



**FOOD 2030**

**SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR  
FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Janez Potočnik**

**Co-Chair International Resource Panel – UNEP  
SYSTEMIQ**

**BRUSSELS, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2016**



International  
Resource  
Panel

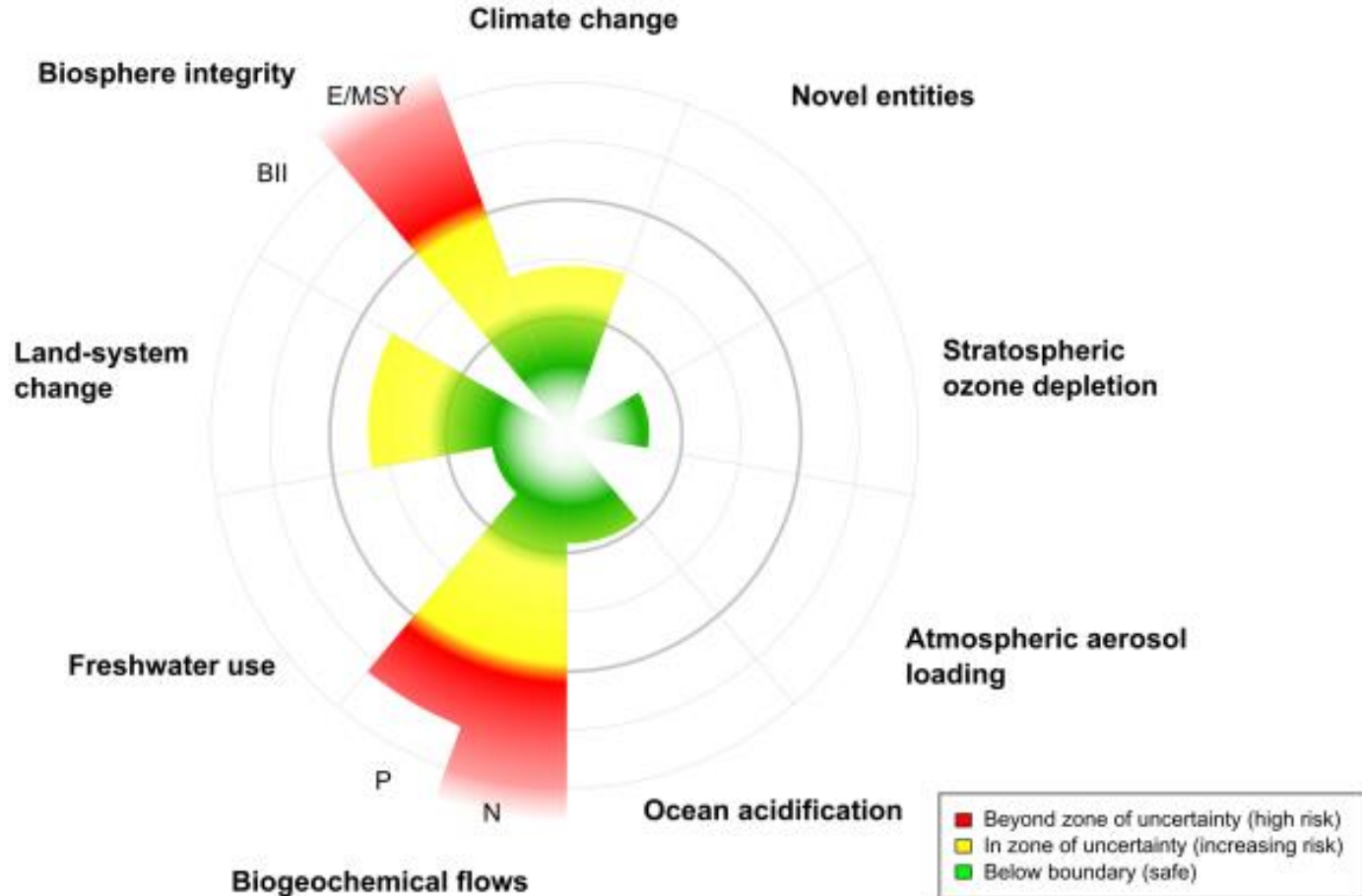
# 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

