Announcements by the Netherlands

On January 10th 2022 the new Dutch Government was sworn in. It will be called Rutte 4. It is based on the coalition agreement 'Looking out for each other, looking ahead to the future'.

Considering the huge challenges in the Netherlands regarding agriculture, biodiversity and environment there are two Ministers dedicated to these issues:
Minister Henk Staghouwer, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality;
Minister Christianne van der Wal, Minister for Nature and Nitrogen.

In September 2021 the UN convened the UN Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit was preceded by a pre-summit in July at FAO Rome. The Pre-Summit of the UN Food Systems Summit will set the stage for the culminating global event in September by bringing together diverse actors from around the world to leverage the power of food systems to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The term food system describes the interconnected systems and processes that influence nutrition, food, health, community development and agriculture. A food system includes all processes and infrastructure involved in feeding a population: growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, distribution and disposal of food and food-related items.

Also CoP-26 took place in 2021. Together with New Zealand, Kenia, Colombia, WUR and ILRI the Netherlands organized a side event on the relationship between climate, biodiversity and food security in the livestock sector.

The World Economic Forum initiated - together with public, private and civil society sector partners - Food Innovation Hubs worldwide. The first Food Innovation Hubs are being developed in Colombia, India and Europe. In addition, scoping work is under way in several countries in Africa (Zambia/Kenya/Ethiopia) and in Viet Nam. Each hub will be locally owned and governed. We are proud to inform you that The Food Innovation Hub Europe will be established in Wageningen in the Netherlands. Wageningen University and Research, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality, companies as Unilever, DSM, Rabobank, Topsector Agri-Food and Foodvalley NL are initial partners supporting the development of the Food Innovation Hub in Europe. We welcome suggestions from GRA members for topics we might collaboration on with this Food Innovation Hub.

As concluded by the GRA Council in 2021 the Circular Food Systems Network has been setup, supported by the Dutch Government. The Circular Food Systems network officially kicked-off under the Integrative Research Group of the Global Research Alliance on agricultural greenhouse gases (GRA), with a two-day kick-off workshop last June. The interactive kick-off workshop was attended by almost 60 participants from 36 countries from 5 continents.

For the workshop, a call for abstract was send out to get an overview of what CFS means in different parts of the world. This resulted in 49 abstracts, together providing a rich overview of the opportunities *and* challenges of circularity for GHG mitigation. 11 abstracts were invited for a short communication. These short communications are bundled in a white paper which will be published in 2022. During the kick-off workshop, participants established new collaboration for future research on CFS. To date, seven case studies have been developed and received financial support from the CFS network. Results of the case studies are expected Q2 2022. The Dutch government will continue to support the work of the CFS network.