



Implementation of the Agri- Environment-Climate Measures (AECM) and Natura 2000 network in the rural areas: specific elements of the schemes in Wallonia (Belgium)

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Perwez

IMPLEMENTATION: PARTNERSHIP

Public authorities (Service Public de Wallonie)

legislation, funding, control...

- Regional Administration for Agriculture (AECM)
- Regional Administration for Nature and Forest (Natura 2000)

Natagriwal - A non profit organization

(funded and commissioned by the Regional Government)

communication, promotion, framing, technical advices, mediation and supervision of the farmers

Natura 2000 and AECM

The beneficiaries

private owners, land managers, farmers, Nature NGOs...
(specific regime for public bodies)



THE FARM ADVISORS

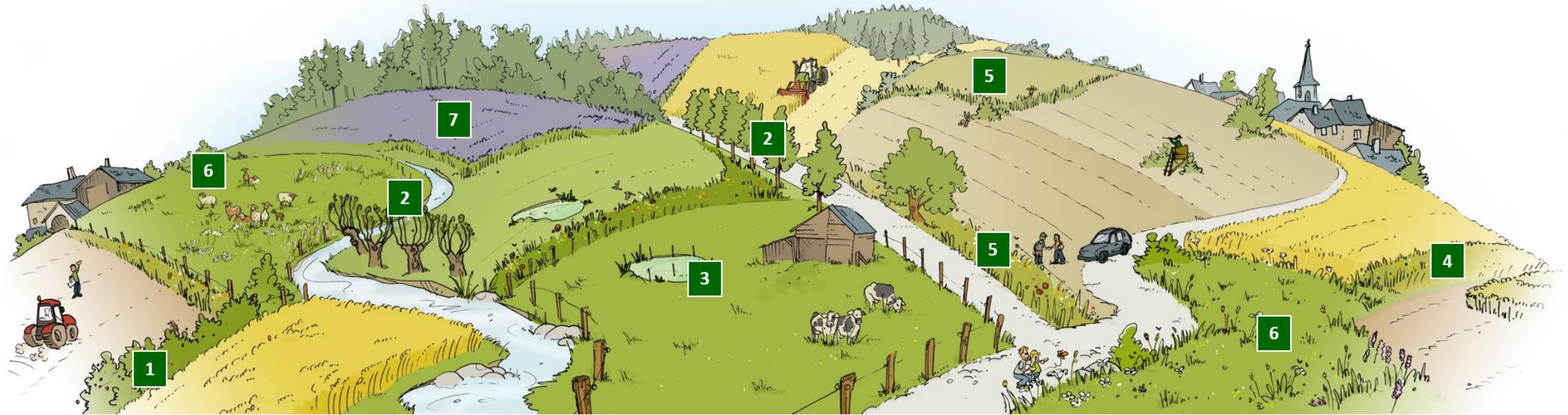
- **Responsible for contract establishment and support to farmers**
- **Located in their zone of activity (neighbourhood service).**

Carte des directions extérieures du Département de l'Agriculture du Service public de Wallonie (SPW)

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- Ca. 1 advisor / 200 farmers
- Trained to biodiversity, environment and farm functioning (on-going training)
- Some individual thematic training (erosion, grassland management,...)

MAIN AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE MEASURES (AECM)



1. Hedgerows
2. Rows of trees, shrubs and copses
3. Ponds
4. Grass margins
5. Targeted strips
6. High biological value grasslands
7. *Winter cover of the soil (no more active in the program => obligation!)*

2 LEVELS OF COMMITMENT FOR THE AECM

2 levels of commitment for the AECM:

=>Entry-level schemes

- Simple management (e.g. grass strips, late-mowing grasslands, limited cattle: surface ratio at the farm level,...)
- Commitment without preliminary expertise and technical support

=> Targeted schemes

- Complex management
- Location and management prescription defined with a farm advisor, depending on the objectives

=> contract between the farmer and the farm advisor

=> sent to the administration for validation and payment demand.

