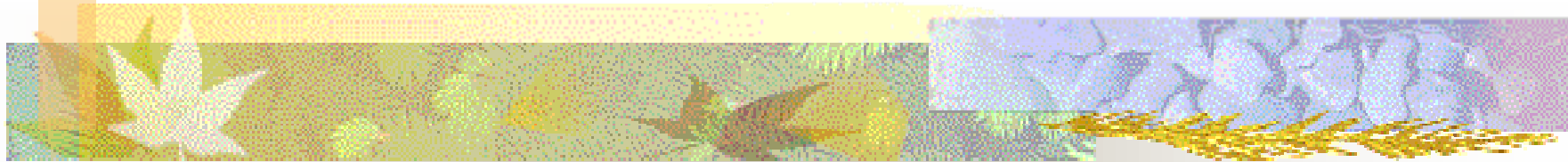


Dutch stakeholders set the organic research agenda



Jac Meijs, Biologica



Eddy Teenstra, Wageningen UR



Eric Regouin, Ministry of Agriculture



Biologica

- Umbrella and policy organisation of the Dutch organic sector
- Lobbies with government and society
- Coordinates sector initiatives in promotion, marketing and regulation
- Involved in consumer activities
- Coordinates organic research



Government ambitions

- 10 % cultivated area organic by 2010
- 5 % market share of consumer spending on organic products by 2007
- Innovation of organic sector with regard to sustainability by 2007



Organic food & farming research

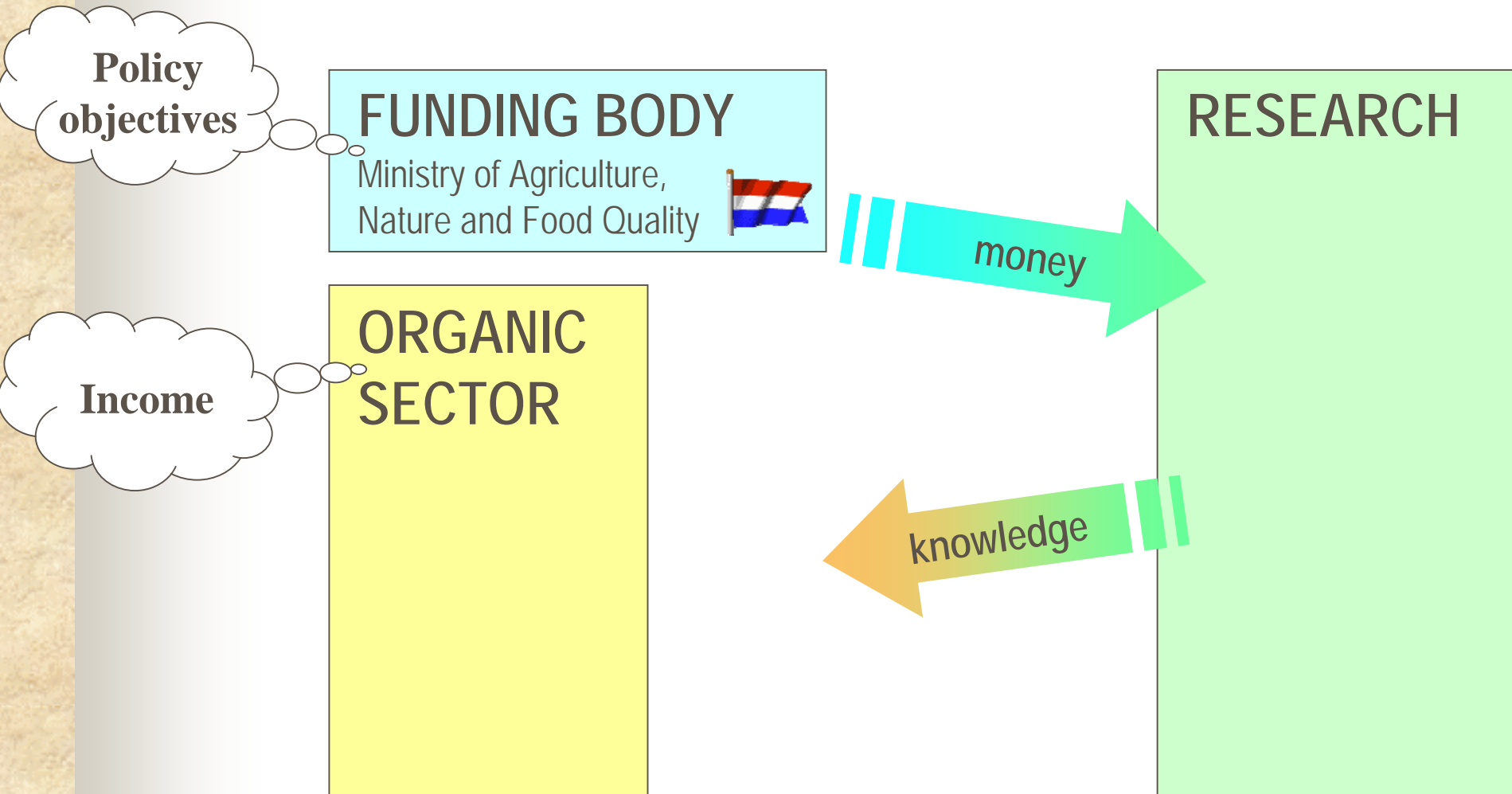
- Parliament decision:
10 % of agricultural research budget should be spent on organic research by 2008
- Specific public funding
 - 2000: 4 million Euro
 - 2005: 9 million Euro (eq. 9 %)
- Private and regional funding
 - 2005: approx. 2 million Euro



