

The Circular Food Systems model

Felipe Cozim Melges – Wageningen University & Research

Circular Food Systems – Een circulair voedselsysteem in Vlaanderen

“Biodiversity is the best insurance policy to maintain sustainable food systems”

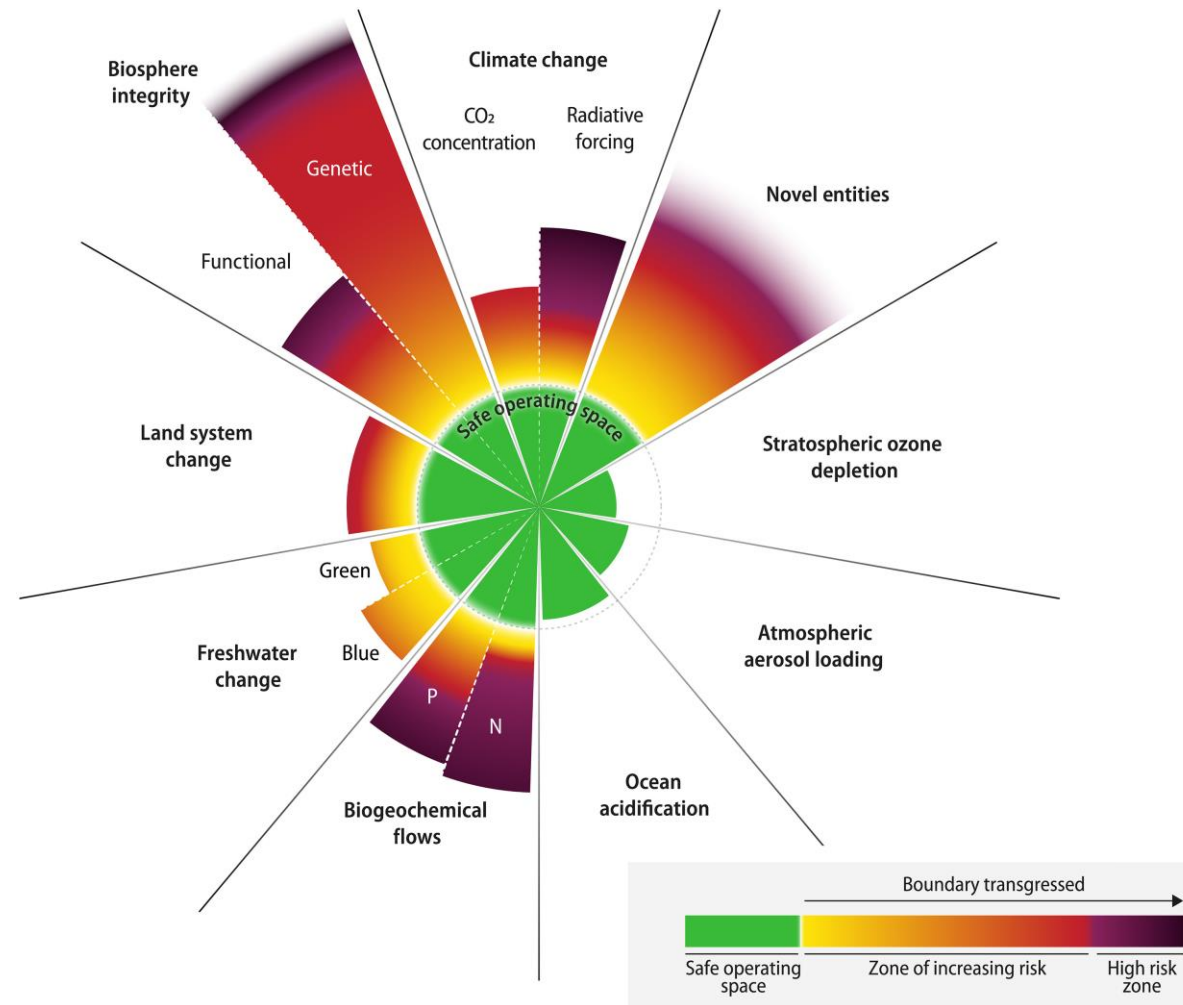
Felipe Cozim Melges



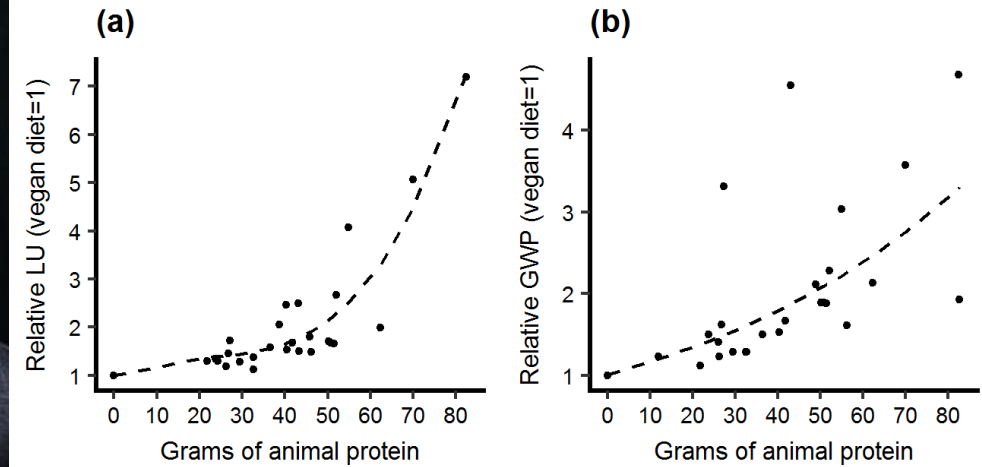
Hannah van Zanten's CiFoS group

Chair Holder, Environmental System Analysis group

Visiting Professor, Cornell University



Katherine Richardson et al. ,Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries.Sci. Adv.9,eadh2458(2023).DOI:10.1126/sciadv.adh2458



