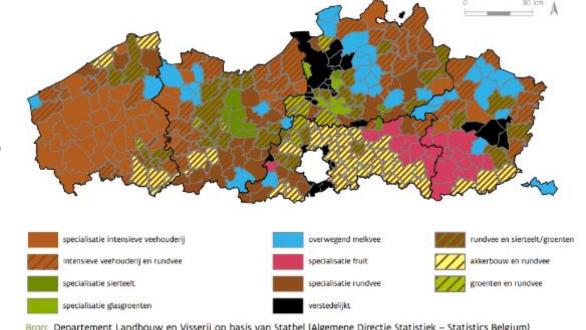


Farming in Flanders

610.971 hectares farm land - 23.225 farms (average of 25 ha per farm) intensive and high productive farming businesses specialisation in different regions

most common: a highly intensive livestock industry

=> average of 142 cows/farm; 2120 pigs/farm; 55.000 chickens/farm



Bron: Departement Landbouw en Visserij op basis van Statbel (Algemene Directie Statistiek - Statistics Belgium)



Farming in Flanders

strengths

very good climate conditions & soil fertility well-organised agrobusiness complex innovative power & technological uptake entries of young (often new) farmers with commitment towards the environment

weaknesses

availability of agricultural land rapidly ageing group of farmers image of agriculture within society





Main Challenges

declining **SOIL** quality

acces to **LAND**

climate change with **WATER** availability as most important factor

POSITION of the farmer in food chain

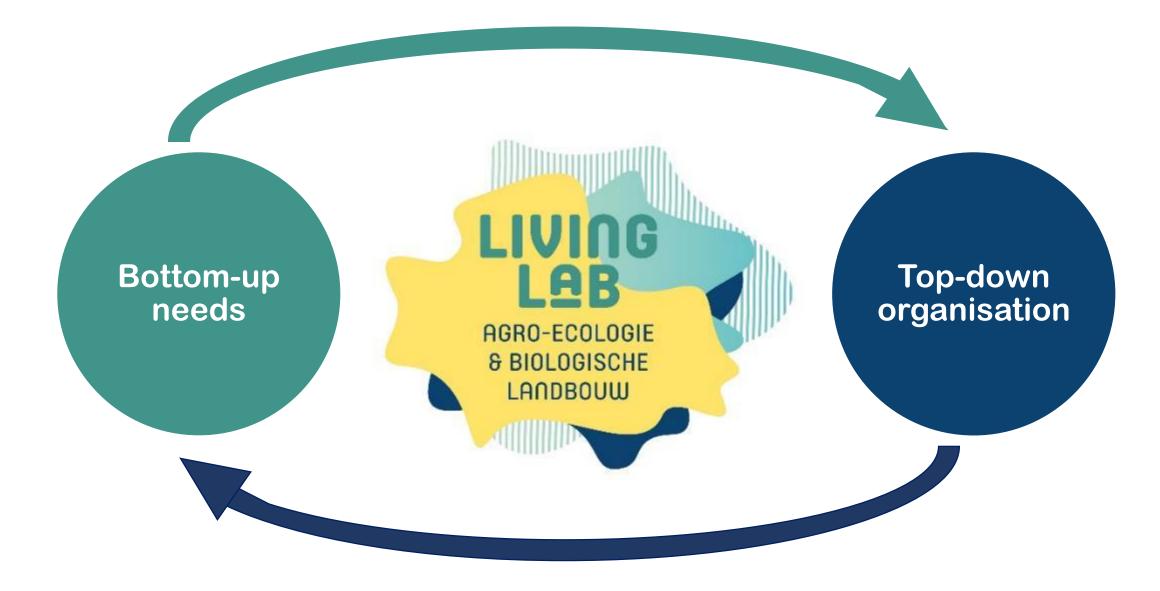
decline in **AGROBIODIVERSITY** and related ecosystem services

