

Summary SDGs event on Nutrition, February 6th, 2019



This event is the third of a series of conferences on the SDGs.

Jeen Nijboer, Project Manager – Food & Agri at **Rabobank Nederland**. Jeen mentioned that the arable land per person is decreasing over time in Africa and Asia as the number of people will grow exponentially. Asia hosts 60% of world population on 35% of world's arable land. Today we have 795 mln people undernourished versus 1.9 bln people overweight in the world. Rabobank's program is aiming at reducing food waste, stimulating a more stable food market, balancing nutritional value of diets, restoring soil quality. Intensive farming needs to be replaced by farming with nature.

Karin van den Houten - Bogaers, Director Product Sustainability & Innovation at **Ahold Delhaize**. 61% of sales of Ahold Delhaize is from the United States versus 39% from Europe. Ahold's focus is on promoting healthier eating, reducing food waste and creating a healthy and inclusive workplace. With regards to Protein Ahold Delhaize recorded 10% growth in 2017. They monitor global consumer trends and development. A vegan refrigerator was introduced in 2018.

Willem Sodderland, Founder at **Seaweed Start-up Seamore**. Willem told us about the challenges which a startup food company can face scaling up. What is needed is more connection between the regional office and the headquarters of the banks. With regards to Albert Heijn the difference between being as a startup on the shelves and scaling up is an enormous hurdle. Retail is designed to work with large companies. Willem will try to seek partnerships with other startup companies to overcome this hurdle.

After these 3 presentations and during the panel discussion at the end there was a lively debate with the audience, moderated by **Robin Miranda**, Senior Outreach Manager at **FAIRR Initiative**: how can the financial sector contribute to solving the problem of our current food system. Change cannot happen overnight according to Willem Sodderland, the mass production system of for example seaweed is not ready yet.



Agne Rackauskaite, Research Analyst, Senior Associate at **Impax/BNP Paribas Asset Management**. Impax has identified several risks and trends such as drought, severe pollution, food waste and evolving consumer demands. Their fund avoids risks such as palm oil, fizzy drinks, GMOs, inorganic fertilizers. Impax invests in solution providers such as sustainable growers, sustainable packaging, natural foods/retailers.

Gillian Diesen, Product specialist Thematic Equities at **Pictet Asset Management**. The Pictet Nutrition fund was already established in 2009. A dedicated investment team makes their own informed choices, not an MSCI replication. Analysis of food waste: in developing countries 40% is wasted at harvesting, transport and storage is another 10-15% loss, in industrialized countries 40% of the food is wasted in retail. Pictet is selecting companies that are technically innovating the food supply chain. They are only selected if 50% of company revenue is contributing to nutrition.



Maria Lettini, Director at **FAIRR Initiative**, moderator. After an informative debate with Agne and Gillian, Maria showed us some compelling slides about health risks and consumer trends of the FAIRR Initiative at the end of the event.



Drinks at the rooftop bar