

## **Workshop Report: *Innovative ways to improve soil, water and profits*** **14 November 2016 - Salle Village Hall: 10am-2pm**

### **Summary**

- The free event attracted 48 attendees from Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire including 26 farmers along with agronomists, other farm advisers and academics
- ‘Informative’, ‘thought-provoking’ and ‘interesting’ were the most commonly used words to describe participants experience although only one third of attendees completed evaluation forms
- Presentations were commended by many participants for being short and to-the-point with clear messages from credible experts
- All respondents stated that they had learned something new and two thirds thought that they would do something new as a result of taking part with a third not sure
- Several agronomists said they would now promote CTF and cover crops. Some farmers stated they would change tramline layout, use or further investigate cover crops, and cultivate shallower
- All respondents stated that they would like to attend future events. Suggestions for subjects included cover crop choices and desiccation, soil structure, biology and nutrient efficiency
- Several farmers volunteered for free trials of the Earthwake in cereals and the Wheel Track Roller in potatoes to disrupt tramlines and wheelings to prevent water, soil and nutrients leaving the field
- A respected academic remarked: ‘Quite exciting for oldies like me. After all the years trying to get soils treated better it finally looks as though that may be on the horizon’

### **Format**

- Short presentations from local farmers, agricultural researchers and farm advisers focussed on novel cost-effective techniques
- Presentations drew on local evidence from the Wensum Demonstration Test Catchment, Morley Agricultural Foundation, Cranfield University and ADAS trials related to cultivations and cover crops
- Farmers’ and advisers’ had the opportunity to discuss controlled traffic farming, inter-row and tramline management, and the practical benefits and cost savings they can deliver
- Lland-Ho’s Earthwake for tramline disruption was on display and a video of it in operation was shown (a demonstration was unable to take place given recent wet conditions)
- Attendees were taken by tractor and trailer to see the Estate’s newly installed silt traps for intercepting run-off from roads and a sugar beet pad. A video of their construction was shown



## Background

The knowledge exchange event was a requirement of EU WaterLIFE/WWF-UK & Coca-Cola Freshwater Partnership 'Water Sensitive Farming' project 2016-2018.

This is being delivered by Norfolk Rivers Trust via the Broadland Catchment Partnership that it co-hosts with the Broads Authority and the Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership hosted by Anglian Water.

The partnerships aim to improve the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature.

## Objectives

1. To introduce the catchment partnership and collaborative approach to protecting waterbodies.
2. To raise awareness of Water Sensitive Farming and free advice and grant funding available.
3. To share knowledge of novel cost-effective techniques and encourage wider dissemination.

