



An area-based approach using weirs for optimising the water system in agricultural areas

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Agenda

1. The challenge

Drought and flooding in Flanders

2. Selecting the project area

3. The approach

4. The process

6 steps towards a successful project

5. Sint-Gillis-Waas in numbers

6. Conclusions



Flooding in Flanders



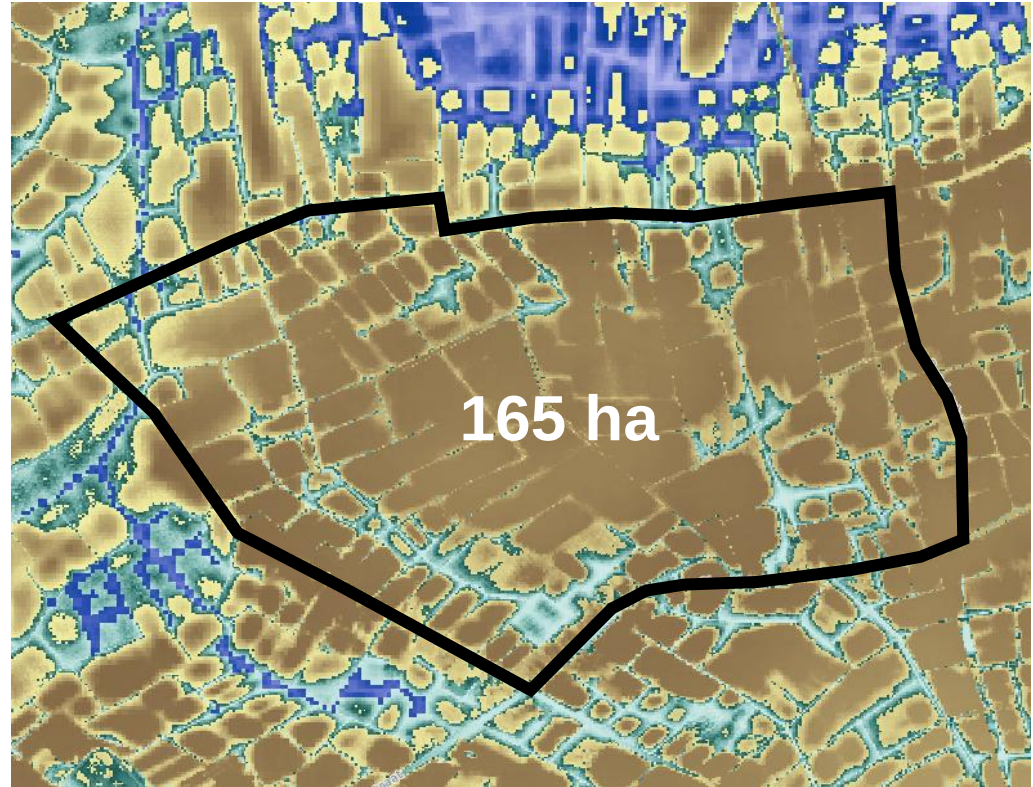
Drought in Flanders

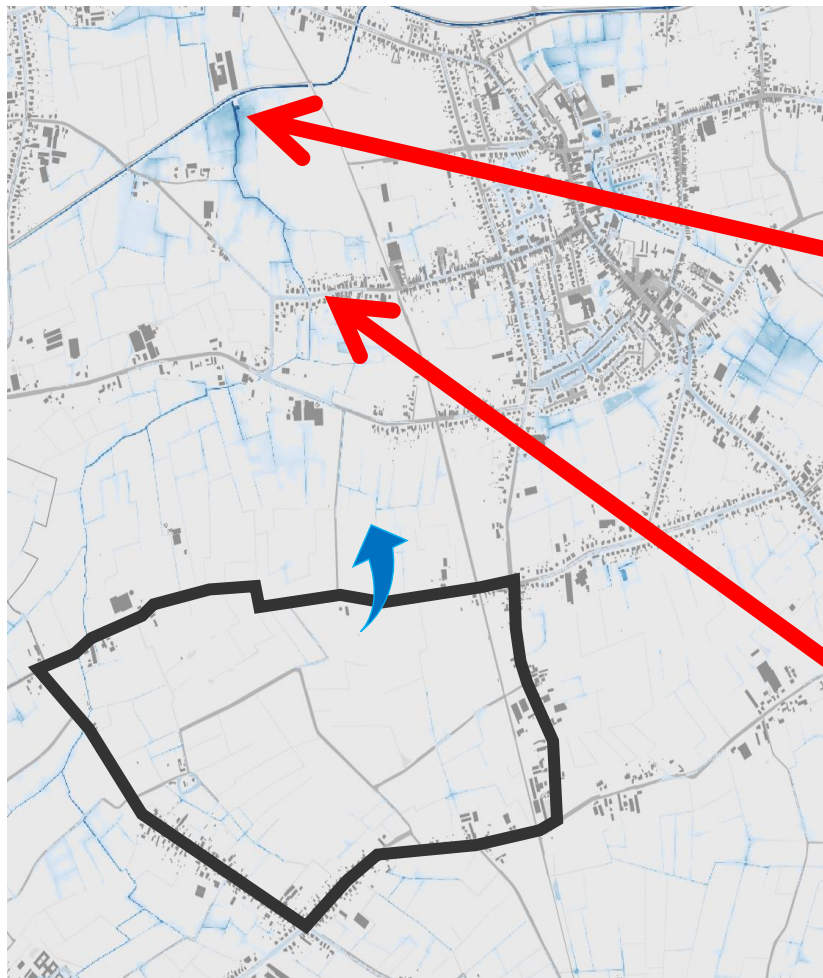


Sint-Gillis-Waas



Selecting the project area

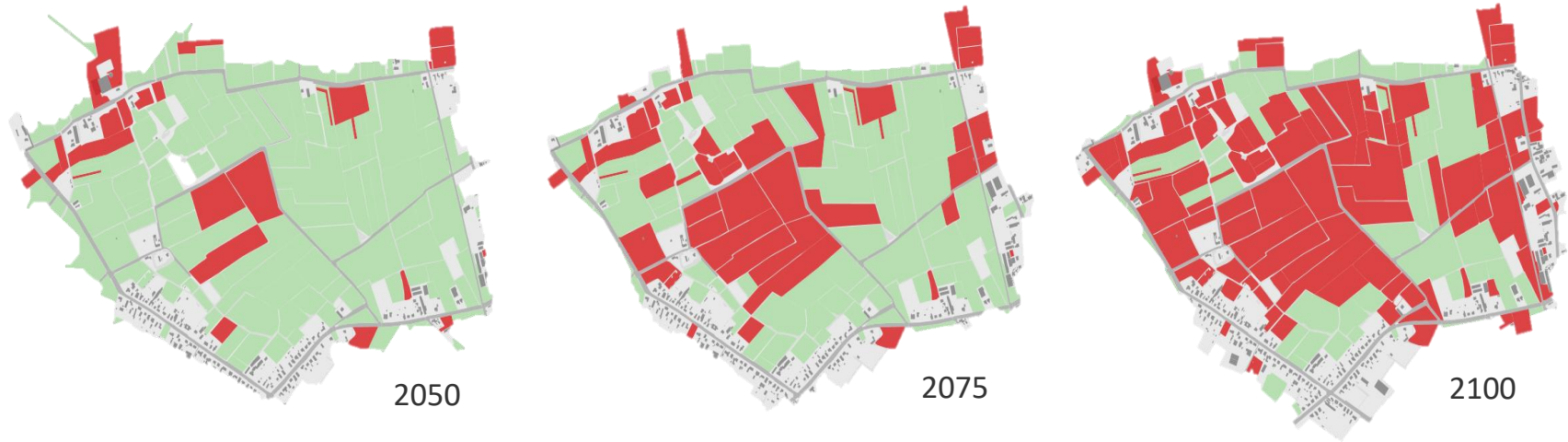




FLOODING in the downstream area
Flooding following prolonged heavy rainfall and
brief, intense downpours



Potential drought due to changes in the groundwater regime of impacted agricultural parcels



