

The logo features a central yellow star-like shape with a dark blue outline. Behind it are several overlapping shapes: a light blue shape, a dark blue shape, and a shape with vertical green and white stripes. The text 'LIVING LAB' is written in a bold, teal, sans-serif font across the top of the yellow shape.

LIVING LAB

AGRO-ECOLOGIE
& BIOLOGISCHE
LANDBOUW

Farming in Flanders

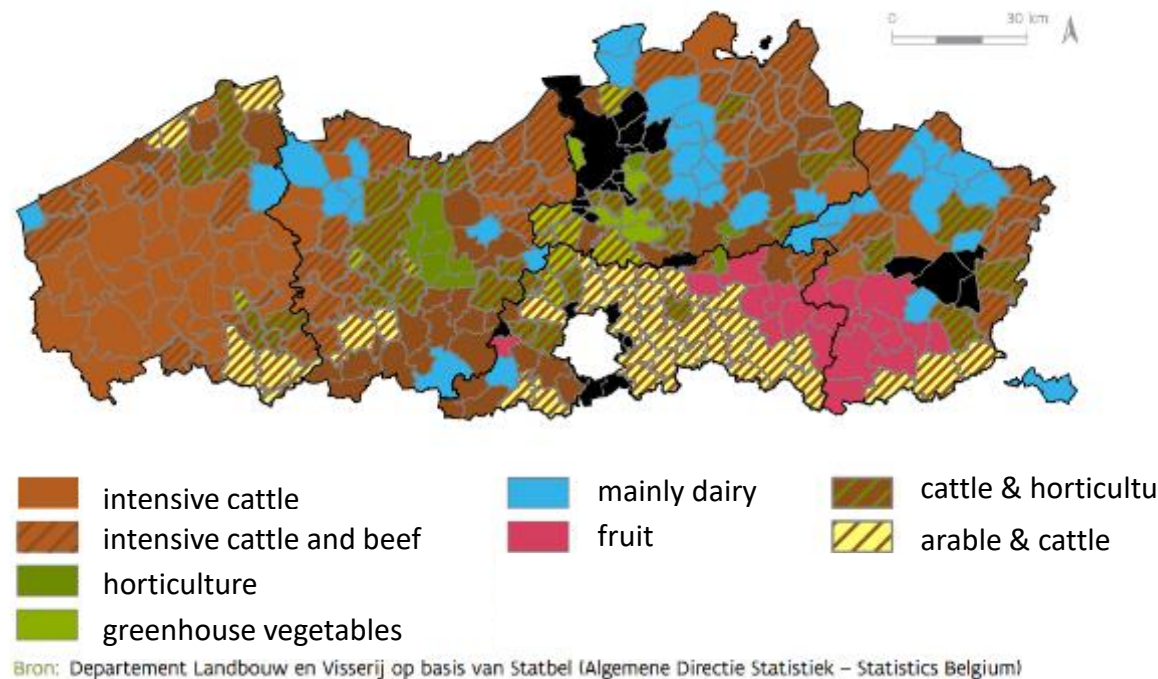
610.971 hectares farm land - 23.225 farms (average of 25 ha per farm)

intensive and high productive farming businesses

specialisation in different regions

most common: a highly intensive livestock industry

=> average of 142 cows/farm; 2120 pigs/farm; 55.000 chickens/farm



Farming in Flanders

strengths

- very good climate conditions & soil fertility
- well-organised agrobusiness complex
- innovative power & technological uptake
- entries of young (often new) farmers with commitment towards the environment

weaknesses

- availability of agricultural land
- rapidly ageing group of farmers
- image of agriculture within society



