



## **Sharing precious water volumes in the Water Farm**

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## Fresh water for agriculture

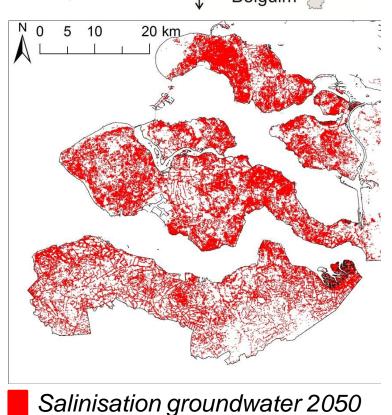
#### Is crucial:

- In the root zone of crops to prevent salt damage
- For irrigation to prevent drought damage



#### But threatened by:

- See level rise
- Change in precipitation patterns
- Land subsidence
- Human interventions
  - Extractions
  - Infrastructure



Salinisation groundwater 2050 under climate scenario 'W+'

## Fresh water for agriculture

#### However,

- Awareness of need to act not generally present
- Individual actions at farm level can be counterproductive

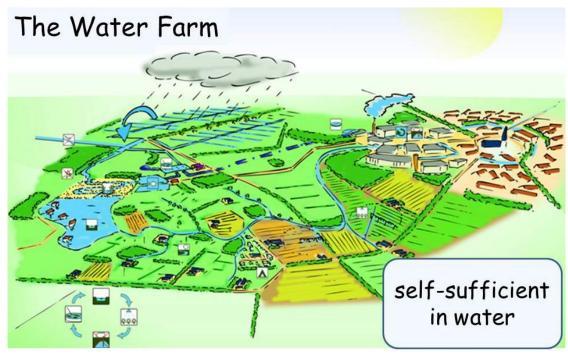
#### Questions arise such as:

- Can water scarcity be solved?
- How to achieve cooperation between farmers?
- How to achieve effective involvement of farmers?
- How can technical measures be adopted by farmers?

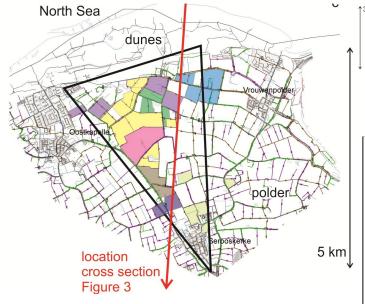
## Case study: Water Farm

**Water Farm**: farmers, landowners, municipality and water board collaborate to manage fresh water in the region in such a way that it is not necessary to use water from elsewhere

**Freshwater management:** the capture, storage, use, processing and delivery of fresh water.

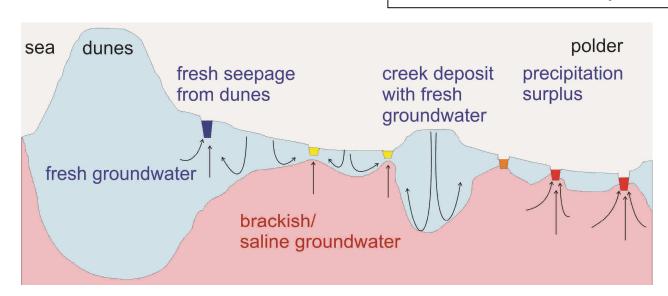


## Case study: Water Farm





- 3 km2 area
- 8 farms
  - 4 arable farming
  - 2 horticulture
  - 2 fruit
- start case study 2010







## Water Farm: some results 2014

#### **Process**

- Registered foundation Walcheren Water Farm
- From research-driven to farmers-driven
- Awareness of the concept Water Farm outside Walcheren

#### Hydrology

- Understanding groundwater system and freshwater resources
- Subsurface storage of the precipitation surplus
- Conservation of fresh water in soil
- Separation fresh and saline surface water



## Dynamic interaction

Through dynamic interaction between people, knowledge and innovations a change can be achieved from <u>individual action</u> to <u>joint action</u> towards a <u>regional freshwater supply</u>

#### Requirements:

- 1. Participation of water users (people)
- 2.Knowledge of the <u>hydrological system</u>
- 3. Possibility to apply technical innovations



