



Ministerie van Economische Zaken

# Collective approach to agri-environment actions: the Dutch case (I)

Jan Gerrit DEELEN

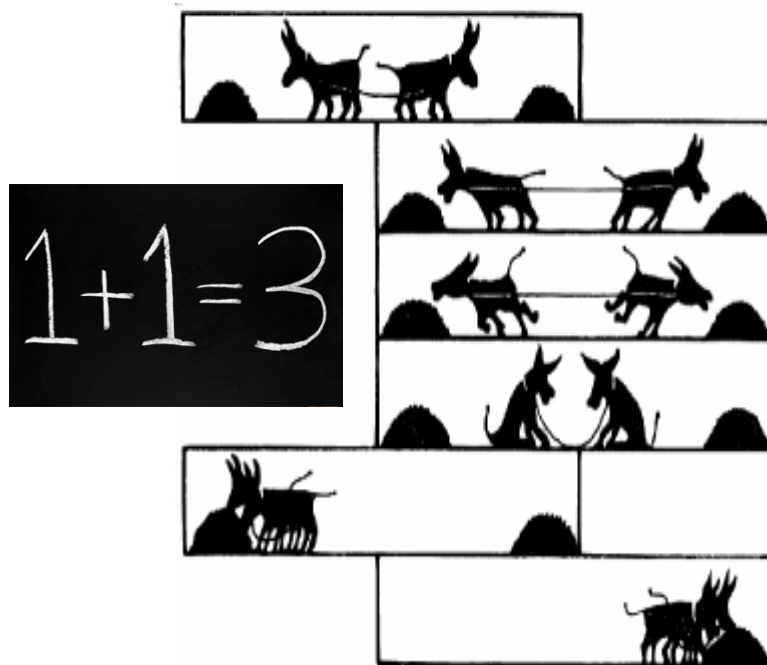
Ministry of Economic Affairs

European Agriculture Policy  
Department

[j.g.deelen@minez.nl](mailto:j.g.deelen@minez.nl)



# A new approach to agri-environmental delivery



- Using the CAP's new opportunities for cooperative and community-based agri-environment services
- Groups of farmers as beneficiaries in order to:
  - enhance effectiveness
  - improve efficiency
  - make better use of local skills and knowledge
- Start 2016







## History of the Dutch collective approach



- Fits into a long tradition of agricultural producer groups or cooperatives, but now the approach aims at public goods
- Focus on farmland biodiversity, but many developed a broad range of rural development activities (water management, rural tourism, education etc.)
- Evolution of the scheme
  1. individual
  2. co-ordinated
  3. collective



## Benefits of a collective approach



- Focus on preserving habitats
- Improved ecological effectiveness, especially for cross-farm species and habitats
- For the farmer: better tailored measures / flexibility
- Better connection between farming and civil society
- Opportunities for a simpler scheme design and a more efficient implementation





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## **Collective approach to agri-environment actions: the Dutch case (II)**

Jan Gerrit DEELEN  
Aard MULDER

Ministry of Economic Affairs

European Agriculture Policy  
Department

[j.g.deelen@minez.nl](mailto:j.g.deelen@minez.nl)



## What do we want to achieve in the rural area



- Long term Goal (2020 ->): sustainable rural areas with a vital agricultural sector
- Short term goal (2014-2020): Nature efficiency.
- Key-rôle for farmers to improve biodiversity
- It comes together in rural areas, with groups of farmers in a central position.





# A new approach to agri-environmental delivery



- Focus on creating good habitat conditions for rare species (territorial based) instead of activities on farm level
- Groups of farmers as beneficiaries of EU-subsidies in order to:
  - enhance effectiveness
  - improve efficiency
  - make better use of local skills and knowledge / local energy

: collective approach



# Dutch agriculture – a long history of cooperation



- Fits into a long tradition of agricultural producer groups or cooperatives, but now the approach aims at public services
- Involves some 10,000 farmers and many thousands of enthusiastic citizens, covering 25% of the countryside (with huge regional differences in coverage)
- Focus on farmland biodiversity, but many developed a broad range of rural development activities (water management, rural tourism, education etc.)





## Focusing the scheme on cooperatives by 2016



- New design: approximately 40 cooperatives as final and only beneficiary
- Regionally developed and tailored application for agri-environment-climate services
- Including ecological assessment and consultation with other regional stakeholders
- Implementation shift (where appropriate and possible) to the regional association



