

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: THE NETHERLANDS

Trust and mutuality are key success factors for regional cooperation between arable and dairy farmers

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The farmers in the MIXED network in the province of Drenthe in the Netherlands have already been collaborating for many years; their collaboration is based on mutual trust and principles of sharing, i.e. it is not based on purely financial interests.

Best practices:

- Farmers jointly discuss new rotation options, such as crops that can be used for building materials.
- Farmers openly discuss possible positive and negative implications of joint rotations, such as implications for soil quality.

Challenges:

- Most extension experts and consultants are specialized into one sector, e.g dairy farming. There is insufficient knowledge on mixed farming systems.
- With joint crop rotations, crop management planning is becoming more complex.

Opportunities:

- Regional cooperation between dairy and arable farmers can fit in the concept of regional circularity. The concept of regional cooperation therefore receives increasing attention from society and policy.

Farmers perceive programs such as MIXED as very useful as they enable to work on tailor-made research questions, such as economic and soil quality implications of joint rotations in the NL network.





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'.

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.

7M€ BUDGET	19 PARTNERS	10 COUNTRIES
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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:**

