

Connecting the Urban Fringe



Connecting the Urban Fringe for Metropolitan Food Challenges

Coherence in urban and rural environments, infrastructures,
policies and economies



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"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Aldo Leopold, philosopher and scientist

Urban and peri-urban areas depend on each other. Urban centres depend on rural areas for a range of goods and services, such as food, clean water, environmental services, and raw materials. Peri-urban areas depend on urban areas for access to services, employment opportunities, and markets. The urban fringe becomes a new multifunctional territory with its own unique challenges, such as dealing with intense pressure on resources as food and water and the supply of adequate services such as financial, technical, and staff resources. There is a transition needed to improve sustainability and resilience of these areas.

Our approach: opening up innovation processes

We study and analyse these transition processes from a socio-economical perspective, combining qualitative and quantitative research methods. Key to such societal appreciation is to open up innovation processes through the engagement of organised stakeholders and the public at large. The intended impact of this process is improved governance, sustainable business models and management of peri-urban areas co-created by the actors involved. We aim to establish links with researchers, public influencers, companies and NGO's through a process of dialogue, sharing of experiences, quantitative decision support, exchange of best practices and joint learning.

Some examples

In the Innovation Network in Midden-Delfland, we cooperate with farmers and urban actors. Midden-Delfland is a peri-urban area with 60 dairy farmers surrounded by 2 million citizens of the metropolitan region of The Hague – Rotterdam. The aim is to innovate the firms and businesses to be better prepared for the challenges of the future and meet urban demand for local food production and landscape services. See also www.middenindelfland.net.

Nationally and internationally, we develop transition support systems that can illustrate differences of food security and green livelihoods across countries. We explore quantitative models supplemented by stakeholder engagement approaches for food consumptions across rural and metropolitan areas. We develop case studies for Ghana and the Netherlands to support future pathways across rural and metropolitan areas.

Our services

- Governance and policy models
- Evidence based design of business models
- Learning processes and co-creation among stakeholders
- Nature inclusive farming systems
- Data collection and analysis

Research programme

Metropolitan solutions

Contact

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