

Feeding the Research

ACT group 2707

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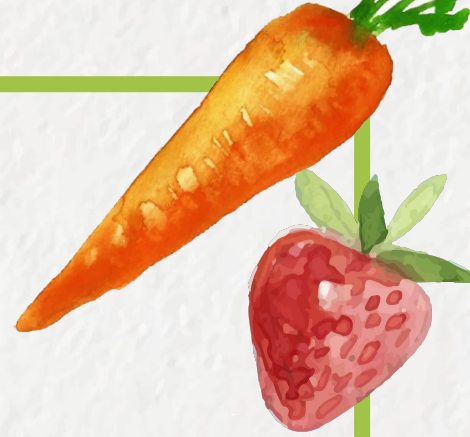


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01

Introduction



CONTEXT

- NL as care farm pioneer
- Multifunctional agriculture
- Participants
- ± 900 certified care farms
- More and more food aid receivers
- Lack fresh fruits and vegetables
- Solution: *Vriendentuinen*



Care farms

Vriendentuinen

Food banks

Through the concept of a Vriendentuin, care farms add growing crops for food aid to their existing functions by structurally donating their entire harvest.



Onze missie en visie

De Vriendentuinen hebben een grote meerwaarde voor de maatschappij. Wij verbinden groepen mensen aan de samenleving die anders aan de zijlijn blijven staan. Verder dragen we bij aan een gezond leven voor mensen die een laag inkomen hebben. Onze meerwaarde zie je in drie gebieden. Allereerst krijgen mensen via de Voedselbank verse groente, fruit en eieren in hun pakket. Mensen met een beperking of een grote afstand tot de arbeidsmarkt telen deze groenten en dit fruit. Ze verzorgen de kippen en ze verzamelen de eieren. Daardoor besteden ze hun dag op een zinvolle manier en dragen ze echt bij aan de samenleving.

Maatschappelijke rol

Voor de zorgboeren en –boerinnen is het extra leuk dat de dagbesteding bijdraagt aan de Voedselbanken. Die zijn inmiddels onmisbaar geworden voor veel mensen. Verder telt ook nog dat de relatie tussen stad en platteland door de Voedseltuinen sterker wordt. De Vriendentuinen laten de maatschappelijke rol van landbouw heel goed zien. Een prachtvoorbeeld van meedoen in de maatschappij met een extra groot effect voor verschillende groepen mensen.

Onderzoek door St. Fondsenbeheer Landbouw en Zorg

St. Fondsenbeheer Landbouw en Zorg (SFLZ) heeft in opdracht van Stichting Doen en de Federatie Landbouw en Zorg in 2018 een evaluatieonderzoek uitgevoerd naar het project Vriendentuinen. Het gaat hier om de samenwerking tussen zorgboerderijen en voedselbanken, waarbij ook hier weer blijkt dat de intrinsieke motivatie om maatschappelijke meerwaarde te willen creëren de belangrijkste kracht is. Inmiddels is gezamenlijk geconcludeerd dat een vervolg meerwaarde zal hebben in de vorm van pilots. In 2020-2022 zal SFLZ onderzoeken in hoeverre er nieuwe vormen mogelijk zijn die kunnen leiden tot een structurele samenwerking tussen voedselbank en zorgboerderij. Voor meer informatie over dit onderzoek kunt u contact zoeken met [Angelique van der Moezel](#), projectcoördinator SFLZ.

VRIENDENTUINEN



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Demand for food aid is increasing
- Facing difficulties in meeting expectations
- Not a resilient system yet
- Benefits v. costs
- Demands not feasible
- Who is responsible?

- Aim: provide insight in challenges + opportunities
- **Multiple functions, characteristics, motivations, and wider societal developments**
- WUR Science Shop
- First step in bigger research
- Different types of food aid
- Advice about resilient concept



MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

*To what extent do the
multifunctionality and the
characteristics of care farms
facilitate or hinder the **organising of
food aid** through the concept of
Vriendentuinen?*

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTIONS



What are the **multiple functionalities** of care farms in the Netherlands?