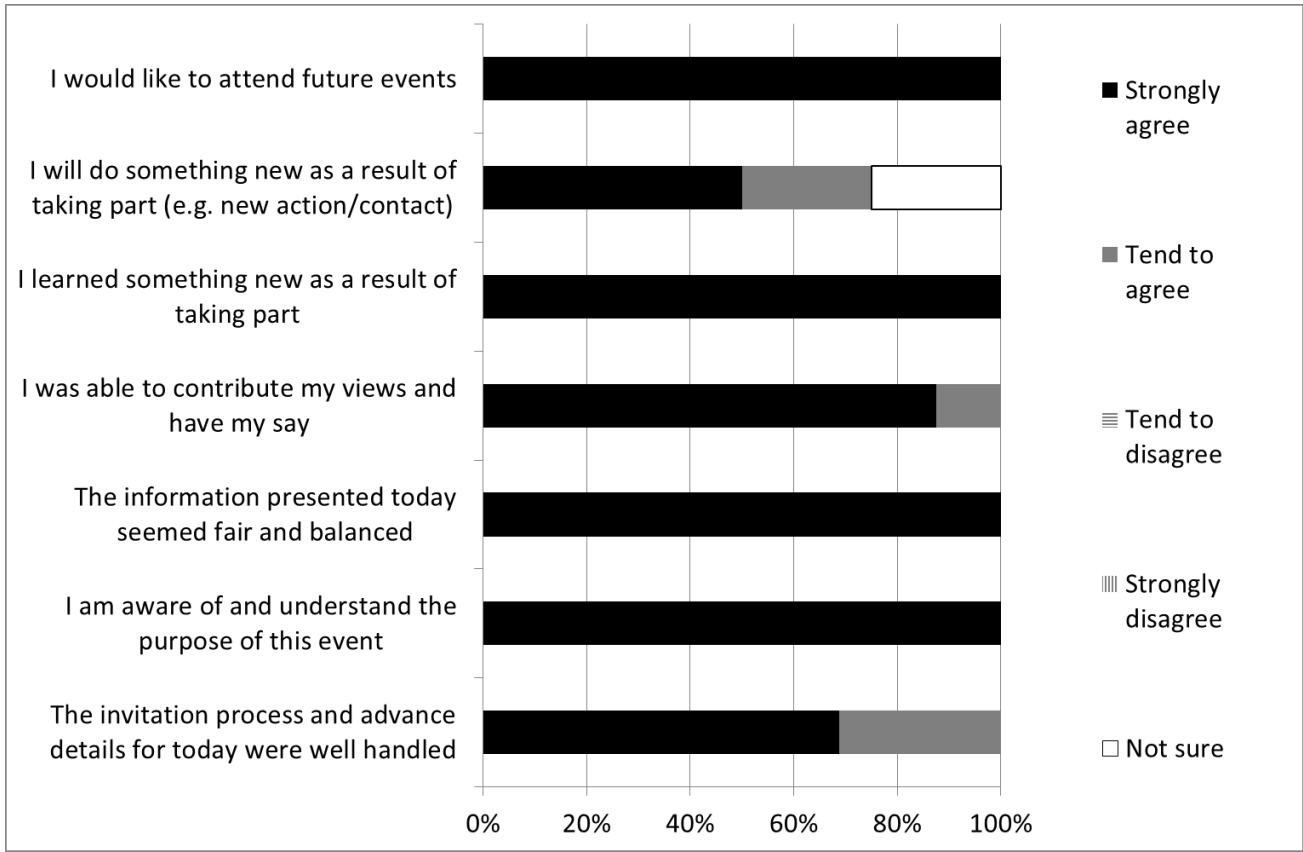
## Desired outcomes

1. Improved networks with farmers, agronomists and other advisers through presentation of impartial, balanced and costed (where possible) information.
2. Increase in uptake of new and traditional techniques, and trials of innovative technology to increase water infiltration and reduce both run-off and leaching from agricultural soils.
3. Increase uptake of farm advice and funding for improvements to water environment.

## Agenda

Time	What	Who
10:00 - 10:15	Introduction	Neil Punchard, Broads Authority
10:15 - 10:45	Wheel Track Roller and Aqueel in potatoes	Andrew Williams, Home Farm Nacton
10:45 - 11:00	Wensum DTC cover crops update	Richard Cooper, UEA
11:00 - 11:15	Soils, cultivations and cover crops	Ron Stobart, NIAB
11:15 - 11:30	Comfort break	All
11:30 - 11:55	Experiences of CTF	Ed Salmon, NE Salmon Ltd
11:55 - 12:25	Improvement of soil, water and yields	Poul Hovesen, Salle Farms
12:25 - 12:30	Pesticide amnesty - Blackwater catchment	Rob Holland, Anglian Water
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch + video	All
13:00 - 13:30	Tramline management and demo	Robert Camps, Natural England
13:30 - 14:00	Silt trap visit (trailer ride provided)	Matt Philpot, IDB

### Evaluation



N = 16



## Workshop participants

First name	Surname
Andrew	Alston
James	Bailey
Ed	Bramham-Jones
Lynette	Briscoe
Paul	Brown
Robert	Buxton
Jeremy	Buxton
Robert	Camps
James	Chapman
Richard	Cooper
Jim	Craven
Charles	Creyke
Margaret	Creyke
Chris	Day
Nick	Deane
Charlie	Ennals
Bob	Evans
Toby	Fleming
Andrew	Francis
Robert	Hambidge
John	Harrison
Rob	Holland
Poul	Hovesen
Max	Howlett
Martin	Jensen
Barry	Johnson
Andrea	Kelly
Niven	Last
Jamie	Lockhart
Andrew	Melton
Lister	Noble
Emily	Norton
Emily	Page
Luke	Patterson
Michael	Payne
Matt	Philpot
Neil	Punchard
Richard	Rampton
Ed	Salmon
Robert	Salmon
Ian	Skinner
Alison	Smyth
Ron	Stobart
Anthony	Thomas
Kyle	White
Andrew	Williams
Fiona	Wood
Paul	Wortley

## Three words used to describe experience of participating in this event

Interesting

credible experts

**Informative**

Worthwhile

Chilly

Beneficial

Useful

Excellent

Reaffirming

Comprehensive

Reassuring

**Thought provoking**

Practical

Meaningful

Pacy

**Clear**

Concise

Direct