Received: 18 December 2018 | Revised: 2 April 2019 | Accepted: 30 April 2019
DOI: 10.1111/gcb.14321

RESEARCH REVIEW

WILEY Global Change Biology



Solutions are locked within the current linear food system

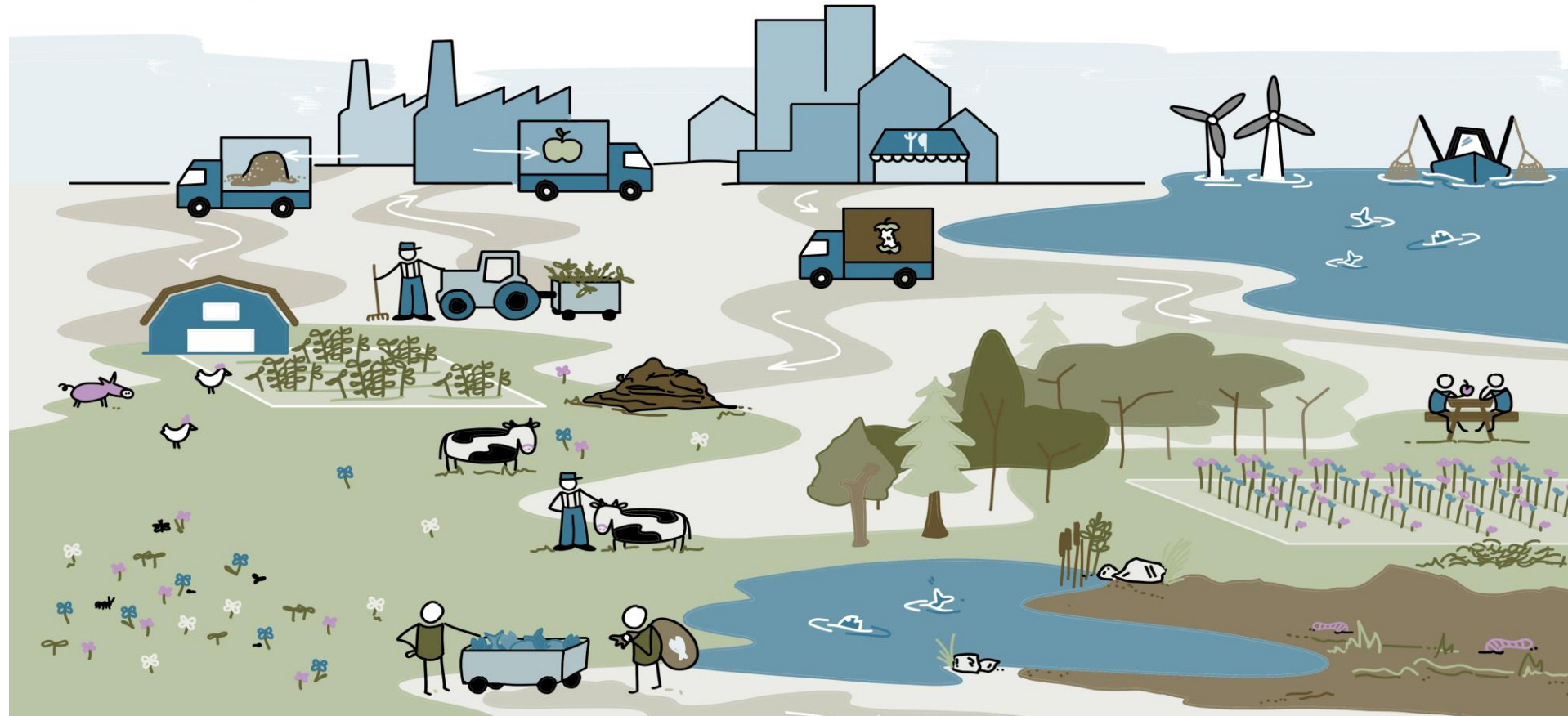
Redesigning the food system

10 Billion in 2050



FUTURE FOOD SYSTEMS REDESIGN

van Zanten, 2020, WUR



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Global Food Security

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PERSPECTIVE

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nature.2020.09.045>



Principles, drivers and opportunities of a circular bioeconomy

Abigail Muscat¹, Evelien M. de Olde¹, Raimon Ripoll-Bosch², Hannah H. E. Van Zanten², Tamara A. P. Metz³, Catrinen J. A. M. Termeer³, Martin K. van Ittersum² and Imke J. M. de Boer^{1,2}

The role of farm animals in a circular food system

Hannah H.E. Van Zanten^{a,*}, Martin K. Van Ittersum^b, Imke J.M. De Boer^a

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1. Safeguarding and regenerating the health of our (agro)ecosystems