Main Challenges

declining **SOIL** quality

access to **LAND**

climate change => **WATER** availability

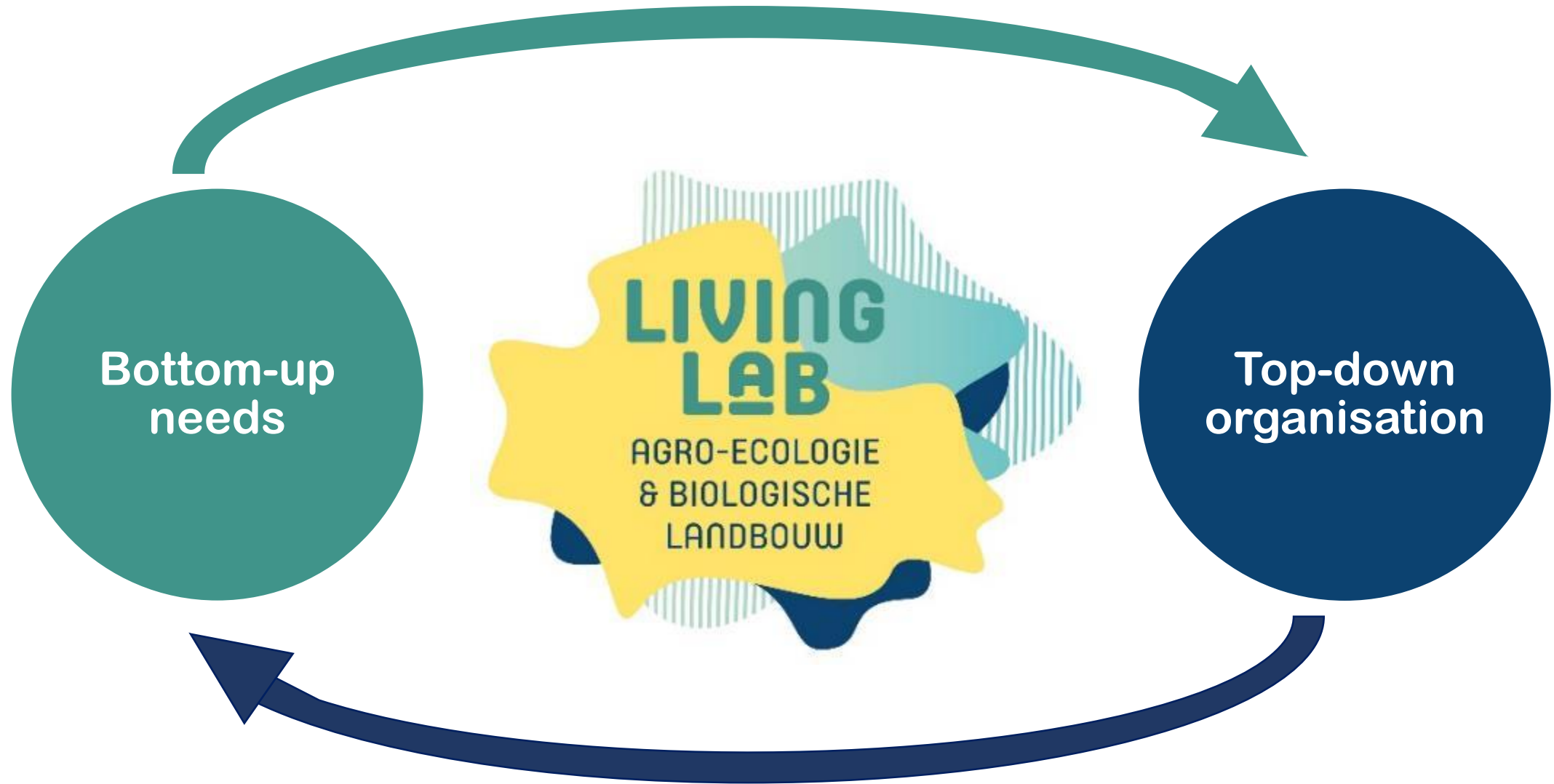
POSITION of the farmer in food chain

decline in **AGROBIODIVERSITY**

CONNECTION with consumer

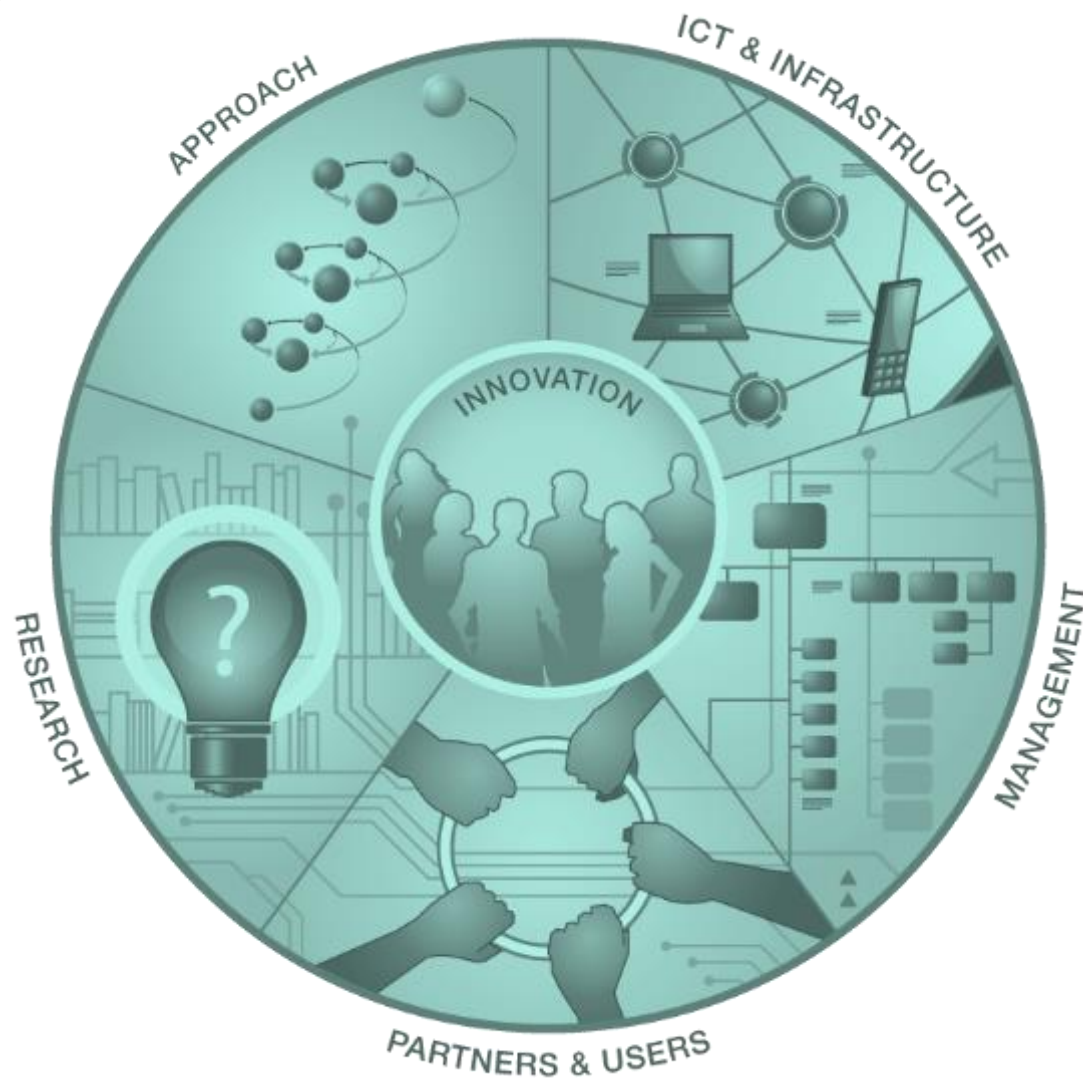


The initiative



LIVING LAB

ENoLL principles
5 components





Partners & Users





'Open knowledge exchange in co-creation with (organic) farmers as driver for of an agroecological food and farming system'



An Jamart





'On farm innovation and technical progress are vital drivers in the transition to a more agro-ecological approach'

Dieter Depraetere



Thanks to agro-ecological thinking, we look beyond the optimization of cultivation.

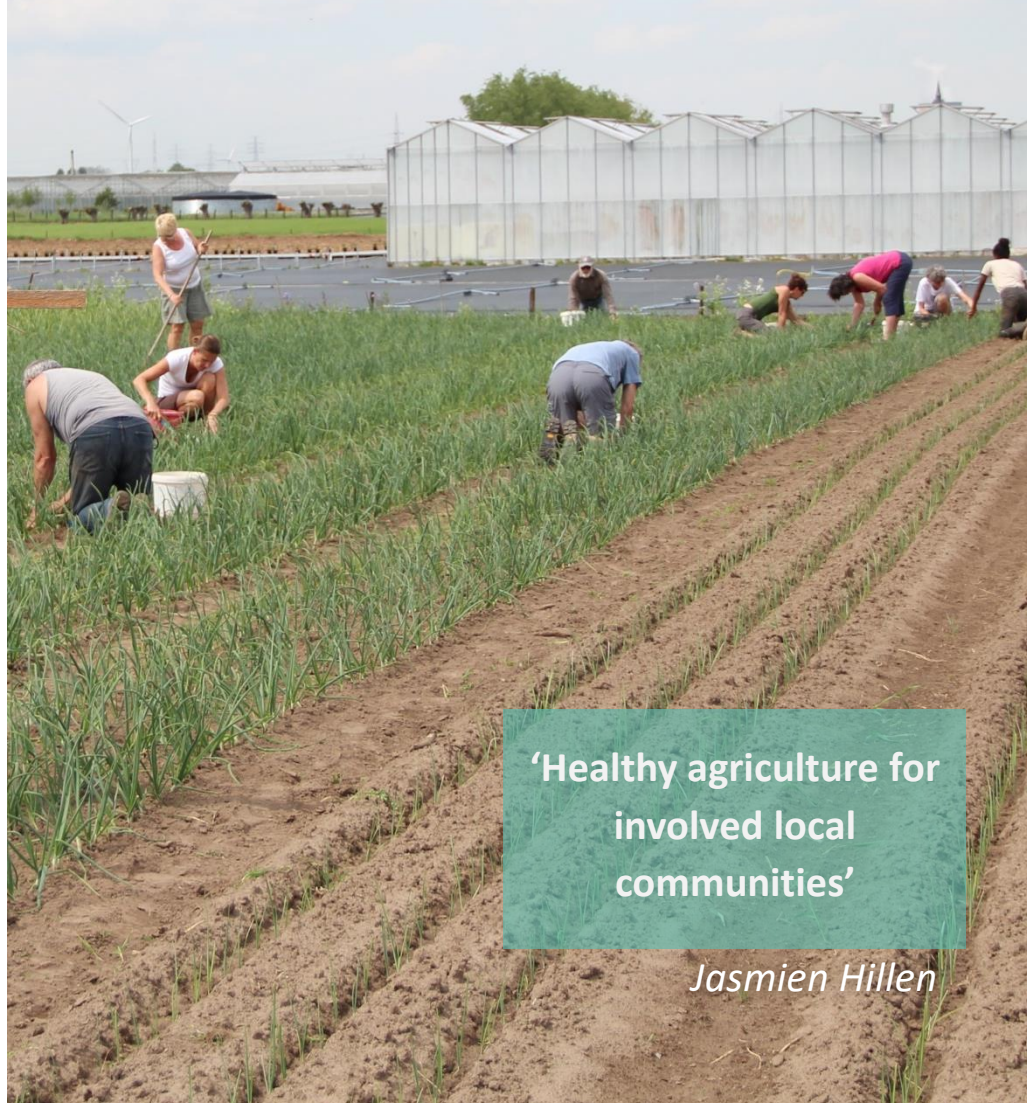


As a research and extension centre, we support growers in sustainable and innovative vegetable culture. In the living lab, we share knowledge and get inspired on organic and agro-ecological techniques in other sectors.



“Increasing biodiversity is a corner stone in modern fruit production and the basis for agroecology”

Renske Petré



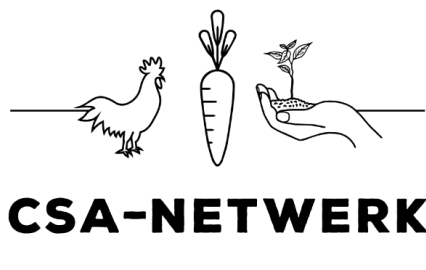
**'Healthy agriculture for
involved local
communities'**

Jasmien Hillen



**'Cooperation between farmers
accelerates the transition towards
more nature-inclusive farming,
pushing knowledge exchange,
ecological effects and social
acceptance to much higher levels.'**

Sven Defrijn





‘Practice-driven research and tailored knowledge exchange are key for development of agro-ecological innovations with farmers’

Carmen Landuyt



Based on end-users needs, active stakeholder involvement, co-creation and system thinking are indispensable elements in research, innovation and knowledge creation