What are the **structural and financial characteristics** of care farms in the Netherlands?



What **motivates** Dutch care farms to organise food aid through the concept of Vriendentuinen?



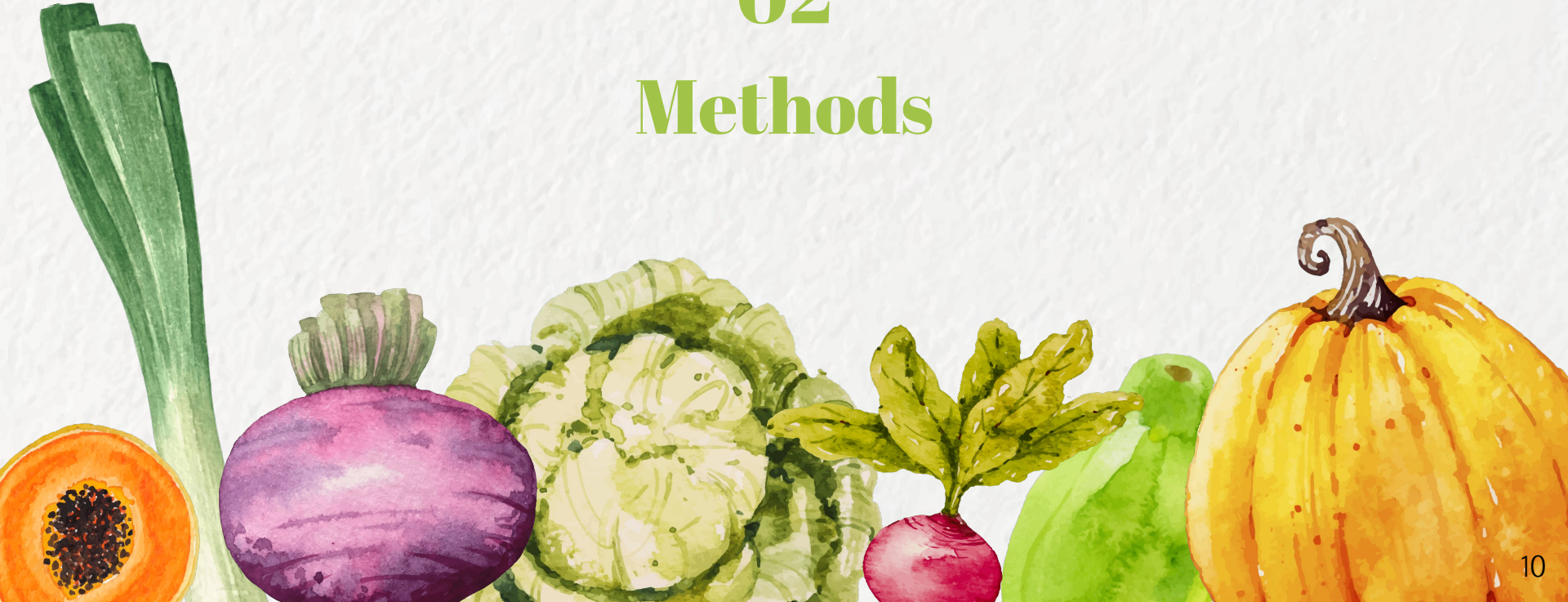
What do food aid channels and care farms **expect from their collaboration** through the concept of Vriendentuinen?



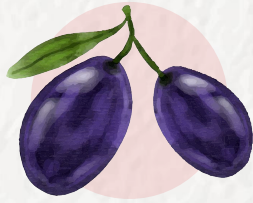
What are **wider societal developments** which may affect the multifunctionality and characteristics of care farms in providing food aid?

