

# Not all circular farmers are the same

**Most farmers try to incorporate circular agriculture into the existing agricultural model, but there are also farmers who create alternative business practices and sales markets.**

This finding came out of a study conducted by Wageningen researchers Hans Dagevos and Caroline de Lauwere, who interviewed 13 Dutch farmers who are committed to circular agriculture.

The standard approach to circular farming targets efficient use of resources, healthy soils, minimizing losses and recycling waste streams. This approach fits in with the linear take-make-waste

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One group of farmers are working on an agricultural model based on ‘an economy of enough’

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economy, say the researchers, and relies on technological solutions to close the cycle. This approach enables farmers to cut costs and continue to produce for a global market.

On the other hand, there are farmers who choose an alternative strategy. They adjust their business plan by focusing on the quality of products and the environment instead of on maximizing production. They also seek new sales markets and conscientious consumers for their products, thus contributing to a new agricultural model based on the idea of ‘an economy of enough’.

In their article in the journal *Sustainability*, Dagevos and De Lauwere state that the first, adaptive approach dominates the view of circular agriculture held by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. AS