

Climate smart policy: a plea for a food systems perspective

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Introduction

- Of the many challenges the world is currently facing climate change (CC) is a key one
- Key questions:
 - What does CC imply for the food system and how could 'neutrality' objective become a reality?
 - More specifically: what would this imply for policy?

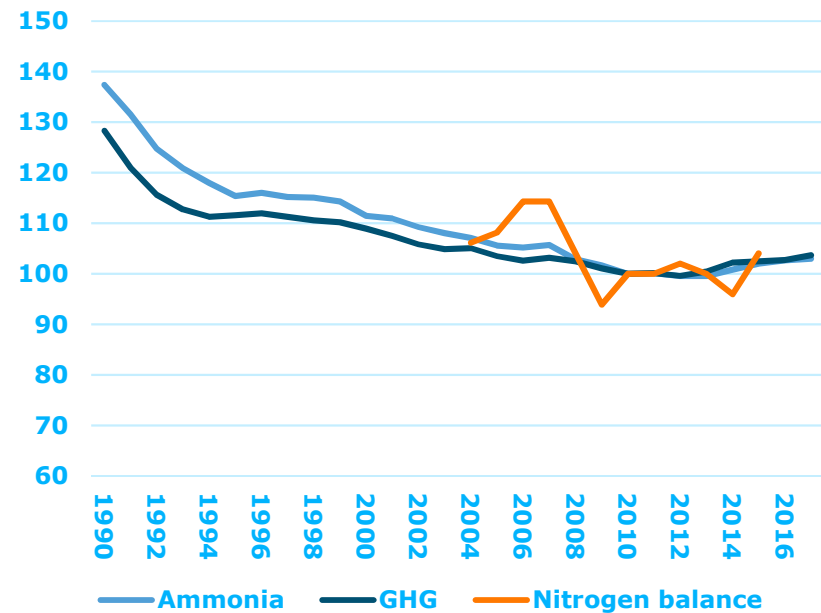
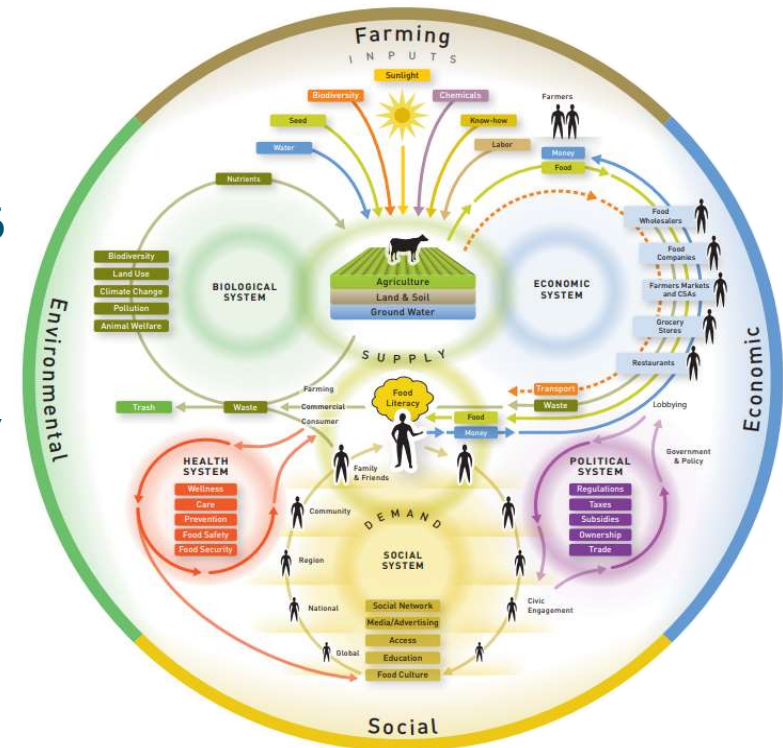