Lieve De Cock

ILVO



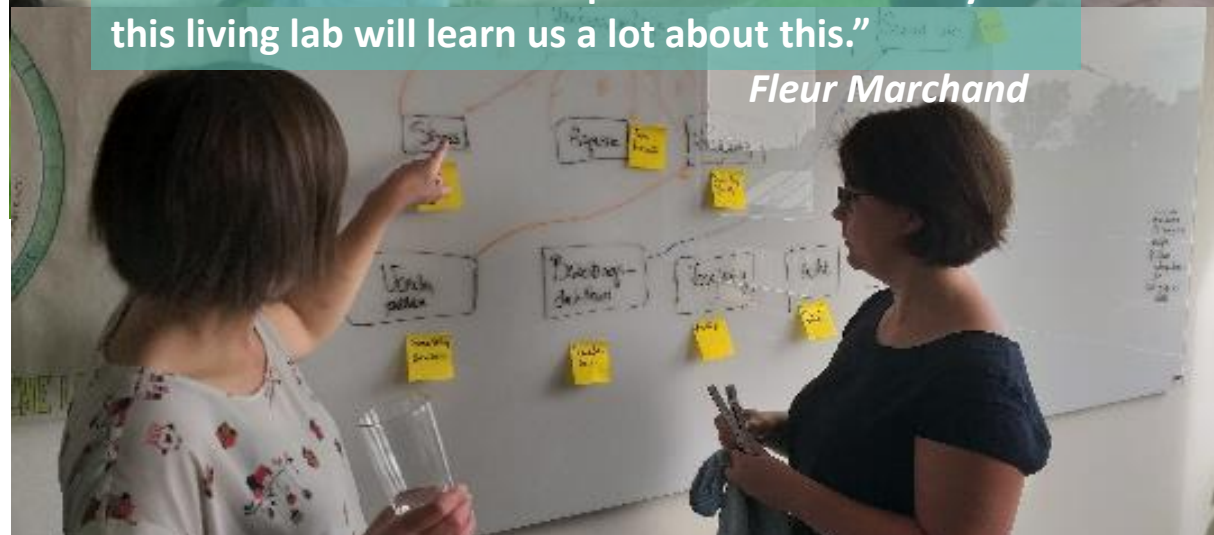
Flanders
is agriculture and fisheries

HO GENT



"We believe that system approaches are necessary to address the challenges of our today's food system. Researchers need to take up a new role in society and this living lab will learn us a lot about this."

Fleur Marchand



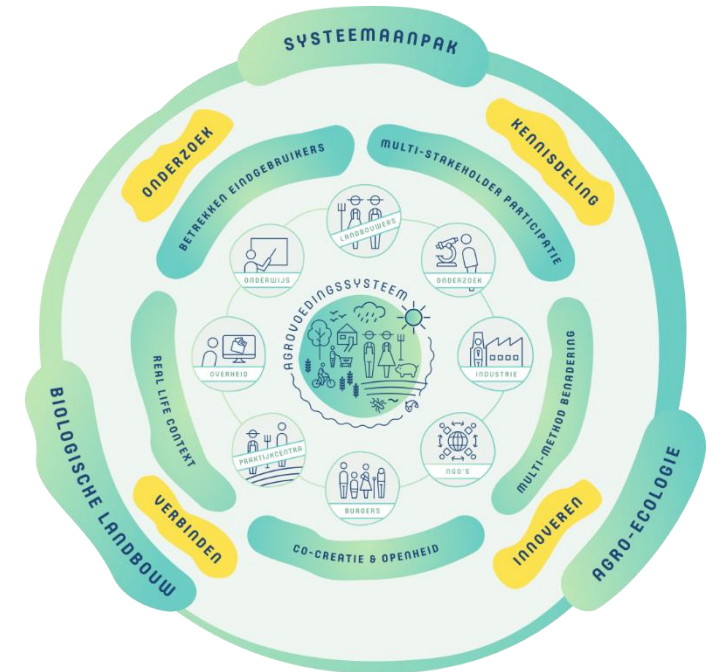
**'Functional
(Agro)Biodiversity as
fundament of Agro-
ecology'**



WHY? We support agro-ecological innovation as a lever in the **transition from organic and conventional agriculture** to sustainable food and agricultural ecosystems. To this end, we connect people, organisations, science and practice.

