# STRATEGY IN CONTEXT

Farming in the Green, Red, Black and ...

the Doghouse!

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#### On the face of it ...



Farming is simple

## Such 'simplicity' requires considerable juggling

- Competing objectives
- Information constraints
- Multiple factors
- Interpretations and bias



#### Some challenges ...

## World and Natural Environment

- Soils
- Biodiversity
- Water systems



#### Some challenges ...

# Society and Human Environment

- Markets
- Legislation
- Interest rates





Sourced from PETA website, 8/9/2012 http:// www.petacatalog.com/products/ eatnoanimalcowtank/?utm\_source=PETA

<sup>+</sup>Placement&utm\_medium=Merch

<sup>+</sup>Promo&utm\_campaign=0612+Eat+No

# Overlaying these external factors ...



# and, importantly ...





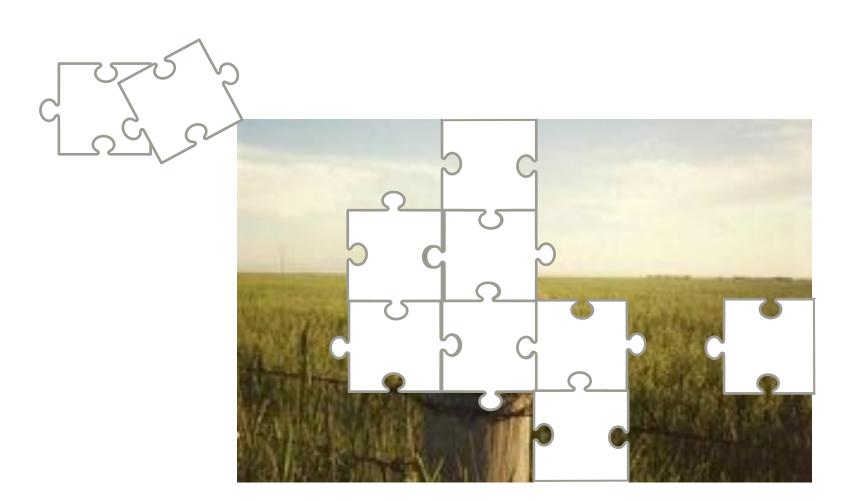
finance

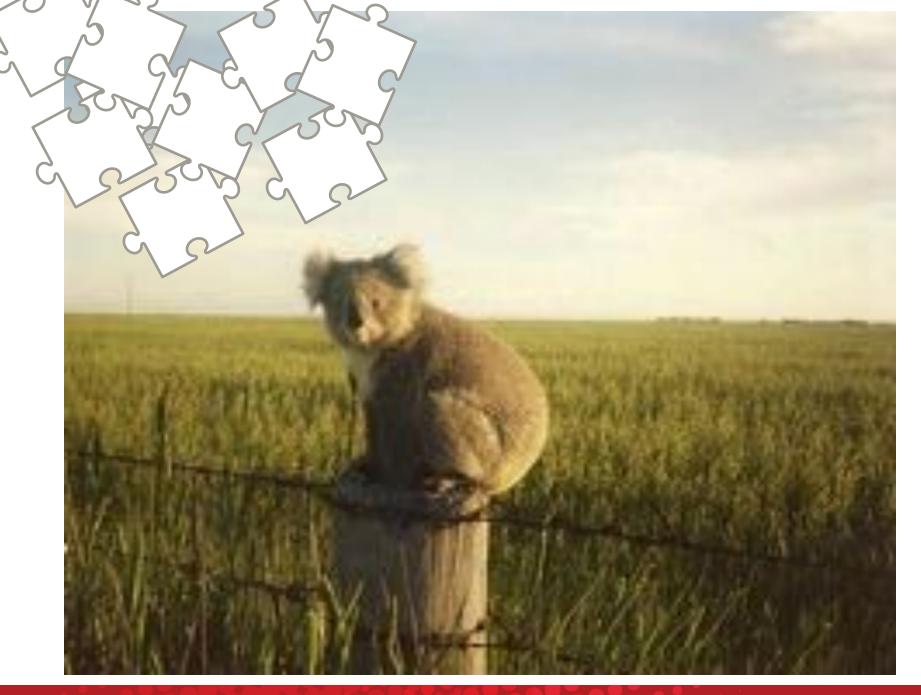
self

society

natural environment

#### Farmers live in this world





# but getting 'enough' information is not the only requirement

- Exist
- Observe
- Make sense
- Judge
- Make decisions
- Act

•



#### each individual is unique in:

- What they see
- How they interpret it
- Their assessments
- Application of judgements
- The ultimate impact



