

SAMEN INVESTEREN IN DE OPEN RUIMTE



Flemish Land Agency Department of agri-environmental agreements

Policy perspectives on the CoP

Round Table discussion on the Community of Practice on
Ecosystem services Belgium

26 04 2012

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Agri-Environmental Measures @ VLM

- **Aim:**
 - Improve the environmental quality (water, soil, valuable landscapes)
 - Enhance habitat quality (food, cover, nesting) of specific farmland species
- **Evolution AEM:**
 - 2000= administrative procedure
 - 2012= delivering tailored advice to farmers
- **Anno 2012:** 3916 farmers with AEM, 17.310 detailed agreements
- **RDP III:** 2014-2020: time for evaluation of the AEM policy and practice
 - Mapping points of improvement
 - Innovation!

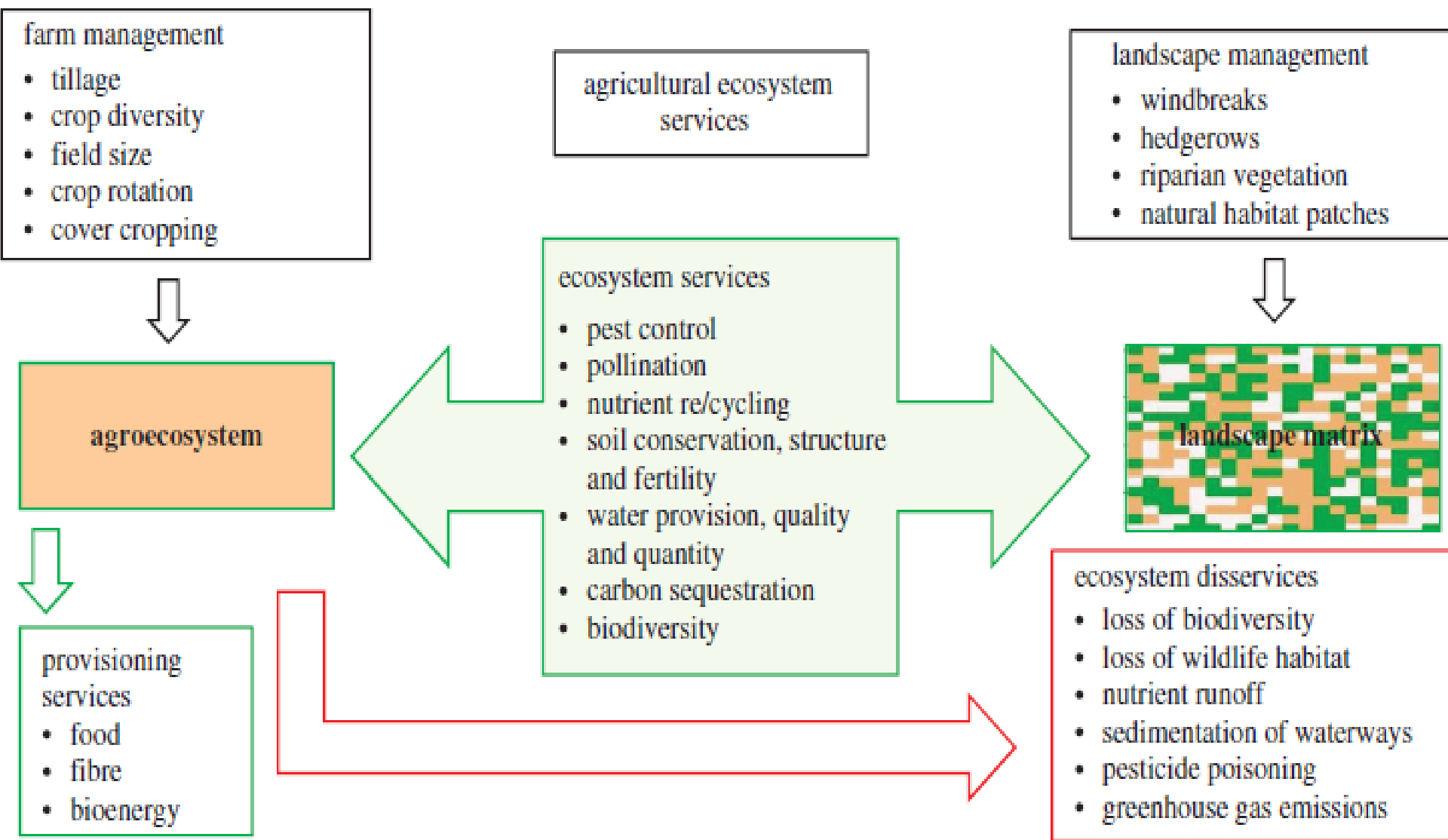
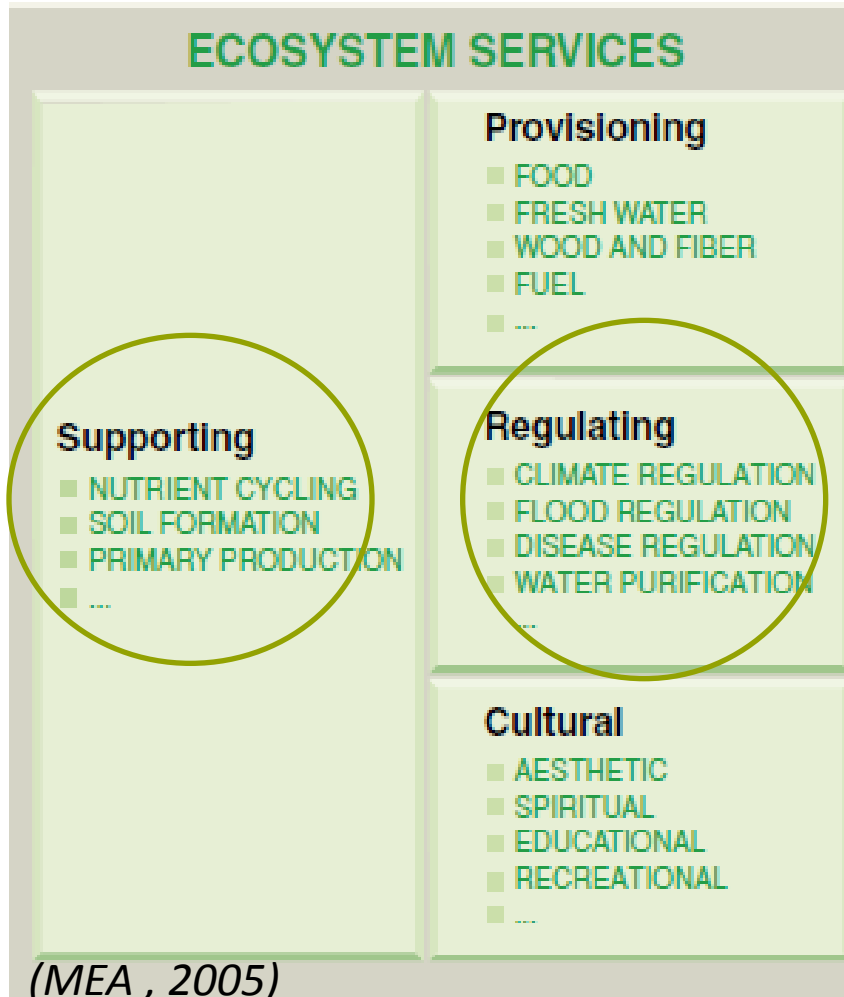


