# Motives and challenges for engaging in Science-based policy advice at Wageningen University & Research

Bram de Vos

Managing Director,

**Environmental Sciences Group** 











#### Science for Impact

#### Main global challenges





Overpopulation urban centres



Malnutrition



Overconsumption nature & natural resources

#### Needed transitions



Circular agri-food systems



Eating proteins from more divers sources



A circular biobased economy



Technological disruptions & digital connectivity

#### Impact on global challenges



Internal transitions

&



Collaboration





#### National Science-based policy interface Internal organisation at WUR

- Executive Board High level policy interaction
- Corporate Strategic Account team:
  - Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality (ANF)
  - Other Ministries
  - Dutch regions (Provinces, Cities, ...)
  - Public Affairs officer
- Funded policy advice research programs (ANF):
  - Policy support projects
  - Legal statutory tasks







# Science communication: Agenda setting and informing









## "Moonshot" Land use Netherlands 2120: Nature-based approach











#### One Wageningen Taskforce Nitrogen

- Bring all Wageningen disciplines together ("top-down")
- Weekly meetings on Nitrogen crisis
- Ad-hoc advise to Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (reactive)
- Action plan to address nitrogen issue (integral spatial systems approach)





# Action Plan

Stappenplan aanpak stikstofprobleem



#### Dialogues versus Debates ...











Dialogue Centre: Open yourself up to other perspectives

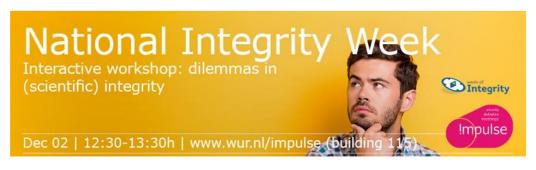


#### Scientific integrity

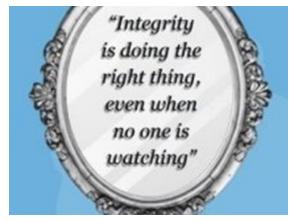
Every person at Wageningen University & Research who is involved in any way whatsoever in scientific education and research is individually responsible for monitoring and safeguarding scientific integrity.

- Confidential Councecellors
- Scientific Integrity Committee

Workshops (scientific) integrity: principles and dilemmas











#### Science-based policy advice Some dilemmas...

- "Academic freedom" vs. "Reputation risk organisation"
- "Mono-disciplinairy advice" and "Lack of expertise Ministries"
- "Different scientific advices" and "Evidence-based"?
- "Independent science" vs. "Dependent on funding"





## Thank you for your attention!







