

Living farms:

co-create sustainable integrated housing & farming business model options towards nature-inclusive multifunctional landscapes



PROBLEM

- High land-use intensity
- Lack of viable sustainable farm business models
- Lack of (affordable) housing supply

CONSEQUENCES

- Unsustainable food system lock-in
- Nitrogen emissions, ecosystem disbalance, climate change
- Political deadlock, social inequality and conflict

RESULTS

- IVM leads an international consortium on a proposal on upscaling this solution and integrating justice considerations
- Reviewed literature on the co-benefits of producing bio-based materials
- Identified key stakeholder and research gaps
- Strengthened & new internal and external collaborations

SOLUTION

- Core idea: Integrate bio-based housing as a viable component in farm business models for farmers
- Innovation: Beyond CAP incentives and regulation, towards providing multi-sector farm income options, creating healthy and climate-proof landscapes
- Process: co-creation with farmers, finance, municipalities, academia in four different pilots with 100 farmers

OUTLOOK

- Organise stakeholder workshop to identify research topics for VU (or new partners)
- 3 Master thesis projects to further investigate business case, farmer perspectives and upscaling potential
- Discuss equity and justice with societal partners
- Start 2-3 pilots

IMPACT

- Main users: (retiring) farmers, provincial bodies and banks
- Main other beneficiaries: occupants, consumers, landscape users, biodiversity and nature
- Vision: provide a future-proof solution for inspiring rural landscapes where nature, farming and housing are balanced and integrated
- Aim: Upscale solution to NLD and EU level

LESSONS LEARNED

- Seed funding is impetus for developing proposal and for collaborations
- Important to clearly define niche where VU-research can have added value
- Co-creation requires adaptive approach
- Governance barriers for pilot locations (existing regulations, political deadlock)