



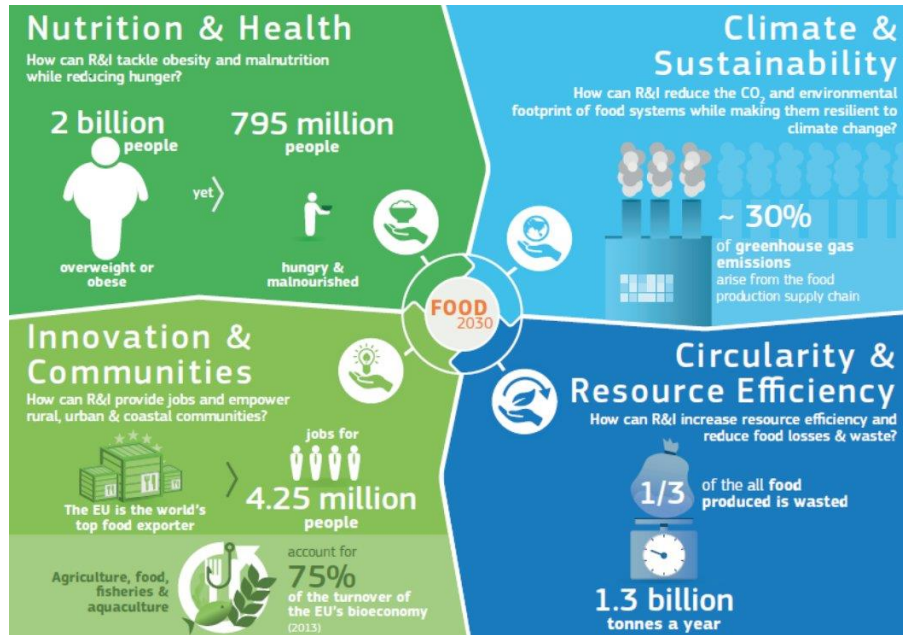
# Fit4Food Policy Lab in Flanders

SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS WORKSHOP TRANSLATING SCIENCE TO POLICY  
LISELOTTE DE VOS, DEPARTMENT EWI FLEMISH GOVERNMENT

19 10 2022

# **Food2030 Fit4Food & Policy labs**

# FOOD 2030 and Fit4Food2030



- ▶ **Future-proofing food systems through increasing the impact from Research & Innovation**



To contribute to the transformation of FNS-related R&I by providing a *transformative network* and instruments for the adoption of a food systems and RRI approach to R&I.

# Policy labs: an important part of the Fit4Food2030 transformative network

- ▶ EU Think Tank: linking the EC and member states and connecting towards global policy objectives



- ▶ Policy Labs: to align R&I policies and programmes



City labs: to engage with the local stakeholders (students, professionals, educators, young people)

# Goal, method and potential outcomes

‘In the policy labs, European countries and regions aim to maximise the impact of Research and Innovation on future-proofing their food system. The labs bring together national and regional stakeholders from the various areas of the food system, making a point of **including people who are usually not involved** in policy discussions. In a series of interactive meetings over the course of the project, they **analyse** the current food system and related R&I landscape, define **knowledge gaps and opportunities** and work **on innovative R&I policies**. Central aspects in this process should be a **holistic approach and Responsible Research and Innovation**. Potential outcomes could be policy briefs, methodologies or new R&I programmes.’



# General steps: The Policy Lab Mantra

- **What is the Food System?**
  - what does it look like in from global, European and country perspective?  
What are global/European/ national trends relating to or influencing the food system?
- **What are the main societal challenges related to the food system in my country?**
  - what can we do something about? What are our strengths and weaknesses?
- **What are the knowledge gaps and research needs to tackle these issues and make transitions possible?**
  - define through RRI, involving scientists, policy makers, industry and other stakeholders. What existing, relevant R&I agendas are there? What are the strenghts of your R&I community?
- **What does this imply for R&I policy?**
  - How does the policy-research interface work in my country? What changes are needed? What outcomes do we want?
- ▶ ***Involving stakeholders along the way and being mindful of who you might be missing***

# General outline: national meetings



## 1st meeting: System Awareness and System Understanding

- Understanding of the food system
- Understanding of the main challenges and knowledge questions of the key players of the food systems
- Overview of existing research agendas, research programmes
- Do you miss any stakeholders?

