Rural employment and agricultural models

May 10, 2017. Petra Berkhout
Agricultural developments EU-28

- Number of holdings decreasing (2010 - 12.2 mio, 2013 - 10.8 mio)
- Labour force decreasing (2007 - 11.8 mio AWU, 2013 - 9.5 mio AWU)
- Increase farm size
Number of farms is declining

2005=100
Size of farms is increasing (2005-2013)

- Number of farms > 100 ha goes up in nearly all MS
- Rapid decrease of farms <5 ha
- Decrease of farms <50 ha
Long-term development Dutch agriculture

1950=100
Trends likely to continue

- Labour-saving technology is an important push-factor
- Number of farmers will further decrease: in 2013 49% of the farms at EU-level < 2 ha
- Labour force will decrease
- Up- and downstream sectors? Picture less clear
Trends

- Scale will increase, as in other sectors of the economy
- Family farm still the most common organisation
- But, in agriculture more issues with financing/take over
- More debate in society about the size
Trends

- Main developments have implications for rural development and land management

- Agriculture is a job loser

- Rural and agriculture are no longer synonymous!

- What could policy do?
Three objectives pillar 2

- Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture
- Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action
- Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment
What can the CAP do?

- CAP is not a proper rural development policy
  - Poverty reduction
  - Jobs creation
  - Infrastructure
  - Land management

- This requires a much broader approach than just agriculture
What the CAP could do ...

- Focus payments on the provision of public goods, like land management
- Stimulate innovation/other ways of farming
- Education – extension
- Improve on farm value added (fair share)
Dutch examples of ‘other’ ways of farming

- Nature inclusive farming
- Farmers cooperatives managing areas for nature/landscape
- Short chain initiatives
- Consumer supported agriculture
Shifting the focus?

- Focus in current agricultural policy on farmer
- However, farmer is part of a larger (food) system
- Key players in the food chain could be more included to solve environmental/ecological/social issues

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Agricultural/food systems related to many SDG’s

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals
Questions?

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