

**MORE ABOUT FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION PATHWAY - PARALLEL SESSION:
REACHING A SHARED VISION FOR DUTCH AGRICULTURE IN THE QUEST OF SDG2**

Juliana Gil¹, Pytrik Reidsma¹, Martin van Ittersum¹, Patricia Wagenmakers² & Hans Brand²

¹Plant Production Systems Group, Wageningen University

²Dutch Ministry for Nature, Agriculture and Food Quality (MinLNV)

Background

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched by the United Nations in 2015, provide a comprehensive agenda for sustainability. SDG-2, specifically, consists of “Ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture” by 2030. The themes under SDG-2 are core to the entire Agenda 2030 and require urgent and concerted action from developing and developed countries alike. The project “Targets for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture” (TSARA - <http://facceturplus.org/research-projects/tsara/>) seeks to contribute to the implementation of SDG-2. Researchers involved in the project from Wageningen University (The Netherlands), Rothamsted Research (United Kingdom) and IDDRI (France) have been conducting several activities in their respective countries in support of the development of national food system transformation pathways.

In the Netherlands, stakeholder consultations have been promoted on a regular basis. The dual purpose of these consultations was to share results from scientific analyses within TSARA and to get feedback from different sectors as a way of ensuring the project’s relevance and applicability. Besides bilateral meetings with representatives of the government, private sector and civil society, a series of joint seminars was initiated in 2016 together with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (MinLNV) to promote additional discussions with national actors. The first seminar, in April 2017, focused on improving SDG-2 indicators. The TSARA team presented the results of a review of the UN-proposed SDG-2 indicators and suggested improvements wherever possible. Building on the results of this first seminar, a study based on the set of revised indicators was developed, and the indicators were applied to three contrasting case studies – the Netherlands, Brazil and Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to explore the various challenges faced in each country, highlight the need for universal yet adaptable indicators, as well as map readily available databases that could enable the immediate assessment of progress towards SDG-2.

The second seminar, in October 2017, focused on the definition of target values for the improved SDG-2 indicators. It allowed for more detailed discussions on how the Dutch agricultural sector currently performs with respect to nitrogen, pesticides, GHG emissions and genetic diversity; what would be desired threshold values for each of these aspects (and associated indicators) given past trends, existing national and European policies, and farming practices; and finally, what kinds of trade-offs could arise among indicators at the local and aggregate levels.

The third seminar, in May 2018, was about ways to achieve selected targets. The idea was to build a collective vision for the future of Dutch agriculture aligned with the successful implementation of SDG-2. Stakeholders were invited to reflect on different agricultural development pathways, their implications, and potential solutions to overcome associated challenges. For this exercise, background information was provided on the transition required to reach a given target, as well as the costs and impacts of different measures (including incremental changes and innovations related to production and consumption patterns).

Objective

The parallel session to be held at the WUR SDG Conference will be part of the TSARA stakeholder consultation process. Complementing previous seminars, which were focused on national stakeholders, the session will offer people from different backgrounds and origins a chance to discuss the future of Dutch agriculture. This is of huge importance given that the Netherlands is currently the second largest food exporter, has a track record in innovation and can influence the adoption of best practices through trade flows and the creation of knowledge. The country’s decisions concerning

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food production and consumption may significantly impact sustainability around the globe and must, therefore, be tuned with the Agenda 2030.

Our session will start with a brief overview of TSARA's achievements so far, followed by interactive exercises with the audience. To set the ground for the debate, Wageningen researchers will go through major outcomes from analyses on the review of SDG-2 indicators, the Dutch performance with respect to SDG-2 relative to other countries, major trade-offs entailed by these indicators at the national and local levels, and the proposal of indicator-specific targets. Participants will then be presented with technology, policy and price-related measures associated with different agricultural development pathways, and will be asked to give their opinion on which pathways are feasible, what are their pros and cons, as well as associated levers and roadblocks.

The Netherlands constitutes an interesting case study for the operationalization of the 2030 Agenda, highlighting that the achievement of SDG-2 may require substantial investments but also represents an opportunity for positive change. Along these lines, our session underscores the idea that the transition towards agricultural sustainability requires changes in paradigms and the sense of shared responsibility across and within sectors. Besides engaging participants in such a timely debate and highlighting how different pathways may contribute towards the SDGs, we hope that this collective discussion can help shape the vision for a more sustainable future of Dutch agriculture while informing future modelling analyses of the TSARA project.

Detailed program	
15:00-15:10	Welcome address (<i>WUR & MinLNV</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Session's objectives
15:10-15:30	Operationalizing SDG-2 – TSARA results (<i>WUR</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing SDG-2 indicators • Selecting key indicators for the Netherlands • Exploring trade-offs and the national and subnational levels • Defining targets and thresholds aligned with historical trends, current practices, existing policies, stakeholders' views, and modelling results • Q&A
15:30-16:00	Interactive exercise - part I: Discussion (<i>all participants</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will break into 4 groups, each focused on a pathway • They will write answers on a flip chart for the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ What are 2 promising measures to achieve your pathway? ◦ What are the main levers and roadblocks related to each measure?
16:00-16:15	Interactive exercise - part II: Presentation of results (<i>all participants</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group has 3 min to present their results to the other participants
16:15-16:30	Open floor discussion (<i>all participants</i>) and wrap-up (<i>moderator</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the challenges outlined in the group exercise be overcome? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Policies, public awareness, research, production systems, consumption patterns? • What are the synergies and trade-offs involved in the pursue of pathways?

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