WHAT? The living lab brings together partners from the agrifood system and facilitates **systemic and innovative research and knowledge sharing** on agroecology and organic agriculture.

HOW? We work via a **systems approach** and apply the **5 ENoLL principles**: multi-method approach, multi-stakeholder participation, real life context, active involvement of end users, co-creation and openness.





MANAGEMENT



facilitation of the living lab by ILVO

- **management:** 0,5 > 1 FTE from the Social Sciences unit
- **core team** with researchers from other units

coordination through participation:

- **active stakeholder participation** in design and operation of the LL
- **working groups:** variable membership, linked to specific goal, temporary

funding : chicken or the egg

working groups



Examples of working groups

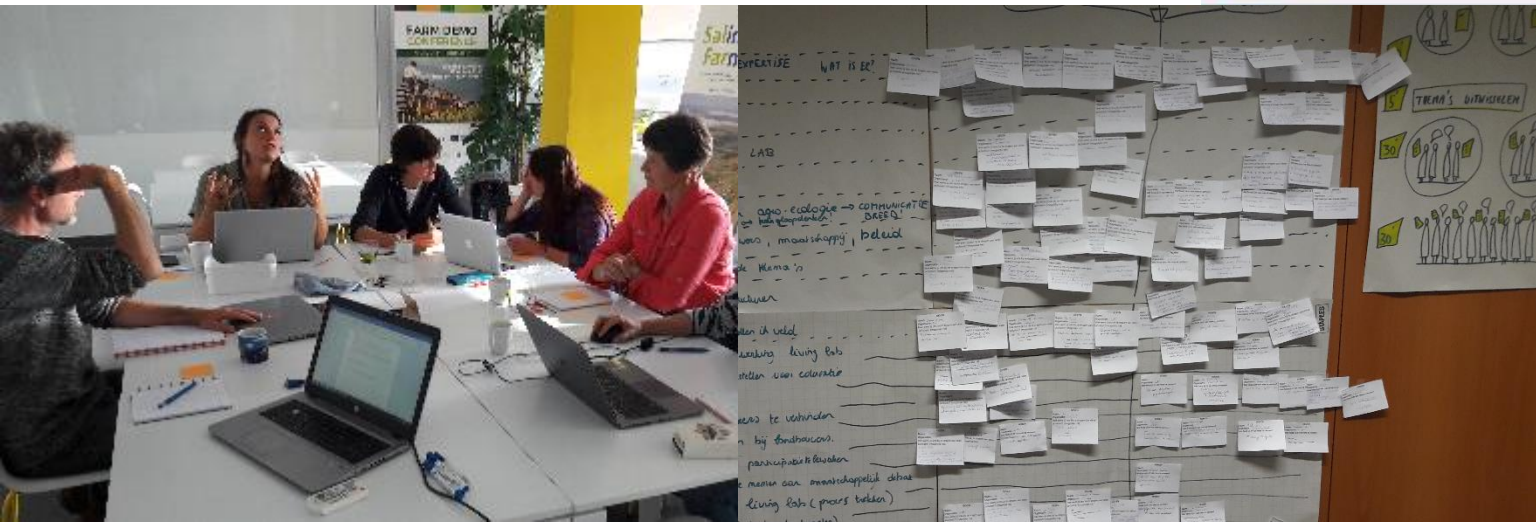


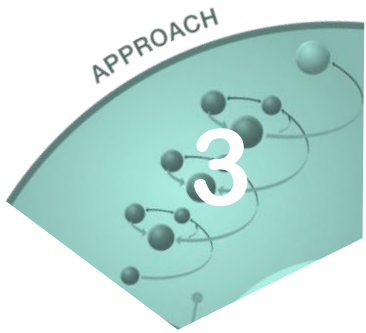
Living Labyrinth : linking relevant actors, showcasing the expertise

Demonstration of agroecological practices – organising a round of visits to inspiring farms

