

Broadening policy and research questions on farms and firms – experiences from the Netherlands

OECD, 29th FLAN meeting

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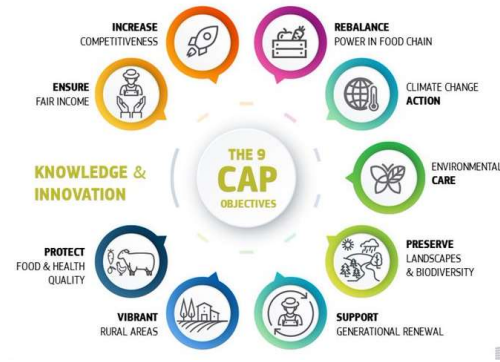
Overview

Broadening questions:

- Farm performance is more than economic, other sustainability themes
- Income of farm households is more than income from farming
- A farm is more than a farmer and a household
- Agrofood complex is more than farming
- The regional or national economy is more than the farming economy

Examples of Dutch statistics and analyses to meet these demands

Farm performance is more than economic



- European policies are (being) adapted:
 - Green deal, farm to fork strategy, bio-diversity strategy
- Policy evaluation has a need for data on these topics



Income of farm households is more than income from farming

Farming perspective



Farm household
perspective

Income of farming

- Farming activities
- Subsidies

Off farm income

- Labour income
- Revenues from other assets (excl. interest)
- Received interest
- Other off farm income sources
- Disability payments
- Other social security payments