Figure 1. Impacts of farm management and landscape management on the flow of ecosystem services and disservices to and from agroecosystems.

(Power 2010)

ESS and AEM: AS IS



AEM: payments for environmental services that mainly **support** the provisioning services or are **regulating** services.

Erosion control

Grass corridors catch surface run-off

- **Flood control**
- **Water quality control**
- **Soil conservation and fertility**



Field margins

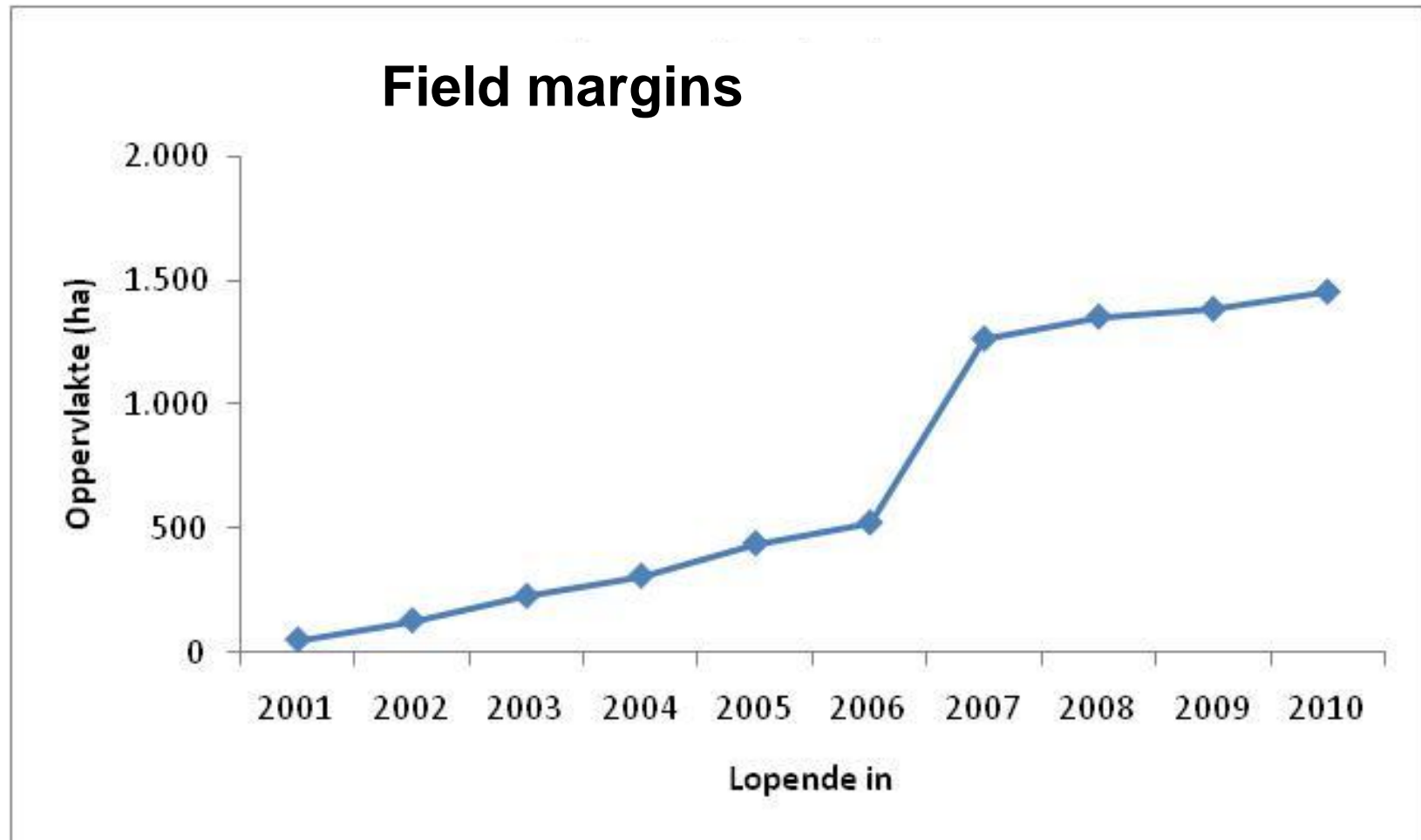
- Protecting vulnerable landscape elements (streams, hedge rows, forest, sunken roads) against inflow of nutrients and pesticides,
- Create a habitat for plants and animals