Sustainable fisheries



Halting finite resources



Restoring soil carbon stocks



Enhancing biodiversity



2. Use biomass streams for basic human needs

Healthy foods



Fuel, Fiber



3. Avoiding non-essential products and the waste of essential ones

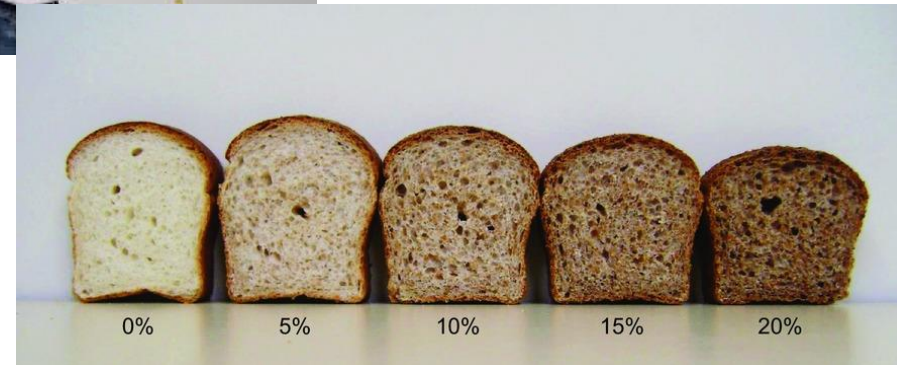
Food waste



Overconsumption



By-products



4. Utilizing and recycling losses of (agro)ecosystems

Crop residues



Human excreta



Livestock on leftovers



5. Using technologies to e.g. produce renewable energy

Sustainable energy sources



Future foods

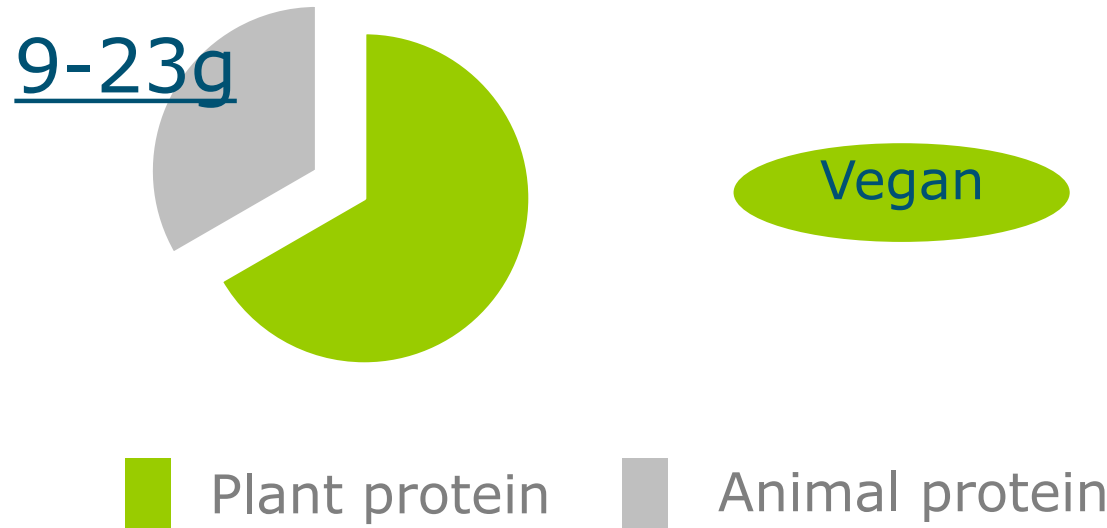


Animals in circular food systems



Animals fed with the 'leftovers' from the food system

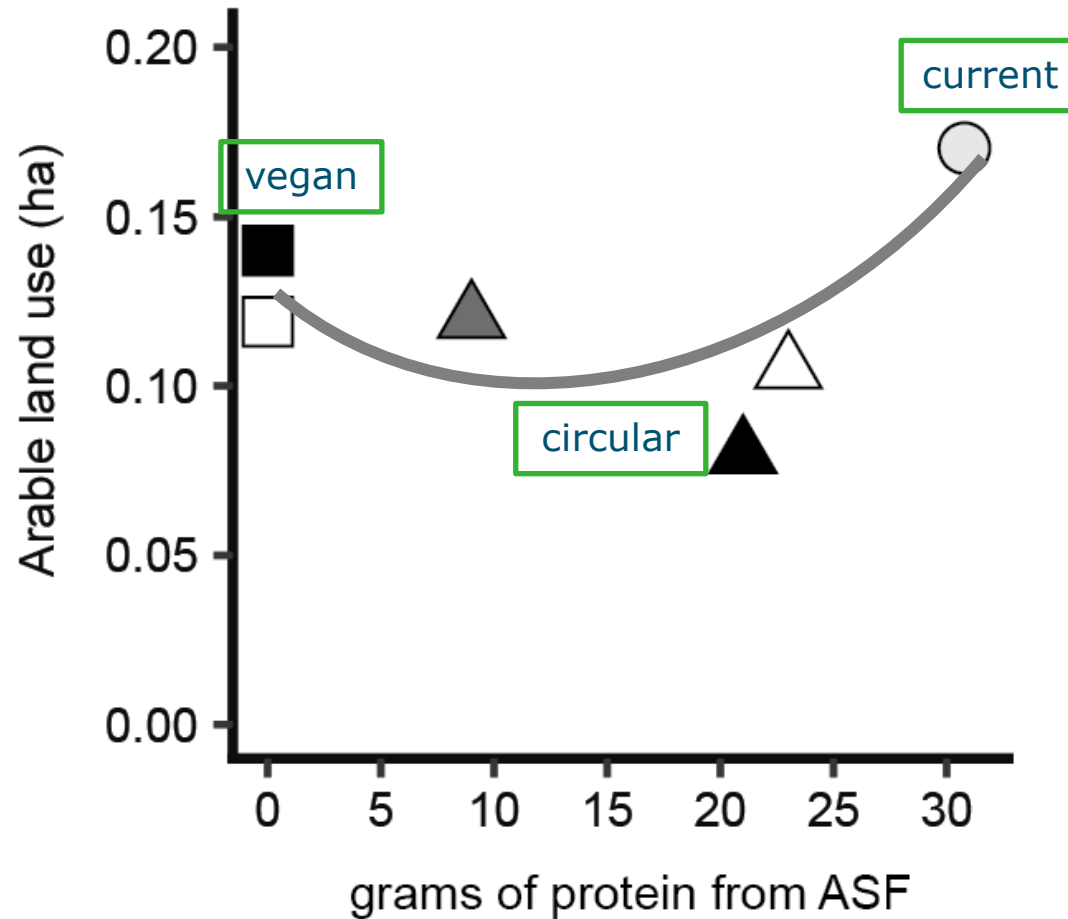
Daily protein requirement (60g)



