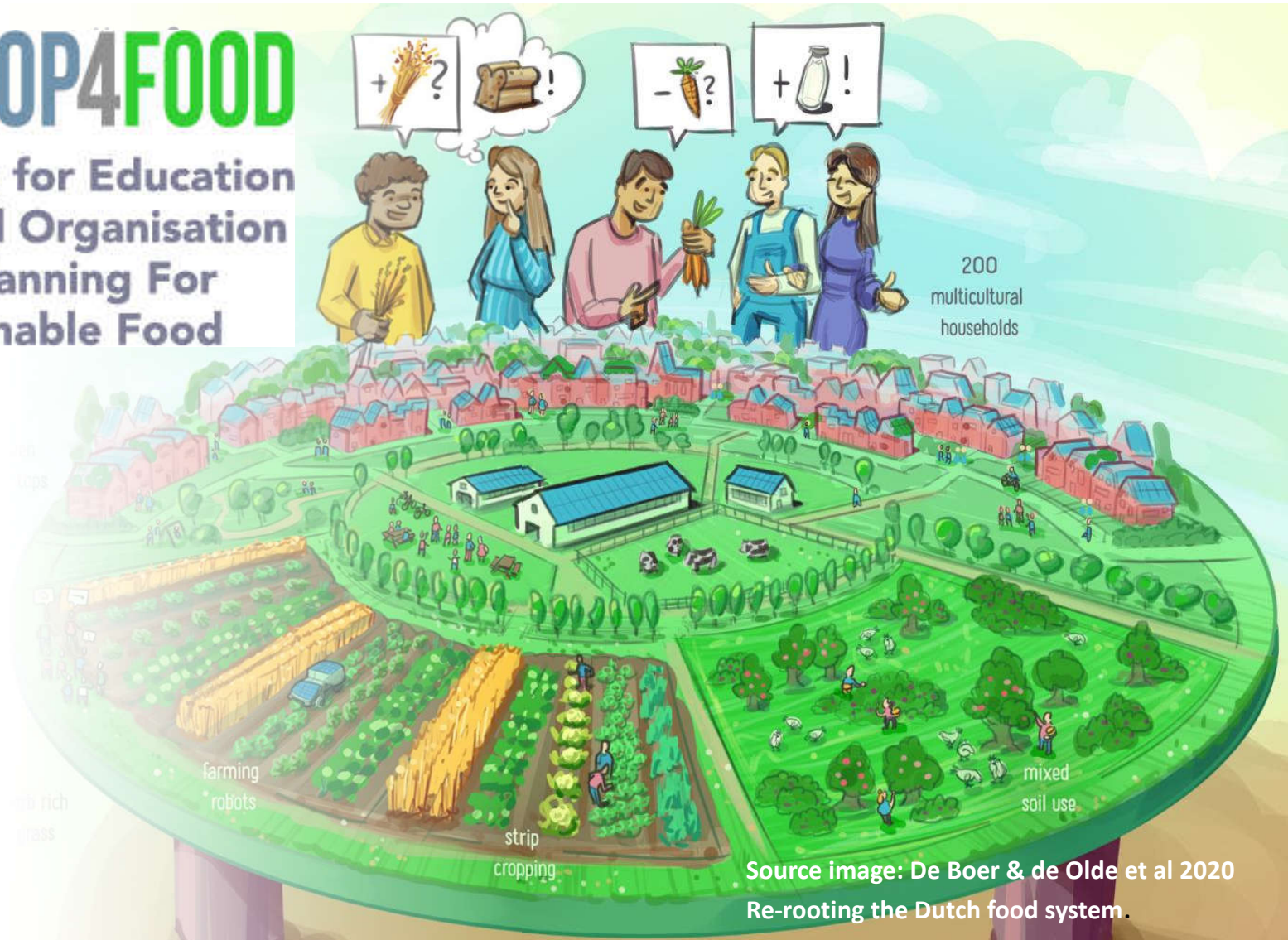




AESOP4FOOD

Action for Education
Spatial Organisation
and Planning For
Sustainable Food



PHASE I Exploring the field of play

Session 2

March 31, 2022

Source image: De Boer & de Olde et al 2020
Re-rooting the Dutch food system.



Erasmus+

LE:NOTRE Institute
Linking landscape education, research and innovative practice



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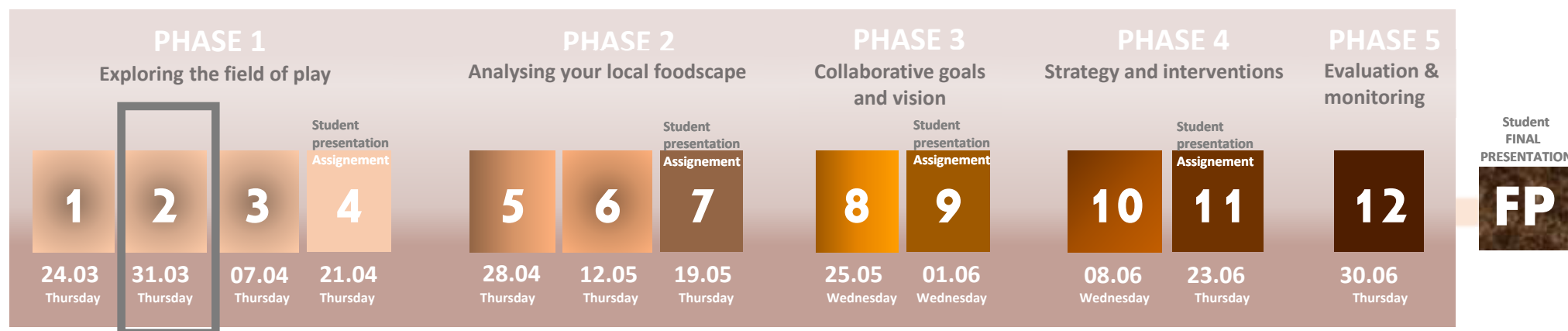
Online Seminar



COURSE SCHEDULE

March 24 - June 30, 2022

Thursday or Wednesday / 17:00 to 18:30 CET



ASSIGNMENTS

- Assignment 1 - Exploring the field of play
- Assignment 2 - Analysing your local foodscape
- Assignment 3 - Collaborative goals and vision
- Assignment 4 - Strategy and interventions
- Assignment 5 - Evaluation & monitoring

INTENSIVE WORKSHOP

Madrid

June 26- July 5, 2022



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LA AGROECOLOGÍA



AGENDA of the session

LNI Recap of session one & questions on the PAR Video & the reading material

Concepts: Challenges, background in governance: IPES Long food movement, Milan food pact.

Exercise in breakout rooms: getting to know each other & a transformative person

Michiel Dehaene: Agroecological Urbanism, Agroecological Urbanism and the difference with traditional planning approaches

Q&A

Closing, outlook next week

Recap of session 1

- Recap of session: what is the best description of each concept?
- questions on the PAR Video
- questions on the reading material

[Tornaghi, Chiara. \(2016\). Urban Agriculture in the Food-Disabling City: \(Re\)defining Urban Food Justice, Reimagining a Politics of Empowerment. Antipode. 49. 10.1111/anti.12291.](#)

FAO Report : ["Integrating food into urban planning"](#) page 18 - 32.

Concepts

Challenges, background in governance IPES Long Food Movement Food pacts, Milano Urban Food Policy Pact

goals of the new Common Agricultural Policy

- ensure a fair income for farmers
- increase competitiveness
- improve the position of farmers in the food chain
- climate change action
- environmental care
- preserve landscapes & biodiversity
- support generational renewal
- vibrant rural areas
- protect food and health quality
- fostering knowledge & innovation.



Common Food Policy

Challenges

Integrated vision

Policy oriented



TOWARDS A COMMON FOOD POLICY FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

THE POLICY REFORM AND REALIGNMENT THAT IS REQUIRED
TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN EUROPE



Challenges for sustainable food planning

CFP: Failure to put sustainable farming first



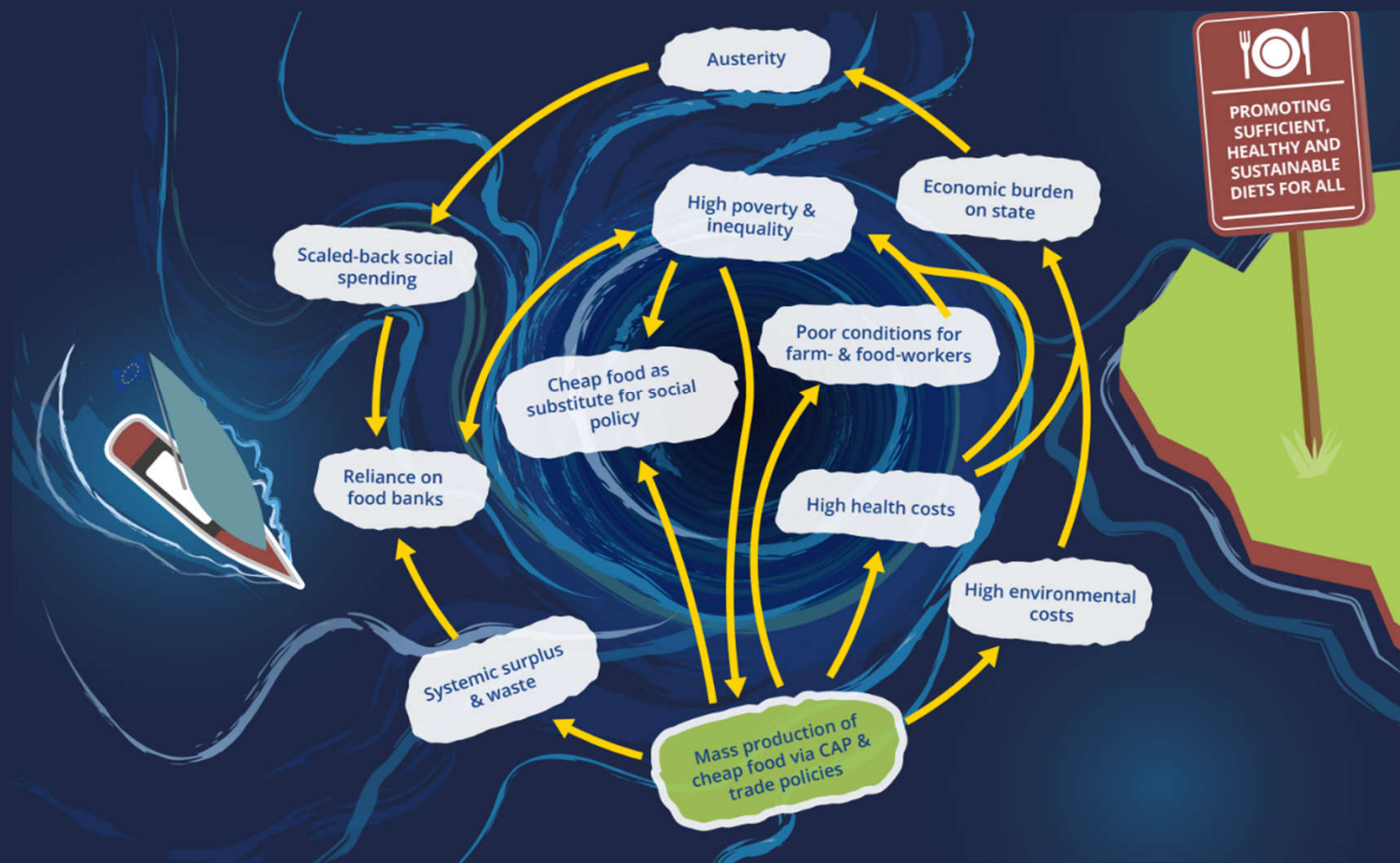
Ensuring
access to
land, water
and healthy
soils