Figure Trends in environmental impact of EU agricultural production (2010=100) (Source: Eurostat)

Understanding the role of the food system

- The global food system contributes 21-37% of total anthropogenic emissions (IPCC)
- Primary agriculture plays a significant role: farms and agr. land expansion contribute 16 – 27% of total emissions (HLPE, 2017)
- For the EU according to some estimates FS has a 30% share in GHG emissions (Garnet, 2011); for the Netherlands estimate 20% is (Verhoog 2020)
- ... but multiple aspects: (i) the FS is an emitter, (ii) being affected (neg./pos.) and (iii) has potential to contribute to solutions (fixation of CO₂)



A food systems approach is needed

- A FS-approach to policy is crucial to enhance policy effectiveness (Hoes et al, 2019)
- With the entire food system contributing, required actions and policies should involve all actors in the entire FS
- The EU Green Deal Roadmap and the Farm to Fork Strategy (May 2020) propagate a Food Systems-approach which is very welcomed
- Zooming in: animal production, which is an important source of GHG emissions, should be critically examined, but also consumption (choosing healthier life styles) should be part of solving the puzzle (EAT Lancet, 2019)



Policy integration and coherence (*pic*)

- EU Green Deal and F2F include action list that poses challenges for CAP reform (see recent decision of Council and discussion in EP)



| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| Production | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations on NSPs <input type="checkbox"/> PPP products and IPM <input type="checkbox"/> Animal welfare <input type="checkbox"/> Feed additives <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability in FADN <input type="checkbox"/> Position of farmer in food chain <input type="checkbox"/> EU carbon farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Targets for food waste reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of rules on date marking | Food waste & losses |
| Processing & distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> EU code and monitoring framework <input type="checkbox"/> Reformulation of processed food <input type="checkbox"/> Food contact materials and marketing standards <input type="checkbox"/> Enforce single market rules & fraud | | |
| Consumption | <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonized mandatory labelling <input type="checkbox"/> Origin indication for selected products <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable food labelling <input type="checkbox"/> Review of promotion programme <input type="checkbox"/> EU school scheme | | |

Two examples

- Producer side: greening

- Enhanced conditionality (strengthening sustainability baseline)
- Eco-schemes option (P1)
- Agri-environmental and climate scheme (P2)



conclusion

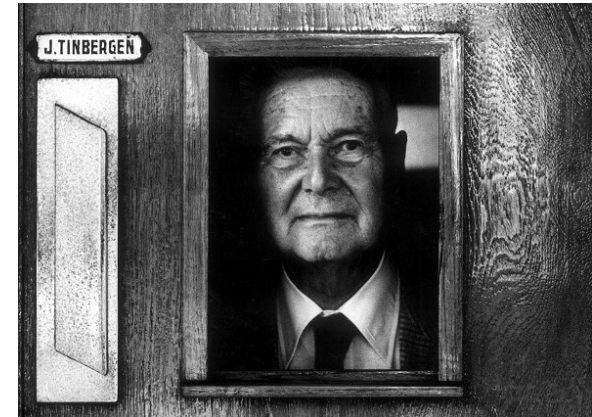
- Consumer side: sustainable and healthy diets

- Informing, nudging and incentivizing
- Be more clear about health-aspects
- Consider price policies (health, climate & improving sustainability)
- => Dutch back on envelope-example

conclusion

Some lessons (i)

- EU GD and F2F stimulate an integrated food policy approach
- Smart policy mixes/packages are crucial to 'move' the FS
- Policy coherence at “overall-FS-level” is crucial since we are in a multiple objectives/multiple instrument-context (cf Tinbergen, 1952)
- Better address policy coherence at CAP level



Some lessons (ii)

- The role of agr. economists:
 - Contribute to policy analysis and impact assessments
 - Reconsider and broaden their scope: *FS* ag-economics
- Krijn and Ruerd as prime and inspiring examples in the Dutch political economy-tradition



Thanks for your attention

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