

A photograph of two people standing on a gravel path, looking through binoculars at a rural landscape. The person on the left is wearing a brown jacket and a backpack, while the person on the right is wearing a blue jacket. They are standing in front of a metal fence. The background shows a green field and some trees under a cloudy sky. On the left side of the image, there are two large white stylized tree silhouettes.

**“The Dutch model” –  
a cooperative approach  
at landscape level  
executing the agri-  
environmental scheme**



**BOEREN**NATUUR

Agrarisch Natuur- en Landschapsbeheer

InterCIL Groningen – 9th June 2022



# BOERENNATUUR

Farmers

Nature

Alex Datema  
chair



BOERENNATUUR

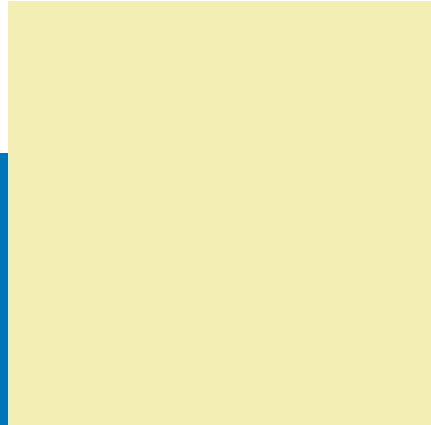
# Content

1. What is the collective approach?
2. Why this approach in agri-environmental management?
3. BoerenNatuur – activities.
4. Where are we now and looking forward.



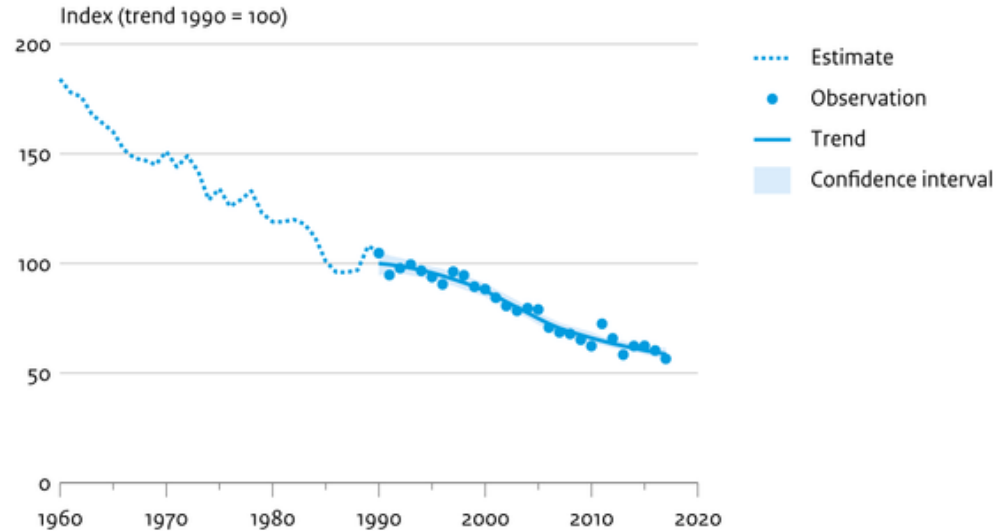
## Dutch agri-environmental scheme 1975-2016

- Individual farmers – since 1990s AECs in some parts of NL.
- About 13.000 contracts between farmers and government.
- Limited ecological guidance of farmers.
- Subsidies: first come, first get.
- Detailed planning of government at field level.



