### Green Growth // Greening Agriculture

# Green Economy - focus on food

Joint workshop TFRN & TFIAM Copenhagen, 24-25 April 2013





PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

#### Main preconditions to greening the economy

- Vision
- Getting the prices right
- Abolish perverse incentives
- Dynamic regulations
- Sustainable innovation



Alternative ways of measuring progress

## **Different perspectives**

- Decoupling resource use from production and consumption
- Green taxation
- Ecosystem services
- Biobased economy
- Innovation: Technologies for greening agricultural production are available

## Conclusions (1)

#### INNOVATION

- There was broad support that innovation is key for greening the food system.
- A coherent vision on the technological and behavioural challenges would be needed to steer R&D and interdisciplinary co-operation in the right direction.
- But also financial incentives and regulations should be geared towards the same goal.
- Stimulation of local experiments and initiatives plays an important role in the innovation process.
- International information exchange would enable to learn from successes and of ways to remove obstacles for wider implementation.

## Conclusions (2)

#### COMMUNICATION

- Lack of information and awareness at the level of farmers, retailers and consumers was identified is an important obstacle for greening the food system.
- In each country innovative ideas should be communicated to intermediate organisations that are responsible for advising farmers on green production methods.
- Information for retailers should focus on reducing the large amount of food that is wasted.
- Information to consumers on green diets should be linked to health benefits.

## Conclusion (3)

#### **BIOBASED ECONOMY**

- A transition from a petrochemical based economy towards a biobased economy can be positive for reducing the dependence on scarce resources.
- A life cycle analysis of biobased products would be needed to assess the net effects on land and water use, climate change and nitrogen losses.