There are examples of that in practice



Eating food from recyclers results in lowest land use



Schader et al. 2015

Van Zanten et al. 2016

Roos et al. 2017

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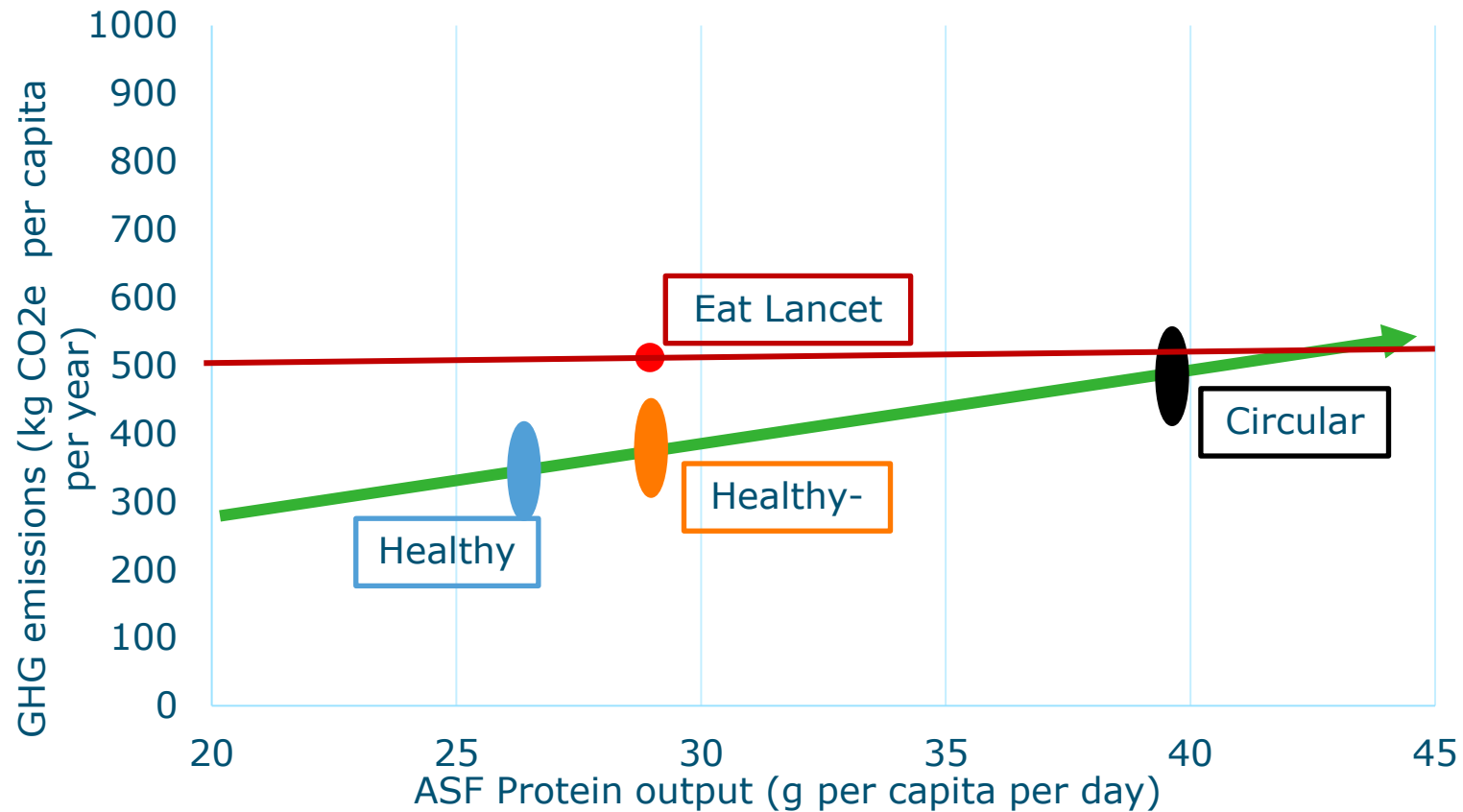
RESEARCH REVIEW

WILEY Global Change Biology

Defining a land boundary for sustainable livestock consumption

Hannah H. E. Van Zanten¹ | Mario Herrero² | Ollie Van Hal¹ | Elin Rööös³ |
Adrian Muller^{4,5} | Tara Garnett⁶ | Pierre J. Gerber^{1,7} | Christian Schader⁴ |
Imke J. M. De Boer¹