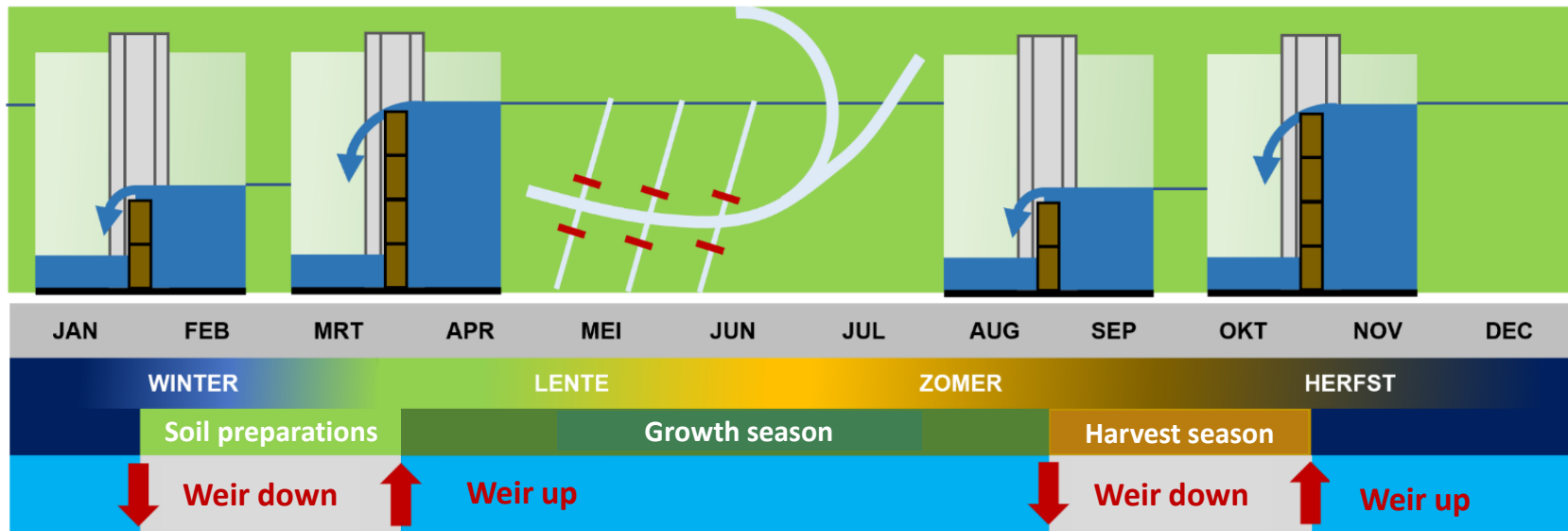
- Presumably no impact
- Presumably an impact

Bron: klimaatportaal Vlaanderen

Weirs to enhance water infiltration



How does a weir work?



An area-based approach of using weirs

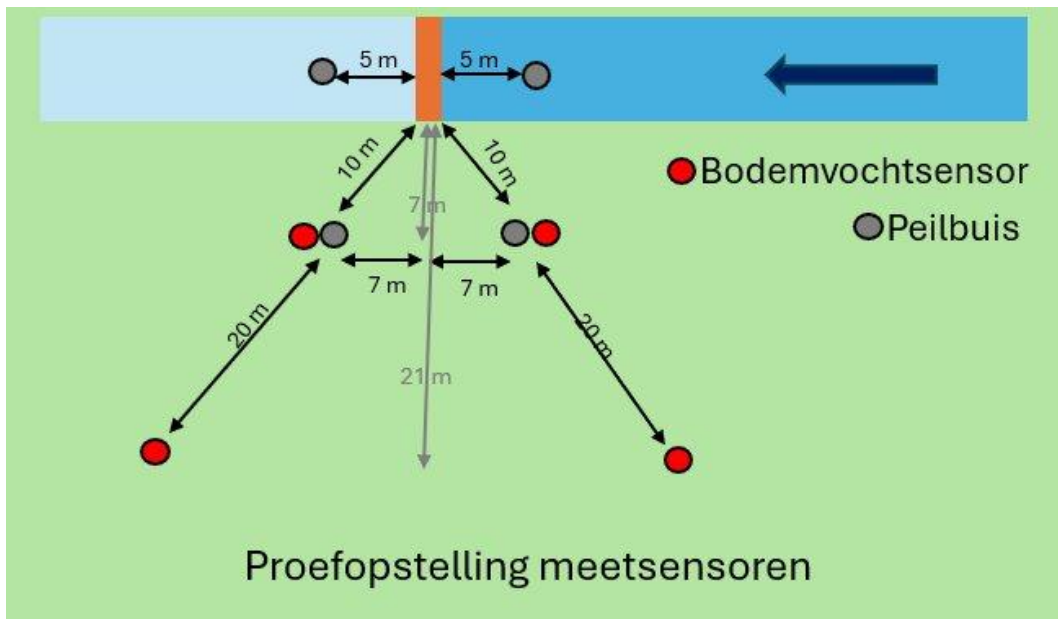
Mitigating the impact of (expected) climate change on agriculture



Step 1: Taking inventory and measuring ditches



Step 2: Demonstrating and measuring effectiveness



Step 3: Presentation and opportunities for participation



Step 5: Aiding stakeholders with administrative burdens

1. Administration:

- Licences
- Drawing up specifications
- Funding:
 - Group approach via VLIF NPI

2. Operational:

- Agricultural Management Group



Step 6: Construction



Sint-Gillis-Waas weir project in numbers

53

weirs installed

17

farmers

70%

of area covered

€178k

total project cost

28x Non-adjustable weirs



4x Corner well



25x Adjustable weirs



Conclusions:

1. Administration needs to be easier
2. Landowners take part on a voluntary basis
→ Not all landowners need to take part to create impact
3. Monitoring can be crucial to convince landowners to cooperate
4. Landowners need to be in control of managing adjustable weirs
5. Landcare organisations are critical for:
 - removing financial and administrative barriers
 - bringing landowners together





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