

# Invited Speaker Abstract

Official Language: English

## Presenting Author & Affiliation:

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## Title of Presentation

How consumers are driving changes in Food Systems

### **1. Abstract**

Our current dietary styles and their impacts on the environment and climate are increasingly becoming a focus of global concern. However, changes in our dietary habits offer significant leverage for mitigating global threats such as climate change. The same is true for the currently very high levels of food waste, which should be reduced not only for ethical-moral reasons but also for reasons of resource and climate protection. These aspects are also reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals.

By 2050 only about 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land area will be available for each person on this planet to produce agricultural commodities, i.e. food, livestock feed or commodities used e.g. for bioenergy or textiles. Today, four fifths of the agricultural land is directly or indirectly devoted to livestock production. The ever-growing demand for meat exacerbates the issue by further intensifying competition for fertile soils while threatening global food security as a whole.

Our presentation will provide results from different studies commissioned by WWF showing, on the one hand, the immediate impacts of German consumption patterns on the environment and climate, and, on the other hand, the significant potential to reduce or even eliminate the adverse impacts of our eating habits. The focus will be on virtual land trade and the land footprint related to our food consumption patterns and related greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the demand for livestock feed and its impacts will be outlined with an emphasis on soy being the prime determinant in virtual land use. As a conclusion, scientific dietary recommendations and their contribution to a healthy planet will be considered.

### **2. key references**

Tanja Dräger de Teran et al (2019): Jeder Schritt zählt! Essen in Hessen. Handlungsempfehlungen an Politik und Wirtschaft. WWF. Berlin.

Stefan Noleppa und Matti Carlsburg (2015): Nahrungsmittelverbrauch und Fußabdrücke des Konsums in Deutschland. Eine Neubewertung unserer Ressourcennutzung. WWF. Berlin

Dräger de Teran T, Weber K, Meier T, Von Borstel T, Knöbel H, Grauwinkel U (2018): Das Projekt "Essen in Hessen": Implementierung der Themen "Ressourcenschonende Ernährung" und "Vermeidung von Lebensmittelabfällen" in die Außer-Haus-Verpflegung. In: Laux B, Stomporowski S (2018): Nachhaltigkeit in den Bereichen Tourismus, Hotelgewerbe und Ernährung. Schneider Verlag Hohengehren.

### **3. key messages**

Every step counts - small personal changes towards a more sustainable diet lead - considered at regional or national level - to big impacts and contribute effectively to climate protection and

a more sustainable use of our resources

The importance of the hospitality sector for achieving a more sustainable food system

A shift towards the consumption of more organic products and less meat protects and enhances significantly biodiversity including agrobiodiversity.