



Judging the effectiveness of the Dutch Pork Policy Network in Promoting Transparency

Introduction

Transparency in food products and processes has the potential to improve the sustainability of the food production chain to a significant extent. Transparency is perceived in two dimensions, one vertical (traceability) and one horizontal (provision of sustainability related information). Although both dimensions of transparency are important, currently, only efforts to improve traceability have been made (i.e. Article 18 of the EU Food Law), while efforts to improve the distribution of sustainability related information are either non-existent or have not been successful (i.e. the failure of Wok in the Netherlands). This poster aims to provide some explanation as to why efforts to improve the horizontal dimension of transparency at the national (Dutch) fail, by focusing on the pork chain in the Netherlands.

Policy Network Approach

The poster uses a policy network approach in order to pursue its aim. Policy networks are patterns of formal and informal relationships between public and private actors which shape policy agendas and policy outputs. The poster focuses on two network characteristics:

- Communication among the relevant actors on the issue of horizontal dimension of transparency
- Trust relationships among the relevant actors

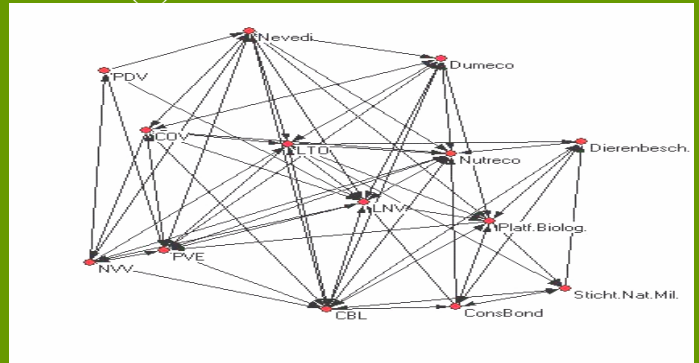
Hypotheses

- Limited communication between pro-horizontal transparency actors and other influential actors in the network significantly reduces their ability to influence policy outputs.
- Absence of trust towards pro-horizontal transparency actors as well as between pro-horizontal transparency actors themselves, reduces their ability to influence policy outputs.

Result (1): Pro-Horizontal Transparency Actors

NGOs (ConsBond, Sticht. Nat. Mil., Dierenbesch.), **Ecological Farmers** (Platf. Biolog.) LNV, CBL

Result (2): The Communication Network



The graph shows that all actors communicate with each other but...

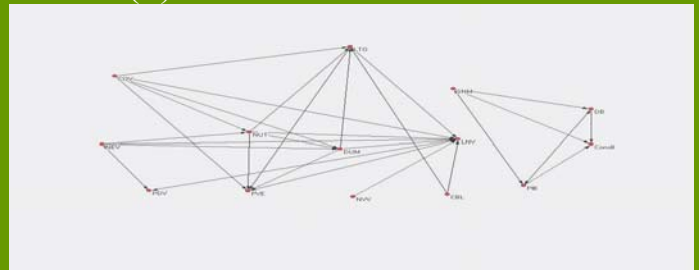
Result (3): Actor Grouping (based on their communication with other actors)

1. NVV
2. LTO, PVE, LNV, DUM, NUT, CBL, COV
3. Platf. Biol., Consbond, Dieren., Sticht. Nat.Mil.
4. PDV, Nevedi

Pro-horizontal transparency actors are not part of the most influential group (group 2)

	N	L	P	D	C	N	L	C	P	D	C	S	N	P
NVV		1	1											1
LTO			1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1			
PVE	1		1	1	1	1	1	1						
Dumeco			1	1					1					
CBL			1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1
Nutreco	1		1	1	1	1	1	1						
LNV			1	1	1	1	1	1		1				1
COV	1		1	1	1	1	1	1						1
Platf.Biolog.			1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1		
Dierenbesch.			1		1	1				1	1			
ConsBond					1	1	1			1	1	1		
Sticht.Nat.Mil.					1					1	1	1		
Nevedi		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1				1
PDV			1			1								1

Result (4): The Trust Network



The graph shows that pro-horizontal transparency actors are not trusted by the other network actors

Conclusions: Change can derive from

- A shift in the communication patterns
- An increase in the level of trust towards pro-horizontal transparency actors

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