Total income

Personal taxes

Disposable income

Consumption

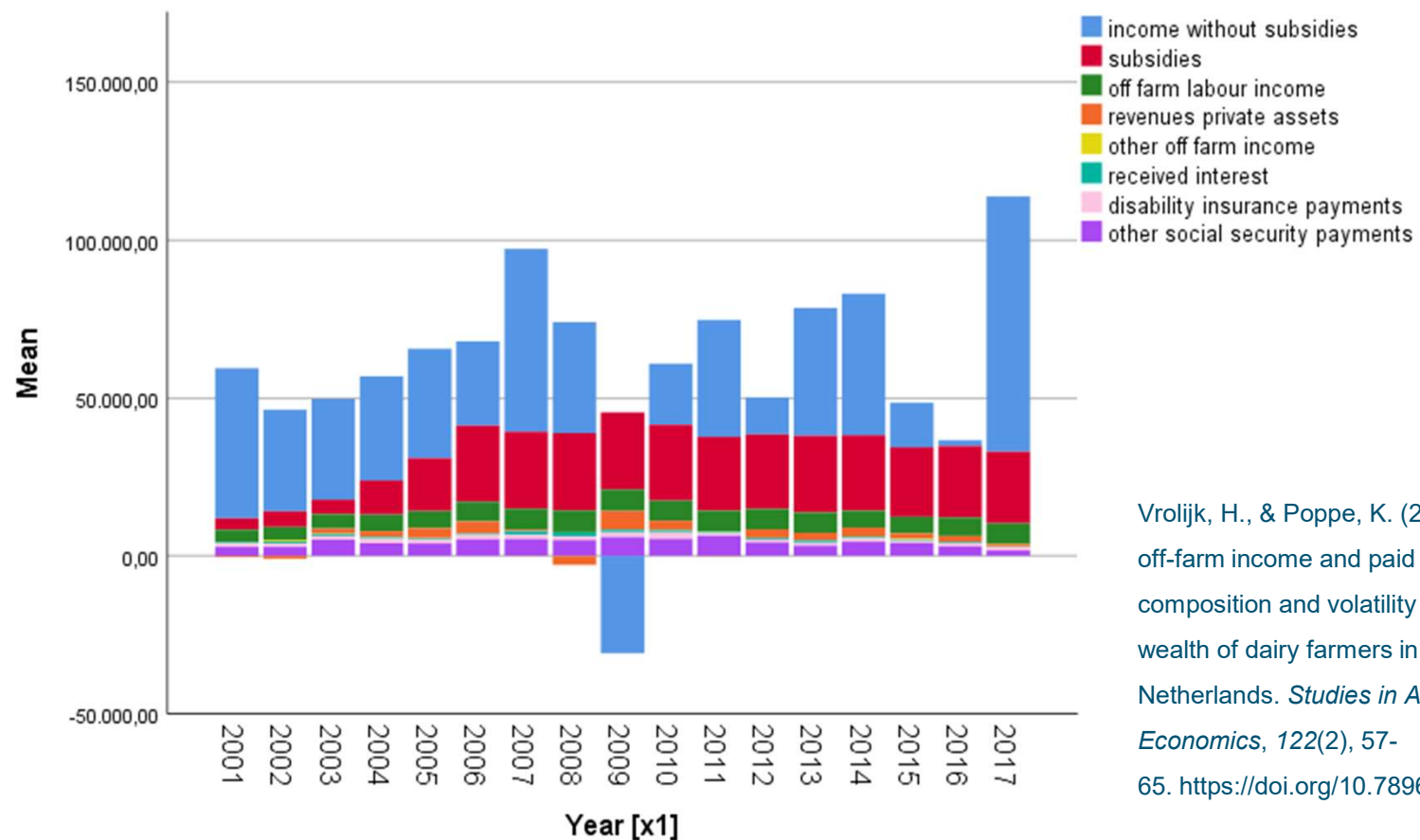
Savings

More studied



Less studied

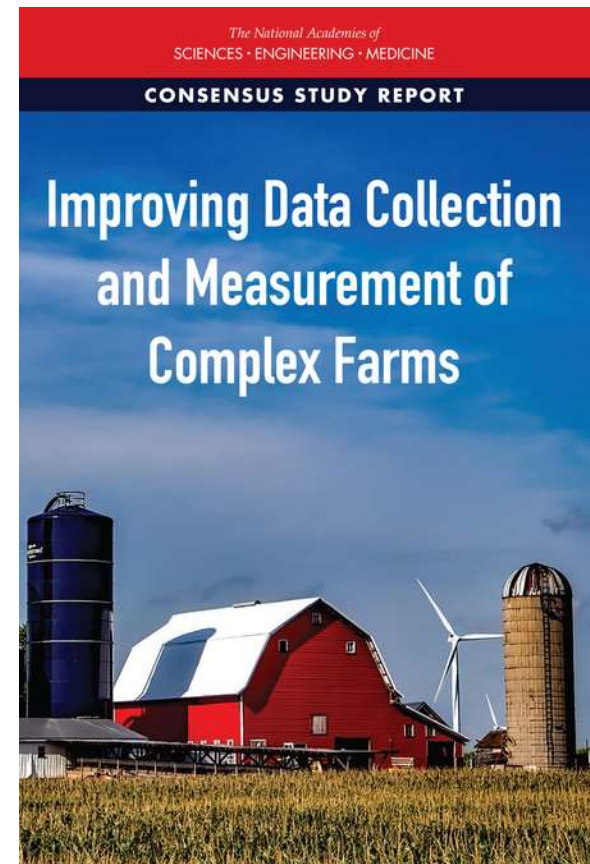
Composition of income



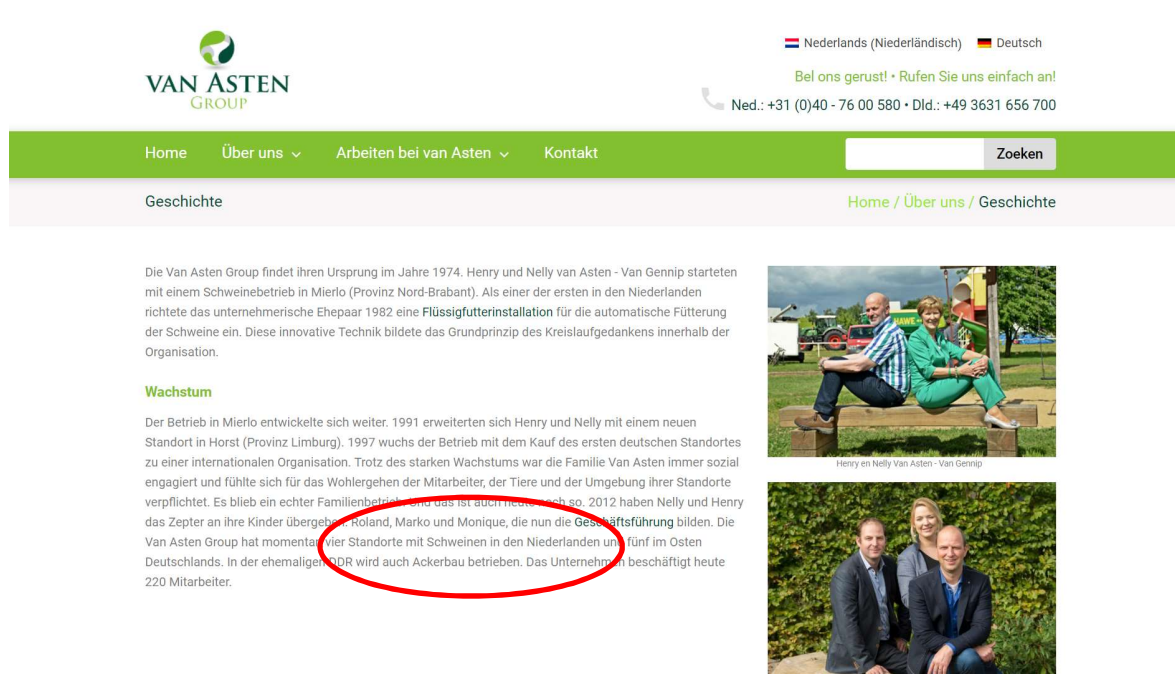
Vrolijk, H., & Poppe, K. (2020). Impact of off-farm income and paid taxes on the composition and volatility of incomes and wealth of dairy farmers in the Netherlands. *Studies in Agricultural Economics*, 122(2), 57-65. <https://doi.org/10.7896/j.2046>

A farm is more than a farmer and a household

- 1 farm has 1 location, 1 farmer that supports 1 household: this is an out of date concept
- Farms are organised much more complex, including contracts with industry
- This goes unnoticed in current statistics (that are based on an *establishment* concept and include hobby farms)



Complex holdings: anecdotal evidence



The screenshot shows the Van Asten Group website. The header includes the logo, language options (Nederlands and Deutsch), and contact information. The main navigation bar has links for Home, Über uns, Arbeiten bei van Asten, and Kontakt. The 'Geschichte' (History) page is active, showing a text block about the company's origins in 1974 and its growth. A red circle highlights the word 'Geschäftsführung' in the text. To the right of the text are two photographs: one of Henry and Nelly van Asten sitting on a bench, and another of the current management team standing outdoors.

VAN ASTEN GROUP

Nederlands (Niederländisch) Deutsch

Bei ons gerust! • Rufen Sie uns einfach an!

Ned.: +31 (0)40 - 76 00 580 • Dld.: +49 3631 656 700

Home Über uns Arbeiten bei van Asten Kontakt Zoeken

Geschichte Home / Über uns / Geschichte

Die Van Asten Group findet ihren Ursprung im Jahre 1974. Henry und Nelly van Asten - Van Gennip starteten mit einem Schweinebetrieb in Mierlo (Provinz Nord-Brabant). Als einer der ersten in den Niederlanden richtete das unternehmerische Ehepaar 1982 eine **Flüssigfutterinstallation** für die automatische Fütterung der Schweine ein. Diese innovative Technik bildete das Grundprinzip des Kreislaufgedankens innerhalb der Organisation.

