TOWARDS A FOOD POLICY

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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 3rd 2014
Three global challenges

- Ecological sustainability
  - Climate change
  - Land & water
  - Resources
  - Biodiversity

- Health
  - Food related illnesses
  - Food safety
  - Multiresistant 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

Agriculture
Food security

Consumer
Nutrition
Health

Often separated in policy and science, but inextricably linked
Chain management
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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