



TOWARDS A FOOD POLICY

Brussels, March 11th 2016

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Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)

- Independent think tank for Dutch government policy
- Council and staff
- Strategic long term issues
- Beyond individual policy sectors
- Solicited and unsolicited advice



Towards a food policy

- Two year project
- Lead council member: Gerard de Vries
- > 100 interviews
- Review international literature
- International visits
- Presented on October 3th 2014

Three global challenges

Ecological sustainability



- Climate change
- Land & water
- Resources
- Biodiversity

Health



- Food related illnesses
- Food safety
- Multiresistent bacteria
- Zoonoses

Robustness

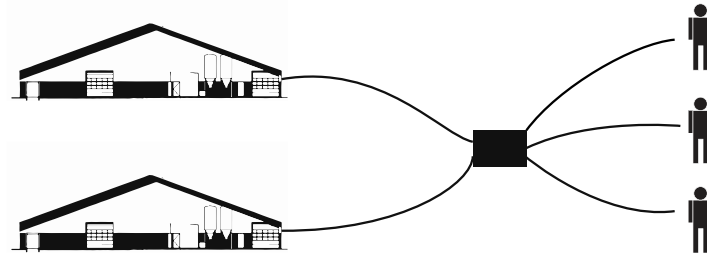
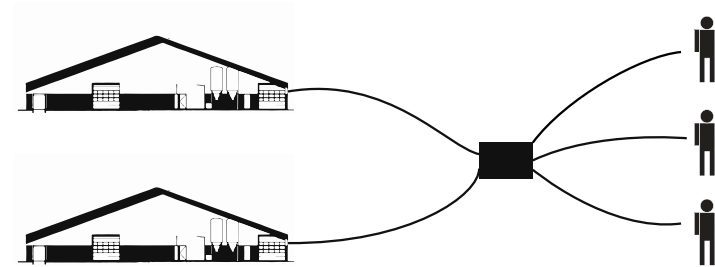
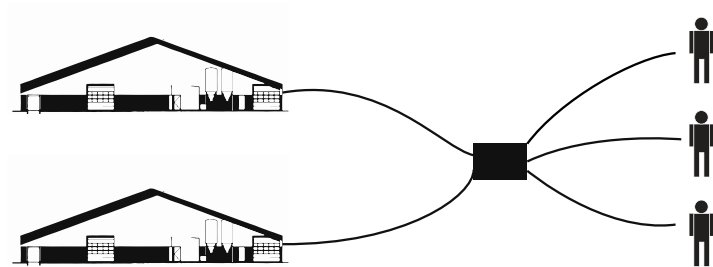