## Dynamic framework

	Participation	Hydrology	Technical innovations		
<b>←Time</b>	Step 1. Policy				
	Step 2. Local stakeholders				
	Step 3. Goals and opportunities				
	Step 4	I. Stakeholders from cothink	ers to coworkers		
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		Step 5. Developmen	ητ		
		Step 6. Field testing	α		
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## Step 3. Goals and opportunities

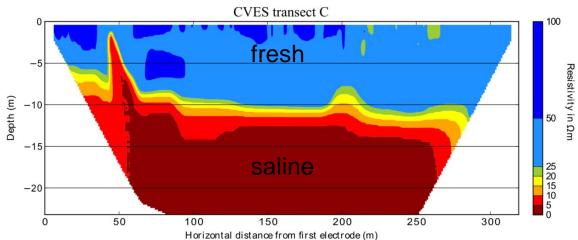
#### Cothinking





Information on local situation





## Step 4. Stakeholders from cothinkers to coworkers

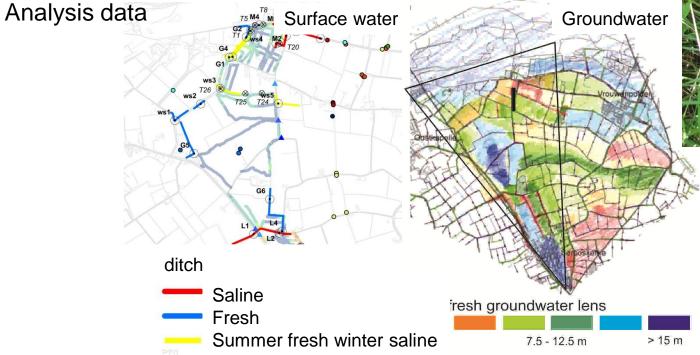
#### Stakeholders performing project tasks: participative monitoring





