

Demonstration Test Catchments: Improving Water Quality in Rural Areas



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Demonstration
Test
Catchments

Feedback from Workshops



Hampshire Avon
Demonstration Test Catchment



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1. What is the evidence from DTC telling us about the most effective combination of measures and how to apply them to improved water quality whilst maintaining a competitive farming sector? How can this be communicated simply?

- Important to maintain/enhance dialogue between science and policy in DTC Phase 2
- Should we target top 25% or bottom 25% of farmers?
 - generate ‘research’ with top ones, communications with bottom?
- Build on soft knowledge generated – use of farmer fora
- Is there a need for a knowledge hub?
- Develop catchment scale narrative in terms of measures for CaBA etc

2. What are the findings telling us about catchment management for water quality and how it might be enabled?

- Need to shift focus from water to soil quality
 - to tie in more directly with economics; build in resilience
- Upscaling needs to be conceptual rather than data driven
 - trail of evidence could be fed into apps/tools
- Need to introduce concepts of risk management into catchment management
 - due to complexities and uncertainties in climate and markets.

3. How best could farmers be supported to introduce new measures? Who is best placed to make different approaches happen?

- Need for collaboration and co-ordination between advisors (need for a cohesive advisory system?)
- Need for advisors to be better integrated into CaBA activities
- Involve the wider farming community rather than (just) farmers
- Tailor/target advice to specific types and ability level of farmers

4. What are the remaining evidence gaps and areas where DTCs might focus future effort to produce the best results for water quality and farmers?

- How quickly are the measures generating change and systems responding?
 - How long do we have to measure to see an ecological shift
- How robust are the changes – flickering?
 - Related to S-P-R targeting of measures
- To what extent is WFD failure driven by chronic-v-acute?
 -and other sources – septic tanks!
- How to generate **generic and transferable** advice on efficacy, durability and cost benefit of mitigation
- How to package and deliver advice to where it's needed ? – external networks (FWAG etc)
- How to upscale through monitoring and modelling?