

SÉMINAIRE EUROPÉEN SUR LES MESURES AGROENVIRONNEMENTALES ET CLIMATIQUES (MAEC)

8 et 9 septembre 2016

**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt (salle Gambetta)
78 rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris, France**

Objectif : le Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt français organise un séminaire sur les MAEC afin de promouvoir le **partage d'informations et d'expériences sur les MAEC** entre les différents Etats membres de l'Union européenne.

L'objectif est de réunir les personnes impliquées à un niveau technique dans l'élaboration des MAEC et la négociation de ces mesures auprès de la Commission européenne. Ce séminaire pourra constituer le lancement d'un **réseau européen des concepteurs de MAEC** nécessaire à la pérennisation et l'enrichissement des échanges.

Les différentes sessions organisées au cours du séminaire permettront de partager les retours d'expérience, d'identifier des idées innovantes ou des facteurs de réussite pour la mise en œuvre des MAEC, ainsi que d'échanger sur les principales difficultés rencontrées.

Format du séminaire :

- **Tables rondes :** présentations comparées de trois à cinq États membres sur une thématique commune. Ces interventions seront suivies d'un temps consacré à des échanges avec l'ensemble des participants. Afin de renforcer la dimension participative du séminaire, nous vous encourageons à manifester votre intérêt pour la préparation d'une intervention dans le cadre d'une ou plusieurs table(s) ronde(s).
- **Ateliers :** les participants partagent leur méthode de construction des MAEC par groupe de 15 à 20 personnes

États membres représentés	Possibilités d'interprétation
Allemagne, Autriche, Belgique, Chypre, Croatie, Danemark, Espagne, Estonie, France, Grèce, Hongrie, Italie, Finlande, Lettonie, Luxembourg, Malte, Pays-Bas, Pologne, Portugal, République Tchèque, Royaume-Uni, Slovénie, Suède	Anglais, français, espagnol (actif) Allemand, portugais (passif)

Veuillez trouver ci-joint l'ordre du jour du séminaire, la liste prévisionnelle des participants, ainsi que des informations pratiques complémentaires.

Nous comptons sur votre participation nombreuse !



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L'Europe investit dans les
zones rurales.





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Summary of the contribution AECM seminar, Paris (8-9september 2016)

Environmental evaluations: Tools to help steer the AEMC programme in Wallonia

Wallonia financially supports an independent technical and scientific unit responsible for on-going assessments and guidance for the AECM programme. The regional administration, which interacts with this unit, focuses on environmental and socio economic issues that arise from the implementation of the programme. When necessary, further studies and expertise can be carried out by universities or other specialised bodies. The permanent unit and additional studies generally amount to 2% of agro-environmental payments to farmers and do not exceed 500,000 euros per year.

These evaluations have highlighted the positive impact of most current measures. The subsequent recommendations have also helped the programme to move forward in a constant way, whilst keeping the main initial measures.

Based on the recommendations and since 2005, a targeted approach has been developed. General measures are still available everywhere for all farmers (conservation of small landscape elements, mowing of hay meadows after 15 June, sowing of grass on field strips...). The targeted approach is managed by a network of advisers (www.natagriwal.be). The aim is to tackle particular points (such as management of protected habitats and species, landscape improvement, erosion reduction and protection of farmland birds or uncommon and rare arable weeds) by applying specifications that take into account local issues.

This is how an efficient management tool for Natura 2000 agricultural habitats was developed, by using several variants to achieve end results. Globally, the state of conservation of the main agricultural habitat Natura 2000 (low/medium altitude hay meadows) is poor in Wallonia. However, our evaluations have shown encouraging signs for field areas under AECM targeted contracts.

In the light of the conclusions from the studies, several specifications of the AECM were considerably amended. One of the main improvements was the new prescription of "shelter areas" (unmown areas) to all variants of AECMs when late mowing is required. In the case of extensive grazing and in the light of in-depth scientific research, the specifications now strongly limit anti-parasite treatment for cattle. The aim is to preserve insects that live on cow dung as they are key elements in sustaining food chains.

Lastly, these evaluations have been instrumental in doing away with certain measures or variants that were too much like best agricultural practices or for which agro-environmental practices were not the best options to address certain environmental concerns. This was the case for grass strips bordering streams and winter cover crops.