02

Methods



METHODS



Literature review

Structural + financial characteristics
Multifunctionality of care farms
Organization of food aid

Overview existing literature and
knowledge gaps

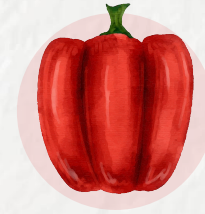
Output: visualization



Expert interviews

3 (academic) experts
4 care farmers

Setting the context and
experiences from practice



Questionnaire

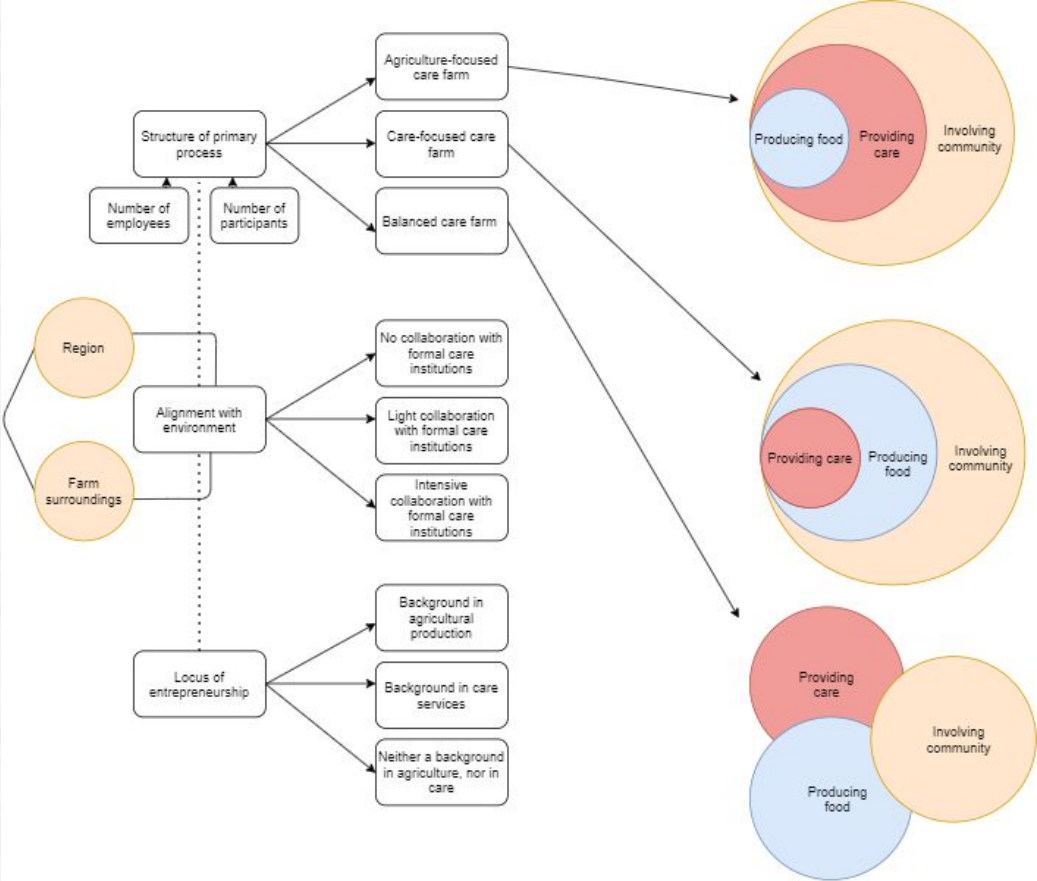
13 /30 respondents
(past) *Vriendentuinen*

Numerical data on the
characteristics of care
farms

03 Results



LITERATURE REVIEW



MULTIFUNCTIONALITY



**Care
function**

"Every time, you are searching how to best fit participants with activities".

**Agricultural
function**

"A garden gives children a basis for life. They can learn more about health. We want to make a sprout look delicious."

**Societal
function**

"I knew for example a pig farmer, and people at first had a negative association with his farm, because they only saw the trucks with pigs driving by, but their point of view changed once he started a care farm. So becoming aware of agriculture is also a function."

STRUCTURAL & FINANCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Care farms are mostly focused on **care**
- Financial process is complex and limited care budgets
- The care budget does not account for agricultural activities

- **Stichting DOEN** stopped with financial support
- **Landzijde** supports Vriendentuinen:
 - 75% for food donation, 25% for the care farm
 - Specific coordinator
- Special agreement with the **municipality**



MOTIVATION FOR A *VRIENDENTUIN*



Valuable activities

"The philosophy of the participants is that they are doing something very useful because they are helping people in need of food. Food bank receivers are given the feeling that they matter, that they are not the dustbin of society."