GHG emissions reduced but healthy diets ≠ circular diets



Recycling livestock no-regret solution

 Check for updates

news & views

CIRCULARITY

Upcycled non-competing feedstuff

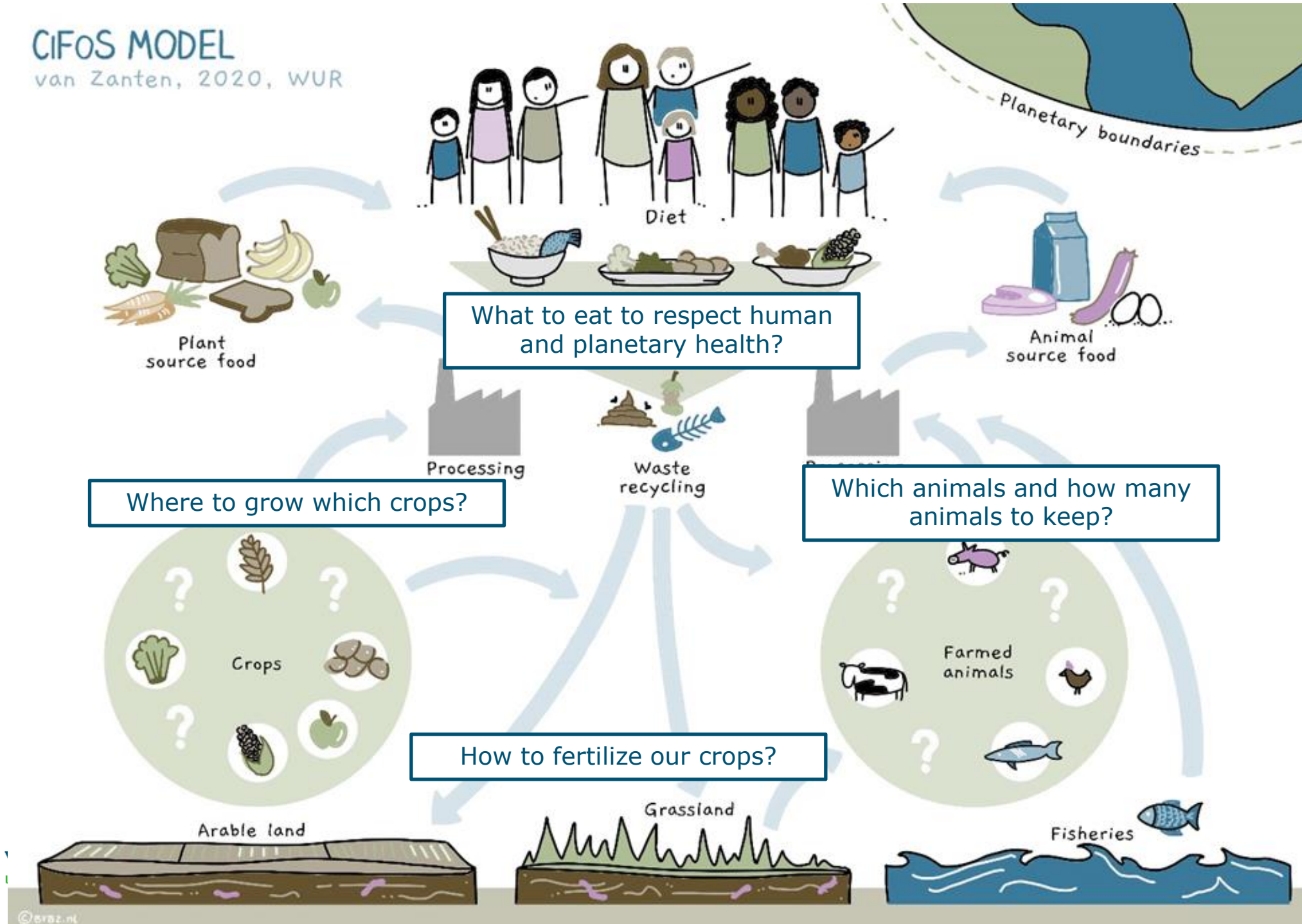
Farm animals in circular food systems upcycle non-competing feedstuff and therefore reduce feed-food competition. This can increase global food supply while reducing pressure on the Earth's system.

Hannah H. E. van Zanten

But their role depends on how we
redesign the food system

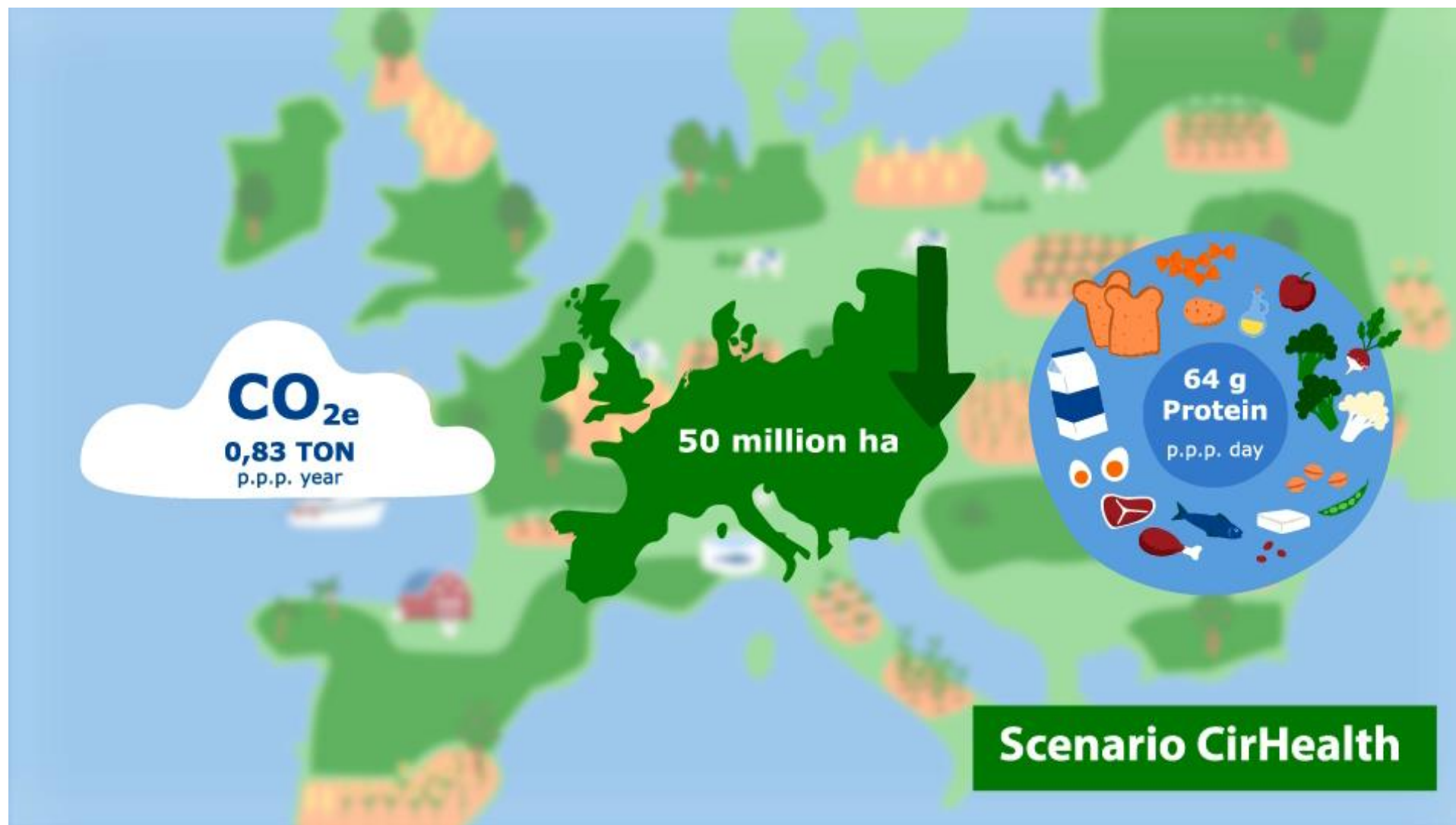
CiFoS MODEL

van Zanten, 2020, WUR

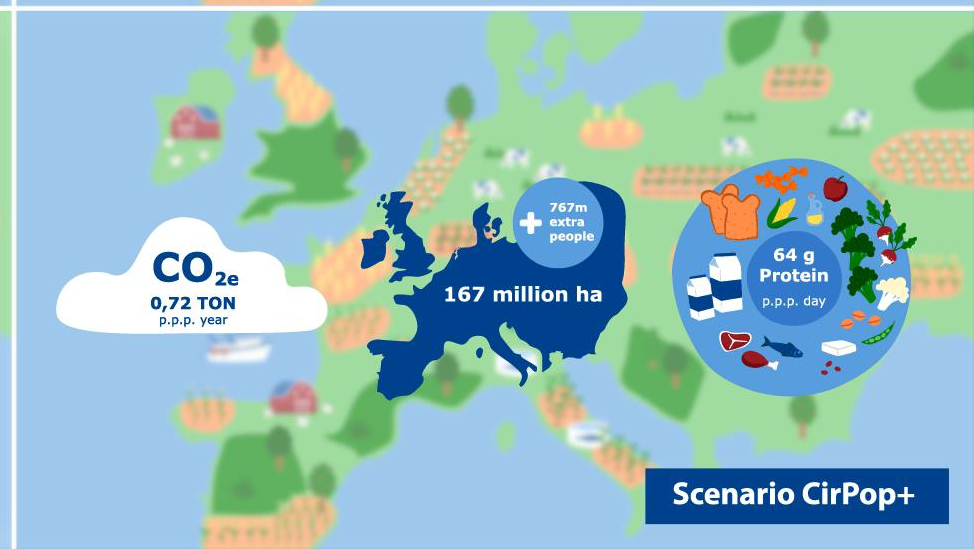
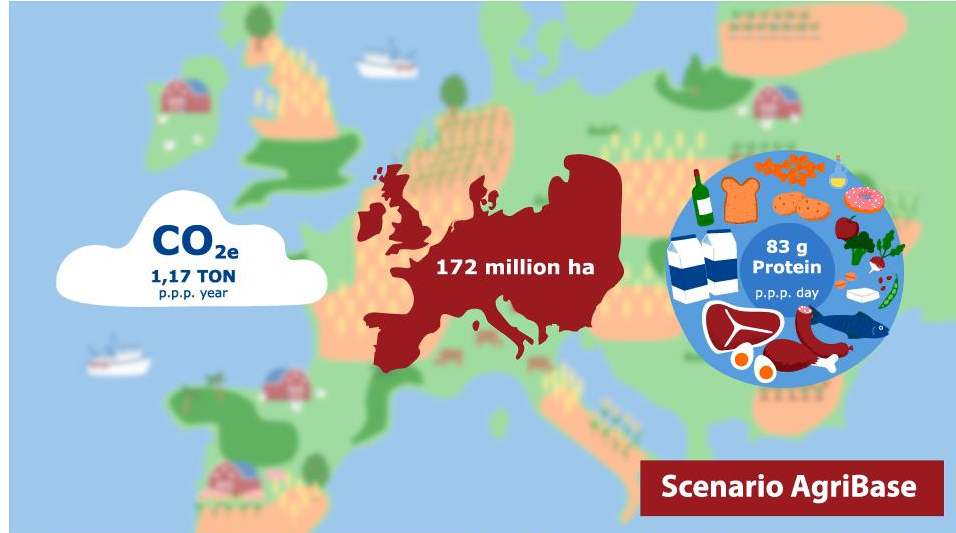












