



LIFE B4B (BE) - Belgium for Biodiversity

Stakeholder engagement in Wallonia through collective AECM and RBaPS

October 11, 2024 - Leuven, Belgium

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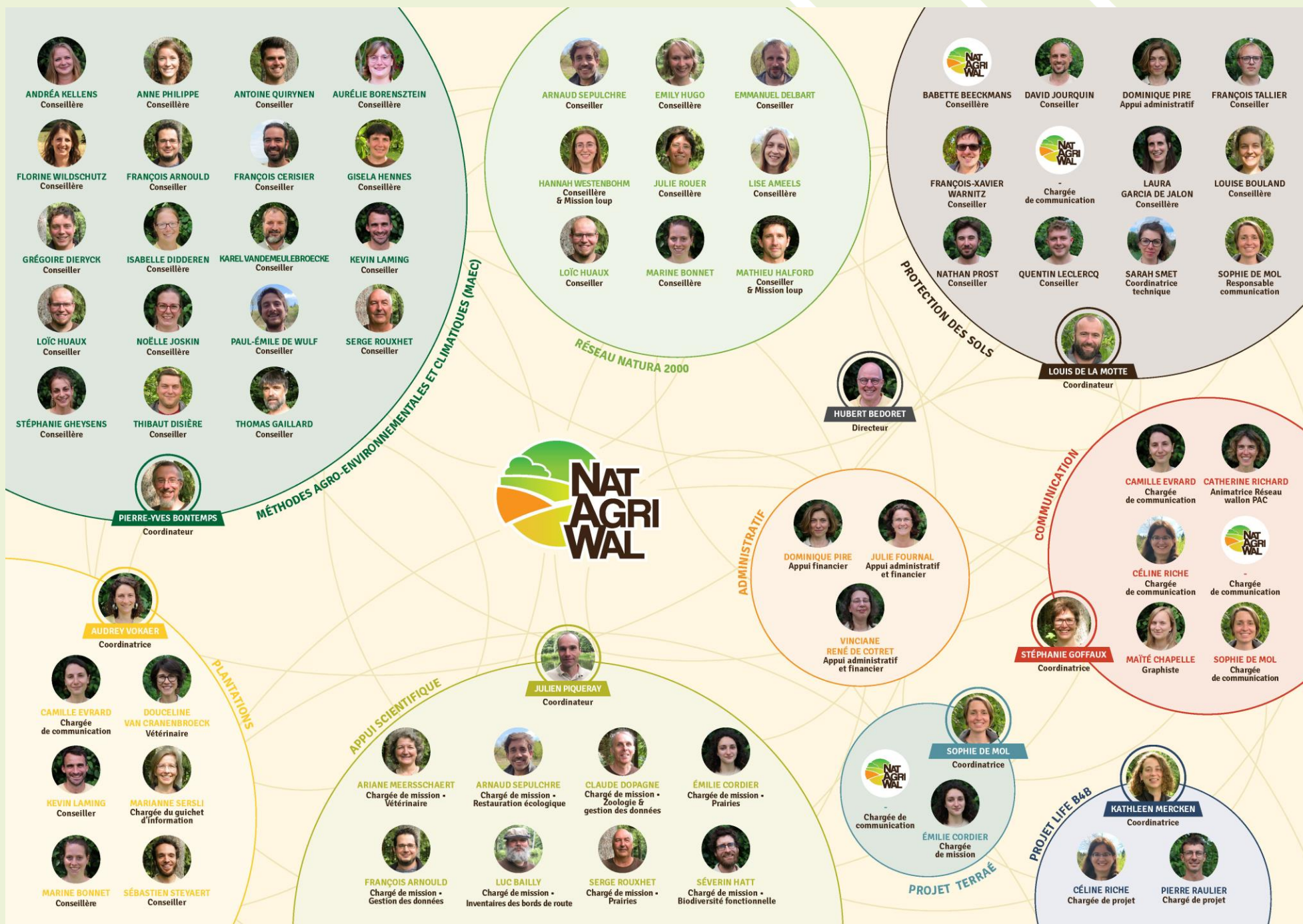


