

The farmers as water managers in a changed climate

diPol final conference 2011
Irene Wiborg

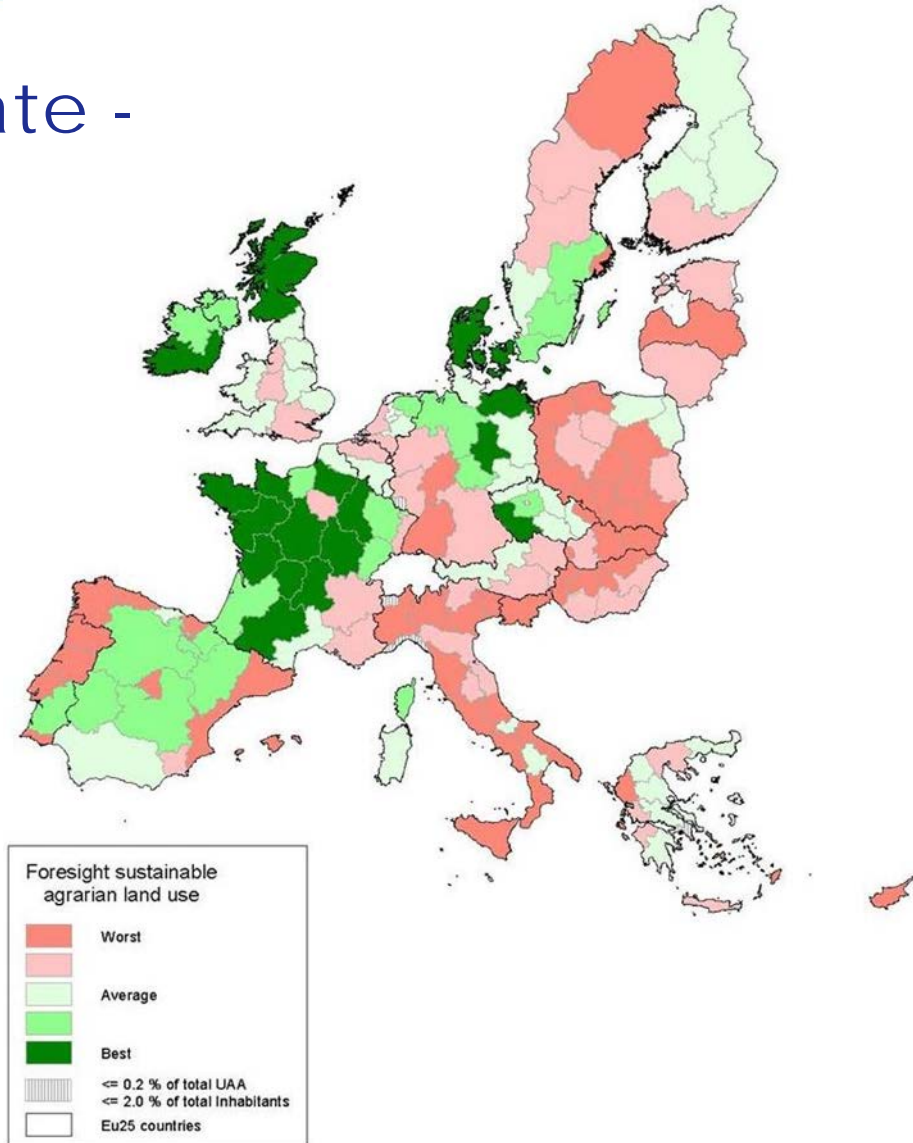
Agenda

1. The partnership
2. The common foundation for cooperation
3. Recommendations

A unique partnership

- 6 countries from around the North Sea
- Partners from environmental organisations, water authorities (local, regional, national), scientists, farm advisors (local, regional, national)
- The farmers are in focus

Changed climate - possibilities for farming?



water quantity – droughts



Quantity - flooding



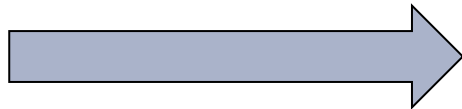
And quality...