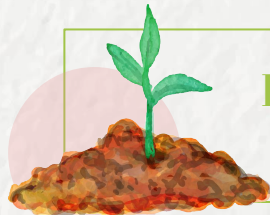
Attracting citizens

"The concept of the Vriendentuinen is not an isolated one; it is a broadening of the farm, it fits in with the social objective. It is about expanding the link between city and countryside."



Intrinsic motivation

MOTIVATION FOR NO VRIENDENTUIN



**Difficulties to attract volunteers
and/or participants**



Mismatch with participants



**No collaboration with other care
farms or necessary support**



Lack of financial means

FOOD AID CHANNELS

- Support from food banks: seeds and plants
- Food banks have experience with direct deliveries and can fine-tune this themselves
- Scale Vriendentuin does not matter, everything helps
- Agreements between food banks and care farms differ locally
 - verbal agreements
 - difference in logistics and food requirements



"Food banks work with very loose agreements with suppliers, somewhat more formal with the big suppliers (supermarkets)."

Food bank expert

FOOD AID CHANNELS

"An initiative like Vriendentuinen helps to have wider societal support for food banks. It improves the image of food banks, care farms are widely accepted and appreciated. The fresh produce improves the packages, so it does not seem like elite's waste anymore."

Food bank expert



WIDER SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENTS

Changing health system

Decentralization + increase
of indicators for the
participants

Interest in local food

Care farms easily get rid
of their fresh produce

Community preference
leads to organic farming



QUESTIONNAIRE

- Care is mainly mentioned as source of income →
- Not all care farmers delivering to food banks grow crops
- One care farmer delivers his full harvest to the food bank, but outside of the concept of a *Vriendentuin*
- The care farmers aim to contribute more to society

Respondent	Source of Income
1	Care, Livestock
2	Care
3	Care, Education
4	Care, Horticulture, Livestock
5	Livestock, Care, Arable farming
6	Care, Recreation
7	Livestock, Care, Recreation
8	Care
9	Care, Horticulture, Livestock
10	Care
11	Care, Livestock, Horticulture
12	Care
13	Arable farming, Horticulture, Care, Education, Recreation

