

Track IIIA: Increasing investment in biodiversity and food systems transformation: a co-creation task for policy-science-industry-finance

*Organised by Sabine Desczka and Irina Verweij-Novikova
Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands*

Part of TRACK III session: How can we advance ESG frameworks and investment strategies to restore biodiversity and support a fair, healthy and sustainable agriculture and food system? (Track coordinator Thom Achterbosch, Wageningen University Research)

Conference: “Transformative governance for food systems and biodiversity - a conference for European leaders and change agents”. 3 December 2025, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.





■ Bioeconomy Event 2025

- About the conferences
- Boosting and mainstreaming the bioeconomy
- **Transformative governance for food systems and biodiversity**
 - Open space networking and match-making
- Contact
- Practical info
- Live-streaming

[Bioeconomy conference](#)

> [Transformative governance for food systems and biodiversity](#) > Track III

TRACK III: How can we advance ESG frameworks and investment strategies to restore biodiversity and support a fair, healthy and sustainable agriculture and food system?

Track coordinator Thom Achterbosch, Wageningen University Research

IIIA: Increasing investment in biodiversity and food systems transformation: a co-creation task for policy-science-industry-finance

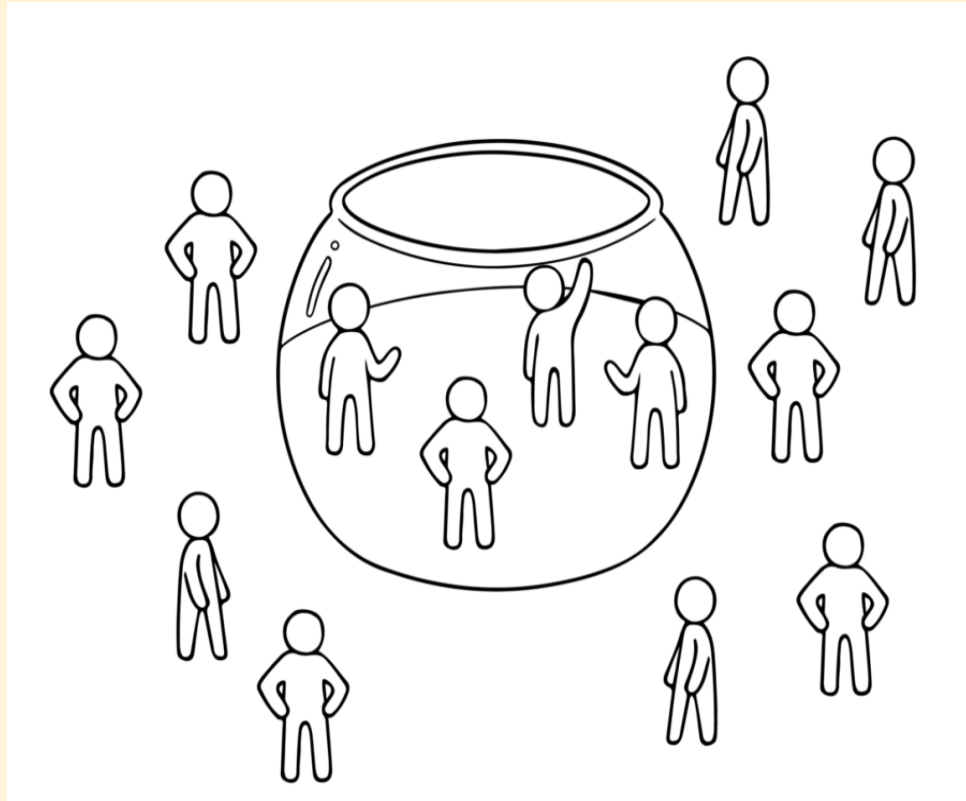
Organised by Sabine Descka together with Irina Verweij-Novikova, Wageningen University Research

This workshop explores how to align policy, science, finance, and industry to unlock investment in biodiversity and food systems transformation. While transformative technologies and practices exist, questions remain on how they can mature and secure funding. Participants engage in dynamic dialogues on measurable targets, eco-labeling, and value chain finance with the aim of co-creating actionable strategies for cross-sector investment coordination to mobilize capital for sustainable agrifood innovation.

and the participants (your role?)