CFP: Techno-Fixes that sideline the real solutions



Rebuilding
climate-
resilient,
healthy agro-
ecosystems

CFP: The hidden costs of cheap food



Promoting
sufficient,
healthy and
sustainable
diets for all

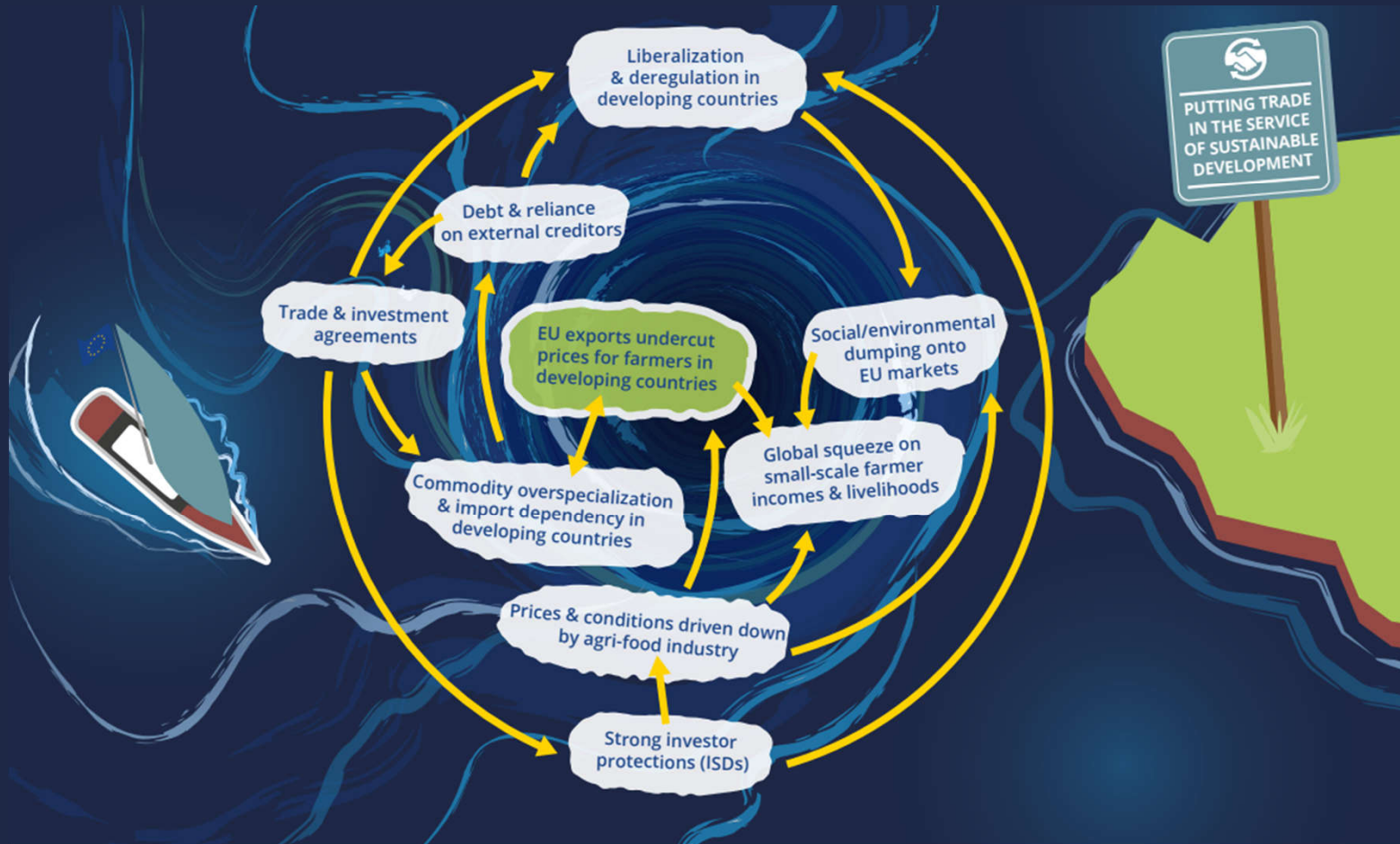
CFP: The untapped potential of alternative foodsystem initiatives



Fairer,
shorter &
cleaner
supply
chains

CFP: Export orientation, race to the bottom

Putting
trade in the
service of
sustainable
develop-
ment



The socio-technical planning regime

F.W. Geels / Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions 1 (2011) 24–40

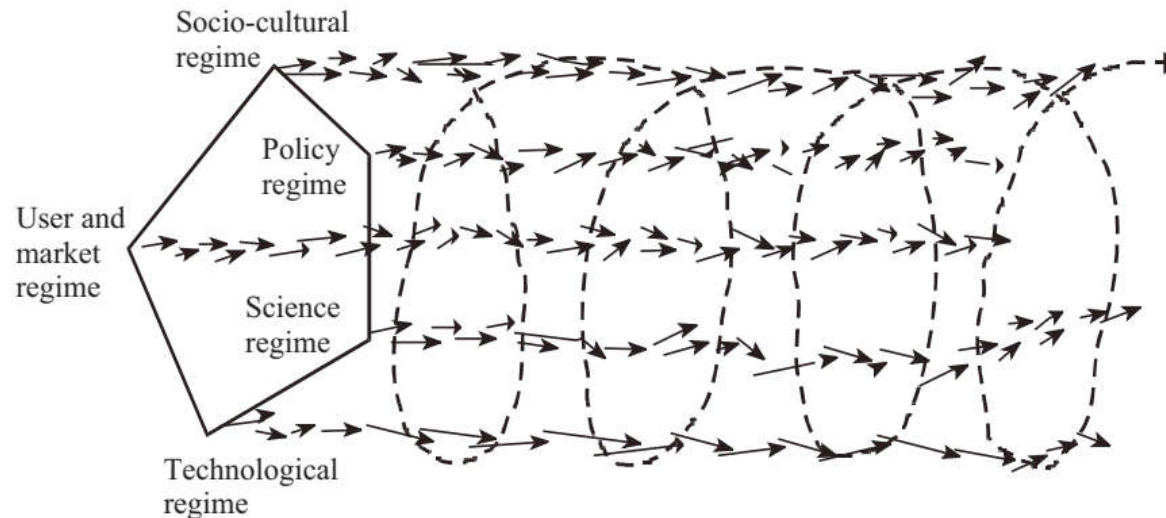
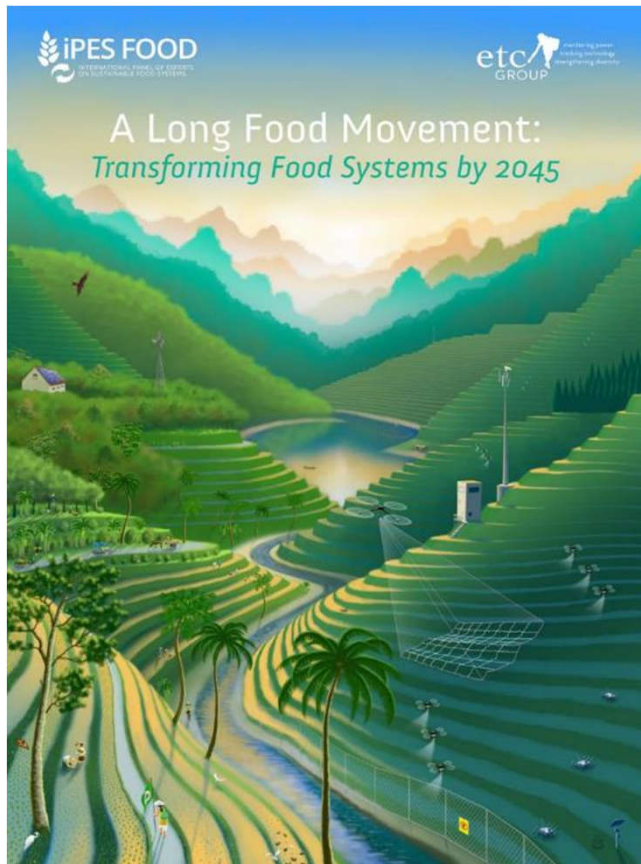


Fig. 1. Alignment of ongoing processes in a socio-technical regime.

Adapted from Geels (2004:912).

Source: F.W Geels, Environmental Innovation and Societal Transition 1 (2011) 24-40

IPES Long food movement



Two scenarios

Looking ahead to 2045: Agribusiness-as-Usual

Looking ahead to 2045: Civil society as Unusual

Four pathways

Rooting food systems in diversity, agroecology, and human rights

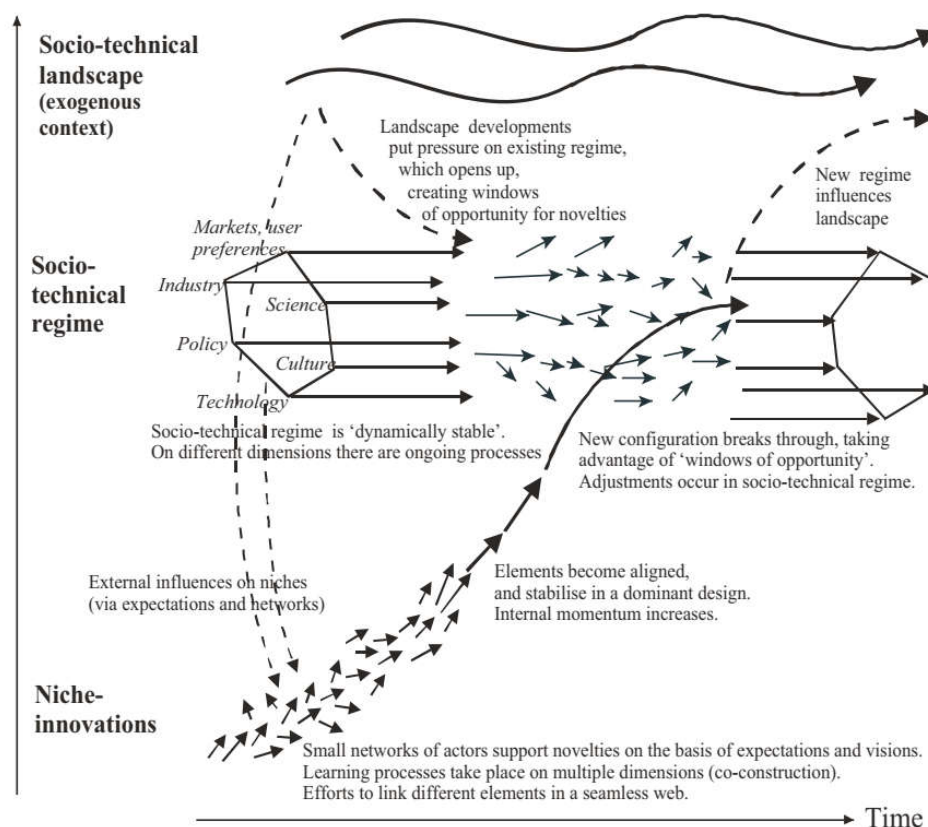
Transforming governance structures

Shifting financial flows

Rethinking the modalities of civil society collaboration

Multi-level perspective on transitions

Increasing structuration
of activities in local practices

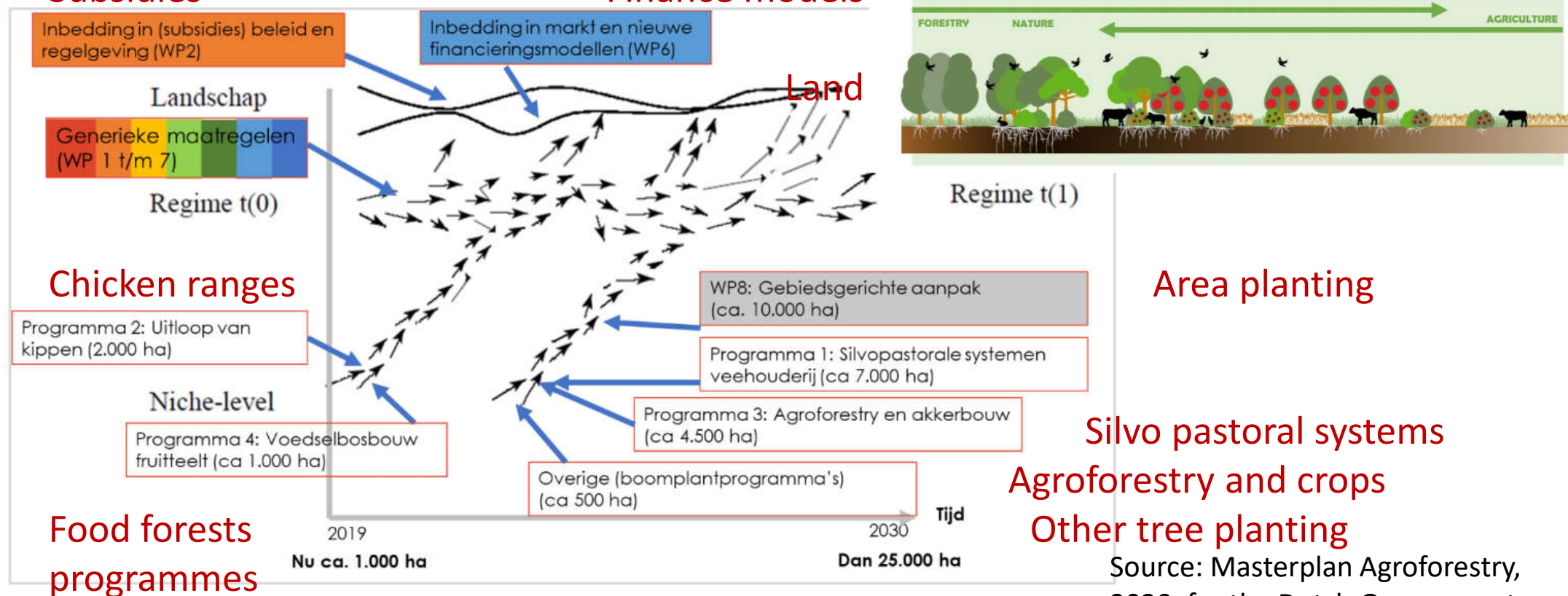


Source: F.W Geels, Environmental Innovation and Societal Transition 1 (2011) 24-40

Multi-level perspective on transitions: NL

Subsidies

Finance models



Source: Masterplan Agroforestry, 2020, for the Dutch Government,

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

In 2014, the Mayor of Milan decided to launch an international protocol aimed at tackling food-related issues at the urban level, to be adopted by as many world cities as possible.

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact was signed on the **15 October 2015** in Milan by more than **100 cities**.
It represents one of the most important legacies of Milan EXPO 2015.

225

Signatory cities

400M

Inhabitants

7

Global Fora

14

Regional Fora

370

Practices collected



Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

More than 50% of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, a proportion that is projected to increase to almost 70% by 2050.

Source: <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org>

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact



1. Acknowledging that **cities** which *host over half the world's population* have a **strategic role to play in developing sustainable food systems and promoting healthy diets**, and because while every city is different, they are all centres of economic, political and cultural innovation, and manage vast public resources, infrastructure, investments and expertise;
2. Noting **current food systems are being challenged to provide permanent and reliable access to adequate, safe, local, diversified, fair, healthy and nutrient rich food for all**; and that the task of feeding cities will face multiple constraints posed by inter alia, unbalanced distribution and access, environmental degradation, resource scarcity and climate change, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and food loss and waste;
3. Acknowledging that accelerated urbanisation is profoundly impacting our world –in economic, social and environmental dimensions –which therefore necessitates re-examination of the ways in which **cities are provisioned with food and water** as well as other **essential goods and services**;
4. Acknowledging that **hunger** and **malnutrition** in its various forms exist within all cities, posing great burdens on individual health and well-being and thus generating major social and economic costs at household, community, municipality and national levels;
5. Recognizing that **family farmers** and **smallholder food producers**, (notably women producers in many countries) play a **key role in feeding cities** and their territories, by helping to maintain *resilient, equitable, culturally appropriate food systems*; and that reorienting food systems and value chains for *sustainable diets* is a means to **reconnect consumers with both rural and urban producers**;

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact



6. Acknowledging that **urban and peri-urban agriculture** offers **opportunities to protect and integrate biodiversity into city** region landscapes and food systems, thereby contributing to synergies across food and nutrition security, ecosystem services and human well-being
7. Acknowledging that since **food policies are closely related to many other urban challenges and policies**, such as *poverty, health and social protection, hygiene and sanitation, land use planning, transport and commerce, energy, education, and disaster preparedness*, it is essential to adopt an approach that is comprehensive, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional
8. Acknowledging that **civil society** and the **private sector** have **major roles** to play in **feeding cities**, bringing experience, innovation and campaigns for more sustainable food systems and mainstreaming the critical need for a socially inclusive and a rights-based approach in urban food policy;
9. Recalling that cities have made commitments to **address climate change**;
10. Acknowledging that cities and their neighbouring territories will be active in operationalising international processes such as **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and targets in the post-2015 Development Agenda;

Gathering in Milano on the occasion of the Milan Expo Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life, we here by state:
BY SIGNING THE MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT, WE, THE MAYORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,
COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:



1. We will work to **develop sustainable food systems** that are *inclusive, resilient, safe* and *diverse*, that provide *healthy and affordable food to all people* in a human rights-based framework, that *minimise waste* and *conserve biodiversity* while adapting to and mitigating impacts of *climate change*;
2. We will encourage **interdepartmental and cross-sector coordination** at *municipal and community levels*, working to **integrate urban food policy** considerations into *social, economic* and *environment policies, programmes and initiatives*, such as, inter alia, food supply and distribution, social protection, nutrition, equity, food production, education, food safety and waste reduction;
3. We will seek **coherence** between municipal food-related policies and programmes and relevant *subnational, national, regional and international* policies and processes;
4. We will **engage all sectors within the food system** (including neighbouring authorities, technical and academic organizations, civil society, small scale producers, and the private sector) in the *formulation, implementation and assessment of all food-related policies, programmes and initiatives*;
5. We will **review and amend existing urban policies, plans and regulations** in order to encourage the establishment of *equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems*;
6. We will use the **Framework for Action** as a starting point for each city to address the *development of their own urban food system* and we will share developments with participating cities and our national governments and international agencies when appropriate;
7. We will encourage *other cities to join* our food policy actions.





The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact : The MUFPP today unites 225 cities
- Monitoring Framework consists of 37 recommended actions organized around **6 categories**:
 1. Governance
 2. Sustainable diets and nutrition
 3. Social and economic equity
 4. Food production (including urban-rural linkages)
 5. Food supply and distribution
 6. Food waste

Source: <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org>

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact



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Governance



Sustainable Diets
and Nutrition



Social and
economic Equity



Food
Production



Food Supply
and Distribution



Food
Waste

Governance




The recommended actions falling into the "Governance category" are all those actions aimed at ensuring an enabling environment for effective action in cities, such as: to facilitate collaboration across city agencies and departments, to strengthen urban stakeholder participation, to identify, map and support local and grassroots initiatives, to develop or revise urban food policies and plans and to develop a disaster risk reduction strategy.

Discover the 6 recommended actions for the Governance category.

Action 1

Facilitate collaboration across city agencies and departments and seek alignment of policies and programmes that impact the food system across multiple sectors and administrative levels, adopting and mainstreaming a rights-based approach; options can include dedication of permanent city staff, review of tasks and procedures and reallocation of resources.



About ▾ Fora ▾ Awards Resources News     

Discover the 6 recommended actions for the Governance category.

Action 1

Facilitate collaboration across city agencies and departments and seek alignment of policies and programmes that impact the food system across multiple sectors and administrative levels, adopting and mainstreaming a rights-based approach; options can include dedication of permanent city staff, review of tasks and procedures and reallocation of resources.

Indicators

1. Presence of an active municipal interdepartmental government body for advisory and decision making food policies and programmes



Download

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/>

Monitoring framework MUFFP

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Monitoring Framework

July 2018 version

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/>

Indicator 1: Presence of an active municipal interdepartmental government body for advisory and decision making of food policies and programmes (e.g. interdepartmental food working group, food policy office, food team)

MUFP framework of actions' category: Governance

The indicator allows for (self) assessment of the presence, multi-stakeholder representation and integration, functioning and effectiveness of an interdepartmental/sectoral food coordination body or mechanism. It helps identify areas for improvement.

Overview table

MUFP Work stream	Governance- Ensuring an enabling environment for effective action
MUFP action	Facilitate collaboration across city agencies and departments and seek alignment of policies and programmes that impact the food system across multiple sectors and administrative levels, adopting and mainstreaming a rights-based approach; options can include dedication of permanent city staff, review of tasks and procedures and reallocation of resources
What the indicator measures	The indicator allows for (self) assessment of the presence (yes or no), multi-stakeholder representation and integration, functioning and effectiveness (with use of a scoring sheet) of an interdepartmental/sectoral food coordination body or mechanism. It helps define areas for improvement.
Which variables need to be measured / what data are needed	Information is collected on Presence (yes/no); Multi-stakeholder Representation and Integration; Functioning and Effectiveness. Variables and criteria used for self-assessment are indicated in the scoring sheet below.
Unit of measurement (i.e. Percentages, averages, number of people, etc.)	Not applicable. This indicator will be assessed in a qualitative way.

Scoring sheet

Characteristics	Self-assessment and explanation			Total score	Disaggregation of information	Specific observations / Recommendations
Presence of an interdepartmental/sectoral coordination body on urban food (within the municipality)						
Presence:	Yes =1 point	No=0 points	X A coordination body exists but is	Total score:	Provide information on the type of coordinating body and its focus (only urban agriculture, the	

4

Category Governance - Indicator 1

			set up and managed by non-governmental stakeholders		broader urban food system).	
Multi-stakeholder representation and integration						
Representation: Representation in the coordinating body of different departments and sectors within the city government	Strong= 2 points Strong: The coordination mechanism has a large representation of different sectors, including a.o. agriculture, health/nutrition, social protection	Moderate= 1 point Moderate: The coordination mechanism has representation of a couple of sectors	Low= 0 points Low: The coordination mechanism has quite limited representation of different sectors (very few sectors)	Total score:	-List and number of different sectors participating and their roles -List sectors not engaged that could be involved in future	

Issued in this product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

Food Pacts and strategies



The urban food strategies: processes of policy making and sectoral planning that, systematically, consider the food and its relations to the urban metabolism

- public health,
- social justice and inclusion,
- economic vitality,
- urban resilience,
- environmental mitigation

(Sonnino 2014; Calori and Magarini 2015; Ilieva 2016b)

Categories:

1. **strategic declarations** : identification of objectives and strategic lines and seem to have a more communicative character
2. **action plans** : operative contents and define interventions.

USA: *American Planning Association Food System Planning White Paper 2005*

Europe: *AESOP Sustainable Food Planning Group* (2009) meeting regularly for prompting discussion and coordination around food issues

UK: *the Sustainable Food Cities Network* (that reunites almost 50 cities) is a standing out example of tutoring and coordinating local governments towards food systems sustainability

Coppo et al, *Urban food strategies and plans: considerations on the assessment construction*, City Territ Archit (2017)



Overview of Food Pacts and strategies

Ares of indicators considered in the selected assessments

Thematic areas considered	Selected strategies and assessments
Total purchased food	NYC, Clg
Local food production and transformation	USDA, NYC, GPh, Clg, Vnc
Spatial access to good food	USDA, NYC, Clg, Vnc
Economic access to good food	USDA, SAFA, GPh, Clg, Vnc
Local or organic food consumption, purchase and/or procurement	SAFA, NYC, GPh, Clg, Vnc, Brx, Brs
Food losses and waste	SAFA, NYC, Vnc, Brx, Brs
Food and health	NYC, GPh, Clg, Vnc, Brs
Community-led trade	Brs
Food standards application to public or private foodservices	NYC, Brx, Brs
Food assistance programs	USDA, NYC, Clg, Vnc, Brs
Food training programs and education	NYC, Clg, Vnc, Brx
Political and community support	NYC, GPh, Clg, Vnc, Brs
Food production and environmental/ resources preservation	SAFA, NYC, GPh, Clg, Vnc
Socioeconomic characteristics of the community	USDA, SAFA
Economic development (employment, activities)	SAFA, NYC, GPh, Clg, Vnc, Brs

USDA	COHEN B. <i>Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit</i> , E FAN publications, 2013.
SAFA	FAO. Sustainability Assessment and Food and Agriculture, SAFA Systems Indicators, FAO, Rome, (2013).
NYC	Food Works—A Vision to Improve NYC's Food System, New York City Council, 2010. Food Metrics Report 2014, New York City Council, 2014.
GPh	Eating Here—Greater Philadelphia's Food System Plan, DVRPC, 2011.
Clg	Calgary FS assessment and Action Plan, The City of Calgary, 2012.
Vnc	How Food Secure is Vancouver in a Changing World? 2010, Vancouver Food Policy Council, 2010.
Brx	Strategie Good Food "Vers un Système Alimentaire Durable en région de Bruxelles-Capitale", Bruxelles Environnement, 2015.
Brs	Bristol's Good Food Action Plan 2015–18, Bristol Food Policy Council, 2016.

Coppo et al, *Urban food strategies and plans: considerations on the assessment construction*, City Territ Archit (2017)

RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

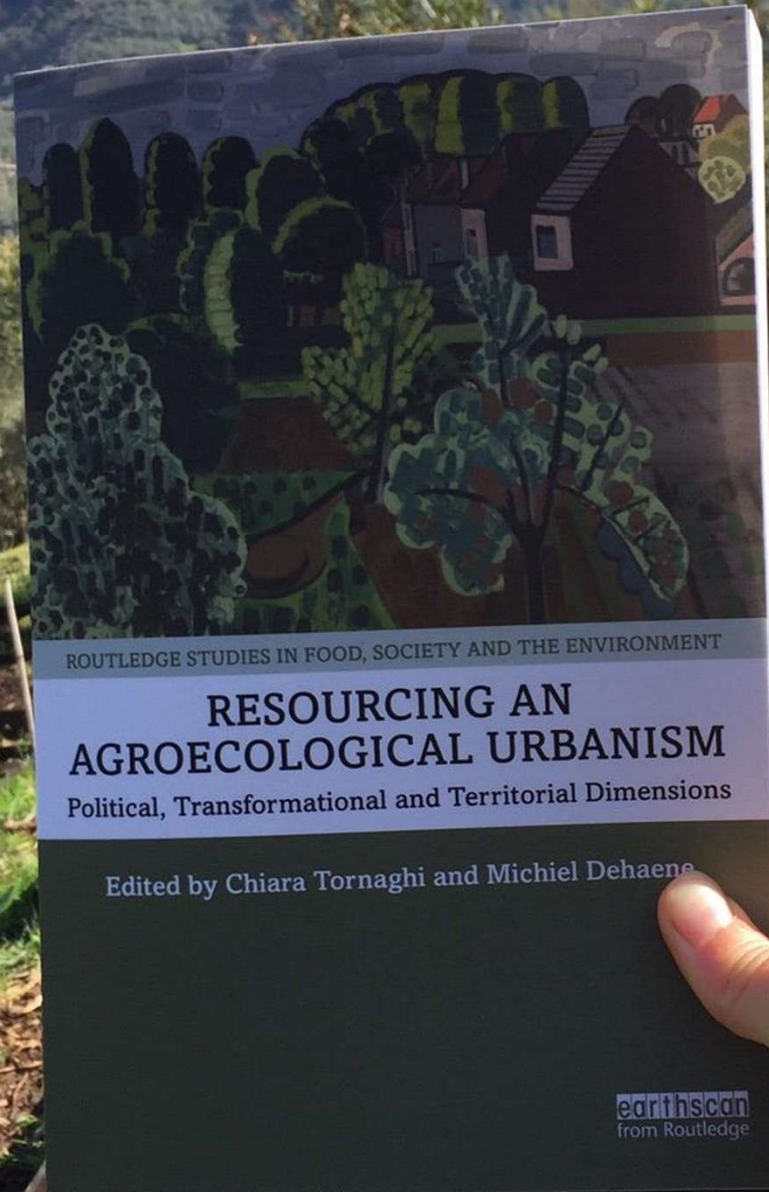


Michiel Dehaene (Ghent University)

Aesop4Food

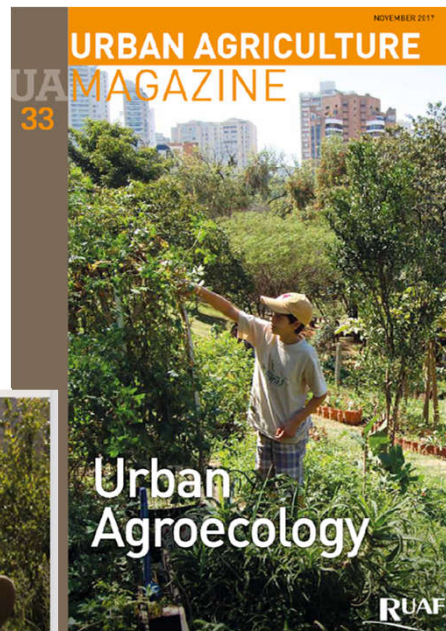
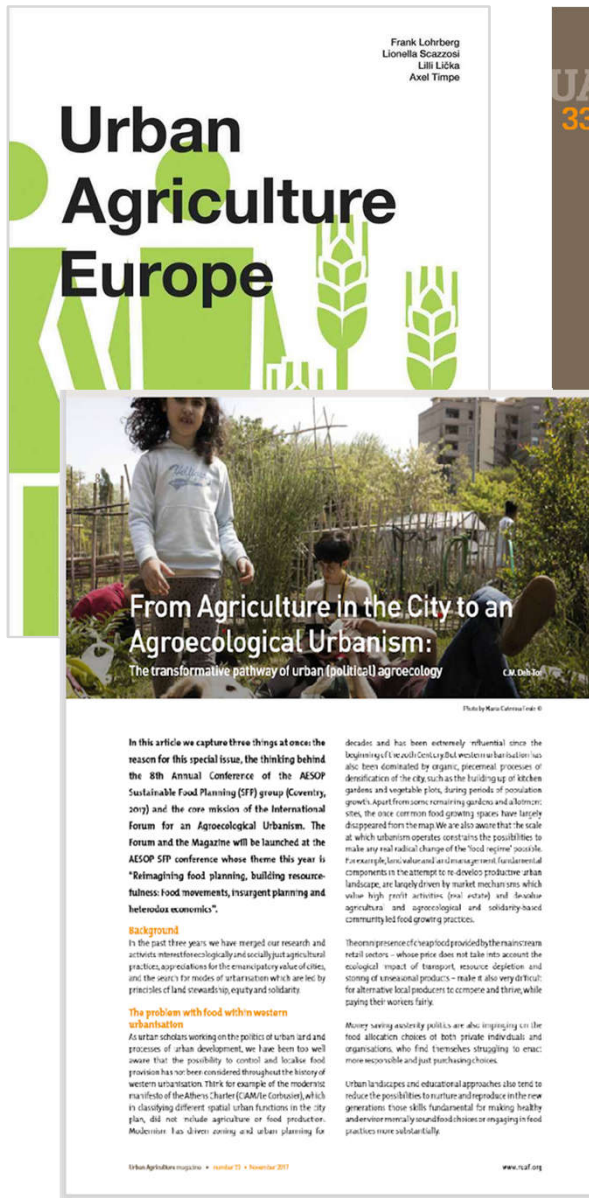
31.03.2022