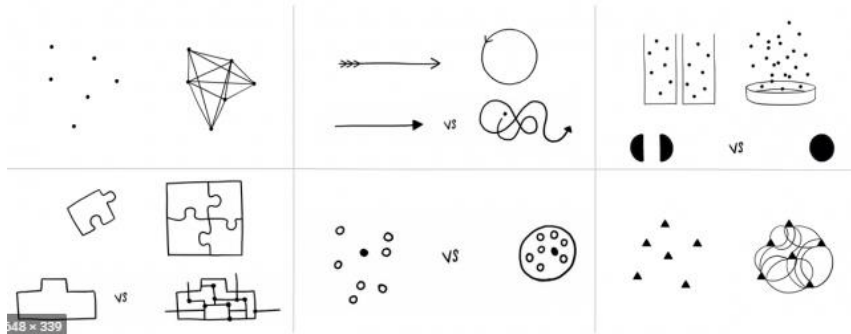
Agroecology and current policies

Communicating on a difficult concept as agroecology





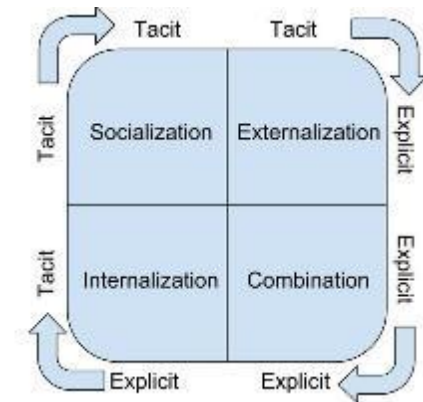
APPROACH



system thinking tools



Enoll approach



Nonaka et al. 2000

tacit knowledge

Farm 'De groentelaar'

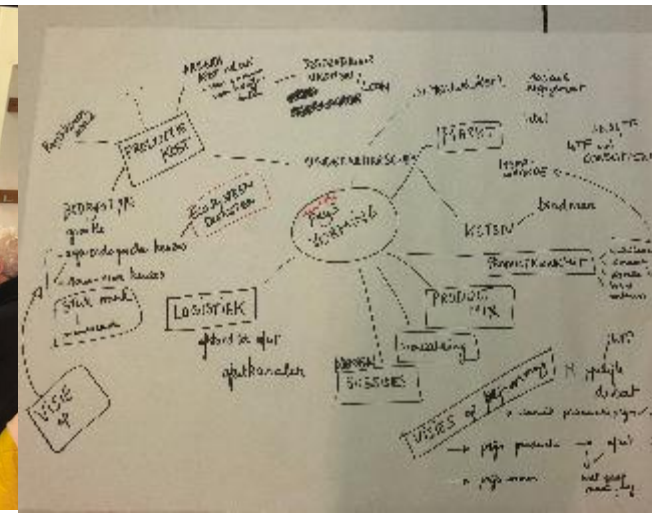


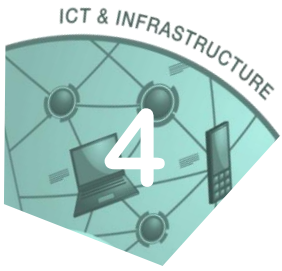
farm visit: farmer tells his story, his objectives, his challenges

introduction to systems thinking for all participants

system approach with stakeholders to adress farmers' needs:

- put farmers' challenges (fair price for his products) within a system context
- explore problem definition
- identify strategies





ICT and INFRASTRUCTURE



website

www.llaebio.be

farmland for future projects

both on research sites as on real farms





Research



Facilitating and supporting systemic research and innovation on agro-ecological practices in food systems

- making existing expertise visible
- interactive knowledge sharing activities
- helpdesk: refer questions to partners, identifying knowledge gaps, education, initiating research with partners
- facilitating project proposals
- facilitating real life research on farms
- building up knowledge on systemic research