Knowledge network **Bioconnect**

- Intensive interaction necessary between funding body, research institutes and the organic sector
- Organic research is demand/market driven
- Ministry provides funds, organic sector decides how to spend it
- Ambition: every organic project is initiated, judged, prioritised and supervised with representatives of the organic sector

Bioconnect: how does it work?



FUNDING BODY

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (*LNV*)

Cluster Board Organic Agriculture

money

RESEARCH

- Wageningen University and Research Centre
- Louis Bolk Institute

Cluster Organic Agriculture Research

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knowledge

ORGANIC SECTOR

FUNDING BODY

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (*LNV*)

Cluster Board Organic Agriculture

Advice on:

- Subject
- Priority

money

ORGANIC SECTOR

Delegated responsibility sector

- Producers
- Processors
- Traders
- Retailers

Knowledge Committee

RESEARCH

- Wageningen University and Research Centre
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Advice on:

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money

ORGANIC SECTOR

Delegated responsibility sector

- Producers
- Processors
- Traders
- Retailers

Delegated responsibility sector & other stakeholders

Knowledge Committee

Advice on:

- Subject
- Priority

Monitoring & Control

Organic Network Counters

- 10 Knowledge managers
 - 8 Produce working groups
 - 2 Thematic working groups
- 5 Chain managers (marketing)
- 4 Contact persons

prioritising

monitoring & evaluation

knowledge

RESEARCH

- Wageningen University and Research Centre
- Louis Bolk Institute

Cluster Organic Agriculture Research

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planning

execution



Knowledge Committee organic farming and food

- Primary stakeholders / organic supply chain
 - Organic farmers
 - Organic processors and traders
 - Organic food shops, supermarkets
 - Biologica
- Secondary stakeholders and knowledge chain
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
 - Taskforce market development
 - Supply chain facilitator
 - Research, education, advisory services



Objectives and expected improvements

(1)

- Demand driven research
 - Organic supply chain decides
- Support participation and influence
 - Sector participation in each project
 - Stakeholder advice is leading
- Flexibility
 - 5 – 10 % capacity is ‘free’
- More than research
 - Education, extension, demonstration



Objectives and expected improvements

(2)

- Recognisable contact points
 - 15 working groups with contact persons (knowledge managers)
- Organisation of private companies
 - Association of farmers, producers and trade with representatives
- Organic chain and market oriented
 - More research on supply chain and consumers (taskforce / chain managers)



First impressions (after one year)

- Growing group of inspired people convinced of improvement of the use and efficiency of research
- **135** ongoing research projects in 2006
- Representation of retail and consumers is difficult
- Highly time consuming for limited group of people; compensation fee
- Conflicts with standard procedures for conventional research within the ministry
(Bioconnect is a pilot)



Ongoing organic research (2006: Euro x 1.000)

Theme Title	Budget
Plant Breeding	517
System Innovation Open Field Crops	1.480
System Innovation Protected Crops	1.041
Umbrella Programme	1.437
Phytotherapy <i>in preparation</i>	<i>p.m.</i>
Animal Husbandry (phase 2)	2.424
Plant Propagation Material (phase 2)	782
Market and chain (phase 2)	643
Reducing Mineral Losses	250
Energy/climate	100
Consumer awareness /taste <i>in preparation</i>	<i>p.m.</i>
Crop protection / innovative weed control	400
Food Quality and Health	543
Sustainable multifunctional farming systems	<i>p.m.</i>
Total	9.617



Stakeholder participation

- Knowledge committee
- 15 Organic network counters
 - 8 product working groups
Dairy products, fruit, flowers etc.
 - 2 thematic working groups
Soil and Plant breeding
 - 3 thematic groups
Education, extension, market development
 - 2 associations
Organic farmers and organic trade



Poster Blom and Wijnands

- Approach of Dutch organic food and farming research
- Research methodology
 - Transition targets in long term desired innovations; knowledge on demand
- On-farm research with different farmers profiles