Reconnect with consumer



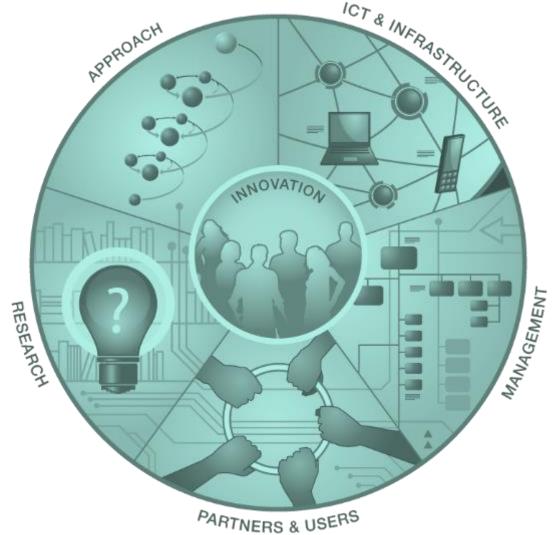
Organisation of Agricultural HoGent 36 // **Knowledge and Innovation System AKIS DIAGRAM** Vlaanderen Legend is landbouw & visserii **VLAIO** Department of agriculture and fisheries Private Financing and monitoring Public Education Leuven & Ghent ILVO **FBO** EU Farm Advisory System Regulation Universities Services and research Mixed Financing and **Provinces** monitoring Agricultural 14 experimental offices stations Services and experiments Services and demonstrations Bookeeping **FLANDERS** companies Farmers Private Services consultants Services and inputs or outputs or delivery Others farmers' Innovaties-**AVEVE** BB Input Agro-Food unions consult teunpunt traders firms (Bioforum...) Boerenbond (main union)

The initiative



LIVING LAB

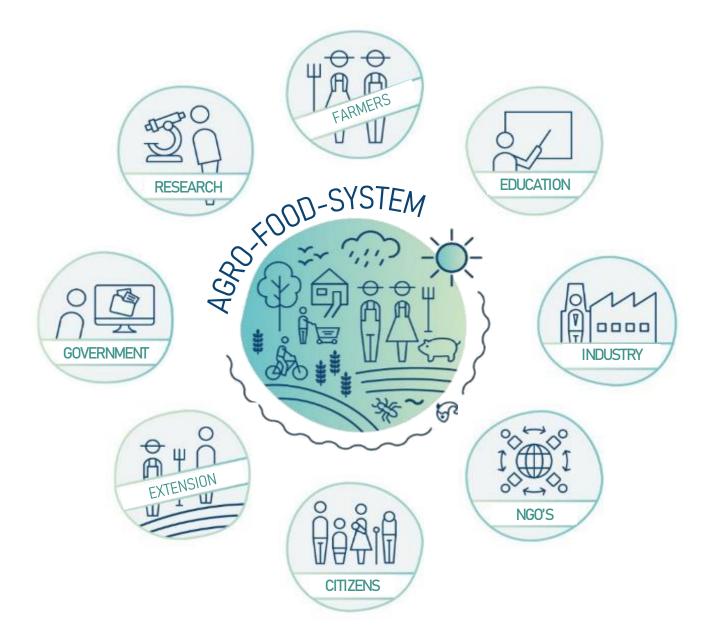
ENoLL principles 5 components







PARTNERS & USERS





























































ILVO

HO GENT







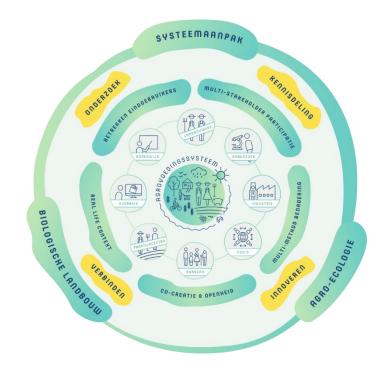


WHY? We support agro-ecological innovation as a lever in the transition from organic and conventional agriculture to sustainable food and agricultural ecosystems. To this end, we connect people, organisations, science and practice.

WHAT? The living lab brings together partners from the agrifood system and facilitates innovative research and knowledge sharing on agroecology and organic agriculture.