Belgium for
Biodiversity



**LIFE B4B (BE) – Stakeholder engagement in Wallonia
through a collective approach and RBaPS
Natagriwal asbl**







Agenda

1. AECM system in Wallonia
2. Life B4B: development of a collective AECM
3. A RBaPS for soil quality in Wallonia



1

AECM System in Wallonia

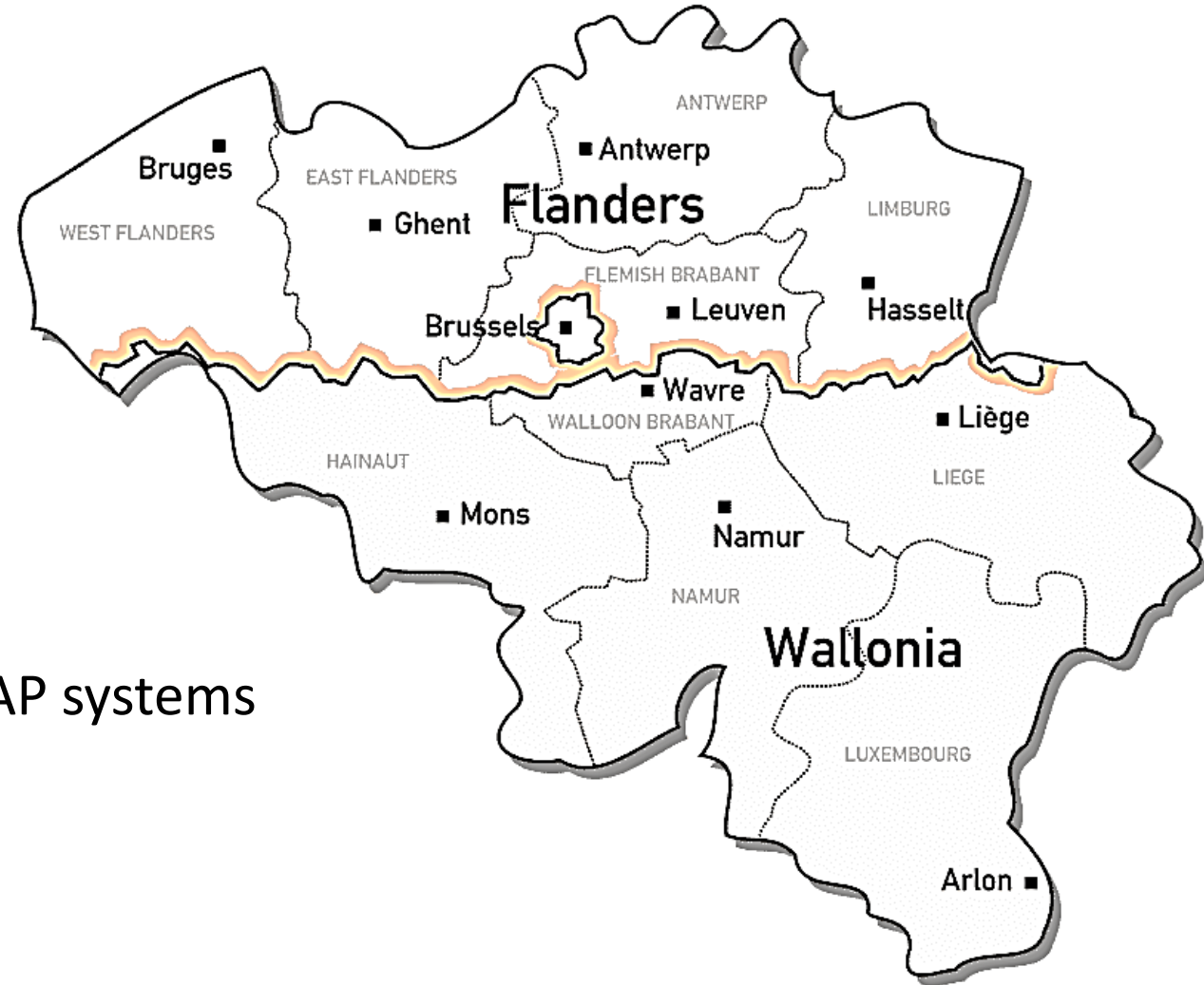


AECM System in Wallonia

- Belgium: Decentralization in 3 regions:

- Flanders
- Brussels
- Wallonia

-> Flanders and Wallonia have 2 different CAP systems



AECM System in Wallonia

- Agri-environment CAP tools

- Eco-schemes

- Voluntary system
- Voluntary choice of the zones
- 1 year contract

- AECM

- Voluntary system
- Voluntary choice of the zones
- 5 years contract

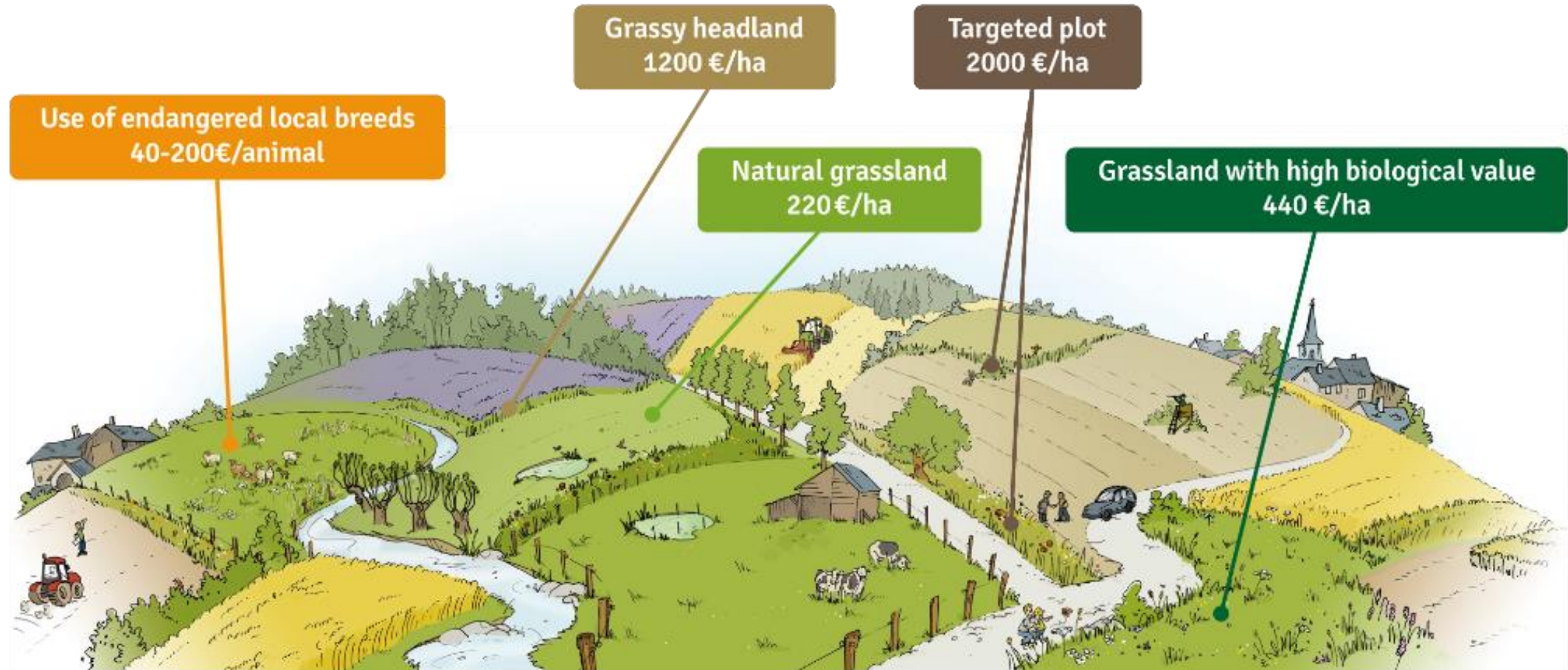


AECM System in Wallonia

- 2 levels of commitment in the AECM
 - Entry level measures
 - Simple management
 - Commitment without preliminary expertise or technical support
 - Targeted measures
 - More complex management
 - Address general or local issue
 - Location and management prescription defined with a Natagriwal farm advisor



AECM System in Wallonia: Main AECM



- ➔ AECM dedicated to arable land and pasture
- ➔ Financial compensation is competitive with agriculture



AECM System in Wallonia: Stakeholders

- Walloon region (Public authorities)



- Technical and legal design of AECM
- Control
- Payment

- Natagriwal (NPO)



- General communication on AECM
- Advise farmer for the location and management of targeted measure
- Follow up of targeted measure
- Monitoring
- Technical design of AECM

- Others

- Hunter association
- Nature protection association
- Local Action Groups (LAGs)

- Farmers



AECM System in Wallonia: Farmer engagement



Global Communication:
Agricultural press
Farmer councils
Event
Farmer union
Training program
Social network
...