Jean Brusselmans, 'Zonnig Brabants Landschap', 1940



Picture: Anna Maria Orrù

From Agriculture in the city to an Agroecological Urbanism



AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2019.1680593>



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The prefigurative power of urban political agroecology: rethinking the urbanisms of agroecological transitions for food system transformation

Chiara Tornaghi and Michiel Dehaene

^aCentre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), Coventry University, Coventry, UK;

^bDepartment of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent, Belgium

ABSTRACT

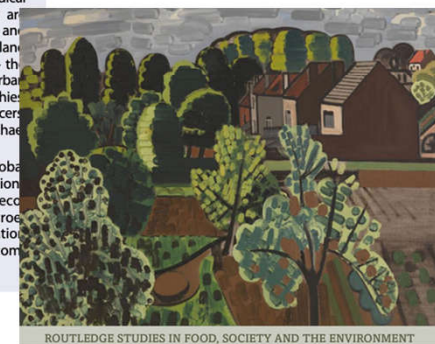
In recent years, urban contexts and urban-rural linkages have become central for scholars and activists engaged in agrarian questions, agroecological transitions and food system transformation. Grassroots experimentations in urban agroecology and farmers' engagement with urban policies have marked the rise of a new agenda aiming to bridge urban and agrarian movements.

Departing from the work of Eric Holt-Gimenez and Annie Shattuck, this paper argues that the way urban-rural links have been conceptualized is occasionally progressive, and that an agroecology-informed food system transformation needs radical approaches. Acknowledging that processes of urbanization are dynamic, driven by specific lifestyles, consumption patterns, and value orientations – producing ongoing suburbanization, land enclosures, farmers displacement and food-knowledge loss – the paper argues that thinking transitions through new rural-urban links is unfit to tackle the evolving nature of these geographies and reproduces the distinction between consumers and producers living on either side of what Mendi Schneider and Philip McMichael have described as an epistemic and ecological rift.

Building on insights from four case-studies across global north and south, the paper reframes agroecological transition as a paradigmatic change in biopolitical spatial relations, economic values and planning agency – what we call an 'agroecological urbanism'. The paper articulates a transformational agenda addressing urban nutrients, peri-urban landuse, community food pedagogies and farmers' infrastructure.

KEYWORDS

Agroecology; urban political agroecology; urbanism; agroecological transitions; agroecological urbanism



ROUTLEDGE STUDIES IN FOOD, SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

Political, Transformational and Territorial Dimensions

Edited by Chiara Tornaghi and Michiel Dehaene

Introduction

In recent years, the centrality of urban contexts and food system transformation, has become an important both scholars and activists engaged in agrarian questions (Tornaghi 2017; Vaarst et al. 2018; Weissman 2014). Indeed, grassroots experimentation (AA.VV. 2017), and farmers' engagement with urban

CONTACT Chiara Tornaghi chiara.tornaghi@coventry.ac.uk Centre for Coventry University, Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, CV8 3
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1. Food as an urban question?
2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning
3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

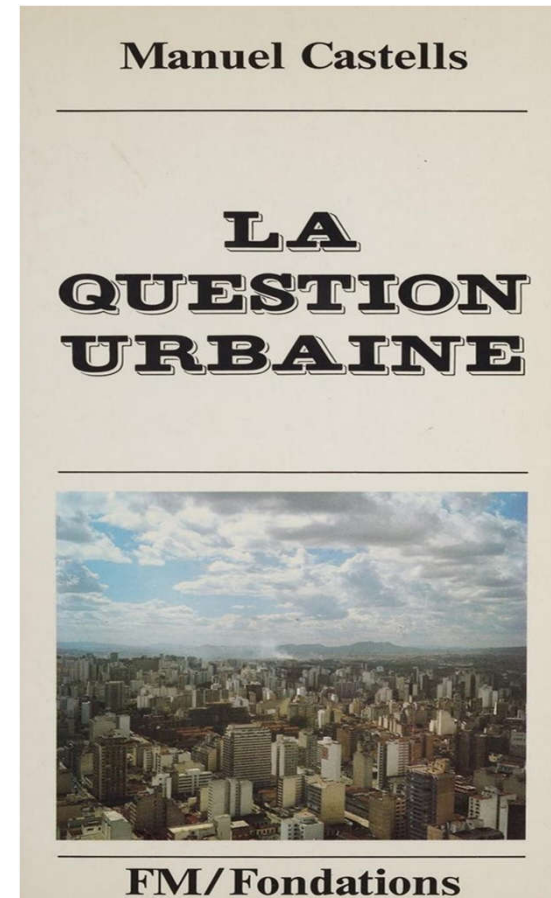
1. Food as an urban question

The urban question:

- exacerbated or collective interdependence
- collective organization needed to care for the urban community
- contested and subject to disagreement

Urbanism:

‘the (always contested) ensemble of social arrangements, lifestyles, divisions of labour, cultural practices and social solidarities that materialise and shape the urban environment through processes of urbanisation. ... the urban context is more than just a physical space, but always the manifestation of socionatural, sociocultural and socioeconomic processes and ideas that the discipline of urban planning and design ‘serve’.’ (Tornaghi & Dehaene, p. 5)



1. Food as an urban question?

How have we come to experience food as a **new** matter of concern in urbanism?

Food can be understood within the history of urbanization as a **question of urban political ecology** in the literal sense of the word, that is, as part of the political negotiation of those aspects of life that are (and those that are not) made into a collective matter of concern, worthy of urban political attention.

1. Food as an urban question

a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation

The food question is predominantly looked upon as a question to be addressed 'in the city'

rather than, a question that requires a fundamental transformation of the city

Food as an urban question: a question central to the way cities are organized, equally central as the housing question, the mobility question, etc.

