Explore the future!

Scenarios:

"possible future states of the world that represent alternative plausible conditions under different assumptions" (Mahmoud et al., 2009)

Exploratory Scenarios ask – What could happen?



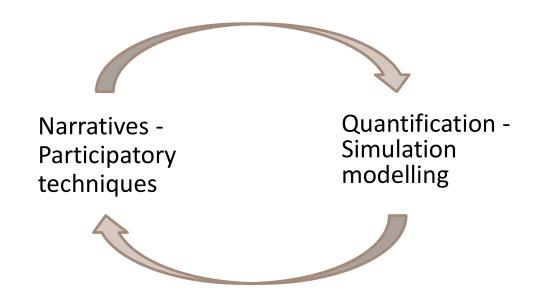
Aims of the scenario development

- Enable social learning and increase in strategic capacity when considering policy alternatives and uncertain futures
- To develop scenarios capable of testing the effectiveness of proposed policies, and to be used in the design of policies
- Increase the understanding of difficult futures to operate in, find ways how to take action now to cope with these futures



Exploratory scenario development and modelling

 Combination of qualitative & quantitative analysis to develop creative, coherent and plausible scenarios





Policy-oriented scenario development (1/2)

- Exploratory scenarios framed around voluntary and mandatory instruments
 - Voluntary: aim to encourage companies, operators or individuals to improve their environmental performance to meet and exceed legal obligations.
 - EU Ecolabel, agri-environmental schemes under CAP
 - Mandatory: standards and practices which oblige industry/sectors/operators or individuals to perform/behave as defined by law.
 - Cross-compliance standards, limit values for nitrates concentration in groundwater



Policy-oriented scenario development (2/2)

- Focus on adoption and effective implementation of voluntary and mandatory instruments
- Allows scenarios to be relevant to policy design and implementation
- Futures are created that represent worlds where adopting voluntary or mandatory instruments is either challenging or easy
 - Interviews, workshop, desk study



Scenario framing

Future challenges to voluntary instruments

Significant challenges to voluntary instruments, few challenges to mandatory instruments

Significant challenges to mandatory and voluntary instruments

Few challenges to mandatory and voluntary instruments

Significant challenges to mandatory instruments, few challenges to voluntary instruments

Future challenges to mandatory instruments



Motivating factors driving scenarios

Future challenges to voluntary instruments Significant

Under pressure

Societal pressure for government action

Caring and sharing

Broadly supported resilience approach

Race to the bottom

Societal demand for low food prices

Local and sustainable

for those who can afford it

Individual drive for healthy and sustainable food

Few Significant

Future challenges to mandatory instruments



Local and sustainable

for those who can afford it

Lack of trust in policy

Healthy and sustainably produced food

organic farms

Individual choices

Cheap food for those who can't afford quality

Traceability ICT knowledge sharing

Increasing nr.

Grassroots innovation

Conventional farms co-exist

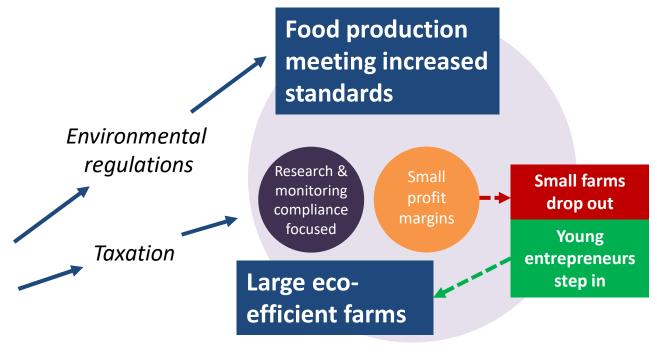
- Urban-rural migration
- Increased local self-sufficiency
- Gradient of soil quality outcomes



Under pressure





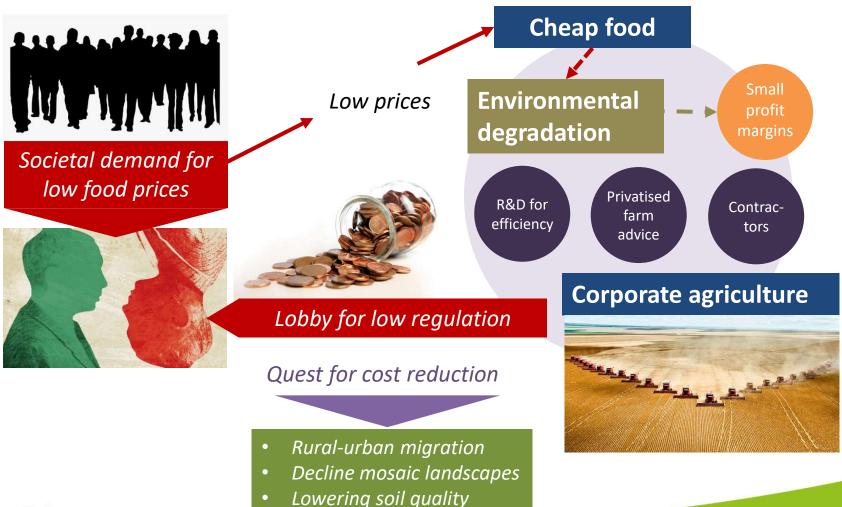


Cultural impoverishment

- Rural-urban migration
- Abandonment marginal land
- Enhanced soil quality



Race to the bottom

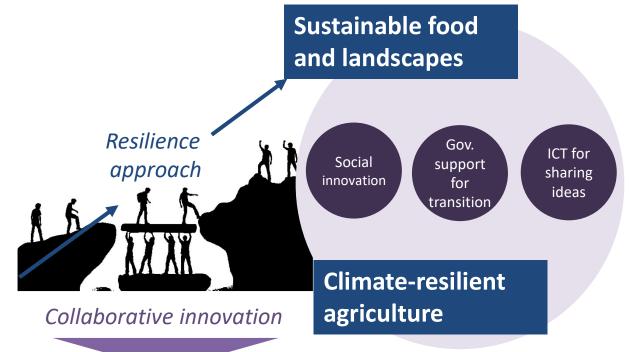




Caring and sharing

Disasters, pandemics



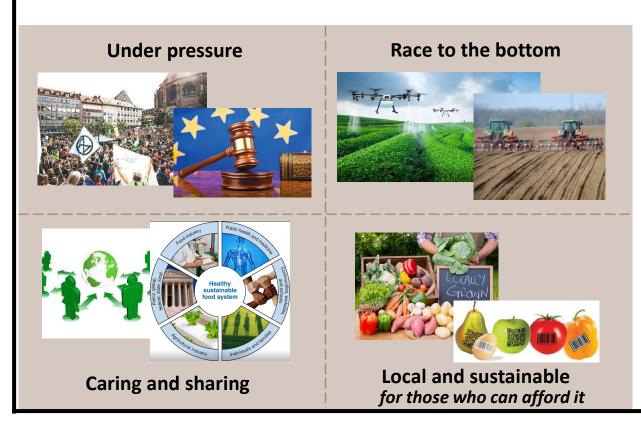


- Sustainable rural/urban living
- Diverse place-based land uses
- Enhanced soil quality



Four different scenarios

Future challenges to voluntary instruments



Future challenges to mandatory instruments



Scenario evaluation – wrapping up

- Do you have any further comments regarding the scenarios and ideas to improve them?
- Are there key developments, sectors, or components you think are missing or require more attention?
- Do you like the titles? Any suggestions?



For further information:

Hedwig van Delden: hvdelden@riks.nl

Melanie Muro: melanie.muro@milieu.be

