



THE EU AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE



FIT FOR 2030

Resilient EU agri-food systems & rural areas



European
Commission

Resilient Agricultural Systems

Insights from SURE-Farm

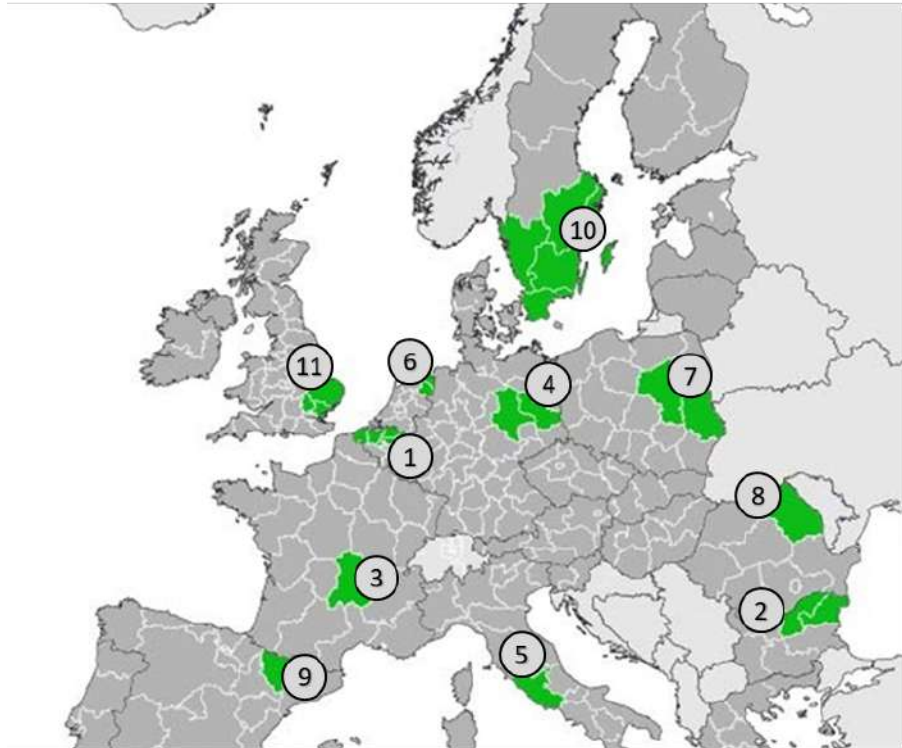
Miranda.Meuwissen@wur.nl
& The SURE-Farm consortium

Agricultural outlook, 9 December 2021

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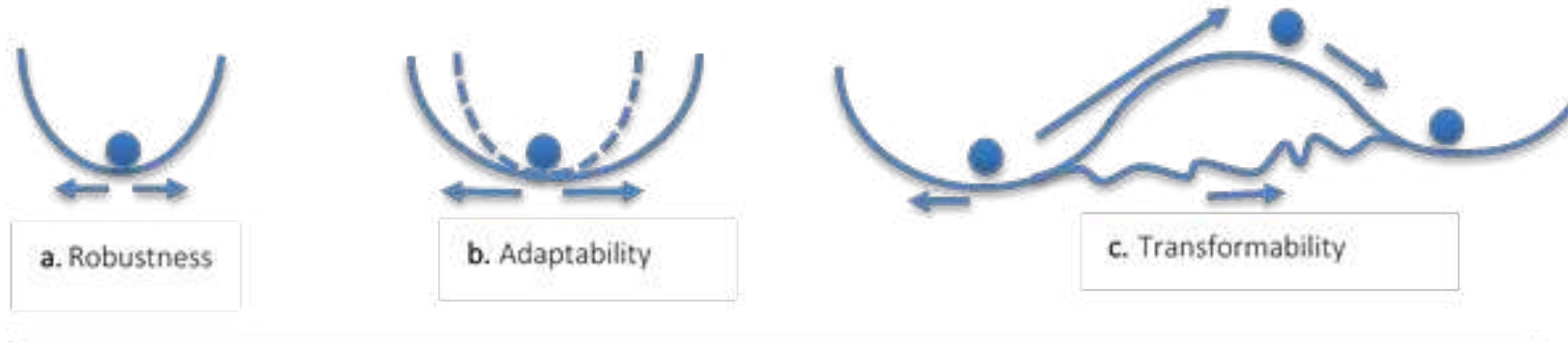


Farming systems face different challenges



- ① Intensive dairy farming in Flanders, Belgium
- ② Large-scale arable farming in Northeast Bulgaria
- ③ Extensive beef cattle system in the Massif Central, France
- ④ Large-scale corporate arable farming with additional livestock activities in the Altmark in East Germany
- ⑤ Small-scale hazelnut production in Lazio, central Italy
- ⑥ Intensive arable farming in Veenkoloniën, the Netherlands
- ⑦ Fruit and vegetable farming in the Mazovian region, Poland
- ⑧ Small-scale mixed farming in Northeast Romania
- ⑨ Extensive sheep farming in Northeast Spain
- ⑩ High-value egg and broiler farming in Southern Sweden
- ⑪ Arable farming in the East of England, UK

Three resilience capacities



Resilience of a farming system as its ability to ensure the provision of the **system functions** in the face of increasingly complex and accumulating economic, social, environmental and institutional **shocks and stresses**, through capacities of robustness, adaptability and transformability



Schouten (Minister of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality)

“How do we measure resilience?”