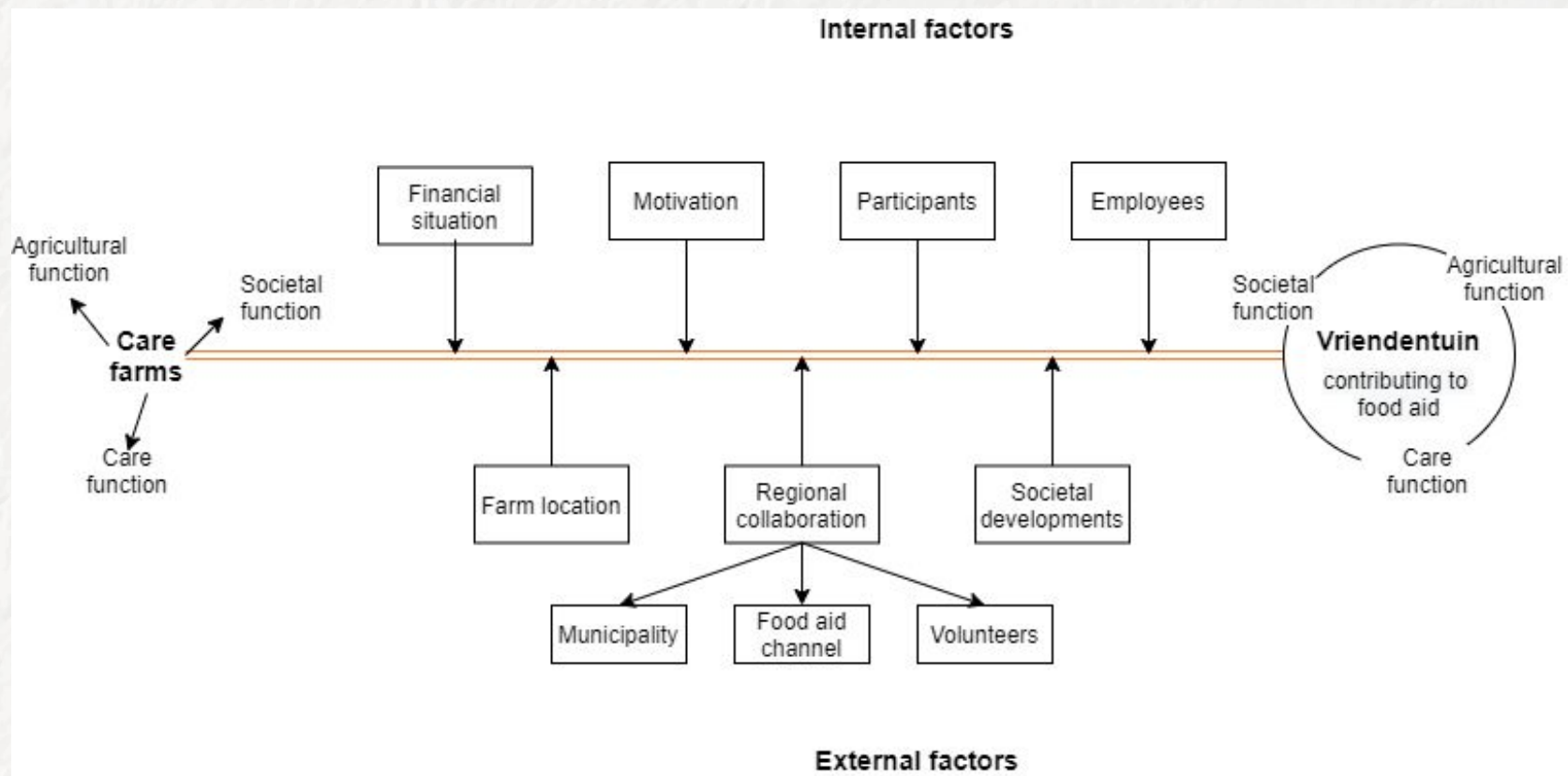


04

Conclusion of the results



FRAMEWORK



05

Discussion



SUB-RESEARCH QUESTIONS



What are the **multiple functionalities** of care farms in the Netherlands?



What are the **structural and financial characteristics** of care farms in the Netherlands?



What **motivates** Dutch care farms to organise food aid through the concept of Vriendentuinen?



What do food aid channels and care farms **expect from their collaboration** through the concept of Vriendentuinen?



What are **wider societal developments** which may affect the multifunctionality and characteristics of care farms in providing food aid?

DISCUSSION POINTS



- Should food banks be there in the first place?
- **Agricultural function** is less important for care farms
- Producing food for food aid **integrates** the three main functions: *care, societal, agricultural*
- Not about the need for fresh fruit, but the need to make **food aid part of the local community**
- Food banks are actually flexible with small suppliers



FURTHER RESEARCH



- Future research: larger sample size and longer period of data collection
- Talk to more food aid experts: the benefits and pitfalls of the *Vriendentuinen* concept
- Looking at more (local) food aid channels

Next ACT group(s) will look into the organisational forms of food aid:

- They could use the idea of an expert session



06

Recommendations



RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Body of *Vriendentuinen*



2. Wider community involvement

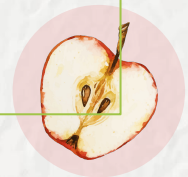


3. Sustainable financial scheme

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Body of *Vriendentuinen*

- Clarity
- Success of Landzijde
- One person + board of advisers
- Tasks:
 - Local: monitoring and coordinating
 - National: networking



RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Wider community involvement

- Connecting farm with wider society
- Twofold aim:
 - Attracting volunteers and participants
 - Promotion of *Vriendentuinen*



RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Sustainable financial scheme

- Long-term reliant funding
- Strategies:
 - Subsidies from government and municipalities
 - Crowdfunding



THANK YOU!

