

**Date of poster presentation: 11 April 2022**

## **Governance in transitions: experiences with new circular arrangements in the Netherlands**

de Haas W (1), van Hoof L (2), de Lauwere C (3), Pleijte M (1), Puente Rodriguez D (4)

1) Wageningen Environmental Research

2) Wageningen Marine Research

3) Wageningen Economic Research

4) Wageningen Livestock Research

---

Governance in transitions: experiences with new circular arrangements in the Netherlands.

The global food system is facing major problems such as catering for the needs of a growing world population while taking the carrying capacity of the earth into account. In order to meet this challenge a fundamental transition of the food system is needed towards a more circular mode of production. In two case studies this research explores how the transition towards more circular practices is organized in different domains:

- The Dutch policy of the transition to circular agriculture. The focus here is on the five areas that have been designated by the government to experiment with circularity. The experiments combine agricultural innovations with the creation of policy space.
- The North Sea Agreement, in which social parties, have jointly agreed on how they want to deal with the tension between fishing, nature conservation and energy production at sea. In this case, the government is not the leading party but a partner in this agreement.

These cases are studied for three years. This paper reports the results obtained in the first year.

These two policy arrangements are analyzed at three levels:

- The first level concerns the executed experiments. We conclude that most experiments focus on new techniques and/or new business models. Just a few experiments include retail or consumers. Furthermore, there appears to emerge a difference between areas that focus on small changes for a large group of farmers and areas where agricultural innovations for frontrunners are predominant.
- The second level concerns the institutional system and regulations. In both cases, we can't speak of stabilized policy arrangements yet. The arrangements are appreciated by stakeholders, have an increasingly shared story, but are not yet established in policy practice.

- The third level concerns the contribution of these two new types of governance to the transition to a sustainable food system. This is difficult to answer at this stage. Our respondents are positive about this, but they indicate that there is a long way to go,

Finally, we summarize the key findings and reflect on what lessons can be learnt to organize effective forms of governance to facilitate (circularity) transitions.

---

*Keywords: Transition governance, Circular arrangements, Experimental areas, North Sea Agreement*