Farmer contact Natagriwal

Natagriwal advisor and farmer define locations and protocols



5 year



1 or 2 visits of AECM by Natagriwal farm advisor



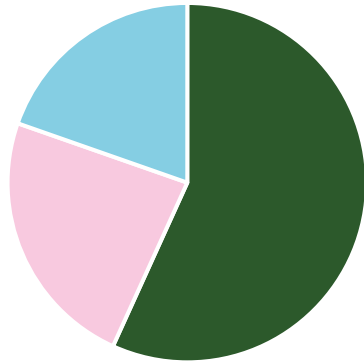
Farmer engagement validated through CAP declaration



- Natagriwal advising service = 5% of total AECM budget
- About 180 farms per Natagriwal advisor

AECM System in Wallonia: Keys figures

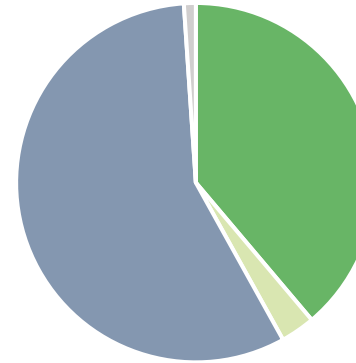
12 728 farms in Wallonia



■ Farmers without MAEC ■ Farmers with entry level MAEC
■ Farmers with targeted MAEC

- 24% of farmers with low entry level MAEC
- 20% of farmers with targeted AECM

740 628 ha of agricultural land in Wallonia



■ Pasture without MAEC ■ Pasture with MAEC
■ Arable Land without MAEC ■ Arable Land with MAEC

- 7,4 % of pastures with AECM Objective 2027: 9 %
- 1.6 % of arable land with AECM Objective 2027: 2,3 %

➔ Good acceptance of AECM by Farmers
➔ Objective 2027 accessible



AECM System in Wallonia: issue



Green: Area: Optimal habitat for hen harrier Blue: AECM

- Positive local effect of AECM on farmland bird population
- Lower AECM density in most suitable habitats for farmland birds



2

Life B4B:

Development of a collective AECM



Life B4B: Objective

- Objectives 2030
 - Design a collective stakeholder engagement strategy that can fit to CAP tools
 - 2 pilots areas of 1000 ha of arable land with 5% of AECM for 3 farmland bird species:



Montagu's harrier



Hen harrier



Western marsh harrier

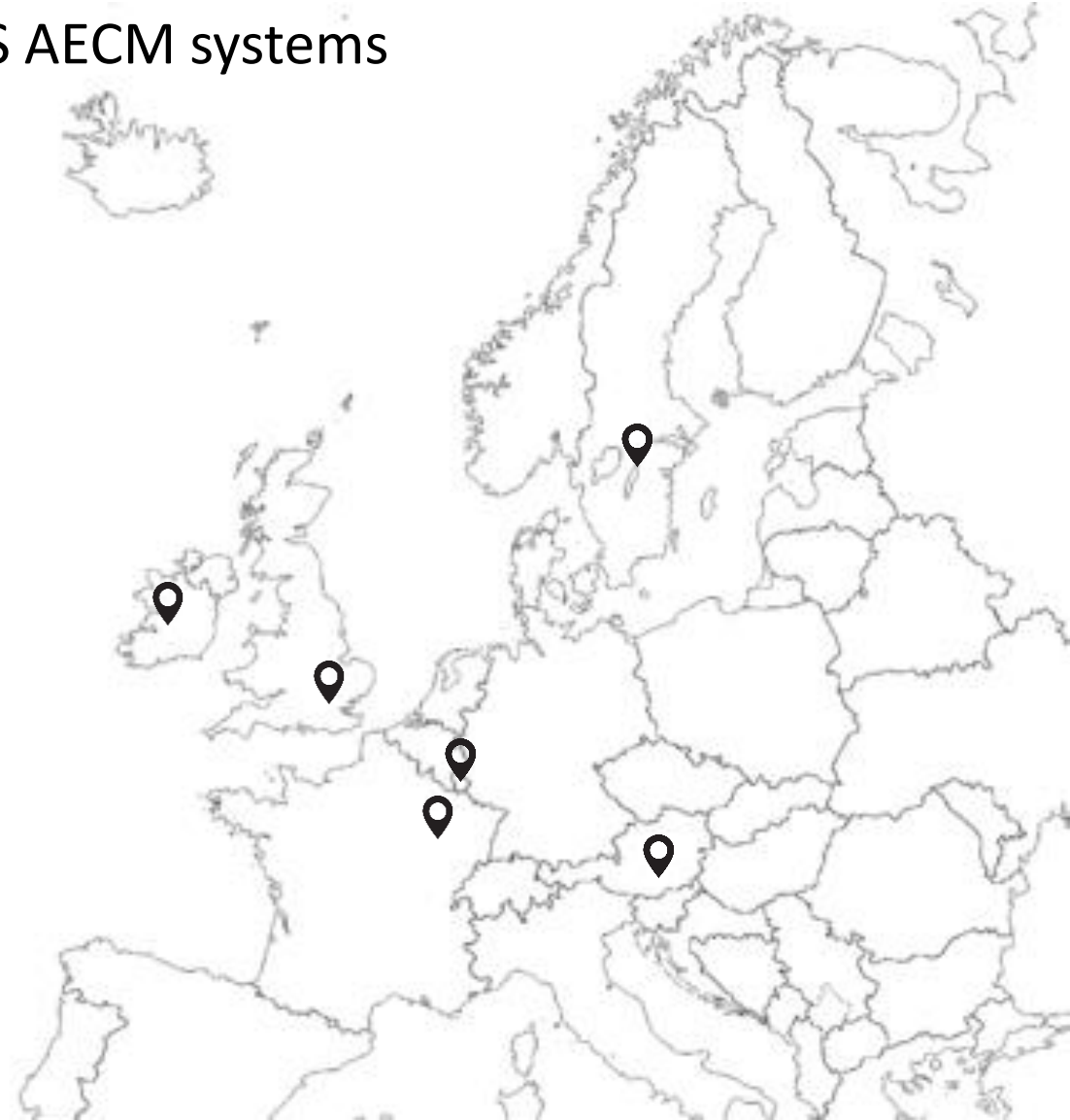


Life B4B: Benchmarking

- Semi structured interviews of collective and RBaPS AECM systems
 - 6 Europe
 - 7 Belgium

→ Different systems can work

- Coherent technical and agronomical conception
- A good balance between constraints and remuneration
- Advise, animation and training are key success factor



Life B4B: Design a strategy to increase farmer engagement

- Identification of farmer groups in area farmland bird
- Targeted communication to get new farmers into AECM program
 - Individual approach of farmers
 - Organisation of local event
 - Farm visits
 - Training
- Animation to increase the motivation of farmers engaged in AECM
 - Support cooperation between farmers
 - Identification of solutions to biodiversity loss in rural areas by farmers
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Training



