agriculture

**7th February 2024, Brussels**  
9:00 – 14:30, The Hotel

 @ForumforAg

 @ForumforAgriculture

 Forum for the Future  
of Agriculture



## **Words of welcome and keynote address**

Policy design in challenging times – The role of analytical tools in the CAP Policy debate



### **Tassos Haniotis**

Special Advisor for Sustainable Productivity,  
Forum for the Future of Agriculture, Senior  
Guest Research Scholar at IIASA, Former  
Director for “Strategy, Simplification and  
Policy Analysis” in the DG AGRI

# ***Policy Design in Challenging Times***

## ***The role of analytical tools in the CAP policy debate***

***Tassos Haniotis***

***Special Advisor for Sustainable Productivity, Forum for the Future of Agriculture  
Senior Guest Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis***

***Research Lessons to Inform Future CAP Reform  
Rise Foundation/ForumforAg International Event  
Brussels, 7 February 2024***

***LinkedIn: Tassos Haniotis***

## *It's a new world out there...*

### **Of late, hardly a day passes by without a news reference on agriculture - mostly negative**

- *During and just after COVID, some realisation that the food system was not broke after all, but in need of repair*
- *Then, with the war in Ukraine, food security and climate action became substitutes rather than complements*
- *Increasingly a combination of accumulated frustration led to the recent turmoil, with yet unknown consequences*

### **Agriculture has been at the forefront of a polarised, but poorly structured debate**

- *On climate change action, farming has been asked to contribute to the efforts of other policies and sectors...*
- *...yet its own contribution on carbon sequestration appears as a footnote of exclusion, despite its significance!*
- *In most analytical work based on food systems approach, the economy is either absent or grossly assumed*

### **Have we reached a turning point?**

- *In some ways yes, but we still need to address the long-term needs of food security and climate change*
- *There is a clear need to put the debate back on track – starting with the need for a credible baseline*
- *Several issues need to be addressed to get a better grasp of the interplay between economy and environment*



## ***Some thoughts on the policy design in CAP analytical tools***

### **It is about data...**

- *There is too much information out there...its filtering and prioritisation is a must*
- *We are better off at basic economic data to assess the farm supply side, but the food chain is a black box*
- *Environmental data are in need of collection and harmonisation, and even more is needed on the “fork side”*

### **...it is about the use of data...**

- *A model is a representation of reality, but in rough and aggregated terms – this does not need to change*
- *What needs to change is how models communicate with each other – starting with their basic assumptions*
- *Biophysical models need to get the economy in their structure; economic models to better prioritise environment*

### **...it is about the narrative of data**

- *The potential for increasing productivity in a sustainable way is huge...plenty of best practices demonstrate this...*
- *...yet allergic reactions to productivity are also real – and not on its (more justifiable) social dimension*
- *There are plenty of issues that need to be addressed – soil health in land management is pivotal in linking them*

## **Examples from H2020 European research projects**

Behavioural, ecological and socio-economic tools for modelling agricultural policy

The BESTMAP project



**Tomáš Václavík**

Palacký University Olomouc



**James Bullock**

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology



# Behavioural, ecological and socio-economic tools for modelling agricultural policy

Tomáš Václavík<sup>1</sup> & Guy Ziv<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Palacký University Olomouc, Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences

<sup>2</sup>University of Leeds, School of Geography



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 817501



# BESTMAP (2019-2024), Horizon 2020



<http://www.bestmap.eu/>

1. Develop a framework for modeling the impacts of agricultural policy, e.g. **Agri-Environmental Practices**
2. Link individual farm agent-based models with assessments of **ecosystem services and biodiversity**
3. Produce a simple-to-use dashboard to compare **scenarios of Agri-Environment Practices** adoption
4. **Improve the effectiveness of future EU rural policies**

**UK**  
University of Leeds (UNIVLEEDS)  
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)  
Cambridge Econometrics Limited (CE)

**Germany**  
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ (UFZ)  
Institut für Weltwirtschaft (IfW)  
Technische Universität Dresden (TUD)  
Mundialis GmbH & Co.KG (MUND)

**Czech Republic**  
Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci (UPOL)

**Spain**  
Centro de Investigación Ecológica y Aplicaciones Forestales (CREAF)  
Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació (DARP)

**Belgium**  
The Rural Investment Support for Europe Foundation (RISE)

**Serbia**  
Research and Development Institute for Information Technologies in Biosystems (BIOS)

**Bulgaria**  
Pensoft Publishers (PENSOFT)

**CASE STUDIES**

Humber Catchment (UK)

Bačka (RS)

Mulde River Basin (DE)

Catalonia (ES)

South Moravia (CZ)

The project will:

- demonstrate novel modelling framework in five case study areas across EU
- develop protocols, guidelines and a roadmap to extend the new framework
- upscale the concept to an EU-level analysis



## M 10 Agri-environment-climate measures

Funding mechanism providing financial support to farmers to contribute to the protection or enhancement of biodiversity, soil, water, landscape, or air quality, or climate change mitigation or adaptation.

An important part of the **second pillar** of the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**

### Examples of AEM

- Integrated production / organic farming
- Buffer areas / vegetation (flower) strips
- Cover (catch) crops
- Fallow land
- Extensive grassland maintenance

**Ecological focus areas (EFA)** – so-called greening, part of the first pillar of CAP

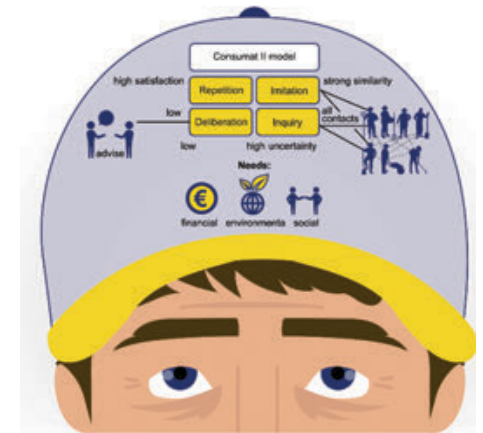


Vegetation strips, Šardice, Czechia

# Methodological framework

Policy impact assessment models (PIAM) have their limitations:

1. Based on mostly (socio)economic indicators
2. Ignore the complexity of farmers' behavior (decision making)



European rural landscape is managed mostly at the farm business unit level

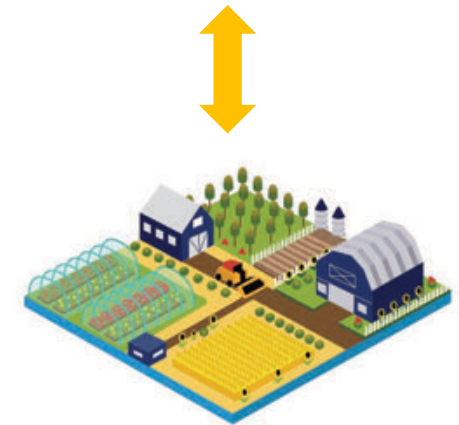
↳ 1. Define and map Farming System Archetypes – typology of farms

Farmers decisions are not always economically rational

↳ 2. Use Agent-Based model capturing habitual / social behaviours

Environmental and socio-economic impacts of adopting AES depends on the type of farm and the specific geographic context

↳ 3. Model impact of AES scenarios using biodiversity and ES models



# 1. Typology of farms – Farming System Archetypes (FSAs)

- Assumption: similar farms will respond similarly to agricultural policies

- Two simple criteria
- Possibility to upscale to other parts of Europe based on FADN data



## FARM SPECIALIZATION

"Type of farming" of FADN (defined in Annex IV of EU regulation 2015/220)

- General cropping (P1)
- Horticulture (P2)
- Permanent crops (P3)
- Grazing livestock (P4)
- Mixed (less than 2/3 of P1-4)

## ECONOMIC FARM SIZE

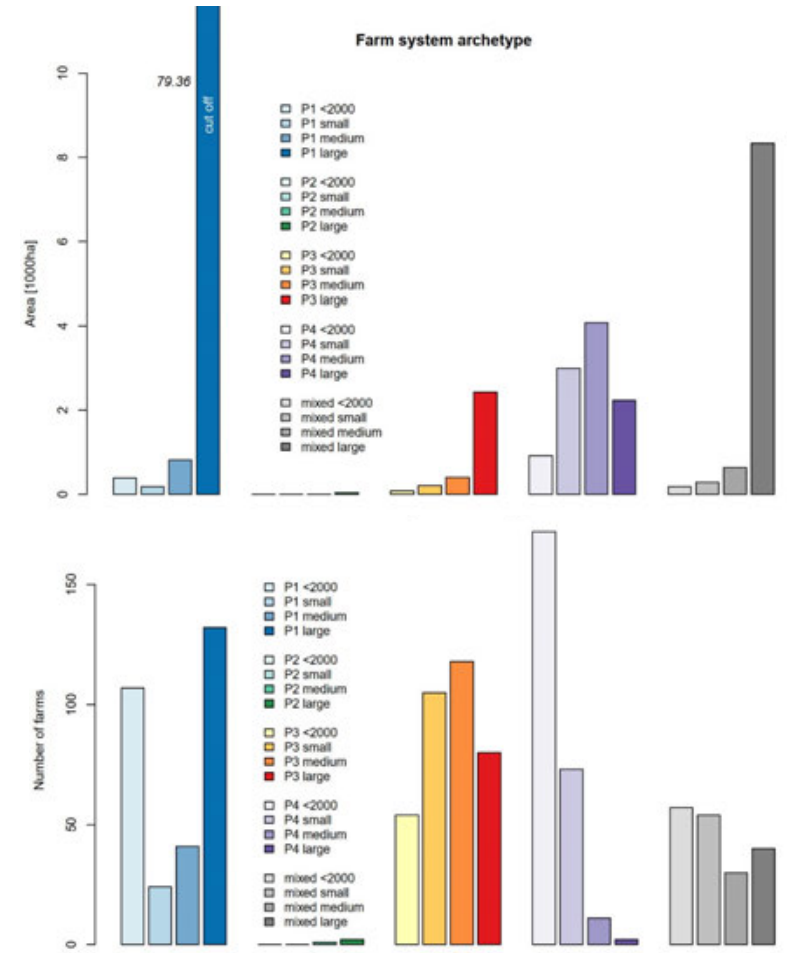
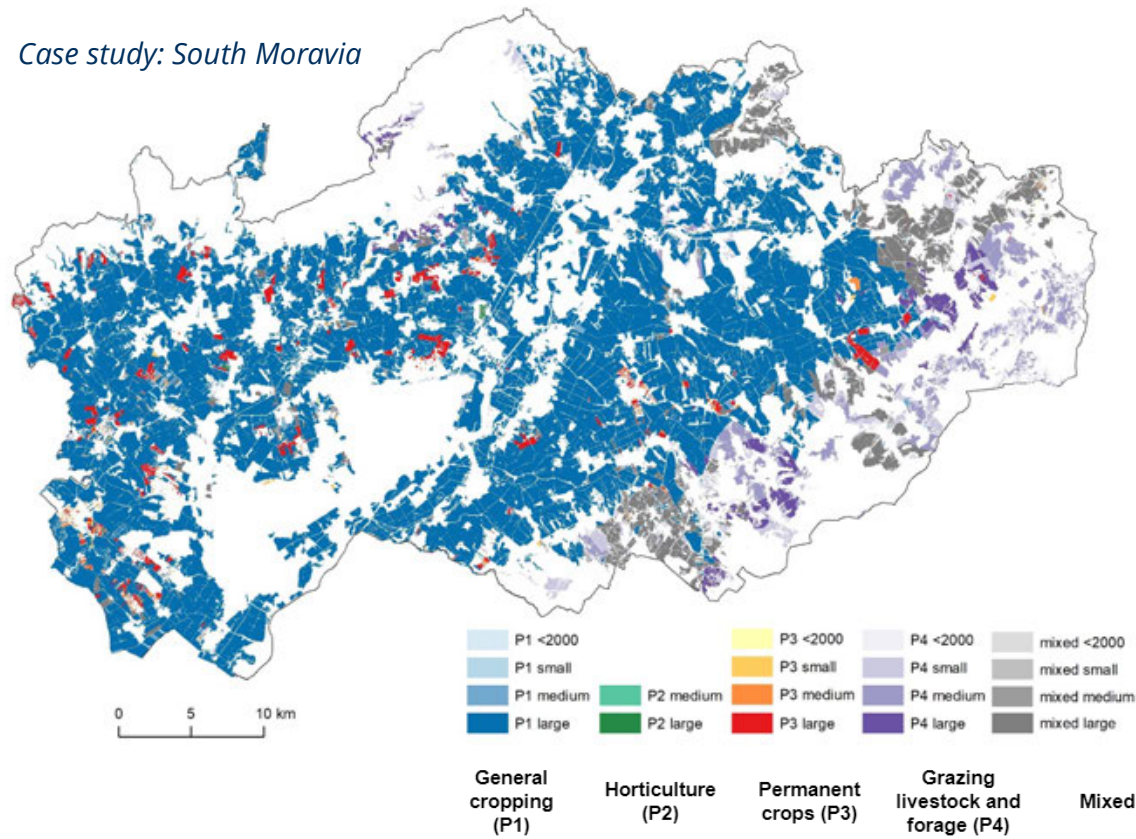
Standard Output Coefficients (EUR/ha, for ~90 crop types) 2013 (Eurostat) \* Area SOC: represent the average monetary value of the agricultural output at farm-gate price (€/ha) or per head of livestock.

- < 2000 €
- Small
- Medium
- Large



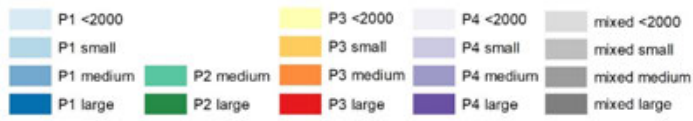
# 1. Farming System Archetypes (FSAs)

Case study: South Moravia

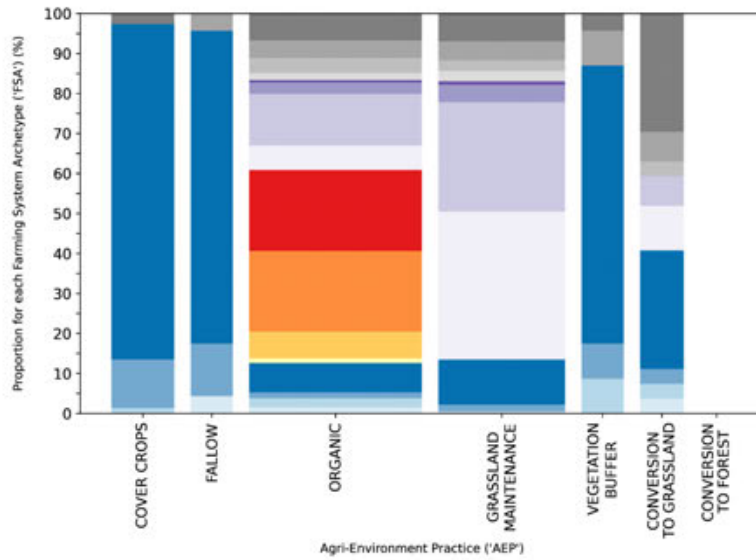


# Which farms (and farmers) adopt AEP?

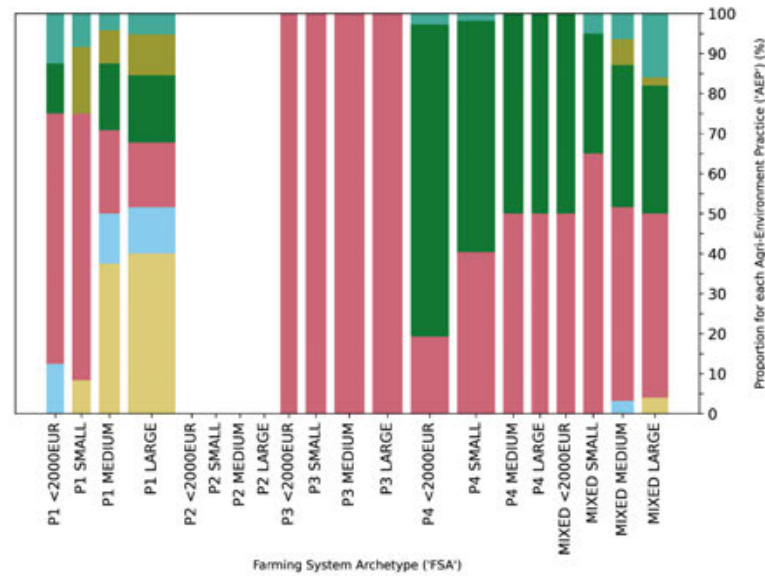
- Spatial association between FSA and agri-environmental practices (AEP)



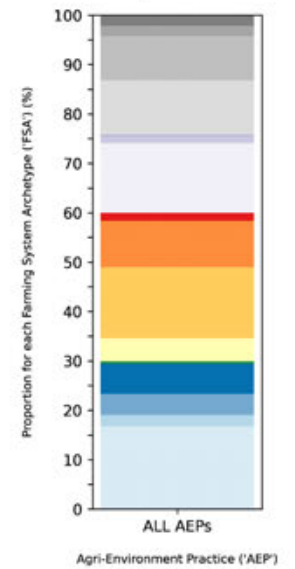
COUNT PROPORTIONS FOR SOUTH MORAVIA, CZ



COUNT PROPORTIONS FOR SOUTH MORAVIA, CZ

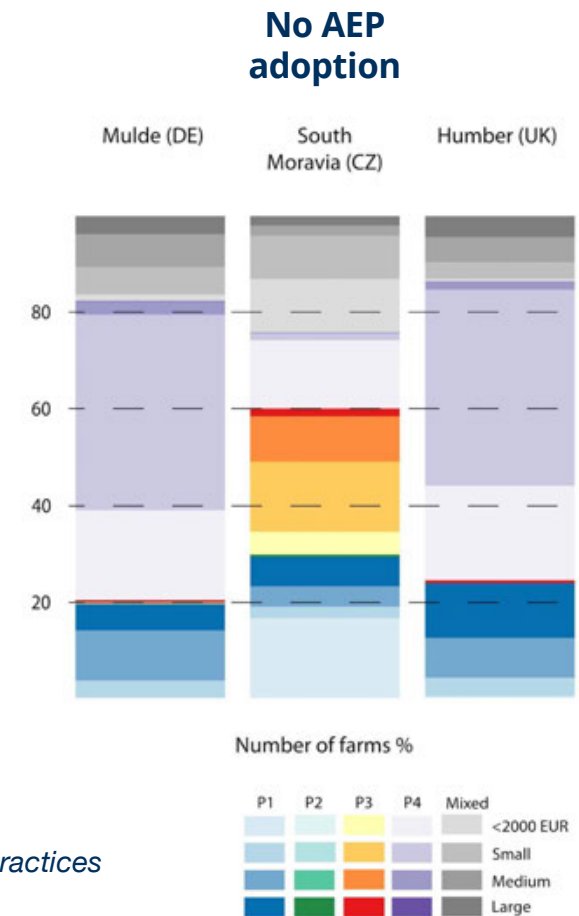


**No AEP adoption**  
b COUNT PROPORTIONS: SOUTH MORAVIA, CZ [Non-Adopters of all AEPs]



## Which farms (and farmers) adopt AEP?

- Despite regional differences, found consistent trends in Agri-Environmental Practices (AEP) adoption across diverse contexts
- Economically large farms and those specialising in grazing livestock are more likely to adopt AEPs, with larger farms demonstrating an appetite for a wider range of measures
- Smaller farms usually focused on a narrower spectrum of AEPs and, together with farms with an economic value <2 000 EUR, accounted for 70% of all farms with no AEP uptake
- These insights indicate the potential of the FSA typology as a framework to infer key patterns of AEP adoption and policy development



### Publications:

Václavík T. et al. 2024. Farming system archetypes help explain the uptake of agri-environment practices in Europe, *Environmental Research Letters* (in revision)



## 2. Agent-based model / interviews – complexity of farmers' behaviour

### Why do farmers (not) use agri-environmental practices?

- 2 campaigns with farmers: direct interviews and online questionnaires (discrete choice experiment)



### Lessons learned:

- Main motivation: **economic compensation** and **income diversification**; environmental impact of farming is secondary; economic benefits of AEP more significant for conventional than for organic farmers
- Farmers tend to apply only those AEPs that are **consistent with their established farming practices**
- AEP generally adopted on larger fields and farms that feature **marginalized and unproductive land**
- Farmers' motivation largely related to the **duration of the support**; for permanent grassland measures, farmers prefer longer contracts, whereas for arable measures they prefer shorter or more flexible contracts
- Awareness about AEP implementation is good, but farmers criticise **high bureaucratic burden** which, due to the lack of administrative capacity, constraints especially smaller farms

## 2. Agent-based model / interviews – complexity of farmers' behaviour

### Why do farmers (not) use agri-environmental practices?

#### Largest effect:

- Shorter contract duration
- Increased compensations

#### Further analyses:

- Effects of advisory
- Effects of social network
- Effects on mean area per adopting farmers

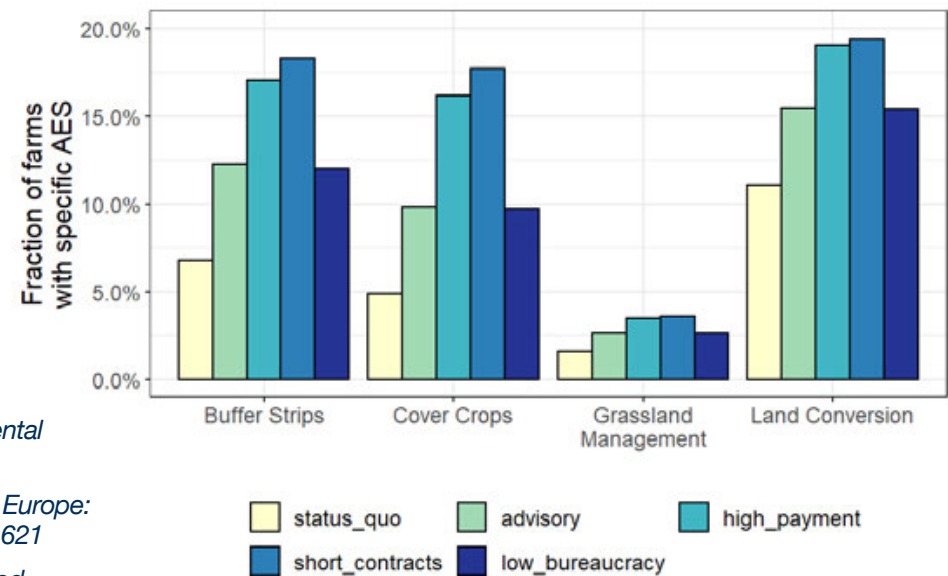
#### Publications:

Wittstock, F. et al. 2022. Understanding farmers' decision-making on agri-environmental schemes: A case study from Saxony, Germany. *Land Use Policy*, 122, 106371

Bartkowski, B. et al. 2023. Adoption and potential of agri-environmental schemes in Europe: Cross-regional evidence from interviews with farmers. *People and Nature*, 5, 1610-1621

Will, M. et al. 2024. How to inform representations of farmer behaviour in agent-based. *Ecology and Society* (2<sup>nd</sup> round review)

Example: Adoption rates in Catalonia (ES)





### 3. Modeling impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services

#### Biodiversity

- Impact of AEP on selected taxonomic groups
- Species distribution modelling

#### Food/fodder production

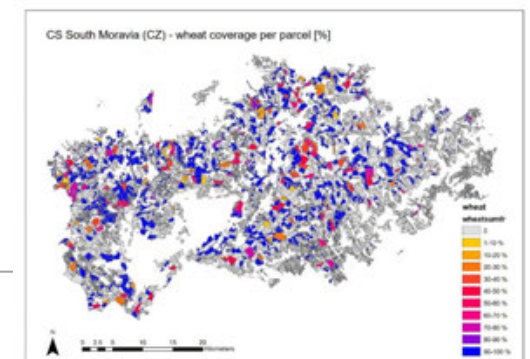
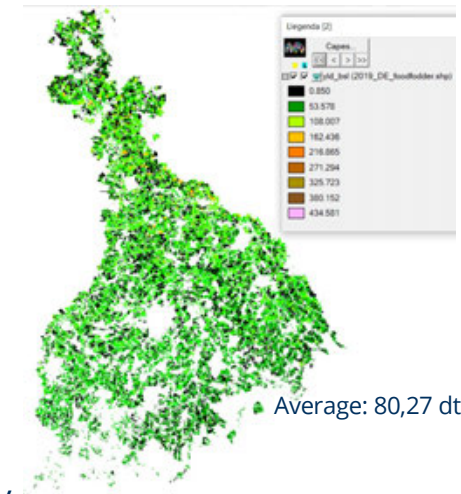
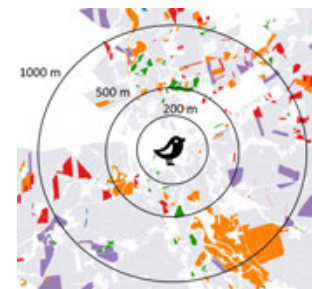
- Impact of AEP on production area of specific crops
- Model WOFOST (WORld FOod STudies)

#### Nutrient/sediment retention

- Impact on nutrient retention by semi-natural vegetation with respect to water quality
- Model Nutrient Delivery Ratio model – INvEST NDR

#### Carbon sequestration

- Impact on C storage and sequestration above and below ground
- INvEST Carbon model

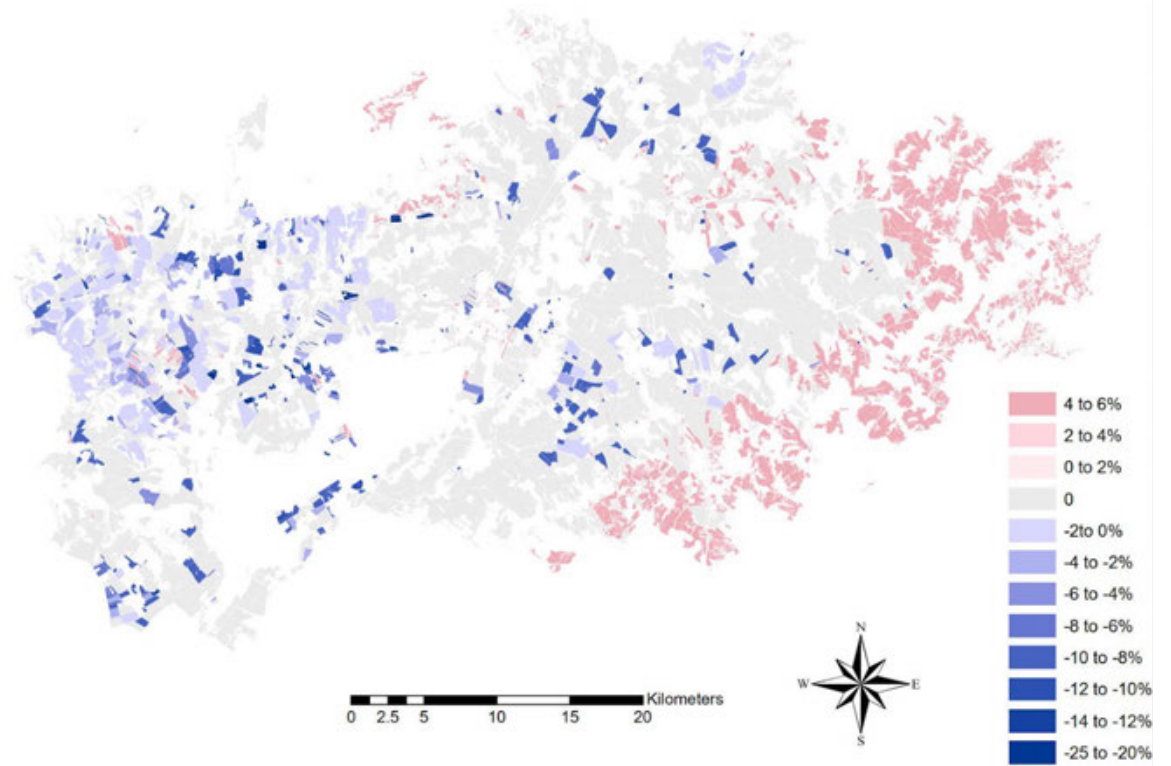
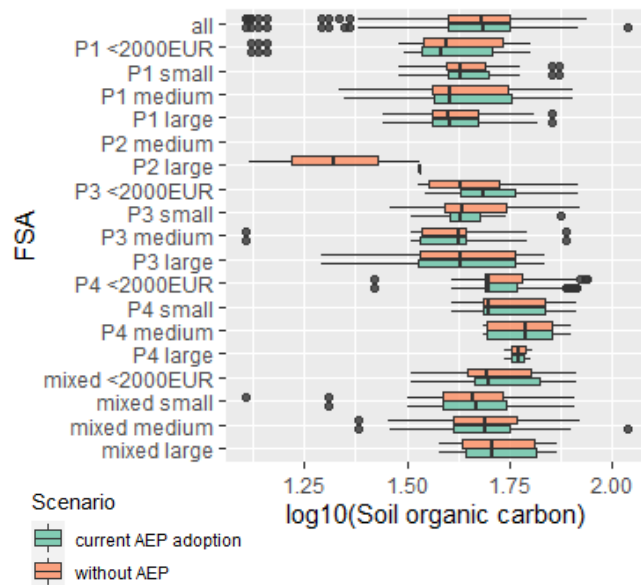


### 3. Modeling impact on ecosystem services - soil carbon

Relative difference in SOC (current vs. no AEM scenario)

#### Carbon sequestration

- Impact of AEP on soil organic carbon





### 3. Modeling impact on biodiversity – farmland birds

**Bird observations** (NDOP – presence points) of 15 farmland bird species



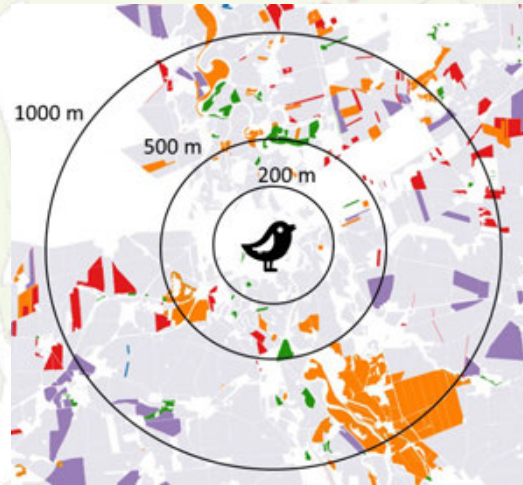
**Topography:** elevation, slope

**Distance metrics:** to forest, to highways

**Land-use/cover:** % cover of grassland, small woody features (SWF), urban area, arable land, **buffer areas, cover crops, extensive grassland management, fallow land, organic farming**

**Heterogeneity:** Shannon diversity index for crops

High resolution data: 20x20 m

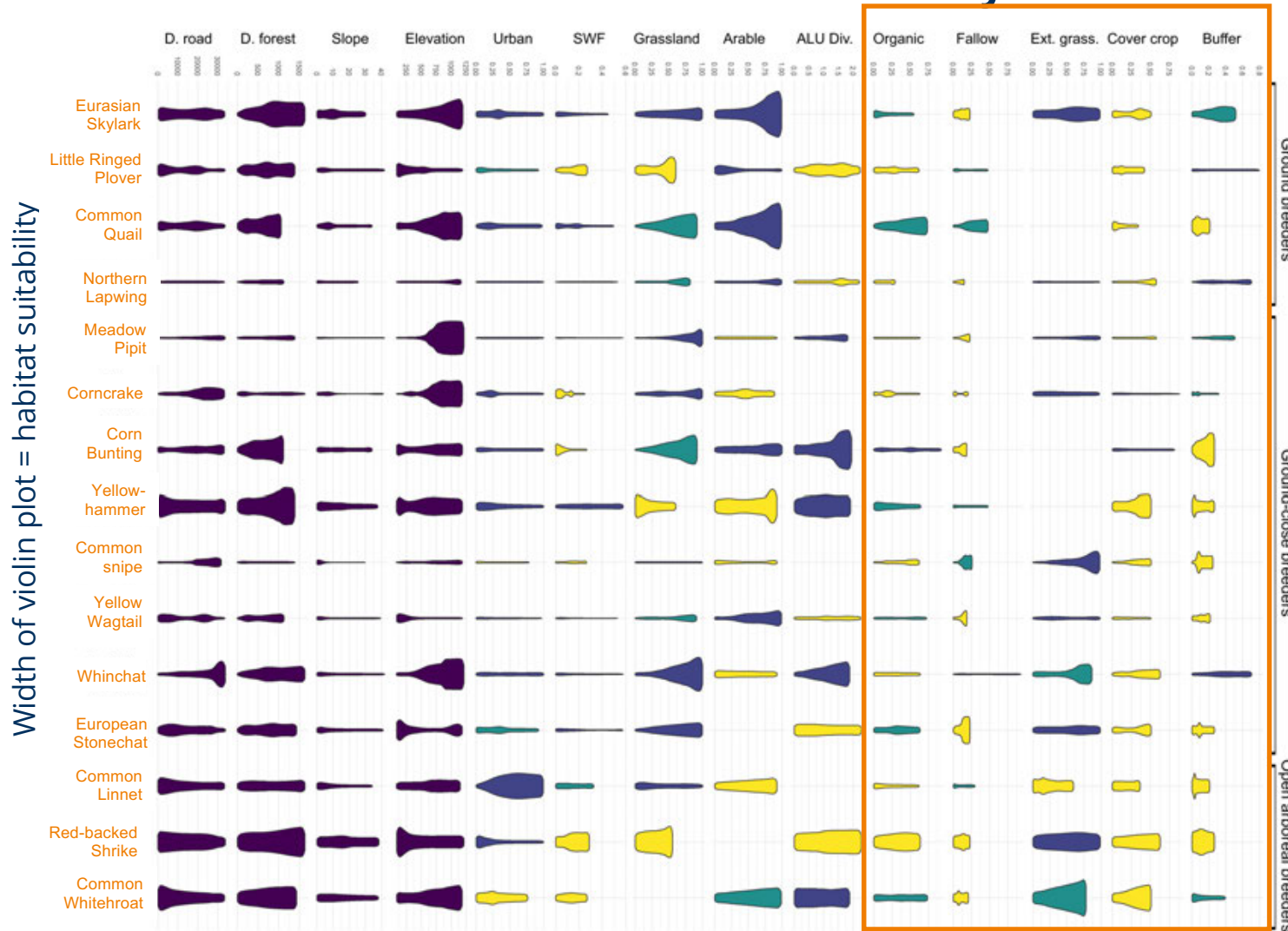


Land-use/cover variables calculated at 3 buffer sizes

Best scale for each uncorrelated variable selected based on AICc

**Multi-scale ensemble SDM** (GLM, GAM, MAXENT, RF, BRT); 10 model repetitions with 70% training, 30% testing data.

# Effects of variables on habitat suitability **AEP**



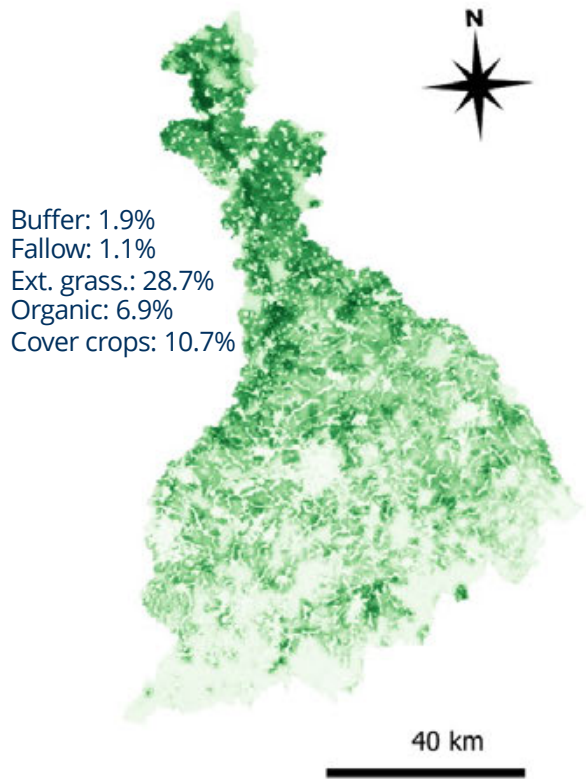
Positive effect of buffer areas, cover crops and extensive grassland

Assessed AEMs had mostly positive impact but organic farming had negative impact on some species

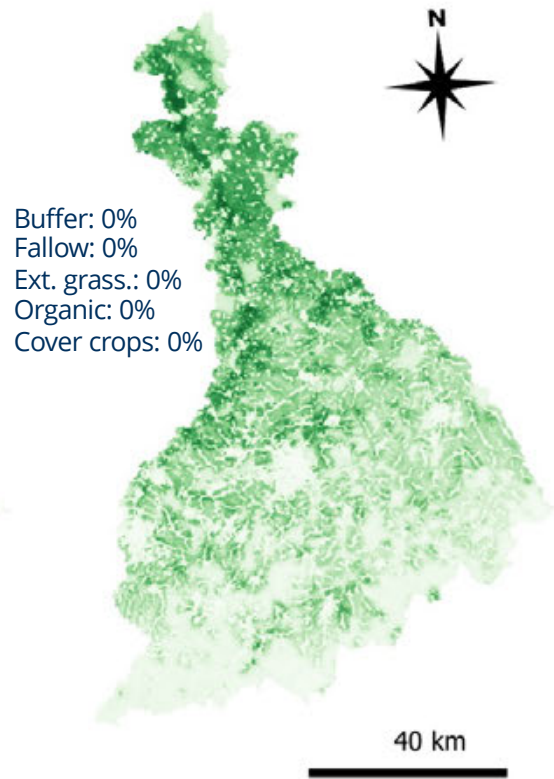
All AEMs (except extensive grassland) had the strongest effect at the landscape scale (1 km)

# Projection to different AEP adoption scenarios

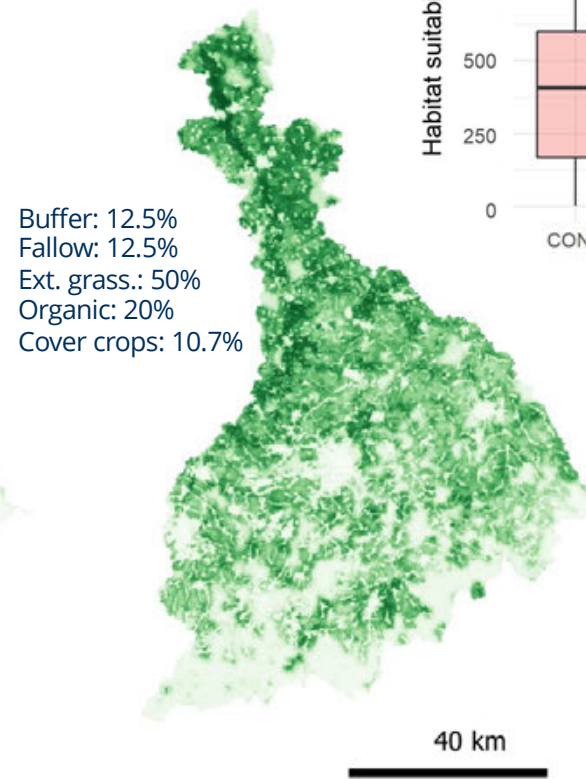
Current scenario (CURR)



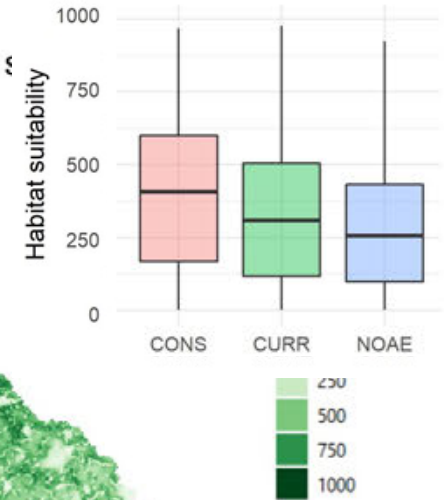
No AEM scenario (NOAE)



Conservation-oriented scenario (CONS)



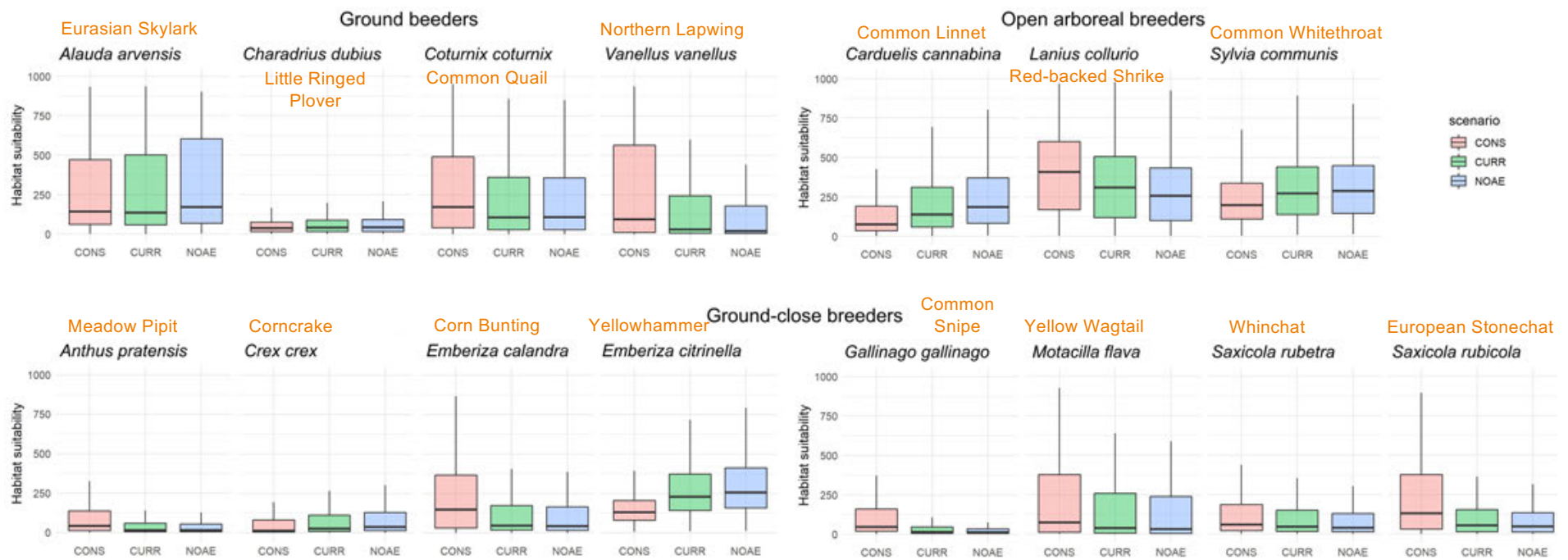
*Lanius collurio*



Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*)



# Impact of AEM scenarios on habitat suitability of farmland birds



- Larger AEM % (CONS scenario) increased habitat suitability for 9 species and reduced it for 6 species
- The scenario simulating complete removal of AEM did not differ substantially from the current situation

### 3. Modeling impact on biodiversity - implications

- AEP have a generally positive but weak effect on habitat suitability for farmland birds
- Varying AEM effects across species and spatial scales → need to **implement a diversified set of measures across the agricultural landscape**, ensuring a varied mix of habitat types and resources
- Better spatial targeting of the measures will improve their effectiveness
- Need to increase AEP uptake by farmers, through e.g. environmental conditionality, collaborative design of future AEP or results-based incentives

#### **Publications:**

Jungandreas, A., Roilo, S., Strauch, M., Václavík, T., Volk, M., & Cord, A. F. 2022. Response of endangered bird species to land-use changes in an agricultural landscape in Germany. *Regional Environmental Change*, 22(1), 1-14.

Roilo, S., Engler, J. O., Václavík, T., & Cord, A. F. 2023. Landscape-level heterogeneity of agri-environment measures improves habitat suitability for farmland birds. *Ecological Applications*, 33(1), e2720.



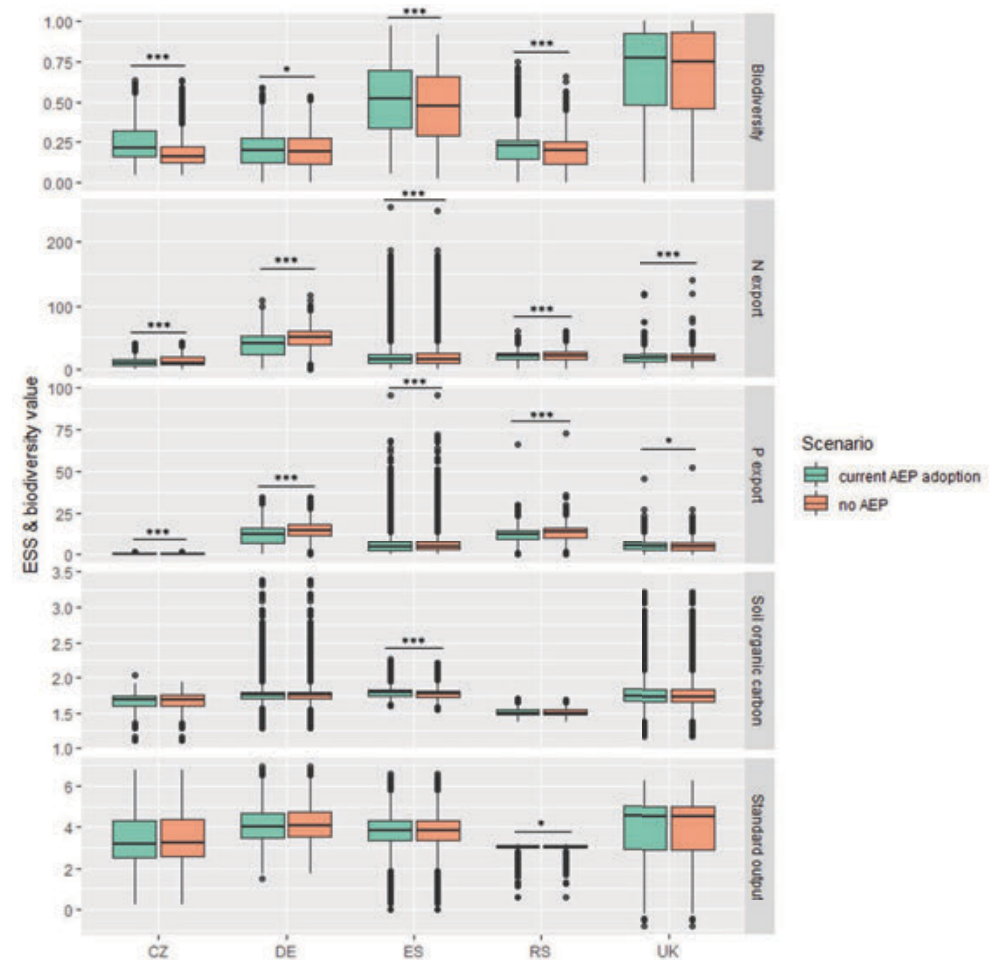
### 3. What is the impact of AEP on biodiversity and ecosystem services?

