



**Abstract:**

**Industry session: Peter Jongebloed:** Head EU Office Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands, also representing FOODforce

**'How to implement a FOOD system approach in Horizon Europe'?**

Food has a twin identity: it has an important role in the unprecedented global challenges we face (i.e. food waste and loss, fresh water losses, decreasing biodiversity, GHG emissions, climate change, malnutrition, obesity etc.). But, on the other hand, it can be a central component of the solutions for these global challenges and thus also meeting the UN's Sustainability Development Goals. A well-established Food System Approach is essential to come up with the game changing solutions needed.

However, the Food System involves complex interactions among the different actors in the different parts of the value chain and value net. We see that actors of the value net often work in do not work together, do not meet each other, thus act as independent silos. As such, the role of consumers and citizens as consumers are strongly undervalued. This makes the impetus to encourage stronger involvement of European citizens an even bigger challenge.

A transition from the current unsustainable food system to a healthy, circular and resource-efficient paradigm is essential. Such transitions will be hugely complex, since the multiple patterns of food production and consumption are closely interconnected and changing one aspect can easily have major unintended consequences. Therefore substantial actions are needed which must be driven both by science as well as the values and engagement of European citizens'.

FOODforce has identified and synthesised three major gaps "The Grand Gaps" in the complexity of food systems. These gaps can be filled with a set of approaches and solutions, to make the transition happen.