3

A RBaPS for soil quality in Wallonia – MR14



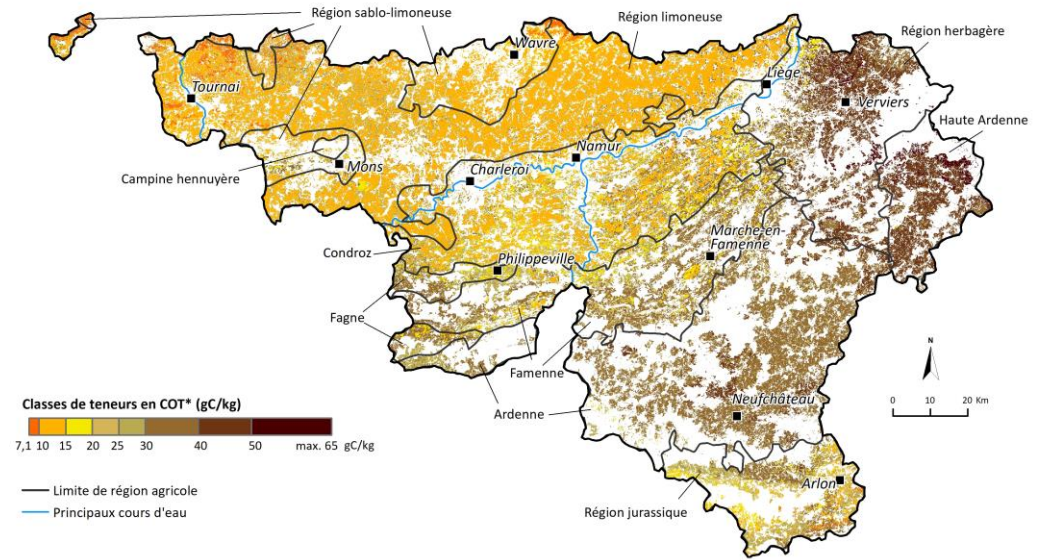
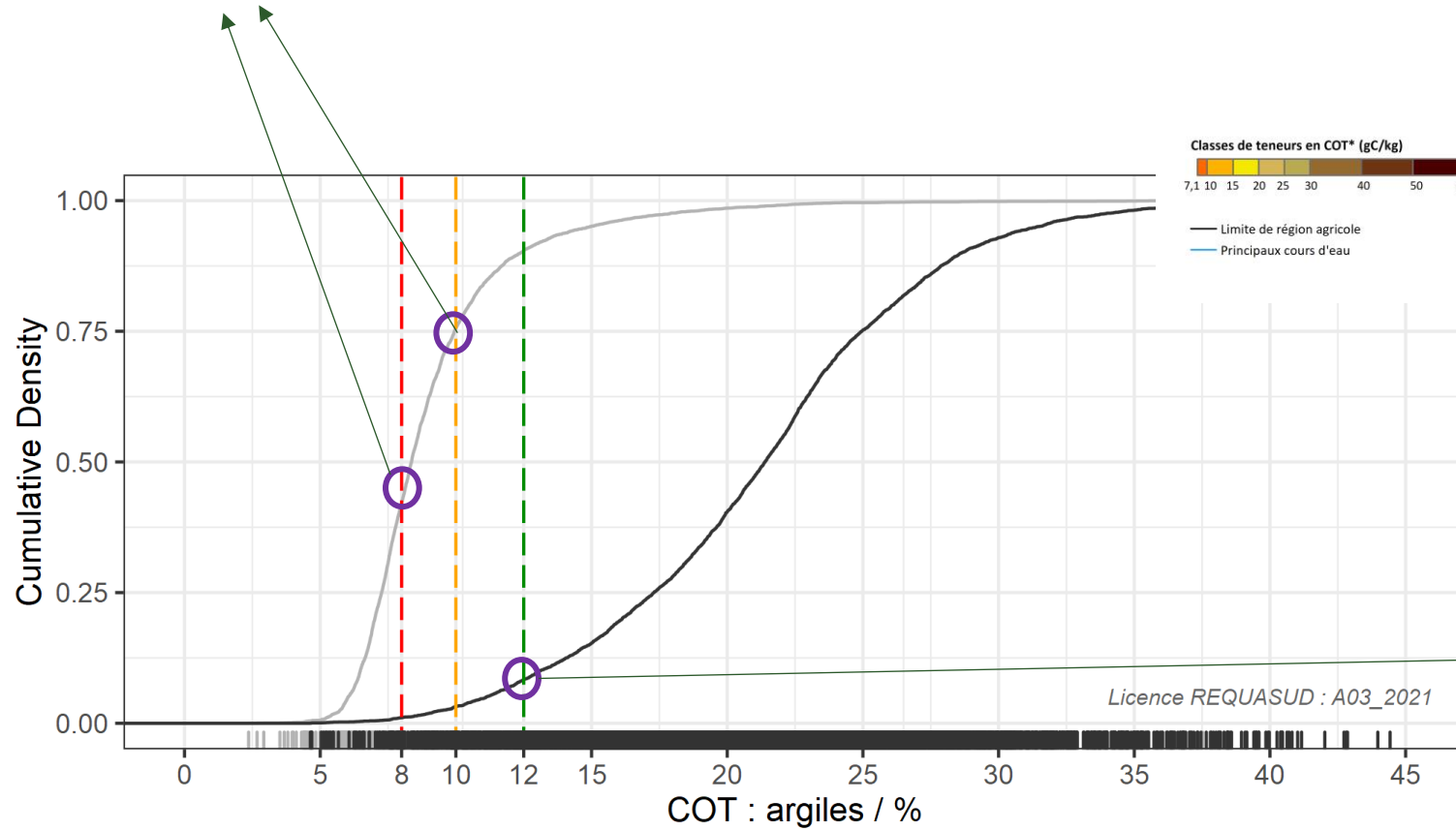
MR14 « Soil » in a nutshell