Wachstum

Der Betrieb in Mierlo entwickelte sich weiter. 1991 erweiterten sich Henry und Nelly mit einem neuen Standort in Horst (Provinz Limburg). 1997 wuchs der Betrieb mit dem Kauf des ersten deutschen Standortes zu einer internationalen Organisation. Trotz des starken Wachstums war die Familie Van Asten immer sozial engagiert und fühlte sich für das Wohlergehen der Mitarbeiter, der Tiere und der Umgebung ihrer Standorte verpflichtet. Es blieb ein echter Familienbetrieb und das ist auch heute noch so. 2012 haben Nelly und Henry das Zepher an ihre Kinder übergeben. Roland, Marko und Monique, die nun die **Geschäftsführung** bilden. Die Van Asten Group hat momentan vier Standorte mit Schweinen in den Niederlanden und fünf im Osten Deutschlands. In der ehemaligen DDR wird auch Ackerbau betrieben. Das Unternehmen beschäftigt heute 220 Mitarbeiter.

Henry en Nelly Van Asten - Van Gennip

■ Van Asten Group (2 brothers, 1 sister):

- 4 pig farms Netherlands
- 5 pig farms Germany
- Including arable farming
- 220 persons

Effects of complexity on choice of indicator:

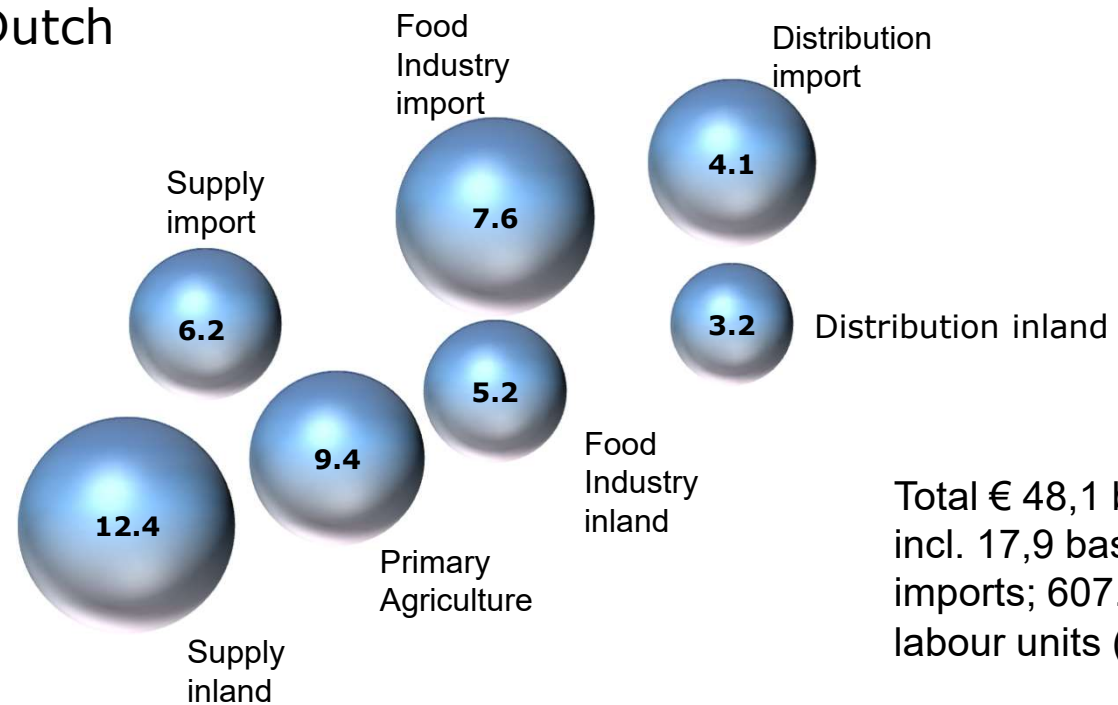
Number of entrepreneurs	Family Farm Income	2005	2010	2015	2017
One entrepreneur	Per farm	28026	40578	43558	61323
	Per entrepreneur	28026	40578	43558	61323
More than one entrepreneur	Per farm	59650	82357	88623	131761
	Per entrepreneur	26667	36312	37138	55743
All farms	Per farm	45843	61561	68149	99105
	Per entrepreneur	27261	38436	40055	58330