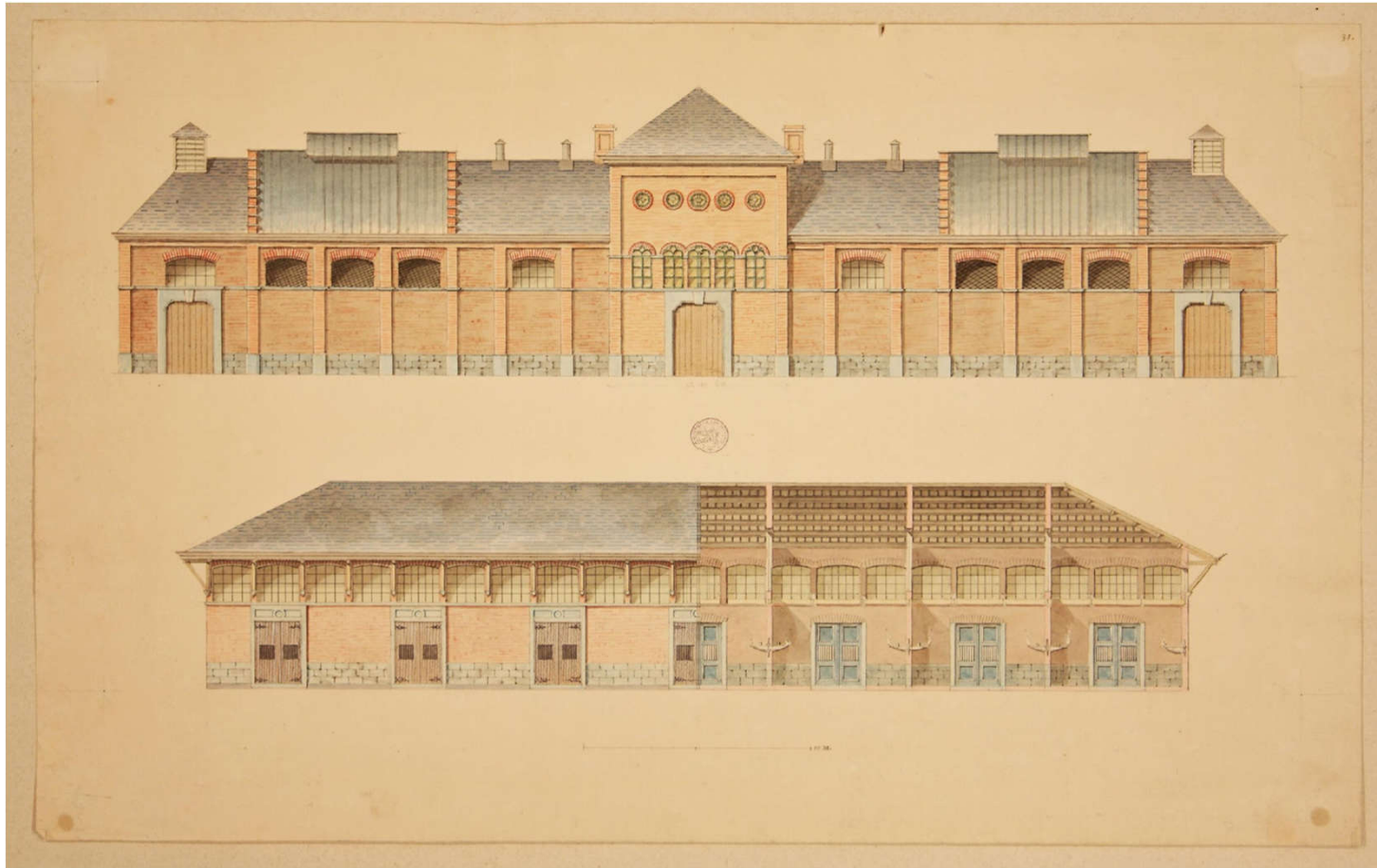
1. Food as an urban question

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



1. Food as an urban question

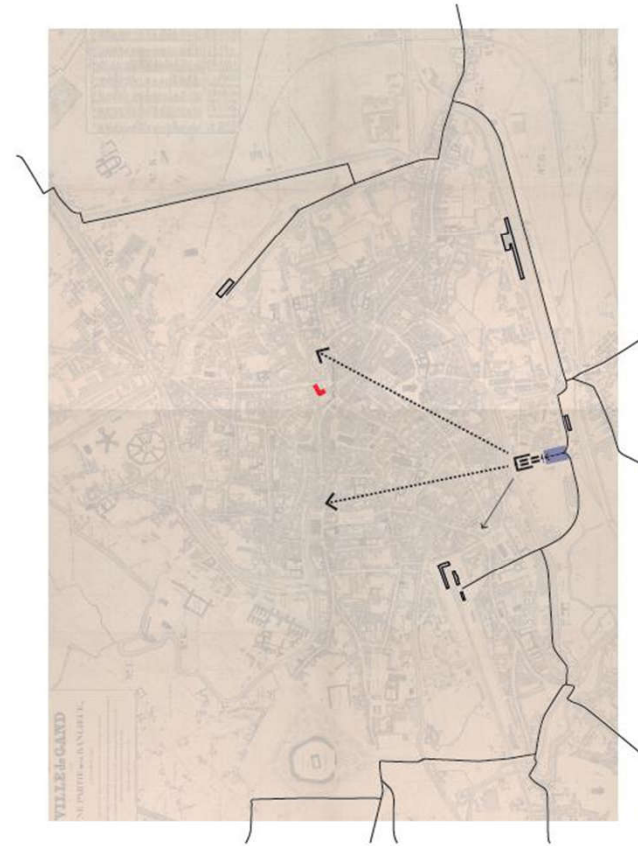
The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



Design of the municipal slaughterhouse of Ghent by city architect L. Roelandt ca. 1850.

1. Food as an urban question

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda

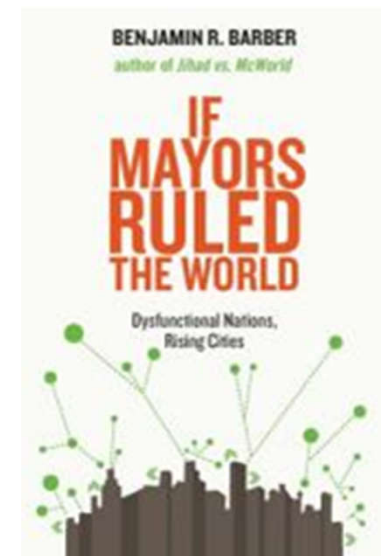
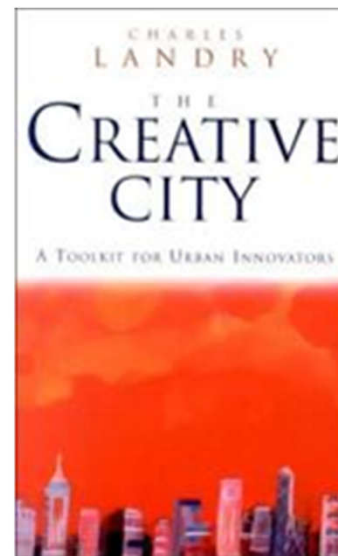
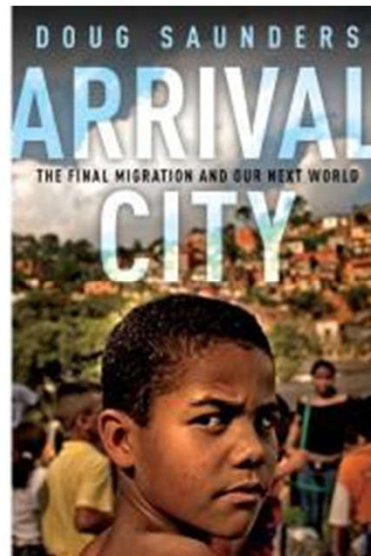
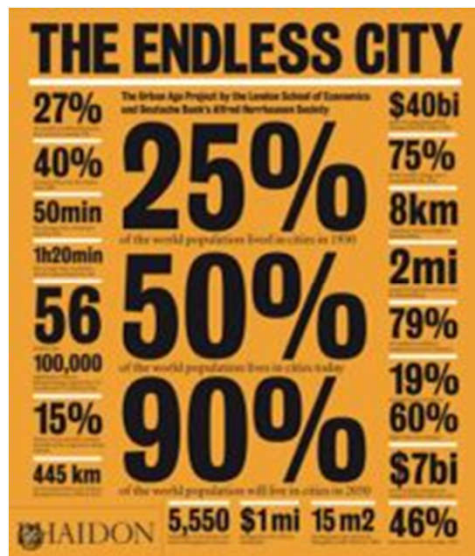


Routes for animals into the city before and after the construction of the slaughterhouse

K. Danneels, Good Nature in Bad Nature out, 2016

1. Food as an urban question

Hitting the boundaries of SFP



More than half of the world population lives in cities...
The city as the solution to a global crisis?

No sustainable food system without a radical transformation of how cities are organized...

2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

Hitting the boundaries of SFP

a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation ?

the global food crisis is to a large extent an urban crisis

- governance challenge
- resource use
- growing inequality
- environmental pollution
- feeding a growing urban population

(Wiskerke, H., 'Urban food systems', 2015)

1. Food as an urban question

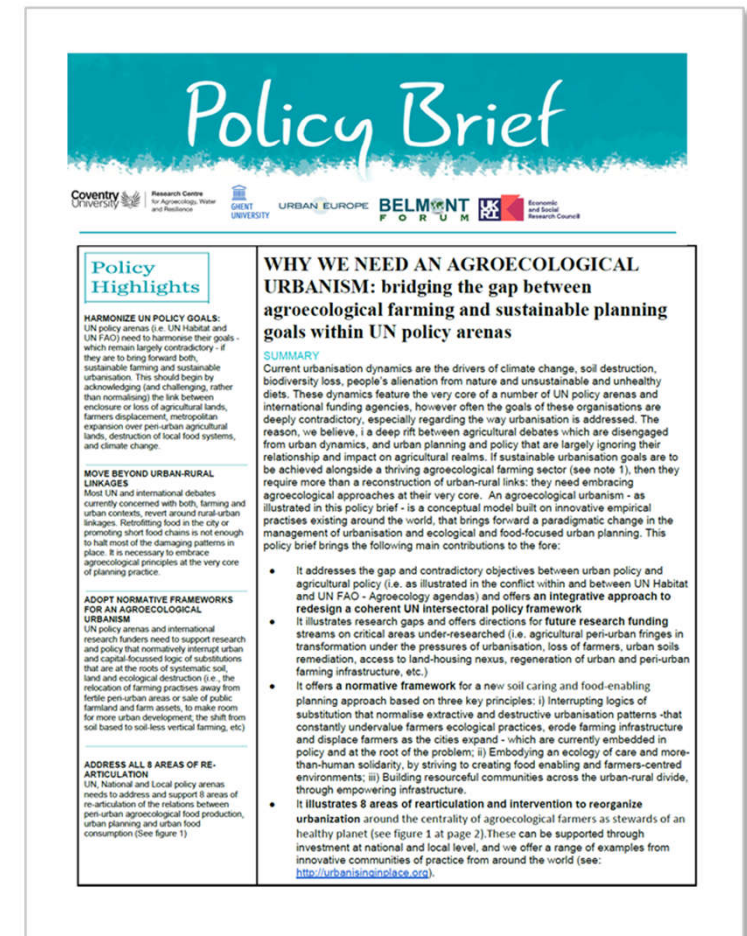
Hitting the boundaries of SFP

Planning is part of the problem

For many years, urban plans have labelled periurban lands around cities as 'awaiting development' and hatched them as blank space, disregarding the great diversity of rural infrastructures and landscapes that distinguish one periurban area from the other.

Urbanization proceeds regardless of these diversities and thus has had a detrimental impact on many peri urban farms and rural heritage sites, particularly in European urban regions.

Ilieva, R., Urban Food Planning. Seeds for Transition in the Global North, 2016, 80



Urbanising in Place policy brief
directed at UN Habitat

2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

How encountering agroecology shifted thinking around values and planning

- Definitions:
 - the application of ecological principles to the study, design and management of agroecosystems that are both productive and natural resource conserving, culturally sensitive, socially just and economically viable
 - a science, movement and practice
 - political agroecology: socio-ecological practice, indigenous knowledge, equity and justice, built on soils care
- Resisting erasure
- Not an urban movement...
- Bringing agroecology to the urban... transforming our interest for SFP and UA
 - knowledge rift, epistemic rift
 - positionality
 - values shifts

2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning


AESOP SFP conference 2017, 2019, 2022


Research Centre
Agroecology, Water
and Resilience | Coventry University

**Re-imagining sustainable food planning,
building resourcefulness: food movements,
insurgent planning and heterodox economics**

Conference proceeding of the:
8th Annual Conference of the AESOP
Sustainable Food Planning group

Date: 14-15 November
Coventry University Technocentre,
Technology Park, Puma Way,
Coventry CV1 2TT



 **AESOP**

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AESOP-SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLANNING

**Agroecological transitions confronting climate
breakdown: Food planning for the post-
carbon city**

ETSAM MADRID 7-8 november 2019
Side events: 6 & 9 november 2019

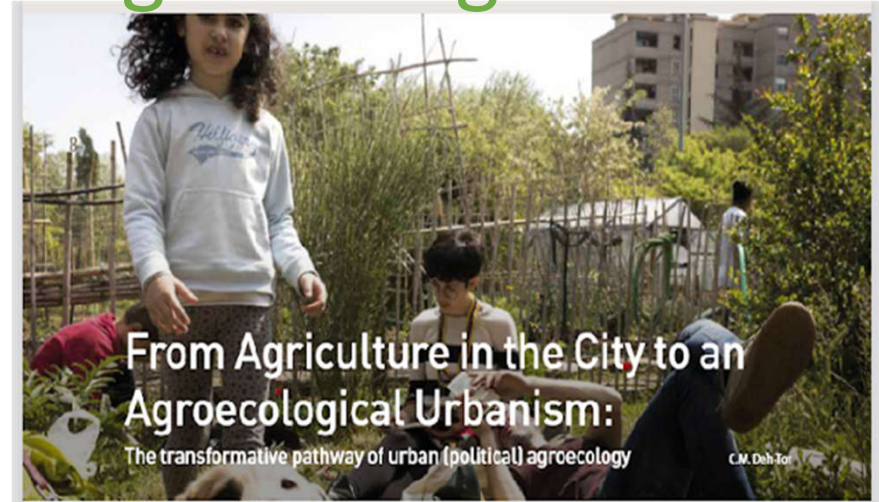


anized by DUYOT, GIAU+S (Universidad Politécnica Madrid)
[ps://aesopsfp.wordpress.com/conference-2019/](https://aesopsfp.wordpress.com/conference-2019/)



2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

Call for a platform for an agroecological urbanism



AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM...