- The issue
 - Carbon in soils is crucial to maintain its good health and functioning (fertility, resistance to erosion, carbon sequestration, ...)
 - Soil carbon content is low especially in arable lands
 - Several ways to improve soil carbon status (rotation, organic fertilizers, cultivation techniques, ...) ⇔ difficult to conceive coherent specifications for a management-based scheme
- The indicator
 - The Total Organic Carbon (TOC):Clay ratio
 - Data from soil analyses at the beginning and the end of the 5-year commitment
- The payment
 - (Almost) no management prescription
 - Mainly based on the soil carbon content (>< soil carbon flow or soil carbon stocks).
 - Soil with higher TOC:Clay ratio are paid at higher rate
 - Improvement leads to an extra-payment, (Strong) degradation can lead to a refund.
 - Correction to balance payment towards arable lands.



MR14 « Soil » : the issues

In arable lands : 75% degraded soil C status, of which 40% highly degraded



OccSol2

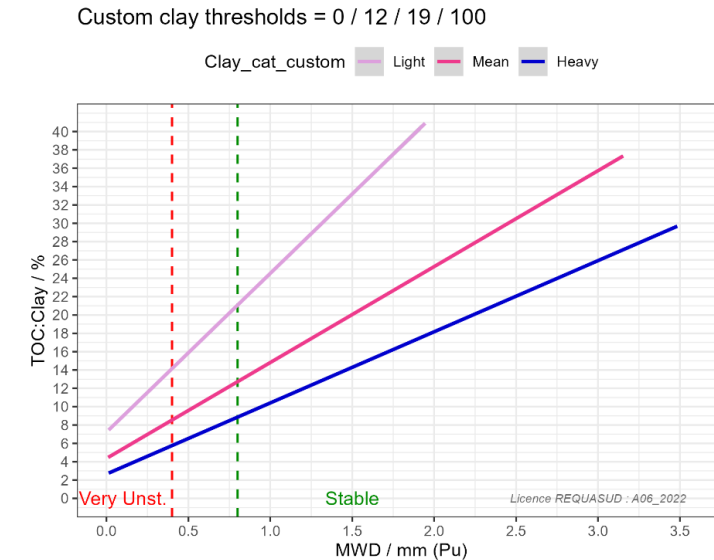
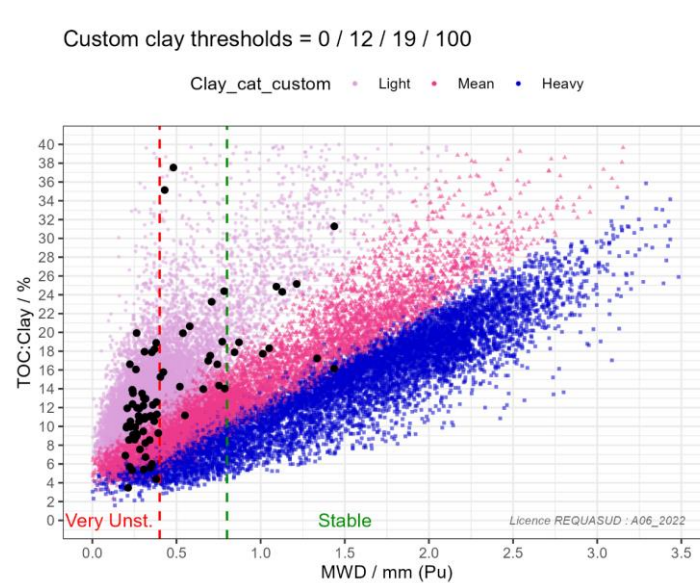
- Cultures
- Prairie

In grasslands: 90% highly favourable soil C status



MR14 « Soil » : the indicator

- The Total Organic Carbon (TOC):Clay ratio (depth <25cm), as a proxy of soil structural stability, not for soil carbon stock/sequestration.