Exposure to existing applications: fieldtrips

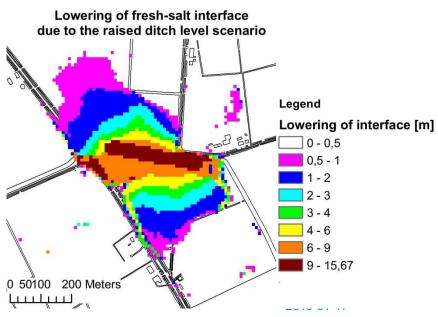




## Step 5. Development

- codesign measures
- communication to outside world

#### Researchers: scenario analysis

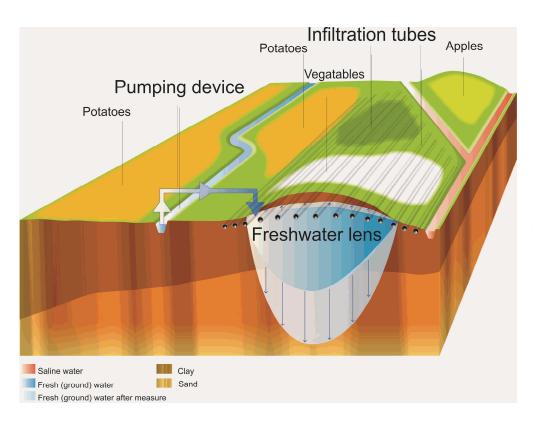


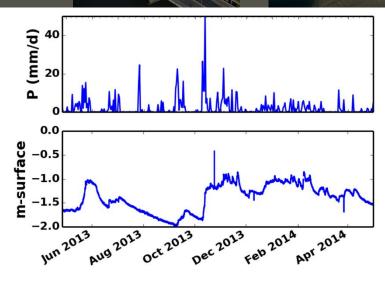


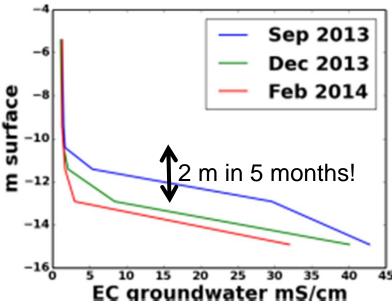


## Step 6. Field testing

Joint implementation Creekridge Infiltration System

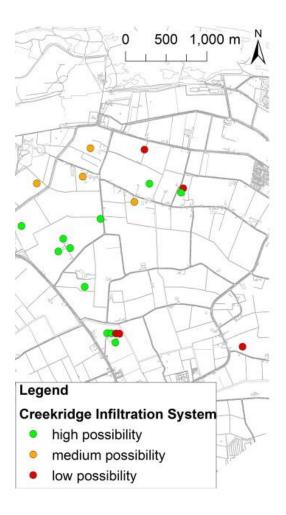




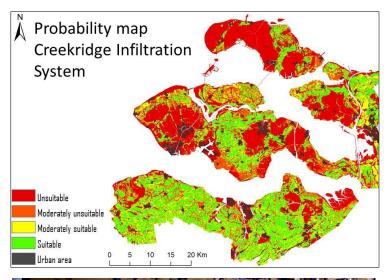


## Step 7. Consolidation

# Possibilities subsurface storage Case Study area



#### 2. Toward regional approach...





### **Conclusions**

The case study has revealed that a careful process design in combination with hydrological system knowledge and technical innovations is essential to ensure results such as:

- Farmer behavior from individualistic to collaborative
- Farmer awareness of their own responsibilities and possibilities
- Succesfully implemented technical innovations:
  - Creekridge Infiltration System
  - conservation of fresh water in soil
  - separation of fresh from saline surface water

This was confirmed by stakeholders during interviews.



### What's next



- Knowledge of the hydrological system area wide
  - AEM coastal zone Netherlands
- Upscaling technical innovations
- Techniques ready for implementation elsewhere
- Bottum-up approach

Approach can be used for other areas, such as:

- Israel / Palestine
- North Tunisia
- Po Delta Italy
- Vietnam



## Questions?



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Esther van Baaren, Bouke Ottow, Marco Arts, Pieter Pauw and Gualbert Oude Essink, 2014 concept. The Water Farm: an innovative process + content approach to fresh water management for agriculture. Submitted to journal of water resource management.



### **Israel / Palestine**

In Israel/Palestine there are several transboundary river basins (e.g. Kidron/Wadi Nar, Yarkon/al Oujia) including different groundwater systems (Zeitoun 2007), in which stakeholders act individually, but experience shared problems such water scarcity, flash floods and pollution that can be solved only by concerted action. In a process in which all stakeholders participate, new hydrological knowledge enhances the understanding of all stakeholders about the system they live in; coupled with the introduction of practical technical innovations, dialog and joint investment are stimulated, possibly leading to joint, or at least, concerted solutions.



#### **Tunisia**

Another example is in Mornag, in north Tunisia, where the availability of surface water is limited and this water is becoming extensively polluted (Charef *et al.*, 2012). Several adaptation strategies are possible to improve the quality of surface water and groundwater and to secure freshwater supply for the (near) future. New technologies, tools and approaches are needed to improve water resources management in this coastal zone. The framework demonstrated here could be very useful in the communication between the Tunisian authorities, universities and farmers.

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## Po delta Italy

In Europe, the Po delta in Italy is similar to the Rhine-Meuse estuary: a low-lying subsiding delta with multiple water users in dry summers (Antonellini *et al.*, 2008). The water users initiate large abstractions, causing subsidence and severe drainage, and the regional availability of freshwater is expected to decline (Giambastiani *et al.*, 2007). Research is being done to elucidate this complex hydrogeological system, but interaction with the other stakeholders could be improved by applying our framework, bringing together the different stakeholders for joint action toward an effective regional approach for freshwater supply.



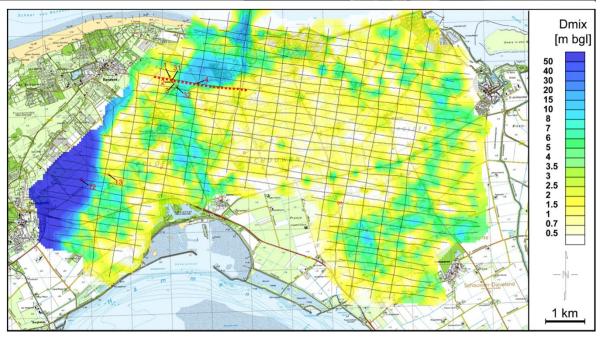
#### Vietnam

Vietnam, a relatively well-organized country with active farmer communities, might be an interesting area for implementing the framework and its corresponding measures (Tran, 2004). In Vietnam, salinity issues are severe, and during dry seasons fresh water is likely to be in short supply. Meanwhile it is not fresh water not but saline to brackish groundwater that is used as a production asset, as shrimp farms are often combined with rice production (Phong, 2003). That a process approach is definitely possible in Vietnam is shown by Huntjens *et al.* (2014) in their description of a participative process in developing a climate adaptation strategy in water management in Long An province.

