GOVERNANCE
DEVELOPING NETWORKS for AGROECOLOGY
# Sustainable Food Planning

## Spring Seminar 2021

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## Assignment

**Food System Mapping, Challenge and Approach**

- Presentations assignment

Participants who take part in active mode define their food system, map the main elements and processes, define the main challenge that they may address and formulate an approach.
Mission of AESOP’s SFP group

Bringing together academics, policy-makers and practitioners from an international audience

Providing a forum for discussion and development of sustainable food systems.

https://aesopsfp.wordpress.com/
Spring series on sustainable food planning
organized by Le Notre institute and AESOP sfp group

GOVERNANCE - DEVELOPING NETWORKS for AGROECOLOGY

A Long Food Movement:
Transforming Food Systems by 2045

Q&A

Piet Rombouts

Ir Jeroen de Vries,
landscape architect and researcher
at Le:Notre Institute
Introduction of Food Governance

a. What does food governance entail?

b. Who are the main actors / stakeholders in this field?

c. What is the role of food policies and related policies in this?

d. What are the challenges of governance and by what are these facilitated.

e. Which indicators are used to evaluate food governance; how can one make use of collaborative evaluation?

f. What kind of shift in governance is needed to foster the transition to sustainable food systems?

g. How to contribute as a researcher, community member, policy maker, advisor?
Food Governance

• The act or process of governing or overseeing the control and direction of food systems for an area and/or community.

• **Multi-level governance** is understood as respecting competences, sharing responsibilities and cooperating between the various levels of governance.

• **Self-governance** is the ability of a person or group to exercise all necessary functions of regulation without intervention from an external authority. It may refer to personal conduct or to any form of institution, such as family units, social groups, legal bodies, industry bodies, public bodies, and political entities.

• Kroll frames food systems governance towards agro-ecology as **reflexive biopolitics**. Interprets governance as an assemblage of technical means (institutions, policies, narratives) to mitigate harmful consequences of modernity by incentivising conduct that promotes the wellbeing of urban populations.

Adapted from Merriam Webster & Wikipedia, Kroll 2019
Territorialized food governance is understood here as:

a dynamic process of coordination (hierarchy, conflicts, consultation) between public and private actors with multiple identities and resources (in the very broad sense: powers, relationships, knowledge, status, financial capital) asymmetric around territorialized issues.

Source: Proceedings of the AESOP sfp Madrid Conference: Feche, 2019,
Development of the governance theme in the AESOP sfp conferences (1)

2014: Governance
decision making process, reaching agreement with stakeholders, participative planning, planning as a process...

2015: Governance and private entrepreneurship
urban food governance on the multi-sectoral, multi-level and multi-actor characteristics of food system management...

2017: political processes and strategies; urban political agroecology
pathways for radicalising, steering local, national or global agri-food strategies; experiences of people’s led urban food policies and planning; justice and rights-based legal challenges; urban-based food, water and land access movements; experiences linking agrarian and urban food sovereignty movements; community self-organisation....
Development of the governance theme in the AESOP sfp conferences

2019: Agroecological urbanism  
the ‘urban’ side of the food system.

How to unlock mechanisms and shape new economic, political and cultural forces to reconfigure the agrifood system, from inside the city?

Urbanism entitled to ease the adaptation of urban metabolism to local resources, entails changing behavioural patterns.

Are neighbourhoods being transformed into living labs?

How to facilitate learning processes and transformative action?

How to design food value chains integrating nutrition and sustainability principles?

How to achieve synergies with other plans: air quality, mobility, community health...
Levels of governance on food systems

**LANDSCAPE**
- Common Food Policy, Long food movement (IPES)
- CAP, other EU policies: Biodiversity, GI, Climate resilience, Ecosystem services

**PRODUCERS - PROCESSORS**
- National policies, Food pacts (Milan, etc)
- Local food strategies
- Food councils
- Community programmes of projects

**CONSUMERS**
- Self-governance; consumer pattern
How multi-level food policy networks can improve local food systems, evaluating the Dutch ‘City deal: Collaborative governance

• Ansell and Gash’s (2008) collaborative governance model to study both its process and outcomes.