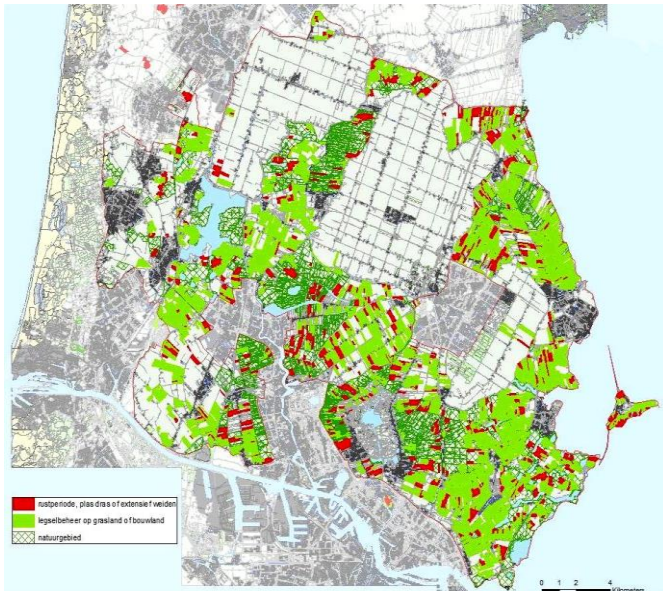
## Preconditions for success



- Development of cooperatives to professional, certified bodies. Government has formulated a series of conditions. Two-year professionalisation programme.
- At the same time, preserve the cooperatives social engagement, reputation and trust among land users
- Assure a sound implementation under EU and national regulations



# The collective approach



- Define government policy for the region and the area vision and corresponding measures should be attractive for both the regional authority and managers of the farms
- Choose a logical scale for cooperation, e.g. geographical or landscape unit
- Strengthen cooperation between farmers and environmental associations in an area
- Develop a tailored approach for the area





## The collective approach II



Nature management plan of the collective  
(6 yrs) => AECM-commitment

### Elements

- min/max surface
- min conditions to preserve habitat  
breeding/nesting/feeding
- xxx €/ha



## The collective approach III



Administrative implementation  
(yearly cycle)

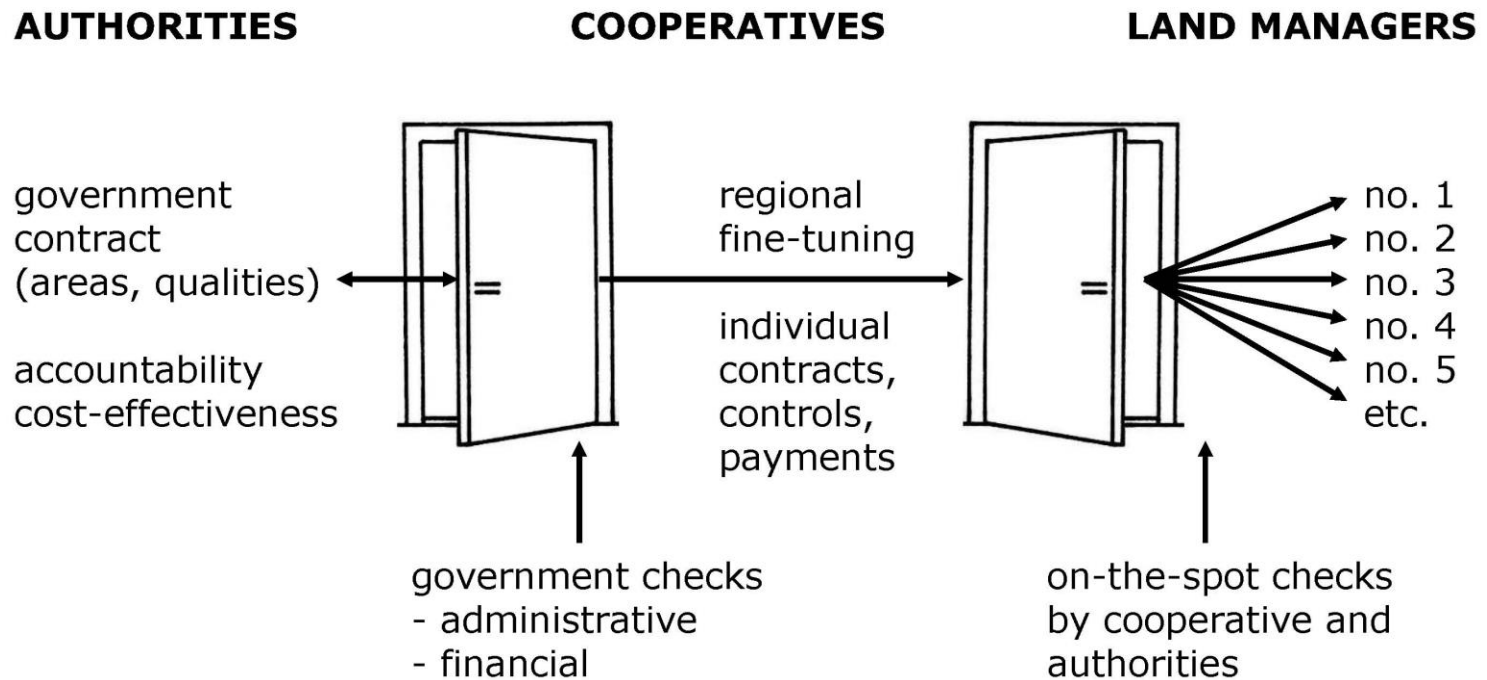
- January location plan: what & where  
(basis for controls)
- May 15<sup>th</sup> location of the parcels fixed
- Autumn request for payments
- ex post/ex ante