If we should with FADN report on farms instead of farm businesses, income would be lower:

Number of establishments	Family farm income per....	2005	2010	2015	2017
1	Farm (establishment)	45653	59089	61950	93804
	Farm business	45653	59089	61950	93804
2	Farm (establishment)	28488	42679	52205	97722
	Farm business	56975	85359	104409	195445
3	Farm (establishment)	97822	72741	46160	151383
	Farm business	293466	218222	138480	454150
Total	Farm (establishment)	45496	58624	61895	94262
	Farm business	45843	61561	68022	99319

Agro food complex is (much) more than farming

Value added Dutch agro complex



Total € 48,1 bln. (9,5%),
incl. 17,9 based on
imports; 607.000 annual
labour units (2015)

(Regional) economy is more than agricultural economy

Bedrijfstakken/branches (SBI 2008) ▼	Vestigingen		
	Dronten	Noordoostpolder	Voorschoten
	aantal		
A Landbouw, bosbouw en visserij	640	1 230	25
B Delfstoffenwinning	0	0	0
C Industrie	195	285	60
D Energievoorziening	35	40	0
E Waterbedrijven en afvalbeheer	5	10	0
F Bouwnijverheid	410	555	270
G Handel	795	845	355
H Vervoer en opslag	100	155	50
I Horeca	105	115	60
J Informatie en communicatie	195	185	145
K Financiële dienstverlening	305	410	205
L Verhuur en handel van onroerend goed	80	95	45
M Specialistische zakelijke diensten	720	675	645
N Verhuur en overige zakelijke diensten	185	210	140
R Cultuur, sport en recreatie	155	155	135
S Overige dienstverlening	295	290	160
U Extraterritoriale organisaties	0	0	0

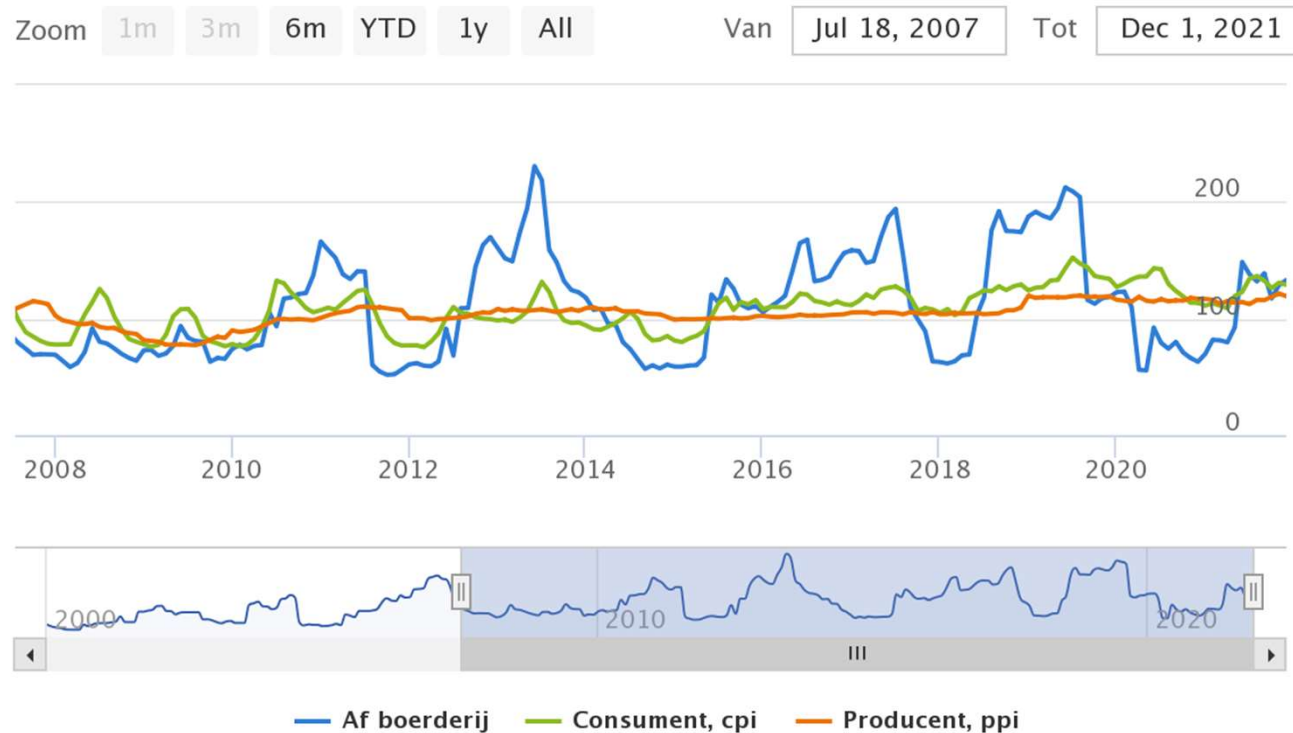
Bron: CBS

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- Some examples of the Netherlands how to respond to these issues
 - Adapting statistics
 - Merging statistics
 - Alignment of statistics
 - Using other statistics

Dutch FADN adapted to changing needs

- Use of antibiotics
- Use of pesticides
- Manure and mineral application and surpluses
- Water quality
- Green house gasses
- Innovation
- Other income sources
- Paid taxes and savings

