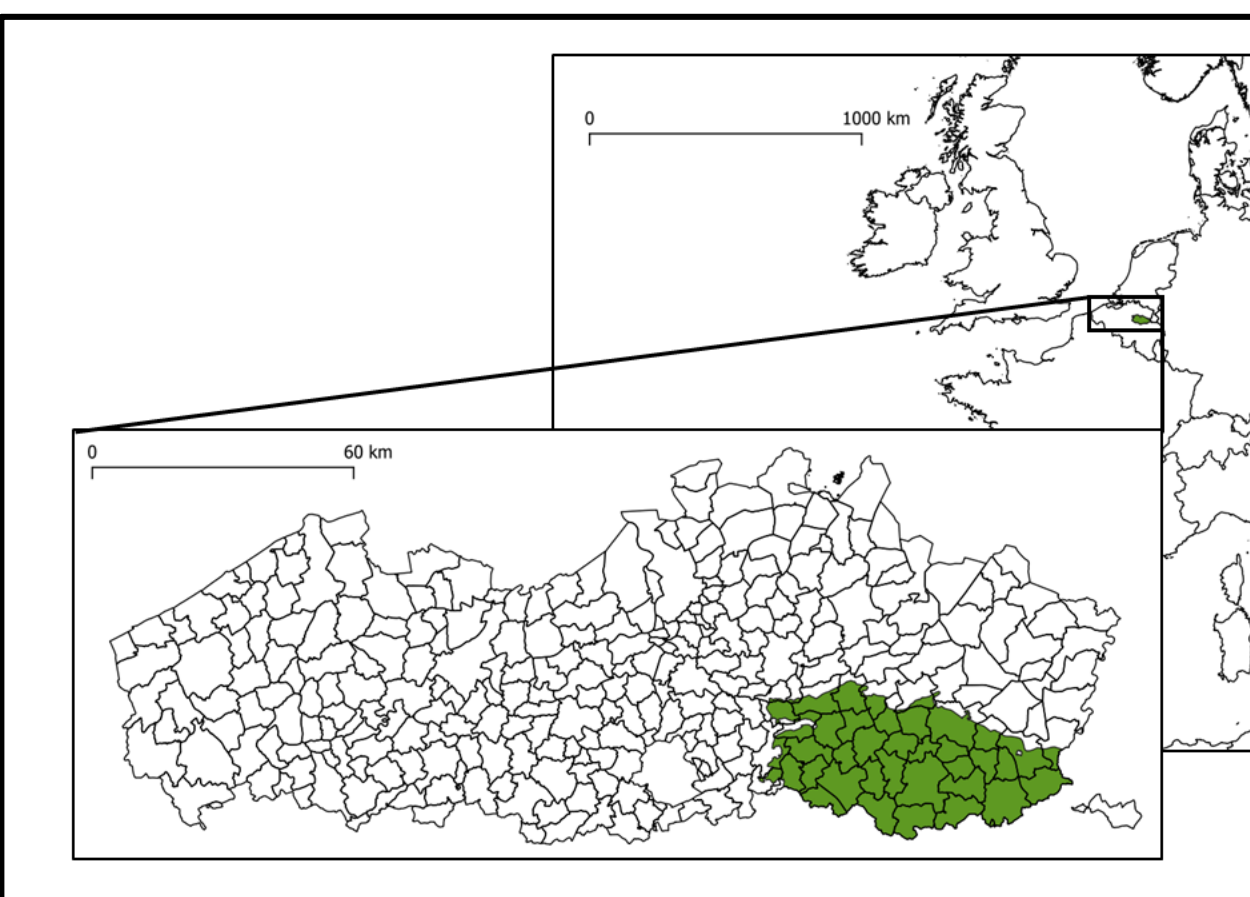


# ECOLOGICAL FACTSHEET - BELGIAN CASE STUDY

## Case study characteristics:

Permanent crops, arable and mixed crops-livestock systems located in the southeastern part of Flanders. Hilly region highly prone to erosion.