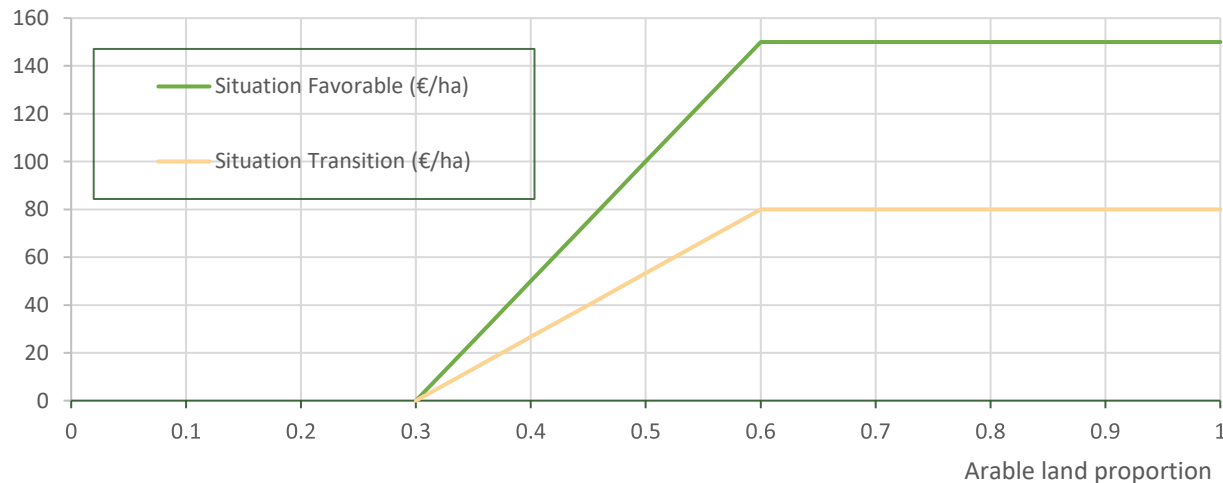
Soil type (% clay)	TOC:Clay <i>Unfavourable</i>	TOC:Clay <i>Transition</i>	TOC:Clay <i>Favourable</i>
Light (< 12%)	< 14	14 – 17	> 17
Mean (12 – 19%)	< 8	8 – 10	> 10
Heavy (> 19%)	< 6	6 – 9	> 9



MR14 « Soil » : the payment

- 100€/yr lump sum payment (to cover (part of) the soil analyses costs)
- Year 1-4 : Payment depending on soil analyses results year 1
- Year 5 : Payment depending on soil analyses results year 5 + bonus/penalty

Payment correction for arable land proportion



Soil type (% clay)	TOC:Clay <i>Unfavourable</i> (0€/ha)	TOC:Clay <i>Transition</i> (80€/ha)	TOC:Clay <i>Favourable</i> (150€/ha)
Light (< 12%)	< 14	14 – 17	> 17
Mean (12 – 19%)	< 8	8 – 10	> 10
Heavy (> 19%)	< 6	6 – 9	> 9



MR14 « Soil » : the commitment procedure

- < 30th April : The farmer declares at least 90% of her/his eligible areas.
 - Not eligible : peaty areas, flood zones, grassland converted in arable land within the last 5 years.
 - General condition : subscribe to the soil cover eco-scheme (at least 70% cover on 15th February). A 5-year subscription to this ES is mandatory to obtain (possible) payment bonus at the end of the commitment
- < 15th June (of year 1 and 5)* : The farmer asks for soil analyses to a Provincial lab.
- < 30th October (of year 1 and 5)*: The lab makes :
 - Soil sampling plan following an established procedure (representative surfaces, depending on the different soil types at the farm level) ⇔ the number of sample/ha may vary ! => send a quote to the farmer => the farmer accepts the price or retracts her/his commitment
 - Soil sampling
 - Soil TOC:clay analyses (price around 50€/sample, but depends on the lab)
 - Report to the demanding farmer and to the administration (=definitive commitment).

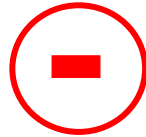
* In case of re-commitment after 5 years, the year 5 analysis values as the year 1 analysis of the following commitment



MR14 « Soil » : A good thing or not?



- Based on actual analyses (not on a model)
- Sensibilization of farmer to the soil C issues
- Support to some virtuous farming systems (Soil conservation, mixed crop-livestock)
- No controller in the farm



- Will it really change practices or just reward existing ones?
- No prescription does not mean that it is simpler for farmers ⇔ Need for technical support (by who?)
- Risk for the farmer. A real bet on the analyses results:
 - 5-50€/ha analyses cost (the year 1 bet) Vs. 0-150€/ha*year annuity
- Administrative burden





Thanks !

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