- In Aquarius focus on the nutrient challenge



N and P

What we could use from DiPol

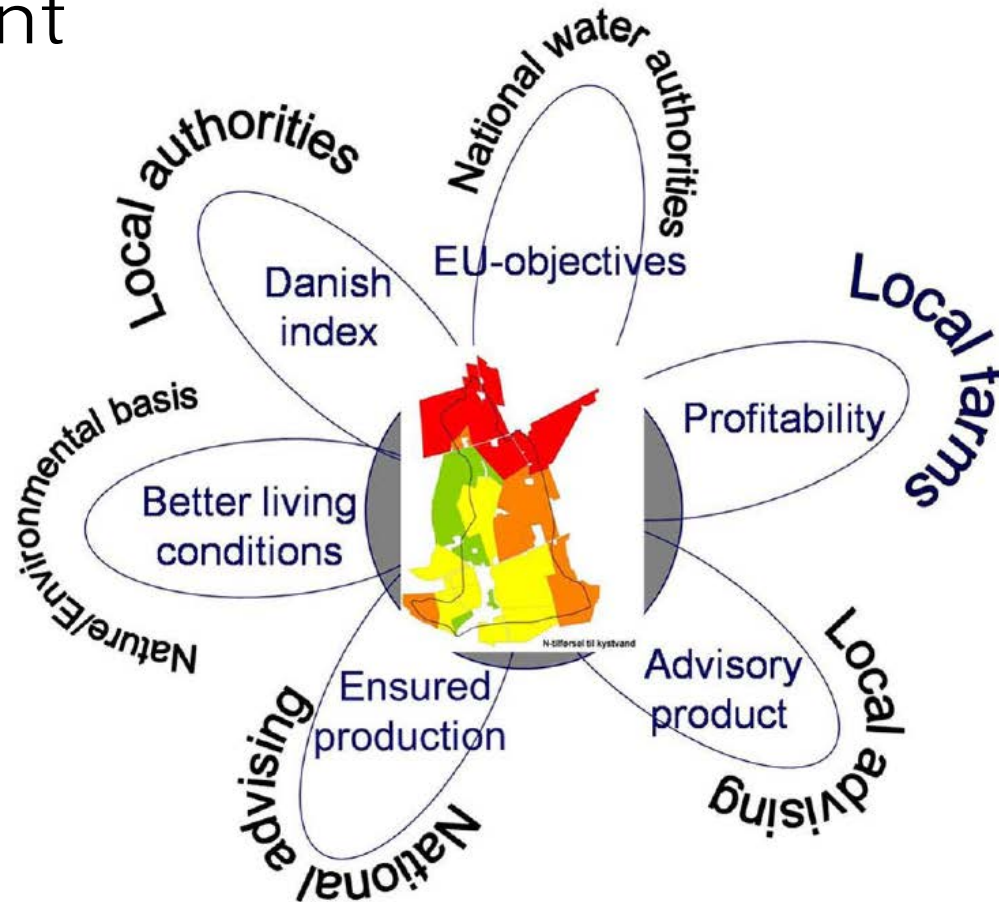


Chemical run-off

Recommendations

- **Water management plans / adaptation on local scale**
 - **Plans must be flexible**, and not general. Plans should have a firm connection to local issues.
 - EU and national legislation allow for flexible approaches for measures.
- **Knowledge based communication**
 - Respond to farmers initiatives
 - Justification of different measures must be **well documented**
 - **Demonstration sites** and other means of visualisation of concepts/goals are very important for mutual understanding.