- More volatility
- Geopolitics
- Concentration and uniformity

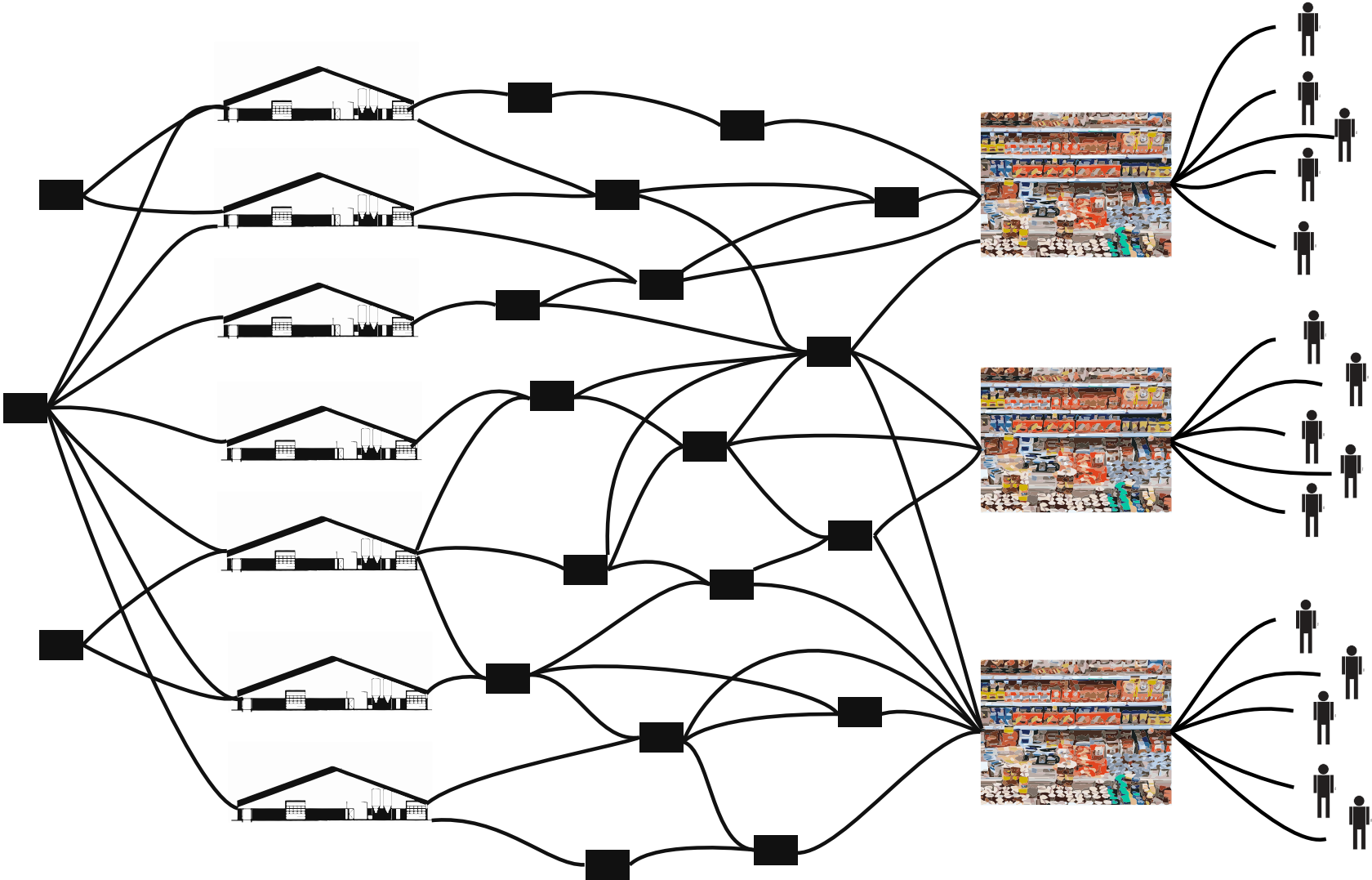
Main developments in past decades

- Industrialisation of agriculture
- Globalisation of food supply
- Increased role of non-agricultural players
- Change of consumption patterns

