Circular Food Systems network

GRA-IRG Annual Meeting
June 24/25, 2021
The Circular Food Systems Network – a short history...

2018
GRA taskforce explored the concept and opportunities of CFS for the GRA

2019
The GRA Council agreed to establish a network on Circular Food Systems

2020
The Integrative Research Group of the GRA agreed to host the CFS network

2021
The Netherlands’ government provided funding to support the CFS network

2021
Formal launch and kick-off workshop
Developing knowledge through regional case studies

2022
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The objective of the CFS network is formulated as:

To contribute to food security with mitigation of GHG emissions by circularity across the entire agri-food system

We do that by:

➢ Bringing together, developing, and disseminating knowledge about circular food systems;
➢ Mobilising agricultural scientists to explore circularity within different agricultural systems focussing on GHG emissions
➢ Providing policy makers with methodologies and system designs for a climate-smart, circular food system
This week’s kick-off meeting

- Over 50 participants from 5 continents
- Presentations on regional views on CFS
- Mainly researchers with a wide variety of expertise
- 2/3 not (yet!) active in the GRA
- Participants looking for collaboration and connecting with other researchers to share knowledge
Workshop discussion:

Circular Food Systems (ideally) have a regional scope
Focus points for improving circularity in food systems:

➢ Resource-use efficiency
➢ Minimise nutrient losses (including food waste)
➢ Re-use unavoidable waste streams, i.e. for animal feed and soil improvement
Put agricultural production / CFS in wider context

➢ Not only about GHG mitigation.
➢ Other co-benefits of CFS are (equally) important:
  o Climate adaptation & resilience
  o Income and jobs
  o Food security, nutrition security
  o Health
  o Biodiversity and nature

▪ Knowledge gaps tend to focus on technical issues. Socio-economic and organisational aspects of a CFS also important.
▪ We need to find a good indicator or set of indicators for circularity to measure impact/effect.
Focus points for the network

What should the CFS Network focus on?

- Connecting researchers with policymakers (37)
- Facilitating joint research, data sharing & new research projects (4)
- Training and capacity building (33)
- Exchange of students/researchers (24)
- Sharing knowledge on CFS (42)
- Providing assistance in GHG accounting (23)
- Connect with (private) partners (8)

What would you like to bring to the network?
How should we as a network stay in contact?

- Whatsapp group: 9
- LinkedIn group: 4
- Bi-monthly time-zone meetings: 13
- Newsletters: 14
- Webinars and discussion groups: 24
- Annual meetings: 18
Workshop outcomes and timeline

• 9-10 new collaborations – regional and thematic case studies on CFS to be funded by the network
Needs & request

- Establish linkages with other networks:
  - Paddy rice group; inventories & NDC support; crop-livestock; agroforestry

- Harmonising approaches and methods in case studies as much as possible in collaboration with other network’s work

- Communication / uptake of case study results, policy briefs

- Exchange of students/researchers?
Thank you

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