



Ministerie van Economische Zaken

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

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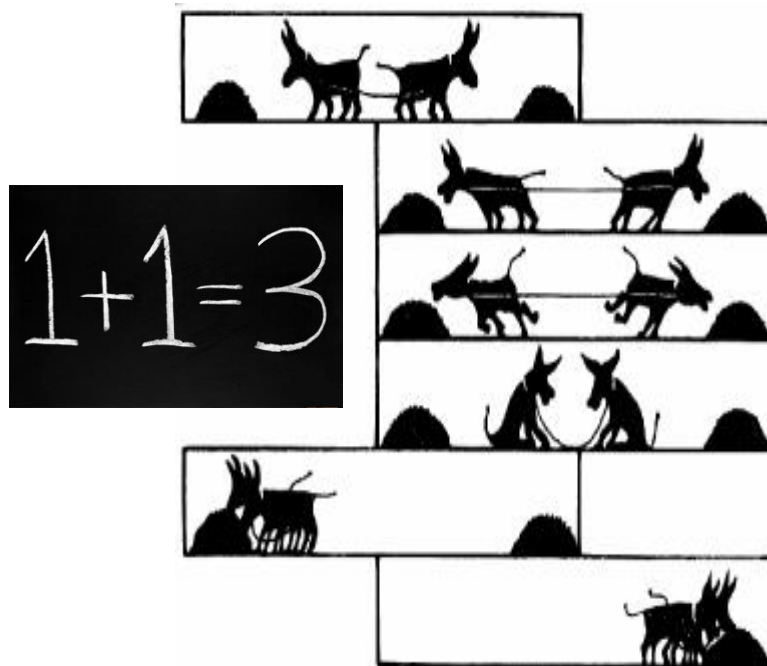
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# A new approach to agri-environmental delivery



- 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



- Origin in the 1990s, aiming at territorial contracts, active approach to meet government targets on the basis of 'self-regulation'
- 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.)



## Current state of the Dutch cooperatives



- Now there are some 150 cooperatives. Legal entities (mainly associations).
- Scale varying from 1,000 to 130,000 ha, depending on landscape scale and 'span of control'
- Involves some 10,000 farmers and many thousands of enthusiastic citizens, covering 25% of the countryside (with huge regional differences in coverage)
- Up to now cooperatives do not have a formal position in the agri-environment scheme, but many have government-assigned regional coordinator for farmland bird management



## 4 CAP-pilots – 2011 - 2013



- 3 dairy regions, 1 arable region
- Focus on effective nature management of the cooperatives
  - integrated regional planning
  - contracts with farmers
- The (groups of) farmers are responsible
- Link with provinces, ngo's



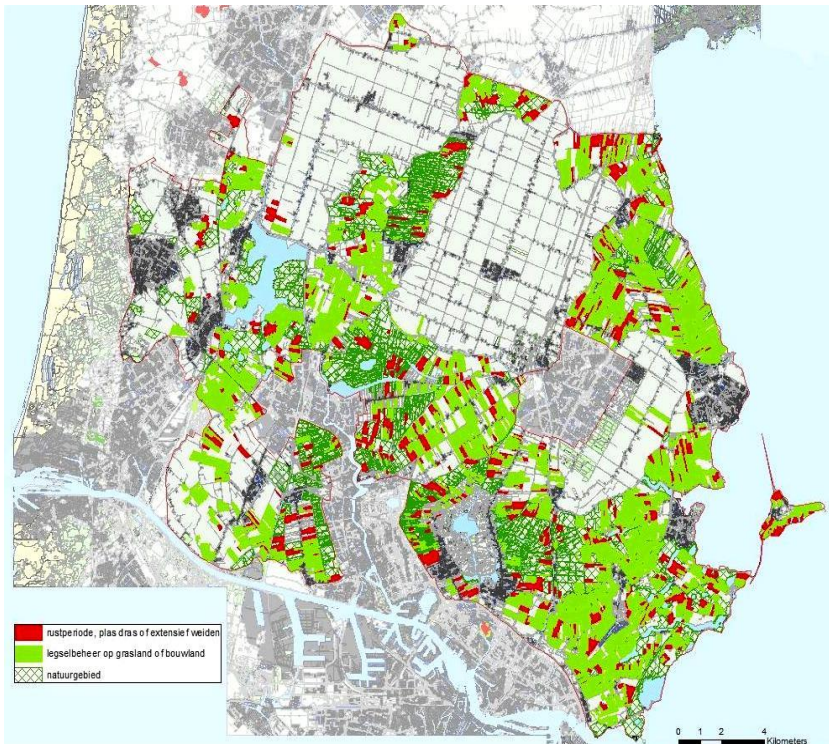
## Benefits of a collective approach



- Improved ecological effectiveness, especially for cross-farm species and habitats
- For the farmer: better tailored measures, less paperwork
- Better connection between farming and civil society
- Opportunities for a simpler scheme design and a more efficient implementation
- More focus on outcome



## Benefits of a collective approach – an example



- Meadow birds
- Interactive spacial planning of activities
- (follow the birds)
- Development of new activities
- Target / outcome oriented
- Setting up self control
- Cooperation with volunteers and ngo's



## Focusing the scheme on cooperatives by 2016

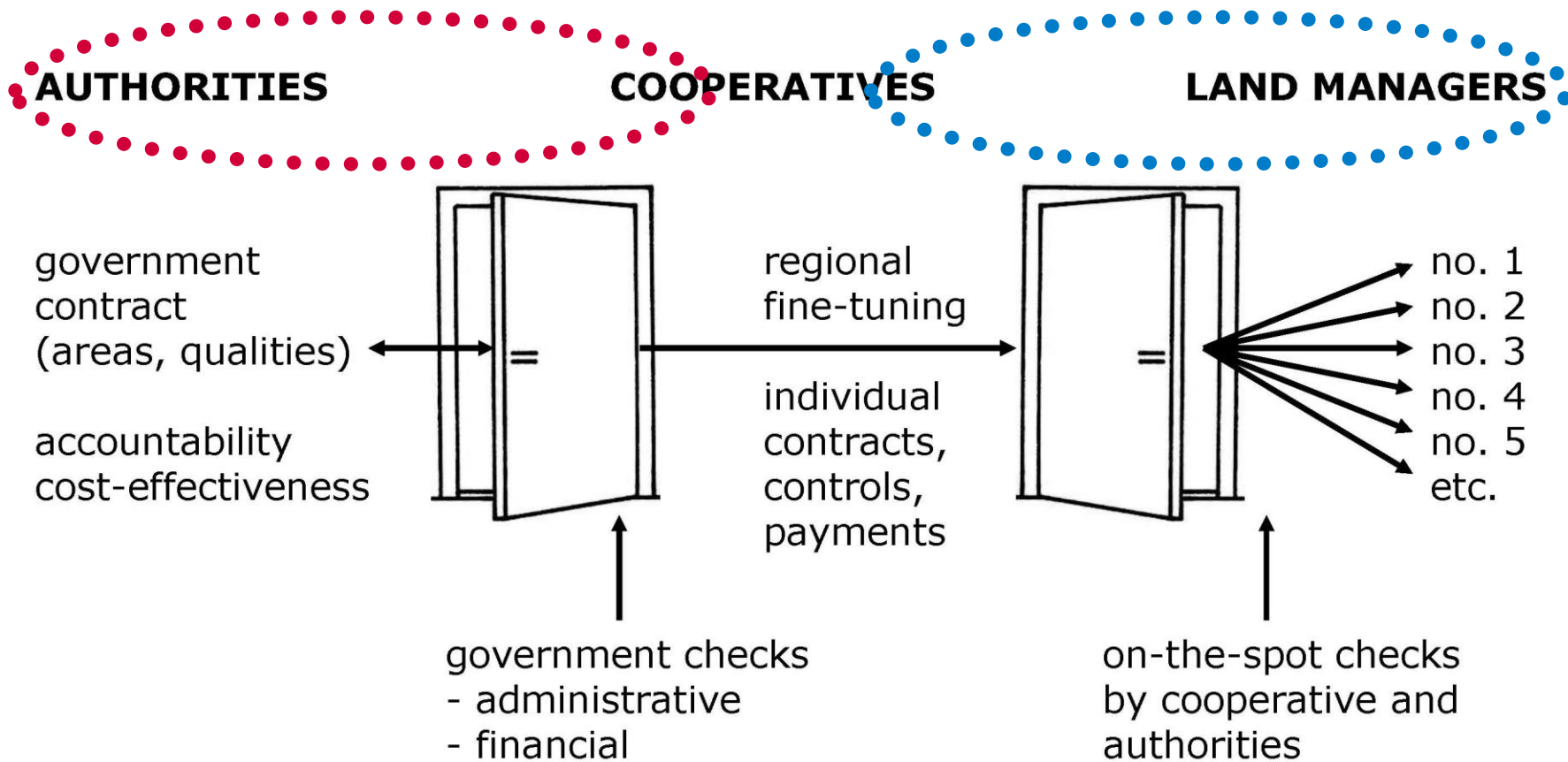


- New design: cooperatives as final and only beneficiary
- Regionally developed and tailored application for agri-environment services
- Including ecological assessment and consultation with other regional stakeholders
- Implementation shift (where appropriate and possible) to the regional association





# The “front door – back door principle”





## 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



mahalo      dziekuje  
thankyou      grazie  
arigato      gracias  
BEDANKTHAREL      multumesc  
merci      danke      obrigado