## THE GREAT ACCELERATION



- *Growth of population by a factor **3.7***
- *Annual extraction of construction materials grew by a factor of **34**, ores and minerals by a factor of **27**, fossil fuels by a factor of **12**, biomass by a factor of **3.6***
- *Total material extraction grew by a factor of **8***
- *GHG emissions grew by a factor of **13***
- ***Globalisation***

# “PLANETARY BOUNDARIES”



Source: Steffen et al. 2015

# 21<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

## FACTS WE CAN NOT IGNORE

- **Population** growth (2050 - 9.7 billion)
- **Per capita consumption** growth (McKinsey estimates 3 billion consumers moving from low to middle class consumption till 2030)
- **Example:** China used more cement in the three years 2011-2013 than the USA used in the whole 20<sup>th</sup> Century



# 21<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

## FACTS WE CAN NOT IGNORE

- **Poverty** and **social inequality** (Oxfam Report: 62 people own the same as half of the world and the richest 1% is more wealthy than the rest of the world)
- 60% of **ecosystems** already degraded or used unsustainably
- Increasing evidence of the **climate change** threat





International  
Resource  
Panel



# *Food systems are at the heart of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.*

*The food we grow, harvest, process, trade, transport, store sell and consume is the essential connecting thread between people, prosperity, and planet.*





# SOME WORRYING FACTS

- **33% of soils is moderately to highly degraded** due to erosion, nutrient depletion, acidification, salinization, compaction and chemical pollution;
- **60% of global terrestrial biodiversity loss** is related to food production, **ecosystem services** supporting food production are often **under pressure**;
- Of the total input in the form of **nitrogen** - and phosphorus fertilizers, only **15-20% actually reaches the consumers' plates**.
- Globally, food systems account for around **24% of the global greenhouse gas emissions**.
- Nearly 800 million people are **hungry**, over 2 billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies ... while over 2 billion people are **obese**

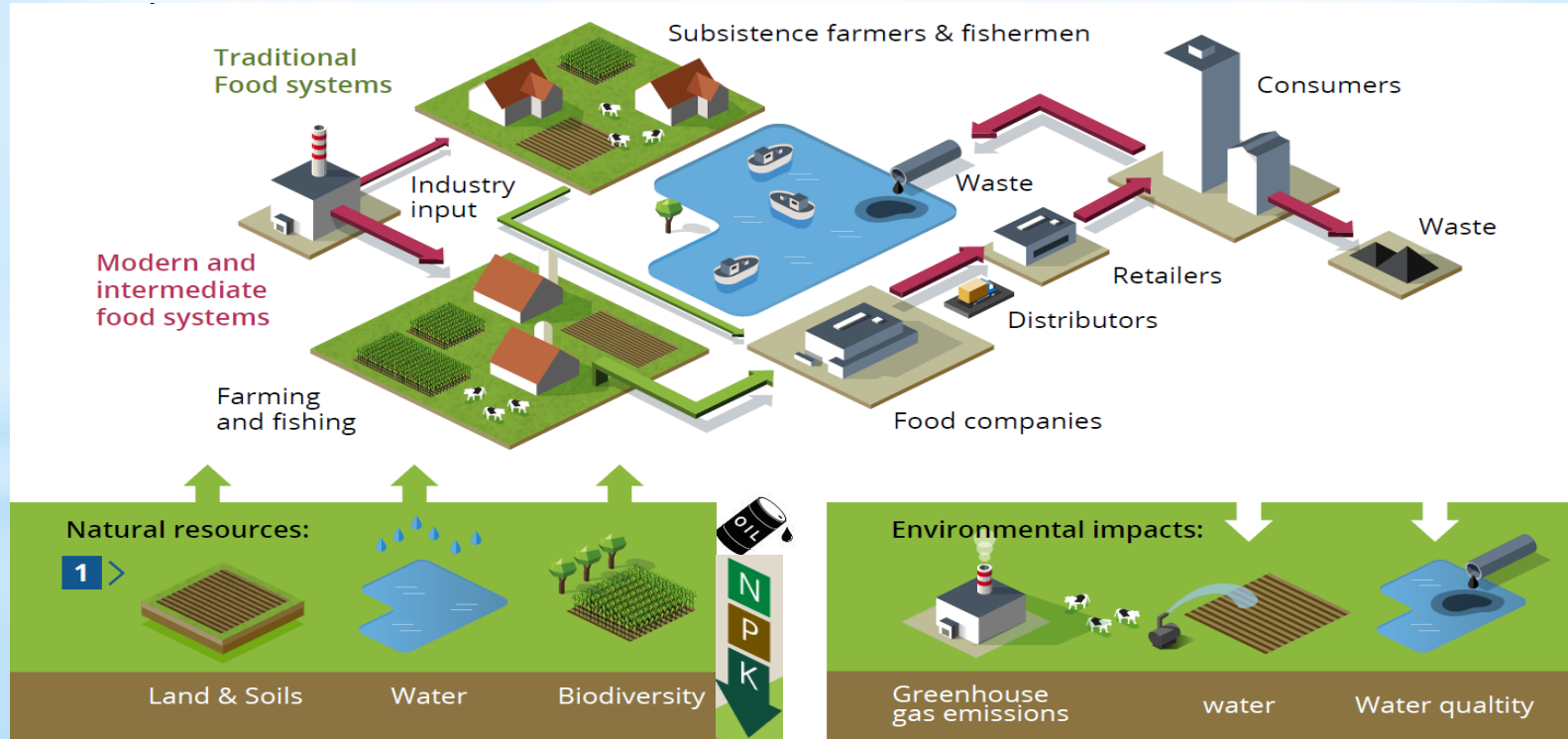


International  
Resource  
Panel

# FOOD SYSTEMS DIFFER WIDELY GLOBALLY



often interconnected - and depending on the same resources





# WHERE

TO FOCUS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION  
TO A SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR FOOD  
SYSTEMS?



# CRITICAL SHIFTS TOWARDS RESOURCE-SMART FOOD SYSTEMS



- 1. Reduce food loss and waste.**
- 2. Reorient away from resource-intensive products** such as meat, ‘empty calories’ and ultra-processed food; and **rethink the ‘food environment’** (the physical and social surroundings that influence what people eat, especially relevant in urban areas) to facilitate consumers adopting more healthy and sustainable diets.
- 3. Reframe thinking by promoting ‘resource-smart food systems’** in which ‘Climate-Smart Agriculture’ (CSA) plays one part, and search for linkages to new dominant **values such as ‘wellbeing’ and ‘health’**.
- 4. Reconnect rural and urban**, especially in developing regions, where urban actors (e.g. supermarkets) could invest in regional supply chains and improve the position of smallholders.



# CRITICAL SHIFTS TOWARDS RESOURCE-SMART FOOD SYSTEMS



5. **Revalue the pricing of environmental externalities, reinforce legislation** to prevent pollution and other forms of environmental degradation and **remove subsidies** that provide disincentives for better resource efficiency.
6. **Reconnect urban consumers with how their food is produced** and how it reaches their plates, and **inform them** about both the **health and environmental consequences of dietary choices, protect peri-urban zones** around cities and use them for local food production.
7. **Research the current functioning of the local, national or regional food systems and their impact on national resources.**
8. **Reconnect mineral flows between urban areas and rural areas, as well as between crop and livestock production.**



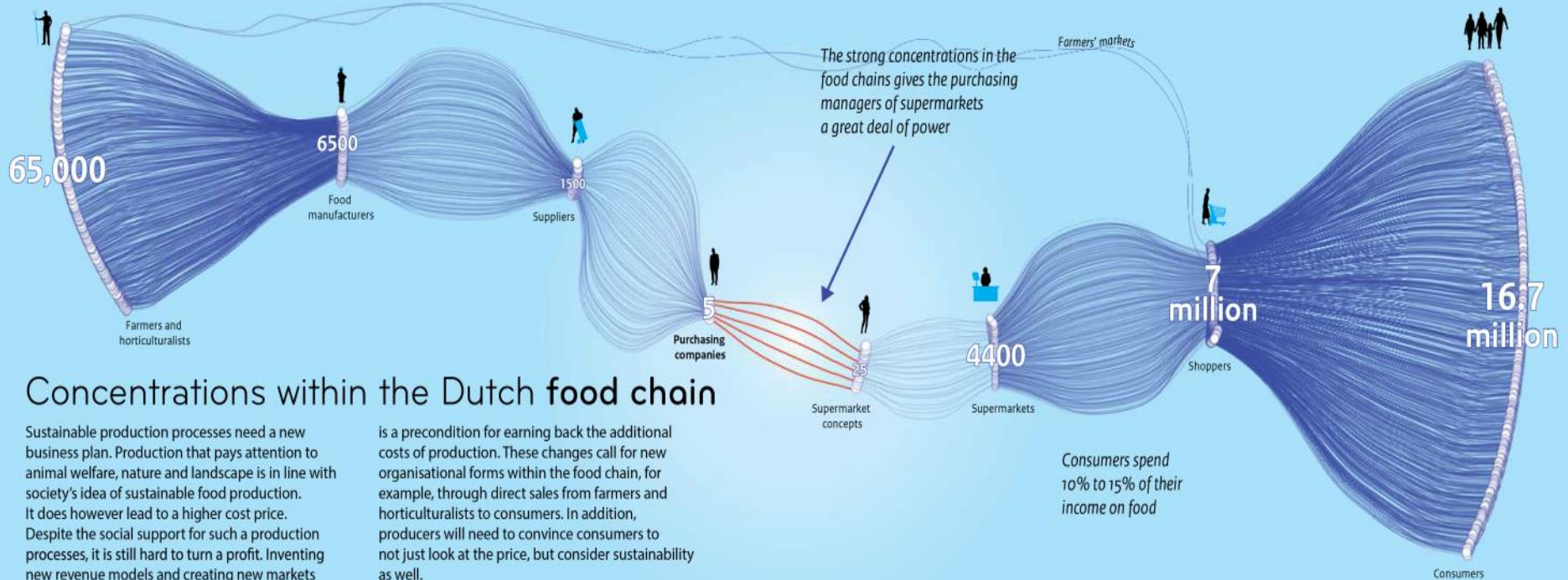
# CRITICAL SHIFTS TOWARDS RESOURCE-SMART FOOD SYSTEMS



- 9. Reform policies on land and water rights, develop and implement policies at all levels of governments** (multilateral, national and local) to enable better resource management and **encourage synergistic ‘adaptive governance’** by the wide range of non-state actors (i.e. businesses and civil society) within the food system.
- 10. Reinvigorate investment in rural infrastructure, education, training, technology, knowledge transfer and payments of environmental services.**
- 11. Research and innovate, to decouple food production from resource use and environmental impacts, and to replace certain inputs (such as pesticides) with ecosystem services.**
- 12. Rebuild feedback loops by functional and informative monitoring and reporting,** at various levels, such as countries, cities and companies.



# CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN THE WESTERN-TYPE FOOD CHAIN



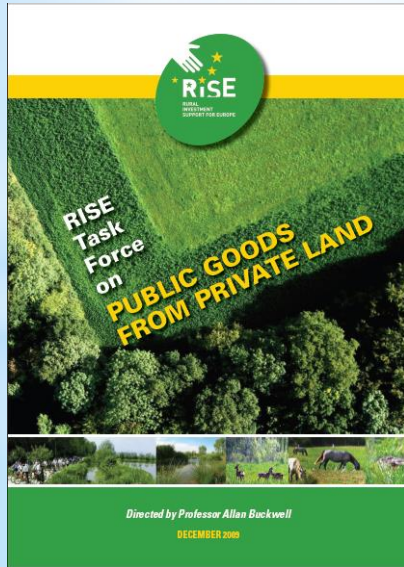
## Concentrations within the Dutch food chain

Sustainable production processes need a new business plan. Production that pays attention to animal welfare, nature and landscape is in line with society's idea of sustainable food production. It does however lead to a higher cost price. Despite the social support for such a production processes, it is still hard to turn a profit. Inventing new revenue models and creating new markets