- Small but statistically significant beneficial effect of AEP on biodiversity (CZ \*\*\*, DE \*, ES \*\*\*, RS \*\*\*)
- N export to waterways (all CSs \*\*\*)
- P export (CZ \*\*\*, DE \*\*\*, ES \*\*\*, RS \*\*\*, UK \*)
- Soil organic carbon (ES \*\*\*)
- Farm income (RS \*)

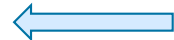
**Publications:**

Václavík T. et al. BESTMAP Deliverable 4.4 Systematic analysis of the case studies

Gosal AS. et al. 2022. Understanding the accuracy of modelled changes in freshwater provision over time. *Science of the Total Environment* 833: 155042.



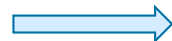
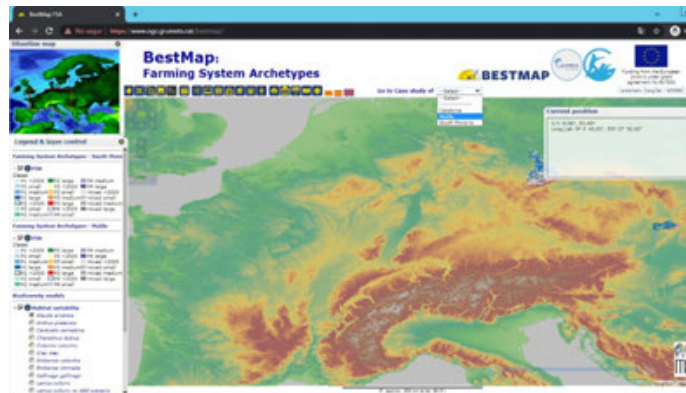
# Dissemination of project findings



**Online dashboard** – interactive online tool:

- Data storage
- Analytical tools
- Visualization of results

<https://www.ogc.grumets.cat/bestmap/>



## Story maps

- Simple web presentation
- Combination of text, figures and interactive maps

## Policy briefs

- Brief summaries of main findings and policy implications







Palacký University  
Olomouc

**Thank you!**

## **TOMÁŠ VÁCLAVÍK**

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Palacký University  
Olomouc

Tomáš Václavík / BESTMAP overview

Slide 20



# Are Agri-Environmental Measures (AEM) effective in preserving farmland biodiversity?

**Action**  
 Action Synopsis: Farmland Conservation    About Actions

**Pay farmers to cover the cost of conservation measures (as in agri-environment schemes)**

Overall effectiveness category: Likely to be beneficial    Number of studies: 47

Hide assessment score    How is the evidence assessed?

Effectiveness: 60%  
 Certainty: 50%

**IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES**  
 Ecology Letters, (2006) 9: 243–254    doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2005.00869.x  
**Mixed biodiversity benefits of agri-environment schemes in five European countries**

**Agri-environment schemes do not effectively protect biodiversity in Dutch agricultural landscapes**  
 David Kleijn, Frank Berendse, Ruben Smit & Niels Gilissen  
 Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Group, Wageningen University, Bornsesteeg 69, 6708 PD Wageningen, The Netherlands

**ECOLOGY LETTERS**  
 Ecology Letters, (2010) 13: 858–869    doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2010.01481.x  
**Scale matters: the impact of organic farming on biodiversity at different spatial scales**

Science of the Total Environment  
 journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv  
**Varying potential of conservation tools of the Common Agricultural Policy for farmland bird preservation**  
 Elena D. Concepción \*, Mario Díaz

Environment  
 journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/agee  
**Effects of farmland heterogeneity on biodiversity are similar to—or even larger than—the effects of farming practices**  
 Amanda E. Martin<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sara J. Collins<sup>b</sup>, Susie Crowe<sup>b</sup>, Judith Girard<sup>c</sup>, Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis<sup>d</sup>, Adam C. Smith<sup>a</sup>, Kathryn Lindsay<sup>a</sup>, Scott Mitchell<sup>b</sup>, Lenore Fahrig<sup>b</sup>



## Approach and Objectives

### Study area:

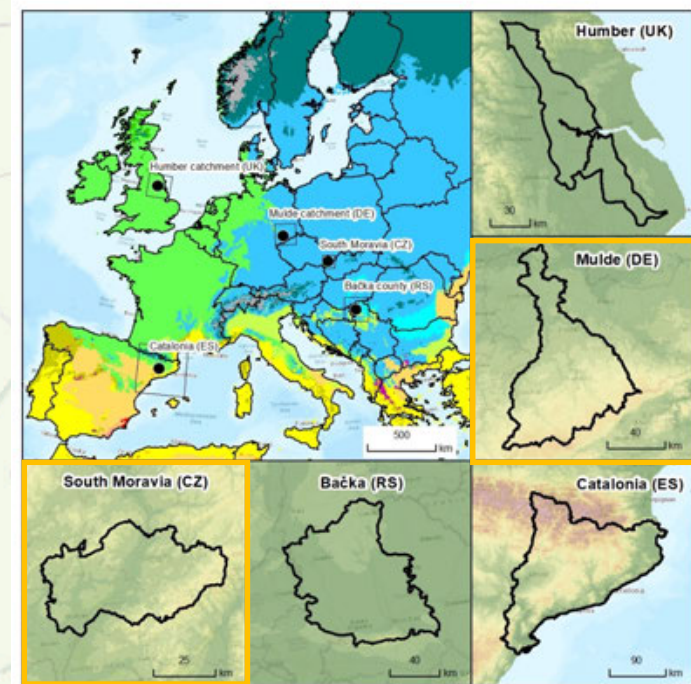
- Mulde river basin (5 000 km<sup>2</sup>), Saxony, Germany
- Jižní Morava (2 000 km<sup>2</sup>), Czechia

### Approach:

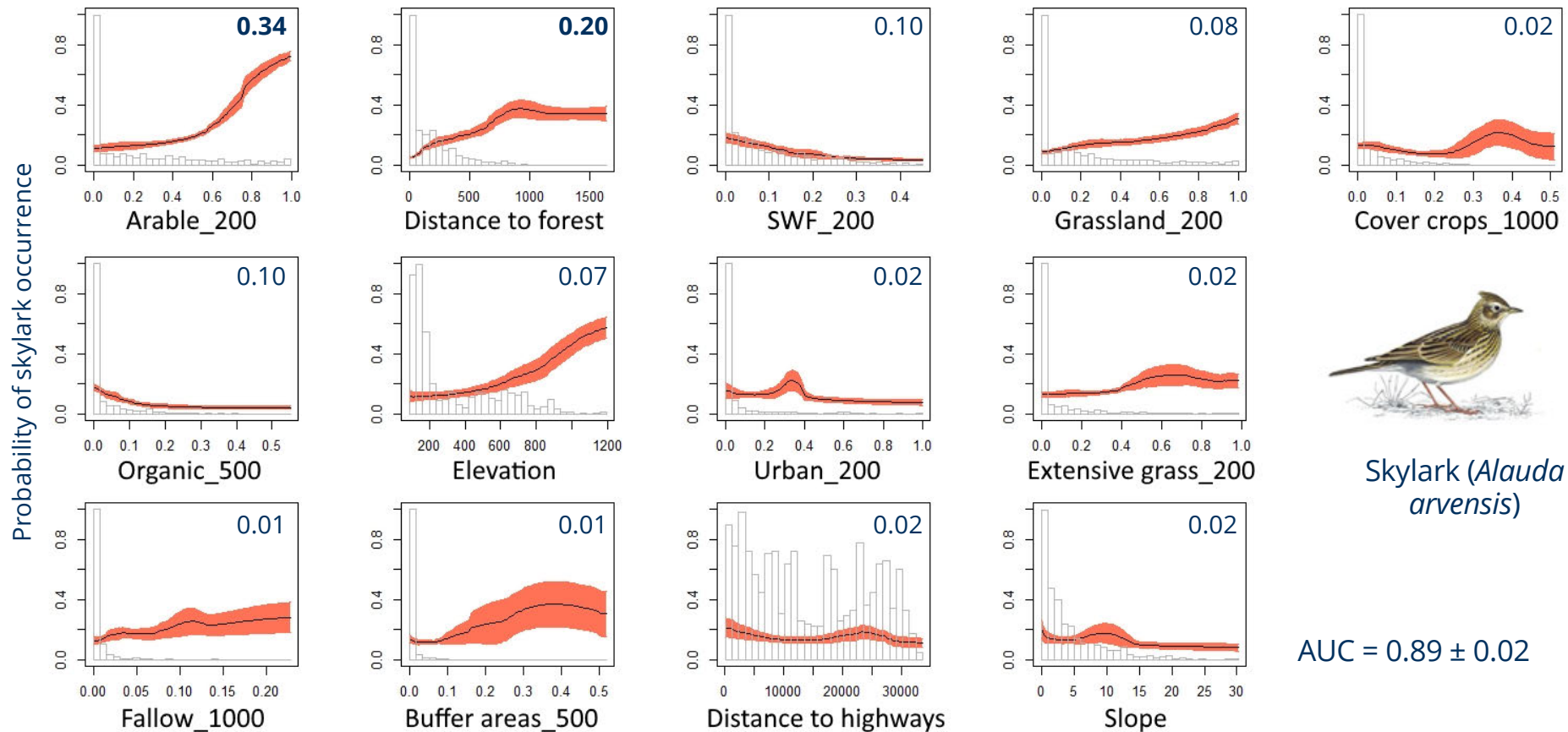
- farmland birds as ecological indicators
- spatial data from LPIS at the field level
- ensemble Species Distribution Models (SDMs)

### We aimed to investigate:

- the effect of five selected groups of AEM (i.e. **buffer areas, cover crops, extensive grassland management, fallow land and organic farming**) on habitat suitability for farmland birds
- at which spatial scale are AEM most effective
- how habitat suitability would change in varying AEM scenarios



# Results: variable importance and response plots



Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

AUC = 0.89 ± 0.02



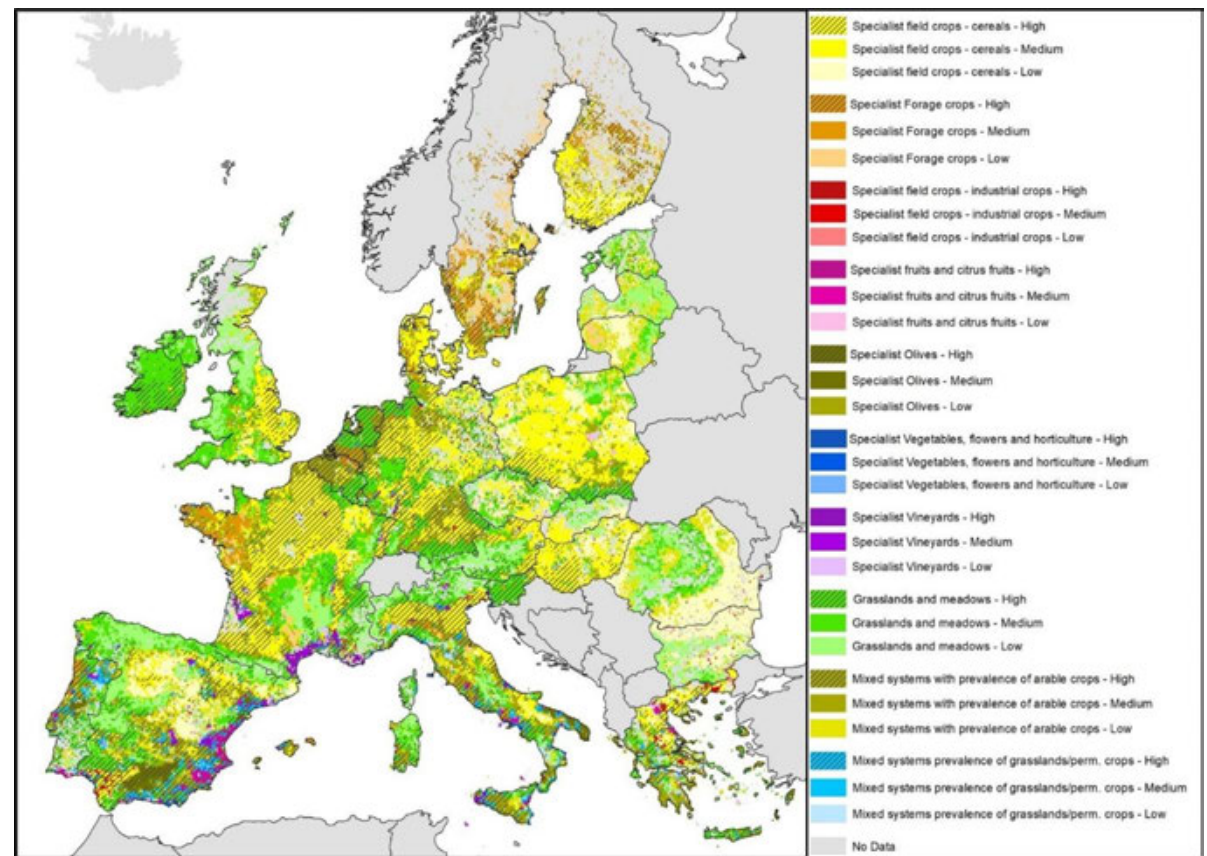


# 1. Archetypes of agri-environmental systems

Rega et al. (2020)

Recent typologies of agricultural systems in Europe (e.g. Andersen, 2017; Levers et al., 2018; Rega et al., 2020) – often **specific focus** (e.g. crop types and energy input)

General characterizations that rely mostly on **biophysical factors** (climate, topography, soils) have proved to be useful for modeling land use and policy impacts (Metzger et al. 2013)



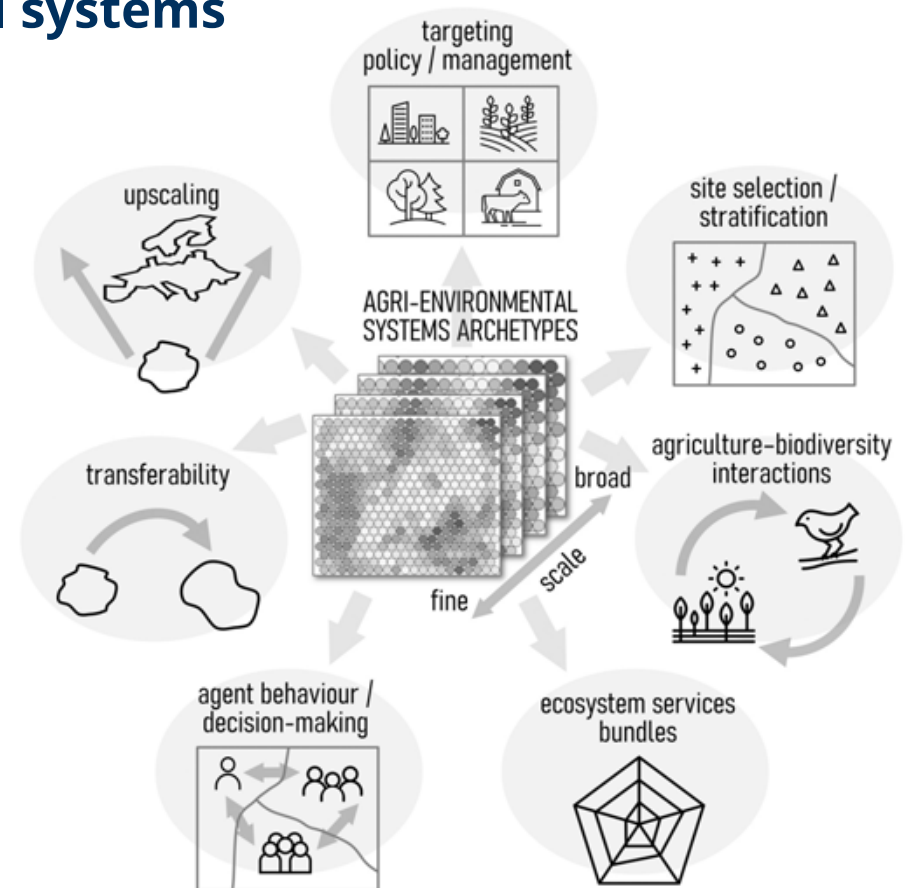
# 1. Archetypes of agri-environmental systems

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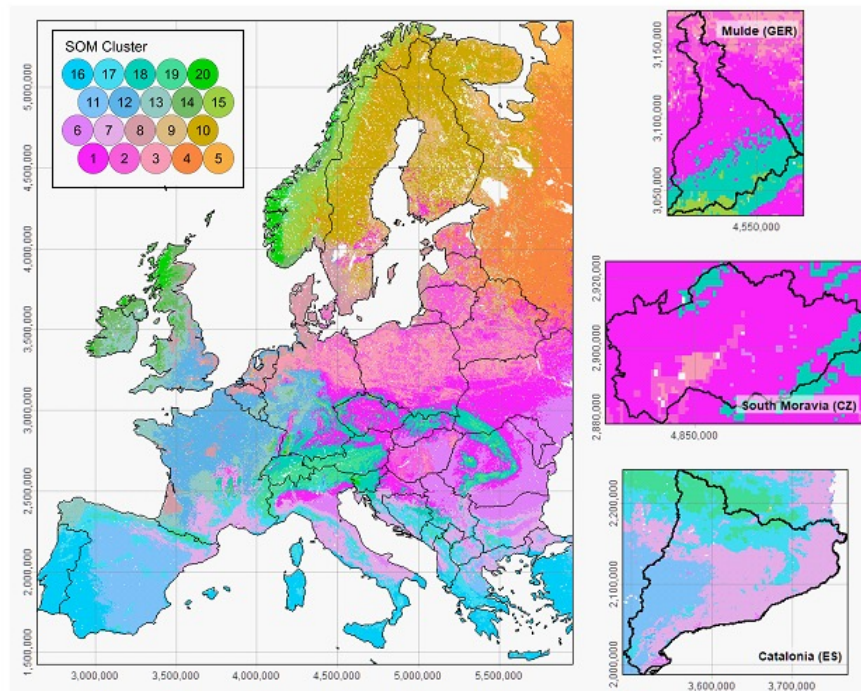
## Agri-environmental archetypes

- Recent, agriculturally-important, biophysical parameters
- Data-driven and scalable

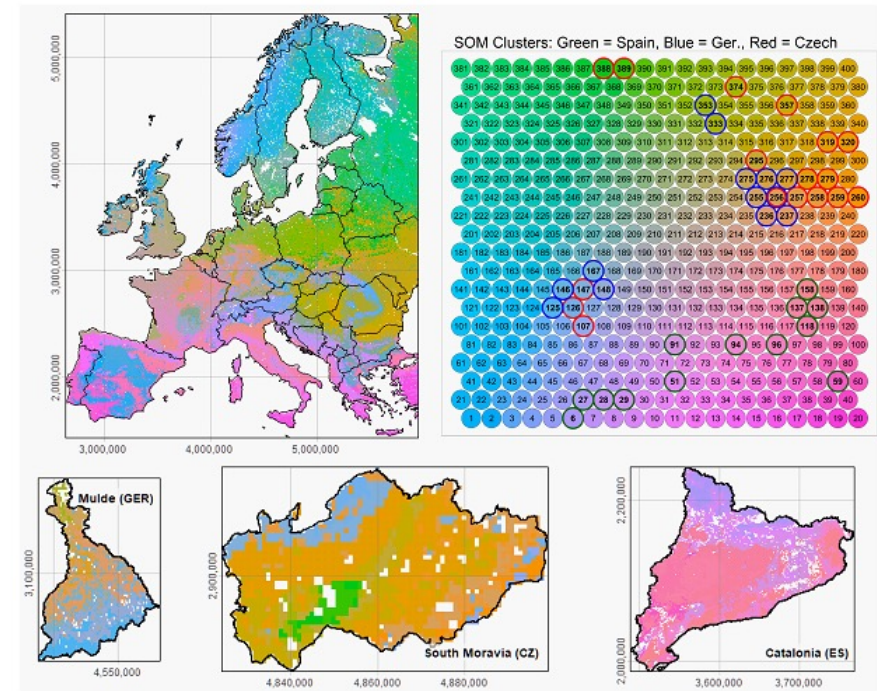


# 1. Archetypes of agri-environmental systems

Continental scale – SOM k20



Regional scale – SOM k400





## **Examples from H2020 European research projects**

Modelling Agricultural Individual Decision making

The MIND STEP Model Toolbox



**John Helming**

Senior Researcher at Wageningen  
Economic Research



**MIND  
STEP**



MODELLING INDIVIDUAL  
DECISIONS TO SUPPORT THE  
EUROPEAN POLICIES RELATED TO  
AGRICULTURE

# Modelling Agricultural Individual Decision making – The MIND STEP Model Toolbox

Presenter: John Helming (Wageningen Economic Research)

Event title: Research Lessons to Inform Future CAP Reform (7 February 2024 – Bruxelles)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 817566

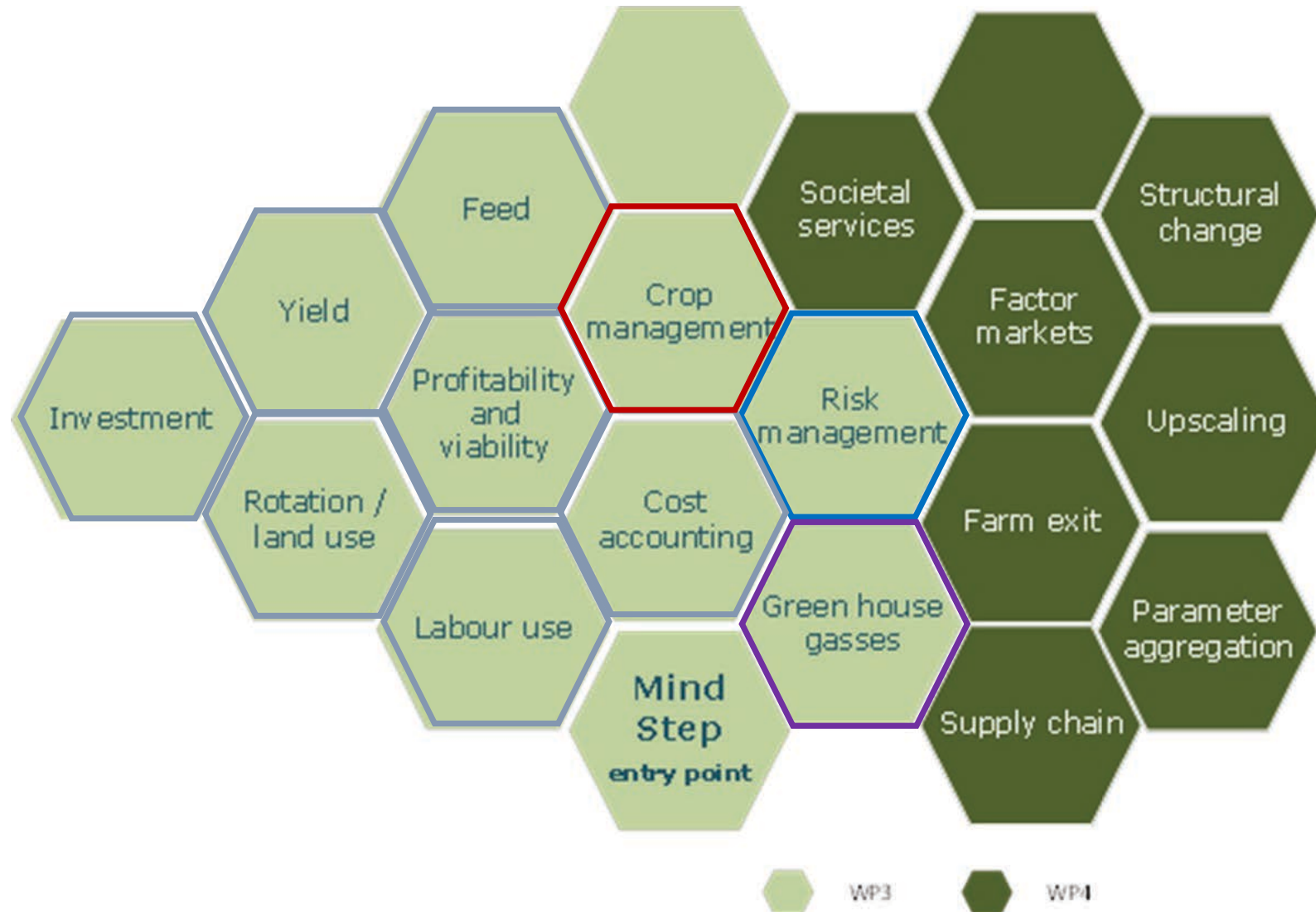
<https://mind-step.eu/>

To support public decision making in agricultural, rural, environmental and climate policies taking into account the behaviour of individual decision-making (IDM) units in agriculture and the rural society.