#### These in turn influence

- Frame and attention
- Perception
- Experiences
- Judgement
- Aspirations
- Influences





#### responding to change in a system is difficult

- Cognitive barriers
- Meaning of change
- Collated information
- Respond through strategy

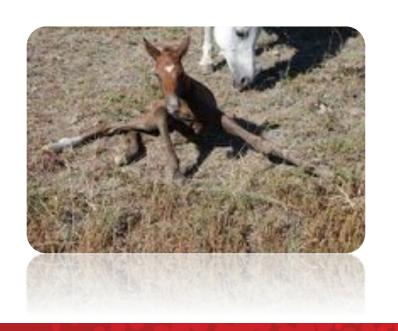


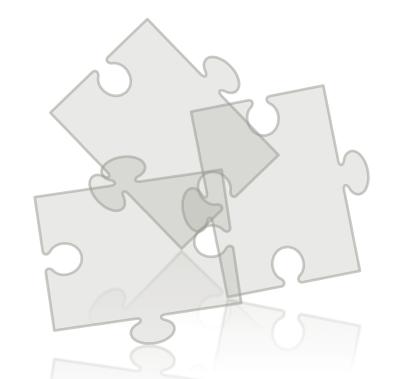
"A great strategy is only great in a given context"

Vossough, 2012 re Sony

#### a critical strategic ability is to ...

- Sense
- Assign meaning
- Enable flexibility and order





The aim of strategic thinking may not be to achieve certainty, but to prepare us for uncertain times#

#von Oetinger, 2004

#### So ... we know:

- Challenges
- Complex inter-relationships
- 'Messy' situations
- Human element
- Logic application and use



#### and things we don't really understand include ...

- Unclear relationships
  - Purpose
  - Survival
  - Resilience
  - Innovation
  - Risk
  - (Luck)



- Environmental factors
- Hindsight
- Re-thinking
  - situation
  - opportunities
  - strategy

## sometimes strategic decisions are coloured by ...





#### or coloured by ...





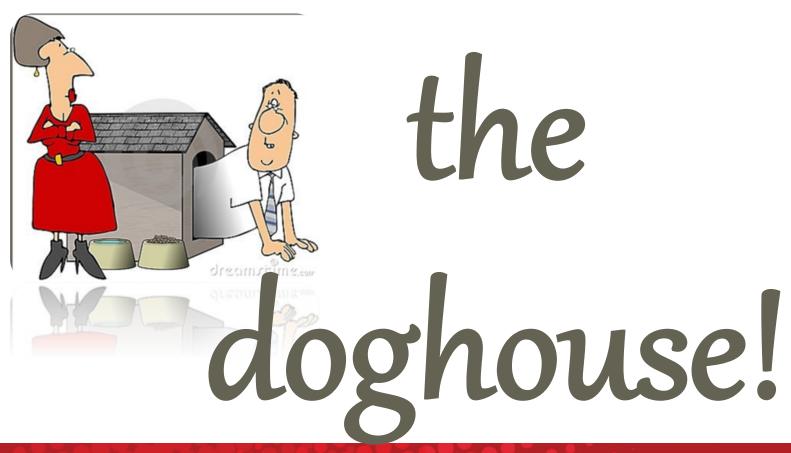
rea

or by ...



and even by ...

# A stint in



# If you know someone with some interesting approaches to making strategic farm decisions ...

 Please invite them to get in touch with me!

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How do farmers account for context when making strategic farm decisions?

Thank you!

#### key ...

- This project asks how farmers perceive and respond to their unique situations when developing farm strategy
- Presenting a summary of some key areas of knowledge, this paper strives to set the background for learning.
- It also hopes to increase awareness of the issues, and to let people know about the project. Perhaps those attending may know someone interested in sharing their knowledge and expertise?