• Defined as “A governing arrangement where one or more public agencies directly engage nonstate stakeholders in a collective decision-making process that is formal, consensus-oriented, and deliberative and that aims to make or implement public policy or manage public programs or assets”

Challenges: abstract ambitions, large differences between municipalities, weak interdependence between participants, lack of political commitment, and unstable leadership.

Facilitated by: strong commitment of participants, a strong institutional design, strong face-to-face dialogue and key intermediate outcomes.

Source: Food on the Urban Agenda, Lara V. Sibbing, Jeroen J.L. Candel and Katrien J.A.M. Termeer; AESOP Madrid 2019
Analysis of the Urban Food Strategy of Madrid

• No significant change in the food access of vulnerable communities. Interviewees related this to an “invisibilization” of food insecurity in Madrid city.

• **Accountability, monitoring and evaluating mechanisms** are still not in place. Until now, *no indicator* framework has been developed, despite the use of accessible food-related indicators to provide a basis for future monitoring.

• **Main challenges**: lack of capacities and competences of the local municipality of Madrid, as well as the challenges related to the feasibility of transcending electoral cycles.

• **Facilitation by**: the motivation and commitment that the related stakeholders have had to change Madrid’s food system, social relevance of food, the previous existence of measures related to food, and external funding.
A Long Food movement

Four basic ingredients that food movements will need in order to drive forward transformation over the next quarter century:

1) collaborating across multiple scales;

2) broadening alliances and restructuring relationships;

3) connecting long-range commitment to wide range ‘horizon scanning’;

4) being ready for change and disruption.
A Long Food movement: Pathway 2. Transforming governance structures

fights back against corporate takeover of the multilateral system and forces a fundamental governance reconfiguration of its own.

Civil society makes the case for emergency food security provisions that supersede trade rules and land-grab contracts, and a crackdown on agribusiness concentration and techno-fixes.

Underpinned by the ongoing spread of food policy councils, deliberative dialogues, and other mechanisms to strengthen the participation of social movements, Indigenous peoples, and NGOs in food system governance.

• Reviewing, reforming and reconfiguring the UN’s agri-food agencies
• Cracking down on corporate impunity and techno-fixes
• Adopting an international agreement on food emergencies.
• Building food policies, food policy councils, and new forms of citizen participation
Governance barometer (RUAF)

• Improve horizontal and vertical governance and planning
• Build inclusive decision-making
• Food system policies to be integrated into other policies, planning processes and programme design
• Regional and local development framework documents and plans reflect sustainable food system concerns and values
• Participatory governance structures are cross-jurisdictional, cross-sectorial and multi-stakeholder

FAO/RUAF, 2018, page 145
LANDSCAPE

PRODUCERS - PROCESSORS

CONSUMERS

Common Food Policy, Long food movement (IPES)

CAP, other EU policies: Biodiversity, GI, Climate resilience, Ecosystem services

European, global

National policies, Food pacts (Milan, etc)

Local food strategies

Food councils

Self-governance; consumer pattern

Local / regional

Community programmes of projects

Community

private

Food councils

Local food strategies

Community programmes of projects

Self-governance; consumer pattern
Collaborative goals setting & evaluation

Choose methods and processes

You need the right mix of methods to answer your evaluation questions and the right processes to plan and implement an evaluation. Choosing the most suitable methods or processes depends on the nature of what is being evaluated, the nature of the evaluation, and resources and constraints.
Politicians

• Be informed on the power situation between politicians
• Be informed on the current policies: on participation, on well-being, climate resilience
• Make the connection to overarching policies
• Listen first what they have to say, ask questions to understand their ambitions
• Speak their language (translate your jargon)
• Test the possible ambition of your aims: do they support the main choices?
• Help to develop (political) support for the plan
• Give them a podium (they need a ceremony, opening)
• Do not dress smarter than them on official occasions.
Residents - Stakeholders

