



Knowledge Exchange Circular Food Principles

TEAM C

Over the past few years researchers at Wageningen University & Research have worked on defining principles for a circular food system. The challenge is now to translate these new insights in practice and in education on food systems, at the university and beyond. It's not only the education of the future generation but also exchanging these insights between WUR departments and with stakeholders in practice is crucial. By exchanging insights we can get a better understanding of what is needed to translate these theoretical principles into practice while paying attention to the local context.

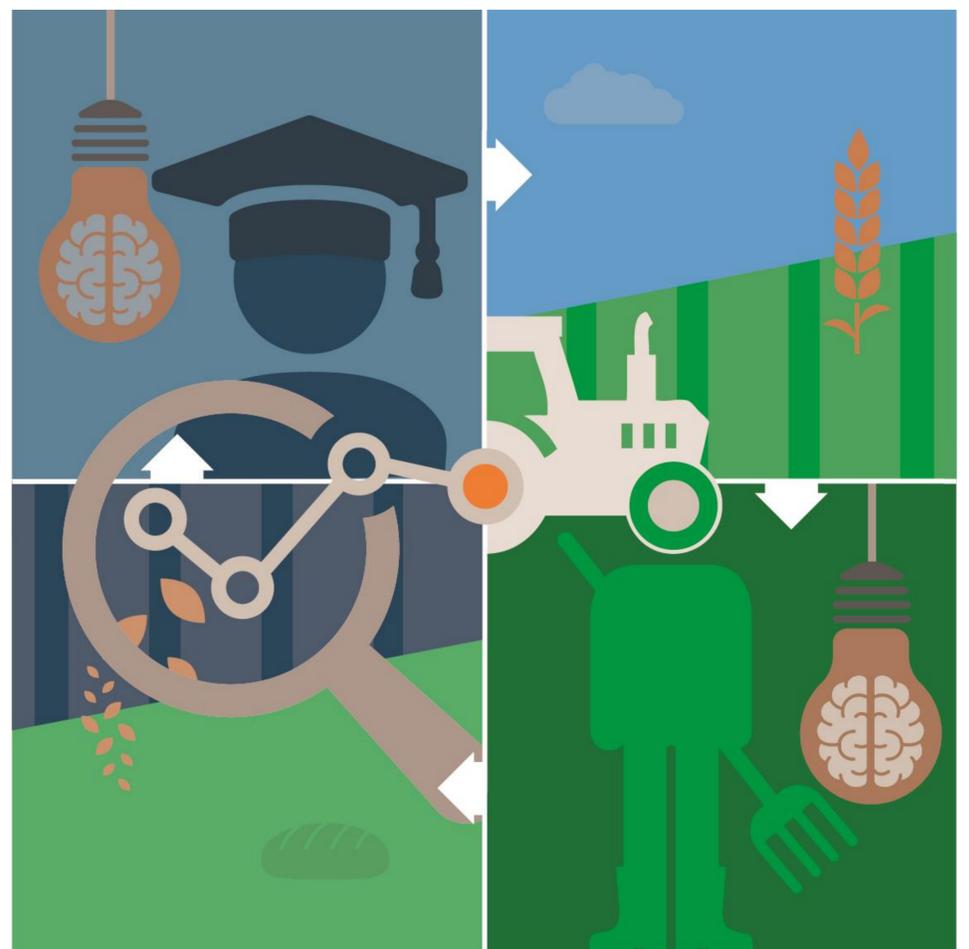
While we continue our research into circular food systems at WUR, we also contribute to knowledge exchange on circularity in various ways. This past year, members of TEAM C contributed to dissemination through lectures and workshops both at the university, in professional settings and to the general public, in the Netherlands as well as outside. At the university for example, TEAM-C developed an overview of the current courses offered and identified gaps. To address one of these gaps, they developed in collaboration with different chair groups and Studium Generale a new course on 'Economic Perspectives for a Circular Food System'.

"The interest of students is overwhelming, already 90 students with a wide variety of study backgrounds and from BSc to PhD level have signed up for the course" says course coordinator Evelien de Olde (TEAM C).

The exchange with variety of food actors on the circularity principles is stimulating. *"It is good to have the Wageningen University & Research involved in the region [Flevoland] to ensure a right definition and interpretation of the much discussed term 'circularity' by entrepreneurs but even by policy makers"* (Provincial executive of the province of Flevoland). Multiple Dutch farmers confirmed the need for a practical application of the circular principles as a follow-up of Minister Schouten's vision on circular agriculture.

"I am willing to invest in a transition towards a circular agriculture, however nobody could practically tell me how to do with an economic sustainable business model" (Dutch dairy farmer in Kollum).

A transformation towards a more circular food system is a joined effort in which we need to learn from each other. Knowledge exchange plays a central role in this transformation. To continue this knowledge exchange TEAM C works on embedding the circularity principles in education at the university and beyond. At the university level, the team is involved in the organization of a summer school on agroecology and circular food, a PhD course within the Connected Circularity program and the supervision of individual BSc and MSc thesis projects. Meanwhile, the team also works on stimulating knowledge exchange with the applied universities and in secondary vocational education



"It is important that the next generation farmers and advisors receives knowledge about circular farming. I believe that these students should also be involved in translating circularity toward farming practice to ensure we create together the circular farms of the future" (Fleur Brinke, TEAM C).

Currently, the team works on defining next steps that are needed to stimulate knowledge exchange from farming practice to fundamental research and back.

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This sheet is a product of TEAM C, an agile team that has worked on one circular food system based on the principles of Imke de Boer and Martin van Ittersum on behalf of Martin Scholten

The individual team members can be contacted directly or via a general email address (teamcirculariteit@wur.nl) for more information.

Martijn Buijsse
WLR – regio Zuid Nederland
Martijn.buijsse@wur.nl
Evelien de Olde
APS – duurzaamheid
evelien.deolde@wur.nl
Jaap van der Meer
WMR – land / zee
Jaap.vandermeer@wur.nl
Sander van den Burg
WEcR – aquacultuur
Sander.vandenburg@wur.nl
Klaas Jan van Calker
WLR – voedselketens
Klaasjan.vancalker@wur.nl

Adriaan Antonis
WBVR – Safety
Adriaan.antonis@wur.nl
Fleur Brinke
WLR – regio Achterhoek
Fleur.brinke@wur.nl
Ingrid van Huizen
WLR – regio Noord-Nederland
i.b.vanhuizen@fryslan.frl
Simkje Kruidenink
LNV – beleid
s.i.kruidenink@minlnv.nl
Geert Hoekstra
WEcR – Visketen en -markt
Geert.hoekstra@wur.nl