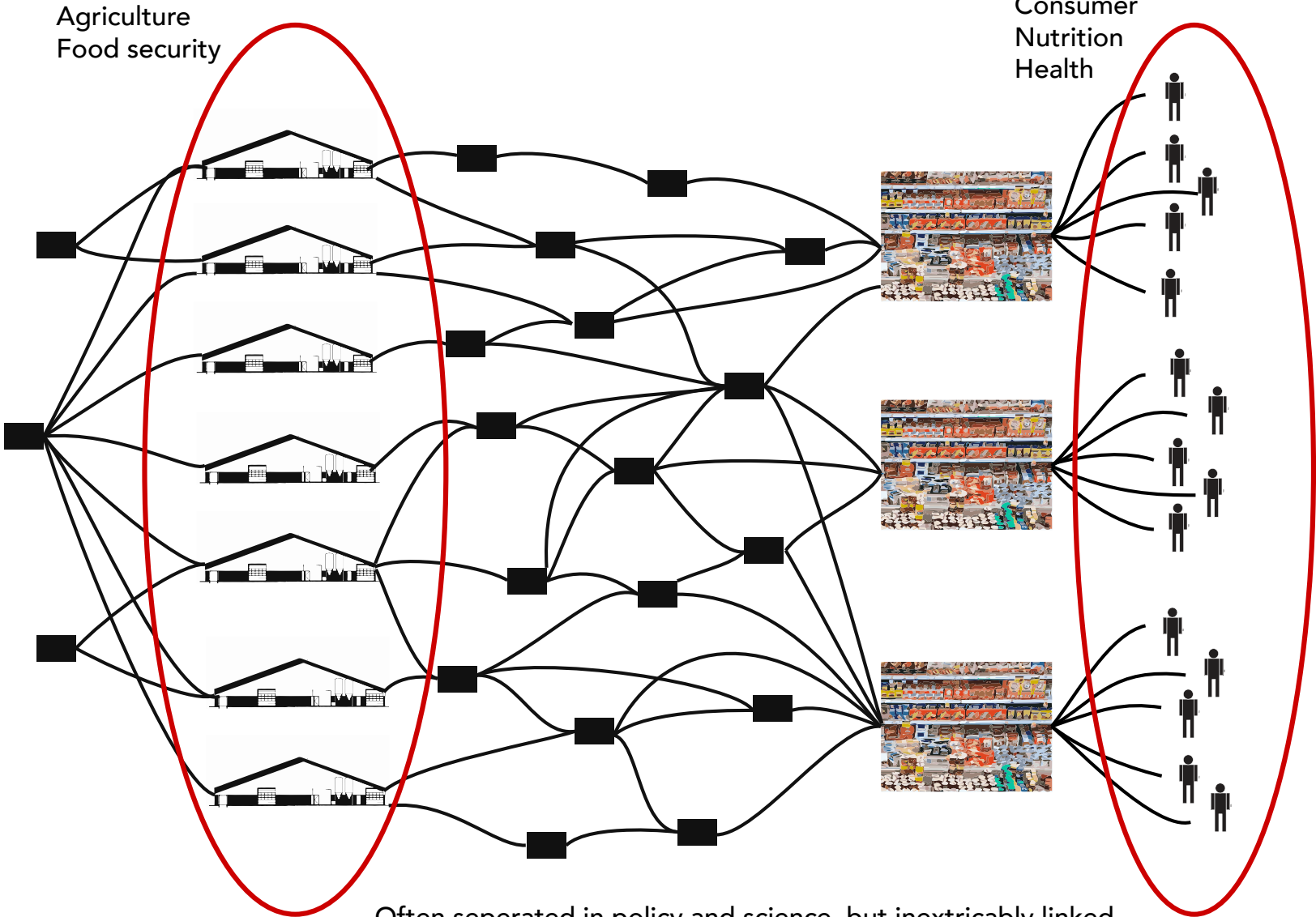
When food was agriculture



Food net

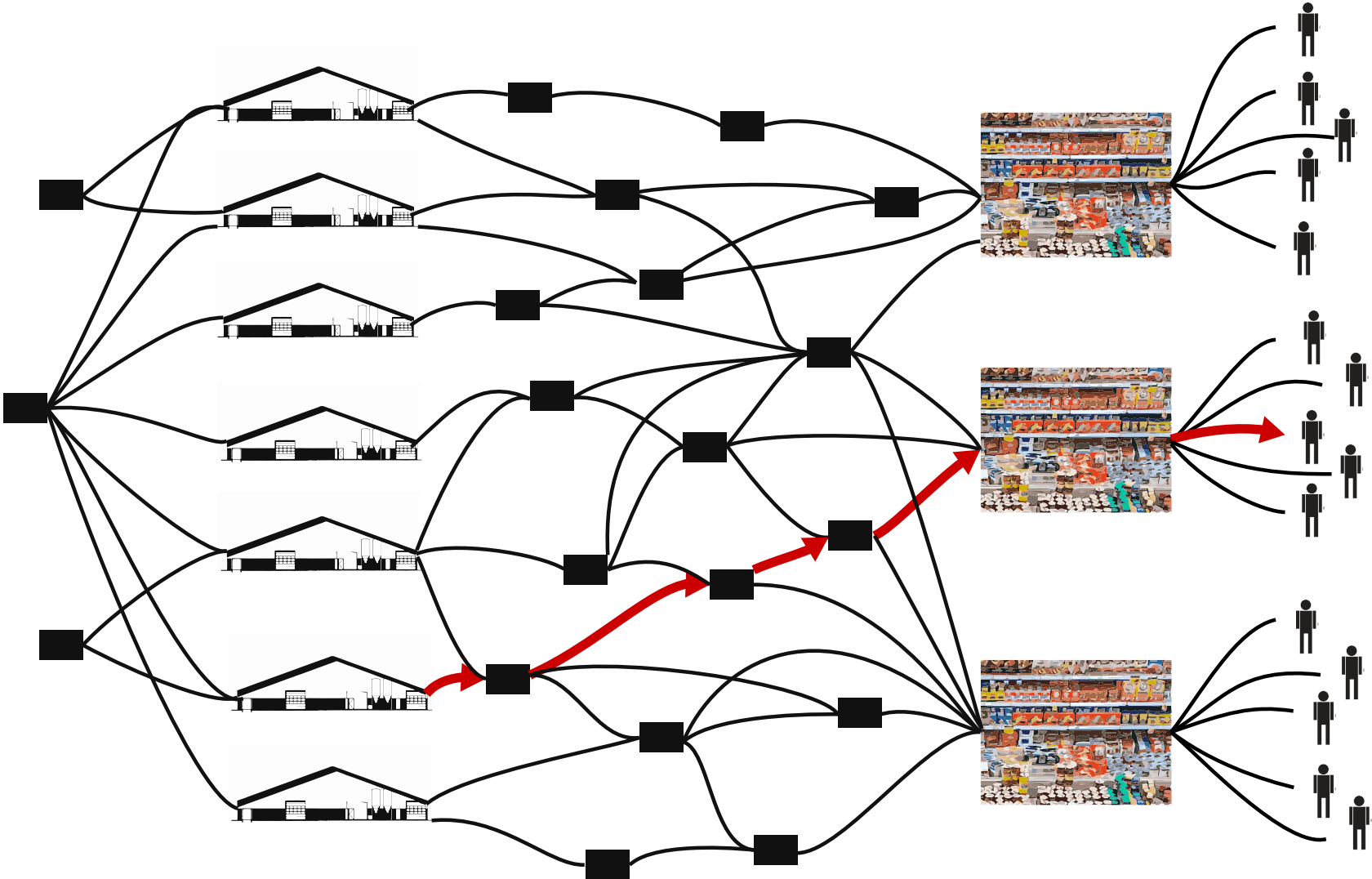


Interdependency



Often separated in policy and science, but inextricably linked

Chain management



Recommendations

Main recommendations for Dutch government

- From an agricultural policy towards a food policy
- Focus on the resilience of the food net

Towards a food policy

- Different values
- Interdependency of production and consumption
- Changing power relationships in the food net

First steps towards a food policy

- Develop a food strategy
- Broaden available policy information
- Anchoring ecological sustainability and health in core policies

Towards a resilient food net

- Facilitate variety
- Sustainable management of resources
- Improve learning capabilities

Follow-up

- Extensive press coverage
- Dialogue with key players
- Cabinet response October 30th 2015
- Plenary debate in Parliament spring 2016



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