CONTEXT PROFILE

THE NETHERLANDS

FARMER
Arjan Mulder

INNOVATION
Meadow bird conservation through predator exclusion and habitat management

Video

MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION
Improvement of grassland management

SOIL TYPE
Peat

FINANCE/INVESTMENT
Mid

AGROCLIMATIC AREA
Atlantic central

MANAGEMENT
Pasture dairy

MARKET
Global

CLIMATE
Moderate rainfall

TECHNICAL
Difficult

SOCIAL
Full-time farmer

All contents of this document are expert opinions of the G4AE Scientific Technical Working Group

CONTEXT PROFILE

THE NETHERLANDS

Case Study: NL_14	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	**Alpine**	**Atlantic Central**	**Atlantic North**	**Atlantic South**	**Boreal**	**Continental North**	**Continental South**	**Mediterranean North**	**Mediterranean South**
Meadow bird management	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Delayed mowing to protect nests and allow successful chick rearing	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Floating rafts in ditches to provide safe and stable nesting platforms	++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++	++	+	+
Strategic fencing around fields to deter predators	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+	+++	+

+++ **Strong transferability** ++ **Slightly limited transferability** + **Very limited transferability** × **Generic information/not relevant**

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Implementation Gaps

- A strong and sustained motivation for bird conservation is essential, which may vary among farmers
- Although ecological measures are widely accepted, large-scale adoption is often limited by economic factors. Farmers require adequate compensation for providing ecosystem services such as bird conservation

Research Gaps

- Conduct region-specific research to identify which bird species benefit from particular conservation measures and under what conditions
- Develop and refine practical, cost-effective management strategies that farmers can integrate into their daily operations to support bird populations

Suggestions to Adapt

- Introduce or expand public payment schemes for meadow bird management to support farmers who invest time and resources into biodiversity
- Consider EU-wide or national legislation to ensure consistent protection for meadow birds across regions
- Promote farmer education and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange to raise awareness of the ecological and potential agronomic benefits of meadow bird conservation

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COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	mid
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	not applicable/not known
• Initial advisory costs	not applicable/not known
• Initial buildings and machineries	not applicable/not known
• Initial certification costs	not applicable/not known
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	not applicable/not known

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	low
On-going certification costs	low
On-going buildings and machinery costs	low
On-going working capital	low

BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

- **Economic**

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	not applicable/not known
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	not applicable/not known
Payback period	not applicable/not known
Product value added	not applicable/not known
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	high

- **Environmental**

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	not applicable/not known
Biodiversity increase	high
Improved nitrogen cycling	not applicable/not known
Soil regeneration	not applicable/not known
Animal health and welfare improvement	not applicable/not known

- **Social**

Workload reduction	not applicable/not known
Engagement of young generation	high

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Literature

English

- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167880924000239
- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/246340411_Grassland_birds_An_overview_of_threats_and_recommended_management_strategies

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