HOW? We work via a systems approach and apply the 5 ENoLL principles: multi-method approach, multi-stakeholder participation, real life context, active involvement of end users, cocreation and openness.







MANAGEMENT



facilitation of the living lab by ILVO

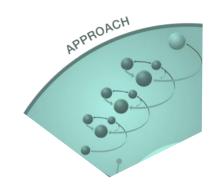
- management: 0,5 FTE from the Social Sciences unit
- core team with researchers from all units

coordination through participation:

- active stakeholder participation in design and operation of the LL
- working groups: variable membership, linked to specific goal, temporary

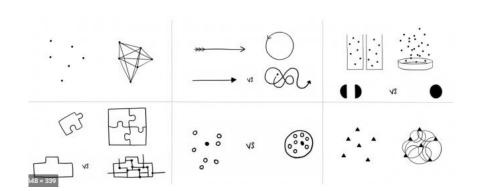
funding: chicken or the egg

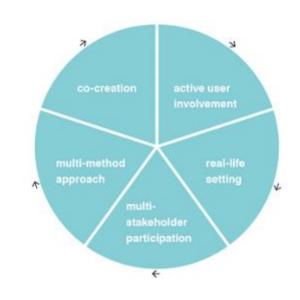




APPROACH









Nonaka et al. 2000

system thinking tools

Enoll approach

tacit knowledge

Farm 'De groentelaar'

farm visit: farmer tells his story, his objectives, his challenges

introduction to systems thinking for all participants

system approach with stakeholders to adress farmers' needs:

- put farmers' challenges (fair price for his products) within a system context
- explore problem definition
- identify strategies







ICT and INFRASTRUCTURE



website

www.llaebio.be

farmland for future projects

both on research sites as on real farms





Research



Facilitating and supporting systemic research and innovation on agro- ecological practices in food systems

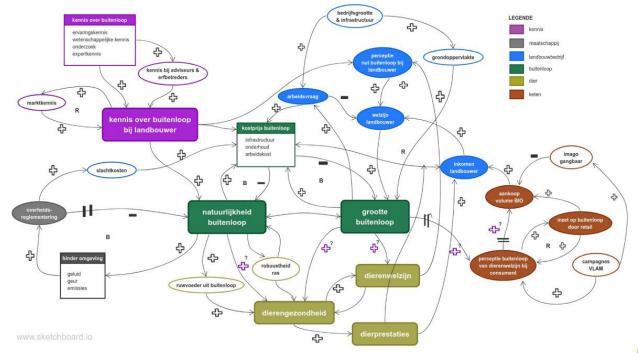
- making existing expertise visible
- interactive knowledge sharing activities
- helpdesk: refer questions to partners, identifying knowledge gaps, education, initiating research with partners
- facilitating project proposals
- facilitating real life research on farms
- building up knowledge on systemic research

& stakeholder engagement

Examples of activities

- 1. Facilitating and writing of a project proposal on outdoor pig farming
- little experience in Flanders (operational group P'orchard)
- include systemic approach in next proposal







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Examples of activities

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- little experience in Flanders (operational group P'orchard)
- include systemic approach in next proposal
- 2. Learning networks on rotational grazing and other agro ecological practices
- 3. Scientific grounding of the concept agroecology





Examples of working groups

LIVING LAB
AGRO-ECOLOGIE
& BIOLOGISCHE
LANDBOUW

Living Labyrint: linking relevant actors, showcasing the expertise

Demonstration of agroecological practices – organising a round of visits to inspiring farms

Agroecology and current policies

Communicating on a difficult concept as agroecology



Ambitions



More farmers on board

Grow as a living lab to boost co-creation between all actors

More research funded for agroecological and organic research

• Networking on EU level: cf. CSA H2020 FNR 01 2020 – AgroEcoLLNet

LESSONS LEARNED





Open your doors & create trust



Participatory paradox



Tools & Facilitation



Resistance



Added value



Funding vs activities



Long process



Network & gatekeepers



Continuity



































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