• Clarify the difference between ambition and feasible goals
• Set goals in a collaborative way and define from the start how you will measure your performance / satisfaction.
• Make use of existing organisations – focus groups but do not forget the ones who are usually not heard
• Use the existing energy & motivation
• Involve all age groups: schoolchildren and youngsters
• Make sessions attractive, playful, creative with meals, walks and tours, working sessions
Q & A
References

BFPC Bristol Food Policy Council, 2013. A Good Food Plan for Bristol;


http://www.urbanfoodfutures.com/how-resilient-is-your-food-system (accessed 7 July 2019)


Zerbian, T. and De Luis Romero, E. 2019 Urban food strategy of Madrid: an evaluative case-study, University of Central Lancashire. AESOP sfp Madrid proceedings

Website and toolkit on collaborative monitoring and evaluation: https://www.betterevaluation.org/
Policy recommendations

• #1 Develop and support for transition to mid-scale infrastructure (regional processing, distribution, marketing)
• #2 Establish financial resources that support a range of scales and stages
• #3 Establish scale-appropriate regulations and feasibility assessments for midscale infrastructure like regional food hubs
• #4 Increase research and educational opportunities directed at regional agriculture and regional infrastructure needs linked to shorter supply chains
• #5 Provide sufficient social assistance, through a guaranteed income or other measures, to ensure that everyone can afford to eat healthy food
• #6 Establish a national food policy and a national school food policy
• #7 Ensure widespread formalization and implementation of public procurement policies for local food (with percentages and budgets to meet policy goals)
• #8 Revise the labour practices, government support and subsidy programs to ensure the necessary skilled labour for all food system areas with tenure security and fair compensation for work
Case- Agroforestry Network

Sustainable Food Planning
“GOVERNANCE - DEVELOPING NETWORKS”
12 may 2021
Piet Rombouts BSc/MSc

- Farmer’s son
- Connecting agriculture- environment – nature; based on business model
- Connecting farming practice with science and policy
- Agroforestry as “an instrument” for sustainable farming
Networking

Provincial  * Agroforestry network Brabant / Community
            * Business models group
            * Nature-inclusive entrepreneurship

National   * Agroforestry Netherlands
            * Public Private Arable farming
            * Forest and Wood Action Plan

European  * Agroforestry Flanders (advisory board)
            * European Agroforestry network (delegate)
Triangle Action- training –organisation: three essential elements of a successful process

A  Action  

P  

K  Knowledge  

O  Organisation  

A2  Action  

P2  

K2  Knowledge  

O2  Organisation  

Proces
A tree as a metaphor for organization

Roots = The initiative with its roots anchored in the farming community and structure that the group carries.
Trunk = Channels through which various processes take place.
Branches = Activities of the organization and the results.
Environment = It determines how big and how old the tree can eventually become
Chickens are forest animals; looking for safety, food and comfort; just like farmers
Agroforestry network Brabant

Phase 1 Exploration and start-up
- Networking; bringing farmers together
- Workshops / information
- What is agroforestry?
- Designing agroforestry systems
- Excursions, articles, theme-events
- Business plans (10)
- 50 farmers connected
- Community of advisers, nurserymen, bank, sounding board, etc. (15)
Agroforestry Network Brabant

Phase 2 Planning and revenue models
- Preparing/ guiding for realization
- Realization of plantations
- Elaboration of revenue models
- Collaboration with other projects
- Business plans (plus 20)
- 100 farmers connected / planted 200 hectares
- Community (50)
The Dune Farmers’ Platform

* Platform of 200 Dune farmers around the National Park 'Loonse en Drunense Duinen’
* In city tri-angle Tilburg, Waalwijk and Den Bosch.
* To maintain economic performance of their farms, with environment, nature and landscape.
* Act in a pro-active way on the new challenges and demands.
* Partnerships, cooperation and dialogue with other stakeholders.
Q & A
References

* Dune farmers: www.duinboeren.nl
* Agroforestry Netherlands https://www.agro-forestry.nl/
* European Agroforestry network https://euraf.isa.utl.pt/welcome
* www.RomboutsAgroEco.nl
Our next session will take place on

May 20 at 17.00 CET

CASE STUDIES RESEARCH APPROACHES AND METHODS IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLANNING