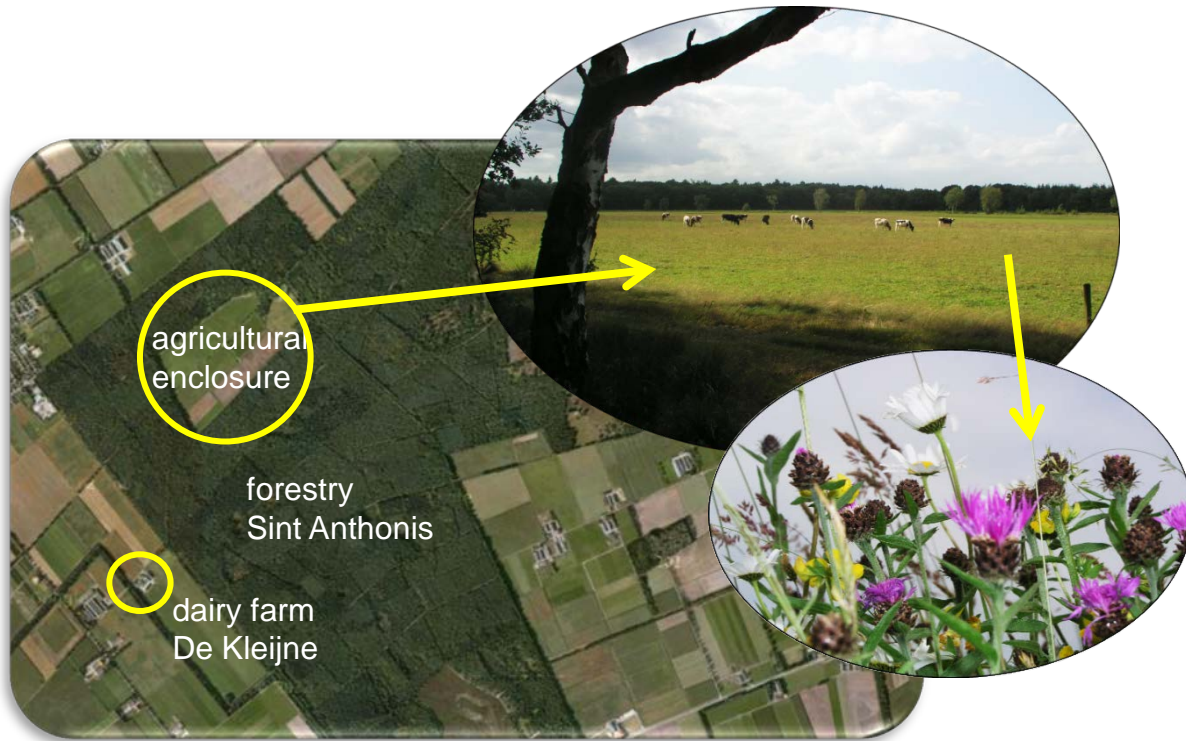


Dairy Farming and Nature Management



The Netherlands

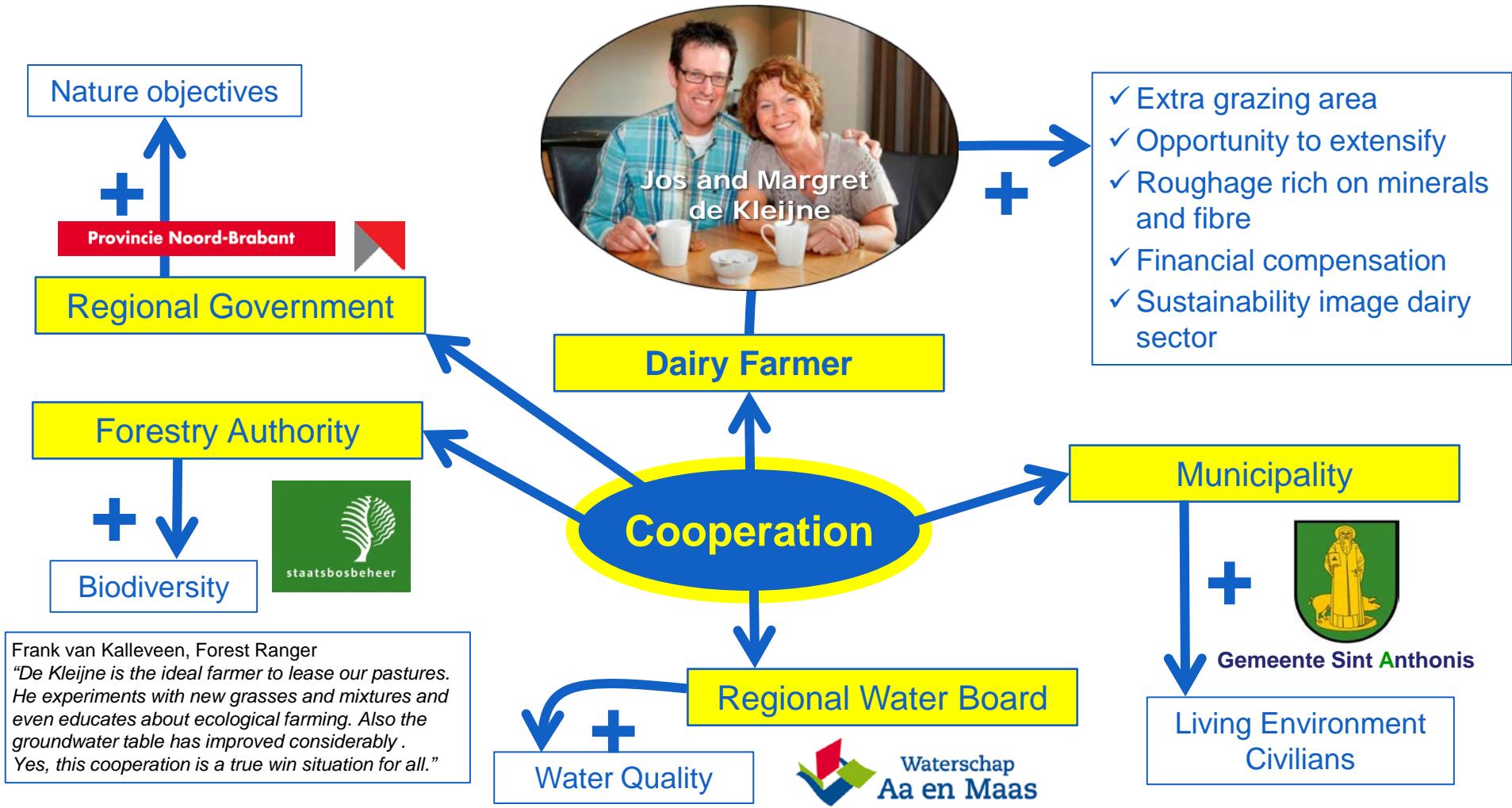
Example of successful cooperation between a dairy farmer and (local) authorities in the realisation of nature and environmental objectives



- Forestry Sint Anthonis**
- Re-construction plan 2005 with objectives regarding
 - Nature, Environment and Water
 - Agriculture and
 - Recreation

- Agricultural nature management**
- Six year lease contract (17 ha)
 - Restore/increase nature value
 - No fertilisation and adjusted cutting and grazing management
 - Financial compensation government for yield loss

Added value for all partners and stakeholders



Bottlenecks in nature management schemes

- Fertilisation:** Zero fertilisation leads to soil acidification and desired nature types will not be realized. Heavy decrease in grass yield and quality impede these parcels to fit in the farm.
- Grazing:** Frequent cutting and limited possibilities for grazing lead to an open sod. Leaving space for the to cattle poisonous Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) to settle.
- Legislation:** Rigid legislation and bureaucracy demotivate farmers to start nature management.



Practical solutions

- Allow a maintenance fertilisation (50 kg nitrogen with organic manure) and lime to counter acidification.
- Allow grazing from June 15 instead of August 1. Be alert for flowering Ragwort and prevent seed infestation of neighbouring parcels.
- Provide regional tailored and flexible regulations and simplified administrative procedures.