NB

real-time ICT connection collective ↔  
paying agency



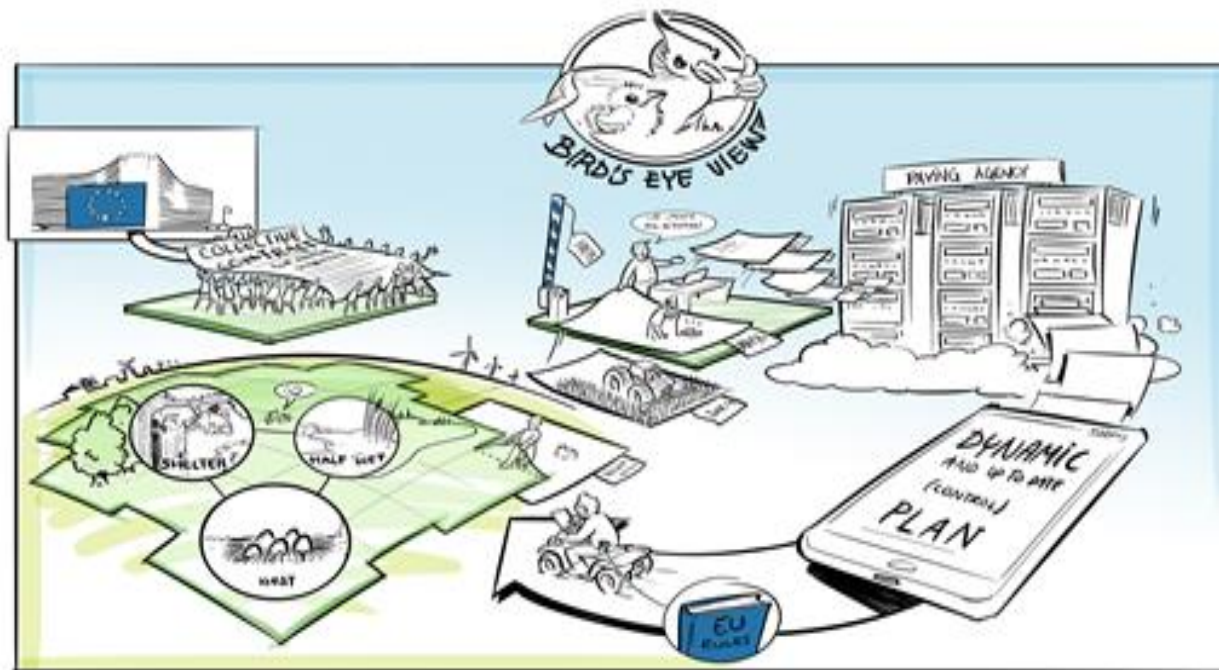
# The collective approach IV





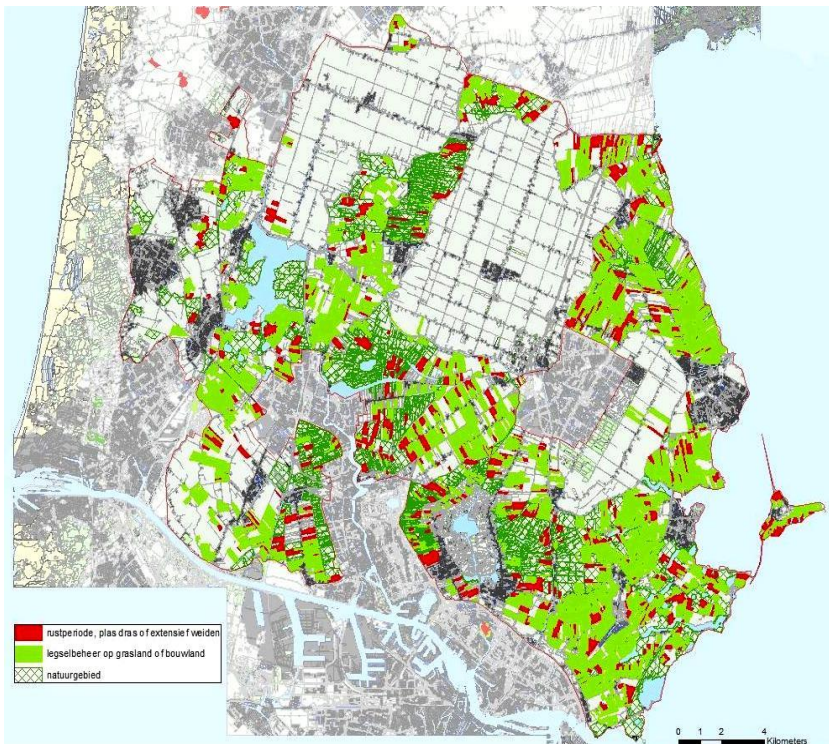


# Inspection of and accounting for habitats





## In a nutshell



- Habitat approach
- Interactive spacial planning of activities (follow the dynamics of nature)
- Target / outcome oriented
- Bottum-up
- Cooperation with volunteers and ngo's



mahalo  
thankyou  
arigato  
BEDANKTHAREL  
merci  
danke  
obrigado

dziekuje  
gracias  
grazie  
multumesc