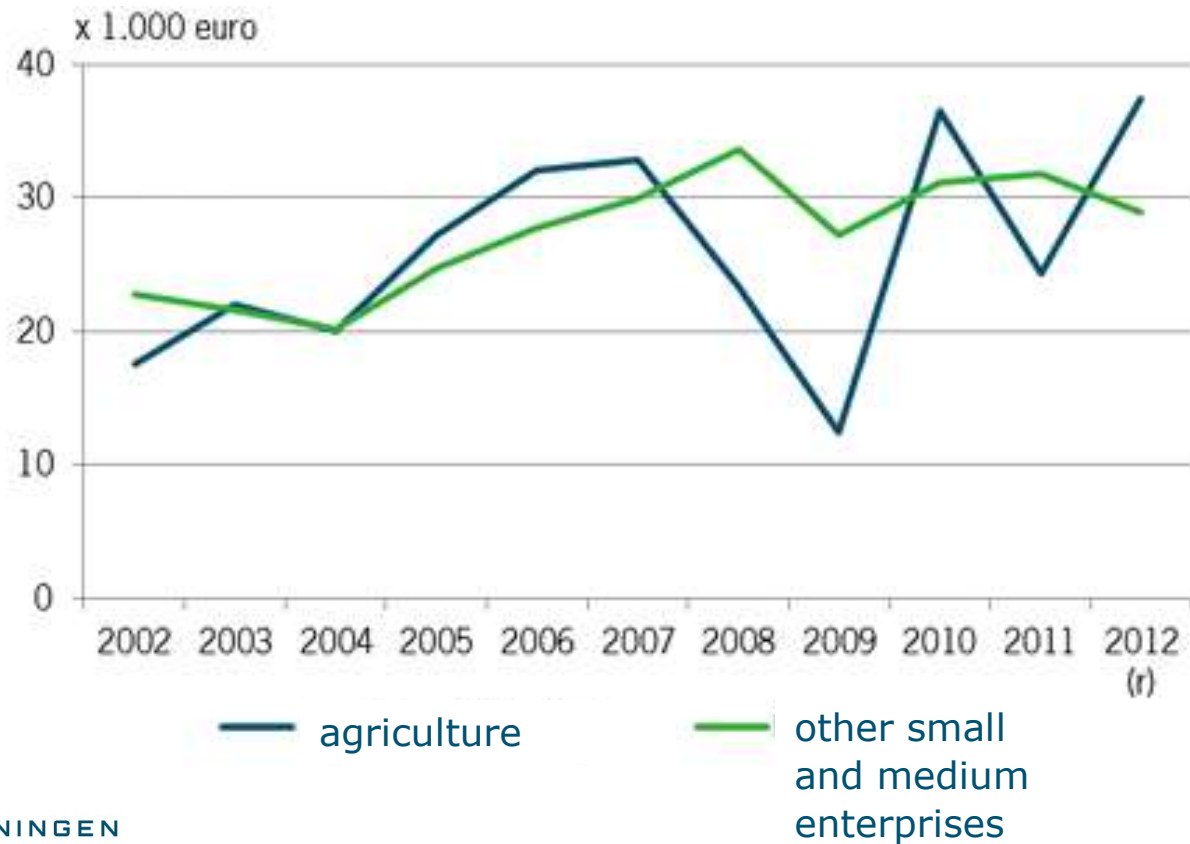
Merging different statistics: prices



Example potatoes
(index)

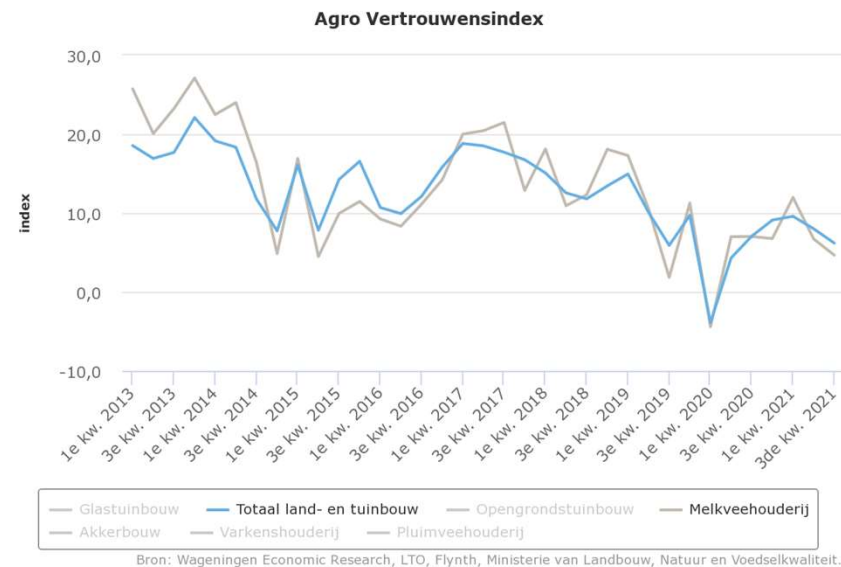
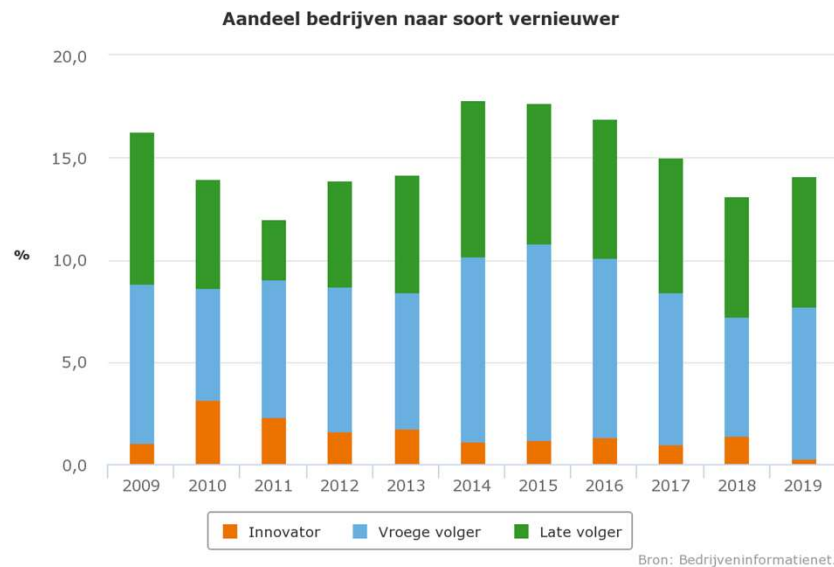
Plus prices in
different levels of
the supply chain

