

MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION THEME GOVERNANCE:

Governing information and transparency on sustainability in food chains (WUR,WRI,MDPI)

Organizers:

Prof. Peter Oosterveer, Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
Dr Otto Hospes, Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
Prof. Simon Bush, Wageningen University & Research (WUR)

Participants:

Prof. Simon Bush, Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
Prof. Katrien Termeer, Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
Dr Dean Yulindra Affandi, Science and Research Coordinator at World Resources Institute Indonesia (WRI)
Lalu Hizbulloh, Molecular Diversity Preservation International (MDPI)

General aim:

Explore and discuss the dynamics between data collection (especially through the use of innovative ICT tools) on important environmental challenges in global food chains and the institutions that are (expected to) act upon the information collected.

Programme Outline:

This Governance Theme Parallel Session is divided in two shorter sessions on seafood and on deforestation/oil palm cultivation.

Sessions 1 & 2	Time
Introduction to the case	5 minutes
Feedback from 2 experts	15 minutes
Discussion with the audience	20 minutes

Session 1: Seafood

Achieving transparency in complex supply chains, such as seafood constitute a big challenge. High sea fisheries remain one of the least transparent global production practices but innovative technologies monitoring, controlling and surveying are being developed. Technologies to collect spatially referenced data on the location of fishing vessels, gears and fish stocks allow for addressing the problems of illegal, unreported and unregulated seafood. But who is in control of these data-collection devices and how the information is being used in reducing unsustainable practices and promoting transparency? Some illustrations of innovative informational tools are presented and the panel is requested to reflect on the use of this information: ownership, applicability and (potential) impact on sustainable food provision.

Presenter: Prof. Simon Bush

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Session 2: Deforestation/oil palm cultivation

The interconnectedness and different scales of agricultural expansion, deforestation, environmental change and food insecurity call for innovative informational governance. Starting with a brief presentation of lessons on innovative informational governance and the case of the one-map-initiative of Indonesia, this session discusses what forms of informational governance can facilitate data collection, learning processes and competing claims on authority over data and policy domains.

Presenter: Prof. Katrien Termeer

Invited Experts: Dr Dean Yulindra Affandi (WRI Indonesia) and Lalu Hizbulloh (MDPI)

Background:

Contemporary food provision is faced with many challenges in securing its sustainability. In particular with respect to global food provision public authorities and private actors are searching for ways to enhance sustainability. Among the strategies and instruments that are being developed, transparency and enhanced information and traceability are seen as promising. But how are these informational governance instruments organized and can they deliver what is expected? This session addresses these questions. Until now, most attention has been given to challenges in generating data and developing more refined indicators and measurement tools. However, relatively little attention has been spent on how these data are actually used and by which actors and institutions in environmental governance.

Important questions for discussion are therefore:

- How are the data constructed, collected, selected and aggregated?
- Who owns the data and who is (allowed to) use the data?
- In what way does the ultimate use of the data steer their character and the way in which they are generated?
- What is the authority/legitimacy of the institutions developing these data-collection systems and those (supposed to be) acting on the basis of the information collected?
- (How) are these data used in promoting sustainability and equity in global food chains?

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