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Short food supply chain in Flanders: possibilities and constraints

Ann Detelder – Coördinator Steunpunt Hoeveproducten

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- Organisation representing the short food chain suppliers in Flanders
- +/- 1350 members
- Goal: supporting farmers developing a short food chain selling activity with an economic added value

Steunpunt Hoeveproducten: core business

1. Information: Legal regulations: Federal food hygiene regulations, land management regulations, fiscal regulations, cost price management,...
2. Training
3. Info centre
4. Lab analysis
5. Syndicalist activity

Farmers motivations

- Economical
- Ownership
- 2 generation farms
- Urban regulations
- Product differentiation
- Promotion – social contact – professional
proudness - ...

Number of short food supply chain farms (I)

| | | | % relative to the number of farms |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Flanders | 1321 | 100,00% | 5,08% |
| Antwerp | 252 | 19,08% | 6,44% |
| Vlaams-Brabant | 197 | 14,91% | 6,47% |
| West-Flanders | 409 | 30,96% | 4,51% |
| East-Flanders | 290 | 21,95% | 4,22% |
| Limburg | 172 | 13,02% | 5,57% |

Data through the Steunpunt Hoeveproducten /KVLV vzw (2012)

Number of short food supply chain farms (2)

| | Selling manufactured products | Selling primary products | Total |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Flanders | 652 | 809 | 1461 |
| Antwerp | 88 | 102 | 190 |
| Vlaams-Brabant | 76 | 209 | 285 |
| West-Flanders | 241 | 188 | 429 |
| East-Flanders | 190 | 202 | 392 |
| Limburg | 57 | 108 | 165 |

Data through the FASFC (2011)

Number of short food supply chain farms (2)

| | Meat manufacturers | Dairy product manufacturers | Manufacturers of crop products | Farms selling primary products | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Flanders | 99 | 447 | 106 | 809 | 1461 |
| Antwerp | 10 | 66 | 12 | 102 | 190 |
| Vlaams-Brabant | 15 | 36 | 25 | 209 | 285 |
| West-Flanders | 37 | 177 | 27 | 188 | 429 |
| East-Flanders | 28 | 130 | 32 | 202 | 392 |
| Limburg | 9 | 38 | 10 | 108 | 165 |

Data through the FASFC (2011)



Types of short food supply chain selling farms:

- Farms selling primary crop products: fruit, vegetables, raw milk
- Farms selling manufactured dairy products: desserts, ice-cream, cheese,...
- Farms selling meat products: sealed meat, farms with own butchery
- Farms selling manufactured crop products
- A lot of farms combine several types of products

Food safety in the short chain selling activity on farms:

- Farms selling primary crop products: fruit, vegetables, raw milk: regulated through the Federal Food law + quality guides, similar risk as large chain selling activities
- Farms producing manufactured products: Federal Food Law + some self checking guides. Risk ~ product and GMP

Possible constraints regarding food hygiene and public health in the short food supply chain

- Small scale
- Several products (types)
- Artisanal production system
- Investment capacity
- Use of well water
- Quality supervisor
- ...

Answers to these constraints

- Mandatory training 'hygiene and autocontrole'
- Support self checking plan and quality manual
- Organisation of the half yearly lab analysis
- Collaboration with ILVO Gent and KHK Geel.
- Example: development of on-farm test kit (KHK Geel)

Restraints on the development of the short food supply chain sector

- Who are the short chain food suppliers in Flanders?
- Several self-checking guides
- I legislation Food hygiene
- Heavy administrative load
- Unannounced inspections
- Malus % very high
- Water
- Personal interpretations inspectors
- Certification system not interesting
- No self-checking guide for small scale processors of fruit and vegetables
- HP/M number!
- Location in rural areas/ fiscal constraints/ VLIF aid/...

- Questions?

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