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Monitoring of Flemish farms benefiting from derogation: Design & organisation of a well-balanced and simplified monitoring network

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VLAAMSE
LAND
MAATSCHAPPIJ



Vlaanderen
is open ruimte

- 1991: Nitrate Directive (Europe)



Manure Decree (Flanders)



Manure Action Programme (MAP)

- Code of good agricultural practice
- Action program: mandatory measures

 **Introduction**

- Action program: mandatory measures
 - Ensuring that: “The amount of livestock manure applied to land each year, including by the animals themselves, shall not exceed a specified amount per hectare”

The specified amount per hectare be the amount of manure containing 170 kg N.

However:

Member States may fix different amounts but justified on objective criteria f.e.

- Long growing seasons
- High nitrogen uptake



 **Introduction**

- High manure pressure in Flanders
 - Intensive livestock production
- Derogation request
 - 170 kg N  250 kg N/ha/y organic manure

September 2015: third request granted

- Conditions EU Commission:
 - Individual farms
 - Flemish government
 - Monitoring
 - Controlling
 - Reporting



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Selection & set-up

- EU - Monitoring network
 - Monitoring/Comparison N & P: soil, water, losses
 - At least 150 farms
 - Representative – all soils, crops, fertilisation practices
- Flemish government:
 - 160 farms
 - 1 crop
 - 1 fertilisation strategy
 - 1 soil type
 - Extra approach at farm level – 3 parcels/farm
- *But*



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Selection & set-up

3 fertilisation strategies

Dero op deroedrijf

Zand	Zandleem	Leem	Klei
Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland
Gras-klover	Gras-klover	Gras-klover	Gras-klover
Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais
Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras
Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe
Bieten	Bieten	Bieten	Bieten

Non-dero op deroedrijf

Zand	Zandleem	Leem	Klei
Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland
Gras-klover	Gras-klover	Gras-klover	Gras-klover
Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais
Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras
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Non-dero op non-deroedrijf

Zand	Zandleem	Leem	Klei
Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland
Gras-klover	Gras-klover	Gras-klover	Gras-klover
Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais
Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras	Mais onderz. gras
Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe
Bieten	Bieten	Bieten	Bieten

All soils - 4

72 combinations
160 farms
Conclusions???

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Selection & set-up

- **Fertilisation strategy**
 - Farm with derogation - derogation request on monitored parcels
 - Farm with derogation - no derogation request on monitored parcels
 - Farm without derogation- no derogation request on monitored parcels

In fact: no derogation

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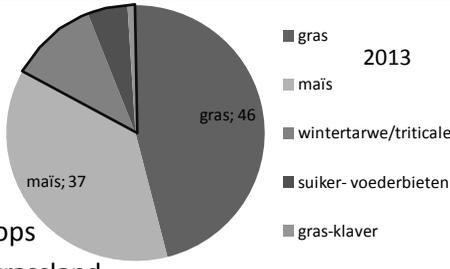
Bedrijfsselectie & proefopzet

- **Soil type**
 - Focus sandy & sandy loam soils
 - Largest Flemish farming acreage
 - Most frequent request of derogation – dairy farms
 - Cfr previous monitoringnetwork
 - Susceptibility leaching

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Selection & set-up

- Crop**
 - Limited acreage
 - Beets
 - Winter wheat & triticale
 - New possible derogation crops
 - Maize undersown with grassland
 - Importance
 - derogation farms meeting legal conditions ↔ Not common non-derogation farms
 - Grassland mixed with clover
 - High interest
 - Expected expansion of acreage
 - Specific request Flemish government



2013
 ■ gras; 46
 ■ maïs; 37
 ■ wintertarwe/triticale
 ■ suiker-voederbieten
 ■ gras-klaver



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Selection & set-up

- Result: 10 combinations

Dero op derobedrijf				Non-dero op derobedrijf				Non-dero op non-derobedrijf			
Zand	Zandleem	Leem	Klei	Zand	Zandleem	Leem	Klei	Zand	Zandleem	Leem	Klei
Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland	Grasland
Gras-klaver	Gras-klaver	Gras-klaver	Gras-klaver	Gras-klaver	No active monitoring				Gras-klaver	Gras-klaver	Gras-klaver
Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais	Gras-mais
Mais onderz.	Mais onderz.	Mais onderz.	Mais onderz.	Mais onderz.	Mais onderz.	Mais onderz.	Mais onderz.				
Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe	Wintertarwe
Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten	Suiker-voederbieten

