



News release, 12 October 2023

Making bird numbers count: Would Dutch farmers accept a result-based meadow bird conservation scheme?

The paper investigates what agricultural production depends on, based on a hybrid scheme that might enhance farmers' acceptance of agri-environmental schemes.

Under existing **agri-environmental schemes (AES)**, management contracts typically operate on actions taken by farmers, reimbursing costs incurred without considering actual environmental improvements. The potential enhancement lies in **result-based schemes**, offering payments based on outcomes to boost cost and ecological effectiveness.

[This study](#) explores **farmer receptiveness to a theoretical meadow bird management scheme with outcome-based payments**. Developed collaboratively with a Dutch farmer collective, the scheme is a hybrid, combining result-based and action-based elements. Through a discrete choice experiment, farmers were presented with either a collective bonus tied to nature conservation success or an individual bonus for measures contributing more to conservation. Results indicate a **high acceptance rate (75%) for the hybrid scheme**; while a €1000/farmer collective bonus was viewed positively, a latent class analysis reveals varied responses among farmers.

Read and download the paper [here](#).

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EFFECT project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and Innovation programme under grant agreement N°817903.