



Belgian One
Health Network

Outcome of the workshop – Farm to Fork Strategy

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Significance of F2F Strategy in Belgium

- Transition to profitable and sustainable food production – healthier and sustainable consumption
- Interrelated challenges for agriculture, public health, climate and environment and economic viability
- Constructive and integrated response through F2F strategy



Significance of F2F Strategy in Belgium

- Agriculture:
 - increasing scale, specialisation, high productivity and intensity, input dependent production
 - Falling revenues, administrative burdens, problematic access to land → attractiveness
 - Hyper-Specialisation → vulnerable to external shocks (economic, environment, climatic, health)



Significance of F2F Strategy in Belgium

- Public health
 - In 2019, 28% of deaths due to vascular disease, 27% to tumours → overweight/obesity major risk factor
 - Unbalanced diets (< fruits, vegetables, > red/processed meat) → major impact on environment → rise to other health problems
 - New and emerging diseases → worldwide 75% due to transmission from domestic/wild animals to humans:
 - Increasing demand of animal proteins
 - Non-sustainable intensive agriculture
 - Increased use and exploitation of wild animals
 - Non-sustainable use of natural resources
 - Increased travel and transport
 - Changes in food supply
 - Climate change
 - AMR through the use of antimicrobials in humans and animals and the presence in the environment



Significance of F2F Strategy in Belgium

- Environment and climate change
 - Increasing human population, increasing rise in food demand
 - → rise in GHG emissions
 - Food systems 1/3 of global GHG emissions
 - CH₄ – bovine meat production
 - → degradation and destruction of ecosystems and ecosystem services
 - 90% of global biodiversity loss
 - 33% of global deforestation by EU international trade in agri products
 - 3 times BE surface needed in other countries to produce 7 raw materials consumed in BE (wood, soya, cocoa, beef/leather, palm oil, coffee and rubber), 40% in countries with rapidly destroyed tropical forests



Significance of F2F Strategy in Belgium

- Environment and climate change
 - Excessive ecological footprint of agriculture:
 - > Nitrogen and phosphate into ground- and surfacewater
 - Ammonia emissions → nitrogen deposition → < biodiversity
 - 10/12% of regional greenhouse gas emissions in Flanders/Wallonia
 - Since 1990 decline of bird population: - 60.9% in agricultural areas, - 26.6% in forests
 - Damage of marine and aquatic ecosystems through eutrophication
 - Pressure on groundwater and drinking water



Participants of the workshop

- Federal authorities (Public Health – Safety of the Food Chain – Environment)
- Sciensano
- Regional authorities
- Academia
- Stakeholders organisation (agriculture, food industry)



Highlights of Intermediate Steps

- Major bottlenecks from own experiences

How can F2F strategy contribute to biodiversity targets?

How to stimulate sustainable production?

How to keep rural areas livable?

How can we make the whole food chain move?

How to increase resilience and economic viability along the foodchain?

How to ensure a protein shift?

How to improve access to land?

How to 'true prize' food?

How to connect local/regional/EU food systems in a smart way?

How to change consumer behaviour?



Final Conclusions / Recommendations

- Ensure **policy coherence** for food system policy/policies on all levels (addressed to: policy makers)
- Give sufficient attention to the 3 aspects of sustainability (social, economic, ecological) and **address trade-offs** (addressed to: policy makers, scientists, NGOs)
- Strive for an **integrated research and research coordination** in light of the farm to fork-objectives (addressed to: scientists, policy makers)
- **Avoid (further) dispersion of competences** related to the food system



Final Conclusions / Recommendations

- Healthy and sustainable diets
 - Develop a **nutrient sensitive** agriculture
 - Need for sociological studies on **drivers of food consumption**
 - Encourage **healthy food choices**, reduce **food losses**, dietary guidelines
 - Avoid/**ban publicity** for unhealthy food aimed at children/youngsters
 - Organize a **master on nutrition / reinforce courses in nutrition** for health professionals
- Healthy and sustainable agriculture
 - Development of **new economic models** for farmers
 - Need for **level playing field** for agricultural products → avoid import with lower standards
 - Provide **financial incentives for young farmers** willing to shift to more sustainable production methods.



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Thank you for your attention