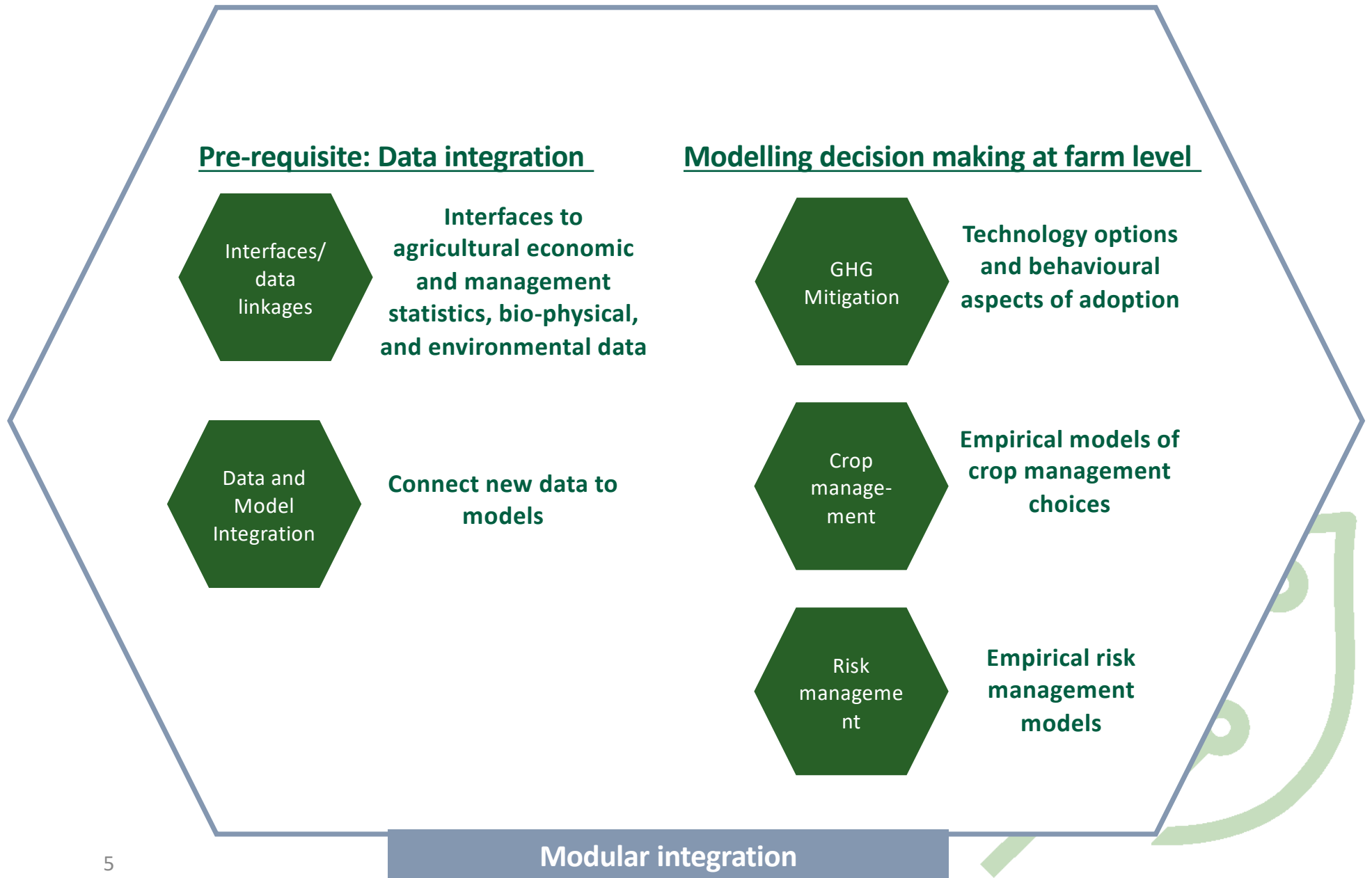
## **MIND STEP has developed tools and models focusing on:**

- Better representation of the diversity of farms heterogeneity in modeling
- Interactions between farms
- Improved interfaces between data and models at different scales (farm, regional, national, EU)
- Transparency of methods, sustainable software development, model validation and policy evaluation

# Honeycomb of methods at farm-level

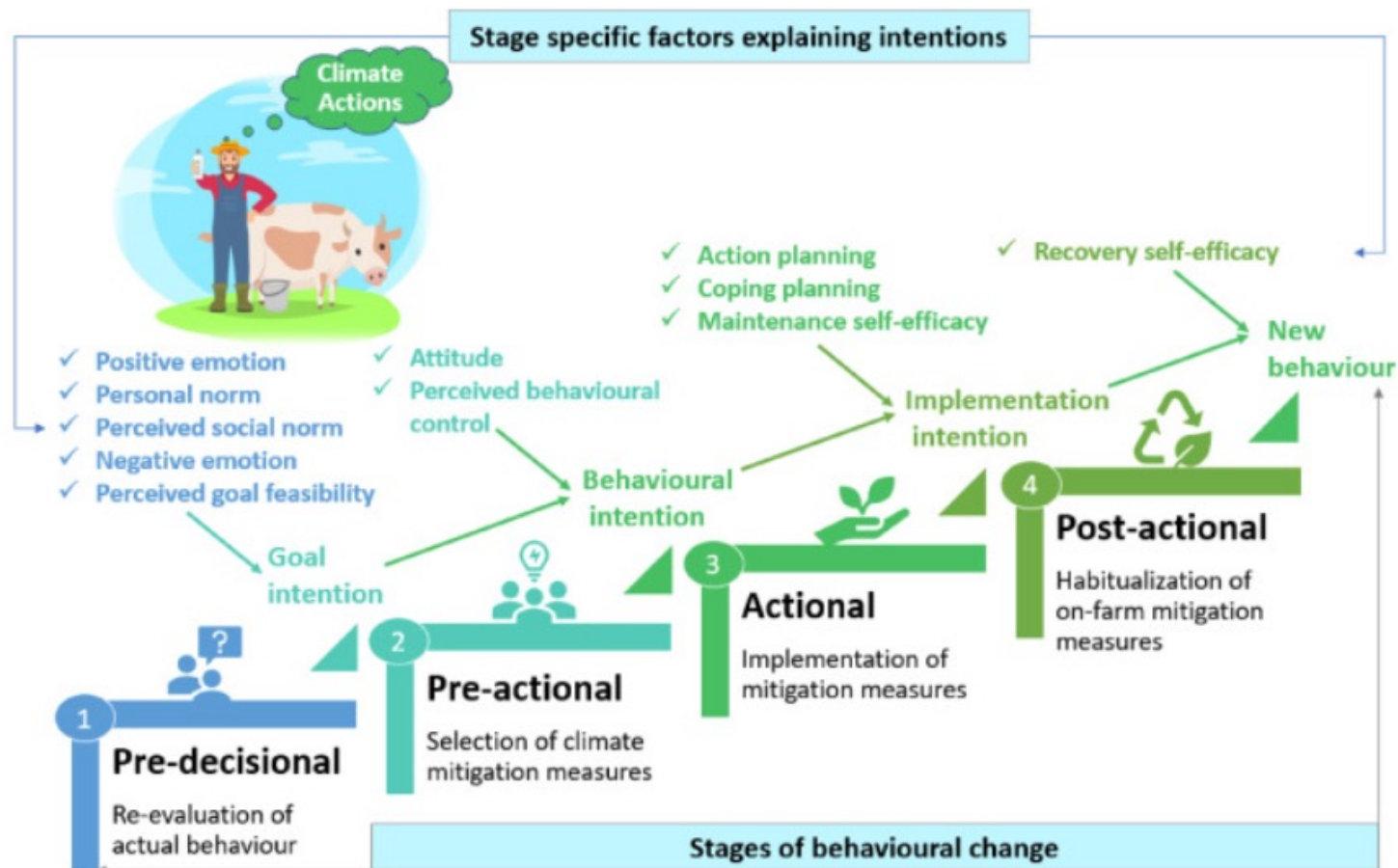


# Working towards the honeycomb





Adoption behaviour of GHG mitigation technologies: increased readiness for change in four decision stages



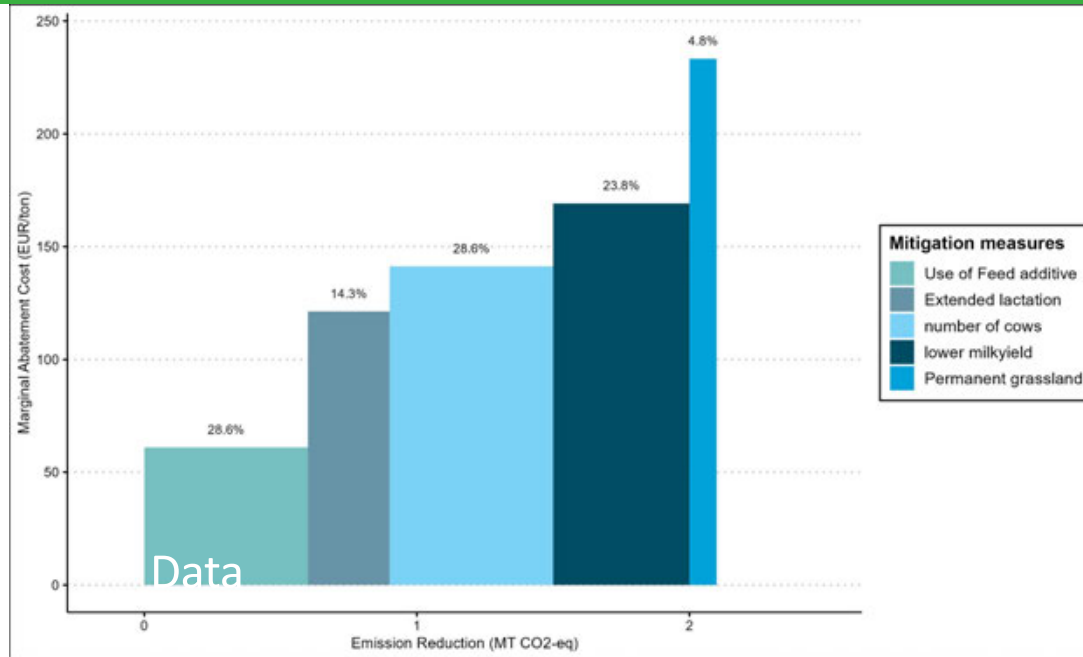
# Technology options and behavioural aspects of adoption

	Dependent variable: Stage membership	
	Coefficients (SE)	Odds ratio
<u>Cognitive factors</u>		
Positive emotion	-0.186 (0.186)	0.831
Negative emotion	0.423** (0.178)	1.527**
Perceived social norm	0.110 (0.208)	1.116
Personal norm	0.185 (0.215)	1.203
Perceived goal feasibility	0.288 (0.177)	1.334
Attitude	-0.283 (0.226)	0.754
<u>Behavioural factors</u>		
Perceived behavioural control	0.163 (0.214)	1.177
Action planning	0.387** (0.169)	1.472**
Coping planning	0.362* (0.218)	1.436*
Maintenance self-efficacy	-0.144 (0.191)	0.866
Recovery self-efficacy	-0.283 (0.196)	0.754
<u>Socio-demographic factors</u>		
Age	0.107** (0.041)	1.113**
Age squared	-0.001** (0.0005)	0.999**
Basic agricultural education	0.379*** (0.025)	1.461***
Full agricultural education	-0.183*** (0.051)	0.833***
Yearly family farm income	-0.004 (0.013)	0.996
Livestock density	0.337* (0.175)	1.401*
<u>Intercepts</u>		
1 2	4.09***(0.00)	
2 3	5.70***(0.00)	
3 4	5.95***(0.00)	
Observations	100	
Note:	*p<0.1**p<0.05***p<0.01	

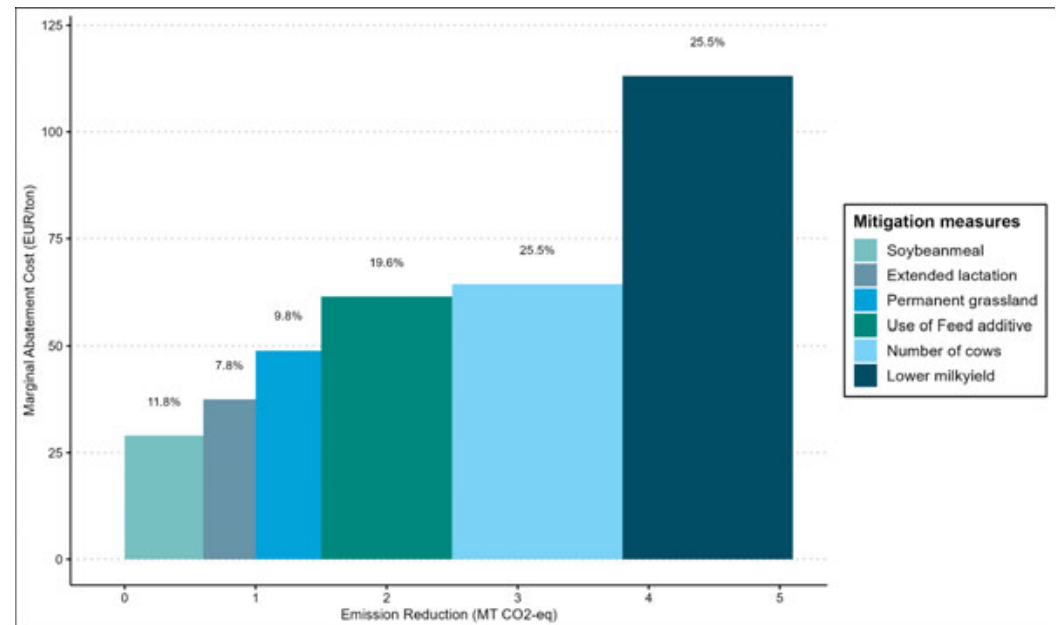


**Observable from statistics**

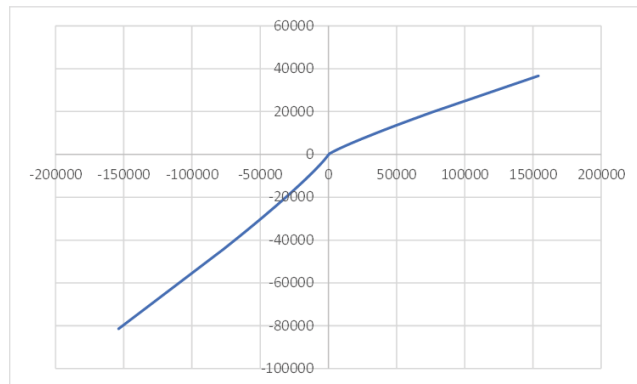
## MACC Extensive farms



## MACC Intensive farms

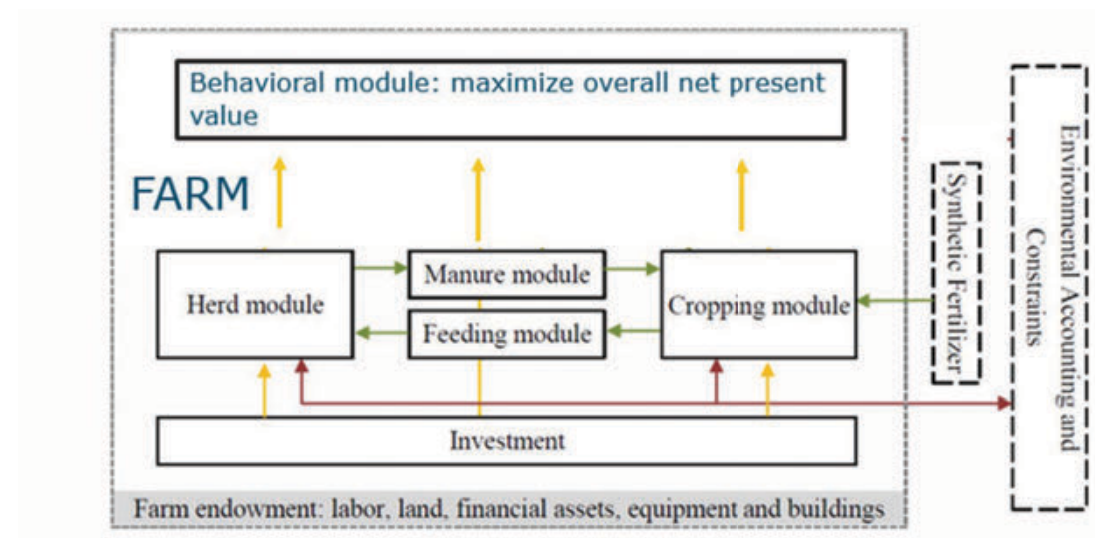


Empirical work on risk behaviour: risk utility functions based on available data (FADN)



Empirical Tversky-Kahnemann  
Utility function

Data and model integration: Integration into established farm-level models (here: FarmDyn)



Remark: — represents mass transfers from one module to another  
— represents monetary transfers  
— represents environmental and related transfers.

Source: Britz et al., 2016



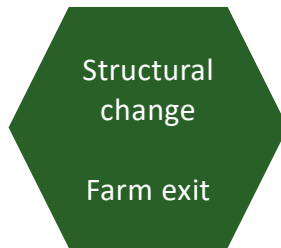
- Policy implications of farm level findings (I)
  - **Technology adoption**
    - In order to strengthen farmers' goal intention in mitigating emissions, Dutch government and the dairy sector can collaborate in promoting the long-term benefits of mitigating GHG emissions and compensate the short-term costs that farmers may encounter.
  - **Crop management**
    - farmers respond to economic incentives (even if their responsiveness display significant heterogeneity), implying that economic policy instruments could be useful for achieving the objectives of the EU Green Deal

- Policy implications of farm level findings (II)
  - **Risk assessment**
    - Risk behavior (loss aversion, use of heuristics) contributes to low insurance uptake
      - Improve communication of risks (reframing of probabilities)
      - Support multi-year contracts

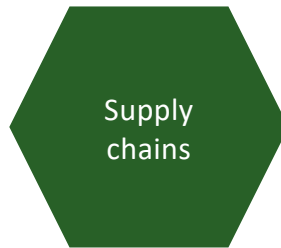
- Biophysical agronomic data
  - Soil type, soil carbon data, climatic zone, plant variety, cover crops, pesticides and fertilizer application per activity, planting date, etc.
- Environmental data
  - Greenhouse gas emissions by source, Nutrient surpluses, water quality, etc.
- Financial data
  - Modernity of the stables and equipment
- Socio-psychological factors (e.g. related to environmental goals)
  - Positive and negative emotions from (not) receiving specific environmental goals, perceived social norm, personal norm, perceived goal feasibility, perceived behavioural control, maintenance self-efficacy, recovery self-efficacy, etc.

