



## **Lessons learned from farmland birds**

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# Evidence-based approach

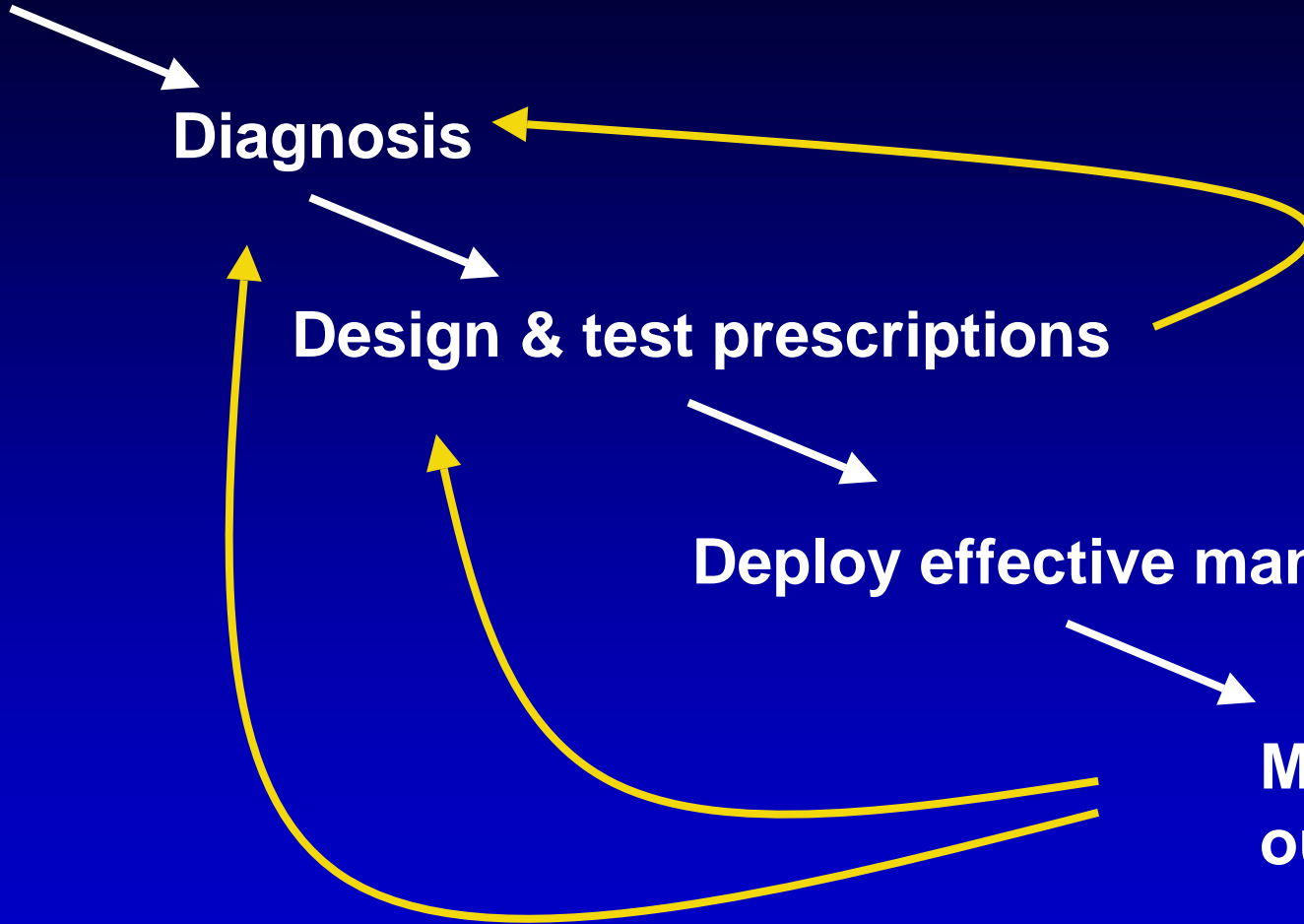
Monitoring

Diagnosis

Design & test prescriptions

Deploy effective management

Monitor  
outcome



## How far have we got with farmland birds?



- Effective monitoring and evaluation programmes in place
- Understand limiting factors/causes of decline
- Solutions designed for most species – tested for some
- Solutions are available in AE schemes, both targeted (HLS) and untargeted (ELS)...
- But scale of deployment (uptake) is insufficient at present to elicit a national population response
- Approach has delivered for rare species, and at farm scale for more widespread species

# Types of research

	Monitoring &	Diagnosis	Design/test prescriptions
Large-scale datasets	✓	(✓)	
Autecology		✓	✓
Land-use & management		✓	✓
Field experiments		✓	✓
Scheme evaluation	✓		✓



## Lessons learned so far

- **Importance of long-term datasets**
- **Common understanding of the problem & desired outcome, & a clear target (PSA)**
- **Co-ordination & trust between policymakers & scientists**
- **Synergy between different types of science/evidence**
- **Strong evidence-base rewarded by resources for delivery**
- **Importance of trials, pilots' and scheme evaluation**
- **Partnership approach, involving stakeholders, especially NGOs**
- **Lack of join-up within government at times**

# Research needs prioritization and delivery: lessons from previous farmland bird workshops

Richard Brand-Hardy

Natural Environment Science Team

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FARMLAND BIRDS RESEARCH WORKSHOPS (2003, 2008)

The **purpose** of the workshops was to support achievement of Defra's Public Service Agreement Farmland Birds target.

The workshop **objectives** were:

- To review results from a selection of recently completed research and monitoring projects.
- To identify priorities for research for the following FY (using break-out groups).
- To identify any areas of common interest amongst research sponsors.

*Focus on PSA species but other species also addressed where relevant.*

# OUTCOMES OF FARMLAND BIRDS RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

- Provided an assessment of the current state of knowledge.
- Provided a forum for the exchange of ideas and identification of key issues between policymakers, delivery bodies and researchers.
- Brought together policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders.
- Fostered a collective sense of purpose.
- Enhanced partnership approach between policymakers and research community & amongst research bodies.
- Identified large number of research priorities.
- Major new research projects funded.



# COMMISSIONED RESEARCH FOLLOWING 2003 WORKSHOP

- 4 major projects funded covering grazing manipulations, targeted wetting up of farmland & landscape scale provision of winter food resources.
- Projects let principally by open competition.
- Consortium approach achieved with minimum of 4 organisations per project
- Results feeding directly into policy delivery through Environmental Stewardship scheme

*Commissioning of projects following 2008 workshop not yet completed.*