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Selection & set-up

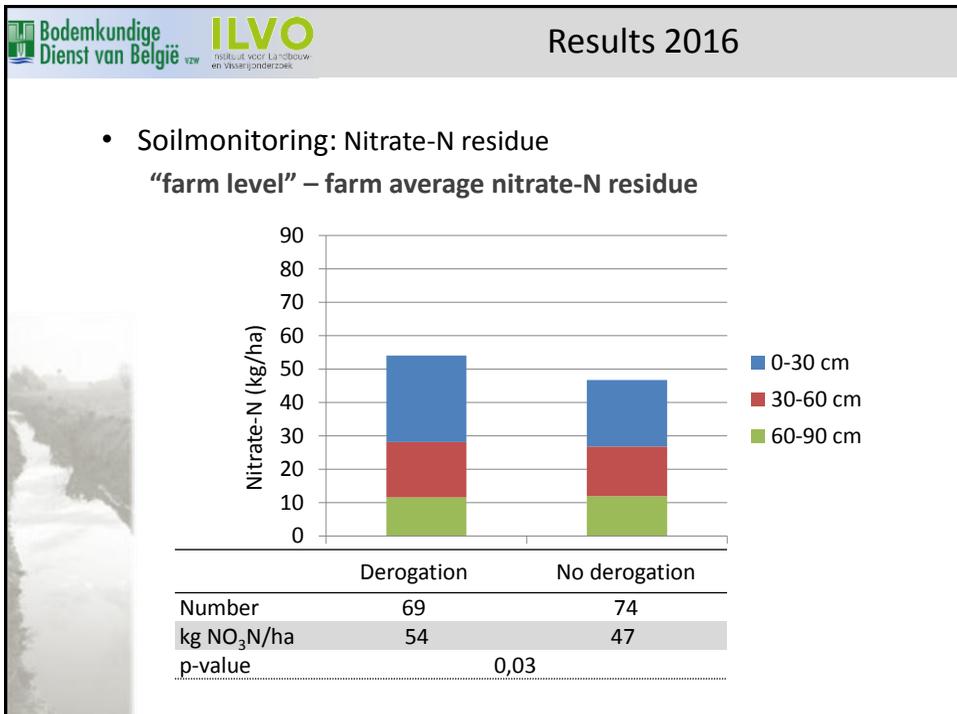
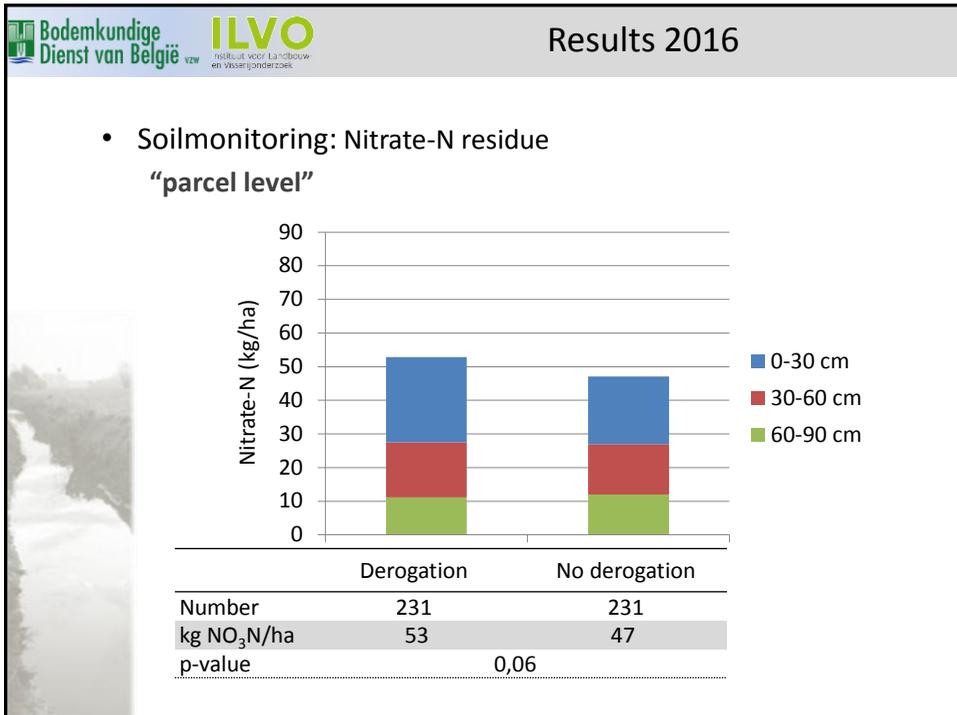
- 160 farms & 10 combinations
- Equal distribution derogatie & non-derogation (80-80)
- Sand & sandy-loam: 90-70
- Grassland, maize, grass & clover: 18-17-10

strategy	Derogation Derogation farm				No derogation Non-derogation farm				Total
	grass	maize	Grass & clover	Total	grass	maize	Grass & clover	Total	
Soil type									
Sand	18	17	10	45	18	17	10	45	90
Sandy loam	18	17	-	35	18	17	-	35	70
Total	36	34	10	80	36	34	10	80	160

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Materials & methods

- Monitoring:
 - Fertilisation
 - Yield (farmer - experimental harvest)
 - Soil:
 - Nitrate-N residue
 - Nitrate-N reserve spring
 - P-AL (0-90 cm) – selection of parcels
 - Water:
 - Nitrate soil water
 - Phosphate soil water
- Comparison: ANOVA
- Exploring statistics



 **First conclusions**

- **Monitoring network**
 - Robust and solid
 - Efficient
 - Shortcomings of former network remediated
- **Soilmonitoring-2016: N**
 - Nitrate-N residue clearly below Flemish threshold values
 - Little difference derogation-no derogation
 - Statistical significance cfr practical relevance



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