**35%** of farmers receive AES subsidies

**5%** are organic farmers

**30%** are arable farmers

**57%** have mixed crops and livestock systems

Average UAA per farm is **55 ha**

**80%** of farmers produce grains, **63%** produce maize, and **43%** produce energy crops

**19%** of farmers engage in cooperative land rotation

**32%** of farmers make use of on-farm contract work



### Cooperative behaviour amongst farmers:

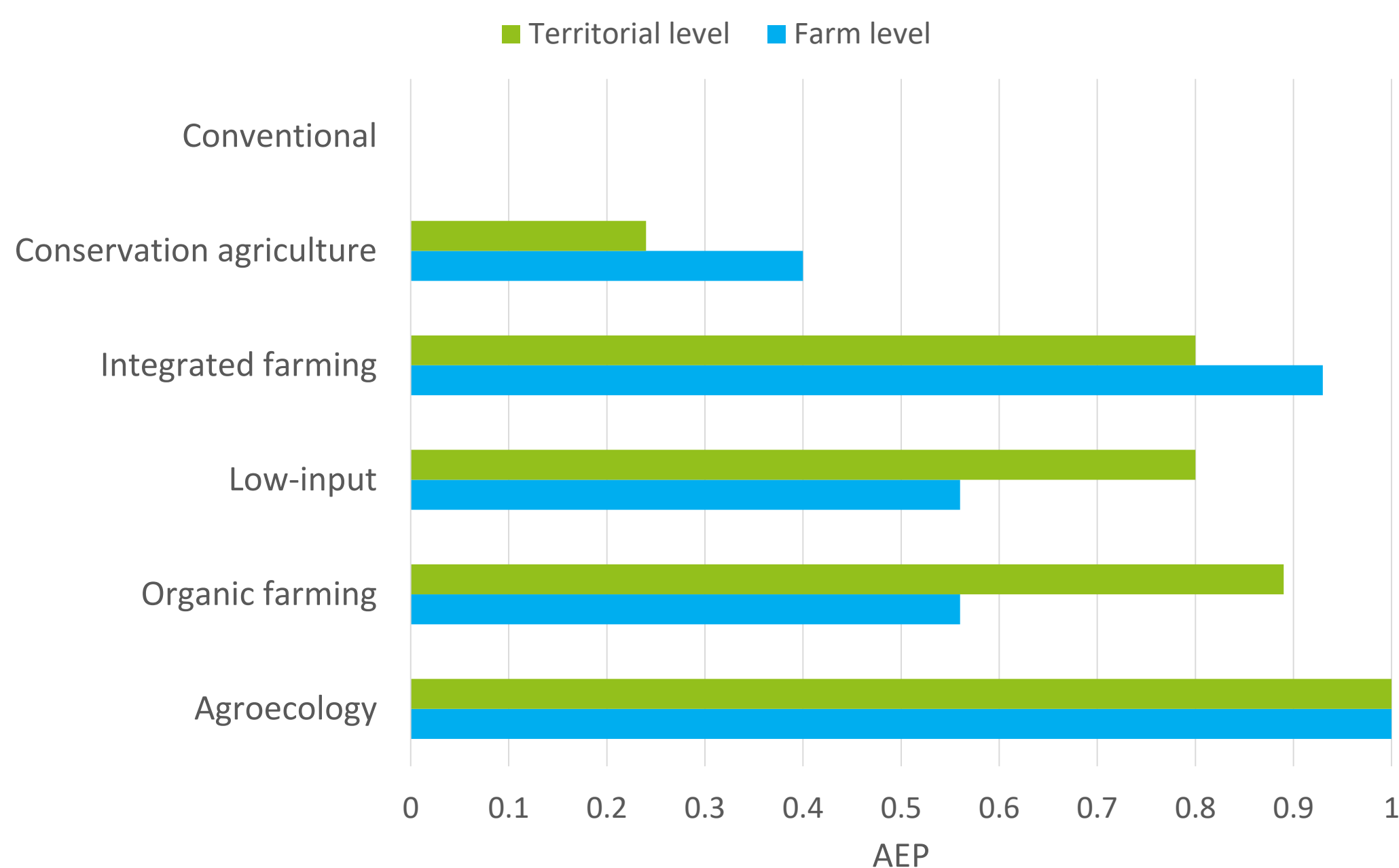
- **19%** of farmers engage in cooperative land rotation
- **32%** of farmers make use of on-farm contract work

Previous experience with cooperative behaviour was found to have a significant positive effect on farmer preferences to engage in labour, knowledge and machinery sharing.



