

RURAL ECONOMY AND LAND USE

**Integrated land and water
management in floodplains:
revisiting agricultural flood
defence schemes in England
and Wales**

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Context

- Changing priorities and concerns
- Reappraisal of land and water management
- Policy realignment and integration



Aim and objectives

Aim

- understand the processes and dynamics of change in order to inform decisions on sustainable land and water management in lowland floodplains previously engineered for flood defence purposes



Objectives

- explain factors influencing land and water management and their consequences
- identify synergy and conflict, promoters and barriers
- produce data bases and appraisal methods to support decision making
- identify risks and uncertainties



Approach (1)

- historical analysis of the dynamics of change on a selection of 22 Agricultural Flood Defence Schemes implemented during period 1960-1980 and previously studied during the 1980s.
- 40 year historical perspective in order to look forward
- building on integration



Approach (2)

- DPSIR framework:
institutional analysis and
stakeholder mapping
- farmer behaviour
- farming systems
- biodiversity conservation
- flooding and water level
regimes
- achieving integration:
scenario analysis



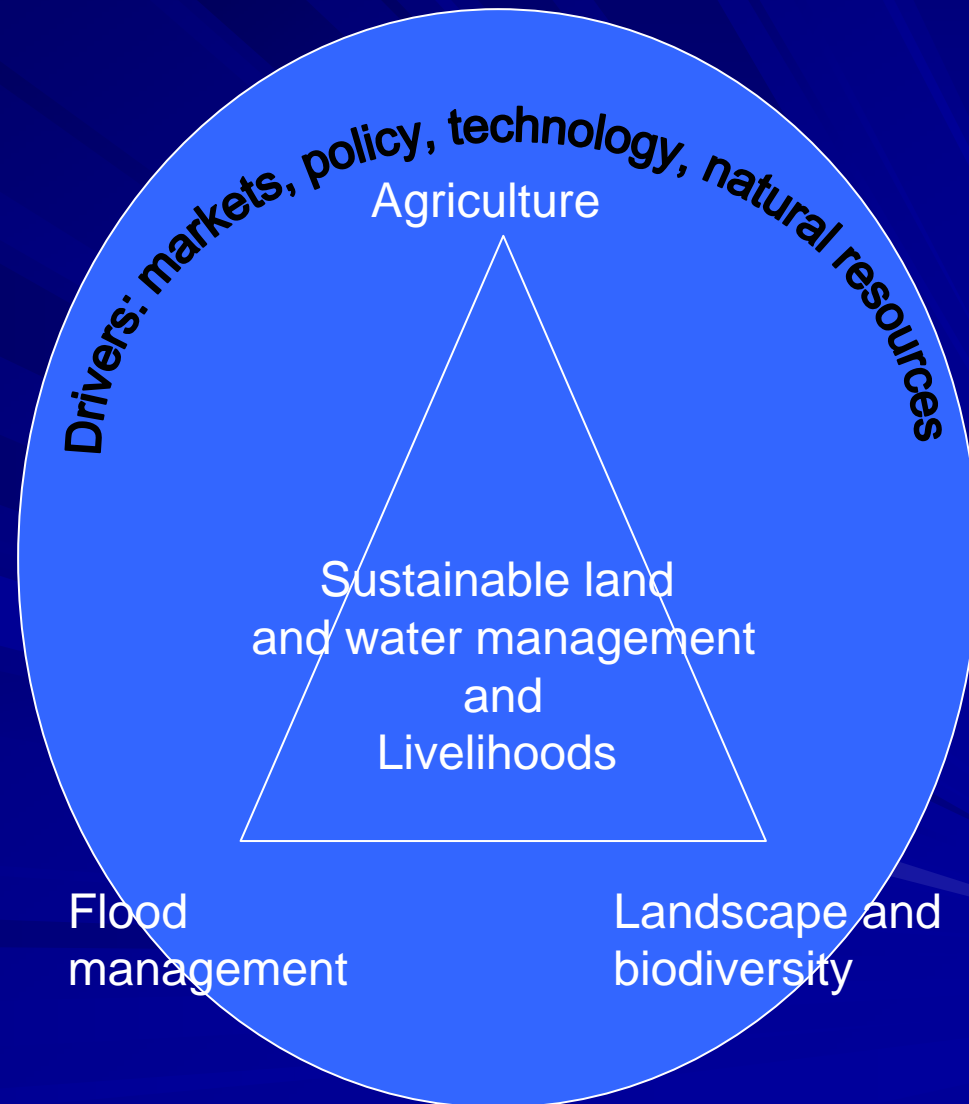
Outcomes

- identify scope for joined up policy and action
- contribute to guidance on design and appraisal of land and water management options in floodplains
- demonstrate the benefit of an integrated approach



Relevance: user constituencies

- Land and water managers
- Policy makers and managers
- Regulators and service providers
- Conservation organisations
- Local government and communities
- Research community
- Tax payers



Can this RELU project help implementation of EU directives?

- Understanding the challenge and how best to deliver, eg WFD, Habitats Directive
- What role does farmer decision making have in the implementation of the directives?
- To what extent will CAP reform assist in the implementation of EU directives?



Thanks to the RELU Programme Team