

MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION:

A FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH TO FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY: FROM THE THEORY TO THE PRACTICE

Introduction

The concept of Food Systems has been extensively explored by WUR and its key partners. An informative international workshop '[The Future of Food Systems](#)' took place in November 2016 and boosted Dutch conversations on this approach. In the course of 2017-2018 several leading actors in the Dutch Food & Nutrition Security community continued learning and exchanging on the concept, and exploring on how it could be turned into a tool for both policy and practice. Key actors included the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PBL, WUR, various organisations from private sector and civil society, and the Food & Business Knowledge Platform facilitated connections and some joint learning. The WUR SDG conference provides an interesting opportunity to continue this multi-stakeholder dialogue between key NL actors and the international guests of WUR who represent a range of countries, a variety of agrifood system dimensions, and different stakeholder groups.

Parallel session objectives

This session will connect research to policy and practice and is meant to jointly identify the opportunities to further translate the food system concept into useful tools or proposals for practical action by both governments (Ministries of Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, bilateral/multilateral partners and embassies) and companies and civil society.

The discussion will build on concrete case studies and work done by leading Dutch agencies and experts, and their LMIC counterparts:

- Firstly, a working and policy document on implications of Food Systems thinking for Dutch FNS policy, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.
- Secondly, case studies on Food Systems analysis and action in particular areas. Four different case studies will highlight different approaches that focus on managing various trade-offs at different scales.

Case studies

1. **Hivos.** [Sustainable Diets for All](#). This programme facilitates citizens' involvement in shaping the food systems of the future. Hivos and IIED take a social innovation or "[change lab](#)" approach that puts citizens at the centre of finding solutions to food challenges. In several countries, such as Uganda, Bolivia and Zambia, the first results of this approach are visible; in Zambia for example citizen advocacy has led to the elimination of government subsidies for maize only and extending the e-voucher system to include diverse agriculture and crops produced by women.
2. **ECDPM.** [Multidisciplinary approach and policy dialogue to foster Sustainable Agrifood Systems Strategies](#). As basis for multidimensional sustainability solutions in the indigenous/neglected vegetable value chain in East Africa, ECDPM together with universities from Kenya and Italy use innovative methodologies for multidimensional sustainability analysis of these chains. Improvements foreseen are in the area of market linkages, value chain development, value addition, multidimensional labelling.
3. **PPPLab/SNV** [Kenya Market Led Dairy Programme \(KMDP\)](#) is a broad sector programme which works with dairy companies to structurally improve their practices, introduce climate resilient practices, while focusing on the improved food and nutrition security status of the target groups.¹ The case will be discussed in the context of the research findings of PPPLab on [scaling Public-private partnerships](#). The discussion will be about a/o. how quality based milk payments worked; how a sector approach could evolve into a food systems approach; what lessons can be learnt regarding scaling.

¹ See also: <http://knowledge4food.net/eknlearning-kenya-dairy-farmer-entrepreneurship-development/>

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4. **Sesame Business Network/WCDI** Sesame is the second agricultural product for Ethiopia, after coffee; [the SBN](#) addresses the challenge of improving the performance of the sesame sector in Ethiopia. Farmer's cooperatives are supported in view of improved production, enhanced quality, reduced post-harvest loss, improved access to credit, product development and diversification, market access improvement. Key systemic challenges which need to be addressed include institutional and political factors regarding export practices and prices, related to product quality. The programme ends this year, and a next phase is being considered based on a food systems approach.

Programme outline

14.00	Opening Ruerd Ruben (WEcR)
14.05	Introduction to the Food Systems approach Just Dengerink (WEcR). Presentation of paper "The food systems approach: sustainable solutions for a sufficient supply of healthy food ² " commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Including outcomes of macro-level analysis in particular countries: are national food systems delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals?
14.25	Applying the Food Systems approach in policy and practice Geert Westenbrink (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality).
14.30	Case presentations and discussion in smaller groups. Cases will create a multi-stakeholder perspective, including roles of business, civil society, governments, and have each purposefully focused on applying a food systems approach in practice. Cases discussed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sustainable Diets for All</i> programme. Hivos, Nout van der Vaart • <i>SASS, a food systems analysis as basis for multidimensional sustainability solutions in the indigenous vegetable value chain in East Africa.</i> ECDPM, Francesco Rampa • <i>How scaling of successful agri-food PPPs could be enhanced through a systems approach. Example: Kenya Market-led Dairy Programme.</i> PPPLab/SNV, Floortje Jacobs • <i>Sesame Business Network Ethiopia.</i> WCDI, Ted Schrader and Judith Jacobs Each case group discussion will focus on discussing lessons and bottlenecks encountered in practice with a specific focus on bottlenecks that should be addressed through a higher order food systems change. Groups will each formulate 2 'quick-wins' that policymakers, practitioners or companies can immediately use to start implementing a food systems approach, and one strategic entry-point for food systems change in the longer term.
15.10	Plenary feedback and discussion Reporting back in plenary, reflection by facilitator and final reflection by Ministries and an agri-business entrepreneur. The discussion will focus on new perspectives and possibilities provided by food systems perspectives in the context of the new Dutch policy for international trade/development cooperation 'Investing in global prospects'.
15.30	End of session

² Siemen van Berkum, Just Dengerink and Ruerd Ruben, 2018. *The food systems approach: sustainable solutions for a sufficient supply of healthy food.* Wageningen, Wageningen Economic Research, Memorandum 2018-064. 32 pp.; 9 fig.; 0 tab.; 39 ref. See: <http://knowledge4food.net/food-systems-approach-report/>