## Ecological agriculture

Agri-environmental performance normalised to a 0-1 scale



### Currently most applied

- Mulching
- Cover crops
- Green manure
- Crop rotation
- Integrated pest management
- Grass strips

### Most expected in future

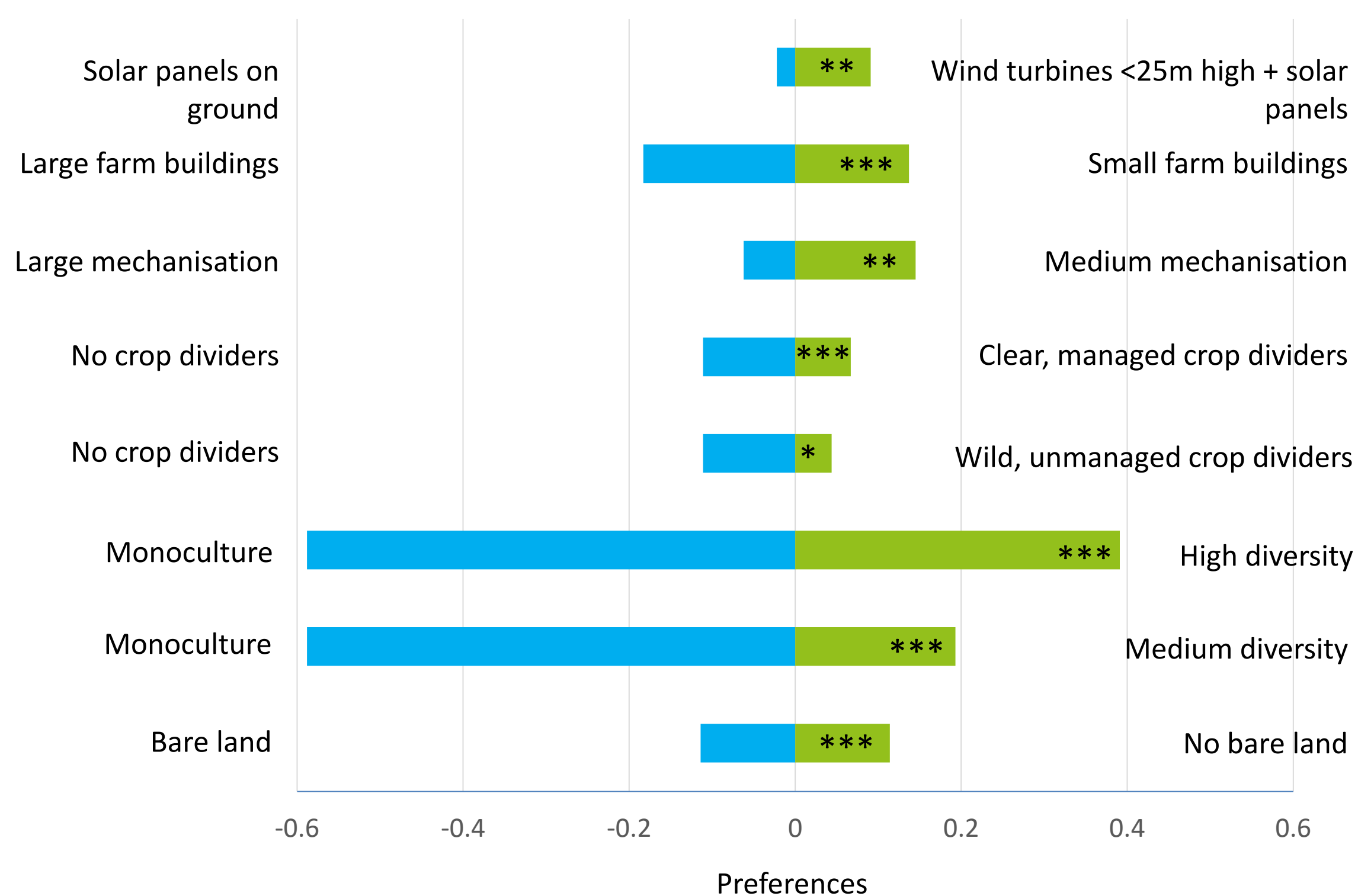
- Integration of semi-natural landscape elements
- Agroforestry
- Low external input systems
- Use of organic fertilizers



## Hageland-Haspengouw



## Public preferences for aesthetic landscape features associated with ecological farming



- People prefer large energy generating infrastructures (e.g., solar panels and large wind turbines) over small infrastructure
- People dislike large farm buildings and heavy mechanisation
- People prefer landscapes with crop dividers, either managed or unmanaged, to no crop dividers
- People dislike monoculture landscapes, preferring at least a medium-level of diversity
- People prefer land to remain covered between cropping cycles by cover crops or crop residue



Large wind turbines (>25m high) and solar panels throughout the landscape

Parcels remain covered by a cover crop between seasons

Low mechanization (only manual labour)

High landscape diversity (livestock and multiple crop types)

Clear managed crop dividers



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 770747



Low-Input Farming and Territories - Integrating knowledge for improving ecosystem-based farming

[www.lift-h2020.eu](http://www.lift-h2020.eu)



KU LEUVEN