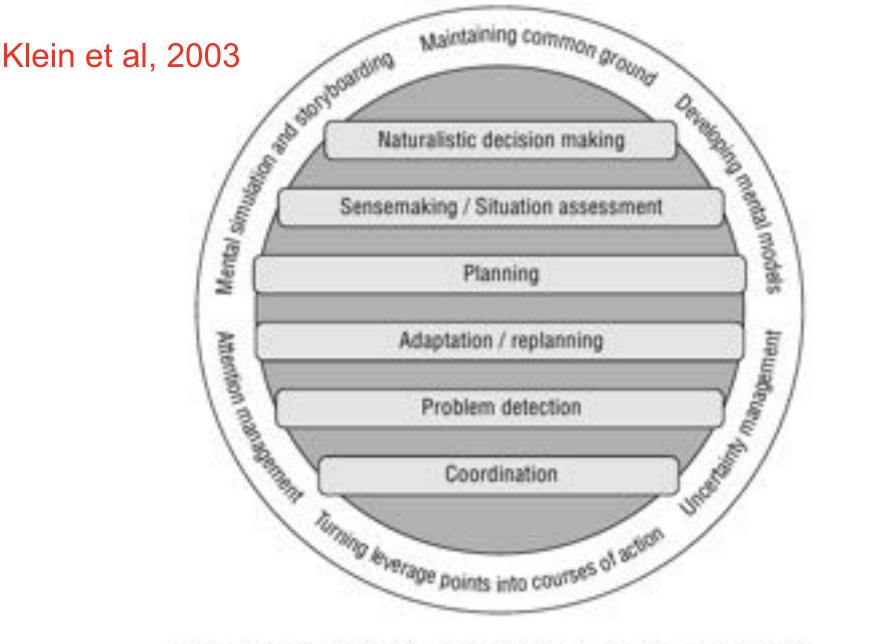


Figure 1. Macrocognitive functions and supporting processes for individuals, teams, and information technologies.