**The less
in the
law...**

Targeted strips (AECM 8)

- Margin of an arable field
- Max. 21m width
- No pesticides (except IAS, thistles and broad-leave and curly docks spot-treatment)
- Transit forbidden
- 1500 €/ha

=> the specific objectives of the developed strip and the choice of location, width, composition of the cover, dates and methods of management, are indicated in the expert specifications, taking into account the local issues and constraints in agricultural and environmental matters

SPECIFICATIONS 1



Strips for erosion control

- Grasses + legumes
- Parallel to contour lines or in thalwegs

**... the most in
the
specifications**



Strips for landscape aesthetic improvement

- Cereals + Poppy + corn flower
- Along roads, paths, villages, ...

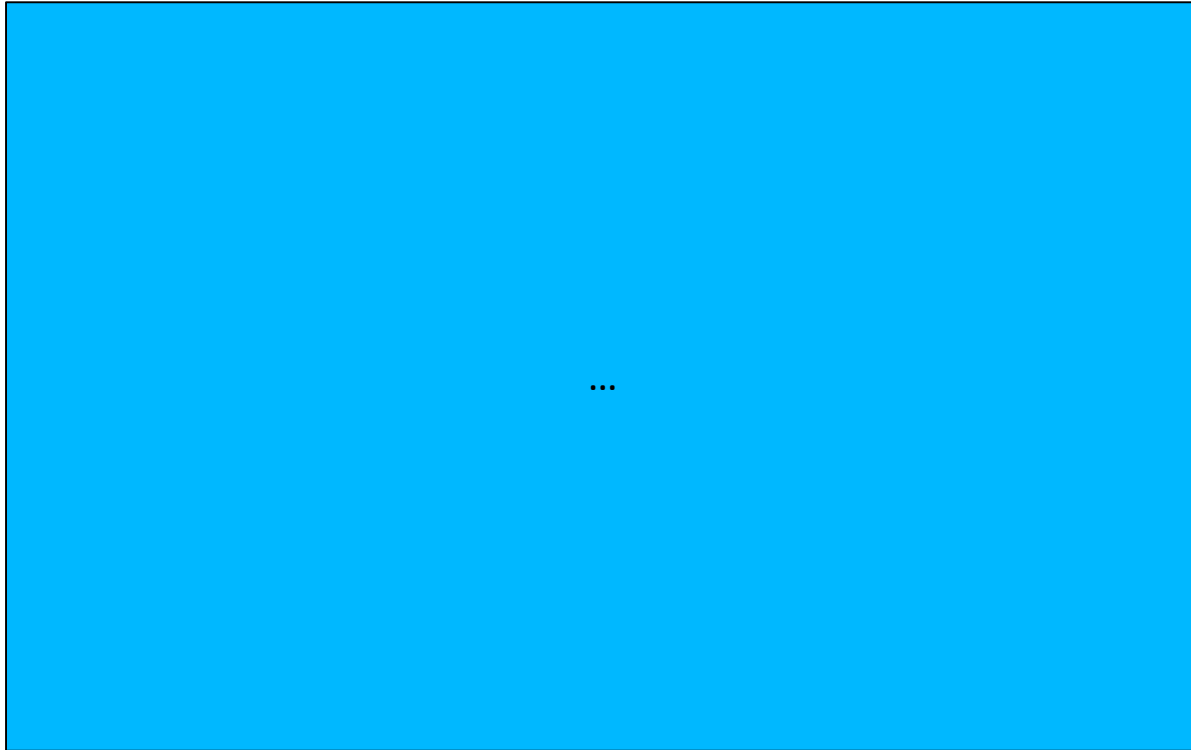
... the most in the specifications



Unharvested crops strips (winter bird feeding)

- Mix of seed-producing plants
- Left unharvested the whole winter
- In quiet zones

... the most in the specifications



New situation or new concept

possibility of creating new specifications without changing the legislation

... the most in the specifications

SOME NUMBERS...

**45% of Walloon farmers are engaged in the program
(nearly 5500 farms)**

For the main following commitments:

3.850

Ponds

48.000 hectares

Feed autonomy

2.200 kilometers

Grass margins

1.350 kilometers

Targeted strips

10.000 hectares

High biological value
grasslands

11.500 kilometers

Hedges



Thank you for your attention!

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