# Modelling interactions between farms

## Empirical estimation of parameters for:



Interactions on the  
land market

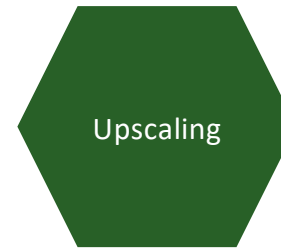


Interactions along  
the supply chain



Interactions  
between farms to  
participate in Agri-  
environment  
schemes

## Novel approach for model linkages:

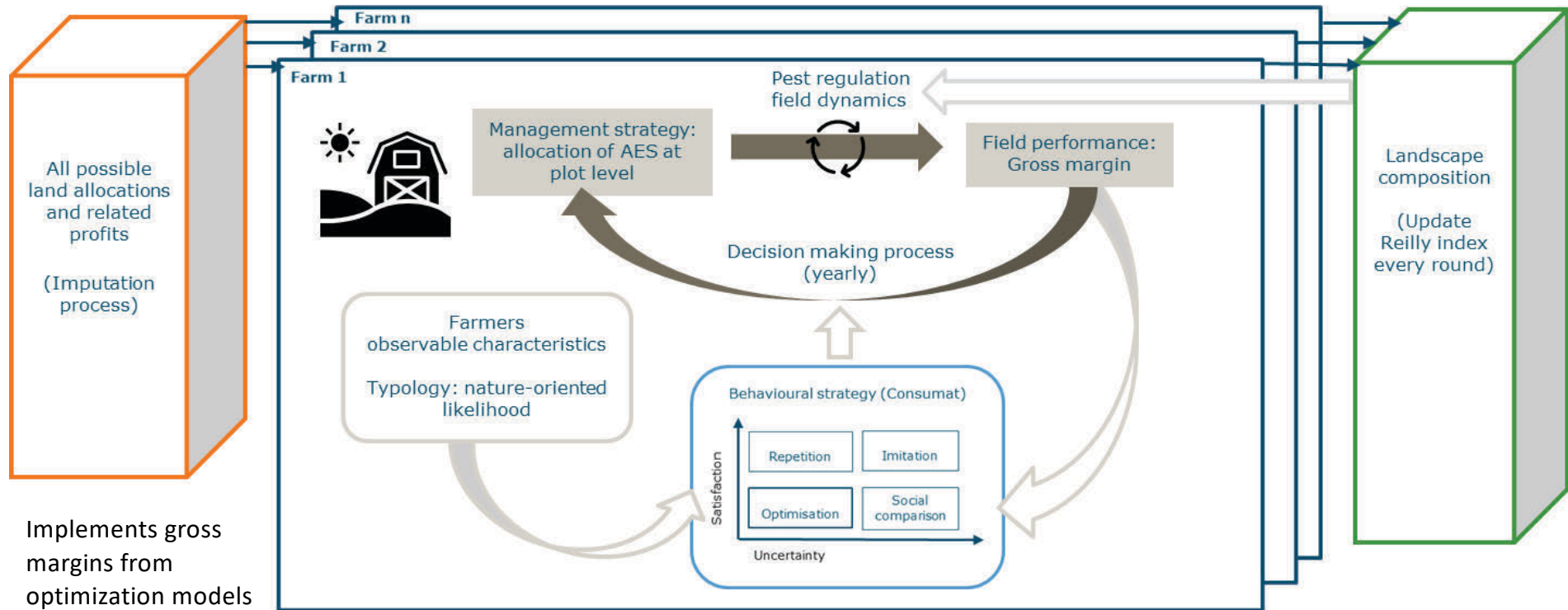


Linking single-farm  
level models with  
Agent-Based  
Models





# Overview of the Collective Ecosystem Services Model (CoESM)



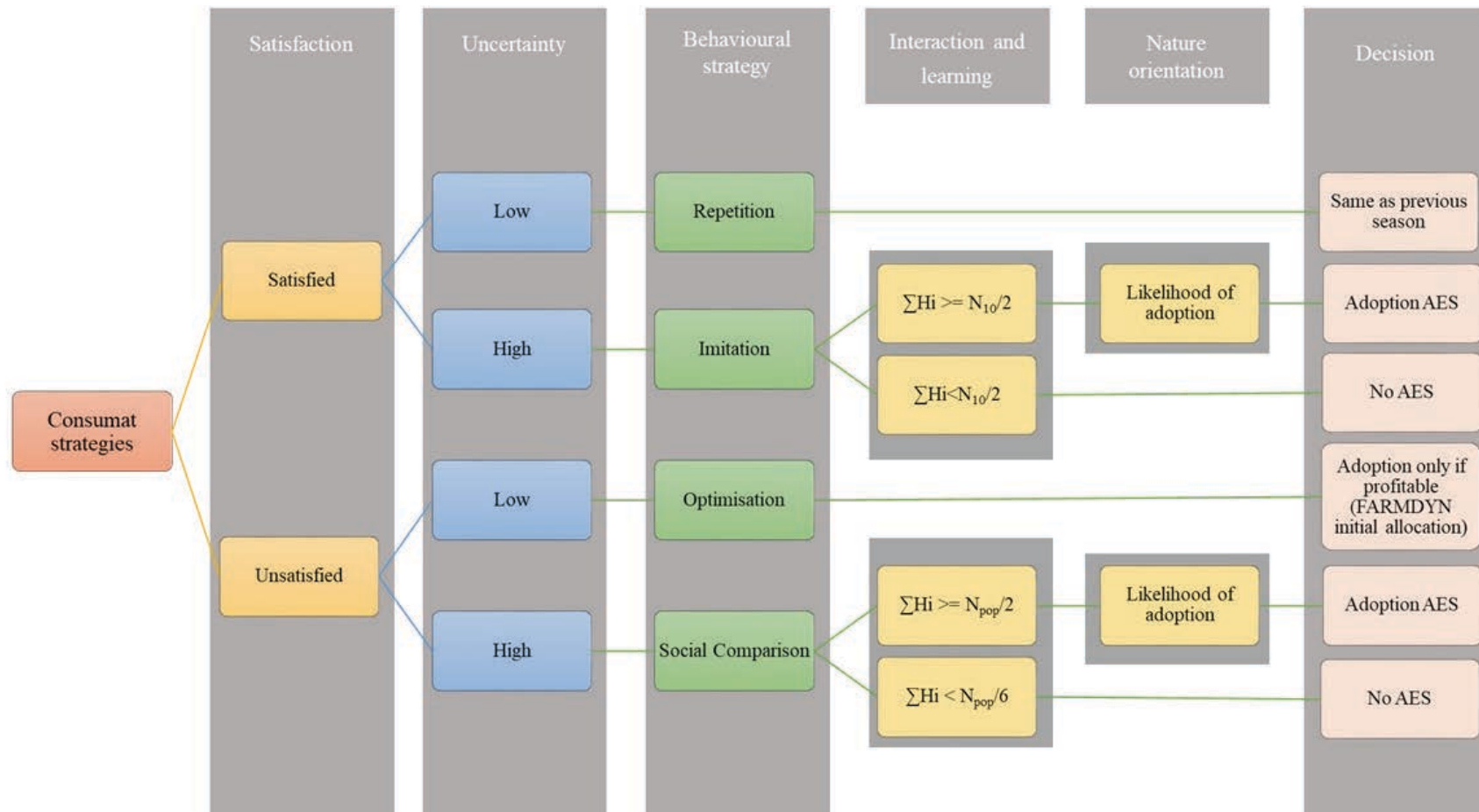
Implements gross margins from optimization models (FARMDYN)

Considers farm and plot characteristics

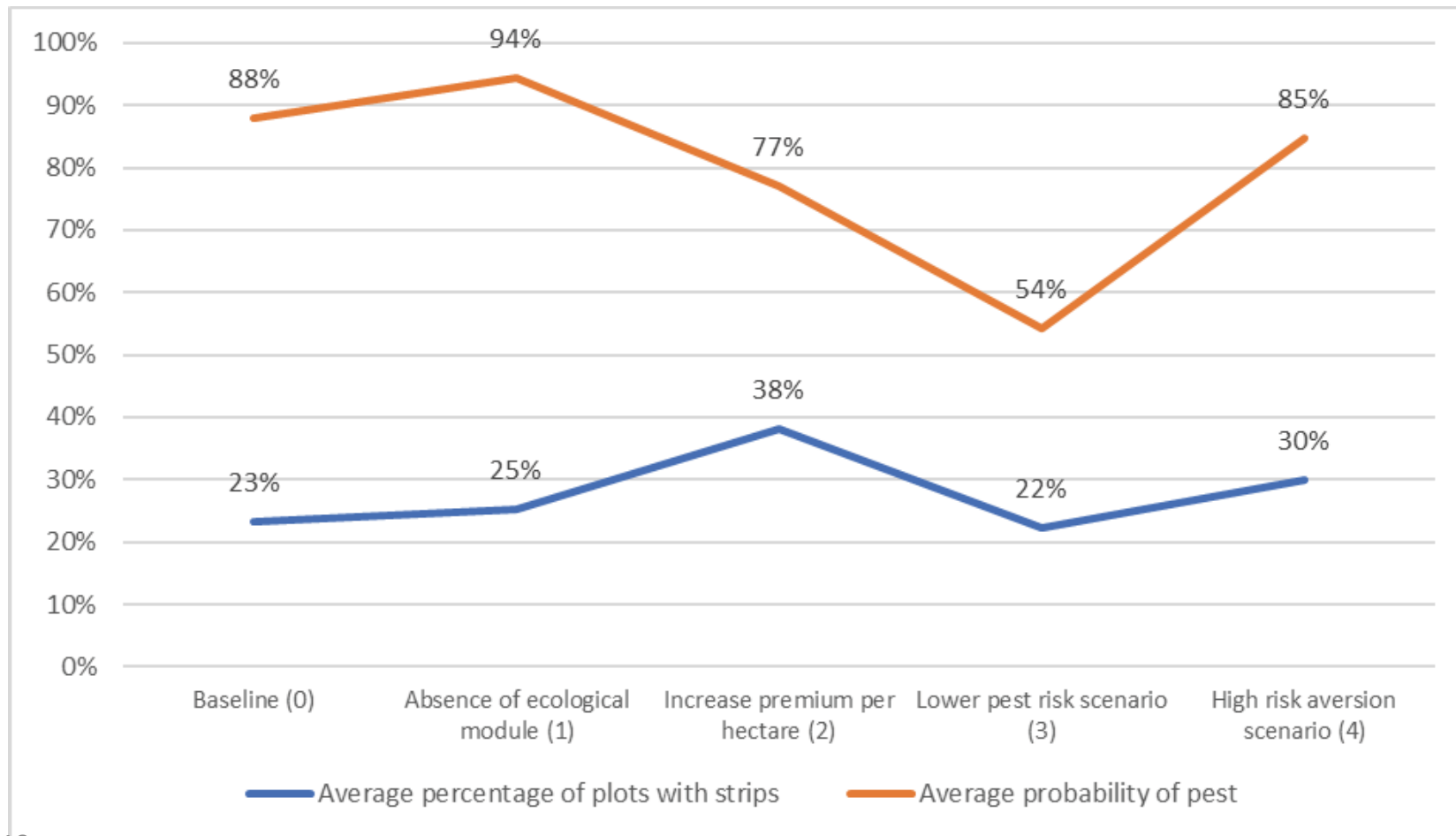
**Consumat approach:** used to model farmers' interactions and behavioural strategies

Impact on the landscape and the ecosystem services returned by the landscape

Decision tree of the Consumat approach interactions and learning and farmers' decision based on nature orientation.



Number of plots with flower strips and the probability of pests. Note: Monte Carlo simulation over 200 runs of 15 years.



# Policy implications

- Adoption of flower strips is influenced by the value of the crops, risk, and premiums
- Importance of promoting collective action in ecosystem services (long-term benefits that farmers can receive from these investments)



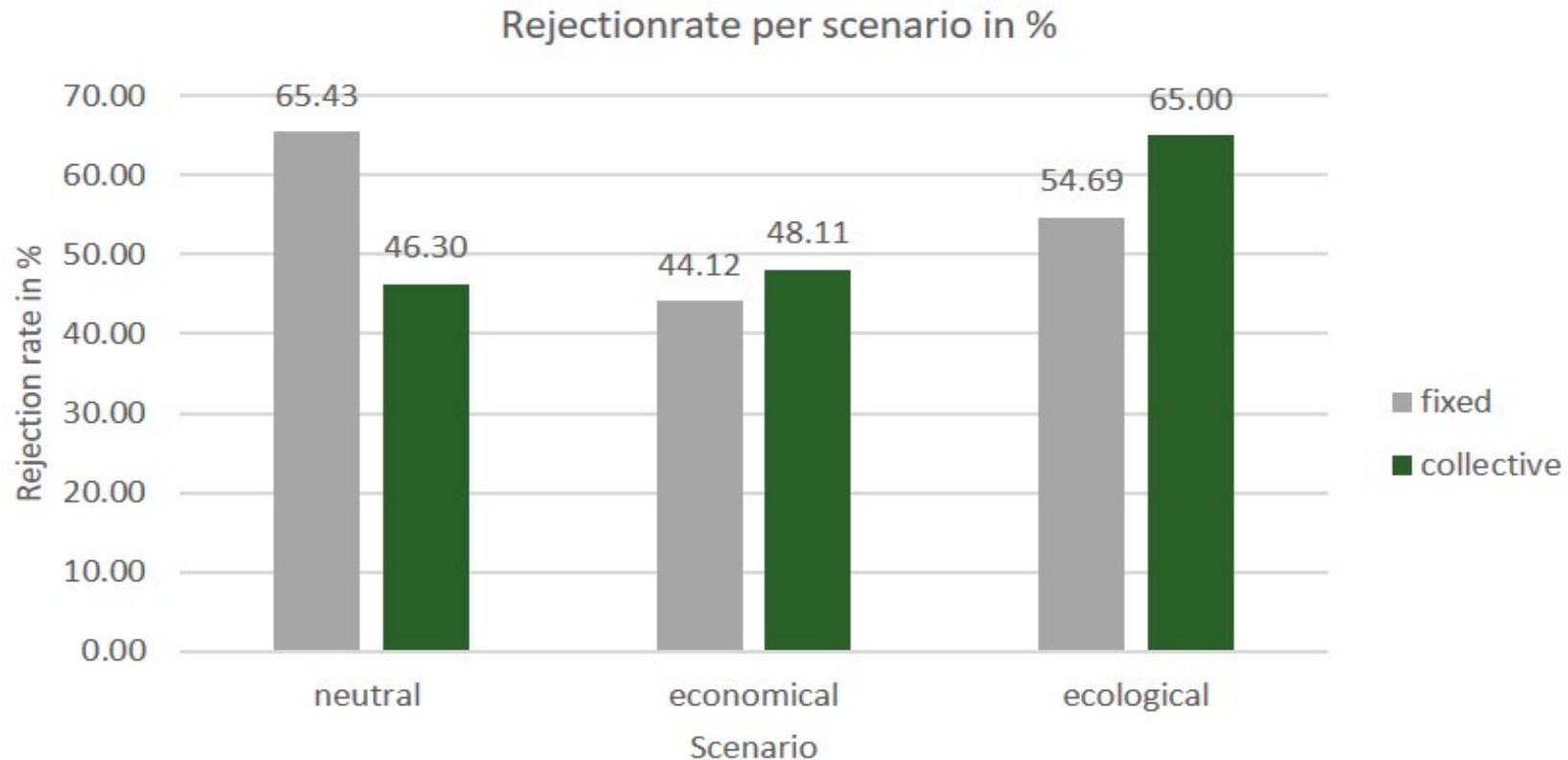
## Approach

- Experimental study of acceptance of AES using FarmAgriPolis participatory agent-based model



## Findings

- Rejection higher for fixed payment schemes than in collective payments (neutral framing)
- Framing (economic or biophysical) important for participants' decision and connected with payment scheme

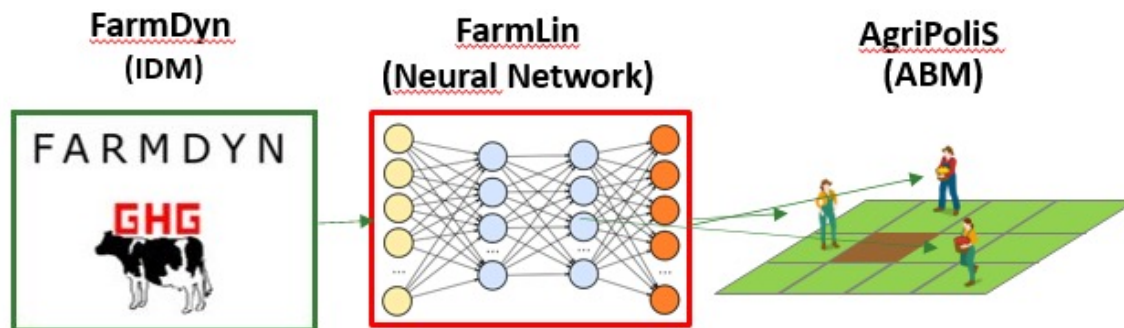


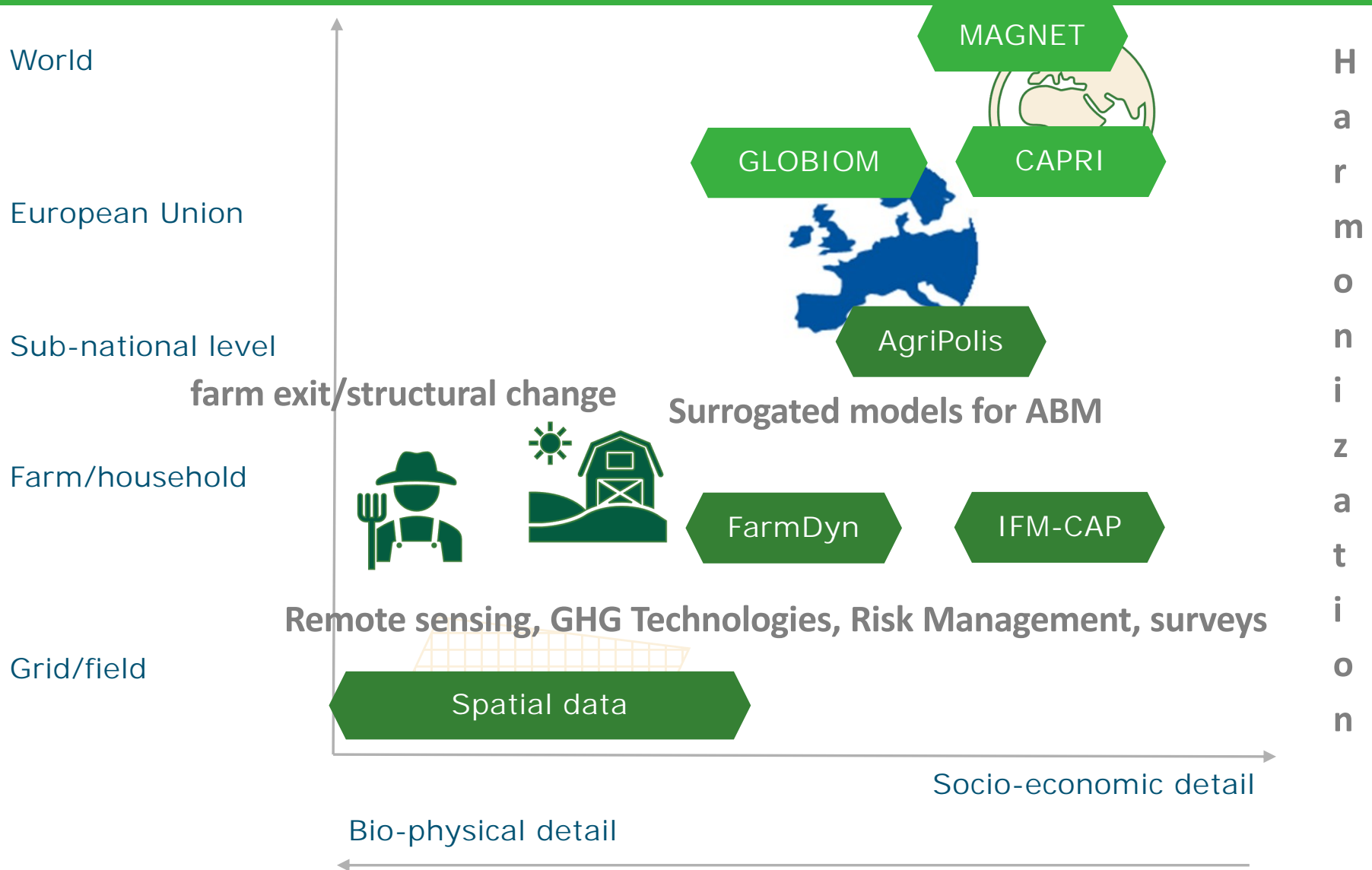
## Approach / Achievements

- 1) Interface alignment allowing conceptual integration of FarmDyn in AgriPoliS
- 2) Deep learning surrogate modelling for farm level models (FarmDyn)
- 3) Technical integration of FarmDyn as IDM in AgriPoliS using a surrogate

## Implications

Policy assessment possible with detailed environmental indicators and technology (from FarmDyn) while considering farmers' interaction on the land market (AgriPoliS)





**IDM** Individual Decision Making models  
**RS** Remote Sensing data integration  
 Modules and Tools

## **Improved interfaces between data and models at different scales (farm, regional, national, EU)**

- endogenous changes in farm size (a component of structural change) (IFM-CAP)
- harmonising production systems and farm typologies (GLOBIOM),
- splitting primary factors to include live animals (MAGNET),
- calibrating behavioural parameters (GLOBIOM),
- improving risk representation (GLOBIOM)
- addressing greenhouse gas emission reduction potentials and costs (GLOBIOM, MAGNET)



# Two benchmark scenarios for EU agriculture in 2030

- Climate mitigation
  - Taxation on CO<sub>2</sub>eq emission strategy
  - Performance based agricultural policy strategy
    - subsidy on CO<sub>2</sub>eq emission reduction strategy, financed by direct payment of Pillar 1 of the CAP
- Reduction of mineral nitrogen fertiliser use
  - Taxation strategy
  - Taxation strategy and area based redistribution
  - Taxation strategy and compliance base redistribution

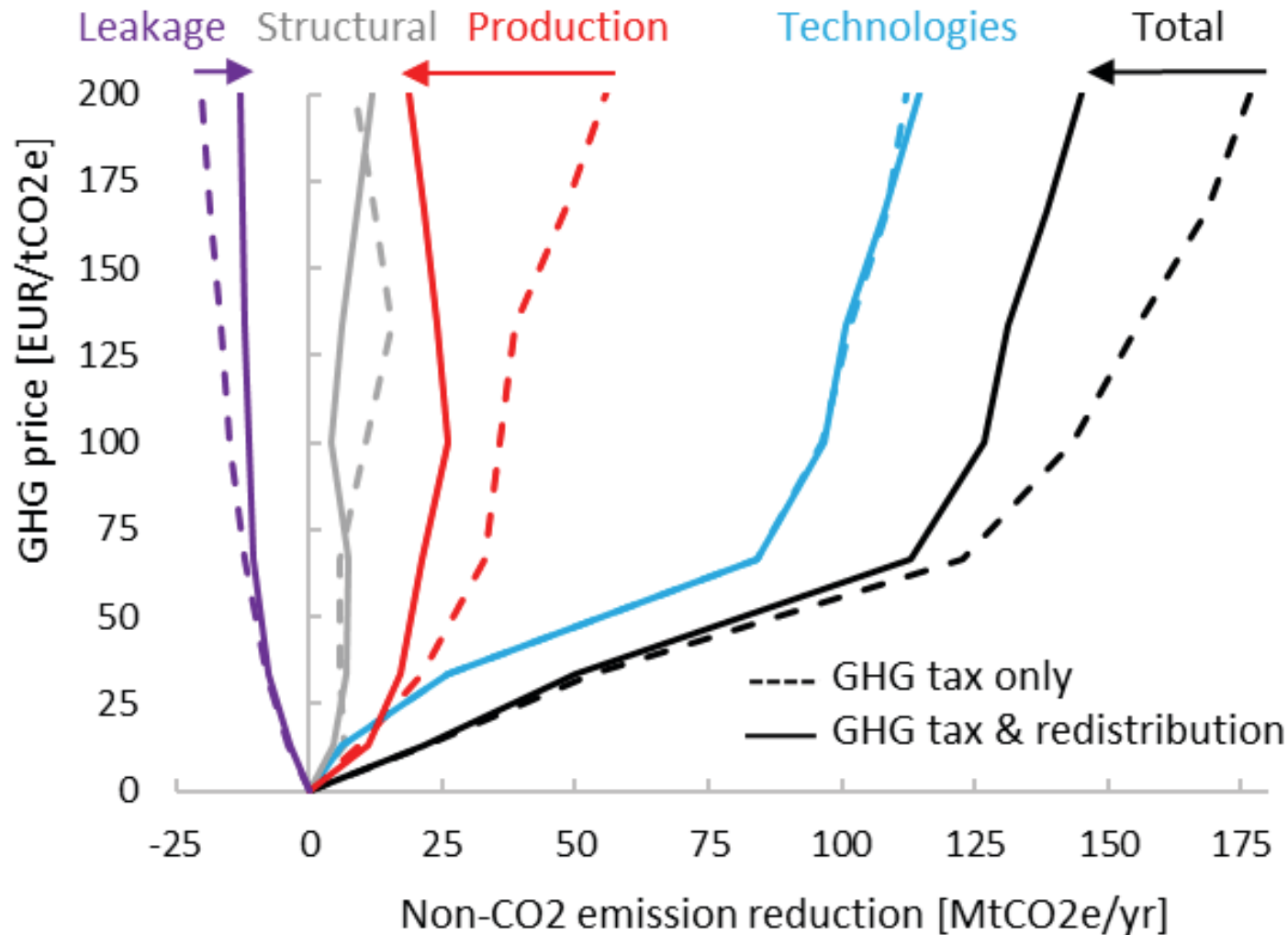
## Summary Results of EU27 (% change with respect to 2030 baseline) (MAGNET)

