



NEW ZEALAND
AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GAS
Research Centre

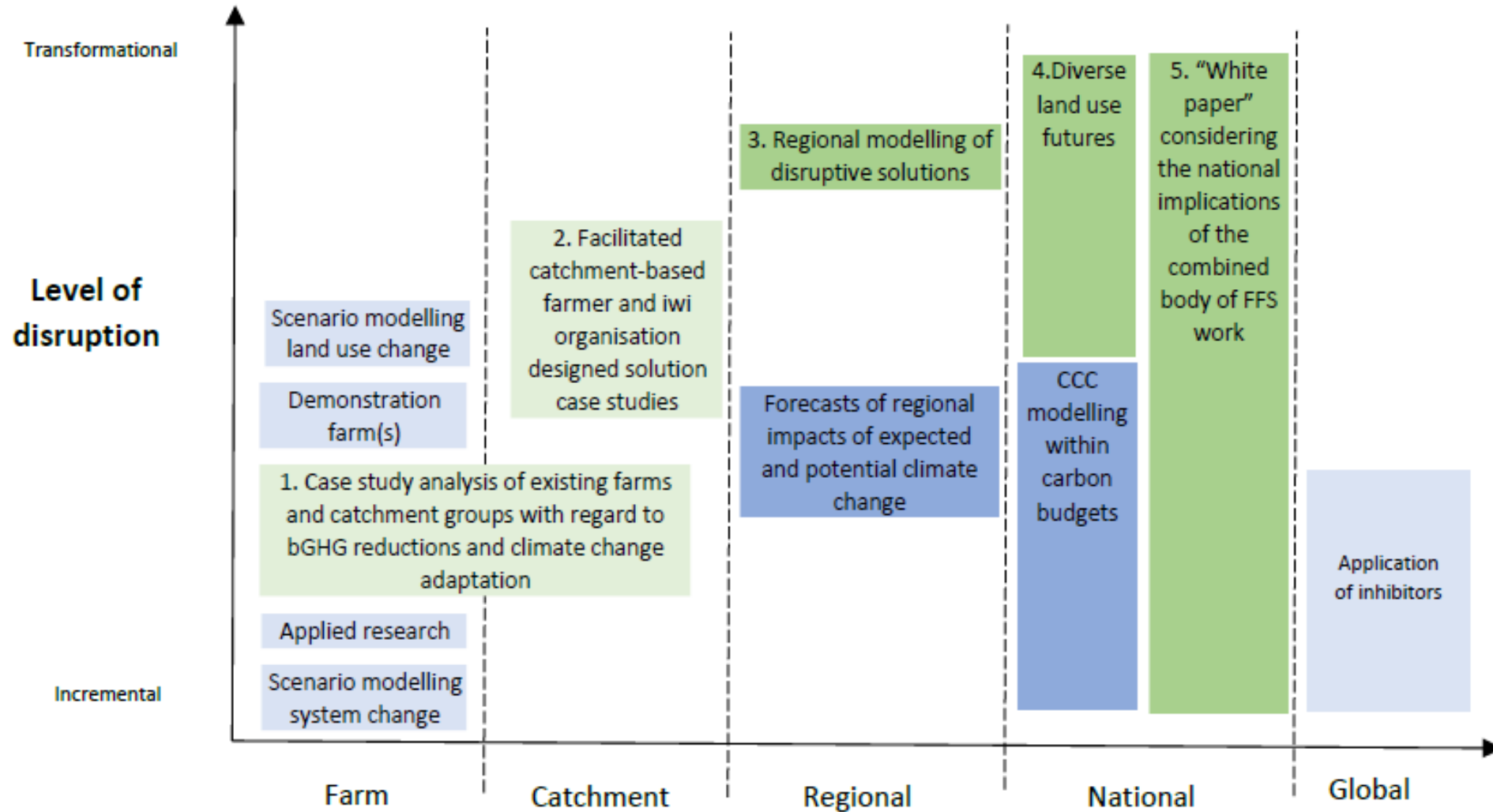
Getting to low emissions: Future thinking

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Future Farm Systems programme overview

- There is an apparent gap in the body of research associated with lowering farm emissions.
- Existing research tends to focus on incremental changes from our current paradigm – “BAU”.
- There is an opportunity to investigate the more disruptive impacts and transformational solutions – definitely not BAU.
- This NZAGRC funded programme has two key areas of focus:
 - Farm-level transition at individual and collective scale.
 - The longer-term impact on the wider primary sector and rural communities from lowering emissions.



Programme structure

- Two core areas of research – jointly led by Lee Matheson (Perrin Ag) and Erica van Reenan (AgFirst).
- Phase one of the programme is funded to June 2023.
- Looking to build on other research in this area.
- Programme oversight provided by a multi-disciplinary panel, chaired by Anita Wreford.
- Whole programme is designed as a pilot.
- The audience is wider than just farmers or the research community.

Key questions for the research

- What are the potential barriers to the adoption of alternative low emissions land uses at meaningful scale?
- What might truly collaborative farmer-led solutions in response to disruptive change, both Māori and non- Māori, look like?
- What might the regional impacts of lowering emissions look like when overlaid with embedded climate change?
- What strategies have leading farm businesses already implemented to lower emissions?

Some early insights

- Farmers are collectively capable of being more ambitious in their emissions reduction aspirations than government.
- Delivery of truly-farmer led solutions to [wicked] problems is hard.
 - We must “unlearn” what we have learned.
- There are two consistent barriers to the scaled adoption of alternative land uses:
 - Relative competitiveness with existing land uses; and
 - The financial returns from investing in post-harvest “infrastructure”

Looking ahead

- Workshops with mana whenua and other regional stakeholders to develop plausible future scenarios for Northland and Southland with a low emissions primary sector. The potential implications of these for their communities will then be explored in a series of regional workshops.
- Expanding the farmer-led solutions approach to other groups of farmers, including Māori entities.
- Considering how alternative land uses might be scaled within an existing farming landscape.