*Between 1st and 2nd meeting: work towards a draft vision (ultimate goal/impact of policy lab)*

## 2nd meeting: Future outlook and agenda setting

- Discuss and agree upon vision
- Make an assessment of your R&I landscape → for example a SWOT analysis
- Draft a roadmap to improve the R&I landscape, to work towards your vision (or future outlook or ultimate goal)



# **Flemish Policy lab Fit4Food2030**

# Why?

- ▶ **Better alignment and cooperation** between relevant departments of the Flemish Government
  - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
  - Department of Economy, Science and Innovation
  - Department of Wellbeing, Health and Family
- ▶ **Converge ideas** from various stakeholders
- ▶ Create a **platform** for cross-disciplinary policy

→ **Flemish R&I agenda on Food**  
→ **Flemish Food Policy**

- ▶ **Mutual learning exercise:** Exchanging ideas and best practices with other policy labs
- ▶ Better alignment with **European policy**

# Why?

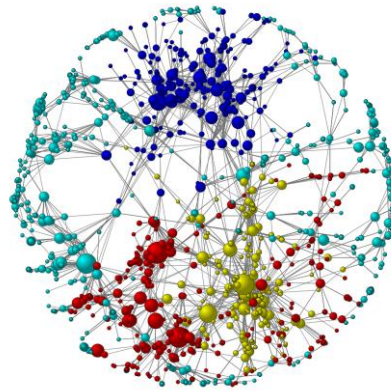


To work in a systemic way with the different players of the food chain to strive towards a performant and sustainable food chain and healthier citizens.

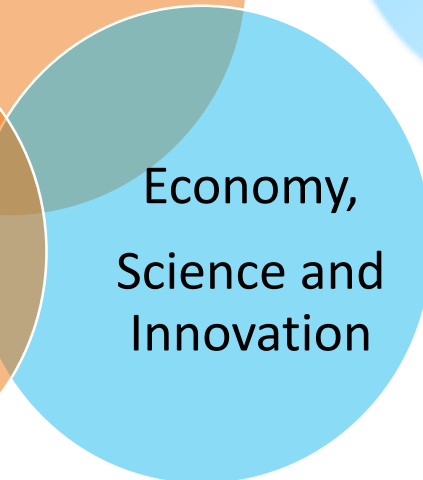
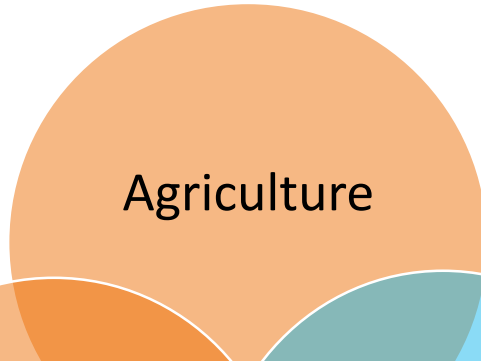
# Mission

**To develop an innovative research agenda for Flanders that fits the FOOD2030 objectives, in cooperation with a broad network of stakeholders and focusing on interdisciplinary, problem-solving research and innovation.**

- Flow of research ideas to policy level and vice versa
- Flow of ideas of the research agenda to the EU level
- Stimulate interdisciplinary research in Flanders and abroad



# Who?



# Main stakeholders



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMY, SCIENCE & INNOVATION

AGENTSCHAP ZORG & GEZONDHEID

VLAAMS INSTITUUT  
**GEZOND LEVEN**

FLANDERS INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Flanders State of the Art



