

## SESSION DESCRIPTION

### ID: T14b

Making local knowledge count: Co-design principles and practices for agri-environmental programmes

### Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:		Francis Turkelboom,	INBO, Belgium	francis.turkelboom@inbo.be
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### Abstract:

The intensification of agriculture and rapid expansion of large scale farming enterprises has had a significant impact upon the environment over the past century. Meanwhile, many farmers across Europe continue to struggle to maintain the economic viability of their farms, and are facing serious trade-offs between short-term profitability and sustainable production. Agri-environmental contracts (AEC)/Payments for Environmental Services (PES) schemes are promoted as mechanisms to reduce these trade-offs: they provide farmers with the means and incentives to deliver a combination of private and public goods that better reflect society preferences for more environmentally-conscious agricultural production. However, the present contracts are being criticised on multiple fronts: conservation organizations maintain that many AEC are too inefficient to reach environmental goals, and farmers remain deterred by complex agreements with high administrative demands and cumbersome controls that are not well-suited to the farming practices and challenges. Meynard et al. have highlighted that agricultural practices “leave the farmer’s private sphere to become subjects of public debate, of negotiations, standards and regulations” (2012). However, this highlights the pressing need for more meaningful and sustained ‘bottom-up’ participation from farmers and land managers (Asah & Blahna, 2020).

In this session, we invite short papers from researchers and practitioners to discuss contemporary co-design methods and processes for developing agri-environmental/PES programmes with farmers and land managers. One of such methods is the living lab approach,

utilized in the H2020 project Contracts2.0, which creates an open and user-centred atmosphere to initiate meaningful dialogue and co-creation between various types of actors (Bergvall-Kareborn and Stahlbrost, 2009). We conceptualize agri-environmental programmes more broadly than government-led contracts or schemes, and encourage also to submit papers which focus on bottom-up co-design processes for PES, nature-based solutions and other innovative interventions for sustainable land management.

#### **Goals and objectives of the session:**

The main goal of the session is to learn from a diverse range of transdisciplinary experiences on how to co-design contracts and other arrangements for a more effective and land manager-supported supply of biodiversity and ecosystem services. There are three specific objectives related to this goal: (1) to share insights on co-designing and co-producing approaches which include diverse stakeholders and knowledge forms, (2) to initiate a joint reflection process among researchers, on-the-ground practitioners and policy-makers about enabling factors and constraints of co-design activities, and (3) to discuss perceptions of policy makers/administrators on bottom-up developed policy options.

#### **Planned output / Deliverables:**

The main output of the session is a summary of co-design best practices and main lessons learnt from a variety of national contexts. Potentially, a policy guidance paper can be developed with the participation of presenters and other participants.

#### **Session format:**

Standard session (presentations)

#### **Voluntary contributions accepted:**

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

#### **Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:**

[Thematic Working Groups: TWG 14 – Application of ES in Planning & Management](#)