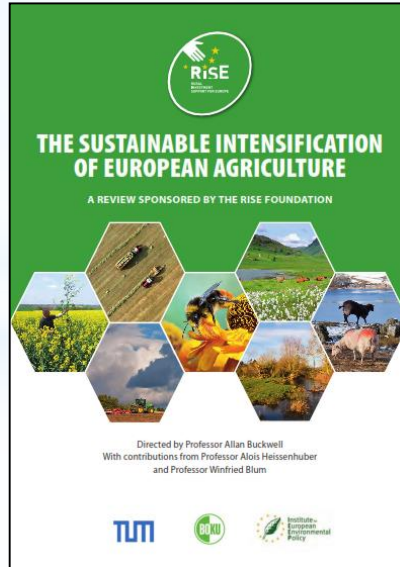
is a precondition for earning back the additional costs of production. These changes call for new organisational forms within the food chain, for example, through direct sales from farmers and horticulturalists to consumers. In addition, producers will need to convince consumers to not just look at the price, but consider sustainability as well.

# THREE RISE REPORTS

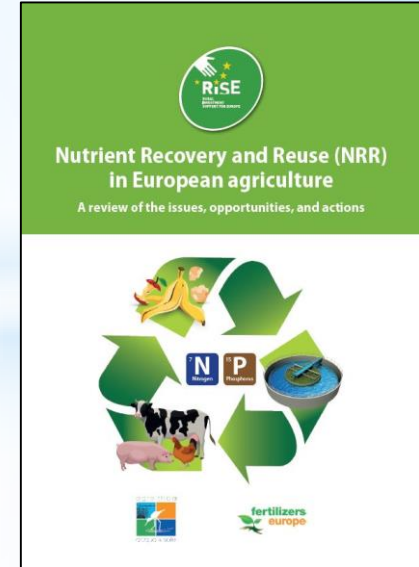
providing policy recommendations to address agricultural and environmental challenges in Europe



2009



2014



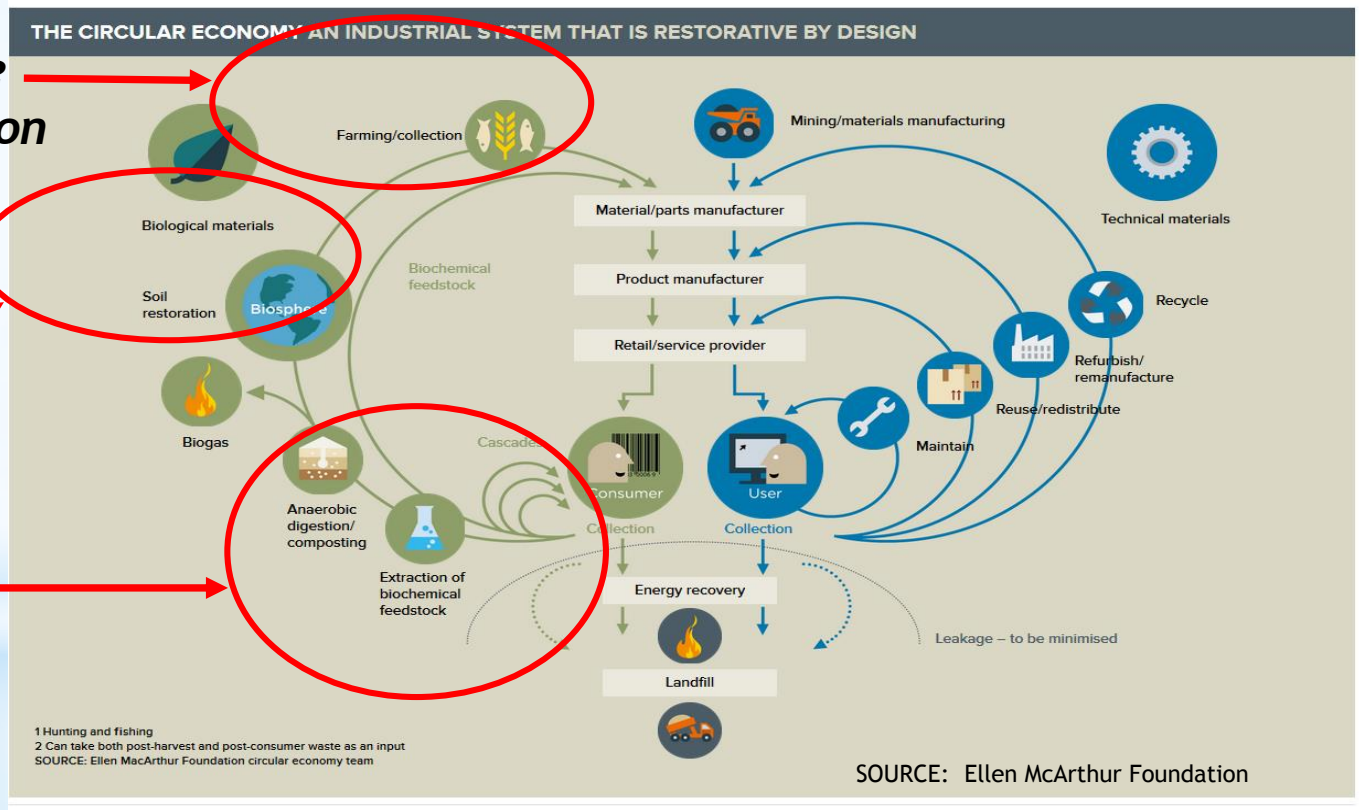
2016

# AGRICULTURE AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**Sustainable Intensification**

**Public goods**

**Nutrient Recovery and Reuse**



# ACHIEVING 'GROWTH WITHIN'

10 CE investment opportunities to accelerate Europe's circular economy transition

Food CE  
Investment  
Opportunities













		Description	Case examples	
Mobility	Integrating mobility systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully integrate the public transport system with shared vehicles both digitally as well as through the upgrading of transport infrastructure</li> </ul>		<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;">Cross-cutting opportunity</div> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">Digital innovations (IoT, applications, analytics)</div> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">Material tracking system through secondary material market</div>
	Designing and producing circular cars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and produce cars made for looping with durable materials tracked E2E, that would also be made for sharing and/or using clean technologies</li> </ul>		
	Ramping up car remanufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rollout remanufacturing of car components at scale</li> </ul>		
Food	Scaling regenerative agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shifting towards an EU agricultural system that regenerates the soil and revitalizes ecosystems</li> </ul>		
	Closing nutrient loops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scaling nutrient and energy recovery from various waste streams, using anaerobic digestion, biorefinery and other technologies</li> </ul>		
	Scaling urban farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scaling hydroponic, aquaponic and aeroponic farms in urban areas</li> </ul>		
	Next-wave protein sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide options allowing for a dietary shift to more vegetable-based proteins, and to more efficient higher quality animal-based proteins</li> </ul>		
Built Environment	Designing and producing circular buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and produce multi-usage highly modular and energy positive buildings made of durable non-toxic materials</li> </ul>		
	Looping buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramp up recycling and remanufacturing of building materials</li> </ul>		
	Scaling circular urban built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scale circular management of energy, waste, water and the open space using urban planning, information sharing and innovative technologies</li> </ul>		

Source: SystemIQ



# SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS COMMISSION: QUANTIFYING THE SDG PRIZE

## Business opportunities in **food system** linked to the SDGs (draft)

Challenge	Business opportunities	Relevant SDGs	Societal outcomes
<b>Food security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable aquaculture</li> <li>Bottom of the pyramid</li> <li>Technology in large scale farms</li> <li>Urban agriculture</li> </ul>	  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure food security</li> <li><b>Zero</b> malnutrition impacting over <b>800 million</b> people that are hungry</li> </ul>
<b>Poverty alleviation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technology in smallholder farms</li> <li>Restoring degraded land</li> </ul>	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential to <b>double</b> incomes of <b>1.5 billion</b> smallholder farmers</li> </ul>
<b>Addressing climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dietary switch</li> <li>Cattle intensification</li> </ul>	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in the <b>24%</b> of GHG emissions that come from the food system</li> <li><b>Zero</b> deforestation</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Micro irrigation</li> <li>Reducing food waste in the value chain</li> <li>Reducing consumer food waste</li> <li>Reducing packaging waste</li> <li>Dietary switch</li> <li>Restoring degraded land</li> </ul>	   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agricultural water consumption falling by <b>15%</b></li> <li><b>Halving</b> of consumer food waste</li> <li>Reduction of food wasted in the supply chain</li> <li>Plastic waste reduced in the oceans</li> <li><b>Zero</b> further degradation of cropland</li> </ul>
<b>Better health &amp; well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Product reformulation</li> <li>Dietary switch</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global obesity in 2030 falls from projected 41% of population to Japanese levels (5%), implying over <b>3 billion</b> less people that are obese</li> </ul>