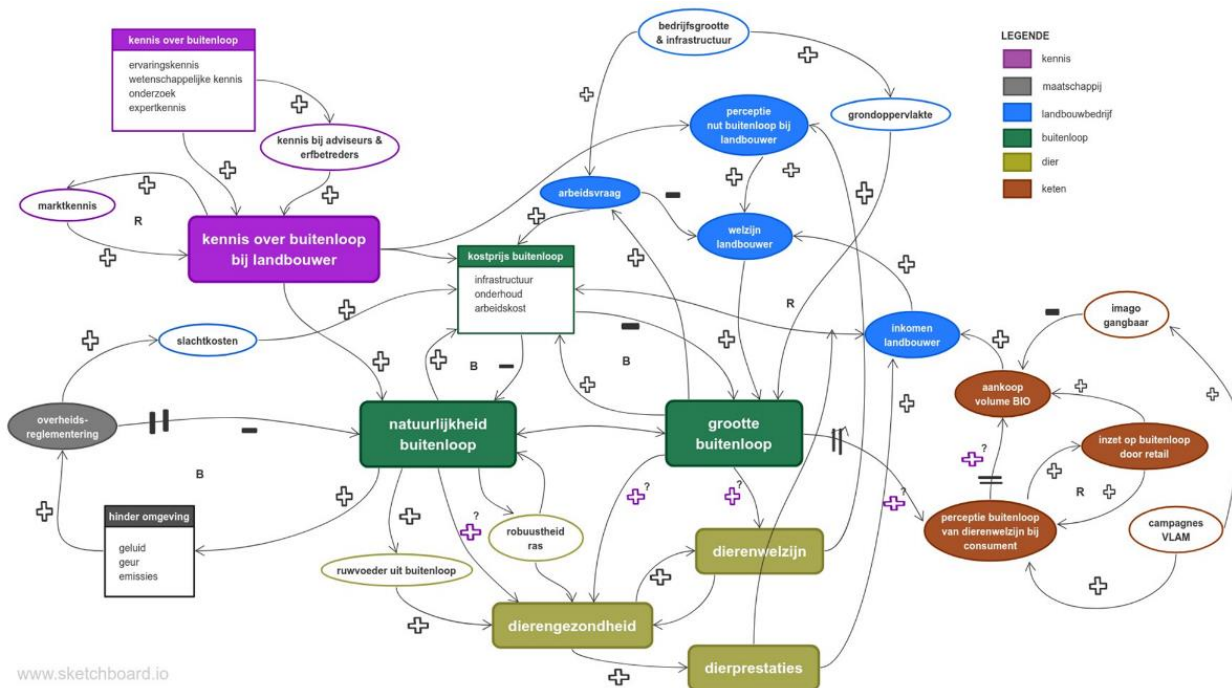
*through innovation
& stakeholder engagement*

Examples of activities



1. Facilitating and writing of a project proposal on outdoor pig farming

- little experience in Flanders (operational group)
- include systemic approach in next proposal



Examples of activities



1. Facilitating and writing of a project proposal on outdoor pig farming
 - little experience in Flanders (operational group P'orchard)
 - include systemic approach in next proposal
2. Learning networks on rotational grazing and other agro ecological practices



Examples of activities



1. Facilitating and writing of a project proposal on outdoor pig farming
 - little experience in Flanders (operational group P'orchard)
 - include systemic approach in next proposal
2. Learning networks on rotational grazing and other agro ecological practices
3. Scientific grounding of the concept agroecology

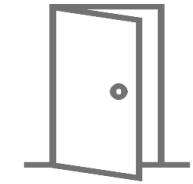


Ambitions



- More farmers on board
- Grow as a living lab to boost co-creation between all actors
- More research funded for agroecological and organic research
- Networking on EU level : cf. CSA H2020 FNR 01 2020 – AgroEcoLLNet

LESSONS LEARNED



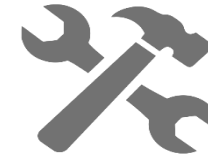
Created by Moons
from Noun Project

**Open your doors
& create trust**



Created by Magicon
from Noun Project

**Participatory
paradox**



Created by Icons
from Noun Project

**Tools
& Facilitation**



Resistance



Created by Aneeqe Ahmed
from Noun Project

Added value



**Funding
vs activities**



Created by SEITS
from Noun Project

Long process



**Network
& gatekeepers**



Continuity



fleur.marchand@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
laebio@ilvo.vlaanderen.be



Vlaanderen
is landbouw & visserij

ILVO

Flanders Research Institute for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Burg. Van Gansberghelaan 92
9820 Merelbeke – België
T + 32 (0)9 272 25 00
F +32 (0)9 272 25 01

www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be