**Resilience =
Latent property
of system.**

**Complex &
multidimensional**

The SURE-Farm approach: 5 systematic steps

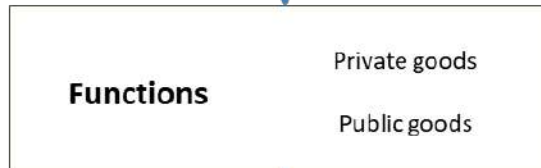
1. Resilience *of what?*



2. Resilience *to what?*



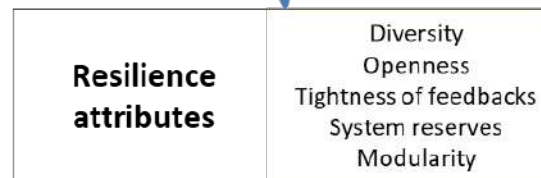
3. Resilience *for what purpose?*



4. What *resilience capacities?*



5. What *enhances* resilience?





“How to study these capacities?”

Study past trajectories

Assess current crises
(e.g. Covid lockdowns)

Discuss future scenarios



“How to build resilience?”



“How do we recognize the future proof systems?”

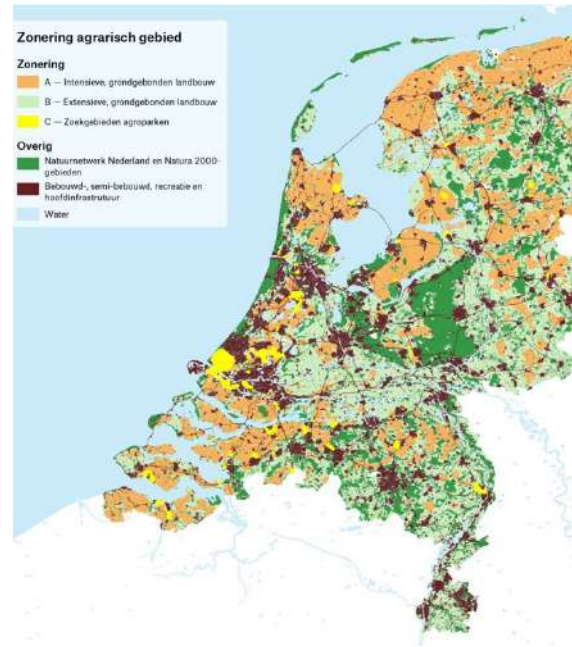
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Time is ready

Discussing zones with different functions



Bringing knowledge together

1. Resilience of what?

Farming system	Farms Other actors Locality
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2. Resilience to what?

Challenges	Environmental Economic Social Institutional
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3. Resilience for what purpose?

Functions	Private goods Public goods
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4. What resilience capacities?

Resilience capacities	Robustness Adaptability Transformability
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5. What enhances resilience?

Resilience attributes	Diversity Openness Tightness of feedbacks System reserves Modularity
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Working in multi-disciplinary teams

“Beyond silos”

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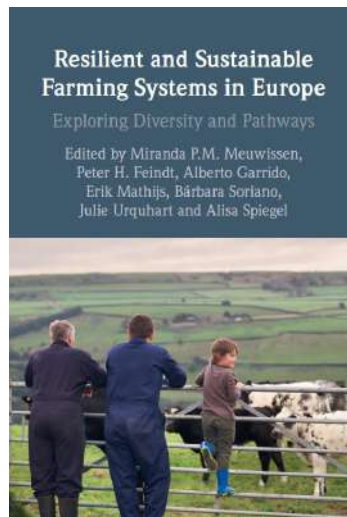
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Further reading



EuroChoices, 2020, Special Issue, **Towards more resilient agricultural systems in Europe**, Vol 19(2), 76 p.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1746-692X.12226>.



Meuwissen, M.P.M., Feindt, P.H., Garrido, A., Mathijs, E., Soriano, B., Urquhart, J., Spiegel, A. (eds), 2022. **Resilient and sustainable EU-farming systems; exploring diversity and pathways**. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

[see also surefarmproject.eu](https://www.surefarmproject.eu)

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