# But: decline in farmland biodiversity continued

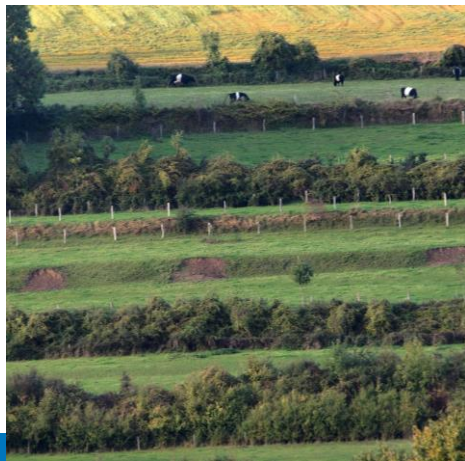
Farmland birds in the Netherlands



Bron: NEM (Sovon, CBS)

CBS/sep18  
[www.clo.nl/en147910](http://www.clo.nl/en147910)

# Why a new approach in 2016?



- A cross-farm approach was needed to stop decline in farmland biodiversity
- High error rates and implementation costs
- Need for a more flexible system
- And: in the Netherlands already a tradition of agri-environmental cooperatives
- Since 2016 within CAP: possibility for farmer collectives



# What's specific about the new approach since 2016?

- Front- and back-door.
- Forty agricultural collectives covering the complete country.
- Landscape approach.
- SCAN-ict exchanges with Dutch Enterprise Agency.



# Change in responsibilities.

- Province has a goal and budget.
- Cooperative makes a plan that fits that goal and budget.
- Cooperatives concludes private contract with farmers.
- Cooperative is the party that receives the subsidies.
- Group of farmers take responsibility for implementation of the scheme.
- Province must let go of responsibilities.