Merging different statistics: incomes



Some alignment of statistics in Netherlands

- National account vs economic accounts of agriculture (EU legislation)
- Innovation monitor – agriculture versus whole economy
- Periodic business confidence indicator - agriculture and the whole economy



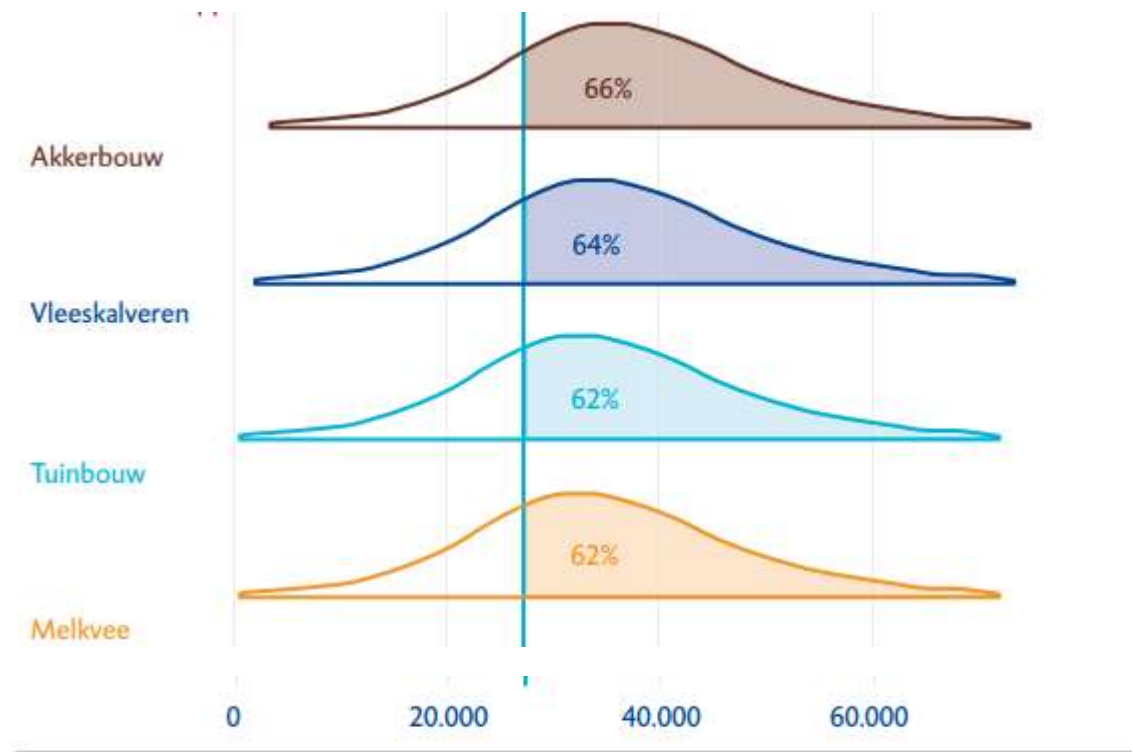
Using other statistics

Data from tax authority

- Merged with agricultural census
- Net income compared to other employed people

Other

VAT – indicator for turnover
farm register vs firm register



Concluding remarks

- Wider interest in other performance measures of agriculture
- Wider interest in the role of agriculture in the, agrofood sector and (regional) economy
- Requires
 - Adaptation of statistics
 - Merging statistics
 - Aligning statistics
 - Be more creative in the use of available data
- And sometimes a re-assessment of indicators

Thank you!

Further information:

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[https://www.researchgate.net/
profile/Hans-Vrolijk](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Hans-Vrolijk)

With thanks to Krijn Poppe