Species conservation: farmland birds

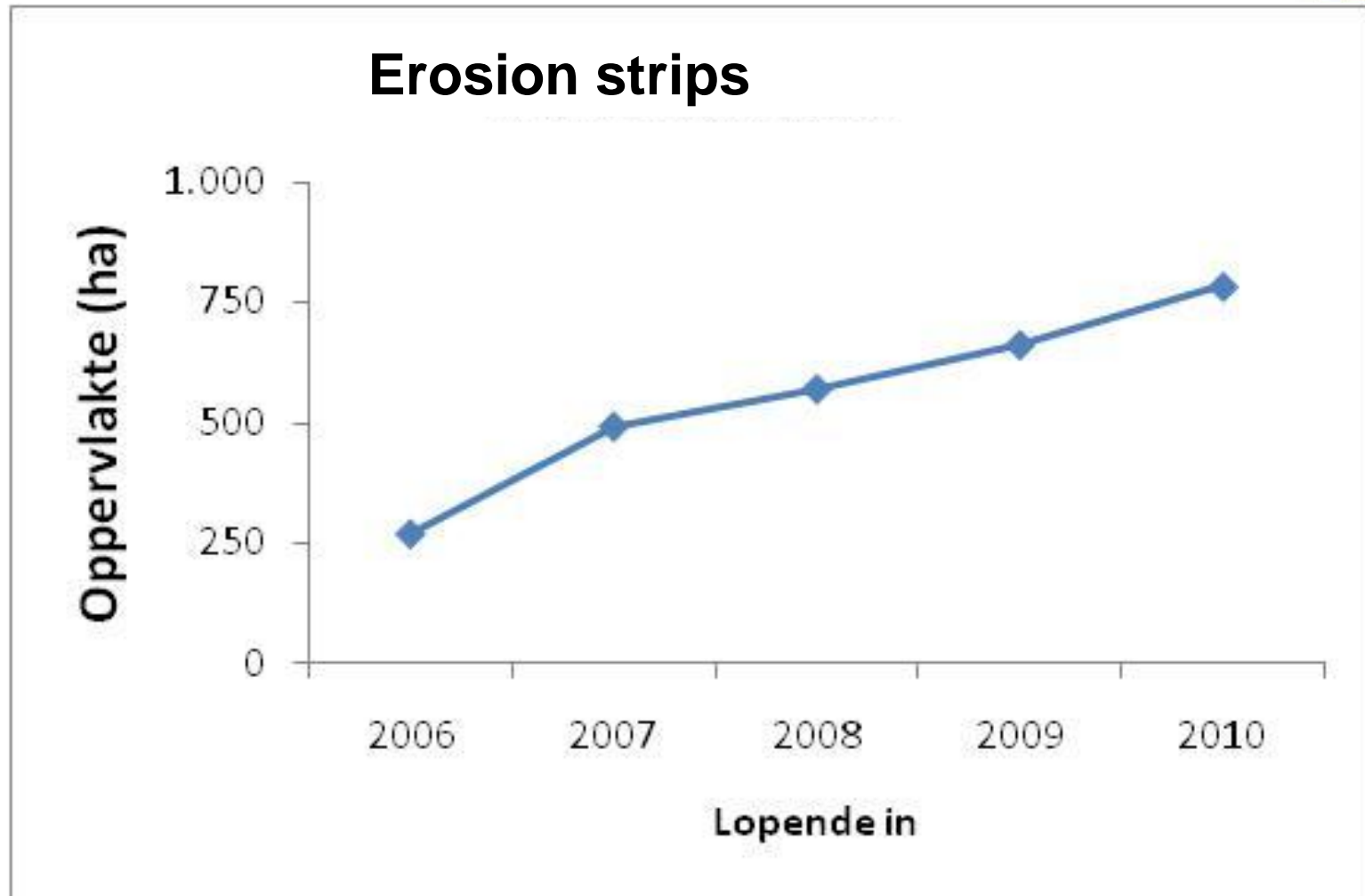
Supplying winter food, nesting ability and cover to farmland birds