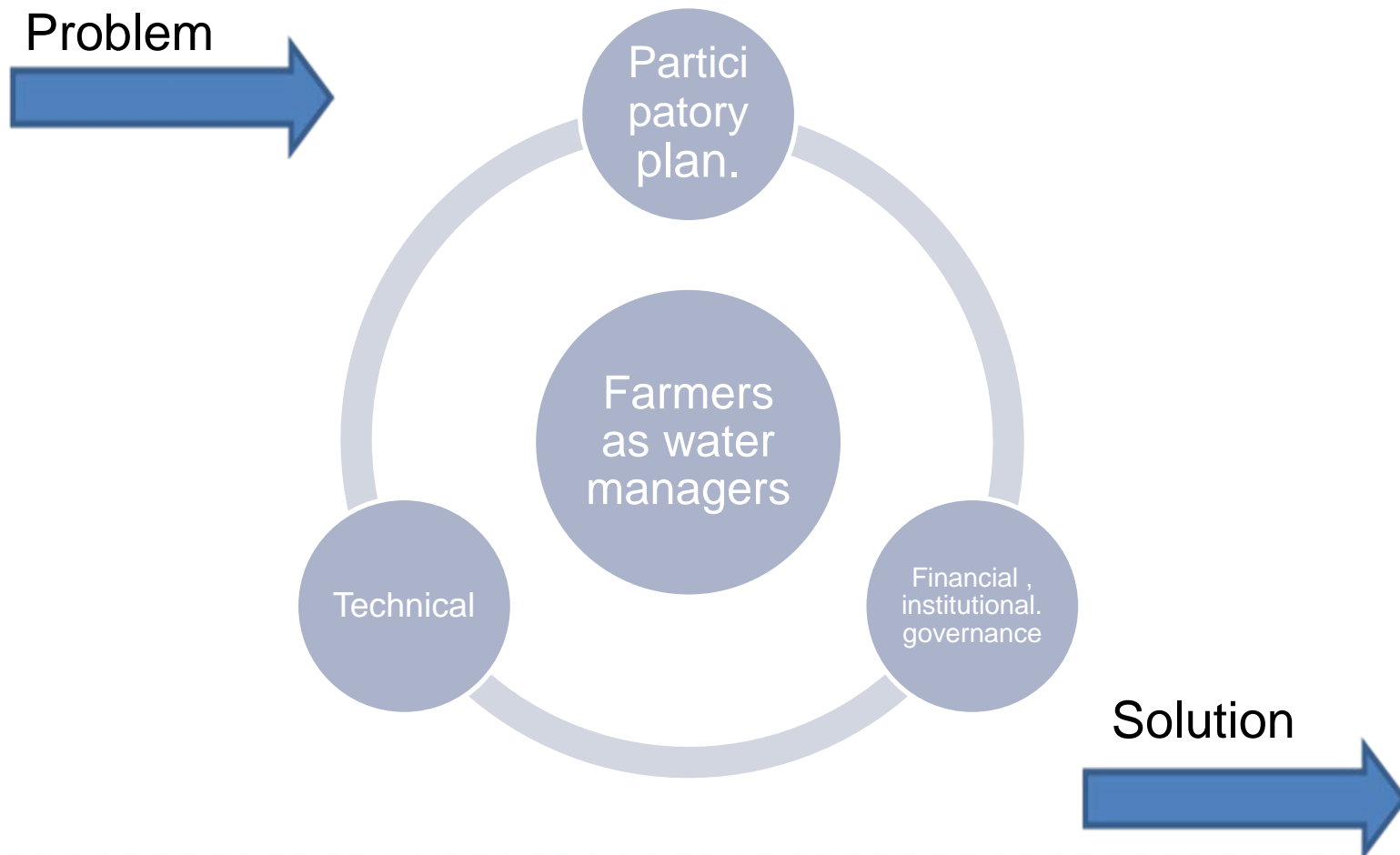
Stakeholder collaboration in catchments important



Recommendations (II)

- **Profitable / win-win (use the problem wheel to verify profitability).**

How to find the win-win solutions?



The common foundation for cooperation between farmers and environmental authorities:

- All can gain from cooperation. Far along it's a win-win situation and the efforts can benefit agriculture as well as the environment
- "What is lost to the water environment is lost for plant production" -
 - meaning that if the farmers can hold on to the nitrogen with for instance catch crops it will benefit their production,
 - likewise the fields where we face flooding in parts of the year we often face droughts other times of the year

More information at Conference
12 – 13 October

[HTTP://WWW.AQUARIUS-NSR.EU/](http://www.aquarius-nsr.eu/)