	65 CO2eq_ TAX	65 CO2eq_ SUB_DP	130 CO2eq_ TAX	130 CO2eq_ SUB_DP
Price Agri. Prim.	5.33	0.76	10.30	1.77
Production Agri. Prim.	-2.53	-0.35	-4.55	-0.80
Skilled labour (Agri. prim.)	-1.23	0.33	-1.94	0.74
Unskilled labour (Agri. prim.)	-0.75	0.29	-1.13	0.65
GDP	-0,43	-0,01	-0,82	-0,03
Total Emission (CO2eq)	-15,77	-1,34	-23,87	-1,82
Agri Emission (CO2eq)	-19,05	-12,63	-27,00	-17,12

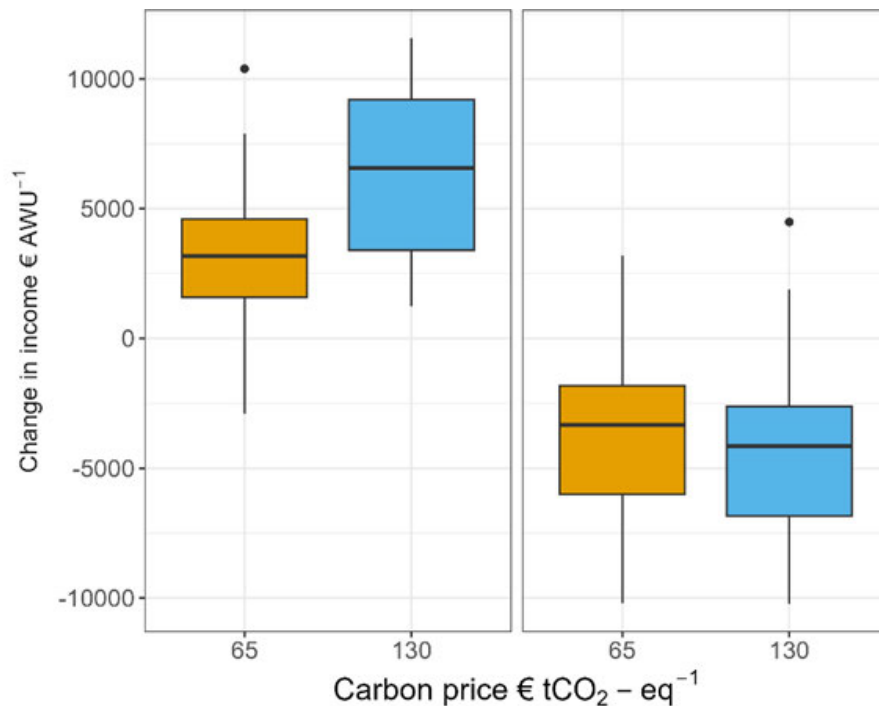
- At 130 euro per ton CO2eq
- GHG emission decline around - 30%
- 4.5 % reduction of agricultural production
- 0.8 % reduction in GDP.



Agricultural non-CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation potential decomposed by mitigation mechanism across GHG **taxation** scenarios (GLOBIOM)



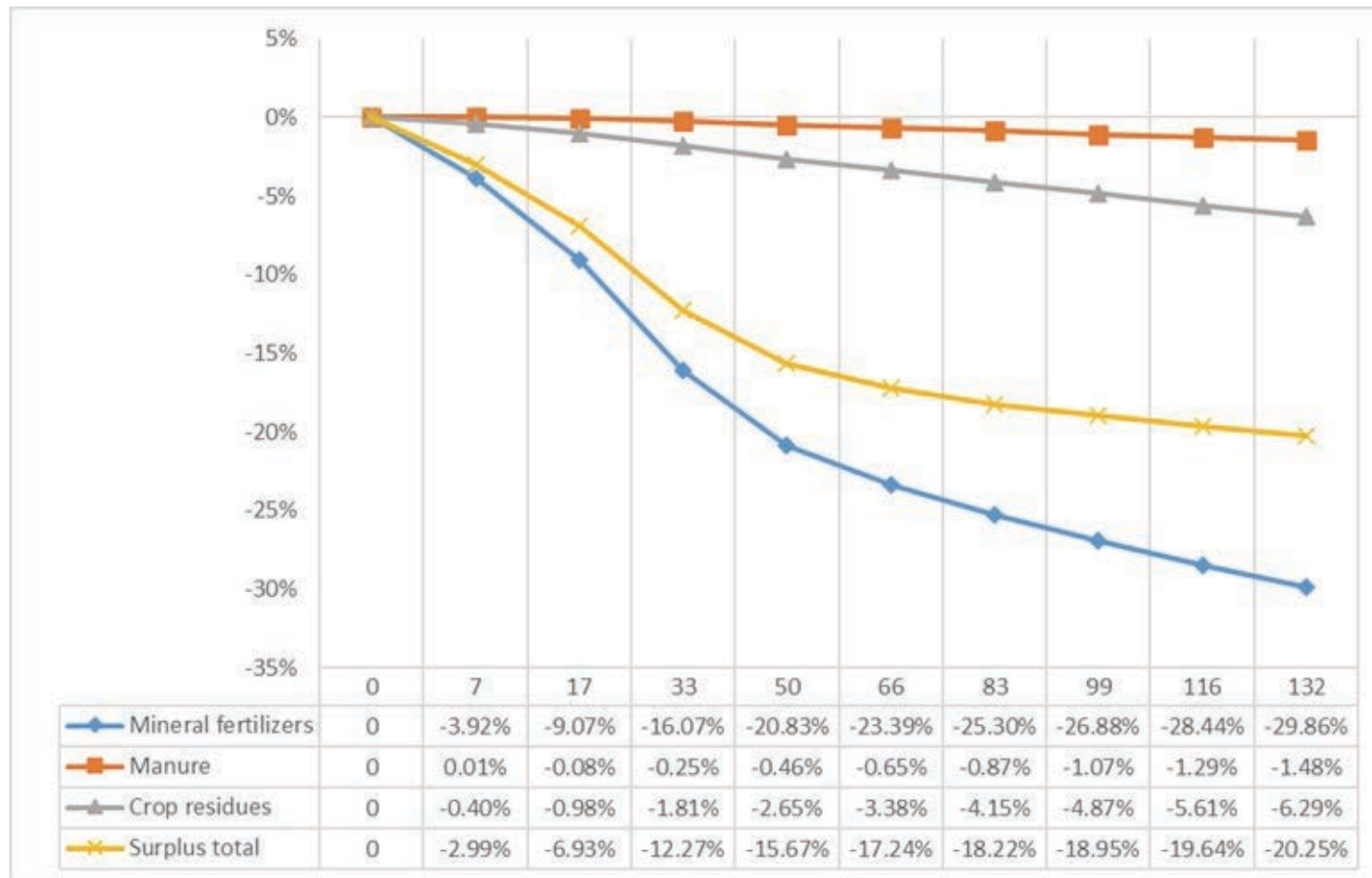
## Changes in average dairy farm income per AWU (FarmDyn)



- Taxation of 130 euro per ton CO<sub>2</sub>eq emission
  - Decrease in dairy farm income of around 5000 euro per AWU (15%)
- Subsidy of 130 euro per ton CO<sub>2</sub>eq emission reduction (budget neutral)
  - increases in dairy farm income around 6000 euro per AWU

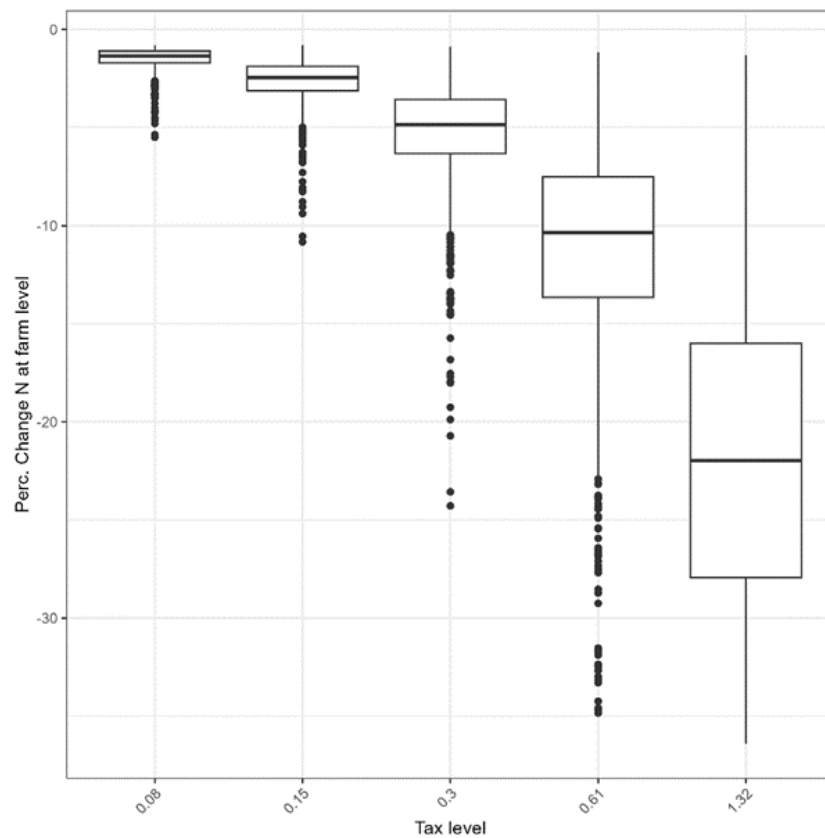
## Reduction of mineral nitrogen fertiliser use

Reduced N fertilizer application in response to increased taxation of mineral N fertilizer in the EU, with mitigation technologies. (CAPRI)





### Change in mineral Nitrogen fertiliser use at farm level. Italian arable crop farms (INRAE Model)



- The impact on mineral N fertiliser use on Italian FADN arable crop farms equal around – 22%.
- This compares to FarmDyn results for average NUTS2 arable farm
- reduction of mineral fertiliser use on NUTS2 average dairy farm equals around 50% (FarmDyn)

Effects on gross income under 132 % taxation of mineral N fertilizer variant. Percentage change compared to the base

<b>Specialist COP (15)</b>	<b>-10.30%</b>
<b>Specialist other fieldcrops (16)</b>	<b>-7.50%</b>
<b>Specialist horticulture (20)</b>	<b>-3.20%</b>
<b>Specialist wine (35)</b>	<b>-2.50%</b>
<b>Specialist orchards - fruits (36)</b>	<b>-5.40%</b>
<b>Specialist olives (37)</b>	<b>-3.70%</b>
<b>Permanent crops combined (38)</b>	<b>-2.80%</b>
<b>Specialist milk (45)</b>	<b>-1.50%</b>
<b>Specialist sheep and goats (48)</b>	<b>-1.10%</b>
<b>Specialist cattle (49)</b>	<b>-1.70%</b>
<b>Specialist granivores (50)</b>	<b>-1.20%</b>
<b>Mixed crops (60)</b>	<b>-4.50%</b>
<b>Mixed livestock (70)</b>	<b>-2.10%</b>
<b>Mixed crops and livestock (80)</b>	<b>-5.00%</b>
<b>All farms</b>	<b>-3.80%</b>

- Impact on gross income highest on specialist COP (-10.3%) and specialist other fieldcrops (-7.5%)



# Policy recommendations

- Taxation of emissions seems preferred above subsidy on emission reduction
- Gradual implementation allowing farmers and markets the necessary time to adjust
- Redirecting tax revenues to supplement subsidies could help mitigate extreme income effects even though environmental benefits might be compromised
- Flexible phase-out strategies (once emission reduction goals are met)
- Acknowledging the crucial role of evolving technology and structural change



Many thanks! Any questions?



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 817566



<https://mind-step.eu/>

## **Examples from H2020 European research projects**

AGRICORE, an Agent Based support tool for the development of agricultural policies



**Lisa Baldi**

Researcher, Agricultural  
Economics, University of Parma







# agricore

**AGENT-BASED SUPPORT TOOL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE POLICIES**



The Agricore project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement No. 816078

**2024 Research lessons to inform future CAP reform event**

**07/02/2024**

**Lisa Baldi, UNIPR**



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PARMA**

# OUTLINE



1. AGRICORE at a glance
2. AGRICORE modelling approach
3. Next Steps







# AGRICORE at a glance



07/02/2024

AGRICORE, an Agent Based support tool for the development of agricultural policies

# AGRICORE at a glance: Project



## The AGRICORE project



### The Aim

AGRICORE addresses the environmental and climatic impact assessment of policies by means of a dedicated module aimed to establish links between targeted policies and the corresponding impact KPIs on farmers' practice.



### The Project

The AGRICORE project proposes a novel tool for improving the current capacity to model policies dealing with agriculture by taking advantage of the latest progress in modelling approaches and ICT.



### The Model

The main objective of the AGRICORE project is to develop a new generation of ABM tool taking advantage of the latest progress in computational science and ICT.





# AGRICORE at a glance: Partners



- IDENER
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- AXIA INNOVATION
- UNIPR
- STAM
- Institute of Agrophysics (IA PAS)
- AYESA
- Agrifood Cooperatives of Andalusia
- Akdeniz University
- UTP University of Science and Technology of Bydgoszcz

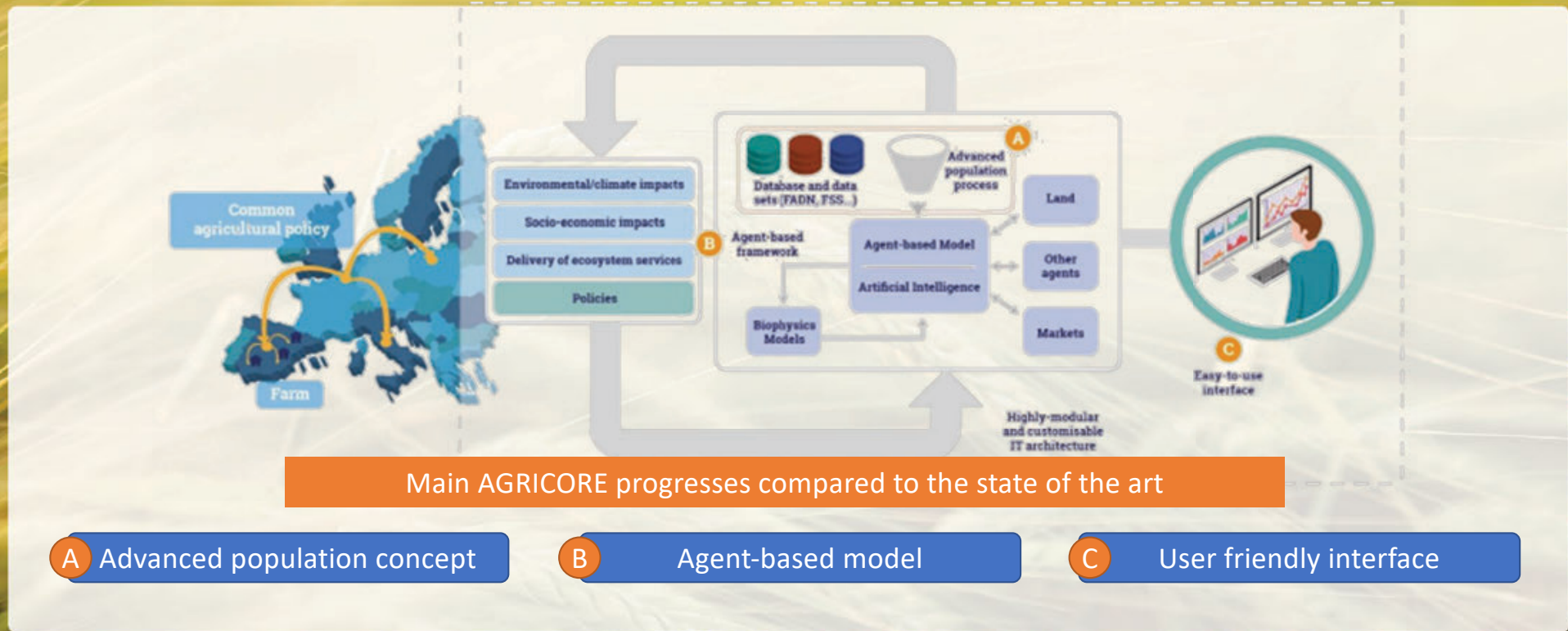


07/02/2024

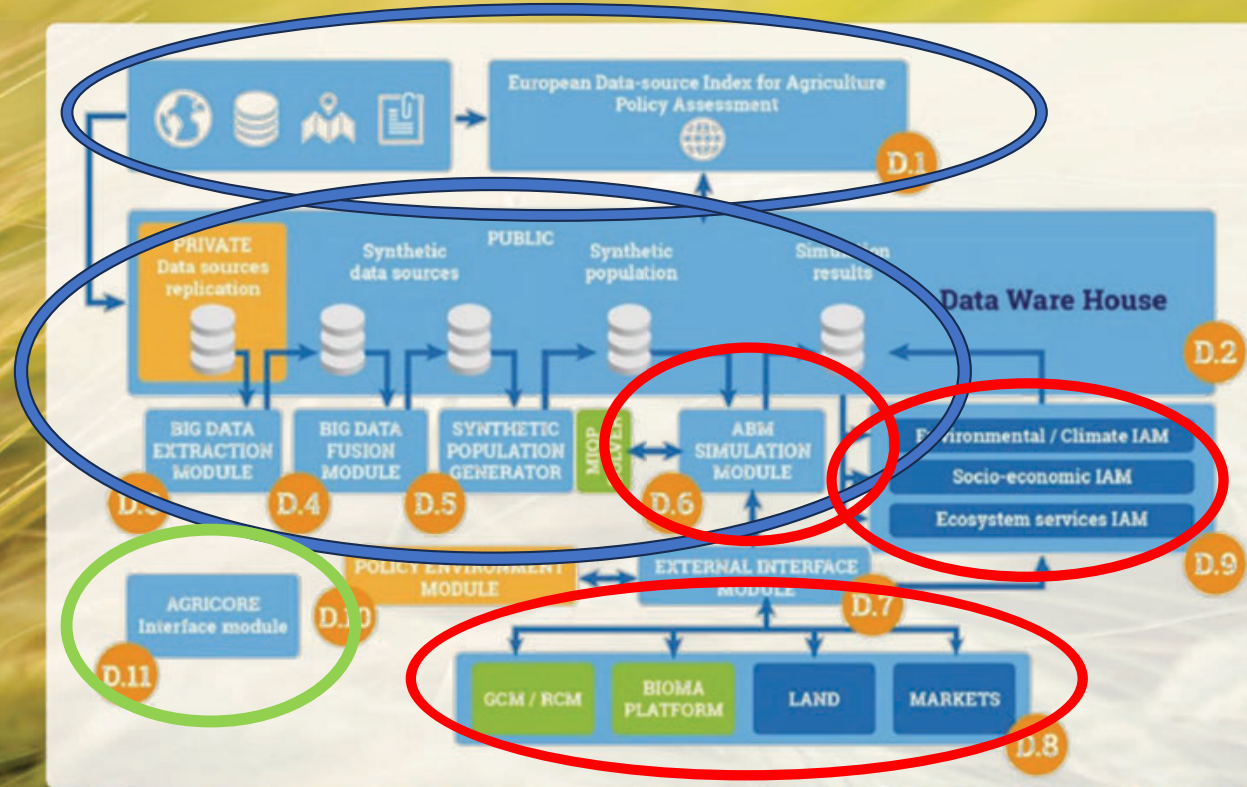
AGRICORE, an Agent Based support tool for the development of agricultural policies



# AGRICORE at a glance



# AGRICORE Architecture



- A** Advanced population concept
  1. Data source: identification & usage
  2. Synthetic population
- B** Agent-based model
  3. ABM Farm-level analysis
  4. Biophysical and other modules interactions
  5. Interaction with IAM
- C** User friendly interface







# AGRICORE modelling approach



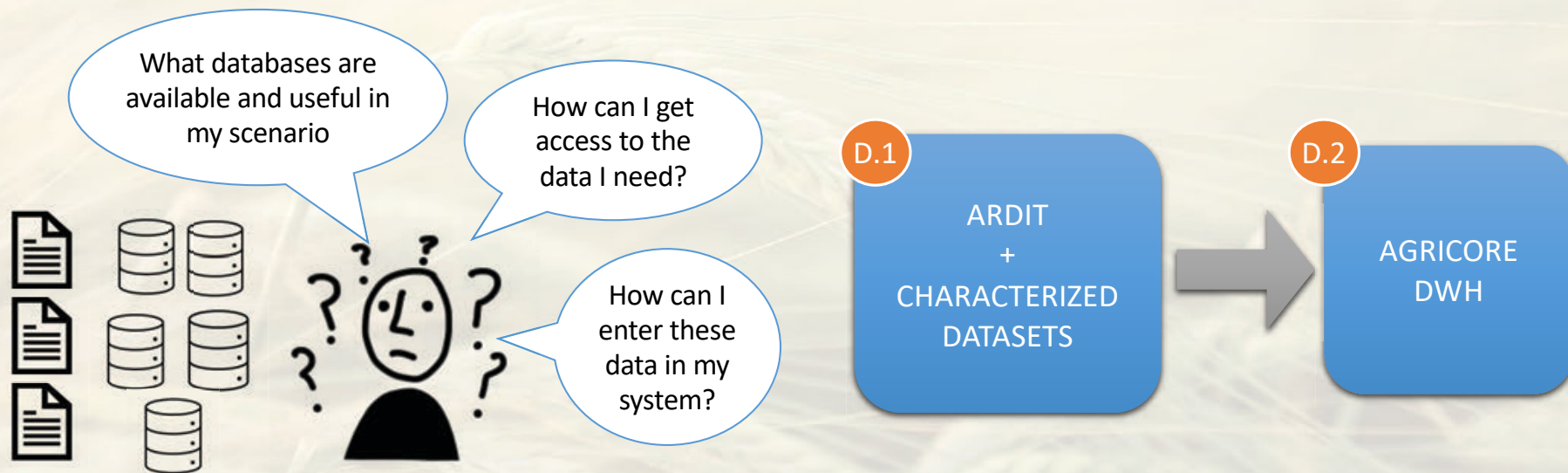
25/10/2023

Models and tools supporting agriculture policies: a Horizon update - Brussels

# AGRICORE modelling approach

A Advanced population concept

1 DATASOURCE IDENTIFICATION AND USAGE







The Agricultural Research Data Index Tool (ARDIT) is a platform created in the framework of the AGRICORE Project to index characterisations of datasets that can be used for the analysis and study of the agri-food chain. These characterisations of datasets (or dataset catalogues) can be incorporated by registered users through web-based forms built on the basis of the AGRICORE-DCAT 2.0 ontology, which allows characterisation down to the level of the variables contained in each dataset. ARDIT has a body of editors who verify the proposals for new additions and correct existing ones. The characterisation of each dataset has a comments section where registered users and editors can suggest and discuss corrections or changes, thus allowing peer review of the ARDIT tool.