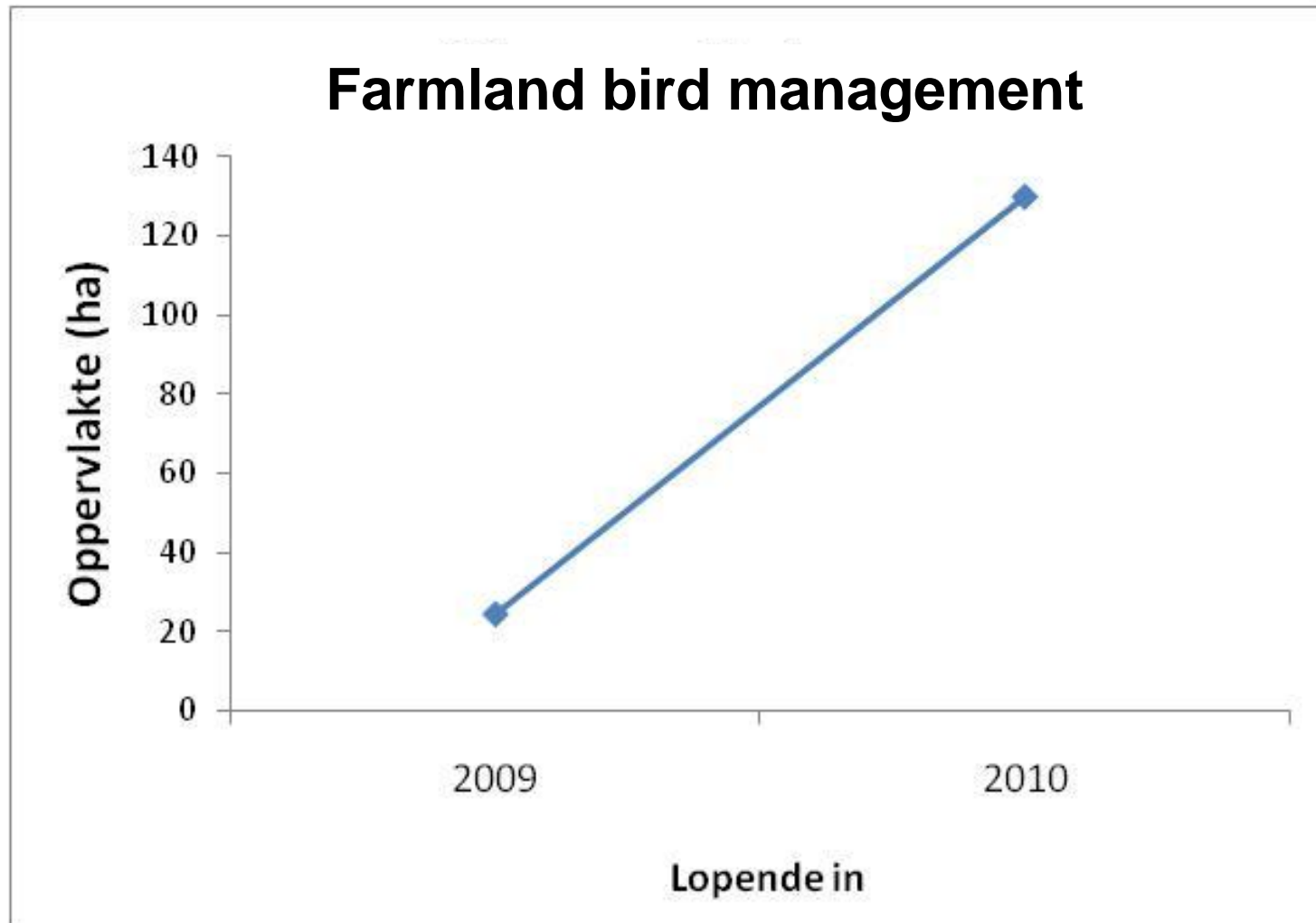
10 years AEM in Flanders: a success?



10 years AEM in Flanders: a success?



10 years AEM in Flanders: a success?



Effect of AEM on biodiversity

Positive effect on BD is still difficult to prove :

- Quantity of AEM overrules quality
- Few studies look at the scientific effect of AEM
- ‘vague’ goals of policy
- AEM= young instrument:
 - monitoring across several years needed
 - Large scale monitoring needed in areas with and without relative high densities of AEM

Effect of AEM on biodiversity

First evaluation: Mid Term review: Study INBO: « Impact of RDP II measures on the biodiversity », Strubbe D. et al. 2010

RDP II measures have a probably positive effect on the number and diversity of (certain) farmland and meadow birds

Continuation of this study 2012-2013

Impact van PDPO II maatregelen op
de biodiversiteit



Onderzoek uitgevoerd in opdracht van:
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ESS and AEM: AS IS → TO BE

- **Evaluate current** agri-environmental measures (AEM) on effectiveness (monitoring) and adapt to higher standards
- **Develop new, effective** measures by **experimenting** in the field and **collaboration** with farmers, researchers and local stakeholders
- **Rise farmers' participation** to undertake action: through surveys, info sessions, workshops
- **Evaluate process** of undertaking AEM: picture issues & problems in both administration as in the implementation on the field, development of better, more transparent process

Results VLM @ SOLABIO

Final report « AEM, new tracks for policy. Knowledge and experiences from the SOLABIO project»

Liberloo et al. 2012

- Overview of the results
- References to all extern SOLABIO studies
- Ideas for further research
- Input to RDP III



**Beheerovereenkomsten,
nieuwe sporen voor het beleid.**
Kennis en ervaringen uit het
SOLABIO project

Improvements ESS

- RDPIII: Need to invest in new AEM: Ecosystem services flowing back to agriculture: natural pest control, pollination, soil management (organic C , CO2 sink)
- Need for fundamental and applied research supporting policy, delivering AEM and ESS with a win-win for farmers and nature (Universities, INBO, VITO,..)
- Move from ESS on field scale towards ESS on landscape scale

Expectations from CoP platform

- Building up a network
- Scientific input and support -> continuous optimisation of AEM
- Near future: input on measures in new RDP III