

## PRACTICE ABSTRACT

# SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: THE NETHERLANDS

## Explaining regional cooperation between arable and dairy farmers in the Netherlands

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The MIXED network in the Netherlands has focused on collaboration between dairy and arable farmers in the northeast of the Netherlands (province of Drenthe). In one case four farmers collaborate, and in another it is two farms. The farmers have been interested in how to

1. improve their rotations through establishing a joint rotation system;
2. explore the degree of circularity in the region and how they could improve this through collaboration between farms;
3. quantify impacts of cooperation in terms of economy as well as soil quality.

Working with the farmers on these topics resulted in the **following experiences and lessons learned:**

- In this region, the sandy soils are relatively poor. Creating joint rotation schemes enables soils to recover. Joint rotation also enables to include grassland as part of the rotation. This improves the quality of grass.
- Exploring the degree of circularity in the region increases awareness about the value of regional cooperation. Calculations can for instance be done with regard to fodder crops and manure.
- Quantifying impacts of cooperation in terms of economy as well as soil quality gives a basis to agree on mutual payments (if any) and land exchange ratios.

In addition to the above farmers also see benefits in cooperation regarding other resources, such as contract work.





## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**MIXED** (Multi-actor and transdisciplinary development of efficient and resilient MIXED farming and agroforestry systems), an EU-project, is supporting the development of European Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems (MiFAS) that are more efficient and resilient to climate changes.

## ABOUT MIXED IN THE NETHERLANDS

The MIXED network in the Netherlands refers to the cooperation between arable and dairy farms in the north-east of the Netherlands. The cooperation embraces the exchange of land, the application of manure, and the provision of 'contract work'.

**7M€**  
BUDGET

**19**  
PARTNERS

**10**  
COUNTRIES

All involved farmers perceive the cooperation as enjoyable and it already exists for many years. One of the advantages is that the exchange of land enables to reduce the intensity of crop rotations.



**MIXED partners from  
The Netherlands:**