The AGRICORE Project is an H2020 Programme project (Grant Agreement No 816078) that aims to design a simulation tool based on heterogeneous agents (down to the farm level) to analyse the potential impact that different public agricultural policy alternatives would have on them. The ultimate goal is to improve the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) design process through a suite of impact assessment tools that are detailed yet simple and transparent, incorporating the affected sectors in their construction and validation.

## Sign in

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Sign in

[Don't have an account? Sign up](#)

 [Access as guest](#)



This project has received funding from the European Union's HORIZON 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement NO 816078.





# AGRICORE modelling approach

A Advanced population concept

2 USE OF PRIVACY-FRIENDLY SYNTHETIC POPULATIONS

CENSUS-LIKE DATA SOURCES



SAMPLE DATA SOURCES



AGRICORE  
DWH



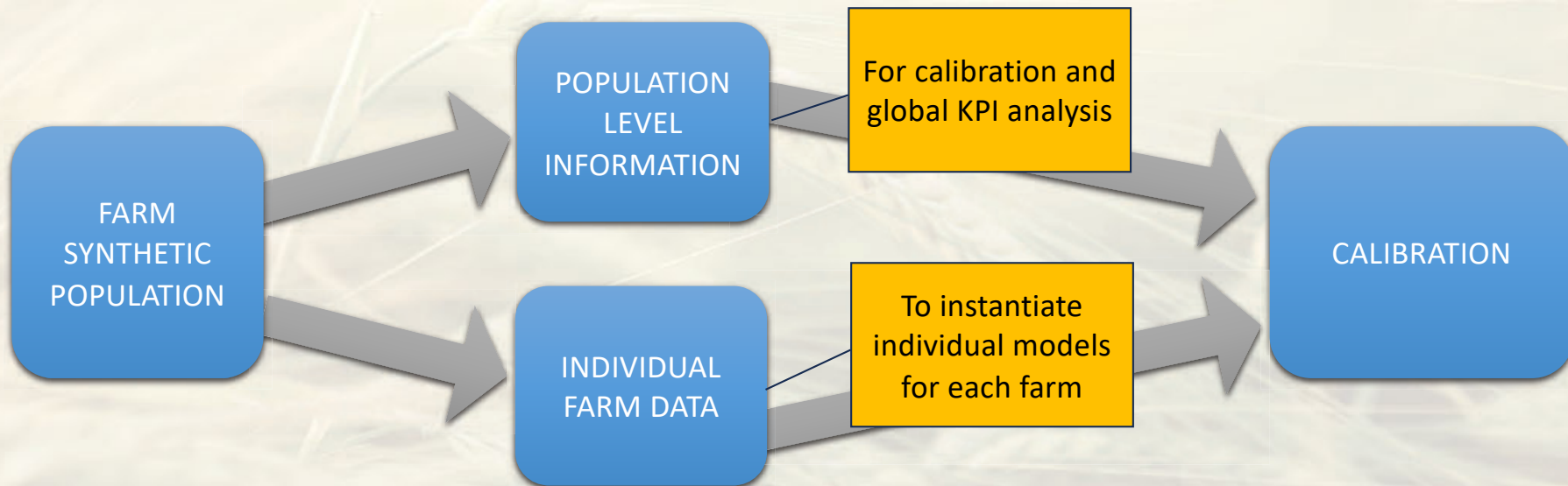
FARM  
SYNTHETIC  
POPULATION

- Automated population generation
- Reusable data for other simulations
- Remove data protection constrains

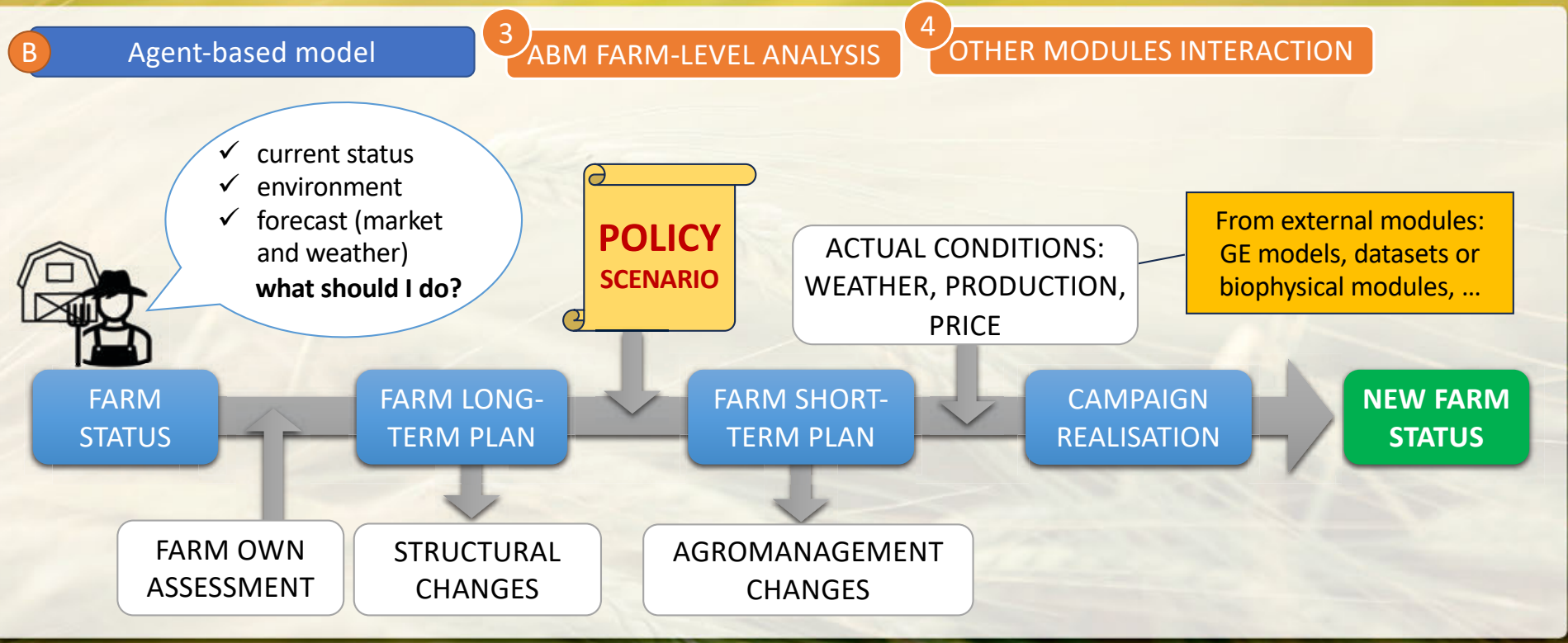
# AGRICORE modelling approach

B Agent-based model

3 ABM FARM-LEVEL ANALYSIS



# AGRICORE modelling approach



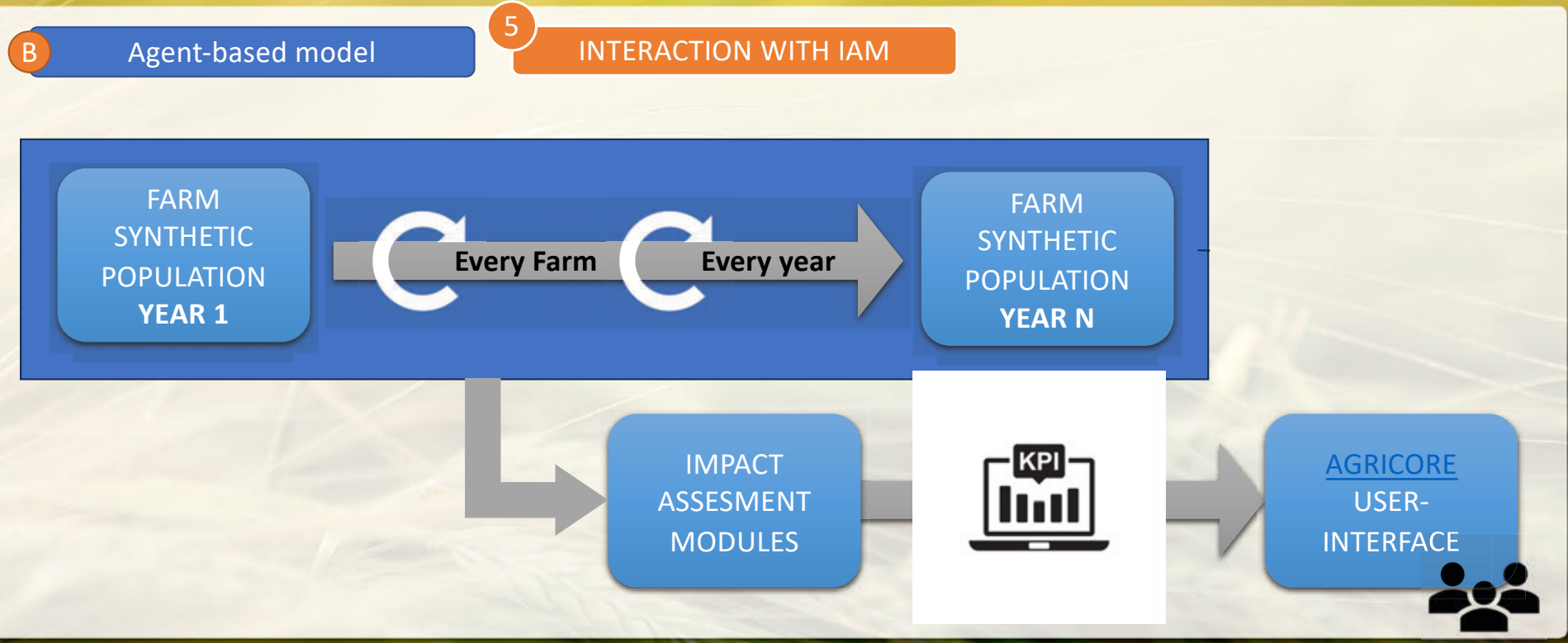
# AGRICORE modelling approach

**B** Agent-based model **3** ABM FARM-LEVEL ANALYSIS





# AGRICORE modelling approach



# AGRICORE modelling approach



Admin1  
admin1@gmail.com

Log out

Dashboard / Home

## Agricore home

Lorem ipsum dolor sit, amet consectetur adipisicing elit. Sed necessitatibus consequatur nihil nemo cupiditate sit beatae! Sit cupiditate, debitis iure eaque molestias corporis, qui inventore nisi atque rerum ullam quidem quae magni quo accusamus nostrum maiores hic repellat adipisci unde placeat! Harum maxime nihil optio consequatur commodi at repellat. Labore!

- Simulation setup
- Synthetic population generator
- Simulations
- Visualization

Main page

Simulation setup

Visualization

Catalogues of policies

- My catalogue of policies
- General catalogue of policies

My simulations

User management

Help

Simulation setup

This section is used to set up and run simulations in the system using synthetic populations, existing policies or selecting KPIs, among others.

NAVIGATE

Synthetic population generator

This section links to an external tool that allows the creation of complete new synthetic populations, using multiple modules of the AGRICORE project.

NAVIGATE

Simulations

In this section the user will be able to visualise all the simulations in exection and access a record of those already completed. From which, here one will be able to connect to the visualization module to show the results of the simulations in a graphical way.

NAVIGATE

Visualization

This section allows to display the results of the simulations using different types of graphs and charts. It also enables the possibility to take modifications to de displayed data using Jupyter.

NAVIGATE





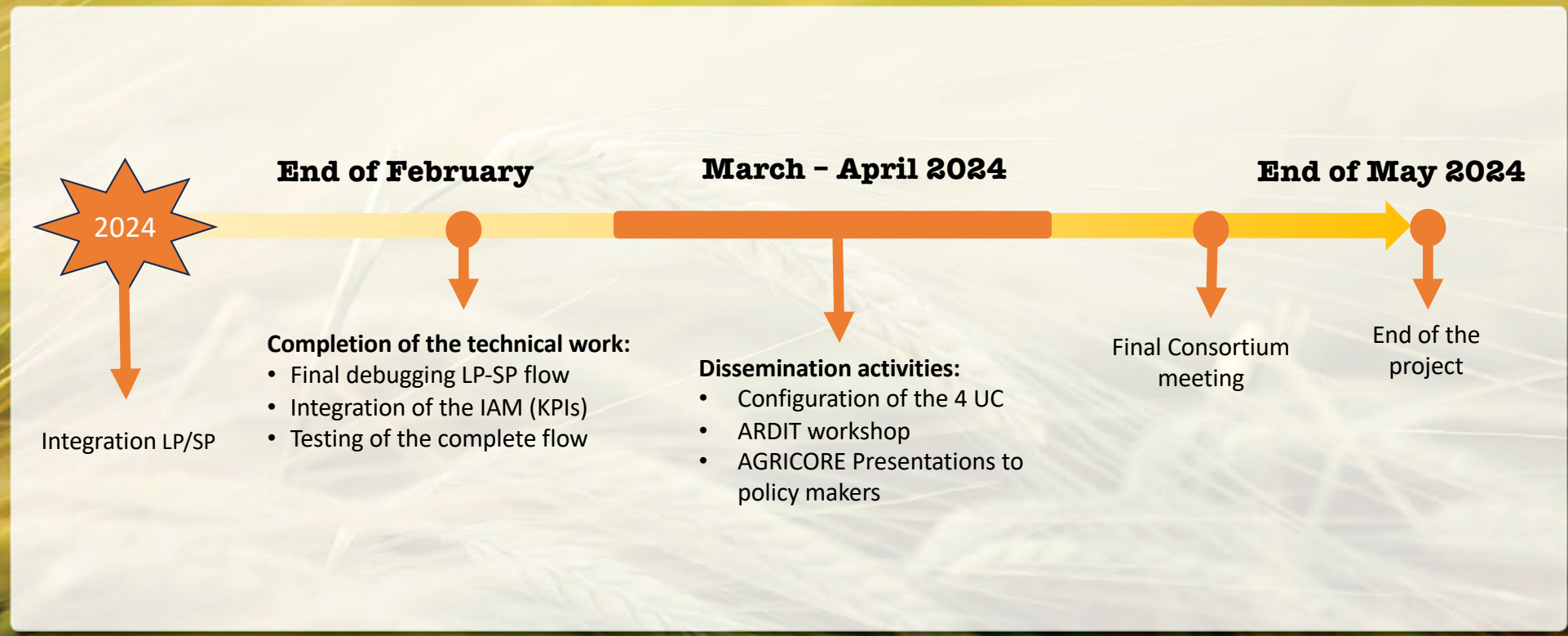
# Next steps



07/02/2024

AGRICORE, an Agent Based support tool for the development of agricultural policies

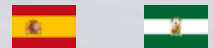



# Next steps



# Next steps

Use cases scenario design and testing



 <b>[UC#1] M11 – Ecological Agriculture</b>	 <b>[UC#3] M6.1 – Settlement of Young Farmers</b>
 <b>[UC#2] M10.1 Agri-environment-Climate Commitments</b>	 <b>[UC#4] Extra: CO2 Emissions reduction through inc. taxes</b>

USE CASES DEMONSTRATING THE TECHNOLOGY AND PROVIDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON SPECIFIC MEASURES







**Thank You!**

**Lisa Baldi**

**UNIPR**

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**[info@agricore-project.eu](mailto:info@agricore-project.eu)**

The Agricore project has received funding from  
the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and  
innovation programme under the Grant Agreement  
No. 816078



## **From regional case studies to European policy recommendations**



**Tomáš Václavík**

Palacký University Olomouc



**James Bullock**

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

# From regional case studies to European policy recommendations

James Bullock\*, Guy Ziv, & the BESTMAP team

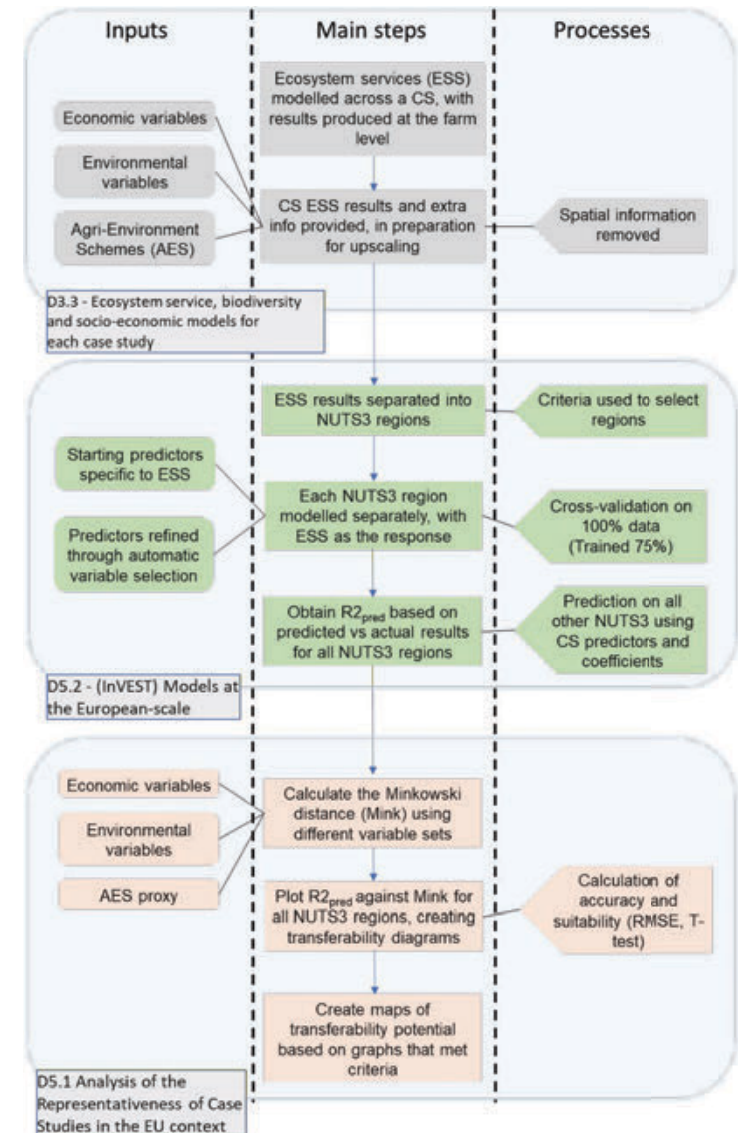
\*UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology





# Part 1: Scaling up from Case Studies to Europe

- Case studies give detailed knowledge to understand impacts of AES and socio-ecological drivers
- But it would be prohibitively expensive to do case studies everywhere in Europe
- Can we transfer findings from case studies to other parts of Europe?
- And how might we target future case studies most effectively?

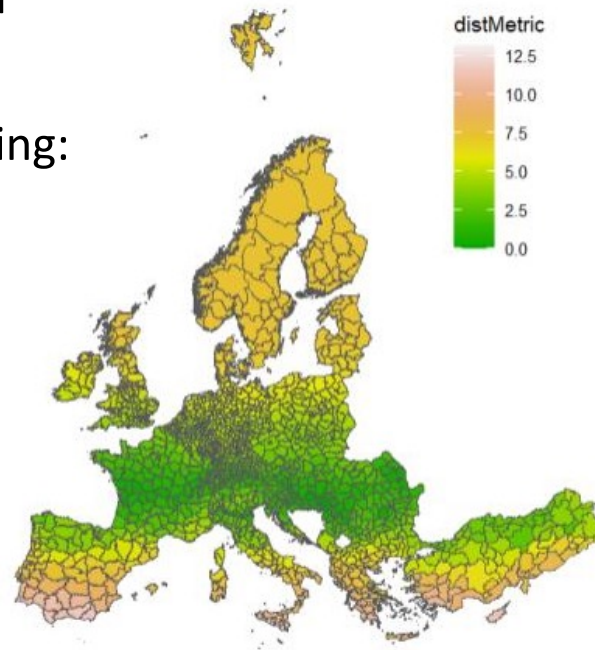


# Mapping socio-environmental similarities

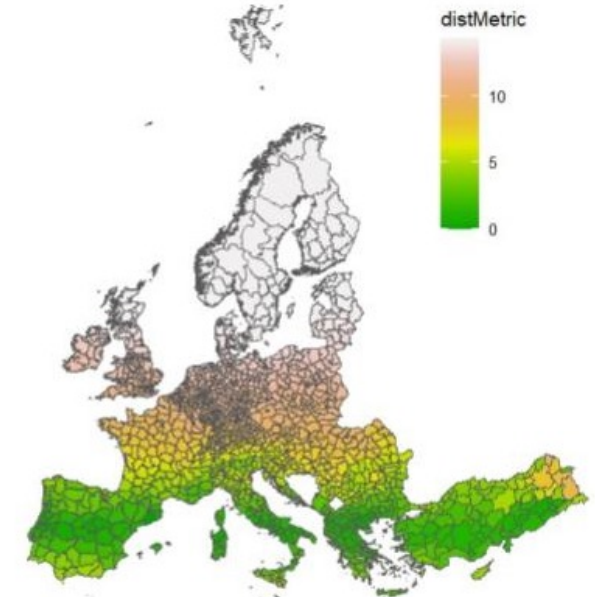
- *Minkowski* distances between every NUTS3 region & case studies for Serbia & Catalonia
- Distance calculated using Europe-wide variables including:

Parameter
Seasonal max temp
Land cover
Seasonal soil moisture
Soil properties
Elevation
Farm economy
Farm size
Farm specialisation

Multi-dimensional distance from RS121  
(all predictors / threshold = 50)



Multi-dimensional distance from ES511  
(all predictors / threshold = 50)



# Creating meta-models for ES & biodiversity

- Create statistical models of each of the predicted ES & biodiversity values in each of the 19 NUTS3 regions across the case studies:

$$ESS_{log} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot v_1 + \beta_2 \cdot v_2 + \dots + \beta_n \cdot v_n + \epsilon$$

- Using available Europe-wide data, to allow transfer from case studies to all over Europe
- Europe-wide farm-level data for AES, economic size, and farm specification from synthetic FADN data (created by the Thünen Institute)

