

# Case Studies for AGRIGRID

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground shows a field with several white sheep grazing. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills with patches of trees and a small cluster of buildings. The background features a large, flat-topped hill or plateau under a clear sky.

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## A role for a farm-level tool in **AGRIGRID**?

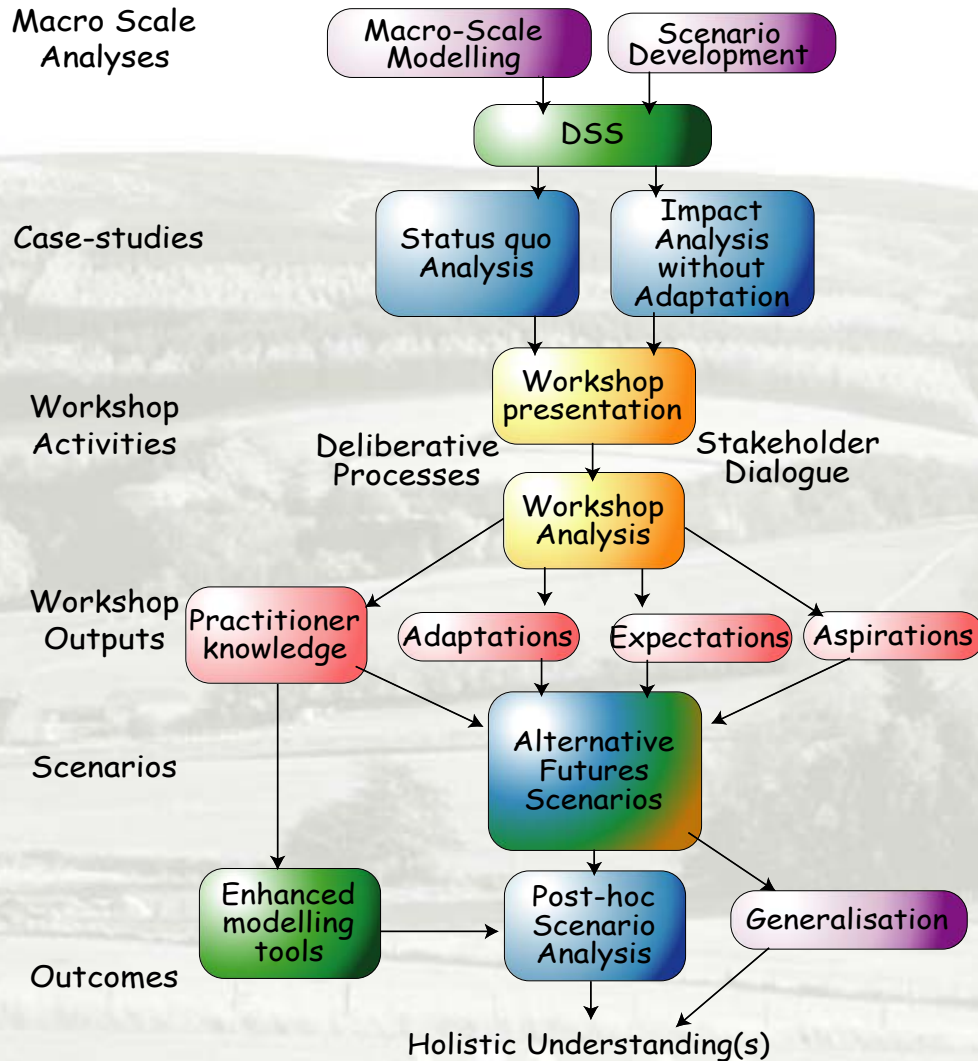
- To explore some of the key assumptions in the payment calculations and to see in which circumstances they are valid.
- The tools can thus be used in back-casting mode to see what the system would have to look like for the payment to be proportionate.
- The acceptability to the calculation methods to farmers/land managers seems essential if the measures are to be both effective and efficient.
- The efficiency of the measures can be addressed by higher levels assessments but effectiveness – both on uptake and implementation of measures runs into a range of technical and socio-cultural factors that are, we would argue, worth exploring through dialogue with practitioners.



## Using farm-level tools as part of deliberative processes

- ❑ The LADSS team at Macaulay has spent much of the last few years looking at the way in which software tools can be used with stakeholders.
- ❑ These approaches can be generically referred to as *deliberative inclusive processes* and have proved to be successful in eliciting adaptive responses from land managers using the outputs from LADSS as a basis for debate (CAP reform, multi-objective planning and climate change).
- ❑ The tools are in this case being used in counterfactual mode (what-if) – assessing the consequences of drivers of change, without adaptation before the workshop and after the workshop incorporating the adaptive responses identified as most likely by the practitioners.

# Methodology – deliberative inclusive processes



*"... process involving reasoned debate between individuals whereby understanding is advanced and mutual agreement is reached (or not) via the quality and persuasiveness of argument rather than by coercion, manipulation or deception". Dryzek, 2000*



## Case-study – Organic Conversion and Production

- ❑ Common to all participants – but a challenge for the LADSS team
- ❑ Significant issue – area, political significance
- ❑ Microcosm of issues of subsidy, support & sustainability
- ❑ Link with Soil Association – tap into networks for design of the case study and the analysis of the outcomes.
- ❑ Process – “macro”-scenario definition (link to FAL analysis – through definitions of the payment approaches), case-study building – exemplar farm converting and conventional, case-study simulation, expert based assessment of implications of payment methods.
- ❑ Workshop based – multi-stakeholders – acceptability, limitations, preferences, who converts and under what circumstances.





## Case-study building

- Beginning Feb 2008
- Targeting workshop in early summer 08.
- Linkage with FAL spring / early summer 08?
- Case study definitions being developed with Soil Association consultant (and organic farmer)
- Will use an upland mixed farming system in Scotland – relaxing the climatic and soils constraints to make an “interesting” system for the workshop – crops, fodder, livestock and other land uses.
- Interviews and “conversion planning” underway – trying to get a feel for the wider context of organics and how important payment calculations are to practitioners



## Interest from the sector

- Payment calculations – “a thorny issue” – stakeholders very interested.
- How they are made – the basis of the calculations
- What is included – what is allowed (e.g. no fixed costs) –
- What are the consequences – who participates in schemes.
- How does bio-diversity gains (restoration?) get rewarded (evidence for biodiversity differences available for cereals) – action scale (the farm/plot) vs. outcome scale (landscape)–
- Payments for environ goods and services? But how are less sustainable practices/externalities discouraged/policed?



## Organics – a challenge for calculating payments?

- Organics best considered as whole farm not series of enterprises – carryover effects and integrated nature of the system.
- Accounting issues – net-farm income (NFI) not gross margins – but fixed cost disallowed
- Key importance of labour and capital – substituted for variable inputs
- Range of skills, systems and circumstances very wide – space of skill vs. resources for the outcomes.
- Fairness for payments & desirable outcomes vs. administrative efficiency and transparency.
- Loss of yield – temporary and permanent levels
- Non-market outcomes – how measured and valued?





## Modeling and Workshops – their value and limits

### Value:

- Bounding the Problem – from broad consideration in defining the scenarios – building the cases – integrative – biophysical and socio-economic.
- Gap Analysis – what don't we know.
- Framework of experiment – what-if (counter-factual)
- Cases - Real but not personal – specifics and generalisations balanced – boundary object through which arguments can be made.
- Engage with experts – the “event” factor – drawing in practitioner knowledge – richness.

### Limits

- Time/cost – specificity – not universal outcomes