# Howden, 2008, p. 12

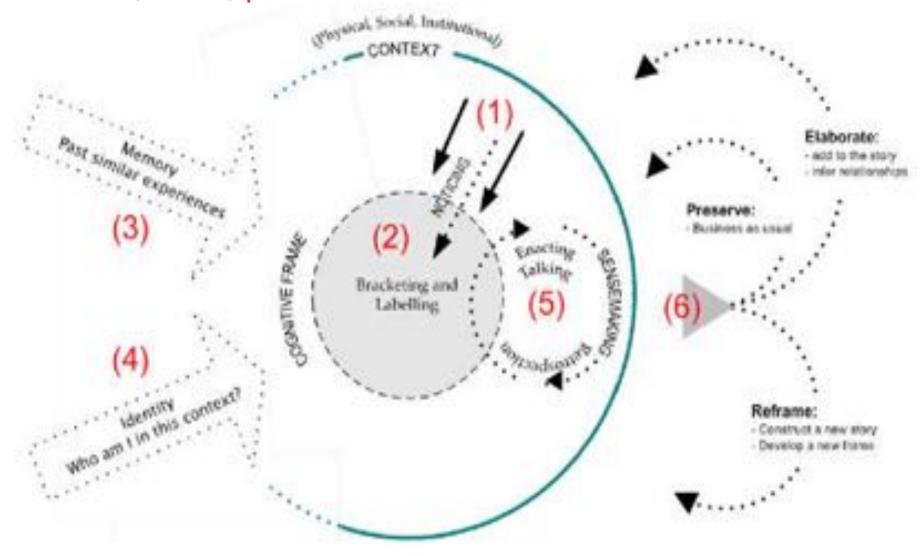


Figure 2: A diagrammatic representation of the notion of sensemaking

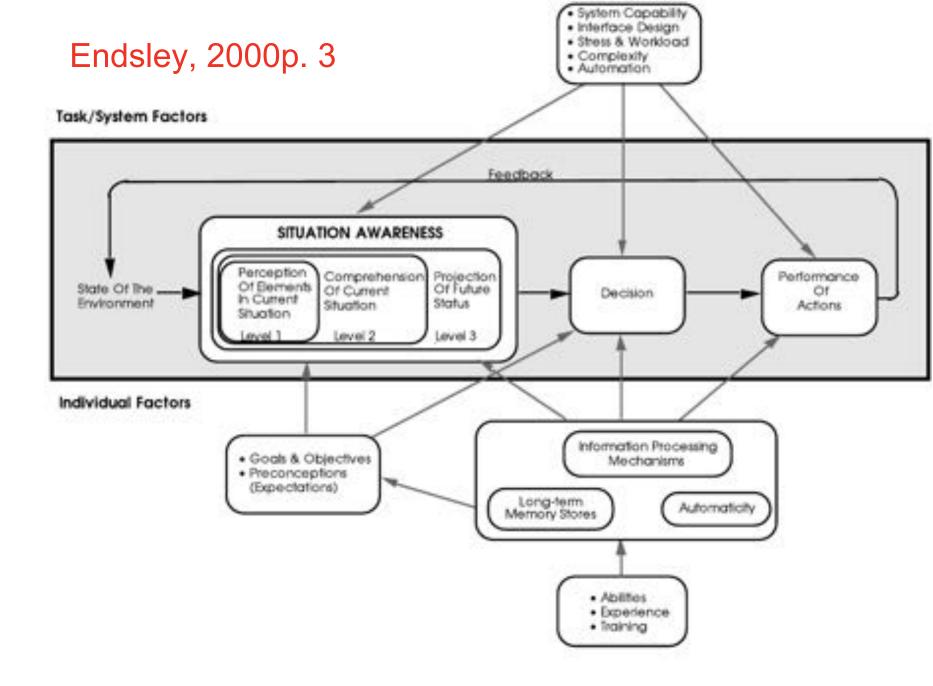
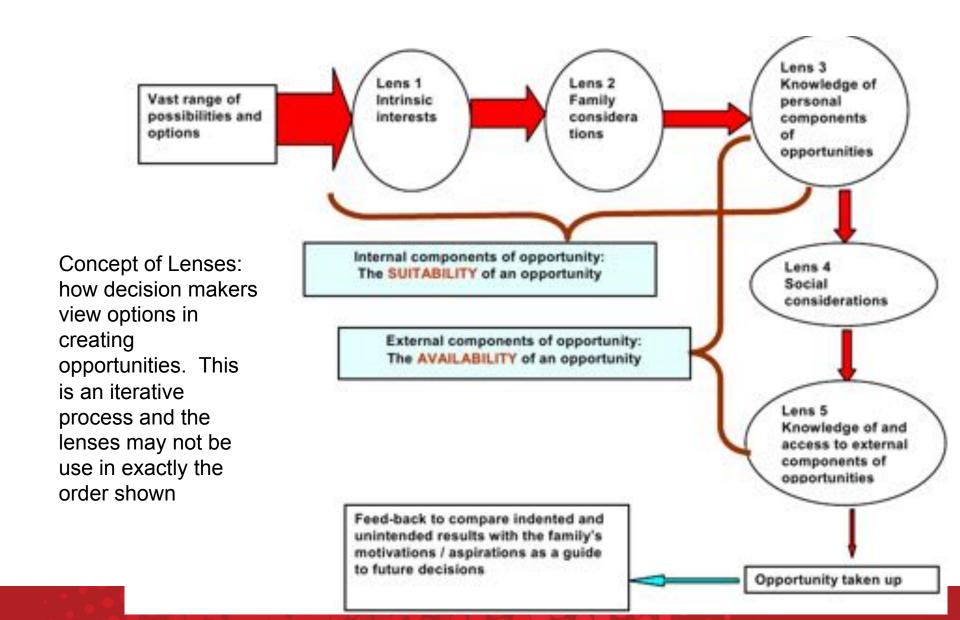


Figure 2. Model of SA in Dynamic Decision Making (from Endsley, 1995b)

#### Farmar-Bowers, 2007, p. 9



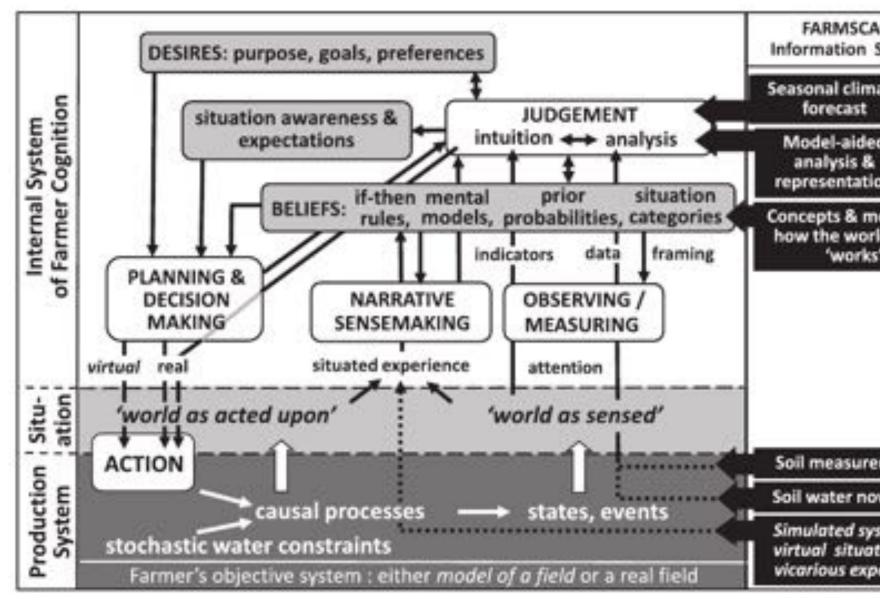


Fig. 1. A theoretical Framework for a farmer's adaptive cognitive system to aid scientists' thinking about intervention with an information system management of uncertainty in dryland cropping situations. (Shaded elements of 'Internal system' are cognitive structures, unshaded are processes. I sensed'; follow arrows up and counter-clockwise.)