## Predictor groups in the meta-models

AES actions

Economic size

Farm specialisation

Soil properties

Elevation

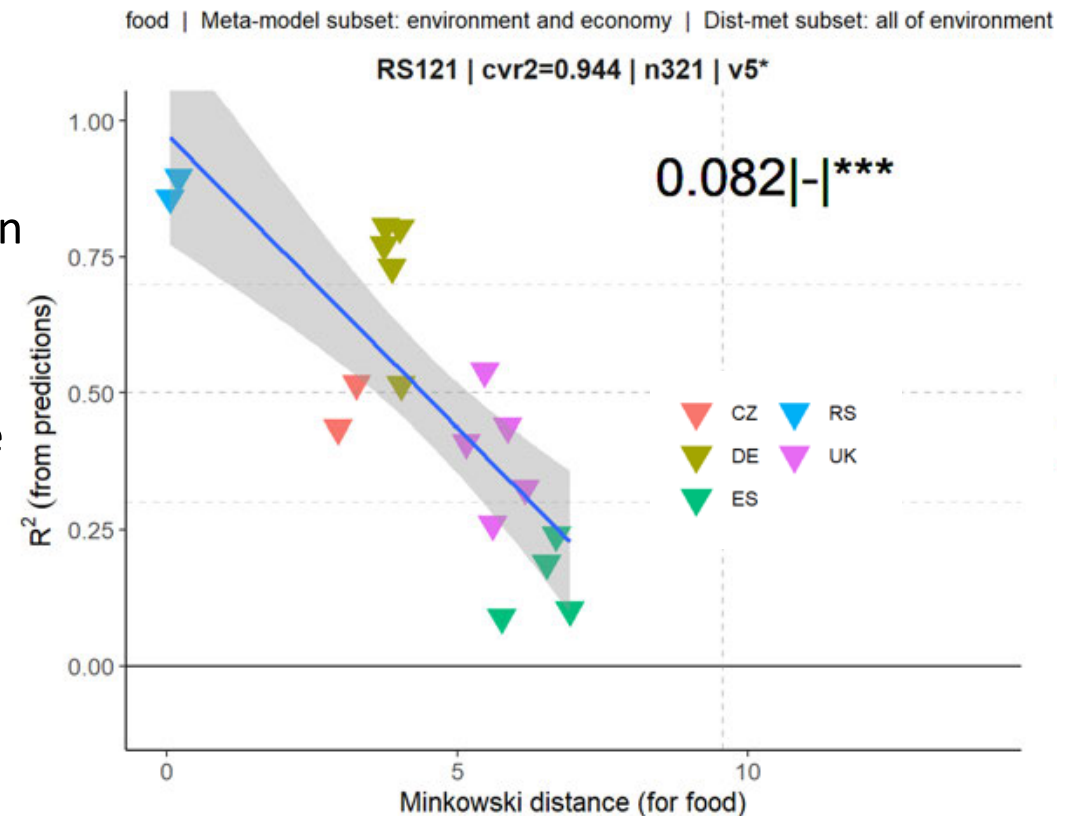
Hydrology: PET, AWC

Land cover

Rooting depth

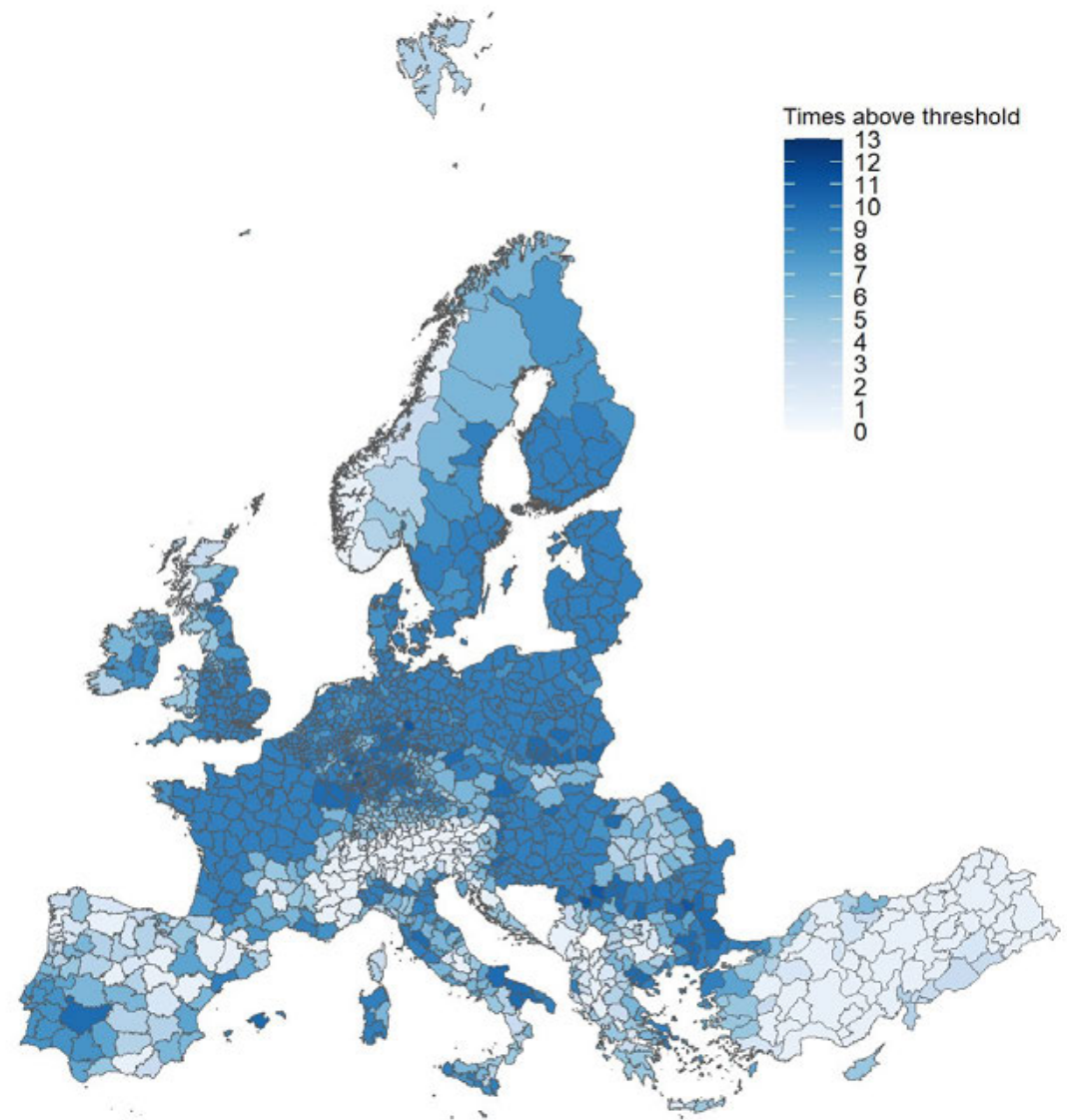
# Constructing 'Transferability Diagrams'

- *Hypothesis:* Minkowski distance, as a measure of the similarity of conditions between regions, is a robust predictor for the accuracy of a meta-model developed for one region in predicting the ES values in another region
- Calculate accuracy of the meta-model for a specific case study NUTS3 is predicting the ES for each of the other 18 NUTS3 regions
- Plotted against Minkowski distance
- In many cases the hypothesis was supported



# Mapping transferability of meta-models

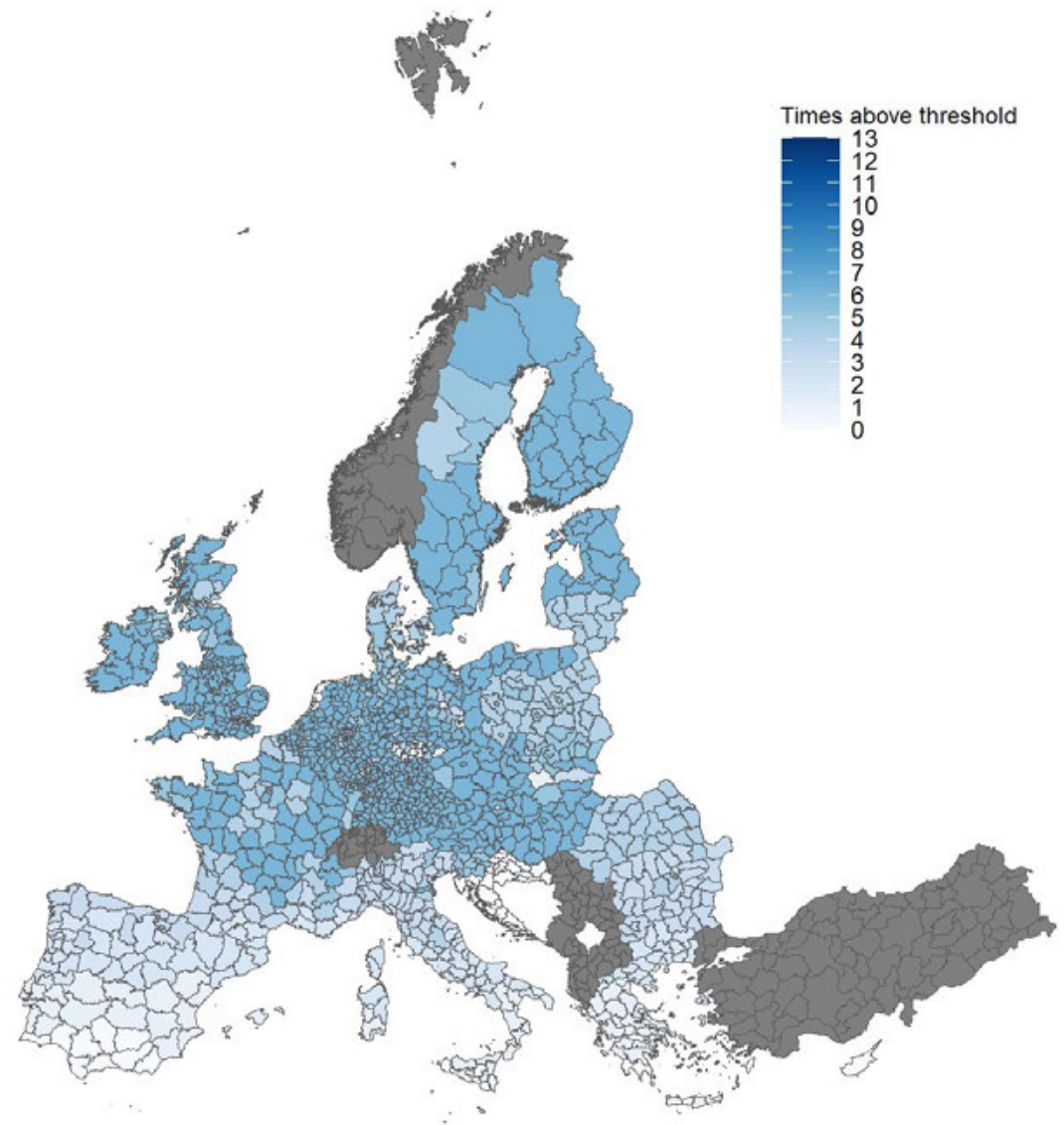
- Transferability map for the nitrogen retention ecosystem service using only environmental variables
- Based on the transferability diagrams we used the Minkowski distance threshold corresponding to an  $R^2$  value of 0.5 to identify suitable (above the threshold) NUTS3 regions in terms of transferability from our case studies





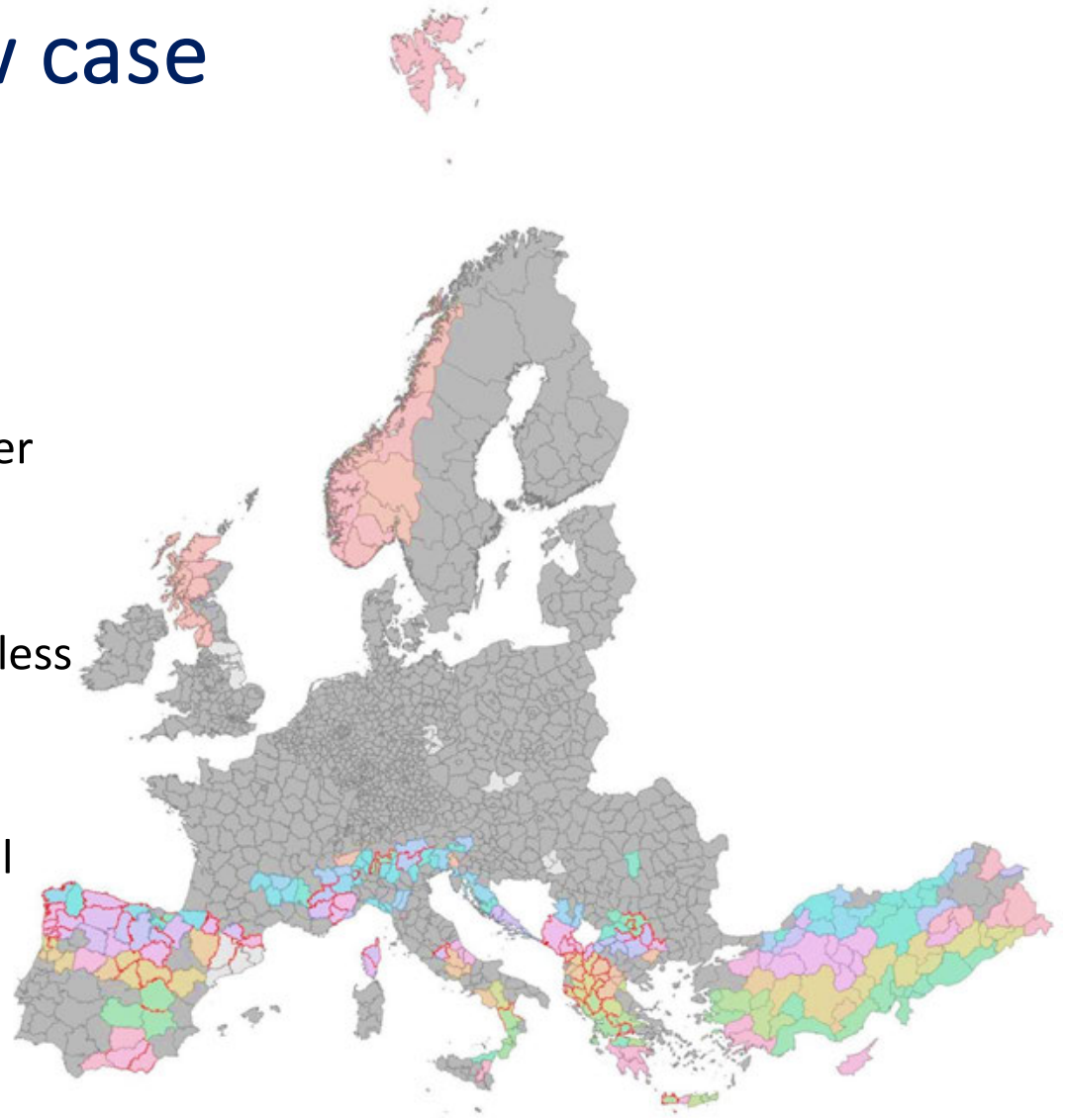
# Mapping transferability of meta-models

- Transferability map for the food ecosystem service based on environmental and economic variables.
- The shaded areas are regions with a lack of economic data



# Mapping potential new case study regions

- NUTS3 regions clustered by similarity (Minkowski distance)
- Coloured = NUTS3 clusters that met the transferability criteria less than five times per ES
- Outlined = potential new case study NUTS3 clusters that met the transferability criteria less than three times per ES (Turkey excluded)
- Is the 1<sup>st</sup> step in identifying new case study regions; it is also crucial to engage with local stakeholders, and ensure access to regional data



## Part 2: European policy recommendations

### Why are AES insufficient to support biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe?

1. Too little adoption
2. Not in the right place
3. Ecological trade-offs
4. Lack of monitoring data



# Adoption of AES is insufficient

- Few farmers implementing AES
- Few AES options taken up
- Too much bureaucracy
- Poor advice
- Lack of flexibility
- Poor financial incentives



## Spatial allocation of AES is productivity/economically-driven: not for greatest AES benefit

- AES placed into least productive areas
- Many farmers accept subsidies for measures they voluntarily did before
- In field measures disliked
- Reversible short-term AES preferred





# Ecological trade-offs are common

- Positive effects for some AES & for some type of birds
- But, other AES have inconsistent effects
- Different species need different resources
- AES need to be in place for longer & need to be managed



# Lack of monitoring hinders policy improvement

- Farmers 'know' certain AES are not effective
- Modelling needs extensive fine-grained data
- Lack of models hinders policy impact assessments
- CAP impact indicators are insufficient



# What are the solutions?

1. Better regional and national land use framework and coordination
2. Improved spatial targeting of AES
3. Co-design and bottom-up (collaborative) AES options
4. Improved advice
5. Payments for public goods
6. High throughput monitoring
7. Agile & adaptive policy cycle



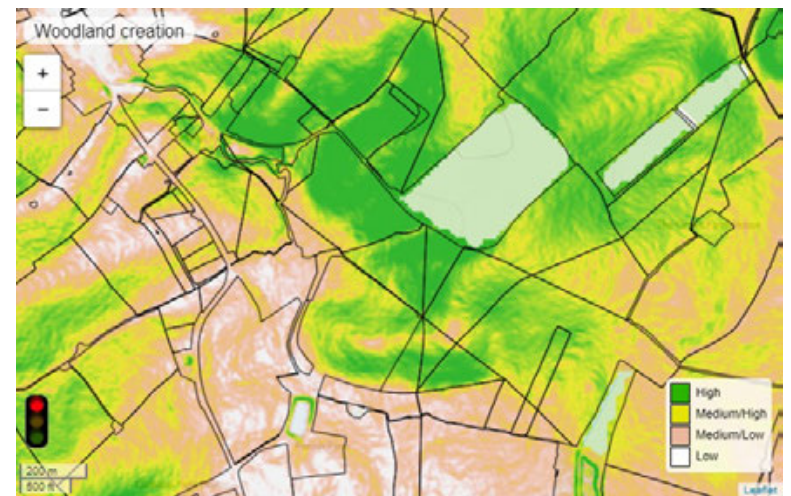
# Better regional and national land use framework and coordination

- Many policies are impacting land use - CAP, Nature, Water Framework (WFD), and Nitrates Directives, the European Climate Law, the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II), (upcoming) Soil Health, and Nature Restoration Directives
- Need a regional and national land use framework
- Learn from experience - e.g. Scottish Land Use Strategy and Regional Land Use Partnerships



# Improved spatial targeting of AES

- Prioritize funding for different AES measures
- Build a consistent farming system archetype classification to allocate resources where ecological additionality is maximized
- Use models and data to target AES to maximise returns on biodiversity and ecosystem services





# Co-design and bottom-up (collaborative) AES options

- Adapt AES to local environmental and farming conditions
- Give farmers more autonomy
- Co-design to increase buy-in, trust in schemes, and adoption
- Collaborative schemes (e.g. new Landscape Recovery scheme in England) can deliver economies of scale



# Improved advice to farmers

- Farmers struggle in finding suitable AES that fit their farm management
- Advisory services can help with reducing load and with spatial targeting of AES
- Advisors need to be knowledgeable and trusted
- Government-funded services are preferable



# Payments for public goods

- ‘Cost incurred/income foregone’ is not enough
- In private-funded schemes higher payments drive increases in uptake
- UK is leading on transition for public money for public goods
- Amber Box to alleviate issues with WTO (in longer term address the issue by changing WTO rules for Green Box)



# High throughput monitoring

- Poor evidence for impact of AES on soil carbon, pollution, etc
- Share and utilize data that farmers, soil testing labs, water companies etc, collect
- Monitoring will increase adoption
- New tech: audio recorders, eDNA, AI cameras can scale up monitoring
- Farmers happy to deploy and support with new tech



# Agile adaptive policy cycle

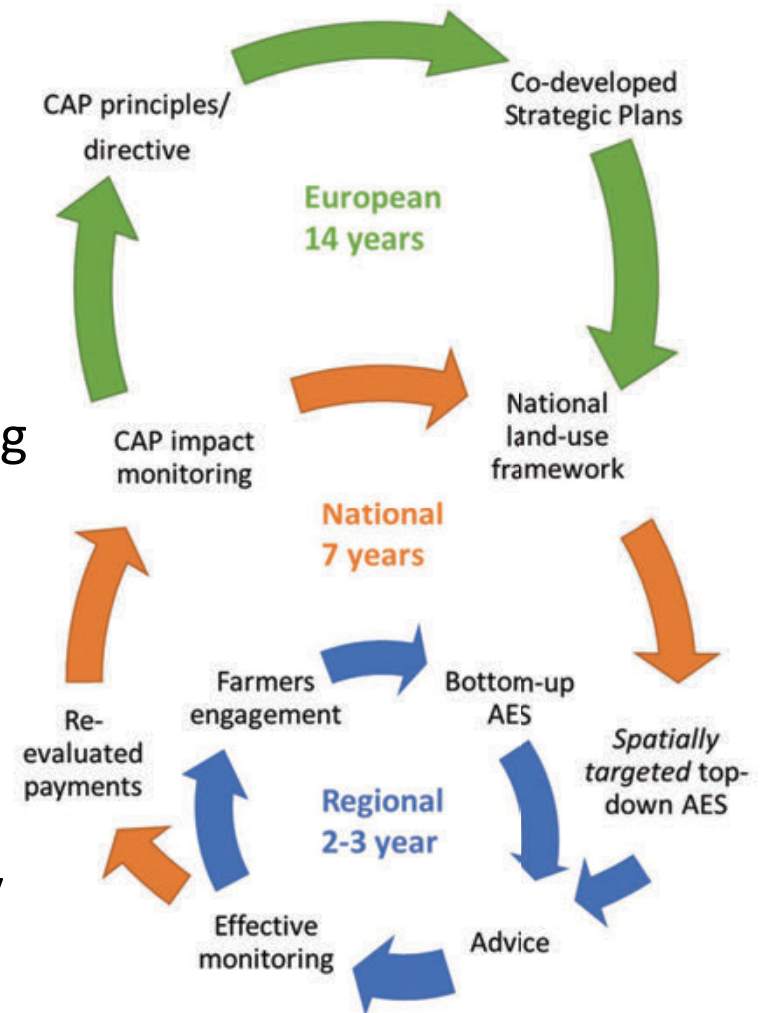
- Instead of the current “top down” policy approach, which updates every 7 years with a new CAP
- A more adaptive, agile, and multi-scale approach





# Agile adaptive policy cycle

- Smallest scale - region or county, engagement with farmers produces bottom-up AES which evolve every 2-3 years to allow effective learning
- Embedded within national 7 yr cycles, updating a land-use framework, bringing together EU and national policies: spatially-targeted top-down AES to complement the bottom up
- European policy can take a longer timescale, that would involve new CAP Directive, with monitoring etc allowing evidence-based policy making



## Panel discussion and dialogue



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Scientific Officer, Joint Research Centre, European Commission



**Tassos Haniotis**

Senior Guest Research Scholar at IIASA, Former Director for “Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis” in the DG AGRI



**Ana Rocha**

Director of EU’s Agri & Forestry-Related Policies, European Landowners’ Organization



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## Reaction by EU Project Coordinators



**James Bullock**

UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology



**John Helming**

Senior Researcher at Wageningen  
Economic Research



**Lisa Baldi**

Researcher, Agricultural  
Economics, University of  
Parma

## **Networking Lunch and Poster Session**

Poster session: Impact of agro-environmental policies in regional case studies  
across the UK, Germany, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Serbia



**RISE Foundation**  
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