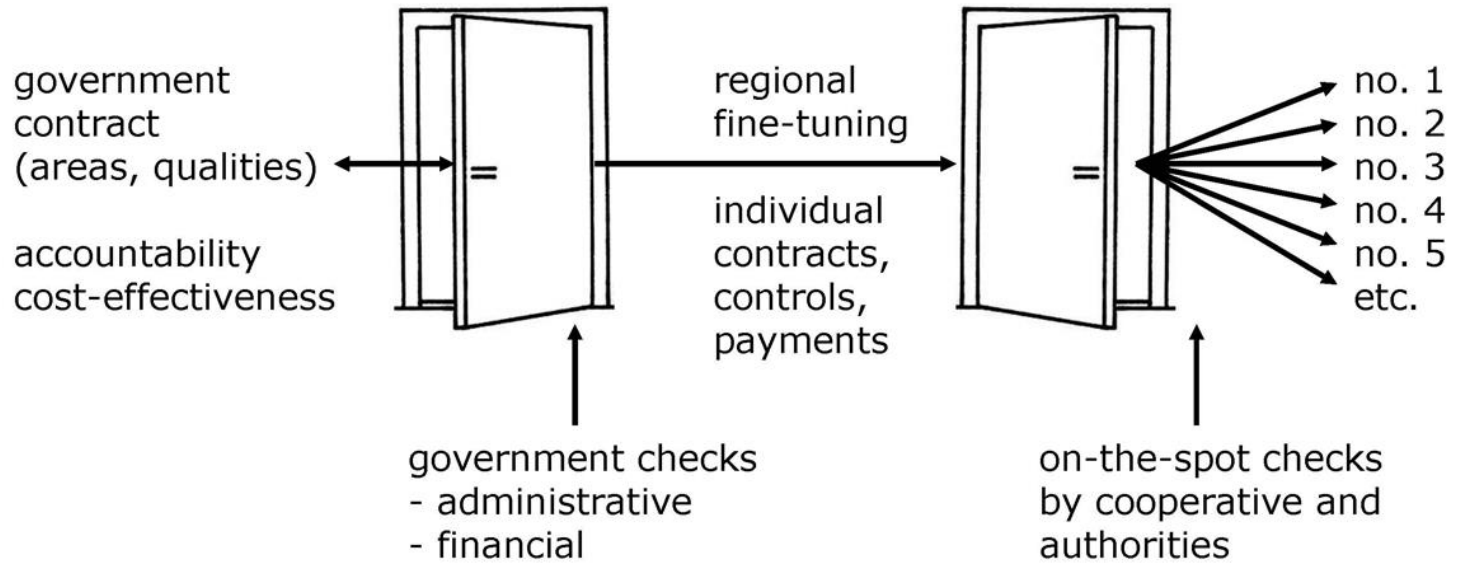


# Specific for the approach: front- and back-door

## AUTHORITIES

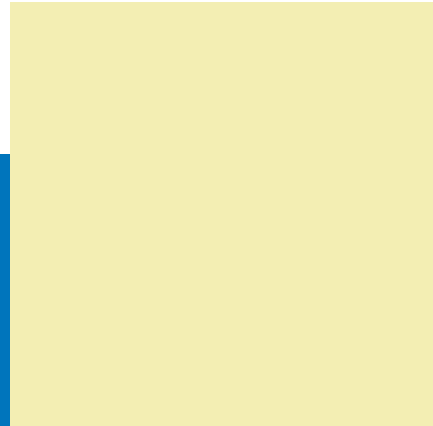
## COOPERATIVES

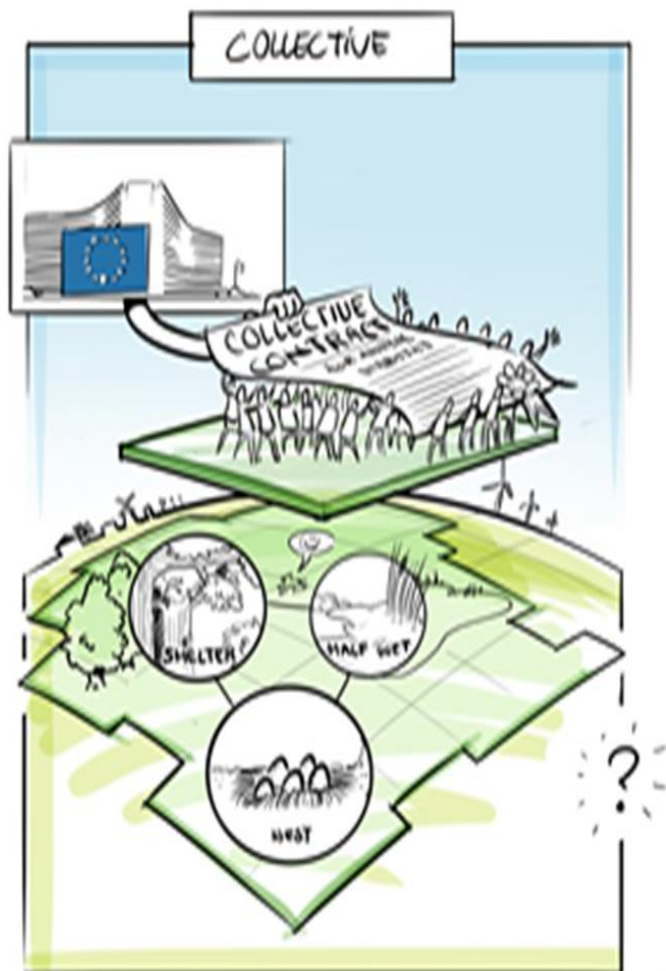
## LAND MANAGERS



## AES in current CAP (2016-2022)

- Landscape-scale approach.
- Conservation measurements at ecosystem level.
- Intermediar position of cooperatives.
- The farmer in the lead!
- Ecological guidance in all phases
- Increased stakeholder involvement.
- All cooperatives are certified.





Specific for approach: 40  
agricultural collectives,  
together covering the  
complete country



Provinciegrenzen

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Collectief Groningen West | 16 Achterhoek            |
| 2 Midden-Groningen          | 17 Rivierenland          |
| 3 ANOG                      | 18 Veluwe                |
| 4 Agrarische Natuur Drenthe | 19 Noord Holland Zuid    |
| 5 Waddenvogels              | 20 Water, Land en Dijken |
| 6 Waddenzee                 | 21 Noord Holland Noord   |
| 7 Friesland                 | 22 Friesland             |
| 8 Friesland                 | 23 Friesland             |
| 9 Friesland                 | 24 Friesland             |
| 10 Friesland                | 25 Friesland             |
| 11 Friesland                | 26 Friesland             |
| 12 Friesland                | 27 Friesland             |
| 13 Friesland                | 28 Friesland             |
| 14 Friesland                | 29 Friesland             |
| 15 Friesland                | 30 Friesland             |
| 16 Friesland                | 31 Friesland             |
| 17 Friesland                | 32 Friesland             |
| 18 Friesland                | 33 Friesland             |
| 19 Friesland                | 34 Friesland             |
| 20 Friesland                | 35 Friesland             |
| 21 Friesland                | 36 Friesland             |
| 22 Friesland                | 37 Friesland             |
| 23 Friesland                | 38 Friesland             |
| 24 Friesland                | 39 Friesland             |
| 25 Friesland                | 40 Friesland             |