**TO CONCLUDE ...**

**WE HAVE TO FIX A BROKEN  
COMPASS  
(PAVAN SUKHDEV)**

***NEW ECONOMIC MODEL BASED ON SCP  
INTEGRATING ALL THREE PILLARS OF  
SUSTAINABILITY IS***

***NECESSARY  
AND UNAVOIDABLE***



# POLICY APPROACH

**ALL POLICIES SHOULD BE SYSTEMATICALLY ADJUSTED**

*Beyond GDP, natural capital accounting, corporate sustainability reporting, tax policy, state aid, public procurement, product design, use of banking potential, R and D and innovation, investments in infrastructure, education, consumers awareness, new business models, support to SMEs, ...*

**ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS IS NECESSARY**

*Transition is only possible if we actively involve those losing in the process of transition*

# GOVERNANCE



Marco Steinberg

## **GOVERNEMENTS SHOULD BE STRUCTURED AROUND THE PROBLEMS**

(Integration of policies, for example sustainable food chain)

## **WE NEED TO MOVE POLICY FROM INNOVATIVE PARTS TO INNOVATIVE WHOLES**

(Many innovative parts do not create innovative wholes and no one in the government is looking at the big picture)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ENDEAVOUR SHOULD BE CHANGED TO A CREATIVE ENDEAVOUR**

(Danger of administrative approach is that one might improve the wrong things)

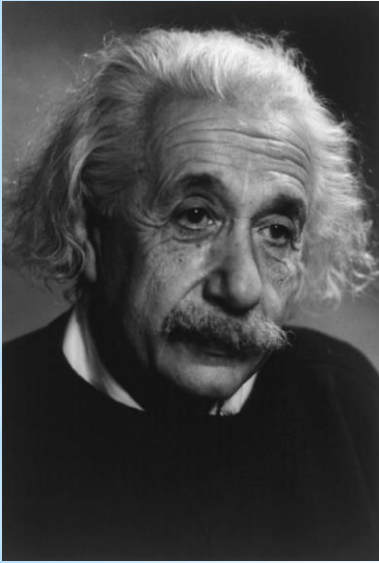
## **EMBEDDING A NEW CAPABILITY, ENGAGING EVERYBODY AND THE OWNERSHIP**

(We should replace the complaints box with ideas box, we should aim at "impossible" projects and force ourselves to rethink the principles)

## **A NEW STRUCTURE, A NEW LOGIC, A NEW CULTURE, A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT**

# ABOUT INNOVATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MECHANISMS ...

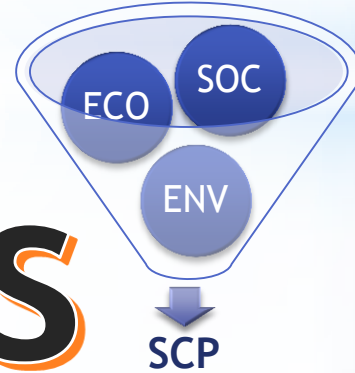
**ALBERT EINSTEIN**



***WE CAN NOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE SAME THINKING WE USED WHEN WE HAVE CREATED THEM***

***INSANITY – DOING THE SAME THINGS OVER AND OVER AGAIN AND EXPECTING DIFFERENT RESULTS***

# SDGs



**GIUSEPPE TOMASI DI LAMPEDUSA**



***EVERYTHING HAS TO CHANGE TO REMAIN THE SAME***



**THANK YOU**