3w4: Translating between dreams of circularity & practice

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Shaping the transition towards a circular bio-conomy is based on 3 fundamental principles: plant based biomass and water as source to the food system; avoiding waste flows by prevention and redirection and the animal production system as mediator to return biomass into the human food system. It presents society with the wake-up call the current situation is far away from this "Dream". The four Flagship Projects of the Investment Theme Connected Circularity contribute to the translation from this "Dream" to practice, by 1) creating alternative scenario's for the future of a biobased economy for the Netherlands and its ecological and economic consequences; 2) developing tools to assess safety of products within a circular system; 3) small wins & learnings from piloting projects and 4) creating designs for urban circularity challenges. The required transition asks for more than 'nice examples': how can small scale pilots become "cause-changers" instead of "symptom-warriors"?

The four Flagships projects join forces in the proposed workshop in World-Cafe style, to further elaborate Circularity Principles for Scale – Safety – Small wins – Design that can be used by practitioners to address the transition challenge. Based on a set of 3-4 cases derived from the Projects (e.g. Greentower Amsterdam, Artis, Oranjehoen, Cirkelwaarde, Agro-proeftuin De Peel) the participants to the workshop will discuss in groups of 8-10 people, the following items in 3 rounds:

1. Deepening the challenges:

Questions to specify the specific context of the case studies: what changes would create the most difference, what elements are important (and why), why is it so complex? What relation is there with Scale – Safety – Small wins and Design challenges? What do we know already and what needs to be further explored, what dilemmas and assumptions exist? Do the cases contribute to circularity and why/how?

2. Connecting the challenges:

Questions to link ideas and solutions to the transition pathway: what patterns arise from the discussion in round 1, which new connections and viewpoints can be established, what is missing, what is surprising? What can we add to the Circularity Principles

3. Broadening the challenges:

Questions to stimulate forward movement: what is necessary to create change, to start tomorrow, where is energy/momentum? What requires attention if we progress, how can we support each other in next steps, what challenges will arise?

The participants will be introduced to the cases and principles for circularity (underdevelopment) by the flagship leads. It is of interest to both practitioners and scientist alike, as they will be invited to look across their own boundaries of expertise, experience and practice. By the end of the workshop, each group will have created a tangible product in the shape of a detailed set of circular principles, that can inspire follow-up in the case studies and the participant's own context