

MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION:

PANEL ABSTRACT: LEARNING AND INNOVATION PLATFORMS: SYNERGIES, COMPETING PRESSURES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Date and place: Thursday 30 August, 14.00 - 15.30 hrs. Orion Building, Wageningen Campus, Room C4030

Organizing institute	University of Amsterdam and Wageningen University & Research
Conveners	Dr. Mirjam Ros-Tonen and Dr. Ir. Annemarie van Paassen In cooperation with: Dr. Edith van Ewijk, Dr. Yves van Leynseele and Prof. Dr. Ir. Cees Leeuwis
Abstract	<p>With a view to improving food security, Dutch, EU and global policies promote partnerships and platforms in which stakeholders from policy, practice, private sector and science engage, exchange knowledge and cooperate. These policies assume that collaborative partnerships can contribute to poverty alleviation and food security by pooling academic knowledge with NGO's experience of local circumstances, and market-oriented financing and an enabling government. This should lead to usable knowledge for policy, entrepreneurs and farmers, while a market-oriented approach would enhance efficiency. Interesting examples of knowledge co-creation and collaboration in transdisciplinary partnerships have been documented, but their sustainability remains a challenge. After having discussed the potential and challenges of working in transdisciplinary consortia at the SDG conference organised by the Centre of Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS) of the University of Amsterdam in June 2018, this session focusses on experiences and options that enable partners to continue the existing or pursue new forms of collaboration. This session aims to go beyond the mere observation that political and project cycles are given, but instead explore how partnerships and innovation platforms can be perpetuated beyond projects. Is it wishful thinking or are there successful examples? And if so, what are the success factors to make this happen and conditions that need to be fulfilled? What possibilities do different partners have to extend initiatives beyond the usual project cycles and invest in long-term partnership processes? Is perpetuation of such partnerships desirable at all, considering that they usually evolve around a common sense of urgency that may change due to the dynamism inherent in socio-ecological and market systems? This involves more in-depth questions such as: how can farmers and other actors be stimulated to commit themselves to long-term opportunities rather than short-term <i>per diems</i>; change agents be enabled to keep pressure on key actors to pursue pro-poor policies and transformational change; private actors be enabled to establish niche markets that allow them to attain a certain independence from uncertain world trade dynamics; and knowledge systems be made more inclusive and less reliant on external funding? This session addresses these questions by bringing together experiences with public-private partnerships and innovation and learning platforms at local to international levels with a special focus on sub-Saharan Africa.</p>

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Focus on SDGs	SDG 2, 17
Facilitator	Dr. Karin Nijenhuis (INCLUDE platform)
Participants/ Initiators of the discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of Amsterdam: Dr. Mirjam Ros-Tonen, Dr. Edith van Ewijk, and Dr. Yves van Leynseele 2. Wageningen University & Research, Prof. Dr. Ir. Cees Leeuwis and Dr. Ir. Annemarie van Paassen 3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Dr. Michael Clark 4. World Bank Group, Ir. Wijnand van IJssel 5. Utrecht University/ LANDac, Ms. Gemma Betsema 6. WOTRO Science for Global Development, Han van Dijk 7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Dr. Ir. Melle Leenstra, Food Security & Development Advisor (tbc) 8. Royal Tropical Institute (KIT): Dr. Anna Laven, Senior advisor Sustainable Economic Development 9. SNV Netherlands Development Organisation: Floortje Jacobs, Public-Private Partnerships Advisor 10. Food and Business Knowledge Platform: Vanessa Nigten
Format session	Open debate on three key challenges - Fish Bowl
Rapporteurs	T.b.c.

Set up of the session

The session will be set up as an open discussion with key experts and participants, loosely following the fish bowl methodology. Two concentric circles will be formed in the room. In the inner circle the discussion will take place and in the outer circles participants of the session are listening. Participants in the outer circle can indicate whether they want to contribute to the discussion by replacing the participants in the inner circle. There will be three rounds of discussion of about 20 minutes each, in which three questions will be central. Four participants in the inner circle, or **initiators**, will be asked to give a short (1-2 min) contribution to a question followed by a discussion with other participants.

Output of the session:

We aim at writing a policy brief based on the session.

Agenda

14.00 -14.05 p.m.	Short Introduction and set-up of the discussion: Dr. Annemarie van Paassen (WUR) & Dr. Karin Nijenhuis (ASC)
14.05 -14.30 p.m.	First round: key challenges and potentials related to ownership and sustainability of food-related innovation and learning platforms: Prof. Dr. Cees Leeuwis (WUR), Gemma Betsema MSc (UU), Floortje Jacobs MSc (SNV), Dr Mirjam Ros-Tonen (UvA)
14.30 -14.55 p.m.	Second round: sustainability and inclusiveness of platforms in Food & Business Research: Dr. Ir. Melle Leenstra (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Vanessa Nigten MSc (F&B KP), Ir. Han van Dijk (NWO-WOTRO/SUR), Dr. Edith van Ewijk (UvA)

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- 14.55 - 15.20 p.m. Third round: roles and risks of private sector involvement: Ir. Wijnand van IJssel (WB Group), Dr. Michael Clark (FAO), Dr. Anna Laven (KIT), Dr. Yves Van Leynseele (UvA)
- 15.20 - 15.30 p.m. Wrap up / take-away messages: Dr. Karin Nijenhuis (ASC)

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