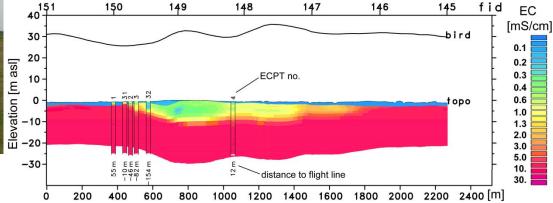


## Airborne Electro Magnetic surveys: 3D





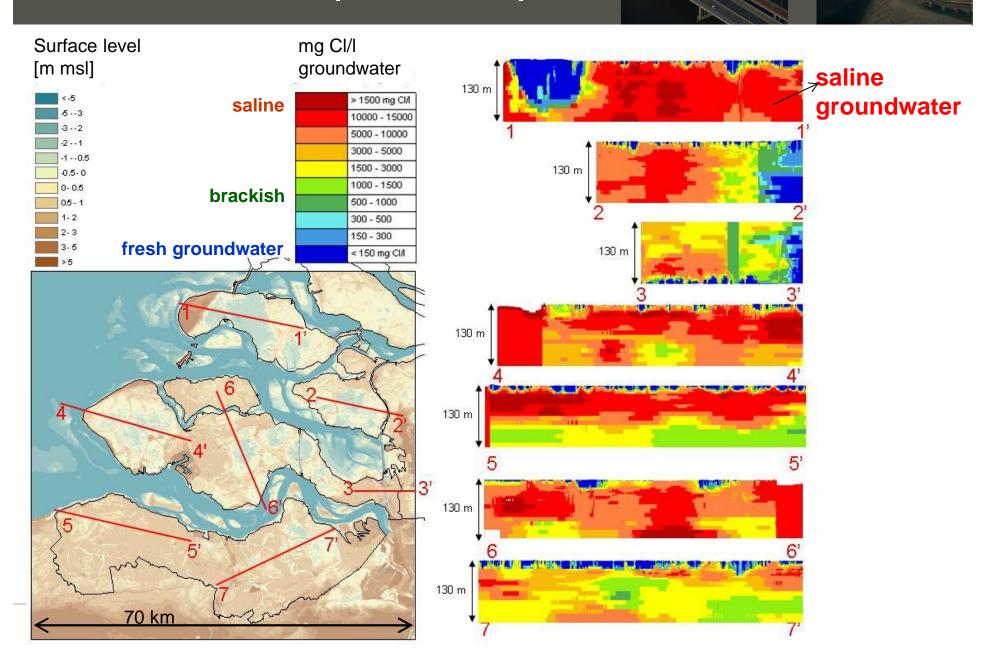




- Estimation fresh-saline interface
- Estimation geology



## Model results (calibrated)



	Participation / process	Hydrology	Technical innovations		
<b>Fime</b>	Step 1. Policy				
	Sense of urgency policy makers (future scenario's)	Quantification long-term thread	Development innovative concept		
	Step 2. Local stakeholders				
	Sense of urgency local stakeholders	Scientific knowledge	Unproven innovative ideas		
	Step 3. Goals and opportunities				
	Initial engagement and cothinking	Information on local situation	Information on best practices		
	Step 4. Stakeholders from cothinkers to coworkers				
	Stakeholders performing project tasks	Analysis existing and new data, conceptual models	Exposure to existing applications		
	Step 5. Development				
	Codesign of measures and communication to outside world	Quantitative models for effects of measures	Codesign		
	Step 6. Field testing				
	Joint implementation	Monitoring	Implementation		
	Step 7. Consolidation				
	Identifying other stakeholders and policy makers	Identifying opportunities elsewhere	Proven innovative concepts		