‘What if solidarity, mutual learning, interspecies (more than human) exchanges, environmental stewardship, food sovereignty and people’s resourcefulness were the principles of a new paradigm for urbanisation? How would urban design, property regimes, food provision, collective services, and the whole ensemble of planning and socio-technical arrangements change, if they were informed by urban agroecology? How can we begin to radically transform the food-disabling urban landscapes that have systematically displaced food production, recovering both historical food growing practices and imagining new urban arrangements?’ (C.M. Deh-Tor, 2017)

2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

Warning: junk agroecology

<https://civileats.com/2021/04/20/is-agroecology-being-co-opted-by-big-ag/>

<https://www.tni.org/en/junk-agroecology>

'JUNK
AGROECOLOGY':
THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF AGROECOLOGY FOR A PARTIAL
ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION WITHOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL, TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTE AND CROCEVIA
APRIL | 2020



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2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

Urbanising in Place

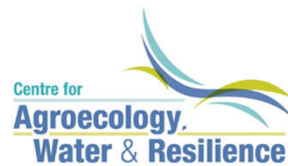
Building the food water energy nexus from below

Project funded within
JPI SUGI programme
Food Water Energy
Nexus Call

4 CITIES
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The
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Ministerio de Educación,
Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnología
Presidencia de la Nación




QUANTUM
WASTE



Rosario=



<http://urbanisinginplace.org/>

An aerial photograph showing a vast urban landscape. In the background, a dense city skyline with numerous skyscrapers is visible under a hazy sky. The middle ground is filled with a sprawling residential area with many small houses and buildings. In the foreground, there are large green fields, some with trees, and a few scattered houses. The overall scene illustrates the transition from rural to urban environments.

Why is it that urban communities fail to care for their own socio-ecological metabolism?

Why is there is no place in urbanizing societies for a virtuous practice like agroecology, and more particular for agroecological farmers as stewards of the urban metabolism?

How can urbanism become soil caring and food enabling?

2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

Key challenges for an agroecological urbanism

1) URBAN AND METROPOLITAN EXPANSION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

- ongoing sale of public farmland and farming infrastructure
- fragmentation of farmland
- farmers isolation and residualisation, rural to urban migration of farmless/landless farmers
- ongoing speculative development: systematic undervaluing of healthy farmlands and over-valuing of speculative opportunities on land

2) THE ROLE OF SOIL IN THE FOOD WATER ENERGY NEXUS

- nutrient depletion, difficult to restore circular soil nutrient cycles in peri-urban contexts
- ongoing soil erosion and contamination
- energy and water challenges

3) GAP: AGROECOLOGY vs. URBAN FOOD COMMUNITIES

- urban food strategies / policies overly focussed on consumption side
- rural imaginaries predominant in agroecology community – little

mobilization of agroecological communities in urban contexts

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

ONLINE RESOURCE: WHY?

Why this resource?

In our rapidly urbanising environments, land-based agriculture is severely under pressure. On the one hand, there is an understandable, deep and paralysing sense of indignation from farmers towards urbanisation processes. On the other hand, cities, though willing to work around food planning, struggle to develop structural and transformative strategies that actually meet the needs of peri-urban agroecological farmers.

This online resource starts from the conviction that agroecological farmers and cities are insufficiently understanding and finding each other. How can we move beyond the conversation stoppers that block the identification of shared matters of concern?

What is the offer?

This website documents the search for an “agroecological urbanism”: a new model of urbanisation that rethinks how we imagine, implement and manage our cities, neighbourhoods, peri-urban open spaces in order to enable agroecological food growing. We incrementally assemble a common agenda defining conversation starters, or specific questions around which farmers and cities should engage together.

Who is behind it?

This website started within the framework of Urban Europe project Urbanising in Place, an international and interdisciplinary project with ground-breaking civil servants, urbanists, sociologists, etc. based on the experiences in four local cases which we hope to expand in the coming years.

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

ONLINE RESOURCE: OVERVIEW

CONVERSATION STOPPERS

the non conversation between farmers and urban food policy

CONVERSATION STARTERS / 8 BUILDING BLOCKS

8 areas of articulation for an agroecological urbanism

4 CITIES / 4 STRATEGIZING EXERCISES

systematized in light of these 8 areas of articulation

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

ACADEMIC OUTPUTS

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

ONLINE RESOURCE: 13 CONVERSATION STOPPERS

13 conversation stoppers between farmers and the city



Urbanisation destroys agriculture

This is true for how the city is organised today - at the expense of agroecological food production. However, there is no reason why urban life could not be organised differently - in function of agroecological food production. This is what we have called the search for agroecological urbanism.

Productive Housing Estate

Growing spaces as planning requirements

La Ferme du Chant des Cailles

Conversation stopper

"Agriculture is not an urban issue"

Good reasons why urban food policy communities do not want to engage

Agroecological cities

Gardening contested lands

Brussels

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

ONLINE RESOURCE: 13 CONVERSATION STOPPERS

“Urbanisation destroys agriculture.”

“Cities just create extra rules and fail to see the farmers’ needs.”

“Agriculture is just a function on the urban land use map that has not been rezoned yet.”

“The city is first of all an opportunity to sell my products (at a higher price).”

“Urban agriculture is not agriculture.”

“Let us farm and spare us all the extra’s.”

“Agriculture is not an urban issue.”

“There is enough space to grow food “The loss of farmers is not a problem as long as productivity rises.”

“Agroecological food production is too expensive for the urban poor.”

“The agricultural system is organised (inter)nationally, rendering cities powerless.”

“Agroecological farmers are less productive but deliver ecosystem services. Let’s pay them for those services!”

“Agroecological food growing is a niche. All forms of agriculture will be needed to feed the planet.”

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

ONLINE RESOURCE: THE PRODUCTIVE (HOUSING) ESTATE

8 building blocks of an agroecological urbanism / The Productive Housing Estate

Conversation Starter

Growing space as planning requirements

Conversation Starter

Working and living on protected farmland

Conversation Starter

Fighting the struggle of housing and growing together

Description

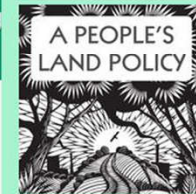
The Productive Estate looks at complementary relationships between housing and food growing spaces. It tries to overcome the latent conflict between the capacity to exercise the right to grow and the right to shelter within an urbanized context. Not only does greenfield development consume farm land. Also, the other way around is the possibility to live in close proximity to spaces to grow discouraged by well-intended measures to protect farming land from urban speculation. The Productive Estate seeks to plant principles of agroecology in people's daily lives in close proximity to where people spend their time, where people live, eat, study and work. The Productive Estate incorporates food growing spaces as an integral part of the urban development dynamics through which the city is produced. The Productive Estate seeks to interrupt the logics of substitution that facilitate a (speculative) land use cascade that substitutes farmland for industry, industry for housing, housing for offices etc. In this way, the Productive Estate seeks the partial decommodification of urban land use.

We see three moments that are key in bringing about the building block, respectively involving urban development coalitions, farmers and growers in search for combined growing and living spaces, and producer-consumer coalitions.

The Productive Housing Estate — Conversation Starter

Fighting the struggle of housing and growing rights together

A People's Land Policy, Land Justice Alliance Network



The land justice coalition over the past years ran a series of remarkable exercises on a people driven land reform, placing principles of the equitable sharing of land at the core. One of the notable things about the coalition of partners behind the land justice network is that it not only includes groups that are focused on access to land for growers and

land workers but also groups that are fighting for housing rights, and more generally groups focussing on decolonization. The people's land policy builds on the people's food policy, an exercise that had been led by the land workers alliance. The strength of the coalition is the clear desire to fight the various struggles over land together. If urbanization under capital plays various forms of land use against each other, using bidding rent and market competition as the determining factor in allocating land, an agroecological urbanism tries to make the use value of soils the leading factor, and imagines an urbanism that secures the reproduction both of the right to live and to cultivate.

The Productive Housing Estate

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

ONLINE RESOURCE: BUILDING BLOCKS _ CONVERSATION STARTERS

8 building blocks of an agroecological urbanism

The Community Kitchen

The Landed Community Kitchen seeks to bridge the gap between social movements promoting agroecology and food sovereignty and community initiatives focused on food poverty, food justice and urban food policies.

[more info](#)

The Healthy Soil Scape

The Healthy Soil-Scape imagines what putting healthy soils at the centre of urban landscapes could look like. It considers the ways in which humans and non-humans look after each other through the medium of soil, and how these caring relationships can be strengthened.

[more info](#)

The Territorial Food Hub

The Territorial Food Hub is an organisation that is a central component (or node) of a wider agroecological food system or network that operates within, and is closely identified with, a specific neighbourhood or district.

[more info](#)

The Productive Housing Estate

The Productive Estate looks at complementary relationships between housing and food growing spaces. It tries to overcome the latent conflict between the capacity to exercise the right to grow and the right to shelter within an urbanized context.

[more info](#)

The Land & Market Access Incubator

The Land & Market Access Incubator develops institutional support for agroecology and coordinates this with an appropriate programme for farmers to access land, skills, infrastructure and markets at the same time

[more info](#)

The Peri-urban Agroecological Park

The Peri-urban agroecological park seeks to regain control over the use of land under urbanization pressure through the creation of a dedicated territorial area where specific rules apply that create favorable circumstances for a groecological farming in close proximity to urban communities.

[more info](#)

Political Pedagogies

Political Pedagogies questions whehter existing pedagogies for agroecology are sufficiently targeted to equip farmers and food practitioners with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate urban-specific challenges of setting up viable community enterprises while retaining agroecological principles of social justice, decoloniality and ecology.

[more info](#)

Farming the Fragmented Land

Farming the Fragmented Land looks at practices that valorise residual patches of agricultural land within the complex land mosaic of the periurban fringe. It looks at specific business models, strategies to combine land, specific cultivation choices, etc., that build on the potential use value of fragmented landscapes,

[more info](#)

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Three pathways

- Interrupting Logics of Substitution
- Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities
- Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Three pathways

- Interrupting Logics of Substitution
- Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities
- Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure



**Building
Blocks for an
Agroecological
Urbanism**

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

8 Building Blocks (BB)

	Building Blocks			
Interrupt logics of substitution	Agroecological Park		Farming the Fragmented Land	Political Pedagogies for Urban Agroecology
Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities	Territorial Food Hub	Healthy Soil Scape	Community Kitchen	
Building resourceful communities through empowering infrastructure	Land and Market Access Incubator		Productive Housing Estate	

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

EXAMPLE: Political Pedagogies BB

Background:

- Farmer-to-farmer training, *dialogos de saberes*, and other horizontal forms of knowledge exchange are central in the **political strategies** of territorially grounded agroecological movements
- Training and learning have been central to **farmers resilience** (i.e. Cuba)
- importance of political pedagogies beyond farmer's immediate needs: used as tools for gaining political traction, **building alliances** with consumers and other communities with a certain territory (i.e. '*extension inversa*')
- Rural-oriented pedagogies: the content of agroecological schools and farmers-led learning networks, however, have been **overly focused on rural experiences**, practices and challenges.