- Science

- Policy



- Finance

- Industry

Quick preview...

- Mette Lübeck, Professor, Aalborg University, DK

“The Danish Tripartite model: the front runner for coordinated partners approach towards boosting investment in biodiversity and food systems transformation”

- Lianne van Leijsen, Rabobank (NL)

“A shared vision for a sustainable future and shared Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will enable incentive stacking for farmers to finance the transition”

- Sabine Desczka, Wageningen University and Research (NL)

“We need clear policy targets to accelerate the food systems’ transformation”

- Hanna Tuomisto, Professor University of Helsinki and LUKE (FI)

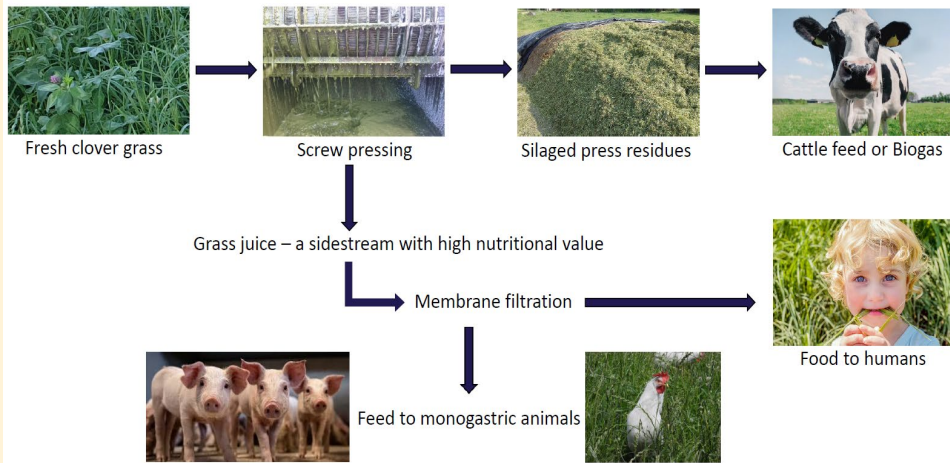
“Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA)-based food ecolabels serve as a shared language among food system stakeholders, guiding investments towards halting biodiversity loss”

Key Question this session:

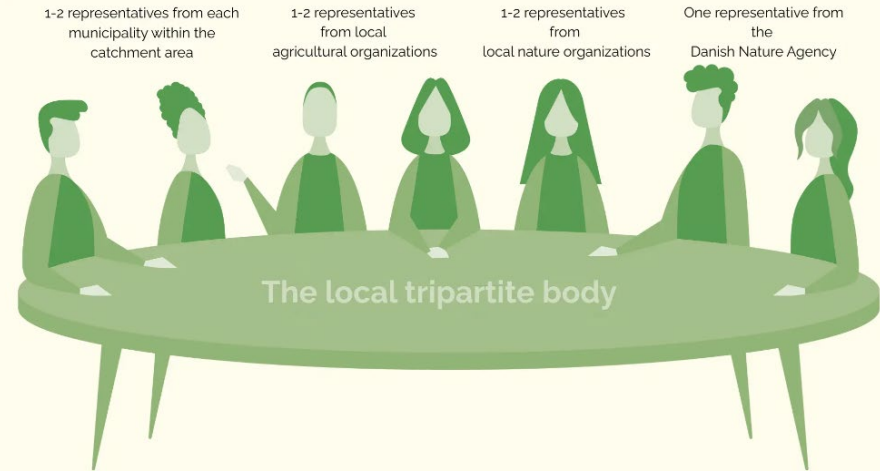


**How do (or should?) policy-science-
industry-finance co-create towards
boosting investment in biodiversity and
food systems transformation?**

The Danish Tripartite model: the front runner for coordinated partners approach

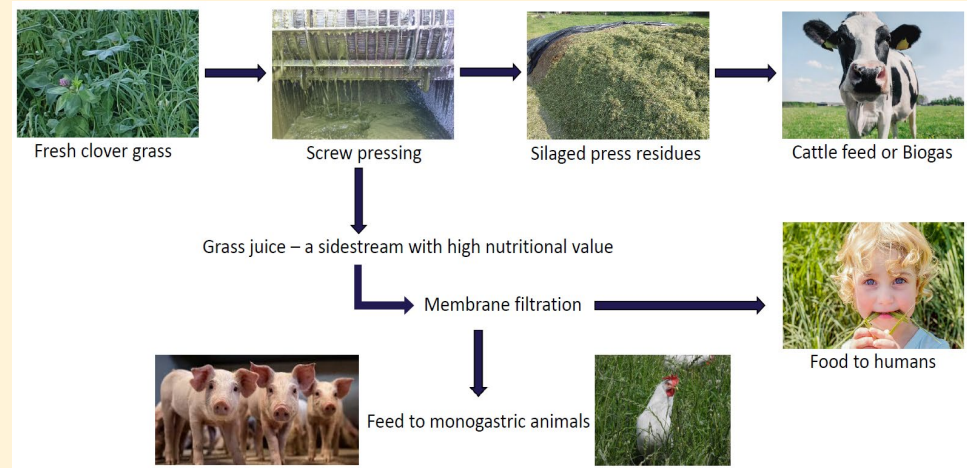


Mette Lübeck, Professor,
Aalborg University, DK



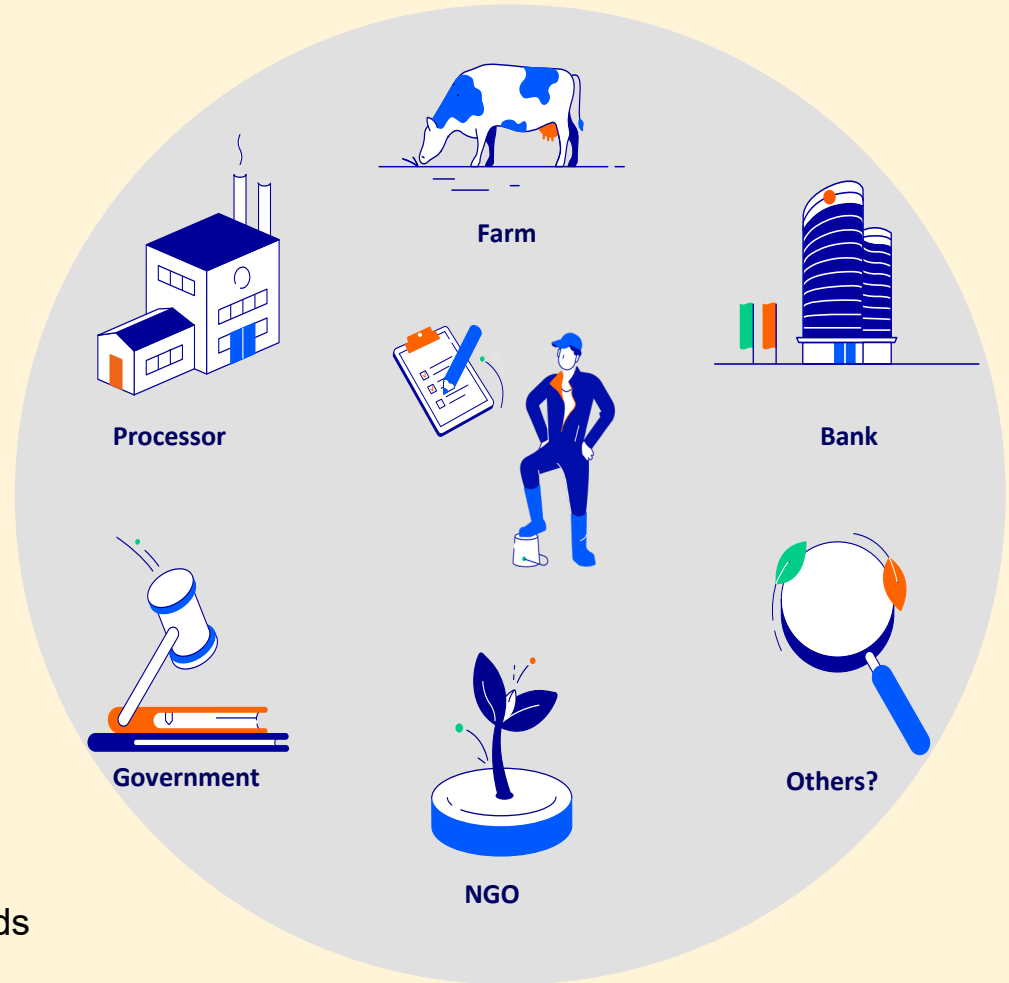
Sustainable perennial crops such as clover grass can simultaneously produce feed and food proteins through biorefining

- **multi-function opportunity** by producing feed and food proteins + valuable sidestreams through green biorefining.
- **addresses two critical challenges:**
 - reducing reliance on imported protein sources for animal feed
 - meeting the growing demand for plant-based proteins for human consumption.
- **optimizes resource efficiency** and supports **climate-smart agriculture** by improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to annual cropping systems.



Mette Lübeck, Professor
Aalborg University, DK

A shared vision for a sustainable future and shared Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will enable incentive stacking for farmers to finance the transition



Sabine Desczka
Senior Coordinating Researcher
Impact Investment
WUR, NL

*“We need clear
policy targets to
accelerate the food
system s’
transformation”*

Investors and the financial sector are *willing to contribute* to the transformation but feel uncertain about European food policy and its policy goals, making it hard for them to accurately assess transition risks.

The lack of clarity hinders private sector investment.

The uncertainty must be translated into measurable policy targets to make it attractive to the private sector to invest.

Farmers do not mention sustainable investments among their investment needs. Why is that?

**Life Cycle Assessment
(LCA)-based food
ecolabels serve as a
shared language among
food system
stakeholders, guiding
investments towards
halting biodiversity loss**

Professor Hanna Tuomisto










Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
and University of Helsinki



Life cycle assessment



European Commission's Environmental Footprint method:
https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/environmental-footprint-methods/life-cycle-assessment-ef-methods_en

			
Climate change	Ozone depletion	Human toxicity, cancer	Human Toxicity, non-cancer
			
Particulate matter	Ionising radiation	Photochemical ozone formation	Acidification
			
Eutrophication, marine	Eutrophication, terrestrial	Eutrophication, freshwater	Ecotoxicity, freshwater
			
Land use	Water use	Resource use, fossils	Resource use, minerals and metals

What have you learned today?

How do (or should?) policy-science-industry-finance co-create towards boosting investment in biodiversity and food systems transformation?

What are the 1, 2, or 3 messages to share in plenary?



Selected highlights (also on LinkedIn)

For investors, biodiversity action is primarily about risk management. Banks are increasingly aware of the risks intertwined with climate and environmental crises. Rabobank, as a frontrunner and financier of 80 percent of Dutch farms, has developed its own farm-level biodiversity monitor. Farmers who meet the biodiversity targets receive interest rate discounts. In the dairy sector, these indicators are also used in milk price premiums. The system is now being extended to arable farming and prepared for scaling to other countries.

There is an urgent need for (better) biodiversity metrics that offer the same clarity as greenhouse gas targets. We also know that biodiversity will perhaps never be captured by a single indicator, so multidimensional approaches are key. The advantage of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) based indicators is that they enable product-level assessments and reduce the risk of sub-optimization. LCA based labels can therefore become not only consumer-facing tools but also a shared language for guiding investment and supporting broader food system transformation.

CLEVER FOOD

Connected Labs
and networks for Empowering
Versatile Engagement in
Radical Food system
transformation
(CLEVERFOOD)

<https://food2030.eu/events/>

FOOD
2030
ONLINE PLATFORM

Past events

Filter by:

Keyword

investor

x

Project

v

Reset all filters

When you want to connect:

Sabine Desczka, sabine.desczka@wur.nl

Irina Verweij-Novikova, irina.verweij-novikova@wur.nl

Wageningen University and Research

<https://food2030.eu/resources/>