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Overall framework and biodiversity examples

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Overall Framework

Continuous technical and scientific support by independent unit in charge of AECMs



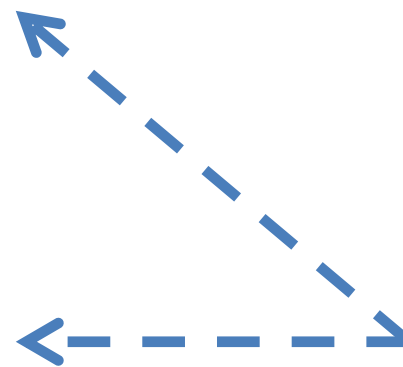
Regional Administration for Agriculture – « Service Public de Wallonie »



Evaluation requirements (achievements, efficiency, ...)



Request for evaluation studies



University institutions



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• Example: Extensive meadow management for the whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

• Facts and question

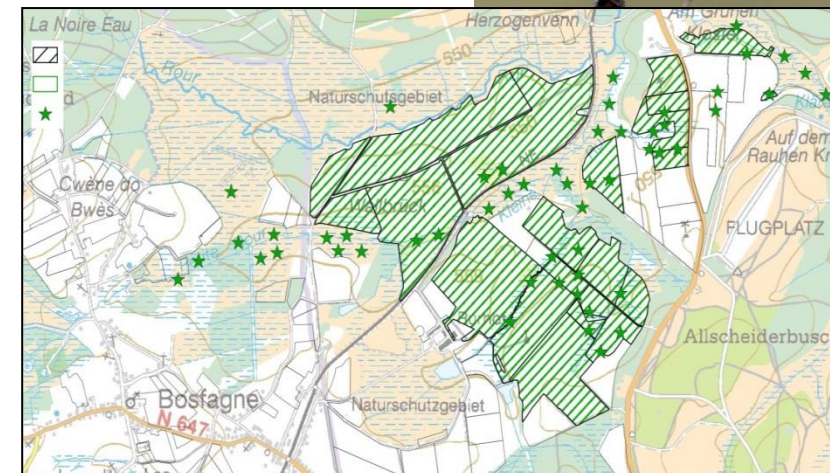
- Very endangered species, nests on the ground in (hay)meadow
 - Preliminary study to define area and terms of reference
 - Implementation (farmers + local nature and agro-environmental advisers)
- => Impact of extensive field management on the population of the whinchat?**

• Methodology and results

- Local follow-up of reproduction (cycle & success rate)
- => Total number of juveniles: +30% (2011-2012)**
- => Increased number of couples from 9 to 27**
- => Positive ownership of farmers**

• Recommendations

- Further local development is needed
- Development of similar actions for other species and context



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■ Example: Extensive management & conservation of a protected habitat

• Facts and question

- AECM = fundamental tool for conservation of N2000 agricultural habitats
 - Main agricultural habitat = low and medium altitude hay meadows
 - AECM contracts apply to 50% of this habitat within N2000 areas
- => Impact on the implementation of the Habitats Directive?**



• Methodology and results

- Long term botanical follow-up of several hay meadows under AECM contracts
 - Impact on vegetation in line with N2000 methodology assessment (typical species etc...)
- => Favourable output showing stable or improved quality for a majority of hay meadows**

• Recommendations

- Continue botanical follow-up and assessment (other kind of habitats?)
- Extend AECM to 100% of N2000 agricultural habitats by 2020 with the necessary manpower

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Example: Farms with reduced stocking rate

Facts

- Less intensive cattle farms should be good for the environment (less risk and more assets)
- AECMs financially support less intensive farms (average stocking rate between 0,6 et 1,4 cattle/ha)

=> How does this affect biodiversity?

Methodology and results

- Several meadows were sampled on farms that have different average stocking rates
- Meadows are rated according to their biological value, taking into account different elements (habitat rarity, state of conservation...)
- => **The average biological value of farm's meadows decreases when the average stocking rate of the farms increases**

Recommendation

- Stronger support to farms with a low stocking rate; this will help to preserve biodiversity



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Some main benefits

The programme

- Stable programme with ongoing development and improvement (moderate cost, roughly 2% of AECM payments, max. 500 000€ /year)
- Introduction and continuous development of targeted measures for specific environmental issues: flexible system based on a network of field advisers (see round table 2)
- Measures judged too close to the base line have been discontinued (autumn soil cover, specific extensive grass strips bordering streams)

The measures

- Objectives obtained for the majority of measures
- Fundamental improvements made to terms of reference (unmowed refuge areas in extensive meadows, reduction of anti-parasite treatments in grazing areas, specific mowing methods for pollinators,...)



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▪ Thank you for your attention

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