3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

EXAMPLE: Political Pedagogies BB

Key challenges of BB:

- Urban specific challenges need specific learning and strategizing: especially around access to land-housing; urban finance/funding; urban infrastructures; educating consumers
- How can cities become place in which agroecological food production can thrive?
- How can agroecological farmers take up a role as stewards of the resources needed for agroecological farming (starting with soils)?
- How can agroecological farmers become part of urban political constituency?
- How can agroecological farming be valued in an urban context and be sheltered from urban speculation?



3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Interrupting logics of substitution

- post-capitalist urbanism
- protection of use value / counter speculative measures
- environmental and spatial justice
- cultivating difference and diversity

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

EXAMPLE:

Farming the fragmented land BB

- practices that valorise residual patches of agricultural land within the complex land mosaic of the periurban fringe.
- reappropriation of the use value of residualized assets. Landscapes that have been written off as inefficient, too small, fragmented.
- activating relationships between 'specialized', land locked, differentiated activities / restoring nutrient flows at landscape level.
- It is not about 'the scraps' as good enough for niche initiatives, but about the systematic reclamation of resources that make sense in light of the different logics advanced by agroecology
- agroecology as game changer in collaboration with nature development goals (advanced by urban constituencies)
- stewardship of residualized assets (i.e. teaming up with water management goals)
- specific business models, strategies to combine land, specific cultivation choices, etc., that build on the potential use value of fragmented landscapes



Sint-Pietersleeuw, Vlaams Brabant, Belgium

EXAMPLE:

Farming the fragmented land BB





3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Ecologies of Care and More-than-human Solidarities

- care as a disruptive practice / post-productivist practice
- humans as 'critters' of the soil, as care dependent animals in the web of life
- collective interdependence beyond the human
- Land sharing/Community Land Trusts (CLT)
- Skills sharing/skills buildings
- Community resourcefulness
 - territorial food hub
 - healthy soil scape
 - community kitchen

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

EXAMPLE: Agroecology-based community kitchen BB:

- A kitchen in every neighbourhood!
- Buy local food from peri-urban farmers
- Also growing locally
- Local composting
- Time-bank to integrate alternative currencies
- Involve schools and old people
- Run café, catering and take away meals
- Host a CSA
- Political kitchen talks (post-capitalist, decolonial, feminist approaches to food as a common)

Granville Community **KITCHEN**



What we believe

Granville Community Kitchen is reimagining our localised food system, co-creating a community of abundance, healing and resilience with eaters, farmers and food producers, chefs and food businesses, community organisations, academics and researchers. We are guided by principles of equity, justice, respect and dignity and are working towards creating a just, equitable food system built on the Human Right to Food and Nutrition, Agroecology and Food Sovereignty.

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure

- agroecology as urban public policy
- seeing what is 'free' for dominant farming model and hard to resource for alternative models
- urban 'permanent improvements' as decommodified assets
- the collective investment and labor involved in maintenance





3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

EXAMPLE: Land and Market Access Incubator

- (Public) investment in enabling conditions
- What can be done on farm - what needs to be articulated collectively : shared farmers operating infrastructure
- Kick-start the career of the next farmers
- Organises access to knowledge or skill development
- Facilitates access to (local) markets and communities



3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

‘Agroecology demands a complete reorganisation of municipalities. People from social economy, food production, the environment, health and planning, they all have to work as one multidisciplinary team.’

— Raul Terrile (Rosario), September 27, 2019

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

- 1 Agroecological Reference Center (2, 5 has) experimentation and extension in Composting; Free seeds; Aromatic and medicinal garden; Eco-prepared; Native tropical trees and adaptation of seeds to local conditions. Modules of micro orchards
- 4 Garden Parks
- 2 Garden Parks under construction
- 6 Productive group gardens
- 3 Green Corridors of the Roads
- 1 Agroindustry of vegetable processing
- 600 young people who are training in ecological garden
- 3500 Micro Huertas on terraces and balconies
- 6000 Families participate in the Home Garden cycles
- 1 Mobile cart of the Orchard at home in the neighborhoods
- 6 Fairs (700 Annual fairs)
- 2 Biomarkets
- 40 Schools work in Educational Gardens
- 2 Demonstration gardens in public places
- 1 Demonstration kitchen garden in the post-prison service
- 1 Orchard in jail
- 1 Kitchen garden in the center of assisted freedom
- 2 Healthy Gardens in Public Hospitals
- 1 Agroecological Nursery

Next week's exercise

- We will use MURAL.CO
- The exercise will focus on your values while being active to support a transition in the food system: we will use the labs as examples.
- If you have never used it: just see a short tutorial, it is a ten minutes tutorial but you can start on minute 4 and then stop when you understand: <https://youtu.be/3WF6lnDzdQI>

Session 3: April 7

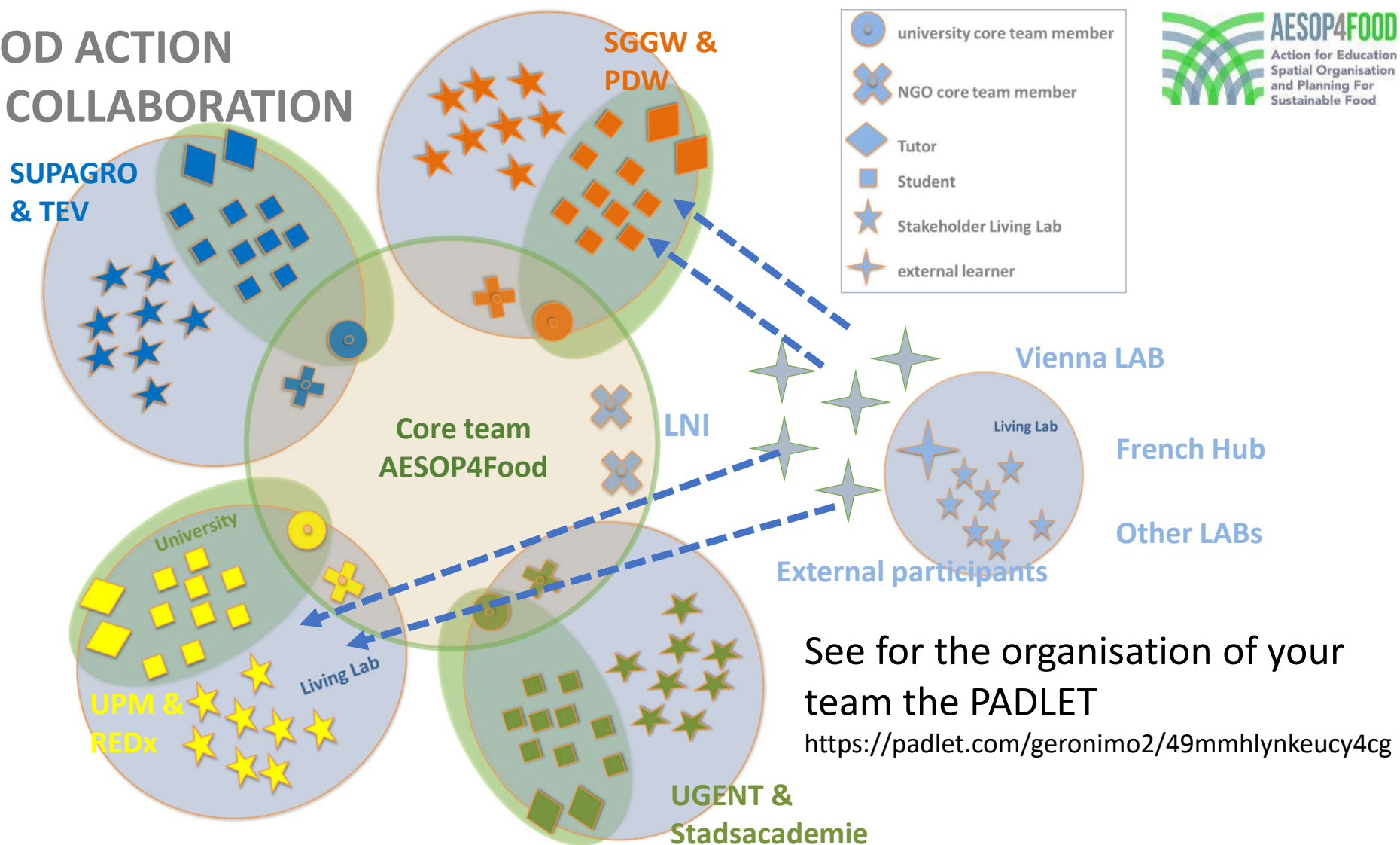
- Recap of session 2
- Q&A on Assignment 1: see slack channel
- **Overview of cases with a different focus of current food systems**
Short show cases where different approaches are central
 - food deserts
 - food justice
 - food waste
 - common land
- **Jorge Molero - Case study: The challenges of current food systems showing the roles of the different stakeholders**
- **Outlook on the presentations of April 21**
we skip one week so you have more time to prepare

Living labs and teams for working on the assignments

- a. You are already in a team
- b. You are willing to join a team (Madrid or Warsaw)
- c. You have your own project / living lab (that others may join (French Food Hub, Vienna lab))
- d. You are looking for others to form a team

Just organise yourself using the padlet and Slack

AESOP4FOOD ACTION LEARNING COLLABORATION



See for the organisation of your team the PADLET
<https://padlet.com/geronimo2/49mmhlynkeucy4cg>

Assignment 1: Field of Play

The scope of the food system and the concepts and methods you use

Answer the following questions:

- Who are in your team?
- What is your given (provided by your university) or self selected task (a local case study or living lab relating to a community);
- What is the main theme you address for this task: access to land, circular economy/metabolism, food deserts, food justice, *(we will update this list)*
- What skills and methods do you already have before the course started to address the assignment (methods of your discipline, personal skills)?
- Which methods and concepts that were presented in the first three sessions are suitable for addressing your task?

Reflection: What has changed in your perception by the first lectures?

Thursday April 21: Present your assignment in 10 minutes using the PowerPoint format to your colleagues and tutors.

References

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