# Activities of farmer collectives (AES)

- Developing a landscape management plan.
- Preparation of collective claim.
- Contract management with participants.
- Inspection of realisation of management activities.
- Preparation of payment justification / payment of participants.
- Monitoring conservation measurements and results.
- Ecological guidance of the participants.



# Landscape approach - four habitat types



Open grasland landscapes



Open arable landscapes



Dry habitat networks (wooded)



Wet habitat networks



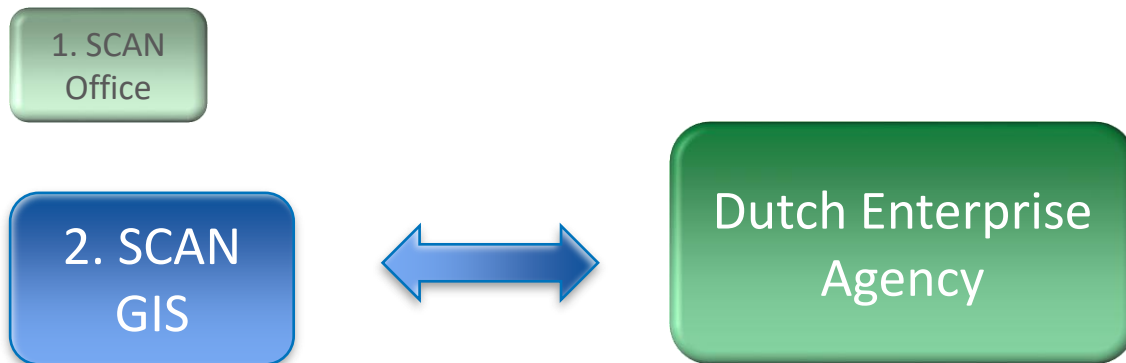


# Main activities BoerenNatuur

- Our vision is based on nature inclusive agriculture.
- BoerenNatuur aims to conserve farmland nature and maintain the farmland landscape
- We connect and inspire farmer collectives and represent their interests



## Specific for approach: SCAN ICT exchanges with Dutch Enterprise Agency







## Where are we now?

- All 40 collectives are certified for the AES.
- In 2021: over 11.000 participants .
- In 2021: 99,75% of the subsidy was payed out.
- In 2019: max. 114.000 ha in the AES – 72 million euro in application for paying out.
- Efficiency: collectives have less than 20% overhead.
- Effectivity: promising results, but we need to do much more!
- Time to move on!

# As of 2023 some things will change. Climate goals part of the collective approach



# Looking forward

- AES: collective approach has settled.
- Collectives growing in role of regional partner, other projects besides AES.
- Farmland biodiversity: recovery and sustainable & viable populations need management across larger area: food, shelter, reproduction – Nature inclusive should be new standard.
- Farmers motivated, but need higher price for products and services.
- Initiatives from market.





## New CAP; from 2023 onwards

- Ecoregelingen (new!) and conditionaliteiten (changed)
- System that awards points for measures contributing to biodiversity, landscape, water, soil and climate. Those are voluntary measures for participants.
- Partly the same measures as in AES. Challenge to choose well and work effectively on the goals.

# Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

[info@boerennatuur.nl](mailto:info@boerennatuur.nl)

More information?

<https://www.boerennatuur.nl/english/>

<https://www.samenvoorbiodiversiteit.nl/> (Delta Plan for Biodiversity Recovery)

<https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-agriculture-nature-and-food-quality/vision-anf> (Strategiepapier Dutch Ministry on future agriculture (in English, German, Spanish, French))