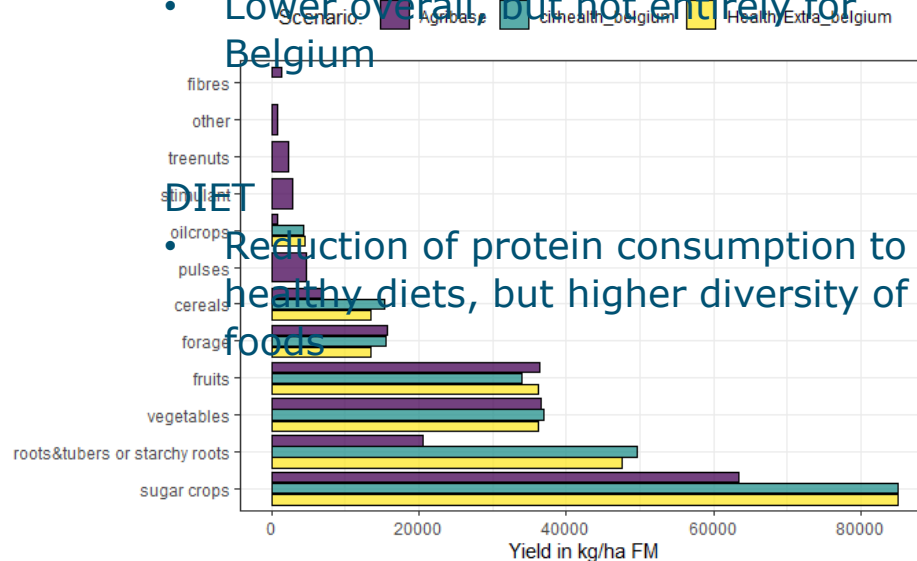
Where to close the loop? Scale matters – a quick exercise

CIRCULAR EUROPE BELGIUM

- Circular food systems – closing the loop in Belgium**
- Less land use, particularly grasslands

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Lower overall, but not entirely for Belgium



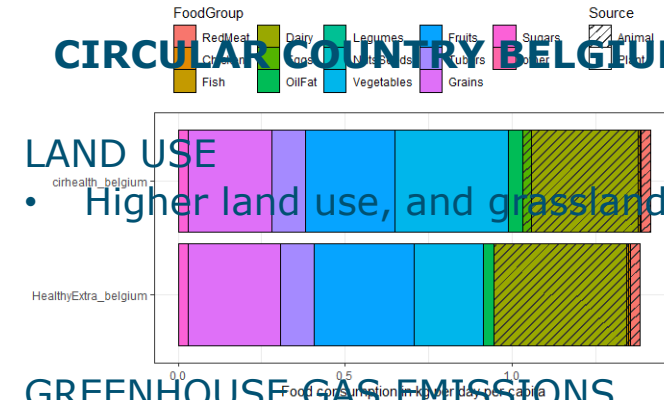
DIET

- Reduction of protein consumption to healthy diets, but higher diversity of foods

CIRCULAR COUNTRY BELGIUM

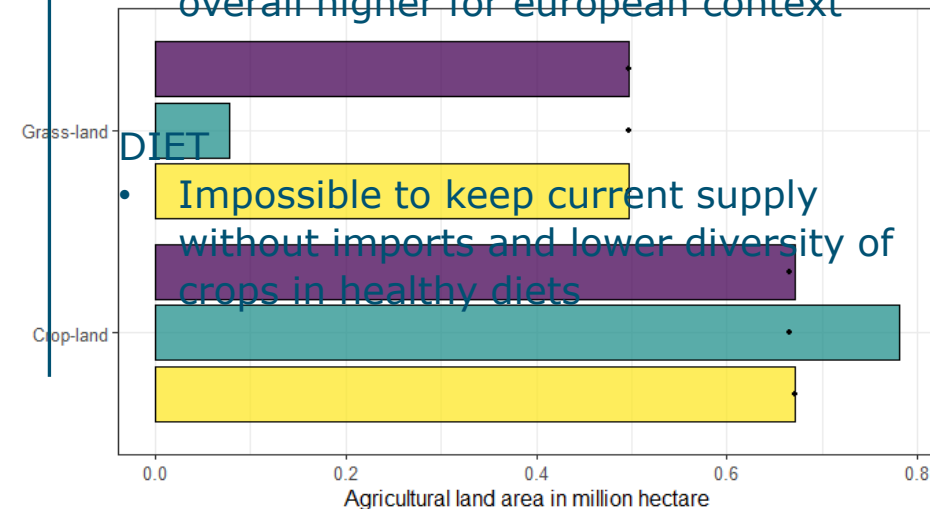
LAND USE

- Higher land use, and grasslands



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Lower emissions for Belgium but overall higher for European context



DIET

- Impossible to keep current supply without imports and lower diversity of crops in healthy diets

Circular food systems have also different aspects that are much needed for sustainability

nature food



Article

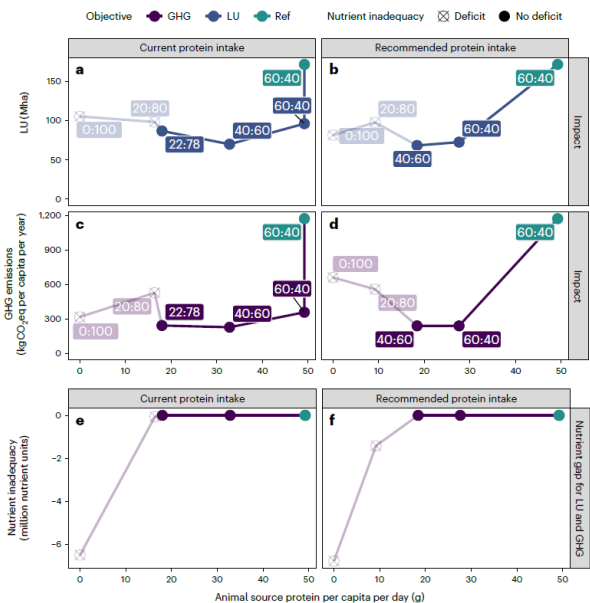
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-024-00975-2>

Circular food system approaches can support current European protein intake levels while reducing land use and greenhouse gas emissions

Received: 2 May 2023

Wolfram J. Simon^{1,2}, Renske Hijbeek³, Anita Frehner³, Renee Cardinaals¹, Elise F. Talsma⁴ & Hannah H. E. van Zanten¹

