

## 27. The perspective of young farmers in the North of the Netherlands on circular agriculture: definition, implementation and barriers

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Both in policy and science, the concept of circular agriculture has gained popularity as a way to improve the sustainability of agriculture. The Dutch government adopted the ambition of circular agriculture and presented a vision for a more circular agricultural system in the Netherlands by 2030. In the transition to circular agriculture, farmers and especially young farmers play a key role. To date, there has been research on the definition and implementation of circular agriculture of farmers. However, there is no insight in how young farmers perceive circular agriculture. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to examine the perspective of young farmers in the North of the Netherlands with regard to the transition to circular agriculture. We conducted an online survey with the aim of 1) creating an overview of the young farmers view and definition of circular agriculture, (2) determine whether young farmers already implemented, or were interested in, certain circular farm practices, and (3) determine what barriers they experience in the transition towards circular agriculture. In this study, the focus lies on the primary producers of the food system, who (co)own a farm in the provinces of Friesland, Groningen and Drenthe with a maximum age of 35 years old. In total, there were 53 respondents of which 32 arable, 16 dairy and 5 mixed farmers. The insights of this paper provide valuable information for the transition to circular agriculture as it is important to offer perspective for young farmers and stimulate them to adopt circular practices.