Research Foundation Flanders  
Opening new horizons

**VARIO**

Vlaamse Adviesraad voor Innoveren & Ondernemen



Vlaanderen is ambitieus



N I C E

VOEDINGSINFORMATIECENTRUM  
onder toezicht van een wetenschappelijke adviesraad

**KU LEUVEN**



Universiteit Antwerpen



VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL



UNIVERSITEIT GENT



FLANDERS' FOOD

**Fevia**



**UHASSELT**



**BOERENBOND**  
trouw aan land- en tuinbouw



**vito**  
vision on technology



FOOD 2 KNOW

**ILVO**

Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research



comeos



**AGROLINK**  
VERBONDEN EXPERTISE



Flanders State of the Art

Innovatiesteunpunt



# Action Plan:

- ▶ **Phase 1: preparation**
- ▶ **Phase 2: First Regional event**
- ▶ **Phase 3: Bilateral meetings**
- ▶ **Phase 4: Third event**
- ▶ **Phase 5: Implementation**



# Phase 1: Preparation (2018)

## ▶ Preparation

- Assessment of existing policies, programs, actions, platforms in Flanders and Belgium
- Identifying relevant stakeholders

## ▶ Brainstorm session (6/2018)

- Platform of Agricultural research (researchers)
- Focus: Food and Health

## ▶ Policy vision document on Policy Lab: support of SG's and Ministers





# Phase 2: First Regional event

- ▶ **Kick-off meeting (5/11/2018):**

- Community of practice
- Bringing together quadruple helix
- Identifying gaps and opportunities in R&I (in focus area)
- Complete our assesment of stakeholders and initiatives



- ▶ **Analysing outcome of workshops:**

- **Research and innovation agenda 1.0 (RIA 1.0)**
- 10 action lines
- Recommendations for policy
- Recommendations for science policy

# Phase 3: Finetuning RIA 1.0

## ▶ Bilateral meetings specific stakeholder groups (Q2 2019)

- Food Industry, Flander Food (cluster R&I)
- Consumer organisations
- Farmer associations
- Cities
- Universities and research institutions
- Federal Research institution
- Flemish Research Council and Academy
- Funding agencies

## ▶ RIA 2.0

## ▶ SWOT Analysis on RIA



# Combining two policy actions/groups

Policy group on sustainable food (informal, Dep): thinking on a Flemish Food Policy or Strategy.

Fit4Food Policy lab: thinking on a Food Research Agenda

- Decision to work together and strive for a Flemish Food Policy Strategy supported by a Research Agenda in the next Governing Period
- Elections in 2019: New government
- First preparatory steps towards the **integral food policy**
  - Mentioned in the coalition agreement new government 2019-2024; policy notes of the Minister of Science and Innovation and of Agriculture.
- We, civil servants, got our **mandate** to continue on this path.