Accepted: 8 April 2024



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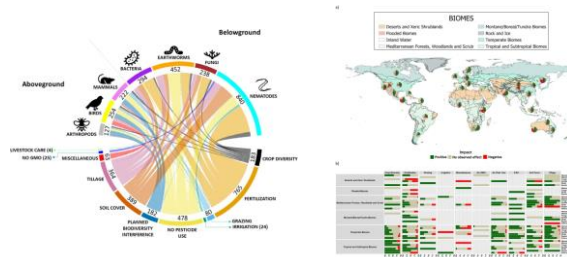
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Review Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 09 January 2024

Farming practices to enhance biodiversity across biomes: a systematic review

Felipe Cozím-Melges¹, Raimon Ripoll-Bosch², G. F. (Ciska) Veen², Philipp Oggiano³, Felix J. J. A. Bianchi⁴, Wim H. van der Putten⁵ & Hannah H. E. van Zanten¹

[npj Biodiversity](#) 3, Article number: 1 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)



Enhancing biodiversity with circular food systems

Felipe Cozím-Melges^{1,2,3,4}, Raimon Ripoll-Bosch³, G. F. (Ciska) Veen², Merel Hofmeijer¹, Wolfram J. Simon^{1,2}, Dirk van Apeldoorn¹, Hannah H.E. van Zanten^{1,2,6}

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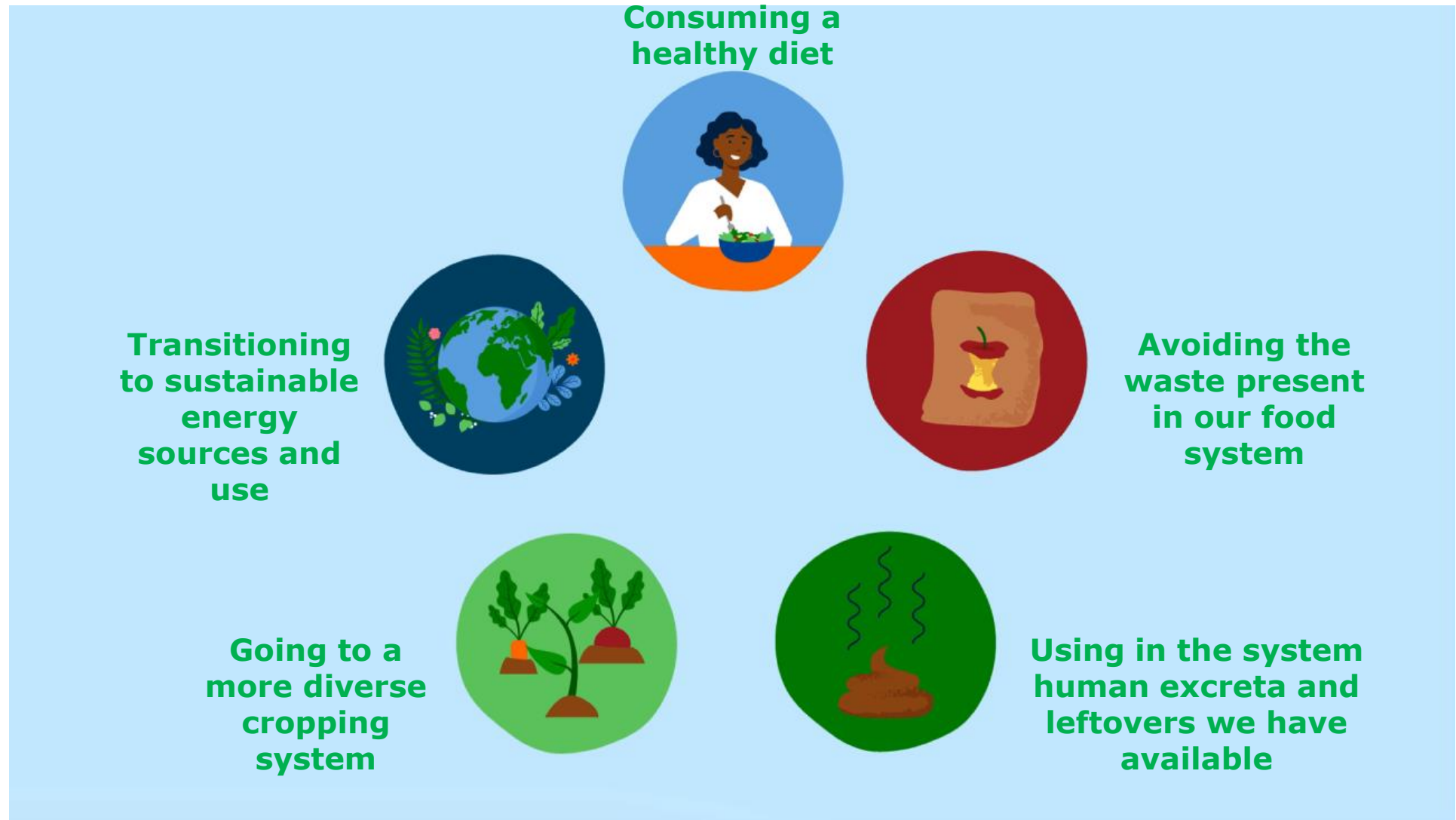
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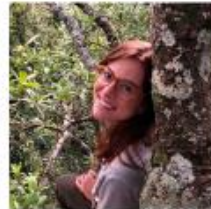




Dr. Hannah van Zanten CiFoS team leader

Chair
Environmental Systems Analysis group
Wageningen University

Visiting Professor
Department Global Development
Cornell University



Thank you!

"All models are wrong, but some are useful"

— George E. P. Box

CiFoS team leader
Chair of ESA/WUR



Hannah van Zanten

PostDoc Researcher



Felipe Cozim Melges



www.circularfoodsystems.org