# Phase 4: Finalising



# Fit4Food 2030. Resultaten van het Vlaamse Policy Lab 2017-2020 | Vlaanderen.be

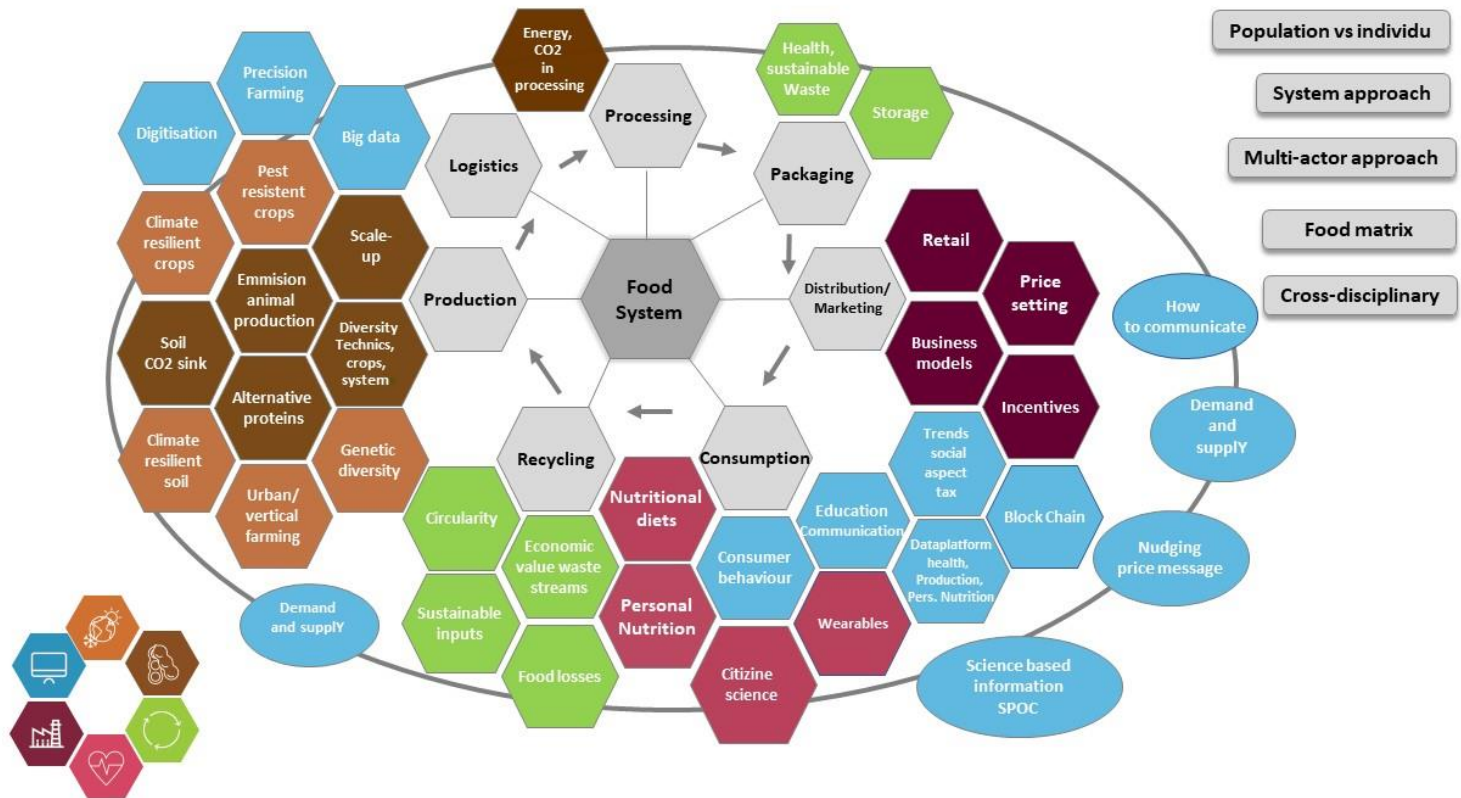


# Structure of the RIA 3.0



- ▶ **All ideas are clustered according to the 4 European Food 2030 themes:**
  - circularity and input-efficiency
  - climate and sustainability
  - innovation and economy
  - nutrition and health.
- ▶ For each theme, a link is made to **Flemish policy objectives** and the findings from the **Flemish Science Agenda**, based on science questions from citizens.
- ▶ One or more **missions** are formulated and explained under each theme. All ideas and suggestions that emerged in the interactive sessions are listed below.
- ▶ Under **Roadmap**, the research domain prioritised by the stakeholders is presented with a proposed objective. The possible roles of the various actors within that objective are also indicated.
- ▶ Finally, per theme, reference is also made to the **research lines** already present at Flanders' FOOD and ILVO.





# Phase 5: Implementation?

- ▶ **Boost for the development of the Flemish Food Strategy**
  - Lead: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
  - Intens process: together with stakeholders, citizens, and Gov. departments to write a strategy (in which Research and Innovation is a central thread).
  - 29/11 and 2/12/2022 the Flemish Food Strategy will be presented.
  - × Concrete deals:
    - Deal 1: Flanders as an innovative Food Hub
      - ⇒ Using smart innovation to accelerate the transition to a sustainable food ecosystem through intelligent and targeted tools
      - ⇒ research and innovation: **Role for the RIA of the Fit4Food Policy Lab**





# Translating science into policy

## Policy lab:

- Bringing together researchers, industry, government, citizens
- Create a research agenda
- Inspiration for researchers
- Not a specific research project, not really policy-demand research/project
- Bottom-up process from the administration (civil servants)
- Using the momentum (new elections, Food high on the agenda in Europe)
- Boost to the development of a Flemish Food Strategy
- Basis for further support under deal 1 of the strategy

**Questions?  
No?  
Thank you!**

**More information**

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**Flemish Government**

**Belgium**

